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Nat'l JA Memorial Celebrates Opening



Photo courtesy of Kristine Minami

Norman Mineta, secretary of transportation (middle), joins Sen. Daniel Inouye (right) and Congressman Bob Matsui at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in the nation's capital on June 29. The memorial honors the patriotism of Japanese Americans during World War II. In the background is artist Nina Akamu's 14-foot bronze sculpture.

Stockton Rescinds 58-Year-Old Anti-JA Resolution

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Until last month, officials in Stockton didn't know there was an anti-Japanese resolution on the city's books.

The 58-year-old resolution had been long forgotten, along with another saying women should not wear pants.

But the issue was resurrected last month in Upland, a city in southern California, after the release of the movie "Pearl Harbor." And, after searching, Stockton City Clerk Katherine Gong Meissner found Resolution 13,746 on the books there.

On July 10, the Stockton City Council unanimously voted to rescind that anti-Japanese resolution.

"They don't need to apologize because they're not the ones who passed it," said Nelson Nagai, president of the Stockton JACL chapter, about 80 miles east of San Francisco.

"But I think just like everyone else they were really surprised the City of Stockton had gone on record banning Japanese people from the state of California."

The resolution is dated June 21, 1943—a year-and-a-half after the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It opposed the return of Japanese Americans to their homes in the Golden State.

Stockton Mayor Gary Podesto said he assumes the resolution was in response to JAs being released from American concentration

camps. In June, the Upland City Council rescinded Resolution 687, which had been adopted June 17, 1943. That resolution questioned the loyalty of JAs after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and opposed the release of JAs from the concentration camps.

The federal government interned tens of thousands of JAs during World War II, saying they were a threat to national security. "I think by now that all our elected officials know that Japanese Americans are not the enemies of America and that we're good citizens," Nagai said.

Nagai, whose family has been in Stockton since 1906, attended the council meeting with several other group members.

Upland's action was prompted by city resident Nobu Ikeda, who discovered the resolution while researching a story about the movie "Pearl Harbor." She wrote to Mayor John Pomeroy asking the council to rescind the resolution.

Upland officials forwarded a copy of what they had done to all other municipalities in the state, requesting they search their archives to see if a similar law was on the books, said Ron Inouye, principal analyst for Stockton's city manager.

The resolution Meissner found in Stockton stated "the return of Japanese to California or to the Pacific Coast would be detrimental to the best interest and general welfare of the State of California and the United States in general."

"It's unfortunate we took such an action," said Meissner. "It's a reflection of our history and the sentiment of the time."

Meissner said she hopes passing the replacement resolution could "maybe right the wrongs that were done."

40 AA Students Say They Are Victims of Racial Profiling by Seattle Police

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA Assistant Editor

SEATTLE—At a July 13 press conference held in this city's International District, Asian American leaders, including JACL, came out in support of several AA students who say they were victims of racial profiling when they were detained by Seattle Police officers.

National JACL Executive Director John Tateishi condemned the incident, saying, "I can tell you that as a national civil rights organization throughout the country, that this is the worst case of racial profiling against an Asian American group seen in a long, long time."

Washington State Rep. Kip Tokuda called for immediate action and that the officers involved be "swiftly and firmly held accountable."

On July 9 a group of 40 AAs, participating in a summer youth leadership program sponsored by the

Northwest Asian Weekly newspaper, were walking across a marked crosswalk to attend an art lecture when Seattle Police Officer Jeff Pitts allegedly pulled up, got out of

his patrol car and repeatedly yelled, "Don't you understand English?"

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PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Yvonne Kinoshita Ward (far left), an attorney and president of the White River JACL chapter, will be counseling the 14 Asian Americans who were detained.

Bi-District Hosts Panel Discussion on WWII Resistance

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA Assistant Editor

SEATTLE—The educational forum titled, "WWII, JACL, Nikkei Patriotism and Protest," held at the IDC/PNW bi-district conference July 13-15 got off to a rough panel start but ended on a positive note.

Panelists included: Frank Abe, award-winning reporter for KIRO Radio and TV in Seattle, and producer/director of the award-winning documentary "Conscience and the Constitution," Bill Hosokawa, former editorial page editor of the Denver Post and Pacific Citizen columnist; Mits Koshiyama, a Heart Mountain resister; and Fred Shiosaki, 442nd veteran who sur-

vived the infamous battle to save the Texas "Lost Battalion."

National JACL Executive Director John Tateishi opened the session by reminding the audience that the repressions still felt in the Japanese American community today is largely due to the actions of the U.S. government during World War II, which forced Japanese Americans to make difficult decisions under difficult times.

Tateishi noted that during his years of research he found documents dating back as early as 1938-39 in which the government was making plans to remove JAs from the West Coast.

Tateishi also made it no secret that he had been critical of JACL in

the past. What changed Tateishi's mind was his dealings with the federal government during the redress campaign and his discussions with the late Mike Masnoka, JACL's wartime leader.

"In 1979, when I first went to Washington and met with members of Congress and individuals in the agencies and in the White House, what I realized was that you can't move a mountain, that the mountain moves you," said Tateishi. "As righteous as our cause was, as much as we could insist on certain things, it mattered not at all."

Because of his own difficult deal-

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By the Board Crisis and Opportunity

By ART KOGA Nat'l Secretary/Treasurer

Does an opportunity for JACL exist in our present financial crisis? That is the question. For the past several months you have been hearing about our financial situation, specifically JACL's cash flow problem. We have money in the bank, however, there are restrictions in the use of those funds to cover operational



costs. The national board and the Investment Policy Committee have been working hard to wisely manage our endowment and, at the

See BY THE BOARD/ page 7

IDC/PNW Districts Vote to Allow Non-citizens Full Membership in JACL

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA Assistant Editor

SEATTLE—At the IDC/PNW joint council meeting July 15, attendees at the bi-district conference unanimously passed a resolution in favor of allowing non-American citizens to enjoy full JACL membership status.

The resolution, sponsored by the Salt Lake City chapter, passed unanimously by a voice vote. The motion to accept the resolution was made by Yvonne Kinoshita Ward, president of the White River chapter, seconded by Jeff Itami, IDC second vice governor.

The resolution reads: "Whereas the Constitution of the JACL provides for a classification of membership known as 'Special members' which consist of non-citizen members with full rights and priv-

ileges of regular members except that of holding national office; and, "Whereas the Special membership category is essentially obsolete; and,

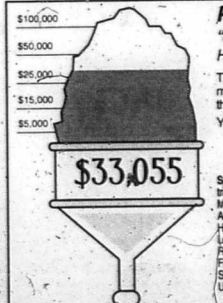
"Whereas the Salt Lake Chapter of the JACL is preparing a resolution with accompanying constitution and bylaw amendments to eliminate this category and the restrictions regarding holding national office.

"Now, therefore, let it be: "Resolved that the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain District Councils endorse and support the proposed resolution from the Salt Lake Chapter to open up membership to the National JACL, and its chapters to all individuals who agree to abide by the Constitution

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Our campaign goal is to reach \$100,000 by the end of September. Please give now. See coupon on page 2.

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Over 500 Rally in J-Town Over Potential Sale of YWCA Building

More than 500 people gathered in front of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northridge-California on July 12 to protest the potential sale of the YWCA building in San Francisco's J-Town.

Located at 1830 Sutter St., the YWCA has long been a cherished landmark for the JA community. A group of JA women raised monies to purchase the building in the 1920s. But since JAs were prohibited from buying land because of discriminatory laws in existence at the time, the building was placed in trust to be used by the Japanese community.

The YWCA continues to dispute the existence of the trust, claiming ownership and are currently attempting to sell the building. But minutes taken from meetings at that time sup-

port the trust and assert the JA community's ownership of the property.

Speakers at the rally included family members of the original Issei women who helped build the YWCA. Rev. Cecil Williams, Glide Memorial United Methodist Church; Janice Mirikitani, executive director and president, Glide Foundation; Carole Hayashino, community activist; Don Tamaki, Miami, Lew and Tamaki; and Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, District 5.

Participants of the rally hoped to restart six months of negotiations with the YWCA that had collapsed recently.

The future of the YWCA building will be determined on Nov. 5 when the pending lawsuit is scheduled to go before a San Francisco Superior Court. ■

Inouye to Introduce JLA Redress Bill in Senate

The struggle to redress the World War II U.S. government treatment of persons of Japanese ancestry reached its latest landmark with the announcement that Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, would introduce a Senate companion bill to HR 619, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001.

HR 619, introduced in the House by Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., and co-sponsored by a cross-section of Asian American, Hispanic American, African American and other members of Congress, provides for:

- Full funding of the public education mandate of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act;
- Redress for Japanese Americans who suffered civil liberties violations due to WWII U.S. government policies, but who were denied redress under the CLA for technical reasons; and
- Redress equity for Japanese Latin Americans who were forcibly

uprooted from their homes in Peru and 12 other Latin American countries, incarcerated with JAs during the war, and used in hostage exchanges for U.S. civilian prisoners held by Japan.

"We are very appreciative of Senator Inouye's support," said Grace Shimizu, director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and one of the organizers of Campaign for Justice. "With his backing, Japanese Latin Americans will finally get equitable redress, and a new generation of Americans will become more aware of the dangers of mass-based roundups of civilians based on race."

The '88 CLA called for a presidential apology and a payment of \$20,000 for every living JA former internee. Many JAs were denied eligibility because the government did not consider them to be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. They were declared "illegal

aliens" despite the fact that it was the U.S. government who brought more than 2,200 JAs to the United States for hostage exchanges.

A class action lawsuit filed on behalf of JAs in federal court in 1996 resulted in a settlement where the government issued an apology and provided \$5,000 in redress payments to some of the JLA former internees. The lawsuit also allowed JAs who opted out of the class-action to pursue their remedies in court and some have done so.

Recently, the case of *Shibayama v. U.S.A.* was heard in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims on July 6. Judge Marian Blank Horn has yet to announce her decision in the case.

For more information, contact Grace Shimizu at 510/528-7288 (office), 510/409-7288 (cell) or by e-mail: jphhp@prodnet.net. ■

Vets Foundation to Get \$1 Million

The Budget Conference Committee recently approved Assemblymember George Nakanos request for \$1 million for the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation Education Program.

Since he was elected in 1998, Assemblymember Nakanos, D-Torance, has spearheaded the funding effort to get the remaining \$1 million for the program. Last year, he managed to secure \$500,000.

"I am extremely pleased that the Budget Conference Committee saw fit to approve my request for the memorial foundation," Nakanos said. "This issue is personal for me since as a child I was incarcerated in internment camps during World War II, and I want students now to understand how Japanese Americans fought and died for the United States during WWII while their loved ones were kept behind barbed wire."

The 442nd became the most decorated regimental combat team in the history of the U.S.

Army. In total, members of the 100th/442nd received 21 Medals of Honor, 7 Distinguished Presidential Citations, over 9,000 Purple Hearts and 18,142 individual awards.

"The purpose of this request was to recognize and educate teachers and students about the significant contributions made by veterans during WWII," Nakanos said.

The funds will be used to implement a statewide Teacher Training Curriculum Program, providing educators with guides and hands-on training on how to incorporate the lessons of the JA WWII veterans in the classroom. In addition, an oral history program, kiosks, digital thematic station and a film on the 442nd RCT will be created with the funds.

SB 75, which includes the \$1 million for the memorial foundation, will now go to the Assembly and Senate floors for approval. ■

APAs in the News Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Lon Hatamiya was appointed by California Gov. Gray Davis to the California Small Business Reform Task Force. Hatamiya, 42, is the state's Secretary of Technology, Trade and Commerce, and is the first Asian American to serve at the Cabinet level in the California state government. Prior to this, he headed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service and Agricultural Marketing Administration.

Irene Y. Hirano, executive director of the Japanese American National Museum, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Kresge Foundation. Hirano is a member of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History Board of Directors; National Health Foundation Board; chair of the Cultural Tourism Committee for the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau; and vice chair of the American Association of Museums Board of Directors.

Dr. Joseph Jen was confirmed

as under secretary for research, education, and economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture on July 12. Since 1992, Jen has served as dean for the College of Agriculture at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He also served as director of research at the Campbell Institute of Research and Technology for the Campbell Soup Company. In 2000 he was appointed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to serve as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the U.S.-Japan Millennium Study.

Former Justice Department official **Rose Ochi**, 62, was selected by

Mayor Jim Hahn to serve on the Los Angeles police commission. Ochi, a retired lawyer, is a former director of the city's Criminal Justice Planning Office under mayors Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan. The police



commission will be instrumental in implementing Hahn's priorities for the LAPD: reducing crime, boosting morale, expanding community patrols and carrying out the consent decree. The other appointees include three attorneys and a prominent car dealer, ranging in ethnicity and age.

Connie Kondo Rowden, a second-grade teacher at Kirby School in Roseville, Calif., was given the National Fire Protection Association 2001 "Teacher of the Year" award. Since 1999, Rowden has served as one of the Roseville Fire Department's pilot teachers for "Risk Watch," a program involving injury prevention games, lessons and messages designed to improve the safety knowledge of children and their families.

H. Cooke Sunoo, director of the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program, was appointed to Gov. Gray Davis' Small Business Reform Task Force. The task force identifies problems that the small business community experiences with government assistance and regulation. The API Small Business Program is a consortium of five Los Angeles community organizations, led by the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation, that offers multilingual counseling and information. ■

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National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Chinatown Residents Worry About New Developments
BOSTON—Chinatown residents are concerned that five major real estate developments could force up rents in a neighborhood which has served as a springboard for Asian immigrants since 1870.

Millennium Place, which features 850 luxury condominium units, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel and 1,400 parking spaces, is being built at the edge of Chinatown and is scheduled to open this month. On Lincoln Street, a 952,000 square foot development with 900 parking spaces is scheduled for completion in 2003, while the Loews Boston Hotel, a 391-room hotel, is being reviewed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA).

A BRA official said the projects will benefit Chinatown's business while counteracting the effects of the nearby Combat Zone. But neighborhood activists say they are overtaking developable space needed for affordable housing that will serve new immigrants.

Bill Lann Lee to Serve on Coca-Cola Task Force

ATLANTA—A task force, which includes former Justice Department assistant attorney general for civil rights Bill Lann Lee, has been charged to oversee Coca-Cola's hiring and employment practices as part of its broad racial discrimination lawsuit settlement, the beverage company announced July 2.

Along with Lee, the task force includes two other former civil rights officials, two lawyers and two business executives. Each member will serve two years.

On June 7, a judge approved a \$192.5 million settlement of a suit filed in April 1999 that accused Coke of denying black workers fair pay, promotions, raises and performance reviews.

Police Arrest Suspect in Japantown Murder
SAN FRANCISCO—Police have arrested a suspected gang member charged with killing Kenneth Harumoto outside a Japantown bar.

Vincent Tu, 21, was arrested July 6 at a Potrero Hill house, a San Francisco police spokesman said. Tu tried to escape by running out the back door, but officers and a police dog blocked his way.

A grand jury has indicted Tu in the February killing of Harumoto after a dispute.

Police said Tu is associated with the Jackson Street Boys gang.

Widow Files Suit Against Xerox Gunman
HONOLULU—Byran Uyesugi was sued July 5 by the widow of one of the seven Xerox co-workers he killed in the worst mass shooting in Hawaii's history.

Xerox and three company officials were also named in the suit filed on behalf of Merry Lynn Balatico and the couple's two children.

Uyesugi, a disgruntled copier repairman, is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole after being convicted of first-degree murder for fatally shooting Jason Balatico, 33, and six others on Nov. 2, 1999.

The lawsuit, seeking unspecified damages, claims Xerox supervisors knew in 1993 that Uyesugi had a potential for violence. It accused the company of recklessly creating an unsafe work environment.

The company sent Uyesugi for medical treatment after he kicked in an elevator door on the job in 1993 and let him return to work after he was deemed not to be a threat. Xerox staff attorney Karl Eckweiler said last year.

Native Hawaiian Umbrella Group to Push for Akaka Bill
HONOLULU—Dozens of the Native Hawaiian community's most influential leaders gathered July 6 to establish what they vowed will be a powerful, united front in the push for federal recognition.

They announced the creation of a Native Hawaiian umbrella group modeled after a coalition that successfully pushed for passage of landmark federal legislation in 1971, which conveyed 44 million acres of Alaska lands to more than 200 native villages and set up native corporations to manage the land.

Native Hawaiians currently face defending more than 150 federally funded programs that benefit their community in the aftermath of last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Rice v. Cayetano*.

The decision — which invalidated a state law barring non-Hawaiians from voting for OHA trustees — is being used by Oahu resident Patrick Barrett to challenge the constitutionality of OHA itself, the Hawaiian Home Lands program and Native Hawaiian gathering rights.

Pending legislation sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, aims to blunt such lawsuits by affirming that the United States has a trust relationship with Native Hawaiians, similar to its relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

A companion version of Akaka's bill passed the House Resources Committee in May and is scheduled to go to the House floor. ■

RACIAL PROFILING

(Continued from page 1)

The students, ranging in age from 15-18, said Pitts then made 14 of them line up against the wall of the Aristocrat Club. The remaining 26 students watched from across the street, and one of them took photographs. One picture showed Caucasians walking across the same crosswalk but not being detained.

From the entire 45-minute detainment, one \$38 jaywalking ticket was issued to Thao Le, 17, a high school student who questioned the officers on whether they were being detained due to their race. Le, who stands just shy of 5 feet and weighs less than 90 lbs., had at one point three police officers surrounding her.

"I was really scared because they were so much bigger than me," said Le. "As soon as he (Sgt. Sackman) grabbed me, I was so scared that I just sort of screamed out, 'Don't touch me' ... and I just stepped back because I was so scared of what else he could do."

Another student, An Nguyen, was searched for answering Pitts question on whether they spoke English. "He (Pitts) continued asking. Somebody had to say something so I answered, 'Yes, we all do,'" said Nguyen. "He waved me over and told me that I had an attitude problem, gun to my face. Then he asked for my ID, which I cooperated and gave him my ID. He then threw me by the wall and began paddling me down and reaching into my pockets, took my keys."

Instructor Andrew Cho, who was among the 14 detained, said Nguyen was not being belligerent when he answered Pitts. "He (Pitts) had already asked us if we spoke English and we had already answered. An went to the police officer. He just said, 'Yes, we do speak English!' and then he was harassed for just answering his question."

Cho, who ironically has been

working with the Seattle Police Department on race relations, said he attempted to walk over to Pitts and Nguyen in an effort to diffuse the situation but in return he was harassed.

"I wanted to make sure my students were okay," said Cho. "One of the officers, a sergeant, approached me. He was yelling at me, 'Get back. Get back.' He came up this close to me and said, 'I've been to your country before when I was in the Army.'"

Cho added that among the 26 students witnessing the incident, several were crying because they were so terrified.

Frances Youn, a senior at the University of Washington, said it was possible that they did not hear the initial request by Pitts to stop because a train was going by while they were crossing the street.

"Witnesses will testify that at that time, an Amtrak train was going by because the Amtrak station is right across from where we were at," said Youn. "And because of the All-Star game, traffic was busier than usual."

During the incident, Pitts also called for back up, and three additional patrol cars responded. Officer Pam McCammon, Seattle Police spokesperson, said calling for back-up was standard procedure in a situation like this.

Three eye witnesses, not associated with the students, have stepped forward to corroborate the students' accounts. Among them are Judith Schorer and Anita Moscoso, both employees of Seattle Lighting Co.

According to Schorer, she was having lunch when she saw through the window a group of youths walking across the street and then saw a patrol car pull up and line the youths up against the wall.

"The police officer was very animated," recalled Schorer. "He was kind of being abusive as I thought. We were concerned for the kids. They all seemed kind of young, so we went down to see what was happening. We saw a police officer with a night stick. He was acting aggres-

sively with the night stick. I also witnessed the officer grab a young lady by the arm. She was a very small, very small girl."

"Four cop cars in all were there," she continued. "It just seemed like overkill. These kids didn't look like they were a problem at all. They were doing exactly as they were asked to do (by the officers)."

Moscoso recounted the scene between Le and the police officers. "We did see the overly aggressive behavior of the officer towering over the shortest person in the group, a very young lady, jabbing his finger into her face," said Moscoso. "At one point, three of them were standing in a semi-circle around this young girl. I cannot tell you how ugly that looked. It shouldn't have happened."

Moscoso said she decided to step forward because she was outraged over witnessing this incident and demanded that police and elected officials take immediate action.

Police spokesperson McCammon said no internal investigation into this incident is being conducted at this time because departmental policy requires that a formal complaint first be lodged before an investigation is done.

She also added that a meeting was scheduled for July 16 with Chief of Police Gil Kerlikowske, Mayor Paul Schell and the students.

Assunta Ng, publisher of the *Northwest Asian Weekly* which sponsors the leadership program, has been in contact with the mayor and police chief. Ng said the police chief was told a "very different story" from Pitts. Pitts allegedly told the police chief that he had asked the students to stop several times and was concerned for the students' safety.

Yvonne Kinoshita Ward, an attorney who is assisting the students, said a formal complaint will be lodged within the week. Ward pointed out that on the jaywalking ticket the police officer had indicated that an accident was involved.

"There was no accident so we're wondering what is going on," said

MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

and By-laws, regardless of citizenship; that the classification for Special Members be eliminated, and that all Special memberships be converted to Active memberships; and that all other references to citizenship requirements in the By-laws be amended to refer simply to "members."

Before the vote was taken, Salt Lake City Chapter President Kevin Aoyagi said that for the next three months, they plan to send out copies of this resolution to various chapters for suggestions. IDC District Gov. Larry Grant plans to present this resolution at the next national board meeting in August to ask the various governors to take back the resolution to their districts for consideration. Aoyagi said they hope to have a final version by the end of the three months.

National JACL President Floyd Mori supported the resolution, saying that in his experience he has met Shin Issei and Japanese students studying abroad in America, who oftentimes need assistance but don't have an organization they could turn to. He felt the JACL could play a critical role in helping newer immigrants on issues such as immigration laws.

Other issues covered at the joint council meeting included topics on fundraising and how to attract youths.

On fundraising, some of the Ward.

Ward also noted that detaining someone for 45 minutes to issue a jaywalking ticket is questionable.

"By law, you can only detain someone for an infraction just long enough to write up the ticket," she said, adding that the jaywalking ticket will be appealed.

Ward said the group is asking for a public apology, accountability, an investigation, discipline for the officers involved and assurance that this will not happen again. ■

points raised included: a request for a "how to" workshop on fundraising; and the creation of a packet that gives pointers on how to fundraise.

National JACL Executive Director John Tateishi said he can provide sample packets that national uses to approach potential corporate donors. Included in the packet is a marketing tool that Tateishi pulled together which gives a decade, by decade break down of the contributions made by JACL.

On the topic of youths, key points included: Personally asking youths to participate; purchase youth memberships; help them hold fundraisers so they can participate in national youth activities (i.e., raffles, food drives); and have chapters provide youth activities that 1) allow youths to interact with their youths but also introduces them to the Japanese American culture (i.e., sushi making/mochi making/hopi coat making workshops); 2) revolve around an issue to raise their social consciousness; and 3) discuss identity issues. ■

Seattle Presents Seven Scholarships

Seattle JACL members gathered at the Wing Luke Museum to celebrate the achievements of their seven scholarship winners.

Jennifer Fung, of Nathan Hale High School, received the Aki Kurose Legacy Scholarship and will attend the University of Washington in the fall to pursue western and Chinese traditional medicine. She received \$2,000.

Six Taruzuma/Tamesa Memorial Scholarships, totaling \$4,000, were given to Robin Clemente, South Seattle Community College; Edwin Hamada, UW; Michelle Mai, Seattle Central Community College; Kongkham Panyathong, Seattle Central Community College; Mari Sugiyama, UW; and Maya Yamazaki, UW. ■

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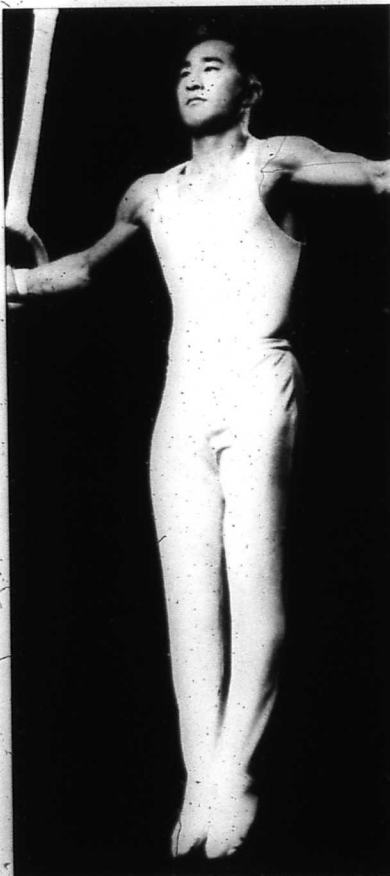
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Nisei Vets Serve as Grand Marshals in Hood River Parade

Veterans, Mam Noji (left), 82, and George Akiyama (right), 81, were honored as Grand Marshals in this year's Fourth of July parade in their native Hood River, Ore., in recognition of their outstanding military service during World War II.

"I don't think I deserve to be singled out but if I represent the other Nisei veterans, it will be alright," said Akiyama, who earned a Silver Star for bravery as a staff sergeant in the 100th Battalion. "We wanted to prove that we were good citizens."



Noji served as a technical sergeant in the 43rd Infantry Division of the MIS. A photograph of him dodging bullets on Rendova Island in the Solomon Islands was published in the Nov. 12, 1980, edition of *U.S. News & World Report*. "I feel pretty good about repre-

senting the other Nisei and I think it was a real generous gesture," he said.

Akiyama and Noji, whose families immigrated to Oregon in the 1900s and became part of the farm-

ing community, agree the warm welcome they received at the parade was vindication for the unwelcome reception they received in 1945 just after returning home from the war.

Satsuki Ina Keynotes at Bi-District Luncheon

SEATTLE—Keynote speaker for the bi-district awards luncheon July 14 was Dr. Satsuki Ina, professor emerita at California State University, Sacramento, and a practicing psychotherapist who focuses on treating survivors of trauma.

Ina said that in her research, she has discovered that former internees suffer from a higher incidence of psychosomatic disorders, depression and more than a 50 percent higher risk of suffering from heart disease.

Ina likened the World War II experience to that of an abusive situation where a child may be a victim of abuse but at the same time loves his/her parents in spite of the abuse. This creates a psychological dilemma where the abused starts to take on the world view of the abusive parents and begins to believe such fallacies such as "I deserve this" or "this is all my fault" or "this is for my own good."

"Loyalty was never an issue for Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents, and yet for years, like an abused child, we have taken on the meaning of our actions that the perpetrators imposed upon us," said Ina. "We've been plagued with the question of whose actions were

the most loyal."

She noted that this rift in the community is evidence that JAs have still not broken free from the lingering affects of being abused by the government.

"As part of our own healing, it is important that we empower ourselves, no longer confusing the perpetrator's definition of our problem as one of loyalty," said Ina. "We must regain clarity about who the perpetrator was and realize that the schism in our community are symptoms of traumatic abuse."

She encouraged attendees to be more compassionate and accepting of all the different decisions made during the war in an effort to move towards healing.

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"As part of our own healing, it is important that we empower ourselves, no longer confusing the perpetrator's definition of our problem as one of loyalty," said Ina. "We must regain clarity about who the perpetrator was and realize that the schism in our community are symptoms of traumatic abuse."

She encouraged attendees to be more compassionate and accepting of all the different decisions made during the war in an effort to move towards healing.

JACL Unveils Education Webpage

With funding from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) JACL recently unveiled an education page linked to its main website at www.jacl.org.

"The JACL education site aims to provide details of the experience of Japanese Americans. Currently, the focus is on the Japanese American experience during World War II, but this will be expanded in the near future to incorporate additional viewpoints and history," said Ryan Chin, national vice president of public affairs.

sign-up forms for those who would like more information about the guides.

"The JACL will always retain education as one of its top priorities since education is a primary means to fighting ignorance and racism, which typically result from a lack of knowledge," said National Executive Director John Tateishi.

"This is, and will continue to be, an excellent tool for people regardless of their age, the color of their skin, or their education level," he said. "We feel strongly that anyone could benefit from perusing through the education part of the JACL website."

Later this year, JACL will release a new version of its curriculum guide, which contains facts, pictures, resource listings and lesson plans about JA history. The education site contains an online

"When people learn of the difficulties endured by Japanese Americans along with the tremendous sacrifices that have been made, it becomes difficult to question the place that they, along with other Asian Pacific Americans, have in this country."

In addition to the education page, CCLPEP funding supported the creation of CDs which feature video footage and lesson plans, available to teachers in California for free.

For more information about the CDs or to request copies for California students, e-mail jacl@jacl.org. Visit the JACL education webpage at www.jacl.org/ed.

Manzanar Historic Site to Offer Summer Tours

The National Park Service and the Friends of the Eastern California Museum are offering guided tours of the Manzanar National Historic Site through Aug. 26.

Tours will run Wednesdays through Saturdays, starting at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. The park is located about 200 miles northeast of Los Angeles, off highway 395.

The Manzanar National Historic Site was established to protect the historical and natural resources associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II. A few remaining historic structures are being rehabilitated and some features (garden, orchards and guard tower) will be restored. Plans are underway to restore the 1944 auditorium to become the Visitor Center and Park Headquarters. Construction should be completed by 2003.

Tours begin at the historic camp entrance near the Sentry Posts. Reservations are not required. Bring at least one full water bottle, sturdy shoes, wind-resistant clothing, sunscreen and hat. There are no facilities on site except for two portable toilets. Temperatures often reach above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. For information, call Park Ranger Kim Linse at 760/878-0062 or the Eastern California Museum at 760/878-0258.

Venice-Culver Community Law Day Set for July 29

The Venice-Culver JACL chapter, Japanese American Bar Association of Greater L.A., and Asian Pacific American Bar Assn. are co-sponsoring a Law Day on July 29, 1 p.m., Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr. The free event will include a

Japanese translator and covers: estate planning, healthcare rights; IRAs; and the California Partnership for Long Term Care. RSVPs are requested. Call Hitoshi Shimizu 310/331-8228 or Diana Nishiuma 310/638-9862.

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The Ultimate Power

Even mild-mannered Pacific Citizen columnists sometimes contemplate acts of vandalism during moments of frustration. I was in the checkout line at Blockbuster, waiting to rent a Rurarts video and growing increasingly impatient with the middle-aged white guy in front of me who was holding up the line, when I noticed the back of his jacket. It had looked like a



By
**CHRISTINA
SHIGEMURA**

Stranger Than Fiction

typical baseball jacket. Then I realized that "China Lady" was written across the top where the name of a baseball team should have been, and "1944" was stenciled in at the bottom. In the middle of the jacket was a picture of an Asian woman who was nude from the waist down and had no pubic hair, an image which symbolizes the sexual availability of non-threatening, exotic "Oriental girls." Her face was impassive, indicating that Asian women had not minded our commodification as sexual objects "since 1944."

I felt like asking, "Hey, can I borrow your jacket for a minute?" and then burning it, but of course I didn't. Instead, I thought about misrepresentations — some of them malicious, some unintentional. The misrepresentation of an Asian woman on the back of a jacket is as glaringly obvious as it is offensive and frighteningly original. The important question, however, is not just how should we be represented, but who should determine what those representations look like. The man wearing that jacket has no business determining how Asian women should be represented. Only we Asian women can accurately define ourselves, although we do not always have the power to do so. Indeed, the ultimate power in this modern media age is to represent oneself, to be one's own spin doctor. This truth is essential to understanding the role that Japanese Americans should play in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement.

In 1893, the Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown by a small group of white men, mostly Americans, and in 1898 Hawaii was

annexed by the United States against the will of the Native Hawaiians. Since then, Native Hawaiians have been misrepresented as being incapable of handling their own affairs and are legally wards of the state, which has scandalously mishandled the land and resources which it has held in trust for Native Hawaiians. Today, Native Hawaiians are struggling for sovereignty, the right to control their own land and resources and to be recognized as a nation which can represent itself in the international community and in relations with the United States.

In Hawaii, the JA community wields a lot of institutional power in state and local governments, churches and various organizations, including the JA and the Democratic Party. It is therefore important that we use this power to support Native Hawaiian sovereignty as Native Hawaiians have defined it. We must allow Native Hawaiians to represent themselves; it is not up to JAs to determine what Native Hawaiian sovereignty should look like. Supporting Native Hawaiian sovereignty as defined by such organizations as Ka Lahui Hawaii (the largest Native Hawaiian sovereignty group with the clearest and most detailed plan) is a matter of conscience for all JAs because our community has built a flourishing political and cultural center on the Hawaiian islands, land which was never willingly relinquished by its indigenous people.

Ka Lahui Hawaii has articulated several ways in which non-Native Hawaiians, including JAs, can assist in the struggle for sovereignty. One important step, is for the U.S. government to request that Hawaii be reinscribed on the United Nations list of non-self governing territories. Once Hawaii is reinscribed on this list, the United States will be required to file annual reports on the status of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians, including civil rights violations and progress toward independence. JAs and other non-Native Hawaiians can help accomplish this goal by asking their congressional representatives to support reinscription. Beyond that, we need to refrain from toutng our own opinions of what Hawaiian sovereignty should look like and listen carefully as Native Hawaiians define it by themselves. ■

Christina Shigemura is a Hapa Yonsei.

'Pearl Harbor,' The Movie

IN THE PREVIOUS column the subject was the newly released movie "Pearl Harbor." I haven't seen the production, but I understand it runs nearly three hours (without a break?). The last lengthy movie I attended was "Gone With the Wind," and I recall there was an intermission for a comfort break.



By **BILL
MARUTANI**

East Wind

been particularly encouraging: two stars out of a maximum of four.

The movie houses have been remodeled with what the management characterizes as "stadium seating," which is a definite improvement. Even if the patron parks his/her bulk in front, you stand a reasonable chance of seeing most of the movie, provided the patron doesn't keep bobbing around. The sound system in the movie houses is called "Dolby Digital" or some such thing. Now the acuity of my hearing isn't what it used to be, but the volume of the sound is so high that it's downright uncomfortable. It takes me a while to recover after leaving the theater. Now with a movie such as "Pearl," where the attack sequence lasts nearly two hours (can that really be?) I'd be asking for torture. And paying good money for it at that. Maybe I'll wait until it comes out on video.

But getting back to the impact of the movie vis-à-vis Nikkei Americans.

FOR SOME TIME I had "resented" the association, albeit chronologically accurate, between the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the 1942 uprooting and confinement of Nikkei Americans and their resident Issei parents. The recital goes something like this: "Following the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on February 19, 1942, issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the military commanders to evacuate people [aliens and non-alien], the diabolical notices would declare] from military areas as the conduct of the defense of our nation may require." To the ordinary American reading such a recital, the evacuation sounds not only reasonable, but downright benign. Indeed, since "aliens" and "non-alien" of Japanese ancestry were (the only ones) "evacuated," and since it was "Japanese" who had at-

tacked Pearl Harbor — there must have been a "connection" of some sort justifying, or at least making it reasonable, to have "removed" these Japanese from the West Coast.

THIS SENTIMENT PREVAILS to this date. Indeed, with an insidious reverse spin, it can haunt even the victims — the Nikkei Americans and their progeny. Guilt by racial association. And so it is, for example, when the "Pearl Harbor Survivors" hold their annual memorial services, there can be a sense of guilt cast upon the Nikkei American, even if he be a battle-scarred veteran of World War II, from Europe or the Pacific. One year, the Seattle Nisei veterans' post was moved to "take the bull by the horns," so to speak, and they inquired whether they might participate in the Survivors' memorial services. The report back was they

were cordially invited to participate and were warmly received by the members of Survivors.

But then the Survivors knew of the role of the AJsAs (Americans of Japanese ancestry as our Hawaiian "bruddas" prefer to call themselves) not only during the attack on Pearl but also on the battlefields.

THERE'S ANOTHER "guilt complex" that I experienced and that one dealt with my country having dropped "The Bomb(s)" on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I make no attempt here to justify or condemn the dropping of the bombs. Having been assigned to the Occupation of Japan in the spring of 1946, as a second lieutenant I had occasion to visit the stark devastation that was Hiroshima. I was simply awed, I felt neither a sense of shame or even sorrow. It was simply a sight that was beyond my ability to comprehend.

It was some 20 years later that I.

See EAST WIND/page 8

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EAST WIND

(Continued from page 6)

was in Hiroshima visiting the Atomic Bomb Memorial. The memorial rooms were filled with Japanese, speaking in whispers as they intently viewed some of the artifacts — a scorched watch with its hands frozen at the precise time, burnt cloth, photos of victims, etc. As I viewed the exhibit, as an American I felt a tinge of special sorrow and I looked about wondering if the Japanese knew I was an American. But then I realized that to the Japanese I must be indistinguishable, particularly under the subdued lighting of the room.

I don't know whether there's any significance to the following observation, but it occurred to me that the Pacific war opened with an aerial attack at Pearl and closed with ones on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I attempt no value judgement nor justification one way or the other. It's just another observation in a continuing search for some kind of answer. ■

Bi-District Awards Honorees



PHOTO: MAETHA NAKAGAWA
 (From left): Sapphire pin recipients Terry Yamada and Don Maekawa; special recognition awardees Mayu Hata Lemon, who was at the forefront of getting Minidoka named a national historic site, and Steve Finley, who was instrumental in getting buildings in the Pacific Northwest named in recognition of Medal of Honor recipients William Nakamura and James Okubo.

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