Stockton Rescinds 58-Year-Old Anti-JA Resolution

By Pacific Citizen Staff

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. On June 13-15, a group of Asian American leaders called for a resolution condemning the incident, saying: “They call you ‘wasted and affluent’ and that the offensives involved were ‘well-rehearsed and highly accountable.’

On July 9, a group of 40 Asians, promoting a new financial literacy program sponsored by the Northwest Asian Weekly newspaper, went walking across a market crosswalk to attend an art lecture. Guardsman Officer Jeff Pitts alleged pulled up, got out of his patrol car and repeatedly yelled, ‘Do you understand Englih?’

Bi-District Hosts Panel Discussion on WWIII Resistance

By ART KOKA

National Secretary/Treasurer

Does an opportunity for JA citizens to address the current world financial crisis that is the question. For the past several months you have been hearing about our financial situation, specifically the current economic crisis. What is JACL’s role in this crisis?

The resolution passed by the Salt Lake City chapter, passed unanimously by a voice vote. The resolution, which was sponsored by Yvonne Kinoshita Ward, president of the Salt Lake City chapter, was adopted by the convention. The resolution reads: “Whereas the Constitution of the JACL provides for a classification of members known as ‘Special members’ which consist of non-citizen members with full rights and privileges of regular members except that of holding national office, and, Whereas the Special membership category is exclusively oboedient to the Constitution.”

The resolution, which was adopted by the convention, was adopted by the constitution. The resolution reads: “Whereas the Constitution of the JACL provides for a classification of members known as ‘Special members’ which consist of non-citizen members with full rights and privileges of regular members except that of holding national office, and.”

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We recently received your anonymous gift of $2,500, from your investee company, and we want to thank you for your generosity and support. We're touched that you have chosen to support us, especially by your anonymity—giving without seeking anything in return is a magnanimous gesture.

You may not know, we're including your gift as part of our current annual reporting, which is essential for our operational needs. Your contribution, like those of all our other generous benefactors, will be used to maintain our efforts to fight discrimination to ensure the well-being of Japanese Americans and Asian Americans, and continue to educate the public about our history and contributions to this nation.

I can put a whole list of things here to describe specifically what we do day-to-day, but that would take an entire letter to write. Just know that we are very careful in spending every penny that we receive and the best use of your kind consideration.

If you wish to remain anonymous, we respect that decision. We will continue to do what we always do, to ensure the well-being of Japanese Americans and Asian Americans, and continue to educate the public about our history and contributions to this nation.

Christina Shimogami
Executive Director
Pearl Harbor

Apprehensions upon viewing the trailer for the film "Pearl Harbor" are growing.

The filmmakers appeared to believe that pre-World War II Oahu was populated only by Caucasian military personnel and a few Chinese laundry workers. As the story unfolds by now, "Pearl Harbor" is a film that has the Pearl Harbor battlefield as its namesake is only a scenic reference and provides visual background for the love story which could have happened in any setting.

As filmmakers' point of view — the drowning and presumed death of Ben Affleck's character — happened in the European theater and had nothing to do with the attack on Pearl Harbor.

I had the privilege of attending the Honolulu film premiere of "Pearl Harbor" program several days after the Hawaii opening of the film. During this screening, a placard which took the place at the Japanese Cultural Center, a proud part of Hawaii's Japanese Americans described their experiences during and immediately following the attack.

One of the panelists had a locally enrolled student who suffered indignities at the hands of a previously friendly superior immediately following the raid. An actor spoke, heart rending stories of the time. The audience were sitting on the main event in the auditorium, 600 yards away from hotel's dining room, where the three dozen Japanese Americans of the Hawaiian Bakery were sitting doing their jobs, this humiliation was observable.

The question is whether the filmmakers were feeble in their understanding of the nation's history, or whether they were not bothered by the situation, or both.

Megumi Yamada will attempt to convey a message to the 3,000 college students per year scholarship not for the Kekie Calo's generation in the June 19-JACCC, Corner. Each received $500 scholarships which are tallied in the Sunday, April 4, 2004.

Meiji Kagi, 213-2890-311; Sam Iono, 310-327-5548; Ray Okeno, 312-765-5942; Biko Takashima, 320-755-9181; Arnold Mauta, 213-399-5193.

Letters to the Editor

Carrying the Torch into the 21st Century

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The JACL needs you to either join or renew your membership. You can help carry the torch into the 21st century! Each dollar you give is stretched to carry the torch.

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Vets Foundation to Get $1 Million

The Budget Conference Committee recently approved Assembly member George Nakano's request for $1 million for the 100th/442nd MIS World War II Memorial Foundation Educational Program.

Since he was elected in 1998, As-
semblymember Nakano, D-Norte-
rance, has spearheaded the fund-
ing 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 appropriate $1 million for the memorial foundation," Nakano said. "This issue is personal for me since as a child I was incarcer-
ed in intermittent 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 bars."

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. Distinguished Peo-
ples Citizenship, over 9,000 Pur-
thel Peacemakers and 18,142 individual awards.

"The purpose of this request was to recognize and educate teachers and students about the significant contributions made by veteran Japanese Americans to the state government," Nakano 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 in-
corporate the lessons of the JA
WWII veterans in the classroom. In addition, an oral history program, a sliding digital thematic stan-
gon film and a 42nd 87c will be created with the funds. SB 75, which includes the $1 million appropriation, is the memorial foundation, will now go to the Assembly and Senate floors for approval."
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 1-800-440-6633.

Website: http://www.jaclhealthbenefits.org

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Nisei Vet Serves as Grand Marshal in Hood River Parade

Veteran, Mann 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 U.S. Army and also in the 442nd Infantry, a unit formed in the Solomon Islands. In 1942, he was among the first Nisei to be inducted into the 442nd Battalion, which was later formed into the 100th Battalion.

"I feel pretty good about representing the other Nisei and I think it was a real honor for them," he said.

Akiyama and Noji, whose families immigrated to Oregon in the 1900s and became part of the farming community, agree the warm welcome they received at the parade was vindication for the unwelcoming reception they received in 1945 just after returning home from the war.

Satsuki Ina Keynoter at Bi-District Luncheon

SEATTLE—Keynote speaker for the bi-district awards luncheon July 14 was Dr. Satsuki Ina, professor emeritus at University of California, San Francisco, and a practicing psychotherapist who focuses on treating survivors of trauma. Ina said that in her research, she has discovered that former internes suffer from a higher incidence of alcoholism and depression and more than 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 is subjected to parental or sibling abuse. "This creates a psychosomatic dilemma where the abused staat may use alcohol to take on the world of the abusive parent 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 have 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 not still broken free from the lingering effects of being abused by the government.

"As part of our own healing, it is important that we empower ourselves, no longer confining 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 in accepting all of 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 its new website at www.jacl.org. "The site is designed 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 Clan, national vice president of public affairs.

"The site will continue to be an excellent tool for people regardless of their age, race, or skin color, 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 an updated history guide to Japanese American history. The education site contains an online sign-up form 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 of fighting ignorance and racism, which typically result from a lack of knowledge," said National Executive Director John Tatsata. "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, pages from CCLPEP funding supported the creation of CDs which feature video footage and lessons plans, available to teachers in California for free.

For more information about the CDs or to request copies for California students, call Hisako Shimizu 310-206-8628 or Diana Nishima 310-538-9882.

Venice-Culver Community Law Day Set for July 29

The Venice-Culver JACL chap- ller, Japanese American Bar As- sociates of Greater LA and Asian Pacific Bar Association are co- sponsoring a Law Day event on July 29, 1 p.m., Venice Community Center, 12445 Bradfield Dr. The free event will include a

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Mankan's HISTORIC SITE TO OFFER SUMMER TOURS

The National Park Service and the Friends of the Eastern Califor- nia Museum are offering guided tours of the Manzanar National Historic Site through Aug. 20.

Tours will run Wednesdays through Saturdays, starting at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and Sun- days at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tours depart from the Manzanar Interpretive Center and run about 2 hours. The Park is located about 200 miles northeast of Los Angeles, off highway 395.

The Manzanar National His- toric Site preserves and pre- serves the historical and natural re- source associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II. A few remaining historic structures are being rehabilitated and some features (garden, orchard and guard tower) will be restored. Plans are underway to restore the historic auditorium to become the Visitor Center and Park Headquarters. Construction on the new auditorium is expected to begin in 2007.

Tours begin at the historic camp entrance near the Manzanar Post Office. Reservations are not required. Bring at least one full water bottle, sturdy shoes, wind- and dustproof clothing, sunglasses and hat. There are no facilities on site except for two portable toilets. Temperatures reach up to 100 degree Fahrenheit. For information, call Ranger Karen Linne at 760-753-7878 or the Eastern Cali- fornia Museum at 760-957-0258.

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The Ultimate Power

Even mild-mannered Pacific Citizen columnist sometime contemplate acts of vandalism and feelings of frustration. I was in the checkout line the other day when I was asked to rent a Rugratag 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 head, I realized, at first glance, it looked like a 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 American soldier in uniform, made from the waist down and had no head. The image underlines the sexual availability of non-threatening, exotic "Oriental" girls. Her face was covered with a black mask, indicating that Asian women had not minded our commodification as sexual objects since 1944. I felt sick thinking, "Hey, can I borrow your jacket for a minute and then burn it, but of course I didn't. Instead, I thought about misrepresentations like that, some malicious, some unintentional. The misrepresentation of an Asian woman on the back of a jacket is glaringly obvious as it is disturbing and frighteningly original. The important question, however, is not 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 reflect ourselves, but we do not always have the power to do so in a medium as powerful as this modern media age is to represent ourselves, we are too often reduced to objects of desire. This sort of representation is essential to understanding the role that Asian American women have played in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement.

In 1988 the Hawaiian monarchist was overthrown by a small group of white men, mostly Americans, and in 1988 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 soundlessly demolished the land and resources which it held in trust for Native Hawaiians. Today, Native Hawaiians are struggling for sovereignty, the right to control their own land and resources and 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 enjoys a lot of institutional power in state and local governments, churches and various organizations, including the JACL 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 JACLs to determine what Native Hawaiian sovereignty should look like. Supporting Native Hawaiian sovereignty as defined by such organizations as Ka Hui Hiapo is important in part to represent the largest Native Hawaiian sovereignty group with the clearest and most detailed plan in a matter of conscience for all JACLs because our community has built a broad political and cultural center on the Hawaiian islands, land which was never willingly relinquished by its indigenous people.

Ku Lahui Hawai'i has articulated several ways in which non-Native Hawaiians, including JACLs, can support the Hawaiian sovereignty movement.

To request more information from the Japanese American Citizens League - Hawaii chapter, please call (808) 973-2007.

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Stranger Than Fiction

'Pearl Harbor,' The Movie

I N THE PREVIOUS column the subject was the newly released movie "Pearl Harbor." I haven't seen it yet, but the news that "the movie was released in time to stand near three hours" is more than enough to turn me off. Usually, I go to movies when I can't get away from the community or just want to be entertained. But this time, the film's depiction of Pearl Harbor doesn't seem to be worth my time. The only thing that I can say is that the movie is long, but it doesn't make up for its lack of substance. I would have preferred to watch a shorter, more focused movie that truly captured the events of that fateful day.

By BILL MARUTANI

East Wind

been particularly encouraging to see stars out of a maximum of four. The movie has been well-received by audiences and critics alike, and it's easy to see why. The performances are strong, the direction is top-notch, and the storyline is engaging and well-paced. Overall, I would highly recommend "East Wind" to anyone looking for a film that is both visually stunning and emotionally resonant.

By CHRISTIE SHIGEMURA

Now You Can Enjoy Full Day Japanese Language TV Programs Direct from Japan.

Marcus and I would be interested in participating, and we would be happy to receive the movies from our fellow members. But then the Survivors knew of the role of the JA (American) members of the Hawaiian "bruddas" to call themselves not only during the attack on Pearl Harbor but also on the battlefield.

THERE'S ANOTHER "giant complex" that I experienced and that I dealt with, having my country dropped "The Bomb" on Hiroshma and Nagasaki. I made no attempt 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, my first occasion was to visit the stark devastation that was Hiroshima. I was simply awed. I didn't have a sense of shame or sorrow. It was simply a sight that went beyond my ability to comprehend.

It was some 20 years later that I. See EAST WIND next page
Obituaries

All the towns in California except as noted.

Hashiguchi, Yasuo, 67, Los Angeles, May 12, San Francisco-born; survived by wife Miyoko; 3 children; funeral at Northridge Memorial Park, Northridge, Los Angeles; services at Masaki Mortuary, Flushing, Queens, N.Y., June 12.


Horn, Thomas J., 76, Texas, City, Texas, born; survived by wife Terrie; daughter Kristin; many nieces and nephews.

Sakahaka, Emi, 24, Berkeley, May 1, San Francisco; survived by father, mother, brother, sister; funeral at Ocean View Mortuary, Pacifica, Calif.; services at S. H. Brody, San Francisco, May 10.

Takahashi, Hiroko, 62, Torrance, May 1, Los Angeles; survived by husband, father, mother, 3 sisters and 4 brothers.

Takemoto, Sadao, 75, Los Angeles, May 3, Torrance, Calif.; survived by wife Nao; 2 children; funeral at Oak Park Mortuary, Los Angeles; services at Fukui Memorial Chapel, Los Angeles, May 15.

Takahashi, Isao, 68, Oregon, May 13, New York; survived by wife, father, 2 children; funeral at Long Beach Memorial, Los Angeles; services at Fukui Memorial Chapel, Los Angeles, May 17.
Bi-District Awards Honorees

(From left): Sapphire pin recipients Tony Yamada and Don Malkeau, special recognition awardee Mayre Hata Lemon, who was at the February 13, 1999, memorial service for Minidoka named a national historic site, and Steve Finley, who was an instrumentation intern. Both were in recognition of 50th Medal of Honor recipients William Nakamura and James Okubo.

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