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Aug. 3-16, 2001

## Discovering Similarities Between Italian American and JA WWII Experiences

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**  
Assistant Editor

Comparisons between the Japanese American and the Italian American experiences during World War II and the recent passage of Public Law 106-451 were the topic of discussion at a forum held at the Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles on June 30.

Speakers at the event included Lawrence DiStasi, president of the American Italian Historical Association's Western Regional Chapter; Dr. Gloria Ricci Lothrop, professor at California State University, Northridge; and Lloyd Inui, program advisor for the Japanese American National Museum and former Heart Mountain internee.

While neither the Italian Ameri-

can nor the German American communities suffered en masse incarceration as was the case in the JA community, much of their experiences parallel the JAs.

All three panelists pointed out that some of the reasons Italian Americans were incarcerated on a smaller scale was that President Franklin Roosevelt, a Democrat, was facing re-election and he needed the support of Italian Americans, who were loyal Democrats and a huge voting bloc on the East Coast; and that a large number of Italian Americans, an estimated 400,000 men, were in the Army in 1942.

Regarding more recent develop-

See **ITALIAN AMERICAN**/ page 7

## 2001 JACL Youth Conference Highlights Nikkei Community Beyond California

By **TRACY UBA**  
Writer/Reporter

**SEATTLE**—Held in the heart of the Emerald City with a large contingent of participants from Utah, the 2001 JACL National Youth/Student Conference set out to highlight the diversity of the Japanese American community beyond California. And with over 115 Nikkei attendees from as far away as Hawaii and Maryland, it did just that.

Titled "Transforming Leadership in the Asian Pacific American Community through Identity, Unity and Diversity," the JACL NY/SC's biennial conference brought together students and youth ages 15 to 26 to Seattle University July 13-15 for a weekend of culturally specific workshops, discussions, awards and entertainment.

Among the speakers at the conference were Washington state representatives Velma Veloria and Sharon Tomiko Santos as well as national HIV/AIDS and gay rights activist Paul Kawata, also of Seattle.

"The participants were really exposed to a lot of new people that they didn't get the opportunity to see before, like the different politicians that we've had here from Washington state, the local leaders," said National Youth Council Chair Matthew Tatsuo Nakata. "The location too offers a change of scenery. It's not a bad thing to have a conference in California, but it's also not a bad thing to let people come to someplace new and different... It allows our organization to extend some outreach in this area."

JACL National President Floyd Mori, who attended the PNW/DC



PHOTO: TRACY UBA

From l-r: National Youth Rep. Amy Matsumoto, Washington State Rep. Velma Veloria, the opening keynote speaker, and National Youth Council Chair Matthew Tatsuo Nakata kick off the 2001 JACL Youth Conference.

bi-district conference, held that same weekend, extended his support to the youth, saying, "I want to congratulate the leaders of our youth group who have put this together. As [those] who have put together events know, it's not an easy job, and always at the last minute there are problems or issues that you have to resolve. Our young people have done very, very well without us old fozys kind of hovering over them."

**Veterans and Newcomers**

The JACL NY/SC conference saw many new faces since it was last held in the summer of 1999,

with participants representing a broad range of age groups, from young teens to mid-twentysomethings, and nearly 20 states representing cities in Utah, including Salt Lake City, Mount Olympus and Ogden.

For sisters Valerie and Brenda Mugleston, the youth conference was an eye-opening glimpse into the world outside of their home state.

"Being out of Utah and seeing so many Asians in one building is really different," said Valerie, 16. "In our school there's maybe five

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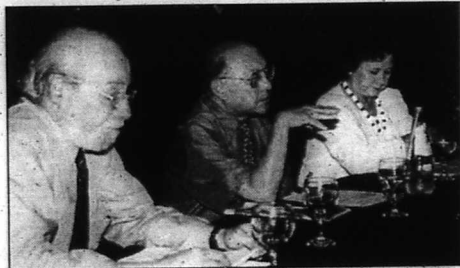


PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

From l-r: Lawrence DiStasi, American Italian Historical Assn. Western Regional Chapter president; Lloyd Inui, Japanese American National Museum program advisor; and Dr. Gloria Ricci Lothrop, California State University, Northridge professor.

## Int'l Human Rights Attorneys Seek U.S. Supreme Court Review of Redress Case

Three leading international human rights attorneys and scholars, have filed a brief seeking U.S. Supreme Court review of the appeal in *Kato v. United States*, a consolidated action by six persons of Japanese ancestry interned by the United States without hearing or trial during World War II.

Dale Minami, Prof. Eric K. Yamamoto, and Prof. Natsu Taylor Saito, have filed a petition urging the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the cases of Douglas Sadao Kato, Jane-Yano, and the Ogura Family.

Kato was a Japanese businessman imprisoned by the U.S. government after residing lawfully in the United States for many years and Yano is a U.S. citizen born in a U.S. prison camp. The Oguras were abducted from their native Peru, held hostage in the United States and then deported to Japan shortly after the atomic bombings

of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war.

"The United States has yet to apologize or provide compensation to these individuals even under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Lower federal court judges have ruled in favor of the U.S. government because the claimants' first abductions and imprisonments occurred many years ago.

Should their petition be granted, the Supreme Court will hear the case, No. 01-7, during its October 2001 term in Washington, D.C. The "friend of the court" (amicus curiae) brief is filed with the consent of Deputy U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement, who is representing the United States in the case.

Professor Yamamoto of the University of Hawaii School of Law, and Dale Minami of the San Francisco law firm Minami, Lew & Tamaki, litigated the historic Korematsu coram nobis case before the U.S. District Court in 1983. Prof. Saito, of the Georgia State University College of Law, specializes in teaching international human rights issues of law, race, and foreign policy. ■

## MORI MEMO Tomorrow's Leaders

By **FLOYD MORI**  
Nat'l JACL President

During the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to attend some of the bi- and tri-district conferences. There has been a great mix of members representing the various generations within our community. It is always good to see past national presidents such as Hank Tanaka, Lillian Kimura,



Denny Yasuhara, Raymond Uno, and others remaining active in their local chapters and districts. They are the anchors of this organization, keeping our feet firmly on the ground bound to the principles and objectives for which JACL was

See **MORI MEMO**/ page 7

## Students Say They Were Targeted Because of Race

By **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**SEATTLE**—Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerikowski has apologized to a group of Asian American students who say they were victims of racial profiling when they were stopped for jaywalking.

"I've told you how sorry I am that something like this occurred," said the chief at a July 16 meeting, adding that he was looking into the incident.

But the group of students and their instructors say they will file a formal police complaint against the officer who stopped them at an intersection July 9 and grilled them for 45 minutes.

"There is no question that this was an illegal stop, an unconstitutional stop," attorney Yvonie Kinoshita Ward said at the meeting held at the Asian Resource Center attended by about 50 people, including Kerikowski, Mayor Paul Schell and several city councilmembers.

Ward is representing the members of the Summer Youth Leadership Program, an annual program for AA youth sponsored by the Northwest Asian Weekly Founda-

tion. Police say the officer was on the lookout for Japanese tourists, who were in town for the All-Star game festivities. Officers wanted to ensure the safety of foreign visitors who were unfamiliar with the city, Kerikowski said.

"We're not satisfied with the chief's responses," said Andrew Cho, a program instructor who was among those stopped. "We feel he avoided many of our questions instead of answering them directly."

Members of the student group and others at the meeting called for an independent investigation, strict disciplinary action against the officer who stopped them, a public apology from officers involved and cultural sensitivity training for all officers.

"The students say they were walking to Pioneer Square across Fourth Avenue South and Main Street, near the city's International District, when Officer Jess Pitts, using his patrol car's loudspeaker, warned them they were jaywalking. The students say they couldn't hear him over a passing train.

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**Please Help Us**  
"Carrying the Torch Into the 21st Century"  
Help Continue the Work of JACL for Future Generations

The JACL is facing a financial crisis, brought on by a diminishing membership. We are asking for your generous donation to help us continue the mission of the JACL.

Your gift makes a difference:

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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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JACL-COMMUNITY  
**Calendar**



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**East Coast**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Tues., Aug. 7—D.C. chapter board meeting, 6:30 p.m., D.C. JACL office, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 704.  
Sun., Sept. 9—Annual picnic, 1p.m., Wheaton Regional Park; Shelter D.

**Midwest**

**CINCINNATI**

Sun., Aug. 12—Cincinnati JACL Annual Potluck: 4 p.m. social hour/silent auction; 5 p.m. dinner; Hyde Park Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 3799 Hyde Park Ave., Oakley.  
**DETROIT**  
Sun., Aug. 12—Detroit JACL Community Picnic; noon, Parkland Pavilion, Edward Hines Dr., Dearborn Hts. Bring your own lunch and beverages. Info: Mary Kamidai, 734/522-7917; or Toshi, Shimozuma, 248/356-3089.

**Mountain Plains**

**BOULDER**

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 24-25—Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance Festival, Boulder Court House lawn, admission is free.  
**DENVER**  
Sun., Aug. 19—Denver's Inaugural Dragon Boat Festival, Sloan Lake, admission and parking free.  
**NEW MEXICO**  
Tues., Aug. 21—General meeting for those interested in joining New Mexico JACL chapter's bowling league, 7 p.m., Sandia Bowl at Lexington and Juan Tabo. Bowling begins on Aug. 28. Info: Evelyn Togami 505/865-7156 or Grace Dexter 505/294-0507.

**Intermountain**

**SALT LAKE/MOUNT OLYMPUS**

Sat., Aug. 11—Mount Olympus JACL outing 6 p.m., Evergreen Park; Info: Ken Nozdu, 801/487-3174.  
**SALT LAKE CITY**  
Sat., Sept. 15—Utah JACL chapters annual golf tournament. Wingersette fund-raiser for scholarships. Info: Floyd Mori, 801/572-2282.

**Pacific Northwest**

**OLYMPIA**

Sat., Sept. 29—Reunion with pre-1942 students of Southbay Elementary School. Trying to locate former Nikkei students. Infor: Joan 360/459-2449, e-mail: olysugbar@aol.com.

**PORTLAND**

Sun., Aug. 19—Nikkei Community Picnic, noon-5 p.m., Oaks Park. Volunteers needed. Call Connie Masuko 503/243-3291.

**SEATTLE**

Sun., Aug. 12—America at its Best: Legacy of Two Nisei Patriots," a film about Medal of Honor recipients PFC William Nakamura and T-5 James Okubo, 4 p.m., Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, 3001 S. 24th Ave. Free admission. Info: Bob Sato 425/557-1884; George Yamaguchi 206/362-7302.

**Northwest California**

**CONTRA COSTA**

Fri., Sept. 28—"College Planning," 7:30 p.m., East Bay Free Methodist Church. Info: Contra Costa JACL Co-Presidents James Oshima 234-8437 or Esther Takeuchi 223-2258.  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Sat., Aug. 11-12—55th Annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar; noon, Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Info: Betsun Office, 916/446-0121; Steve Kawano, 916/ 684-3203; or, Bob Azuma, 916/965-5365.

Sat., Aug. 18—"Forgotten Valor" screening, Crest Theater, 1013 K Street, noon. Reservations call Nelson Nagai 476-8528 or Edwin Endow 477-6905.  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Sun., Aug. 5—Nikkei Widowed Group monthly meeting. Info: M. Kusaba 415/333-5190; Kay Yamamoto 510/444-3911.  
**SAN JOSE**  
Sat., Aug. 18—24th Annual Daruma Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saratoga Lanes Bowling Center, special performance by San Jose Taiko. Hosted by West Valley JACL and Next Generation. Info: 408/293-4432 or www.pgb-group.com/darumafestival.

**SAN MATEO**

Sun., Aug. 19—San Mateo JACL Picnic in conjunction with the San Mateo Organization of Chinese Americans and Chinese Engineers

Group, 11:30 a.m., San Mateo Central Park (near the El Camino Real entrance). Members \$6, non-members \$8. Info: 650/343-2793.

**WATSONVILLE/SANTA CRUZ**  
Sun., Aug. 12—Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Annual Community Picnic, 11 a.m., Aptos Village Park, 100 Aptos Creek Rd.

**Central California**

**FRESNO**

Sun., Sept. 16—16th Annual Shinzen Run, 6 a.m. registration, Woodward Park; to benefit the Nikkei Service Center in Fresno and the Shinzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park. Info: Bobbi Hamada, 559/434-1662; or Fresno JACL, 559/486-6815.

**Southern California**

**LOS ANGELES**

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 4-12—61st Nisei Week Japanese Festival; street arts fair, coronation, taiko, parade, exhibits, sports/martial arts, ondo, tofu festival. Info: 213/687-7193.  
Sun., Aug. 12—"From Settlement to Resettlement: Japanese Americans in (and out of) Santa Monica, Calif., 1899-1960," 2 p.m., Santa Monica Japanese Community Hall, 7413 Michigan Ave. Research thesis by Dana Blakemore. RSVP ASAP 310/586-6769.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 25—Visual Communication's "Challivisions XVII," 6:00-10:00 p.m., JAACE Plaza; program, 7:30 p.m., JAT, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles. Tickets for chili and screening: \$25 non-members, \$22 members; for screening only \$10 non-member, \$7 members; children under 12, \$12 non-members, \$5 members. To order tickets, 213/680-4462 ext. 59 or fax 213/687-4848.

**ORANGE COUNTY**  
Mon., Sept. 10—Japan America Society Golf Classic, Yorba Linda Country Club. Individual registration is \$27. Register by Aug. 24. Info: 213/627-6217, ext. 207 or fax 213/627-1398.

**PASADENA**

Sat., Aug. 24—"Tiger's Lair: Animal Paintings in the Etsuko and Joe Price Collection," 2 p.m., Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave. Lecture by Hollis Goodall with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Japanese Art collection. Lecture free with museum admission. Info: 626/449-2742 ext. 19.

**TORRANCE**

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 31-Sept. 2—Ninth Biennial National JACL Singles Convention, "Come Together 2001"; Torrance Marriott Hotel. Call hotel for special convention rate: 800/228-9290. Info: Miyako, 310/559-4024; e-mail: singlesconvention@yahoo.com; or visit: www.singlesconvention.net.

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 26-28—Richner Reunion III: Torrance Marriott Hotel. Registration deadline: Sept. 30. Info: Southern Calif. Betty Horikiri Oka, 714/636-8207; Tochi Kusumoto, 310/323-6337; Helen Yoshimura Takata, 626/968-2966; or Jikko Kimoto Sato, 323/733-3435.  
Northern Calif.: Lillian Uyeda Inouye, 510/235-6042; Asako Horimoto Mayeda, 510/832-2275; Yone Kimura Asai, 925/828-2086; Gurni Wakai Okuhara, 209/369-9504; Sary Shioya, 916/381-2001; Ben Nagatani, 617/225-0483; or Miyako Kosaka Iwasakawa, 209/462-1124.

**SAN DIEGO**  
Sat. Aug. 4—Buddhist Temple of San Diego Obon: 5:30-8:30 p.m., 2929 Market St., off Hwy. 94 at 30th St. Info: 619/239-0896.  
**Arizona - Nevada**  
**LAS VEGAS**  
Sat., Aug. 25—William "Bill" Ende Memorial Golf Tournament; Stallion Mountain Country Club, 5500 East Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas. Proceeds go to high school scholarships. **Submit entry by Aug. 10.** Info: Asian Chamber of Commerce, 702/737-4300.  
Mon.-Wed., Sept. 24-26—Manzanar High School Reunion; Fremont Hotel; banquet dedicated to the late Shiro Nomura. RSVP ASAP: Kazie Nagai, 212/380-2611; Sam Ono, 310/327-5568; Ray Onodera, 626/573-5279; Bruce Kaji, 310/327-7790, ext. 12; or Angel Masada, 213/398-5157.

**TUCSON**

Sat., Aug. 25—Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site interpretive sign dedication, 10:30 a.m. Hotel arrangements at Ramada Inn & Suites Foothills, 520/886-9595, ask for special "SGS Rate." Info: Nicole Branton, Coronado National Forest, 520/670-4735; e-mail: nbranton@fs.fed.us. ■

**Letters to the Editor**

**The Future of the JA Community**

The Japanese population in the United States declined in the year 2000. While other Asian groups grew by leaps and bounds, ours was the only one to shrink.

I thought we Nikkei would reach the "magic" million mark sometime in this millennium, but it now appears we are going in the opposite direction due to low immigration, low birthrates and increased intermarriage.

This decrease in our numbers has profound implications on our future and poses a dilemma for Nikkei organizations like JACL. There will be fewer potential members to recruit with the attendant problem of less money coming in, difficulty in organizing

events and drives, and retrenchment of our goals and programs.

The Nisei are still the backbone of JACL and I can see the Sansei and Hapa carrying on the tradition. But I doubt that people who are a quarter or an eighth Japanese will consider themselves Japanese enough to carry on our traditions and institutions.

Already we have seen the disappearance of many Nikkei institutions. Japanese newspapers like the *Hawaii Times*, *New York Nichibe*, *Utah Nippo*, and the *Kashi Mainichi* are gone. A Nikkei Lutheran church, organized by a former white Minnesotan among MIS members disbanded in Gardena. Evergreen Baptist Church moved out of Boyle Heights to become an Asian church in the San Gabriel Valley.

Preserving the last existing Japantowns (Little Tokyo, San Francisco and San Jose Japantowns) may also be a lost cause. Most likely Little Tokyo will last the longest of the three, but even it faces the dilemma of almost no new Sansei or Yonsei businesses. A Sansei in the Bay Area told me he expects San Francisco's Japantown to become

Koreatown in this millennium.

In any proposed Nikkei conference, the future of Nikkei organizations and institutions should be one of the major topics. We should hang in there as long as possible, but I know that we will cease to exist as a full-blooded, Japanese ethnic group. Outmarriages will be the rule from now on, meaning Nikkei institutions and organizations won't be needed in the future.

Ed Sugawara  
Seattle

**Differences Shouldn't Weaken JACL**

There is something sad and tragic going on within the Japanese American community. It's been over a half century since the end of World War II and we are fighting amongst ourselves over the different directions we took during this period.

Are we forgetting the real villain was our own government that disregarded our constitutional rights and created this chaotic environment?

I was recalled as a reservist in 1950 and fortunately stationed at Fort Ord, Calif., during the Korean conflict. It was during this time a former classmate from Butte High School, Gila concentration camp, came through our regiment for a two-week refresher course prior to being shipped to Korea. I was sadly informed that several weeks after his arrival overseas he was killed in action. He was a member of the "no no" family.

The JA experience of the 1940s surfaced the fragile aspect of our constitution. As a Nisei, it should be our responsibility to prevent such unconstitutional acts by our government to happen again. JAs, as an identifiable minority, are still vulnerable to racism and discrimination. A divided Nikkei community only compounds this vulnerability.

We should not allow our differences of the past to weaken the JACL as our civil rights organization. It is still our best instrument to fulfill our responsibility to future generations.

Toru Miyoshi  
Santa Maria, Calif.

**Carrying the Torch into the 21st Century**

Yes, I/we want to help continue the work of the JACL for future generations.

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## Wen Ho Lee Book Undergoes Government Review

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE—The autobiography of Wen Ho Lee, the Los Alamos scientist who spent nine months in jail for downloading nuclear data onto unsecured computers, is undergoing government review.

Government censors have had Lee's just-completed book, "My Country Versus Me," co-authored by Helen Zia, for less than two weeks, said Will Schwalbe, editor in chief of Hyperion Books and editor of the book.

Schwalbe said he cannot yet detail specific revelations in the book but maintains it "answers every question that anyone would ever have for him (Lee)."

Lee's legal team reviewed the manuscript before it was submitted for publication, he said. Lee attorneys John Cline and Brian Sun said they could not comment on the manuscript.

Schwalbe assumes the government is checking the book for any classified information but adds: "It's also my assumption that Wen Ho Lee doesn't want to make any disclosures of classified material, so that's why we hope it will be approved quickly."

"I found it a remarkably gripping and moving story and one that also forces the reader to examine a lot of assumptions about the government, the media and individuals," said Schwalbe.

Co-author Zia, who previously wrote "Asian American Dreams," he said: "She's really helped Wen Ho Lee get his voice on paper. It really is his story, what he thought, what he felt, what he did, and that's one of the things that makes it such a moving book to read."

"It's the story of a very patriotic

man who found himself caught up in these incredible events," he said.

The story flashes back to Lee's childhood in Taiwan, where he was born in 1939. He emigrated to the United States as a young man and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. He and his wife, Sylvia, have lived in Los Alamos since 1978. They have two grown children, Alberta and Chung.

After months of investigation and much public speculation, Lee was arrested and charged in December 1999 with 59 counts of mishandling nuclear data. Prosecutors emphasized Lee was not accused of espionage, and it later turned out the material he downloaded was not classified secret until after he was in custody. Terms of Lee's no-bail confinement barred him from having visitors except his immediate family and required that he wear shackles whenever he left his cell, even while kicking a soccer ball in a small, solitary yard at the Santa Fe County jail.

U.S. District Judge James Parker apologized to Lee at his sentencing for the unfair treatment, saying the Justice and Energy departments had "embarrassed our entire nation and each of us who is a citizen of it."

Someday the story may be told on screen as well. A film option unconnected with Hyperion has been purchased, he said.

Last September, Lee pleaded guilty to one count of downloading restricted data to computer tape and was released after being sentenced to the nine months he already had served. The government dropped the other 58 counts, and Lee agreed to undergo interrogation under oath for 60 days and to hold himself available for additional questions for a year. ■

## Community Action Needed to Preserve Minidoka Internment National Monument

The community is being asked to contact their representatives and senators to urge the inclusion of \$529,000 in the Fiscal Year 2002 Interior Appropriations Act to preserve the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Although Senators Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, requested funding in the next appropriations cycle to develop a management plan for the national monument, the request was not included in the final appropriations bill passed by the Senate in July.

Thus, there is a push to get the money included in the conference

report by contacting members to reconsider the allocation request. The report will be completed in the next few weeks.

Minidoka was one of ten internment camps where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Earlier this year, the Minidoka site was designated the "Minidoka Internment National Monument." Although the designation is meaningful, without funding to develop a management plan, the site will continue to disintegrate.

The requested amount of \$529,000 will be used to develop a general management plan and

for base operations/general staffing requirements at Minidoka.

Senate Interior Appropriations Conferees include: Bennett - UT; Burns - MT; Byrd - WV; Campbell - CO; Cochran - MS; Domenici - NM; Dorgan - ND; Feinstein - CA; Gregg - NH; Hollings - SC; Inouye - HI; Leahy - VT; Murray - WA; Reid - NV; and Stevens - AK.

House Interior Appropriations Conferees (anticipated) include: Cramer - DE; Dingell - MI; Kingston; Kolbe; Moran (VA); Murtha; Nethercutt; Obey; Peterson (PA); Regula; Skeen; Taylor (NC); Wamp; and Young (FL). ■

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Conan O'Brien Apologizes for Racial Epithet on 'Late Night'

LOS ANGELES—Conan O'Brien, host of the popular "Late Night" show, apologized last week for the use of the racial epithet "chink" by guest comedian Sarah Silverman on his July 11 show.

"To those people who got hurt hearing that word, I apologize," said Conan in a brief *Los Angeles Times* article. "I understand that the word is offensive to people, it hurts people."

While bantering with O'Brien, Silverman said she had been called for jury duty but didn't want to serve.

"My friend is like, 'Why don't you write something inappropriate on the form like 'I hate chinks,'" Silverman said. But she didn't want people to think she was racist, she said, so "I just filled out the form and I wrote 'I love chinks'—and who doesn't?" "It's not constructive to use such a hateful word and play it off for laughs. It just gives people permission to continue to use it," said Guy Aoki, president of Media Action Network for Asian Americans. "She obviously chose to target a group of people that she felt she could get away with insulting. We're not standing for it."

MANAA had been seeking an apology from O'Brien but is still waiting for an apology from Silverman.

### Authorities Investigate Beating Death of Laotian Man

NEWMARKET, N.H.—Authorities are investigating whether racism led to the beating death of a Laotian immigrant refugee by a neighbor with a long criminal record.

Richard Labbe, 35, is accused

of beating his neighbor, 62-year-old Thung Phetakoune, who died two days after the brutal attack.

According to police, Phetakoune had tried to break-up an argument between Labbe and Sasi Chan, another neighbor who recently had delivered an eviction notice to Labbe from the building landlord.

Labbe is charged with second-degree assault, but prosecutors are considering more serious charges to reflect the death and allegations that racism motivated the attack. According to court documents, Labbe told police, "What's going on is that those Asians killed Americans and you won't do anything about it so I will... Call it payback."

Police said Labbe claimed he had consumed a case of beer and ingested cocaine five hours before the attack.

Chan and other witnesses told police Labbe accused Phetakoune of killing Americans in Vietnam, though the Laotian man actually fought alongside Americans during the war. Labbe's father says his son has a drinking problem that makes him violent, but insists he is not racist.

### Man Could Face 25 Years for Sexual Assault of Japanese Students

SPOKANE, Wash.—A Spokane man convicted of abducting and sexually abusing Japanese college students because he thought they wouldn't tell could face a 25-year sentence.

David M. Dailey pleaded guilty to kidnapping, rape and assault charges in incidents involving young Japanese college students studying in Spokane last fall. Dailey, 35, was a member of a bondage and sadomasochism ring called the Spokane Power Exchange.

He pleaded guilty in May to three counts of second-degree kidnapping and one count of first-degree rape after three Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute students

were abducted and sexually assaulted in November.

Lawyers representing the Japanese students and the Mukogawa Fort Wright branch campus agreed with the prosecutor's recommendation that Dailey serve at least 25 years. Spokane County Superior Court Judge Linda Tompkins does not have to follow that recommendation at the July 31 sentencing.

A co-defendant, Edmund F. Ball III, 40, also pleaded guilty to similar charges stemming from the Nov. 11 assaults. His sentencing was delayed after his lawyers filed motions to change his plea and go to trial. Spokane County will fight that motion, the prosecutor's office said.

A third defendant, Lana Vickery, pleaded guilty in March to single counts of first-degree kidnapping and first-degree rape. She was sentenced in June to nearly 16 years in prison.

### Web Worm Defaces Sites With Words 'Hacked by Chinese'

WASHINGTON—In an unprecedented show of force against an extremely virulent Internet attack, government and private officials implored worldwide organizations to protect themselves from the "Code Red" worm.

Representatives from the White House, FBI, Microsoft and others have decided to take the step in the face of one of the largest ever dangers to the Internet. The worm, similar to a virus, could cause widespread slowdowns and sporadic outages.

The worm defaces websites with the words, "Hacked by Chinese," but the origin of the worm is unknown.

While the infection rate is unknown, it is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers. In just the first nine hours of its July 19 outbreak, it infected more than 250,000 systems. ■



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## Gen. Shinseki to Speak at 'SALUTE 2001' Event

The "SALUTE 2001: All-Nikkei Veterans and Family Event," which will run from Aug. 3-5 in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, will include a guest appearance by Gen. Eric Shinseki at an Aug. 4 luncheon.

The SALUTE 2001 festivities aims to bring together a broad cross-section of Japanese American veterans and their families, and will coincide with the 61st Annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival.

Organized by two steering committees representing 30 veterans' organizations as well as the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACC) and the Nisei Week Foundation, SALUTE 2001 will allow Nikkei veterans to share their experiences with younger genera-

tions. SALUTE 2001 highlights include:

• Aug. 4: Luncheon with guest speaker Shinseki, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, at 11:30 a.m., Beverly Hilton Hotel, 9876 Wilshire Blvd. Also scheduled to speak are U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi.

• Aug. 5: Memorial service at the JACC Plaza; veterans' participation in the Nisei Week parade, which is themed "Salute to Japanese American Veterans"; and screening of the feature-length film, "Uncommon Valor" at the Japan America Theatre.

The screening of "Uncommon Valor" as well as a videotape of the recent South Korean memorial dedication in Injei-gak, South Ko-

rea, is being sponsored by the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKVW).

• Aug. 3-12: JANM will unveil "Beyond the Call of Duty: Honoring the 24 Japanese American Medal of Honor Recipients," a display highlighting the heroism of the 24 JA Medal of Honor recipients.

In addition to honoring Sadao Munemori, the first Nikkei MOH recipient of WWII, and the 20 recently upgraded WWII MOH recipients, the display will recognize Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, who served in the Korean War, Terry Kawamura and Rodney Yano, who served in Vietnam, and other Asian Pacific American MOH recipients.

For information, contact your local Nikkei veterans' organization or call SALUTE 2001 at JANM at 213/625-0414. ■

## Plans Underway for 50th Anniversary of JACL Jr. Olympics

A committee has been formed to begin planning for the 50th anniversary celebration of the JACL Junior Olympics to be held in 2002.

The Jr. Olympics began in 1953 by the San Francisco chapter, to provide a venue for young Japanese American children to learn and participate in track and field events. Since then over 12,000 youngsters from age 8 through high school have participated in the Olympics.

The event is held on the first Sunday of every year. It was first offered at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco then at various other track stadiums around the Bay Area, finally settling at Chabot College, Hayward, Calif., where it has been since 1980.

The committee is requesting that the community offer their assistance in making this 50th anniversary a most memorable occasion. Steve Okamoto, chair of the committee, said, "We are asking former teams and athletes to communicate with us so we can honor them at the luncheon break."

He added, "We also need monetary donations as well as items we can give to all the participants reminding them of the significance of the day."

Okamoto can be reached at 630 Leo Drive, Foster City, CA 94404, or by e-mail: sokam@ao.com. ■

## Norman Mineta to Keynote 2001 PSW Awards Dinner

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta will present the keynote address at the JACL Pacific Southwest District awards dinner on Sept. 22, 6 p.m., at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.

Prior to joining President Bush's administration as secretary of transportation, Mineta served as U.S. secretary of commerce under President Clinton, becoming the first Asian Pacific American to serve in that position.

From 1975 to 1995, he served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the heart of California's Silicon Valley. Mineta was the driving force behind the passage of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1998, which officially apologized for and redressed the injustices endured by Japanese Americans during World

War II. In 1995, George Washington University awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Medal to Mineta for his contributions to the field of civil rights. Prior to joining the Commerce Department, he was vice president at Lockheed Martin Corporation.

This year the JACL PSWD will honor: Sue Kunitomi Embry, chairperson of the Manzanar Community activist; Kent Nagano, three-time Grammy Award-winning music conductor; Robert Scheer, Los Angeles Times contributing editor; and The Players, athletic club/community organization.

The Torrance Marriott Hotel is located at 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, Calif. Dinner proceeds will go towards the continued development of youth leadership for the JACL's PSWD. Tickets are \$100 each for the general public. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the JACL PSW office at 213/626-4471. ■



## APAs in the News

### Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Roger Chiang has been named the Democratic National Committee's Director of Asian Pacific Islander American Outreach. Chiang will help coordinate the DNC's efforts to work with the Asian Pacific Islander American community on issues of importance to APAs.

Prior to joining the DNC, Chiang most recently worked as a research assistant at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. As a Clinton appointee, Chiang was the director of operations for Secretary Andrew Cuomo at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He also worked for the Gore/Lieberman and Clinton/Gore 1996 campaigns.

Matt Fong, former California State Treasurer and senatorial



candidate, has withdrawn his nomination for the position of Undersecretary of the Army. Fong said that personal and family reasons forced him to withdraw his name, pointing to the particularly long confirmation process. Fong was nominated by President Bush for the position in May and would have become the first APA to have filled the post.

Lisa Hasegawa has been named executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD). CAPACD, a newly formed national advocacy organization, recently opened its headquarters in

Washington, D.C. Hasegawa was formerly the Community Liaison for the White House Initiative on APAPs and worked closely with National CAPACD.


Glenn Kumekawa, of Wake-



field, R.I., was inducted into the American Institute of Certified Planners at a ceremony in New Orleans for his achievements in the field of urban and rural planning. Kumekawa has 40 years of experience in planning and currently serves as director and professor emeritus of the Inter-governmental Policy Analysis Program at the University of Rhode Island.

Steven D. Ling was appointed by Gov. Gray Davis as director of the Taiwan Office of International Trade and Investment. Ling, 39, of Rosemead, Calif., is an attorney for the Law Offices of Gordon K. Eng in Torrance, Calif.


Judge Sandra Otaka announced on July 29 her campaign to become Cook County's first elected APA judge in the March 2002 election. Judge Otaka currently presides over the Child Protection Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Illinois. Otaka has been active in the APA community having served as vice president of the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, the board of the Japanese American Service Committee, and she is the past chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Council on Minority Affairs. ■



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**YOUTH**

(Continued from page 1)

Asians out of 3,000. In the Hapa issues workshop, listening to their experiences, they talked about only hanging out with Asians, but if Utah it's not like that because if you only hang out with Asians there'd only be three people in your group."

Brenda, 18, said the HIV/AIDS workshop was "one of the most interesting for her because it dealt with safe sex, an issue that students rarely hear or openly talk about in Salt Lake."

Craig Nishina, 21, a fourth-year civil engineering major at the University of Washington, said this was his first JACL conference and only the second APA conference he's attended since moving to the Pacific Northwest from Honolulu.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity because I'd never heard of JACL and I was like, 'Whoa, maybe I should get involved or find out what it's about,'" said Nishina, who will serve as president of the Japanese Student Association at UW this fall.

Coming from Hawaii where Asians and Pacific Islanders are accustomed to being the majority, Nishina said he has been exposed to a different cross-section of APA youth in Seattle. Particularly with the recent racial profiling incident involving local police and 40 APAs, Nishina said he's gained a different outlook on how to deal with the issues that affect his community.

Los Angeles resident Cate Kuniyoshi, 26, felt that she was already familiar with many of the workshop topics and that they reiterated what she had learned at other Nikkei conferences she's attended in the past, including [Spectrum] in Southern California earlier this year.

What was new for her, however, were the faces. "Here, maybe because it's a national JACL conference so they did a lot of outreach at the chapter level throughout the U.S., it seems like there's a broader mixture of people. I know a lot of people say that things are California-centric and we see ourselves as

the center of the universe, so this is good to get out of there and talk to other people."

**2001 Vision Awards**

The 2001 Vision Awards had a noticeably funky flare with a performance by a local hip-hop dance troupe and the presentation of this year's award to San Francisco-based music label Kamikaze Records, which since 1997 has been promoting and showcasing talent from the APA community, including 14-year-old, up-and-coming R&B star April Villanueva, who performed a song during the banquet.

Kamikaze CEO and President Kurtis Kato said his label, which specializes in hip-hop, pop, R&B, dance and alternative styles, is attempting to do for APAs what Motown Records did for African Americans in the entertainment and music industry.

"We're not doing this because Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in the United States or because there is a demand in the market for Asian Americans in the entertainment industry. We're doing this because we feel it's time to look past the stereotypes and misconceptions and time to look toward the future of where Asian Americans can be accepted for their talent, ability, charisma and intelligence," Kato said.

"Kids want to get into the entertainment business, and we're trying to show them you can do it especially if you have the drive and determination. With JACL supporting that and really recognizing that we're here to say thank you," he told the Pacific Citizen.

Washington State Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, who keynoted the banquet, added, "I'm [so] pleased that the national JACL youth and students have focused their energies and efforts on developing and honing their leadership skills because in essence this Vision Awards Banquet is a celebration of your place and your goals in our community."

**Bridging the Generation Gap**

In addressing the youth at the banquet, JACL National Executive

Director John Tateishi echoed that faith in the Yonsei and invited the upcoming generations to continue the work that is being done now to combat hate crimes, discrimination and racism in America.

"One of the things that as a Sansei I always used to hear was that the Nisei would talk about turning the reigns over, letting the Sansei finally run things. Well, they finally let us do it and we're 60 years old!" he joked. "But I promise you that that's not what we'll do to our youth because we do understand that times change and we need to change with them."

"We look to you, the generation coming behind us, and I can tell you," Tateishi said, "you are so much smarter, so much more sophisticated and so much more worldly than we were, than we could have possibly been at your age, and so we have a lot of faith in you, a lot of hope in where you're going to take an organization like JACL and what you're going to do with it. It may be a very different organization by the time it's in your hands, but that's okay because that's where it needs to go."

Sixteen-year-old Branden Ushio, of Utah, predicted that "this is definitely going to be a different organization. It's not going to be the one our grandparents started with, but it's still going to stay strong because we're all fourth generation and we're still wanting [to preserve] our culture just as badly as the people who started this did."

Closing keynote speaker Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council, sent an equally powerful message to Yonsei such as Ushio, relaying his experience as a young Nikkei going to college in Stockton, Calif., and coming to terms with his identity, his duty to his parents and his place in society.

"I was 21 years old and I was going to be a dentist," Kawata said. "I'm about to go to dental school and all of a sudden I woke up one morning and realized I wasn't happy. I wasn't leading the life that I wanted to lead. I was leading the life that my parents wanted me to lead."

**Youth Workshops Include HIV/AIDS Awareness and Tackling APA Stereotypes**

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

SEATTLE—The 2001 JACL National Youth/Student Conference provided a chance for participants to hear about and discuss an array of topics relevant to their age group and community through workshops on Hapa issues, taiko as a cultural art form, involvement in college organizations, the benefits of graduate school, political empowerment, APAs in entertainment, generation gaps, stereotypes from the 1960s to the present, women's history, Asian Pacific American gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues and HIV/AIDS awareness.

**HIV/AIDS Awareness**

Three spokespeople for the Seattle-based Asian Pacific AIDS Education Team discussed how HIV/AIDS impacts the APA community as participants played games designed to dispel myths and misconceptions about the disease.

Workshop moderators Justine Leyson, Tri Le and Lize Casanova noted the barriers many minorities face when it comes to openly discussing the issue with their families and in their communities and having access to HIV/AIDS and safe sex education.

"I've had Asian clients who could not disclose their HIV status to their immediate family members," said Leyson, a project coordinator for International Community Health Services. "It's every difficult

"That was a real important point in my life because all of a sudden I realized I had a choice," he said. "And the choice was to live for my dream or to live for my parents' dream. ... I chose to find the life that was right for me and that was really difficult. What that meant was that I came out to my parents as a gay man. I had to tell the truth about who I was." ■

issue." Despite the fact that APAs have the least HIV/AIDS cases compared to other racial minority groups, the number of those contracting the disease is rising, particularly among Southeast Asians.

In addition to speaking about the importance of linguistically appropriate services, Leyson stressed the four main goals of APAAET: prevention, care, advocacy/policy and resources.

**Overcoming Stereotypes**

Despite the fact that APAs come from disparate backgrounds and histories, we tend to be lumped together by stereotypes that have plagued us since the 1960s, according to Dr. Connie So, an Asian American Studies professor at the University of Washington, who moderated a workshop titled "Bridging Cultural Differences: The Asian American Movement of the 1960s to the Present."

As far back as the 1850s, the age-of-yellow peril and the prevalence of Chinese railroad workers, negative images of APAs began surfacing, such as the martial arts master (from the Green Hornet to Fu Manchu), dragon lady, lotus blossom as well as latter-day images of APAs as the model minority, perpetual foreigner or spy, gangster/mobster, domestic servant and massage therapist.

"Where do we get these ideas?" So posed to the students. "A lot of times it's stereotypes, the way people see us, a lot of xenophobia."

Today, she said, APAs encounter various occupational stereotypes, having become frequently identified as the merchants, laundresses, cab drivers, gardeners, dentists and news reporters of our society.

The problem, So said, is that despite the latest census data which shows APAs comprise 4 percent of the U.S. population and their numbers are rapidly rising, "You don't see Asians in the forefront. They're always in the background." ■

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## A Summer Trip: Vacaville, Aratani, Lordsburg, Topaz

FOR MANY YEARS, it's been a hunt for someone to help detail the story of the earliest, if not the first, Japanese labor camp in California and it has finally come to pass with "Omo i de: Memories of Vacaville's Lost Japanese Community," by Takashi Tsujita and Karen



By HARRY HONDA

Nolan. Their beautiful 140-page book was published in late May by the Vacaville Museum, 213 Buck Ave., Vacaville, CA 95688, 707/447-4513, \$35.

Vacaville

### Very Truly Yours

was in one of the first fruit-producing (early cherries) valleys in the United States. Tsujita and Nolan surmise that Japanese schoolboys from San Francisco found seasonal farm work and "may also account for the inability to pinpoint when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the valley." "Omo i de" found sources pointing to 1883.

Vacaville, like the typical small Japanese towns of the 1900s along the West Coast, soon sprouted boarding houses, barber shops, bathhouses, restaurants, sweet shops, pool halls and Japanese food stores. Then came the Japanese bank, night classes in English at the Methodist mission, a Japanese language school at the Buddhist church and a Japanese hospital (the only one in Vacaville at the time).

As the Issei realized they did not want to return to Japan, "Omo i de" pictures the next two decades to wit: "They sent for their wives and soon we were born." Tsujita was born in 1925. He was a Sacramento JAACL president and a JAACL bowling tournament honcho when I met him.

"AN AMERICAN SON — The Story of George Aratani, Founder of Mikasa and Kenwood" by Naomi Hirahara inaugurates American Profiles, biographies of significant Japanese Americans. This journalistic joy of 321 pages was published in June by the Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, 213/625-0414, \$18.95.

Among the crisp and candid sentences throughout the 14 chapters, there's a gem that distinguishes the Japanese national from the Japanese American. In October 1975, Emperor Hirohito was visiting Los Angeles and met privately with community leaders, at the Music Center. They stood in line and one by one shook hands with the emperor. George would learn later that leaders from Japan assigned to U.S. subsidiaries met the emperor. They also stood in line but they bowed instead of shaking hands. "That's the difference between us," George explained. "We're American, and they are Japanese — two distinct ways of doing things."

THE SEATTLE JAACL and the University of Washington has published a 50-page booklet, "An Enemy Alien Internment Camp: Lordsburg, New Mexico, 1942-1943," containing presentations made during a February 1999 forum.

Prof. Tetsuden Kashima introduces the camp and its operation by the U.S. Army to house Japanese nationals determined by the FBI to be "a threat to the nation." Mollie Pressler, a Lordsburg resident working on her master's degree in history about the camp, was an honored guest of the forum. The operation of Lordsburg was not smooth, she said. Two Issei were shot and killed by an Army guard while marching from the train to the camp.

William Toshio Yasutake related his trip from Minidoka to Lordsburg with his sister May to visit their Dad. "Tosh" wanted to visit him before being inducted

into the Army. Tosh thought the probable cause for his dad's internment was that he was a Russo-Japanese War veteran. He adds his dad "certainly did nothing against the United States to warrant being placed in Lordsburg." Incidentally, his dad was the Japanese interpreter at the U.S. immigration station in Seattle for 20 years.

Kibei historian Ken Nakano felt more people should know about the Issei experience, pointing to a book written in Japanese by the inmates. Though released, many stayed on parole for years. Nakano encouraged wider focus on JAs during WWII, not just the WRA centers, but also the Justice Department internment camps.

The final panelist and a prewar Seattle draftee, Minoru Tsubota was involved as a Japanese translator in the general court martial trial at Fort Bliss, Texas, of Pfc. Clarence A. Burleson, who was charged with the "felonious, unlawful killing" of Hiroto Isomura and Toshiro Kobata at Lordsburg.

EVACUATION, as a JA-expression, is a fertile heading for thousands of stories found in hundreds of books in print or out-of-print. "From Our Side of the Fence" is the latest. One rich piece in this anthology is from Daisy Eiyeda Satoda of San Francisco. Her poem, "Gambare!" dated Feb. 12, 1942, when the FBI swarmed her house and took her father away to a holding camp at Sharp Park. He was the first to be released, thus shocking his family of 11 children by walking into their barracks at Tanforan.

The slim 132-pager is the product of Brian Komei Dempster, a master in creative writing who was approached by Nisei women who wanted to write about their camp experiences. Komei Dempster meets the challenge in an exquisite fashion. Publisher Kearny Street Workshop, 917 Brannan St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/503-0520. ■

## Ichiro and Us

Since I curated an exhibition on Japanese American sport history a while back, I'm supposed to be an "expert" in this area. So I've been getting calls lately to comment about Ichiro — just as I was asked to comment about Hideo Nomo a few years back.

For those of you who aren't baseball fans, Ichiro Suzuki (he prefers one name, like Madonna or Pele), a star player from the Japanese major leagues, is having an outstanding rookie year playing in the American major leagues for the Seattle Mariners.



By BRIAN NIYA

### Troubled in Paradise

Suzuki leads the majors in hits and runs scored and was voted into the starting lineup of the recent All-Star game. He is the first non-pitcher from Asia to play in the American major leagues. Six seasons ago, Hideo Nomo became the first Japanese pitcher to attain star status in the American major leagues. Both inspired large followings of Japanese and overseas Japanese fans.

I like talking about sports as much as anyone, so I've been happy to speak to the various reporters about these players. But the line of questioning — as well as some of the resulting stories — have left something to be desired.

At heart, it's been the same old story: an essential confusing of "Japanese" and "Japanese American." The expectation is that JAs must be going nuts over Ichiro (and Nomo before him) and that their success somehow is our success. One reporter even insisting on talking to an old Nisei ballplayer from before the war, hoped that this man's story about baseball in camp contrasted with Ichiro's story would somehow add up to a

"how far they have come" type of story.

This is not to say that JAs and other Asian Americans don't feel some connection to the various Asian ballplayers. I was in Los Angeles when "Nonomania" kicked off, and I went to several games he pitched; it seemed like half the AA community of Southern California was there with me. Flashbulbs exploded all over the stadium when he threw his first pitch or came up to bat for the first time.

It was a lot of fun to see a guy who looked like you in uniform having a lot of success. But for most of us AAs, I think it was clear that he was not one of "us" in the same way a JA athlete might be. Indeed, while Ichiro no doubt has a following in Hawaii, it is nowhere near as large as that enjoyed by Benny Agbayani of the New York Mets, a "local boy" or even Shanie Komei, another local who stars for the University of Nebraska baseball team. (That's another thing different about Hawaii — people actually follow college baseball.)

I was also asked questions about the implications of Ichiro's success for baseball in Japan and about Japan's reaction to his exploits. While I've read enough to have an idea about the answers, here too, it seemed the writers were a bit mixed up. What insight could I, a Sansei who has spent all of two weeks in Japan in my life, have on the thoughts of Japanese baseball fans? Why in fact talk to someone like me at all regarding Ichiro and the other Asian players?

Strangely, no one has ever asked me about Paul Kariya or Johnnie Morton, JAs who have become stars in major North American team sports. I wonder about this too. Even JA vernaculars don't follow them nearly as much as Ichiro or Nomo. It is easy to guess at the reasons. Many people don't consider hockey to be a major American sport, particularly in the mostly warm weather regions where JAs are concentrated. Kariya is actually from Canada

See NIYA/page 8

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### Diablo Valley Chapter Hosts Annual Scholarship Luncheon

The Diablo Valley JACL recently held their annual scholarship luncheon at Tony Roma's Restaurant in Danville, Calif.

The Diablo Valley chapter scholars were awarded to PK Fornsforth of Alhambra High School in Martinez and Kenta Nakamura of Miramonte High School in Orinda. Fornsforth will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall and Nakamura will be heading to UCLA.

This year's winner of the Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki Scholarship is Kazuyo Sanford who has been accepted into the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene Program. The winner of the Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki Special Award is Kimberly Yumi Takemoto who has been accepted to the Samuel Merritt College Master of Physical Therapy Program.

### Vietnam Veterans Highway Dedicated



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Nearly 50 people turned out to the corner of Pacific Coast Hwy. and Hawthorne Blvd., in Torrance, Calif., to dedicate a new sign in honor of Vietnam veterans. Pictured are (l-r): California Assemblyman George Nakano, who sponsored the memorial sign bill; President of the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 53 Jerry Yamamoto, whose chapter spearheaded the project; and U.S. Army Captain Vincent Okamoto, keynote speaker and Vietnam veteran.

is slightly off the mark," said DiStasi.

On Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, DiStasi said the government passed Proclamation 2527, thereby classifying 600,000 people of Italian descent as enemy aliens. Following this, some 10,000 Italian Americans in California were forced to move from their homes in restricted zones and 52,000 were subject to strict curfew regulations.

Lothrop, who was just 5 years old and living in Los Angeles at the time, recalled that on the night following the bombing of Pearl Harbor several Italian neighbors were taken away to an unknown destination. Included among them was Lothrop's future stepfather, who had been one of two publishers of an Italian American newspaper in Southern California.

Years later after Lothrop started researching that era, she would find that 45 people of Italian ancestry, 110 people of German ancestry and 330 people of Japanese ancestry were rounded up in Los Angeles and held at Terminal Island that day.

She noted that when Italy surrendered to the Allies in September 1943, there were still 228 Italian Americans incarcerated in various U.S. concentration camps.

Inui gave a brief rundown of the systemic discrimination against Asians prior to WWII, including the various restrictive immigration and alien land laws.

Inui also shared the lingering impact of the camps on the JA community, including the issue of loy-

alty and the ongoing controversy over the stand taken by the resistors of conscience.

And while American governmental policies during WWII forced JAs to abandon their ties to the Japanese culture and language, Inui said the advent of the 1960s civil rights movement and the redress movement, reignited an interest in things Japanese and JA among the younger generation, ensuring that the culture would not fade away. He felt a similar revival may happen within the Italian American community with the recent interest in publicly discussing rather than forgetting their wartime experiences.

"Maybe what needs to be done is to face history completely and openly because that is the way all of our communities will survive," said Inui.

The Southern California event was one of four held throughout California to publicize DiStasi's book, "Una Storia Segreta: The Secret History of Italian American Evacuation and Internment During World War II." The publication was supported by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

Since 1994, DiStasi has been project director of a traveling exhibit titled, "Una Storia Segreta: When Italian Americans were 'Enemy Aliens.'" Most recently, DiStasi teamed up with the National Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco to sponsor the exhibit, saying "this is a major step in cooperation between our communities."

can move forward, making great strides to improve our organization to meet today's needs.

Another encouraging facet of our organization are the many younger adults and teenagers showing interest in JACL, understanding the challenges facing them, including the ethnic and racial problems of the 21st century. Over one hundred young people attended the recent national youth conference in Seattle. They were enthusiastic about learning their role in society and are far better equipped to face the racial problems of today.

They came from Boston College, Georgia Tech, University of Washington, University of Utah, UC Santa Barbara, Arizona State, and many other colleges and high schools throughout the United States. Utah chapters alone sent 17 young people to the conference. These young people will be our community leaders and JACL chapter officers of the future.

In the midst of the Seattle youth conference, an ugly incident occurred involving a group of 14 Asian American students attending a local leadership conference in the International District of Seattle. While these students were walking through the International District they were detained by officers of the Seattle Police Department and harassed. We met with these students and they were totally distressed at the treatment they received and the racial implications that had placed them in harms way. They had a rude awak-

ening about the negative racial attitudes that exist even in today's so-called enlightened society.

So is it worth it to keep a strong local and national JACL organization? Let me ask another question: Will incidents similar to the one in Seattle vanish from the face of American society? The answer, of course, is no. JACL was the lead organization that stood up for these young people, demanding the mayor of Seattle rectify the unacceptable behavior of the police department. There will always be a need for a strong AA civil rights organization such as JACL.

The next question is, where can our young people go to develop into community leaders like the Hank Tanakas, the Denny Yasuharas, the Lillian Kimuras, the Raymond Ubes, and many other leaders in JACL? Is it worth it to maintain a strong local and national JACL so our young people can learn who they are and how they can work to maintain their first class citizenship in America? The answer of course is, yes!

The last question is whether or not JACL is worth your extra support during this economic downturn. Many have responded and we as your leaders are heartened by the positive response to our request for donations. However, the need is still there and we have yet to meet our financial goals. So I again request that you show your generosity and commitment to JACL and to our young leaders of tomorrow.

## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akaba, Jimmie Fujio, 85,** Castro Valley, June 24; Stockton-born, served in the U.S. Army during WWII, survived by son Neal; sister Ruth; brothers George and Kenji; 3 gc.; predeceased by wife Setsuko.

**Asano, Naka, 99,** San Francisco.

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

co, July 16; widow of Shichinostuke Asano, founder of the Nichi Bei Times; survived by sons, Mitsuru and wife Violet, Tadashi and wife Naomi; daughters, Setsuko Ogami and husband Sam, Hisako Futamachi and husband Jiro; 11 gc.; 4 gc.; also predeceased by son Tadashi Victor.

**Dequchi, Yos, Dallas, Tx.,** survived by daughter, Estella; sons, Gunther, Jos, Georg and Michael; and 6 gc.

**Higashi, Etsuko, 75,** Monterey, July 20; Penryn-born, interned at Tule Lake and Heart Mountain, Monterey Peninsula JACLer, survived by sons, Craig, Chester and wife Linda, and Curtis and wife Nilda; daughter, Susan Higashi Rumberg and husband Mort; sister, Mitsuye Kanaya; brothers, James Uyeda and wife Jane, George Uyeda and wife Toshiko, and Charles Uyeda and wife Sumi; 7 gc.; predeceased by husband Masayuki.

**Hori, Kyoko, 80,** Oakland, June 23; survived by sons Hiro, Kenji and wife Junko; daughter Yoko Nakano and husband Yoshihide; and grandchildren.

**Imamura, Yui, 77,** Los Angeles, June 21, Calexico, Calif.-born Nisei; survived by brothers Dick and wife Kikuye, Harry and wife Mary; many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

**Ishizaka, John Yoshimitsu, 80,** Sunnyvale, June 18; Seattle-born; survived by wife Kay; daughter Akiko Kashima; grandchildren Cynthia Kashima Bader and husband John, Tricia Kashima; brother Yoshitsugu Ishizaka; sister Natsumi Nishimura.

**Iwatsubo, Takayo Geraldine, 93,** June 18; survived by daughters Jan Nakamura and R. Lillian Durham; granddaughter Carrie Hibbs; a brother in Japan; and 2 gc.

**Kataoka, Lily, 80,** Milwaukee, Wis., June 27; Wisconsin JACLer, preceded in death by husband Takio; survived by son, Jeff and wife Michele; daughter, Margaret, Igowsky and husband Jim; 3 gc.; also survived by brothers, sister and other relatives and friends.

**Matsuba, Douglas Yoshitiro, 23,** San Diego, June 23; Los Angeles-born; survived by his parents Kuni and Mila; brothers Robert and Sean; sister Leilani Lee and husband Richard; grandmother Masse Matsuba and many relatives.

**Matsumoto, Yoshio, 94,** Anaheim, June 23; Sacramento-born Nisei; survived by wife Fumiko; sons Dan and wife Shirley; daughters Setsuko Horiba and husband Saburo, Grace Miyoko Segawa and husband Ben, Betsu Kitano and husband Dean; brothers-in-law George Sakato and wife Bess, John Sakato and wife Tanya, James Sakato and wife Flo; sisters-in-law Sumi Sakato, Fumi Sakato and Shizue Matsumoto; 6 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and relatives.

**Miyamoto, Grace Aiko, 98,** Walnut Creek, May 30; Isleton-born; predeceased by husband Frank, and son, Takashi; survived by sons, Akira, Joe and his wife Michiko, and Alfred; daughters, Midori Yamamoto and Yuri Mayeda and husband Bill; daughter-in-law, Helen Miyamoto; brothers and sisters, Bob and Grace Morimoto, Walter and Mitsuo Morimoto, Hiro Fujii, Jean Koda, June Kishi

and husband Sherman; 10 gc.; 12 gc.; 1 gc.

**Nishitarumizu, Kaoru "Kay Nishi", 72,** Los Angeles, June 19; Kagoshima-ken-born Issei; survived by son Ray; daughters, Kary Lau and husband Jerry, Shirley and husband Vadim Gershkovich, grandchildren Mackey and Dylan Lau, Ryan and Daria Gershkovich; brother Hidenori and wife Kisa; brothers-in-law Hideo Kawahira and wife Sachi, Isamu Kawahira and wife Hisako; sister-in-law Michiko Takemoto; and many nephews and nieces.

**Okazaki, Hisayo, 81,** Portland, Ore., July 17; Portland-born, interned at Minidoka; predeceased by husband James; survived by sons, Kenneth and Robert Osaki; and sister, Tamayo Watari.

**Okuda, Yone Grace, 92,** Torrance, June 22; Los Angeles-born Nisei; survived by nieces Masako Kawase and husband Raymond, Mae Nakagawa and husband Sam, Miyako Oishi and husband Jim, Aiko Muranaka and husband Aki, Sadae Uwahori and husband Tad, nephew Tom Okuda and wife Alice.

**Ozawa, Michiko, 77,** Lomita, June 18; Gardena-born Nisei; survived by sons Gary and Randy; daughter Gloria Hiroko Hopson; grandchildren Christina, Jennifer, Melissa, Travis and Russell; brother Shigeru Sato and wife Setsuko; sister-in-law Mingsko Sato.

**Sumi, Lillie Ryoko Ogino, 75,** Los Angeles, June 21; Los Angeles-born Nisei; survived by her son Randall and wife Carey; daughter Christine; grandson Edward and many nieces, nephews and relatives.

**Uyeiki, Mieko S., 70,** Los Angeles, June 19; Tokyo-born; survived by husband Kenneth; daughter Bonny Oto and husband George; son Arnold and wife Denise; 3 gc.; sister-in-law Alice Kimoto.

**Toyoda, Fumio, 53,** Chicago, Ill., July 4; founder of Japanese Culture Center in Chicago; survived by wife Patricia; sons, Steven and Mark; brother, Isao; and sister, Seiko Oyatsu.

DEATH NOTICE

**HANAKO HEYANO**  
CHICAGO, Ill.—Hanako Heyano, 76, passed away July 24. She was interned at Gila River, Arizona during World War II. She is survived by her sisters, Setsu Ando and husband Ted of Chicago, the late Shizuko Kimoto and husband Tak of Kingsburg, Calif.; brother, Shigeru Heyano and wife Faye of Kingsburg and several nephews and nieces.

DEATH NOTICE

**EMIKO KIMURA IWAO**  
CHICAGO, Ill.—Emiko Kimura Iwao beloved wife of Michio. Dear mother of Jacqueline Keiko Denfiro and the late Fumie Johnson. She is survived by Saeko Kimura, Minee Kimura and Hiroko Sakano. Emiko worked for many years at the General Mailing Company. Funeral services were held July 18 at the Buddhist Temple of Chicago.

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### MORI MEMO

(Continued from page 1)

found.

It is important to remember our history with our past aches and pains, for without remembering we tend to repeat our mistakes. With an understanding of the past we

### STUDENTS

(Continued from page 1)

They say he lined 14 of the students single-file against the wall, detaining them for 45 minutes. The group says he repeatedly asked them if they spoke English, even after many of them told them they were all Americans.

Cho said he tried to talk to the officer. Cho, who was born in Indiana, said he was told, "I've been to your country before, when I was in the Army."

Police say some of the students became aggressive, and several other officers arrived. Thao Le, 17, said she questioned the officers about their conduct and Officer Greg Sackman grabbed her by the arm.

Eventually, Le was the only person to receive a \$38 jaywalking ticket.

Kerlikowske said he had not talked directly to the officers involved. He said he hoped the meeting would be a "dialogue" between the department and students.

### Ono and Furutani to Speak at Singles Convention

David Ono and Warren Furutani will be featured speakers at the Ninth National JACL Singles Convention Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel in Torrance, Calif.

Ono, co-anchor of ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness Morning and Evening News, will be the convention's opening keynote focusing on "Succeeding in Your Career." Furutani, vice president of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Directors, will close the event with a discussion on "Passing on Culture and Heritage in a Changing World." Also attending will be Suzanne Joe Kai of AsianConnections.com who will talk about Internet dating.

Log onto [www.singlesconvention.net](http://www.singlesconvention.net) for details and registration information. Information may also be found on JACL's website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) under "conferences." For more information, contact Miyako Kadogawa at 310/559-4024. ■

During last year's convention in Monterey, the JACL national council clearly expressed the importance of addressing the needs of ALL Japanese Americans.



By RYAN CHIN

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

American community." Included in this mission is the need to ensure we support the more senior members of our population.

Adhering to this mandate passed by the national council, I am proud to announce that JACL is engaging in legislation that aids the needs of older JAs. At the

national level, we are supporting coverage of prescription drugs under Medicare. Far too many people who are eligible for Medicare must find ways to cope without proper prescription drugs, which leads to unnecessary suffering and pain.

As members of JACL we are well aware that discrimination takes a number of different forms, whether based on skin color, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or as in this case, age. However, while the forms of discrimination may change, our stance does not - the JACL does not tolerate discrimination of any kind.

JACL has made it easy to contact your elected officials, including a letter ready to be sent. To contact your legislators today and let them know where you stand

on this issue: 1) go to [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) 2) enter your zip code on the left side in the box that says "write to congress," 3) press the "go" button in the box 4) click on the text that says "Prescription Drug Coverage under Medicare" 5) enter your address (this is so the website can figure out who your representatives are) 6) click the "go" button 7) and fill out the form.

Our website will give you the choice of sending your message (that we have already composed) as a letter or as an e-mail. It is generally more effective to compose and send physical letters, but if you prefer you can send an e-mail message instead.

While in our "issues" section, feel free to contact your elected officials or local media outlets in regards to other legislation that JACL supports. Your continued support of the JACL is always appreciated. ■

### NIIYA

(Continued from page 6)

and hasn't seemed willing to acknowledge his Japanese ancestry. Morton has played most of his career for mediocre teams and hasn't played in All-Star games or Super Bowls. Many people don't know he is J.A. And of course both are Hapa.

Ichiro and Nomo versus Kariya and Morton is a neat microcosm of the question of how we are viewed by others - and of how we view ourselves. I think most people still see race and nationality first when they see an Asian face. Thus, JAs must have some expertise about Japan and must identify with Japanese athletes. And Hapa athletes must somehow be less JA because they don't look as Asian.

Of course this isn't just how others see us; many JAs see things the same way. For a people who have historically been so intent on proving their "American-ness," I find this emphasis on race and nationality strange. But I guess there's a lot I don't understand. ■

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**祭 特別展示 祀**

Learn the true story behind the Kamon on the memorial plaque dedicated to Shinshichi Nakatani at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

2000年7月にJ.A.紋系図で確認した宮大工中谷新七翁の「家紋」を据えた顕彰碑が9月にサンフランシスコの金門公園に建立されたのを機に、苗字史を象徴した家紋調査の資料を公開展示。

主催: J. A. 家紋・苗字研究会  
**YOSHIDA KAMON ART**  
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**2001 GROUP TOURS**

11. Waterways of the Czars	8/14-8/29	Toy Kanegai	3,148
12. Canadian Discovery by Rail	9/5-9/14		3,519
13. Japan Hokkaido/Tohoku Tour	9/17-9/27	Toy Kanegai	3,095
14. Australia & New Zealand (Wait list)	9/19-10/3	Bill Sakurai	3,349
16. China Special & Hong Kong	9/26-10/10		2,695
17. New England Back Roads & Fall Foliage	10/4-10/11		1,489
18. Takayama Festival & Gero Onsen	10/8-10/17	Miki Ebata	3,210
19. New York & Washington, D.C.	10/10-10/17		1,699
20. Smoky Mountain, Georgia/N. Carolina/Tenn.	10/14-10/21		1,689
21. Japan Fall Foliage Tour	10/15-10/24		3,095
22. China & Japan Tour	10/31-11/15		2,995
22a. Japan Special Tour	11/1-11/10		2,795
23. Okinawa/Kyushu Tour	11/12-11/21		3,195
24. Discover Vietnam & Bangkok	11/5-11/17	Galen Murakawa	2,249
25. Branson Christmas Tour	12/6-12/11		1,095

**YEAR 2002 GROUP TOURS**

1. Fantastic Florida Tour	3/5-3/13	Bill Sakurai	1,899
2. Japan Cherry Blossom Tour	3/25-		
3. Canadian Rockies	5/8-5/18		2,289
4. Spanish Heritage	5/13-5/23		2,574
5. Japan Sea Side Tour	5/13-		
6. The French Riviera	6/2-6/10		2,464
7. Music Cities Tour	6/15-6/24		2,099
8. Japan Summer Vacation Basic Tour	6/24-		
9. Hokkaido & Tohoku Tour	9/16-		
10. New England Back Roads	9/16-9/23		1,519
11. Costa Rica Resort Escape	10/8-10/15		1,689
12. Japan Fall Foliage Tour	10/14-		
13. Beijing City Stay (Ext. Harbin & Hong Kong Opt)	11/6-11/13		1,469
14. Okinawa & Kyushu Tour	11/11-		

Please call for booking of any unescorted individual tours or for a detailed itinerary.  
Travel-meetings are held on third Sunday of each month beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Felicia Mahood Center  
11338 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles.