Discovering Similarities Between Italian American and JA WW II 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 DeStaebel, president of the American Italian Historical Association's Western Regional Chapter; Dr. Gloria Ricci Lotropeh, professor at California State University, Northridge, and Lloyd Inui, professor at the Japanese American National Museum and former director of the California Museum of Modern Art.

While neither the Italian American nor the Japanese American communities suffered as many massacres as did the Japanese American community during the World War II, there was a large number of Italian Americans who were interned at Manzanar during the war.

Mary Shiozawa, a member of the Japanese American Citizens' League, noted that the experience of internment was similar in both communities.

She pointed out that both communities were forced to leave their homes and property and were subjected to severe hardships.

She also noted that both communities were able to rebuild their lives after the war and that their experiences were similar in many ways.

From 1-7 Lawrence DeStaebel, American Italian Historical Association's Regional Chapter president; Lloyd Inui, Japanese American National Museum program advisor; and Dr. Gloria Ricci Lotropeh, California State University, Northridge professor.

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

By FLOYD MORI
JACL President

Last week, a few weeks I have had the opportunity to attend some of the bi- and tri-district conferences. These events offer a mix of members representing the various generations within our community. It is always good to re-engage past national presidents such as Tom Tanaka, Lillian Kimmura, Denny Yamashita, Raymond Uno, and others remaining active in their local chapters and districts.

They are the architects of this organization, keeping our feet firmly on the ground, building the discussions and objectives for which the JACL was founded.

See MORI MEMO 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 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 YNSC’s inaugural conference brought together students and youth ages 15 to 25 from 15 different states and 15 for a weekend of cultural specificity, socialization, art, and entertainment.

Among the speakers at the conference were Washington state representatives Velma Veloria and Shannon Sato, as well as national HIV/AIDS agency rights activist Paul Kawase, and Scott Sato.

“By necessity,” said Veloria, a leader of the youth conference, the event is a necessity for the community, to reach the young people, because our voices are not always heard.

“Students are ready to say yes to a lot of new people that didn’t get the opportunity to see before,” said the different politicians that we’ve had here from Washington state, the local leaders,” said National Youth Council Chair Matthew Tatsuo Nakata.

“Nakata said that the conference was not a bad thing to have in diversity, but it’s also not a bad thing to let people come across new and different... It allows our organization to extend some outreach in this area.”

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Students Say they Were Targeted Because of Race

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

“Told you how sorry I am that something like this happened,” said Chief of Police Jim, July 30 meeting, adding that he was looking into the incident.

But the group of students and their supporters say they want 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 Tony C. Kinoshita Ward said at the meeting held at the Asian Resource Center attended by about 50 people, including Kerlikowske, Mayor Paul Schell and city ethnic council members.

Ward is representing the members of the Summer Youth Leadership Program, an annual program AA students speeded by the Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation.

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Torey Hayden, Seattle, Dr. Kim Minami, Lea & Tanaka, and others remaining active in their local chapters and districts.

They are the architects of this organization, keeping our feet firmly on the ground, building the discussions and objectives for which the JACL was founded.

See MORI MEMO page 7

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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 unauthorized computers, is undergoing government review.

Government reviewers have had Lee's just-completed book, "My Country versus Me," co-authored by Helen Lee, for at least 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 Chase 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 to be 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 in..." said Schwalbe.

Of 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 a 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 begins 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 sons, Richard and Albert, and Chunya, Alberta, and Chunya, Alberta.

After months of investigation and much public speculation, Lee was arrested and charged in December 1995 with 56 counts of mishandling nuclear data. Prosecutors emphasized Lee was not accused of espionage, and it later turned out the material he downloaded was not secret after all. He was in custody. Terms of Lee's two bail conditions 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 Park er 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."

Second item may be told on screen as well. A film option un connected with Hyperion has been purchased, he said.

Last September, Lee pleaded guilty to one count of downloading restricted data to computer tape files and has since been sent to the nine months he already had served. The government announced the plea and other 25 counts Lee agreed to undergo interrogations.

"My friend is like, 'Why don't you write something inappropriate on the form like I hate Chinese,'" 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 Chinese,' and she didn't want to serve."

"It's not constructive to use such a hateful word and play it for laughs. It just gives people permission to continue to use it," said Guy Aski, 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."

MANA has been seeking an apology from O'Brien but is still waiting for an apology from Sil verman.

5 Authorities Investigate Beating Death of Laotian Man

Newmarket, N.H.—Authorities are investigating whether racism led to the beating death of a Laotian American political refugee by a neighbor with a baseball bat.

Richard Labbe, 35, of

Community Action Needed to Preserve Minidoka Internment National Monument

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

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

LOS ANGELES—Conan O'Brien, host of the popular "Late Night" show, apologized last week for using a racial epithet on his show, saying "offensive jokes that rise above the level of racist insults that racism motivated the attack. According to court documents, Labbe had been driving home that night, thinking about things he's thought about it so well. ... Call it payback."

"His 28-year-old son claimed he had consumed a case of beer and ingested narcotics before the attack."

"He pleaded guilty in May to three counts of second-degree kidnapping and one count of first-degree murder."

"The community is being asked to contact the of Minidoka War Relocation Authority, which the site plans to continue to digitize."

The 100-acre amount of $529,000 will be used to develop a general management plan and for base operations/general utility requests at Minidoka.

Senator Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairmen include Senator UT Burns, MT; Byrd, WV; Campbell (D); Cochran, MS, and Ben Nighthorse NM, Dorgan, ND, Feinstein, CA; Craig, CO; Udall, CO; Leahy, VT; Murray, WA; Reid, NV; and Stevens, AK.

House Interior Appropriations Conferences (anticipated) include: Recreation and Tourism, Dingell of Michigan, Kinzle, Morian (VA); Resources, Farr (CA); Transportation, Peters (PA); Agriculture, Rogers, Siski, Taylor (NC); Wamp, and Young (FL)

National Newsbytes

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While the infection rate is unknown, it is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands of Inter net-connected computers. In just the first nine hours of its July 19 outbreak, it infected more than 250,000 systems. 
Gen. Shinseki to Speak at ‘SALUTE 2001’ Event

The "SALUTE 2001: All-Nikei Veterans and Family Event," which will run Aug. 11 to Aug. 27 in Little Tokyo, will include a guest appearance by Gen. Eric Shinseki at its Aug. 14 lunch. The JAL is planning this event to bring together a broad cross-section of Japanese American veterans and their families, and will coincide with the 61st Annual Nikkei Inc. Banquet.

Organized by two steering committee representatives, 30 veterans' organizations and the Nikkei American National Museum (JANNM), Japanese American Cultural Committee (JACC) and the Nisei Week Foundation, the event will allow Nikkei veterans to share their experiences with younger generations.

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 Jr. Olympics to be held in 2002.

The Jr. Olympics began in 1953 to provide a fun, physical activity for children in the Los Angeles area. The event was so successful that more than 12,000 young people participated, and the program has continued through high school in the Los Angeles area.

This year's event is held on the first Sunday of June each year. For more information, contact the JACL Jr. Olympics Director in San Francisco then at various other stops in the Bay Area, finally settling at Chabot College in Hayward, Calif., where it has been since 1980.

The committee is requesting that all current and former Jr. Olympics participants assist in making this 50th anniversary celebration a success.

Norman Mineta to Keynote 2001 PSW Awards Dinner

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta will present the keynote address at the JACL Pacific Southwest Dinner award dinner on Sunday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m., at the Terrace Mar- ron - Los Angeles. The dinner is to honor the achievements of members of the JACL Pacific Southwest Region.

Mineta was sworn in as Secretary of Transportation under President Clinton, becoming the first Asian American to serve in a cabinet position. From 1975 to 1995, he served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing California's heart of California's Silicon Valley. Mineta was the first to become chairman of the JACL PSWD.ないと、彼は100名以上の全国的な公共法人の役職を務め、公式にさまざまな活動のための役割を果たし、事前に電話を取ることができる。彼はJACL PSWDの役職を果たした。詳細はNational Business and Professional Directoryへ。

APAs in the News

Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Roger Chiang has been named the former Community Liaison for the White House Initiative on AAPIs and worked closely with National CAPAC.

Glenn Kumekawa, a former APA Council President, is currently serving as the President of the APA Council.

Steven D. Ling is appointed as the new President of the Chinese American National Council.

Lisa Hasegawa has been named executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPAC/CAPAC), a newly formed national advisory organization, recently opened its headquarters in Washington D.C. Hasegawa was named the Community Liaison for the White House Initiative on AAPIs and worked closely with National CAPAC.

Matt Fong, former California State Treasurer and senatorial candidate, has withdrawn his nomination for the position of Undersecretary of the Army.

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A Summer Trip: Vacaville, Aratani, Lordsburg, Topaz

For MANY YEARS, it's been a hit for someone to help detail the story of the earliest, if not, the first, Japanese laborers to work in the United States. This finally came with "One is enough", a new book by Takashi Togita and Karen Nomura. Their beautiful 140-page book was published in late May by the Heart Mountain Internment Center in War Relocation Authority (WRA) centers, and the Justice Department internment centers. The final panel and a prover Scottie drafted, Minoru Tashima was involved as a Japanese translator in the general court martial trial at Fort Bliss, Texas, of Pvt. Clarence A. Burtis, who was charged with the "illegitimate, unlawful killing of Hiroto Isomura and Toshio Kobata at Lordsburg.

CAVACA, as an exhibition non-profit Japanese American sport history a whole back, I'm supposed to be "expert" in this area. I've been giving talks lately in non-movement, like in Hawaii, so 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 is the major league player. He's from Japan, he's a star player from the Japanese national team, is having an outstanding rookie year playing in the American major league baseball for the Seattle Mariners.

Headline: Ichiro and Us

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 Japanese player to be voted into a major league. Six seasons ago, Hiroto Isomura was the first Japanese pitcher to attain star status in the American major league. Both are heralded for their large follow-through and long arm swing.

Dan Chisholm and I have been modestly successful in getting Japanese Americans to speak to various groups about these topics. It's not unusual to write a book about baseball history, but it's not unusual to be the first one to be asked to speak to various groups about these topics.

At heart, it's been the same old story: an essential contribution of "Japanese" and "Japanese American." The expectation is that JAs must be going nuts over Ichiro (and Nomo before him) and that America will not want to admit this. One reporter even insisted on talking to an old ball player 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.

Strangely, no one has ever asked me about Paul Kariya or Johnny Morton, who have become stars in major North American sports with stories about this too. Even if the JAs don't follow them nearly as much as Ichiro or Nomo, it is easy to guess at the reasons. Many people don't know about their baseball history, and no major American sport, particularly in the United States, where JAs are concentrated. Kariya is actually from Canada.

I also asked questions about the implications of Ichiro's success for baseball and about Japan's reaction to his exploits. While I've read enough to know that the Japanese here, too, it seemed the writers were more interested in what 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 near as large as that that engaged Ichiro and the other Asian play-

Very Truly Yours

was in one of the first fruit-producing (early cherry) valleys in the United States. Patron 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. "One is enough" found sources pointing to 1883.

Vacaville, like the typical small Japanese town of the 1900s along the West Coast, soon sprouted boarding houses, barber shops, bakeries, restaurants, sweet shops, pool halls and Japanese food stores. They sold the Japanese newspaper, night classes in English at the Methodist mission, a Japanese language school at the Buddhist church, and Japanese hospital (the only one in Vacaville at the time). As the men realized they did not want to return to Japan, "One is enough" pictures the next two decades to with: They stay for their wives and soon we were born. "Tsugita was born in 1925. He was a Sacramento JACL president and a JACL bowling tour-

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The Diablo Valley JACL recently held their annual scholarship luncheon at the University of California in Berkeley. The event was attended by several prominent guests, including Dr. Kazuo Nakamura, who is known for his contributions to the field of Asian American studies. The luncheon was a great success, with many attendees expressing their appreciation for the scholarships awarded to local students.

ITALIAN AMERICAN

(Continued from page 1)

menta, DiStasi shared about Public Law 100-401, the Witness Protec-
tion of Italian American Civil Lib-
erties Act, which President Clinton signed into law on September 21.

The measure was initially sponsored by Senator Joe Biden of Delaware, who has been a vocal advocate for the rights of Italian Americans. The law is designed to protect witnesses who provide information about organized crime, and it has been praised by many in the Italian American community for its efforts to combat the threat of extortion and other forms of harassment.

MORI MEMO

(Continued from page 1)

founded.

It is important to remember our history and the traditions that have shaped us. We should take pride in our language and our culture, and strive to pass them on to the next generation. With an understanding of the past we can move forward, making great strides to improve our organization to meet today's challenges.

So it is worth it to keep a strong local and national JACL organization. The answer, of course, is yes. JACL was the lead organization that stood up for these young people, demanding the mayor of Seattle rectify the unac-
ceptable behavior of the police department. This is a major step forward in our relationship between our colleagues.

In the midst of the Seattle youth conference, an ugly incident occurred involving a group of 14 Asian American students attending.

LEONARDO DA VINCI, Leonardo da Vinci, a highly influential figure in the field of art and science, was born in Italy in 1452. He is known for his paintings, such as the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper, as well as his inventions, such as flying machines and submarines.

An interesting article on the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci can be found in the November issue of the American Art Journal.
Ono and Furutani to Speak at Singles Convention
Dave Ono and Warren Furutani will be featured speakers at the Ninth National JACL Singles Convention Aug. 31-Sept. 1 at the Terrance Marriott Hotel in Torrance, Calif.

Ono, co-anchor of ABC Channel 7 EyeWitness Morning and Evening News, will be the convention’s opening keynote speaker, focusing on “Sustaining in Your Career.” Furutani, vice president of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, will close the event with a discussion on “Passing on Culture and Heritage in a Changing World.”

Also attending will be Suzanne Joe Kii of Asian American Association, who will talk about Internet dating.

Log onto www.singlesconvention.net for details and registration information. Information may also be found on JACL’s website at www.jacl.org under Conferences.

For more information, contact Miyako Kadogawa at 310/595-4064.

Our Dynamic Community

American community” included in this mission is the need to ensure we support the more senior members of the community. 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 JACL members. At the national level, we are supporting coverage of prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. According to people who are eligible for Medicare, they must find ways to cope without proper prescription drugs, which leads to unnecessary suffering and pain.

As members of JACL we are all aware that discrimination takes many forms, whether based on skin color, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or age, 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.

On this issue (1) go to 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 on 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 meaningful 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 official of your local media outlets in regards to other legislation that JACL supports. Continued support of the JACL is always appreciated.

NIIYA

(Continued from page 6)

NIIYA hasn’t succeeded enough to acknowledge his Japanese ancestry. Morton has played most of his career for median teams and hasn’t played in All-Star Games or Super Bowls. Many people don’t realize he is JACL. And of course both are Japa.

Idols and Nono versus Kariy and Morton is a near microcosm of the perception of how people are perceived 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, JACL must have some expertise about Japan and must identify with Japanese athletes. And Hapa athletes must somehow be less JACL because they don’t look Asian.

Of course this isn’t just how others see us; many JACL see things the same way. For a person who has historically been so intent on proving “their American-ness,” I find this emphasis on race and nationality strange. But I guess that’s just the difference.

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Life and Events

J.A.家纹や苗字展

日時：8月11日（土） • 12日（日）
時: 9時～17時

2001 ESCORTED TANAKA TOURS
NOLLO MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE (4 days) — onboard for JCCDC — AUG 15
TANAKA’S EXPEDITION CRUISE — MAR 20
SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA (10 days) — "New Date" — SEP 1
TANAKA’S EXPEDITION CRUISE (10 days) — SEP 29
BEST OF HOKKAIDO (7 days) — SEP 29
EAST COAST & FALL FOLIAGE (10 days) — SEP 29
JAPAN COMPLETE (11 days) — OCT 6
JAPAN COMPLETE (11 days) — OCT 7
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35-2/20
3. Japan Spring Vacation Basic Tour
35-2/18
4. Spanish Heritage
573-2/00
5. New England Backroads
62-6/10
6. Japan Summer Vacation Basic Tour
62-6/24
7. Costa Rica Resort Escape
1091
8. Costa Rica Resort Escape
1091
9. Costa Rica Resort Escape
1091
10. Beijing City Stay (Ext. Harbin & Hong Kong Opt)
119/1
11. Okinawa & Kansai Tour
112/1