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Aug. 17-SEPT. 6, 2001

500 Gather to Celebrate 20 Years of PANA

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor Emeritus/Archivist

NEW YORK—Close to 500 people attended the 20th anniversary of the PANA convention July 25-28 hosted by PANA-USA East at the Roosevelt Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and the United States took part in the four-day convention.

Kazunori Kósaka, 52, of Buenos Aires was elected PANA's international president over Francis Sogi of New York, the first time in PANA's 20-year history that two candidates vied for the office. The vote was 8-2 with Uruguay the lone PANA member nation absent.

The next PANA convention in 2003, COPANX XII, will be in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the new postwar center of the Japanese population in the thriving metropolis 1,400 feet above sea level, some 300 miles east of La Paz.

PANA's Inaugural Speakers

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye was the keynote speaker on July 26 sharing about his life in Hawaii, the call of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and why he enlisted in 1943.

"The men of the combat team sensed at the outset that they were being sent in because they were expendable," he began. "However, we knew this was the battle we had been waiting for — the 'Go for Broke' battle."

"In our hearts and minds, we knew that if we succeeded, no one would dare question our loyalty, our honor or our courage. It was a

bloody battle, but from that moment we were able to stand tall," said the senator who was decorated with the Medal of Honor last year.

Inouye also spoke about a Senate bill he had recently introduced to provide an official apology and \$20,000 to each Latin American Nikkei who had been forcibly removed from their Latin American countries and interned in the United States during World War II.

"I hope this will bring some peace to those who were so wrongfully treated more than fifty years ago," he said.

Inouye remembered and extolled the contributions of the Issei pioneers who carried to the New World their priceless values of *oyakóho, gaman, and gambare* that "kept us from crumbling and disintegrating in despair and self-pity" on December 7, 1941.

Founder and longtime president of PANA, Carlos Kasuga of Mexico City, recalled in his greetings that it was 20 years ago that "a small group of Nikkei Quixotes had a dream of unity that all Nikkei of the Americas would join in friendship, love and cooperation so that each and every one of us could be better citizens in our countries."

Sansei anthropologist from Los Angeles, Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano reported on the progress of the International Nikkei Research Project, coordinated by the Japanese American National Museum. Established in April 1998, INRP scholars from the PANA countries submitted papers of what it means

See PANA/ page 5

JACL, MANAA Air Concerns Over 'Banzai'

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Scientific squirrel fishing? Fried fish sticks man? Chubby balloon racing experiment?

Yes, it's as absurd as it sounds and, at worse, may even be offensive to some Asian Americans, according to the JACL and Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA), who recently contacted cable network executives with concerns about a new TV show called "Banzai."

Originally a British cult comedy series, "Banzai" mocks the Japanese game show format, from the wild stunts and challenges to the frenzied contestants and hosts. The USA Network premiered interstitials of the show Aug. 10, along with the Adam Sandler film "The Waterboy" as part of its USA Banzai Movie Friday line-up.

"Banzai" is just a bunch of games, experiment, tests. It's ridiculous fun," said Ron Sato, USA Network vice president of publicity. "Rather than make a

judgment, take a look at the show and you'll see how absurd the stunts are."

Using existing footage from the U.K. version and new bits filmed in the United States, the interstitials feature contestants going head to head in any number of madcap feats. Which fireman will blast the other off his feet with a water hose first? Which contestant will balance a cup of goat urine on his head the longest?

A Japanese martial arts master with a thick accent and a shaved head then goads viewers into voting online at www.usanet.com to win such prizes as a digital camera or a mini stereo.

The "scientific squirrel fishing" segment features two Asian men wearing white lab coats attempting to lure squirrels with a nut tied to a fishing pole.

Guy Aoki, president of MANAA, pointed out such images to Sato and several other USA executives in an Aug. 10 meeting to discuss concerns about negative stereotyping of AAs in the media.

"They wanted to make the show as 'Japanese' as possible," Aoki said. "But that's the problem. All we ever see is the kooky Asian foreigners. That's what I tried to impress on them."

But Sato pointed out that "99 percent" of those competing in the challenges and making fools of themselves on the show are non-Asians.

Aoki described the games on the show as "very manic, very over-the-top, very hokey," which in and of themselves were not offensive. What he was more concerned about was the fact that the voice-overs, heavily exaggerated, were done by a Caucasian.

"I told them, get rid of the accents, get rid of the gungs, and get rid of the geeky Asian guy with the glasses," he said.

Aoki added, "Whenever Asian American groups have problems with something, the company puts out their Asian American employees."

See 'BANZAI' / page 7

High Turnout for CAUSE Summit Shows Increasing Influence of APAs

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

If the turnout to an Asian Pacific American political summit is any indication, APA interest in political empowerment is paralleling the APA population growth in the United States.

More than 250 people, with many more turned away due to space limitations, came out to a July 28 political summit sponsored by CAUSE (Chinese Americans United for Self-Empowerment) and Vision 21.

The attendance rate was a sharp increase from the 50 or so people who turned out to a similar political summit in Southern California just two years ago co-sponsored by CAUSE and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

"I'm very happy about the turnout and the enthusiasm and the eagerness to participate by the people," said Charlie Woo, CAUSE



California Secretary of State Bill Jones greets Charlie Woo, chair of CAUSE and CEO of MegaToys, at the recent political summit in Los Angeles.

chair. "I think the timing is right. We should bring the community together and take the next step."

Michael Eng, CAUSE secretary, felt that the summit turnout was

"one of the largest gatherings dedicated to political empowerment in the Asian American community."

See CAUSE/ page 7

Honda Recognized as Nisei Pioneer



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Pacific Citizen Editor Emeritus Harry Honda was among five honorees recognized at a pioneer luncheon on Aug. 8 during the 61st Annual Nisei Week festivities in Los Angeles.

An estimated 430 people attended the sold out event at the New Otani Hotel.

Along with Honda, the other four honorees were: Kyoko Kikuta, Jack Naito, Sanbo Sakaguchi and Robert Wada.

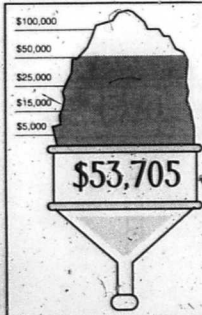
"I was walking on clouds," said Honda after receiving the award. "I haven't felt like this since the last time I was seated at a head table when the Pacific Citizen observed its 50th anniversary in 1979."

Next year will mark Honda's 50th year with the P.C.

Pictured with Harry (center) are (l-r) Clarence Nishizu, wife Misako, sister-in-law Mitsuko Kawamoto, and brother-in-law Yuki Kawamoto. ■

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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.

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JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

NEW YORK

Sun., Aug. 19—New York JACL Summer Potluck Picnic at Si Spiegel's home, 122 Ridgeway Road, L30-5:30 p.m. Info: Lillian Kimura, 973/680-1441 or e-mail: lckimura@att.net.

Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 6-30—"Woman Killer," new play by Chiori Miyagawa, presented by Crossing Jamaica Avenue and HERE. Tickets are \$15. Info: 212/647-0202 or visit www.here.org.

Sun., Sept. 16—Trip to the Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, 2 p.m. Museum admission \$7 adult, \$5 seniors. Sponsored by New York JACL. Checks payable to New York JACL.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sun., Sept. 9—Annual picnic, 1 p.m., Wheaton Regional Park, Shelter D.

Midwest

CHICAGO

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 17-19—Ginza Holiday Japanese Cultural Festival, Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St.; 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fri.; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat.; 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. Suggested admission donation \$3.50 adults, \$2.50 seniors, children under 12 free. Info: 312/943-7801.

ST. LOUIS

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 1-3—25th Japanese Festival 2001, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon. Admission \$10 adult, \$7 seniors, \$3 members, children under 12 free. Sponsored by Missouri Botanical Garden and Japanese Activities Committee coalition. Info: 314/577-9400 or 800/642-8842.

Mountain Plains

BOULDER

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 24-25—Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance Festival, Boulder Court House lawn, free admission.

NEW MEXICO

Tues., Aug. 21—Meeting to form New Mexico JACL chapter's bowling league, 7 p.m., Sandia Bowl. Info: Evelyn Togami 505/865-7156 or Grace Deeter 505/294-0507.

WYOMING

Throughout end of summer—The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation offers monthly tours of the Heart Mountain camp site. Info: Pat Wolfe, 307/754-2689 or e-mail pwolfe@wavecom.net.

Invermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., Sept. 15—Utah JACL chapters annual golf tournament; Wingpointe fund-raiser for scholarships. Info: Floyd Mori, 801/572-2287.

Pacific Northwest

OLYMPIA

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

PORTLAND

Sun., Aug. 19—Nikkei Community Picnic, noon-5 p.m., Oaks Park. Info: Connie Masuoka, 503/243-3291.

SEATTLE

Thurs., Sept. 6—An evening with artists Norio Sato and Dai Ciang, 5:30 p.m., Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave., South. Info: www.wingluke.org or e-mail vchan@wingluke.org.

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 21-23—Aki Matsuri 2001, Bellevue Community College, sponsored by Eastside Nihon Matsuri Assn. Friday evening concert, Saturday karaoke contest, crafts, anime film, interment camp video showings and exhibits (including "JACL Eastside Japanese American History" project). Info: 425/861-9109 or www.wma.org.

Through Oct. 14—"Figure, Structure, Nature: Asian Pacific American Art from the Seattle Arts Commission" exhibit, Wing Luke Asian Museum.

Northern 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.

FLORIN

Sat., Sept. 29—25th anniversary celebration for Florin Buddhist Church, 1:30 p.m.; guest speaker, TV newscaster Sharon Ito. Info: Myrtle Furukawa, 916/383-0116 or Jen Mizusaka, 916/381-0849.

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Aug. 18—"Forgotten Valor" screening, Crest Theater, 1013 K Street, noon. Reservation: Nelson Nagai, 476-8528 or Edwin Edson, 477-6905.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Sept. 9—Nikkei Widowed Group's monthly meeting. Info: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190 or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Aug. 18—24th Annual Daruma Festival sponsored by West Valley JACL, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saratoga Lanes parking lot. Proceeds go to WJAJCL. Free admission. Info: www.pgpb.org, conydarumafestival or 408/293-4432.
Wed., Sept. 5—"From Silicon Valley, CA to Bit Valley, Tokyo: Lessons from

the Past Two Years," sponsored by Commonwealth Club, 6 p.m., Tech Museum of Innovation, 201 Shore Market St. Tickets \$20. Speakers: Allen Miner, CEO of SunBridge Ventures and founder of Oracle Japan, and David Yamold, San Jose Mercury News executive director.

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: 650/243-2792.

Sun., Aug. 26—Sunday Matinee with San Mateo JACL presents "Kikujiro," starring Takeshi "Beat" Kitano (English subtitles), 1:30 p.m., San Mateo JACL Community Center.

SANTA CLARA

Sat., Sept. 8—"Sounds of Hawaii" concert at Paramount's Great America theme park. Cultural activities from 10 a.m.; luau and concert from 7 p.m. Headliners include Kalapana, Na Leela, Ten Feet and Colon. For tickets call 510/704-4430 or online purchase at www.oproductioninc.com or any Ticketmaster outlet. Prices from \$40-\$65 and includes theme park admission. Tickets for concert only are also available.

Central California

FRESNO

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

Southern California

GARDENA

Sun., Sept. 16—"Growing Up Nisei" reading with Dr. David Yoo, 1-3 p.m., VFW Post 1961 Hall, sponsored by Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California. Info: 310/324-2875.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Aug. 18—"Camp Artists and Their Teachers: Focus on Arkansas," 1 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First Street, Speaker: Eddy Kurushima, former student of artist Henry Sugimoto. Free with museum admission. Info: 213/625-0414.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Aug. 25—Visual-Communication's JACL/ISS XVI, cook-off, 5 p.m., Chillon Plaza, program, 7:30 p.m., 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles. Tickets for chili and screening \$25 non-members, \$22 members; for screening only \$10 non-member, \$7 non-members; children under 12, \$12 non-members, \$5 members. For ticket-

ets, call 213/680-4462 ext. 59 or fax 213/687-4848.

ORANGE COUNTY

Mor., Sept. 10—Japan America Society Golf Classic, Yorba Linda Country Club. Registration deadline: Aug. 24. Info: Doug Erber, 213/627-6217 ext. 207 or e-mail: jas.dough@hotmail.com.

TORRANCE

Wed., Aug. 29—"Being Successful in a Japanese Company: A Special Seminar for Women," 6 p.m., Holiday Inn Torrance, 19800 S. Vermont Ave., sponsored by Japan America Society. Free admission. For reservations call 213/627-6217 ext. 202 or e-mail: JapanAmerica@hotmail.com.

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—Rohwer Reunion III, Torrance Marriott Hotel. Registration deadline: Sept. 30. Info: Southern California: Betty Horiki Oka, 714/636-8207; Toshi Kusumoto, 714/382-5712; Peggy Hayashino Sunata, 310/323-6337; Helen Yoshimura Takata, 626/968-2966; or Jikko Kimoto Sato, 323/733-3435; Northern California: Lillian Uyeda Inouye, 510/235-6042; Asako Horimoto Mayeda, 510/832-2275; Yone Kimura Asai, 925/832-2086; Sumi Wakai Okuhara, 209/369-9504; Gary Shioa, 916/381-2081; Ben Nagatani, 661/725-0483; or Miyako Kosaka Tsunekawa, 209/462-1124.

Arizona - Nevada
LAS VEGAS

Sun., Aug. 26—Join Las Vegas JACL's bowling team, mandatory noon meeting, Sun Coast Bowling Center. Info: Mira, 702/255-2649 or Betty, 702/221-0414.
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 Arnold Maeda, 213/398-5157.

RENO

Sun., Sept. 16—Fish Fry, noon, Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada St., sponsored by Reno JACL.

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 "SCS Rate." Info: Nicole Branton, Coronado National Forest, 520/670-4735; e-mail: nbranton@6.fed.us.

Letters to the Editor

Reader Thinks Honda Not a Worthy Leader

Representative Mike Honda is taking the position of a leader in the Democratic Party.

He first gained prominence when he pushed through the California State Assembly a resolution condemning the Japanese for the actions of the Japanese military in the Rape of Nanking.

The condemnation was deserved, but he did not follow through with resolutions condemning the Chinese government for the massacre of civil rights activists at Tiananmen Square and the expulsion of the Tibetans from their homes and monasteries.

He did not follow through with the condemnation of the U.S. government for the massacre of men, women and children of the village of My Lai, the carpet bombings of Dresden and Tokyo, and most of all, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Honda is not worthy of representing his district as a leader of his party.

F.Y. Horasuna
Fresno, Calif.

Re: Seattle Bi-District Resisters Panel

This is regarding the statements made by Bill Hosokawa and Fred Shioasaki in the article titled, "Bi-District Hosts Discussion on WWII Resistance" published in the July 20-Aug. 2 issue of the Pacific Citizen.

Hosokawa states, "There were materials published in that paper that I would not have allowed to be published had I been there. I want to make that point clear, that all of this happened after I left camp." What were the unpublicables?

He also adds, "and the paper was entirely justified in criticizing the actions of a small minority, but in moderation." Is the lat-

ter the current remaining problem on the subject?

I would not consider the resisters of conscience a small minority. There were hundreds of them from the many camps and most remain "Quiet Americans," while others have already passed away.

There was only one Patrick Henry during the American Revolution but hundreds among the Japanese Americans during World War II.

Veteran Shioasaki states, "For those resisters of conscience, I have great admiration for them. That took more guts than to volunteer." I agree wholeheartedly.

Hideo Tachibana
via e-mail



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Your donation is fully tax deductible.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Judge rules Defendant Competent in Kamijima Trial

CHICAGO—The McHenry County State Attorney's office informed the Illinois Asian American Hate Crime Network Aug. 6 that the judge presiding over the murder case of Naoki Kamijima ruled that defendant Douglas Vitaioli is competent to stand trial.

The ruling follows a number of hearings in which defense attorneys claimed Vitaioli was not competent to stand trial. Prosecutors and doctors from the Elgin Mental Health Center argued Vitaioli could be tried.

Prosecutors said they don't believe a trial date will be set this year. Vitaioli is charged with first-degree murder and a hate crime in the April 1999 fatal shooting of Kamijima, a Crystal Lake, Ill., shop owner.

Democratic Chairwoman Apologizes to Chao

FRANKFORT, Ky.—The state's Democratic Party chairwoman has apologized to U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao for remarks made at a political picnic.

At the annual gathering Aug. 4, Nicki Patton offered a list of 10 possible reasons why Sen. Mitch McConnell, Chao's husband, skipped the picnic. She said he "passed up some good Kentucky pork to chow down at the Chinese money buffet."

McConnell, a Republican who will be seeking his fourth term in 2002, has been criticized for his fund-raising among Asian interests. Chao, who was born in Taiwan, is his second wife.

Republican Chairwoman Ellen Williams took the word "chow" to be a play on the secretary's last name and said Patton should apologize. Patton issued a statement saying she had sent an apology to Chao.

Senators Want Funding for Minidoka Monument

BOISE, Idaho—Republican Sens. Michael Crapo and Larry Craig and Washington Democrat Patty Murray have asked the Bush administration to provide the money necessary to begin operating the new National Monument at the Minidoka internment camp.

The camp site and 90 adjacent acres will be managed by the Park Service as a unit of the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. Little remains of the camp that housed 9,400 internees except remnants of a stone guard tower and a visitors waiting room.

The camp's designation was made by former President Clinton in mid-January during the final days of his administration.

Deaf Man Held in Death of AA Teen

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif.—A deaf man was arrested after he allegedly stabbed and killed his next-door neighbor, 17-year-old Kenneth Chiu, authorities said.

Christopher Hearn, 20, was booked on investigation of murder and is being held in Orange County Jail. The stabbing occurred July 30 as Chiu returned home from visiting a friend, authorities said. Orange County sheriff's investigators have not yet cited a motive but found a racial epithet scratched onto a car that belonged to Chiu's father.

Hate Crimes Spurred by Race Rise Slightly

LOS ANGELES—Hate crimes motivated by race and ethnicity rose slightly last year in California, but crimes driven by religion or sexual orientation fell, according to state statistics released Aug. 10.

Overall, the number of hate crimes reported — about 1,960 — was about the same as in 1999, although the number of total victims fell from 2,436 in 1999 to 2,352.

Blacks were the most common

single target for hate crimes, with 31 percent of the offenses directed at them. About 20 percent were directed at homosexuals, 12 percent against Jews, 10 percent against Hispanics, 7 percent against whites and 5 percent against Asians.

Study Reveals Economic/ Health Woes of Filipino Vets

LOS ANGELES—A survey of Filipino veterans who fought for the United States during World War II show they are dying 57 percent faster than their American counterparts.

The survey, released Aug. 9 by the Filipino American Service Group, polled 400 veterans in California and found that half reported chronic blood pressure and hypertension. It also revealed that their average monthly income is \$698.

Many of the estimated 200,000 Filipino soldiers believed the U.S. government would grant them military benefits for their WWII service. But a 1946 act prevented all but a handful from receiving those benefits.

Study on School Segregation May Be Misleading

HONOLULU—Hawaii's image of itself as a racially harmonious state was shaken recently by a Harvard University study that said the islands have one of the most racially segregated public school systems in the nation.

The study was based on the 1998-99 school year with the latest data available from the National Center of Education Statistics. It found Hawaii was the most segregated state for Latino students. But Harvard professor Gary Orfield, co-director of The Civil Rights Project which conducted the study, said the findings can be misleading because nearly all Hawaii public schools have Asian, rather than white, majorities. ■

AAAs Seek Redistricting to Unify Ethnic Communities

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

In an attempt to unify its different ethnic communities, Asian American groups unveiled a statewide redistricting plan that they hope will give them more political clout.

The plan released Aug. 9 is an unprecedented move for California's many Asian ethnic groups, which are increasingly joining forces to make their voices heard. They will have to compete for attention with Latino organizations that drew their own map, but both groups say their proposals are similar.

At press conferences in Los Angeles and Oakland, members of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting said AAs have lost political power because Assembly boundaries drawn a decade ago split their communities into two and sometimes three pieces.

"Because we are divided, finding legislative support and building community unity is difficult," said Diane Poon, executive director of the Chinatown Service Center, representing a Los Angeles sector that is split into two Assembly districts.

The coalition's proposal would bring together divided ethnic communities including Chinatown, Koreatown and Filipinotown in Los Angeles and Orange County's Little Saigon and Koreatown. In other areas, including Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco, the proposal would organize several Assembly districts around ethnic ar-

reas with common needs.

The plan increases the number of districts with at least 30 percent Asian, Latino or black populations. It also would increase the number of "safe" Assembly districts — ones in which one major party has at least a 10 percent advantage over the other — from 42 to 46 for Democrats and from 13 to 14 for Republicans.

The Asian population in California rose nearly 54 percent over the last decade, to nearly 4.4 million. But although they made up about 13 percent of the state in the 2000 Census, Asians hold only 3 percent — four of 120 — of the state's legislative seats.

Communities united by common interests "should not be divided, should not be fractured, and their votes should not be diluted," said Stewart Kwok, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California.

"If we don't say anything, they will definitely divide our communities again, because they don't even know where our communities of interest are most of the time," Kwok said.

Two Hispanic advocacy groups — the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the William C. Velasquez Institute — released their own map last month; but Asian and Latino activists said the two plans have much in common. The coalition planned to submit its proposal to the Legislature later this month. ■

Immigrant Rights Leaders Applaud Funding for California Programs

Immigrant communities and their advocates recently applauded California Gov. Gray Davis' decision to include funding in the 2001-2002 state budget to make two safety-net programs permanently eligible to legal immigrants, regardless of their date of entry to the United States.

The California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) provides food stamps to working families who are no longer eligible for federal, food stamps. The Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) provides subsistence benefits to seniors and persons with disabilities who are no longer eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

Both programs were created during former Gov. Pete Wilson's administration in response to the 1996 federal welfare law, which cut legal immigrants from federal food stamps and SSI. Both programs were expanded under Davis, but assistance for immigrants who entered the United States on or after Aug. 22, 1996 was time-limited.

"We thank the governor and Legislature for making CFAP and CAPI permanent and for ensuring that working families, children, seniors and persons with disabilities will not be left in the cold simply because they are immigrants," said Haena Cho, community organizer for the Korean Resource Center.

"California has restored a basic sense of fairness eliminated in the 1996 welfare and immigration policies," said Veronika Geronimo, policy advocate for the Mexican American Legal Center. "Immigrants contribute significantly to the state's economy. Today, they finally have access to safety-net programs supported by their tax dollars."

As part of the budget package, the sunset dates for CFAP and CAPI have been repealed and both are now permanent programs for immigrants who entered the United States after Aug. 22, 1996.

The budget also includes funding to expand Healthy Families coverage to parents earning up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level and to immigrant children and parents who have been waived by the federal government.

While immigrant rights advocates continue to grapple with technicalities which still prevent most seniors and persons with disabilities from qualifying for CAPI, they are encouraged by this step.

Sylvia Mora, coordinator with the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights, said, "We hope the governor continues his commitment to all of California's working residents and that the federal government follows California's lead in restoring benefits to tax-paying immigrants." ■

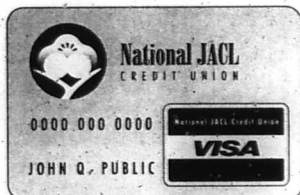
APAs in the News

Frank Abe received two national awards earlier this month for "Conscience and the Constitution," the PBS documentary on Japanese American resistance during World War II. The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists presented its National American Scene Award to Abe at their biennial national convention in St. Paul, Minn., and the Asian American Journalists Association recognized Abe with their National Journalism Award for Unlimited Subject Matter in Television at their national convention in San Francisco.

Three Asian Americans — John Akahoshi, Julie Cho and Joyce Lee — were awarded the ABC New Talent Development Program. At a July ceremony, ABC Television President Alex Wallau handed them a \$20,000 scholarship grant, and each recipient will have a mentor for one year to help them develop their projects. Akahoshi and Lee were nominated by the National Asian American Telecommunications Association, and Cho's name was submitted by East West Players. In recognition of the winning entries submitted by NAATA and EWP, both organizations will receive \$6,000 each.

Pasion Cummings Delgado was named chairwoman of the board of director of the Pacific Asian American Women Writers West (PAAWW-W), a non-profit organization comprised of award-winning writers, actors and community activists. PAAWW-W activities include bi-monthly public writing workshops; master writing workshops with internationally known authors, open readings and performances. ■

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JA Medal of Honor Recipients Unveil JANM Display



PHOTO: TRACY LUBA
Japanese American Medal of Honor recipients Yukio Okutsu (left), 79, and George T. Sakato (right), 80, both of whom served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II, joined fellow MOH recipient and Korean War veteran Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura (middle), 76, at the Japanese American National Museum Aug. 3 to promote a special display, "Beyond the Call of Duty: Honoring the 24 JA MOH Recipients." The display was part of the "SALUTE 2001 All-Nikkei Veterans and Family Event" and the 61st Annual Nisei Week Festival in Los Angeles.

National JACL Singles Convention Set for Labor Day Weekend

The Ninth National JACL Singles Convention will be held Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel in Torrance, Calif., and will feature an exciting lineup of events, including a gala dinner, entertainment, dancing, and workshops on how to achieve personal and professional fulfillment. Guest speakers will be David Ono, ABC7 "Eyewitness News" anchor, and Warren Furutani, vice president of the Board of Trustees, Los Angeles Community College.

Workshops will address such topics as "Communicating in the Workplace," "Discover Your Family Tree," "Before You Say 'I Do,'" "The Healing Power of Touch," "What Every Woman Needs to Know About Catching a Man," "Zen and Relationships," "Conflict Resolution," "Feng Shui Tips for Love and Romance" and "Investment Strategies for Retirement."

Suzanne Joe Kai, co-founder of the AsianSinglesNetwork.com and JapaneseSingles.com, both member websites of AsianConnections-

com, will speak at a noontime luncheon, and later that evening, entertainment will be provided by the band "Music Company," featuring singers Mariko and Howie, as well as music by DJ David Shinjo.

Cost of the Saturday workshops and continental breakfast is \$40. Cost of the Saturday night dinner and dance is \$55. Cost of the Sunday brunch is \$30.

The convention is also offering additional activities for those interested, including a morning golf tournament on Aug. 31, a tour of the Getty Center and Japanese American National Museum on Sept. 2 and a bus trip to Las Vegas from Sept. 3-5.

Register for the convention by Aug. 25 by mailing your name, address, phone number and check payable to "National JACL Singles Convention" to the Registrar, P.O. Box 944, Manhattan Beach, CA 90267. For more information, call Lana Tom at 626/568-1202 or Midori Kamei at 310/541-6698; or visit www.singlesconvention.net.

JACL Health Benefits Trust Names New Administrator



JACL Health Benefits Trust, underwritten by Blue Shield of California, has named Stephen Divich as the new administrator. Pictured are (l-r): John Yasumoto, chairman, JACL Health Benefits Trust; Lucy Kishiue, national JACL membership director; Marlene Matsuoka, national sales manager, Blue Shield of California; and Divich.

Hirabayashi to Attend Kiosk Unveiling Ceremony at Former WWII Prison Camp

Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi and other Japanese Americans incarcerated over 50 years ago on Mt. Lemmon, near Tucson, Ariz., will unveil a new interpretive kiosk on Aug. 25 that tells the history of the former World War II federal camp. The popular camping and picnic area formerly known as the "Prison Camp" in the Coronado National Forest east of Tucson was renamed in November 1999 as the Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site to honor the camp's most famous prisoner.

"The history of the Hirabayashi case offers a glimpse into events that shaped our current understanding of Constitutional law and civil rights," said John M. McGee, Coronado National Forest supervisor. "Hirabayashi played a key role

in taking a stand for what he believed was discrimination based solely on race or ancestry."

Hirabayashi was a college senior at the University of Washington in 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. Caught up in the largest forced evacuation and incarceration in U.S. history, Hirabayashi helped other American families of Japanese descent pack for relocation centers in remote parts of the West. Instead of leaving with them, however, Hirabayashi turned himself over to the FBI, stating he would be in violation of the Constitution if he complied with the order. After several months in jail, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld his conviction.

After being sentenced to serve

time at the Catalina Federal Honor Camp, Hirabayashi volunteered to hitchhike to Tucson, since neither the federal prison officials nor he had money to pay his way. Once in Tucson, he had to convince the Federal Marshal to find his papers and take him to the prison camp. Once there, Hirabayashi served time with other resisters of conscience on Mt. Lemmon. In 1987, the Supreme Court overturned Hirabayashi's conviction after reviewing evidence originally withheld by the Department of Justice.

Improvements at the Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site include a new restroom, a horse corral, improved road access, a new interpretive kiosk, two arched pedestrian bridges and a paved trail. ■

Mineta, Bush Expected to Attend 50-Year Anniversary of U.S.-Japan Peace Treaty

Top leaders from the United States and Japan will join forces at a commemoration in San Francisco Sept. 8 to celebrate the 50th anniversary signing of the peace treaty which officially ended World War II in the Pacific.

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, along with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, are expected to be among the elected officials, business leaders and foreign policy experts in attendance at the event, which is being organized by the U.S. Japan 21st Century Project under the Japan Society of Northern California.

"Japan and the United States share a truly remarkable friendship," said former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, honorary chairman of the event. "The 50th anniversary provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the close

partnership connections between our two nations, and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities we face in the 21st century."

"Since 1951, Japan has become the world's second largest economy and a force for stability and economic growth throughout Asia," said Japanese Consul General in San Francisco, Nobuaki Tanaka. "Our partnership with the United States has helped us grow into a powerful catalyst for democracy and economic development throughout the world. The 50th anniversary allows us to celebrate and examine this important friendship between our two countries."

In addition to the commemorative ceremony, which will take place at the War Memorial Opera House, there will be a conference Sept. 6-7 at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel focusing on the U.S.-Japan relationship and the new global

economy, a reception on Sept. 8 at City Hall hosted by Mayor Willie Brown Jr. and a gala dinner at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium during which Secretary Mineta will accept an award on behalf of the Japanese American community.

Among those scheduled to participate in the conference are Ki-ichi Miyazawa, Japan's former prime minister; William Perry, former U.S. secretary of defense; Carly Fiorina, president and CEO of Hewlett Packard; Laura Tyson, dean of the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley; Orville Schell, dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley; Tatsuyuki Saeki, president of NASDAQ Japan; and Dan Okimoto with Stanford University's Asian Pacific Research Center.

For more information about these events, visit www.us-japan.org/jsno/welcome.html. ■

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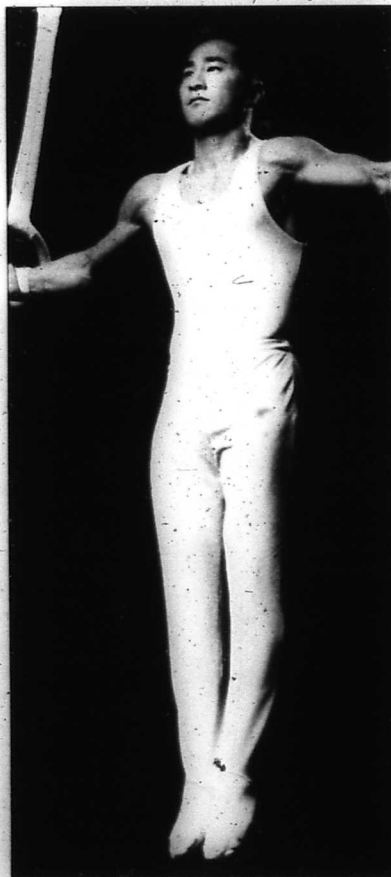
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TV Series to Chronicle JA Experience Over 150 Years

"The Japanese, American Saga," a TV documentary series about the Japanese American experience from early immigration in the late 1800s to the present day, recently received a \$50,000 grant from the United States-Japan Foundation (USJF). The USJF awarded its inaugural Cornerstone Prize to the Smithsonian Institute, which is co-producing the series with KCTS/Seattle Public Television in association with the University of Hawaii's West Oahu's Center for Labor Education and Research. The grant money will be used to support the pre-production activities of the project's creative team, which includes filmmaker Renee Tajima-Peña, scholar Brian Niiya and director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Studies Program Franklin Odo. The series will consist of three

PANA
 (Continued from page 1)
 to be a Nikkei and these will be a part of the encyclopedia on Nikkei in the Americas to be published next year.

Senior economist Luis Baba, a financial advisor to Alberto Fujimori during his bid for the presidency in 1990 spoke on the topic of "Peru and the Fujimori Era." The first Nikkei to be elected president of his country, Fujimori ran for his third term in 1997. Of Fujimori's recent turn of events, Baba cited international scandals, arms corruption and the army's trafficking of drugs as reasons for Fujimori's resignation and adoption of Japanese citizenship.

WWII Camp Experiences
 The workshop "WWII Camp Experience of Japanese Americans, Japanese Canadians and Japanese Latin Americans" was moderated by Kazumi Yamashita, a New York Sansei. The panelists included: Dr. Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institution; author William Hohri; Dr. Henry Shimizu, chairman of the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation; Citizenship Judge Art Miki who co-signed the Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement; Grace Shimizu of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project; Tanforan-Topaz internee Chuck Kubokawa; and Floyd Mori, national JAFL president. Casey Peek presented a 10-minute trailer of his video documentary on the WWII internment experience of Japanese Peruvian Art Shibayama in Crystal City, Texas.

Other program highlights included a reception hosted by the consulate general of Japan at the United Nations. A sayonara dinner featured Kubokawa's recollections of how PANA came to be when George Imai of Canada, Carlos Ka-

one-hour programs for national public television broadcast. Each will focus on individuals — past and present, known and unknown, heroes and villains — whose personal struggles and triumphs help to chronicle the JA experience over the past 150 years. The USJF's Cornerstone Prize is a new initiative that provides funding to not-for-profit filmmakers involved in U.S.-Japan-related film and video projects. The basic research and development phase of "The Japanese American Saga" is already underway, and when completed, the series will be accompanied by a comprehensive website, a companion book, educational materials for classroom use and a community outreach campaign designed to stimulate public discussion of issues raised by the documentary.

Doctors from Canada, Chile, Peru, Argentina, Brazil and Peru joined U.S. physicians to visit the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Bellevue, New York Presbyterian, Rockefeller, Aaron Diamond Research Center, NYU, and Cornell medical colleges. Dr. Luis Kobashi from Southern California was workshop moderator. Participants at the mass media workshop visited the CNN studio, meeting with CNN financial desk anchor Fred Katayama, whose award-winning career includes being a reporter for *Fortune* and *Time* Magazine in Tokyo and New York. The Trade, Economy and Commerce group visited the New York Stock Exchange and the N.Y. Mercantile Exchange. The workshop was moderated by Paraguayan-born Felix Kasamatsu of Washington, D.C., recently retired CFO, Inter-American Development Bank, and Rod Harada, vice president, Nomura Securities International, New York.

Meaningful Workshops
 Youth Activities, chaired by Misa Abe of New York, featured a scavenger hunt. The Women's Forum, moderated by Lillian Kimura, former national JAFL president, closed with Karen Tei Yamashita of Los Angeles reading her latest literary work, "Circle K Cycles."

The final ceremony saw Francis Sogi, host chairman, of New York, handing over "El Testimonio," a large frame with little flags of the PANA countries that Col. Ellison Onizuka carried into space, to Kazumi Bani, the Bolivian delegate. The frame is passed, a la Olympic Games, to the next country hosting the PANA convention.



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Big Problems in Little Tokyo

There's a big problem in Little Tokyo.

For the past 30 years, Japanese American and non-JA members of the Little Tokyo community in Los Angeles have been trying to build a gym in Little Tokyo. Anyone can see that it's a great idea — JA families will come back to Little Tokyo for practice sessions and tournaments, seniors will have a hot lunch program during the day and

By
CHRISTINA SHIGEMURA

Stranger Than Fiction

local kids will have a safe place to play basketball (or volleyball, or practice martial arts) instead of getting into trouble, which is not hard to do when Skid Row is next door. The plan even includes building more parking, and anyone who has been to Little Tokyo during peak hours knows how much the whole community needs that.

Unfortunately, the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation (LTSC CDC), a non-profit which hopes to build the gym, has so far been unable to acquire the land to build

on. In the past, LTSC CDC has made offers to buy several vacant properties in Little Tokyo at fair market value. However, these offers have been rejected for a variety of reasons, including Japanese executives' reluctance to lose face to the company by admitting that land values have plummeted in Little Tokyo since the 1980s. Currently, supporters' hopes rest on acquiring one acre of the seven-acre city-owned property north of First Street which is known as the First Street North site.

The problem is that the Geffen Contemporary Museum wants to build an "art park" on the First Street North site and does not want to share even one acre with a gym. Apparently, the type of people who would frequent a community gym are not the type of people that the Geffen hopes to attract with its art park.

Incidentally, the Geffen's stay in Little Tokyo was initially supposed to be temporary, but I guess they like it so much that they want to remain in the location and expand — as long as the riffraff, excuse me, the Little Tokyo community, stays out. The Geffen has been able to maintain this cavalier attitude due to its deep-pocketed supporters and its marriage-of-convenience with the Japanese American National Museum (JANM).

If you're thinking that JANM and the Geffen seem like strange bedfellows, it's because they are. JANM receives more than financial support from the JA community. We are its *raison d'être*. With-

out the existence of JAs as a unique socio-political-cultural group, the museum would not exist. And without us, there would be very few visitors to the museum.

In contrast, the Geffen is removed from Little Tokyo in every way except physical location. The "community" that it serves is the moneyed elite. The Geffen has no interest in the wonderful, multicultural history of Little Tokyo; it is only interested in the free land that the city can provide for its expansion.

By forming an alliance known as the Central Avenue Art Park Partners with JANM, the Geffen hopes to legitimize itself despite the fact that it has no real ties to our community. JANM may be hoping to attract some of the Geffen's wealthy supporters, but it seems far more likely that the Geffen will discontinue its relationship with JANM as soon as the art park is built.

Although JANM has publicly proclaimed its support for the gym, it has not insisted that the gym be included in plans for the First Street North site. However, a gym close by may be just what JANM needs to boost admissions numbers. And what better incentive to keep your membership current than going to the museum regularly before or after your child's basketball game?

Let's hope this problem can be fixed before it grows any bigger. ■

Christina Shigemura is a Hapa Yonsei.

COMMENTARY

A Newspaper Stumbles

By **BILL YOSHINO**
Midwest Regional Director

I recently met with editors from the *Chicago Sun-Times* along with several individuals from the Asian American community. I arranged this meeting because in preceding months two *Sun-Times* columnists used the term "Chinaman" without any attempt to explain the derogatory nature of the term.

In a March 30 column, Jay Mariotti used the term in referring to a Chinese basketball player, and on April 15, Mark Steyn used it in a column critical of American foreign policy toward China. Upon reading the Steyn column, I wrote a letter to the *Sun-Times* objecting to its use. They printed a portion of the letter in their May 16 edition. I later called Steve Huntley, the editor of the editorial page, requesting a meeting.

The *Sun-Times* changed ownership some time ago when they were purchased by Hollinger Inc., a Canadian company. The new ownership brought with it a complete change in the philosophy of the newspaper. For decades, the *Sun-Times* had a very progressive, in fact, a liberal point of view. Today, they are the opposite, expressing an extremely conservative view, much in the same manner as the *Washington Times*.

I don't know whether their circulation has increased or fallen since they were purchased, but like many urban newspapers they are targeting a young, suburban demographic and they've chosen to do it with a very conservative message.

In our meeting with the editors, which included Michael Cook, the editor-in-chief, and Huntley, we stated clearly that we were offended by the use of

the derogatory term. Cook said the use of "Chinaman" in the Mariotti column should not have happened and that it should have been caught by the editors. However, they defended Steyn's use of the term saying that his column was literary in nature and that the use of the term was valid in the context of his column. One of the editors even stated that he couldn't think of another term that would have been more appropriate in the context of the column.

In researching Steyn's writings, I learned that the *Chicago Sun-Times* is the only American newspaper that carries his column (Sundays). For the most part, his columns are picked up by the Hollinger papers in Canada. In several of these past columns, which were not printed in the

Sun-Times, he used the term "Jap" in addition to "Chinaman."

Shortly after our meeting on June 3, Steyn wrote a review of the movie "Pearl Harbor." In the column, he explained his understanding that the term "Japs" distresses some people and that he would not use the term to describe present-day Japanese citizens. With that explanation he went on to criticize the movie because it whitewashed Japanese military behavior and then proceeded to do what he felt the movie didn't by using slurs to describe the Japanese and their actions during World War II.

I don't know if Steyn's columns rise to the level of being literary. Perhaps the editors believe that cleverness gives license to racially offend. I do know that in the future we need to be watchful of the *Chicago Sun-Times* and its columnists. It seems that they don't mind using their influence to curry acceptance for the use of slurs. ■

A Key Difference

I'VE ALLUDED to the position that the class-conscious society of Japan has a tendency to regard the Nikkei American as an uncouth, uncultured, unrestrained buffoon. I've seen Japanese movies depicting the Nikkei American at a garish sweater and two-toned shoes, who then (predictably) proceeded to confirm the preconceived biases about Nikkei-American conduct. On the other hand, the very same behavior by a European American is accepted as the



By **BILL MARUTANI**

East Wind

American norm, indeed, in some respects regarded as charmingly spontaneous and outgoing. But in the eyes of the "Nippon-jins" (I'll shortly explain my usage of terminology, if you're a Nikkei, you're judged by a different set of rules — namely, much of those governing the Nippon-jin himself.

THE TERMINOLOGY. Other than my gut assessment, I have no basis for the following freeheeling propositions. With that disclaimer, in the Nippon vernacular, there are several terms by which the Nippon-jins refer to themselves. These range from "Nihon-jin," a vernacular reference to "People [of] [from] Japan," to "Yō-jin," a term which I came across only a few years ago. Whereas the former carries a loose connotation, the latter, I sense, packs an ethnic affinity, such as "fellow countryman" which, by the way, is how yō-jin is defined in Kenkyusha, the Japanese dictionary. As can be discerned, this latter category is less inclusive. I sense that to qualify for this category both of one's parents have to be Japanese and of Japanese parents. Concededly, this may be a harsh assess-

ment, but you go where the trail leads. In between these two are vernacular gradations. I use "Nippon-jins" as a notch above "Nihon-jin," to mean a "Japanese Japanese."

Now, what all this has to do with Nikkei Americans.

BECAUSE NIKKEI AMERICANS are appraised by Nippon-jins by the same standards applicable to themselves, Nippon-jins tend to look at themselves and at Nikkei Americans and wonder why the latter do not measure up to them. After all, both groups trace their sources to Japan. Whereas the Nippon-jins arrive in America and go into (major) banking, investments, manufacturing, etc., the Nikkei American's position seems to remain sluggish or static. I reject this assessment of Nikkei Americans. We still have a long, long way to go, but at the same time, we — very much including our Issei pioneers — have slogged through some formidable paths, including dismantling their existence in the prime of their lives.

THROUGH ALL THIS there runs one contrivance difference between the early settlers who arrived about the turn of the century on America's shores from Japan and the "kaisha" (Japanese company) folks who entered America on merchant visas. For the Issei, particularly once the offspring started to arrive, there was no turning back; their commitment was here, no matter how difficult things would become. The bridges were burned. By contrast, the kaisha folks have a fallback position of returning to Nippon. Indeed, their entire planning contemplates this, as evidenced by the establishment of "nihon-gakkos" (Japanese schools) and importing teachers from Japan.

There's an escape hatch, if ever one should be needed. Or even if not needed. ■

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

French Camp Awards Scholarship

The French Camp chapter recently awarded Melanie Komure with a \$500 scholarship. Komure was valedictorian of Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif., and plans to attend the University of California, San Diego in the fall. She is the daughter of Dean and Liane Komure.

San Fernando Valley JACL and JACCC Award Scholarships

Six high school seniors from the

San Fernando Valley area were recently awarded scholarships from the San Fernando Valley JACL and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center at a ceremony keynoted by Alvin Kusumoto from the office of California State Sen. Richard Alarcon. The recipients were: Justin C. Funakura, Canyon Country High School; Kenneth Yasushi Kita, Granada Hills High School; Natalie Martinez, Granada Hills; Richard Matsuo Nakata, Granada Hills; Noelle Shoji, Granada Hills; and Gregory K. Yano, Oakwood High School. ■

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CAUSE

(Continued from page 1)

The location of the summit was also significant since it was held in Alhambra, Calif., a Southern California city that sits in the San Gabriel Valley, an area encompassing the cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and San Gabriel Valley. According to Census 2000, almost half of San Gabriel Valley's population is comprised of APAs, which according to panelist Paul Ong, director of UCLA's Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, is an "anomaly" compared to the rest of the country.

The focus of the summit, in light of California Assemblywoman Judy Chu's historic May victory due largely to Latino and APA votes, was on coalition building and learning from other communities of color.

In particular, the program featured numerous Latino guest speakers including National Community Latino Leadership Chair Lydia Camarillo, California Assemblyman Tony Cardenas, D-39; California Assemblywoman Bob Pacheco, R-60; Congresswoman Hilda Solis, D-Calif.; and California Democratic Party Chair Art Torres.

Many speakers compared the momentum building within the APA community to the events that occurred in the Latino community in the 1970s.

"I'm excited and thrilled by the fact that we can repeat history now with a new community and forge together a better community in California," said Torres, who gave a \$1,000 check to CAUSE in appreciation for their past support.

Camarillo was among those who in 1968 formed Southwest Vote to register Latino voters. She said back then they waged what was considered an untraditional registration drive by going after the segment considered "low propensity," those who were new to the country and to the system.

Since all indications point to an APA community continuing to be a majority immigrant population, Camarillo urged leaders to invest in programs that educate this segment, ensuring they become citizens, register to vote and then actually cast their ballots.

In discussing the recent increase in Latino elected officials in California, political consultant Allan Hoffenblum, whose past clients include Paul Bannai, the first APA elected to the California Legislature, cred-

ited California state Sen. Richard Polanco for putting together a political action committee that heavily supported Latino candidates, regardless of whether the candidate was running in an area with a high concentration of Latino voters. The result is more than 20 Latinos currently serving in the state legislature compared to six a few years ago.

"It wasn't luck, it was highly organized," said Hoffenblum.

Hoffenblum now sees the Latino community going to the next level by supporting candidates based on ideology rather than ethnicity. He pointed to the Los Angeles mayoral race, saying Antonio Villaraigosa's loss was not a loss for the Latino community because Villaraigosa's aggressive liberal campaign turned away middle to conservative Latinos. Even Alex Padilla, current Los Angeles council president, threw his support to opponent James Hahn, who went on to win the mayoral seat.

Cardenas, the first person of color elected to state office from the San Fernando Valley and now one of the most powerful legislators in California as chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee, pointed out that everyone, including non-citizen immigrants, could contribute to the political process.

"A good number of people who worked on my campaign, like my mother and father who are immigrants, didn't even speak English," said Cardenas. "They were there every single day. They cooked, they cleaned ... they did their part. If you're an immigrant, you don't have to be an American to participate. There's no laws against that."

At the summit, Cardenas also announced his candidacy for a Los Angeles council seat, which will be vacated by Councilman Joel Wachs on Oct. 1. If Cardenas wins, the San Fernando Valley will have two of four Valley seats occupied by Latinos.

Cardenas' announcement came as a surprise since the termed out assembly member had filed papers to run for secretary of state. Cardenas' change in plan will be to the advantage of March Fong Eu, whose intention to reclaim her former position as secretary of state was announced at the summit by her son Matt Fong, former California state treasurer.

Fong quelled rumors that he had returned to California to run for office and explained that he withdrew his nomination for Undersecretary of the Army last month due to bureaucratic delays, which would have probably prevented him from

taking the post until next year.

"Frankly, for me, that takes me out of the window of being a very effective person to help make change in Washington," said Fong. "It's really the first year and the first nine months that sets the stage of a successful presidency because that is the time to build coalitions and set strategies to take the presidency for the balance of the four years."

Raphael Sonenshein, a political science professor at California State University Fullerton and award-winning author who has written on Los Angeles politics, shared some of the political lessons learned from the Jewish American community, saying it was important to rally around core interests of the community, regardless of political orientation. As an example, he said, while roughly 90 percent of Jewish Americans support Democrats, they still maintain friendly relationships with Republican Jewish Americans and would have leverage with the Bush Administration if it involved anti-Semitism.

"If you're a Democrat, love your Republican office holders. If you're a Republican, love your Democratic office holders. ... But make sure you can all sit down in a room when it comes to the core interest of the community and do whatever you do want you. That's what the Jewish community does. It takes it to a level beyond politics."

Other speakers included political consultant Steve Gray-Barkan; California Secretary of State Bill Jones; Chinese American CEO's Executive Director Joel Szabat; former KCBS anchor Tritia Toyota; Mayor of West Covina Ben Wong; USC Assistant Professor Janelle Wong; and former Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Woo.

CAUSE will be publishing a summit report later this year. ■

'BANZAI'

(Continued from page 1)

In this case, he said, "They (Sato and others) explained why as Asian Americans they weren't offended. It was a very good conversation. We agreed on the problems that the media creates for Asian Americans."

When asked if any of the show's content would be altered per MANAA's requests, Sato replied, "I don't want to speculate about that right now. We're just relaying the information to our higher-ups (producers in London)."

As JACL continues to discuss what course of action to take on this issue, Midwest District Governor, Ben Ezaki, offered his first impression of the show: "I come from the younger generation so I'm a little desensitized, I guess. I didn't necessarily like it, but I didn't think it had any racial undertones. I think that it was just trying to be funny in the only way it knew how to be funny. It definitely looked British and British humor is different than American humor, kind of like Benny Hill or Monty Python."

Gary Monaghan, director of "Banzai," described how he originally came up with the bits for the show: "We used to make bets. We'd bet on everything from what glass the barman might pick up next to what the color of the fifth car past the window would be. 'Banzai' resembles some bizarre piece of Japanese telly. The pub is still the place where we dream up all our best ideas for the show."

It's clearly pandering to the teenage boy demographic, Ezaki said, and the money that comes with that.

"Everybody has different tastes, but the question is, does it cross the line and spread the word of hate? If not, well, then you have the option of turning it off," he said.

In addition to MANAA's meeting with network executives, JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi recently sent a letter to USA Network President Doug Herzog further explaining the damaging effects racially charged humor and stereotypes can have on AAs.

MANAA and JACL are now awaiting response from "Banzai" producers.

According to the network, it purchased the rights to 26 episodes of the program, but plans to produce several original segments as well.

"Banzai" is scheduled to air every Friday night at 11 p.m. (ET/PT) through February. Upcoming movies to be featured on the USA Banzai Movie Friday include "Tommy Boy" and "Wayne's World." ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Carl, Mitsu Yasuda, 75, Falls Church, Va., July 13; Seattle-born; survived by husband, Richard; brothers, Kentaro and Tesu Yasuda; and sister, Yae Kusaba.

Hirabara, Harry Satoshi, 94, Albany, July 26; Florin-born Nisei; interned at Manzanar and Amache; served U.S. Army, MIS; Berkeley JACLer; survived by son, Clark; daughters, Doreen and Patricia Hirabara. Predeceased by wife, Josie.

Honda, Harry Yoshiteru, 90, Spokane, Wash., July 21; Yakima-born, Spokane JACLer; survived by wife, Ada; daughters Marcia Hirai and husband Michael, Rhona Yoshida and husband Richard, and Karla Honda and Rik Murto; sister, Tachiko Yamamoto; sister-in-law, Kazu Honda; cousin, Aiko Omori; 7 gc.; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by sister, Matsuko; and brothers, Bill, Joe and George.

Okada, Sara (nee Tanigawa), Minneapolis, Minn., July 25; Roseville-born; survived by husband, Edward; son, John; daughter, Toni; and sister, Mary Abe.

Okawachi, Toru M., 80, Fairfield, June 23; San Francisco-born; survived by wife, T. Patricia; sister, Mary and one nephew.

Sutow, George, 79, San Mateo, July 10; Pescadero-born; survived by wife, Toshiko; sons, Wayne and wife Janis, and Roy and wife Martha; daughter, Jan; brother, Shizuo; sisters, Mary and Ann Toba and husband Mas; and 4 gc. Predeceased by daughter, Catherine and sister, Tomiko.

Takeda, Shizue Grace, 80, Los Angeles, June 23; Los Angeles-born Nisei; survived by son Glen; daughters Judy Matsuyama and husband Stanley, Joyce Takeda; grandsons Mark and Dean Matsuyama; brothers Casey, Mas and Aki Kasuyama; sisters-in-law Sue and Jeanette Kasuyama.

Tashiro, Tamara Michiko, 72, June 25; survived by husband, Robert; son, Steven and wife Patricia; daughter, Mari Tashiro and Lynn Saunders; brother, Atsushi Fujii; sisters, Virginia Takahashi, Roselyn Kiwata; grandchildren Stephanie Tashiro, Kelly Hein and Megan Treviso; and 9 gc.

Toba, Osamu "Gus," 77, Daly City, June 22; husband of Kaoru; uncle of John and Dorian Hishimoto; great-uncle of 6.

Tomita, Shizue, 93, June 27; Kumamoto-born; survived by sons Roy and wife Yukio, Kazuo and wife Virginia, Yukio and wife Patti, Bob and wife Linda; daughters Irene Dang and husband Herb, Dorothy Nakagawa and husband Tom; gc. and ggc.

Toribara, Ruth S., 86, Spokane, July 16; survived by husband, Frank; daughter, Terry Sorensen and husband Ted; son, Ted and wife Christine; brothers, Sumio and Harry Matsumoto; and 3 gc.

Yukawa, Kiyoshi Joe, 78, San Francisco, June 26; San Francisco-born; beloved husband of Grace; survived by brother, Sharky; sister, Mary Uyeda; nephews, Alan and

Tad Yukawa and Teru Taguchi; nieces, Judy Kajiyama and Carol Uyeda.

Ward, John "Sonny," 71, Bafimore, Md., July 10; Owings, Maryland-born; National Park Service volunteer at Manzanar, who donated more than 2,506 hours in just two seasons (not two years); served in the U.S. Army.

Watanabe, Mabel Yoshiko Inami, 68, Coalinga, July 18; Madera-born, interned at Jerome and Rohwer; survived by husband, Herb Mitsuo; son, Mitchell and wife Teresa; daughter, Marie England and husband Mike; brothers, Frank, Joe and Tom Inami; sisters, Lihian Takayama and May Takaka; and 4 gc. ■

NOBUO AJIMURA
TARLAC CITY, Philippines—Nobuo Ajimura, 88, passed away Aug. 1. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Yamaguchi-ken, Kibi was interned at Tule Lake. Nobuo was a long-time resident, retired farmer and landscape in the Santa Clara Valley. He is survived by his wife Lucy; former wife Mary with sons Allen (Ann), Richard, Greg (Adele); daughters, Diane Okamoto, Vivan (John) Zepeda, Atereni Imamura, Wima (Masaru) Kawamoto, Janice (Gary) Mitome; 20 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and relatives. Private services have been held.

SUMIYE (nee Kuge) HIRAI
MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Sumiye (nee Kuge) Hirai, 85, passed away peacefully July 20. She was a longtime member of the Wisconsin chapter of JACL and WIBC. Beloved wife of the late Minoru. Loved mother of Lynda Jarreau, Lois Ohlson and husband Mark and Nancy Hirai. Proud grandmother of Lynette, Marshall (Janet), Joe, Tracy and Tom. Loving obasan of Shizuko, Curtis, Sumiye and Jesse. Dear sister of Sueko (Shigeru) Hayame and Hatsue Masuda. Sister-in-law of Minnie Kuge. Also loved by other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held July 23.

GEORGE N. KADROYAMA
Beloved husband of Mary; dear father of Ken Kadroyama and wife Mary Kay, Phyllis Lisk, Carrie Osato and husband Mas and Eugene Kadroyama and wife June; fond grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of six.


SETSUKO TSUCHIYA
A native of San Francisco, Setsuko Tsuchiya, 89, passed away July 21 at the San Francisco Towers. Setsuko was a wartime National JACL staff worker in Salt Lake City and immediate postwar PSW regional director. She was the beloved wife of the late Sotter Tsuchiya. She is survived by her brother Osamu (Hogami) of Sparks, Nev., sister-in-law, Jean Tsuchiya of San Francisco, brothers-in-law, Gengo Ito of Berkeley and Takeo Okamoto of San Francisco. At her request, no services will be held.

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1001 Ways to Boost Membership

As the number of JACL members has deteriorated, we have obviously started to realize the dire need to gain new members. During many of the national board panels that I have sat on during this past summer, the same question has been repeated, "What can we do to attain new members?"

By RYAN CHIN At the recent PNW

By the Board V.P. Public Affairs

IDC bi-district conference in Seattle, Yvonne Kinoshita Ward, White River chapter president, asked if national could start an e-mail listserv that would allow us to circulate membership ideas. I have elected to take on the task of

starting a new JACL Membership Idea Listserv per the keen idea of Ms. Kinoshita Ward.

For those who may not know what a listserv is, it is kind of like an e-mail newsletter where anyone can write a message. Everyone who subscribes to that list receives the message. Users may subscribe and unsubscribe at any time. It's as simple as checking or composing your messages on e-mail.

The focus of this listserv is specifically geared toward circulating ideas around boosting membership. Although I am starting the list by targeting all governors, chapter presidents and membership chairs, anyone who is interested in increasing JACL membership is encouraged to join. It doesn't cost anything, and we need as wide a variety of ideas as possible.

We want all membership ideas, including success stories from the past (regardless of how far in the past), concepts that you have seen work (JACL or other groups) and strategies that you may not have

tried or seen executed but that you view as a potential success.

When I say "success story," it does not need to be an idea that earned you hundreds of members. Perhaps it was an event that attracted some non-JACLers and gained you five new members. Maybe it was an idea that you used to gain new members and you netted 10 new memberships for JACL. Can you imagine if you were able to spread that same idea to the other 111 chapters?

In the past, we have operated as 112 separate entities, each trying to execute different methods for gaining new members. Each chapter wracked their brains for methods to garner new members. Going forward, we need to be more efficient and effective through this new membership listserv.

Please ensure that your governor, chapter president, membership chair and other interested parties subscribe to this listserv. Simply send an e-mail to: jaclmembership-subscribe@yahoo.com. That's it!

As always, I am available for questions at rchin@yahoo.com or 206.228.7926. I look forward to seeing your ideas soon!

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WEN HO LEE

(Continued from page 1)

led the Lee probe, has sued Frooman and others, claiming he was defamed.

Lee pleaded guilty to a single count of downloading restricted data last Sept. 13. In exchange, the government dropped 58 similar counts. Lee spent nine months in solitary confinement before the plea bargain.

U.S. District Judge James Parker apologized to Lee for his incarceration. Parker said federal prosecutors, agents and Energy Department officials had embarrassed the nation.

The report was finished in May 2000, months before the plea bargain, and new information about the race issue came out after then, Chang said.

"It's a halfway report," she said.

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Greater L.A. Singles Awards Scholarship

The Greater L.A. Singles chapter awarded its annual Hana Uno Shepard Scholarship to Chris Orimoto, valedictorian of Garfield High School. Orimoto received \$1,500 and will attend Columbia University to pursue computer science in the fall.

The Greater L.A. Singles annual scholarship goes to a deserving high school graduate from a single parent home. For more information or next year's application, contact Sally Akazawa at GLAS JACL, 2390 Crenshaw Blvd., Box 88, Torrance, CA 90501.

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10/23-11/5 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - Kyoto, Kanazaki, Hiroshima, Miyama, Nagoya, Beppu, Kumamoto, Tokyo. Peggy Mikuni
11/1-11/14 Yamato Tour to China - Osaka, Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Shanghai, Hong Kong. Lily Nomura
12/2-12/7 Ride the Rails to Adventure - Amtrak to San Luis Obispo, deluxe motorcoach to Sacramento. Amtrak to Reno, deluxe motorcoach return to Los Angeles. Lily Nomura

SPECIALY SELECTED TOURS AND CRUISES FOR 2002
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3/23-4/2 11-Day TBI Inland Sea of Japan Tour - Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Kanazaki, Hiroshima/Miyama. Lily Nomura
4/9-4/21 Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan - Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Shin-Obono, Nagoya, Tokyo. Peggy Mikuni
5/16-5/28 13-Day Alpine Countries, with Collette Vacations - Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Sharon Seto
5/18-5/25 8-Day Alaskan Cruise aboard the Star Princess - Anchorage, Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan. Lily Nomura
5/23-6/2 11-Day Imperial Cities, with Collette Vacations - Prague, Vienna, Budapest. Peggy Mikuni
7/13-7/25 13-Day Mediterranean Cruise aboard the Golden Princess - Istanbul, Athens, Sifnos, Corfu. Grace Sakamoto
8/11-8/19 Yamato 9-Day National Parks and Montana's Rockies by Rail - Salt Lake City, Jackson, Jackson Hole, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, Bozeman, Montana. Lily Nomura
Sept. Yamato Tour to Europe. Lily Nomura
9/9-9/22 Yamato Exclusive Deluxe 14-Day Tour to Northern Spain - Madrid, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Leon, Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca, Avila, Toledo. Solita Orbe
Oct. Yamato Exclusive East Coast Fall Foliage. Lily Nomura
Oct. Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan. Peggy Mikuni
11/1-11/10 10-Day Anient Egypt with Mauditour - Cairo, Luxor, Valley of the Kings and Giza, Dossy (4 nights) in Luxor, Moni Onbo and Assuan. Then fly to Abu Simbel. Grace Sakamoto
11/5-11/10 Yamato 6-Day Music Cities Tour - New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville. Lily Nomura
11/7-11/21 15-Day Collette Australian Wonders & New Zealand Islands - Melbourne, Cairns, Townsville, Sydney, Queensland, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook National Park, Christchurch. Sharon Seto
Itineraries for proposed 2002 tours will be available in September, 2001.

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