Soka Gakkai Mourns Passing of Aoyama, Passenger on Hijacked Airplane

By ERIC L. MULLER

DIFFERENT ATTRACTIONS from one another as a result.

COMMENTARY
An Arab-American Internment?

Soka Gakkai members around the world held memorial services on Sept. 15 for David Seiwa Aoyama, 48, a passenger aboard American Airlines Flight 21, which was the first hijacked plane to hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. Internationally, services were held in France, Israel, Japan and Peru. Services were held in the United States including Chicago, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Memphis, Riverdale, Calif., and Santa Monica, Calif.

"I know millions of people chant- ed for his life," said David Naga- gishita, Soka Gakkai Interna- tional (SGI) USA director. "They said they established a scholarship in Aoyama's name and donated $10,000 to the American Red Cross to fund on- going emergency relief efforts. In Japan, SGI planted several trees in honor of Aoyama. Close to 1,000 people turned out to SGI-USAs national headquarters as Southern Califor- nia zone vice president. Among the people who sent condolences were SGI President Daisaku Ikeda and U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer.

"We need to cherish peace and let's take the necessary steps to achieve it," said Ikeda. "We need to work together to ensure that such a tragedy does not happen again in the future."
National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

[Senate Won't Oppose POW

WASHINGTON—The Senate voted Tuesday to authorize the administration to negotiate a prisoner-of-war swap agreement with the Vietnamese government in accordance with the terms of the Paris peace settlement. The Senate's action allows the administration to proceed with negotiations for the release of 600 American prisoners of war held in Vietnam.

By Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif.—San Jose City Council members voted unanimously Sept. 4 to name the city's internationally renowned architect Gwathmey Siegel &Associates as architect for the newly planned $200 million civic center complex which is expected to be completed in 1978.

The council also approved a $10 million bond issue to finance the construction of the civic center.

[Blue Shield of California

Signal Health Plans, the new joint venture formed by Blue Shield of California and Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, is being marketed to employers in the state as a way to reduce health care costs.

The new plan, which is available to employers with 50 or more employees, offers a comprehensive benefit package at a lower cost than traditional group plans.

The plan includes hospitalization, medical, and dental coverage, as well as prescription drug benefits. The cost of the plan is based on the size of the employer and the number of employees enrolled.

For more information, employers are encouraged to contact their local Blue Shield office or visit the Signal Health Plans website.

Read about the future of health care in California and the new health plan options available for employers.
JACL National Board Sets Date for Resisters Ceremony
Looks at Florida and Opposes Charitable Choice Legislation

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL national board has set a date for its upcoming meeting at national headquarters Aug. 18-19. Below is a summary of the week's news:

Nati President's Report
• Blue Ribbon Committee - The National JACL held a series of several focus groups last month in San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. The groups were comprised of several JACL member volunteers and the committee is looking to form some focus groups with non-Japanese Americans.

NCWPNP Governor Alan Bregman reported that the group has moved on to the next step of the project to enable a resolution declaring more information about the Blue Ribbon Committee around the country.

John Tatsui, JACL national executive director, said he will work on getting more information out to the committee to the district.

Ford Mort, national president, reminded the board that the Blue Ribbon Committee members are volunteering their time and their efforts are strictly pro-bono. He also added that the committee is doing a work in progress. The committee will be addressing the progress of the national board meeting in November.

• Programs for Youth - Mort proposed two new programs for youth: an intercamp reunion and an intercultural youth leadership training program. The intercamp reunion would involve a group of youth, college age and older, spending a week at another JACL national or former World War II camps. They would engage in activities that would allow the camp, live in barracks, eat the type of food that would have been served, and learn to story the stories of former internees. Currently, further information about this proposal is still being developed.

The intercultural youth leadership training program would involve JACL chapters sending six to eight members to meet at JACL headquarters. The leaders would be expected to report on what they learned. In turn, the leaders in each chapter would learn about JA culture. This program would also include younger high school students.

• Resisters of Conscience Ceremonies - The National JACL has founded a new committee recognizing the WWII resistors of conscience has been scheduled for Feb. 10, 2000, in San Francisco. Details of the event will be announced at a later date.

Mort has spent much of his presidency talking to various veterans' groups and resistors of conscience. He is encouraged by the dialogue that has taken place and hopes to continue the talks at the upcoming 2002 JACL national convention in Las Vegas.

"There is a lot more reason today than there has been," he said, adding that both sides are starting to see each other's views. "As they hear each other they are bringing these people together for more and more dialogue."

It was also revealed that the Sacramento JYF is planning to present a resolution at the upcoming 2002 convention to nulify the resolution of apology to the resisters of conscience passed at the 2000 JACL convention in Monterrey.

National Executive Director's Report
• "Pearl Harbor" - Tatsui reported that they were interviewed more than 150 times about the recent exhibit "Pearl Harbor" and the concerns of the Asian American community. As a result, JACL is in a group presentation and Tatsui continues to receive a number of phone calls regarding various AA issues.

• "Banzi" and 'Politically Incorrect' - The exhibit "Banzi" and "Politically Incorrect" presents the idea of the President of USA News expressing JACL concerns about the network's "Banzi" TV series. Some of the concerns include the "blackface" and "Politically Incorrect" "mocking Japanese characters on the show Tatsui is to speak with the president of the network. In addition, Media Action Network (MANA) President Guy Akii took on comedians and "mocking" of the "Politically Incorrect" to correct the comic's use of "blackface" and to introduce the derogatory term "chink" in his act.

• Florida - Tatsui is scheduled to speak in Florida this month and hopes to gather interest in starting a JACL Florida chapter. Several letters have been mailed to JACs living in the state, including several who are interested in forming an organization. According to the 2000 census, there are currently about 10,000 JACs residing in the state of Florida.

• "JACL Road" - The JACL Houston chapter is working to change the name of "JAP Road" in Jefferson County, Texas. In Orange County, "Barb Lane" was named in honor of W.O. Kubo, a retired teacher and his founder who had founded an agricultural college in 1908 and whose descen- dants continue to sponsor Japanese- American events. "JAP Road" is named in recognition of Yosai Matsuura, another pioneer farmer.

• An alternate motion submitted by Art Rogers, national treasurer, to have headquarters pay the $15,000 for the liability insurance and to bill those chapters who do not respond to their request to list their various activities was passed instead.

• Website policy - Adoption to adopt the National JACL Policy was passed.

The policy states that the content of the JACL Website is to be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the organization and programs of the national organization. All policies, resolutions from national JACL, will be posted on the Website. Other press releases, including those from chapters or districts, may be posted at the discretion of the executive director of the national board.

Public Affairs
• Federal Funding of Faith Based Organizations - A resolution was passed supporting the allocation of federal funding of faith-based initiatives. The resolution discussed by the Finance and Development Committee did not pass at the 2000 JACL convention in Las Vegas.

Tatsui reported that the archives from PC, national headquarters, and the FSW District offices have been moved to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. The archives will be available for public use.

Previous Report
The national board passed a resolution in support of the national youth/student council which stated in part, "members of the JACL National Board hereby recognize the tremendous efforts and volunteerism of the National Youth/Student Council in continuing to focus vast amounts of unpaid energy in getting young people further informed and empowered within the Japanese American Citizens League and in the United States at large."

The national youth/student council held its national youth conference in Seattle. Matthew Nakata, national youth director, said that the conference was a tremendous success with 116 participants from all around the country representing 31 different chapters. The national youth/student retreat will be held Oct. 5-7 in Salt Lake City.

General Operations
• JACL Scholarship - There are still a number of chapters who have not yet established their national level headquarters regarding liability insurance. Currently, headquarters is currently assessing the issue and has issued a $100-$200 annually per chapter for their insurance. The national headquarters do not respond to headquarters inquiry regarding their various activities, JACL is charged $200 for each non- responsive headquarters.

Currently, JACL is paying about $15,000 per year for this liability insurance. David Yonehara, vice president of general operations, submitted a motion to ask the national board for their advice on liability insurance payments but it was denied.

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• Resolutions in Support of JACL: U.S. Senate passed the resolution on the 60th anniversary of Exclusion Order in 990. The bill that sent 120,000 JACs to concentration camps by introducing two resolutions. One would be to honor those who were interned and to have JACL work with the United States military to mark the anniversary of the Day of Remembrance. The other resolution would allow U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to mark the anniversary.

Membership
• Membership, by special unanimous vote, authorized the National JACL to send out an invitation to all the chapters that have increased in numbers in the recent times.

San Mateo-San Bruno - Blue Shield of California will begin offering same-sex same partner benefits to JACL members. In addition to the health insurance, JACL is looking into offering same-sex same member benefits in other service areas as well.

• Chapters in Good Standing - Gary Mayeda, vice president of development, announced that the National JACL will appoint district governors to look at their chapters to see which are not in good standing. The chapter will then be able to do about chapters that are not in good standing.

Planning and Development
• Legacy Grants - The NLA is currently seeking support for the JACL up to 2004. Members are looking to look at how to deal with partial grant awards since oftentimes they are not able to fund the entire amount that an applicant requests. Keeping the legal fees, vice president of planning and development, is the way to fund the projects. The JACL will implement rotating appointments to the committee.

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• JACL website - The JACL is in the process of updating to the new website. The NLA is in the process of updating to the new website. The JACL is in the process of updating to the new website. The JACL is in the process of updating to the new website. The JACL is in the process of updating to the new website.
U.S. and Japan Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Peace Treaty

By Pacific Citizen Staff

On opposite ends of the Pacific, in San Francisco and in Tokyo, dignitaries gathered Sept. 8 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the peace treaty that officially ended World War II and promised future cooperation between the United States and Japan.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka spent the morning reaffirming ties between the two countries during a ceremony at a former San Francisco military base.

"A strong alliance with Japan is essential," Powell said, expressing the American and Japanese desire for cooperation.

In Tokyo, JACL national president Floyd Mori was a special guest at a ceremony attended by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and about 800 other government officials, diplomats, scholars, businessmen and politicians.

Mori was one of four Americans, including former vice president Dan Quayle, to be honored. JACL was recognized for its contributions made by the Americans to assist in Japan's post-war recovery.

"It is very significant that the Japanese have acknowledged the role of the American GIs in the rebuilding of Japan," Mori said.

Many American businesses in the Japanese private sector helped Japanese business adapt to the U.S. economic machine which contributed to the post-war economic recovery of Japan.

"The JACL has always recognized the importance of the U.S. to Japan's progress and recovery," he said. "Our heritage is tied to Japan, and no matter how reduced the routes they choose have often been significant improvements perceived in the American public.

Nisei Vets Honor Former Army Secretary Caldera

Former Secretary of the Army John D. R. Calhoun, 45, was warmly applauded by 250 Nisei veterans and friends at an appreciation luncheon hosted by the Go For Broke Educational Foundation, 100th/442nd Association, MIS Club of Southern California and NISEI Association of Northern California on Sept. 8 at the Four Points Sheraton.

Sally Hamamoto, sister of Medal of Honor recipient Kiyoshi Muranaga, recalled her personal experience when the call came when Washington that her brother was among the 20 Nisei veterans who were to be decorated last year. The hospitality shown the honored veterans was unforgettable and unforgettable, she emphasized.

Chef Young Oak Kim (retired) and Col. Harry Fukuhara (retired) extended remarks on behalf of the 100th/442nd and Military Intelligence Service veterans. For his part, Kim, who met Caldera about 12 years ago as state assemblyman from the Central L.A. District including Little Tokyo, recounted Caldera's support in creating the Go For Broke Monument. Fukuhara related some of the high points of the Nisei's military intelligence service.

Caldera was offered by President Clinton as Secretary of the Army and served from 1996 to 2001. He is currently vice chancellor for the University of California. The State University System is the largest four-year university system in the country.

The only major source of friction between the allies. Even so, Japan has become an important market and American's third-largest trading partner, with $121 billion in exchange last year, according to the Census Bureau. Japan's substantial support for Japanese firms have invested heavily in the United States.

JACL Corner

Livingston-Merced Chapter Builds Ties with Southeast Asian Community

After receiving $2,000 from the JACL Legacy Fund Grant this year, the Livingston-Merced JACL will once again offer its mentor program, which was first launched two years ago as a way to build ties between JACL members and the local Southeast Asian community.

Meetings from the chapter are paired with a Southeast Asian student to whom they will provide support and guidance through monthly group outings and frequent phone contact until graduation from high school.

The mentors, with help from UC Scholars, an outreach program, will ensure that students take the courses needed to meet the rigorous admissions standards of University of California schools.

A tenth UC campus is scheduled to be completed in Merced by 2004 with an enrollment of 1,000 students. About 800 students will be added annually until enrollment reaches 25,000.

For more information about the mentor program, contact Karen Phislen at kphislen@ericssonair.com or Bob Taniguchi at taniguchi@merced.ca.us.

San Francisco Presents Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award

Bethany teacher and talk show player, Susumu Saiki, received the 2001 Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award from the San Francisco JACL. Saiki teaches English at Hamilton Senior Center and has served for over 50 years on the board of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, where he has participated in over 400 Obon festivities.

He was awarded $1,000, which he requested be shared between Hamilton Senior Center and the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

Over 300 Attend National JACL Singles Convention

More than 300 people attended the ninth annual National JACL Singles Convention held over Labor Day weekend in Torrance, Calif. Organized by L.J. Tarunc, who spoke at the Sunday brunch, Miyako Kodagawa, convention co-chair, and Terry Terauchi, City of Gardena mayor.

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Stranger Than Fiction

raved about was descended from watermelon seeds which came from the United States. Aside from the watermelon, Kuremaya said she was also struck by how much life on the Cuban farm reminded her of her childhood in the United States. She says the blackberries and truck beds are old but well-maintained, and the animals and chickens roamed freely. The sense of cooperation and sharing, similar to how it is in the United States, "is very much like the United States." In addition to the organic farm, members of the JA delegation visited an ecological village, an alternative energy project, and many historic sites in Havana. The group met with Castro on Wall Street and Broadway where he welcomed the delegation and invited them to return to Cuba. The delegation was introduced to Minshuzan, the oldest living Cuban Niiiki, who is 85 years old.

On Sept. 30, members of the delegation visited the Japanese government's Cuban mission, the Japanese Niiiki association, and the Japanese community in Cuba. The mission was established in 1960 to promote trade and cultural exchange between Japan and Cuba. The delegation met with officials from the mission and visited the association's offices. The delegation was given a tour of the mission's facilities and was introduced to members of the association. The delegation also visited a Japanese community center in Havana, where they met with members of the community and were given a tour of the center's facilities. The delegation then returned to Havana, where they visited a number of historic sites and cultural venues.

The delegation was then invited to a welcome dinner at the Ministry of Interior. The dinner was attended by high-ranking officials from the Ministry, including the director of the Cuban Intelligence Service. The delegation had the opportunity to meet with other members of the Ministry and discuss issues of mutual interest. The dinner was a wonderful opportunity to connect with Cuban officials and learn about the country's political and social landscape.

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