Japanese Scholar Looks for Nikkei Who Served in Japanese Army During WWII

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA and HARRY K. HONDA

One book changed Hiroshi Kadoke’s life and set him on a mission.

The book: “A Japanese American and the Imperial Navy,” written by the late Y. Tachibana. The publication chronicles the fate of a Japanese American Nisei studying in Japan during the World War II era. The Nisei is drafted against his will into the Japanese Imperial Navy and is killed in action, fighting against his own country and the United States.

This real-life account so moved Kadoke, a native of Nagoya, Japan, that he resigned from his position as president of Kyowa Kogyo Company, a manufacturer of metal and stainless steel products, and at the age of 47, the Keio University graduate returned to school after 24 years and enrolled into Nagoya City University’s multilingual communications graduate program, specializing in JAS and the Pacific War. “My life changed after I read this book,” Kadoke said in Japanese repeatedly. “I want to devote my life to researching this subject.”

To embark on his research of Nisei who served in the Japanese military, Kadoke flew into California this spring to meet with a handful of individuals he has been able to locate. This was one of many trips Kadoke plans to make to the West Coast this summer, although currently, all expenses are coming out of his own pocket.

As a child, Kadoke grew up hearing stories about WWII from his father, who often recounted the hellish experiences he had endured in New Guinea and the Pacific Imperial Army.

This Nisei veteran of the Japanese Imperial Army hopes to find other Nisei who were drafted to fight and contribute to the nation’s history.

See SCHOLAR/ page 4

First Bainbridge Island Evacuees Honored

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAINBRIDGE, Wash.—Frank Kitamoto was just 2 years old, too young to remember, when his mother gathered him, his three sisters and as much as she could carry for a ferry ride into exile. Now, 60 years later, he’s trying to make sure others don’t forget.

Kitamoto and other Bainbridge Island residents on March 30 dedicated a solemn granite marker to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community.

They had come together to build something for their children, and just when they were becoming successful, the marker leaves with six days’ notice. They lost their property. They lost their dignity and faith in America and what it stood for.

The Bainbridge residents were taken by train from Seattle to Manzanar, a dusty camp near the Mojave Desert in California.

Eventually, all 14,400 Washington residents of Japanese ancestry would be interned. Across the West, 114,000 were.

The ceremony was part of an effort to build a larger memorial at the Eagledale ferry landing, which is now defunct and part of a federal Superfund cleanup site.

For years, a group has been working with federal officials to buy land near the ferry landing and develop an interpretive site called “Niido Nai Isru,” or “Let It Not Happen Again.”

The Legislature also unanimously passed a bill asking President Bush and Congress to designate the landing a national memorial.

“I feel very humbled by the stories that I’ve heard. And I’m equally humbled to be a part of helping those stories be heard by a larger group, by acknowledging the suffering that people experienced,” said Deborah Hickey-Tyerman, a leader of the Bainbridge Island World War II Nisei Internment and Exclusion Memorial Committee.

Several civil rights groups, including JACL, have criticized the state for not more actively working to memorialize the history.

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See BAINBRIDGE/ page 4

Democrats Show Support For Secretary Mineta After Columnist's Lashing

More than 50 Democrats have come out publicly in support of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta after the columnist Ann Coulter gave the former congressman a verbal lashing in a Feb. 28 column, largely blaming him for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In a letter circulated by Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, the group condemns Coulter’s column titled, “Mineta’s Bakaan Death March” and asks the White House to issue a “public denunciation” of the op-ed piece.

“It’s not Coulter’s bigoted remarks that divide our country during this trying time in our nation’s history,” wrote the lawmakers, strongly condemning the “racist and hateful language” of the piece.

In her column, Coulter criticizes Mineta’s refusal to use racial profiling as part of his airport security measures, accusing him of “burning with hatred for America.”

She also goes on to condemn Mineta’s expressions of his own World War II experience and refinement with the recent attacks on the U.S. “by Muslims and Islamic fanatics following the events of Sept. 11.”

She writes, “He has taken the occasion of the most devastating attack on U.S. soil to drone on about how his baseball bat was taken from him as a child and a reminder to one of Franklin Roosevelt’s Japanese internment camps.”

She adds, “Transportation Secretary Mineta is angry and he wants America to suffer. . . . He’s subjecting all of America to the Bataan Death March!”

In an Oakland Tribune article. White House spokesman Ken Lindsay refused to address Coulter’s criticism of Mineta and whether Bush would respond. But, he added, “the President requests people to serve in his administration on the qualification that they’re the best person for the job.”

Among the 54 lawmakers who signed the statement were Mike Honda, D-San Jose; Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo; Ellen Tauscher, D-Alamo; and Barbara Lee, D-San Francisco.

Several civil rights groups, including JACL, have criticized the columnist for her “shocking” comments.

The column was published.

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See BAINBRIDGE/ page 4

Professor Ready to Call Off Asian Boycott of Nuclear Labs Over Wen Ho Lee Case

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY, Calif.—A professor who urged Asian Americans not to apply for jobs at U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories in response to the firing of Wen Ho Lee says he’s ready to call off the protest in exchange for promised workplace changes.

Ling-Chi Wang said March 26 he is prepared to start a recruiting drive if an agreement to change hiring practices and improve working conditions, now pending before officials in Washington, is finalized.

“I think the labs realized they had a real serious problem,” said Wang, who initiated the boycott two years ago.

The plan was submitted on March 25 by the Los Alamos, Livermore and Sandia laboratories to the National Nuclear Security Administration for approval, Los Alamos spokesman John Gustafson said.

Gustafson would not discuss the plan’s contents. Wang said he had not read the final draft and could not comment on specifics.

In general, he said, he expects it to address racial profiling and discrimination as well as recruitment, retention and salary parity, and provide for promotion and reassignment opportunities.

See LABS/ page 4

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See BAINBRIDGE/ page 4
Mori Memo

The issue of Resistors brings to mind many different thoughts and feelings among members of JACL. I am aware that there are many who are wondering what is so controversial and divisive about the issue. Let me explain why I feel it is the appropriate time to take a stand, rest and move forward, including this as part of our history and focusing on our energies on the present and future.

I have heard several veterans express very deep concern that JACL would go ahead with a ceremony they say is slap in the face of the veterans. They wonder how it is that we can recognize people who refused to fight for our country and Countless others of Japanese Americans had the courage to volunteer and prove our loyalty when our little allegiance was, in question. The veterans remind us—and rightfully so—about the courage required. We are undertaking under circumstances they also remind us that many of these volunteers were subject to harassment and physical abuse by those who refused to go into the Armed Services at that time. They also remind us of the many who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. I believe that it is right to appreciate their heroism was a major factor in our community's ability to assimilate into post-war American society. It was a major factor for what we have in today's America.

I have heard several arguments that the courage of the veterans and their role in providing the free life we enjoy today. However, the error is in the assumption of some veterans that all who refused to go and fight for our country were cowards and draft dodgers. Yes, there were those who were afraid enough of the consequences of war that they did anything to avoid going to war. There were also those who were actually sympathetic to the enemy and ridiculed those who would be disposable to their “mother country.” These people are NOT the ones who will be recognized in the Resisters Ceremony on May 11 in San Francisco.

The resisters who will be recognized are those whose conscience allowed them to fight for a country that incarcerated their families without due process of law, and right as Americans, according to the Constitution. They could not, in good conscience, support the cruel treatment that would allow such a blatant act of racism. Their actions took a great deal of courage—courage of a different kind than that shown by those who fought in the war. It is the kind of courage displayed by Lincoln and Martin Luther King. Most of these resisters paid the price of imprisonment and of ostracism by the community. Is it not time that we pay these people some respect for what they did?

There have been many veterans who have expressed concern about the actions of JACL, but they have been open-minded enough to recognize that we must put this issue to rest. Many veterans have expressed to me that after hearing more clearly the story of the resisters, they are willing to support the JACL national council's action on this issue taken at the 2000 convention in Monterey. We must be reminded that this is a decision of the national president or the national board. The national council voted by a very large majority to hold this ceremony. There are many veterans who will be attending the ceremony and I appreciate their understanding.

For those veterans who are dissatisfied, I would ask them to reconsider. JACL is a great organization that will continue on into the future, and we would like to have your support in all of the good things that are done on the local and national level. Our younger generations need your help in remembering your legacy in this great country. The role of our veterans will always be a proud part of our history, and we need you to help ensure that this great story goes on.

Re: 18 Nisei VF Post

I need to rate the Sacramento VF Post and the 18 other Nisei VF posts supporting their misguided campaign as highly.

In my opinion, they are lower than scum for: 1. Misleading and continuing to mention the 80 Nisei KIAs. Among the 80 KIAs, I saw a good number of Japanese Americans who led them into battle, resistors' siblings and/or relatives, and at least two other Japanese American members. 2. Deceptively and grievously attacking people whom they group in the broadest sense of what makes up the entire background of those they are attacking. Among them were the ones who knew hand to hand to be daft-insoluble due to physical unfitness and others who were burdened with depression. 4. Using many of the same statements about the relocation camps used by this nation and the news media in trying to suppress the resistance to the selective service during the serious incarceration of the 1940s.

The Nisei VF is running the most shameless, despicable, deceptive campaign i.e. Lillian Baker. I cannot conceive of honorable, decent, decent men who fought for their civil rights without regret and a deep feeling of shame.

Stop the Spin

Please permit me to relate a lesson that was taught to me some seven decades ago in a story called, "The Man Who Planted Trees," which will hopefully help resolve the "resisters" issue and perhaps future issues.

The story begins with two groups, with one group on the right side and the other group on the left side. One group was placed in the center of the room between the two groups. The group on the left huddled around the group on the side of the wall. The group on the right, saw the group on the left and decided to bolt from their position. The group on the right side, moved towards the center of the room.

The group on the right side, was killed in Action; a sister was killed in Action; a brother was killed in Action; and a brother was killed in Action.

I am grateful to be an American.

George Shigehiro
Pocatello, Idaho

Managing Our Money

The JACL national board recently approved a substantial increase in membership dues for all four major reasons that necessitated this increase are reported to be declining member support and a decrease in revenue from the investment income. There is a Japanese saying to describe this predicament—an octopus eating its own leg to survive.

However, I am equally concerned with the information that JACL has been using only one major reason (an investment company) to manage its money. That money totaled some $8 million (Equity Fund) three years ago, now down to $5.5 million, a loss of 30 percent. We know that some small funds have performed well in the current recession. At the same time, we also know that some funds have done fairly well or have not lost that much.

Years ago, even when stocks were doing very well, JACL hired a company manager (or mismanagement) to manage our money without any supervision. The result was that we not only lost profits minus the uptick stock market, but because of the management fees to that company alone, the numbers were repeating the same mistake again?

The reason for investing our own money or that of others is the basic strategy for safety is to diversify (see the Enron debacle) and also to not depend on one money manager. As I understand it, JACL has an investment policy committee, which has retained a financial advisor. This advisor is supposed to select the investment managers to manage JACL funds. This way, we can no longer spend only a small percentage of the performance of the managing firms. However, our current financial advisor is still working for the money manager. I think this setup is not diverse enough and may be disadvantageous to JACL funds.

At the chapter and membership levels, we need expanded earned money to headquarters. We do this with a hope that the money is managed properly and most effectively, so that the financial future of JACL is secure.

The very reason for my writing this letter is to call the attention of other members to this situation and hope it improves the financial condition for the future of JACL.

Grace Uchida
Memorial Chair, Chicago Chapter

Letters to the Editor

The issue of Resisters brings to mind many different thoughts and feelings among members of JACL. I am aware that there are many who are wondering what is so controversial and divisive about the issue. Let me explain why I feel it is the appropriate time to take a stand, rest and move forward, including this as part of our history and focusing on our energies on the present and future.

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Three Companies Targeted in Slavery Reparations Lawsuit

NEW YORK—A group of school ancestors were slaves sued three companies for allegedly profiting from slavery for nearly two centuries, a long-simmering concept that could pick up steam if more blacks are allowed to join the law suits.

Plaintiff's lawyers said the suits were the first to seek slavery reparations from private companies, including the Aetna insurance company, the FleetBoston financial services group and rockband giant CSX, on behalf of 35 million African American descendants of African slaves.

The three suits, which seek unspecified damages, claim that as many as 1,000 unidentified corporations may have benefited from slavery between 1619 and 1865.

Reparations supporters cite other cases where groups have been compensated for historic indignities. In 1988, a letter of formal apology and $20,000 were given by the U.S. government to each Japanese American held in an internment camp during World War II. In October 1988, Austria established a $380 million fund to compensate tens of thousands of Nazi-era slave laborers who were born in six eastern European countries.

But opponents argue that victims in the Nazi and CA cases were directly harmed by separation and enslavement and do not fall in the modern-day descendants.

School Mascot Stirs Controversy

DENVER—The idea started among some University of Northern Colorado students as a satire of a local high school's American Indian mascot.

The students named their intramural basketball team, made up of American Indians, Hispanics and whites, "the Fightin' Whites." They even designed jerseys saying, "Every thing's gonna be all white," with a caricature of a mid-age-white man.

The team chose the name after it couldn't persuade nearby Eaton High School to abandon its nickname, "the Fightin' Reds," and the American Indian caricature on the team logos. The students say the logo is offensive, a claim Eaton School Superintendent John Nupari disputes.

Critics see the "Fightin' Whites" name as the wrong protest to a logo that is based on a racial stereotyped.

Team member Jeff Vanwander said demand for the jersey has been overwhelming. He said when shirts are printed, they will have a message condemning racist stereotypes to disuade people from making light of the issue.

Laotian Couple Gaves Birth to Quadruplets

SACRAMENTO—A Laotian couple living in West Sacramento gave birth to four identical quadruplet girls March 25, a phenomenon that only happens in every 1-in-11 million births overall.

Omeek Khamma, 22, and Veyr Mou, 20, conceived the children without the aid of fertility drugs, an extremely unusual situation in cases of multiple births, doctors said.

As they ran away, they would return and kill him,”

The victim, whose name was withheld, was shaken up but did not require hospitalization, the foren-

The teens were arrested several weeks later and were booked on charges of investigation of felony assault with a firearm, conspiracy, carrying a gun, interfering with an individual's civil

Court Urged to Let AA Slave Labor Case Proceed

LOS ANGELES—Legal briefs have been filed urging a state appeals court to let a Korean manufacturer based in Japan sue a Japanese company for allegedly using slave labor.

Jae Hong Jeoung, 79, a retired teacher and now a U.S. citizen, is seeking to recover for forced laborers from Onoda Cement Co., which has a Los Angeles-based subsidiary.

The appeals court has temporarily halted the lawsuit in January and set an April 30 hearing for arguments on whether to unseal the records.

At issue in Jeoung's case is the constitu-
tionality of a 1999 California law that allows suits by foreign workers, some of whom were victims in Europe and America to seek redress until 2010 against multina-

tional firms to which the US sold them.

A federal court ruled against the plaintiffs in February. But two months later Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Peter Lichtman allowed the case to move forward.

Jeremy Lichtman was concerned the government was acting in an "uneven manner" by allowing lawsuits to go forward, while preventing Asian victims from seeking reparations from Japanese companies.

114-year-old Japanese Woman Becomes Oldest Living Human

TOKYO—Slugging back shots of sake, the world's oldest living person, according to Guinness World Records, has celebrated the title March 18 after the death of the previous record holder, Maud Farris-Luse of California, who died March 13 at the age of 114.

Hongo, now 115 years and 56 days old, was born in Kashiwa, Japan, on Nov. 18, 1887, was raised on a farm and counting sake among her favorite things.

She lives in a nursing home in Kogashima on the island of Kyushu, which she says is her favorite place to be a living man.

Rice farmer Yoko Yashoda, who is 15,000 Japanese over the age of 100, and women make up 80 percent of the total. Japan has the world's longest average life expectancy at 83 years, according to government figures.

Report Finds Post 9-11 Spike in Hate Crimes Against APAs

Nearly 250 bias-motivated incidents targeting Asian Pacific Americans, including two murders, were documented in the three months following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to a preliminary report released recently by the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC) in Washington, D.C.

The 250 documented incidents within a three-month span is in sharp contrast to the 400-500 reports NAPALC has been receiving weekly.

The report's executive summary found that:

・bias-motivated incidents, included a high degree of physical violence with approximately one in five involving incidents where the victim suffered bodily injury from physical assault;

・unlike previous years in which most bias-motivated incidents involved male victims and perpetrators, the post-9-11 backslash victims and perpetrators include women and children, as well as other students, mothers and teachers;

・the attacks occurred throughout the Asian Pacific heritage communities of incidents involving South Asian Americans, particularly, Sth Americans;

・the data has not been enough to cover the full extent of hate violence;

・statements denouncing the backlash incidents made by public officials and local authorities, attacks were undercut by contrary government action;

・the media has not responded and reached out to both the victims of the terror attacks and the victims of backlash since Sept. 11-11.

The findings by the preliminary post-9-11 report was in contrast to the "2000 Audit of Violence Against Asian Americans after September 11" released at the same time by NAPALC.

In the 2000 audit, NAPALC found that anti-APA incidents had decreased 19 percent overall, although certain states — Connecticut, Michigan, Nebraska and Wyoming — all experienced more than a 50 percent increase.

Although the numbers did decrease, there were six reported bias-motivated murders in 2000 compared to four such incidents in 1999. Among the other highlights of the 2000 report were the growing evidence of on-campus hate crimes and the difficulties in obtaining data from law enforcement agencies.

Recommendations listed in the post-9-11 report included:

・President Bush and Congress should create programs providing incentives to ensure that laws target crime with race, ethnicity, gender and national origin;

・public officials and community leaders, must speak out against violence and implement formal policies regarding harassment and discrimination;

・the media should seek to improve its reporting of race, national origin and religion, and the media should encourage the additional publicizing of acts of hate against Asian Pacific Americans;

・as leader of the nation's chief enforcement agencies, the attorney general must work to repeal policies and initiatives that discriminate based on race, ethnicity, gender and national origin;

・all sectors of government and society must provide diversity and sensitivity training to their employees, as well as training for law enforcement that focuses on hate crimes and report hate crimes.
Kadoike, who has read extensively on JA history, believes Tachibana's and Sano's books are the only two publications in Japanese that recount the experiences of a Nisei in the Japanese military.

Through the publisher, Kadoike made contact with Sano, 78, currently a Palo Alto, Calif., resident who in turn contacted other Nisei Japanese military veterans. Sano, when questioned whether it was difficult to get these Nisei men to be interviewed, said four of the five in Northern California accepted and the one man who declined had probably done so more out of financial motives rather than a reluctance to share his past.

In Los Angeles, Kadoike met with Frank Hirohito Hirata, 76. Hirata was born in Spokane, Wash., but was sent to Japan to receive an education at the age of 10. Hirata had a difficult time adjusting to Japanese life, and even into his middle school years one teacher in particular continually taunted Hirata in front of the classroom, branding him a Japanese or national enemy. Hirata was drafted into the Japanese Army on Jan. 4, 1945, after Japan lowered the draft age from 20 to 19 and loosened physical requirements.

Hirata unsuccessfully tried to get another Southern California Nisei to meet with Kadoike. “This Nisei living in the same community that I once lived said, ‘I haven’t told anybody of my service in the Japanese military. Not even my own grown-up kids know of my service in Japan.’ I don’t know why he never talked about it to his family, but it is his own business, and I wish to respect his privacy.”

In terms of whether Sano or Hirata had ever been questioned about their loyalties, Sano said, “So far, no.” In fact, after the publication of his book, Sano said: “The opportunities to meet and hear from a variety of people have been a most unanticipated outcome and reward.”

However, Sano added that: “I think it is important to know why Nisei and even some Samei went to Japan prior to World War II. Some did so to seek a better life because of the bad economic situation here, compounded by racial prejudice. Some went for the reasons of parental and cultural influence, while others went because of family responsibilities. The list could go on and on. … When some of these Nisei received the order that they report for military service, they went.”

“After the surrender, some, if not all, who were in the Japanese military were questioned by the U.S. authorities when they went to consult their citizenship status. They were asked questions such as ‘Did you protest when you were called into service?’ and ‘Did you try to escape?’ A friend replied, ‘I wouldn’t be alive and standing here if I took any such actions at that time’! With that, he withdrew his papers and left the office never to do anything further to regain his citizenship. He said that if he had protested or tried to escape, he would have been a loyal American but a dumb dead Jap.”

Hirata said, “I have never been questioned about my loyalty to the U.S. nor have I ever heard of anyone questioning my loyalty. To me, I was always loyal to the U.S. except during the wartime when under the circumstances I was loyal to Japan. Only those who had lived in Japan during the war can understand what is meant by this statement.”

“I consider those accusing fellow Nisei as disloyal ‘no boys’ or rescuers extremely narrow minded people who don’t know what reconciliation means. Just as we cannot permanently grieve over the death of our kin, we have to put past things in perspective, face the reality of today, and live in hope and trust in God.”

Nisei who have served in the Japanese military or those who know of one are asked to contact Hiroshi Kadoike at Nagoya City University, Master of Multicultural Communications, 565-44 Sasagane Kikko, Moriyama-ku, Nagoya 465-0004 Japan, or call 011-81-052-736-1101 or fax 011-81-052-736-1102; or email kado@gcm.ne.jp.

BAINBRIDGE (Continued from page 1)

War Relocation Center in southern Idaho. After more than three years in the camps, they returned home. Only half the Bainbridge internees returned to the island.

The issue we need to rekindle people’s interest in are the American citizens, most of us were, and we were deprived of our rights just because of racial identification,” said Junko Harui, 69, whose family was one of three from Bainbridge who fled to Moses Lake.

This is exactly what’s happening with the Muslims,” Gow. Gary Locke and various members of the Japanese American community attended the ceremony, which included performances by the Seattle Kokon Taiko drum group.

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Honoring Shigeki "Shake" Ushio for his 50 years of service on the JACL Credit Union Board, the Credit Union board members recently voted to rename the building in Salt Lake City after him. Ushio retired from the credit union after 53 years of outstanding service except for a brief seven-year period when he and his wife, Mon Yasar Ushio, moved to Japan with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Ushio was board chair of the Credit Union for 42 years.

2002 Min Yasui Oratorical Competition to be Held June 28 in Las Vegas

The JACL will present the 2002 Min Yasui Oratorical Competition at the 27th Biennial National JACL Convention in Las Vegas on June 25-28, 2002, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. This year's contestants from eight regional districts will address the question, "With the changing dynamics of the Japanese American community, what is JACL's role in the future?" The competition is named in honor of Min Yasui, who helped to continue to inspire young adults to discuss current events affecting the Asian Pacific American community.

Yasui was famous for being one of three Nisei to challenge the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. During World War II, Yasui remained loyal to the United States and was transferred by his commanding officer to the farm area. He was honored as the JACL's Japanese American of the Biennium in 1992. In 1979 he was appointed chair of the JACL Committee on Redress and traveled the country advocating for redress for JAs who were interned during WWII. This year's first-place winner will receive a notebook computer and a plaque of achievement from the Southern California JACL. The second-place winner will receive a desktop computer. All contestants will receive awards of recognition.

The competition will take place on June 28 at 2 p.m. in the Grande Ballroom of the Riviera.

Registration Form

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The Regular Convention Package includes registration and badges for all National Convention events,包括 exhibits, occupational competition, Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon and Savings Package. The Regular and Youth Packages include the Regular Package plus the Youth Luncheon. The Youth Package is the same as above, except for the Youth Lunch and Savings Package.

Individual Event Registration is available for those interested in attending only specific events. A registration fee of $20 (at least 6 weeks in advance) is required for admission to exhibits, business sessions or workshops on a per-day basis. Cancellation Policy

Individual Event Registration

Event Price

Election Committee Lunch: $25
Business Meetings: $25
Exhibits: $25
Savings Package: $25
Cultural Tours: $25

Cancellations must be received by May 31. All cancellations received after May 31 will be charged a $25 processing fee. Cancellations received after May 31 will be charged a $25 processing fee.

REMINDER:

Advertisements for the 2002 convention booklet are now being accepted. Deadline for ads submission is May 1, 2002. For more information, email Roy Suzuki at: lvjacj@juno.com.
Minidoka Photos on Display

In conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the World War II internment, an exhibition of color and black and white photographs associated with Idaho's Minidoka internment camp by Teresa Tamura will be shown at the Jerome (Idaho) Library beginning in early April.

Tamura's exhibition, "Remnants: The Minidoka Internment," is part of a statewide commemoration of the internment.

Her photographs comprise an eclectic collection of subjects. Images of small chairs, piles of scrap lumber, metal beds in one of the camp's original barracks and overviews of the complete camp site are included in Tamura's first set of photographs of Minidoka.

"I remember reading an Associated Press article last year when a portion of the original Minidoka education center was designated a national monument," said Tamura. "I'm a Sansei, or third generation, Japanese American. Though I was born and raised in Idaho, I'd never been to the Minidoka site."

The Minidoka designation invited Tamura to research the camp. She discovered that very little has been published about Minidoka.

Florin JACL Holds 'Time of Remembrance'

Nearly 300 people attended Florin JACL's 20th annual Time of Remembrance program on March 9 in commemoration of the internment and Sept. 11.

Keynote speaker John Tatsumi, JACL executive director, pointed out that the successful Anti-war Movement, a long-time American civil rights leader in Sacramento; Dr. Soney Chong, chair of the CAPITOL, and Georges White, State University, Sacramento, coordinator of the Japanese American Archival Collection.

Japanese American and Muslim American communities. At Shihbyama, a Japanese Latin American former internment, it was the final call.

The FlorinJACL also presented outstanding citizen awards to U.S. Senator Jerry Enomoto, a long-time American civil rights leader in Sacramento; Dr. Soney Chong, chair of the CAPITOL, coalition; and Georges White, State University, Sacramento, coordinator of the Japanese American Archival Collection.

Little Tokyo Building Restored

A celebration to mark the restoration of the Little East Building, a historic landmark in Los Angeles City's Little Tokyo, took place on March 14. Among the attendees were L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn, Councilwoman Jan Perry and Democratic nominee for the California state controller Steve Westly.

The rehabilitation of the Little Tokyo Building will be undertaken by the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation. The building, constructed in 1909, was closed after it suffered structural damage during the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Before its closure, the building housed a hotel (the Queen's) and a storefront (Amir Naamani and the California State University, Los Angeles, 1100 California St., Los Angeles, 90017. (213) 842-6983

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2002 World Figure Skating Championships

Kwan Settles for Second Behind Russia's Shukzata; Ina and Zimmerman Take Bronze in Pairs

NAGANO, Japan—Four-time world champion Michelle Kwan of Torrance, Calif., was defeated by Russian rival Irina Slutskaya at the World Figure Skating Championships March 23.

Slutskaya captured her first world title, as Kwan took silver and Punie Sugan of Japan took bronze.

Slutskaya has finished ahead of Kwan in eight of their last 10 events since January 2000. The Russian's only two losses to Kwan were at the 2000 and 2001 world championships, where she finished second to the American both times.

Kwan's silver was her seventh consecutive medal at the world championships. She has won four times and was silver medalist in 1997, 1999 and 2002.

"Each medal was a different experience and a new one," Kwan said.

Slutskaya held on to the lead after the short program by winning the free skate. Both Slutskaya and Kwan did triple jumps.

Kwan was in third place after the short program but needed to win the free skate and have someone else beat Slutskaya to earn her third straight title.

Kwan's routine to "Scheherazade" featured six triples, including two triple-double combinations like Slutskaya's. But her landings were less secure than Slutskaya's and the technical marks reflected it. Kwan earned five 7s and four 5.8s, while Slutskaya had one 5.9, seven 5.8s and one 5.7.

Three-time Japanese national champion Sugan, 21, was nearly flawless in her short program, then slipped in the free skate. American Sasha Cohen took fourth.

Olympic gold medalist Sarah Hughes did not compete in the event.

***

U.S. Olympic skaters Ina and John Zimmerman won the bronze medal in pairs competition March 30 at the world championships. The medal for Ina was her first in eight appearances at the world championships.

Ina, who was born in Tokyo in 1972, moved to New York City when she was 6 months old. But she carries on a family tradition in sports that spans three generations.

Her mother, Yoshiko, was a Japanese national champion swimmer who competed in the Asian Games. Her grandmother Shimako Maeda played tennis at Wimbledon in the 1940s.

"We've always been taught to strive to be the best you can at whatever you do, and that's definitely the motto of the family," Ina said.

She took an interest in figure skating at age 4 after seeing the skaters at Rockefeller Center during Christmas.

At 14, Ina's parents decided she should compete for Japan at the junior level and she quickly became a frequent flyer, jetting between New York and Nagano, Japan, however, she was an outsider and had problems communicating, and with the strict culture custom in Japan.

Before the 1988 national championships, Ina's parents were worried she had enough, and since then has always skated for the United States.

"I just kind of fell into it. I didn't expect skating wasn't worth all the traveling," said Ina, who now lives in Greenwich, Conn.

She partnered with Jason Dungjen from 1993-98 to claim two U.S. championships, and the pair finished fourth at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. They also skated in an exhibition routine with Zimmerman after Nagano.

The pair finished fifth in the controversial pairs competition at last month's Salt Lake City Games.

Black Actors Reigned at Oscars, but What About Other Minorities?

LOS ANGELES—Denzel Washington and Halle Berry made history with their Academy Award wins March 24, but minority groups say diversity must extend beyond Hollywood's glamorous night and include other groups such as Asian Americans, Hispanics and American Indians.

"Historic for me will be when all people of color are represented and are capable of garnering these awards," said Sony Skyhawk, president of advocacy group American Indians in Film.

Skyhawk, an actor who's appeared in "Young Guns II" and "Geronimo: An American Legend," joined other show-business minority leaders March 25 in saying the Oscars and the entertainment industry in general were overdue for broader racial representation.

Some past minority Oscar winners include Japanese-born Miyoshi Umeki for her supporting role in 1956's "Sayonara," and Cambodian native Henry S. Ngor in 1984's "The Killing Fields." American Indian actor Graham Greene was nominated for his supporting role in 1990's "Dances With Wolves."

Chris Windham, an agent with Toronto-based Asian Action Talent management company, said he wanted more producers to keep an open mind about casting AAs in roles they might otherwise give to whites.

"It's going to take a long time for Asians to get to those roles. It's not going to change overnight," he said. "But we've seen a lot of changes, and it's getting a little better for good performers in general.""
I N THE AFTERMATH of the 9/11 outrage, our seething Hapalaeans are urging us to subscribe to simple solutions. Macho-apploring slogans such as "They ask questions last/no one puts us to sleep" have a tendency to go over our heads.

FOR EXAMPLE, take the "anti-terrorist" formulas. The "anti" factor has control and determines who shall be doomed to the target group of "Them." As a result, "They" sees his/her American citizenship in challenging the legality of "us" actions, the latter may resort to tactics employed by authorities in 1942 against Germans of Japanese ancestry: create a bogus category called "non-Allen" for Nisei, lump them with the resident "Allen" parents (Issei)—ignoring that under the Alien Exclusion Act of 1924, the Issei were prevented from attaining U.S. citizenship—round up 115,000 Allems and non-Allems and place them into barbed-wire camps.

Too obviously a transparent play? One would think so, but the U.S. Supreme Court apparently failed to see through the "anti" factor's ploy.

I SHARE the concern for vigilance at airport passenger checks, points, entries to nuclear power plants, etc., as much as any of you. I too have experienced profiling and discrimination because of race. Among the many instances, back in 1979 when I was thought of returning to the good ol' U.S.A. of my, Durham. As I near the border checkpoint, I see vehicles with license plates from many states being perfunctorily checked—more often than not with a friendly smile and an approving wave of the hand from INS officer.

Now comes my turn. The INS officer signals me to roll down my car window. I comply. In a curt tone of voice, he demands to see ID papers. I hand him my driver's license, my Pennsylvania registration card and even a tost in a veteran's membership card. (I had noticed that the vehicles that preceded me, most all had been waved through. One vehicle, operated by a matronly woman, barely slowed down at the checkpoint.) The INS officer slowly looked over the cards I had handed him. He followed with a barrage of questions: where was I born? How old had I been, for what purposes name of the person visited. (I must admit by then I was in a not-so-good mood.) My cards were in order, the question answers were—was I now free to enter my home country? The answer came with the next demand: spring the latch to the vehicle trunk. I could hear him rummaging among the luggage in the trunk, which was concluded by the trunk lid being slammed down so that my vehicle shuddered. With a grunt, he waved me on.

TWO CORROBORATIVE PREMIS- ES, axiomatic to fundamental concepts of a democratic society, are operating in profiling activities. One is that the target group and components of the targeted ethnic group are presumed guilty, unless proven innocent. In the World War II, persons of Japanese ancestry, legal resident Allems and "non-Allems" could be and were rounded up and confined. This is why the INS officer wanted me to show what I was carrying—"from the wreckage.

The corollary is the reverse side of the coin: if you presume, all others are presumed non-culpable, i.e., innocent, and are not subjected to selective screening. That is, the woman was waved right on through that same border crossing. What isn't the way "equality protection" of the law is supposed to work.

Okay, I admit it—I'm H-APA. That's H-APA, not Hapa. Hapa is a Hawaiian word meaning "half." It is shortened from "hapa haole" which literally means "half foreigner" and generally means "half white." These words are native Hawaiian commonly used in Hawaiian to describe people of multi-racial background.

Friends of mine who are native Hawaiian tell me that Hapa is an enduring term that is used, as a means of inclusion to identify someone with Hawaiian blood. Implicit in the term is that one half is Hawaiian and by the way, the other half is white. Emphasis is on the Hawaiian half.

Others have seen the label in a less favorable light. According to the Hapa Issues Forum, head-quartered in San Francisco, the term was once considered derogatory by some but now is simply a way to describe a person of partial Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry.

Perhaps, this idea of Hapa as a disgusting word coming from the perception that the term was used to make distinctions, to define how someone was different and therefore an outsider—excluding them—rather than as a means to identify commonalities for inclusion, I guess how you feel about being called half depends on your affinity with the native Hawaiian culture and how the word is used. Having grown up on the East Coast and never having been to Hawaii, I feel no cultural affinity for the word Hapa. And while I don't identify with the word, I am often identified by it. Even on the East Coast, the term Hapa is widely understood to describe someone with a mixed racial background, particularly someone of partial Asian descent. Because I have been called Hapa for years and years, I have come to accept it that it is the easiest and most convenient way of communi- cating my bi-racial identity.

But I have to say that I have never truly felt comfortable with being called Hapa. If someone calls me Hapa, that's fine. I am not insulted. I just don't feel it describes my identity. Hapa is a Hawaiian word and I am not Hawaiian. Although colloquial usage of Hapa has evolved such that it now generally means someone who has any Asian blood (not just Hawaiian), my identity is that of a bi-racial Yonsei who grew up on the East Coast.

So, how do we come to terms with the term? I've decided that, much like other communities who have embraced words that have been used as racial labels — both insinuating and affectionately — I want to embrace the word Hapa so that it is not, so that it describes what I believe to be my identity. So, let me coin a new phrase and state for the record that I am H-APA. That's H-APA: Half-Asian Pacific American. I embrace being called H-APA because I think it more accurate and affecting reflects my cultural identity — multi-racial, of Asian ancestry, living on the mainland. But if you're from Hawaii, you can also call me Hapa.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
COMMENTARY

Who Are the Resisters of Conscience?

By SUS SATOW

I felt compelled to respond to the recent P.C. commentary (March 1, 2002) by JACL Resisters Memorial Committee Co-chairs Andy Noguchi and Alan Teneya on the uprisings against the Vietnam War, denouncing and apologizing to the Japanese American draft resisters of World War II for their exclusion from the commissioned ranks in the internment camps. That had to be a total, total, total injustice. We all know no internee was going to be released and returned to the West Coast. America, subsequently serving with honor in the Korean War. Hats off to you. The Fair Play Committee (FPC) of Heart Mountain took a defiant role with regard to the Selective Service Drafting of Japs. But if one was to examine the leadership of the FPC for organizational success. The top leader who wrote the manifesto was removed from Heart Mountain and incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. This would indicate he was a "No-Go." The second man in command was a graduate of Montana State University. Since he had fluent command of the Japanese language, his assignment was to reach the last parent of the draft-age Nisei to discourage compliance with the Selective Service Act. Other leaders included kendo and judo experts. Sixty-three Heart Mountain FPC draft resisters were tried, convicted and jailed.

On Oct. 22, 1943, at the War Problems of Foreign Wars reunion in Las Vegas, the Posts gathered and reaffirmed their determination of the WTV’s position on the resisters issue. The latest to join our endeavor is the Korean War veterans who were interned, and now makes 18 Nisei veterans organizations with an estimated membership of 4,500, coalescing on one this issue. The sacrifices of the JA soldier on World War II, the memories of our heroic fallen comrades in battle must not be forgotten. Protecting the integrity of our past and future generations of JA's was high as we followed the leadership and credit to JACL of the drafted JA's, under another generation and another leadership, we find the JACL honoring and apologizing to those groups, if we had, followed, would have brought disaster to the JA people.

If we are in the mode of establishing recognition, it is possible for JACL to establish a "Day of Honor" in recognizing the 83 Nisei WWII in Action, the 9,550 Wounded in Action, the 20 Medal of Honor recipients. We can give recognition to the Korean and Vietnamese veterans as well? Protecting the integrity of our past and future generations it also be possible to gain an apology from the Resisters of Conscience who came to Los Angeles in 1942. Leaders who took part in the 1942 Thanksgiving Conference in Salt Lake City:

If we had followed the leadership and vision of the resisters, as an ethnic group, we would have a legacyn which we would not be proud of today.
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OBITUARIES
Fred Okrand, Defender of Japanese Americans, Japanese Latin Americans, Passes at 84

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Fred Okrand, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California who defended the rights of Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans, died March 18, 1984. He was 84.

Okrund suffered from cancer and had a stroke in the past year. He died at Keizer Regional Medical Center in Woodland Hills, Calif., according to his son, Dean.

Okrund was the first legal director of the local ACLU. He argued at least four cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and several others before California's Supreme Court.

"He was the force behind some of the most significant constitutional challenges in our nation," said Ramona Ripston, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

"When I think of what it takes to have the courage to fight for issues because every fiber in your body knows it's right, I think of Fred Okrand," said Gary Mayeda, JACL vice president of membership services. "He represented the civil rights movement since 1956 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. There was absolutely no chance that the government would be able to make his case. But he never wavered, and in the end, we won."
**Spring Reading**

**FICTION**

Bamboo Ridge Issue 77: Journal of Hawaii’s Literature and Arts
Bamboo Ridge Press
229 pp., $10 plus $3 shipping and handling.

This issue features poetry by the
Three Transpacific Wanderers—
Albert Saijo, Gary Snyder and Nanou Sakaki. Also includes new
works by Ian MacMillan, Cathy
Saw, Eileen Taboris, Lee Tono-
uchi and 34 others. Documentary
photographer Franco Salmoiraghi
contributed an essay to accompany
his photographs of Waialua Town on Oahu. Bamboo Ridge is
published twice a year. Subscriptions are $35 for four
issues, $20 for two issues.
For info contact them at P.O.
Box 61781, Honolulu, HI 96839-
1781; or call 808/626-1481; or
visit their Website at www.bam-
booridge.com.

Fox Girl
By Nora Okja Keller
Viking
304 pp., $24.95 hardback.

Set in Korea following the after-
math of the Korean War, "Fox Girl" is the story of three young people abandoned by their society and by the
departing American troops. The "fox girl" is Hyun Jin, a
model pupi who-shares at school, and is
ignorant of the gruity reality of nearby America Town, where working
women go for check-ups weekly at
Dr. Pak’s Love Clinic No. 5 and
where children learn to covet any-
thing American—save the despised offspring of the kitchen. When Hyun Jin’s parents disappear,
she faces a harsh introduction to
the ways of the American Town. She
finds herself at the hands of her best
friend Sookie, a teenage prostitute, and
Leboun, a half-black boy who makes a living pimping for the neighborhood women.

Ash
By Holly Thompson
Stone Bridge Press
292 pp., $16.95 paperback.

The novel takes place in Japan
and centers around Caitlin Oher, a
young American woman. Caitlin
lived in Kyoto for a short time as
a young girl, and now she has returned to Japan. She is teaching
English in Kyushu and lives in the remote-city of Kagoshima,
oppo-
site the increasingly active vol-
cano Sakurajima. She conceals
lies and self-deceptions to prevent
a tragic childhood incident in
Kyoto from intruding on her pre-
sent. But like the ash that veils the
city, guilt obscures her and
in an ash-colored garden, Caitlin
encounters a half-Japanese teen-
ganger, who understands her
double identity. Ultimately,
the two travel to Kyoto during the
Leboun’s /Oni festival, and amidst
fires, temple rites and ghostly memories, Caitlin begins to
embrace her identity.

Pei Ma: Legends of Pei From China
By Frederick Wickman
Bamboo Ridge Press
144 pp., $15 paperback.

This is the fourth in Frederick
Wickman’s "Kauai Tales" series.
This collection tells the life and
exploits of Pei, Kamapua’a, Hīlāka, Līlāhu‘a and their compan-
ions. Although Pei is always associated with the Big Island
Kauai), these retellings remind readers
that the Pei legends have a strong connection to the Down all four islands.

NONFICTION

Nakam: Gratitude, Grace, and the Japanese Art of Self-
Reflection
By Gregg Korch
Stone Bridge Press
220 pp., $14.95 paperback.

Nakam is a form of meditative
psychotherapy that enables us to
see the interconnection of all
things. In Gregg Korch’s book, the reader will find meditations, poetry,
reflections and daily exercises to help the reader experience and express gratitude and compassion in their daily
lives.

Contemporary Asian American Comedy: Intersections and Divergences
Edited by Linda Trinh Vo & Rick Bonus
Temple University Press
264 pp., $16.07 paperback, $48.65 hardcover.


**MULTIMEDIA: Book & CD-ROM**

Standing Guard: Telling Our Stories
Project Coordinator Debra Sutphen
Sierra College Press
196 pp., book & CD-ROM $60

This yearlong project by the faculty and students of Sierra Community College in Rocklin, Cali., includes 43 oral history interviews conducted by students of the history course taught by professors Debra Sutphen and Lynne Dever. The interviews are complemented by portraits of the creators captured by photography

students under the direction of professors Rebecca Gregg and Randy Sooko. The volume was designed and developed by applied arts and design professor Tom Filletbrown. Accompanying the book is the interactive CD-ROM produced by applied arts and design professor Pam Johnson. Support for this project was funded by the Placer JACLI chapter and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. This limited edition is currently available only through
the college. All proceeds benefit other Standing Guard programs. To order, call 916/634-3338 or visit the Website at www.sierra.cc.ca.us and click on the "spotlight" on the "Standing Guard."