APA Community Rallies Against Racist Abercrombie & Fitch T-Shirts

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Although Abercrombie & Fitch has issued an apology and begun recalling a controversial line of T-shirts from their retail stores beginning April 18, Asian Pacific Americans across the nation are saying the company has not done enough.

"There's still a much broader issue that hasn't been addressed," said Diane Mooka, director of the Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College in Southern California.

There is no question of what the company is going to do with the shirts once they've been pulled. Are they going to send them to second-hand stores and get them back into circulation? How are they going to educate their employees so that this doesn't happen in the future?

"One of the comments from their PR guy was that they thought Asians would love these shirts," added Mooka. "What would make them think we would love these shirts? There's got to be massive particular, protestors say the shirts perpetuate the sentiment that APAs are inferior, servile and foreign—something they trivilize the historical struggle of APAs by portraying them in mental occupa- tions that were forced upon them, and that the shirts insult the Buddhist rela- tionship.

National JACL is part of this campaign. "It's puzzling to us that there are so much insensitivity and ignorance in major corporate executive advertising firms that such a blatant misrepresentation could even occur," said Floyd Moro, national JACL president.

"Making fun of ethnicity and characterizing stereotypical car- toons of any race should have been recognized long ago as taboo. This kind of oversight should not have happened in the middle with the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico joining ID, and North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas joining the original 12.

(he redesigning motion was made by Ben Ezaki, DMC govern- nor, and seconded by FWV District Governor David Maasujo.

"We're at a critical point in our organization," said Miori, who referred to the recent recommenda- tions of the Blue Ribbon Committee at the starting point for the proposed changes. In order to sustain the viability of JACL for future generations, the organiza- tion needs to move forward with a restructuring and restructuring plan, he said. Miori added that the organization cannot afford to wait until 2010 to start implementing these changes.

In an almost unanimous vote, the JACL national board approved the dissolution of MPD. Thus, the six MPD chapters will move to the neighboring Intermountain and Midwest districts (MD). Omaha and Houston will join the Midwest; New Mexico, Mile-Hi, Fort Lupton, and Arkansas Valley will become a part of the Intermountain District (ID).

In effect, the large MPD district will be split straight down the middle with the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico joining ID, and North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas joining the original 12.

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The dissolution of MPD would decrease the number of districts from eight to seven and would thus reduce the number of district governor seats on the national board. To even out the number of board positions, one of the current youth positions would be elimi- nated.

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Eight weeks and counting. You what you're reading in this p.d.c. is that the national board, at its April meeting, approved a resolution recommending a new amendment proposal to reconstruct the national board.

The proposal reflects some of the changes taking place in the thinking of the organization's national board.

Early last year, National President Frank Yamasaki met with key board members how the JACL has been the changing times by updating the rights of all Asians in the United States for 73 years. He also told them that the JACL was in business the same way for 73 years. But the time is now, the board found, and unless we change an organization, this great institution won't be around much longer.

And he announced that he was creating the Blue Ribbon Committee to begin thinking about the JACL and to suggest what changes we can best do to reconstruct the national board.

The board's action at this month's meeting was a first and expected step in the right direction. It is very important that the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendation be made public.

The final outcome of a long discussion among JACL leaders and the chapters and districts will be delivered before coming to Las Vegas in June.

The board's action is completed by the national council, will be submitted to the national convention, and, as a secretary, treasurer, four, alarge board members, and a youth representative, to be elected by the national council (rather than the youth council, as now practiced). In addition, there would be two governors and a youth chair (voted by the youth council).

Yes, seven governors. Another change I suggested was that consideration be given to the result of extended board deliberations on the need for more representatives in the board. It should be more efficient to eliminate the Mountain Plains district and to merge the four districts now in existence into one. The other two districts in the Intermountain and Midwest districts would also be merged into one. I think both IDC and Omaha and Houston with MDC.

Disolving of the Mountain Plains district and the restructuring of the national board and board of directors agree to these changes - won't be very different until the long documents and similar changes will signify major shifts in the organization's structure and operation, but quite honestly, they're long overdue.

There are other things in the works, this time, they say, and you have to wait. So, you don't know what's going into the last couple of days of the convention. But if you're attending the JACL convention to learn about the latest developments in the organization, then you're not attending the convention rate before we run out. This also means we have our guaranteed room block, so don't miss this event. It sets the tone for the remainder of the JACL convention. That I can guarantee.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, Mar. 3-16, 2002

FROM THE EDITOR

Las Vegas Countdown

John Tateishi, JACL National Executive Director

Most of those who were present at the Las Vegas convention肌肤 are looking forward to the next one, which will take place in Seattle in 2003.

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National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

University of Connecticut's diversity plan
School likely to hire minority professors

The University of Connecticut's diversity
committee has met 16 times to discuss
127 recommendations for making the
campus better reflect the state's cur-
current demographics.

Among the recommendations are
proposals to hire 98 minority professors
to balance the racial makeup of
the faculty and to create student housing
"focused on academic, social and sex-
identity interests."

Another recommendation
would require undergraduates to take
two diversity courses, anything from
a women's studies class to a sociology,
music or art history class that
addresses diversity issues.

Minorities make up about
18 percent of the student population,
according to university officials.
The goal is to mirror the state's 21 to
22 percent balance.

Senate Confirms Yang as U.S.
Attorney in Los Angeles

Los Angeles—The U.S.
Senate unanimously confirmed
Debra Yang April 23 as the
chief federal prosecutor
in Los Angeles.

Yang, 42, is the first
Asian American to serve as
U.S. attorney in her native
city.

She previously was a prosecutor in
the office. For the first five years,
Yang has been a judge in the
Los Angeles Municipal and Superior courts.

"The U.S. attorney in Los Angeles
is responsible for a seven-county area
larger than many states," said Sen.
Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "It is
an important post and I look forward
to working with Judge Yang on
many law enforcement issues that are
of great concern to Southern Californians."

President Bush nominated Yang in
early April. She also had been U.S. attorney to
the Once a federal judgeship, which is
a lifetime appointment, but she said
she preferred the prosecution's job.

Yang, the granddaughter of Chinese
immigrants, graduated from
Boston College Law School and has
taught law courses at USC.

Kansas Elects First
AA Student Body President

LAWRENCE, Kan.—A Univer-
sity of Kansas junior from Lawrence
sworn in April 24 as the school's first
Asian American student body
president.

Jonathan Ng, 21, a Spanish
and journalism major, said he wants to
use his position to help increase ethnic
diversity on campus.

"It's a big deal when you're dealing
with a first of that sort, whether it's the
first woman student body president or
the first minority faculty member in
an area," she said. "It raises awareness
and inspires people to pursue their
interests and lets them know there
isn't a glass ceiling."

The scope of his goals is to construct a
new Multicultural Resource Center
near the Kansas Union where stu-
dents can learn about other cultures.

"There is a center has been housed in
a temporary building since 1995. Ng
designed the current building is too small
for the resource center to expand its services.

Currently, about $600,000 in Endowment
Association money goes toward the center's programming. Ng
said he plans to work with Endowment Association officials to
write a proposal for soliciting dona-
tions towards a new building.

West Valley City Shows Changing Complexity

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah—
West Valley City is home to
the nation's largest per capita population of
Pacific Islanders outside Honolulu and will celebrate growing diver-
sity with a new community center designed to be a gathering place
for the area's Vietnamese,
Pacific Islanders and Latins.

The $10.4 million development
is slated for a 90-acre field along the
Jordan River. The center will have
classrooms, festival grounds, outdoor
amphitheater, studios, performing
space, restaurant, offices and perhaps
apartments.

Using $1.5 million in federal grants and
$8.9 million bond, Economic Development Director Bob Buchanan
figures the $10.4 million project can
be completed in a few years.

Construction on the festival grounds
and community center is scheduled to start in June.

Nakano's Anti-
terrorism Bill Oxed

SACRAMENTO—Two Assembly
committees passed legisla-
tion April 23 authored by Assemblyman George Nakano, D-
Torrance, aimed at protecting home-
land security.

In a bipartisan vote, the Assembly
Committee on Public Safety passed AB 1778, which would require the State
Department of Justice to conduct background investigations for water

treatment facility opera-

tion applicants. The bill
would require deter-

"It gives him an applicant had been
victimized of a felony or misdemeanor relevant
to security threats, tam-
pieting with a public water system or shown to be a risk to national
security.

The Assembly Committee on Health unanimously passed AB 2067, which would require the Emergency Medical Services Authority to create a registry of physicians qualified to deal with medical emergencies involving infection or contagious diseases. The registry would be distributed to state agencies and county health departments.

All three bills are now headed to the
Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Inouye Gets Award from West Point

ONEILLVILLE—Sen. Daniel
Inouye, D-Hawaii, has received the annual Thayer Award from the U.S.
Military Academy at West Point.

The award was announced April 18 by the Association of Graduates in a
ceremony at the academy at West Point.

The award is presented to a person who best exemplifies the academy's motto of "Duty, Honor, Country."

In 1943, Inouye enlisted in the 42nd Regimental Combat Team. He returned to Hawaii in 1947 as a cap-
tain with numerous military awards.

In 2000, his Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to Medal of
Honor.

Inouye was elected to the Senate in 1962 and is the Senate's fourth most senior senator. He has been active in shaping U.S. defense policies and is chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Masaoka Fellowship Program Seeks Applicants

The Masaoka Fellowship Program is seeking candidates for its 13th program, beginning in August.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or be members of a U.S. Representative for three and a half months and receive a stipend of $7,000 and round-trip airfare to Washington, D.C.

The fellowship period may be the fall term (September through December 2002) or spring term (February through May 2003) and will be arranged with the congressional office and the fellow. The fellow will be exposed to all facets of the work of the representative or senator and staff.

The most recent Masaoka fellow was Aliene Kota of Santa Monica, Calif., who served in the office of Sen. Daniel Inouye. She was the first non-Japanese American intern in Congress.

Interested persons should contact the Masaoka Fellowship Program, P.O. Box 1928, Los Angeles, Calif. 90028-0192, or email: info@masaoka.org.

Health Plans for California

JACL Members

Blue Shield of California offers health care
coverage to JACL members age 18 and
over who reside in California. Choose
from 3 plans offering a wide range of
benefits, including vision care, worldwide
emergency coverage, dental care,
precription drug benefits & more. For
more information about these plans, and
how to become a member, call the JACL
Health Benefits Hotline at
1-800-490-6630.
www.jaclhealth.org

National JACL CREDIT UNION

toll free 800 544-0823 / 901 555-8400 / fax 901 521-5210
jycl.creditunion@jycl.org / email: jycl.creditunion@jycl.org / PO 1721 / SIC, Inc. 84110
Eligibility and membership required.

PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

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PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA
APAS in the News
Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Randolph (Randy) Imai, environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Game, will be recognized with an Asian Pacific American Heritage Local Hero Award at a ceremony on May 8 at the KVIE TV 6 public television station in Sacramento. Imai, who studied wildlife and environmental science at Humboldt State University, was the recipient of the 2001 Cook-Hamilton Spirit Award and the National Silver Beaver Award for his involvement in wildlife conservation. He served as president of the Sacramento JACL in 1993 and is a member of the National Board of Directors.

Samantha Nishimoto, 13, of Plateville, Colo., was named a U.S. National Award Winner in Honor Roll recognition for having earned an average of 94 percent of all American high school students receive. Nishimoto, a seventh-grader at South Valley Middle School, was nominated by her teacher Mrs. Dalcan. Students are selected based on good academic performance, leadership qualities, enthusiasm for learning, and community involvement. Nishimoto will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook.

Karl Oishi, a teacher at George Washington High School in San Francisco for 14 years, was chosen as the grand winner of the 2012 National Japanese Language Student Association National Teaching Awards, which recognizes teachers for their originality, creativity and effectiveness in furthering students’ awareness of financial markets. He received a cash award of $25,000 for his entry “Revitalizing the Distance Science Through Economic Methods and Analogies,” which uses props and situations drawn from everyday life to impart economic concepts. Oishi beat four other regional winners from New York, Florida, Wisconsin and Missouri. He previously received the 1998 California Council on Economic Education’s Educator of the Year Award.

Vincent H. Okamoto, 58, of Torrance, Calif., was appointed by Gov. Davis as a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Okamoto spent five years in the District Attorney’s office prosecuting misconduct and felony cases, also a member of the Gardens City Homeowners, including one year as mayor pro tem. Okamoto served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970 and became the most decorated Japanese American to serve the Viet Nam War. He is now president of the Japanese American Veterans Memorial Committee.

PHOTO MARTHA NAKAGAMI
Vincent Okamoto gets sworn in April 29 by California Gov. Gray Davis as a new Los Angeles Superior Court judge.

Japanese American citizens as a "benevolent act" in light of the fact that "the country was still at war with the Empire of Japan." It is unclear whether the government will appeal the decision.

"This is a victory for Mr. Nakamurca," said Nakamura's attorney John Ota, of Minami, Lew & Tamaki in San Francisco. "But I hope the Department of Justice takes to heart Judge Algeo's reasoning and his conclusion that the redress program is not a 'justice-venerating benefit program' but rather a unique and extraordinary program in which 'bureaucratic hair-splitting that would essentially ignore true depri-
vations of liberty' is allowed." Ota added, "Other unsuccessful redress applicants and their attorneys should review the Nakamurca decision to determine whether it can assist them in reopening their cases."

San Benito County Rescinds 1943 Anti-JA Resolution
San Benito County supervisors rescinded an anti-Japanese American resolution April 30, 1943 some 59 years after it was enacted to protect their return to the community from U.S. internment camps during World War II. About 20 local JAs, friends and others attended the meeting to receive copies of the rescinding proclamation, which read in part, "WHEREAS, in 1943, when federal officials considered releasing Japanese Americans from internment camps, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors, in response to local attitudes and emotions, passed a resolution protesting that release...\n\nNOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors recognizes the inappropriate and inhumane nature of the 1943 resolution and the reversal of national and local sentiment regarding that wartime action.

San Benito County's action follows the lead of numerous communities, including Monterey, Santa Cruz and Fresno, which rescinded similar wartime resolutions in response to the federal government's decision to allow JA citizens to return to their homes following their incarceration.

At Supervisor Ruth Kesler's request, one of the attendees spoke about the injustice they suffered at the supervisors' meeting and what it meant to them to be able to return to their rightful communities.

The old resolutions remain on file in the county's historical archives, but its racist sentiment has been taken off the books.

including murder trials. He is a founder and former chairman and CEO of Pacific Heritage Bank, one of the largest minority-controlled finan-
cial institutions in the United States, and has served on the boards of Blue Cross of California, the California Endowment and the Japanese American Bar Association. He was

PHOTO MARTHA NAKAGAMI

Ceremony to Fete Medal of Honor Recipient Nishimoto
A memorial dedication ceremony for Medal of Honor recipient Joe M. Nishimoto will take place on May 24 in Fresno, Calif.

Nishimoto, a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (The War in the Pacific, World War II,) will receive full military honors for his heroism near his Housterche, France on Nov. 7, 1944. After three days of trying to dislodge the enemy from a strongly defended ridge, Nishimoto, as squad leader, led a determined assault, destroying a machine gun nest, forcing another machine gun crew from its position, and eventually forcing the enemy to withdraw from its sector. Nishimoto was Killed in Action on Nov. 13, 1944, in France.

The ceremony will include the dedication of the placing of a Medal of Honor bronze statue at the California State Capitol and at take place at the Washington Cemetery, 7318 South Elm Street in Fresno. The services will begin at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Don Wakida, commander VFW Sierra Nivie Post 8499, at 55201-6322.

JACL Wartime Leaders Tribute, June 26
As part of the national JACL biennial convention June 23-30 in Las Vegas, the Sacramento JACL and national JACL will sponsor a dinner evening on June 28 at the Riviera Hotel and Casino to salute wartime national JACL leaders, including Mike Makunouka, Sabo Hiroshi, George Inugaki, and

This tribute is to recognize, honor and thank the three key national JACL wartime leaders, now deceased, for their dedication and courage in serving the greatest Japanese American community during the trying World War II era.

The efforts of Makunouka, Kido and Inugaki helped to solve the problem and needs of the times and

paved the way for generations of JAs to find their place in mainstream America and to become "Better Americans in a Greater America.

The invited keynote speaker is U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

Renewal will also be extended by National JACL, President Floyd Mori. Convention delegates, boosters and friends are encouraged to attend the event.

The cost of the tribute dinner is $75. For reservations and information, contact the national JACL convention committee at 702-362-4443, e-mail: hjelde@juna.com; or contact Sacramento JACL, 2336 9th Street, e-mail: sacjclleaders@jcom.com.
Japanese Latin American World War II veterans in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, legislation that provided redress and an apology to Japanese American former internees but excluded the JACL.

Religious Freedom Legislation — Tadatsushi, Chair

The JACL supports a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Act to ensure that religious freedom is not subject to the dictates of government, and that the government does not have the power to force citizens to violate their religious beliefs.

New Curriculum Guidelines — Las Vegas National JACL Convention

The JACL has established new and updated curriculum guidelines for a variety of courses. The guide now includes a new and updated curriculum for a variety of courses. The guide includes updates for all courses and will be distributed to teachers.

New Curriculum Guidelines — Las Vegas National JACL Convention

The JACL has released its new curriculum guidelines for a variety of courses. The guide includes updates for all courses and will be distributed to teachers.

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JACL Announces CANDIDATES for National Office

Ten candidates have submitted their applications to run for national JACL office. They are: Tom Tujisima, chairman of the nominating committee; and the following: Pauline blossom, Charles G. Nobuyoshi, Gerald M. Inouye, Tadashi Yamada, Robert Morikawa, Robert M. Watanabe, Sadako Sasaki, Mary Sato, and the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board.


Personal Background: Born and raised in San Diego, BS, San Diego State University and JD, Western State University College of Law. Formerly JACL San Diego Action Committee Chair; JACL President, 1990-93. Formerly JACL Headquarters; JACL Headquarters.

Qualifications: My background, education, work experience, and local/state/national political activities as well as my personal interest and commitment to the concern of the American citizens, in particular the Japanese American community, and the active participation in and support of the JACL activities. My contributions to the community, both in the local and national level, and my personal interest and commitment to the work of the JACL will be reflected in my actions as a candidate for the JACL national office.

Barbara Nakamura, San Francisco chapter member.


Personal Background: Born and raised in San Diego, BS, San Diego State University and JD, Western State University College of Law. Formerly JACL San Diego Action Committee Chair; JACL President, 1990-93. Formerly JACL Headquarters; JACL Headquarters.

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Quick Fixes

Bill Marutani

I'N THE PREVIOUS column in this space, I wrote about profiling, describing my encounters with the visa immigration at Buffalo, N.Y., when returning from a trip into Canada. I mentioned how the returnees, such as myself, weren't denied to cross, cleared the checkpoint, hardly slowed, and got on the bus. On the return trip, when I reach the same checkpoint, I am stopped, subjected to a demeaning process of hostile questioning propounded in a bullying manner, ordered to produce proof of residency, and a search of my vehicle trunk. The search yielded nothing, and the officer slams the trunk lid with such force that my vehicle shudders. He grunts passage.

Welcome home to America.

IN THAT COLUMN, I alluded to the fact that profiling was a two-edged sword, both offensive and antithetical to basic constitutional principles: one, that all components of a targeted ethnic group are presumed guilty until proved otherwise; second, the corollary thereof—discrimination. We have presumed non-culpable and thus are not subjected to selective screening. I concluded with the observation that "that isn't the way equal protection of the law is supposed to work.

THAT DOUBLE-EDGED sword cuts two ways: coming and going. Unfortunately, in either direction the blade cuts into the ethnic group. For this American, it is a matter of homeland from a trip beyond the borders, I get tense and defensive as I approach the required checkpoints. The moment of what should be a joyous return to one's homeland, it is contaminated with a magic that as individuals become knotting, anticipating another degrading incident of racial profiling. The thought that my tax dollars are subsidizing this "clown's" racist behavior is gratifying. The bulls are charged down in Washington, D.C., must know what has been going on for decades. Yet they don't take steps to curb the degradation being inflicted daily by their minions programmed to bark at darker shaded people, including bona fide, true blue Americans.

NOW, SOME DISMISS much of this as bitching over a minor matter. We are at war, and the idea in a war is to win. To effectively carry on the war against the abominable terrorists, some Americans seek to limit the attorney-client privilege (with rare exceptions) attorney-client communications are privileged and may be kept confidential; others would permit continued detention, without bail, of accused individuals. "All of the above," the contention goes, "if they're not guilty or have nothing to hide, there's no reason to worry about right to bail and so on."

RUNNING A GOVERNMENT as a democracy is ponderous, frustrating and inefficient. But it's also been said that any other system is worse. If, in the name of "efficiency," we permit our rights to be taken away without a hearing, that's the beginning of the end. It's puzzling how those who claim to be patriots seem to have so little faith in our American system of government and like some medicine men try to sell us on some "quick-fix" answers to today's problems. After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

By the Board

Ryan Chin, V.P. Public Affairs

Getting ready to bid!

Check out the items that JACL will be auctioning off during the convention in Las Vegas on the Internet by visiting national's website (www.jacl.org). We have some great goods and services that have been donated and there is something for everyone.

Even for those who for some reason cannot attend we will be able to participate by bidding on the items through the Saoyama Banquet. If you are not present, you could still have someone else bid on behalf of you. Whether it is a friend, chapter delegate, or district governor, there is someone who can represent you at the auction.

Simply tell them the items you are interested in and the maximum amount you are willing to bid.

Maybe some people think they could not use any of the items up for bid — and that may in fact be true. However, I would encourage you to visit the auction page and think about others whom you could be buying gifts for, such as family, friends, co-workers, birthdays, anniversaries, or even — yes it's never too early — Christmas.

I would also like to encourage you to think about items that could benefit your chapter or district. In fact, there are some items that are out there that were donated to specifically target chapters and districts. For example, your chapter or district can bid on the creation of a website, a new member brochure (by a professional graphic designer), or a logo. How often do you have the opportunity to purchase items simultaneously; receive one of these services at a reasonable amount, benefit your chapter/district, and help national?

Please be sure to discuss the purchase of these items at your next chapter and district meetings (chapter presidents and district governors mark your calendars). We also have recreational items that chapters or districts might be interested in such as the suite at Edison Field graciously donated by the Anaheim Angels (against the Seattle Mariners). Keep in mind that the proceeds of this auction will not only benefit national, but also chapters, districts, the Pacific Citizen, and regional offices. National has paid the expenses in regard to running the auction, but the proceeds will be spread to various parts of the organization. Items with earnings going to places aside from national will be clearly denoted, as these items are products donated by someone who would like the part of the revenue to go to a district, national office, or chapter.

The auction is a clear win-win situation for the organization. Please make sure that you take this opportunity to help "build a brighter future" for the JACL and our society.

San Jose JACL to Co-Sponsor "Interment Evansvation March" on May 18

To mark the 70th anniversary of the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the San Jose JACL is sponsoring the "Interment Evacuation Awareness March" on Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m., starting from San Jose State University. Admission is free and open to the public.

The program will begin at SJUS's San Carlos Plaza (campus west entrance, beneath the Boccardo Arch at 46 St. and San Carlos).

The first part of the program will take place a few feet from the gymnasium where local JA families were to report prior to evacuation. Former camp internes John Hayakawa, Irimi Yamachi and Dr. Joseph Yatakte will recount their personal experiences.

The group will then march to the federal building and reassemble in front of the Ruth Asawa memorial, which salutes the history of JAs in the Bay Area. At the memorial, Congressman Mike Honda will discuss the importance of the political and legal battles waged by the JA community and its supporters to achieve redress from the U.S. government.

Another invited guest speaker will be held Omeira, executive director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) of Northern California. Omeira will focus on the backlash against the Arab, Muslim and Islamic communities reminiscent of what occurred to JAs after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

This program is co-sponsored by the San Jose JACL, Office of Congressman Mike Honda, Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations, SJUS, CAIR and the Japanese American Resource Center. For more information, call San Jose JACL at 408/205-1259 or e-mail sanjosejacalnetzerotwo.net.

Livingston-Mercer Chapter Receives Volunteer Recognition Award

The Livingston-Mercer JACL chapter was awarded the Mercer County Volunteer Recognition Award on April 23 by the Mercer County Board of Supervisors and by the offices of Congresmen Gary Condit, Birch D. Hoeck and Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza.

The chapter was honored for their work in mentoring Hmong students from the sixth grade up to college. The mentorship program is a collaborative effort between the JACL chapter, UC Mercer, and the Southeast Asian community. The program is now in its third year.

Pictured (l-r): Board Chairman Joe Riveros presents the volunteer recognition award to Grace Kimoto and Steve Teranishi who accepted the award on behalf of the chapter.

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Obituaries

Henry Takahashi, 87, San Francisco Businessman and Philanthropist

Henry Hiroshi Takahashi, one of the founders and owners of the Takahashi Kakegawa Company and local philanthropist, died April 16 at his home in San Francisco at the age of 87.

Born in Tokyo, Takahashi moved with his family to Hawaii as a child and later attended the University of Hawaii and the Congregational Church minister.

The family also moved to Oakland and later to San Francisco, where it was transferred. They later moved back to Japan, while Takahashi chose to remain in the United States and entered Pomona College.

After marriage to Tomoyo Nozawa, the war with Japan broke out and he and his wife were interned in Topaz, Utah, where he became editor of the camp newspaper, the Topaz Times.

After returning to the West Coast in 1945, Takahashi and his wife started a small store in San Francisco's Japantown, at first helping local residents send packages back to Japan and later importing goods for distribution throughout the United States.

Takahashi designing wares such as the Genzai Screen, Kabuki Lamp and others that became popular items of the day.

In later years, Takahashi along with his wife and sister-in-law, Martha Suzuki, started the Henry and Hiroshi Takahashi Charitable Foundation and donated generously to support a variety of local cultural and educational institutions.

He is survived by his wife, his children, children-in-law, grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Higa, Fumi, 100, Los Angeles, Jan. 25; survived by sons George and wife Dora, Frank, Toshio, Minoru, and Shigeho, daughter Nari, and her husband and wife Eunice; daughters May Nakagawa (Cleveland), Kyoko Shinkawa (Los Angeles); 20 great-grandchildren; 41 grandchildren; 67 great-great-grandchildren; 124 great-great-great-grandchildren.

Kutsa, Louise, Cleveland, Feb. 5; survived by husband George; siblings Ichimiyama, Fumiko Eaken, Tomoka, and Masao Eaken; nieces and nephews.

Kammano, Kinuyo Francis, 78, Walla Walla, Wash., April 8; survived by brothers and sisters; 8 nieces and nephews.

Kasai, Yumi, 71, Los Angeles, March 26; survived by daughter Sachie Kanehiro, Ali Nosaka and husband Ryo Nosaka, and husband George; Dorothy Kuoaye; sons George and wife Kuni. Paul and wife Kay; 13 great, 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Kaneko, Daisuke, 34, Los Angeles, March 27; survived by parents; 2 nieces and nephews.

Kaneko, Kiko Uchiyama, Cleveland, March 23; survived by daughter and son; 4 nieces and nephews.

Kosaka, Shigeru, 73, Oakland, Calif., March 20; survived by brother and sister; 2 nieces and nephews.

Kotani, Kazuo, 51, Los Angeles, March 24; survived by parents; 3 nieces and nephews.

Kobayashi, Kiyoko, 69, Los Angeles, March 25; survived by parents; 5 nieces and nephews.

Kunihiro, Ken, 76, San Francisco, March 23; survived by parents; 4 nieces and nephews.

Kawada, Ken, 71, Los Angeles, March 26; survived by parents; 3 nieces and nephews.

Kaneshige, Kenji, 60, Los Angeles, Feb. 6; survived by wife and parents; 9 nieces and nephews.

Kaneko, Masaaki, 80, Los Angeles, March 25; survived by parents; 7 nieces and nephews.

Kobayashi, Kiyoko, 72, Los Angeles, March 23; survived by parents; 5 nieces and nephews.

Kawata, Kenji, 55, Los Angeles, March 26; survived by parents; 3 nieces and nephews.

Kawamura, Kenji, 34, Los Angeles, March 25; survived by parents; 2 nieces and nephews.

Kawamura, Kenji, 78, Walla Walla, Wash., April 8; survived by brothers and sisters; great-nieces and nephews.

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re-enactment (Continued from page 1)

Harbor.

"It will bring back a lot of bad memories and things that we forgot," said Chiyoko Yagi before the re-enactment. Yagi was 21 when she was sent to a camp in Phoenix, Arizona. "I want to see it to kind of remember it again."

But, more important, the re-enactment could help others "see what we went through," said Yagi, 81. "It could happen to anybody. We have to make people realize that something like this could happen in a hurry."

The re-enactment was a production of the JACL Watco-Santa Cruz. While internees held reunions, and others make annual trips to internment camps, this event may be the first re-enactment, said JACL national executive director John Tateishi.

More than 1,000 people attended the event in Watsonville, a coastal town about 50 miles south of San Jose.

Those taking part in the re-enactment assembled outside a government building on a downtown street that had such 1940’s details as a Greycourt bus on loan from a museum and an antique police car.

The actors, wearing vintage clothing, told their stories to the crowd, and were then put on a bus and rode to a theater down the street that represented an internment center in the desert. There were also cyclone fences in the lobby and paintings of guard towers flanking the stage.

The $35,000 production, called "Liberty Lost, Lessons in Loyalty," was supported by donations from around the country.

The tales that were told include those of a father who was taken by the FBI and sent to a camp apart from his family; a high school student who could not graduate; a little girl who had to leave her dog behind; and little Norman Mineta, now U.S. transportation secretary, whose baseball bat was taken by a guard before he left for camp.

The event also honored JAs who served in the U.S. military: "V for Victory" at Camp Stoneman.

Some say the re-enactment is a bad idea.

"It doesn’t solve anything," said City Councilwoman Judy Dorrning-Nelson, the sole member to vote against a resolution supporting the re-enactment. "It doesn’t do anything but to bring back old memories and re-create something that was a very sad thing in our history.

In the 1940’s, local politicians passed resolutions opposing the return of internees from the camps. But those who disagreed, and helped the JAs, were honored at the event.

Among them: the late Oscar and Opal Marshall, who greeted returning internees at the train station, helped them find jobs and bought food when they heard markets would not sell to JAs.

Watsonville artist Howard Ikemoto, who was interested at Tule Lake in Northern California when he was 3, has been telling his family’s stories through the 10-foot (3-meter) paintings of guard towers that were at the event.

"It’s the kind of incitement that is still happening and can happen at any time to any group. Right now it’s focused on Arabs," Ikemoto said. "It’s not about feeling sorry for oneself. It’s about making sure that it doesn’t happen again."

JACL Chapters Fund-raise for Topaz Memorial Marker

Three Utah JACL chapters are also planning to support the fundraising campaign to restore the Topaz Memorial marker in Delta, Utah.

On the 60th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, and in lieu of a formal “Day of Remembrance” program, the Salt Lake, Ogden, and Wanship chapters have taken on the task of rebuilding a new memorial marker, which had fallen into disrepair after years of vandalism.

The original marker was put in place by the U.S. government as a tribute to 120,000 Japanese Americans who were sent to U.S. concentration camps during World War II. The Topaz camp was closed in October 1945.

The new memorial will be a low-lying, horizontal structure, standing about 3 feet high. All markers will be etched into metal, including an aerial panoramic image of Topaz and others depicting camp life. An American flag will also fly nearby to discourage further vandalism.

Construction on the memorial is scheduled to begin this summer.

The committee is also seeking to make Topaz a state historic site and list a federally-designated site similar to Minidoka. These designations will help to preserve the site for future generations.

If you are interested in making a donation, make checks out to Topaz Memorial Marker Fund and send to National JACL, Credit Union, P.O. Box 1721, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

“Celebration of ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH" NAATA-PUDUJAI PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING JAPANESE AMERICAN FILMS AND NATIONAL PUBLIC TELEVISION:

UNCOMMON COURAGE by gayle yamada

May 16th at 1600pm (check local listings)

A co-presentation with KVIE

THE FLOATING WORLD: MASAMI TERAOKA AND HIS ART BY Louise Lo

(In the San Francisco Bay Area on KQED in May and nationally on other public television stations this summer)

JOURNEY OF HONOR by Stacy Yamanaka

A co-presentation with Hawaii Public Television

TANGRIDJ LA CAFE by Lily Marive

For more dates and times, please visit

www.Naata.net/heritagemonth

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His story will be an unforgettable story for all of us and for our grandchildren. A great way to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which started the Japanese American internment program.

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The Japanese American National Museum will also participate in the 60th anniversary event. The museum will host a special screening of the film "Uncommon Courage," directed by Gayle Yamada, which tells the story of a group of Japanese American men who joined the U.S. military during World War II.

The screening will be held on May 16th at 1600pm and is open to the public. The museum will also host a reception afterwards, where attendees can enjoy refreshments and discuss the film with the director.

The museum will also host a series of events throughout the month of May, including a lecture series, a film screening, and a workshop on Japanese American culture. For more information, visit the museum's website at www.jamanmuseum.org.

Note: These events are not affiliated with the re-enactment at the JACL Watco-Santa Cruz event.