New Book, Panel Discuss Emergence of Political Activism in Southern California's Gay AA Community

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Over the past decade, a distinctive gay Asian American movement has emerged in Southern California from early political activism stemming from the HIV/AIDS crisis to present-day social service and coming-out support efforts, according to a new book by queer activist Eric Wat.

Panelists representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community gathered at UCLA May 28 to discuss Wat's "The Making of a Gay Asian Community: An Oral History of Pre-AIDS Los Angeles" and the struggle to stay politically active and relevant.

"When I came out in the early 90s at UCLA, I didn't know any history about queer API communities, so that's what I set out to find and this book is a product of that," said Wat, formerly a member of Mau, UCLA's AA queer support group.

Unlike today, gay L.A. was much more gender-specific back then, he said, "with men organizing on the one side and women organizing on the other side."

Still, there was a growing sense of a collective, and Wat, who had also campaigned on behalf of women and immigrant workers' rights, set out to talk to over 20 gay AA men who were early pioneers in the 1980s and prior to that.

"I chose that time period because there really wasn't an Asian organization until 1980. So I was wondering, how did they meet each other, how did they find each other?" he said. "More and more..."

See MOVEMENT/page 5

Korean American Secret Service Agent Files EEO Complaint Against Agency

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

A discrimination complaint filed by a Korean American Secret Service agent may represent a larger problem within the U.S. Treasury Department's law enforcement component, which oversees the Secret Service.

In March, Carter Kim, 43, an 18-year veteran of the Secret Service, filed an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaint, charging that the agency singled him out based on race after he brought to light alleged evidence mishandling at the Las Vegas field office. Of the three key people involved, Kim, the very person who revealed the problem, was the only one who was punished and the only Asian American.

Kim in his complaint blew the whistle despite the consequences because he felt it was the right thing to do. "Retaliation — that was an issue with me, admitted Kim. "But there has to be a line drawn in the sand. At some point you have to take a stand. If you're going to be the person that keeps turning your head away and pretending it doesn't exist, nothing will happen.

National JACL will act as a letter writer in support of Kim.

Mineta to Highlight WWll Salute Dinner

Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta will be the keynote speaker at the "HonoringWWll Leaders" dinner on June 28 during the JACL national convention in Las Vegas. The dinner will be hosted by the Sacramento JACL chapter on behalf of national JACL, to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of Mike Maakaa, Saburo Kido and George Inukai during the difficult years of World War II.

This will be the first time that the JACL will officially recognize the contributions made by the three JACL WWll leaders.

Mineta, a familiar figure at JACL gatherings in the past, will appear for the first time as a member of the president's cabinet at a JACL convention. He appeared briefly at the sayonara banquet in Monterey as a nominee for Secretary of Commerce under Bill Clinton. This year, Mineta comes as one of the cabinet's most recognized members as a result of the events of Sept. 11. Much of the nation's focus has been on Mineta and the policies related to air safety and transportation.

As the dinner's keynote speaker, Mineta's comments are expected to evoke a personal sense of connection because of his relationship to the late Maakaa, Maakaa's widow, Etu, is Mineta's older sister.

In addition to Secretary Mineta, the dinner will feature comments by JACL National President Lloyd Mori, Congressman Mike Honda, and a video message from Sen. Daniel Inouye. Ryan Yamamoto, television celebrity from Sacramento, will serve as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Three past national JACL presidents will make individual presentations to family members of the three leaders. Frank Chuman, Pat Okura and Jerry Enomoto will make presentations to Etu Maakaa, Chris Inukai and others expected to attend the dinner.

"This should be a moving and remarkable event," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director, "and one which people will remember for a long time. I hope everyone who comes to the convention takes advantage of this rare opportunity to witness a unique moment in the JACL's history."
An Open Letter

On May 11, national JACL extended a landmark apology to the draft resisters of World War II for their prior intransigence to the resisters' legitimate demand for civil rights equity as a priori condition to military induction.

Those of the JACL who fought long and hard to bring this resolution to fruition are to be commended for their commitment to the principles of justice and human dignity, the very essence of civil rights organization. The future credibility of the JACL as a civil rights organization hinges on the furtherance of similar commitment toward the ultimate reconciliation of all of Japanese America.

In this spirit of reconciliation, I would like to acknowledge the many supporters of the resistance movement, some very vocal, such as the late James Omura, who paid too great a price for his convictions, and Frank Chin, who would pay any price for his convictions, and the many who are not so vocal, but whose silent support we have always valued and has sustained us these many years.

In particular, I give belated thanks to the many in Heart Mountain who unselfishly donated to the Fair Play Committee to provide us with legal counsel in our ill-fated challenge to government oppression. The parents of the resisters, undoubtedly, provided the bulk of the necessary funds, but many, unrelated to the resisters, gave out of principle and I would guess, out of a flickering hope for justice. Some had sons already in the service. All this, when financial resources were extremely bleak and the future of Japanese America even bleaker. Such nobility brings new meaning to the term "The Quiet American." Understandably, many donations were anonymous; however, the FPC destroyed all records when threatened with charges of sedition, in order to protect the innocent. Thus, I never knew who you were and I know most are now deceased. It is important to know that it has been publicly how we resisters are deeply indebted for the moral support you provided in the past and the moral resolve it engendered in us when we needed it the most. With everlasting gratitude.

Yoshie Komiyama
Heart Mountain Draft Resister

Apology Not Representative

After reading George Shiozawa's letter, I decided to write about the recent apology. I trained with George's brother, Roy R. Shiozawa, and he was in the 100th Infantry Battalion, in Camp Blanding, Fla. We were friends and buddies. We both ended up in replacement Co. "A", 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT Roy was killed in the North Apo's, Pow Valley campaign in Italy.

I cannot see a need for surviving relatives, or veterans of the MIS, 442 RCT, 8th Air Force or any other veteran of World War II who a member of JACL to apologize to the "resisters of conscience." If the men who volunteered to fight and die, as many did, had been resisters, would we still enjoy the status of a minority who fought prejudice to prove our loyalty and won, as President Harry Truman told the 442nd upon its parade in Washington, D.C.? Or would we be considered the four-letter word beginning with "F" as we were called during WWII?

Roy R. Shiozawa was killed in the service of the United States; The "resisters of conscience" lived. We have a monument in Pocatello, Idaho, to seven members, all of whom volunteered in action; most were JACLers.

I think the time has come for reconciliation. Before we declare it should be a symbolic handshake across the table — like, you did your part and we did ours. The apology being made does not represent many of us.

Ike Shiozawa
Blackfoot, Idaho

Hopefully to Help Reconciliation

To help further reconciling and recognizing the resisters of conscience I would like to share a fact I have just pro- found and apropos book published in 1973 and written by Dr. Daniel I. Okimoto, born in the Sand Ania Assembly Center in 1942. The book is about being a Japanese American in Japan versus being a JA in the United States.

Although many of us Nisei served in Japan post World War II as GIs, I find Okimoto provides an

amicus curiar point of view from his experience on the long-lasting issue and struggle between the group of veterans that had opposed the recognition and the resisters of conscience.

As an education it somewhat studied and learned about living the "American in Disgrace" life in something I was not, as a GI who created more stances and puzzlement to the people. What I have learned most interesting and significant in the author's observations and comments was that the Nisei GIs opposing the actions taken by the resisters were reacting more like the Japanese than the resisters of conscience. In Japan, all physically fit males served in the servile. In America, conscriptees are recognized and served as such, but the JA resisters were mislabeled, burdened and suffered needlessly. We JACLers found our recognition on May 11 to be appropriate.

Hiroko Tachihara
Iowa

Remembering Hung Wai Ching

Hung Wai Ching, an honorary member of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (formerly Club 100) passed away this year on Thursday, 29 at age 91. I write this as a former president of the 100th and a volunteer from Heart Mountain.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hung Wai served as a community advisor in the Morale Section of the Military Governor's Office in Heart Mountain. I was the loyalty of the Americans of Japanese ancestry, and helped form the 100th Infantry Battalion Volunteers (VVV), a group of AJA who offered their services to the military. Mission records show that it was the loyal conduct of the Hawaiian civilian JLA, the record of the 100th, the MIS and the VVV "that finally led to the formation of the 442nd Hung Wai Ching. Hung Wai's loyalty likely was a strong caller to the attention of the military. The opinions of the Hawaiian military were not out over the whole of the military command, the infamous General De Wotz. Hung Wai was typically Hawaiian-friendly, egalitarian, cnning and generous. Unlike his renowned brother, Hung Wo, he was not great in business at all. His successes lay elsewhere. In San Francisco, he was known as the boy that went to a Chinese restaurant before they left for Camp Shelby. In Mississippi he made AJA sold out to the local TA.

We AJAs owe a lot to this man.

The 100th and 442nd went on to become the most decorated outfits in American military history. Today, all AJA and all Asian Americans benefited from the sacrifices made by these soldiers. All Americans should honor this wonderful, successful man.

Don Matuda
"Homelands"

CSUS JA Archival Collection Seeking Information

The Japanese American Archival Collection, CSUS California State University, Sacramento wishes to have a biography of Dr. Teru Togasaki, a State Senator, a private medical practice in Sacramento in the early 1930s. During World War II, he was assigned to Poston Relocation Camp.

We would greatly appreciate hearing from your readers who can tell us about her early life and her life after Poston. Also, we would like to know about Kazue Togasaki’s life after relocation camp.

Please e-mail me with any information at yamamoly@concentric.net, or call collect to 916/422-4558.

Fumio Yamamoto
CSUS Japanese American Archival Collection Advisory Board Member

The space could be years

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Letters to the Editor

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NEWS DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE

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JACL Lauds Victory for Affirmative Action

The JACL, praised a recent affirmative action decision by a U.S. District Court to uphold a lower court ruling allowing the University of Michigan’s use of ethnicity in admissions process. Affirmative action supporters say this decision may force the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider its stance on race-based admissions policies. Over the past 10 years, affirmative action programs at universities in California and Washington state have been eliminated. "We commend the district court for ruling that the University of Michigan’s use of affirmative action is legal," said John Tateishi, JACL national executive director. "As a civil rights organization, the JACL continues to strongly support the use of affirmative action in creating a more equitable society." The United States still requires tools such as affirmative action to ensure that all Americans receive an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexual preference or religion," added Ryan Chin, JACL vice president of public affairs.

Last year, the JACL filed an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a Department of Transportation program that seeks bonus minority and women employees.

California’s Proposed Budget Includes Cuts to CCCPEP and Increased Competition for Prop. 40 Monies

Budget cuts proposed in California’s proposed budget revision may affect the Nikkei community in two ways: an allocation reduction to the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCCPEP), and increased competition for Proposition 40 monies.

To offset a projected $23.6 billion deficit during the 2002-2003 fiscal year, various programs, including CCCPEP, are expected to be cut. Davis’ May Revision proposes to reduce the CCCPEP budget from $1.7 million to $1 million. This is the first time since the CCCPEP’s formation four years ago that the program has faced a proposed budget reduction. The bill that created CCCPEP, which had been sponsored by then-Assemblyman Mike Honda, allocated $1.7 million per year for three years. A bill extending the program for an additional two years was sponsored by Assemblyman George Brown, D-San Francisco, in 2000. The extension also allocated $1 million per year.

The CCCPEP is a competitive grant program that appropriates funds to projects that educate the general public about the experiences of JAs during World War II.

California’s Asian Pacific Islander Caucus is expected to write a letter to Davis, asking that the CCCPEP budget be left intact, and Assemblywoman Wilma Chan, D-16th, who sits on the Assembly Education Committee’s Education Finance Subcommittee, is seeking other sources of funding for CCCPEP.

With a huge deficit looming and limited sources of new funding available, statewide competition for Proposition 40 funds is expected to increase. Proposition 40, passed on March 5 by voters, provides $2.6 billion in bond money for the construction of natural resources, parks, and historical and cultural resources. The money is supposed to preserve the three Japantowns that fall under the last initiative.

The initiative set aside $26.75 million for historical and cultural resources. The estimated cost of preserving the three Japantowns is $25.5 million has already been slated to go towards San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and Los Angeles’ El Pueblo Cultural and Performing Arts Center. The remaining $230 million is what will be available to various organizations, including the JACL, working to preserve the three Japantowns.

Two bills to implement the cultural resource preservation program are currently going through the legislature - Senate Bill 1247, sponsored by Assemblymen Bob Burton, D-San Francisco, and Herb Wesson, D-Los Angeles, sponsored by Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh, D-SOR.

GAO Probes Discriminatory Practices at DOE Labs

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report showing several troubling disparities and patterns in the employment opportunities at U.S. National Weapons Labs, including Lawrence Livermore, Sandia and Los Alamos.

The disparity in salaries and the rate of promotion between minority and non-minority employees was in the same jobs at our national laboratories. The GAO compared Japanese American Mike Honda, D-San Jose, who had requested the GAO report on the Department of Energy’s behalf with Reps. David Wu, D-Oregon, and Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Livenswater, who have long worked to end such discrimination.

The GAO analyzed five years of data from 1995-2000 on the hiring and compensation of African American employees at the Sandia, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos national labs. According to the GAO, the data show that African American employees at the three labs enjoy more equitable pay, more opportunity for advancement and better working conditions compared to their white counterparts.

Government employees are less likely to report discrimination cases to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance than their private sector counterparts.

Hirabaya Camp Site Safe from Wildfire Threat

Although a wildfire closed virtually all access to the Coronado National Forest, the Hirabaya Resort on the site remained open, according to Mary Farrrel with the Coronado National Forest.

Forest Rangers that had been protecting four miles north and above the Hirabaya recreation site.

States Respond to Eliminate Racist Alien Land Laws

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOPEKA, Kan.—Nearly seven decades after the Legislature banned them in 1937, a group of radical rightists in Job property in Kansas, the law is about to be struck from the books.

In 1937, the Alien Land Law prohibited nonresidents from buying or owning real estate in Kansas. Under the law, foreign nationals, nonresident debtors, and persons with a criminal record were barred from owning property in Kansas. 

James A. Syverson, a leading proponent of the law, said the law was "a necessity in view of the fact that the nation's security was at stake." He added, "We cannot afford to have aliens owning property in Kansas."

The bill was introduced by Senator John James, a prominent spokesman for the law. Syverson said, "It is our duty to protect our nation's security, and I believe that the Alien Land Law is a necessary step in that direction." The bill passed the Senate on February 13, 1937, and was signed into law by Governor Fred B. Hill on March 3, 1937.

The Alien Land Law was in effect for only two years before it was repealed as unconstitutional by federal courts in 1939. However, the law continued to be enforced by local officials until 1941.

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APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Campaign Questions
AA Delegates at
Convention

WORCESTER, Mass.—The first day of the Democratic party's convention May 31 was not without intrigue, as Robert Reich's campaign questioned whether about 40 spots designated for Asian American delegates had been filled by non-Asians. The majority of the delegates in question reside in Mission Hill neighborhood, said Mark Longbaugh, Reich's campaign manager.

The delegates designated as AAs included such names as Yakov Finkelburg and Lyudmila Donova, both of Boston. They came to the attention of the Reich campaign after the ward chairman became "outraged" that they were being passed off as AA, Longbaugh said.

Reich campaign officials asked the state party about the delegates in question. Three days later in the day Reich himself decided against a formal challenge, Longbaugh said.

City Publishes
Chinese-language
School

NEW YORK—The New York City Health Department has published and distributed more than 160,000 Chinese-language booklets about coping with the aftermath of the May 31 terrorist attacks, officials said.

During Memorial Day weekend, the booklets, titled "Helping You Recover" were inserted into three Chinese-language newspapers: World Journal Times, Ming Pao and New China Daily, the health department said.

"From decreased tourism to extensive layoffs at garment factories, the World Trade Center has strongly impacted Chinatown," Commissioner Thomas Frieden said. "This in turn has had ripple effects throughout other communities in other boroughs."

The overall effort, called Project Liberty, was funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant and is a disaster-recovery program created to provide free counseling, education and referral services to people affected by the terrorist attacks.

The toll-free hotline run by Asia Link, 8779990835, offers services in Cantonese, Mandarin, Fuzhouhun and Korean.

Hmong Honored for First Time in Vet Ceremony

MILWAUKEE—Tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers who fought and died alongside Americans were included for the first time in a Memorial Day ceremony marking the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Milwaukee lakefront.

Hmong soldiers, who helped U.S. pilots shot down over Laos during the war, served as spies, and disrupt North Vietnamese supplies, were honored at a place at the "Missing Man Table."

The round table is draped with white linen. Chairs are empty, though each place is set in memory of those taken prisoner or missing in action.

"It's sad because my father die for this cause, and some in U.S. S.A not recognize it publicly," said Chue C. Xiong, who came to the United States with an uncle at 16. "Most American citizens know little or nothing about how the Hmong serve the CIA and the United States."

Judge Grants Class-Action Status to Discrimination Lawsuit

SEATTLE—A lawsuit alleging discrimination by the Boeing Co. against Middle Eastern and Asian American engineers was certified May 22 as a class action by a federal judge.

The class covers 1,000 to 2,000 engineers in Washington state whose national or ethnic background is from seven countries: Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan or Iran. The class is limited to those who worked for Boeing anytime after Oct. 12, 1996.

The judge's decision to certify the class does not address the legal claims of the 1999 lawsuit, which contends that Boeing discriminated in salary and升 entment of engineers from the named countries.

Boeing said it was disappointed by the ruling and may appeal it.

The company has faced discrimination complaints before. Since January 1999, it has agreed to pay out at least $19.5 million to black employees, women and other minority workers who say they did not receive fair pay and raises.

Muslim Group Hosts Appreciation Picnic with JA Community

LOS ANGELES—The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) hosted a picnic May 19 to thank the Japanese American community for their support in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, which led to a subsequent increase in hate crimes against Muslims, Arab and South Asian Americans.

More than 100 people turned out for the picnic, which included an informative presentation by MPAC members praising the JA community for immediately speaking out in their defense and for their vigilance against the current threat to civil liberties in this country.

Dr. Tomoko Takahashi, dean of the Graduate School of Soka University of America (SUA), Calabasas, has been appointed as the university's first provost and chief academic officer. She will oversee both the undergraduate and graduate programs of SUA's two California campuses in Aliso Viejo and Calabasas. Takahashi has published more than 20 books, including scholarly works in English and Japanese on language learning, cross-cultural communication and lexico-semantics.

Army Col. J. Edgar Wakahama was awarded the Soldier's Medal, the Army's highest decora tion, for heroism in a hotel lobby attack on May 24 for his action at the Pentagon last Sept. 11. Wakahama, an Army medic, entered the Pentagones three times to search for people injured in the terrorist attacks. He performed triage on the wounded and helped the Red Cross set up a blood collection point. Wakahama was born in Manzanar and served in the Army in 1967 and served in the Vietnam War.
focus more on building social net-works and support for coming out," she said. "I think it comes from the atmosphere on campus also. From '98 and beyond, a lot of the political activism has gone down.

The shift from involvement in political causes to emphasis on social support and cultural celebration for the LGBTQ community has been felt elsewhere. Deep Tran, poet and co-founder of Ot Moi, an organization for Vietnamese lesbians, female-to-male transgenders and bisexual women, admitted that her group has also seen a decline in activism since the mid-1990s when she first volunteered for a fledging Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA) in Los Angeles, a group which rallies against immigrant worker exploitation.

"I came out at a time and in a kind of climate that was very much like if you were queer, you almost had to have progressive politics. You were totally outside if you didn’t have those politics," Tran said.

"I was kind of the heyday, the early to mid-’90s," she said, whereas today she thinks the waning of political activism is a "wave."
The JACL Announces JAs of the Biennium

JACL announced the schedule and topics of work- shops it will be holding during the biennial convention in Las Vegas. The workshops will be held June 28 in the morning, either from 8:30-10 a.m. or from 10:15-11:45 a.m. at the Riviera Hotel. Following are descriptions of the workshops:

Asian Americans: Leadership in the 21st Century

Youth session at 8:30 a.m. only; delegate session 10:15 a.m.

Geared for both organizations and individuals interested in leadership skills. This workshop will highlight the importance of leadership and communications skills in the workplace. Participants will learn leadership qualities and address critical questions: Who are some individuals promoted while others are not? How can we enhance our chances of being promoted?

Presenter: J. D. Hokynama, executive and director of Leadership Education for Asian Pacific (LEAP), Inc.

Social Security: How it Relates to You

Workshop Topics
8:30 a.m. Session
APA Leadership
Social Security Administration
Asian Pacific Americans (Youth)
Media Advocacy
Care Giving - AAPR
APA Women's Issues
Community Strategies in Addressing Hate Crimes
4:15-5:15 p.m. Session
10:15 Session
APA Leadership
Social Security Administration
Energy: Japanese Cooking (Youth)
Media Advocacy
Health and Wellness - AAPR
Successful Bicultural Marriages/Relationships
Community Strategies in Addressing Hate Crimes
APA Board of Directors

Registration Information
Registration deadline is May 24, 2002. All registrations must be postmarked by May 24, 2002. No refunds will be made for a registration that does not attend all functions.

Hotel Registration
A block of rooms at a special rate has been reserved at the Riviera for JACL members. Contact the Riviera Hotel directly and mention that you are attending the JACL National Convention to get the special rate. Reservations must be made by May 24, 2002. There is limited availability, so book your reservation as soon as possible.

Rental Cars
Use your JACL Hertz Car Rental card for 10% off. Hertz is offering special rates for JACL Convention attendees in addition, Las Vegas boasts some of the lowest car rental rates in the U.S.

Local Transportation
Coach USA is providing JACL with special rates. The following services are available (rates are for 2): Shuttle bus service to/from the airport: $25 round trip. Shuttle bus and taxi cab service at rates are readily available.

For more information, or to download the registration form visit www.jacl.org or contact:

Betty Atkins
Las Vegas JACL
(702) 221-0414
(702) 362-4443

Reminder:
Advertisements for the 2002 convention booklet are now being accepted. Deadline for ad submission is May 1, 2002. For more information, email Roy Suzuki at: jskeji@juno.com.
Arizona

Nearly 150 guests attended the Arizona JACL's 41st Annual Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Luncheon at the Glendale Civic Center. JACL National Executive Director John Tatetski gave the keynote address, discussing his experiences in the redress movement. Chapter President Ted Narumi awarded two $700 scholarships to local students for their academic achievements and community involvement: Stephanie Nishikawa of Cactus High School received the Sara Hutchings Clardy Award and Steven Teraji of Greenway High School received the Herb Jensen Award.

Berkeley

The Berkeley JACL recently held its 12th annual scholarship awards banquet at the Silver Dragon Restaurant in Oakland, where Channel 2 KTVU-TV news reporter Robert Honda served as guest speaker. Six students from the East Bay were awarded scholarships: Kyle Moriishi will attend UC Davis to study social science; Maria Harano will attend UC Davis to major in chemistry; Amanda Wake will attend UC Santa Cruz with an undeclared major; Derek Wilkraft will attend Pomona College with an undeclared major; Brian Kozono will attend UC Berkeley with an undeclared major; and Christina Suda will attend Cal State Northridge to major in kinesiology. The chapter also honored its 2002 "Pioneer Award" recipients, Dan Date and Min Sano.

Mount Olympus/Salt Lake

The joint Mount Olympus/Salt Lake JACL high school scholarship dinner was recently held at Salt Lake Community College. The event featured guest speaker Floyd Moro, JACL national president, entertainment by violinist Kathryn Matsunami and the presentation of awards and scholarships. Salt Lake chapter scholarship recipients included Michael Iwasaki, Lauren Murakami and Tina Rahimian. Mount Olympus scholarship winners included Josh Nishikawa, Maria Harano and Kathryn Matsunami. The Mount Olympus community service award was also presented to longtime chapter board member Richard "Dick" Mano.

JACLUnderground

BERKELEY—(top, from left) Min Sano, Derek Wilkraft, Brian Kozono and Kyle Moriishi. (bottom, from left) Shari Date, Amanda Wake, Christina Suda, Maria Harano, Mason Honda and Robert Honda.

The Torrance California National Guard Guard Dedicates Torrance Armory in Honor of Medal of Honor Recipient Ted Tanouye

Torrance, California

The Torrance California National Guard recently conducted ceremonies in Torrance Calif.--was rededicated May 19 in honor of the late Tech. Sgt. Ted Tanouye, who was the only resident of Torrance to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Tanouye, who graduated from Torrance High School with honors in 1938, joined the U.S. Army during World War II while his family was interned in a relocation camp in Rohwer, Ark. He served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company K, 34th Infantry Division and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his act of bravery on July 7, 1944, for capturing a strategically important hill in Italy while under heavy machine-gun fire and grenade bursts.

In 2000, Tanouye's award was upgraded posthumously to the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military distinction; the well-deserved honor had been delayed for 52 years because of strong sentiments against the Japanese Americans. Among those present at the ceremony was Tanouye's brother James, who described the dance at the dedication, hosted by the California Army National Guard and the Torrance High School Alumni Association, were dignitaries, military personnel, veterans, and neighboring residents, all of who were there to show their support to the military and Tanouye.

Torrance Mayor Dan Walker opened the ceremony with a speech honoring Tanouye and all veterans who served our nation. The keynote speaker, Major General Paul D. Monthue, Jr., adjutant general to the California National Guard, spoke of the many awards received by Tanouye and the 442nd BCT. The Torrance High School Alumni Association, assisted by Tanouye's brother Isao and his best friend Min Suda, presented a permanent display about Tanouye to the army.

"It was certainly a privilege to rededicate the Torrance Armory in honor of Ted Tanouye," said California Assemblyman George Nakano, D-Torrance. "I was proud to see so many people from the community in attendance, paying tribute to a local hero and supporting our military. The event was quite touching and filled with emotion." Nakano had submitted the formal request for rededication to the California National Guard. Two Boy Scouts from local Troop 586, Derek Kuwahara and Michael Matsuo, had chosen to refurbish the armory for their Eagle Scout project. The scouts organized the tasks of adding a sprinkler system, laying new sod, painting the exterior of the building and designing a mural. They worked with volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints, who donated their time to help complete the armory renovation.

MPDC

The Mountain Plains District Council held its regional Min Yasu oratorical contest, with first place going to Tammy Nozawa and second place going to Randi Boyd. Nozawa will go on to represent the district at the national oratorical convention in Las Vegas in June.
WASHINGTON D.C. LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Reflections
By KENJI M. TREANOR
President, Marin County JACL
To describe my experience at the JACL/LOC Washington D.C. Leadership conference in one word: eye-opening.
I am a young person who is somewhat new to the JACL. I am deeply invested in leadership, community, politics and making real change in the world. When I became a JACL member, I never expected to be given the kind of support and opportunities that I have been afforded in my short tenure as a JACLer. In 18 months, I was brought on the chapter board, sent to the National Youth/Student Conference, directed to the district council meetings and even dragged to a national board meeting. From all this I began to catch a glimpse of where and how to achieve the things that are important to me.
But the Washington D.C. Leadership Conference was the pinnacle of my learning thus far. I had never been to D.C. before, just didn’t think that it was really that important a place to go. I was brought up in a school of activism that puts most emphasis on “working in the community and keeping it real.” That means the people you see and talk to in daily life are the people with whom you always do your most meaningful work, in direct service or gritty “street-organizing. That school of thought situates decision- and policy-making as academic or isolated efforts, “corrupted” by such a close connection to the people and places of power.
Now these aren’t necessarily ideals that I completely, consciously follow, for I know that change comes from both “inside” and “outside” the system. It’s just hard to shake that “am-I-just-getting-old...and-selling-out?” kind of self-doubt when those policy- and decision-making positions seem more and more interesting. But the conference showed me that nowhere else is “keeping it real” and doing gritty work with the people you see every day more valuable than in D.C. and similar centers of power. It also showed that in those places especially, we will never stop being on the “outside”: that even on the “inside” we are seen, treated and have to struggle as “outside.”
So the conference opened my eyes as a young leader — took my sense of what is possible and stretched it in all directions at once. Credit goes to Kristine Minami, Christine Chen, Ken McAllister and all the folks who helped to put the conference together. They showed such a broad range of issues, kinds of work, places and people to know, it seems like no matter who you are, what you do and how you do it, D.C. has a place for you. And those folks in the community need you to be where they cannot be.
Even aside from all the once-in-a-lifetime kinds of things we did — go to the House and be given an insider’s tour by Rep. Bob Matsui himself, be briefed on the President’s AAPI Initiative in the White House briefing room, or meet Pat Okura and hear from a man who led JACL and walked with Martin Luther King Jr. — what stands out is that I heard a loud call. In all those places, from all those people, I heard and saw that I need to be there too. For without more true, connected leadership everywhere, those in the streets will never have a voice anywhere beyond it.
So now I move forward in my work with JACL, and in other capacities too, with a larger sense of what leadership, community, politics and making real change in the world means. I also have a better sense of how to do it, and I will continue to work at all levels that I can, in all places, in all ways. I have no doubt that Washington, D.C. hasn’t seen the last of me. In fact, I think I will wind this down now, since I have to go and do some research on the Massasoit Fellowship. See you there in D.C. too, I hope!
JACL/LOC Washington D.C. Leadership Conference participants: Toshi Abe (Philadelphia/IDC), Caroline Ogunyemi (Staff), Denise Masako Higuchi (Selanocopia/FSW), Erich T. Koenig (Cincinnati/MDC), Sud Mukai (Selma/CDCA), Megan Nakano (Chicago/MDC), Dr. Kune Linda Oda (Wasatch YP North/DIC), Steven Peralta (Olympia/PFW), Amy Miyako Phillips (South Bay/PFW), Don Richeda (Salt Lake/JDC), Joshua Targ (Salt Lake/JDC), Hawky (Youth Council Rep. Mt. Olympia/JDC), Robert S. Takagi (Chicago/MDC), Kenji M. Treanor (Marin/JNLWPN/PWF), Isaac Shonubi Yamagata (San Francisco/NCPW), Maya Yamazaki (Seattle/PFW).

East Wind

Bill Marutani

The Trilogy: Part One

T HE 1982 REPORT of the Commission on Wartime Relocation & Internment of Civilians unanimously concluded that “[t]he broad historical causes which shaped those decisions [the detention, ending detention and ending exclusion of the Issei and Nisei from the Pacific Coast area during World War II] were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership.” Report (Page 15). "We should be embarrassed by the failure of our leadership, the failure of our political leadership," said Commissioner Greg Tate in a 1996 speech. (Page 15). "There undoubtedly are some who, pointing to the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in Hirabayashi, 320 US 312 (1943) and Korematsu, 323 US 214 (1944), contend that it was military necessity which prompted the authorities to make the decisions that resulted in restricting, confining and excluding the Issei and Nisei.

In the Opinion in Hirabayashi, written by the Chief Justice (Stone), the court had unanimously upheld the general conviction and sentence of a Nisei who had declined to comply with a military order directing him against "at all times Japanese...all persons of Japanese ancestry within said Military Areas and Zones..."

In upholding citizenship in Hirabayashi's criminal conviction, the opinion starkly articulated the core concept by which the court was guided:

“The fact alone that attack on our country was threatened by Japan rather than another enemy set these citizens [Nisei] apart from others who have no particular associations with Japan; therefore, the dispute to which we gave our imprimatur upon these Japanese Americans is constitutionally justified. Our only concern today is that this looks suspiciously like guilt-by-associationism. Indeed, no matter from what angle the picture is viewed, its opprobrious character is not only confirmed but is fortified. I FIRST READ the Hirabayashi opinion in my first year of law school in 1989. I was shocked. I was by the majesty of all that the law represented, I experienced disempowerment at the absence of evidence for the court's conclusions. I was dismayed by the court's reference to "the loyalty of the old, white-tales, shibboleths, unverified rumors..." (Page 15). I recall a sinking feeling that this was a pronouncement from the highest court of our land from which there is no appeal, and what I was holding was a jingoistic diatribe, a trash of the niceties of legalism.

I was of the understanding that there were members of the court who were reputed to be stalwarts of individual rights. But where were Burger, Powell, Rehnquist, Warren, Roberts, Rutledge?

In the NEXT column in this space, we'll review the declared positions taken by the various justices and the rationale behind them. Report and Douglas had an empathic understanding of the history and the internment of the Issei and Nisei; and the coincidence of the timing of the Court's announcement of the revocation of the exclusion order and the Supreme Court's handing down, on Dec. 18, 1944, its decision in the Endo case.

In the meanwhile, if you can gain access to the trial transcript of the other cases — Hirabayashi, 320 US 81 (1943); Korematsu, 323 US 214 (Dec. 18, 1944); Endo, 323 US 283 (Dec. 18, 1944) — you might want to read the pleadings, the cross-examining questions and the dissenting opinions. Several times.

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in the Nipponia office. His opinions regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

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JACL participants at the JACL/LOC Washington D.C. Leadership Conference enjoy a meeting and dinner at the home of Patrick and Lily Okura.
SECRET SERVICE (Continued from page 1)

diately,” Schmidt said such atti- tude breeds a culture of retaliation and perpetuates the code of silence, prevalent among law enforcement agencies.

It took quite an effort for the black agent to get Schmidt, who believed the Secret Service is con- sidered a family... and if you speak out against them, then they are going to take a very serious atti- tude and you’re run out,” said Schmidt.

Kim, aware of the consequences, thought long and hard about blow- ing the whistle once AA made up such a small fraction of the Secret Service population.

“The Secret Service is really and truly1 have no lobby power,” said Kim. “We are seen as black agents, it’s a very roll over — the stereotypes. And they expected me to do that. They were looking for a scapegoat, and I be- lieved to be the only minority involved. They were stereotyping me and expecting me to be passive and not fight back.”

Jim Mackin, spokesperson for the Secret Service Agency, declined to comment on Kim’s case but said 70 out of 2,500 special agents are AA and that 54 out of 1,800 non-black holding employees are AAs.

By all accounts, Kim’s career is an All-American success story. As the former Honolulu police officer graduated first in his class from the Honolulu Police Academy, he joined the Secret Service and steadily moved up the ranks, earning him a promotion to special agent with cash bonuses. He also served on the elite President’s Protective Division in the wake of the Watergate federal bank fraud and helped bust an interna- tional laundering operation.

In 1989, he became the assistant special agent in charge in the Las Vegas field office, the No. 2 man there. During his tenure in Las Vegas, Kim witnessed a num- ber of troubling and unsavory activities, which led him to conclude that the agency was not being properly secured, and that the morale and performance of the employees was declining.

The agency’s culture was based on a culture of silence and fear, which affected the morale and performance of the employees. In his EEO complaint, Kim outlined the problems he wit- nessed with evidence handling. He states that the evidence was not being properly stored and that the records were incomplete. These concerns had been known for a number of occasions, but had not been addressed due to the agency’s culture of silence and fear. It was not until November 2000, that Kim questioned the use of evidence in the Las Vegas field office. At that time, he was a special agent in charge in the Las Vegas field office.

At the time, the following concerns were raised:

- A failure to properly store evidence. Evidence was left unsecured, and items were discarded.
- A failure to properly label evidence. Evidence was not properly labeled, and items were marked with illegible labels.
- A failure to properly secure evidence. Evidence was left unsecured, and items were discarded.
- A failure to properly file evidence. Evidence was not properly filed, and items were discarded.

In conclusion, Kim stated that the actions taken by the Secret Service were in violation of the job description and the agency’s rules and regulations. Kim also stated that there were instances in which he was instructed to suppress information or to alter evidence.

Kim said the Secret Service had "crossed the line," and Kim’s EEO complaint states that the entire field office and the Secret Service’s investigative and support units should be retrained to address the issue of evidence fabrication.

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OBITUARY

Longest-serving Legislator, Opponent of Internment, Dies

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO—Former state Sen. Ralph Dills, the state's longest-serving lawmaker and one of two California legislators to protest against the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, died May 16. He was 92.

Dills started his career as a middle-school teacher in the 1930s. He was a state assemblyman from 1939 until 1949, then served as a Municipal Court judge in Los Angeles County until 1966. He was elected to the Senate in 1966, where he served as the chairman of the Governmental Organization Committee, which handled bills affecting government agencies, state land, disaster response, gambling and alcoholic beverages. He was barred from running for re-election in 1998 by term limits. Dills died May 16 at a Sacramento nursing home, said his son Greg.

For taking a stand against President Roosevelt's internment orders, Dills and the late Sen. Jack Shelley were targeted for espionage, said Steve Hardy, staff director for the Governmental Organization Committee. That effort failed and Dills was honored by the Legislature last year for his protest.

He said then that taking the stance against internment wasn't a difficult decision.

Dills was born in Rosston, Texas, in 1910, moving to California when he was 15 years old. He earned degrees from the University of Southern California and the University of Southern California. He was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth. He is survived by three children.

OBITUARY

Retired Gen. Francis Takemoto Dies at 89

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Francis S. Takemoto, the first American of Japanese ancestry to achieve the rank of general, and a retired educator, died May 26. He was 89.

Takemoto was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Hawaii in 1935. He was called to active duty after the start of World War II and was assigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd Regiment. He was wounded in Italy and awarded the Purple Heart.

In 1946, Takemoto returned to Hawaii and resumed his teaching career. He joined the Hawaii National Guard and in January 1964, he was promoted to brigadier general and given command of the Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade.

He had a dual career as an educator and military officer for more than 20 years. He served as principal at Aliamanu and Manoa Elementary Schools. He is survived by a daughter, Carol, two stepchildren, a son, Harvey; and six grandchildren.

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All plans may vary and may not be available in all states.

Yoneyau, brother-in-law Tommy Yoneyau and sister June Yoneyau and wife Tracey.

Tuason, Jimmie Hidjo, 56, San Diego, May 8; Irwin, Art- born; survived by wife Laura; daughter Carly Akio Tuason; mother Peggy Tuason; brother Ben and wife Emma.

Uemura, Joe M., 86, Denver, April 29; survived by wife Mary Hidjiu.

Watanabe, Shozo, 72, Denver, April 22; survived by daughters Leslie Davis and Carol Davis, and sons Bob, Lisa, sons Donald, David and wife LeAnn; 6 g. and 6 s.

Yamamoto, Chiyo, 56, 76, Turlock, March 27; Cortez-born; Amache interned; WWII MIS Army veteran; survived by wife Naomi; sons Ko (Campbell), Victor (Turlock); daughter Holly Smith and husband Tom (Sacramento); 2 g.

Yamamoto, Robert Masayuki, 75, Seattle, March 27; Kent, Wash.; Tule Lake and Heart Mountain interned; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife Jo Ann, son Richard Ken (Issaquah, Wash.); daughter Sheryl Ann Yamamoto and son-in-law Stephen C. Rigg, wife of Michael (Issaquah, Wash.); 3 g.

Yokogawa, Satako Grace Manaka, 77, Montecito April 14; survived by sisters-in-law Lynda; son Gerald and wife Donna; 2 g. sister Lily Uyeda (Menlo Park, Calif.); sister-in-law Hiroko (Franken); Frank Manaka and wife Misuyo, and William Manaka and wife Gayle (Long Beach), Harry Manaka and wife Hanako (Seal Beach); 2 g.

Whereabouts

Whereabouts is free of charge and run on a space available basis.

TOKYO OTO

Tokyo attended La Ballona High School and was married in 1930s. She might have lived on Waterville Blvd. in Palms or Culver City. She attended Balboa High School in Long Beach. Harry Campbell at 143 Cypress Drive, Montecito CA 93025 or 80484-9575.

DEATH NOTICE

FUMIKO EMILE TAKAY

Funeral services for the late Mrs. Fumiko Emile Takay, 89, formerly of Los Angeles, was held May 31 at the Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. Immediately after the funeral services, in lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to be made to the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles. She is survived by her sons George (and wife Darlene Takay), Dr. Henry J. Takay, daughter Nancy Kelso Takay, grandson Scott (Katherine), granddaughter Akemi (David) Yasui, great-grandson (Hiroshi) Takay, great-grandchildren (Markus), Tokay Takay, great-grandson (Markus) Takay, sisters Yukiko Taniwaki of Japan and Seraphine Takay.

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Obituaries

All the towns in California except as noted.

Kondo, George Yajii, 81, Northridge, Calif.; born; survived by wife Hiroko, son Richard (Thorn- city, City, City), John (Denver). (Denver).

Konishi, Tom, 73, Seattle, April 6; survived by wife Kiyoko, two sons, three grandchildren.

Maruyama, Junko, 86, Los Angeles, May 14; Brawley-born; longtime resident of the Kentfield, Marin; survived by brothers David Takuzo Maruy, Ato Maruy, and sisters Masa Maruy, and sisters-in-law Samie Maruy.

Matsumoto, George Mitsuo, 80, Rosemead, May 9; Brawley-born; WWII veteran; survived by son Kenichi, and wife Mary Saltzman.

Nakachis, Col. Toshio "Lefty," 80, Monterey, May 16; Honora, Monterey, Ca.; 1942; survived by wife, Yoneko and children, son, Shigeo; and daughters, Tomoko (Miyagi, Ca.), and 2 g.

Nakamis, Katsumi, "Bucks" May 14; survived by wife Mary, and sons, Tom, Donald, and daughters, Yoneko (Englewood, Fl.), and Reiko (Englewood, Fl.).

Nakamura, George Torii, 71, Saratoga, Calif.; March 25; Seattle-born; survived by wife Maribeth, sons Mark and wife Charlotte; and sons Ken and wife Judy; and granddaughter Gary.

Nishitani, Motoo, 104, Oakam- ken-born; survived by sons Susan and wife Mary; and daughter Hideko Kagawa and hus- band, Toshio Kagawa, and sons, Tetsuya Kagawa, Yuko Aiyama, and wife Takay, daughter Shingo and wife, and granddaughter, 1 g. nephew (Yamagata, Japan). (Kagawa, Japan).

Okamoto, Koichi, 70, April 30; Watakena-born; interned in Texas from Peru during WWII; and wife Mary; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).

Okawara, Kazuo, 84, April 30; Watakena-born; interned in Texas from Peru during WWII; and wife; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).

Okamoto, Tom, 83, Madera, April 28; Boffo-born; official War Relocation Authority photographer at the Jerome, Ar, relocation camp; and sons Dennis (Corona), Mark and Tom (both Madera); and daughter Kathy War (Corona), Pratt, Gregory; and sisters Edith Mikamo (Torrance), Alice Yamada (Kingsburg).

Ong, John, 80, April 25; Boffo-born; military service in the U.S. Army; and wife; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).

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Ong, John, 80, April 25; Boffo-born; military service in the U.S. Army; and wife; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).

Takemoto, Fred Yoge, 74, Denver, April 23; U.S.-born; Japan- educated, Korean War veteran.

Takai, Elsa, 98, April 12; Boffo-born; interned in Texas from Peru during WWII; and husband; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).

Takai, Elsa, 98, April 12; Boffo-born; interned in Texas from Peru during WWII; and husband; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).

Takai, Elsa, 98, April 12; Boffo-born; interned in Texas from Peru during WWII; and husband; and daughter; and son and wife (Sacramento, Calif.).
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