Renunciant Bill Nishimura Recalls Trying War Years

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA Assistant Editor

For close to two decades after the end of World War II, American-born Tarasumi Bill Nishimura could not vote, purchase a home in his name, or even travel overseas since the United States would not issue him a passport.

The 82-year-old Nisei is one of an estimated 5,589 Nisei and Kibei renunciants, who renounced their American citizenships from within United States concentration camps during WWII.

Nishimura's activities kept him in camp until 1947 — 2 1/2 years longer than the average internee — but Nishimura said he'd still take the same path.

Columbia Stirs Memories of Challenger

By CAROLINE AOYAGI Writer/Reporter

After mobilizing a protest against local Minneapolis restaurant Chino Latino for its ongoing series of racially offensive billboard ads, Minnesota's Asian Pacific American community got at least part of what they want: an ed: removal of the ads and an apology in press.

The Twin Cities JACL, along with other Minnesota activists and students, were appalled by the recent billboard sign above the uptown restaurant that read, "Happy Hour: Cheaper than a Bangkok Brothel."

"The most important outcome for our APA community is that we mobilized quickly thanks to our e-mail network and developed a coordinated response to speak out and take action," said Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, president of the Twin Cities JACL chapter. "This justified because it was 'not meant to injure or offend,'" Dulai said. Concerned APAs and others made hundreds of phone calls and sent e-mails to the company protesting the billboard's racist and exploitative message.

"We made phone calls to Chino Latino and Parasole Restaurant Holdings, Inc., and sent a letter to Phil Roberts, CEO of 'Parasole Restaurants, on behalf of the Twin Cities JACL chapter explaining that the 'no harm intended' attitude does indeed cause harm to the community," Dulai said.

"They also owns Figlio Restaurant and Bar, Manny's Steakhouse, The Good Earth, Muffuletta Café and affiliated restaurants Buca di Beppo and Oceanaire," Dulai said.

Other local APA activists initiated a petition campaign urging a boycott of the restaurant. Currently, the petition boasts over 1,000 signatures.

"These large billboards placed all over the city. Any one living here who walks down the street, takes a bus or drives a car is seeing very little support from his fellow legislators.

This time around though, Brutus is being joined in his efforts by Sen. Steven Geller, D-District 31. Geller filed Senate Joint Resolution 78 last late last year and the bill is currently being reviewed by various committees.

Although the Alien Land Law is not enforced today and is in fact illegal under federal law, Geller believes the language needs to be taken out of the state's constitution.

"It's inappropriate," he said. "I'm offended by the language and we need to fix it even though it's not being enforced."

Both bills are looking to amend Section 2 of Article 1 of the state constitution dealing with the declaration of rights. They want to eliminate the portion that states, "... ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship may be regulated or prohibited by law."

Geller's bill recently passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee and is now headed to several other committees. Even though the state is in Republican control, he're confident his bill will pass in the Senate since the body is quite moderate right now.

"Nobody thinks it's important" since the Alien Land Law isn't being enforced, "but they also think we don't need it," said Geller of his fellow legislators.

He's more concerned about the challenges the House bill will face. But so far Brutus has been pleased with the discussions he has had with his fellow representatives. Most have indicated they were not aware of the law and agreed that it should be eliminated from the books, he said.

However, even if both bills are passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, who has already indicated he would likely
Letters to the Editor

PACIFIC CITIZEN, FEB. 7·2003

Resistence Vs. Conscription

I thought the following might help in the debate between wartime draft resisters and conscripts. Let us remember that in 1944 after the government reinstated the draft for Japanese Americans (we were living in Manzanar). Since I was physically fit, I probably would have been classified 1-A. I do not know what classification I should have been classified IF-V. Let me explain.

To look at the Selective Service Act of 1940. In its section of classification, paragraph 346 stated

‘Baka-ne'
The Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the Super Bowl Jan. 26, and it brought to mind a story I've longed to tell.

When we moved to Orange County from midtown Los Angeles, it was quite a adjustment coming from such an ethnically diverse community. So I was totally surprised that one evening when I attended a program being presented at the Los Angeles Religion-Race Relations Conference, the commanding officer of the UCLA campus friend with whom I had not had contact since the Manzanar camp years, over 40 years ago.

Since we have visited each other frequently. One week-end, Toshiko had her granddaughters staying over and the toddler called out “Shuga-bungo, to make my little one feel no shame in the Japanese American community. So I was

The point to be made with respect to wartime resistance in the camps is this: the inmate-resisters did not break the law; our government did. It violated the Selective Service Act of 1940 when it failed to allow conscientious objectors to be housed in the custody of the War Relocation Authority. As IV-Fs we would not have been drafted. We were conscientious objectors who had been released from the custody of the War Relocation Authority. The point to be made is that if we were a very popular First Couple.

We were several years younger than all of the Togasaki children except Shinobu, who indeed was about the same age as my brothers Jung and Joseph.

I got to know Kiyono (George) fairly well late in his life because I knew his second wife, Dorothy Chizu Yamashita Kotow very well, and from time to time I saw them at the Togasaki family. An important fact that was omitted in the article by Fusako Yamamoto was George's presidency of Rotary International. The international convention of Rotary was held in Houston in 1972, and George was president that year. His first wife was a nun in front of our house in the 1930s. Even religious bigots would have received help.

James Hallowell
Littleton, Colo.

JACL Passed Over for Donation

The issue of JACL has become a point of controversy in our community. It has to do with the transfer of a disproportionate number of Japanese American organizations that belong to a private Japanese organization. The members decided to disband and turn over the buildings to a group of local people. It appears some of the members of the organization held a lifetime grudge against national JACL. They voted not to give the much needed and legitimate assistance is Under legal process at this time.

Many of us feel a certain amount of disbelief and betrayal. JACL seemed to be the logical recipient, as it is the largest Japanese organization in the community and well-recognized. It appears there has been poor communication and lack of understanding. The local JACL officers were not aware of the impact this would have on longstanding members. It left a sense of confusion and disappointment among our JACL'ers. I guess appeasement and acceptance will come eventually. A sincere, concerted effort by both local chapters will be needed to meet with the recipients and offer support and direction in order to reach a satisfactory solution.

Douglas Tetsuro Riverside chapter

Just these issues could stretch our resources near the breaking point. A delay on the “under God” issue, now would be organizational suicidal.

Douglas Tetsuro Riverside chapter

Pledge of Allegiance

Regarding the recent letter by George Shiosawa, it is amazing that someone who has seen so much pain would turn in feel no shame in espousing the same level of religious intolerance. With so many Buddhist brothers and sisters in the Japanese American community one would hope for just a little understanding and tolerance.

The pledge is unique in that it requires an act of adherence to the Judeo-Christian religious system. As this was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in the 1950s, I feel it can be removed without destroying the religious foundation of biblical adherents.

After years of working with the Society of Friends (Quakers), I am sure they were interested in bringing light to a great injustice without concern for the religious feelings of the victims. Even religious bigots would have received help.

James Hallowell
Littleton, Colo.

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Bush Refuses to Take Stand on Racial Preferences
By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—President Bush declined Jan. 21 to say whether racial preference could be used as a factor in college admissions, leaving it to the Supreme Court to settle a question that could overturn a 25-year-old affirmative action ruling.

In sidestepping the issue, Bush said it is up to the high court to define the outer limits of the "constitution without his input.

The Supreme Court announced that it will hear oral arguments on the University of Michigan's controversial racial preferences programs in public university admissions since the 1978 Allan Bakke case, when the court outlawed racial quotas in university admissions, but left room for the race to be a "plus factor."

After Bush intervened in the Michigan case, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said race could be a factor. Secretary of State Colin Powell said race should be a factor. Both Rice and Powell are black.

Bush was asked twice for his opinion, saying both times it was up to the court to decide. Republican strategists close to the White House have said Bush's position is a result of trying to please anti-affirmative action conservatives without appearing to be against racial diversity.

Michigan and many other public universities have used the Bakke ruling to design programs that can help minorities. There might be problems if only tests and grades are considered.

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AA Groups Press Shaq for Sincere Apology Over Yao Remarks
By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

HOUSTON—Several Asian American groups and individuals in Houston are sending a letter to Shaquille O'Neal for a sincere apology after he mistakenly criticized O'Neal's derogatory comments about Yao, with the Lakers' center saying in a mock Chinatown accent on national radio, "Tell Yao Ming, 'ching-chong-yang-wah-ah-sih.'" In a press release Jan. 17, O'Neal used the same mock accent while making fun jumps, path to his first meeting with Yao.

When first confronted with the issue, O'Neal responded in part by saying, "I mean, if I was the first one to do it, and the only one to do it, I could see what they're talking about. I know I offended anybody, I apologize."

That apology hasn't satisfied many in the Asian American community and has found them to be insensitive, although not intentionally so. The NBA has not conformed to this kind of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment, O'Neal's remarks, the NBA contacted the Lakers and O'Neal has issued an Offer of Apology to Yao, which the OCA has accepted.

"Sports, once again, has had valiant attempts at humor can be hurtful, harmful and ultimately divisive. The NBA does not condone or facilitate behavior that is meant to hurting other people. The NBA has never been a place for ranting, racial intrigue, and anti-fanatics."

O'Neal's comments have not been a source of inspiration, although not intentionally so. The NBA has not conformed to this kind of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment, the NBA has avoided this kind of behavior in the past.

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APAs in the News

Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Shellyanne W.L. Chang, 42, of Sacramento, was appointed the chief deputy legal affairs secretary for California Gov. Gray Davis. Chang's appointment includes reviewing the work product of other attorneys in the governor's office, advising the governor and his staff on legal issues and pending litigation, providing direction to the attorney general's office, reviewing legislation involving the governor, and analyzing proposed legislation. She has been the sole attorney representing the state on Indian gaming and investment and securities issues since 1993 to 1999.

Mas Hatano, Bobo Kashishiwaki, Yosi Matsushita, Kinya Noguchi, Roy Sato, Koio Sato-Viacurato, Kirk Tsuchimori, Mark Tanaka and Shig Yokote, members of the VFW North Point 8855, were named Sacramento Magazine's Best Public Servants Older Than 70 for their work as community speakers. For 17 years, they have traveled to 71 schools doing presentations and speaking about their positive life experiences and the value of citizenship as part of the "Lessons From Our Lives" program.

Penny Honda, of Martinez, Calif., was one of 64 out of 1,100 applicants selected to participate in the Fulbright Fellowship program part of the Capital Fellows Programs funded by the State of California. The Capital Fellows programs offer college graduates experiences in policy-making and development in California's state government. Participants help draft and analyze legislation, oversee construction projects, and stay with Japanese families to learn more about their culture. The program was launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. government and the Fulbright Program, which has transported more than 6,000 California professionals to Japan and to the United States on fellowships for graduate education and research.

Doris Ling-Cohan, a civil judge who grew up in Manhattan's Chinatown, was recently inducted into the New York Supreme Court, making her the first woman of Asian descent to serve in the state's Supreme Court history. Ging-Cohan was elected to the post last November. At 16, she began working at a clothing factory to help support her family, who were immigrants. She went on to serve as a district court lawyer for seven years and worked in the New York State Attorney General's consumer protection and fraud unit for five years. Altogether, there are only four elected AA judges in New York and only six AA attorneys out of a total of 3,900 judges in the state.

Randall Nakano, a drama teacher at A.P. Giannini Middle School in San Francisco, was selected from a pool of over 2,100 applicants to participate in the Fulbright Memorial Fund (FMP) Teacher Program in 2003. Nakano and 200 other educators traveled to Tokyo to visit schools, meet government officials and participate in cultural activities.

Chinese American Political Figure and Husband Killed

Nick Sakamoto, a Chinese American activist who tapped new sources of money and votes for New York Republicans was found bound with duct tape and suffocated along with his wife in their New York apartment, officials said.

Josephine Lin, 65, and her husband, Dr. Nick Sakamoto, were found Jan. 28 by one of their sons in their apartment, which was also used as their office. Authorities said the couple had been broken into or ransacked, police said.

The couple, devout Christians who emigrated from Taiwan in the 1970s, had been suffocated with plastic bags and strangled, according to the medical examiner. Shani Lin was found with duct tape over his mouth and nose. Josephine Lin, a retired insurance saleswoman, held onto wires and donated tens of thousands of dollars over the years to Republicans, including Gov. George Pataki.

Court Papers Reveal Alleged Plot to Kill Gov. Locke

OLYMPIA, Wash.—Court papers unsealed in Washington County on Oct. 11 offer a glimpse into the mind of the killer who shot Washington Gov. Gary Locke.

James D. Brailey Jr., 43, was charged with murder on Oct. 16, in federal court in Tacoma, one day after federal authorities arrested him at a home just north of Olympia. He was found in possession of two pistols that he allegedly transported across state lines. Brailey has a conviction on a domestic violence charge in Summit County, Utah, which bars him from possessing and transferring firearms.

The FBI was tipped about an alleged plot in October, nearly two years ago by an unidentified informant, who reported that Brailey was a member of the Jaral Society, a loosely organized group which does not support state or federal government. The society has been known to hold its own state office elections, and in October 1998 it elected Brailey governor of Washington.

"Brailey hates Governor Locke because he believes (Brailey) is the only true governor of this state," FBI special agent James Keesling wrote. "Brailey also hates Governor Locke because of his ethnicity." Locke is Chinese American.

Reps. Honda, Lofgren Intervene in Green Card Scam

Rep. Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren, both San Jose, Calif., Democrats, urged Attorney General John Ashcroft on Jan. 22 to intervene on behalf of 275 Bay Area Korean immigrants who may face deportation.

The immigrants, mainly engineers, scientists and business owners, claim they were victims of a green card scam cooked up between several South Bay immigration brokers and an INS official who granted the permanent resident cards. But the INS has declared the cards illegal because they were obtained through bribes.

The immigrant has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times. He has been deported several times.
Florin Chapter
The 2000-2002 Co-JACLer of the Biennium Andy Noguchi was honored at the Florin JACL's annual installation dinner in Sacramento, which was attended by State Assemblyman Darryl Steinberg; Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin; Rashid Ahmad of the Council of Islamic Organizations; Sonny Chong of CAPITAL, a coalition of 90 Sacramento API organizations; and Mits Koshiyama, representing nearly two dozen resisters of conscience, who thanked Noguchi for leading the historic reconciliation between the resisters of World War II and the JACL.

For his staunch civil rights advocacy, Noguchi was presented with a hand-painted, silk-hanging of a Kuvojii guardian lion created by fabric artist John Marshall.

New chapter officers were installed by Jerry Enomoto, former national JACL president, while the chapter thanked outgoing treasurer Sam Kashiwagi for his 20 years of service to the Florin chapter.

Monterey Chapter
The Monterey JACL held its annual installation and awards banquet, during which it installed its new 2003 officers and honored three R's in JACL: "Renew! Revitalize! The New Three R's in JACL." The district's membership committee organized the workshop with over eight different sessions covering topics from "Why Join JACL?" to "Youth/Student Focus."

Of particular interest was a session led by Dan Ichinose of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, who spoke about his Hapa experience and the changing demographics of biracial and mul-

cultural APA communities.

Alayne Yamamoto covered "Formula for a Successful Event," in which she described the basics of putting on a great event, from meeting the needs of the audience to asking friends and loved ones for assistance in acquiring necessary funding sources.

The district also installed a membership competition among PSW chapters. The chapter that increases its membership by the greatest percentage and the chap-

ter that increases its membership by the greatest number will be awarded two all-expenses paid registration packages for the JACL National Convention in Hawaii in 2004.

SELANOCO Chapter
Todd Hasagawa was re-elected president of the SELANOCO JACL and sworn in with a 17-foot NASA space suit for a "Meet the Astronaut" program, in which he presented the chapter with a display board exhibiting an American flag that flew 4.8 million miles on the Endeavour, photos of him and fellow astronauts per-

ting on the earth and scenes of his four-hour space walk and scenes of himself and fellow astronauts performing amusing experiments with food in zero gravity.

During a question-and-answer session, Tani appeared in his blue NASA space suit for a "Meet the Astronaut" program, in which he talked to children about how astronauts eat, sleep, shower and exer-

cise in space.

He also presented the chapter with a display board exhibiting an American flag that flew 4.8 million miles on the Endeavour, pho-

tos of the mission crew and mis-

sion patch.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter
Over 200 members attended Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL's annual installation in Hollister, Calif, where Tony Boch of San Benito County, Mark Tamaura of Gilroy and Lester Aoki of Watsonville-Santa Cruz were installed as JACL chapter presi-

dents. The installation was conducted by Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Joseph F. Bui fle, Jr.

Guest speaker Sandy Lydon, historian emeritus of Cabrillo College and a JACL member, spoke of the historical significance of the Japanese Gastroville School and the progress regarding its redevelopment. The school was built in 1935 by the Issei for their Nisei children, and its current redevelopment is intended to serve second and third-generation Hispanics.

San Benito County JACL offi-
cers installed included: Kurt Kurasaki, Phyllis Teashama, Ruby Yamaka, Craig Yamaquin, Jean Shingai, Kazuko Kuasui and Kenneth Teashama.

Gilroy JACL officers and board members for 2003 included: Lisa Sheedy, June Murakoa, Teri Watanaga, Mike Hoshuda, June Otaguro, Ken Kamei, Takako Muto, Sheri Ganderson, Atakco Oba, Lily Kawashuch, Nancy Kawamoto, Allan Kawashuch and Ray Yamaka.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL officers and board members installed were: Paul Kaneko, April Goral, Jeanette Oshlow, Stuart Yamamoto, Alan Uyematsu, Glenn Nagamine, David Kadono, Stuart Watanaga, Iwao Yamashita, Shig Kirazka, Katie Aroa, Kimi Mitsui, Mas and Marcus Hoshinomoto, Willie Yahara, Rodney Misaki, Rosie Teraskami, Jerry Aroa, Vicente Kimura, Dr. Gary Creme, John Doug, Joe Bowes, David Derpich, Shizue Shikuma, Jennifer Ura Gavin and Rev. Shousei Hanayama.


MINNESOTA
(Continued from page 1)
ber of the Asian American Renaissance, a pan-Asian organi-

"To use the exploitation of Asian women as a 'humorous' gimmick to snare their drinks and appetizers is beyond insult," added Juliana Pegues, the other co-author of the petition and a member of Asian American Creative Alliance at the University of Minnesota. Dariyanto's Latino management tells us we don't have to eat at their resau-

"$10 per person for a special evening featuring singer)
getire of various groups and the African American

Florida
(Continued from page 1)

sign the legislation, the people of Florida will have the final say when they vote on the amendment in November of 2004.

Both Brutus and Geller are looking to the Asian American community for help in supporting the bills and getting the word out to fellow Floridians.

Winnie Tang, Organization of Chinese Americans South Florida chapter president, has spoken to Brutus several times and is already working in coalition with various AA groups, and plans to build coalitions with the larger African American and Hispanic groups.

She's also starting a letter-writing campaign to encourage the various legislators and the governor to support the bills. Tang plans to lobby the legislators and to be meeting several times with each.

"We cannot just let this kind of lan-

guage sit in our constitution," she said. "It's discriminatory language and in the 21st century we need to strike it from the record." So far she's happy with the posi-

ive response she's received but acknowledges that there's a lot more to do, especially in educating the larger Florida community. "We need to educate the community so we get intelligent voting," the said.

Kevin Eng, Asian American Federation of Florida president, is working closely with Tang in efforts to educate fellow Floridians. He real-

izes that one huge hurdle will be to make sure that people don't confuse these efforts with the current fear of terror-

ist threats by foreigners.

Florida's AA population is small, comprising only about 1.2 percent of the population, so the current efforts of the various AA groups to build coalitions with other minority groups are of utmost importance. "As a group, we need to educate everyone about the heroic contributions of our ancestors in this country," said Tang.

For more information about the Boycott Chino Latino petition, visit: www.petitiononline.com/CLbannetition.html.
The FBI turned the place upside down," said Nishimura. "They took the drawers out and threw every- thing out to find anything that might be valuable to them. Then they hand- cuffled my dad and told them (moth- er and sister) he'd be coming home in a few hours."

The Nishimuras didn't hear from the FBI for a week or so. "We didn't know where to find out what was going on," said Nishimura. "Finally, after a couple of weeks, they sent us a notice that my father was at the Tujunga Canyon CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp."

The family visited the elder Nishimura about two or three times a week for several weeks. Then just as suddenly, the entire jailed Nikkei group disappeared.

"We went to visit my father one day and the place was empty," said Nishimura. "The officials didn't give us any notification, and that day, we had to go to Lordsburg, New Mexico."

As talks of excluding the Nikkei from the West Coast grew, Nishimura and his brother moved to a relative's farm in Inovae, near Visalia in central California. Nishimura's move was during what the government referred to as the "voluntary" resettlement period. But the "voluntary" was nothing "about this," said Nishimura. "Government policies caused us to move so I hesitate to use the term voluntary," said Nishimura. "I always say it was the 'free move- ment' period."

At the time of Nishimura's move, the majority portion of California was not a military zone under the March 1942 Public Proclamation which had designate- d restricted zones in parts of Washington, Oregon, and California and Arizona. But a few months later, Nishimura's area became a military zone and evacuation notices went up. Since the announcements indi- cated no evacuation date or month, Nishimura talked to the Kern farmers selling their farm with ready-to-harvest crops for pennies on the dollar and then working for the new owners. An evacuation date was announced. This turned out to be August, after the crops had been harvested.

"I suspect these people knew right along that we'd be evacuated in August," said Nishimura. "I thought to myself what a dirty way to do things. The Nikkei (Nikkei farmers) lost huge amount of money."

Residents from that area were evacuated straight to Poston, and Nishimura and his mother ended up in Poston Camp III. In late October, Camp III started a Japanese language class, and Nishimura enrolled, hoping to make productive use of his time. But the class lasted only about three weeks. "It was strange," said Nishimura. "One day the teacher didn't show up. Right after that, the Army came and interviewed them. They brought Japanese newspaper and asked if I can read it. They asked if I wanted to volunteer for the MIS (Military Intelligence Service). I told them I had no intentions of helping the United States at this point because my rights were taken away."

In 1943, the government issued what appeared to be a voluntary ques- tionnaire, with question 27 — "Are you going to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?" — and question 28 "Are you going to serve in the armed forces of any other foreign government, power, or organization?" Nishimura answered "no" to question 27 and left blank 28. "I read questions 27 and 28 over and over, and finally concluded I would be to go leave 28 open with an "N" saying, "No, I'm not going to serve in the army," the government gave me my rights back," said Nishimura.

The government responded by reuniting Nishimura's father with the family. "They sent my dad to Poston, and right after that, the adminis- tration called me in," said Nishimura. "They asked me what is your answer now that your dad is back. I still refused to answer. I told them as long as you deprive me of my constit­ utional rights, I'm not answering that question. So the official said, "Well, I guess that means no, right?" I said, 'I guess so.' Right after that, they brought me to Tule Lake."

In 1943, Tule Lake was converted into a segregation center, housing the families of former political internees. But Nishimura said the label was deceiving. He said larger families had opted to remain in Tule Lake, and Nishimura's segregation because they did not want to go the "voluntary" resettlement period. Others remained because they did not want to move eastward. These internees numbered about 6,000. Still others ended up in Tule Lake by answering "no" on the questionnaire, because they did not want their families to be split up.

"To call Tule Lake a segregation center is a misnomer," said Nishimura. "A few months after Nishimura's arrival in January 1944, he heard about the incident involving the Hoshidans."

The Hoshidans came to promi­ nence as the Tule Lake administra­ tion took a hard stance against the allegedly "disloyal" internees. Ad­ ministrators refrained all resettle­ ment requests regardless of the internee’s "loyalty” status. Mutual mistrust and Project Director Joiner’s Best’s failure to negotiate with camp groups escalated the situ­ ation until the government disbanded the army units in November 1944, and maternal law was declared.

At the same time, Congress passed Public Law 405, aimed at Japanese Americans. This unprece­ dented law allowed Americans to renounce their citizenship in time of war. As hostilities between the internees and the WRA increased, the Hoshidans advocated for Nisei to return to their places of origin from a country which did not accept them and to expatriate to Japan. Although the Hoshidan later became associated with intimida­ tion, and is associated with one camp murder, Nishimura said this was not the case when he joined in early 1944.

"Each block had a leader and this person asked block residents to join. When I approached him and asked to join, I asked him what they were planning to do. He said they were going to hold political protests and have morning ritual exercises. There was nothing bad in doing that so I agreed to participate."

What Nishimura remembered the most were the daily 5 a.m. bugle calls, where members lined up out­ side and exercised regardless of high winds, rain or snow.

Later, three other groups formed. The Hokoke Seisan for young men, the Hokoke Joshi Seisan for young women, and the Sokoji Kikoku Hoshidan for older men. To break up the Hoshidans, the government confiscated their Hoshidan records and shipped 755 members deemed key agitators to the Santa Fe Department of Justice camp in New Mexico. But Nishimura said the Hoshidans, expecting such a move, packed the list with wrong names.

"If the leaders were taken away, we knew the Hoshidans would diminish so we put in decoys," said Nishimura. "As a result, the government made two more rounds of removals, Nishimura was part of the second swap, which included 125 men sent to Santa Fe in January 1945. A third group was sent to the Bismark DOJ camp in North Dakota.

"A few months after my arrival, the WRA started a segregation center for the Japanese. They segregated from the rest of the internees to a separate camp."

The success of the Hoshidans' decision to remain in America, he transferred to the Crystal City DOJ camp in Texas. He was not released until June 1947.

High School Searches for Former JA Students

The Santa Clara County, Calif., Office of Education is looking for former Japanese American students who were unable to finish high school due to internment. Eligibility for receipt of a diploma requires proof of hav­ ing graduated from a high school during the period of Sept. 16, 1940, through Dec. 31, 1946. A diploma may be awarded posthumously to honor­ ees’ next of kin.

For the former students of the Santa Clara County high schools, applications and additional information can be obtained from the Office of Education’s Communication Services Department, 1250 Ridgeway Park Dr., San Jose, call 408/453-6534; or visit www.sccoe.org.

Bakersfield High School is still trying to locate five former students: Jim HarufuKo, Tom HarufuKo, Jim Yasuhira, Marupa Kaki, and Tak Nagako. Anyone who knows of their whereabouts or their survivors is encouraged to call Principal David Reese at 661/324-9841.

I AFTER PEARL HARBOR, why did a law­ abiding U.S. citizen merely submit to internment? And from behind barbed wire, how did he react to the "loyalty questionnaire"?

Cardini answers appear in "The First 80 Years," a memoir by Wat Takeshita. The book is available at: (1) Kinokuniya Bookstore, San Francisco; (2) Vision Books Intl., 775 E. Bithedale Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941; (3) authors e-mail: wat-michi@aol.com.

The Classic Rock

This issue’s cover is presented by The Jewelry Store in San Jose JapanTown, CA. The store offers handcrafted, Sashiko-embroidered, naturally dyed, handwoven, 100% linen and cotton quilts in two sizes: 66 x 80 and 75 x 75. The quilts are based on a design from the Shigaraki pottery tradition of Japan, and are dyed using natural indigo. The quilts are available at The Jewelry Store in San Jose JapanTown, CA. Contact Bridge Media for additional titles at $39.95 or by visiting www.bookstore.bookstore.com.

February 19

A Day to Remember - A Way to Remember

Day of Remembrance: The First National Ceremony captures the emotion of the first national commemoration in 1998. Day of Remembrance symbolizes President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, resulting in the forced removal and incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during World War II. Running time: 41:04 $12.95

Piecing Memories is the story of a group of Japanese American women who meet every week to quilt. Together they create a quilt of their incarceration experience during the war and share memories and anecdotes from their childhoods and youth. Running time: 17:14 $11.95

Uncorrected Courage: Patriotism and Civil Liberty tells the story of the Military Intelligence Service during World War II and the Occupation of the Japanese islands by American soldiers, primarily Japanese Americans, fought for the United States while, ironically, many of their families were imprisoned behind barbed wire. Running time: 5:22 $11.95

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1) Prices listed are in U.S. dollars.
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Proof of purchase required. No cash refunds, no credit card refunds, no mail orders.

For more information, please visit www.theClassicRock.net.

Contact Bridge Media for additional titles at $39.95 or by visiting www.bookstore.bookstore.com.
Gila River Reunion

Registration packets are now being received for the 2003 Gila River Reunion to be held in Las Vegas June 6-7.

The reunion will bring together Japanese Americans who were incarcerated by the United States government at two Gila River relocation centers near Phoenix during World War II.

Special recognition will be given to veterans from the camps who served in WWII. Some 1,150 men from Gila River were drafted or volunteered from behind barred wire to serve in the military. Participating in the ceremony will be the Ira Hayes-American Legion Post 84 from Sacaton, Ariz., made up of native American WWII veterans.

The two-day event will be held at Jack's Gaunto's Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas. It will kick off at a mixer on Friday night. The main event of the two days will be the banquet on Saturday evening, during which the veterans will be honored. Arrangements for a speaker representing the military are currently being made.

Golfers are invited to play in a tournament on Saturday at Desert Pines golf course. The deadline to sign up is March 31. A super-senior flight is planned for golfers 80 or older.

Contact Hank Sato for reservations at 5021 Vallecito, Westminster, CA 92683. Entry forms for the golf tournament are included with reunion registration forms.

More than 13,300 persons of Japanese ancestry, most of them American citizens, were held at Gila River's camp, which was divided into two sites, Butte and Canal.

Planners say this will be the last reunion they will plan, since six decades have passed since the camp experience.

Buses have been reserved for the reunion. A bus package reservation will include roundtrip transportation from Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles, two nights at the hotel, a breakfast and a complimentary pleasure package from the hotel. A bus tour is also being set up in the Fresno area.

For more information or for registration forms, contact Hy Shishion, reunion committee chairman, at 562-926-8159, or e-mail: bishiihio@hotmail.com. Or contact Kim Tai at 310-534-0231; 2001 W. 245th St., Lomita, CA 90717.
Yamasaki a Finalist for Oregon Sports Award

FORTLAND, Ore.—The Oregon Sports Awards, honoring the state’s top professional, amateur and high school athletes, was held Jan. 19 at Nike headquarters.

The awards, sponsored by Nike, were the third annual Oregon Sports Awards and were once known as the Hayward Award, a tradition for Oregon athletes.

Applicants must have earned their undergraduate degree by September 2003. No specific major is required, and individuals with advanced degrees as well as those in mid-career are encouraged to apply. Appointments can be obtained by contacting David Finn at Nakano’s district office, at 703-224-3553.

Applicants for the Assembly Program must be postmark applications for fellowship selections will be accepted as well as health, dental and vision benefits.

"The Assembly Fellowship Program is a rare opportunity for college graduates to participate in the legislative process," said Nakano. "The hands-on experience provides a foundation for a successful career in the public sector."

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Thursday, Feb. 13—20—Workshops for Nikkei Parents; 10 a.m.-12 noon; Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center, 380 Sargent St., San Francisco. Tours led by the Little Tokyo Service Center. Info: registration, Rachel Kurozawa or Isabelle Miyeva, 415/521-7577. RSVP: 415/521-7577.

San Francisco, Sun., Feb. 16—Video Screening, “Comforting the Afflicted,” code harassment in the lives of Japanese Americans during and after WWII. 3:30 p.m., Richmond Civic Theater, 300 S. Cesar E. Chavez. RSVP by Feb. 14: 510/222-7575 or sjchimoto@japantown.org.

San Antonio, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 15-16—“Living the American Dream,” code harassment, a film, to celebrate the strengths and resilience of three-generation Japanese American family businesses that have thrived in the community. JAPAN, 213/625-0414.

Mon., Feb. 17—The West Players' 37th Anniversary Visionary Awards Dinner; Westin Bonaventure Hotel, 333 S. Figueroa St., L.A. Info: visionaries@westplayers.org.


Sun., Feb. 9—Ken Keboshi of the Thousand Cranes Tour. 1 p.m., branch # 98, American Japanese Cultural Association, 1919 W. 74th St., Los Angeles. Includes oral histories demonstration by Yo Takimoto from 1-2 p.m. and “The American Family in WWII” film screening at 2-3 p.m., followed by refreshments. Info: 310/727-7777.


CHICAGO, Sun., Feb. 16—2-6 p.m.; Panel discussion, "Civil Rights in Times of Crisis" at DePaul University Center, 2290 N. Sheffield; public parking is available; panelists include Calvin Himes, Fred Tsuk, Kyon Fujisaki, Frank Inouye, and Stephen Kunitake. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity Education and the Chicago JACL, the Japanese American Service Committee and the Japanese American Historical Society. Info: Bill Yosum, 773/721-7710, or Sharan Harada, 773/275 007 ext. 193. Sun., Feb. 16, 1 p.m.; Film screening and discussion, "Children of the Camps" with Dr. Satsuki Ina, 59th Street Baptist Church, 1212 57th St.; "In the Footsteps of a Hero:" tour of the Go For Broke Monument and the National Nikkei historical site. Info: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416, karen.sodini@aol.com; or Hazel Asamoto, 213/921-2976, hazalas@msn.com.

CITRUS PARK, Fla., Sun., March 16—2-5 p.m., Film showing and discussion, “Children of the Camps” with Dr. Satsuki Ina, Trinity-St. Dunstan/Buddhist Temple, 14741 S. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. Info: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416, karen.sodini@aol.com; or Hazel Asamoto, 213/921-2976, hazalas@msn.com.

Cleveland, Sun., Feb. 16—Free oral history training session at the Japanese American National Museum Education Center #1, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo: includes continental breakfast, professional SP camera training and discussion about volunteer interview techniques; no experience required; a tour of the Go For Broke Monument. Info: 213/625-0414.

DENVER, Colo., Sun., Feb. 23—Film screening and workshop, “Children of the Camps” with Dr. Satsuki Ina, Inc; Tri-Stan/Denver Buddhist Temple, 14741 S. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. Info: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416, karen.sodini@aol.com; or Hazel Asamoto, 213/921-2976, hazalas@msn.com.

DENVER, Colo., Mon., Feb. 24—1-4 p.m.; Film screening and discussion, "Children of the Camps" with Dr. Satsuki Ina, Tri-Stan/Denver Buddhist Temple, 14741 S. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. Info: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416, karen.sodini@aol.com; or Hazel Asamoto, 213/921-2976, hazalas@msn.com.


MIDWEST

CHICAGO


SANTA CRUZ


Southern California ALTEDEMA

Feb. 12—Seventh Annual Gathering of retired New Christian pastors, priests and volunteers from Southern California. Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church in Alhambra. Info: Rev. Paul Nakamura, Secretary of the Lutheran Oriental Church in Alhambra, 5929 E. 7th Ave, 262-7692 or 262-6832, or Sam Tonouza, 213/512-0032.

Feb. 20—San Jose Buddhist Church in San Jose will host the annual San Jose Nikkei Laboratory Day. The day will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a morning plenary session, followed by lunch, and afternoon classes. Info: 213/625-0414.

Feb. 23—Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, 206 E. First St., Los Angeles. The JAHSC is scheduled to host the annual Visit the Camps Day on Fri., March 23. The day will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a morning plenary session, followed by lunch, and afternoon classes. Info: 213/625-0414.

Feb. 23—San Antonio, Sun., Feb. 23—"Living the American Dream," code harassment, a film, to celebrate the strengths and resilience of three-generation Japanese American family businesses that have thrived in the community. JAPAN, 213/625-0414.

March 2—San Jose, Va., Feb. 23—“Vase Hallout will speak on mixed race identity in the Japanese American community. 1-30/30 p.m. Desert Mountain Library, Intelectual Commons, USC, parking in Structure X, Gate 3 on Figueroa Street. Free Info: 213/625-0414 or karl.matsumuka@usc.edu.


MORE

Mon., Feb. 17—Sixth Annual JACL National Legislative Conference; an intense policy class, to include the high point of the JACL campaign season. Registration, 5th St.; "In the Footsteps of a Hero:" tour of the Go For Broke Monument. Info: 310/322-9222 or 310/322-9410.

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Arakawa, Martha Makiko, 81, Milliken, Colo., Sciothslib, Neb.; born; survived by sons Robert, Tad, Howard; daughter Cheryl (Boulder, Colo., Alan of Mountain View; 1 gc., daughters Sue Meg (Seattle), Shari (Yokohama, Sachiko Fujimoto of Stockton, Oct. 31; Stockton-born; survived by wife Mizuno; sons Ken, (Sakura); sisters Tokiko
American Memorial Post #4851 and Korean War U.S. Navy veteran; 3 gc. born; Minidoka internee; survived by Ontari o, Ore., Jan. 22; Seattle-bor n; briefly at Seabrook Farms; Gila
Aurora, Colo.; sons Craig Fujisaki, brother Ben; sister Hatsue Nakamura; predeceased by husband Ralph; daughter Joyce Hayes; son Bruce; 2 gc., 2 ggc.; brothers Willia m and Art, brother-in-law Bill Smith and Kevin J. Williams, all of Moraga. Denver; 22 gc., 2 ggc.; brother Leon Thompson of Las Vegas; sisters Sakae Nishimura and Yo Yoko; predeceased by his wife Hiroko. Kato; 3 gc.
Khirka, Junior Tsuchiaki, 77, Pacoletto, Idaho, Nov. 30, 1994; survived by wife Akiko; son Rick; daughters Karen, Diane; 7 gc., 1 gc.

Genishi, Mary Hisako Naka- mura, 81, Tornio, Ohio, N.J., Nov. 6, 1994; survived by grandchildren; formerly of Arroyo Grande and Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Kohuse, Minnie Somi, 87, Chicago, Nov. 11; she and her late husband, the Rev. Gwynly M. Redding; 2 gc., 57, 101, 11.

Kobayashi, Arita, 70, San Francisco, Jan. 7; Marysville-born; survived by wife Hilda; sons Mike (San Francisco), Larry (Sacramento, Calif.); daughters Judy Satow, Nellj (Geni) Hanf; 3 gc., 57, 77, 101.


Koizumi, Kazuo, "Kohi," 83, Ontario, Ore., Dec. 13; Los Angeles, Calif.; survived by sons by Hilda; daughter Mary (Kato) Gamez; 3 gc.; brother Ted Shoda; sisters Yo Yoko and daughter Hannah Mizumoto.

Kosaki, Minoru, 88, Denver, Dec. 1; retired Wisconsin; 4 gc., 11; predeceased by wife Jean; daughters Irene; 7 gc., 1 gc.

Kosa, Issay, 80, Los Angeles, Calif.; born; survived by sons Kenji, wife Satoko (yokohama, Sachiko Fujimoto of Stockton, Oct. 31; Stockton-born; survived by wife Mizuno; sons Ken, (Sakura); sisters Tokiko
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Kosa, Issay, 80, Los Angeles, Calif.; born; survived by sons Kenji, wife Satoko (
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Mar 27-APR 6

 indirect flight from Los Angeles.

NEW ORLEANS BILoxI HOLIDAY TOUR

Mar 3-9

 indirect flight from Los Angeles.

NEW ORLEANS BILoxI HOLIDAY TOUR

Mar 10-16

 indirect flight from Los Angeles.

NEW ORLEANS BILoxI HOLIDAY TOUR

Mar 17-23

 indirect flight from Los Angeles.

NEW ORLEANS BILoxI HOLIDAY TOUR

Mar 24-30

 indirect flight from Los Angeles.

NEW ORLEANS BILoxI HOLIDAY TOUR

Mar 31-Apr 6

 indirect flight from Los Angeles.

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