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JACL Joins 27 APA Organizations on Amicus Brief Supporting the University of Michigan's Affirmative Action Programs

The JACL has joined the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, its affiliates, and 24 other APA organizations in filing a "friend of the court" amicus curiae brief in support of the University of Michigan in the two affirmative action cases before the Supreme Court — *Grutter v. Bollinger* (which challenges the Law School's admissions policies) and *Gratz v. Bollinger* (challenging the undergraduate admissions policies).

At issue is the university's admissions programs, which are being challenged under the Constitution and federal law by a white applicant who contends that the university, in balancing a number of criteria to determine admission — including scholastic achievement, test scores, extra-curricular activities, race and diversity factors — employs policies which effectively discriminate against her.

"Affirmative action is not about denying opportunity; it is providing it in fields where many have been excluded historically," said JACL National President Floyd Mori. "Glass ceilings and other discrimination continue to deprive many qualified people of opportunities for promotion, and we need thoughtful, balanced affirmative action programs to address these inequities. Any dilution of affirmative action programs will set our nation back a century in equal opportunity."

JACL National Youth/Student Council Representative Joshua Spry, currently attending the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis, added, "Higher education is about being exposed to new ideas and being challenged by different points of view. Students learn as much outside of the classroom as we do

See MICHIGAN/page 6

COMMENTARY Taking On the U.S. Patriots Act

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

Last month, I consulted with JACL National President Floyd Mori and suggested that we take a hard look at the U.S. PATRIOTS Act, passed by the Congress shortly after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks almost a year and a half ago.



It's my belief that the JACL should consider filing a legal challenge of the Act to test whether the courts will allow the government's law enforcement agencies to continue to exercise the right to infringe on the civil liberties of American citizens and legal resident aliens.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11th, the country was gripped by the lin-

gering horror of that day and by the fear of future terrorist threats in this country. The nation was also swept up with the fervor of nationalism, and in that fervor, the Congress passed one of the most extreme statutes ever enacted in the history of this nation. The U.S. PATRIOTS Act was authored by Attorney General John Ashcroft's senior staff and was kept under wraps until it was almost up for a vote by the House and Senate.

No one could fault the passage of that legislation. Not even the ACLU, the only public group allowed to comment on the bill in closed briefings; they expressed concerns about the bill but didn't try to stop it. We all felt the crisis in a very visceral way in those days after Sept. 11th.

It's been over a year since that tragic September day we'll always

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As Community Commemorates DOR, Calls Continue for Apology and Resignation of Rep. Coble Who Made Comments Endorsing JA Internment

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

As Japanese Americans across the country held Day of Remembrance events commemorating the 61st anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, the community continues to press for an apology and resignation of a North Carolina congressman who said the World War II internment of JAs was appropriate.



COBLE

More than two weeks after Republican Rep. Howard Coble made his controversial comments, he has released two statements of regret but no apology and has made it clear that he will not step down as chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

"When Coble finally issued his 'regret' statement, he didn't apologize. In some ways, it was like Shaq's first apology — an empty statement that had no meaning at all," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "What this tells me is that Coble is not going to admit that his racist views are pre-

cisely that, racist."

Tateishi believes Coble must step down as chair of the homeland security subcommittee because he has shown a lack of sensitivity and understanding required to shape the nation's policies in response to potential terrorist threats.

"He's simply the wrong person for that responsibility, and it's incumbent upon us to do what we can to make sure it's not he who shapes this nation's policies in the treatment of those suspected of being threats to national security, as this nation saw us during World War II," he said.

During a Feb. 4 WKZL-FM radio call-in show in Greensboro, N.C., Coble disagreed with a caller who said Arab Americans should be put in internment camps for national security but said he agreed with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to intern JAs during WWII.

"We were at war. They (Japanese Americans) were an endangered species," said Coble, 71. "For many of these Japanese Americans, it wasn't safe for them to be on the street."

He then added, "Some (Japanese Americans) probably were intent on doing harm to us, just as some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on

doing harm to us."

Coble's comments sparked an immediate deluge of angry responses from civil rights groups and community members, and various online petitions calling for his resignation and apology began to be circulated.

A few days later on Feb. 7 Coble refused to apologize outright for his comments saying, "I was just stating historical fact. If those comments were offensive to anyone, I apologize for that. I did not intend to be insensitive or uncaring."

By Feb. 10 Coble released another statement of clarification saying the internment was "the wrong decision and an action that should never be repeated." The congressman said he had no intention of resigning as chair of the subcommittee but added, "I regret that many Japanese and Arab Americans found my choice of words offensive because that was certainly not my intent."

But Coble's response to the situation so far has failed to quiet down the ire of the Asian Pacific American community. Two online petitions, yellowworld.org and PetitionOnline.com, calling for his resignation and apology had collected close to 6,000 signatures by

See COBLE/page 9

Support for New Redress Bill, Outrage Over Rep. Coble's Remarks Focus of Los Angeles 2003 Day of Remembrance

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

This year's Day of Remembrance (DOR) received renewed interest as Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., announced the introduction of a new redress bill; and a broad coalition of Asian Pacific American and Muslim American organizations and Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., gathered at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on Feb. 15 to voice their outrage over remarks made by Congressman Howard Coble, R-N.C.

Coble, who chairs the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, touched off a firestorm Feb. 4 when he said over the radio that he supported the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

H.R. 779

In light of Coble's remarks, Becerra appealed to the more than 300 DOR attendees to support the re-introduction of the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2003 (H.R. 779), which would provide

than 60 years ago was wrong," said Becerra. "I don't believe a nation founded on the principles of justice can stop until it secures justice for everyone. And all of our colleagues must be counted on to help us, including Howard Coble."



PHOTO: MARIO G. REYES

From left to right: Robin Toma, JACL PSW Community Achievement Award recipient; Congressman Mike Honda; and Janice Harumi Yen, NCRR Fighting Spirit Award recipient at the Los Angeles DOR.

\$45 million in public education monies and address unresolved redress cases, particularly those affecting the Japanese Latin Americans.

"Clearly, what happened more

In 2000, Becerra had introduced a similar bill, getting more than 40 co-sponsors, before it was struck down.

Becerra's 2003 bill would authorize \$45 million to replenish the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). The redress bill — the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 — had originally mandated \$50 million to be set aside for educational programs through CLPEF but only \$5 million had been funded. Becerra's bill would fulfill the original mandates of the 1988 law.

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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

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Letters to the Editor

Arab & Muslim Americans at Risk? Congressman Coble's Defense of Internment: Ignorant, Racist or Dangerous?

Is U.S. Congressman Howard Coble, R-North Carolina, ignorant, racist or dangerous? That's the question that went through my head when I read how this week he defended the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II saying "some probably were intent on doing harm to us... just as some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on doing harm to us."

Doesn't he know that not one JA was ever proven to be a spy or saboteur? Doesn't he care that the military intelligence services and the FBI saw JAs as a loyal immigrant community? Doesn't he realize that heroic Nisei soldiers fought fascism and sacrificed their lives in record numbers to prove their loyalty? Doesn't he know how hundreds of Nisei draft resisters stood up for America's Bill of Rights, going to prison in protest of their families being locked up? I guess not.

Maybe that's why he doesn't object to men, women, children, and the elderly being rounded up on the basis of their race, instead of any wrongdoing. Maybe that's why he voices no objection to Italian and German Americans, "some intent on doing harm," left

free of internment.

Today, Arab, Muslim and Sikh Americans face increasing prejudice during rising threat of war. Today, Middle Eastern men face selective registration, arrest, and deportation based on their race, religion, and national origin. Today, the misnamed American Patriot Act splatters mud on Americans' civil liberties.

Congressman Howard Coble (chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security) stands in a powerful position to help decide the fate of Arab and Muslim Americans. I'm grateful that most Americans today believe in tolerance, fair treatment — and learning from past mistakes like internment. In this time of crisis, it's vital that JAs and other decent Americans have the courage to stand up for our Arab, Muslim and Sikh neighbors.

Is Congressman Coble ignorant, racist or dangerous? Unfortunately for America, he's all three.

Andy Noguchi
Florin JACL
Civil Rights Co-chair

Re: Anna Guo Shooting

Referencing your front page article Jan. 17-Feb. 6, 2003, "Judge Rules Shooting of APA Girl Justified," as a retired police officer, from the information contained in it the judge made the correct decision regarding Officer Kristin Rupp's firing her weapon.

In Utah, the law states that an officer may discharge their weapon in defense of self or others, and in departmental policy orders officers are to defend themselves with "appropriate force to the threat." Tactical threat training for officers has demonstrated that a determined attack rush by a person with a knife can cause fatal or serious bodily injury if that person is within 25 feet of the officer. The officer simply cannot draw their weapon, bring it into position to fire, and fire within the time frame when so assaulted. Police training is designed to protect the officer from being seriously injured or killed while working within the line of duty. But, death or injury can be sustained by accident or intent while on the job regardless of what we do.

I cannot speak to the exact scenario the officer encountered, but I do know this: I don't care what the age, race, ethnicity or political nature of the person is — if they suddenly rush at me with a knife, I would shoot them until they stopped their assault. For those who say, the officer shouldn't have shot more than once — they do not understand the dynamics of a determined person's ability to strike and strike again. Most often, in knife assaults, multiple strikes are made during the frenzy of the attack.

Ms. Guo is fortunate she did not receive fatal injuries from being shot, but I'm quite certain that the officer shot only until the attacker ceased her assault because that is how we were trained. Our Range Masters would pound home that the officer once engaged in a shooting incident must keep shooting until the assault is stopped. That is why some determined attackers are shot as many as ten or more times.

We cannot always jump on the bandwagon and blame officers in the performance of their duties,

then complain that the police are not doing their jobs. Whenever a person behaves irrationally, it doesn't matter whether or not they are Asian, Latino, African, or white — if their behavior creates danger to the public or any person, then, the police must take action. It is easy to criticize the police, but I as an Asian American, who served in the police am disheartened by the failure of Asians to participate in pro-social activities that support the police. Also, white police officers are more understanding of Asians if they have Asian police officers in their ranks.

JACL was wrong to support the protests in this case, as the case itself indicates that the facts support a good police self-defense shooting.

Jeff Kamei
Salt Lake Chapter JACL

Re: JACL Passed Over for Donation

To clarify the so-called controversy of the letter to the editor in the Feb. 7-20 issue, the San Mateo Gardeners Association's transfer of the property it owns to the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center instead of to the San Mateo JACL does not and was not meant to undermine the JACL.

The fact that the San Mateo Community Center is part of the San Mateo JACL but in the future will become an independent nonprofit organization does not mean the San Mateo JACL will be left out. The San Mateo JACL will benefit with all its affiliated organizations that serve the community to use the facilities as one big family. There will be a greater chance to utilize this property once the new center organization becomes final.

The only sad part of this transfer is that of the disbanding of the San Mateo Gardeners Association whose members helped build the San Mateo Central Park Japanese Garden in 1966 and has been an important part of the City of San Mateo.

We feel the community center will have the support of everyone in San Mateo.

Roy Kato
San Mateo, Calif.

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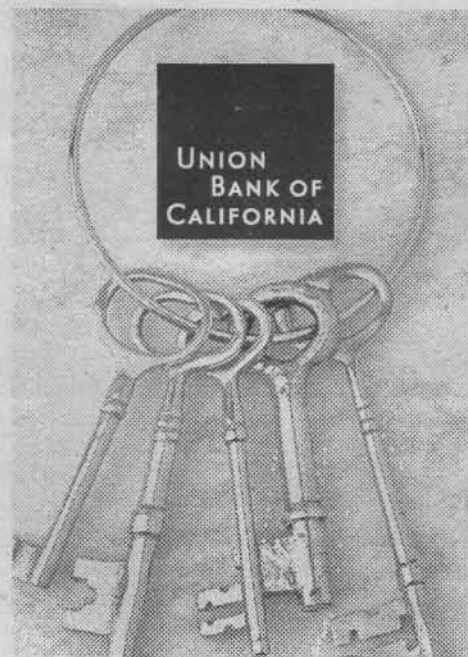
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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the Pacific Citizen.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

April 1 Deadline Set for JACL's Masaoka Fellowship Program

The JACL is currently seeking candidates for its 14th. Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship, an annual program which places extraordinary students in congressional offices to learn about public policymaking firsthand. Dr. H. Tom Tamaki, chair of the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund, announced that this year's application deadline is April 1.

All students who are in at least their third year of college or in graduate/professional programs and who are American citizens are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to those with a demonstrated commitment to Asian Pacific American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community.

The successful candidate will serve his or her fellowship in the office of a U.S. senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives for three and a half months and receive a stipend of \$8,500 and round trip airfare from the fellow's home to Washington, D.C. The fellowship period may be the fall term (September through December 2003) or the spring term (February through May 2004) and

will be arranged with the congressional office and the fellow.

The most recently selected Masaoka fellow was Erin Watari of Troutdale, Ore., who will be serving in the office of Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., during the spring of 2003.

The JACL established the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major purpose of the fund is to develop leaders for public service by providing opportunities for college seniors or students in graduate or professional programs to work for a member of Congress or a senator. The fellows' assignments include a variety of tasks where they will be exposed to all facets of the work of the representative or senator and his/her staff.

For more information or a fellowship application, visit the JACL website at www.jacl.org/masaoka.html or contact the Washington, D.C., JACL office at 202/223-1240 or e-mail: dc@jacl.org. ■

Hate Crime Victim Wins Maximum Penalty in Civil Suit

By TRACYUBA
Writer/Reporter

Ismael Iletto, the brother of slain hate crime victim Joseph Santos Iletto, fought back tears Feb. 6 as he praised an unprecedented civil rights ruling recently made by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) Commission.

"It's hard to believe it's been three and a half years since the murder of my brother," Ismael Iletto said. "There's not a single day where the family has forgotten. Anytime we hear news of a hate crime incident or a shooting, it always brings us back to that afternoon that he was shot nine times."

The state civil rights commission awarded Iletto, the 39-year-old Filipino American postal worker who was killed by a white supremacist in 1999, the maximum compensation of \$175,000 for emotional distress and violations of his civil rights.

The Jan. 28 ruling represents the first time the maximum penalty has been awarded in a hate crime case under the Ralph Civil Rights Act, according to



PHOTO: TRACYUBA

Ismael Iletto (left), brother of hate crime victim Joseph Iletto, and Stewart Kwoh (right), APALC executive director, praise the DFEH's recent civil rights ruling against Iletto's killer Buford Furrow.

DFEH Director Dennis Hayashi.

California's Ralph Civil Rights Act prohibits verbal or written threats as well as physical assault or attempted assault based on race, color or national origin.

"This is a very important precedent because it will not only help the Iletos in this particular case, but it will help all future victims of hate violence in California," Hayashi said.

"It's not possible to adequately compensate Mr. Iletto or his family for the pain and suffering they have endured as a result of

this tragedy, but we hope the commission's decision brings some closure to them," he said.

Iletto was gunned down by Buford Furrow on Aug. 10, 1999, in Chatsworth, Calif., as he made his postal route. Furrow had just come from the North Valley Jewish Community Center where he had shot and injured several children and adults.

Autopsy reports determined that five of the nine shots to Iletto were fatal, but not immedi-

See ILETO/page 9

National Firm to Design JA WWII Arkansas Traveling Exhibit

Quatrefoil Associates of Laurel, Md., a renowned national exhibit design firm, has been selected to produce a traveling exhibition that will tell the story of the Japanese American experience in World War II Arkansas to people across the United States.

During WWII, over 16,000 JAs from California and Hawaii were incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps in Jerome and Rohwer in South Arkansas.

This premiere traveling exhibit

will be part of the "Life Interrupted" project, which will feature exhibits, a symposium, an educational curriculum, teacher training and a reunion of former internees of Jerome and Rohwer.

The project is a partnership between the University at Little Rock (UALR) and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. The traveling exhibition is being funded by a grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation of Little Rock.

"Quatrefoil will make it possible for us to share this important story with the nation through a powerful, world-class presentation," said project chair Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis, who is also chairperson of the UALR History Department.

Quatrefoil is an award-winning firm that specializes in creating non-traditional museum experiences using interactive and interpretive designs. The firm recently completed exhibits at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., which allows visitors to step into the shoes of a spy, and broke technological barriers by creating and installing the Sound Lab at the Experience Music Project in Seattle, which features an interactive gallery that allows visitors to learn to play musical instruments in just a few minutes.

Quatrefoil also developed a permanent exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry Reusable City in Chicago. The 8,000-square-foot installation explores urban environment hot spots,



Spirit Trickey stands in front of the exhibit at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. Trickey is the daughter of Minnie Jean Brown Trickey, one of the nine African-American students who integrated Central High School during the 1957 desegregation crisis.

including ozone, acid rain, drinking water, garbage and brownfields. The interactive design includes a real-time ozone monitoring system, a landfill periscope that challenges visitors to find the 40-year-old hot dog and a drinking water taste test.

In Arkansas, Quatrefoil designed the highly acclaimed Delta Cultural Center in Helena, which features exhibits that tell the sto-

ries of the development of blues, soul, gospel and other music in the region, as well as the exhibit at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic site, which depicts the 1957 school desegregation crisis.

For more information about the JA WWII Arkansas traveling exhibit or the "Life Interrupted" project, visit www.lifeinterrupted.org. ■

APALC Releases Preliminary Report on Census 2000

As part of its efforts to facilitate community access to Census 2000 information, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center's (APALC) Demographic Research Unit announced the preliminary release of its "Demographic Profile of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Southern California: Census 2000."

The demographic profile compiles available Census 2000 data on Asian and Pacific Islanders for the United States, California and three counties in Southern California: Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego. It is intended as a tool to assist grant writers, program planners, advocates, legislative staff and elected officials in better describing and understanding this growing population and its needs.

"While Census 2000 is clearly

the single most comprehensive source of information on APIs, the data are often difficult to access and interpret," said Stewart Kwoh, president and executive director of APALC. "Compiling this data in an accessible format helps us become more effective service providers and advocates."

Census 2000 data gathered in the demographic profile show APIs to be the fastest growing racial group nationally, in the state of California and in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. With that growth has come a dramatic increase in the number of linguistically isolated API language speaking households.

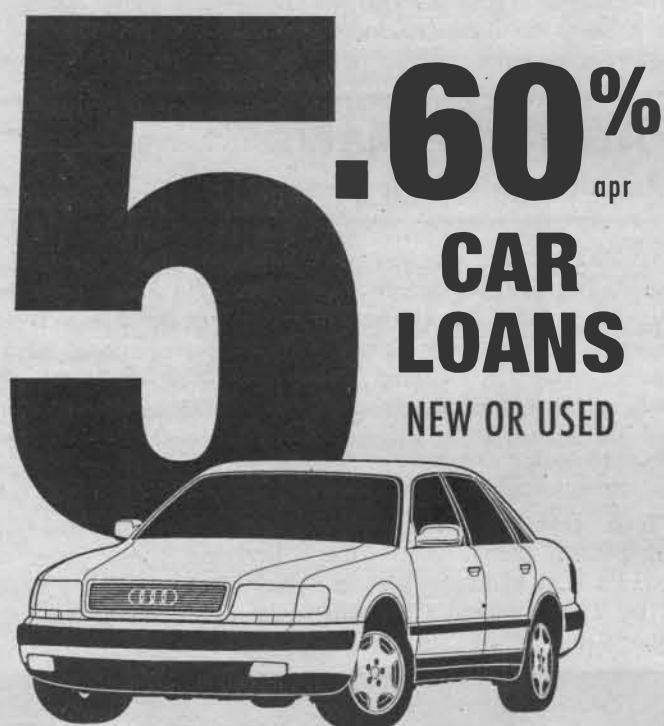
Additional Census 2000 data scheduled for release later this year will provide important information on the characteristics of API ethnic

groups. APALC will issue a full report including these data in late 2003.

"Having these ethnic data are critical given our community's diversity," said Kimiko Kelly, research analyst at APALC. "Data for the Asian population as a whole often mask important differences between ethnic groups."

The "Demographic Profile of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Southern California: Census 2000" was supported through the generosity of AT&T, Farmers Insurance, Sempra Energy and the Chung Ying Tang Foundation.

It is currently available via the Internet at www.apalc.org/brochures.htm. Requests for a printed copy of the report should be directed to Kimiko Kelly at 213/977-7500 ext. 267. ■



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National Newsbytes

House Democrats File Brief in Michigan Affirmative Action Case

WASHINGTON—Nearly 100 House Democrats, including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, filed a brief with the Supreme Court in support of the University of Michigan's affirmative action admissions policy.

Members of the black, Hispanic and Asian American caucuses criticized President Bush for an administration legal brief opposing Michigan's race-based admissions policy.

Bush said on Jan. 15 that he supports diversity in higher education, but that Michigan's program "unfairly rewards or penalizes students based solely on their race."

The next day, the administration filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to strike down the university's policies.

Michigan's admissions policies have been under fire since 1997 when the school was sued by two whites denied admission to its undergraduate school and a third denied admission to its law school. Each claimed they were passed over in favor of less-qualified minority students.

Applicants for Michigan's undergraduate classes are scored by points, with minorities or some poor applicants receiving a boost of 20 points on a scale of 150. At the law school, admissions officers use a looser formula that tries to ensure each class has a "critical mass" of about 10 to 12 percent minority enrollment.

The Bush Administration says the point system is skewed toward minorities, noting that a perfect SAT score is worth just 12 points and an outstanding essay gets three points.

The Supreme Court has scheduled back-to-back arguments on the two lawsuits for April 1.

U.S.-Philippines Caucus Launched to Address Filipino American Issues

WASHINGTON—A new U.S.-Philippines Caucus was launched Feb. 12 by Congressmen Bob Filner, D-Calif., and Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who will co-chair the caucus, announced Congressman David Wu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

The caucus is composed of members interested in both U.S.-Philippines bilateral relations and the domestic needs and concerns of Filipino Americans.

"I am honored to be a part of this caucus, which will help serve the Filipino American community," Wu said. "I have long advocated for issues important to Filipino Americans, such as supporting Filipino airport security screeners and working to secure veteran's benefits for Filipino World War II veterans."

"(This caucus) will improve the dissemination of information about Philippines issues and allow members to more easily pursue issues of mutual interest to the

United States, the Philippines and Filipino American constituencies," Wu said.

Aung San Suu Kyi Wins \$1 Million Freedom Forum Award

WASHINGTON—Myanmar's democracy advocate, Aung San Suu Kyi, has been awarded the Freedom Forum's 2002 Al Neuharth Free Spirit of the Year Award, which carries a \$1 million prize.

Suu Kyi received the award for her "free-spirited, non-violent struggle for human rights and democracy" in Myanmar, also known as Burma, the forum said. A military dictatorship has ruled the Asian nation since 1962 and the current group of generals came to power in 1988.

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, Suu Kyi was put under house arrest by the military in 1989. In 1990, her party, the National League for Democracy, won an overwhelming election victory, but the military government refused to recognize the results.

Throughout the 1990s, Suu Kyi was sporadically held under house arrest, the last period from September 2000 to May 2002. She was released from formal house arrest on May 6, 2002, after strong international pressure and has resumed her efforts to restore democracy.

Suu Kyi cannot attend a March 20 ceremony in Washington to accept the award because she will not leave the country. Her son Alexander Aris, who lives outside the country, will represent her.

"I will never leave until I can return to this country freely," Suu Kyi said.

80-20 Group Fights 'Overaggressive' Prosecution of AA Scientists

FOSTER CITY, Calif.—The political action committee 80-20 announced Feb. 6 its resolution to

protect Asian and Asian American scientists and engineers from "improper government investigative tactics."

The board of directors of the group, which raises money and support for political candidates friendly to AA communities, unanimously adopted the resolution at its annual meeting.

Members said they wanted to help Asian scientists avoid the fate of Dr. Wen Ho Lee, a physicist once accused of stealing what some termed the "crown jewels" of U.S. nuclear weapons science. After being fired from Los Alamos National Laboratory and arrested in December 1999, Lee spent 279 days in solitary confinement before the government dropped 58 counts against him.

If 80-20's board suspects that another Asian or AA scientist is wrongfully imprisoned or unfairly treated during a federal investigation, the group will try to raise awareness through the media and politicians. The group, which is registered with the Federal Election Commission, said it has a mailing list of 600,000 people and 1,600 dues-paying members in the United States.

If the committee believes federal authorities are pursuing an "overaggressive, perhaps wrongful" investigation in part because of the scientist's race, it may also offer financial or legal support to the scientist.

Hawaiian Recognition Bill Introduced to Congress Again

HONOLULU—For the third straight congressional session, Hawaii lawmakers on Feb. 11 introduced legislation to grant native Hawaiians federal recognition on par with American Indian or Alaska tribes.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, its sponsor, has pushed for passage of a bill allowing the establishment of a native Hawaiian government similar to those on American Indian reservations since 1999. Sen.

Daniel Inouye is a co-sponsor, while Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case introduced a companion measure in the House. All are Hawaii Democrats.

Republican Gov. Linda Lingle, who is traveling to Washington, D.C., to meet with GOP lawmakers, said she will testify in support of the bill before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on Feb. 25.

The legislation would define the political status of those descended from the islands' original inhabitants, affecting about 200,000 people.

The bill would create an office within the Interior Department to focus on issues affecting the descendants and serve as a liaison between them and the federal government. An interagency coordinating group to monitor native Hawaiian policies would also be formed.

Critics have expressed concerns about how the legislation would affect American Indian programs. Some native Hawaiians had said the measure gives the federal government too much of a role in their affairs.

Hawaii's Oldest Known Resident Dies

HONOLULU—Ito Kinase, a Japanese woman who immigrated to the United States during World War I and became Hawaii's oldest known resident, died Jan. 24 at the age of 113.

Kinase was born in Japan on Dec. 31, 1889, and arrived in San Francisco in 1916 at the age of 27. She married a railroad worker after refusing to be a picture bride and insisting on seeing the man she would marry.

Kinase operated a truck farm and raised five children in Redmond, Ore., before moving to Hawaii in 1961 with her second husband to help care for one of her grandchildren.

Daughter Joyce Iwamuro once said her mother adopted the American lifestyle, although she never learned to speak English.

The Gerontology Research Group, which registers seniors over 110 years old, had listed Kinase as the sixth-oldest person in the United States. ■

APAs in the News

Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Nora Mitsumori, 81, will be one of 11 women honored at the 18th Annual "Women of the Year Awards Luncheon" March 10 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. The "Women of the Year" awards are given to nominees whose work helps bring about social and economic change and promotes women's equality and rights. Mitsumori served for six years on the national board of directors of the Older Women's League, which advocates for the need to reform Social Security to meet older women's needs. In 1981, she became an official delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. Today, she continues to volunteer at the Pasadena Senior Center with the Asian Club and TLC (To Locate Caregivers).

Kent Nagano, currently the principal conductor at the German Symphony Orchestra in Berlin as well as the Los Angeles Opera, will take over as musical director of the Bavarian State Opera in 2006, the Associated Press reported Feb. 3. Nagano, a Grammy winner, will have a five-year contract after his current contract in Berlin expires at the end of the


2005-2006 season. Nagano will replace Israeli Zubin Mehta and will be joined by Christoph Albrecht of Dresden's Semper Opera, who will become the Bavarian State Opera's director, said Bavarian Culture Minister Hans Zehetmair.

Tom Oye, a 100th/442nd World War II veteran, received the 2003 Prize for Humanity presented by The Immortal Chaplains Foundation at its 5th annual


awards ceremony in St. Paul, Minn. He accepted the award on behalf of the Nisei WWII combat service volunteers who risked their lives while their families were interned in U.S. concentration camps. As a replacement in Company B, Oye took part in the "Lost Battalion" rescue in Vosges, France. He became Battalion Sergeant Major after combat, serving in the Army Reserve for 25 years, and retired as Lieutenant Colonel. ■



(L-r): U.S. Army Chaplain and Minnesota Sen. Dean Johnson; Tom Oye, representing the Combat Services Volunteers of WWII; and Chaplain Kenneth Beale, who gave the program's benediction.




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100th/442nd Soldiers to Be Featured in Fourth of July Exhibit

The stories of two members of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team will be featured in a new exhibit July 4 in conjunction with the opening of the National Constitution Center, an institution dedicated to honoring and explaining the U.S. Constitution.

The museum will open on Philadelphia's historic Independence Hall and will feature soldiers William Nakamura and George Saito in the military portion of the exhibit.

The National Constitution Center recently honored the Go For Broke Educational Foundation and Nisei

World War II veterans with the "We the People Award." Go For Broke Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki accepted the award along with Don Seki (442nd) and retired Col. Harry Fukuhara (MIS). More than 25 other Nisei veterans from across the nation also attended the Veteran's Day event in Camden, N.J.

"It was a privilege to accept the 'We the People Award' on behalf of the Nisei World War II veterans," said Sato-Yamazaki. "Through this award, the foundation forged a working relationship with the National Constitution Center, and we hope to continue this affiliation

in the future."

The "We the People Award" is given to a person or group that exemplifies the qualities of active citizenship envisioned by our nation's founders and has made a noteworthy contribution to constitutional principles.

Previous awards have gone to Senators Robert C. Byrd and Mark O. Hatfield, publisher Benjamin C. Bradley, Ambassador Walter Annenberg and Rep. John R. Lewis.

For more information about the center or its opening, call 215/923-0004 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org. ■

Baseball Returns to Manzanar

The National Park Service has agreed to submit for federal approval this fall a proposal calling for the restoration of one of the baseball diamonds at the Manzanar National Historic Site. In the interim, baseball will play a central role in Manzanar's grand opening on Nov. 8-9, 2003.

Two rosters will be assembled this spring in the Los Angeles area, where most of Manzanar's population resided prior to World War II: a team of 10- to 13-year-old Japanese Americans and a team of 14- to 17-year-olds — many of whom will have direct family ties to the wartime internment. On Sat., Nov. 8, both lineups (to be named after two of Manzanar's actual baseball teams) will play a game apiece against teams of comparable ages from the surrounding Owens Valley.

The last event of the park's opening weekend — to take place on Sun., Nov. 9 — will be a game between two present-day teams from the Nisei League (the oldest JA baseball league still in existence), whose fathers and grandfathers once played each other behind barbed wire at the same location. This event will follow a ceremony honoring surviving camp ballplayers and commemorating their efforts to keep the spirit of the game alive even while every other vestige of their American heritage had been taken away.

The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown has been invited to participate in this celebration.

Manzanar was one of ten federal concentration camps built at the onset of WWII to incarcerate the 120,313 Americans of Japanese descent living on the West Coast. ■

34th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 26

Poston, Ariz., and Jerome, Ark., internees will be remembered at the 34th annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar scheduled for April 26, the Manzanar Committee announced. This year's theme is "Call to Action: End Racial Profiling, Stop the War."

In 1999, the committee began a tradition when it requested camp reunion and pilgrimage committees to design banners for their respective camps and donate them to the committee. Each year, the committee has honored two of the War Relocation Authority camps by raising the banners and posting them around the cemetery monument at the annual pilgrimages. The banners will be donated to the National Park Service to be dis-

played in the permanent exhibit when the Visitor's Center and Park Headquarters open in the restored auditorium in the fall of 2003.

The pilgrimage program will feature Taiko Center of Los Angeles and other musical guests. A Buddhist and Christian interfaith service organized by Rev. Paul Nakamura of the Oriental Lutheran Church will take place in front of the cemetery monument. Additional speakers will be announced at a later date.

The committee also announced that it has received a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant to create a booklet of poetry and expand the Saturday night Manzanar After

Dark (MAD-ness!) program to a full weekend of programming beginning on Friday night, April 25.

The Manzanar National Historic Site is approximately 200 miles north of Los Angeles on Highway 395. During World War II, more than 10,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated at the camp.

The annual pilgrimage is free and open to the public. No registration is required. The committee welcomes volunteers to assist with the pilgrimage. For further information about the committee, check the committee website at www.manzanarcommittee.org, e-mail sueke@msn.com or call 323/662-5102. ■

Deadline for Terminal Island Memorial Monument Inscriptions Set for March 31

Those who missed the first dedication of the Terminal Island Memorial Monument will be given a final opportunity to contribute and have their names or names of family members inscribed onto the monument plaque, announced Yukio Tatsumi, president of the Terminal Islanders, and Minoru Tonai, chairman of the memorial monument committee.

Nearly 3,000 Japanese Americans lived on Terminal Island

before World War II. Those who would like to represent family members, living or deceased, are encouraged to donate money to the monument, on which they may inscribe the names of loved ones, businesses, organizations or fishing boats that once made up the landscape of Terminal Island.

The donor category that you fall under will determine the number of lines that can be inscribed onto the donor plaque.

A form must be completed and returned with a postmark date of no later than March 31. Information by telephone will not be accepted.

For more information or to receive a form, contact one of the following Terminal Islanders as soon as possible: Min Tonai, 818/591-1269, or e-mail: tonaim@pacbell.net; Yukio Tatsumi, 562/435-6141; Tosh Izumi, 323/735-6675; or Kats Ryono, 310/326-4671. ■

Placer County Nikkei Reunion Preparations in Progress

Plans are underway for a reunion of Nikkei who attended Placer County schools before or after World War II. Placer County Nikkei who attended schools in internment camps during the war and Nikkei who moved before graduating from high school are also welcome to participate in the reunion.

Placer County High Schools include: Lincoln High, Roseville High, Placer High, Del Oro High and Oakmont High. Plans are being tailored to accommodate younger and older generations who have experienced the Placer County culture.

The reunion is scheduled for Oct. 17-19 at the Sacramento Hilton Arden West Hotel at 2200 Harvard Street in Sacramento, Calif.

Old friends will be able to mingle at a mixer on Friday and another on Saturday. A cocktail hour, banquet, dancing and informal social hour are also scheduled for Saturday, and

a breakfast will take place Sunday morning.

Tours, golf and other optional activities are being planned at nearby locales. The reunion committee welcomes suggestions for additional program items.

For more information about the reunion or to register, visit the website: www.placernikkeireunion.com. It contains registration instructions, fees (pending), hotel costs, directions and other pertinent information. The website also features "Placer Memories," which posts many common experiences that were unique to growing up in Placer County.

Persons who need additional information can direct inquiries to reunion chairpersons: Akio Seo, 916/443-7746, e-mail: aseo1@attbi.com; Tomio Masaki, 916/456-2595, e-mail: masakit@cwo.com; or Grace Miyamoto, 916/421-2788, e-mail: bachangrace@aol.com. ■

Acclaimed Photographer Corky Lee Speaks at Mile Hi JACL/OCA Banquet



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

Renowned photographer Corky Lee, who has documented Asian Pacific American culture for three decades, gave the keynote address at the recent Mile Hi JACL/OCA New Year's Banquet. Among the highlights of the evening were Lee's slide show presentation and an auction of an historic photo he took in 2002 of a group of Chinese Americans gathered at Promontory Point, Utah, where the transcontinental railroad was completed 134 years ago. The photo was auctioned for \$1,000 and proceeds went to OCA, JACL and the Colorado Asian Pacific Student Alliance.

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(Continued from page 1)

Robin Toma, who has been working with Becerra on the redress bill, said he was “stunned” when he heard Coble’s remark and renewed his commitment in trying to get equitable redress for JLAS. Toma had been co-lead counsel with the late Fred Okrand in the JLA class action lawsuit *Mochizuki vs. United States*, which was settled in 1998 and provided only \$5,000 in compensation to surviving JLAS. Many JLAS, angered by the *Mochizuki* ruling, opted out of receiving the

The coalition included: JACL, PSWD, NCRR, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Little Tokyo Service Center, Manzanar Committee, Organization of Chinese Americans, Media Action Network for Asian Americans, Visual Communications, Japanese American Bar Association, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council, Yellowworld.org, Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Council on

Honda said he referred Coble to Prof. Eric Muller's website, which posts original 1942 documents proving that the mass evacuation and incarceration of JAs was driv-

Salam Al-Marayati, executive

Honda, who opposed the first Patriot Act bill, said he fears that if the Patriot Act II bill passes, Americans will see a further erosion of their civil liberties. Honda said he has not seen the Patriot Act II bill yet but has been informed that intelligence gathering agencies will be given even more powers, with authority such as collecting the DNA of those deemed suspicious. ■

(Continued from page 1)

"America was built by the contributions of a diverse society, and we continue to benefit from that

diversity as succeeding generations enter the workforce, breaking down barriers of misunderstanding and discrimination," added Kristine Minami, JACL director for public affairs, who is also a student at the Georgetown University Law Center. "Affirmative action programs have been held constitutional by the Court. As a country which embraces diversity, how can we even consider sending the mes-

The Michigan cases will be heard by the Supreme Court in early April. ■

“Reflecting on Our Past: Shining Into the Future” was the theme for the Seattle JACL’s 81st annual installation banquet. Over 400 guests witnessed the installation of the youngest president in the history of the chapter: Tatsuo M.W. Nakata (pictured above). Nakata has served on the national board as vice president of youth as well as on the Seattle chapter board of directors and executive committee.

They are: Bill Tashima, president-elect; Hon. Vicki Toyohara, first vice president of operations; Joy Shigaki, second vice president of civil rights, aging and international relations; Elaine Akagi, third

Other awardees included Cherry Kinoshita, who received the Don Kazama — Human Rights Award, and George Yamane, who was posthumously honored with the Community Service Award. ■

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Compiled by Tracy Uba
Stories by Pacific Citizen
and Associated Press

In Sports & Entertainment

Former Kansas, NBA Player Rex Walters Starts Career in Coaching

OVERLAND PARK, Kan.—At the beginning of the season, **Rex Walters** struggled to sit still on the Blue Valley Northwest bench.

Instead, the former University of Kansas star stood for most of the action. He stepped a few feet onto the floor when he yelled. He kept up a constant chatter with players up and down the bench.

Walters, who is Hapa, came off more like the team's head coach rather than a rookie first-year assistant.

"Rex probably needs to bring it down a tad on the sidelines," Blue Valley Northwest athletic director Mitch Lubin said. "Normally the head coach gets away with a little bit, but the assistant doesn't always. But that's just Rex. He's just an intense and competitive guy. He's learning on the job and he's going to be a great coach."

After more than two decades as a top-level player, Walter, 32, is breaking into coaching at the bottom of the ladder. Gone are five-star hotels and chartered flights, both replaced by shivering in school buses and short trips across Johnson County.

Not that Walters minds. He considers coaching a career choice and is grateful veteran head coach Ed Fritz has given him a long leash.

"That's the greatest thing about coach Fritz is that he's allowing me to teach the game of basketball," said Walters, who helped take Kansas to the 1993 Final Four. "Some coaches might have a big ego and might not be receptive to another hands-on coach being right there. But we're both like-minded in that we're trying to win."

After playing 335 games in

seven NBA seasons, Walters returned to Kansas City and helped lead the Knights to the 2002 ABA championship. He was scheduled to serve as the team's assistant this season, but the Knights ceased operations in the fall, forcing Walters to look elsewhere for a coaching job.

"I really love what I'm doing," said Walters, who someday hopes to run a high school or college program. "I'm just trying to get my name out there."

Walters also teaches youngsters at the Rex Walters Basketball Academy at Dale's Athletic Academy in Lenexa before reporting to Blue Valley Northwest's practice.

"Everything is great with having Rex here," said Fritz, who coached at the center for 14 years. "He's just a great person and he's had a big impact on the kids and what we've been doing this year."

Players and coaches both describe Walters as a demanding coach with a strong faith in the game's details. Players say they like him because he brings a player's perspective to practice, though some admit they weren't familiar with his basketball exploits.

"I'm a big KU fan," said junior Brandon Robinson. "But I was kind of young back then, so I don't really remember him."

"I grew up in Iowa, so I had never heard of him," said junior Dan Petersen.

Now, Walters regales his players with tales of guarding Michael Jordan and has the team over to his home, where they watch television and play pool.

"I could do this for a long time and be very happy," Walters said.

BASKETBALL

NBA All-Star Yao Ming Carries Asians in America to New Heights

HOUSTON—Growing up, Gordon Quan was the only Asian kid on his block, one of only a thousand in the entire city. But times have changed.

Three years ago, Quan, 54, became just the second Asian American ever elected to the city council. But even Quan never imagined this: billboards all over Houston in Chinese; an entire arena singing a Chinese name; a city embracing an Asian man as its hero.

The name they sing is **Yao Ming**, the self-effacing 7-foot-6 Chinese basketball player and star of the Houston Rockets, who has become the year's biggest sports story. Yao started in the NBA All-Star game Feb. 9 and scored two points.

Asians in America have flocked to Yao, but it's his popularity among non-Asian fans that has many, including Quan, talking about broader change.

Thanks to Yao, they say, Hollywood portrayals of Asian men as inscrutable, subservient, bookish, slight and unathletic — your average overachieving pre-med student — are finally being dispelled.

Thanks to Yao, a group that has been misrepresented or ignored in popular culture suddenly has a growing public profile. Thanks in part to Yao, Quan said, people are urging him to run for mayor.

While AAs represent 4 percent of the nation's population and have flourished in this country, many complain they are still treated like outsiders.

"Asianness was never a big pride item," said Phillip Wu, 33, of Atlanta. "I always wanted to de-Asianize myself more so that I could fit in."

But last month, Wu was one of 500 AAs who turned out to root for Yao against the Atlanta Hawks. One highlight: Yao's first technical foul for taunting after a dunk.

"We love it!" cried one AA web commentator.

The scene was different on June 26, in New York's Madison Square Garden, when the Rockets made Yao, 22, the first pick in the NBA draft. Some spectators jeered, "Go back to China."

At 7-foot-6, Yao is one of the tallest players in league history and has remarkable agility, shooting touch and court vision. At 296 pounds, he is thick enough to set up in the low post.

He started slowly, averaging just 3.3 points and 3.7 rebounds in his first six games. Broadcaster Charles Barkley declared Yao a bust.

In a Nov. 15 game against Phoenix, Yao's feet got tangled as Stephon Marbury, the Sun's super-quick point guard, drove by him. Yao landed on his backside, and

every sports highlight show that night replayed the moment, showing the Phoenix bench doubled over in laughter.

AAs across the country cringed. "There was so much hype around him, if he blows it, it's my small internal battle magnified a thousand times," said Kevin Yen, 33, of Menlo Park, Calif.

Prior to Yao, two other Chinese 7-footers were already part of the recent surge in foreign players to the NBA: Wang Zhizhi, of the Dallas Mavericks, and Menk Bateer, of the San Antonio Spurs. But they played supporting roles. Much more was expected of Yao.

On Nov. 17, he delivered. Two days after the embarrassment in Phoenix, Yao scored 20 points against the Lakers (without Shaquille O'Neal). Four days later, Yao had 30 points and 16 rebounds against the Mavericks. On Dec. 3, against the Spurs and two of the NBA's most prominent big men, David Robinson and Tim Duncan, Yao dazzled again with 27 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks.

With performances such as these, fan sites began sprouting up everywhere. John Takahashi, 35, a life-long Rockets fan, is the creator of YaoMingMania.com, a website that generates more than half a million hits per month.

The biggest draw is Takahashi's game summaries — minute-by-minute analyses of Yao's game. Every Yao shot, rebound, assist and block.

"I realized the site was tapping into something that has been in the closet a long time, especially for Asian American males," said Takahashi, a project manager at a tech firm by day. "You go on the discussion board, and these guys are really thumping their chests."

Discussions of Yao often stray into race and the status of Asians in America.

"The guy's a starting point for a lot of Asian Americans to talk about the positive and the negative," said Jon Chang, 35, a freelance writer from Los Angeles. "It just shows you how hungry these people are for representation."

Houston is home to more than 225,000 AAs, about 4 percent of the city's population. The Rockets have worked to accommodate their new fan base, taking their staff through sensitivity training, hiring three Mandarin-speaking staff members, even introducing a weekly radio show in Mandarin.

AAs now account for 12 percent of group tickets, compared to 1 percent last year. The unofficial Yao Ming Fan Club was started by a group of area Chinese Americans. More than 1,300 fan club members

attended a sold-out game earlier this month on Lunar New Year.

With Yao, the Rockets' television ratings are up 64 percent and attendance is up 1,200 a game. Andy Yao, 26, who hosts a weekly radio program, says he knew that Yao had arrived when he saw a black woman at a game dressed in a traditional Chinese *qipao* dress, jumping and waving a sign in Chinese: *yaoming jiaoyou* — "Go Yao Ming!"

Basketball fans have embraced Yao's work ethic and humility, seeing him as an antidote to the league's petulant superstars. But he's a reluctant symbol, those close to him say.

In the locker room after the Lunar New Year game, he paused when asked about the fact that people see him as a symbol for Asians in America. Then he said, "This is something that can't be avoided. But it is a lot of pressure."

The pressure came to a boiling point a week before the Jan. 17 match-up between Yao and Shaq, when O'Neal made what some considered an offensive remark.

When asked about facing Yao, O'Neal replied, "Tell Yao Ming, 'ching-chong-yang-wah-ah-soh.'"

Irwin Tang, an Asian American Studies fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, wrote a scathing critique in *AsianWeek*, calling the statement a "racial slur." AAs across the country reacted angrily.

O'Neal later apologized, insisting he was kidding around. But the controversy fueled the interest in their match-up, which became the second most watched NBA regular season game ever on cable.

O'Neal challenged Yao immediately. But in the opening 4 and a half minutes, Yao rejected O'Neal's first three shots and hit his first three.

Midway through the game, broadcasters Mike Tirico, Bill Walton and Tom Tolbert addressed O'Neal's remark. Tirico said if it were made about any other ethnic group, it would be immediately seen as inappropriate.

It was a remarkable moment, many said: a primer on the AA perspective on national television.

In the end, O'Neal tallied 31 points and 13 rebounds compared with Yao's 10 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks. But Yao more than held his own, slamming home the decisive bucket with a minute left and walking away with an overtime win.

Besides winning enough votes to start ahead of O'Neal in the recent NBA All-Star game, Yao has gotten some lucrative endorsements, including his first two TV ads — one for Apple Powerbooks that paired him with Verne "Mini-Me" Troyer and a Super Bowl ad for Visa — both of which were hits.

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

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

FILM

S.F. International AA Film Festival to Run March 6-16

With more than 130 films and videos from 15 countries, the 21st San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival comes of age with a 43-program cinematic showcase offering a compelling reflection of Asian America and the Asian diaspora.

The festival will take place March 6-16 at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres and Castro Theatre in San Francisco, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley and the Camera 3 Cinemas in San Jose.

This year's festival opens with a spirited drama from British Indian

filmmaker Gurinder Chadha ("Bhaji on the Beach"). In "Bend It Like Beckham," a young Indian woman in London dreams of playing professional soccer, but her Old World family strikes back. The film features the English-language debut of veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher and was a smash hit in the U.K. and worldwide.

The festival winds down with "Robot Stories," the feature-length directorial debut from Greg Pak. Shot on digital video and starring a stellar cast of AA talent, including Tamlyn Tomita, James Saito and

Sab Shimono, the film presents a moving omnibus of stories exploring the intersection of technology and human relationships.

This year's Centerpiece presentation features the world premiere of Spencer Nakasako's ("AKA Don Bonus" and "Kelly Loves Tony") "Refugee," a gritty documentary that follows three young men from the Tenderloin who return to Cambodia and reunite with their long-separated family.

For more information, schedules or tickets, call 415/255-4299 or visit www.naatanet.org/festival. ■

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Very Truly Yours

Harry K. Honda

What's on Tap at COPANI XII Bolivia?

(That was the question posed by several friends after my previous column.)

The four days devoted to the next Pan-American Nikkei Association convention (COPANI XII) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, July 24-27, will feature, on the serious side, an agenda devoted to: (1) commerce and industry, (2) health, (3) farm, (4) Japanese language, (5) youth and (6) lawyers. Each will have panels or workshops Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and wrap-up reports from each group on Sunday morning.

On the lighter side are the welcome dinner Thursday, golf tournament (site to be determined) Friday and Saturday, a karaoke-music festival Friday evening, visits Saturday to the two Japanese farming communities (Colonia Okinawa and Colonia San Juan) outside Santa Cruz and the colonia's Bon festivities after sundown, and the farewell dinner-closing ceremony Sunday.

PANA's board of directors (the president, vice-president, secretary general, comptroller and presidents of PANA organizations in the 11 North and South American countries) gather Thursday afternoon, July 24, to review the business agenda, such as fees, the 2005 convention site and the bylaws.

The bylaws introduce "commissions," new by name, where in the past it was "committee." But the functions appear to be the same. There are 11 commissions involving (1) registration, (2) reception & transportation, (3) protocol & ceremonies, (4) tourism, PR & safety and (5) sports & recreation, plus the other six mentioned above.

Each coordinator (erstwhile, chairperson) will determine where to meet (as determined by the

interests indicated on the registration form), the subjects to be discussed, prepare working documents (some will be filed by participants prior to the convention), a sign-up sheet and notes for the final report.

These bylaws appear to be standing rules or guidelines for any PANA convention.

Of interest, however and new, is "agropecuaria," the name of the commission in Spanish but translated simply as "farm" in English. In Bolivia, it stands for "wealth in land and cattle." None of the PANA meetings in the past have ever addressed the matter of cattle.

I suppose our input could recall that in the United States, Issei farmers in Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska did raise cattle during and after World War I. From the late Dr. Masakazu Iwata's tremendous work and history of Japanese Americans in agriculture, his two-volume history, "Planted in Good Soil," mentions Shuichi Ujifusa in Wyoming had 600 heads and "was the first Issei (1917) to hire regular cowhands," who grazed the herd from Caspar to Wind River in the summer, then herded to a shipping point for the stockyards in Omaha.

In Nebraska, Rev. Hisanori Kano of North Platte, the Issei Episcopalian priest, who grasped American farming techniques while at the University of Nebraska, disseminated agricultural information to Issei farmers in the 1920s, including how to dehorn cattle.

Ugi Harada of Rocky Ford, Colo., said his father was smart, raising 200 to 300 heads of cattle in the 1920s for the manure for his 360-acre farm.

Mam Wakasugi of the Snake River Valley chapter and an Oregon Farm Bureau official was surprised to learn at the PANA

convention in São Paulo (1985), the role of Japanese rice farmers in Brazil who introduced the white Japanese rice into the country. It became the staple, replacing the unmilled brown rice.

The exchange that's evident at PANA workshops is truly educational and deepens our appreciation of what the Nikkei in North and South America have achieved and contributed as stated in the PANA motto: Seamos mejores ciudadanos en nuestro continente ... Let us be better citizens in our continent!

What originated at the PANA gathering in Mexico (1997) was the workshop on health "salud," where Japanese-speaking physicians and dentists established an "international" network to assist a visiting Nikkei in need of emergency care in a foreign country, especially represented through PANA.

The presence of physicians at the PANA convention in Santiago (1999) was like a miracle for me for when I accidentally fell at the Spanish Club steps onto the cobblestone driveway and cut my hand on shards of glass (broken bottle of Chilean wine). The physicians (two of them saw me fall) rushed me quickly to a sink in the building to thoroughly wash the wound.

En route to a 24-hour emergency clinic at the Pontifical Catholic University Hospital not far away, the physician on her cell-phone called ahead to alert a patient with a deep cut in the hand was coming. The wound was stitched and bandaged. Two hours later I was back in my hotel room. The bandages were changed at the Japanese polyclinic in Lima (a part of the medical network organized at PANA) two days later on my flight back. The doctor said to keep it clean and not worry. Throughout the ordeal, there was no pain. The tiny scar tissue today looks like another wrinkle for the palm reader.

At the last PANA convention in New York City (2001), the workshop on health ended with a bonus — a special tour for the doctors of two (or was it three?) well-known hospitals in the City.

The commission of lawyers "abogados" is new. What might this commission rule to enrich our PANA participants and connections? ■

try. Provisions of this statute allow the nation's law enforcement agencies to snoop in on our lives as never before, to legally step beyond the bounds of many of the principles we hold dear as individual rights and protections against a tyrannical government.

It's unprecedented. And it's dangerous to American democracy.

I have asked JACL Legal Counsel Michelle Yoshida to review the PATRIOTS Act to determine whether there are provisions of the Act that, under legal scrutiny, should be challenged. I believe there are but I leave that to our legal expert on the national board. Michelle served as a staff attorney for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights during the Clinton administration and is a veteran of the civil rights legal arena.

I realize that this course of action will not sit right with some of our members. I think this is inevitable. But I also believe it's our obligation to stand up for what we feel is in the best interest of this nation and American democracy if we believe that what the government is doing should be challenged. If we don't stand up for our principles, what then are we as an organization?

This is important. For us, for the nation. ■

COMMENTARY

Whither National JACL? To Live or Die Out?

By TAKASUMI KOJIMA

Recently, there have been reports of a crisis in JACL's future because of financial setbacks and decline of membership.

The crisis is, ironically, of its own making and is so severe that by 2022 the JACL may be reduced to less than 20 percent of the current membership.

There are those who derogate such predictions, saying a "revival" is in the making. Proof is offered in the form of increased awareness of civil rights and Nikkei cultural programs. This is indeed positive, yet it's hardly a renaissance.

Large numbers of Nikkei are drifting away from the JACL because they are not living and thinking as Nikkei. They are living instead as a single-identity, as a Hapa generation. The Hapa generation knows little about Nikkei culture. Worse, perhaps, they seem not to care. They continue to outmarry, and most don't try to bring their mate and children into the JACL. The result: a combination of ignorance, indifference and intermarriage leading to disappearance into the majority culture. A Nikkei Sonoma State demographer predicted 10 years ago that the Nikkei population in 2000 would be fewer than one million.

It is shocking to realize that the golden age of Japanese Americans may be expiring as we progress through the 21st century. Readers may find it difficult to accept such a prediction, for they may see an affluent, educated group of JACLers who appear anything but disappearing. Yet, the other face is equally impressive in its negative aspects:

- In the 1990s, more than 70 percent of Nikkei had mixed marriages;
- In the 20th century, fewer than 35 percent of the Nikkei belonged to churches. Lifelong members form a smaller percentage;
- The rate of ignorance of JACL activities is incredibly high;
- The number of Nikkei considered "active" in perpetuating the community's existence is estimated at only 25 percent.

If the prediction of a diminishing Nikkei community comes true, serious changes will result.

Less than one million Nikkei scattered throughout the nation will be insufficient to maintain the infrastructure necessary for communal and civil rights existence. There will not be enough Nikkei to support the JACL national office and its local chapters.

Less than one million Nikkei will constitute such an insignificant factor that the final process of disintegration will accelerate. There will be no reason to hang on, and nothing to hang on to.

A new Nikkei leadership must emerge. We need a Nikkei leadership which can address the pressing issue of civil rights, which can inspire and which believe in Nikkei values and ideas. That kind of Nikkei educator can thrive in a world where Nikkei ideas can cast a beacon of light. That kind of Nikkei leadership has the power to repair the JACL. Every Nikkei who cares about our future must join in building this new JACL.

Today, there has been a failure of leadership. We see a plethora of meetings, an outpouring of resolutions, discussions ad nauseam of the "financial" problems, formations of blue ribbon committees of every type, all regurgitating the same data and repeating that "further research" is the solution. The resolutions passed by every task force on continuity sound weirdly similar. Each report turns out to be empty of content, wordy and non-specific.

Was that the mighty battle cry to mobilize the JACL? President Mori and National Director Tateishi, who are both able leaders, seem frustrated in being unable to emerge with a strong, revitalizing program. What should have been a Nikkei summons to support a plan of action emerged as a dull bureaucratic failure.

In sum, present leaders have failed to provide vision, and the Nikkei have gone their own way. The result, if not reversed, would be to fade away. To prevent this, vision must be coupled with reality. Alas, that combination is missing today, and without it there is nothing. ■

TATEISHI

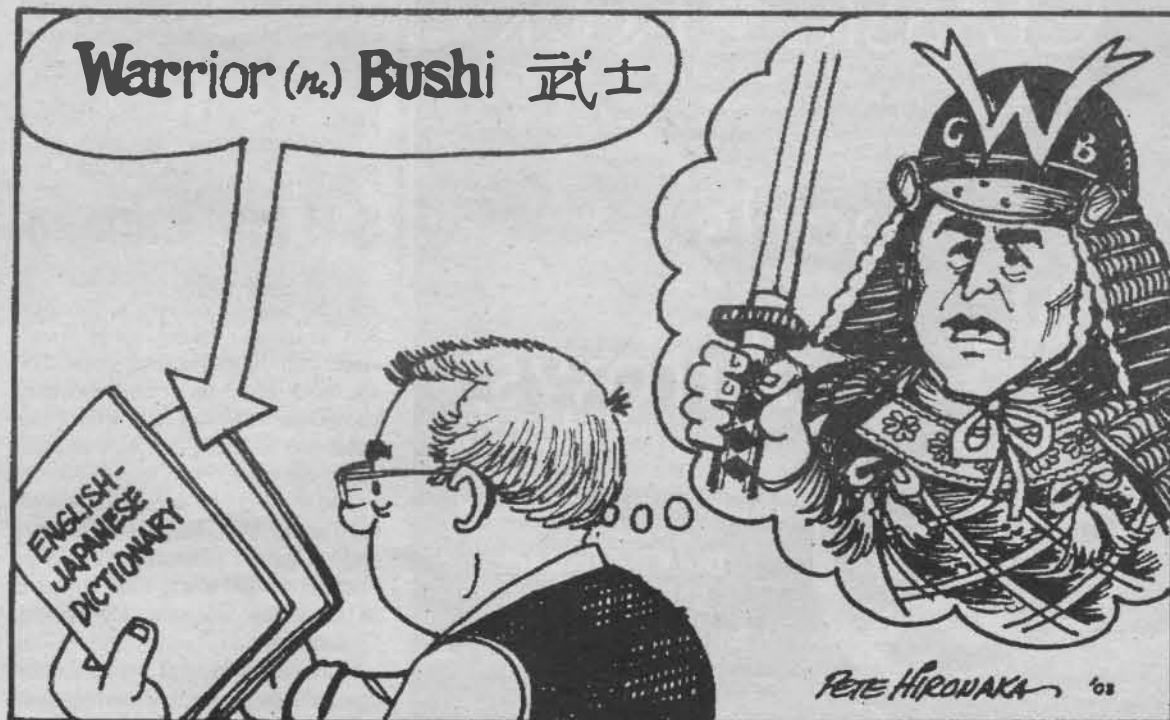
(Continued from page 1)

remember, and it's time that we take a critical look at the Act and, if warranted, challenge provisions of the statute we find offensive or that diminish or threaten the rights of American citizens and those who reside lawfully in this country as legal resident aliens.

The JACL was founded on the principle that no citizen or legal resident alien should have his or her privacy and freedoms denied because of race or national origin. Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents, the Nisei and Issei, were victimized by federal and local statutes that limited their rights in this country. It was wrong, and as an organization, the JACL successfully fought to strike down all of those discriminatory provisions.

Our mission hasn't changed since our founding as an organization. It's time we stood true to that mission.

We may not feel the impact of the PATRIOTS Act in our daily lives, but that shouldn't make it something we should summarily ignore. The Act allows for the potential infringement on the rights of all Americans and affects us all, each one of us in this coun-



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COBLE

(Continued from page 1)

Feb. 14. Dozens of APA groups have joined JACL's calls for an apology and Coble's resignation, including the Organization of Chinese Americans, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, Japanese American Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, National Federation of Filipino American Associations, and the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium.

"It is outrageous that a man whose task is to craft policies for national security should support racist practices of the past," said Raymond Wong, OCA national president. "The U.S. government has learned from this shameful mistake; Coble should as well."

"Rep. Coble's comments are outrageous and uneducated," said Floyd Mori, JACL national president. "To suggest that the government locked up 120,000 innocent people for their own protection is not only patronizing and offensive, but it is patently incorrect."

Many of the groups note that Coble's statements are factually incorrect, pointing to a 1983 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians report that states the main reason for the internment of JAs during WWII was not "military necessity" but "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." They also note that the U.S. government passed the 1988 Civil Liberties Act apologizing and paying reparations to the JA former internees, a bill that Coble voted against.

Coble's comments have also angered his fellow colleagues on the Hill. In a joint statement, Reps. Mike Honda, D-Calif., Robert Matsui, D-Calif., and David Wu, D-Ore., questioned

Coble's views of the JA internment and requested a face-to-face meeting. That meeting has yet to take place.

"I'm disappointed that he really doesn't understand the impact of what he said," said Honda, who spoke with Coble over the phone shortly after the congressman's statement was reported in the press. "With his leadership position in Congress, that kind of lack of understanding can lead people down the wrong path." Honda was himself interned as a child during WWII.

"At a time when we should be reflecting on a historic wrong, Congressman Coble has stood history on its head," said Wu. "Japanese Americans were not rounded up into internment camps for their own protection. If we do not accurately portray the past, we risk repeating it."

Honda has introduced a resolution calling for a national Day of Remembrance on Feb. 19 to commemorate the internment of JAs during WWII. Wu is one of the cosponsors.

California Assemblyman George Nakano, D-Torrance, recently introduced a similar bill in the state. As a former internee, Nakano is outraged at Coble's comments endorsing the internment.

"The guns from the guard towers were pointing into the camp, not out," he said. "The barbed wire fence surrounding the camps were pointing inward at the top to keep us in, not to keep others out."

In addition to Coble's comments, fellow North Carolina Republican Rep. Sue Myrick has been criticized for her recent comments about Arab Americans. In talking about domestic security threats to the conservative Heritage Foundation, she referred to Arab Americans, saying, "You know, and this can be misconstrued, but honest to good-

ness (husband) Ed and I for years, for 20 years, have been saying, 'Look who runs all the convenience stores across the country.' Every little town you go into you know?"

In a recent survey conducted by *The Charlotte Observer*, an overwhelming 62 percent of the readers believe both Coble and Myrick should apologize for their recent comments.

The controversy surrounding Coble comes just two months after the firestorm erupted around Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., for comments he made at Strom Thurmond's birthday party in which he seemed to be endorsing the racist segregationist policies of the 1940s. Lott was eventually forced to step down as leader of the Senate majority.

Like those critical of Lott, members of the APA community say they are going to continue to press the issue until Coble steps down as chair of the homeland security subcommittee.

"Trent Lott's racially charged comments led to a political firestorm against him," said Badi Ali, head of Muslims for a Better North Carolina, "But when Coble and Myrick express racial bias and prejudice against Arab Americans, little more than a rustle of discount is heard. Prejudice against Muslims and Arab Americans seems to be more readily acceptable in this country."

"Coble's statement offended one ethnic community in this country, and at another time it may have been an incident that would have died fairly quickly," said Tateishi. "But in light of the current climate in this country and the plight of targeted segments of our society, his position coupled with his statement have much more significance. It's that combination that awakened a sleeping giant. He referred to Japanese Americans as an 'endangered species.' Well, I think the likes of him are the endangered." ■

Associated Press contributed to this story.

ILETO

(Continued from page 1)

ate. The coroner found that Iletto suffered extreme emotional and physical trauma in the first few minutes of being shot.

"Going through the hearing, we've been learning how my brother suffered in the few minutes before he passed away. He suffered in that driveway all alone with no one there to comfort him," Ismael Iletto said.

In making its ruling, the commission agreed that Furrow "subjected Mr. Iletto to fear, intimidation, violence and murder, and that Mr. Iletto was singled out because of his race, color and national origin."

Furrow was ordered to pay the maximum penalty of \$150,000 plus an additional \$25,000 for violating Iletto's civil rights. In the criminal case, Furrow was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He is currently serving his term in Illinois.

It is unlikely that the Iletto family will recover any of the actual awarded monetary damages from Furrow.

But "this does send a message throughout our society that hate crimes will not be tolerated, that there will be action taken by communities and by government," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), which has been working closely with the family. "This will hopefully encourage the many victims of hate crimes who do not report the crimes to come forward. ... Joseph Iletto was not a unique, isolated example of what can happen when hatred results in violence. Joseph was one person who was terribly victimized."

And there have been many more like him, Kwoh added. In the latest reporting year of 2001, there was a 166 percent increase in hate crimes against APAs over the previous year.

"The numbers may not be astounding. There were 80 hate crime victims, but we know that's just the tip of the iceberg

because in many studies that we participated in and also looked at there was a severe underreporting problem in the Asian American, Latino and many immigrant communities," Kwoh said.

In the effort to provide more hate crime awareness education and to assist victims of hate crimes, APALC recently partnered with the Iletto family to establish the Joseph Iletto Hate Crimes Prevention Fellowship.

The fellowship's goals are to provide direct assistance to APA hate crime victims, educate the public about hate crimes and advocate for legislative and policy changes that will lead to improved protections against hate crimes.

"Many people who lose a loved one, they become very isolated, they become even more silent, they cut off relations with broader communities, and we understand that totally. But what we also appreciate is this courageous family who stepped forward not only to speak out against hate crimes but to reach out to people of different religious faiths, across racial boundaries," Kwoh said.

"The Iletto family has reached out to people around the country. They've gone to marches for gays and lesbians in Washington, D.C. They've reached out to the Jewish community. They've reached out to African American and Latino families. I'm very proud to say that they've become a hero of our community because they have taken a position, they've taken a stand for justice and they haven't just suffered in silence."

The Iletto family's newfound role as hate crime prevention advocates has come at a price, however. Ismael said they have received several death threats as well as hate mail, which recently forced them to change residence.

But he said they will continue to be a vocal presence and will soon be embarking on a college campus tour across the United States to talk about Joseph's story and further educate students about hate crimes. A large part of the proceeds will go towards the fellowship.

For more information about the Joseph Santos Iletto Hate Crimes Prevention Fellowship, call 213/977-7500 ext. 229. ■



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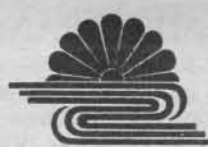
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6/1-6/10	Yamato Pacific Northwest & San Francisco - Redwoods National Park, San Juan Islands, Mendocino, Mt. Hood, Seattle.	Sharon Seto
6/21-6/29	Yamato Special Family Tour to Japan - Tokyo 4 nights and Kyoto 3 nights with special features for families.	Lilly Nomura
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8/10-8/17	Disney Cruise Vacation - 4-Nights Disney World Resort includes admission to all four theme parks, plus water parks and 3 nights cruise aboard the Disney Wonder.	Lilly Nomura
9/29-10/7	Yamato Exclusive East Coast/Fall Foliage Tour - Niagara Falls, Canada; Cooperstown, New York; Williamsstown, Massachusetts; Lincoln, New Hampshire; Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York.	Lilly Nomura
10/6-10/19	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 14 days visiting, Tokyo, Sendai, Kanazawa, Aramohashida, Kyoto, Takarazuka/Osaka.	Peggy Mikuni
10/7-10/18	New England / Fall Foliage Cruise aboard Holland America Cruise Lines' Rotterdam Visiting Newport, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; Bar Harbor, Maine; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Sydney, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Quebec City, Quebec.	Grace Sakamoto
10/14-10/23	Yamato Okinawa & Kyushu Tour - Naha, Manza Beach, Beppu, Kumamoto, and Hakata/Fukuoka via Arita/Izumi Porcelain/Ceramic Industry Hall in Saga.	Lilly Nomura
11/3-11/14	Yamato Tour to New Zealand with a 2 night pre tour to Honolulu. Christchurch, Mount Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua, Wailoma and Auckland.	Lilly Nomura
11/7-11/19	Yamato Tour to China - Beijing, Xian Yangtze River Cruise and Shanghai.	Sharon Seto
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TAUCK YELLOWSTONE/MT. TETON NTL PARK (10 days)	MAY 28
SUMMER BASEBALL TOUR (6 Parks/6 games incl. 2 Giants & Cooperstown)	JULY 30
ALPINE EXPLORER (Switzerland/Germany/Austria, 11 days)	AUG 15
RHINE RIVER CRUISE PLUS LUCERNE (11 days)	SEP 24
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JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

National

Fri.-Tues., March 7-11—Asian American Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.; co-sponsored by JACL and the Organization of Chinese Americans. Info: www.jacl.org/leadership/html.

East Coast

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., March 22—Philadelphia JACL Installation Dinner; 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner; Degenhardt's, 602 N. Black Horse Pike, Mt. Ephraim, N.J.; speaker Karen Narasaki, executive director, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC). Info: Hiro Nishikawa, 610/896-0538.

NEW YORK CITY

Fri., Feb. 28—Film, "The Game of Their Lives," about underdogs North Korea defeating Italy for the World Cup.; NYU Silver Center, Room 703, 200 Washington Square East; **RSVP by Feb. 25:** apa.rsvp@nyu.edu or 212/992-9653.

Tues., March 4—Slide presentation, "Asian Americans & the Vietnam War. Photographs by Corky Lee"; A/P/A Studies, NYU, 269 Mercer St., Suite 609. **RSVP by Feb. 28:** apa.rsvp@nyu.edu or 212/992-9653.

Sat., March 8—Exhibit opening, "Gateway to Gold Mountain: The Angel Island Immigration Experience"; Ellis Island Immigration Museum; accompanied by two art installations by Flo Oy Wong: "Made in USA: Angel Island Shh," and "My Mother's Baggage: Paper Sister/Paper Aunt/Paper Wife." Exhibits run through May 31.

Fri., March 14—Tenth Annual Asian/Pacific American Forum on Youth Culture; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Silver Center, NYU, 100 Washington Square East; leadership and educational training from A/P/A Studies for high school students. **RSVP by March 1:** 212/992-9653; www.apa.nyu.edu/youthforum/.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tues., Feb. 25—Panel Discussion, "The Future of Affirmative Action in Higher Education"; 7 p.m. The Law Offices of Jones Day, 51 Louisiana Ave. N.W.; presented by the South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. Registration: www.evite.com/sabadc@sabadc.org.

Fri.-Tues., March 7-11—Asian American Leadership Conference; an intense four-day look at our government and how it works; seminars with AAs at the highest levels in our government. Info: www.jacl.org/leadership, or Clyde Nishimura, 703/719-6720; clnye@qur.nrl.navy.mil.

Sat., March 29—Fifth Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk; from the National Japanese American Memorial at D Street & New Jersey Avenue, following the National Mall towards the Sylvan Theatre for martial arts demonstrations, Japanese performances and music; proceeds to benefit the NJAMF education fund. Info: Beth Fumishige, 703/548-1566, or Ben Watada, 703/978-5365.

Midwest

CINCINNATI

Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12—2003 NCSS Great Lakes Regional Conference; the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati, 151 W. 5th St.; "In the Land of the Free: The Japanese American Experience in America's Concentration Camps" is scheduled for Saturday Morning, April 12; speakers: Ed Ezaki, Henry Tanaka, Stogie Toki.

CLEVELAND

Fri.-Sat., March 28-29—Midwest District Council Meeting; Radisson Hotel, downtown.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., March 22—Annual JACL Credit Union banquet and auction.

Sun., March 23—JACL Intermountain District Council (IDC) meeting.

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 1-3—Minidoka Reunion; see details at Seattle.

Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE

Sat.-Sun., March 15-16—Ikebana Exhibit; 12 noon-5 p.m.; St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1610 S. King St.; demonstrations by master Seifu Noguchi of Japan at 2 p.m. each day; tea

and refreshments will be served. Info: Nobuko Ohgi, 206/232-8736, or Mary Shigaya, 425/271-0875.

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 1-3—Minidoka Reunion; DoubleTree Hotel, Seattle Airport; all former Minidokans, their families and interested persons are invited; mixer, exhibits, panel discussions, banquet dinner with a short program; Sunday picnic. Reserve directly with the Hotel and mention the Minidoka 2003 Reunion for special rate: 800/222-8733. Info: Minidoka Reunion 2003 Committee, c/o Ronald and Gloria Shigeno, 4442-140th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006.

Northern California

SACRAMENTO

Sat., March 8—Tsubaki Dance Club 20th Annual Spring Dance; 7:30-11:30 p.m.; Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 "H" St.; waltz, rhumba, cha-cha, tango, samba, East and West Coast swing, more; DJ: Duncan Harden. Tickets, info: Nob Kurita, 916/726-5521; Tosh Matsumoto, 916/429-8600; Henry Fong, 916/428-7871.

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 17-19—Placer County Nikkei Reunion; Sacramento Hilton Arden West Hotel, 2200 Harvard St.; Nikkei who attended Placer County schools before or after WWII, or who attended schools in internment camps during the war, or who moved before graduating from high school, are welcome; Friday and Saturday mixers, cocktail hour, banquet, Saturday dance, Sunday breakfast, plus tours, golf, optional activities. Info: <http://www.placernikkeireunion.com>; or Aiko Seo, 916/443-7746; Tomio Masaki, 916/456-2595; Grace Miyamoto, 916/421-2788.

SAN FRANCISCO

Thurs. Feb. 27—Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) Fund-raiser; 6-8 p.m.; Romeo 5 Asian Art Café & Bar, Japan Center-Kinokuniya Bldg., 1581 Webster St. #225; appetizers, music, raffle; suggested contribution at the door. Info: 415/561-2160.

Tues. & Thurs. through March 4—Chinese Historical Society of America Film Series; CHSA, Learning Center, 965 Clay St.; discussion with filmmaker follows each film. Schedules: www.chsa.org.

SAN JOSE

Fri., March 14—Asian Law Alliance 26th Anniversary Dinner; 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner; 8 p.m. program; Fairmont Hotel, 170 S. Market St.; keynote speaker Robert Rubin; emcee ABC 7 news anchor Thuy Vu; honoring Jeff Adachi, Dr. David D. Lee, Wilma Chan, Jeff Li, Dr. Hsing Kung, Cindy Chavez. **RSVP by March 7:** 408/287-9710; scala@pacbell.net.

SANTA CRUZ

Through February—Exhibit, "The

Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of World War II"; Santa Cruz Central Library, 224 Church St. Free. Info: 831/420-5790.

Central California

FRESNO

Sun.-Tues., March 2-4—Visiting delegation from Fresno's Sister City, Kochi, led by the mayor of Kochi, councilmen and private citizens; farewell dinner on March 4. To participate, call Judie Brown, 650-3630 (work) or 436-5202 (home).

Mon.-Wed., March 24-26—Poston III Camp Reunion; see details at Las Vegas.

VISALIA

Fri.-Sun. April 25-27—JACL Tri-District Conference for PSW, CC and NCWNP, "Cultivating Our Heritage"; Visalia Holiday Inn; workshops on youth, education, senior issues; visit to the Ruth & Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art in Hanford; golf at Valley Oak Golf Course (reserve with Stanley Hirahara, schirahara@earthlink.com, 559/638-6014); hosted by the CCDC. Info: Larry Ishimoto, 559/627-0442; slyder1234@aol.com.

Southern California

CITY OF COMMERCE

Sat., March 15—MIS Club of Southern California *Shinnen Kai* 2003; 12 noon (11:30 registration); Stevens Steak & Seafood House, 5331 E. Stevens Place (323/723-9865). **RSVP by March 11 for discount:** Cathy Tanaka, 213/626-0441; fax 213/617-2781.

CLAREMONT

Wed., Feb. 26—Lecture, "Feminist Scholarship in China Versus the U.S.: Making Sense in Chinese Women's Studies"; 4:15 p.m.; Hahn Bldg., Rm. 108, 410 N. Harvard Ave.; with Yenna Wu, professor of Chinese and director of the Asian Languages & Civilization Program at UC Riverside; Info: 909/621-8934.

Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 27-March 2—Performance, "A Piece of My Heart; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, plus 2 p.m. Saturday & Sunday; Allen Studio Theatre, 300 E. Bonita Ave.; the tale of six women in the war zone of Vietnam. Tickets, Info: 909/621-8525, or 909/607-4375.

Fri., Feb. 28—Lecture, "Why Are Relations With North Korea So Difficult?"; 4:15-5:30 p.m.; Rose Hills Theatre, Smith Campus Center, 70 E. Sixth St.; with Donald Gregg, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea; commentators include Richard Halloran, former correspondent in Asia for the *New York Times*. Info: 909/607-8065.

GARDENA

Sun., Feb. 23—Japanese American Historical Society of Southern Cali-

fornia Installation Dinner; 3-7 p.m.; Sea Empress Restaurant in Pacific Square; Judge Fred J. Fujioka will administer the oath of office; "Words, Weavings and Songs," a documentary about the lives of teenagers Wakako Yamauchi, Momo Nagano and Mary Kageyama Nomura during WWII will be shown. Info: Iku Kiriyaama, 310/324-2875.

Sat.-Sun., March 1-2—Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute presents Hisashi Otsuka's most recent works; 12 noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, to 6 p.m. on Sunday; new Otsuka fan prints available. Info: GVJCI, 310/324-6611.

LOS ANGELES

Sun., March 2—Velina Hasu Houston will speak on mixed-race identity in the Japanese American community; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Doheny Memorial Library, Intellectual Commons, USC; parking in Structure X, Gate 3 on Figueroa Street. Free. Info: Iku Kiriyaama, 310/324-2875 evenings, or Jeff Murakami, 213/740-4999.

Through March 2—East West Players presents the musical play, "Little Shop of Horrors"; David Henry Hwang Theatre, 1203 W. Puente Ave., Little Tokyo. Schedules, tickets: 213/625-7000. Info: www.eastwestplayers.org.

Fri., March 14—Exhibition Opening, "Finding Family Stories"; A multi-site art exhibition exploring themes of community and cultural diversity; sites include the Chinese American Museum, Self-Help Graphics & Art, and the California African American Museum. Exhibition runs through July 19. Info: Japanese American National Museum, 213/625-0414.

Sat., March 29—Japanese American National Museum's 2003 Annual Dinner, "Honoring the Family Business: Building the American Dream"; Century Plaza Hotel, Century City; spotlighting three-generation Japanese American family businesses that have supported their communities. Info: JANM: 213/625-0414.

Mon., April 28—East West Players' 37th Anniversary Visionary Awards Dinner; Westin Bonaventure Hotel; performances, silent auction. **RSVP by Feb. 28 for discounted prices.** Info: Lissa Lee; lleee@eastwestplayers.org.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., Feb. 22—Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon; 12 noon; Chan's Oriental Cuisine, 1445 University Ave.; speaker, Dr. Eri Yasuhara, dean, College of Arts and Letters at Cal. State San Bernardino. Info: Junji Kumamoto, 909/684-0864.

SANTA MONICA

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 2—Solo performance, "Big Head" by Denise Uyehara; 8:30 p.m. (2 p.m. matinee on Sunday); Highways performance space, 1651 18th St. RSVP: 310/315-1459. Info: 310/453-1755; www.highwaysperformance.org.

Fri.-Sun., June 6-8—Gilá Reunion; see Las Vegas re bus transportation from Little Tokyo.

TORRANCE

Sat., March 8—PANA USA New Year's Party & General Meeting; 5:30 meeting; 6 p.m. dinner & entertainment; Holiday Inn Torrance Gateway, 19800 S. Vermont Ave. (323/781-9100); **RSVP by Feb. 28:** June Hayashi, 323/264-3332; Arturo Yoshimoto, 323/264-4655.

WEST COVINA

Sun., Feb. 23—Youth Forum; 9 a.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 E. Puente Ave.; presentations on networking, resume building, scholarships, leadership development, plus breakout session; free lunch. **RSVP:** Gerald Kato, JACL PSW, 213/626-4471.

Sat., March 8—East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center's "Spring Fling" benefit dance; 7-11 p.m.; 1203 W. Puente Ave.; music by Jim Ikehara; "opportunity" drawing. Tickets, table reservations: Barbara, 626/810-1509, or the community center, 626/960-2566.

Arizona - Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Mon.-Wed., March 24-26—Poston III Camp Reunion; Golden Nugget, downtown. Info: Sammy Nakagawa, co-chair, 559/638-9510; Franklin Abe, co-chair, 559/626-7275; Ada Yamamoto, registration, 559/834-2468; fax 559/897-0733; mdjost@lightspeed.net.

Fri.-Sun., June 6-8—Gila Reunion; Plaza Hotel; the event will pay tribute to all the veterans who entered the service from Gila in WWII, with a special salute to the 22 KIAs by the honor guard from the Pima Indian Post in Phoenix; busses from Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, will leave from Fourth & Boyd on June 6 at 8 a.m. **Registration closes April 1.** Info: Hy Shishino, 562/926-8159; hshishino@hotmail.com.

Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 28-30—Rohwer Jr. High School Reunion; California Hotel & Casino; including students who attended Rohwer Jr. High from 1943-45 (graduating classes of 1946, '47, '48). Registration forms, info: Sets (Izumi) Asano; 310/515-0889; Toshi Kusumoto (213/382-5712; or Pat Toshiko (Tamura) Muraoka, 310/532-1666.

PHOENIX

Sun., March 2—Arizona JACL Picnic; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Desert Breeze Railroad Park, Chandler; fishing clinic 8-11 a.m., no license required.

RENO

Sun., March 2—Reno JACL Annual Scholarship Benefit Teriyaki dinner; Tickets, info: Vince Johnson, 746-2251; Mimi Fujii-Strickler, 858-8850; or Bud Fujii, 852-0559.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Fri.-Sun., March 14-16—9th Annual Honolulu Festival; various locations; featuring the *Uozu Tatenon Matsuri* float; *Akita Kantou Matsuri*, *Aizu Bange Machi Otawara Biki*, *Omuta Daijaya Matsuri*; *Iimori Shrine Yabusame* procession, more; all events are free. Info: 808/926-2424, www.honolulufestival.com.

Thurs.-Sun., April 3-6—442nd RCT 60th Anniversary Reunion, "Patriotism, Valor, and Honor." Info: 808/949-7997. ■

DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

Correction

"APAs in the News" in the Feb. 7 issue should have reported that Shellyanne W.L. Chang was appointed a judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court on Dec. 30. Chang had been chief deputy legal affairs secretary to Gov. Gray Davis since 1999.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAMS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Sat., Feb. 22—"Clouds of Suspicion": Play readings and panel discussion; 56 Brattle St., Harvard Square; panelists include an Israeli woman, a Palestinian American raised in a Lebanese refugee camp, and a Japanese American woman who was interned during WWII; co-sponsored by the New England JACL. Info: 617/547-6789 ext. 1; www.ccae.org.

DENVER, Sat., Feb. 22—1-5 p.m.; Film screening and workshop, "Children of the Camps" with Dr. Satsuki Ina; Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, 1947 Lawrence; co-sponsored by Mile Hi JACL. Free. Info: Erin Yoshimura, coordinator, 303/200-0031.

MONTEREY BAY AREA, Calif., Sun., Feb. 23—1 p.m., Salinas Community Center; guest speaker Dr. Edward Blight, author of "A Time to Choose"; sponsored by Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapters. Info: Larry Oda, 831/758-7107 work, 831/375-3314 home, tsuneol@msn.com, or Jeff Uchida, 831/644-9566 home, juchida872@aol.com.

NEWYORK CITY, Sat., March 8—1-3:30 p.m.; Special screening of "Conscience and Constitution" by Frank Abe; Japanese American Association of New York, 15 W. 44th St., 11th Floor (between 5th & 6th Avenue). Info: Tsuya Yee, tanguri@hotmail.com; 917/913-6461; www.resisters.com.

PHILADELPHIA, Sat., Feb. 22—2-4 p.m.; "Loyalty and Resistance in Times of Crisis: Then and Now" with Dr. Paul Watanabe, Dept. of Political Science, Univ. of Massachusetts at Boston; Haddonfield Friends Meetinghouse, Friends and Lake Streets, Haddonfield, N.J. Free admission, refreshments. Info: Joyce Horikawa, 856/427-9431.

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sat., Feb. 22—1:30-5 p.m.; First Annual Northern California JACL Time of Remembrance (Florin, Marysville, Placer, Sacramento and Stockton chapters); educational presentation, community panel, historical exhibit, Peruvian-Japanese American exhibit; book signings; one-man dramatic performances by Lane Nishikawa at 1:30 and 3 p.m.: "The Japanese American Experience: Stories of a People"; Secretary of State Building Complex, 1500 11th St.; free parking at 10th & O. Discount on tickets before Feb. 1, students under 18 free. Info: 916/395-7944, fjritani@aol.com. **Through March 3**—Exhibit, "Time of Remembrance: The Jaapanese American Experience in California History"; Golden State Museum, 1020 "O" St.; school presentations at the museum through Feb. 28, Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations for teachers: 916/653-3476. Info: 916/653-5864; www.goldenstatemuseum.org.

SAN FRANCISCO/SAN MATEO, Sun., Feb. 23—2 p.m.; AMC Kabuki Theatre, San Francisco Japantown; commemoration and benefit event, "Carrying the Light for Justice—Defending the Constitution: Then & Now," followed by a reception and other activities at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California; includes the world premiere of film "Hidden Internment, The Art Shibayama Story" by Casey Peeke; keynote speaker, Rev. Lloyd Wake. Tickets, info: Judy Hamaguchi, National Japanese American Historical Society, 415/921-5007, or Julie Hatta, 415/370-1477.

TEMPE, Ariz., Sun., 23—10:30 p.m.; broadcast of documentaries, "Words, Weavings and Songs" about the lives of teenagers Wakako Yamauchi, Momo Nagano and Mary Kageyama Nomura during WWII, and "Toyo Miyatake: Infinite Shades of Gray," including images of Manzanar, KAET-TV Channel 8. ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Egawa, Masako, 90, Berkeley, Jan. 25; survived by son Roy T. (Isako); daughter Janey; 2 gc., 1 ggc.; predeceased by husband Sakuichi.

Enomoto, Hideo Frank, 85, Seattle, Feb. 1; formerly of Sacramento; survived by son Alan of Sacramento; daughter Dana; friend Tadao Kimura.

Flynn, Noriko Bridges, 79, Pescadero, Feb. 7; Gardena-born; Poston internee; writer and civil rights activist; postwar, she worked with the War Relocation Authority helping to resettle other JA's; her first marriage, to San Francisco labor leader Harry Bridges, challenged and helped to overturn the state of Nevada's laws against racial mixing; her second marriage was to shipowners' representative Ed Flynn; survived by husband Ed Flynn; daughter Katherine Bridges Wiggins of Bandon, Ore.; stepchildren Robert Bridges of Fremont, Marie Shell of San Francisco.

Fukumoto, Kiku, 87, Monterey Park, Feb. 4; La Puente-born, Kumamoto, Japan-raised; survived by son Ray Satoru (Elaine); daughters Jeri Akiko, Agnes Seiko and Christine Toshiko Fukumoto of Hawaii; 2 gc.; brothers Yoshio Lawrence Yoshito (Akiko) and Frank Shigeo (Setsuko) Mori; sister Ruby S. (Kazuo) Osumi; brothers-in-law George T. Sakai, Jim Komatsubara, Harry Inao; sister-in-law Ritsuko Mori.

Fujimori, Meiko May, 85, San Jose, Feb. 1; survived by sons Paul (Sumiko) of Campbell, John (Megumi).

Furuichi, Yoshiye, 98, Los Altos, Jan. 25; Mie-ken, Japan-born; survived by son Ben (June Sano) of Los Altos, Fred (Karen Yamada) of Fairfield, James (Satoko Sugiyama) of Berkeley; daughters Toshiko Kawamoto of

Cupertino, Betty (Ed) Deslauriers of Sacramento; 11 gc., 8 ggc.; predeceased by husband Tomizo "Tom."

Hashimoto, Herbert Yoshiwo, 72, Alhambra, Feb. 7; Hilo, Hawaii-born; survived by brother Bruce; sister Shigeko Hirata.

Hirano, Haru, 95, Los Angeles, Jan. 29; Aichi-ken-born; survived by son Hiroshi; daughters Yoshiko Honda, Sachiko (Sadami) Ichinose; 6 gc.; sisters Chiyoko and Mikiko Jinno of Japan.

Hisamoto, Fusaye "Fuzzy," 76, Northglenn, Colo., Jan. 22.

Ige, Takemori, 86, Culver City, Feb. 2; Maui, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Sue Hatsuko; son Richard; daughters Janet (Jonathan) Kaneshiro, Barbara (Stephen Teodorovich) Ige, Helen Ige; 2 gc.; sister Sumiko Sue Sakaba of Windsor; sister-in-law Patricia Ige.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$15 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

Inatomi, Kiyohiko, 85, West Hills, Feb. 10; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Lily; daughters Susan (Brett) Kirkpatrick, Diane (David) Bachtel, Carol (Jim) Pompe; son Thomas (Tracy); 5 gc.; sisters Hatsumi Adler, Yoneko Kariya; brothers-in-law James, Edward, Roy, Ben; predeceased by daughter Linda.

Inouye, Sadako Susie, 83, San Jose, Jan. 5; California-born; survived by son Ricky (Atsuko) Inouye.

Ishikawa, Toyoko, 81, Menlo Park, Jan. 26; Clarksburg-born; survived by husband Jack; stepson Jack (Betty) Ishikawa Jr. of Cupertino; 2 gc., 3 ggc.; sister

Mineko Kikuchi of Fairfield and three sisters in Japan.

Kawai, Yoshio "John," 77, Los Angeles, Oct. 30; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Fumiko; son Ronald (Carol); daughters Christine (David) Higashi, Susan (Gregory) Way; mother Kiyoshi Kawai; 6 gc.

Kawakami, Noriye Noriko, 86, Los Angeles, Feb. 2; Pasadena-born; survived by son Steve T. (Donna); daughters Sylvia Terry, Vivian R. Kawakami; 3 gc., 1 ggc.

Kawasaki, Frank Takaaki, 97, Hawthorne, Oct. 21; Tottori-ken-born; survived by wife Josephine Sachiko; sons Frank (Madilyn) of Del Mar, Joe (Fumi) of Sunnyvale, Richard (Sue), Mike; daughters Virginia (Tom) Suzuki of Virginia, Junko (Steve) Hara; 10 gc., 3 ggc.; brother Isami (Kazuko); sister Hisako Ashimoto; sisters-in-law Shigeko Takenaka, Kimi Kawasaki.

Kawasaki, George T., 82, San Bruno, Jan. 1; Long Beach-born; survived by wife Fumiko; sons Gary, James; daughters Naomi Kawasaki, Amy Hansen, Fuji (Bob) Umamoto; 5 gc.

Matsumoto, Sanai Sam, 83, Los Angeles, Feb. 6; Utah-born; survived by wife Elsie Tami; daughter Christine (Kenneth) Hankawa; 2 gc.; sisters Hideko Hori and Shizuko Donomoto, both of Osaka, Japan; sister-in-law Mitsuko Matsumoto.

Mayeda, Rose Mariko, 86, Watsonville, Jan. 20; survived by son Robb (Dorothy); 3 gc.; brother Fred Shinoda of San Leandro; predeceased by husband Harry, brothers Henry and Minoru Shinoda and sister Mary Shinoda.

Miyagi, Bessie Ayako, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 18; Hilo, Hawaii-born; survived by sisters Elsie Shinohara of Hilo, Doris (Larry) Murakami and Chieko (Kiyoshi) Shimokaji of Orange County; brothers Richard Umeno of Hilo, Ronald (Pat) Umeno of Orange County.

Miyawaki, John, 75, Orange, Feb. 6; Santa Ana-born; survived

by wife Hisako; sons Geno (Caryn), Bill, Mark (Vibeke), Wesley; daughter JoAnne Miyawaki; 5 gc.; sister Dorothy Oku; brother-in-law George Nishimura; sister-in-law Yoshi Miyawaki.

Murakami, Helen Hiroko, Chicago, Feb. 8 service: survived by niece Keiko (Peijan Paul) Lin.

Nakano, George, 80, Richmond, Feb. 5; survived by wife Dianne S. of San Francisco; sons Gerry (Dianne Fukami), Curtis (Jackie); daughters Janet (Richard) Kashiwada, Phyllis (Al Souza) Nakano; 7 gc.

One, Dick Shinkichi, 79, Palatine, Ill. (Chicago suburb), Jan. 15; formerly of Sacramento; Tule Lake and Amache internee; tool and die shop owner/operator; survived by wife May; sons Darryl (orchestra conductor in Modesto, Jeff; 7 gc..

Sugino, Tom Akira, 80, Oxnard, Feb. 15; Mesa, Ariz.-born; survived by wife Connie; sons Wesley (Shelly), Gerald (Agnes), Phillip (Linda); 7 gc.; brother Frank (Sachiko) Isao of Oxnard; sisters Misayo Sugino, Toshiko Temporin and Haruyo Araki, all of Japan.

Takahashi, Mary Chiye, 94, San Diego, Feb. 11; Berkeley-born; doctor of optometry, author and professor of Ikenobo Ikebana; founder of the Chicago chapter of Ikebana International and the Ikenobo Society of South Five; survived by sister Nobu Grace Suzuki of Albany; sisters-in-law Yoshie of San Diego and Mabel of Piedmont; predeceased by brothers George, Henry, William, Ernest and Joseph and sisters Anna, Ruth, Elizabeth and Yaye.

Takii, Richard Etsuo, 69, Gardena, Oct. 24; Seeley-born; survived by lifetime companion Yukiko Hayashida; brother Allan (Katsuko); sisters Edith (Bill) Simmons of Railroad Crossing, Lillian Takii of Japan.

Tanaka, Edward Hiroshi, 66, Los Angeles, Feb. 7; survived by wife Linda; sons Derek, Tyson; brother Brian Nakamura; sisters Betty and Helen Nakamura.

Tanaka, Shima, 97, Oxnard, Feb. 4; Aichi-ken-born; survived

by sons Henry (Michiko), Tadao (Kiyoko), Teruo (Barbara), Akira; daughters Chizuko Tanaka, Hideko Kanamori (Tsugitada), Misako Burton; daughter-in-law Tomoye Tanaka; 21 gc., 20 ggc., 4 gggc.

Urushibata, Keiji, 71, Carson, Feb. 8; Wilmington-born; survived by wife Misao; brother Yoshihiro (Junko); sister Hideko Kashiwagi.

Yamane, Frank Minoru, 68, West Los Angeles, Oct. 18; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Toshiko; sons Mark of Fresno, Daniel Mitsuo; daughter Christine Miki (Scott) Kennedy of Las Vegas; 1 gc.; sisters Pauline Teruko Tsuge, Betty Akiko (Masumi) Kanegawa, Kuniko Sera, Emiko Yamane; sisters- and brother-in-law in Japan: Hatsuko Saiki, Kazuko Shimote, Tokuo (Etsuko) Takeuchi.

Yamane, Michiko, Arleta, Feb. 3; Oahu, Hawaii-born; survived by husband Robert Hiroto; sons Robert, Bruce; 1 gc.; brothers Mas (Nobuko) and Tsugio (June) Imamoto; sister Grace (Jun) Kato; brothers-in-law Jimmy and Teddy (Midori) Yamane.

Yuasa, Kazuyoshi, 66, Covina, Feb. 7; North Hollywood-born; survived by wife Kathleen; daughters Sherri (Vincent Wang), Candace, Darlene Yuasa; 2 gc.; brother Akio (Akiye); sisters Rose Kodama, Mary (Tom) Kitagawa, Diane Yuasa. ■

DEATH NOTICE

MARY HISAKO NAKAMURA GENISHI

TOMS RIVER, New Jersey — Mary Genishi, 81, passed away Nov. 16 of complications following a broken hip. Mrs. Genishi was born in Toppenish, Wash., and grew up in Arroyo Grande, Calif., where she graduated from high school and was known as a "shutterbug" and was the star forward on her Buddhist youth group's basketball team. She was interned at Gila River, where her daughter, Elayne Megumi Genishi Garrett was born, and later at Tule Lake, where her daughter, Celia Shinobu Genishi Farrell, was born. After the war and a brief stay in Seabrook Farms, N.J. she and her family moved to Toms River in 1948, where she volunteered for many years at Community Memorial Hospital. She attended St. Andrews United Methodist Church and Cedar Grove Methodist Church. Surviving are her husband of 61 years, Richard Hiroshi Genishi; daughters, Elayne (Roland) of Montclair, N.J. and Celia (Edwin) of New York, NY and Lavallette, NJ; brothers, James I. Nakamura and George I. Nakamura; sisters Machi Nakamura Morihisa and Yoshiye Nakamura Noji; and 4 grandsons, Charles and George Garrett and Sean and Shane Farrell. They will miss her good humor, including her April Fool's jokes; common sense; kindness; frequent letters and cards, sent over a period of many years; and her inimitable lemon meringue pie. A memorial service was held Dec. 7, 2002 at the Kedz Funeral Home in Toms River. Rev. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, of the New York Buddhist Church, officiated.

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