

Pacific Citizen

Newsstand: 25¢

\$1.50 postpaid (U.S., Can.) / \$2.30 (Japan Air)

#2988/ Vol. 136, No. 5 ISSN: 0030-8579

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

MAR. 21-APR. 3, 2003

Former Pro Skateboarder Peggy Oki Talks Art, Environmentalism and 'Dogtown' Fame

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

At 46, Peggy Oki still does a mean axle grind. She also does a 50/50, a 360, and she'll take you to task doin' da Bert.

Back in the mid 1970s, when women, especially Asian American women, weren't even a blip on the pro sports radar, Oki was a tomboy teenager carving up both wave and pavement in such Westside beach towns as Venice

and Santa Monica.

Little would anyone have guessed over 25 years later, that era and the barriers she broke as one of Southern California's original pro skateboarders alongside such legends as Stacy Peralta, Jay Adams and Tony Alva would be highlighted in Glen E. Friedman's Sundance award-winning documentary, "Dogtown and Z-Boys," now out on video and DVD.

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PHOTO: SCOTT GIBSON
'Z-Girl': former pro skateboarder Peggy Oki working a 50/50 at Skater's Point in Santa Barbara, Calif. Today, the Los Angeles native is a fine artist and environmental activist.



P.C. SPRING CAMPAIGN The P.C. — The Newspaper That Gives You a Voice

By GIL ASAKAWA
P.C. Editorial Board Chair

The newspaper you're reading is the only national news vehicle for information about Japanese American and Asian Pacific American communities across the country; it's read not just by members of JACL but also by many subscribers who are not affiliated with the organization. Whether or not you're a



member of the JACL, thank you for reading the *Pacific Citizen*.

The P.C. has been a consistent source of continuous national coverage of APA issues including the growing instances of hate crimes committed against Asian Americans; has always and unflinchingly reported situations where prejudice arises, from racist Halloween costumes and T-shirts to dumb remarks by a superstar such as Shaquille O'Neal; has followed the ongoing INS registration and incarceration of Middle Easterners; and has been on the

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Arab American Teenager Falls Victim to Brutal Hate Crime Beating

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

YORBA LINDA, Calif.—Rashid Alam, 18, remains in bed, his head swollen and heavily bandaged. He has several skull fractures, and recently underwent reconstructive surgery to implant metal plates and screws to fix his shattered cheekbones. The metal plates and screws will remain in Rashid for the rest of his life.

Rashid's father, Ahmed Alam, considers his son fortunate that a stab wound to his son's back from a screwdriver didn't hit any major organs or nerves.

"My son is lucky," said the father. "If the screwdriver went in a bit further, he could have been paralyzed."

The second-generation teenager of Lebanese descent was brutally attacked in the early morning hours of Feb. 23.

According to Rashid's brother, Mohamed, also 18, (the brothers were born 10 months apart), eight of them, including his brother and himself, were meeting a friend at San Antonio Park so they could car pool to the Block at Orange to catch a late night movie or hang out at a coffee shop.

The group had been at the park for about 45 minutes when just around midnight, several cars sped around the corner and stopped when they saw Mohamed's group, which included an African American, Persian, Filipino American, Asian American, Indian American, Native American and the two brothers.

"They all parked and got out



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Attorney John De Leon notes that not only the attackers but every parent and/or guardian of the attackers should be held responsible for Rashid Alam's injuries.

JACL Joins Others in Denouncing Hate Crime Beating of Teen

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

ANAHEIM, Calif.—The JACL recently joined more than a dozen civil rights, ethnic and religious organizations to condemn the Feb. 23 beating of an 18-year-old Arab American teenager in what police are investigating as a hate crime.

The organizations also called for a thorough investigation in an effort to deter future hate attacks.

The Brea police department is handling the beating of

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yelling 'White Power. White Power,'" said Mohamed. "They were drunk. They started throwing beer bottles and ripping their shirts off."

Mohamed's group ran when about 20 attackers came at them, yelling racial slurs such as "f*ck the Arabs," "you Arab pieces of sh*t," "camel jockeys." Mohamed said it seemed as though every attacker had a weapon in their hands, either golf clubs, baseball bats, metal poles or beer bottles.

Michael, 16, who was part of Mohamed's group, said he saw Rashid get tackled to the ground. The attackers made a circle around Rashid and repeatedly beat him while yelling racial slurs. He recalled one attacker repeatedly stomping on Rashid's head.

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JACL Continues to Press for Coble Resignation

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Almost two months after Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., made pro-internment comments, the JACL is still waiting for an apology and his resignation as chairperson of the homeland security subcommittee.

The JACL "is gravely disturbed that Rep. Howard Coble continues to ignore the concerns of millions of Americans by refusing to discuss his comments made last month endorsing the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II," the organization said in a statement.

Several Asian Pacific American and Arab American groups have sent numerous letters, faxes and e-mails, with little response but a clear statement of Coble's refusal to resign as chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

"... the JACL has repeatedly attempted to contact Rep. Coble about his February 4th remarks, yet we, nor any organization who has expressed the same concerns, has yet to receive the courtesy of an acknowledgement," the state-

ment continued.

The list of groups and individuals criticizing Coble's comments continues to grow. On March 5 the Asian Pacific American, Black, and Hispanic Congressional Caucuses sent a joint letter to House leaders asking them to denounce Coble's remarks endorsing the JA internment.

In a letter to House Speaker

Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., members of the minority tri-caucuses described Coble's remarks "as an inaccurate, misleading and potentially damaging view of history."

They added, "As our country is

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JACL Criticizes Rep. Moran for Anti-Jewish Remark

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

The JACL has joined a long list of those criticizing Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., for anti-Jewish remarks he made at an anti-war event.

"I find Rep. Moran's comments reprehensible, especially coming from a member of the U.S. Congress," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "This kind of racist stereotyping is inexcusable."

"Rep. Moran's statements are patently offensive and completely

inappropriate, and we support the Jewish community in their outrage," added Floyd Mori, JACL national president.

Moran, 57, apologized March 10 for comments he made at a local church that Jewish support for a war in Iraq was helping the Bush administration move toward an attack. Although several members of the Jewish community have asked for his resignation, he said, "I don't intend to resign."

At a March 3 forum Moran told a crowd of about 120 people, "If it

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Pacific citizen

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Publisher: Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-4671, www.jacl.org
JACL President: Floyd Mori
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PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly except once in January and December by the Japanese American Citizens League, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755. OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time. ©2003.

Annual subscription rates: NON-MEMBERS: 1 year—\$35, payable in advance. Additional postage per year — Foreign periodical rate \$25; First Class for U.S., Canada, Mexico: \$30; Airmail to Japan/Europe: \$60. (Subject to change without notice.) Periodicals postage paid at Monterey Park, Calif., and at additional mailing offices.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Pacific Citizen*, c/o JACL National Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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ASAKAWA

(Continued from page 1)

front line of covering the efforts to remove North Carolina Rep. Howard Coble from a Congressional subcommittee because of his remarks supporting the internment of JAs during World War II.

Perhaps you've noticed that these stories, which are very important to us as a community and which strike at the very core of the JACL's mission, are pretty much invisible in much of the "mainstream" media where you live. That's exactly why the P.C. is so important — this newspaper gives you information that is not available to you elsewhere.

The P.C. will continue to cover these issues, as well as the JACL's brave and historic efforts to take on the U.S. government and challenge the U.S.A. P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act of 2001, which stands for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism." Unfortunately, some of the "appropriate tools" that the Bush administration is calling for cross the lines of civil liberty, and the JACL is working to make sure our freedoms are protected while our security is guaranteed.

These are momentous times indeed, and you're reading the one source that will update you on every story in every issue. And of course, the P.C. is the only place you'll learn about the policies and decisions of the JACL as a national organization, and news about JACL and its districts and chapters.

But the *Pacific Citizen* can't do this job without your help.

As the chair of the P.C.'s editorial board, I'm announcing an "Annual P.C. Spring Campaign."

As you know, the P.C. is funded in part by the JACL, but it is also responsible for meeting much of its budget on its own. Although the special Holiday Issue every year is a major fund raiser for the P.C., the revenue generated by that issue does not last all year, and given the current state of the JACL's finances (which are faithfully reported by the P.C.), the paper's staff cannot expect to receive its full budgeted funding from the parent organization.

So in subsequent issues through June, the newspaper will be running a coupon asking for donations of \$50, \$75, \$100 or more. The P.C. is offering the first donors of \$100 or more a free copy of Bill Hosokawa's "JACL In Quest for Justice: The History of the Japanese American Citizens League." There are a limited number of these books and they will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

It's expensive to publish a newspaper in the new millennium. Paper prices are astronomical; digital technology and communications are a key resource for any news media; computers and networks need constant attention and upgrading.

Staffing is also a major cost for most publications, but I can promise you the P.C. has a skeleton staff that works as much out of passion and commitment as it does for their remarkably low salaries. We're fortunate to have Caroline Aoyagi and her very professional staff to be our "eyes and ears" for the news that affects us.

The monies raised from the Annual P.C. Spring Campaign will go entirely towards the ongoing needs of the newspaper. So please help the P.C. By doing so, you'll be assuring yourself of a unique and valuable news source in your life. ■



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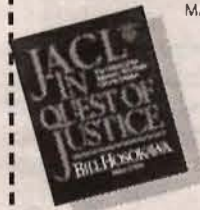
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For donations of \$100 or more, you will receive a copy of Bill Hosokawa's *JACL In Quest of Justice*.

Letters to the Editor

Reader Agrees With PSW Council Vote on "Under God"

In the Feb. 7-20 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, there were two letters referring to "under God" in the pledge of allegiance. I agree with the PSW council decision and Douglas Urata of Riverside, Calif.

I would like to address the rebuttal of James Holland to the letter written by George Shiozawa of Pocatello, Idaho, in which he accuses George of religious intolerance.

First of all, George Shiozawa is a Nisei, as I am. Our parents were Issei, and most of them were Buddhists at one time. Most of us were raised in a Buddhist home and are aware of their religion. How can we be so intolerant when we were raised with this awareness? Many of the Nisei retained the religion of their parents; others converted to Christianity.

When the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL built a new hall post-World War II, a special place was provided to house the *butsudun*, or the Buddhist altar, so our parents could have a place to worship. There is no Buddhist church building in our area and this was to provide Buddhist Issei with a place to worship.

Hiroshi Fred Nagano of Rockford, Idaho, was a member of the 100th/442nd. He was killed in action on April 15, 1945, in Italy.

Rex Walters

Regarding the Feb. 21-Mar. 6 article on Rex Walters, "Former Kansas, NBA Player Rex Walters Starts Career in Coaching," P.C. readers who are not familiar with Rex's background might find it interesting to know that his ties to the Japanese American community extend beyond just being "Hapa." Growing up in the San Jose area, he honed his basketball skills playing for the San Jose CYS in the Nikkei Youth Basketball League. Further, throughout his high school years (and beyond when his schedule permitted) he played Asian Tournament basketball with the San Jose Zebras, allowing fans in the Bay Area, Sacramento and Southern California to witness one of the dominant Asian teams of the decade.

Tom Oshidari,
San Jose, Calif.

His mother was a Buddhist and wanted to hold a memorial service for her son. With no building for Buddhist worship in southeast Idaho, Stake President Gayle Williams of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints allowed Mrs. Nagano to hold the Buddhist memorial services for her son in the Thomas LDS church with all the Buddhist rites. He knew the Nagano family well, and was well admired for this act by many.

Since you believe the "under God" should be deleted from the pledge, where would you stop? Should Lincoln's Gettysburg address, "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom," be revised? Should we delete "In God We Trust" from the coinage and the currency of the United States? Is God really Judeo-Christian or a recognition of a Supreme Being or creator — such as Allah, Jehovah or *Kamisama*?

Jun Shiosaki
Blackfoot, Idaho

□

An Ongoing Debate


I would like to add my two cents to the debate about the current dismal state of the JACL national leadership. The debate was sparked by George Kodama's call to action (P.C., Jan. 17-Feb. 6) and then followed by Takasumi Kojima's commentary (P.C., Feb. 21-Mar. 6).

The latter piece recites a litany of what is wrong with the national leadership, most of which we are already aware. It finishes with the puzzling remark that both the national JACL president and executive director are able leaders but have failed to provide vision (leadership).

If this issue continues to be debated until the next national convention in Honolulu, just maybe something will come of it. We can always hope but don't keep your fingers crossed.

Yukio Imai
Marina Del Rey, Calif.

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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.

AAs Far From United on Issue of Affirmative Action

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVINE, Calif.—The divide among Asian Americans over affirmative action runs right through the apartment that Michael Nailat and Jonathan Hsieh share.

The young men are both AAs, both children of immigrants, both students at the University of California, Irvine, across the street. Yet their family stories are quite different.

Nailat's father, a Filipino immigrant and civil engineer in the U.S. Navy, worked extra jobs to support his family, sometimes saving the change he found as a janitor.

Hsieh is the son of an accountant and a homemaker, Chinese immigrants who settled in affluent San Marino, about 70 miles from the Nailats' home in working-class Oxnard. As early as middle school, Hsieh says, some of his fellow students hired tutors and most assumed they'd go to a four-year college.

Hsieh believes university admissions should be based on merit alone. Nailat supports affirmative action and says the differences between his upbringing and his roommate's show why such policies are necessary.

"Not all high schools are the same, not all communities are the same, and not all Asian Americans are the same," Nailat said. "I know how it is to be stuck on the bottom of the ladder and not be given a boost."

Hsieh said he understands wanting to level the playing field. But "that's not how the world works," he said. "People should be judged on their ability."

Asian Americans occupy a unique place in the debate over affirmative action programs designed to help minorities gain access to American universities.

At about 4 percent of the U.S. population, there are far fewer Asians than blacks or Hispanics in the United States. But at some

schools — including the University of Michigan, at the center of U.S. Supreme Court arguments April 1 — Asians are not considered "underrepresented minorities" as blacks and Hispanics are.

Linda Trinh Vo, an assistant professor of AA studies at UC Irvine, said opponents of affirmative action often point to Asians as proof that other groups don't need such programs.

"They say that Asian Americans have worked really hard, and look how successful they are. If Asian Americans can make it, can be like whites, then other Latinos and Native Americans and African Americans, all they need to do is just work hard," she said. "It pits minority groups against one another."

Polls show that while a majority of Asians favor affirmative action, the support is not as strong as it is among blacks or Hispanics. In the University of Michigan case, Asian groups have filed court briefs on both sides of the debate.

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium and 27 other Asian groups say everyone benefits from a diverse student body and that affirmative action is still necessary.

"We believe Asian Americans understand that race does matter," said Karen Narasaki, the consortium's executive director. "We still feel racism in employment, the glass ceiling. We still feel excluded from business opportunities."

But the Asian American Legal Foundation filed a Supreme Court brief opposing race-based admission policies, saying they are "almost always used to exclude Asian Americans from educational institutions."

"There is no difference between a policy of admitting some people because there are 'not enough' of their race and a policy of excluding others because there are 'too many' of theirs," the group said. ■

Legislation Would Allow Former JA Internees to Receive H.S. Diplomas

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Legislation has been introduced in the state of California that would allow former Japanese American World War II internees who had their high school education cut short a chance to finally receive their diplomas.

Assembly Bill 781, sponsored by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, D-Mountain View, if passed would require that all California high schools issue diplomas to former students of Japanese ancestry who were unable to complete their degrees because of their removal to the various wartime internment camps.

"I hope this bill will be successful in giving back to the Japanese American community — a community that lost much and endured much with internment," said Lieber.

The bill states that: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law

to the contrary, a high school district or a unified school district may grant a high school diploma to a person who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II if it finds that the person was enrolled in the school district immediately preceding his or her internment and did not receive a high school diploma because the pupil's education was interrupted due to his or her internment during World War II."

Lieber introduced the bill on Feb. 19, the 61st anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuance of Executive Order 9066, legislation that effectively interned 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry.

Many high schools throughout California have voluntarily issued high school diplomas to their former JA students. In 2002, the Santa Clara County Office of Education started a program called Operation Graduate to allow former veterans and internees a chance to receive

their diplomas.

With AB 781 Lieber hopes to expand Operation Graduate statewide to the former internees or families applying on their behalf.

"It is important to reflect on the human and civil cost of internment, not just on the Day of Remembrance, but every day," said Lieber. "The human and economic costs to these families and individuals are incalculable — homes lost or abandoned, missed educational opportunities, lost businesses, foregone careers and professional advancements, civil liberties taken away and the total disruption of family life as they knew it."

The bill is scheduled to be heard in committee on March 22.

Persons can send letters of support to Lieber at: State Capitol Office, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0022, fax: 916/319-2122, or e-mail: Assemblywoman.Lieber@assembly.ca.gov. ■

WRA Files on JA WWII Internees Now Available on NARA Database

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has created an online archival database where basic historical government information can be found, including a file on the Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

"Japanese-American Internee File, 1942-1946" does not include detailed information but allows users to look up individuals by name and area (http://aad.archives.gov/aad/title_list.jsp).

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) collected information on JA internees during WWII on WRA Form 26 and used the data to help in the management of the individual internees and the various relocation

centers.

The data was collected on punch cards and was eventually converted to an electronic file by the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley during the 1960s. The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice used this data file to help distribute the reparation payments to the internees during the 1990s.

The records contain personal information about the JAs evacuated from Washington, Oregon and California to the 10 relocation centers operated by WRA during WWII in the states of California (Tule Lake and Manzanar Centers), Idaho (Minidoka Center), Utah (Central Utah Center), Colorado

(Granada Center), Arizona (Colorado River and Gila River Centers), Wyoming (Heart Mountain Center) and Arkansas (Rohwer and Jerome Centers).

Each individual internee record contains: their name, relocation project and assembly center to which assigned, previous address, birthplace of parents, occupation of father, education, foreign residence and indication of military service. It also includes their Social Security or alien registration numbers, whether they attended Japanese school, occupation and religion.

The file does not include records for individuals who were born in the various relocations camps. ■

2003 JACL-OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference



Photos courtesy of Kristine Minami

The 2003 JACL-OCA Washington D.C. Leadership Conference participants (above) meet with U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif. The JACL leadership conference participants (below) gather at the home of former National JACL President Patrick Okura and his wife Lily.



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By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

□ Sikh Man Charges NYPD With Discrimination

NEW YORK—A Sikh man is accusing the New York Police Department of discrimination by not allowing him to wear a beard or his turban, both signs of his religious faith.

Amric Singh Rathour, of Ozone Park in Queens, applied to be a traffic enforcement agent with the NYPD in 2001. After passing the required tests, he was sworn in as a new officer that summer. He was fired two months later.

Rathour claims that during his eight-week training period, he and his supervisors clashed over his wearing a turban and keeping his facial hair, and he says his firing amounted to discrimination.

His attorney, Ravinder Bhalla, filed a lawsuit March 4 against the police department, Commissioner Ray Kelly and the city, claiming a violation of Rathour's civil rights.

Bhalla said that while there were no turbaned Sikhs working in police departments in the United States, Sikhs with beards and turbans have been able to work in other law enforcement departments, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Metropolitan Police Force in London.

□ Mineta Back at Desk After Long Absence

WASHINGTON—Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta is out of the hospital after a long recuperation from back surgery to relieve chronic pain.

He ran the department with the help of telecommunications equipment during a three-month stay in a suite reserved for top government officials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Mineta's speech on March 10 to the American Public Transportation Association was his first public appearance after being released

from the hospital on March 7.

His voice was raspy because he'd had a tube in his throat and he walked with a cane, but he said he felt fine.

Mineta had surgery in August to relieve his back pain, which was caused by a staph infection and made worse by the curvature of the spine. He was hospitalized on Nov. 29 to cure the infection and underwent another back operation on Jan. 24.

Since then, he has worked on strengthening his atrophied leg muscles, taking occasional leave from the hospital for family visits and public ceremonies.

□ Minami to Receive Bar Association Award

CHICAGO—San Francisco

lawyer
Dale
Minami,
a leader
in the
national
civil
rights
commu-
nity, will
receive
the 2003

Thurgood Marshall Award from the American Bar Association.

"By working to vacate the convictions of Fred Korematsu and the other defendants in the wartime internment cases he helped to right a great historical wrong. And by co-founding the Asian Law Caucus, he helped ensure that access to justice is not denied to those who cannot afford an attorney," said Mark Agrast, chair of the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

The award will be presented at the section's Thurgood Marshall Award Dinner on Aug. 9 during the 2003 ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Minami has practiced law in the

San Francisco area since 1972, first with the Asian Law Caucus, Inc., and subsequently with a law firm now operating as Minami, Lew & Tamaki. Much of his practice has challenged employment discrimination in class actions, as well as in individual complaints.

□ Immigrant APIs Rally Against Budget Cuts

OLYMPIA, Wash.—Thousand of Asian Pacific Islanders rallied at the state capital March 6, protesting cuts to health and social services.

Around 2,000 immigrants, refugees and American-born APIs braved the damp weather to speak out against Gov. Gary Locke's proposed budget cuts to areas like refugee services and naturalization programs.

Immigrants often bear the brunt of cuts to health care and welfare for the disabled, and since many don't speak English, they must take lower-paid jobs that do not give medical benefits.

Protestors argued against cuts to interpreter services and mental health services, saying immigrants are at higher risk for mental illness due to cultural adjustments and racial discrimination. They are also concerned about the practice of asking driver's license applicants to prove their immigration status, said Diane Narasaki, chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of King County.

Locke is the first Chinese American governor in U.S. history and the son of a Chinese immigrant.

"In these difficult times, we simply cannot do everything," he said, after praising the crowd for their efforts. "We have to make some tough decisions just like you and just like our parents and grandparents have made sacrifices."

□ Bankrupt Kmart Curtails Asian Shoppers

FRESNO, Calif.—Bankrupt retailer Kmart is trying to court Asian shoppers with an Asian-language publication, but it may have missed its Fresno market.

The discount store has created a weekly newspaper printed in Chinese, *Tea Leaf*, which debuted March 2 in the *Chinese Daily SF* newspaper in Fresno.

But most of Fresno's Asian population is Hmong, according to the U.S. Census. Hmong residents outnumber Chinese by more than 5-to-1.

Tea Leaf, which also debuted in Asian newspapers in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura, is also printed in Korean and Vietnamese. Kmart officials say they hope to reach 2 million Asian customers monthly with *Tea Leaf*.

Asians have about \$254 billion in buying power nationwide, Kmart said. About 10.2 million Asians live in the nation, with 36 percent living in California.

Tea Leaf is Kmart's third publication targeting ethnic groups. It launched Spanish-language *La Vida* in September 2002 and *Urban Direct* targeting blacks in February.

□ Inouye on Homeland Security Budget Panel

HONOLULU—U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye is one of eight Democrats appointed to a new Senate Appropriations subcommittee that will determine federal spending for the Department of Homeland Security.

Inouye, D-Hawaii, is the second-ranking Democratic member behind Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., will head the new Senate panel of nine Republicans and eight Democrats.

□ Japanese Court Throws Out Chinese Forced Labor Suit

TOKYO—A court on March 11 threw out a lawsuit by a group of Chinese who sought compensation from the Japanese government and 10 companies for allegedly using them as slave laborers during World War II.

The court ruled that the government and companies were not responsible for individual damages, though the judge acknowledged that Japan had systematically used forced laborers in wartime.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of 42 Chinese, 24 of whom are still alive. All are in their 70s.

They say they were captured by the Japanese military between 1944 and 1945 and sent to work under dangerous conditions in construction and mining industries. They had sued for a total of \$7.25 million in damages. The plaintiffs' lawyer Taizo Morita said he would appeal the decision to the Tokyo High Court.

Japan's military shipped up to 800,000 people from China, Korea and other Asian countries in the early 1900s to Japan to work in coal mines and ports.

Japan's courts have recently ruled that the government and companies broke the law by using forced labor, but they rarely rule in favor of plaintiffs seeking compensation, citing the expiration of a deadline for filing such claims. ■

APAs in the News

Awards, Appointments, Announcements

Donald Chu, 62, of Alameda, Calif., was reappointed by Gov. Gray Davis to the Physical Therapy Board of California. Chu has been a member of the board since 1999 and director of the Athletic Training and Rehabilitation Department at Stanford University since 2001. Previously, he was director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Ohlone College and has been a member of the American Physical Therapy Association since 1969. The Physical Therapy Board's duties include investigating the background of applicants, administering licensing exams, certifying physical therapists to perform electromyography, investigating consumer complaints and taking disciplinary actions against licentiates.

Assemblywoman **Judy Chu**, D-Monterey Park, was appointed to the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC) by Assembly Speaker Herb J. Wesson. The CDIAC was created in 1981 and provides information, education and technical assistance on public debt, investments and economic development financing tools to local public agencies and other finance professionals.

U.S. District Court Judge **Robert M. Takasugi** received the Judicial Courage Award at the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Bar Association's 50th annual Awards Presentation and Dinner Dance. Each year, the Criminal Courts Bar Association, the oldest organization of attorneys and related pro-

fessionals in Southern California, honors distinguished lawyers, judges and community activists for significant contributions to the criminal justice system.

David F. Wong, 36, of Rohnert Park, Calif., was appointed by Gov. Davis to be a member of the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CGCEPD). Wong has been the assistant public affairs manager for State Farm Insurance (Central and Northern California) since 1990. He is a member of the board of directors of Goodwill Industries (Redwood Empire) and was a member of the Business Advisory Council for the Organization of Chinese Americans from 1998 to 2000. ■

Nat'l JACL Youth Confab Set for June 20-22 in St. Louis

The JACL National Youth/Student Council has set its biennial youth conference for June 20-22 at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Approximately 200 Asian Pacific American youths between the ages of 13 and 26 are expected to gather in St. Louis from across the country for the opportunity to establish networks and exchange ideas and insights on issues relevant to APA youths today. Conference participants will also have an opportunity to address critical issues such as political activism, community involvement and cultural identity.

"We view the conference as an


opportunity to raise awareness of youth issues among Asian Pacific American community members and leaders, laying the foundation for future inter-generational communication," said Maya Yamazaki, JACL National Youth/Student Council chair.

Among the scheduled activities are a series of workshops ranging from cooking and taiko drumming to empowerment, financial planning and a forum on multicultural issues. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet role models through the mentorship luncheon and listen to various speakers.


The conference also features a

Vision Award recipient who is to be honored at a banquet on the last night. This award is given to an APA who has made strides in an unconventional field. Previous winners include the Judge Lance Ito, actress Tamlyn Tomita, Kamikaze Records and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi.

"The Vision Award banquet is a highlight of our conference," said Joshua Mizutani Spry, the JACL National Student/Youth representative. "It is our chance to honor a role model who has helped break stereotypes and inspired Asian Pacific American youth throughout the nation." ■





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Japanese American Citizens League

Boise Valley Chapter

Approximately 40 internees, veterans and their families and friends witnessed the second Day of Remembrance Proclamation in Idaho on Feb. 19, in Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's office at the State Capitol in Boise. Hero Shiosaki, a 442nd veteran from Blackfoot, Idaho, spoke of his wartime experience and his current efforts to educate the public about that experience. Les Bock, director of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, and Robert Hirai, president of the Boise Valley chapter, spoke briefly; Neil King, head of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, was also present.

In presenting the proclamation, the governor said, "Your story reminds us of the mistakes of the past so that we do not repeat them. But is also reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. It reminds us that we are one people ... all Americans ... regardless of color, religion, or ethnic background. And it reminds us of the freedoms and opportunities that we must always cherish.

"We must teach our children and teach one another about our common history and our shared human-

JACL Corner



George and Jean Nomura display the Certificate of Appreciation presented to them by national JACL for their years of dedicated community service and commitment to the Eden Valley chapter.

ity. We must teach that Americans are not defined by the color of our skin, our culture, or our religion. Americans are defined by our common belief in liberty and our respect for life and the rule of law."

Idaho officially commemorated the anniversary for the first time last year.

Eden Township Chapter

The Eden Township JACL installed their 2003 officers and

board members at a dinner attended by more than 70 chapter members and guests. John Sasaki, KTVU Channel 2 reporter, gave the keynote address.

National JACL Silver Pins and Certificates of Appreciation were given to chapter members George and Jean Nomura for their years of dedicated community service and commitment to the Eden JACL.

Among the officers installed by Steve Okamoto, JACL insurance commissioner, were: Ron Sakaue, president; Roxanne Nomura-Wang, vice president; Ada Wada, secretary; Dick Sasaki, recording secretary; Ted Kitayama and Shig Naito, co-treasurers; John Yamada, membership/civil rights; Tomi Miyamoto, historian/newsletter; Robert Sakai, scholarships; John Yamada and Tomi Miyamoto (alt.), delegates; Shig Naito, insurance commissioner; and Kimi Kitayama, P.C./Holiday Issue. Lauren Kawabata was installed as president of the Eden youth group.

Florin, Marysville, Placer County, Sacramento and Stockton Chapters

Five JACL chapters, Florin, Marysville, Placer County, Sacramento and Stockton, joined forces for the 1st annual Northern California Time of Remembrance program Feb. 22, with over 500 people in attendance. The program was a joint effort with the California Secretary of State's Office and capped off a seven-week internment exhibit with the adjacent Golden Gate Museum toured by 6,000 Northern California students.

Dozens of Muslim, Sikh and Arab Americans as well as others concerned about the threat to American civil liberties attended the event, which included panel discussions, workshops, historical displays and book signings by local JA authors. The event was co-sponsored by the CSU-Sacramento Library and Elk Grove Unified School District.

Remarks were made by Sikh Temple representatives Gurprit Hansra and Mohinder Sandhu; Council for American-Islamic Relations spokesperson Kais Menoufy and Amir Adil; American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee members Lara Kiswani and Mary Bisharat; past National JACL President Jerry Enomoto; CSUS Ethnic Studies professor Wayne Maeda; and Florin JACL board members Fumie Shimada and Cheryl Miles.

Actor Lane Nishikawa presented two dramatic performances of "The Japanese American Experience: Stories of a People," powerful one-man vignettes ranging from the story of a Nisei WWII veteran in the Punch Bowl cemetery in Hawaii saying a final goodbye to his dead comrades to a tribute to martial artist Bruce Lee, who served as a symbol of Asian pride.

The JA internment exhibit featured a life-size camp barrack room, scale model guard tower, artifacts and photos, while speakers from the

Educators' Workshop told personal stories of living through this dark chapter of U.S. history.

Mt. Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front Chapters

Approximately 300 people attended the 2003 Day of Remembrance Feb. 20 at Cottonwood High School sponsored by the three Utah JACL chapters, Mount Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front North, as well as the National JACL Credit Union and JACL Topaz Committee.

The event honored Medal of Honor recipient George T. Sakato and featured keynote speaker Eric Saul, a historian who has been involved in various projects dealing with the Japanese American experience during World War II.

Sakato, who resides in Colorado, was a private in the U.S. Army who displayed extraordinary heroism in October 1944 in Biffontaine, France. After his platoon had destroyed two enemy defense lines, his unit was pinned down by heavy enemy fire. Disregarding the fire, Sakato made a one-man rush that encouraged his platoon to charge and destroy the enemy stronghold. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in Fort Douglas, Utah.

Displays of military memorabilia and a photo gallery of local JA veterans were also on view at the DOR event.

Riverside Chapter

At Riverside JACL's installation luncheon on Feb. 22 at Chan's Oriental Cuisine, emcee Clyde Wilson's welcoming remarks focused on JACL's mission to promote the welfare of Asian Americans and all minorities in affirmative action, making note of uncalled-for remarks by a prominent basketball player and a congressman from North Carolina.

Re-elected chapter president Michiko Yoshimura gave the chapter's mission statement, while Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge informed the gathering that educator Mark Takano has been assisting the mayor's office to work on accessibility of the Harada House, now a federal historical landmark, with hope that a Japanese garden might be added to the landmark.

The 2003 officers were sworn in by Gerald Kato, PSW JACL youth coordinator, a onetime Riverside JACL scholarship winner. They are: Michiko Yoshimura, president; Irene Ogata, vice president; Dr.

Junji Kumamoto, treasurer; Clyde Wilson, secretary; Gayle and Francis Fujioka, corresponding secretaries; Akio Yoshikawa, membership; Joyce Nako, historian; Meiko Inaba, newsletter; Mable Zink, sunshine chair; Dr. Gen Ogata, 1000 club; Douglas Urata, benefits; Joyce Higashida, U.C. Riverside liaison; William Takano, Legacy Fund; Helen Yoshikawa and Ron Sugi, members at large.

Cherry Ishimatsu, longtime member of the Coachella Valley JACL (now a part of Riverside JACL), distributed dates — the region's famous fruit — and the chapter continues its tradition of awarding baskets of their own famous fruits: oranges, tangerines, grapefruit and avocados.

South Bay Chapter

The South Bay JACL announced that scholarship applications are now available for the Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship and the Joseph Hiraoka Memorial Scholarship.

Students from the following South Bay high schools are eligible: Bishop Montgomery High, Chadwick Academy, Mira Costa High, Narbonne High, North Torrance High, Peninsula High, Redondo Union High, San Pedro High, South Torrance High, Torrance High and West Torrance High.

Applications are due April 4.

The Egashira scholarship is awarded to students of Japanese ancestry residing in the South Bay who plan on pursuing a degree in a scientific field of study (physics, biology, engineering or math). The scholarship is named after an East Los Angeles-born engineer who was incarcerated in Gila River during World War II. Egashira later received his engineering degree from USC, and after serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War he resided in Gardena.

The Hiraoka scholarship, a one-time grant in the amount of \$2,500, is awarded to a student of Japanese ancestry showing academic promise and who is in need of financial assistance. The late Joseph Hiraoka, a resident of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., was born in Lahaina, Maui, in 1930. He received his B.A. from Pepperdine University, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was best known for his aloha spirit.

For an application or more information, contact South Bay JACL scholarship chairperson Ray Shibata at 310/376-6624. JACL membership is required to apply. If you are not a member, membership information will be sent along with the scholarship application. ■



PHOTO: MAYA HATA LEMMON

(L-r) Idaho's Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, signing the Day of Remembrance proclamation; four former Minidoka, Idaho, internees; Hero Shiosaki, former member of the 442nd RCT.

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Mount Olympus JACL



(L-r) Theodore Okawa, Saige Aramaki, Nelson Akagi and John Owada at the Feb. 20 Mount Olympus JACL Day of Remembrance event.



National JACL President Floyd Mori with World War II Medal of Honor recipient George Sakato and his wife Bess at the Feb. 20 Mount Olympus JACL Day of Remembrance event.

JACL

(Continued from page 1)

Rashid Alam, which occurred in the early morning hours of Feb. 23 in Orange County, Calif.

The Brea police also met with the FBI. Sgt. Jack Conklin with the Brea police said at this point they will continue to be the lead investigative agency. "At some point if the FBI thinks they have jurisdiction over the matter, then we will cooperate with them fully," said Conklin.

Ken Inouye, JACL's national vice president of public affairs, called for an "immediate and complete investigation by the appropriate law enforcement agencies."

"The JACL respectfully requests that the investigation be conducted immediately so that all of those individuals who participated in this cowardly act can be brought to justice at the earliest possible date," said Inouye. "The JACL believes that a swift and conclusive response by the appropriate law enforcement agencies will send a clear message that this type of outrageous behavior, racial profiling, will not be tolerated and that the prosecution of those individuals who would commit such heinous acts is of the highest priority for law enforcement agencies here in Orange County and throughout the country."

Noticeable at the press conference was the Muslim and Arab American communities' growing frustration towards local and federal law enforcement agencies.

"There is a feeling among our community that crimes against American Muslims and Arab Americans are not treated the same way that crimes against all members of the community would be treated," said Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR-LA (Council on American-Islamic Relations). "This might be true or not, but that is not the issue here. The fact is that there is this feeling in the community."

In referring to the Alam case, Ayloush said, "We have a list of 10 to 15 names who were involved in this gruesome attack but these people are not only left alone to be at home but they are allowed to brag about it at school. This disturbs our community."

Conklin defended the police

department's handling of the case and denied any accusation that it took two days before the officers started an investigation.

"Within eight hours of the attack, we'd already been conducting interviews at the local high schools; within two days, we already had two people in custody," said Conklin.

The two minors, who were arrested, were later released to their parents.

Conklin said it may appear that the police department was dragging its feet but conducting interviews of close to 50 potential witnesses takes time. He said they believe they have been able to pinpoint the main attackers.

"We believe we know who the principal attackers are but knowing who they are and establishing enough evidence to make an arrest are two different things," said Conklin. "Although we believe we know who did or was responsible for the severity of Rashid's injuries, we need to develop that evidence so we have a strong case."

Ron Wakabayashi with the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Community Relations office also spoke out in support of the Brea Police Department.

"It's important for a quick response but it's equally important for a thorough and complete one," said Wakabayashi. "This one involves a whole number of kids in schools so there's a lot of interview time that is involved. I'm confident with the Brea police department, and I've had some preliminary conversations with the FBI that there will be a thorough investigation."

But Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, director of communications for MPAC (Muslim Public Affairs Council), criticized the policies of the DOJ, which oversees the FBI and until March had jurisdiction over the INS. The enforcement and service functions of the INS were transferred to the Department of Homeland Security on March 1.

"On the one hand, they (DOJ) seek the partnership of the Muslim community to protect Americans and America from any terrorism," said Abu-Shamsieh. "From the same hand, we see that the current policies are considering the Muslim community as suspects, which led to more scrutiny of the Muslim community that increased the level of fear among common Americans."

We see the results of this in this heinous crime."

Abu-Shamsieh's comments come following the December fiasco in Los Angeles where close to 400 men, mostly of Iranian descent, were arrested and detained when the men peacefully arrived to register with the INS as required under a new registration program.

Elizabeth Schroeder, associate director of the ACLU of Southern California, agreed that law enforcement agencies needed to be held accountable.

"The government has repeatedly expressed its condemnation of hate crimes, and the Justice Department has repeatedly said it will aggressively enforce laws against hate crimes," said Schroeder. "Our government must keep its promises. We call on the FBI to live up to its responsibilities to the Muslim and Arab American communities and, ultimately, to each one of us."

Nirajan Singh Khalsa, spokesperson for the Sikh Dharma of Southern California, said they were empathetic to the Arab American and Muslim American communities since their community has also come under attack.

"The Sikh community itself has suffered greatly by people's angry reaction and people's misguided hatred after 9/11," said Khalsa. "When America allows this type of action, this type of hate to occur, it undermines the basic fabric of this country and everything that makes us what we are and what we're defending."

Rusty Kennedy, executive director of the Orange County Human Relations Commission, said the county "in the aftermath of 9/11, saw an unprecedented spate of hate crimes targeting Muslims and Arabs." According to him, Orange County had 122 reported hate crimes in 2000. That number jumped to 181 in 2001.

Yorba Linda Councilman Michael Duvall rushed over to the press conference after hearing about it just an hour before the event. The victim lives in Yorba Linda. "The City of Yorba Linda was shocked and appalled by this occurrence," Duvall said. "I want everyone to know how seriously we take this." ■

COBLE

(Continued from page 1)

engaged in a war against terrorism, and is on the brink of a war against Iraq, respect for civil liberties is crucial to ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

"To demonstrate that you have learned from the Trent Lott experience and the importance of getting history right, we ask you to repudiate Congressman Coble's statements as an inaccurate, misleading and potentially damaging view of history."

Also joining the debate was Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., a presidential candidate, who criticized Coble's remarks as "divisive and ill-informed." He called on the congressman to apologize and resign his chairmanship of the subcommittee on homeland security.

"He was wrong, and he ought to apologize," said Edwards, in a statement to JACL March 4. "Someone who thinks it was okay for the United States to put innocent Americans behind barbed wire fences in 1942 should not make decisions about how to protect Americans in 2003."

But quickly coming to Coble's defense following Edwards critical comments was Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C.

"It is clear that John Edwards is allowing his national aspirations to cloud his judgment," said Burr in a statement March 6. "Howard Coble deserves respect from a North Carolina colleague."

Burrs also criticized Edwards for not speaking to Coble privately or investigating Coble's remarks before releasing a public statement.

It was during a Feb. 4 radio interview that Coble disagreed

with a caller about placing Arab Americans in internment camps but said he agreed with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to intern JAs during WWII.

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

Coble also added, "Some probably were intent on doing harm to us. Just as some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on doing harm to us."

The JACL urged the House leadership to speak out against Coble's statements endorsing the internment and asked them to force the congressman's resignation from the homeland security subcommittee.

"Millions of Americans ... have made their stand clear: Rep. Coble's defense of the racist policies of the 1940s makes him unfit to serve in a position of such importance to the nation's future," the JACL statement concluded. "Americans do not want to see those days return. The House leadership and the president need to make their positions similarly clear, or their silence will speak volumes for them."

JACL encouraged members to contact House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., to ask for Coble's resignation:

E-mail: dhastert@mail.house.gov; Washington, D.C. Office: Office of Dennis Hastert, Washington, DC 20515; phone: 202/225-2976; fax: 202/225-0697; Batavia, Ill., Office: Office of Dennis Hastert, 27 N. River St., Batavia, IL 60510; phone: 630/406-1114; fax: 630/406-1808; Dixon, Ill., Office: Office of Dennis Hastert, 119 W. First St., Dixon, IL 61021; phone: 815/288-0680; fax: 815/288-0743. ■



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In Sports

Mariners Manager: Must Keep Ichiro Rested

PEORIA, Ariz.—Bob Melvin figures an important part of his job in his first year as manager of the Seattle Mariners will be to make sure **Ichiro Suzuki** doesn't get too tired.

The 5-foot-9, 172-pound star right fielder from Japan wore down in the final month last season, hitting .248 (25-for-101).

"We've already talked," Melvin said March 12. "We talked in the offseason. He's told me he'll never say to me, 'I need a day off.' So I'm going to have to read that."

Melvin, who replaced manager Lou Piniella, said it's important to keep Suzuki, 29, fresh. Piniella played Suzuki in 157 of the Mariners' 162 games in each of the past two seasons.

"Whenever he does get a day off, he'll probably know a couple of days in advance, at least one day in advance so he can rest," Melvin said.

Suzuki hit .321 last season, in which he had 27 doubles, eight triples, eight home runs, 51 RBIs, 31 stolen bases and scored 127 runs.

In 2001, when he was the AL MVP and AL Rookie of the Year in his first season with the Mariners, Suzuki was the AL batting champion with a .350 average. He had 34 doubles, eight triples, eight homers, 69 RBIs and led the league with 56

stolen bases.

He had 208 hits last season compared to the 242 he had in his rookie season.

Melvin said he doesn't plan to rest Suzuki against left-handers though. That's because Suzuki, who bats left-handed, hit .356 against left-handers last season and .308 against right-handers.

Melvin got the Seattle job on Nov. 15. He's seen Suzuki for a month in spring training and loves what he sees.

"I don't think I've been surprised by a whole lot because I've been told about his work habits and his preparation," he said. "So I was informed of that. But to watch him go about his business and how he prepares himself is phenomenal."

Melvin likes Suzuki's mental approach to the game.

"He's absolutely aware of what he's doing," he said. "He knows what he's trying to do against certain pitchers. He wants to see the pitchers within our league (in Arizona). He comes as advertised."

The Mariners have eight pitchers on their roster so far: starters Freddy Garcia, Jamie Moyer, Joel Pineiro and Ryan Franklin, and relievers **Kazuhiro Sasaki**, Arthur Rhodes, Jeff Nelson and **Shigetoshi Hasegawa**.

BASEBALL

Fans Who Fought Over Bonds' 73rd Ball Call It a Tie

SAN FRANCISCO—The two fans who fought over Barry Bonds' record-setting home run ball have settled their dispute, agreeing to sell the souvenir and split the proceeds.

Alex Popov, the man who gloved the ball from Bonds' historic 73rd homer before losing it in a skirmish, and Patrick Hayashi, who ended up with it, agreed March 12 to hire a St. Louis firm to sell the ball.

"We have come to an agreement that the best thing to do is get back to what this is all about, which is that this is a historical moment in baseball history that we are both a part of," Popov told the Associated Press.

Hayashi could not immediately be reached for comment.

Since it landed in the stands at Pac Bell Park on Oct. 7, 2001, the baseball has been locked in a safe-deposit box overseen by a judge who ultimately ordered Popov and Hayashi to sell it and split the money — perhaps more than \$1 million.

But after that December ruling, the two men couldn't agree on how to sell the ball. Until recently, the men were still considering appealing Judge Kevin McCarthy's decision that neither of them could claim

sole ownership.

"Sitting here almost 90 days after the decision, it's easier to see we didn't give Judge McCarthy as much credit as we should have," Popov said. "If he had ruled for either party, the other would have likely appealed and dragged this on, so there is some wisdom to his ruling that was not appreciated at the time."

Hayashi and Popov hired the St. Louis-based Barnes Sports Group either to arrange an auction or find a private buyer for the ball. Hayashi and Popov agreed on that firm because it oversaw the \$3 million sale of Mark McGwire's record-breaking 70th home run ball from the 1998 season, Popov said.

Michael Barnes, owner of Barnes Sports Group, said it's too soon to tell whether the Bonds ball will pull in that kind of money, but he added that several factors could make it as valuable as McGwire's — if not more so.

"Here we've got a new record ball that is three above the old record," Barnes said. "The other prevailing thought is that with steroid testing and Barry being walked so often last season, you won't see anyone making a run at 70 anymore. So if you

are a collector who ends up with this ball, it's a record that might stand for 28 years."

Barnes said the ball should have a new owner by May.

According to Popov, he and Hayashi agreed to call their contest a tie once they started negotiating directly with each other, without the involvement of their lawyers or the court.

"It was great to talk to him. I wish that a lot of the hype and the media attention way back when wasn't there and we could have talked," Popov said.

The men have gained so much respect for each other's position, in fact, that they plan to hold a long-overdue 73rd home run celebration party in San Francisco with their family and friends some time after the Giants' season opener on April 7. Popov is hoping that Bonds will make an appearance.

While legal fees will cut into his share of the profits, Popov said he'll be happy with whatever the ball sells for.

"My place in baseball history is secure," he said. "What's that worth?"

Bellflower Yonsei to Lead Varsity Team

Jason Hamada, a senior at Bellflower High School, has been named head captain of the varsity baseball team, which competes in the Suburban League. A three-year varsity starter, Hamada will serve as leadoff hitter, centerfielder and pitcher.

In addition to receiving All-League recognition, Hamada has been named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player and garnered a scholar/athlete award for academic achievement. He recently

completed a season with a Scout League team affiliated with the Boston Red Sox and will participate this summer on a Connie Mack League team to be coached by former major league player Greg Harris.

Hamada is currently maintaining college recruitment contacts with Chapman University, Azusa Pacific University, University of California, Riverside, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Los Angeles and Cal State Northridge.

Reds Sign Agbayani to Minor Leagues

FORT MYERS, Fla.—The Cincinnati Reds signed outfielder **Benny Agbayani** to a minor league contract March 14 after he was put on waivers March 12 by the Boston Red Sox for the purpose of his unconditional release.

Agbayani, acquired on waivers from Colorado in August, was hitting .235 with one home run this spring. He hit .297 in 13 games with the Red Sox last season.

Agbayani had a \$610,000, one-year contract with the Red Sox and gets \$100,000 in termination pay. He will be sent to the Reds' major league camp.

BASKETBALL

Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation to Celebrate 10th Anniversary Tourney

The Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation's (SASF) Annual New Year Classic Invitational Basketball Tournament will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year March 21-23 in Sacramento and Elk Grove.

The tournament is one of the largest in Northern California with over 180 teams of boys and girls, from 1st through 12th grades, competing in 22 divisions.

As part of the celebration, two basketball teams from Matsuyama, Japan, will also compete as part of a cultural exchange sponsored by the Sacramento Matsuyama Sister City organization, which was founded in 1981. It will be the team's first trip to the United States.

The Japanese teams will also go on a study tour of Sacramento, visiting the state capital, several local museums, the California State University, an animal shelter and the Arco Arena.

"This is the kind of cultural

exchange we have been anticipating. It's a very thrilling opportunity to play basketball in the United States, meeting with the people of Sacramento and exploring the community's cultures. It is our hope to have every experience this exchange has to offer," said former Olympic basketball player Kazuto Ohno, founder of the Legend Matsuyama Academy, a pioneer basketball academy in Ehime, Japan.

Tournament festivities include a Friday night welcome reception as well as a tournament dinner and dance on Saturday night.

The SASF is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of building a community/recreational facility dedicated to the enrichment of Asian Pacific Islanders.

Admission to the tournament is free and open to the public. For more information, schedules and locations, call Rodney Kunisaki at 916/363-7391.

FOOTBALL

Redskins Make Offer to Jets' Morton

WASHINGTON—The Washington Redskins continued to be the most active NFL team in free agency, making a five-year, \$8 million offer March 6 to New York Jets kick returner **Chad Morton**.

The offer includes a \$2.5 million signing bonus. Morton is a restricted free agent. If the Jets don't match the offer, the Redskins will owe New York a fifth-round draft pick as compensation.

Morton, who is Hapa, finished second in the AFC in kickoff returns last season and ran back two for touchdowns in the season opener, but he has wanted more playing time at running back.

Coach Steve Spurrier and owner Dan Snyder told Morton he would get that chance with the Redskins, according to his agent, Leigh Steinberg.

"They outlined a future which had him playing some at running back and splitting out at wide receiver and returning punts as well

as kickoffs," Steinberg said. "And that excited him."

The Redskins have added nine players in the week since free agency began — eight free agents and one by trade. They also have now made offers to two restricted agents, Morton and Green Bay safety Matt Hatch.

Meanwhile, there has been an apparent hitch over the fifth-round draft pick the Redskins had planned to give the Jets in exchange for Morton. The Redskins didn't have a fifth-round selection in this year's draft, so they announced that they had acquired one from New England for a seventh-round pick this year and a fourth-round pick next year.

But New England's pick might not be high enough in the fifth round to meet league rules. If it isn't, the Redskins will have to trade for another fifth-round pick.

Redskins spokesman Karl Swanson said the New England trade hadn't been officially completed.



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Very Truly Yours

Harry K. Honda

A Potpourri Ushered by Nineteen

NINETEEN years ago, while celebrating Little Tokyo's centennial, a committee buried a time capsule under a beautiful shade tree imbedded in an elevated circular bed in the Plaza in front of the Japan America Theatre. The plan is to reopen it in the year 2084. The tree may be replaced in time but the building and place should last.

Frank Omatsu, then of Sumitomo Bank and the inspiration for this once-in-a-lifetime project, recalled that another community had forgotten the precise whereabouts of their buried time capsule. Furthermore, the general area had been paved over. Thus, the reminder here.

The time capsule, 4 feet in diameter and 18 feet long, accommodated myriads of artifacts, memorabilia, newspapers (including several issues of this paper) and pictures. One that I remember best is Tertia Toyota's contribution, a videotape of her TV special on Asian Americans. Nitrogen gas was injected as a preservative. The idle concern I had then was: Would there be a mechanism to play it back?

What should be an occasional reminder hereon of the whereabouts of this time capsule in Little Tokyo can be a gentle gambit while discussing the events of the day. A bare, inconspicuous cement plate hovers over the buried time capsule. Look for it the next time you're in the vicin-

ity.

NINETEEN days (or less) will have passed when this particular issue reaches our mailbox, relating for the record a belated New Year's party I enjoyed recently. The bite-size ball of *mochi* in the soup and the Japanese spread of food, *kampai* with champagne, tributes to the seniors, balloons, greetings, spectacular entertainment and prizes for each attendee filled the evening.

A troupe of seven opened the festivities with *Sorabushi*, a trio entertained with Peruvian and Bolivian music with an Inca beat during dinner and a superb show after dinner of captivating Argentine tango, dazzling flamenco and romp of gauchos spinning their bolos after dinner.

A mini-South American fiesta staged before an all-Nikkei audience could only happen at a PANA-USA affair — thanks to our transplanted Sansei Peruvian, Arturo Yoshimoto, local president and secretary-treasurer international. For the New Year party last year, he brought in Brazilian music and samba dancers, who attracted many to join their conga line *Tankobushi*-style.

Ernest Hida distributed COPANI XII registration forms and travel information, all tours starting from LAX on Monday afternoon, July 21, two nights in Lima Marriott and in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, five nights at Hotel Los Tajibos, the convention site. Optional week-long tours follow:

(1) a gradual ascent in the altitudes inside Bolivia from 1,460 feet to altiplano La Paz at 11,900 feet, (2) the inland sea at 12,600 feet, Lake Titicaca, Inca ruins around the lake and Puno, Peru, (3) and additional stops in Brazil and Argentina, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Iguassu Falls and Buenos Aires with prospects of meeting with Nikkei in Brazil and in Argentina — a trademark of his company, American Holiday Travel. Hida was designated to coordinate the tours and convention package. Contact him for details: 312 E. 1st St. #341, Los Angeles, CA 90012; 213/625-2232, e-mail: american-holiday@att.net

Fees for convention registration (\$200 per adult, \$100 for youth under 25) and tour applications are due June 10. Bolivia requires a valid passport. Visas are not required by Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, but Brazil does. While immunization is not required, Hida advises to check with your doctor about travel because of high altitude.

NINETEEN HOURS away, as this is being written, will be St. Patrick's Day — observed by Catholics in Japan as the day the hidden Christians were discovered by the French priest at his church in Nagasaki in 1865. (Commodore Perry had reopened Japan to commerce and trade by treaty in 1854. The French enabled, by its treaty in 1855, the entry of the religious teachers to minister to the foreign communi-

ties.)

Here's a bit of Japan history. Christianity was introduced in Japan by Jesuit padre Francis Xavier in 1549. Toyotomi Hideyoshi issued an edict against all missionaries and their teaching in 1587. And "notwithstanding the protests of missionaries against the slave trade, merchants carried away many Japanese into servitude" through daimyos and others. — A line from Otis Cary's monumental work, "A History of Christianity in Japan" (1909).

Tokugawa Ieyasu outlawed Christianity by edict in 1614. His grandson Iemitsu closed Japan in 1620 by edict to foreign trade, forbade his subjects to leave the country under pain of death, and suppressed Christianity by systematic search and inquisition that lasted until 1873. Pressure from foreign powers and

Japanese ambassadors who had visited foreign countries spoke for freedom of religion, a guarantee that was formally included in the Meiji Constitution of 1879.

Townsend Harris, the plenipotentiary U.S. envoy to Japan (1856-1862) introduced the Christian observance in Japan of the Sabbath by refusing business transactions on Sundays. An Episcopalian, he was resolved to set the example, "a day of rest."

A Pennsylvanian and medical Presbyterian missionary, Dr. J.C. Hepburn, completed the first Japanese-English/English-Japanese dictionary in the 1860s and a system of romanization that bears his name, still widely in use.

NINETEEN (19) is a prime number. Thus endeth my potpourri. ■

COMMENTARY

Legendary Asahi Elected to Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame

By MICHAEL HOSHIKO
W9CJW

In February the legendary Asahi Baseball Team of prewar Vancouver, British Columbia, was elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

I remember when I was a kid living in Surrey, B.C., I used to listen to the local static-filled AM station broadcast of the ballgame.

Only 10 former members have survived and they will be honored at the induction ceremony at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame located in St. Marys, Ontario, on June 28, 2003. Tom Valcke, president of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, said the Asahi team is one of four teams that have been enshrined.

Several years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Ken Kutsukake. He is 92 now but expects to be at the induction this summer. Left-handed Kaz Suga was one of the team's greatest hitters. He never hit below .400 in seven seasons. Kaz's younger brother Kiyoshi, now 81 and living in Montreal, was the team's treasurer and scorer.

It is sad that so many of the old-timers have passed on. Ten years ago many of the old-timers were still alive. The Asahi played against the American Nisei teams in Seattle and other cities down the

coast and I am sure these old-timers who played baseball will be pleased that the Asahi team is being so honored.

I just had to look in my copy of the book "Asahi Legend in Baseball." I have autographs of Eddie Kitagawa, Bob Higuchi, Frank Shiraishi, Mike Maruno, Kas Suga, Ken Kutsukake, Yuko Uno, Muni Miikie, Tommy Sawayama, and Mickey Maikawa. I am sorry that I don't have Roy Yamamura's autograph as he was my favorite. Many fans really enjoyed watching him steal bases.

Those were the days before World War II when even many Canadians really liked to go and see the Asahi play ball in Vancouver. In 1942 the evacuation came and all the team members were scattered. They were sent to road camps, relocation centers and ghost towns. Baseball had provided the only real exposure that the Japanese Canadians had with the general public before the war.

Postwar the members eventually became a part of the Canadian community and have enjoyed the good life in places like Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and other towns all over Canada. The Asahi baseball players helped the rest of us Nisei identify with them and helped us feel good about ourselves.

Today all of us Nisei thank them, wish them well and congratulate them for the honor of being inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. ■



By the Board

Ken Inouye, V.P. Public Affairs

'The Greatest Country in the History of the World'

As a young man growing up in the 1960s and 1970s, I was quietly confident that the United States would truly become the land "where all men and women are created and treated as equals."

My optimism reached a zenith with the passage of the Redress legislation in 1988. At that time, I proudly proclaimed to my young daughters Nicole (12), Erin (8) and Shannon (5) that we were living in the "Greatest Country in the History of the World" since only a great country would apologize to such a small ethnic community for injustices that occurred over 40 years prior to the Redress legislation.

In the year 2003, my optimism has been tempered by the passage of the Patriots, Homeland Security and Total Information Acts. Although these pieces of legislation are intended to protect all Americans from terrorist attacks, they have unleashed their own form of terror by removing such rights as due process, privacy, and judicial checks and balances on certain law enforcement activities, all in the name of national security.

The recent detentions of indi-

viduals (some of whom were legal residents) by the INS in the now infamous registration of males from selected countries illustrates why the checks and balances that existed prior to the enactment of these acts must be reinstated.

The detention of these individuals without cause (since almost all of these individuals were subsequently released without any charges being filed) is WRONG and I would encourage all JACLers who still remember the pain of being separated from loved ones during the 1940s, also in the name of national security, to contact their members of Congress and respectfully request that both houses do the following: (1) revisit all of the provisions of these bills and ask them to reinstate the checks and balances that existed prior to the passage of these bills; (2) remove all portions of these bills that are inconsistent with the basic concepts of due process, invasion of individual privacy, and the way we treat all of the law-abiding individuals who live in America; and (3) emphasize the fact that this is America and all individuals should be considered inno-

cent until proven guilty.

Let our elected officials know that we want them to develop a national security policy that is consistent with the principles contained in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights and that we cannot accept the current loss of civil liberties as a byproduct of achieving national security. ■



BEATING

(Continued from page 1)

Ryan, 18, who was not part of the group, also witnessed the attack.

"A bunch of cars stopped and people just started running out with a bunch of weapons," said Ryan. "I was with my girlfriend and I told her to get in the car and we left."

Although Ryan fears retaliation for speaking out, he said after seeing what happened, he felt compelled to take a stand.

The attackers scattered after neighbors apparently alerted police.

Mohamed said he found his brother lying in a pool of blood in the street. Sgt. Jack Conklin with the Brea Police said they are investigating whether this was a planned fight.

"Approximately an hour before the attack, we received a phone call into the Brea Police Department's communication division that said that there was going to be a racially motivated fight occurring in the city," said Conklin. "This person was unidentified. They would not give their information nor were they able to provide how many people were involved or where that fight would take place but based on the information, that is what led us to believe this may have been a planned event."

Mohamed admitted that he got into a fight with one of the attackers in August but refuted any allegations that the two groups had planned this fight.

Whether or not this was a planned fight, Conklin said they are taking this matter seriously.

Brea police have made two arrests, although they were later released to their parents.

They also have four suspects, including an individual they believe was one of the main perpetrators of Rashid's injuries, but no arrests have been made.

Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR-LA (Council on

American-Islamic Relations) said Rashid's case was not an isolated incident.

On Feb. 21, CAIR received a report that in Irvington, New Jersey, a Muslim father of six was attacked by two men who accused him of being a terrorist. The attackers allegedly knocked the victim to the ground and kicked him while yelling, "You have to go back to your country."

A few days later on Feb. 28, a Santa Clara, Calif., woman, wearing Islamic clothing was assaulted in the laundry room of her apartment building. She suffered bruises and a split lip. Every item in the woman's laundry was also later found torn.

Ayloush said earlier in March, two legislators from the Washington State Assembly walked out after a Muslim said the prayer to open the session.

To prevent future attacks, Ayloush asked talk show hosts, politicians and religious leaders to tone down the war rhetoric.

"We believe this recent increase in attacks on American Muslims is a direct result of the barrage of pro-war and anti-Islam rhetoric coming from right wing and evangelical leaders," said Ayloush. "The FBI needs to take these incidences seriously to help provide a sense of security for ordinary American Muslims."

As for Rashid's father, Ahmed said he wants his son to be healthy again and for the perpetrators to be apprehended.

The father said Rashid often asked him if he could change his name to a more Caucasian-sounding one.

"Since they were little boys, they were always harassed because of their names but I always told them to cool down. It's who you are, not what they call you that's important," said the father. "But I never realized the extent of hate my kids were facing. Otherwise I would have changed his name."

The naturalized father, who immigrated to the United States

from Lebanon in 1971, said his two sons and two daughters were born and grew up in Orange County. The two sons attended Esperanza High School, and Rashid was planning to attend a city college in Fullerton in the fall. The attackers came from other high schools, according to Mohamed.

Before this incident, the father, who is the publisher of an Anaheim-based weekly newspaper called *The Arab World*, thought he had made it.

"I thought I was living the American dream," said the father. "I had a healthy, happy family, a good job, and lived in a nice house in a friendly neighborhood."

But now, Ahmed said he's not so sure about his future. "We believe in the Constitution and democracy," said Ahmed. "But we're just confused right now because people cannot take us for the way we are, especially after September 11. Anywhere we go, if they hear an Arabic or Muslim name, they give us faces. You see it. They treat us differently. But this is our home. We have nowhere to go. The kids were born here, and I've been here since I was 17. Where can we go? Lebanon? We don't know anybody there. ... We're just confused right now."

The father said the family has not told the two daughters the truth about Rashid's injuries. The daughters, who both attend an Islamic grammar school, were told that Rashid was in a car accident.

"We don't want to confuse the little girls," said the father. "And we don't intend on putting them in public American schools because they also have Muslim names."

The family has retained the law firm of Sayre and Chavez. Fernando Chavez of Sayre and Chavez is the son of civil rights activist Cesar Chavez. The law firm has handled high-profile clients such as Rodney King, the African American motorist who was beaten by Los Angeles Police Department officers.

Attorney John De Leon, who is handling Alam's case, said among the rights they plan to pursue is a California law that provides that parents or guardians are liable for the misconduct of their minors.

"There is a responsibility of all the parents in this community for the actions taken such as this," said De Leon. ■

Author of 'Farewell to Manzanar' to Speak at Teacher Training Workshop

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, author of "Farewell to Manzanar," will appear as the featured guest speaker at a teacher training workshop sponsored by the Go For Broke Educational Foundation on March 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Japanese American National Museum.

The workshop, which is free of charge to educators, offers teachers in the state of California information enabling them to include the experiences of Japanese Americans, and specifically Nisei veterans of World War II, into their classroom instruction.

Educators attending this workshop will receive a free autographed copy of "Farewell to Manzanar" in addition to classroom resource materials.

Wakatsuki Houston was only 7

years old when she and her family were forcibly uprooted and sent to live at the Manzanar concentration camp. Twenty-five years after their release, Wakatsuki Houston and husband James Houston co-wrote her family's autobiography, which won attention from critics nationwide.

California Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante recently announced the release of 10,000 "Farewell to Manzanar" video kits to schools and libraries throughout California. The kits aim to educate students and the public about racial prejudice and the unjust incarceration of more than 120,000 JAs during WWII.

JANM is located at 369 E. First Street in Los Angeles. To reserve a seat or for more information, contact Helen Ota at 310/222-5711. ■

MORAN

(Continued from page 1)

were not for the strong support of the Jewish community for this war with Iraq we would not be doing this. ... The leaders of the Jewish community are influential enough that they could change the direction of where this is going and I think they should."

The seven-term congressman said his comments were in direct response to a question posed by a woman who said she was Jewish. "I regret doing that," he said.

Both the White House and allies in Congress were swift in their criticism of Moran.

"These remarks are shocking. They are wrong and they should not have been said," said White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said, "It's a sad day when comments like that are made. They debase the debate and they have no purpose."

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Joe Lieberman said Moran's remarks were "deeply offensive and morally wrong." The Connecticut senator, who is Jewish, said such comments "are inconsistent with the ideals of tol-

erance and diversity upon which our nation was founded."

Although Moran has since tried to make amends with members of the Jewish community, arranging meetings with several of them, many are not impressed.

"I do not believe he's fit for public office," said Ronald Halber, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. "His ethical lapses and comments should force him to do some soul searching."

JACL compared Moran's remarks to those made by North Carolina Congressman Howard Coble who said the World War II internment of Japanese Americans was justified. They noted that although Moran has apologized for his remarks, critics of Coble are still waiting for him to address their concerns.

"Despite repeated attempts to meet with Rep. Coble, the JACL has been snubbed on every occasion," said the organization in a statement. "The JACL continues to demand accountability from the House Leadership on Rep. Coble's statements, and urges the president and Speaker Hastert to repudiate his position." ■



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11/7-11/19	Yamato Tour to China - Beijing, Xian Yangtze River Cruise and Shanghai	Sharon Seto
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JACL COMMUNITY Calendar

National

Tues.-Thurs., March 25-27—Three-part television series: "Becoming American: The Chinese Experience," the story of Chinese immigration and assimilation; PBS; 9-10:30 p.m. EST; check local listings for local dates/times.

East Coast

DELRAY BEACH, Fla.

Tues., April 1—Exhibit Opening: "Diamonds in the Rough: Japanese Americans in Baseball"; Morikami Museum, 4000 Morikami Park Rd.; explores baseball's special place in the history of the Japanese American community; exhibit runs through May 25. Info: 561/495-0233; www.morikami.org.

NEW YORK CITY

Thurs., March 27—Brown Bag Lunch Series: "Migrancy, Citizenship and New York City" with visiting scholar May Joseph; 12 noon-2 p.m.; A/P/A Studies, NYU, 269 Mercer St. Suite 609. **RSVP by March 24:** apa.rsvp@nyu.edu; 212/992-9653.

Sat., March 29—Film screening, "An Untold Triumph"; 6-8 p.m.; Cantor Film Center, NYU, 36 E. 8th St. Theater 101; the stories of 30 surviving Filipino American soldiers of WWII, narrated by Lou Diamond Phillips. **RSVP by March 26:** apa.rsvp@nyu.edu; 212/992-9653.

Thurs., April 3—"Breaking Stereotypes: Asian/Pacific American Musicians"; 6-9 p.m.; Kimball Lounge, 246 Greene St.. **RSVP by March 31:** apa.rsvp@nyu.edu; 212/992-9653.

Thurs., April 10—Exhibit Opening: "Noguchi: Contours"; UBS Paine Webber Art Gallery, 1285 Ave. of Americas; rare Isamu Noguchi scroll drawings, some not seen for 70 years; exhibit runs through June 20. Info: 212/713-2885.

PHILADELPHIA

Sun., April 6—Cherry Blossom Festival; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Japanese House & Garden (JHG); with the Japan American Society of Greater Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sat., March 29—Korean American Coalition Personal Development Workshop #1: "The 21st Century Leader: Surviving and Thriving in the 3rd Millennium"; 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration); 2325 Rayburn HOB; featuring professional trainers from LEAP. Free and open to the public. **RSVP, info:** 202/2976-6401.

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.

Mon., July 14—Inaugural National Nikkei Golf Tournament, "Nikkei I"; Westfields (a Fred Couples signature course) in Northern Virginia; practice time available in the morning; hosted by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JACL.

Midwest

CINCINNATI

Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12—2003 NCSS Great Lakes Regional Conference; 9 a.m.-19:50 p.m.; 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.-Sun., March 28-30—Midwest District Council Meeting; Radisson Hotel, downtown.

Thurs.-Sun., March 27-30—Cleveland Buddhist Temple Casino Nites; 4 p.m. weekdays, 2 p.m. weekends; Knight of Columbus, 32400 Vine St., Eastlake; table games and food. Info: 216/692-1509.

ST. LOUIS

Fri.-Sun., June 20-22—JACL Youth/Student Council's National Youth Conference; Washington University; workshops, forum on multicultural

issues, mentorship luncheon, Vision Award banquet, much more. Discount on registration before May 1. Info: Maya Yamazaki, youthchair@jacl.org, or Joshua Mizutani Spry, youthrep@jacl.org.

Intermountain SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., April 12—Mt. Olympus JACL "FundaRama 2003"; 6 p.m. sushi/manju sale, 6:30 p.m. dinner catered by Golden Phoenix; Cottonwood High School Cafeteria, 5717 S. 1300 E; bake sale, bingo, children's games, door prizes; to fund chapter scholarships. Advance purchase discount. Info: Silvana Watanabe, 801/261-2424.

TWIN FALLS, Idaho

Fri.-Sun., June 27-29—JACL Bi-District Conference (IDC-PNW); welcome mixer, "Hint of Hawaii" (pre-function for 2004 convention); recognition/speakers: artist Roger Shimomura, political aide Dan Shimomura and Terrell Nagata, JACL Credit Union; golf in the canyon, bus to Jackpot, Nev. (golf there also), Minidoka tour, fishing for rainbow trout.

Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE

Sat., March 29—Kokoro Kai Adult Day Program's 25th Anniversary Celebration; 2 p.m.; Japanese Presbyterian Church. Info: Naoko Ulstein, 206/726-6474; naokou@nikkeiconcems.org.

Fri.-Sun., April 4-6—MAVIN conference on the mixed race experience, "(Em)powering the Mixed Race Community"; Seattle University, 900 Broadway Ave.; featuring two tracks, one for high school and college students and one for parents and professionals. Info: 206/622-7101; www.mavin.net/conference.

Fri.-Sun., April 18-20—Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Center House, Seattle Center; the "120,000 Tassel Tapestry" fashioned by eighth grade students of Lafayette, Ind., honoring WWII JA veterans will be on display.

Northern California

BAY AREA

Sun., April 6—Nikkei Widowed Group Meeting; new members, men and women, are welcome. Call for meeting time and place: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190, or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

ELCERRITO

Sat., April 5—Contra Costa JACL Annual Senior Appreciation/Scholarship Awards Potluck Luncheon; 12:30 p.m.; El Cerrito Senior Center, Stockton St. Info: Don Delcollo, 223-1352, or June Kodani, 548-4104.

LODI

Wed.-Sun. through Oct. 5—"Objects d'Art: Weapons of the Samurai," display of samurai swords; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; San Joaquin County Historical Museum; Mickle's Grove Park; the display is funded by the Stockton JACL.

OAKLAND

Sat., March 29—Facing East Dance and Music Benefit Bash; Oakland Museum; food and drink, live music, dance videos running all night, silent auction, couture display; to benefit the Angel Island Dance Project. Advance ticket discount: 510/891-9496, facingeastdm@excite.com.

PLEASANTON

Sun., April 27—Tri-Valley JACL's Teriyaki Chicken Fund-raiser; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Alameda County Fairgrounds;

karate demonstration; Eden Aoba Taiko, May Chorale-Japanese Music & Songs; dining facilities available. **Pre-Order Only.** Tickets: Dean Suzuki, 925/820-1454.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri.-Sun., March 21-23—Spring Fashion Benefit Show by Kokoro Assisted Living and Asian Accents; designs by Eileen "Sachiko" Fitzpatrick; 1-5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 11-4 p.m. Sunday; Buchanan Mall at 1726. Info: Janice Higashi at Kokoro, 415/776-8066.

Wednesdays, March 26-April 30 (except April 16)—5-part series on Angel Island in the *Chronicle*. Info: 800/903-3004; www.sfchron.com/nie.

Sun., March 30—The University of Tokyo Wind Ensemble performs with the UC Berkeley Wind Ensemble; 7:30 p.m.; Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. Info: Philip Hobson, 707/556-5885.

Fri., April 11—Kimochi Home's 20th Anniversary Open House; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; 1531 Sutter St.; refreshments, raffle. Info: 415/931-2294.

Sun., April 20—Cherry Blossom Senior Appreciation Brunch; 9 a.m.; Miyako Hotel; sponsored by the SF Nikkei Lions and AT&T. Free, but **RSVP.** Info: San Mateo Community Center, 343-2793.

SAN MATEO

Sun., March 23—Sunday Movie Matinee, "To Live" by Zheng Yimou, director of "Raise the Red Lantern"; 1:30 p.m.; JACL Community Center, 415 Claremont St.; a family's survival in China across four decades, through war and revolution, the communist takeover, Mao's "Great Leap Forward" and the cultural revolution. Info: 650/343-2793.

Central California

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 & Shennan Lee Institute for Japanese Art in Hanford; golf at Valley Oaks Golf Course; hosted by the CCDC. Info: Larry Ishimoto, 559/627-0442; slyder1234@aol.com.

Fri., April 25—Tri-District Golf Tournament; 1 p.m. tee time; Valley Oaks Golf Course near the Holiday Inn. **RSVP by April 11:** Stan Hirahara, 1597 S. Hope Ave., Reedley, CA 93654; 559/638-6014; schirahara@earthlink.com.

Southern California

BRAWLEY

Sun., May 4—Imperial Valley JACL's 1st Annual Golf Tournament; 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. shotgun start; Del Rio Country Club; limited spots are available. Info: George Kodama, Craig Kodama, or Yosh Sanbonmatsu at 760/353-6661.

EL CENTRO

Sat., May 3—Imperial Valley JACL's Annual Friendship Dinner; 6 p.m.; Ryerson Hall, Desert Trails RV Park; traditional Japanese dinner; Shokenji Taiko from Vista, Shoto-Kan martial arts demo. Info: Jason Jackson, 760/791-5576.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., March 22—Special public program and screening of documentary "Words, Weavings and Songs"; 1:30 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo; the three women in the documentary



PHOTO: REBEKAH KAO

The 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors return to Los Angeles for four performances of "Psycho Karaoke!," a concoction of their greatest hits, beginning April 4 at East West Players. The group uses a fast-paced cinematic approach to live theater to entertain and provoke thought about the issues that affect Asian Pacific Islander Americans and all people of color.

will appear at the program. **RSVP:** 213/830-5648.

Thurs., March 27—Briefing, "IRAQ and NORTH KOREA: Japan's Role for Peace and Security; 6 p.m. registration, 6:30 p.m. program; New Otani Hotel, 120 S. Los Angeles St.; speaker, Naoyuki Agawa, minister and director of the Japan Information and Culture Center at the Japan Embassy; reception to follow program. Free. **RSVP:** 213/627-6217 ext 202.

Sun., March 30—Play reading: "Manzanar: The Story of an American Family"; 2 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; presented by East West Players. Tickets, info: 213/680-3700

Fri. & Sat., April 4, 5, 11, 12—The 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors present "Psycho Karaoke," a concoction of their greatest hits; East West Players, 120 N. Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo. Reservations/info: 323/692-5517; info@18mmw.com.

PASADENA

Sat.-Sun., March 29-30—2003 Pasadena Cherry Blossom Festival; 9:40 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday; parade Sunday at 1 p.m. Free. Info: www.pasadenacherryblossom.org.

WESTMINSTER

Fri., April 4—National Association for Asian and Pacific American Education (NAAPAE) Banquet; 7 p.m.; Grand Garden, 8894 Bolsa Ave.; keynote speaker, Calif. Supreme Court Justice Ming W. Chin. Info: Dr. John N. Tsuchida, 562/985-8085 or 562/985-4645.

WHITTIER

Mon., April 28—JACCC's 20th Annual Ambassadors Cup U.S.-Japan Friendship Golf Tournament; Friendly Hills Country Club. Info: Jeanne Sakamoto, 213/628-2725.

Arizona - Nevada

GLENDALE

Sun., April 27—Arizona JACL's 42nd Annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards & Graduates Luncheon; 1 p.m.; Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Dr. **RSVP:** Michele Namha, 623/572-9913, or Marilyn Inoshita-Tang, 602/861-2638.

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.

Sat., April 12—Las Vegas JACL Spring Friendship Picnic/Potluck; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Floyd Lamb State Park, Tule Springs Rd., Picnic Area III.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

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

One of the items in "Whereabout," March 7-20, p. 11, was submitted with several errors. The reader is looking for John Okamoto (not Okomoto) who was a 1st Sgt. at the MSLS (not MSIS) in Minneapolis and Presidio, Calif. Contact George Yamada at 509/352-0719.



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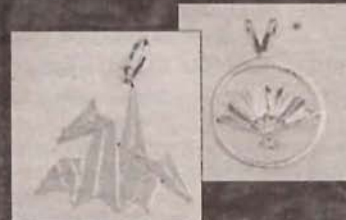
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KEI YOSHIDA, Researcher/Instructor NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

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Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Arima, Shuji "Jim," 81 Weiser, Idaho, March 6; Seattle-born; Minidoka internee; survived by wife Tokie; son Robert (Joyce); 2 gc.; sister Yuri (Tom) Oguri of Tacoma, Wash.; Grace (Sat) Sakuma of Burlington, Wash.; Margaret Horiye of Dewyville, Utah; brothers Kenji, Bob (Vivian) and Bill of Weiser, Tom (Ruby) of Torrance; predeceased by son Jerry.

Budo, Jimmie Yoshiye, Las Vegas, Feb. 27; survived by wife Ruby; daughter Judy (Ed) Gray; sons Bobby (Shirley), Leo; 4 gc., 5 ggc.

Enomoto, John Tetsuro, 79, San Francisco, Feb. 20; San Jose-born; survived by wife Florence; daughter Diane (Scott) Louie; 3 gc.; brothers Roy, Shiro, Goro.

Fujimori, Annie Haohio, 64, Honaunau, Hawaii, Feb. 2; Honaunau-born; survived by husband Shiro; son Bryan; daughters Clara, Annie L.; 1 gc.; brothers Matthew, Wilfred, Benedict, Clifford and Norbert Kelepolo; sisters Lillian Galieta, Hilda Poe, Hazel Juanich, Eliza Cruz, Lurline Kina.

Hatanaka, Joe, 83, Mission Hills, Feb. 20; San Francisco-born Kibei; formerly of Terminal Island; survived by wife Amy; son Jack; daughters Carol (Dan) Iwasaki; Cathy Fujimoto, Aileene (Ken) Yamabe; 6 gc.; sisters-in-law Reiko Ishibashi of Japan, Grace Hatanaka; brother-in-law Tadao (Hideo) Ishibashi.

Hino, Chiyeko "Chickie," 78, Pasadena, March 3; Terminal Island-born; survived by husband Yukio "Yuk"; sons Gary (Lynn) of Idaho, Rev. David (Sharon); daughter Karen (Jay) Culver; 2 gc.; sisters-in-law Chiyomi Ogawa, Hanaye "Ana" (Kiyoshi) Fujihara; brothers-in-law Mitsugi (Ruth) and Terry (Suzi) Hino.

Hokama, Tomiko, 101, Los Angeles, March 8; Okinawa-born; survived by daughters Setsuko Rummel, May Sakamoto; sons George (Sally), Leo (Katsuko); 8 gc., 5 ggc.

Honda, Florence Kazuyo, 90, Los Angeles, Feb. 22; survived by sister Mariko Marie Sera; nephew Robert (Leilani) Sera; niece Irene (Tomothy) Pierce.

Imari, Fumi, 86, Gardena, Feb. 27; San Francisco-born; survived by daughter Keiko Ann (Lindsay Paul) Miya; 1 gc.; brothers-in-law Norman S. (Kyoko), Robert S. (Terry) and Ted T. (Grayce) Imari; sisters-in-law Mutsuko M. (Peter) Okada, Edna Wake Shiota.

Imamoto, Yoshi, 105, Sacramento, Feb. 28; Japan-born "picture bride"; one of 33 Issei women detained by the FBI at the onset of WWII; Santa Anita, Jerome and Rohwer, Ark., internee; survived by daughters Grace Noda of Davis, Lily Matsuoka of Orange, Marion Sakurai of Concord, Alice Take-moto of Kensington, Md.; 10 gc., 8 ggc.

Kora, Rose Hatsuye, 80, Homedale, Idaho, March 9; Puyallup, Wash.-born; Minidoka internee; survived by husband Taka; sons Dennis, Roger (Lorie) of Caldwell, Idaho; daughter Patricia (Mark) Kossler of Gallatin Gateway, Mont.; 4 gc.; sisters Jean Abbott of Soap Lake, Wash., Ruth Miyake of Nampa, Idaho; brother Bob Ishibashi of Homedale; predeceased by son David Allen and brothers Dyke and George Ishibashi.

Kotada, Tsugio, 88, Gardena, Feb. 24; Waianae, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Yoshiko; sons

Raymond (Myung), Dennis, Ernest (Lorraine) of Hawaii; daughter Hazel Tanaka; 5 gc.

Kurima, Fusaye Alice, 87, Downers Grove, Ill., Feb. 22; Lodi-born; survived by son Walter and wife Joyce of Geneseo, Ill.; daughters Frances (Paul) Arakawa of Naperville, Ill., Jean Sato of Downers Grove; 6 gc., 9 ggc.; sisters Ayako Ideno of Skokie, Ill.; May Okine of Carson; Akiko Tanimoto of Lodi; brothers Frank (Chiyo) Tanimoto of Gardena, James (Evelyn) Tanimoto of Sacramento, Jun (Margaret) Tanimoto of Elk Grove; predeceased by husband Tadashi (Mac).

Maruki, Emiko, 78, Montebello, March 6; survived by husband George "Kow"; sons Danny Nobuo, Dale Makoto (Jane); 1 gc.; brothers Takeshi and Nobuo (Grace) Kitaoka; sisters-in-law Grace Maruki Wertz, Rosie Maruki (Jack) Kakuuchi.

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.

Matsui, Saburo, 84, Concord, Feb. 23; Alameda-born; formerly of San Jose and Oakland; WWII U.S. Air Force and postwar U.S. Navy veteran; survived by wife Sachiko; daughters Cathryn (Roger) Miyasaki, Renee (Greg) Samii; 4 gc.

Miyagishima, Margaret Chiyeko, 81, Northridge, Feb. 25; Los Animas, Colo.-born; survived by husband Kiyoshi; son Larry Shizuo (Ikuko) of Reno, Nev.; daughter Janet M. (Kazumi Ted) Ohnishi; daughter-in-law Peggy (widow of James) Miyagishima; 10 gc., 1 ggc.; sister Jayne (Shigeo) Nishihara; brother-in-law Isamu (Misao) Miyagishima.

Naito, Robert Shigeru, 79, Kailua, Hawaii, Feb. 7; Honolulu-born; survived by wife Lillian M.; sons Gary, Roy; stepsons Vernon, and Glenn Hasebe; 1 gc.; brother Hidemi; sisters Margaret Morikawa, Edna M. Hasegawa, Doris K. Goto, Alice T. Sakai.

Narahara, Shigemori, 85, McAllen, Texas, March 17 service; Berkeley-born; formerly of Sacramento; Topaz, Utah, internee; survived by wife Mary; sons Dr. Kenneth of Los Angeles, Gerald of Dallas, Dean of Houston; sisters Hisako Takami and Asako Watanabe of Chicago.; sisters-in-law Shinobu Narahara of Los Angeles, Aki Narahara of Sacramento.

Nishimura, Shizue, 79, Pasadena, Feb. 28; Walnut Grove-born; survived by husband William "Bill"; daughter Carol (Michael) Ichino, Colleen (Lester) Leong, Lisa (James) Nakahara; 5 gc.; sister Aiko Kajiyama; sister-in-law

Lois (Yasuo) Hayashimoto.

Norikane, Joe H., 80, Pleasant Hill, March 4; Yuba City-born; WWII Resister of Conscience; survived by wife Tetsuko; daughters Gay (James) Kurashige of Dover, Del., Misaye (Mark) Looney of Pleasant Hill; son Joey (Hyeon-Hye) of Cocoa Beach, Fla.; 3 gc.; predeceased by daughter Aileen Tsukada.

Ogawa, Atsuko "Achie," 82, Los Angeles, March 4; survived by husband Kenneth Yasuo; sons Rodney (Chris), Ernest (Holly); daughter Nadine (Roy) McManus; 1 gc.; sister Moto Sera; brother Mas (Matsy) Chuman.

Okamura, Yoshito, 81, Palo Alto, Feb. 20; Florin-born; survived by wife Tomiko; daughters Shigeko, Nancy; sister Sumie Nakagawa of Japan.

Oyakawa, Yoshiharu, 95, Los Angeles, Feb. 28; Okinawa-born; survived by son David K.; daughter Mitsuko (Raymond) Iwasaki; daughter-in-law Lisa Oyakawa; 2 gc., 2 ggc.; sister-in-law Yae Oyakawa.

Sato, Kazuo, 83, Pasadena, Feb. 22; San Francisco-born; 442nd RCT WWII U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife Tatsuko; son Pastor Stephen; daughters Mayumi May (William) Zacher, Minnie Akemi Sato; 2 gc.; sister Sachiye (Akio) Matsumoto.

Sato, Mary Hide, 88, Los Angeles, Feb. 21; Hasty, Colo.-born; survived by son Paul (Victoria) of Simi Valley; daughter Alice (Bob) Isawa; 5 gc., 7 ggc.

Sato, "Thomas "Sugar" Jiro, 74, Honolulu, Jan. 28; Honolulu-born; survived by mother Florence "Mina"; brother Robert; sisters Joyce Yano, Nora Shimabuku, Blanche Upchurch, Jackie Forde.

Schechtman, Mitsue Shio, 73, Chicago, March 10; survived by husband Lawrence; sisters Nami Shio, Doris Sese, Catherine (Shiro) Shiraga; predeceased by sisters Kimi Johnson, Susan Shio and Lily Paull.

Shervin, Marcel, 75, King of Prussia, Penn., Feb. 16; Philadelphia-born; U.S. Army and Navy veteran; survived by wife Taeko.

Shikada, Tamio William, 76, Los Angeles; March 4; Sacramento-born; WWII U.S. Air Force veteran; survived by daughters JoAnn (Jerry) Gapol of Hawaii, Reiko "Eileen" Shikada; 3 gc., 3 ggc.; sister Frances Hideko (Takashi) Kai; brother-in-law Ken (Pat) Kuroiwa of Arizona; sisters-in-law Masuko Hirose, Sumie Sugano, Masako (Atsushi) Sawayama.

Shinkawa, Edward Makoto, 81, Sacramento, Feb. 21; Loomis-born; survived by wife Shizue; sons Robert (Pauline), Charles, Gregory; 2 gc.; brother Jack.

Shioda, Shizuko, 84, Los Angeles, Feb. 23; survived by sons Kenishi, Junichi; daughters Mieko, Kazue; 8 gc., 1 ggc.

Shiosaki, Gene, 74, Torrance,

March 5; survived by wife Aiko; brother Barney; brothers-in-law John Nakaso, Roy (Christine) Kato; sister-in-law Ikuko (George) Kiriama;

Soda, Sadaichi Geich, 78, West Los Angeles, March 3; Stockton-born; WWII 442nd RCT U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife Lorraine Shizue; sons Rodney (Wendy) of Rancho Mirage, Steven (Janice); 2 gc.; brothers Masuo, Akira (Jacque), George (Grace) of San Jose, Isamu (Chiyeko) of Gilroy; sisters Aimee (Satoru) Morimoto and Yuri Wilderman of San Jose, Yaeko Kennelly of San Ramon; brother-in-law Robert Oka of San Jose; sisters-in-law Peggy Soda and Dorothy (Sam) Hatai of Gilroy, Faye (Ossie) Tamaki of Mountain View, Doris Wong of San Jose.

Sugimoto, Takeshi Tak, 83, Palo Alto, Feb. 2; San Jose-born; survived by wife Sumi Sue; daughter Amy Masaye (Richard) Yoshida of Milpitas; son Douglas Hironobu of Saratoga; 5 gc.; sisters in Japan: Shizuko Matsubayashi, Nanako Okada.

Terasaki, Dr. Shigeo, 83, Downey, Feb. 26; Buena Park-born; survived by wife Ryoko; sons Dr. Wesley (Barbara), Stanley (Nancy), Dr. Rodney (Beth), Carey; 9 gc.; brother Toru (Saeko); sister-in-law Tomiko Terasaki.

Tokunaga, Kyoko, 68, Sacramento, Feb. 27; Kumamoto City, Japan-born; survived by husband Masashi; sons James, Robert (Susan); gc.; brother-in-law Hideo (Mutsuko) Tokunaga.

Tuai, Liem Eng, 77, Seattle, March 2; Port Townsend, Wash.-born; former Superior Court judge and Seattle City Council president; survived by sons Walter, Gregory, David; 2 gc.

Wada, Taro (Tom), 85, Monterey Park, March 4; survived by wife Yuriko; sons Sam Osamu (Carla), Ronald Yutaka (Joan); 3 gc., 5 ggc.; brother-in-law Hiroshi (Fujiko) Taiji; sister-in-law Grace Taiji.

Watanabe, Masao, 79, Seattle, Feb. 9; Seattle-born; Minidoka internee; WWII 442nd RCT U.S. Army veteran; survived by sons Jon, James, Gordy (Yuri); daughter Lisa (John/Frank) Perron; 5 gc., 2 ggc.; sisters Kim Nakamura, Toshi (George/Joker) Shimizu; brother Tabo (Joy); predeceased by wife Hisa and brother Shig.

Yamamoto, Noriko, 80, San Francisco, Feb. 10; Oakland-born; survived by husband Harry; daughter Karen (Mike) Kagehiro; sons Martin (Helen) Nakai, Gary (Janis), Michael (Mariann); 6 gc.

DEATH NOTICE

PETER MUTSUMI SUGAWARA

Peter M. Sugawara, born Aug. 1, 1915, in Salinas, Calif., passed away Mar. 10. Mr. Sugawara served as a sergeant in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all Japanese-American unit of the U.S. Army, during World War II and was honorably discharged in Nov. 1945. He settled in Los Altos in 1954 with his wife, Kiyo, and four children and was the sole proprietor of the Monte Bello Nursery for over 25 years. A well-respected nurseryman and bonsai enthusiast, Pete was active in the California Nurserymen's Association, the Kusamura Bonsai Club, the Golden State Bonsai Federation and the San Francisco chapter of Ikebana International. Pete was blessed with two wonderful wives, Kiyo Hinata Sugawara who died in 1968 and Amy Abe Sugawara who died in 2000. He is survived by his sister, Fumi Sugawara of Los Angeles, four children: Ellen Sugawara of Molokai, Haw., David Sugawara of Lompoc, Joy Sugawara of West Linn, Ore. and Kathy Sugawara Rossol of Kent, Wash.; and five grandchildren. A private family gathering in celebration of Pete's life will be held in April. Contributions to the Strybing Arboretum or your favorite charity may be made in memory of Peter Sugawara.

Yoshida, Kelly Toshimasa, 62, Sylmar, Feb. 2; Tokyo-born; survived by wife Chico; son Byron Toshimi (Christina) of San Clemente.

Yoshikane, Rachel Fusaye, 82, Honolulu, Feb. 6; Honolulu-born; survived by husband Shizuo; son Roy; daughters Ann Okabayashi, Jean Haraki; 5 gc., 1 ggc.

Yoshioka, Yutaka "Smiley," 83, Gardena, Feb. 27; Sacramento-born; survived by sons Kenny, Ronald (Donna), Bob; daughter Sachiko (Hank) Ishii; 3 gc.; brother Tsutomu (Yoshiko).

Yukihiro, Ayako Iris, 80, Norwalk, Feb. 25; Palms-born; survived by husband Shigeki Bill; sons Roger (Linda Nakahara), Glenn (Lourdes) of Salinas; 2 gc.; brothers Joe (Sue); Ted Terushi (Haruko) and George Naritoku of Chicago; sisters Toshiko Rose Yukihiro, Shizuko Watari. ■

Whereabouts

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

WILLY FUKAHARA

Ned Van Cott is searching for classmate Willy Fukahara. Ned and Willy attended John Muir Grammar School and John Adams Jr. High in Santa Monica, Calif. Willy's parents owned or operated a floral nursery in the Venice or Santa Monica area. After the war the family may have relocated to New York. With information call Ned at 541/863-6487 or e-mail to ned@pioneer-net.com.

JOE TSUJIMOTO

Ken Satoyoshi is hoping to reconnect with his teenage buddy from New York City. With information e-mail kenSat@aztec.asu.edu, write 502 West Grandview Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023, or call 602/908-5011. ■

DEATH NOTICE

KYOKO "KAY" KOJIMA IMAMURA

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — Kyoko "Kay" Kojima Imamura, 86, passed away peacefully in her sleep Mar. 7. She was born in Los Angeles after her family moved from Tokyo in 1906. She lived in Brawley, Calif. where she met and married her beloved late husband, Shigeo "Shig" Imamura. Both were members of the Imperial Valley JACL. They were interned at Poston, Ariz. She and her late husband resided in Los Angeles for over 50 years. Kyoko was a co-owner of a card shop and later worked for Nakamichi before retiring in 1981. She was a long-time member of Nichi Bei Fujin Kai. She is survived by members of the Imamura, Ritchie, Mitamura, Kurasaki and Ambo families and was predeceased by her beloved husband. A memorial service is planned for the summer. For service in Cypress, Calif., contact Bob Ritchie, P.O. Box 53348, Bellevue, WA 98015.

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Power of the Pen

ACTION

Tule Lake

By Edward T. Miyakawa
Trafford Publishing
328 pp., \$20 paperback

Edward Miyakawa re-issued a second printing of his novel which was first published in 1979. The story centers around Ben Senzaki, a Kihei law school graduate who rebels against the unjust treatment of the Nikkei during World War II. Senzaki and his family end up at the Tule Lake segregation center where



the government attempted to separate the "loyals" from the alleged "disloyals." Senzaki protests conditions at Tule Lake and is jailed in the stockade, where the men stage a hunger strike to protest abusive practices. The book can be ordered through Trafford Publishing, Suite 6E, 2333 Government Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8T 4P4; tel. 250/383-6864; fax 250/383-6804; website www.trafford.com.

When the Emperor was Divine:
A Novel

OKI

(Continued from page 1)

Oki, who first learned to surf, started skateboarding with her brother and began impressing onlookers with her tricks on Bicknell Hill so much so that she was asked to join a new skateboarding team named after Jeff Ho, Skip Engblom and Craig Stecyk's Zephyr Productions Surf Shop in Santa Monica. She became the only female and one of two Japanese Americans (the other was Shogo Kubo) on the team at its inception, eventually taking home several trophies from competitions.

Today, Oki continues to skate at parks near her home in Carpinteria, Calif., and has surfed all over the world.

She recently took up rock climbing and makes her living as a freelance graphic designer and artist. Fusing her love of nature and drawing, Oki has had over 40 group exhibitions and more than a dozen one-woman exhibitions showcasing her support for various environmental causes.

Oki's artwork will be featured at her 6th annual exhibit at the Soujourner Café in Santa Barbara in November 2003. Her paintings are currently featured in ongoing displays at various other locations in Santa Barbara. To check out her online gallery, visit www.peggy-oki.com/current.html.

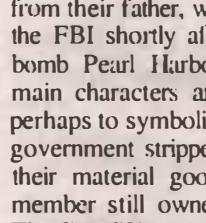
Pacific Citizen: Obviously, your appreciation for the environment is reflected in your artwork. How are art and activism related for you? Is there a specific statement you're trying to make?

Peggy Oki: It's interesting you'd ask that question. It just so happens that I was the presenter of the film "Rivers & Tides," a documentary on the work of (environmental artist) Andy Goldsworthy a few days ago at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Environmental art was the focus of my studies in my senior year at College of Creative Studies at UCSB. At that time, my work was very directly related to environmen-

By Julie Otsuka
Knopf
160 pp., \$18 hardback

Julie Otsuka's debut novel tells the story of a Nikkei family from Berkeley, Calif., who are forced into the Tanforan Assembly Center and then to the Topaz War Relocation Authority camp during World War II. The family is separated



from their father, who is arrested by the FBI shortly after the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. None of the main characters are given names, perhaps to symbolize that while the government stripped the family of their material goods, each family member still owned their identity. The five different chapters are written from different points of view — the mother receiving the order to evacuate; the daughter on the long train ride to camp; the son in the desert encampment; the family's return to their home; and the bitter release of the father after more than four years in a separate camp.

NONFICTION

Born in the USA: A Story of

tal activism. Often my projects were developed from the recycling use of materials. ... I am solely painting now. And the two are not as related as they were in my "environmental art" [days]. However, my paintings reflect my appreciation for the subject. So the statement that I am trying to make is that of promoting further appreciation, which will hopefully lead to protection. This is especially so with my marine mammal paintings. I feel especially connected to the dolphins and whales. So if this connection can be passed on to the viewer, then hopefully they may feel enough appreciation to act to protect them.

My more recent dolphin and whale paintings are often large, nearly half of life-size. One painting, "Dive At Dawn," is 5 feet wide by 4 feet high. It is the image of a sperm whale fluke, nearly filling the painting. The purpose of painting it to this size was to relay to the viewer the scale of such amazing creatures.

I paint images of things that I love. And my activism pertains to protecting these creatures and places. I am involved with a few local organizations as a supporting artist. This way, I am able to support the causes I believe in.

P.C.: What are some of the major causes you are currently supporting or protesting? I know international whaling was one.

P.O.: There are a number of threats to dolphins and whales, and I provide information on them at my website. To name some in addition to international whaling, [there is] Dolphin Unsafe Tuna labeling laws, Navy Low Frequency Active Sonar, Futo Harbor slaughter. Other issues are those of habitat protection and animal rights. Here is a quote that reflects my feelings about animals:

"May, all creatures, all living things / all beings one and all / experience good fortune only. / May they not fall into harm." (Anguttara Nikaya II, 72, "Daily Words of Buddha")

P.C.: Many Asian Americans today are involved politically, say, in civil or human rights issues. Why do you think they aren't more involved

Japanese America, 1889-1947

By Frank Chin
Rowman & Littlefield
528 pp., \$29.95 paperback, \$80 hardback

This unique oral history presents the Japanese American saga as told by those who lived through it. Frank Chin details the lives of first and second generation JAs before World War II through interviews, popular songs, novel excerpts and newspaper articles.



The heart of the book is what occurred to JAs after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The author weaves interviews and testimonies from the JACL with opposing views from those who resisted JACL's policy.

A Matter of Conscience: Essays on the World War II Heart Mountain Draft Resistance Movement

Edited by Mike Mackey
Western History Publications
185 pp., \$15.95

This collection of essays is largely from papers presented at a June 2001 Cheyenne, Wyo., conference,

in environmental issues?

P.O.: I couldn't really tell you. But I must say that I know of one elder Asian American woman who has long been an environmental activist. Her name is Tomie Sollen (also a longtime Santa Barbara resident). She is involved with the Peace Resource Center, Gray Panthers. I met her at a Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Memorial gathering in Santa Barbara well over 10 years ago. She is mainly a peace activist to my knowledge, but also into the environment. Her husband Robert Sollen is an environmental activist in a longtime battle against oil in Santa

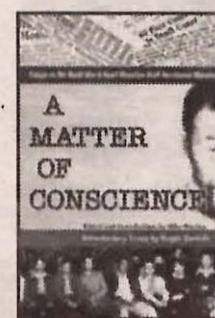


Oki pulling a 360 in her earlier days as a member of the original Zephyr skateboarding team.

Barbara coastal areas. ... I always appreciate meeting older people who are so active in the community. And to see a Japanese American woman, who probably has been doing it for so long, is good to see.

P.C.: Speaking of female JA pioneers, you are a former professional skateboarder — the only female and one of two JAs on the original Zephyr skateboarding team portrayed in "Dogtown and Z-boys." Were you aware as a teenager that you were breaking barriers for both women and minorities in a male-dominated

which focused on the Nisei draft resisters at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Authority camp. Topics and contributors include: "Historical



Background and Terminology of Incarceration" by Gail Nomura; "Cultures of Resistance: Japanese American Draft Resisters in Transitional Perspective" by Takashi Fujitani; "Speaking of the Opposition" by William Hohri; "Protest and Resistance: An American Tradition" by Frank Emi; "Jack Tono: The Journey of a Light-Footed Felon" by Mike Mackey; "The Fourth Option" by Yosh Kuromiya; "Protest-Resistance and the Heart Mountain Experience: The Revitalization of a Robust Nikkei Tradition" by Arthur Hansen; "Draft Resistance and the Selective Service Act of 1940" by William Hohri; "Nisei Draft Resisters and the Constitution" by Eric Muller; "The Psychological Aspects of Internment and Resistance" by Amy Iwasaki Mass; "The Battle Between the Nisei Veterans and the Resisters

of Conscience" by George Tsukuda.



One Hundred Aspects of the Moon: Japanese Woodblock Prints by Yoshitoshi
By Tamara Tjardes
Museum of New Mexico Press
112 pp., \$29.95 paperback

Yoshitoshi (1839-92) is considered the last master of the Ukiyo-e (Floating World) tradition, and his series of "One Hundred Aspects of the Moon" is regarded as his greatest achievement. The author organizes Yoshitoshi's woodblock prints into three sections: literature, myth and music; the warrior; and the Floating World. This collection of 100 prints represent a 26-year effort by the collectors to assemble the only complete set of this series, and the illustrations are accompanied by the author's text. Today, these prints are a permanent part of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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sport? And how do you feel about it today?

P.O.: I was aware of it then. If what I do in the present or did in the past leads to positive inspiration for anyone of whatever ethnic background, sex or age, I am happy to know of it.

P.C.: How did you originally come to join the Zephyr team? Wasn't the group mainly composed of local lower and middle class kids from Southern California? How did you fit (or not fit) into that community?

P.O.: I began surfing and got back into riding a skateboard. I had ridden skateboards back in the day of the clay wheel. And with the new Cadillac wheels, it was safer. It seemed to go right along with surfing. There was a good practice hill, the famous Bicknell Hill, next to the local break: "Bay Street" not far from the infamous "Cove" that was featured in the film. While practicing there, I suppose someone noticed. And one of the boys on the team asked if I'd be interested in being on the team. I went to the Zephyr shop and they signed me up. I pretty much fit in.

P.C.: How accurately do you think the documentary portrayed that time and place as well as you and your fellow skaters?

P.O.: I think (director) Glen E. Friedman gave a very accurate interpretation.

P.C.: Have you had any strange or funny experiences of people or fans recognizing you since "Dogtown" came out?

P.O.: Thankfully, not any really strange experiences. It has been nice to meet a number of good people. And one of the best has been developing a friendship with Glen. We have in common our activism and our veganism. As a result of the contacts from the movie, I have met a number of people who share environmental concerns.

P.C.: So now that people know a bit about your history as a skateboarder, I suppose the next natural question would be, where and what was the worst fall you ever took? And where and what was the best trick you ever pulled off?

P.O.: Worst fall: Skater's Point last year when working kickturns in the main bowl. I broke my wrist in three places. Best trick: getting axle grinds at the top of the bowl.

P.C.: Other than skateboarding, I understand you're still an avid surfer and more recently rock climber. What feeds your interest in such activities and what places have you seen?

P.O.: Mentally, I find these things challenging. And I like that. Surfing in the ocean or climbing out in wilderness is very spiritually enriching for me. I feel a connection to the environment and a great appreciation for the living things that are all a part of it.

My surf travels have mostly been to warm climates. I have been to Fiji, Mexico, South Africa, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan and Tonga, and have made repeated visits to Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and Costa Rica. As a result of my interest in rock climbing, I have been to areas such as Joshua Tree National Monument, Idyllwild, Red Rocks Nevada and Yosemite National Park.

P.C.: You are certainly active! What else don't we know about you?

P.O.: I am teaching art at Santa Barbara City College Adult Education. That on top of everything else keeps me very busy. In the past two months, I have been playing viola again. I hadn't played in 30 years since junior high school. Pretty much practicing every day. Also, practicing short yoga sessions daily. When I have a bit of time, I do also enjoy tending to my garden. These activities fill my life in a balanced way. ■