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Celebrating JA CL's

75th Anniversary

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BENGARD RANCH, INC.
Welcome to Pacific Citizen's annual Holiday Issue! For this year's theme the P.C. staff has selected JACL's 75th anniversary. Although several different theme ideas were put forth this year, the staff felt that a celebration of JACL's 75th birthday, with a look at both the organization's past and its future, was appropriate and something our readers would enjoy.

In these 120-pages you will read about JACL's past accomplishments such as the passage of the McCarran-Walter Naturalization Act of 1952, the work of the organization in the successful Redress Campaign of the late 80s, and its current efforts to stand up and fight for the rights of the Arab and Muslim communities during the fight against terrorism. These pages will not only focus on JACL's past but will also take a look at the organization's future. With the ever-changing dynamics of the Japanese American community, JACL is facing new challenges and must make some significant changes to continue to be relevant. With its current fiscal woes, JACL will also have to make some adjustments in its structure and focus to move towards a healthy financial future.

One area we placed a significant emphasis on was giving a voice to our young members who are our future leaders. Their opinions and ideas provide a window into what should be in place for JACL's future. With JACL's current emphasis on gaining new members, one area the organization must increase its focus on is the younger members of our community.

In addition to our youth members we have looked to our past and current leaders who continue to guide and influence the organization. Several past national JACL presidents have contributed their ideas to these pages including Judge Raymond Uno and Lillian Kimura. We have also have contributions from our current national president Floyd Mori and Executive Director John Tateishi.

Once again this issue would not have been possible without our many writers who continue to volunteer their time, submitting thoughtful and well-written pieces. Thank you for all your efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge the hundreds of advertisers who continue to support the P.C. year after year. Your contributions help us immensely. And to all the JACL members, chapters, and districts who continue to pour the funding year after year soliciting ads: thank you for all your time and effort. (Please see "P.C.'s People Who Count," page 5.)

The annual Holiday Issue is a P.C. fund-raiser and chapters can make monies from their ads. Each chapter can make a minimum 15 percent commission by selling ads; in fact, this commission is available to chapters throughout the year. Please call our business office for further information.

Lastly, I would like to thank the current staff and volunteers who helped to put this issue together. Although the Holiday Issue is a huge task each year, this year was especially difficult with our current small staff. And thank you to volunteers: Gayle Jue, Alan Kudo, Tracy Uba, and Jason Stom. Thanks for all the long hours, including both evenings and weekends.

And most importantly I'd like to thank our readers for your continued support year after year. We would not be around without your support. Look for our special New Year's issue Jan. 16, 2004. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,
Caroline Aoyagi, Executive Editor
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Floyd Mori  
Beyond the Good Times of Today  

Andy Noguchi  
Different Places, Same Destination?  

Andrea Parker  
Social Functions Will Attract More Youth  

Phil Shigekuni  
The USA Patriot Act and the JA Community  

John Tateishi  
75 Years of Achievement, Now a Focus on the Future  

Larry Oda  
The JACL of the Monterey Peninsula  

John Fuyumye  
A Haven From Shame: The Seabrook Nikkei Saga  

Lilian Kimura  
Memories of JACL  

Harry K. Honda  
Feb. 19: DOR — Day of Remembrance  

Raymond Uno  
Two JACL Women Who Have Made a Difference  

Tom Harra  
Moving Forward  

Michael Hoshiko, Ph.D.  
JACL’s Future After Nearly 75 Years  

Ann Fujii Lindwall  
JACL, My Second Home  

David Kawamoto  
Having Fun With Friends  

National JACL Presidents List  

JACL District Governors List  

PC’s People Who Count  

Pacific Citizen honors the many individuals who solicited new or renewed greetings for the Holidays issue.
Answer this question: First and foremost, is JACL a civil rights organization or a Japanese American organization?

This is the crux of the main issue affecting JACL in the 21st century.

JACL is currently at a crossroads that will determine the future of the organization — its survival or demise. A lot of the disagreements within our membership on national JACL's decisions are directly the result of an unclear vision. In order to survive, JACL members need to unite in a similar goal by having a shared vision for the future of JACL.

By GAIL TANAKA

After the passage of the Civil Liberties Act in 1988, JACL has not provided a clear vision for JAs in the future. Simultaneously, since the 1980s, JACL has not attracted the younger generations to the organization — therefore not providing the younger generations a compelling reason to join. Right now, if you asked 10 JACL members why someone should join JACL, you'd probably get 10 different answers. That's a problem.

In order to develop a viable vision of the organization, JACL needs to think deeply about what the organization is, whom it is for, and what it wants to accomplish. We must evaluate not only the current membership base within JACL, but also identify potential members and understand outside factors including the changing needs of the JA community.

Our country is facing some major challenges in the 21st century: terrorism, outsourcing of IT (information technology) and service jobs to foreign countries such as India, astronomical health care costs, and the baby boomers will represent the largest number of senior citizens ever. We need to think about how JACL can help the JA community cope with these issues — because these issues will affect you, your parents and your children.

I believe that JACL is a JA organization, first and foremost. JAs were attracted to the organization when it was founded. We are not an Italian American organization or an Irish American organization. We are JAs facing a multi-cultural society, especially within our own community.

My hope and vision for JACL in the 21st century is the following:

Develop a clear mission statement that provides focus and direction for the organization and for all JACL members. JACL's current mission statement is very long and has multiple objectives: "The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice." The leaders and members of JACL also work to promote cultural values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

While JACL's current mission statement, which primarily focuses on civil rights, has worked in the past, it doesn't fully address important needs of JAs in the future — specifically, the second part of the mission statement — in preserving our JA culture and heritage. Currently, national JACL makes decisions on civil rights issues (this includes chapters who submit a resolution at the national convention), whereas most of the JA cultural and community issues are handled at a chapter level. So we have national addressing the first half of the mission statement (civil rights) and the chapters addressing the second half (JA culture and community). No wonder members can't agree on very many issues! We are operating disjointedly as an organization, without all members working towards the same goal.

The issues that have been plaguing JACL and causing a tremendous amount of infighting are specific topics on civil rights issues, such as same-sex marriages. Some argue that these are moral issues rather than civil rights issues. Whether they are or aren't, I think the main reason for this conflict is that JACL members have different views on what exactly civil rights means.

If JACL's main mission is "to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice," then what is its ultimate goal? Recently I asked this question to board members of the San Francisco chapter, and someone answered quite accurately, "To eradicate racism." The truth is, we will never eradicate racism. Racism is a part of people's values, beliefs and ignorance. Hopefully we can educate and encourage tolerance of others, but we'll never eradicate racism. Therefore, does JACL ultimately have a goal that is unattainable?

The mission statement strongly uses a "victim" positioning ("secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice"), but JACL really needs to get out of the "victim" mentality (i.e., responding only after a grievance has occurred). The current mission statement also states that JACL is an organization responding to "Japanese Americans and all others." Who are "all others"? Americans who are not JAs? Non-Americans who are not Japanese? Non-Americans who are Japanese? It's open to a great deal of interpretation and debate, and leads to a lot of disagreement because the mission statement is not clear.
some members believe that JACL should support civil rights for anyone (Japanese or non-Japanese). Yes, I believe that civil rights should be applicable to everyone, but is that what JACL’s purpose is—to solve the world’s problems on civil rights? Because that’s the direction the mission statement is pointing to. Given JACL’s financial crisis, we have limited dollars to spend, and we won’t be able to solve the world’s problems. But we can help our members and our community—the majority of whom are JAs. The more focused we can be on our mission statement, the better the decisions and implementation of programs can be made.

To develop a clear mission statement, JACL needs to decide whether it’s a civil rights organization or a JA organization, first and foremost. This will greatly help to keep our members passionate about our organization and all working towards the same goal.

“Become the leading organization for the JA community—nationally.” Right now JACL is not a leading organization (an organization can’t be leading if it’s in a constant financial crisis). In order to be leading, JACL needs to be a pro-active organization, not a reactive organization and a Caucasian father, Person A is one-half JA. If Person A marries someone non-Japanese, their child will be one-quarter JA, and if that child later marries someone non-Japanese, then Person A’s grandchildren will be one-eighth JA.

In the past, it was relatively simple in the JA community to identify who was Issei, Nisei and Sansei, since each generation was roughly a certain age within a certain group. But in the 21st century, it is much more complex. There are Japanese descriptions that describe each group, but also age differences as well. For example, Japanese descriptions include Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei, Hapa and Shin-Issei, but they can represent any age—they could be 2 years old, or 22 or 42. (Think about it: in the JA community, Hapa was generally a younger generation such as a Sansei or Yonsei; it was not likely an Issei or Nisei.) This makes targeting the younger generations and understanding their needs much more difficult than ever before.

JAs have also assimilated into mainstream America. The three Japantowns left on the mainland—in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose—are struggling to survive. Longtime popular shops in Japantown/Little Tokyo are closing since the younger generations do not want to take over their family businesses and decide to become doctors or lawyers instead. And who can blame them. Fewer JAs travel to Japantown to socialize, shop or dine. We now need to be thinking of the JA community not as a physical location (such as Los Angeles), but as a network across the country—a community of JAs nationally.

| Develop a clear mission statement that provides focus and direction for the organization and for all JACL members. |

The younger generations are interested in learning about their JA culture, and they perceive it as a higher priority than civil rights. It’s important to note that JA culture is not referring to eating sushi or other Japanese food. Culture is part of who you are, and learning the traditions and heritage passed down from one generation to the next. JA cultural activities provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in a cultural event, encourage prospects to participate in a JACL event and learn more about JACL, and allow current members to feel active within the organization.

The internment experience is now part of our JA culture. It is not just an historical event; it is important for our students to learn about it. In areas outside of California and Hawaii, JAs often have very little exposure to JA culture. Overall, the JA community is becoming more fragmented than ever before. As a JA organization, JACL should take a leading role in keeping our JA culture and traditions alive. How will children who are one-eighth JA learn about their JA culture if they are not exposed to it? These are the types of issues that JACL should be addressing.

Develop more JA leaders in government and business at all levels. JAs have not gotten very far in corporate America, especially at the top level in large numbers. We do not have any young JA leaders in national politics, and we are very short of JAs who are in top management at major companies.

The greatest civil rights violations for JAs today is happening in the workplace. Americans are working longer hours, often mothers and fathers both have to work to support the family, and they are spending more time at work than at home. JAs have been successful in their careers, but up to a point. There is a glass ceiling. Quickly, name a JA who is a CEO of a Fortune 100 company. How about a JA who is currently a U.S. senator not from Hawaii? How about a JA who is a U.S. president? Get the picture?

Take a look at some of our industries such as finance, hi-tech and retail. U.S. companies are all consolidating and increasing efficiencies, which is why we have mammoth companies such as Microsoft and Starbucks. Consolidation leads to layoffs, early forced retirements, and an uncertain future for the employees. And if JAs are not the ones at the top of these companies making the decisions, then they will more likely be a victim of a layoff. I’m not saying that JAs should be saving JAs’ jobs. I am saying that if you are not the one making the decision at the top, then a decision will be made for you. This can affect you—your home, your children’s college education, your retirement—essentially your future.

Educate JAs about their civil rights. Rather than use civil rights from a victim standpoint, JACL should use civil rights as a valuable education and awareness tool. Young people are not educated in the importance of their civil rights. They didn’t personally experience internment, and many of them do not feel they have experienced racism. But if we talk to them in their language—such as how their civil rights can be violated in the workplace and affect their career—they’ll begin to understand the importance and relevance.

JAs need to be aware that in today’s “politically correct” society, few people will openly discriminate. Instead it will happen covertly, such as:

See TANAKA/ page 18

Pacific Central Alumni News, December 2003
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These are strange days indeed, when the word "patriot" is used to name a law that seems in such opposition to fundamental rights guaranteed by our nation.

The "Patriot Act," more properly titled U.S.A. PATRIOT Act of 2001 (the acronym stands for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism"), or HR 3162, was passed in the shocked and angry aftermath of the 9/11 attacks against the United States, when drastic measures seemed sensible. But it seems those drastic measures went too far.

The Patriot Act opened the door for government and law enforcement to use aspects of racial profiling as weapons in the war against our new enemy, those who carried out the attacks against the United States, when drastic measures seemed sensible. But it seems those drastic measures went too far.

Congress is now sneaking bits and pieces of a sequel legislation, the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, already being called "Patriot II," into other, unrelated bills. There was too much criticism when a draft of the full act was published this spring online by the Center for Public Integrity, and it was clear it would take even more drastic steps in the war against terrorism.

Now that war is being waged again against Iraq (let's face it, the war was never over back in the spring), the word "patriot" is even richer with symbolism, marking the line between "us" and "them" in blood. I thought of President Bush's post-9/11 threat when he launched the war against terrorism: "You're either for us or against us."

The president will think I'm against him, but I feel I'm being patriotic by having concerns about the war, and about both Patriot acts.

Dr. David Cole, a Georgetown University law professor, warned the Center for Public Integrity after reading the draft legislation that Patriot II "would radically expand law enforcement and intelligence gathering authorities, reduce or eliminate judicial oversight over surveillance, authorize secret arrests, create a DNA database based on unchecked executive 'suspicion,' create new death threats when he launched the war against terrorism." You're either for us or against us."

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Dr. David Cole, a Georgetown University law professor, warned the Center for Public Integrity after reading the draft legislation that Patriot II "would radically expand law enforcement and intelligence gathering authorities, reduce or eliminate judicial oversight over surveillance, authorize secret arrests, create a DNA database based on unchecked executive 'suspicion,' create new death
I appreciate being Japanese American. That appreciation intensifies on joyous occasions such as my second cousin’s recent wedding. As I passed out wedding programs at the chapel entry, I saw a well-balanced relation of two cultures: guests dressed in either well-tailored western garb or exquisite kimono, shaking hands, bowing, or smiling as they exchanged greetings in English, Japanese, or a combination of the two.

It was wonderful to see the bride and groom encircled by a loving group of people who waited for the reverend to begin. For me, the most striking part of the ceremony was the “San San Kudo,” a Buddhist sake ceremony that means “three three nine” and was further explained in the wedding program:

“San San Kudo is the ceremonial exchanging of sake cups as an introduction between families. The bridal couple takes the first cup and takes three sips each. The second cup is then offered to the groom’s parents who take three sips each. The third cup is then offered to the bride’s parents and they each take three sips. The three sips represent the Truth of this life in the Three Treasures of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. This signifies that where there were once two families, there are now three. Lastly, each family representative drinks three times, giving us a total of nine. The number nine symbolizes potential and one’s commitment and desire for the marriage to attain its highest potential.”

As I absorbed the meaning of the ceremony, I had several thoughts linking it to my appreciation of JACL. It has been enriching to join a new family consisting of members of various ages, interests and personalities, yet bound by a desire to see JACL attain its highest potential. In my mind, JACL is more than a civil rights organization. It is a place where people help each other.

I have personally benefited from a new family who uses the wisdom of its collective life experiences to teach me how to become a more confident, educated and strong individual. They have also taught me that I can make a difference by voicing an opinion and adding a new dimension to a debate or discussion. Most important, they have encouraged me to become cognizant of where JACL has been, where it is now, and where it must be in the future.
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By CARL TAKEI

Under the auspices of the "war on terrorism," our country is experiencing an assault on civil liberties of a scope not seen since World War II.

In the past year, the federal government has rounded up and summarily deported over 13,000 Arab and Muslim immigrants, only a tiny fraction of whom have even been accused of having any connection to terrorism. Thousands more remain trapped in Department of Homeland Security detention facilities, denied adequate access to lawyers as they await final orders of deportation.

On June 18, 2003, President Bush issued a directive described as a "ban" on racial profiling — but which specifically permits racial profiling for investigations involving "terrorism" and "national security" matters, thus opening the door to rampant profiling against Muslims, Arabs and South Asians.

Especially considering the JACL's admirable leadership role in the Redress Movement, if it is ironic that the JACL is facing such dire membership woes at a time when other groups are being targeted in a manner so analogous to the WWII targeting of Japanese Americans.

JACL's difficulties result in part from the inevitable fragmentation of an increasingly assimilated JA community. The New England JACL recently held a forum on JA identity, targeted at high school- and college-aged youth, which illustrated this new diversity of experiences and origins. Fewer JAs are growing up in predominantly JA neighborhoods, internment is becoming more distant in time, and intermarriage is becoming even more common — all things that complicate the question of what it means to be JA today.

How should JACL react to these changes? Criticizing intermarriage or lamenting the other changes in the JA community is not a solution, for it would virtually ensure JACL's demise by restricting us to a narrow and outdated conception of JA identity. Nor would it be wise for JACL to focus less on internment and shift to being primarily a social organization. That would betray our unique historical legacy and the important responsibilities that come with this inheritance. Particularly in a time that so closely echoes the national fear and war hysteria of WWII, it would be shameful for the only national JA organization to promote political apathy.

A far more courageous choice would be for JACL to re-examine its own history and integrate this into the national dialogue over the present-day See TAKEI/ page 15

PHOTO: TRACY UBA

Saif Hussain, of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, leads a Friday congregational prayer for Muslims in front of the Los Angeles Federal Building where the INS was holding special registrations for immigrants. Civil rights groups, including the JACL, have called these registrations discriminatory and a form of racial profiling.
Have you ever seen that poster, “Top 100 Reasons You Know You’re a JA”? It includes such uniquely Japanese American cultural phenomena as: “After college you went to Japan to teach English or you know someone who did” (yep, did it, #37); “You know the difference between benjo and banjo” (a very important distinction at #36); and “Breakfast is not complete without leftover rice (especially fried rice; #27). And while this poster does pull the heartstrings of ethnic pride, it also assumes a common cultural experience that is increasingly less true.

Celebrating JACL’s 75th birthday and reflecting on the past accomplishments of our community and the future direction of the organization compelled me to learn more about the context of those 75 years. After a few minutes cruising the Census Bureau website (www.census.gov), I learned that in 1930 the Asian Pacific American population totaled 264,766 (a mere 0.2 percent of the entire U.S. population) — including 74,954 Chinese, 138,834 Japanese, 45,208 Filipino, 3,130 Hindu, 1,860 Korean, 660 Hawaiian, 96 Malay, 18 Siamese and 6 Samoan. (Makes you wonder who was counting and how).

The JA community comprised roughly half of the APA population and a whopping 0.1 percent of the entire U.S. population. JAs lived in every state but New Hampshire (including one brave and pioneering individual in Mississippi and another in Vermont), but 95 percent of the JA population lived in the West, mostly in California. Hawaii was not included in the count as it was not yet a state.

By contrast, the 2000 Census tells us that the APA population is thriving with approximately 12 million strong, the fastest growing minority group in the United States with a 95 percent increase between 1980-90 and a 48 percent increase since 1990. The Nikkei population now numbers 1.15 million, with 1,365 in Mississippi and 674 in Vermont. And unlike the 1930 census, which can provide only the roughest of sketches of the JA community, the 2000 Census captured information about national origin, outmarriage and multi-ethnic backgrounds.

Almost directly inverse to the general APA population, approximately two-thirds of the people claiming Japanese ancestry are American-born. However, Japanese immigration remains fairly steady, hovering around 5,000 a year since the mid-1950s with approximately 250,000 Japanese having immigrated since the end of World War II. Of the Asian American population — but not including Native Hawaiians — JAs have the highest rate of outmarriage and approxi-
Takei

(Continued from page 13)

Targeting of Arabs, Muslims and South Asians in America

The traditional internment narrative — a frightened and politically unconnected minority willingly complying with the evacuation and detention orders — is an important historical warning for present and future government officials, but is only half of the story.

JACL needs to address its role in the other, lesser-known narrative of internment: the bitter and sometimes physically violent conflict between those who cooperated with the government and those who did not, between those whose patriotic feelings made them eager to prove their loyalty to the authorities and those whose anger led them to reject serving those authorities. This second narrative is particularly relevant in the present.

Today, leaders in Muslim and Arab immigrant communities face many of the same hard questions that the young Nisei leaders of the JACL were forced to confront in WWII, when the FBI and the War Department sought the JACL’s assistance in collecting information about “disloyal” individuals.

Around the country, the FBI is now engaged in a massive effort to identify potential terrorists using surveillance and similar forms of infiltration, asking mosques to provide membership lists, and recruiting informers to report on Muslims who expose unpatriotic or inflammatory political ideas.

In communities from Massachusetts to Michigan to California, Muslim leaders face a difficult choice between resistance and collaboration, trying to balance community solidarity against their fears of FBI retaliation toward their communities and themselves. In some cases, pressure from the FBI can combine with hostility from outsiders to make it incredibly difficult for Muslim community leaders to resist the FBI’s wishes.

Here in New England, for example, the Boston Herald (one of the Boston area’s two major dailies) recently ran a series of front-page articles headlined, “RADICAL ISLAM,” accusing one of the region’s major mosques of being infiltrated by terrorists using surveillance and similar forms of infiltration, asking mosques to provide membership lists, and recruiting informers to report on Muslims who expose unpatriotic or inflammatory political ideas.

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By confronting our own history, re-evaluating the choices our leaders once made, and teaching others about the consequences of those decisions, the JACL can play an important role helping Muslim and Arab leaders navigate the dilemmas they face today.

Perhaps the leaders of these communities can face these difficult choices with more knowledge than the young JACL leaders did in WWII, and avoid creating the kinds of internal divisions that split our community 60 years ago.

Curt Takei, a recent graduate of Brown University, was a 1998 national JACL scholarship recipient and currently serves on the board of the New England chapter of the JACL. His writings on civil liberties issues have been published in the Boston Globe and other publications.
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from

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Jimmy P. Y. Chiu, President/General Manager
A

campus group at my university recently held an affirmative action bake sale.

Curious, I went to see what it was about, hoping that maybe they were attempting to raise funds for lobbying groups or some other altruistic effort.

I was wrong. The sale was a protest against affirmative action. Members of the group stood at their booth selling their baked goods, but the prices varied depending on the race and gender of the buyer. Caucasian males paid the most, while African Americans paid the least.

This bake sale was a gross perversion of what affirmative action is and how it is instituted. What surprised me the most, however, was what happened the next day. In response to this blatant show of ignorance and disrespect, the campus minorities mobilized. Members of the Minority Think Tank, dressed entirely in black and wearing red armbands, set up booths throughout campus to educate the students about affirmative action. And at 1 p.m., the students marched through campus chanting slogans and convening in Red Square for a rally.

The events symbolized the tension created surrounding affirmative action, but most importantly, it brought attention to the surface.

The college campus today is still the hotbed of institutional change, the incubator for future leaders, the breeding ground for intellectual enlightenment and dissent. All too often, I hear that the youth are not interested in civil rights, that we want social and cultural events, things that pertain to our day-to-day lives. They may be true to an extent. But the youth today never forget the importance of civil rights.

Sometimes, between the pressures of school, work, family and friends, we get so caught up in our bubble that we forget the real world. Then, an affirmative action bake sale comes up, and we wake up wondering why we did not see this before.

The JACL needs to shake students out of their apathy, or capture their interests when they wake up. We need to show American students that they should join us because we will give them the opportunity to make a difference in the world.

The JACL has a shortage of youth members and we are always looking to recruit bright leaders for tomorrow. Though we need to cater to the younger generation by making the JACL socially oriented, we also need to keep our legacy of civil rights at the forefront.

The affirmative action bake sale proves that young minorities are still active in civil rights.

Promote JA culture and traditions.

- A JA doesn’t get the job because they are viewed as “not a leader.”
- A JA doesn’t get promoted because they are viewed as “not proactive.”

Touting civil rights is not the way that will attract the younger generations into JACL. It will be their desire for JA culture that will attract new members.

Offer programs and services that are relevant to members and clearly execute JACL’s vision. I mentioned earlier how JACL should be addressing the needs of the JA community. Here is one example. Given rising health care costs, JACL should be offering health insurance through all 50 states, not just in California. Years ago, JACL attracted new members through our California health insurance program, but we should think beyond just California. Some members are currently unemployed, others are self-employed and don’t have insurance, and with the aging baby boomers, more people will have part-time jobs without insurance.

I can’t tell you how many people have asked me if I know of any health insurance programs — I tell them to join JACL, but they don’t live in California! If a person suddenly gets a pink slip (and believe me, it will happen more often in the future since companies are continually looking for ways to cut costs), they will know that they can protect themselves and their family by becoming a JACL member and signing up for the health plan.

We need to look toward the future and determine ways we can help our members.

Acquire new JACL members and retain existing members. JACL membership numbers have been decreasing on a consistent basis, due to the Nisei, who comprise the majority of our membership, passing away, and few new members joining. However, there is some good news to keep in mind: the largest generation after the baby boomers is the baby boomers’ children, called Generation Y (Gen Y). Gen Y are between the ages of 10 and 25 right now. There are 60 million people who are Gen Y, which includes a lot more JAs than we’ve seen since the baby boomer generation. We have a limited amount of time to attract Gen Y — and it is in JACL’s best interest to acquire Gen Y members while they are young. This does not mean that we need to run out and buy a Britney Spears album. What it does mean is that we need to create a solid strategy so that we attract not only Gen Y, but also baby boomers and Gen X (the generation between the Gen Y and baby boomers) to JACL.

We need to give new members a compelling reason to join JACL and renew their membership every year. We also need to develop creative ways to attract new members to JACL. For example, we should consider offering a gift certificate as a JACL membership to attract the younger generations. Think about it: do parents or grandparents really need to provide their kids/grandkids with more materialistic things? A youth gift certificate could be more than just a gift certificate if a youth JACL membership. It could be a five-year or 10-year youth membership, so that our members can purchase a gift certificate for their children/grandchildren and create a longer-lasting membership for JACL.

We need our members to instill the importance of our JA culture to the younger generations. There is much we can accomplish if we all come together with the same goal. For the 75th anniversary of JACL, it is my hope that we can come to an agreement on the future direction and vision of our organization.

TANAKA

(Continued from page 7)

- A JA earns lower pay than their Caucasian counterpart.

Racism occurs in the workforce more often than you think, and is usually unable to be proven. In this “politically correct” society, a lot of racism is hidden. That’s the scary part.

When I was a speaker at the 2000 National JACL Convention, I asked the youth how many of them have ever experienced racism. Very few hands went up. I have seen this same reaction from other young JAs in the community. Does this mean that younger JAs don’t experience racism like their parents and grandparents did? Of course not. What it means is that they are not recognizing it or choosing to overlook it. What is alarming to me is that the younger generations, although assimilated, have a false sense of security that they haven’t ever been discriminated against and won’t be in the future. We desperately need to educate young JAs, but we first need to grab their attention.
After 75 years of protecting and trying to secure and maintain the civil rights of anyone and everyone who is victimized by injustice and prejudice, the JACL has and will continue to act as my voice when it comes to questioning and protesting the reigning hegemonic order. Everyone, including the JACL, has a long way to go to truly secure and maintain the civil rights of all people.

So, I’ve come to realize the importance of activism — especially youth activism. I believe my generation must pay attention to how JACL combats narrow-mindedness as in the case when “Banzai” (a TV program using stereotypical and demeaning Japanese characters) aired on FOX, JACL would not stand for it. With other Asian American organizations, they would not allow FOX to renew a contract with the show. My generation also needs to be aware of how JACL has helped Filipino veterans fight for their rights, get Japanese and JA internnees restitution, denounced female golfer Jan Stephenson’s degrading remarks about Asian Pacific as the one that grew out of a need to protect and preserve the JA community and culture.

The JACL fights the good fight, not just for JAs but also for people everywhere, who face prejudice and bias because of their heritage, sexual preference, and level of ability. Other organizations do it too, but JACL is the one that grew out of a need to protect and preserve the JA community and culture.
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Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue, December 2003

21
Season’s Greetings! Happy 75th Anniversary JACL!

I remember my sister, Grace, in the early 50s, hand-stenciling and mimeographing JACL newsletters in Richmond, Calif. I believe the late Heizo Oshima was president of the Contra Costa chapter then. The JACL made possible a lot of changes since then — the Immigration & Naturalization Act of 1952, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians testimony and findings in 1981-83, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and redress payments.

NETWORK: As a member of the newest 2002 JACL chapter, the “Sawtooth” chapter in Idaho, I’ve utilized many of the services of the JACL. To me, the NETWORK OF PEOPLE is the most important and I’ve utilized the JACL network many times.

I’ve e-mailed editorials and copies of hateful letters to many fellow JACL members and the paper immediately gets barraged with thoughtful, informed, personal replies! Local citizens also reply, but often it helps to be able to relate firsthand experiences and varied responses.

Our chapter has a small core group, a few national members, yet we can draw on the information and support of hundreds, if not thousands of JACL members via a network and the Pacific Citizen! At the bi-district meeting in June 2003, National JACL Vice President David Kawamoto made the analogy of JACL membership to “an insurance policy.” “We are here if you need us.”

SUPPORT: When Minidoka was designated a national monument in 2001, JACL's Washington, D.C., representative, Kristine Minami, was tremendously helpful in organizing support and requesting funding. JACL support, especially in meeting with local congressional representatives, was strong: National President Floyd Mori, Pocatello Blackfoot Past President Masa Tsukamoto, Bob Endo, former IDC education chair and 442nd veteran Hero Shiosaki, Pocatello Blackfoot President Karl Endo, the late Sud Morishita from Idaho Falls, and former IDC Gov. Larry Grant came to Twin Falls or Jerome, Idaho, to offer support and attend meetings. They often had to drive in ice and snow! Mori and his wife, Irene, came to our charter installation in 2002. I was surprised to learn that we were “his first new chapter.”

Prior to 2002, I was a member of the Boise Valley or Pocatello Blackfoot chapters, which are about 120 miles from Twin Falls. Pocatello Blackfoot JACL chapter started in 1941! George Shiozawa was their first chapter president. Charter member Paul Okamura, now age 88, is one of the few members still living who attended the 1942 emergency JACL meeting in San Francisco. Charter Idaho Falls member Sudao Morishita, who passed away in 2002, was another who attended from Idaho.

SAWTOOTH CHAPTER: Our chapter officers all have their own interests, yet somehow we can come together and make things happen. Sandy Bosteder, who taught Japanese at Burley High School, has been our president for two years. Ron James, who teaches history to 9th grade students and cultural anthropology to college students, has been our...
vice president. He also has been doing oral histories. Ron wrote his master’s thesis on the Chinese mining camps on the Snake River and will be returning to China to teach English.

I am the Sawtooth chapter secretary, am semi-retired and do a lot of volunteer work and writing. Janet Matsuoka Keegan is our treasurer. Janet works part-time in addition to being a mother, teaches aerobics and also volunteers for civic groups! Micki Kawakami, former IDC governor, has been an invaluable dual chapter (Pocatello and Blackfoot and Sawtooth) member. She spearheaded the bi-district conference here in Twin Falls and gave our chapter a financial cushion. We would not have been able to accomplish it without her.

Our chapter also includes some distinguished members: Dan Sakura of Washington, D.C., history professor emeritus Dr. Robert Sims of Boise, professor and artist Roger Shimomura of the University of Kansas, Don Morishita, Ph.D. of University of Idaho Research, Guy Matsuoka, president of the Twin Falls/CSI Judo Club, Father Hugh Feiss of Ascension Monastery in Jerome, Francis Egbert, president, Jerome County Historical Society, Ralph Peters, former director of IFARM and former mayor of Jerome, Shirley Kunsman of Jerome, Kelly and George Kawamoto (George K’s Burley Restaurant) of Heyburn, Makoto Kato and Kelly Ogawa of Twin Falls, Teresa Tamura of Montana, and student members Aaron Kirk, Abram Jones, Jennifer Holloway and Linsey Abo.

EDUCATION: We’ve utilized the JACL trainers and training booklet. In 2000 and 2001, former Minidoka internee Yas Tokita used the JACL manual in Ascension Monastery’s Elderhostel sessions on the internment in Jerome. Dr. Sharm Iishi Jordan from Nebraska and Greg Marutani of San Francisco came to Idaho in 2001 and 2003 to instruct Idaho teachers in teacher training seminars.

Sharm and Greg’s latest session in October 2003 in Boise was on “Parallel to 9/11.” Shiosaki of Blackfoot spoke on the 442nd and history professor

Hero Shiosaki, longtime Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL member and a 442nd veteran, is greeted by Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne at the Day of Remembrance ceremony Feb. 19. During the ceremony Hero spoke about his military experience and the achievements of the Japanese American units during World War II. On the left is Tish Kolo of Fruitland, Idaho.

Maya Hata Lemmon, with Les Bock, executive director, Idaho Human Rights Education Center, poses outside the governor’s office in the Capitol Building in Boise, Idaho, during the Feb. 19 Day of Remembrance proclamation signing ceremony.

Idaho’s Day of Remembrance proclamation signed by the governor. The proclamation was drafted by Maya Hata Lemmon.

emeritus Dr. Sims, on the Idaho Japanese American experience. Patty Koyama of Payette, the Hirai’s from Boise and I assisted at the workshop. In 2002, as part of the commemoration, Dr. Rita Takahashi of San Francisco, formerly of Idaho, also instructed teachers on the JA experience during WWII.

ACTIVITIES & SPONSORS: We’ve also had education in different forms, with many different sponsors. Under sponsorship of the Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho Human Rights Education Center, we had readings by Ken Mochizuki from “Baseball Saved Us,” “Heroes” and the “Sugihara Story” and performances of “Within the Silence” by Living Voices, in classrooms throughout Idaho. Under the sponsorship of the National Park Service and College of Southern Idaho we enjoyed an exhibit of Kenjiro Nomura’s Minidoka paintings.

RIDGES: We’ve also had support from Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, who provided an excellent welcoming message for all attending the conference and pilgrimage. Twin Falls Mayor Lance Coppers on personally greeted bi-district attendees. Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce Director Kent Just was master of ceremonies for our commemoration luncheon and sakura matsuri. Idaho Human Rights Education Center, builders of the Idaho Human Rights Memorial in Boise, have just issued a Human Rights curriculum, K-12.

MORE ACTIVITIES: Since Minidoka, we utilized the JACL network for Idaho’s 2002 and 2003 Day of Remembrance, for our 2002 commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the internment events and first sakura matsuri, and in 2003, for our first bi-district conference and events. This summer, we also helped host, with joint events, the first Minidoka Monument pilgrimage under the National Park Service administration. Neil King, Minidoka Monument superintendent, National Park Service (www.nps.gov/mim), helped coordinate the tours and ceremony.

Two tiny chapter sponsored four students who went to the National JACL Youth
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The year was 1944 and World War II was still in full force. The Nisei soldiers of the 442nd Infantry RCT and the Military Intelligence Service continued to fight courageously. For the 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated in America's concentration camps things seemed to slowly look up. The War Relocation Authority began a program of "indefinite leave" releasing the evacuees to go outside out of the barbed wire fenced enclosures. The West Coast was still a restricted area for the JAs and many "relocates" headed east to Chicago. But then there were the few adventurous Nisei who continued on further east to New York City, then the largest city in the world. During the train ride they must have had some second thoughts for it seemed formidable to go to a city of that size and with an unknown Japanese population. But there was no turning back and it was time to put aside the uncertainties, face the challenges and pursue the "American dream."

In time the Nisei pioneers came together and decided to organize a JACL chapter in New York. There were obstacles. To begin with, to organize a chapter is a difficulty in itself. To do so where public sentiment of that time was anti-Japanese added to the difficulties. But courage and the Japanese sense of gembūrō lead to a charter in June 1944, a first for the East Coast. As the chapter celebrates 60 years we are forever grateful and indebted to the few founding Nisei pioneers.

The first chapter president (1944-45) was Al Funabashi. Not much is known about him but we all give thanks to him for having the courage to undertake the responsibility of leading an organization in its infancy.

Thomas Hayashi (1947-48), a Sapphire Pin recipient, was a prominent lawyer and a community leader involved in many Nikkei and professional organizations. To honor him, a national JACL law scholarship was established. This distinguished gentleman left us too soon.

Woodrow Asai had a very active presidency (1952-53). One of the high points was inviting Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, for the Brooklyn Dodgers, to speak before a packed chapter installation dinner. Woody also led the movement for the passage of the Evacuation Claims Act. With Shosuke Sasaki, a member of the New York Newspaper Guild, the chapter successfully campaigned to have Webster's dictionary define "Jap" as a racial pejorative.

The presidency (1959-60) of George Kyotow began soon after he arrived home from
Japan. He claimed to be a one-

man impresario of the chapter productions. One of his successes was a dinner program for the war hero and up-and-coming politi-
cian Daniel K. Inouye and his wife Margaret. Another was an event he called "Meet the Japanese Press" which featured six Japanese news correspondents in a public forum.

The premier production was the presentation of the world-famous author and Pulitzer Prize winner James A. Michener. His wife, Mari Subasawa Michener, was there and so was Pat Suzuki, Nikkei of the Biennium winner (1960), then artistic director of the Broadway production of "Flower Drum Song." This event was held in the community room of the Grant Houses, an NYC Housing Authority public project apartment complex. Many years later, as a community organizer in the employ of the Human Resources Administration, I was at one time assigned to this project, little knowing that George held his memorable event there.

He was "Mr. Nikkei Investment" and started the successful "Nisei Investors of New York." He claimed that the JACL redress movement actually began right here in the N.Y. chapter under his presidency. It was led by the aforementioned Shigeko Sasaki, who was there and so was Pat Suzuki, Nikkei of the Biennium winner (1960), then artistic director of the Broadway production of "Flower Drum Song." This event was held in the community room of the Grant Houses, an NYC Housing Authority public project apartment complex. Many years later, as a community organizer in the employ of the Human Resources Administration, I was at one time assigned to this project, little knowing that George held his memorable event there.

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Beyond the Good Times of Today

By FLOYD MORI
JACL Nat'l President

It's not a long time in the scheme of things, but the past 75 years have been the core of the historical legacy of the Japanese American community. During this time we were rejected, ostracized, demeaned, and vilified. Yet the cultural will and determination that we inherited proved strong enough to bring an era of acceptance, accomplishment, and in some areas admiration while at the same time maintaining a sense of community and ethnic pride.

I was born and nurtured in the midst of this struggle for survival and acceptance. During my childhood years, the war raged in the Pacific and the fathers and sons of many of my neighbors went off to fight in the war. It was not long before two of my older brothers donned U.S. Army uniforms, one going off to the European front while the other was shipped off to postwar Japan as a counterintelligence officer. I remember each of them returning home for their final visit before being shipped off. Although they had been the target of racial bigotry, they felt that they had a duty to serve our country.

The European war ended while my one brother was on a ship going to Germany. He returned safe and sound to continue his life, marry and pursue his accounting career in California. My other brother was involved in a terrible airplane crash while stationed in Japan. Although I was a young child at the time, the event of the return of his casket to our home and the funeral are still very vivid in my mind. What a sacrifice to pay for sense of duty.

Although I had heard references to "Camp," I had no understanding what the camps were at that time. Living in Utah at the time of Evacuation, our family was not required to go to camp as did the families from the West Coast. Many of my relatives voluntarily evacuated and came to live near us in Murray, Utah. One family actually lived on our farm during this time. The one bright spot was that I got to know relatives that I would not have come to know as well. I came to appreciate family and the joy that comes with family gatherings. The sense of community and cultural heritage became ingrained in my being.

However, not a lot was positive at that time. As a child I received my share of racial slurs and intolerance. This was a time when I wondered why I had to be a Japanese in the midst of an all white society. It was a time when I did not like being Japanese and was embarrassed that my parents did not speak English like the rest of the parents and that we ate unusual food rather than the typical "meat n' potatoes" meals of my friends. My parents did not participate in the regular community and school activities that my friends' parents did. There was indeed a cultural gap that was amplified by some ongoing racial bigotry.

Now as we fast-forward through two or three generations of
Season’s Greetings!

We wish you and your family a happy holiday season.
Different Paths, Same Destination?  
The Nisei Draft Resisters and the JACL

By ANDY NOGUCHI

What do Internment protestor Gordon Hirabayashi, Nisei draft resister Noboru Taguma, World War II veteran Isamu Noguchi (my late father), and many Nisei like them share? In my view, they all made principled, tough decisions during WWII's time of racism and hysteria. They all had the interest of the Japanese American community at heart. They all have my deepest respect for their sacrifices. Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui, as well as Nisei veterans, have long enjoyed the respect of the JACL. Not so for the Nisei draft resisters. As a supporter of the resisters over the past 10 years, a sponsor of the resolution passed by the national JACL council in 2000, and the co-chair of the National JACL Resister Ceremony in 2002, I saw this gut-wrenching issue firsthand. I'd like to share a few thoughts on what I think recognizing the resisters means to the JACL.

Who are the Resisters? During WWII, 315 young JA men refused to be drafted into the U.S. Army from the internment camps. They were ready to fight for their country, but not before the government restored their rights, stopped the racist persecution of JAs, and released their families from imprisonment. The Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee was the largest organized resistance to incarceration, leading to the largest trial of draft resistance in U.S. history. The government prosecuted them as criminals and many JAs ostracized them as traitors. The national JACL declared, “The group at Heart Mountain definitely should be charged with treason, especially the leaders.” Most resisters served two years in federal prison. On Christmas 1947, President Harry Truman pardoned the Nisei resisters and recognized their stand for civil rights. Over the next 50 years, many in the community shunned the resisters. and had taught Asian American Studies once. The resisters had been written out of the history books.

How did the JACL Come to Recognize the Resisters? Many of us came upon this story by chance. About 10 years ago, a friend of mine and editor of the Nichi Bei Times, Kenji Taguma, introduced my wife and me to some of the Nisei draft resisters. I was amazed to learn about their story, especially since I had been involved in redress efforts for a dozen years trying to tell their story. This story sparked interest within the JACL. Contrary to the belief of some, the resisters never asked for a resolution of support. In fact, most were lukewarm towards the idea; some were less than lukewarm. JACL members believed this story had to be told. The rest is history. After two years of discussion throughout every JACL chapter, the 2000 national council voted 2 to 1 to recognize the resisters’ principled stand, issue an apology for not acknowledging them at the time, and organize a public ceremony. The 2002 National JACL Recognition Ceremony in San Francisco, plus the media, told the resisters’ story to thousands, made a big step towards community reconciliation, and represented a bold move by the JACL leadership in issuing a public apology. This program was an historic moment in JA history with 18 surviving Nisei resisters stepping forward to be publicly recognized, the largest such gathering of resisters in recent history. U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye’s call for reconciliation in a moving video message set the tenor. National JACL President Floyd Mori’s heartfelt apology, support from veterans, remarks by religious leaders, and coverage of the ceremony in major newspapers and TV news. The resisters welcomed the occasion and the apology. Manyva of them were moved to tears. The author’s father, Isamu Noguchi, wrote to the Nikkei-Hyphen Times: “I believe the apology by the JACL was long overdue. It was also significant because it was issued by the largest Japanese American organization.”

National JACL Resister Ceremony in 2002: Back row (l-r): George Kurasaki (Heart Mountain), Bob Nagahara (Heart Mountain), Halley Minoura (Heart Mountain), Terry Uyemoto (Amache), Takashi Hoshizaki (Heart Mountain), Joyce Emiko Kawasaki (daughter of late Thomas Kawasaki of Amache), Gane Akutu (Minidoka and for late brother Jim Akutsu). Middle row (l-r): Susumu Yanokida (Amache, also for his late brother Minoru), James Uyeda (Heart Mountain), Noboru Taguma (Amache), Ken Yoshida (Topaz), Harry Yoshikawa (Amache), Joe Norikane (Amache), Gloria Kubota (wife of late Gunlarlo Kubota of Heart Mountain), Front row (l-r): Yoshi Kuromiya (Heart Mountain), Joe Yamakido (Jerome), George Nozawa (Heart Mountain), George Ishikawa (Heart Mountain), Frank Emi (Heart Mountain), Mits Koshiyama (Heart Mountain), Toshi Kawamoto (wife of late David Kawamoto of Heart Mountain), and Dan Kubo (son of late Yoshi Kubo of Amache).
by Andrea Parker

ever since I have become involved nationally with the JACL, as a member of the National Youth/Student Council, I have been constantly made aware of the need to get more youth involved; it is an issue that will deeply affect the future of the organization. After giving a lot of thought as to how I can personally contribute to a solution, I thought I would just tell my story of why I got involved in the first place.

I know that JACL is a civil rights organization, in its foundation and principles, but there is another aspect that I think many people often overlook or ignore: the social side. If it weren’t for this facet, I don’t think I would be at all interested in holding the current position I do in the organization. What first pulled me in was the fun part of it, and then came the business part.

As a grade-schooler and then into my teenage years, what I knew of JACL was the holiday parties that I attended. Sure, my mom was heavily involved in the chapter we belonged to and I often questioned her about all the meetings and things she did there, but all I ever did personally was go to the gatherings and enjoy the company of the people and the food.

Every Halloween, Christmas and Easter I could look forward to going to the potluck dinners and seeing people I hadn’t talked to since the last party. There was dressing up, playing games and just having some good old fun. My chapter of JACL always sponsored these gatherings and each year—though the attendance varied over time—I was excited when these occasions came around.

Even as I started to grow out of play-
ing games at these parties, I moved on to activities with more responsibility but still within these social functions. I chose to be the one running the games for the really little kids, or I was one of the judges in the costume contest instead of dressing up myself. So I was gradually increasing my involvement in JACL, but still on a social level. That was the key that kept me hooked.

Eventually I came to a point of branching out further and further, until I around the country that many chapters do not do anything similar to this and I was very surprised. I never thought the sole purpose of JACL should be driven by political issues. I always assumed everyone in JACL thought of the social aspect in the same way as I did... and when I found this wasn’t the case, I decided it was time to bring some light to it.

If all I had known of JACL when I was young was the paperwork that I saw my mom looking through, the conference calls she was on, and other boring stuff like that, I don’t think I ever would have crossed my mind to get more deeply involved. It was because of the introduction to the organization in a more fun, social manner that I later turned to the political aspect as well.

But for those youth who only hear about all the issues we tackle and the meetings, workshops and dinners the adults attend, it makes sense that they wouldn’t want to take part. Yet, the civil-rights part of JACL is the most important, but it cannot take over as being all that JACL is about.

The whole reason I wanted to do more with the organization once I was old enough to make that decision was due to how I was reared. I was younger. So, to all of the young people out there who think that JACL is only for boring old people who want to argue over current events and laws, etc.—try to find a social fun™ sponsored by JACL to attend and maybe that will shed light on how much you can enjoy the benefits of being involved.

And to those chapter officials who are struggling to get more young people to join, sponsor fun events for them to see what else JACL can be about. Just meeting new people and being around faces that are friendly, sharing common interests in heritage and culture, can be totally worthwhile for us youngsters. Don’t expect to attract and retain youth based solely on the conventions each year. The youth will come and will stay if they are given a smaller, more socially based introduction and then are gently weaned into the more serious aspects gradually.

For years to come in this organization, it is going to be very critical to find these young people and get them wanting to take part in what we’re all about. And make sure they know that what we’re all about isn’t just in issues, concerns and problems; it can be something they want to do too.
Merry Christmas to Colorado and California

Merry Christmas to Hawaii, friends in Hawaii,

Happy Holidays to our JACL Friends!

Happy Holidays from Denise Higuchi

Happy Holidays from new members, Matt Kawamoto-Streshinsky, Darcy Kawamoto
at JACL Dinner.

Happy Holidays from RUTH M. GOYA

Happy Holidays from Todd Hasegawa and Family

Happy Holidays from John and Nancy Brown

Happy Holidays from Museum Family of Cerritos

Season's Greetings from new members, Matt Kawamoto-Streshinsky, Darcy Kawamoto
at JACL Dinner.

Happy Holidays from Frank & Joan Kawase

Season's Greetings from new members, Matt Kawamoto-Streshinsky, Darcy Kawamoto
at JACL Dinner.

Season's Greetings from George & Yasi YASUKOCHI

Season's Greetings from the Kubotas

Holidays from the Ed Wada's

Happy Holidays to our JACL Friends!

Season's Greetings from the Kubotas, Mike & Marian Glenn & Julie

Season's Greetings from George & Yasi YASUKOCHI

Season's Greetings from Todd Hasegawa and Family

Season's Greetings from Reverend Amy Wake and C. Kent Coursey

Season's Greetings from the Kubotas

Season's Greetings from Mike & Marian Glenn & Julie

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By PHIL SHIGEKUNI

It has been over 15 years since President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act which provided redress for Japanese Americans who were deprived of their rights under our constitution. After two more years of struggle with Congress an apology signed by President George Bush senior and a token payment was paid to those who managed to survive the World War II internment.

Since that time much has been done to educate the American public about our experience: California, for example, has provided funds to allow for various educational projects. A stated intent of this effort was to ensure that similar constitutional violations would not happen to any other group of people in America.

Tragically, the trauma of 9/11 has resulted in serious harm to Muslims, including those from the Middle East and South East Asia. The final report of the appointed presidential commission which investigated the JA incarceration concluded that the internment resulted from war hysteria, racial prejudice and a failure of political leadership. Our government’s reaction to 9/11 has shown evidence of each of the above elements.

The USA Patriot Act and other sweeping measures were passed by Congress shortly after 9/11. There was little debate, and many congressional members did not read the lengthy document before the vote.

These laws gave the government unprecedented authority in a number of areas: It expanded the ability of the FBI to wiretap phones and computers; it also permitted the FBI to obtain medical, library, educational and financial records without finding probable cause, and it criminalizes anyone who reports they have revealed such records.

It allows the FBI to conduct "sneak and peek" searches of homes and businesses without notice. In addition, the Patriot Act threatens to criminalize legitimate protest activities and stifle dissent by expanding terrorism to include "domestic terrorism." Persons and organizations thus participating would be subject to wiretapping, harassment and criminal action.

And what should be of particular note for JAs, it permits suspects who have not been convicted of any crime to be detained indefinitely without judicial review. Immigrants suspected of terrorist activity can be imprisoned and not re-admitted into the United States solely because of their speech or organizational activities.

After signing the Patriot Act President George Bush has put into effect many executive orders, regulations and policies which further threaten our civil liberties and rights. Eight thousand Arab and South Asian immigrants were interrogated solely because of their religious or ethnic background. Thousands of Arab and South Asian men have been held for months, sometimes without any charges being filed against them. The government has refused to publish the names of these men and their whereabouts, even when ordered to do so by the courts.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has allowed the FBI to spy on religious and political organizations without any charge of wrongdoing. President Bush has allowed military commissions to try non-citizens who can

See SHIGEKUNI/ page 38

Hundreds gather at the corner of Hollywood and Highland in Los Angeles on July 19 to protest against the Patriot Act and to challenge the ongoing attacks on immigrants, especially those of Arab, South Asian or African backgrounds.
By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

In 2004, the JACL celebrates its 75th anniversary. Seventy-five years: that's quite an achievement. When I was a kid growing up, just living to 75 was a major achievement. Today, it's practically expected.

There isn't any other organization I've ever been associated or involved with that has existed 75 years. But the JACL has survived three-quarters of a century, a remarkable achievement when you think of all the obstacles that stood in the way.

It's remarkable when you think about a bunch of young Japanese Americans, college age and inexperienced in politics, equipped with little more than their sense of bravado and their courage and conviction, coming together to challenge the U.S. government's discriminatory laws that undermined the rights of JAs and other Asians; a bold proposition at a time when in reality, JAs had very few rights as citizens of this nation, and a time when JAs rarely could get decent professional jobs in mainstream America.

But the JACL, under a young Nisei leadership, did challenge the U.S. government and one-by-one took on discriminatory statutes in California, Washington, Oregon and other western states aimed at JAs. And throughout its 75-year history, the JACL has always remained true to its original purpose and mission, which has been to challenge social injustice targeting JAs and others victimized by bigotry in this country.

One of our most remarkable achievements as an organization, of course, was the redress campaign. Having launched the public campaign in 1978 as the redress committee chair and having lobbied in Washington, D.C., on redress legislation as the JACL's redress director, I know how significant this organization's work and efforts were in that monumental campaign.

Make no mistake about it: no matter what claims others may make, I can tell you without equivocation that the redress effort would not have happened, and it certainly would not have been successful, without the JACL’s initiatives and involvement from beginning to end. All JACLers can be very proud of that effort because this organization was so fundamental to the success of one of the most remarkable grassroots campaigns in this nation's history.

But times are changing and we can't live on the laurels of the past. What the JACL has been in the past isn't necessarily what it should be in the future. I strongly believe that it's important we continue our mission as a civil rights organization dedicated to fighting bigotry and injustices committed against Asian Americans.

Racism will always exist in this country so long as we're a democracy that welcomes diversity, and with the explosive growth of the Asian Pacific American population over the past 20 years and the continued growth in the future, there will be a need for a strong and committed civil rights organization dedicated to protecting civil rights of Asians and other minorities.

But what is our future as an organization? We're learning that for the Yonsei, the JACL as a civil rights organization isn't necessarily a compelling attraction. It's not that they don't believe in civil rights or that they don't see a need for an organization to fight bigotry aimed at Asians. It's that times have changed and the challenges in their lives may be different from those of the Nisei and Sansei generations. And so maybe it's a time that the JACL began a serious process of undergoing a change in its thinking and direction.

As I've stated, I firmly believe a faith that the next 75 years will hold the same promise for the future. All we have to do is help it get there. Happy holidays and best wishes to all of you for 2004 and the coming years.
HATA LEMMON
(Continued from page 23)
Conference in St. Louis. Sandy Bosteder, the youth advisor, is to
be commended in that he bears striking it
happens. The students who attended came back glowing from the experience!
In June 2003, the bi-district conference included a Dutch oven dinner in the Snake River
canyon. The whole crew was seeing BASE jumpers parachuting off the Perrine Bridge! In Twin Falls, it’s still legal to jump off the Bridge.
Sawtooth member and professor Roger Shimomura, who was in Minidoka as a child, came from the University of Kansas to give a slide presentation of his Minidoka art. Member Dan Sakura, now legislative director for Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, was the speaker for the Friends of Minidoka luncheon.

SHIGEKUNI
(Continued from page 36)
be convicted based on hearsay and secret evidence.
And lastly, American citizens suspected of terrorism are being held indefinitely in military cus
tody without being charged, and without access to lawyers. Early in November Army Captain James Yee was charged with tak
ing classified material home in unapproved containers.
Additional charges may follow.
Yee was born in New Jersey and attended West Point. He converted to the Islamic faith and at the time of his arrest was serving as chaplain to Muslims being held at Guantanamo Marine Base in Cuba. His case is being closely followed by activists in the Asian American community.

Bi-District Conference and Minidoka Monument Pilgrimage, June 29. Friend of Minidoka luncheon speaker, Dan Sakura, from Washington, D.C., visits the Minidoka barracks building at Idaho Farm & Ranch Museum in Jerome, Idaho, with his father, Dr. J. David Sakura, sister and mother from Arlington, Maryland. David was in Minidoka as a child.

ride up the river; a bonus for boat riders was seeing BASE jumpers parachuting off the Perrine Bridge! In Twin Falls, it’s still legal to jump off the Bridge!
Sawtooth member and professor Roger Shimomura, who was in Minidoka as a child, came from the University of Kansas to give a slide presentation of his Minidoka art. Member Dan Sakura, now legislative director for Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, was the speaker for the Friends of Minidoka luncheon.

Methodist ministers signed a petition at their annual conference urging members of the conference to express their disap
proval of the Patriot Act to their congressional representatives.
In July a group of JAs attended a candlelight vigil in memory of the 13,000 Middle East and South East Asian immigrants who have either disappeared or been targeted by the INS for deportation for technical viola
tions of immigration law.

"National JACL has made strong statements condemning discrimination against Muslims, Arabs, and South East Asians."

public program featuring presenta
tions by Muslim and Arab speakers.
The Senshin Buddhist Church in Los Angeles has had ongoing dialogue with a mosque, and for the past two years has observed the end of Ramadan with the mosque. The NCRR has spon
sored educational programs pro
moting greater understanding of Middle East and South East Asians and also featured Arab and Muslim speakers at its annual
Day of Remembrance.
In June, all the Southern California Nikkei United Speaking at the rally representing our community wasMark Masaoka, nephew of Mike Masaoka.
Close to 200 civic organiza
tions and various cities, Hawaii and Alaska have issued resolu
tions opposing the Patriot Act, and the City Council of Los Angeles is currently considering such a resolution. June Kuwatani is part of an ACLU coalition working on gathering signatures for a petition prior to presenting the resolution to the city council. I am certain that throughout the country there are individuals as well as JACL chapters and other community groups doing their part.
National JACL has made strong statements condemning discrimination against Muslims, Arabs, and South East Asians. I was inspired by the courage shown by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta as he resisted establishing a policy which would profile Middle Eastern and South East Asian persons for greater scrutiny at airport check points. In early November, Fred Korematsu, who successfully challenged the evacuation order, and who was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Clinton in 1998, went to Washington, D.C., to file a brief on behalf of the hundreds of Muslims being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, without hearings or access to U.S. cour
It is encouraging to know about some in our community who have taken the responsibility of helping to defend and build better understanding of Middle Eastern and South East Asian communities. Perhaps, to the extent we identify with them, we can derive some measure of meaning to our wartime experi
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The JACL of the Monterey Peninsula

Established 1932

By LARRY ODA

Reflecting on the 75th anniversary of JACL, the JACL of the Monterey Peninsula has a notable history in the Monterey Bay area, while not quite as long. The Monterey Peninsula chapter initially served to educate and assist the Issei with immigration, tax and other issues, then gradually assimilated into the larger community. One of the ways that this came about was through sports.

We were fortunate to have some gifted athletes in our chapter. The Monterey Peninsula chapter-sponsored Monterey Athletic Club distinguished itself throughout the state in baseball, basketball and track events. From about 1934 to the outbreak of the war, the Monterey Minato virtually dominated all other teams within the Central California Coast Counties Athletic Association (4CAA). Whether it was baseball, track or basketball, the Minato seldom lost and seemed to be perennial champions.

What their history added to the community went far beyond what the athletes accomplished on the field. If you look around the Japanese community on the Monterey Peninsula today, it is not surprising to see that many of the current leaders are associated in some way with the two generations of athletes who excelled with the Monterey Minato.

In 1938, to participate in the City of Monterey Independence Day parade, instead of a float that only a few could ride, the chapter decided to make a very large American flag that would require a substantial number of people to carry. In determining the flag size they could make, Grace (Kodama) Ito calculated the proportions based on the material available. At that time the largest bolt of material you could purchase was 36 inches wide so the size of the flag was determined using a 36-inch stripe. A calculation was made to determine the correct length of the flag and size of the blue field and stars. The finished size of the flag is approximately 40 by 70 feet. This flag has been immensely popular and has been loaned to other chapters for their special events and parades. It has traveled primarily in California but has gone east to Idaho, for a parade welcoming the World War II Nisei veterans home. This 65-year-old flag had begun to show its age, and in August 2001 it was carried for the last time in the Los Angeles Nisei Week parade and donated to the Japanese American National Museum for their permanent collection.

Another, more recent, chapter product that has reached beyond the local community is our book. In the early 1990s a committee was formed to put together the oral histories of the Issei and Nisei of our chapter. The result is "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula, Their History and Legacy 1895-1995" by Dr. David Yamada.

David was a political science instructor at Monterey Peninsula College, former chapter president and executive board member of the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific district. The chapter is very proud of this chronicle of the chapter's history and it has been chosen as a membership premium for a San Jose Public Television appeal promoting a documentary of the community's return from the internment camps, "Return to the Valley."

The chapter has involved itself in many other community activities through the years. Some of these are the perennial Japanese community picnic, Day of Remembrance observance and annual installation ban-
Our community picnic has been a cooperative effort with a number of community organizations but more recently the core group consists of the El Estero Presbyterian Church, Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple and Nisei VFW Post 1629, Honda, EEOC and others.

The efforts of many people made the 2000 convention a memorable event for our chapter. John Tateishi, our then new national director, made it possible for U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to be our Sayonara Banquet keynote speaker. Col. Harry Fukuhara, through his contacts at the Pentagon, arranged the appearance of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki for the Veterans Tribute Dinner. Judy Nizawa obtained the services of newly nominated U.S. Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta to act as master of ceremonies. Other distinguished attendees at the convention included U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, EEOC Vice-Chair Paul Igasaki and author Helen Zia.

Our convention welcome mixer was a big hit because it was held off site at the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium and featured a program with local fishing legends, abalone diver Roy Hattori and commercial fisherman Frank Munaka. The welcome mixer was additionally unique because Tim Thomas, historian, produced the program from the Maritime Museum of Monterey. The cooperation between the museum and aquarium was unprecedented and only occurred because of the influence of JACL in our community.

In 2001, the chapter assisted in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Defense Language Institute (DLI). Established in late 1941, this was the very first foreign language intelligence school in the 160-year history of the American military. The school was eventually named the Defense Language Institute (DLI) and relocated to Monterey. All except two of the first graduates of the MIS were Nisei. Because of this, along with the fact that MIS veteran Col. Harry Fukuhara had helped our convention by contacting Gen. Shinseki, we were happy to help them with their celebration.

The recent endeavor that has gained the chapter a fair amount of community recognition is our assistance in a $65,000 campaign to obtain a rare Chirua Obata mural for California State University at Monterey Bay. This task was made somewhat simple because Obata was a frequent visitor to Monterey and became a friend of the Monterey chapter. His wife, Haruko, a famous Ikebana instructor in her own right, often donated her flower arrangements to chapter functions. In addition to this, Obata’s son-in-law, Eugene Kodani, is a Monterey native.

Our involvement in this campaign led to recognition as the “Outstanding Philanthropic Service Organization” for the 2003 Monterey Bay Regional National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon Nov. 13.

Since 1963, as part of our mission to promote our cultural heritage, we have sponsored a Japanese Language School in our building. This school has accreditation with local high schools for foreign language credits. In our accreditation hearings with the Monterey School Board, our justification was that our students would learn over 400 Kanji characters in the course of studies as compared to 150-200 at the local community college in a two-year program. Our principal, Rev. Kisan Ueno, was the instructor at the college and was aware of the differing achievement levels. We are fortunate to have the DLI and Monterey Institute of International Studies from where we can draw instructors.

Also, as part of the commitment to preserve our cultural heritage, we assist our neighbor chapters with their projects. We are currently participating in a campaign to renovate the prewar Castroville Japanese Schoolhouse. Through the efforts of a former Monterey resident who is a former student at that school, Kunio “Ace” Sumida, it has been placed on the list of historic places and has been nominated as a National Historic Landmark. The Monterey County Redevelopment Agency and North Monterey County Park Department are trying to raise money to complete the project.

Concurrent with these activities, we have successfully had our own hall designated a City of Monterey Historic Property of regional significance and we will be working for recognition as a Historic Landmark. Our building was erected in 1926 by the Nihonjin-Kai (Japanese Association) and was transferred to JACL in 1942. It has been used continuously as a cultural and educational center for the community. It was the site of the 1941 district convention which confronted the impending war with Japan with two resolutions affirming its allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, and to support and participate in national defense activities. It was at this convention that Mike Masaksa met his future bride, Etsu Mineta.

The Monterey Peninsula chapter has been involved in the larger community as well as helping our own members. We face the same difficulties as many other JA organizations, yet our chapter is working to maintain a strong membership and to maintain our activities.
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Pacific December Holiday Issue, December 2003
October 1994 was the 50th anniversary celebration of the coming of Nikkei from World War II relocation centers to Seabrook Farms, N.J. A Philadelphia television station broadcast the story of 2,500 Nikkei starting life over in Seabrook. The basis for the documentary was the gathering of over 650 Seabrookers from around the world on the occasion of their third reunion. The program took its theme from a New York Times article of July 29, 1994, about Seabrook titled “A Haven From Shame.”

The Farm

During WWII, Seabrook Farms was the largest integrated farm and frozen food factory in the world. The operation covered 40,000 acres of company-owned and company-contracted land stretching over three states. In a feature photo article in 1955, Life Magazine called Seabrook Farms “The Biggest Vegetable Factory on Earth.”

Little known to most Americans, the development of frozen vegetables and fruits began at Seabrook. A major food supplier for the military, Seabrook Farms was often visited by representatives from the armed forces, who stressed the company’s important contribution to the war effort. The founder of Seabrook Farms was Charles Franklin Seabrook, whom Forbes Magazine dubbed the Henry Ford of Agriculture. During the company’s peak, three sons were an integral part of management.

WWII

In 1944, a labor shortage occurred at Seabrook Farms when men were drafted into the army and the women left for higher-paying jobs in the shipyards. George Sakamoto came to Seabrook from Amache, Colo., relocation camp in January 1944 to look for a place to bring his family. He impressed management with his work ethic and character. Sensing a new source of labor, John Seabrook, the youngest son of C. F. Seabrook, approached the Eastern Defense Command to determine if those now being allowed to leave the camps could be employed at Seabrook Farms. Thus began the recruitment of internees from the relocation centers.

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) advertised Seabrook Farms as a place of employment when it decided to close the camps in 1944. In that same year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Mitsue Endo Writ of Habeas Corpus case concluded that any loyal American could not be incarcerated with-
out cause. Seabrook Farms was soon to become the largest employer of Japanese Americans held in U.S. relocation camps.

Relocation

The first person to relocate to Seabrook Farms was the late George Sakamoto from the Amache camp in January 1944. Ellen Nakamura, the first woman, came in April 1944 as a member of the Jerome Relocation Commission along with Fuju Sasaki (presently over 100 years old) to survey whether family relocation was feasible. To determine the origin of Issei and Nisei settlers in Seabrook, the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center is currently working on a census based on data gathered from the WRA closing documents and other sources. The preliminary results show: Gila – 385; Granada Amache – 110; Heart Mountain – 164; Jerome – 22; Manzanar – 484; Minidoka – 50; Poston – 466; Rohwer – 323; Topaz – 49; Tule Lake – 219; Crystal City – 250; and 442nd – 9. (* Approximate reference Crystal City 50th Reunion, p. 224, and “Adios To Tears,” p.179.)

Some settlers joined their families after serving in the much-decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Kazuto Taniguchi enlisted while in the Poston Relocation Center. Despite the ignominy of internment, Seabrook Issei remained loyal to the United States. The year 1953 brought the then largest swearing-in ceremony, where 276 Seabrook Issei became American citizens. Mike Masaoka, then JACL Washington, D.C., representative, was instrumental in the passage of the Walter-McCarran Immigration Law that enabled the naturalization of the Issei.

Texas, Justice Department Camp came to Seabrook under relaxed internment following the end of WWII. Outstanding among this group were Ginzo Murono, who testified before Congress on the plight of the Peruvian Japanese; his son Seiki, a football star at Bridgeton High and later an executive of Chase Manhattan Bank; and Seiichi Higashide, author of “Adios to Tears.”

Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC)

In 1989, the Seabrook chapter of JACL initiated a project to preserve the rich settlement history of the community. Funding came from various sources, initially with the generous monetary donations from Seabrook recipients of U.S. government redress for incarceration during WWII. The culmination was the official opening in 1994 of the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, a museum and research facility dedicated “to preserve and make known the unique history of Seabrook NJ, where peoples of different races and cultural heritage were given an opportunity for a new start in life.” Current and former Seabrook residents have contributed their time and talents to the retelling of the history, from the center design to the collection of artifacts, models, artwork, and literature. Lying at the core of the exhibition are thousands of historic company photographs taken of factory and village events.

In addition to presenting public exhibitions, SECC also serves as a research facility for writers, producers, newspaper reporters, and college students from as far away as Europe and Asia. Administered and staffed by volunteers, the museum and research facility are housed in the Upper Deerfield Township Municipal Building in Seabrook. The Upper Deerfield Township Committee strongly affirms that the Seabrook story, of which the Nikkei saga plays a major part, is important to the history of not only the township but also New Jersey and the nation. 

John Fuyuume is the SECC project director and past president (1953) of Seabrook JACL and is its current treasurer.
Memories of JACL

By LILLIAN KIMURA

As I thought about JACL turning 75, I realized that I have been a member for almost two-thirds of that time. I joined in 1955 because it was my opinion that, like it or not, JACL spoke for the Japanese American community. It was the only game in town so I wanted to have input in defining what the message was going to be. I am grateful that over the years I have had the opportunity to participate in the process, to meet so many good people and to give something back to the community. There are so many memories that I wanted to share some of them in this Holiday Issue.

Shortly after joining JACL I was elected to the Chicago chapter board. In those days, the chapter was very active. We got together regularly for general meetings and special events such as the sukiyaki dinners during Brotherhood Week in February, fund-raising carnivals at Olivet Community Center, joint meetings with the Urban League, and more. My mentor was Abe Hagiwara, program director at Olivet, who spearheaded the youth activities for national JACL. I became the first advisor to the chapter’s Junior JACL.

I have been to every national convention since the first one I attended in 1970 in Chicago. It was held in the era of the civil rights movement and I remember at one of the plenary sessions Warren Furutani, other youth staff and youth members put on what I would call a demonstration. It was their way of saying JACL must be more active and visible in that movement. Activist Yuri Kochiyama of New York was a keynote speaker. It was exciting and inspiring. On the other hand, the attack on two teens in the Junior JACL and the death of one of them created quite a damper on that convention. Still today, our hearts go out to the families.

At the 1972 convention, I remember Edison Uno urging us to do something about reparations for our incarceration during World War II. And in 1982, John Dean, former counsel to President Nixon, advised us that we should use the term “redress” rather than “reparations.”

I remember at the 1988 convention in Seattle I was chair of the Resolutions Committee and we dealt with issues such as the “No-No boys” and the draft resisters. I remember holding Mike Masaoka and Min Yasui to the time limit for debates and

See KIMURA/ page 59
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Feb. 19: DOR — Day of Remembrance for the Bloodiest Beachhead in the Pacific

By HARRY K. HONDA

Among Americans of Japanese ancestry, Feb. 19 is observed as a Day of Remembrance (DOR), the day President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which legalized the detention of Japanese Americans in 1942. We remember so as not to forget. And three years later, the same date, the horrendous battle of Iwojima began as U.S. Marines landed — its 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions combined as the V Amphibious Corps.

In American eyes, the capture and occupation of Iwojima in the Central Pacific, around 700 miles south of Tokyo, was strategic to the projected aerial campaign against the Japanese home islands. The B-29 Superfortress, the four-engine aircraft loaded with four tons of bombs, had a range of 3,500 miles. The B-29 air raids from Iwo, Tinian and Saipan in the Central Pacific against Japan are another story. What happened during the evening hours of March 9 and predawn March 10 (over Tokyo) was that the largest slaughter of humans in world history was about to take place, James Bradley reminds in his latest book about World War II, "Flyboys: A True Story of Courage" [2003].

The capture of Iwojima was the bloodiest battle in U.S. Marine Corps history — a history that dates from colonial times. It took 36 days (what was expected to be 14) for the largest force of U.S. Marines ever assembled under one command, with 6,821 Americans killed and close to 20,000 wounded, according to Ronald Spector’s "Eagle Against the Sun: the American War with Japan" [1985]. The Japanese force, estimated at 21,000, all died defending Iwo except for 216 prisoners of war. John Toland, in "The Rising Sun: the Decline and Fall of the Japanese Empire 1936-1945," describes over 30 pages the day-to-day encounters on the volcanic island where the Japanese had built airfields.

Iwojima was part of the Bonin Islands (the Ogasawara chain of 20 islands), its weather station radio at Chichi-shima (about 200 miles north of Iwo) being able to alert Japan of bomber strikes. That the Bonins were first settled by New England whalers and Hawaiian kanakas in 1830 is yet another story. Manjiro also engaged in whaling activities in the Bonins during his eight years as John Mung in America. In 1853 Commodore Perry visited Chichi, bent on opening ports in and trade with Japan. In 1861 Japan claimed the islands to be administered as part of Tokyo-fu prefecture.

It pays to remember
another Feb. 19 (of 1945), "Yankee Samurai, the Secret Role of Nisei in America's Pacific Victory" by Joe Harrington was perhaps the first book published in 1969 to disclose the actions of Nisei linguists who were assigned to the Navy and the Marine Corps. War correspondent Lyn Crost devotes a whole chapter, "No. 26 — Caves of Hell," in her book: "Honor by Fire, Japanese at War in Europe and the Pacific" [1994].

Thousands of MIS veterans responded to Harrington's requests by letters, phone calls, snapshots and interviews to help tell their stories. In perusing the many books about WWII in the Pacific, their valuable accomplishments or hint of Nisei GI s in this theater are hardly or sel-

Nob and other Nisei with the 5th Marines landed on D-Day + 1 (Feb. 20) under heavy mortar fire. For the first three days, the linguists were "just staying alive" and moved inward about 300 yards from the beach. On the fourth day, they were able to stick their necks out of the sandy foxhole and saw "our naval guns shelling the enemy bunkers, hardly damaged and practically all intact.

Enemy and friendly fire were so thick on the beaches, Furuiye said, "that our dead and theirs had to lie where they were for three days." He later interrogat-ed one POW at our hospital, "badly burned by one of our flamethrowers ... All I got from him was that his home was in Tokyo and a request that I forward a message to his wife."

Nob's most important contribution to the Iwojima campaign, according to Harrington, "and perhaps the war as a whole" was eliciting from another POW that he was a cipher specialist who had become cooperative as the result of decent treatment by his captors. That instant, the Marines put him on a Honolul­bound plane.

***

The remarkable account of Nobuo Furuiye of Denver (an almost forgotten face in a photo of JACLers, local and national, who prepared the first postwar national JACL convention in 1946) relates his translating the personal papers of Col. Takeishi Nishi, the 1932 Olympic equestrian who had a wide circle of friends in America. "Ironically, he died in one of our tanks that they had captured and turned against us," Furuiye told Harrington.

Badly burned, nothing like an address could be recovered. It was D-Day + 5, when he and his Marine bodyguard (in combat MIS Nisei were always accompanied by a Caucasian bodyguard to assure their personal safety) were wounded by mortar shrapnel and went to the Navy aid station to have their wounds treated. At the 1993 MIS Capital Reunion in Washington, D.C., Nob revealed that it took a better part of three years after the war to receive his Purple Heart — thanks through efforts of a Marine Corps general (Maj. Gen. Henry Larson, USMC). His Marine Corps bodyguard had received his Purple Heart at the aid station, no doubt.

As recorded by military historian Stephen Faulk and chief of the Asian section at the Library of Congress Warren Tsuchida (both MISLS graduates) in "American Patriots: MIS in the War Against Japan" [1995], after Iwojima Nob was dispatched to Guam as an interpreter and observer for three Japanese soldiers charged with cannibalism and who had confessed after being captured by the Seabees (Navy Construction Battalion). They were caught trying to steal food from a Navy galley.

The prosecuting officer, Col. Teller Ammons, former Governor of Colorado, introduced the Coloradan Furuiye to his brother-in-law, Gen. Larson, then commander of Guam. The three became fast friends after the war. Ammons was then Colorado civil defense commander and the three occasionally lunched together in Denver sharing war stories. It was at one of these lunches that Nob told Larson of his experiences at Iwojima. Because Nob, being "attached" or not recognized, as a linguist with the Marine Corps, did not receive any official documentation at the aid station other than a note he was treated on such a date and returned to duty several days later. That was not written in his service record.

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***

That the Navy Department or the Marine Corps, a part of the Navy, made no official documenta­tion during WWII of the war done by over 100 Nisei remains a doubly sad commentary of Nisei MISers to this day. Photographer Joe Rosenthal, whose picture of Marines raising the Flag at Mt. Suribachi and sculptured in brass at Arlington National Cemetery, is among the relatively few who appreciated the accomplishments of the Nisei linguists in "The MIS Album" [1946], and quoted in "Honor by Fire," p. 229: "They work so close to the enemy that along with the danger of being killed by the Japs they run the risk of being shot unintentionally by our own Marines ... They have done an outstanding job and their heroism should be recognized. It has been recognized by Marine commanders where I saw them in action at Guam, Peleliu and Iwo."
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SAI'S DAVID & APRIL JOHN & BARBARA
Two JACL Women Who Have Made a Difference

By RAYMOND UNO

In thinking about JACL's 75th anniversary, women have played a significant but unsung role over the years. Recently, I have had the good fortune to cross paths with two lifelong JACL women who have made a difference. Both are seniors, both active all their lives, and both still demonstrating the strength and nobility of the Japanese American woman.

Although there are many others who would probably be as outstanding, these two were part of this year's life's adventure for me in a somewhat intimate and memorable way: Alice Kasai of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Mary Kawakami of American Fork, Utah. To me, these two are the epitome of the majestic Japanese womanhood of our Issei and Nisei women in this country: humble, hard working and persevering, reflecting the legendary tradition of sacrifice and devotion to family and loved ones.

Alice Fumiyo Kasai

I became acquainted with Alice Kasai around 1953 or 1954. I had just transferred from Weber Jr. College in Ogden, Utah, to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. The tuition at Weber was $15 per quarter and jumped to $45 per quarter at the University of Utah, a two-by-four smack-on-the-head increase for me. Although, I really chuckle about that now. But it was my good fortune to run into Alice at some function in Salt Lake City. Essentially being a stranger to Salt Lake (I just finished a four-year hitch in the service, most of it overseas), Alice came up to me and asked my name and where I was from. There was created an instant bond and she became a mentor, advisor, and friend in an acquaintance which continues to this day.

Alice has worked in the trenches all her life. Whether it was the JACL (she was the unpaid secretary and historian for 25 continuous years for the Intermountain District Council and also served as the Salt Lake JACL chapter president), Parent Teachers Association, the Utah chapter of the United Nations (past president), the Japanese Peace Garden, the Matsumoto-Salt Lake City Sister City Committee, Salt Lake Council of Women, the Utah State Women's Legislative Council, the YWCA, or the Asian Association of Utah, her time, talent, home and telephone have always been open for anyone.

Floyd Mori, JACL national president, presents a plaque to Alice Kasai at the " Tribute to Alice Kasai" dinner held recently in Utah.
and every organization. She was not just a member of these many organizations, but she rose to the rank of executive committee or officer.

What is remarkable about her accomplishments and activities is that she has never driven a car and never had the benefit of a college education because she devoted her life, also, to her husband and family of six children. However, most of what she has accomplished was after the passing of her beloved and influential husband, Henry, almost 30 years ago. She does not complain about her own hardships and rarely, if ever, have I heard her speak unkindly of anyone — a giant plus for anyone in this age of pettiness and egos. I can attest to her loyalty, in good times and bad, and humanitarian way of life, certainly human qualities needed in our society today.

As a token and gesture for what she has done for this community and state, a small committee was formed to pay our respects in what was called the "Tribute to Alice Kasai." This coincided with her 88th birthday held a year early and in accordance with the Japanese tradition of being a year old on birth and the seemingly deteriorating condition of her health.

The committee chairs, Jane Sakashita and Ted Nagata, both longtime JACLers, did an admirable job. Especially Jane, another woman of grace and nobility, who tirelessly organized and personally directed an exemplary execution of the tribute. The Honorary Committee consisted of some of the most prominent people of Salt Lake and Utah including Gov. Mike Leavitt, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson; former First Lady Mrs. Scott (Norma) Matheson; His Excellency Koichiro Seki, Consul General of Japan; Helen Papanikolas, prominent author and writer; and I.J. Wagner, philanthropist.

The Little America Hotel was the setting and almost 400 guests and admirers filled the ballroom. The invocation was officiated by Shahab Saeed, a representative of the Bahai faith of which Alice is a member. The MC was the incomparable Randy Horiuchi, county councilman and consummate politician extraordinaire and former Utah Democratic Party state chairman, who also shared his rare insight into the life of notables present at the tribute.

Speakers were Mayor Rocky Anderson; Lt. Gov. Olene Walker (and now the first woman governor of Utah upon the confirmation of Gov. Mike Leavitt as the new administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency); former three-term governor Calvin Rampton (Utah’s most popular and prominent elder statesman); Alberta Henry (past Salt Lake chapter president of the NAACP for 10 consecutive years and one of the most respected and admired women of Utah); Elder Richard Winkel, representing Gordon Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Japanese Peace Garden, the very first garden and still the most popular and beautiful, at the Jordan Park International Peace Gardens.

Alice has been and continues to be one of my most reliable and trusted mentors. Her advice, help and encouragement have been invaluable. She is also known as the "mother" of our JACL chapter and the Japanese community of Salt Lake and Utah. Unfortunately, we cannot claim her as only our own because she likewise has played the same role for the Asian community of Utah as well as being the beloved soul mate to all minorities of Utah. In conclusion, in Alice we regarded as sacred. From the beginning of history, rice was respected by the people for it was their food, their life, their happiness, and also stood for purity. Therefore, the 88th year is celebrated as a happy and joyous occasion. (Excerpted from Jane Sakashita’s notes).

Mary Waki Kawakami

Since a very interesting and informative article about Mary was written in the Pacific Citizen in its Oct. 18-31, 2002, issue titled "Utah JACLer Faces Down Bulldozer to Save Her Property," I will refer readers to that article for more information about her.

Briefly, Mary has a very colorful and exciting history. After graduating from high school, she got her cosmetology license and opened a salon near Spring Canyon Coal Mines where she met her future husband, Charlie, who worked in the mines with many other Nikkei. After WWII started, the Nikkei coal miners, including Charlie, were fired for security reasons (unfounded stereotyping and racial prejudice) and the Kawakamis moved to American Fork and bought property with meager funds derived from money from cashed-in Liberty Bonds.

Under compelling and desperate circumstances, she opened another salon in a converted chicken coop (feathers still dotting the floor, smell of chicken droppings wafting through the air and periodic mice running (literally) from corner to corner) and became the bread earner of the family. Realizing she needed to improve her skills, "she worked six days a week, and on Saturday, after work, she hopped a Greyhound bus and with blanket in tow, slept her way to Los Angeles, where she studied with the professionals all day Sunday and then slept her way back to Utah on the Greyhound bus Sunday night to start work on Monday morning."

She entered and won many hair design contests and in 1954 was voted "One of the World’s Ten Best" and represented the United States in an international hair design contest. As her business grew and she needed help, she convinced her husband to get his license and with her help and encouragement he did and became quite popular among...
he was taking the old retired about five years ago. claimed property that had been a property dispute, parties repre­
dozing a fence and trees on the Mary, who confronted the bull­
ning some wonderful people — the eloquence and pas-
dicate the Kawakamis with a threat of a lawsuit and damages by a huge company with tremendous resources, including unlimited financial capital. In other words, we will bury you in time, another David vs.

Goliath episode, Charlie was 99- and Mary 89. Charlie was not in the best of physical health and Mary was not quite a spring chicken. What chance would they have? With the help of her children, she marshaled their friends and community, including JACL. After some tough negotiations the dispute was comprom­
ised between the parties, and the Kawakamis are very satisfied with the settle­
ment. They now even have a street named after them. So standing up in harm's way when the odds are stacked against you is typical of Mary's fortitude, courage and tena­
ciousness. She is a stalwart

be murdered. Within minutes, the police arrived, and the day ended in a standoff." Initially, the lawyers for the national retailer tried to intimi­
dating the vote count and the graciousness of John Saito in con­
ceding. And at the installation banquet, I remember Neil Taniguchi, elected vice president of general operations, telling me that the average age of my cabinet was 32. I thought "Thank God for the governors who will bring a bit more maturity to the board since many of the new officers have not had national or district experi­
encing."

I remember one of the first things I did as national president was to trek to D.C. where Karen Narasaki, our Washington, D.C. representative, squired me around to meet other civil rights organi­
ization leaders and some members of Congress. Karen was also instrumental in my becoming a co-chair of the 30th anniversary of the March on Washington with an opportunity to share JACL's message before tens of thousands gathered at the Lincoln Memorial. Pat Okura was with me on that platform. He was national JACL president at the time of the first March and led a small group of marchers; Pat did not have an easy time of it then as we had members who opposed our particip­
ation. I also remember the kindness of JACL chapters I visited during my term. I appreciated their commitment and steadfastness to fur­
ther the goals of JACL. I remember some wonderful people — the eloquence and pas-

Mary Waki Kawakami

KIMURA

(Continued from page 49)
even ruled Mike out of order. Some thought that was very nervy. Attendance at the conven­tion suddenly dropped as many of the leaders were called to Washington, D.C., to witness President Ronald Reagan sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law. The Seattle convention was held at the University of Washington and most of us stayed in dorms. You'll notice we haven't done that again.

I've served on the national JACL board a number of times, first as an appointee of Hank Tanaka, who assigned me to chair the Long Range Planning Committee. Then as governor of the Midwest district council I served five years during which time we made some momentous decisions about mounting the campaign to seek redress. When Cresssey Nakagawa became national JACL president, he appointed me to chair the Pacific Citizen board. My last stint was several years ago, when I filled an unexpired term as governor of the Eastern district council when Tom Kometani moved back to the Seattle area from New Jersey.

Then, of course, there was my term as the first woman to become national president, at the 1992 Denver convention. I remember the controversy sur­
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Moving Forward
Twin Cities (Minnesota)
JACL Chapter

Formed originally as the “United Citizens League,” the Twin Cities chapter received its JACL charter in 1947. Minnesota was a familiar location for many veterans who had served at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling in the U.S. Army’s Military Intelligence Service during World War II, and the presence of the University of Minnesota was a strong attraction for those who would continue their education under the G.I. Bill.

The Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota assisted generously in the resettlement of wartime evacuees, notably by providing a Minneapolis mansion for a Japanese American Center for 20 years. Initially staffed by the Rev. Daisuke Kitagawa and his wife, Fujiko, who had ministered in relocation camps, and later by the Rev. Andrew Otani, the center provided a venue for Issei Christians, area Buddhists, the JACL and its credit union, Kitagawa and his wife, Fujiko, Rev. Andrew Makino, Howard Nomura (who as a teenager had attended the Portland chapter), Tomo Kosobayashi and Kimi Hara (who as a teenager had attended the 1930 JACL convention in Seattle).

The chapter’s earliest legislative activities were to seek fair housing opportunities (successfully led in Minneapolis by Mayor Hubert H. Humphrey).

Socially, the chapter sponsored a Nisei bowling league and golf events, as well as an annual picnic for the JA community.

As for most chapters, fundraising events, such as sukiyaki dinners, were a continuing necessity. Initially to finance maintenance repairs and improvements at the center, funds were subsequently used to continue a local chapter scholarship program. In 1959, the chapter hosted its first MDC/EDC biennial convention, keynote by Minnesota Congressman Walter Judd. The residue from fundraising for this event was the original principal of the scholarship fund, which made its first awards in 1961 and which continues today with distributions totaling $9,000 annually.

The local Sansei Club organized by the chapter was the Junior JACL, with Tom Ohno as its first advisor. Among its members were the late Randy Senzaki (a former JACL national director), and former MDC governors Joanne Kumagai

After the first wave of Sansei teenagers moved on to college and jobs, the later groups reorganized as JAYs and by this time (the 1970s), could affiliate and meet with other JAY’s nationally.

The chapter assisted the local JAYs to host its 1976 national convention at Concordia College in St. Paul.

JACL members have also been involved with the creation of other local organizations for JAs. In 1978, the Minnesota Nikkei Project was incorporated, and its purpose was to make the remaining years of the Issei as pleasurable as possible through the volunteer efforts of Nisei and Sansei. Bill Doi was the group’s first chair.

The Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota (JAVM), composed primarily of Nisei JACL members, was started in 1991 by Kathy Ohama Koch and her mother, Grace Ohama. The SoCal MIS group contacted them to help plan a 50th anniversary commemoration of the MIS at Camp Savage. Held in May 1992 and themed “Sentimental Journey,” the event was attended by over 400 veterans and their families. Edwin (Bud) Nakasone serves as president, Sam Honda as vice president, and Kathy Ohama Koch as secretary. JAVM holds a memorial service at Fort Snelling National Cemetery annually in May.

In the new millennium, the Twin Cities chapter has held many social, cultural, fundraising, educational, and advocacy activities. The chapter hosts an annual picnic, golf tournament, intergenerations potluck dinner, and children’s holiday party. For the past two years, the annual banquet has been a highlight of the year, successfully combined with a silent auction and corpo
Today, after almost three-quarters of a century, JACL is still facing a formidable task which will require huge resources and manpower to be effective. The pre-World War II Japanese Americans are a very small group, and they are being constantly diluted by huge growing numbers of outmarriages now into the third, fourth, and fifth generations and beyond.

Today, most intermarried families have practically no ties to the JA community, let alone to JACL. The total number of JACL members has declined drastically, and as a result their effectiveness has become very limited because membership dues drive their programs.

The latest U.S. census data indicate that the population mix has changed drastically. The percentage of the white population is getting proportionally smaller even when including the many recent immigrants from Europe, while the Hispanic population is now the largest minority in the United States, and it is being increased by legal, illegal and temporary imported workers. African Americans, the second-largest majority, are now trying to cope with poverty, high birth rates, and with the large numbers of their people without high school educations.

The rest of the population mix is made up of a large group of so-called “Asian and Pacific Islanders” from different areas and countries in the Far East with many varied languages and cultural backgrounds. Included within this group are the post-WWII immigrants from Japan and a small number of non-Japanese with their families who are executives of large Japanese corporations in the United States on temporary assignments.

These Japanese corporate executives wield considerable power and influence, far out of proportion to their numbers in the business world, but they have not paid any attention nor shown any active interest in the JACL’s work in education or in the civil rights movement.

The postwar Japanese immigrants have arrived with more language skills as well as with a broad range of skills for various kinds of employment. Their descendants on the whole have largely remained aloof from the prewar JAs and few have ever become members of JACL. The 1945 war brides by the thousands have largely disappeared into both the small and big towns throughout the United States. Their descendants are scattered all over the country and they have not heard of nor tried to communicate with the JAs except in a few isolated cases.

Today the task facing the JACL is formidable, partly because of the changes in the population mix with Hispanics now the largest minority group. Many of the Hispanic children are helped to learn by teachers using Spanish in the public schools. The African American community is striving for its share of the good life and is trying to overcome old prejudices still present. Despite the considerable favorable exposure via the media through TV and sports.

The third group consists of peoples from many countries in the Far East with different languages and cultures. The Chinese, who were immigrants before the Japanese and who suffered much more than the Japanese, have an organization comparable to the JACL. All the other Asian and Pacific Islander groups, such as the Vietnamese, are busily concentrating on acquiring the material signs of the middle class and most have never heard of the JACL.

Within this broad mix of different races, cultures, languages and lifestyles, it is a wonder that the JACL has achieved so much. But with its very small membership base and resultant limited financial resources it has had to struggle to reach its goals. The constant influx and changing population mix have created a never-ending task for the JACL.

So now the big question is this: With the fading of the second and third generation of pre-WWII JAs, will the following generations want to continue their support of the JACL, enabling it to do its job? And if so, how much money and effort will they be willing to contribute? Or will they just default and fade away? Will the constantly increasing rate of intermarriage by the descendants of the pre-WWII JAs change their image so much that there will be no need for the JACL?

Perhaps the postwar Japanese immigrants and their descendants are the ones who need JACL’s help the most. Perhaps the time has come for the JACL to welcome membership from the postwar Japanese to help organize and to speak up for equal rights.
It's hard to imagine that JACL is 75 years old. There are not many things in my life that are over seven decades in age but I am sure glad that JACL is one of them. Aren't you? In today's world, after so many common-day occurrences in a different way, don't we?

When you see a jet in the air, it's just not the same, right? One day in Seattle, where I live, I was looking downtown and saw a jet as it passed by one of our skyscrapers, and it looked like it was going to hit it. I took a photo in my yard when I'm playing with my lab and see jets flying over all the time, and now I wonder if one of them is going to crash in my neighborhood or blow up in the air. Isn't that a terrible thing to have to imagine?

But unfortunately, that is how our world is now as it is changed forever. Before 9/11, we sure didn't think that what happened to the Japanese Americans in the 1940s could happen again, but now, don't you think differently? It's been over 50 years since Executive Order 9066 and it sure doesn't seem like the world has moved any closer to equality or peace. It sure seems like discrimination and racism is just as prevalent but in a different form. It is a scary thought, and I think we should be a little frightened about that.

As much as JACL has helped the many JA communities across the United States, there is much more to be done. I am a Sansei and I have been involved in my Asian Pacific Islander and JA community for almost 30 years. When I was a high school student there was a racist mascot at the school I attended; at the same time the community had a lot of clout and history and money. But that didn't deter our small Asian student coalition in the early 1970s. This was wrong and we had to show them that it was wrong. We asked the school to take it down but they refused our request.

Then I started talking to the parents about it. They are a large part of why I am so engrained in the Seattle JA community. It is my second home. My mother and father happened to know a minority judge who did a weekly on-air editorial on various current issues, and they told him what was going on at my high school. Well, you can probably figure out what happened. We couldn't have asked for a more powerful way to get our message out there, and of course, the mascot had to come down after the editorial was broadcast.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that there is strength even in small numbers. And right now, JACL is struggling with a declining membership; maybe a population that doesn't think we need the JACL or that thinks JACL isn't that important or doing enough. Well, if you are one of those people, it's time to get involved and be a part of strengthening our organization from the bottom up! They say it starts from the bottom, by building a strong foundation.

Now more than ever we need as many JAs as possible to truly be concerned and involved at any level dealing with what is happening in the world today. It should bother us. It's unfortunate that we still need organizations like JACL, the NAACP, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Urban League, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Organization of Chinese Americans, to name a few.

It is so important that we become more educated, and less complacent, thinking that this will go away or not affect us in any way. The more we stay quiet and say "it's okay," the more it will happen — such as insensitive comments by those in powerful and prominent leadership positions who supposedly represent our best interests.

We need to support the JACL more than ever. With severe financial problems there is an ever-growing need for this organization to be a viable, visible, strong and powerful voice. We are still a society that judges people on what we see, not what we should know.

The United States is one of the most uneducated when it comes to what is happening around the world, such as in the Middle East, in North Korea, or in the former Soviet Union. The thinking is that everyone else should know about us but it's not important to know about them. I realize there is the saying that ignorance is bliss but there is also power in knowledge.

The United States is a country of immigrants, yet many are still treated like a disease, as if they do not belong, being told to "go back to where you came from." Our ancestors came here because they heard it was a wonderful place where they could fulfill their dreams, have a business and raise a family.

Unfortunately, we are still hearing that same phrase to people who've chosen to make this place their home. So you see, we still need the JACL. We need them to speak out for us, to go to bat for us and to tell "the others" that we aren't going away and we're not going to back down.

The JA community is a dwindling population compared to the newer immigrants here, but that doesn't mean we are weaker. We all need to stand up for who we are and to be a part of an organization that fought for our freedom decades ago. Every single one of you is important and we need to build our forces for the years and battles to come.

JACL, My Second Home

By

ANN FUJII LINDWALL

Seattle's famous Space Needle. (Photo by Jason Stom)
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In 1962, my father, Harry Kawamoto, was the San Diego chapter president. Part of his responsibilities was to be a delegate at that year’s JACL convention in Seattle. Though I was only 10 years old, I have fond memories of how my mother, brother and I joined “Dad” on that trip and made a family vacation of it.

I'm sure many of our membership recall the wonderful booster events that have always been a great part of convention. I'm very pleased to see that our Hawaii chapter has incorporated such booster-type events in our upcoming convention in Honolulu, Aug. 10-14, 2004.

Annually since at least the 1930s, the San Diego chapter has hosted a beach party picnic for the Japanese American community. I remember enjoying this event since I was very young. And to my good fortune this is the event where, as a teenager, I met the lovely young lady who would later become my wife, Carol.

As a college student in the 1970s, I joined San Diego JACL's board. I have to admit I did this to help coordinate the chapter’s basketball program because I played on the San Diego JACL team and wanted to assure the continuation of that program. But I do appreciate San Diego JACL giving me this opportunity to have such fun with my friends.

In reflection, fun with my friends has always been one of the benefits of my JACL involvement. Sometimes I reflect on JACL and its declining membership and I feel that it's my generation, the Sansei, who have dropped the ball. Even to this day, a majority of our JACL membership continues to be Nisei.

But I must say that it is my fellow Sansei who have kept me involved in this fine organization for more than 40 years. Though I’ve been an officer at the chapter, district and national levels, I have gotten so much more out of JACL than I ever gave. Not just by being a part of such a significant organization with equally significant accomplishments, but because of the enduring friendships I’ve been so fortunate to develop.

The friendships I’ve developed from JACL are matchless. That’s because of the quality of the people I’ve been fortunate enough to be associated with through the JACL. Too many people to name, but I know they all share a strong commitment to our community.

These people energize me with their willingness to serve. I’m so grateful to all of them for their tangible and intangible assistance through the years. And, I particularly want to thank them for their friendship. What would life be without a little “fun with your friends?”

David Kawamoto is the current JACL national vice president of general operations.

HARA
(Continued from page 63)
rate sponsorships. The keynote speakers were NASA astronaut, Daniel Tani (2002) and legendary animator Iwao Takamoto of Scooby Doo fame (2003). Japanese craft classes, Japanese folk tale reading and nochitsuki for youth are examples of recent cultural activities. A cookbook, “Bridging the Generations,” was created to commemorate the chapter’s 50th anniversary, and a two-volume Japanese cooking videotape was filmed from the chapter’s cooking class series. An annual Festival of Nations demonstration booth on origami and ribbonfish-making and a bazaar booth offering Japanese toys and dishes is the primary chapter fundraiser.

The chapter’s education committee, chaired by Sally Sudo, has presented teacher workshops on the JA WWII experience and manned display tables at annual state social studies teachers conventions. The speakers bureau continues to provide internee speakers and resource materials to schools, community groups, and to students working on History Day projects.

Recently, chapter members attended public hearings and wrote letters urging Minnesota’s Commissioner of Education to add the JA WWII experience to state-mandated K-12 social studies academic standards; this period in American history was completely missing in the initial draft.

The youth program is thriving. At one point, there were four youth representatives serving on the board. Past and current MDC youth reps include Liz Hará, Leilani Savitt and Natalie Nakasone. The youth group participates annually in a “Walk for Justice,” and organizes activities several times a year, targeting different age groups.

The chapter has been involved in many community action activities recently, participating in post-9/11 hate crimes forums, and protesting against the use of racial slurs and anti-Asian stereotypes in the media, advertising and music.

Several major community projects were sponsored by the chapter. “Whispered Silences: Japanese American Detention Camps, Fifty Years Later,” a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, with an opening reception and accompanying programs, were funded in part by grants from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and the JACL Legacy Fund in 1997.

In 2000, a Day of Remembrance Program had a standing-room-only audience to honor "Unsung Heroes: Champions of Human Rights," individuals and groups who stood up for and assisted the Minnesota JA community during and following WWII. In June 2002, the chapter and JAVM co-sponsored an MIS/Camp Savage 60th Anniversary Commemoration program.

The Twin Cities chapter is moving forward to encourage youth involvement, while ensuring that the traditions and cultural values of the Issei and Nisei are maintained.

Tom Hará is a former chapter president (1981-83), MDC governor (1985-87), national JACL legal counsel (1994-96), and national JACL finance committee member (1996-2002).
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE - DECEMBER 2002
organizations in that we have an aging membership and declining population. Our remedies are being considered. The popularity of our Japanese Language School remains strong, but our general membership is shrinking. To be able to maintain our current level of membership, to keep up with attrition, we should add 100 to 150 members in the next five to seven years. This is a lofty goal that has to have some added elements to be achievable.

The level of dedication to JACL that is inherent in our Nisei members, and counterbalanced by the resentment in other Nisei, is being lost as these friends pass on. The prospective members we seek do not carry this burden of old resentments, old knowledge or commitment to the cause. To recruit new members, we need to provide a voice or activity that is not present with other groups or organizations.

The internment was the defining moment for Japanese in America. Nationally, we have focused our efforts on the internment experience, to remember and educate about the civil rights violations that occurred because of "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." We as a chapter use every opportunity and means available to keep this memory alive, whether it be print, video or lectures. While it is important to remember the internment, to be a repository for facts and information that others can access, it is not a goal we can aspire to. Or, is it?

There is a recent book, "Good to Great," that examines the core traits of corporations that significantly outperform their peers and maintain the leadership through time. The decision that each of these great corporations made was to be the best in the world in one particular area. Of the things that they did well they chose to concentrate on one, to become the best available. Rather than to follow the tendency to diversify, to gain market share and profitability, a conscious choice was made to concentrate on their one product that was the best in the world.

What this book's research shows is that it is key to truly understand what an organization is best at in the world. Equally important is the understanding of what it cannot be best at, or what it wants to be best at. These concepts give us additional insight to where we can take our chapters. Who else in your community, what other group has the experience of being taken from their homes and incarcerated for their appearance? Do you think that we could tell the story of this experience better than anybody else could? Of course we can.

This doesn't mean that we cannot be involved in our communities and make meaningful contributions, it just gives a focus. Our chapter chooses to tend to the needs of our members, to provide activities and educational opportunities. In doing so, we have gained the support and recognition of the larger community. The mayors and council members call upon us to assist their cities in many ways and occasions, from Sister City Associations to exchange student receptions, and from visiting dignitaries to committee and commission input. We have been in the community for 73 years and were never anonymous.
New York

Season’s Greetings
Toshio & May Hirata
1935 Driver Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17602

PEACE ON EARTH
Harvey & Kyomi Iwata

A Blessed Christmas to All

Tiyo Taki Asai
Easthampton, MA

New York Chapter
JACL

Happy Anniversary to
National JACL at 75 ~ New York Chapter at 60
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always go on because of human imperfections. However, the battles are less costly to our community and we are fewer in number than previously. There are indeed other minority communities who continue to face the kinds of problems that I and other JAs faced as children. Today they need our help and support.

Why is the Resisters’ Story so riveting. Why is the Resisters’ Story so riveting. Why is the Resisters’ Story so riveting.

leaders, and responses by resister leaders were riveting.

Why is the Resisters’ Story so Important Today?

I believe there are at least three key reasons:

1. **Support of a principled civil rights stand in times of crisis.** The resisters took an unpopular stand, within a divided community, during the war hysteria. Aren’t Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Americans facing that same backlash during the “war against terrorism” today? Aren’t those who stand up for civil liberties in the face of the so-called “American Patriot Act” being labeled disloyal by some? Standing up for civil rights is most important when it’s hard, not when it’s easy.

2. **Reconciliation within the JA community.** The U.S. government unfairly forced JAs to make many tough decisions while being locked up. These included test cases challenging internment, supporting military service in the war against fascism, resisting the draft, answering “yes-yes” or “no-no” on the loyalty oath, renouncing citizenship to return to Japan, protesting camp conditions, or just trying to survive. To the extent that anyone was standing up to the government’s racist treatment, I think their decision deserves our respect today. The JA community today is made up of families who made many different decisions. It’s not made up of those who made one “correct” decision. To believe so only divides and weakens us.

3. **Better Leadership by the National JACL.** The JACL continues to be the largest, oldest, most extensive, and influential Asian Pacific American organization in the United States. To generation including those like my 15-year-old daughter.

D for the next 75 years, the struggle will continue as we strive to claim our fair share of the democracy we have worked to create and in which lives were sacrificed to preserve. It is a time when we must assert our political and economic strength to become more equal as citizens in this great country. Glass ceilings and “good old boy” barriers continue to exist in corporate and legislative America. The workplace continues to serve the majority and often skips over the minority.

We are at a time when most of society understands civil rights and at least gives lip service to the concept. The next 75 years is the time for us to implement the reality of civil rights beyond mere lip service. JACL will continue to have an important role in this effort.

Today, there are many things in the JA community for which we can be very proud. As I understand more each day the great values and commitment of those who bridged that cultural and civil rights gap, the more I appreciate the life they have created for us today. It is our job to assure that this JA pride, commitment to excellence, and sense of duty to each other continues for the next 75 years and beyond.

**MORI**

(Continued from page 28)

the JA community, the reality of assimilation has occurred to a large degree. We still have pockets of racial bigotry that we must continually battle. The war against discrimination will

**NOGUCHI**

(Continued from page 32)

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Happy Holidays

On memory of

TOM Okabe

Rose Okabe
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My Best New Year Wishes to Friends & Community

In Memory of

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Lary Schectman
Chicago, Illinois

In Memory of

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Vincent, CA 95390

Season's Greetings
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Taniguchi
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Merced, CA 95340

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Steve Teranishih, CFP
Financial Advisor

Livingston-Merced

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YAGI
10513 W. Olive Ave.
Livingston, CA 95334

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Kashiwose-Yagi
5981 N. West Lane
Vincent, CA 95390

Season's Greetings
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Merced, CA 95340

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Steve Teranishih, CFP
Financial Advisor
Remembering Min

A life of doing for others.

The Minoru Yasui Plaza Memorial Fund

Minoru Yasui was a fighter for justice.

He went to prison for challenging the federal government's authority to imprison Japanese Americans without trial during World War II. The City of Denver has named one of its office buildings for Min to honor his leadership, as director of the Office of Human Rights, in making Denver a better home for all its residents. The City also has offered space in the lobby for a permanent exhibit telling Min's story, and the story of the Japanese American experience.

The Mile-Hi Chapter of JACL has accepted the opportunity to create a memorial worthy of our history.

It will take money to meet the challenge. We invite your participation.

For Information:
Mariagnes Medrud
Tel: 303.494.9476
mariagnes@medruds.com

For Donations:
Mile-Hi JACL Yasui Fund
Richard Hamai, Treasurer
333 E. 16th Avenue, #613
Denver, Colorado 80203
www.milehijacl.org
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
Bill HOSOKAWA
140 So. Upham Ct.
Denver, CO 80202-2050
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& KAZUKO TU
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10:30 a.m. • 11:30 a.m. (Sept. - May)
Adult/Youth Classes
9:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. (Sept. - May)
Sunday School
10:30 a.m. • 11:30 a.m. (Sept. - May)
Nursery Facilities
Japanese Language Worship
Japanese Folk Festival: 1st full weekend in March
Adam Food Festival: 1st Saturday in May
Arts & Crafts Showcase: in October

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Rev. Mary Kondo Nagai, Associate Pastor
Hiroki Yamauchi, Interim Pastor
Jean Tsukada, Program Ministries Coordinator
Shinya Nishikawa, Organist
Charley Barnet, Church Treasurer
Tadashi Kurosawa, Nihon Go Kaisho
Terry Yamauchi, Administrative Assistant

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Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season
Jane K. Hada
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

May the Holidays Bring You Peace and Joy
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Paciﬁc Citizen Holiday Issue, December 1994
97
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Persons in Household</th>
<th>Total Combined Annual Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$32,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$43,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add $5,500 for each additional person.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION
TELLING YOUR STORY
ENSURING FUTURE GENERATIONS NEVER FORGET

With the support of our members and donors, the Japanese American National Museum continued to fulfill its mission to preserve, interpret and share the story of Japanese Americans to both a national and international audience. In 2003, the National Museum:

- Opened exhibitions both here and abroad
- Aired award-winning Watase Media Arts Center documentaries on Public Broadcasting System stations across our nation
- Recognized three-generation (or more) Nikkei family businesses at our Annual Dinner
- Welcomed tens of thousands of students and teachers on school field trips
- Shared the Japanese American story with people of all backgrounds while ensuring the preservation of this key chapter of U.S. history forever

Currently, the National Museum is partnering with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to ensure that a virtually unknown chapter of their state’s history, the camp experience at Jerome and Rohwer, is taught in every classroom. As part of this project, several National Museum exhibitions—including America’s Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience—will be mounted and a special conference, “Camp Connections: A Conversation about Social Justice and Civil Rights in Arkansas” (the follow-up to 2002’s All-Camps Summit), will be held on September 25, 2004, in Little Rock. You are all invited to participate.

We thank you for allowing us to develop programs that will ensure that your story is never forgotten. We appreciate your support and wish you Happy Holidays.

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM • 369 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 625-0414 • (213) 625-1770 Fax • www.janm.org • Museum Store Online: www.jannmstore.com
Happy holidays from all of us at Kiku Gardens. Kiku Gardens is a senior housing complex located south of San Diego, California. It is a 100 unit project with attractive Japanese style landscaped grounds. The apartments are one bedroom with kitchen and appliances. The rent is subsidized by HUD. Season's Greetings from all of us at Kiku Gardens. Kiku Gardens is a senior housing complex located south of San Diego, California. It is a 100 unit project with attractive Japanese style landscaped grounds. The apartments are one bedroom with kitchen and appliances. The rent is subsidized by HUD.
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2003

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Happy Holidays

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Please visit: http://www.uidaho.edu/usa/AACC
For a free copy of the AACC Newsletter, write AACC, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441111, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1111 or email pwestman@uidaho.edu

Thanks, JACL, for 5 fun years!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS--
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Chelsea, Micki, Carl, Caitlin, Josh, Jack, and Justin

Happy New Year!

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Happy New Year to the BUILDERS of THIS
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Pocatello-Blackfoot

POCATERO/BLACKFOOT JACL

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BEAK: George & Darby Jean Swanson ................. 12314 N Rio Vista Rd 83201
ENDO, Kunio & Marianne .................................. 130 S Grant Rd 83204
ENDO, Masa .......................... 4340 Tech Farm Rd 83204
ENDO, Karl .............................................. 17 Cedar Hills Dr 83204
ENDO, Ron & Darley ...................................... 2171 Cornia 83201
ENDO, Rick & Brenda ................................. 988 Rocky Point Rd 83201
HIKAGI, Kint & Maria ......................... 1361 Ridge Dr 83201
HIKAGI, Richard & Heidi ... 4988 Independence Av 83202
HIKAGI, Toshi ........................................ 1250 January 83201
HIBA, Myk ........................................ 86 Chico Ave 83201
KASHIMA, Diki & Toshik .......................... 397 N 79th Ave 83201
KAWAKAMI, Micu ............................. 381 Hyde Ave, Pocatello 8201
KAWAKAMI, Snowy ...................... 426 S 11th Ave 83201
KAWAKAMI, Teri & Lolly ..................... 670 Dell Rd 83201
KAWAGUCHI, Shun & Shirley ................. 20 N Pick 83201
KENT, Arisada ........................................... 82 N Ben Dr 84430
KENT, Paul & Joanne ......................... 82 N Ben Dr 84430
KIRNER, Jeff ............................................. 107 Buras Dr 83204
KOKA, Joe & Miyu ................................ 473 Hiltmore 83203
KUMASHIRO, George & Eiko ................. 7388 Country Club Dr 83204
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SWANSON, Lynn & Sachiko ............. 4103 Sheppard Dr 83201
SWANSON, Ted & Kim ...................... 111411 N Rio Vista Rd 83202
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WATANABE, Harry & Yvonne ............... 916 E McKelroy 83201
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ANDOW, Kasumi & Mie ................. 20 N. 200 West
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MATSUURA, Raymond & Yukiko .......... 395 West 150 N
MATSUURA, Richard & Masako .......... 374 N 100 W
MATSUMoto, Stan & Jean .............. PO Box 1052
SHIKASHI, Jim & Alice ...................... 1311 NW Main St
SHIKASHI, Hery & Martha .............. PO Box 743
SHIKASHI, Jim & Vickie ................. PO Box 743
SHIKASHI, Miki .................................... PO Box 4
TOMINAGA, Frank & Kimi ............... 1744 W 100 South
TOMINAGA, Jack & Betty ................. 820 Bishop 30 West
UKIYAMA, Mas & Melony .................. 425 S Thompson Lane
YAMADA, Kuno ...................................... 530 N 850 West
YAMAMOTO, Sitz .................................. 1358 River

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ENDO, Barry ............................................ 1067 Westward Ave, Idaho Falls 83404
ENDO, Mark ............................................. 14252 Enterprises, Boise 83713
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UGAKI, Jack & Margaret ................. 789 E 65 S, Idaho Falls 83404
UGAKI, Yuya & Wako ......................... 3096 Kelly Dr, Idaho Falls 83462
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OTA, Matthew & Naomi ................ 1300 E Valley Way, Spokane, WA 99206
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Season's Greetings

Intermountain District Council

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Happy New Year

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Season's Greetings from the San Jose JACL

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San Jose JACL
565 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Phone: (408) 295-1250
Fax: (408) 295-1291
Email: sanjosejacl@netzero.net

Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue December 2003

108
Season's Greetings from
Santa Maria Valley Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
Kazue T. Oyo - President

APAN's Wish List:
1. Redress for Japanese Latin Americans HH779
2. City of Los Angeles Jail NOT to be built in J-Town
3. National to get financially back in shape, so that it can go back to being a civil rights organization
4. Boycott Walmart until they get their act straight
5. Get a tan in Hawaii
6. Find the WMD... if they actually exist
7. No block voting at convention
8. For all chapters to bank at the JACL Credit Union
9. Thank Floyd for 4 years of service. Now you can retire and play golf
10. Hawaii chapter for a great convention

May the World
Be at Peace—
And the Dharma Spread
In all Ten Directions

WEST LOS ANGELES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1913 Purdue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes
for the Coming Year

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
797 East Temple Street • Los Angeles, California 90012
Season's Greetings

Bill & Ida

SUGAHARU

1005 SE Orchard

Milwaukie, OR 97267

Happy Holidays

Shinen Omedetō!

The ABE'S

AK & Patsy

John, Homeni, Wilkins & Christine

Debby, Dan, Shane & Ioshu

14195 SW Wordens St.

Tigard, OR 97224

After 48 years, we've moved!

Best Wishes from

Homer & Miyuki

Yasui

1525 SE 107 Ave, Apt 207

Portland, OR 97216-2967

Happy Holidays

Terry, James & Lauren

Yamada

Season's Greetings

from the City of Roses

Mary Minamoto

54 NE Mekke Place

Portland, OR 97213

Happy Holidays

ROY and MARSHA

NAKAYAMA

Jason & Kimberly

32570 SW Online Dr.

Aloha, OR 97007

Wintering All & Peace with Heart

Wayne, Sharon

Matthew and Andrew

Takahashi

Tigard, OR

Shinnen Omedetō!

Kay and Chiyoh

Endo

Takasugi

Portland, OR 97223

Blessings in the New Year

Rev. Barbara Bellus
Pastor, Epworth United Methodist Church
Portland, Oregon

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dr. Shoun/Grace

ISHIKAWA

2842 SW Plum Circle

Portland, OR 97219

Happy New Year!

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner

5722 N. Omega Ave.

Portland, OR 97217

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Scott Sakamoto

Ronin Studios

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Epworth United Methodist Church
1333 SE 28th St.
Portland, OR 97214

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Calvin & Mayho

TANABE
Season's Greetings ...

JOHN A. KODACHI*
Kell, Alterman & Runstein, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
320 SW Yamhill, Ste. 600, Portland, OR 97204
(503) 225-3231 - Fax (503) 225-2980

... and Best Wishes for 2004

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

AKEMASHITE SHINNEN OMEDETO GOZAAMSU!

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Olympia, WA 98513

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RICHARD C. HEDLUND
PACIFIC NORTHWEST ATTORNEYS

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE RABBLE ROUSERS

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE RABBLE ROUSERS

The Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League sendsWarmest Holiday Greetings and a Special Wish for Peace, Justice and Equality for All...

President:
Tatsuo Nakata
2915 Middle Road NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Vicky Yuki

Tatsumi Tachibana
602 North 51st Street
East Bay Drive

\* Also Available for Board

\* Also Available for Board

\* Also Available for Board

\* Also Available for Board

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\* Also Available for Board

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\* Also Available for Board
Compiled by Harry K. Honda

JACL District Councils

In 1930, the constitution adopted at the first JACL national convention provided for five district councils to serve as subdivisions of the national council: (1) Northwest, (2) San Francisco Bay Region, (3) Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, (4) Central California, and (5) Southern California. A district council originally required four chapters. Also, formation of an Oregon District and Imperial Valley District was being encouraged provided additional local chapters were formed.

In 1932, three district councils were recognized — Northwest, Northern California and California-Western Nevada — each formed in 1931. In 1934, the fourth district council, Intermountain, was organized and sustained the national organization during World War II when prewar JACL chapters and district councils were inactive because of Evacuation.

The 1940s saw the formation of additional chapters and district councils, including the Central California-Western Nevada-Pacific District formed in 1932, the Tri-State District formed in 1933, and the Pacific Northwest District formed in 1948, each named for their states and regions.

In 1947, the fifth district council was formed, the Pacific Southwest, to serve the Western District, as it came to be known, including states in the Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and California-Western Nevada-Pacific.

By 1950, the Pacific Southwest District had absorbed all of the other regional councils, including the Tri-State and Pacific Northwest Districts, with the latter being renamed the Pacific North-Western (PNW) District. The Pacific Southwest District merged with the PNW District in 1958, forming the Pacific Southwest District.

By the late 1960s, the national council recognized the need for a more regional approach to organizing chapters and district councils, and additional districts were formed. As of 1980, the national council had formed 10 districts, each with its own headquarters.

Pacific Southwest

After the 1934 national convention, the Southern California District was organized with seven chapters — Los Angeles, San Diego, Brawley, Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and San Gabriel Valley. Upon reactivating postwar in 1947, Arizona joined and the district assumed its current title. Today, there are 19 member chapters, including Las Vegas — a popular site to host district conventions in the odd-numbered years since the late 1970s.

Imperial Valley

Seasons Greetings

Peace on Earth

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(760) 352-4441

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Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue, December 2003

115
Central California
Youngest of the district councils, organized on March 2, 1948, splitting from the Northern California District. Its history dates from 1935 when there were four chapters in Central California: Fresno, Reedley, Parlier and Tulare County.

1935-49

Today, its 10 chapters cover the heart of California's lower half of Central Valley.

Today, there are eight chapters in the Mountain Time areas of California: Fresno, Reedley, Parlier and Tulare County.

1949-51

Today, its predecessor was the Mountain News, which was changed in 1950 to Mountain News, a great help to our local chapters and committees who had less than four members. It was a self-supporting newsletter.

51-53

Formed in 1947 as the Tri-District (Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska) District Council of three originating chapters. Denver, P. L. Ashton and Chicago, its name was changed in 1950 to Mountain News as a headquarters and committees which had less than four members or less than forty chapters, a new and better name.

55-57

And we continue to strive to cover the remainder of the Mountain News.

57-59

Today, there are eight chapters in the Mountain Time areas of California: Fresno, Reedley, Parlier and Tulare County.

Mountain News

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59-61

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99-01

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01-03

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03-05

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05-07

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07-09

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09-11

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11-13

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13-15

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