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## PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3012/ Vol. 138, No. 7 ISSN: 0030-8579

APR. 16-MAY 6, 2004



## Success of 'American Idol' Castoff William Hung a Mixed Bag for AA Community

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

He's got millions of fans, a gig on "The Tonight Show" and a recently released album, but the phenomenal success of "American Idol" castoff William Hung is a mixed bag for members of the Asian American community.

Hung's off-tune rendition of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs" did nothing for the "American Idol" judges except to elicit belly-aching laughter. But for the legions of fans watching the popular FOX TV show, including many AAs, the Hong Kong born, UC Berkeley civil engineering student's honest and seemingly serious approach to the audition was an "idol" performance prompting William Hung fan clubs and various websites across the country.

But for some AAs, the mainstream community's embrace of Hung's bucktoothed, accented and awkward performance harkened back to the days of the "Breakfast at Tiffany's"-type racist portrayal of the Asian male stereotype, once again placing the spotlight on an Asian for comic relief.

"I think racism has a big part to do with his popularity," said Emil Guillermo, a radio and TV commentator and author of "Amok: Essays

From an Asian American Perspective." "He's a non-threatening image of an Asian American. Our community is growing, we have more than our share at the great universities like Cal and Harvard. People have anxieties about Asian American males. Hung's innocence let's people deal with it."

With little AA representation, male or female, in the mainstream media today, whether in film, radio, or TV, some AAs question the mass hysteria surrounding this awkward young man.

"If it were truly balanced we wouldn't care. And there'd be nothing to question. But, things are so far out of balance we are sensitive to what little we have, and therefore also much more critical and suspicious," said Chris Tashima, actor and director whose film "Visas and Virtue" won an Academy Award.

"I do wonder what those record label execs were thinking," said Tashima. "We all know how 'Asian' he looks — he's such a nerd — and if he were hunky and sexy, and still sang like that, nothing would have caught on, I don't think. So, it's convenient that he's so geeky, and he

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SPRING CAMPAIGN  
Our LifelineBy MAYA YAMAZAKI  
P.C. Youth Board Member

"China! Chinita!" the people called after me. A quiet afternoon in Havana had turned into a circus featuring me, the lone Asian, a curiosity for all to gawk at. My first time living in Latin America for an extended period had become a

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## JACL Signs on to Amicus Brief in 'Dirty Bomber' Case

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

In a continuing effort to challenge the merits of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, the JACL announced that it has signed on to an *amicus* brief in the Jose Padilla enemy combatant case, better known as the "dirty bomber" case.

The JACL is questioning the authority of the U.S. government to detain U.S. citizens indefinitely under provisions of the Patriot Act and calling the detention of Padilla unconstitutional.

"We're questioning whether the government, under the authority of the U.S. Patriot Act, can detain an American citizen indefinitely and whether the President has authority to order such detention within the borders of the country," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director.

"It's important for our members to understand that we place no judgment on guilt or innocence in this case, but feel compelled to question the authority of the government to act in a manner that echoes the detention of Japanese Americans during World War II."

The *amicus* brief was filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Donald Rumsfeld vs. Jose Padilla*.

In addition to JACL, other individuals and organizations signing on to the *amicus* brief are: Fred Korematsu, the Bar Association of San Francisco, Asian Law Caucus, Asian American Bar Association For the Greater Bay Area, and Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach.

Jose Padilla was arrested shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by Federal agents under a material witness warrant in connection with a grand jury investigation of the attacks. Later, the Department of Defense took custody of Padilla, an American citizen, and for the next 18 months he was not allowed to have contact with his counsel, family, or other non-military personnel. After two years Padilla has been held indefinitely without having been charged with any crime.

The U.S. Court of Appeals For the Second Circuit said Padilla should have been allowed contact with his attorney and that his detention was unwarranted. The U.S. government then appealed the court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Second Circuit's decision was largely based on the Non-Detention Act which states that no American citizen can be detained without the authorization of the U.S. Congress. The Non-Detention Act

was passed after the Emergency Detention Act of 1950 was repealed, a decision largely based on the unlawful detention of the JA community during World War II.

And it is this argument that is used in the recently filed *amicus* brief.

The JA community has been vocal in its opposition to the U.S.A. Patriot Act which allows for increased governmental powers including increased search and detention powers.

JAs are quick to see the similarities between their own forced incarceration during WWII, where 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were placed in American concentration camps, and the current targeting of Arab and Muslim Americans in the fight against terrorism.

JACL and the other *amici* state in the brief: "No one can dispute the horror inflicted upon the Nation on that date. However, as illustrated by the Japanese American detention and Congress' response over the past fifty years, it is important to carefully balance our concerns of safety and security with those of our freedoms and civil liberties. That is the price we pay for democracy." ■

## Engrish.com: Comedy or Racism?

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

For some, the price of a chuckle is too high if it means paying with your dignity. That's why a popular Web site featuring a photo album of bad Japanese grammar is making some people say, *Please don't make fun of my English*.

The Web site, [www.english.com](http://www.english.com), contains pictures of bad Japanese English in very public places like store fronts and electronic instruction manuals — everything from a menu advertising "Hot Bowel Soup" to a patriotic t-shirt with the enigmatic message, "Not Warning/Make Loved/For Peace World." And no, it is not a haiku.

In existence since 1999, the Web site is constantly updated by contributors from around the world. The site is organized into sections including, "Books and Magazines," which features a photo of "Feel Up" Magazine and the section with the most expansive collection "Signs/Posters," where you can view a close-up photo of a female head over laid with the message, "Happiness blows on me."

The site contains over 25 categories with pictures of real life examples of poor English from different countries, but most of them come from Japan — a phenomenon



that the Web site attributes in its "What is English?" section to the Japanese emphasis on graphic design over spelling and grammatical accuracy.

But for some individuals who have visited or lived in Japan, Engrish is a widely-known phenomenon and a source of entertainment.

"I personally think that [the Web site] is humorous," said David Kim. "Coming from an Asian background, as a second generation, it's funny that English, the universal language, can be broken up in writ-

One thousand words — Advertising slogans take on a whole different meaning in Japan. (Top) A sign that appeared in a hair salon; (bottom) examples of spelling mistakes.



ing even though it can be proof-read."

"I am a Japanese national ... so I am used to things like this," said Yuka Yamamoto.

However, the content of the Web site is leaving a bad taste in the mouth for some and making others cry foul.

"Sites like this can be fodder for people looking for excuses to ridicule people of other ethnicities and countries of origin. It also reinforces the notion that only

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*PACIFIC CITIZEN* (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly except once in January and December by the Japanese American Citizens League, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755. OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time. ©2004.

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

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

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## WILLIAM HUNG

(Continued from page 1)

can't help but be promoted for what he is, or how he looks."

Hung's album "Inspiration" (KOCH Records and FUSE) was released in stores nationwide April 6 and more than 30,000 copies sold in the first week. In addition to his hit, "She Bangs," the album includes Hung's rendition of "Circle of Life" by Elton John and The Eagles' "Hotel California." Mixed in with Hung's off-key performances are inspirational thoughts and a DVD featuring exclusive interviews and studio footage.

He's also got his own official website with millions of fans logging on to find out the latest news about their "American Idol" castoff, numbers that exceed even that of Britney Spears' popular website. Hung performed on "The Today Show," "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" and even had his own show, "Idol Worship: The William Hung Story." Requests for an interview by the *Pacific Citizen* were never returned.

Although there are those in the AA community questioning the reasons for Hung's popularity, the engineering student has just as many AA fans who are wholeheartedly enjoying his 15-going-on-16 minutes of fame.

The official William Hung website was created by Don and Laura Chin of Northern California who pumped in their own money to start the fan site after seeing Hung's honest and humble performance on "American Idol."

"I just thought [Hung] was real sincere and authentic. He sings because he enjoys singing, which is rare," said Don Chin, a second generation Chinese American.

"I don't know why people are upset," said Chin, who is puzzled that some AAs feel Hung's popularity is due to racism. "I don't know

what Asians want as a role model. There's no basis to what they are saying."

Columnist Guy Aoki is taking a "the glass is half-full" approach to Hung's current popularity, assuming people are being sincere in their support of the popular singer. "In a world full of cynicism [Hung's] uncynical attitude is a breath of fresh air," he said.

Aoki does not believe Hung's current success has to do with racism. "I think there was some racism in how the judges laughed at him when he first auditioned," he said. "But as far as people accepting him, I think it's the opposite — they've accepted him despite his being a walking Asian FOB stereotype. He beat the odds by being himself, despite that self being very awkward."

And among Hung's legion of fans are a number of females, many of them AA. There's a "Win a Date With Will Hung!" section on Hung's official website where women are encouraged to write in and send photos; among the posted shots are several young AA women.

One young woman named Nicole writes, "I think he is absolutely adorable. I am a 29-year-old single lady. He has the courage to do what most of us only dream of. He is obviously very intelligent and ... his 15 seconds of fame is turning into a little bit more than that. I love it, I'm so happy for him."

It's obvious a number of AAs are taking Hung's current success as lighthearted amusement, something to enjoy without picking apart and analyzing the why's, what's, and how's.

But Guillermo believes this attitude can be dangerous. "Nothing is lighthearted," he said. "Making fun of slavery makes it okay. Making fun of the living stereotype of William Hung is a way to legitimize real negative feelings toward Asian Americans. He's being exploited." ■

## Calling All Interns

Wanted: part-time summer intern for the *Pacific Citizen*.

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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper, the national publication of the Japanese American Citizens League is currently looking for someone to work at its Monterey Park, Calif. office, full-time, including some evenings and weekends.

Various duties include reporting, researching, rewriting of press releases and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community and the JACL a plus.

College or grad students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.

The application deadline for P.C.'s "Harry Honda Summer Internship Program" is May 24.

If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the *Pacific Citizen*, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755, fax: 323/725-0064, email: paccit@aol.com, attention: Caroline Aoyagi.



## SPRING CAMPAIGN

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## SPRING CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

personal struggle as I tried to enjoy a culture that consistently made me feel like an outsider.

I became a curiosity, a novelty, the one student everyone remembered, only because I am of Asian descent.

"Were you at the *Casa de la Musica* last night?" One young man asked me.

"No"

"Oh, it must have been another *China*," he replied.

In an effort to determine the status of the Asian community in Havana, I visited *el Barrio Chino*, the Chinatown. What I found did not surprise me. The Chinatown consisted of one narrow footpath with restaurants squeezed together, reminding me of streets found in Beijing.

In front of each dilapidated storefront façade emulating (or maybe mocking) extravagant oriental designs, stood a Chinese Cuban, wearing traditional Asian clothes, who would bow as tourists bustled by. This was a mecca of commercialization in a communist country, not a place where an Asian community could thrive.

One discovery, however, gave me hope. The *Kwong Wah Po*, the local Asian newspaper. In a country where the press is tightly controlled, many Asians view this periodical as their community lifeline.

Here, comfortably sitting in my Seattle home, I often take the *Pacific Citizen* for granted. I do not live in a community with constant hostility, but this newspaper is still my lifeline, like the *Kwong Wah Po* is for the Cubans.

I read about news that I cannot find anywhere else because the

mainstream media has a tendency to forget about us Asians. This is my forum of communication, where events that actually pertain to me are expressed with the same interest and vitality that I have.

Every year, the P.C. faces challenges, but one of the most prominent is always financial. The mission of this periodical, however, is not to raise money. The efforts of the staff should be dedicated to producing a paper of utmost quality that represents us as members of the JACL.

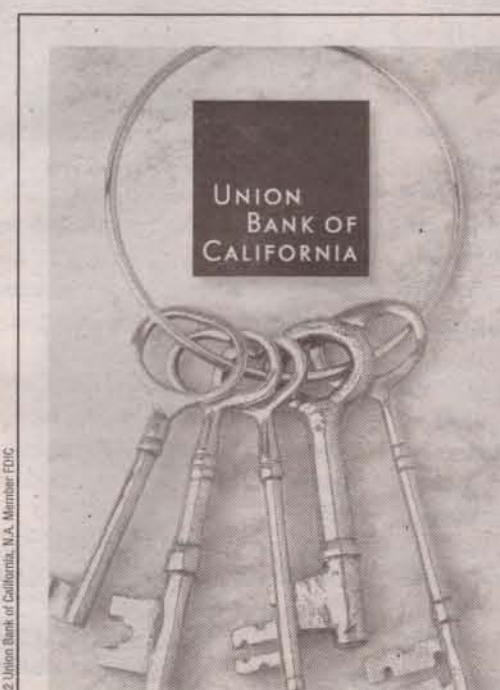
Unfortunately, in today's economic world, this may all just be a utopian dream. As readers of this paper, however, we need to step up and help ease the burden of the staff, to allow them to focus their attention on the news and not on whether they will be able to make ends meet or have enough money to pay the electricity bill.

This is an investment in the voices of our community and in the legacy of the Asian American struggle. We can all be a part of this by allowing the staff to do their jobs and ease part of their burden.

Please be a part of this great newspaper and support the advancement of AAs. Your contributions will allow the P.C. to continue to represent us and to bring us the information we need to be informed citizens of this great country. ■

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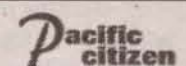
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\* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

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



## Muslim Chaplain Cleared by Army, Comes Home

By MELANTHIA MITCHELL  
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE—A Muslim Army chaplain embroiled in a case involving a suspected espionage ring at the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba has returned home to Western Washington.

"I'm looking forward to closing this book and moving on to Chapter 2," Capt. James Yee told reporters during a brief news conference following his arrival April 5 at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Yee, once a chaplain at Fort Lewis, arrived at Sea-Tac around 4:20 p.m., a few hours late after he had problems clearing security and missed his original flight.

"Both he and his father have experienced this problem since the character assassination against him began last year," his lawyer, Eugene R. Fidell, said.

In the past, Fidell said, Yee has been refused a plane ticket, but he did not know specifically what delayed the chaplain on April 5 as he was trying to depart from Baltimore. Yee's wife and daughter live in Olympia.

"It's the kind of thing that demonstrates how critical it is that the government ... clears his name and gets him out of this security limbo," Fidell said.

Yee, 35, spent 76 days in custody after the military linked him to a possible espionage ring at Guantanamo Bay. He was eventually charged with mishandling classified material, failing to obey an order, making a false official statement, adultery and conduct unbecom-

coming an officer.

Last month, the Army dismissed all criminal charges, but did find him guilty of the minor violations of adultery and improperly downloading pornography onto an Army computer.

Fidell appealed the ruling. He also requested Gen. James T. Hill, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, recuse himself from the case and asked that the military return Yee's passport, restore him to duty and grant him a formal apology.

As of April 5 he said he had received no response. "Chaplain Yee is entitled to a fair shake and he hasn't gotten it yet," Fidell said.

Yee's wife, Huda Suboh, and the couple's 4-year-old daughter, Sarah, were waiting at the airport with many of Yee's supporters when he arrived April 5.

"No matter how great the opposition, truth will always stand clear of falsehood," Yee told reporters moments after his daughter ran into his arms and gave him a kiss on the cheek.

Yee is to eventually resume his post at Fort Lewis.

Fidell has said the Army's decision to drop most of the charges and hold an Article 15 proceeding — used to settle minor disciplinary issues — hurt Yee's defense preparation and minimized media scrutiny.

"Mr. Fidell has raised numerous issues," Steve Lucas, a civilian spokesman for U.S. Southern Command in Miami, said April 5. "Before taking any action on the appeal, Gen. Hill will thoroughly consider all matters submitted by Mr. Fidell on Capt. Yee's behalf."

Lucas said given the ongoing status of the appeal, further comment "would be inappropriate." ■



## JA Cultural Center, Theater Defaced with Similar Symbols as Go for Broke Vandalism

By Pacific Citizen Staff and  
Associated Press

Two Japanese American buildings and five stores were defaced with the same star-like symbols carved into the Go for Broke monument last month, making this the fourth related vandalism incident in the past month and a half.

Police officials say the vandalism at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and the George and Sakaye Aratani/Japan America Theater took place during the first weekend in April. Six-pointed stars enclosed in a circle and the words "Grose" or "Gross" were etched in the windows.

Several weeks ago, someone scrawled more than 20 satanic symbols on the granite pillars at the Go for Broke monument

City officials on March 31 proposed a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of whoever vandalized the downtown Los Angeles monument honoring JA veterans of World War II.

Police patrol has been stepped up in the area because of the spate of vandalism incidences.

"To have defaced and disrespected a monument that pays tribute to over 16,000 Japanese American veterans ... was unthinkable to me," said Councilwoman Jan Perry, who represents the area.

"I've been a supporter of the Japanese American veterans and events held at the Go for Broke Monument since its dedication in 1999, and the disrespect that was done to the monument is truly disconcerting," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich.

Established in 1980, the JACCC is a non-profit organization and the largest ethnic cultural center in the United States.

The Go for Broke monument was dedicated in 1999 near the Japanese American National Museum. It includes the names of thousands of JA veterans and an inscription written by Hawaiian veteran Ben Tamashiro, who died March 26.

The first of its kind in the mainland U.S., the monument represents the WWII heroics of the JA soldiers who fought bravely while their families were incarcerated behind barbed wire in American concentration camps.

Police are investigating the incident as a hate crime. No suspect or suspects have been named in the vandalism. ■

## Retired Army Chief Honored at Army Museum

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Eric Shinseki was described as an inspiration to a generation of Army leaders and a role model for Hawaii's youth as the Kauai-born retired chief of staff was honored at the dedication and opening of a permanent exhibit in his honor.

The exhibit at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki includes Shinseki's West Point uniform, his pistol from when he served as Army chief of staff and a baseball glove from his childhood on Kauai.

Shinseki, 61, served as Army chief of staff under Presidents Clinton and Bush. He was the first Hawaii native and first Asian American to attain the rank of four-star general as well as the Army's

highest leadership position.

In a brief talk recently, Shinseki said he didn't reach his achievements on his own and praised his



wife, his family, friends and comrades for their guidance and sacrifices during his 38-year career.

"I'm humbled that you would find all of this interesting," Shinseki said. "It's a great American story rather than a story of one person."

Shinseki said his future plans are uncertain. But he said he has no political aspirations at this time.

Shinseki's leadership is "an inspiration for a whole generation of

leaders in the Army," said Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, commander of the 25th Infantry Division.

Shinseki is a role model for Hawaii youth, and the exhibit will be seen by hundreds of schoolchildren who regularly visit the museum, said retired Maj. Gen. Herbert E. Wolff, president of the Hawaii Army Museum Society.

"We hope all the people of Hawaii will find time to visit the museum and pay their respects to this great American and Hawaii native," Wolff said.

Shinseki served two combat tours in Vietnam and later served as the commander of Army forces in Europe and of NATO peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He became Army chief of staff in June 1999 and retired four years later. ■

## NPS Announces \$100,000 to Complete Study of Eagledale Ferry Dock

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The National Park Service (NPS) recently announced \$100,000 in funding to complete a special resources study of the Eagledale Ferry Dock Site on Bainbridge Island that began in 2002.

The announcement coincided with the anniversary of the forced evacuation of Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island on March 30, 1942. More than 60 years ago, following the signing of Executive Order 9066, JAs were ordered to board the ferry Kehloken at the Eagledale Ferry Dock Site. From there, they were transported to temporary assembly centers and later to internment camps in California and Idaho.

"Our national parks protect areas of unique value in America. I'm proud these continued funds will help Washingtonians recognize and protect the Eagledale Ferry Dock — a part of our history that we must not forget," said Sen. Patty Murray, who along with Sen. Maria Cantwell and U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee sent a letter to the NPS in support of the \$100,000 allocation.

"I am very pleased that the National Park Service recognizes the Japanese American Memorial Study as a national priority," said Inslee. "This federal funding is one more

step towards our goal of creating a national monument to honor those who suffered during that time in our nation's history."

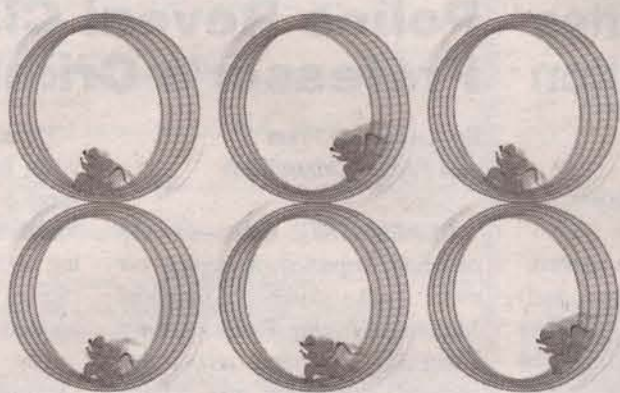
In 2003, the NPS allocated the first increment of funds for the study. The new funds will be used to work with the local communities to develop alternatives and recommendations on future uses of the site and to conduct public meetings.

Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct the study in 2002. The study is expected to cost approximately \$200,000 and will likely be completed next year. The study follows the successful effort by the Washington state delegation to secure funding in the Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations bill to acquire the lands on the site for a memorial and a park.

The study is being conducted in partnership with the members of the local community, the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation District, the WWII Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial, Kitsap County and the State of Washington.

The study would complement land conservation efforts by the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land to establish a memorial on the site and to protect adjacent lands as a public park. ■

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## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

**Coral Wong Pietsch**, the first Asian American female general in the U.S. Army, is the newest chairwoman of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. She was confirmed by the Senate recently which also unanimously endorsed Roger Daniel Rizzo and Lisa Ana S.L. Wong to serve on the five-member commission. Pietsch will serve on the commission until 2007. In her role at the Army Pacific, Pietsch oversees personnel and labor law.



**Cherry Kinoshita** of the JACL Seattle chapter was recently honored with the Jefferson Award, an award sponsored by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* in Washington state since 1976. Kinoshita was honored for her work in the redress campaign, helping to win payments of \$20,000 and an official apology from the U.S. government for surviving World War II internees.

The Automotive Hall of Fame recently announced eight members to be inducted into the 2004 class including **Jiro Yanase**. As president of Yanase & Company, Yanase had a profound impact on Japan's automotive industry by providing the initial entrance into the Japanese market for many American and European automakers. Yanase, along with the other members, will be inducted on Oct. 5 in Dearborn.

**Walter Ozawa** was installed as the new chairman of the National Japanese American Veterans Council during a recent meeting at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Ozawa succeeds Fred Murakami who has chaired the council since it was established in 1998. A former Vietnam veteran, Ozawa is currently the deputy administrative director of the Courts, State of Hawaii and was former director of the Office of Veterans Services for Hawaii. In addition to Ozawa, the other officers include: Calvin Ninomiya (East Region), 1st deputy chairman; Francis Sogi (Hawaii Region), 2nd deputy chairman; Cathy Tanaka (Southern California Region), secretary; Joe Ichijui (East Region), treasurer; and Fred Murakami, chairman emeritus. Other officers included: Andrew Sato (Hawaii), regional vice chairman; Hitoshi Sameshima and Victor Abe (Southern California); and Harry Fukuhara (Northern California). ■

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### □ Gen. MacArthur Shall Return as an Action Figure

NORFOLK—A limited-edition toy version of five-star General Douglas MacArthur will land on store shelves 60 years after he uttered his famous words, "I shall return."

The toy model features MacArthur's signature sunglasses, combed-over hair and distinctive nose. The design was approved by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, which holds the rights to his images.

Appropriately, the foot-tall figure by Hasbro first went on sale at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk.

MacArthur liberated the Philippines from Japan during World War II.

### □ Help Now Available for St. Paul Hmongs

ST. PAUL—Arriving in the Twin Cities will not be as daunting for the new waves of Hmong refugees arriving from Thailand this summer. They will be greeted in their own language.

Staff members from St. Paul based nonprofit Hmong American Partnerships will help refugees manage many aspects of their new lives in the United States.

The city's 24,000 Hmong population is expected to grow by a few thousand, prompting the creation of HAP to meet the demand.

The HAP will provide new Hmong immigrants with housing and job assistance, public assistance applications, and enrolling kids in school and adults in language classes.

### □ Asia Society Appoints First Woman, AA President

NEW YORK—Vishakha Desai has been named the Asia Society's sixth president, making her the first woman and Asian American to hold the position since the organization's start in 1956.

Desai has been with the institution since 1990, starting as the director of galleries. She also served as senior vice president and director of museum and cultural programs. She also played a role in the recent renovation of the society's New York headquarters.

The Asia Society was founded to promote understanding between the United States and Asia. Its programs include art exhibitions, performances and lectures.

### □ Judge Throws Out Suit Against City's Affirmative Action Plan

OMAHA—A federal judge ruled in favor of the city last month in a lawsuit that alleged the city's affirmative action plan for firefighters is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit was brought forth by two fire captains who claim that they were unfairly passed for promotion.

John Kohlbek claims that a black man was promoted to battalion chief over him even though Kohlbek was more qualified. Michael Pritchard claims he applied for the rank of captain and two black men were promoted to the position even though they were lower on the list. ■

## ACLU Sues Gov't Over 'No Fly' List That Bars Travelers

By LESLIE MILLER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—A retired minister, a college student and a member of the military are among those involved in the American Civil Liberties Union's challenge to the list of travelers that the government has barred from flying because they're considered a threat.

Airlines are instructed to stop anyone on the "no fly" list that is compiled by the Transportation Security Administration. The ACLU contends, though, that some people are wrongfully put on the list.

"Many innocent travelers who pose no safety risk whatsoever are stopped and searched repeatedly," the ACLU said in a statement issued April 5 to announce the filing of a class-action lawsuit challenging the list. The civil rights group is representing seven plaintiffs, including the military person, the minister and the student.

The no-fly list is one of two lists kept by the TSA. The other is the

"selectee." Those on the no-fly list are not allowed to board a commercial aircraft. Those on the selectee list must go through more extensive screening before boarding.

Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies request that the TSA put names on the list.

Little else is known about the lists, including how many people are on them and how they qualify to get on or off.

The TSA acknowledged the name-matching technology used by some airlines confuses people on the no-fly list with passengers who have similar names.

In such a case, a passenger would be referred to a law enforcement official, who would be able to clear up mistakes by checking the person's identification and perhaps putting in a call to the FBI, agency spokesman Mark Hatfield said.

Problems with the no-fly list have provided fodder for critics of the TSA plan to conduct computerized background checks of all airline passengers and to rank them according to their risk of being a terrorist.

They say that if a no-fly list with relatively few names causes confusion and produces misidentifications, the government cannot be trusted with a far broader program.

Some people on the no-fly list have found it impossible to get off, said David Sobel, general counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

"There doesn't seem to be any reliable way to resolve the problem that these people continuously confront," Sobel said.

Hatfield acknowledged such problems exist but said the agency has worked to help people wrongly identified.

Separately, the TSA said that it is seeking proposals from companies to run a pilot "registered traveler" program in which low-risk frequent fliers could avoid extra security inspections at airports by submitting to background checks.

Companies are being asked to show how they'd manage the program, as well as their capabilities in biometric identification and computer technology. ■

## Poll: Voters Support Affirmative Action Ban, But It's Confusing

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich.—Most Michigan voters would support a ban on affirmative action at public agencies and universities based on the language in a ballot initiative, according to a poll released April 2.

But the name of the group pushing the proposal, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, may be confusing voters. And several groups have gone to court over the wording of the ballot language, saying it doesn't clearly convey that the proposal would end affirmative action.

A poll by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA found 64 percent sup-

port the petition language being circulated by MCRI, which wants to put the issue on the November ballot. Twenty-two percent are against the proposal, with 14 percent undecided.

When asked about MCRI's goals, 40 percent of those who had heard of the group thought the group generally wants to expand or protect civil rights. Ten percent thought the group generally wants to restrict civil rights, and nearly half said they didn't know or weren't sure of the group's goals.

About half of the 600 likely voters polled had heard of MCRI.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The proposal, as it's written, says it would ban public agencies from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to someone based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

The petition effort comes after the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision last June that the University of Michigan Law School could consider race to create a diverse population.

The court struck down the university's undergraduate policy for ensuring a mix of students as too formulaic, and university officials revised the policy last fall to include a more comprehensive review of each application. ■

## Carrier Settles Discrimination Charges

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—The government announced a settlement April 2 with Continental Airlines over allegations the carrier discriminated after the Sept. 11 terror attacks against travelers believed to have been of Arab, Middle Eastern or South Asian descent.

The Transportation Department started getting complaints about a number of Continental flights in the weeks after the attacks, said spokesman Bill Mosley. He said four passengers complained that they were removed from flights because of their ethnic background or national origin.

Other complaints were lodged with Continental, though Mosley would not say how many.

The department said its investigation found that Continental acted in a manner inconsistent with federal laws barring discrimination.

Continental maintains no wrongdoing, but the airline has agreed to provide civil rights training over the next two years to its pilots and cabin crew. As part of the settlement, that

## Police Reveal Claremont Professor's Criminal Past

By Associated Press  
and Pacific Citizen Staff

CLAREMONT, Calif.—On top of being suspected of staging her own hate crime, Claremont McKenna Visiting Professor Kerri Dunn has a criminal record that includes shoplifting and driving without a license, officials say.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Dunn was arrested three times between 1999-2000. On Sept. 24, 1999, Dunn was charged in Nebraska for driving without a license and having fictitious license plates on her car. On two other occasions, Dunn was arrested for stealing clothing and accessories in several department stores. A police report described her as being "belligerent and uncooperative."

training must cost the company no less than \$500,000.

This is the third settlement regarding complaints of discrimination against airline passengers in the weeks following the terror attacks, the department said. It settled similar allegations with United Airlines last year and with American Airlines in February. ■

Dunn attracted national sympathy when her car was vandalized and spray-painted with racial epithets on March 9. She had just finished giving an impassioned speech against racism when she found her damaged car in the college's parking lot.

The Claremont Police Department called it the city's worst hate crime incident ever. The car vandalism was the endpoint to a string of other hate-related incidents on campus during the year including a cross-burning and a scavenger hunt that ordered students to "take a picture with 10 Asians."

Five of the colleges in the Claremont consortium canceled classes for a day to reflect on the severity of the incident. But a week later, police said that two witnesses identified Dunn as the car vandal.

Claremont McKenna Senior Clark Lee said that students are still trying to keep an open mind that Dunn is the real victim of a hate crime. But the revelation of her criminal record continue to chip away at the importance of the event.

Dunn is on paid leave. Her contract with the college is up in June and officials have not said whether they will renew. ■



## Why Young People Aren't Voting

By PAUL GOSHI

In the late 90's and around the turn of the millennium, several media outlets throughout the nation drew attention to studies which named the current generation of young college-aged adults as apathetic about politics and international affairs. In my



### COMMENTARY

own college experience, I could not argue the validity of this claim, at least on a surface level.

It is my opinion, however, that many of my generation are in fact very ambivalent about politics and national and world issues, rather than purely apathetic. There is no shortage of extremely strong beliefs and convictions among young Americans, but an increasing consensus that little voters can do will effect real change in our society.

Statistics show that voter turnout in the 18-24 age range dropped from 50 percent to 32 percent between 1972 and the present, while voting participation for senior citizens increased. I doubt that this can be entirely attributed to youth voter apathy. Particularly in the political hotbed since Sept. 11th, 2001, far more than 32 percent of Americans in this age range have passionate views about current events.

The feeling that voting "doesn't really count," or "doesn't really

change anything," however, particularly in light of the scandalous 2000 Presidential Election, is rife. Many of the younger Americans I speak with voice sentiments along the lines of, "I don't see what I can do about it."

The lack of accountability throughout all the highest levels of our government is undoubtedly at least part of this problem. A president like George W. Bush, for instance, who entered office promising to lower taxes and government spending, has instituted a period of governmental growth and spending unparalleled since Reagan, and the fact that the deficit which has appeared will burden taxpayers in the next Democratic administration seems to elude most of his supporters.

The Iraq disaster and the war on terrorism debacle show a similar lack of accountability. Invading a theoretically armed, terrorist-supporting regime, only to find no weapons, has created a miasma of mudslinging and finger-pointing, with no one stepping up to claim responsibility or even pledging to amend the alleged intelligence failures which helped create or exacerbate these problems.

The major figures within the Bush Administration to walk out because of these problems are quickly slandered, discredited, and put on the defensive regardless of their credentials. They are accused of "having an agenda"; something the Bush Administration and mainstream media are apparently assumed not to have.

The conquest of Iraq has proven more difficult, costly, and less of a "liberation" and more of an occupation than every impression American people were given prior to the invasion, dovetailing with what many of

the aides who've walked out of the administration had said. None of this is perhaps very surprising, considering Bush wanted to make a "Department of Misinformation" when he took office. It is shocking that this is all going on, however, and still nothing appears to shake the American people out of their complacency.

What many consider the "apathy" of young people in our society, I call a growing awareness that there are powerful elite coalitions of business and politics within the United States which pursue their own interests, quite successfully, beyond the reach of voter accountability or input.

This realization is far from a complete dissemination across American voters of any age, but it is there and does play a role in decreasing young voter turnouts. Voting for "the lesser of two evils", has become the expected convention in elections.

The gap between the average American reality and the interests of elite American families and corporations is growing, and this is reflected in the repeated frustrations of the middle classes to increase, or even maintain, the gains made towards egalitarianism (financial and political) over the last century.

Perhaps to understand why young people aren't voting, we should examine why being a voter seems to hold no vested interests for those who do not vote. In a democratic society, it always should. ■

*Paul Goshi is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley.*

## NJAVC Announces Judges for MIS Essay Contest

The National Japanese American Veterans Council (NJAVC) has selected three prominent Nikkei scholars as the judges for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Occupation of Japan essay contest.

They are: Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano, vice president for programs, Japanese American National Museum; Dr. Franklin Odo, director, Asian American Pacific Studies, The Smithsonian; and Dr. Dennis Ogawa, director of American Studies, University of Hawaii.

The contest seeks to have MIS veterans who participated in the occupation of Japan to provide, in addition to their official duties, accounts of their personal involvement in assisting local communities and residents.

Francis Sogi, contest chairman, noted that the U.S. Army's forthcoming publication on MIS history will only cover the first three months of the occupation and participants in this contest, by sharing their experiences, would provide a fuller picture of the contributions of the MIS personnel in the successful occupation of Japan.

All story submissions must be written in the first person and must be postmarked no later than July 15.

The NJAVC is providing monetary awards of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 to the top three entries.

The contest winners will be announced at the 61st MIS Reunion to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii Aug. 4-8. ■

## Union Bank Donates to Obata Mural Acquisition

In an effort to help secure the rare Chiura Obata mural, the Union Bank Foundation donated \$1,000 to California State University at Monterey Bay's acquisition campaign.

The Obata painting, originally from the Pine Dew Restaurant on Webster Street in Monterey, is on loan from the Trotter Gallery in Carmel. It is one of the rare large format Obata murals still in private ownership.

Obata, an immigrant artist from Japan, distinguished his artwork by recording his life experiences during internment with quick sketches.

Obata's work can serve as an

introduction to the history of more than 120,000 JAs forcefully removed from their homes, work and communities to the stark barracks of desert internment camps during World War II.

The JACL Monterey chapter feels this painting will be beneficial to the JA community and on the university wall thousands of students can view and recognize the contributions of the Japanese of the Monterey Bay region.

"This gives an opportunity to leave a legacy for everyone who passes through CSUMB," said Larry Oda. ■

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## HONOLULU CONVENTION

### Clarification of Convention Registration

By DAVID FORMAN  
Convention Committee Member

The executive committee for the JACL convention would like to take this opportunity to clarify what is included with your registration for the 75th Anniversary JACL National Convention to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii from Aug. 10-14.

Registration for JACL members or Tomodachi (i.e., Boosters and Friends of JACL) includes: the opening ceremonies and general orientation; breakfasts; ALL on-site workshops (on a space-available, first come, first served basis); the Youth Diversity Summit (not including Youth Luncheon); one ticket to the Waikiki Welcome Mixer; one ticket to an off-site tour of the Hawaii Plantation Village (first 450 registrants only); one ticket to the Awards Luncheon (first 400 non-youth registrants only); and, one ticket to the Sayonara Banquet.

Youth registration includes: the opening ceremonies and general orientation; breakfasts; ALL on-site workshops (on a space-available, first come, first served basis); the Youth Diversity Summit; the Youth Luncheon (first 400 registrants only); one ticket to the Waikiki Welcome Mixer; one ticket to an off-site tour of the Hawaii Plantation Village (first 450 registrants only); and, one ticket to the Sayonara Banquet.

Tickets for the Hawaiian Luau, and the Veterans Tribute & Luncheon, are NOT included with registration. In order to attend these two very special events, you must purchase tickets at \$50 each.

At the Hawaiian Luau, we will pay tribute to the many Asian Pacific Americans in politics. We shall honor these individuals for their dedication and courage in ensuring that America remains a place where we respect our differ-

ences and celebrate our unique diversity.

The Veterans Tribute & Luncheon pays tribute to the veterans of World War II, who bravely served so that we all can enjoy the freedoms that come with being an American. Don't miss out on these special events!

Convention registrants also have the opportunity to buy ADDITIONAL tickets (e.g., for their guests) to attend the Sayonara Banquet (\$150), Waikiki Welcome Mixer (\$50), Veterans Luncheon (\$50), Hawaiian Luau (\$50 for adults; \$35 for children under 12), and the Hawaii Plantation Village Tour (\$25). (Please note, however, that the Youth Luncheon is for registrants only.)

We apologize for any confusion concerning the registration form. If you have already submitted your registration form and would like to make any modifications, please let us know by: telephone, 808/ 523-8464; mail to JACL Hawaii, P.O. Box 1291, Honolulu, Hawaii 96807; or email to registration@jaclhawaii.org. Your dedicated 75th Anniversary JACL Convention executive committee, committee members, and volunteers are here to serve you.

We would also like to extend a sincere "Thank You!" to all those who have already registered for this historic convention, and signed up for the special events we have planned.

If you are not yet among the early birds, please be aware that the early registration deadline is May 15. Regular registration will close 11 weeks later, on July 31. Register now to avoid missing out on the exciting events that we have planned for you.

You may download a registration form on-line at [www.jaclhawaii.org](http://www.jaclhawaii.org). Aloha, and see you in Hawaii! ■



"Legacy Award" recipients gather at the NCWNP district's "Celebrating the Generations" gala.

## NCWNP District Gathers to Honor Their Own

By Pacific Citizen Staff

DANVILLE, Calif.—With a full house of more than 400 people, members and friends of the NCWNP District of JACL gathered to mark the 75th anniversary of the organization and to honor 30 of their own in "Celebrating the Generations."

Held at the Blackhawk Auto Museum in Northern California, guests were treated to two floors of vintage automobiles from as early as the 1900s as they bid on an array of silent auction items and also had a chance to listen to keynote speaker George Takei, renowned actor and chairman of the Japanese American National Museum.

JACL's 75 anniversary is "truly a landmark," said Takei, who noted that he is a four-decade member of the JACL.

Takei spoke on the long history of Japanese Americans in the United States, from the first immigrants to Hawaii, the devastation of the World War II internment, and the fight for civil rights including the fight to win citizenship in the 1950s and the hard fought battle to win redress in the late 80s.

"America is not defined by race but by its ideals," said Takei. "The story of America is a continuing story to reach its ideals."

The NCWNP district honored several of its members for their work in the organization, presenting Legacy Award to 20 of its members. They also honored the future leaders of JACL, presenting Hikari Awards to 10 of its youth members.

"Without the 20 individuals that we honor tonight, the accomplishments of the past 75 years would not have been possible and I am truly honored and inspired to be in their company," said NCWNP District Governor Mark Kobayashi.

The 20 Legacy Award recipients included: Neal Ouye (Berkeley Chapter); Yoshiro Tokiwa (Contra Costa Chapter); Yoshimi Ikeda (Diablo Valley Chapter); Frank and Joanne Iritani (Florin Chapter); Donald Morita (Lodi Chapter); Steve Gotanda (Marin County Chapter); George Inouye (Marysville Chapter); George Uyeda (Monterey Chapter); Shigeo Yokote (Placer County Chapter); Bud Fujii (Reno Chapter); Kuni Hironaka (Sacramento Chapter); Phyllis Teshima (San Benito County Chapter); Iwao Kawakami (San Francisco Chapter—posthumous); Jeff Yoshioka (San Jose Chapter); Yasuko "Ann" Ito (San Mateo Chapter); Al Nakai (Sequoia Chapter); Jim Murakami (Sonoma Chapter); May Saiki (Stockton Chapter); Frank Inami (Tri-Valley Chapter); and Rosie Terasaki (Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter).

In addition to the Legacy Award winners, the 10 Hikari Award youth winners are: Lauren Kawabata, Takeno Chiyo, Megumi Kaminaga, Gavin Funabiki, Kristy Shimosaka, Tobin Tsuji, Jessica Kawamura, Stacy Kono, Sarah Sasaki and Greg Mayeda. ■

## CONVENTION ALERT

The early registration deadline is approaching. Deadline is May 15.

### Convention Registration Form

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_  
PREFERRED NAME (FOR NAME TAG) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_  
Accommodation for Disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Type of accommodation \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registration (Received by May 15, 2004)  
☐ JACL Member: \$200 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Youth Member: \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Non-JACL Youth \$125 (One year JACL membership included) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Friends of JACL Tomodachi/Booster: \$495 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration (Received by July 31, 2004)  
☐ JACL Member: \$250 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Youth Member: \$150 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Non-JACL Youth \$175 (One year JACL membership included) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Friends of JACL Tomodachi/Booster: \$ 595 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL FROM THIS SECTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IN ADDITION, as a registered convention attendee, I would like to purchase additional ticket(s) to the following event(s) (this is in addition to what is included in my registration package):

☐ Sayonara Banquet \$150 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Waikiki Welcome Mixer \$50 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Veterans Luncheon \$50 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Hawaiian Luau \$50 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Hawaiian Luau (Children under 12) \$35 per child x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Youth Luncheon \$35 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Hawaii Plantation Village Tour \$25 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Additional tickets to all events will be sold on a space-available, "first-come, first-served" basis.

TOTAL FROM THIS SECTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed (Make checks payable to JACL 2004 National Convention)  
☐ VISA (This charge will appear as Educare Technologies, Inc. on your credit card statement)  
☐ MasterCard (This charge will appear as Educare Technologies, Inc. on your credit card statement)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Aloha!** We invite you to register for the 2004 JACL 75th Anniversary National Convention "Our Legacy, Our Future: Ensuring Diversity in America."

#### Registration Information:

The following is information on how to register for the convention. Please complete one registration form per attendee. You may download the form and survey. Please mail your completed registration form, survey, and payment to:

JACL National Convention  
JACL Hawaii, Honolulu Chapter  
P.O. Box 1291  
Honolulu, HI 96807

#### Payment Methods:

Check, money order, VISA, MasterCard (No Purchase Orders are accepted). Please submit payment with your registration form and survey to the above address.

#### Confirmation of Registration:

A confirmation letter will be sent to you either by e-mail or by U.S. mail within 2 weeks of receipt and approval of payment. If you do not hear from us within 2 weeks, please contact Lori K. Amano at [lamano@jaclhawaii.org](mailto:lamano@jaclhawaii.org), or 808/523-8464.

#### Deadlines:

Early Registration Deadline: Received by May 15, 2004.  
Registration Deadline: Received by July 31, 2004.

#### Hotel Reservations:

To make hotel reservations, please call the Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel at 800/367-5370 and mention JACL Convention to receive the special convention rates. The Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel is very popular and hotel rooms will fill quickly. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. The last day to take advantage of the convention rates is Friday, July 11, 2004. Room rates for single or double occupancy: City View \$115, Partial Ocean \$125, Ocean \$150, Deluxe Ocean \$195, Additional Person \$30.

#### Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Full conference registration fees, less a \$100 cancellation fee, are refundable only if the JACL Honolulu Chapter receives written notice by July 15, 2004. Registrations and cancellations received after July 15, 2004, are non-refundable. Registration may not be rein-

stated after it has been cancelled. JACL membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Please expect all convention refunds within 60 days post-conference.

Registrants unable to attend may send a substitute; if the substitute is not a JACL member, the non-member fee will be required. Substitutions must be made in writing to JACL Honolulu Chapter.

JACL reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs at any time, or to close registrations when programs are sold out. JACL will not be responsible for non-refundable airline tickets. By registering, you agree to all the terms and conditions set forth.

#### Activities:

Please note that you must register for tours and family activities separately. Pre-registration for activities and tours is highly encouraged, but is not required at the time of registration for the convention. You may also register for activities at the activities desk during the convention on a space-availability basis. To register for activities and tours, please see "activities/tours" link on our website and print out the registration form. You may mail your completed form and payment to JACL Hawaii at address noted above. For additional information, please contact Pam Funai at [activities@jaclhawaii.org](mailto:activities@jaclhawaii.org).

#### JACL Members & Tomodachi Registration includes:

Opening Ceremonies and General Orientation, Breakfasts, ALL on-site Workshops, Youth Diversity Summit (Does not include Youth Luncheon), 1 ticket to the Waikiki Welcome Mixer, 1 ticket to off-site tour of Hawaii Plantation Village (Open to first 450 registrants only), 1 ticket to the Awards Luncheon (Open to the first 400 Non-Youth registrants only), 1 ticket to the Sayonara Banquet.

**Youth Registration includes:** (25 years or younger or is currently enrolled in a college, trade school or university) Opening Ceremonies and General Orientation, Breakfasts, ALL on-site Workshops, Youth Diversity Summit, Youth Luncheon (Open to the first 400 registrants only), 1 ticket to the Waikiki Welcome Mixer, 1 ticket to off-site tour of Hawaii Plantation Village (Open to first 450 Youth registrants only), 1 ticket to the Sayonara Banquet.





## SPORTS Starting Line

### BASEBALL

#### Matsui Enjoys Big Debut for Mets

A sensational start by **Kaz Matsui** made the New York Mets look like winners again.

The rookie shortstop from Japan homered on the first major league pitch he saw April 6, leading Tom Glavine and the visiting Mets to a 7-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves in their season opener.

Matsui was far from done, though. He had a perfect debut, going 3-for-3 with two doubles, two walks and three RBIs.

"His start is almost like a fairy tale. Wow, was that outstanding," Mets manager Art Howe said.

Mike Piazza hit a long home run off losing pitcher Russ Ortiz, helping the Mets begin the season with a bang after consecutive last-place finishes.

Matsui, who hit only .192 in spring training, has already made a big difference in the leadoff spot.

"Today, if a strike came on the first pitch, I was swinging. I didn't imagine it would be a home run," he said through a translator. ■

### HOCKEY

#### Kariya Out Indefinitely

DENVER—Colorado forward **Paul Kariya** is out indefinitely after spraining his ankle April 4 in the regular-season finale against Nashville, the Avalanche said.

Colorado opened the playoffs April 7 against Dallas.

Kariya played only 51 regular-season games, finishing with 11 goals and 25 assists. He missed 31 games with a wrist injury earlier in the year.

The speedy forward was signed to a free-agent contract with Colorado last summer along with former Anaheim teammate Teemu Selanne.

The Avalanche expected big scoring out of the duo, but Selanne in particular struggled for much of the season. Kariya helped him end a 19-game pointless streak last week by assisting on his first goal in 20 games. ■

### GOLF

#### No Green Jacket for Choi

AUGUSTA, GA—**K.J. Choi** is just the third player in Masters history to make eagle on the taxing 11th hole, a feat that clearly made it one of the best shots of the tournament.

But he wound up in third place — a very nice result for the South Korean native, but never good enough to insert himself in the middle of the Phil Mickelson-Ernie Els drama.

The eagle was part of a back-nine charge that saw him go from 1-under to 6-under. Choi, a two-time winner on tour since he earned his card in 2000, shot 31 on the back nine, matching the scores of Mickelson, amateur Casey Wittenberg and Sergio Garcia.

Choi joined Brad Faxon (2002) and Terry Barber (1962) as the only players to make an eagle on No. 11, which traditionally plays as one of the five toughest holes on the course.

Choi can take solace in knowing that neither Barber (12th) nor Faxon (fifth) were winners when they holed out from the fairway. Like them, though, Choi will get the traditional pair of crystal goblets the folks at Augusta National give as a prize for every eagle.

Choi's shot wound up as the highlight of his week. Before this, Choi's best finish in a major was 15th in last year's Masters. ■

## Where is Wie Going, and How Long Will it Take to Get There?

JACKSONVILLE, Florida — Everything was back to normal for **Michelle Wie**, if there is such a thing anymore.

She returned to the ninth grade at Punahou School in Honolulu recently, back to studying math and history instead of the break in the slick greens at the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

She could have told her friends that she finished fourth in the first major of the year and was within two shots of the lead at one point. If they found that boring, Wie could have mentioned the \$96,000 she

shopping is the biggest golf prodigy since Tiger Woods.

Figuring out where it leads — and how soon she gets there — remains a work in progress.

Wie played in the final group of

U.S. Women's Open, the richest prize in women's golf worth \$558,000.

B.J. Wie considered the future while watching his daughter blend in with the best on the LPGA Tour

— taller than most of them, longer than all of them.

"Michelle is really interested in going to Stanford," he said. "But we're looking at alternatives, based on her desire to attend college."

B.J. Wie is finishing a sabbatical from the University of Hawaii, where he is a transportation professor, and one can only



Michelle Wie tees off at the seventh hole during the first round of the LPGA 2004 Kraft Nabisco Championship at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif., in March. (AP Photo/ Nam Y. Huh)

an LPGA major championship as a 13-year-old. A year later, she shot 68 on the PGA Tour and missed the cut by a single shot, then returned to the Nabisco and was in contention from start to finish until she ended up alone in fourth, four shots out of the lead.

She says she wants to go to college — but that's still four years away.

Her father says he is comfortable with the LPGA Tour's age limit of 18, but what happens if Wie were to win a tournament? What if it's the

suspect the bills are mounting — caddies, lodging, food, and a summer that will keep them on the road for three months.

"It's highly unlikely that Michelle turns pro without attending college," he said. "She thinks college is really good for her. She believes she needs a transition period, departing from us, doing chores like laundry, cooking for herself. She likes to be more independent."

The future seems so far away, especially since Wie is still in the ninth grade. ■

## NBA Wants to Turn Yao Ming Admirers Into Full-fledged Fans

OAKLAND, Calif.—Rick Chu was typical of many fans who packed the Oakland Arena recently to watch the Golden State Warriors host the Houston Rockets.

Sporting a red-and-gold Rockets jersey, Chu wasn't cheering for the home team. Like many Asian Americans who made up about one-third of the sellout crowd, Chu came to catch a glimpse of China's biggest sports star: Houston center **Yao Ming**.

"To tell you the truth, I don't really care who wins," said Chu, a 29-year-old software analyst from San Francisco, wearing Yao's No. 11 jersey. "I just want to see Yao play."

That phenomenon has become common since Yao's arrival last season. The 7-foot-6 All-Star center has drawn thousands of AA fans to their first NBA games, but turning Yao-maniacs into full-fledged fans hasn't been easy.

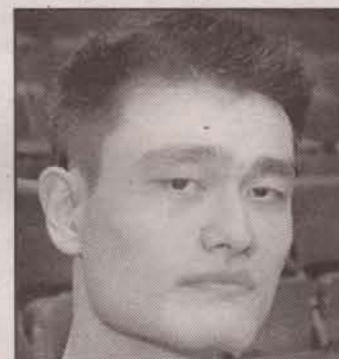
Many franchises are trying to leverage Yao's popularity to attract more Asian fans. This season, 18 teams have hosted "Asian-theme" nights centered on Rockets games, said Terry Lyons, the NBA's vice president of international public relations.

"We've had success getting Asian American fans to come to our games when they play the Rockets," said Brett Ballbach, senior director of marketing for the Seattle Supersonics. "Only time will tell if we're able to turn them into fans of our team."

The 23-year-old Shanghai native has become a cultural icon in Chinese communities throughout the United States, offering the perfect vehicle to market basketball to

AAs — a fast-growing market coveted by advertisers because of its relatively high income level.

Yao has endorsement deals with McDonald's, Reebok, Pepsi, Visa and Apple Computer and has



Yao

become one of the world's the most recognized players.

"It's obvious that the NBA is aware of (the Asian American) market and its power," said Jeff Yang, CEO of Factor Inc., a New York-based marketing firm focused on AAs.

NBA teams have done a good job tapping a new market for Yao's visits, using entertainment like Chinese acrobatics shows and dragon dances to help sell the sport.

But getting those fans to come back when Yao's not in town remains a hurdle.

The Warriors and the NBA are looking for more fans like Tak Cheung. After attending his first NBA game last year when the Rockets came to Oakland, the 42-year-old Hong Kong native bought tickets to 15 Warriors games this season.

"I'm a Warriors fan, but every time Yao scores, I'll be cheering," Cheung said during Yao's last visit.

"If Yao Ming was with the Warriors, they'd be sold out every night."

Yao became a celebrity when Houston made him the No. 1 draft pick in 2002. He's proven his skeptics wrong, making the All-Star team in his first two years and averaging 17.7 points and 9.1 rebounds per game this season.

No team has benefited more from Yao's star power than the Rockets, giving the team a boost of about 3,500 fans per game from the year before his arrival.

The Rockets has launched an aggressive campaign to market Yao to the city's Chinese community. The team advertises games in Chinese-language newspapers, television and radio, and broadcasts a weekly Mandarin radio show that features an interview with Yao.

The Rockets have also hired Mandarin speakers in its marketing department, launched a Chinese-language Web site and started selling group tickets to Chinese community groups. ■

Compiled by  
**Brian Tanaka**  
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## Same-Sex Marriage: Equal Protection Under the Law

When Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal" he knew that there were the physically strong and the physically weak; some were intellectuals while others

Irish Need Apply" (for employment or housing). Discrimination was aimed at the Irish; most of whom were Roman Catholics.

Sandy Lydon, in his book, "The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region: A Brief History," points out (on page 148) that marriages between whites and "negro, mulatto, or Mongolians" were prohibited in California starting in 1880. By Mongolians they meant Asians — in particular, the Chinese and the Japanese.

In 1882, Congress passed the racially motivated Chinese Exclusion Act. That preceded the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886 and before Emma Lazarus' famous poem, "... give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door." But not if you're Chinese.

In 1933, "Malays" (the law was aimed at the Filipinos) were added to the list of those who could not marry whites. Many Filipinos were to die as lonely bachelors in California.

After World War II, California's anti-miscegenation laws were declared unconstitutional in 1948 by the California State Supreme Court. It took another twenty years for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide the issue, in *Loving v. Virginia*, 1967.

The late Mrs. Wakayama, born in the U. S. Territory of Hawaii, married "Frank" Wakayama, a Japanese

immigrant, in Hollister, Calif. in the 1930s. Mrs. Wakayama lost her American citizenship for marrying an alien who was ineligible for U.S. citizenship.

Mrs. Wakayama's American citizenship was restored in 1952 with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act. The late Frank Wakayama was a treasured leader of our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center.

Reflecting upon the same sex marriages performed in San Francisco, Rev. George V. Erickson, a Presbyterian minister whose columns appear weekly in the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, wrote on Feb. 21 that people need to be more compassionate and understanding toward one another.

"King David had at least one homosexual affair and several wives. He is condemned for killing the husband of one so he can take her, but not for all the other women with whom he shared a bed."

If marriage/divorce statistics (nearly half end in divorce or annulment) were medical statistics, immediate action would be taken by the nation regarding this "epidemic."

Will, however, a U.S. constitutional amendment which denies rights to its gay and lesbian citizens be introduced and passed? Introduced, yes, for political gains. Will it pass? No. Why not? More Americans are learning to be thoughtfully respectful of the rights of others.

Ten years from now, same sex marriages will attract little notice. ■

## An Invitation to Run for National JACL Office

By LARRY GRANT

JACL is a great organization because it has the greatest members in the world. Individual members, volunteering their time and effort for the good and purposes of JACL are truly the lifeblood of the organization.

If members are the lifeblood, the officers who serve are the heart that keeps the lifeblood flowing. In 2004, we have the opportunity to choose new national officers to lead JACL in the next biennium.

As chair of the National Nominations Committee I invite every member to consider taking the next step in giving service to JACL. Have YOU considered serving as a national officer? Perhaps you have served at the chapter or district level or on national committees for conventions and other purposes. JACL needs YOU to serve as a national officer.

YOU have unique skills that are valuable and needed and there are many opportunities to serve. Don't pass up this opportunity to

give significant leadership to JACL. All the current and past national officers began as chapter members, just like you.

If you think you cannot serve, think again. Talk to a current or past officer. There are few opportunities to make such a significant contribution to the direction and success of JACL and to the lives of all Americans.

Assuredly, the challenges are great, but so are the rewards. It will be a life changing opportunity for you. The satisfaction of giving

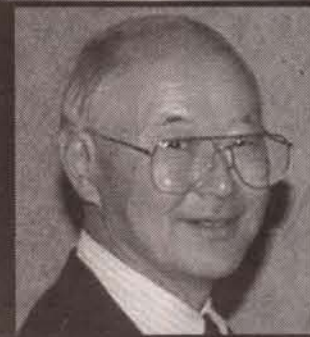
of yourself and making a real difference in the lives of others can fill your life with joy and fulfillment.

After thinking again, if you conclude you cannot serve nationally at this time, look

around your chapter and district. Find someone you can support for the national board and encourage them to run for office.

The deadline for nominations is May 12. This is practically around the corner so don't delay. Contact the national staff, *Pacific Citizen*, your district governor or chapter president for the nominations guidelines and forms. ■

### COMMENTARY



By Mas Hashimoto

were not. While all men may not be equal, they were equal in the eyes of the law and of "Nature's God."

We are taught to be respectful of the law, but we know that not all laws are fair. The rights of the minority must be protected, but where are those rights protected in this country? They are in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Fourteenth Amendment. Our Fourteenth Amendment guarantees all persons "equal protection under the laws." Does not this right of equal protection apply to gay and lesbians as well? Yes.

On the TV news recently, a young man outside of San Francisco's City Hall was holding a sign that read, "No Homos Need Apply" (for marriage licenses). During the latter half of the 1800's, the signs read, "No

## JACL Credit Union Announces Campaign Winner

A Carnival Cruise for two to Ensenada, Mexico, was awarded to the Mt. Olympus JACL chapter in Salt Lake City, Utah in the JACL Credit Union membership drive. The total in matched donations to the national JACL was \$5,340. The Credit Union wants to thank each and every JACL chapter who participated in the successful membership drive.

The following is a listing of the chapter, new members, donation to the chapter and national:

Alaska 5, \$120, Arizona 5, \$130, Berkeley 11, \$270, Boise Valley 1, n/a, Clovis 5, \$120, Contra Costa 5, \$120, Detroit 1, n/a, Diablo Valley 7, \$110, Downtown L.A. 2, n/a; East L.A. 1, n/a, Eden Township 1, n/a, Florin 1, n/a, Fremont 3, n/a, Fresno 10, \$210, Gilroy 1, n/a, Greater L.A. Singles 15, \$410, Honolulu 5, \$110;

Imperial Valley 5, \$100, Lake Washington 9, \$110, Livingston-Merced 4, n/a, Lodi 2, n/a, Mile High 13, \$200, Monterey Peninsula 1, n/a, Mt. Olympus 50, \$1,040, New York 3, n/a, Olympia 2, n/a, Omaha 2, n/a;

Orange County 1, n/a, Parlier 2, n/a, Pasadena 1, n/a, Placer County 1, n/a, Pocatello to Sawtooth 7, \$100, Portland 10, \$280, Progressive Westside 2, n/a, Puyallup Valley 3, n/a, Reedley 1, n/a;

Reno 1, n/a, Riverside 1, n/a, Salinas Valley 1, n/a, Salt Lake City 18, \$370, San Diego 7, \$100, San Fernando Valley 2, n/a, San Francisco 2, n/a, San Gabriel Valley 1, n/a, San Mateo 10, \$130;

Seattle 5, \$110, Selanoco 7, \$100, Sequoia 1, n/a, St. Louis 4, n/a, Stockton 1, n/a, Tri-Valley 2, n/a, Twin Cities 1, n/a, Venice-Culver 1, n/a, Ventura County 6, \$120;

Wasatch Front North 20, \$420, Washington D.C. 7, \$130, West LA 2, n/a, West Valley 1, n/a, White River Valley 1, n/a, Wisconsin 7, \$120.

A chapter needed five new accounts in order to earn \$20 per account. The Mt. Olympus chapter immediately donated \$200 to national JACL. ■



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Onscreen, Annie Lee crawls over bodies writhing in ecstasy and purrs, "Let's rape these boys." In person, she lowers her voice when she mentions the word "sex" for the first time.

"I'm really [a] prude," said Lee. "The first time I drank was right before we shot the film just to feel what it was like to be buzzed."

In the name of research for "Close Call," a film written, directed and co-produced by her father Jimmy Lee, the actress does more than taste alcohol, she creates a rebellious colorful-haired character not afraid to suck the marrow out of life and spit it in your face.

Lee plays Jenny Kim, the product of a broken marriage who drifts from the arms of one stranger to another. Without any role models, she becomes every parent's worst nightmare by hanging out on the streets, going to raves and (gasp!) flunking out of school.

"I was very angry and frustrated," said Jimmy about filming his daughter in many compromising situations including a rape scene. "I didn't want to have my daughter doing those things. I just tried to be professional. In the end, the experience made us closer."

In fact, Jimmy rejected the idea of casting his daughter until the production date drew dangerously near and he still had not found the perfect actress. He made Annie audition and realized that "she could act." The new rebellious face of Asian American youth is revealed, and it's pretty easy on the eyes.

Ever since Justin Lin's "Better Luck Tomorrow" shattered the model minority stereotype, Asian American film is continuing to push the envelope. The striking actress billed as the "next Lucy Liu" is a UCLA graduate and a former model. This is her big screen debut opposite her sister, Angie Lee, making "Close Call" not only the first Korean American film to be released in Los Angeles in commercial theaters, but also an all-hands family venture.

**Pacific Citizen:** Do you have anything in common with your character?

**Annie Lee:** No. It was just kind of difficult for me because I am completely opposite of the character. I don't drink or smoke. I've never tried

## ANNIE LEE ... WOMAN ON THE VERGE



marijuana. Everyone has at least tried that, but I'm just really anti-drugs.

**PC:** So you weren't doing lines of coke with your friends or having casual sex?

**AL:** No! (laughs) I was a prude in high school. My friends would do all that stuff, but I was the one who always said no to everything.

**PC:** During filming, did you ever stop and think, 'My dad is watching me simulate sex and do a line of coke. This is kind of weird'?

**AL:** Everything was going by so fast. We did only one or two takes and that was it. When it was happening, especially the bathroom stall scene — it was really quick, but that was (laughs) really weird. We would have to position ourselves in a certain way. I just tried to pretend that he's not my dad. I just wouldn't look at him.

**PC:** What was the most challenging about working with your dad?

**AL:** Just everything. It was nice because we could be honest with each other. Because all three of us have such different thoughts ... trying to decide on something took a long time. Collaborating with three people was hard.

**PC:** What is the best and worst quality that you inherited from your dad?

**AL:** The best is probably that I'm kind of a perfectionist. I'm very passionate. The worst is ... he's a worry wart. He worries about everything and I worry about everything too.

**PC:** Did you do all your own stunts?

**AL:** Yeah. I got so many bruises. Even like the rape scene, we really wanted to get into it, so I told [the actor] that he could really slap me, so he was really slapping me and stuff (laughs).

**PC:** Let's talk about the fight scene with Christina Ma.

**AL:** There was a stunt man there. It was my favorite. It was so fun.

**PC:** Fun?

**AL:** Because we were rolling down a couple of stairs at a time, so we were just tumbling, but Christina hated it.

**PC:** In this movie, Jenny only goes out with non Asians and her mom divorces her Korean husband to be with a white man. Does it concern you that you may be reinforcing a stereotype?

**AL:** I don't think so. I don't know if it's really a stereotype. We're in a melting pot and you can't ignore that and there are people who are mixed couples and I don't think there's anything wrong with that. We were not trying to create stereotypes, we were just telling a story.

**PC:** Why doesn't Jenny go out with any Asian guys?

**AL:** Basically, she's not surrounded by Asian guys. She basically wasn't surrounded by any Asians. Her mom was the one she's living with — she's very Americanized, so she just was kind of lost. She lost her culture. That's why her father comes back and tries to immerse her in her culture, but I don't think it mattered what the guys were.

**PC:** Does Jenny hate her culture?

**AL:** No. I think some people might think she hates her culture, but it's totally not that. At the same time, she's very influenced by Caucasians, so maybe she thinks that Asians are the stereotypical way white people see them — nerdy or something like that. Which is why I think it's good, because at the end, she doesn't feel that way.

**PC:** How do your views of Asian Americans relate to Jenny's?

**AL:** There is this sort of prejudice that already exists in Asian Americans too. Even when I was younger, I was like, 'Some Asians are FOBS.' Well, I was Asian and I liked Asian guys and whatever, but when I was younger, I thought some were nerdy. She has a view that a lot of Americans do — even Asian Americans. ■



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6/10-6/20	Yamato Scenic Switzerland Tour - Begin tour from Frankfurt, Germany to Basel, Lausanne, Interlaken and Zurich.	Peggy Mikuni
6/12-6/20	Japan Sampler Tour with TBI Tours - Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto.	Lilly Nomura
6/26-7/3	Yamato Alaskan Cruise aboard the Coral Princess - Whittier, College Fjords, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Vancouver.	Lilly Nomura
6/28-7/10	Yamato Hokkaido Tour - Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu, Kushiro, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate.	Peggy Mikuni
7/10-7/18	Yamato American Heritage - New York, Philadelphia, Amish Country, Shenandoah Valley, Williamsburg and Washington, D.C.	Grace Sakamoto
7/22-8/2	Alpine Countries with Collette Vacations - Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Oberammergau, Black Forest, Bern, Zermatt and Lucerne.	Sharon Seto
8/11-8/22	Yamato Tour to Europe - Rome, Florence, Venice, Lucerne, Paris and London.	Lilly Nomura
8/26-9/8	Alaska 10 Day Land Tour and 4 Day Inside Passage Cruise - Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Tok, Dawson City, Whitehorse, cruise from Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, ending in Vancouver.	Sharon Seto
9/1-9/8	Yamato Travel Bureau / Venice Pioneer Project Tour to the Canadian Rockies - Seattle, Kelowna, Banff, Jasper, Kamloops, Vancouver, Seattle.	Lilly Nomura
9/17-9/24	Yamato Islands of New England with Collette Vacations - Providence, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Hyannis and Provincetown.	Sharon Seto
9/17-9/29	Yamato Travel Bureau's Tour in Conjunction with the Japanese American National Museum Camp Connections/Life Interrupted Conference - Beaux Bridge, Avery Island and New Orleans, Louisiana; Camp Shelby and Vicksburg, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; Richer and Jerome, Arkansas and Branson, Missouri.	Lilly Nomura
10/4-10/13	Yamato Eastern Canada & Nova Scotia Tour - Montreal, Quebec, overnight train to Moncton, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Halifax.	Lilly Nomura
10/11-10/25	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - Tokyo, Sendai/Akita Spa, Niigata, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Amanohashidate, Yonago and Hiroshima.	Peggy Mikuni
10/29-11/11	Yamato Tour to China with Yangtze River Cruise - Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Yangtze River Cruise, Shanghai and Suzhou.	Sharon Seto
12/8-12/13	Yamato Christmas Tour to Branson - Kansas City and Branson, featuring Shoji Tabuchi, Yakov Smirnoff, Andy Williams and more.	Peggy Mikuni

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### P.C. Movie Review

'Close Call'

Running Time: 93 minutes

The Low-Down: If you like over-acting, bad melodrama and even poor camera work, then this film is for you. Annie Lee's grating performance doesn't capture adolescent angst. This film is just another vehicle to debut Lee in tight-fitting clothing.

### 2004 ESCORTED TOURS

WONDERS OF NEW MEXICO/ARIZONA (10 days)	MAY 8
CANADIAN ROCKIES & EDMONTON (9 days)	JUNE 6
SUMMER BASEBALL TOUR (7 parks/7 games + Cooperstown, 10 days) Only a few seats left	AUG 6
MONTANA RAIL EXPLORER (Glacier/Waterfront Natl Parks, 8 days)	AUG 7
PRINCESS GREEK ISLES CRUISE (14 days via Star Princess)	SEPT 24
BEST OF HOKKAIDO/TOHOKU (12 days)	SEPT 26
CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND w/ Tauck Tours (7 days)	OCT 9
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE	OCT 18
DISCOVER AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND (Plus Ayers Rock, 20 days)	OCT 23

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# JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

## National

**Tues.-Sat., Aug. 10-14**—National JACL 75th Anniversary Convention: Waikiki, Hawaii. Honolulu chapter hosts say, "Come early and enjoy an extra day."

## East Coast

### NEW YORK CITY

**Sat.-Sun., May 1-2**—Brooklyn Botanic Garden's 23rd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Flatbush Ave. at 900 Washington Ave., Brooklyn; musical and dance performances, demonstrations, workshops, anime screenings, exhibits, guided tours. Info: 718/623-7220; www.bbg.org.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Sat., April 24**—Book Talk, "No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i During World War II" with author Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Program; 1 p.m., Temple Visitor's Center, 9900 Stonybrook Rd., Kensington, Md.; reveals the untold stories of 169 JAs in the aftermath of Dec. 7, 1941; co-sponsored by Washington, D.C. JACL; featured at the Asian Pacific Celebration of Maryland, District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Info: 301/587-0144.

**Thurs., May 6**—Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies' 10th Annual Black Tie Gala, "In Celebration: A Decade of Firsts"; 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner, 9:30 p.m. dessert bar; Presidential Ballroom, Capital Hilton, 16th & K Streets, N.W. **RSVP by May 3.** Info: APAICS, 202/296-9200.

**Tues., May 11**—Asian Pacific American Heritage Month program; 11 a.m.; Library of Congress, Madison Hall, 101 Independence Ave. S.E.; keynote address by Frank H. Wu, author of "Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White" and adjunct professor at Columbia University Law School. Info: 202/707-9199.

**Fri., May 28 (Date correction)**—Documentary screening, "A Tradition of Honor"; 2 p.m.; Smithsonian Institution Ripley Center Lecture Hall; panel discussion follows with Go for Broke Educational Foundation producers Craig Yahata and David Yoneshige and veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT and MIS; limited seating — first come, first served. Info: 310/222-5709; www.GoForBroke.org.

## Midwest

### CHICAGO

**Thurs., April 22**—Book Talk, "No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i During World War II" with author Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Program; 7 p.m.; Chicago Historical Society; reveals the untold stories of 169 JAs in the aftermath of Dec. 7, 1941. Info: 312/642-4600.

### COLUMBUS, Ohio

**Fri.-Sat., April 30-May 1**—JACL Midwest District Council Meeting; Holiday Inn, I-70 and Hamilton Rd., East Columbus; Ichio Daiko JACL Taiko Ensemble performs on May 1. Info: Yoshiko Ikuta, 216/521-7057.

## Mountain Plains

### BOULDER, Colo.

**Fri.-Sat., April 30-May 1**—Boulder Asian Film Festival; 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; screenwriter's workshop, 1-4 p.m. Saturday. Info: Mariagnes Medrud, 303/494-9476

## Intermountain

### SALT LAKE CITY

**Sat., May 15**—*Haru Matsuri* Spring

Festival; 100 South between the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and the Japanese Church of Christ, 200 and 300 West; dancing, taiko, arts and crafts boutique, food.

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

**Sat., May 22**—Reception and Book Signing, "Music for Alice" with author Allen Say; 2 p.m.; NW Natural, 4th Floor Conference Room, 220 NW 2nd Ave.; Alice E. Sumida, the subject of the book, will also attend; hosted by the Nikkei Legacy Center. Info: 503/224-1458.

## Northern California

### OAKLAND

**Sun., April 25**—Berkeley JACL's Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon; 12 noon; Silver Dragon Restaurant; recognizing Pioneer Award recipients Ko Ijichi and Bob Yamada; guest speaker, Sydnie Kohara, CBS 5 Eyewitness News Early Edition anchor. Info: Ron Tanaka, 925/932-7947.

### PLEASANTON

**Sun., April 25**—Tri-Valley JACL Teriyaki Chicken Box-lunch Sales, **pre-order only**; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. dine in or pick up, (12 noon karate demo, 12:30 taiko presentation); Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. (look for signs at southeast corner). Tickets, info: Dean Suzuki, 925/820-1454.

### SACRAMENTO

**Sun., May 2**—Musical concert by Japanese folk, pop and jazz singer Ryoko Moriyama; 3 p.m.; UC Davis Freeborn Hall; helping to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan relationship; group discounts available. Tickets: 530/752-1915; www.tickets.com; and Raleys/Bel Air supermarkets.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat.-Sun., April 17 & 18, 24 & 25**—Cherry Blossom Festival. Info: www.nccbf.org.

**Sun., April 18**—Screening, "A Most Unlikely Hero" — The Bruce Yamashita Story; 4-6 p.m.; JCCNC Issei Memorial Hall, 1840 Sutter St., Japantown; Steve Okino and Bruce Yamashita will answer questions and sign books; co-sponsored by San Francisco JACL. Info: www.unlikely-hero.org.

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

**Sun., May 2**—Nikkei Widowed Group Meeting; new members, men and women, are welcome. Call for meeting time and place: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190, or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

### SAN JOSE

**Sun., May 2**—Annual Community Festival of Japanese American Food, Entertainment and Arts & Crafts; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; San Jose Japantown; San Jose JACL to have a booth. Info: san-josejACL@netzero.net; 408/295-1250.

### SAN MATEO

**Sun., April 25**—Sunday Movie Matinee, "Tokyo Story" directed by Yasujiro Ozu; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 Claremont St.; 1953, Japanese with English subtitles. Info: 650/343-2793.

### WATSONVILLE & SANTA CRUZ

**Sat., April 17**—Screening and Book Signing, "A Most Unlikely Hero" — The Bruce Yamashita Story; 2-5 p.m. at Kizuka JACL Hall, 150 Blackburn St. and 7:30-10 p.m. at UC Santa Cruz, Bay Tree Building, Conference Room D; Yamashita and producer/director Steve Okino will be available to sign "A Matter of Honor: The Bruce Yamashita Story"; sponsored by Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. Info: Paul Kaneko, 831/476-7040, ptkaneko@aol.com; April Goral, 831/464-8004, asgoral@hotmail.com; Mas Hashimoto, 831/722-6859, hash79@earthlink.net.



Sydnie Kohara is the guest speaker at the Berkeley JACL Scholarship and Awards Luncheon in Oakland, April 25.

## Central California

### MANZANAR

**Sat., April 24**—35th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and Grand Opening Dedication for the Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center and Park Headquarters; details at Southern California.

## Southern California

### CLAREMONT

**Thurs., April 29**—Lecture, "Nation-state Building in Japan and Italy"; 4:15-5:30 p.m.; Room 101, Hahn Building, 420 N. Harvard Ave.; lecture by Richard Samuels of MIT. Info: Lucy Chang, 909/607-8065.

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., April 17**—The Moonlight Serenaders in "The Camp Dance: The Music and the Memories"; 2 p.m.; L.A. Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Gymnasium, 815 E. First St. Tickets: Dianne Odagawa, 626/571-1336, or the Grateful Crane hotline, 323/769-5504.

**Fri., April 23**—Takahata Anime Screenings and Symposium; 2 p.m., 4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Pacific Theater, 6433 Hollywood Blvd. Free. Info: http://www.annenbergl.edu/anime; anime@annenbergl.edu.

**Mon., April 26**—21st Annual Ambassadors Cup U.S.-Japan Friendship Golf Tournament; Friendly Hills Country Club, Whittier. Info: JACCC, 213/628-2725.

**Mon., April 26**—East West Players' 38th Anniversary Visionary Awards Gala; 5:30 no-host reception, and silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner and program; Hilton Universal City, 555 Universal

City Drive; honoring actors Tia Carrere and B.D. Wong, playwright Chay Yew and musical director Scott Nagatani; emcees: Tamlyn Tomita and Amy Hill. Info: Trent Steelman, 213/625-7000 ext. 19; tsteelman@eastwestplayers.org.

**Wed., April 28**—Japanese American Community Night at Dodger Stadium; 6:30 pre-game festivities, 7:10 game time; Dodgers vs. New York Mets; ceremonial first pitch by Wally Yonamine. **Purchase tickets by April 21.** Info: 323/224-4271; japan@ladodgers.com.

**Sat., May 1**—Screening, "A Most Unlikely Hero"; 2 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; the story of Capt. Bruce Yamashita's battle for justice for minorities in the Marine Corp; signing and discussion of his book "Fighting Tradition: A Marine's Journey to Justice" will follow. Info: 213/625-0414.

**Sun., May 2**—2004 Women of the Year will be honored by Downtown Los Angeles JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California; 12:30 p.m.; New Otani Hotel, Little Tokyo. **RSVP by April 24:** Amy Tambara (English/evenings), 323/722-3897, or Rodney Nakada (Japanese/days), 213/628-1800.

### MANZANAR

**Sat., April 24**—"Keep It Going...Pass It On"; 35th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, and Grand Opening Dedication for the Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center and Park Headquarters, 5001 Hwy. 395, Independence; Interpretive Center will be open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; 11 a.m. program at cemetery; 11:45 a.m. interfaith service and flower offering at cemetery; 12:45 p.m. Ondo at auditorium; 1:30 p.m. NPS Grand Opening at auditorium; 6:30 p.m. Manzanar After Dark in Independence. Directions: www.nps.gov/manz; 760/878-2932. Buses leave Little Tokyo in Los Angeles at 7 a.m. Info: 323/662-5102; www.manzanarcommittee.org; SueKE@msn.com; manzcomm@yahoo.com. To ride the bus with the San Fernando JACL, call Tak Yamamoto, 818/894-7723.

### PASADENA

**Sun., April 18**—Lunch with Orange County Sansei Singles, "All You Can Eat Mandarin Cuisine"; 11 a.m.; Panda Inn, 3488 E. Foothill Blvd. Info: Wayne Fujita, 626/457-2375.

### TORRANCE

**Tues., April 27**—Book Talk and Signing, "The Meaning of Ichiro — The New Wave From Japan and the Transformation of Our National Pastime" with author Robert Whiting; 12-1:30 p.m. lunch and program; Holiday Inn, 19800 S. Vermont

Ave.; **RSVP by April 23:** 213/627-6217 ext. 202.

### VISTA

**Sat.-Sun., April 24-25**—Vista Buddhist Temple's *Hanamatsuri* Festival; 12 noon-6 p.m.; food, entertainment, demos, Buddhist discussion, taiko drumming, flowers, plants produce, crafts and games, grand raffle prize. Info: Rev. Lee Rosenthal, 760/941-8800.

### WEST COVINA

**Sat., May 1**—Cherry Blossom Festival; 12 noon-7 p.m.; West Covina Civic Center Courtyard, 1444 W. Garvey Ave.; koto, tea ceremony, Odori, martial arts, taiko groups, games, raffle prizes, food, exhibits; special remembrance of the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion, MIS. Info: CB Committee, 909/629-4166.

## Arizona - Nevada

### PHOENIX

**Sun., May 2**—Arizona JACL's 43rd Annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards & Graduates Luncheon; 1 p.m.; the Culinary Café, Phoenix College, 3310 N. 10th Ave., Osborn & 11th Ave.; speaker: Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon. **RSVP, Info:** Marilyn Inoshita-Tang, 602/861-2638.

### RENO

**Sun., April 18**—Reno JACL Easter Potluck; 12 noon; Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada St. Info: Grant Hayashi, 775/770-2160. ■

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

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

## Correction

Re "Jap Road" (page 6 in the April 2-15 issue), the resolution asked the Texas Department of Transportation to designate Highway Road 1135 in honor of pioneer Kichimatsu Kishi, not Taro Kishi (his son). ■

## Correction

Paul Goshi, who wrote for the Youth Column on page 5 of the March 19-April 1 issue, is not a freshman but a recent graduate of UC Berkeley. ■

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## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Abe, Irene Sakaye, 80,** Los Angeles, March 17.

**Fujimoto, Kiyoshi, 85,** Tucson, Ariz., March 29; survived by daughter Janet (John) Lew and Joann (Douglas Iwamoto) Fukushima; and 4 gc.; predeceased by wife Mary Hisako.

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

**Fujinami, William Yutaka, 57,** Mandalay Shores, March 13; Ogden, Utah-born; Los Angeles-raised; Rohwer, Ark., internee; survived by siblings Janice (Richard) Steckler of Los Angeles, Rosan (Dale) Ito of Las Vegas, Wilbur (Becky) of Altadena, and Myron (Maridith) Ishii of Laughlin, Nev.

**Ikeda, George, 77,** San Leandro, March 16; Fillmore-born; survived by wife Miyako; son Richard; daughters Cyndi Ikeda and Kaori Ikeda Chun; and 4 brothers.

**Ito, Harvey Yoshimine, 96,** Sacramento, March 16; Sutter Island-born; survived by sons Eugene (Jane) of Sacramento and Curtis Isao; daughters Mineko Sandora (Mike) Stephen and Lorene (Ritchie) Kimura; sister Akiko Nagata; brother Yoshinobu Ito, sister-in-law Hisako Ito, and friend George Iseri.

**Koshi, George M., 86,** Seattle, Feb. 26; Greeley, Colo.-born; Japan educated; U.S. Army MIS WWII

and postwar Japan occupation veteran; defense attorney in the trials of suspected Japanese war criminals; participated in the reformation of Japan's legal and judicial system and was an advisor on international law for the JAG office of the U.S. Air Force; author of "Japanese Legal Advisor: Crimes and Punishments"; awarded the order of Sacred Treasure, Third Class, by the Japanese government in 1974; survived by daughters Joyce Fiess and Sharon Hanek; son Bob Koshi; and 5 gc.; predeceased by wife Ai Takizawa.

**Kozu, Masaru "Pete," 83,** Seattle, Feb. 28; Minidoka, Idaho, internee; WWII U.S. Army 442nd RCT veteran; survived by wife Fusa; daughter Beverly (Tom) Sakamoto; 3 gc.; and brother Shig (Yuri) Kozu; predeceased by sisters Satomi Fujimoto and Misa Yoshino and brothers Sam, Hajime and Tadashi.

**Kurata, Naka, 89,** San Francisco, March 15; Saitama ken, Japan-born; survived by sons Shizuo of Pacifica, Haruo (Kayo) and Ryoichi (Tomoko) Kurata and 3 gc.

**Mori, Sadako (Sada), 95,** Oakland, March 13; San Jose-born; survived by sons William (Frances) of San Leandro and James of Oakland; 2 gc. and 2 ggc.; sister Maryon (Frank) Suzuki; and sister-in-law Juen Oishi of Oakland; predeceased by husband Masao, brothers Ben (Yuki) Oishi of Los Angeles, Tatsuya (Toshiko) Oishi

of Sasayama, Japan, and sister Junko as a child.

**Nakamura, Tetsuo, 78,** Sacramento, March 14; Paia, Maui, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Emma; sons John (Pattie) and Paul; and daughter Christine (Neil) MacDannald; 2 gc.; sister Marilyn Kainuma and brother Henry (Betty) Nakamura; predeceased by brother Gary and sister Yoko Nancy.

**Shimabukuro, Craig, 56,** Seattle, March 16; New York City-born, Los Angeles-raised; survived by wife Wadiyah Nelson-Shimabukuro; parents Esther Fukimoto of Los Angeles and Toshio Shimabukuro of Hawaii; sons Ian and Ryan; daughter Rachel; siblings Scott (Lisa) Wayne and Leota.

**Tabata, Yoshio "Yo," 89,** Monterey, April 5; Monterey-born; Jerome, Ark., internee; briefly of St. Louis and Chicago; Monterey Peninsula JACLer; survived by son John of Monterey and daughter Roberta (Seiji) Jo of Cupertino; 2 gc. and 1 ggc.; and brother James Tabata of Pacific Grove.

**Taketa, Terrie Otsubo, 76,** San Jose, March 15; Stockton-born; survived by husband Tom; sons Richard A. and wife, Alan H., Gregory T. and wife; daughter Shirley (John) Norton; 5 gc.; brothers Toshi and George (Marie) Otsubo.

**Tsurui, Tamae Daisy, 78,** Gardena, March 16; Penryn-born Nisei; survived by daughters Rosemary (Doug) Herda of Cupertino and Leslie (Andy) Yonemoto; 5 gc.; and sisters-in-law Mary and Connie Masaoka. ■

## OBITUARY Ben Tamashiro of Bank of Hawaii Commercial Fame Dies

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Ben H. Tamashiro, who with his wife gained fame through a series of popular Bank of Hawaii television commercials, died March 26. He was 86.

Tamashiro and wife Gloria portrayed "Harry and Myra," an everyday local couple, in nearly 50 commercials filmed for the bank from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s. The Kauai-born Tamashiro became so identified with the commercials that people would call out to him by the name of "Harry," according to his daughter, Brenda Imoto.

The bank received a marketing award for the ads in 1992.

"Ben's personality in real life was exactly like you saw him in the TV ads," said Alton Kuioka, vice president of Bank of Hawaii. The Tamashiros were "immensely successful in connecting with our local customers," he said.

Tamashiro was a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion of World War II fame and was wounded in action. He later became the unit's unofficial historian. He also wrote the words for

a WWII memorial erected in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo area to honor Japanese American servicemen.

Tamashiro was an active member of Manoa Valley Church, where he was a volunteer driver for the church's Meals on Wheels program for 17 years and helped lead the church's recycling efforts.

He is survived by his wife, sister Kay Akiyama, five daughters and seven grandchildren. ■

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### Correction

Herb Horikawa was mistakenly listed in the Obituaries of the April 2-15 issue; it was James Horikawa who passed away at age 90, on March 2 in Quakertown, Pa.

**Horikawa, James, 90,** Quakertown, Pa., March 2; Watsonville-born; Poston, Ariz., internee; survived by sons David of Pennsbury, Pa., Dr. Theodore of Rochester, N.Y., and Dr. Ronald of New Haven, Conn.; 9 gc.; sister Aiko Sakamoto; and brothers George and Kenji. Predeceased by wife Taneko.

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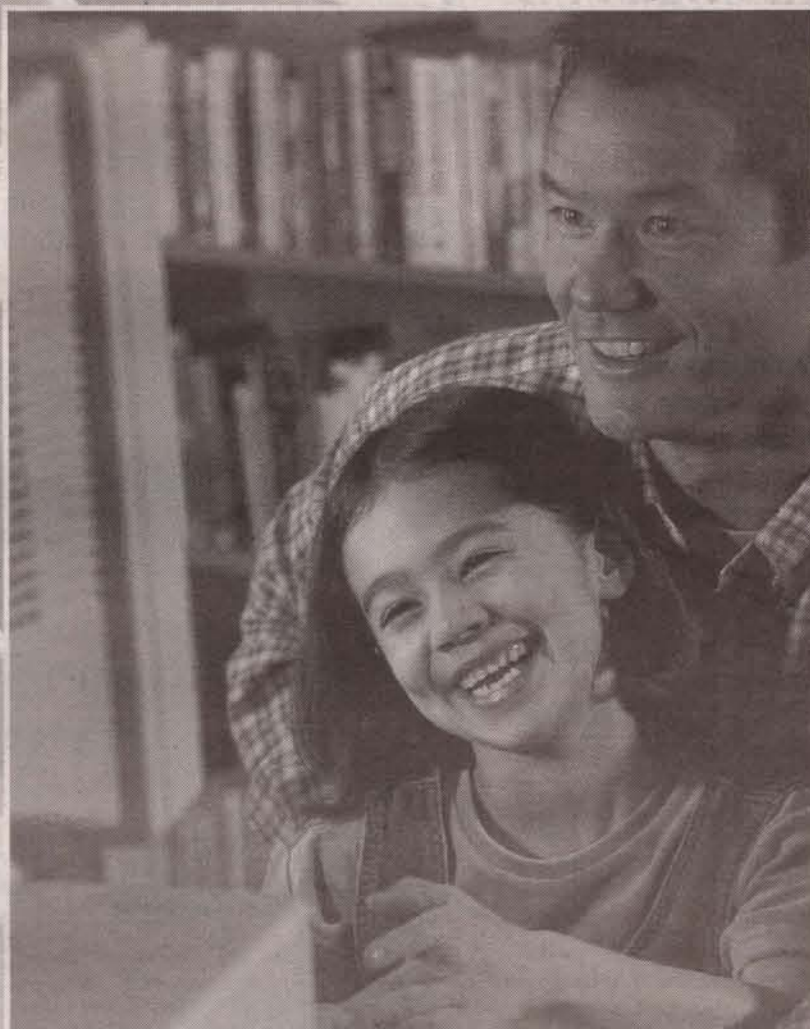
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# A Good Time to Start Something New

By ALEC YOSHIO  
MACDONALD

## COMMENTARY

It happened toward the end of this year's JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference. My fellow participants and I had just polished off our last dinner together, and although we had a handful more sessions scheduled for the next day, the meal signified a closing of sorts. Thank-you gifts were presented to the organizers, a few people gave speeches, and plans for getting to the airport the following afternoon became a subject of conversation.

As folks began leaving the restaurant, I picked up a fortune cookie from our table, cracked it open, and found these words: "A good time to start something new."

Now I'm really not one for omens, especially those packaged in cultural clichés, but I have to admit that at the very least, the cookie made a good point, even if it was in the form of a sentence fragment. Since the conference had provided us participants with thorough

instruction on how to address the issues that face community-based, nonprofit organizations like JACL and OCA, the natural next step would be taking what we had absorbed from the experience and using it right away to spark activity back at our own chapters.

Although we had come from all over the country and brought with us a diverse set of agendas, the comprehensive education we received over those five days certainly sup-

plied enough insight and inspiration to help each one of us launch our own "something new" upon returning home.

The conference led off with topical seminars examining specific aspects of the Asian Pacific American experience. We heard from a number of speakers about APA interests within the contexts of healthcare, immigration, welfare, community development, gender equality and civil liberties.

We also explored the richness and heterogeneity of APA history, reflecting upon the ways in which our ancestors contributed to the assorted legacies of this nation; later on, we would honor this history with visits to the Smithsonian Museum, the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, and the home of former National JACL President Pat Okura.

In addition to studying these topics, we learned how to handle some of their accompanying challenges by using practical, proven strategies. Specialists walked us through the types of techniques and resources available to our organizations, such as charity lobbying, voter registration, grassroots mobilization, public relations management and coalition building.

We also met with policy makers and governmental administrators, who gave us an idea as to how these kinds of processes play out at the highest level in the land. In fact, on the very last day of the conference, we had the exciting chance to speak with four congressmen: Raúl

Grijalva (D-AZ), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Mike Honda (D-CA), and Ed Case (D-HI). It was a real honor being introduced to these accomplished, hard-working public servants.

On the whole, however, I'd have to say that, as valuable as the encounters with various experts and political heavyweights were, I benefited just as much by getting to know the other participants. I enjoyed chatting with them about the many pursuits and programs they are engaged with, and was curious to find out what different JACL and OCA chapters are up to across the country.

Given everything that we were exposed to at the conference, I would have to say that we should be all set to undertake my fortune cookie's directive. I imagine that some of us have already begun. Personally, I've been focusing on trying to apply what I gleaned from the discussions about coalition building and public relations management towards the problem of increasing youth involvement in JA community activities.

I still have a lot to do, however, and this article is a way of ensuring that I stay on task by giving readers reason to remind us participants that we should continue seeking out opportunities to make use of the lessons we've learned. As I said before, I don't believe in omens, but now is most definitely a "good time to start something new." It's just important to keep in mind that fortune cookies don't enact change — people do. ■



Participants of the JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference enjoy an evening at the home of K. Patrick and Lily Okura.

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## Summer of the BIG BACHI

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## ENGLISH.COM

(Continued from page 1)

"Americans" can speak, read and write proper English," said Ayako Hagihara.

JACL Executive Director John Tateishi says the Web site demeans the Japanese.

"Anytime someone finds humor at the expense of someone else because of language or cultural idiosyncrasies, I do consider that racist," he said. "The intent may not be racist, but then racists usually don't understand their own racism."

English.com maintains a "for entertainment only" disclaimer which distances the site from any racist intentions. The webmaster even insists that he would change any offensive content, but acknowledges that there is a "fine line between humor and tastelessness."

The webmaster, 36, only reveals his identity to be "Steven C." He works in an advertising agency that specializes in the Japanese market and is self-described as "Caucasian (part Hispanic)." He agrees to an e-mail interview with the *Pacific Citizen* only if his anonymity is maintained.

According to Steven C., he started collecting items containing English as a hobby in 1987 when he visited Japan for the first time. He lived in Japan for 10 years studying the language as his collection grew into the popular site that it is today, complete with English novelty items for sale.

Over the years, Steven C. said that he received an "overwhelming amount of e-mail containing praises for the site" from Japanese nationals, Japanese Americans and Asian Americans.

"I believe that people basically see what they want to see. There are some angry people who view the world in terms of racism, sexism ... in order to feel good about them-

selves or 'morally superior,'" he said.

But it is the fine line between progressive and stereotypical humor that has Aaron R.S. Lorenz, lecturer in the Department of Legal Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, calling English.com "an attempt to demarginalize an already ostracized group."

"One need only look temporarily to the comedy of Dave Chapelle or Chris Rock who point out stereotypes yet use these stereotypes as comedic springboards to better understand and teach racial differences to society," said Lorenz.

"Hiding behind the curtain of 'humor,' it is easy for one to say that they are not practicing racism. Those involved with English.com admittedly formed this group to simply make fun of a group struggling with the pronunciation of a foreign language," added Lorenz.

However, Steven C. maintains that his Web site is to "have fun with the English phenomenon, not to criticize, mock [or] ridicule the people who made it." ■



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