

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3013/ Vol. 138, No. 8 ISSN: 0030-8579

MAY 7-20, 2004

'Wanted: Asian Female for American Male' — Matchmaking Services Promote Stereotypes of Asian Women

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Flip through the newspapers of any major metropolitan city and you'll find them in abundance: matchmaking service advertisements promoting Asian women for the selective American man.

"American" man in these cases largely mean "White" men and a quick Google search yields hundreds upon hundreds of matchmaking services promoting Asian women from Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, and Japan for the discerning American man.

Many of these Internet sites promote a "mail order bride"-type service where Asian women, many from impoverished countries, are listed

Women," an international website that provides matchmaking services for American men looking for Asian women to date or marry.

Asian women are popular because of "their exotic looks, their reputation for being submissive, docile, and obedient," said West, 58, an American citizen who is married to an Indonesian woman and runs his business out of Singapore. "They are less materialistic, more caring, and more forgiving than American women."

With several nude and bikini-clad Asian women scattered all over his website, West provides taped interviews of various Asian women and their contact information, for a price. He readily calls his service a "mail order bride" business and boasts that his site receives 1,000



WOMAN INTERRUPTED—In happier times, Mi-Choong O'Brien freely embraced her youngest son, Terry. Now while her future in the United States hangs in the balance, her life is being deconstructed because she never took the American citizenship oath.

Paradise Lost Over \$70

A Virginia resident for over 20 years faces deportation for embezzlement.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Last June, Mi-Choong O'Brien made the biggest mistake of her life. The Virginia mother of five stole \$70 from a sushi restaurant where she worked as a waitress, and now because she is not an American citizen, one judgment error could lead to her deportation from a country she calls home.

Mi-Choong, 50, has apologized for her actions, even penned a repentance letter from her jail cell to the restaurant owner, Young Son, explaining her "sorrowful

feelings" for stealing the money she said she needed to pay bills. She does not mention feeling enmity towards Son for accusing her of stealing \$11,000 instead of the \$70 she admitted to taking.

She only asks for forgiveness and help to keep her family together. But this plea for help comes too late for the housewife who kept her crime a secret from her husband of 25 years and children because she was ashamed; A secret relatively easy to hide since her husband, Joe O'Brien, 54, worked overseas.

Mi-Choong said she needed more money because her wages and the periodic checks Joe sent home were not enough. After her arrest, Mi-Choong quietly accepted the services of the Fairfax County Public Defender, accepting plea bargain

terms, paying \$3,000 in restitution and serving one month in prison with three years probation.

"She just wanted to get everything over with," said Joe softly in a telephone interview from their home in Centreville. He said he had called home regularly, but never suspected that his wife of 25 years could be harboring such a horrible secret.

But what Mi-Choong didn't know was that by pleading guilty to the theft, her title as "legal permanent resident" was changed to "aggravated felon," enabling the U.S. government to deport her.

On Jan. 8, 2004, Mi-Choong told Joe, who was home for the holidays, that she was going to run errands. In actuality, she was

See O'BRIEN/ page 4

SPRING CAMPAIGN Bringing the Membership Together

By LARRY GRANT
IDC P.C. Board Rep.

My first reading of the *Pacific Citizen* came as a surprise. As a new JACL member, I was not told that a subscription to the P.C. was included in my membership dues. It was a welcome surprise.

Imagine in the hinterlands of Utah (I was uneducated regarding the long history of JACL in Utah),



See SPRING CAMPAIGN/ page 2

Anti-Affirmative Action Group Continues Drive

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich.—A group aiming to end affirmative action at Michigan's public universities and other public agencies said April 19 it will continue its campaign despite legal and internal challenges.

A spokesman for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative said the campaign still is active and volunteers are continuing to gather signatures on petitions seeking to put the proposal on the Nov. 2 ballot. But a plan to put paid petition circulators on the streets has been delayed pending an upcoming Michigan Court of Appeals decision.

"We definitely are shooting for November of this year," said Chetly Zarko, a MCRI spokesman. "We still have time."

The campaign has been affected by an Ingham County Circuit Court ruling that the form of the petitions should not have been approved by the Board of State Canvassers

because the petitions don't say the proposal would alter existing provisions in the state constitution related to equal protection under the law and anti-discrimination.

The state has appealed the ruling. A Court of Appeals decision could come within the next week.

MCRI would need to collect 317,757 valid signatures of registered voters to put the issue on the November ballot. The signatures would have to be submitted to the state for approval by mid-July.

MCRI plan to pay workers to gather signatures once it knows if its ballot language is OK. The group also has drafted alternative language in case its current language is not approved, Zarko said.

The Board of State Canvassers' approval isn't needed to begin a petition drive, but state election officials must approve a petition and its signature before an initiative can be placed on the ballot. ■

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"Exotic Asian Women" owner Jack West encourages people to download this poster and "print and display where lots of men can see it. In a store front window, on a bulletin board, at a busy bus stop! Help other guys find great wives!"

by the thousands along with their photos and a minimal charge to obtain their contact information, much like a "to order" catalogue.

These sites play on the stereotypical images of Asian and Asian American women as submissive, obedient, loyal, exotic and sexual. And many of these sites do not hide their intentions

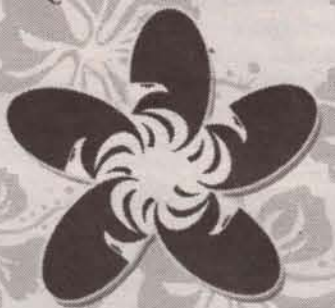
Jack West runs "Exotic Asian

hits per day and has on file 350 Asian women, mostly from the Philippines and Indonesia, looking for American men.

According to West, several of his matches have resulted in marriage and he readily admits that many of the Asian women have financial motives in seeking an American partner. But since starting his business 16 years ago, the only com-

See MATCHMAKING/ page 12

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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

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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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Readers Respond to "Jap Road" and "Jap Lane"

Regarding the article in the April 2-15 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* about the racist street names in Texas, I suggest Ms. Sandra Tanamachi write some letters to the editor to the major newspapers in Texas asking for the help of surviving members of the 141st Regimental Combat Team as well as their friends and progeny.

History will recall that 211 men of the 141st were rescued by the 100th/442nd unit at a horrendous cost to the Japanese American soldiers. The 141st had been trapped behind enemy lines after being cut off from friendly troops. Two attempts had already failed when the 100th/442nd was ordered to rescue the 141st no matter what it cost. Well, it cost plenty to rescue those 211 men.

Imagine the courage and valor needed to be willing to take over 800 casualties to rescue 211 men. The 141st had suffered 64 casualties. In appreciation for the heroic rescue, the men of the 141st made the members of the 100th/442nd all honorary Texans. Well, it's time to call in a few markers at this time.

If these Texans truly want to express their gratitude, what better way than to come to the aid of the JA community that not only have

been hurt and outraged by the bigoted street names but are dismayed at the lack of understanding and sensitivity of maintaining such street names.

I honestly feel that the rescued Texans will come through with their wholehearted support to effectuate the desired name change. If the rescued Texans don't come through it would make a mockery of naming the JA soldiers honorary Texans in gratitude for their sacrifices made many years ago. ■

Jim Mori
Oakland, CA

The front-page article on "Jap Road/ "Jap Lane" in the April 2-15 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* prompted me to encourage the remedy efforts being made and to offer other avenues of approach. As we are well aware, "laws" have the ability to suit purpose. Appealing to Federal law is one method. However, isn't the fundamental issue here one of personal respect and dignity?

It is of great concern that current anti-Asian issues are so readily brushed off, ignored, and not even considered to be an issue. "Indifference" may have even deep-

issues I received an announcement of a reunion of Japanese Americans who attended a local high school.

What a wonderful publication!! News of national JACL, local chapters and even local activities came to my home weekly.

Today, years later, the P.C. continues its proud tradition of reporting news and activities of the JA community. The size of the publication is smaller. The frequency is

er roots and consequences than "prejudice." (Your previous issue featured "Chink's Steakhouse" which is here in the Philadelphia area.)

It is significant that the "Jap Road"/ "Jap Lane" controversy is in the state of Texas. Texas is the home of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry (the famous "Alamo Regiment"). This infantry unit was the "Lost Battalion" of World War II.

In the Vosges Mountains of France, the largely Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team was called upon to rescue this surrounded Texas based unit. During the last week of October 1944, the number of those killed and wounded in the predominantly Nisei 442nd was about three times the number of Texas soldiers rescued.

The Nisei soldiers fought, some were wounded, and some died as a sacrifice and statement that we are Americans. It is to be noted that other Americans, as part of the 442nd, fought and died with us to be part of this cause.

The Texas situation can serve as a reminder to current generations that some of their relatives, or even themselves, would not be here today if it wasn't for the effort of all the Americans who paid the price for freedom, rights, and dignity. And particularly in this instance, the Americans who are of Japanese

descent. ■

Gary Ohama
Willow Grove, PA

I read the article "Efforts to Rename 'Jap Road' and 'Jap Lane' in Texas Still an Ongoing Struggle" in the April 2-15 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. As the daughter of a third generation Japanese Texan, I have spoken to Texans who claim that Texas has "changed for the better" but after reading this article, it seems to me that it has not.

Maybe some parts of Texas such as San Antonio and Austin for example have "changed for the better" but in Jefferson County change has definitely not occurred for the better. Jefferson County may still use oddhouses and may still have dirt roads instead of paved roads but I guess the only change that has occurred for the better is that they no longer use a horse and buggy.

"Jap" is not only an abbreviation but is a term of hostility and contempt. Therefore, if Jefferson County does not feel hostility and contempt towards Japanese Americans then the Jefferson County Commissioners Court can start by taking the first step in changing the name "Jap Road." ■

Patricia Kobayashi
Torrance, CA

SPRING CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

receiving timely news of the Japanese American community. The P.C. issues were larger then, in terms of paper size, number of pages and frequency. Weekly issues informed me of national JACL programs and issues. It also included news of chapter activities and programs. In one of those first



SPRING CAMPAIGN

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semi-monthly. But I still look forward to receiving the P.C. and reading the articles, even contributing an article occasionally.

JACL members can share the success of the P.C. How can we contribute to the success of the P.C.?

- By supporting the staff. We can contribute articles and letters to the editor. We can bring to the staff's attention news and issues regarding the JA community.

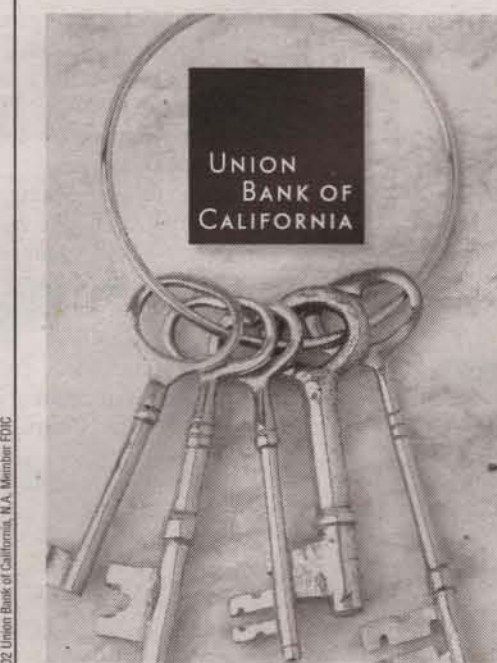
- We can make a direct increase to the P.C. and JACL budget by encouraging non-member friends and family members to join JACL.

- We can solicit local businesses to advertise in the P.C. A portion of advertising revenue solicited by chapters is returned to the chapter.

- We can give gift memberships

ATTENTION

The *Pacific Citizen* has run out of Joyce Hirohata's "Nisei Voices." We now have "Forgotten Valor" starring Lane Nishikawa available. The P.C. would like to thank Lane Nishikawa, Eric Hayashi and Gregg Yokoyama for this donation.



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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.

Arkansas Event to Highlight WWII Internment Camps

By MELISSA NELSON
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK—Hundreds of Japanese Americans held in Arkansas internment camps during World War II will revisit their turbulent past at a planned September conference.

Suburo Masada, 74, and his sister, 84-year-old Miyoko Uzaki, are among those planning to travel to Arkansas for the four-day conversa-

the experience as well," said Masada.

Organizers expect between 800 and 1,000 people to attend the four-day series of exhibits, lectures, and other events — including a documentary film debut — planned in Little Rock from Sept. 23-26.

The conference will coincide with the 47th anniversary of President Eisenhower's decision to send federal troops to quell a desegregation crisis at Little Rock's

Los Angeles-based Japanese American National Museum for the project, which was funded by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

Registration for the conference is under way. Among those tentatively scheduled to attend are former president Bill Clinton, "Star Trek" actor George Takei, U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), and U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

Along with the conference, the project to tell the history of the Arkansas camps includes development of class lessons and other materials for use by schools throughout the state.

After the conference, an exhibit titled "Against Their Will: The Japanese-American Experience" will travel to cities throughout Arkansas.

Between 1942 and 1945, the two southeast Arkansas camps held 16,000 detainees.

More than 120,000 JAs were sent from the West Coast to 10 internment camps at the beginning of the war. Eight camps were in the West; the Arkansas sites were the only ones in the South.

Masada, his parents and eight siblings — including an eight-year-old brother who suffered from cerebral palsy — were forced to leave their Fresno, Calif., vineyard in 1942 and taken across country by train to southeast Arkansas. Three weeks after his family arrived, his father died of pneumonia.

"My mother had to take care of both my father and my brother," said Masada, who spent 42 years as a Presbyterian minister before his retirement.

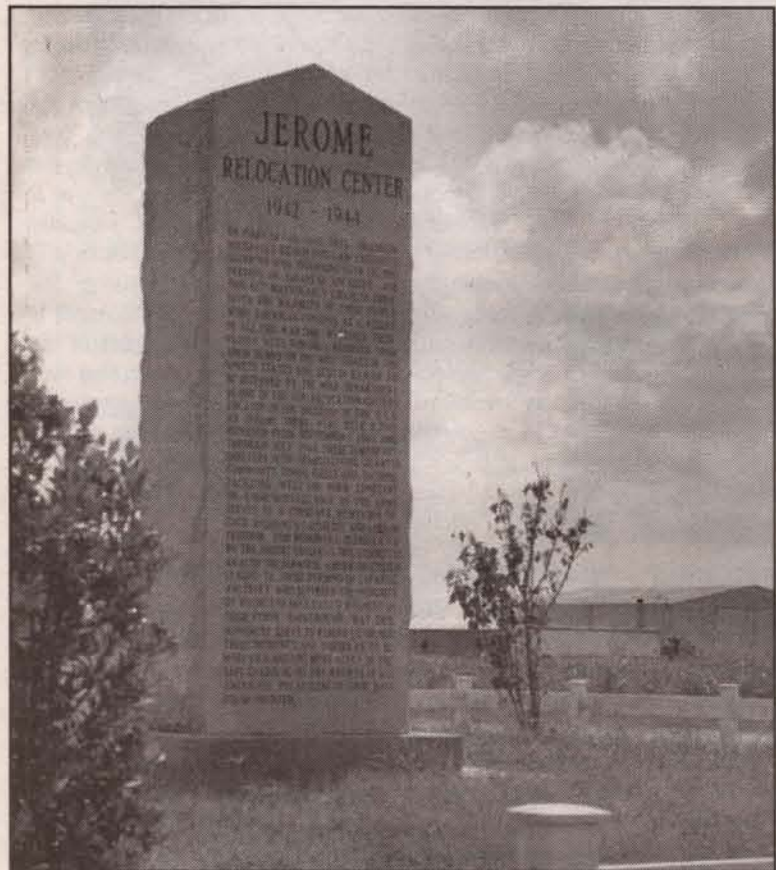
In his ministry, he tended to generations of JAs as they dealt with their camp experiences.

"I always felt that pain was still inside of them. They had all of that crud they were carrying around in their gut," Masada said. "It was a love-hate relationship and that's why so many people couldn't talk about it. It was hard for them to say anything hateful or wrong about your own country." ■

Central High School. It will also conclude two years of intensive research on the largely neglected history of the Jerome and Rohwer camps in southeast Arkansas.

"The events will be centered around the internment camps and civil rights issues in Arkansas," said Johanna Miller-Lewis, chair of the history department at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The university joined with the



A monument honoring the Japanese Americans detained at the Jerome, Arkansas relocation camp during World War II.

tion about civil rights and social justice. At the onset of the war, both were sent from California, to Jerome, Ark.

Masada's wife, who spent time in an Arizona camp, and their 44-year-old daughter also plan to make the trip.

"We are bringing our daughter because she needs to have a hands-on experience of seeing where we were and hearing from others about

Claremont Professor Charged with Staging Hate Crime

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

CLAREMONT, Calif.—The college psychology professor who claimed that her vandalized car was the result of a hate crime was recently charged with filing a false police report and insurance fraud.

Professor Kerri Dunn will be arraigned May 19 on one count of filing a false police report, a misdemeanor, and two felony counts of insurance fraud. If convicted on all accounts, she could face up to six years in prison.

But in the eyes of some students at Claremont McKenna College, Dunn's true crime is spurning the trust of many people who rallied in her support in February.

The Claremont Colleges, a consortium of undergraduate and graduate schools, halted academic activities for one day in March to observe the importance of recognizing and thwarting hate crimes on college campuses.

A week later, the Claremont

Police Department announced that Dunn was a suspect in the crime she herself had reported.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said in a statement, "False accusations that imply hate crimes prey on the legitimate concerns of the public who truly abhor violence based on race, ethnicity or sexual orientation."

Dunn reported the vandalism in the wake of a string of on-campus hate-related incidents including a cross burning and a scavenger hunt directing participants to "take a picture with 10 Asians."

Asian Pacific American students and administrators were initially fearful that the Dunn's actions would make light of race relations issue and reduce attention on the need to teach cultural tolerance, but university officials have publicly assured that the hoax will not undermine progress.

Dunn, a visiting professor, remains on leave. Her contract with the university ends in June. ■

General Overturns Reprimand Against Muslim Army Chaplain

By MARK LONG
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI—An Army chaplain's reprimand for committing adultery and downloading pornography has been overturned by a U.S. general.

Capt. James Yee, a Muslim, was once embroiled in an investigation of suspected espionage at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba, where the military is holding suspected Islamic terrorists. But Yee was ultimately prosecuted on the far less serious accusations.

Yee, now assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., contested the reprimand, and Gen. James T. Hill, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, ruled in his favor April 14. Hill decided that the punishment will not go on Yee's military record.

"While I believe that Chaplain Yee's misconduct was wrong, I do not believe, given the extreme notoriety of his case in the news media,

ing unit at the prison while serving as chaplain. Yee's lawyer argued that the information wasn't classified.

The government failed to build a capital espionage case against him. He was eventually charged with mishandling classified material, failing to obey an order, making a

false official statement, adultery and conduct unbecoming an officer. He could have faced 14 years if convicted.

But Army officials dismissed all criminal charges last month, saying national security concerns prevented them from seeking a court-martial in open court.



"The Army has to be big enough to admit a mistake. In that regard, today was disappointing."

— Eugene Fidell, Yee's attorney

that further stigmatizing Chaplain Yee would serve a just and fair purpose," Hill said.

Yee's attorney called the dismissal a "bittersweet victory."

"It wouldn't have killed them to admit a mistake," Eugene Fidell said. "Chaplain Yee spent 76 days in pretrial confinement for no good reason. The Army has to be big enough to admit a mistake. In that regard, today was disappointing."

Although the charges against Yee have been dismissed, Fidell said his client's case is far from over. He suggested legal action might be taken against the government.

"People are still very concerned about this," he said.

Authorities had alleged Yee, 35, was carrying classified information when he was arrested Sept. 10, and had taken secret materials to a hous-

Yee was then found guilty of the non-criminal violations of adultery and downloading porn onto his Army computer.

"I weighed all the equities in the case — the cost of reputation to Chaplain Yee, the cost to his family in terms of embarrassment and notoriety, the cost of the ability of the soldier to continue on with his duties as a chaplain and his 76 days of confinement versus the damage to the institution and to the command," Hill said. "My decision became one of mercy, not necessarily law."

Yee, of Chinese descent, converted to Islam from Christianity in 1991 after his military studies at West Point.

Yee has returned to his home base of Fort Lewis and resumed his duties as chaplain. ■

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National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Three NC Teens Accused of Ethnic Intimidation

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Three teens accused of attacking an Indian student after calling him Osama bin Laden will face upgraded charges of ethnic intimidation.

The charge against the teens was upgraded from simple assault after the victim complained that the teens should face a more severe charge.

"I'm glad," said Gagandeep Bindra. "These guys were being malicious, and they were trying to intimidate me. The intimidation didn't stop with words, and it turned to violence. We didn't want to fight. These guys started it, and they ended it. They should be punished for it."

Bindra — a Sikh who has brown skin, a beard and wears a Patka, a scarf wrapped around his long hair — met recently with Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox and Chapel Hill Police Chief Gregg Jarvis.

Just after midnight March 28, Bindra was walking to a restaurant with friends when a teen in another group called him Osama bin Laden. After words were exchanged, one of the teens punched Bindra in the jaw. Eventually a fight ensued between both groups.

Charged in the incident are:

Kenneth Perry, 19, Frederick Perry 17, and Antonio Burnette, 18, all of Chapel Hill.

Pittsburgh Joins Growing List of Cities in Condemning Patriot Act

PITTSBURGH—Pittsburgh City Council on April 26 unanimously approved a nonbinding resolution condemning the Patriot Act, the second major city in this swing state to do so.

The vote came one week after President Bush visited Hershey to deliver an impassioned address supporting the anti-terrorist law that gives the Federal government expanded surveillance and detention powers.

In joining Philadelphia and five other Pennsylvania municipalities to condemn the Patriot Act, Pittsburgh became the 296th community nationwide to pass such a resolution, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Statewide resolutions have been passed in Alaska, Hawaii, Vermont and Maine, according to the ACLU.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilman William Peduto, states that provisions in the Patriot Act "threaten fundamental rights and liberties."

The U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania criticized the resolution, saying it was based on misinformation. The Patriot Act

actually preserves civil liberties, said U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan.

City Council also passed a second resolution that supports the government's fight against terrorism.

Police and Community Agree on Reforms

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Reforms that seek to improve accountability and reduce tensions between San Jose police and the community have been adopted by the city council.

The changes, adopted April 27, were sought by Independent Police Auditor Teresa Guerrero-Daley in the aftermath of the July killing of a Vietnamese American mother who was shot by an officer inside her kitchen after waving an Asian vegetable peeler. Police mistook the vegetable peeler for a cleaver.

Initially, Guerrero-Daley recommended that the independent police auditor be allowed to view the scenes of officer-involved shootings. Instead her office reached a compromise with police: The auditor will be briefed by an internal affairs commander onsite but outside the crime scene perimeter.

Police Chief Rob Davis said that if auditors were allowed to inspect the scene, they would be taking on the role of an investigator. Police also have agreed to establish a liaison for the family of any person killed or injured during an officer-involved shooting. ■

APAs in the News

Ishle Yi Park, 27, was sworn in April 23 as the new Queens, New York poet laureate, beating out rap legend Joseph "Rev. Run" Simmons of Run-DMC for the job. Park was selected by an independent panel of judges to become the borough's third poet laureate. The author of the book of poems, "The Temperature of This Water," will hold the unpaid post for three years. A Korean American born and raised in Whitestone, Queens, Park was among 75 people competing for the position. Applicants must have lived in Queens for five years and must have written "poetry inspired by the borough."

Tom Ikeda, executive director of Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, has won the 2004 Humanities Washington



Award for outstanding and exemplary achievement in the public humanities. The annual

recipient of this award is honored for devoting imaginative leadership and extraordinary vision to increase public understanding of cultural heritage, community values, and humanity's creative achievements. Ikeda is the founding director of Densho, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving rapidly vanishing testimonies of the unjust incarceration of

Japanese Americans during World War II. In eight years of unpaid, full-time service, Ikeda has led Densho's drive to collect 400 hours of video oral histories, 2,000 historical images, and a curriculum on civil rights co-developed with the SPICE program at Stanford University. The awards luncheon will be held June 9 at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Towers.

Journalists Cheryl Diaz Meyer and Evelyn Iritani were among the 2004 Pulitzer Prize winners announced recently. Senior staff photographer Diaz Meyer of the *Dallas Morning News* was honored for her work covering the war with Iraq. She covered the war in Iraq as an embedded journalist with the Second Tank Battalion of the First Marine Division and returned to cover the aftermath in Baghdad. Iritani was part of the *Los Angeles Times* team that won in the National Reporting category for coverage of Wal-Mart and the tactics the company has used to become the largest company in the world.

U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., will be honored with a Public Service Advocate award at the 2004 Asian Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. Sponsored by the *Asian Enterprise Magazine*, the annual event will be marking its 10th year and will be held at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas May 21. ■

O'BRIEN

(Continued from page 1)

meeting her probation officer, Cheryl A. Johnston, in an urgently rescheduled meeting at the Department of Corrections Main Office. Then, in what Joe calls a "dragnet," Mi-Choong was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, allegedly slammed against the wall, put in leg shackles, chains and handcuffs and taken to Hampton Roads Regional Jail, a maximum security facility.

Under the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, Mi-Choong's criminal conviction and jail sentence of over one year makes her persona non grata in the United States. And since the U.S. Department of Homeland Security took over the functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Services over a year ago, enforcement of this law is being more vigorously pursued.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reports that DHS is detaining more than 23,000 people across America and Virginia's regional jails are home to about 500 immigrants waiting deportation.

Ironically, Johnston wrote a letter dated four days after the arrest calling Mi-Choong "very responsible about meeting the requirements of her supervision" and that a recommendation for early termination of her probation would have been made to the court in October 2004.

Johnston did not return phone calls for comment and the spokesperson for the Virginia Department of Correction declined to comment.

Another sting arrived in the mail nearly a year later in November 2003 — Mi-Choong's renewed green card. Joe pauses after making

this statement.

"[Mi-Choong] was given another 10 years to live in the country [while she was facing deportation]. If you think about it, [the government] had almost a year to get it straight," he said.

Nationwide, Mi-Choong's plight has become the lightning rod for civil rights and Asian Pacific American organizations divided on the issue of immigrant rights. Should legal immigrants worry that their permanent resident status hangs so precariously on a string?

If someone like Mi-Choong, who has legally lived in the country with her American citizen husband for 25 years and has American-born children, can be vulnerable to deportation, then what does this mean for the rest of America's legal permanent residents?

"There is the viewpoint that obviously she chose not to be a citizen. She committed the crime, so she should go home. But there's also the viewpoint that an infraction this minor should not elicit deportation," said Steven Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies.

Jack Martin, special projects director at the Federation for American Immigration Reform, believes that immigrants who break the law must leave the country.

"It is unfortunate, in [Mi-Choong's] case, that this action may harm the children and husband of the immigrant who broke the law, but ours is a nation of laws and respect for the law will suffer if we fail to uphold it," said Martin.

Ernestine Fobbs, a spokesperson from the Department of Immigration, said that they were simply enforcing and carrying out what the 1996 immigration act prescribes.

However, Joe maintains that the main issue is not guilt or innocence, but the government's mistreatment of its own people, which he likens to the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

"The harsh, unfeeling and unjust treatment by the government on a huge class of people — long-term legal permanent residents such as my wife — is what this is all about," he said.


Supporters on all levels have rallied behind Mi-Choong and Joe. In a Jan. 27 letter, Rep. Frank Wolf, R-VA, successfully appealed for Mi-Choong's transfer from maximum security prison to a local jail in Arlington County.

A number of APA groups throughout Virginia including the Organization of Korean American Women and the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area have circulated petitions, arranged press conferences and set up websites to gain more public support.

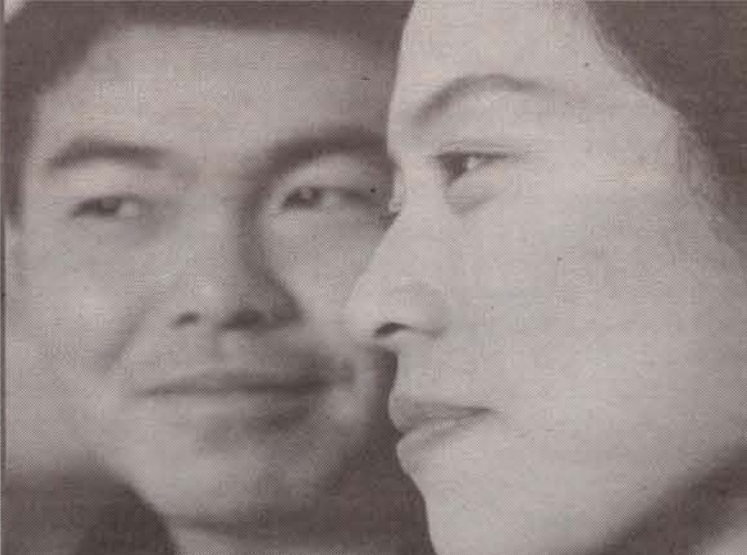
Mi-Choong's lawyer, Jim Tom Haynes, has appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals and is expecting a decision "in the next few months." He is optimistic that the appeal will be granted because the threshold for an aggravated felony is \$10,000 or more if the sentence is one year or more. In this case, the agreed upon amount is \$3,000, said Haynes.

Meanwhile Mi-Choong waits in a prison cell as an involuntary figurehead in the immigrant rights debate. Legal experts say that, if anything, this case demonstrates that anyone eligible should become a citizen. ■

For more information on the Mi-Choong O'Brien case, visit www.mi-choong.com or <http://mi-choong.tripod.com>.





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YOUTH FORUM

With Racist Love: Coppola Demonstrates Racial Insensitivity and Arrogant Ignorance

By STEVEN SHO BECRAFT

Korean American comedian Margaret Cho is annoyed by cultural stereotypes. "If anything, authenticity is the only thing I intend to express," Cho said in a *Spartan Daily* interview. "I have very intense friendships, and it's because I don't small talk about anything and just get down in it."

Sophia Coppola's "Lost in Translation" was recently honored with an Academy Award for "Best Original Screenplay." The stereotyping of the emotionless, two-dimensional Japanese, and the cliché Asian "L" and "R" jokes (for example, a Japanese prostitute begs Bill Murray to "lip" her stockings while Murray fails to comprehend her), the "eccentric noble savages" of the Oriental mystic create the tasteless humor of "Lost in Translation."

"I could understand why you don't want to watch it again, Steven, but I've heard great things about it," my friend said several weeks after the film came out on DVD. It is very strange that people — people intelligent enough to understand the detriment of racism — can see a film so reliant on blatant racial and cultural stereotypes and still find humor because "the critics said so." It is utterly disturbing how a culturally naive film can receive the most prestigious film award in one of the most culturally and racially diverse countries in the world.

Films like Coppola's "Lost in Translation" further these kinds of ridiculous stereotypes of Asians, Asian Americans, and Asian cul-

ture. Media portrayals in the United States tend to be negative towards Asians. For example, men are usually portrayed as secretly wise, stoic, unaccommodating and timid characters. If not timid, Asians are ambitious dictators in American pop culture.

Look at evil Fu Manchu or the "Barbarian and the Geisha," a classic John Wayne film. Asians are portrayed as flat, immoral, subservient, and laughable underdogs of the world. These movies, television programs, and books with racial stereotypes are destructive to the AA community.

It was only a month ago that a Chinese deliveryman was beaten to death by two teenagers in what CBS reports as "a trend in teen violence." I would say it is a trend in ignorance and lack of tolerance rather than violence.

Several years ago, Yankelovich Partners, in collaboration with Marttila Communications Group, showed that 25 percent of the American population has negative sentiments towards Asians. The survey showed that white Americans believe Asians and Chinese people are: More loyal to China than the U.S. — 32 percent; Always like to be at the head of things — 32 percent; Too influential in U.S. high technology — 34 percent; Passing secret information to the Chinese government — 46 percent.

The results are blatant. Stereotypes are dangerous. It is this exact stereotype that causes hatred and leads to periling discrimination, brutal injuries, and even death. While hate crime is on the rise, tasteless movies featuring discrimination are accepted and admired by mass culture. Films that exaggerate negative, flat, and misconstrued images of AAs are simply harmful to a multicultural environment.

We should be focusing on the celebration of cultures; instead, Hollywood is praising intolerance. It is unfortunate, because there are plenty of films out there, just as tastefully comedic or humanely beautiful. It is a shame that good films like "49?" (Sherman Alexi) and "Better Luck Tomorrow" (Justin Lin) didn't get nominated for Academy Awards.

We need to build a community and stop the racial condescension of AAs. We need to stop the condescension towards Latin Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender), and other minority groups as well. It would be a start to eliminate the praise of racism in mass culture — racism demonstrated by Coppola's Academy Award.

Ignorance cannot be tolerated in such a powerful position in media culture like the Academy Awards. Hollywood should be careful. It is time that Asians are treated as human beings in popular culture — not the dehumanized targets for jokes.

It is one thing if a director knowingly uses stereotypes to teach the dangers of discrimination. It is one thing if a director understands the consequences of using caricatures. It is one thing if a director is smart enough to truly understand the culture they are presenting in a film.

I'm sorry, but Ms. Coppola is too imbecilic to understand the dynamics of transnational culture and politics. Coppola said in a recent interview on the *London Independent*, "I can see why people might think that [I'm a racist] but I'm not a racist."

"Lost in Translation" is lost in bigotry. There's a reason why Margaret Cho is so annoyed. ■



Photo courtesy of Howard Lindsay

Saibara Family—(L-r, back row): Susan Saibara, Jim Ferguson, Judy Saibara Ferguson, Edward Saibara, Paul Saibara and Marjorie Saibara; (l-r, front row): Katy Saibara, Emily Saibara, Andrew Saibara, and Mari Saibara.

Texans Mark 100 Years of Japanese Texan Pioneers

By HOWARD LINDSAY

Every child in Texas is taught to "Remember the Alamo," and that event is even more prominent now thanks to a new movie. Another milestone in Texas history was celebrated recently as the "100 Years of Japanese Texans Committee" organized a memorial service to remember the pioneer families who immigrated to Texas from Japan in the early 1900s.

At a sleepy cemetery in League City, Texas, near Houston, approximately 100 people gathered around the tombstone of Seito Saibara, an early pioneer, Saibara, a lawyer in Japan, had come to South Texas to begin a completely different career.

Saibara (1861-1939), former president of Doshisha University in Kyoto, and the first Christian member of the Japanese Diet, came to the United States in 1901 to study theology at the Hartford Theological Seminary. The main reason he selected Texas was due to then-Consul General Sadatsuchi Uchida (of New York City), who had advocated immigration of Japanese and had reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce that America was an ideal land for Japanese farmers. At the time, the average Japanese farmer was toiling on 2-4 acres of land.

Saibara moved to Texas in August 1903 to advise farmers on the cultivation of rice, which was emerging as a major crop. At that time, the average rice yield using seed from

Honduras or the Carolinas was 18-20 barrels an acre.

Saibara asked his wife, Taiko, and oldest son, Kiyoaki (1884-1972), to bring from Japan 300 pounds of shinriki seed, a superior variety. Together, father and son planted 1,000 acres in Webster. The Japanese seed yielded 34 barrels per acre. The first crops were primarily distributed as seed in Texas and Louisiana. Some of the land that the Saibaras farmed now houses NASA's Johnson Space Center.

The Saibaras are credited with building the multimillion-dollar Texas rice industry with their improved rice strains and production techniques. As other families arrived to help with the farming, the first Japanese colony in Texas took root.

In 1924, Saibara was asked to become Japan's Minister of Education, but he declined. This was the same year the Johnson-Reed Act was announced by the U.S. government, which halted all Japanese immigration. Disappointed in this development, Saibara moved to Brazil where he lived for eight years. He wanted to return to Texas to die, however, and passed away in Webster in April 1939 at age 78.

In addition to the Saibara family, the pioneer families honored at the recent event were Kobayashi, Tanamachi, Onishi, Kagawa, Watanabe, and Okabayashi. ■

Howard Lindsay is the treasurer for the JACL Houston chapter.

JWSSC Offering College Freshman Scholarships

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California, scholarships of \$1,500 each are being offered to deserving young females entering college or university this fall.

This one time scholarship is being awarded to individuals who will promote service and leadership and also contribute to U.S.-Japan relations.

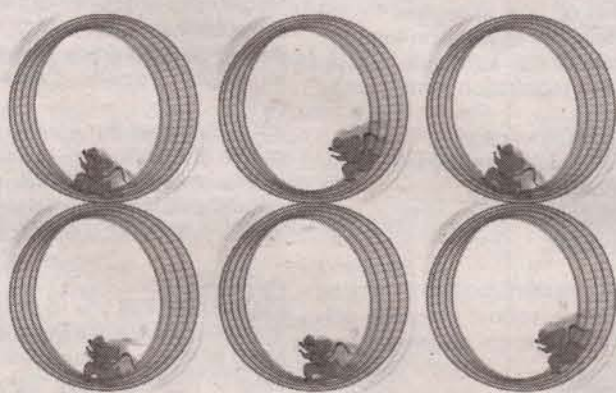
Candidates must be a student of Japanese ancestry who has U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status in the United States. Applicants must also write an essay titled: "My Goals — How I Envision Using My Education to Promote Goodwill Between the U.S. and Japan." Essays in English should be up to 500 words and double-spaced; essays in Japanese should be up to 1200 characters or three pages.

School transcripts for 9-11 grades and the first semester of 12th grade must be submitted. Applicants must also submit two letters of recommendations, one from an educator and the other from a community leader. Interested candidates should also include a passport size photo of themselves.

All applications must be postmarked by June 30 and the materials submitted will become the property of the JWSSC. The winners will receive their scholarships at the 100th Anniversary Celebration Oct. 10 in Los Angeles.

For application forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (4.5 by 9.5 inches) to: Mrs. Kay Inose, Japanese Women's Society Scholarship Chair, P.O. Box 1628, Lomita, CA 90717, or call: 310/541-8022. ■

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NATIONAL CONVENTION Kansha

By DAVID M. FORMAN

The 75th anniversary JACL convention team is planning an historic event around the core set of values, or kachikan, that have guided Japanese Americans for decades in the United States. Kansha (i.e., "gratitude, being grateful or thankful by expressing one's appreciation") is one of these core values that now serve as a compass for the convention team as we navigate toward the 38th biennial national convention Aug. 10-14 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A quotation set forth in a booklet published by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii provides the following universal context for the term kansha: "The private and personal blessings we enjoy, the blessing of immunity, safeguard, liberty and integrity, deserve the thanksgiving of a whole life." (Jeremy Taylor, 1613-1667, English Bishop)

JACL members and friends have much to be grateful for. For example, the courage of those who left behind everything they knew in order to make a better life for themselves and their children. The struggles they faced instilled in their children the values that have provided a strong foundation for the future, and have made an everlasting contribution to the diversity in America.

Of course, the "thanksgiving of a whole life" also extends to those who sacrificed their lives and their innocence by serving their country during World War II. To honor them, the 75th anniversary convention will include a tribute to Veterans of WWII on Aug. 13 at the

Hilton Hawaiian Village. The theme for the day will be "Honoring Our Past: A Salute to the Veterans of WWII."

We are also thankful for our nation's Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in politics. We will honor these public servants for their dedication and courage in ensuring that America remains a place where we respect our differences and celebrate our unique diversity. Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua, the first person of Hmong ancestry elected to office, will keynote this event honoring all those who have made a difference by serving in public office.

These and many other events at the 75th anniversary convention would not be possible without the generous support of those who have stepped forward to provide financial and other assistance. If and when you have the opportunity, please thank these companies and individuals for their support. They include, so far:

GOLD: JACL National Credit Union (www.jaclcu.com); Ford Motor Company (www.ford.com); and AT&T Wireless (www.attwireless.com).

SILVER: Educare Technologies (www.educaretechnologies.com).

BRONZE: Imanaka Kudo & Fujimoto (www.imanakakudo.com); JACL Health Benefits Trust (www.jaclhealth.com); Macy's (www.macys.com); City Bank (www.citybankhawaii.com); MELE Associates, Inc. (www.meleassociates.com); Lowe's (www.lowes.com); Larry Okinaga; Yamasato Fujiwara, Higa & Associates, Inc. (www.y.com); and Island Insurance Companies (www.islandinsurance.com).

COMMUNITY: The Coca Cola



San Diego JACL Hosts 47th Annual Scholarship Luncheon

The JACL San Diego chapter gathered at Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant on April 25 to honor ten of the community's top high school scholars.

David Kunugi of High Tech High School received top honors and the chapter's \$1,000 scholarship award. He plans to attend the University of California, Berkeley and major in bioengineering.

Bryan Kida (Steele Canyon High School) and Katherine Santohigashi (La Jolla Country Day School) each received \$750 scholarship awards. Kida will be a pre-med major at University of California, Riverside next year and Santohigashi will matriculate at either UC Berkeley or Swarthmore College.

Receiving \$500 scholarships were: Jenna Lee (Hilltop High), Keiko Nakamura (Bonita Vista High), Maiya Tanaka (Mira Mesa High), Lauren Taniguchi (Scripps Ranch High), Stephanie Tashiro (Carlsbad High), Kate Tsunoda

Company, American Cancer Society.

In addition to these fantastic sponsors, your convention team also gratefully appreciates all those who have already registered for the 75th Anniversary JACL National Convention. To learn more about what we have planned for you in Honolulu, please visit the convention website at www.jaclhawaii.org.

Please join our sponsors, invited speakers, and your fellow JACL members and friends in supporting the convention by REGISTERING NOW! Mahalo and ALOHA! ■

David M. Forman is one of the co-chairs for the JACL 75th anniversary convention's marketing and public relations committee.



(Front row, l-r): David Kawamoto, JACL San Diego chapter president; Katherine Santohigashi; David Kunugi; Bryan Kida; Dr. Debra Kawahara; and Carol Kawamoto. (Standing, l-r): Joyce Yagi; Lauren Taniguchi; Stephanie Tashiro; Jenna Lee; Maiya Tanaka; Kate Tsunoda; and Keiko Nakamura.

(Francis Parker), and Joyce Yagi (Hilltop High).

Keynote speaker for the event was Debra Kawahara, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Alliant International University in San

Diego. The chapter's scholarship committee included: Carol Kawamoto (chair), Stephanie Hirata, Dr. Yuri Kaneda, The Honorable Gale Kaneshiro, Jeanne Kashima, and James Yamate. ■

GLAS Chapter Donates to PSWD and National JACL



PHOTO: FUMI TAKAHASHI

The Greater Los Angeles Singles chapter of the JACL recently donated funds to the Pacific Southwest District and National JACL from funds raised at the recent GLAS National Conference. Pictured are (l-r): Miyako Kadogawa, chair of the 2003 Singles Conference, PSWD Governor Hiromi Ueha, and GLAS chapter President Janet Okubo.

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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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, 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.

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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i Plantation Village (Open to first 450 Youth registrants only), 1 ticket to the Sayonara Banquet.



Starting Line

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

UH Football Player Under Indictment for Theft

HONOLULU — University of Hawaii running back West Keliikipi said he didn't know why he was named in an indictment returned last week by an Oahu grand jury.

Keliikipi, brother Winston Keliikipi, cousin Gordon Keliikipi and four other people were indicted in connection with an alleged scheme to defraud Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.

West Keliikipi, Jared Santiago and Tasha Black were charged with second-degree theft, which is punishable by up to five years in prison. Winston Keliikipi, Gordon Keliikipi, Coleen Spencer and Shantel Santa Isabel face first-degree theft charges, which carries a maximum term of 10 years in prison. Isabel is also charged with first-degree computer fraud.

The offenses allegedly occurred from February to May 2002.

Although Kaiser is his medical carrier, West Keliikipi said he didn't receive any services or money during the period covered by the indictment.

Aside from his brother and cousin, Keliikipi said he didn't know the others who were indicted.

Last season, Keliikipi played in 10 games before suffering a knee injury.

VOLLEYBALL

Charge Against Kahumoku is Amended

HONOLULU—A domestic-abuse charge filed against former University of Hawaii women's volleyball standout Lily Kahumoku has been amended to misdemeanor third-degree assault.

The original charge was filed April 9 after Kahumoku, 22, allegedly abused her boyfriend, current UH men's volleyball player Jose Delgado. He suffered minor injuries.

Jim Fulton of the city prosecutor's office said that the \$1,000 Kahumoku posted for bail will be returned to her because no bail is needed for the new charge.

Kahumoku was scheduled to appear in District Court on April 30.

The three-time All-American whose college career ended last season has said what happened was "unfortunate."

"It is strictly a personal matter, and I intend to handle it that way," Kahumoku said. "I hope this does not shed a negative light on the volleyball program at UH." ■

BADMINTON

Americans Han, Bach Qualify for Olympics

CHELTHAM, England — American doubles players Kevin Han and Howard Bach qualified for the Athens Olympics on May 1 finishing 21st in the International Badminton Federation's yearlong rankings.

Han and Bach, both from Orange County, Calif., won the gold medal in the 2003 Pan American Games. Han also competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. ■

BASEBALL

Japanese Import Becoming Player Team Can Count On

ST. LOUIS—Year 3 of the St. Louis Cardinals' Japanese experiment appears to be a success.

The Cardinals never envisioned outfielder So Taguchi as the type of player to rival a luxury import such as Ichiro, or even Hideki Matsui. What they wanted was a contributor, and in the final season of a three-year, \$3 million contract, Taguchi has become just that.

The backup outfielder is capable defensively, and at the plate he's maximized his abilities with a spray hitting style, hitting .286 through 21 at-bats. He made his fourth start April 17 and was 3-for-5 with a double, stolen base and two runs scored, and also made a nice running catch to help Jason Marquis escape a bases-loaded, no-out predicament in the fifth inning of a St. Louis victory.

"He's made some adjustments," manager Tony La Russa said. "He's doing things differently at the plate and he's making harder contact. And he's outstanding defensively. Excellent."

Among the adjustments not to be taken for granted is Taguchi's much-improved command of the English language. He's honed his communication skills watching children's programming and movies such as "Monster's Inc." and "Finding Nemo" to the point where he can

understand most of what's being said to him and make himself understood as well.

Also, he's picked up a lot hanging around teammates who make it a point to include him. During the team's opening trip to Arizona, Taguchi twice was part of big groups that went out to dinner after the game.

"It's not easy for him," catcher Mike Matheny said. "I can't imagine us trying to learn Japanese and going over there without any other Americans."

"But he's doing better all the time. All in all he makes a great effort and I think he's coming along not just with that but in baseball, too."

La Russa said Taguchi might have made more of an impact last year, except the team was so well-stocked in the outfield. The off-season trade of J.D. Drew and Eli Marrero, plus the departure of utility players Miguel Cairo and Eduardo Perez opened the door.

"I'm just getting more chances this year," Taguchi said. "I know my role. Sometimes I start, and most of the time I'm coming off the bench."

He's been playing more lately due to Ray Lankford's hamstring injury.

"If nobody gets hurt, it's best for the team," Taguchi said. "It's too bad Ray is hurt. But I have to make good on my chances."

Taguchi is a former No. 1 draft pick of the Orix Blue Wave in the Japanese League and made the

switch to the United States at age 32. He was held back his first two seasons by a lack of overall polish and spent most of the 2002 and '03 seasons at Triple-A Memphis, batting .247 the first year and .256 last season.

But he had success in his brief trials with the major league club, batting .290 overall with three homers and 15 RBIs in 62 games over the last two seasons. He won a backup job with a strong spring, batting .345 and finishing second on the team with 19 hits.

The Cardinals had envisioned Taguchi making the team after his play at the end of last season.

"Really, we saw a big change in him at the end of September," general manager Walt Jocketty said. "I think a lot of it is he feels much more comfortable."

"I think coming over here was a huge adjustment for him, more than we realize and probably more than he realized."

Now that he's found a comfort zone, Taguchi wants to put down some roots. He likes it in St. Louis and would like to sign a contract extension.

"I'm very happy here," he said.

Encouraged by the progress of the team's first Japanese player, Jocketty said he'd definitely explore the possibility again.

"Sure. We have to be aggressive in trying to find new sources of talent," Jocketty said. "Japan in particular and Asia in general could be great resources" ■

Ishii Throws Shutout in Win Against Giants

LOS ANGELES—It took Kazuhisa Ishii 59 major league starts to finish one.

The Dodgers' left-hander pitched a four-hitter, Milton Bradley homered twice and Los Angeles beat the San Francisco Giants 9-0 on April 25.

Ishii's first complete game since he came over from Japan's Yakult Swallows in 2002 also was his first big league shutout.

"I'm just glad I can give the other pitchers some rest," Ishii said through a translator. "I just tried to concentrate, and I will try to be consistent from now on."

Alex Cora hit a three-run homer, and Cesar Izturis added a solo shot. The Dodgers' first three homers came against Brian Cooper, an emergency replacement for scheduled starter Dustin Hermanson, who couldn't go because of muscle spasms in his back.

Los Angeles manager Jim Tracy was pleased to see Ishii, who threw 128 pitches, go the distance.

"We know how effective he can

be when he's pitching ahead in the count and throwing his fastball where he needs to," Tracy said. "If he's throwing strikes with his fastball, he's difficult to deal with."

Catcher David Ross said Ishii (3-1) was determined to get his first pitch to every batter in the strike zone.

"He was very aggressive about throwing strike one and getting ahead of the hitters," Ross said.

Ishii, who struck out four and walked three, appreciated Ross' effort behind the plate, saying, "Ross never encouraged me more than he did today."

The win was the Dodgers' eighth in 11 games, including five of six meetings with the rival Giants. San Francisco has lost nine of 11 overall. ■

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Indians Get More Bullpen Help

DETROIT—Looking for more help for their awful bullpen, the Cleveland Indians purchased the contract of right-hander Kazuhito Tadano from Triple-A Buffalo on April 24.

The club also designated right-hander David Lee for assignment.

On April 23, Indians relievers gave up 11 runs in the sixth inning of a 17-3 loss at Detroit.

Lee, who was brought up last week from Buffalo, was charged with four runs, raising his ERA to 10.38. Jason Anderson only arrived on April 23 to bolster a bullpen that

has gone 1-6 so far and allowed five runs and four walks in the sixth.

Tadano made two starts for Buffalo, going 0-2 with a 4.70 ERA. He pitched in relief for the Bisons so he could build up arm strength after not being able to pitch much this winter because he was sick. ■

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Little Tokyo — One Stopover on the Road to Manzanar

THE National Park Service's re-creation to remember Manzanar "to preserve the stories of internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II and to serve as a reminder to this and future generations of the fragility of American civil liberties" (words from the Park's pictorial flyer and map) opened recently.

As one of the Little Tokyo octogenarians who revisited the campsite, it is taxpayers' dollars well spent — \$5.1 million to relate through posters, film, pictures and artifacts of our plight and how the evacuees survived.

Some of the evacuees to Manzanar came from Los Angeles and "Little Tokyo: Changing Times, Changing Faces," just published by the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, is a casual focus that delves into the people and prospects of this community.

"For those of us growing up in Little Tokyo (it was a segregated community, a closed society of poor working people ... a tight-knit community), there was a sense of

strength and protection from the hostile world," writes Sue Kunitomi Embrey, a retired school teacher and chairperson of the Manzanar Committee since 1973.

Throughout the book, one can see the revitalization that began in the '70s. On East Third Street stands Little Tokyo Towers that opened in 1975 to about 330 mostly Asian seniors, 75 percent being women. Union Church of Los Angeles to its west and the Higashi Honganji to the east gathered in 1975 and 1976, respectively, in their new church and temple.

East L.A. JACL leader Mas Dobashi, in telling a brief history of the Buddhist movement in America, explains why it is known as the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) rather than Buddhist Temples of America.

"The dictionary states the word church refers to a public building where Christian teachings and worship service are held. Jews have their synagogues, Moslems their

mosques and Buddhists have their temples. However, in the early days after the Pearl Harbor attack, the U.S. Government seized all the Buddhist temples. It was the political move that Buddhist temples came to be known as Buddhist churches," said Dobashi.

Centenary United Methodist Church, after 60 years in the Seinan district,

returned to its birthplace in J-Town with a multi-purpose, multi-million dollar building at Third and Central in 1988. "The road back to Little Tokyo was not without a few bumps," Mary and Eddy Kurushima recall, "but help was provided along the way, too numerous to mention."

And upon completion in 1989, Centenary provided 2,500 sq. ft., rent free, to Little Tokyo Branch Library for five years. Till then, it was a Bookmobile from 1977, stopping every Saturday for two hours at Higashi Hongwanji. Currently situated with 5,000 sq. ft. at the Neptune Building at 3rd and Alameda, it has

Very Truly Yours



Harry K. Honda

East Wind

A Unique Place



Bill Marutani

AMONG JACL CHAPTERS the Seabrook chapter of the Eastern District Council is particularly unique. First, it is part of a district council which itself is unique, in turn comprised as it is of chapters with their own distinct attributes, including Washington, D.C., New York, and Philadelphia.

In the midst of all this sophistication and power, how has the bucolic life of the Seabrook Farms, and in particular its Nikkei denizens, fared? The answer: Very well, thank you.

Let me count some of the ways. One need only look at a few of the achievements over the years of the Seabrook Nikkei populace.

Starting in 1944, largely through the enthusiastic recruiting by three inmates of the Jerome (Arkansas) internment camp — Ellen Noguchi (Nakamura), Fujio Sasaki (informally to be fondly titled "Mayor

Sasaki") and Harold Ouchida — ultimately some 2,500 camp inmates, including a number of Japanese Peruvians, were to experience country farm life at Seabrook.

Ellen, 24, the youngest of the trio, had been editor of the Jerome camp newspaper and had been selected by the camp director to be a member of the camp's Relocation Planning Committee.

Much of this information is set forth in a book titled "Growing a Global Village, Making History at Seabrook Farms," by Charles H. Harrison.

Having myself lived in these parts for some half a century, I have some firsthand knowledge of this Nikkei community in Seabrook.

HOW MANY CHAPTERS can lay claim to launching a radio station broadcasting in nihongo with Japanese music? Or sponsor a dance troupe (o-dori) aptly named the Min-yo Dancers (folk style) which made public appearances including, by special invitation, at the presidential inaugural in our nation's capital.

We've spent summer evenings at the Seabrook Temple grounds enjoying the bon-odori in which the dancers form a big circle which anyone may join should the spirit so move them. (Or, at times, even if the spirit fails to so move.)

WITH THE PASSAGE of another half century, will the Nikkei footprints embedded in the sands of

time in Seabrook become so eroded and blurred that the personal stories of what happened, why and how it happened, etc. be forever lost?

Perhaps, but not if the determined spirit of Ellen Noguchi Nakamura prevails. In fact, before her death, work was initiated establishing in the Upper Deerfield township hall a museum, including a diorama of Seabrook Farms providing a sweeping bird's eye view of this historic operation. ("Bird's-Eye" happens to be the brand label under which Seabrook packed and marketed its frozen vegetables.)

The museum was recently recognized by the New Jersey Tourism Office with an award presented at the annual Governor's Award Luncheon. Longtime JACL stalwart, John Fuyume, who served as project director of the museum, accepted the award.

We've visited the museum several times and can attest to an interesting tour. At one point, many of Mike M. Masaoka's eclectic collection of books was held there as were some writings of Michi Nishiura Weglyn who, with some members of her family, resided at Seabrook at one point in their diaspora.

Oh, by the way: "Mayor Sasaki," recently marking his 106th birthday, continues to thrive in Torrance California. ■

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia.

true heart of the JA-community — the Little Tokyo Recreation Center.

"It would attract young people to Little Tokyo and further ensure the continuation of Little Tokyo." Recently, the city was reported close to acquiring a site adjacent to old St. Vibiana's for a gym with six basketball courts, performing arts space, with programming for seniors and youth.

With over 50 stories, it is one of the better reads on Nihonmachi. Info: JAHSSC, P.O. Box 3164, Torrance, CA 90510, \$17 softcover, plus s&h. ■

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- Jul 6** Summer Japan "Family Tour" - 10 Days - 21 Meals - \$2995 - 11 & Under - \$2595 - Tokyo, Takayama, Bitchu-Takahashi, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Aki, Maiko Kobe & Kyoto.
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- Nov 1** Fall Japan Classic - Foliage Time - 11 Days - 24 Meals - \$3295 - Tokyo, Takayama, Nara, Kobe, Okayama, Bitchu-Takahashi, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Shodo Island & Kyoto.
- Nov 11** Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku - 12 Days - 28 Meals - \$3695 - 3 Days in Okinawa, Nagasaki, Unzen, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Kyushu & Ashizuri, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shikoku & Osaka.
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Dude, Where's My Film Festival?



Endangered species—Independent thought is a dying breed at film festivals. Here, a pair of performance artists/filmmakers demonstrate their spirit at the 2004 VC Film Festival Opening Gala.

PHOTO: Lynda Lin

The growing scorn for film festivals as the fertile ground for independent and cutting-edge art even saturated this year's VC Film Festival, where the event's theme seemed to be "Infiltrate the mainstream by any means possible."

The April 29 opening fete featured a slew of Asian Pacific American dignitaries and festival directors celebrating the mainstream appeal of Wayne Wang's J. Lo vehicle, "Maid in Manhattan" and the upcoming New Line Cinema release of "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle." These films, they argued, are examples of Asian American artists taking on non-stereotypical projects.

But lurking beneath the triumph of the slow mainstream take-over is the threat to the true integrity of film as a canvas for art. Who the hell thought "Maid in Manhattan" was Wang's best work? The opening night screening of one of his earlier films, "Chan is Missing," made it painfully

clear that Wang, this year's artist in review, has amazing skills as a director that has been diluted in the Hollywood machine.

Even the tagline for "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle" announces that the film teams "that Asian guy from the 'American Pie' movies" and "that Indian guy from 'Van Wilder.'"

Thank goodness APA film artists come out of this with their dignity intact.

The festival's popularity can be partially attributed to the showcasing of international blockbusters with big name directors (Takeshi "Beat" Kitano's "Zatoichi") with some lesser-known student films ("Spunk" an ode to male Asian hair).

Heck, this formula helped them add another venue, the Director's Guild of America, so no complaints.

Next time, let's leave the insipid Tai Twins, the "Big Fish" conjoined twins, at home.

The MCs not only mispronounced a lot of names and titles, but shamelessly promoted the DVD release of their own film — now that's class. — Lynda Lin ■

VC Film Fest Movie Review



'15' (2002, dir. Royston Tan)

It's easy to see why the Singaporean government wants to censor and edit "15" ("Shiwu"), a film by Royston Tan that follows the lives of several disaffected boys in their digitally-advanced destructive world — The film is too unwieldy and long.

United by their self-loathing and ostracism from the hierarchies of Singaporean society, the boys form gangs that do all of the normal gang activities: They get symbolic tattoos, beat up rival gangs and rehearse their karaoke act with dead-pan expressions and

IT'S ALRIGHT

☆☆☆
3 out of 5 stars

mechanical choreography.

The gang's shenanigans involve the serious (a boy cutting himself in the bathroom) and the absurd (the boys searching for the perfect building to commit suicide off of).

Although filled with gritty and shocking scenes of devastatingly depressed teens and their "coping" skills, the filmmakers seems to think that in order to push a message through to the audience, they need to linger on one scene for over five minutes at a time.

This means that the camera has time to explore every pore on the disenchanted faces of the boys and the audience becomes desensitized to the film's powerful images.

Tan's film is dazzling and reminiscent of the dystopia created by Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" and Fernando Mirelles' smash hit "City of God."

However, if taken back to the editing room and removed of at least 30 minutes of superfluous scenes, "15" would be a much tighter, effective and shocking film. ■

Now Playing!



'Twilight Samurai' (2002, dir. Yoji Yamada)

"Twilight Samurai" is a deeply personal and touching story of one man's family set in flourishing 19th century Japan.

Seibei Iguchi (Hiroyuki Sanada) is a low-ranking samurai struggling to cope with his wife's death. His preference to spend time with his two young daughters (Miki Ito and Erina Hashiguchi) earns him the derogatory nickname "Twilight," because he abandons all manly activities before dark.

One day, his beautiful childhood friend Tomoe (Rie Miyazawa) re-enters his life after getting a divorce from her drunken husband (Ren Osugi) and sparks between the second-time lovers fly.

EXCELLENT!

☆☆☆☆
4 out of 5 stars

Or at least they try to because Seibei cannot overcome the feeling that he is unworthy of Tomoe's affections.

Going against stereotypes is always a good move, but Seibei's debilitating insecurities are really grating on the senses.

He gets a chance at a promotion if he fights Tanaka, and even then he's not sure.

Nominated for the 2004 foreign-language Oscar, this is a beautiful period film. Director/co-writer Yoji Yamada creates a complex and engrossing romantic plotline good for all audiences.

And the fight sequences are astonishingly fast and breathtaking.

This film is definitely worth watching while its still in theaters. ■

Movie reviews by Lynda Lin

Agree? Disagree?

E-mail me:

letters2pc@aol.com



'Chan is Missing' (1982, dir. Wayne Wang)

Wayne Wang's world in "Chan is Missing" (1982), is filled with reflections — San Francisco's dilapidated Chinatown skyline floating on the surface of a taxi cab window and the internal musing on the age-old question of ethnic identity reflected on one man's (Wood Moy) face.

The mysterious disappearance of Chan Hung after a flag-waving incident between Chinese and Taiwanese loyalists drive Jo (Moy) and Steve (Marc Hayashi) to crack the case.

Steve wants to find Chan to get his money back. Jo is obsessively pulled into the layers of truth by his need to know, often hilariously exhausted by characters who don't know a thing, but like to talk.

Famously shot for a measly

EXCELLENT!

☆☆☆☆
4 out of 5 stars

\$20,000 over a few weekends with a three-man crew, "Chan" is a sumptuous exploration of the different faces of Chinatown, a sad example of how much raw talent Wang has and how much we don't see in his latter work.

In one stand-out scene, Jo and Steve arrive at the home of Chan's estranged wife and daughter.

The camera remains voyeuristically fixated on their interactions from an apartment window, a position that Jo maintains throughout the film — nearly inside the heart of the mystery, but always apart.

Soon, we find out that Chan's absence is a McGuffin. The real mystery is Chinatown and its inhabitants on the fringe of society.

Both Moy and Hayashi crackle with intensity — their facial expressions speaking the loudest.

Restored to its original brilliance, "Chan" still feels fresh and edgy, the best way to kick off a festival. ■

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 - Sept. 27 Autumn Highlights of Japan
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BEST OF HOKKAIDO/TOHOKU (12 days)	SEPT 26
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JACL COMMUNITY Calendar

National

Wed., May 26—PBS Documentary, "Sumo East and West," a rare inside look at the cloistered world of sumo wrestling. Check local TV listings for time.

Tues. June 8—PBS Documentary, "Japan: Memoirs of a Secret Empire," the unknown story of a mysterious empire, its relationship to the West, and the forging of a nation. Check local TV listings for time.

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
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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

CLEVELAND

Sun., May 16—9th Cherry Blossom Festival; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Brookside Reservation/Cleveland Metroparks; sponsored by JANO, JACL and JASNO; Sho-Jo-Ji and Taiko Ensembles performing. Info: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416.

Intermountain

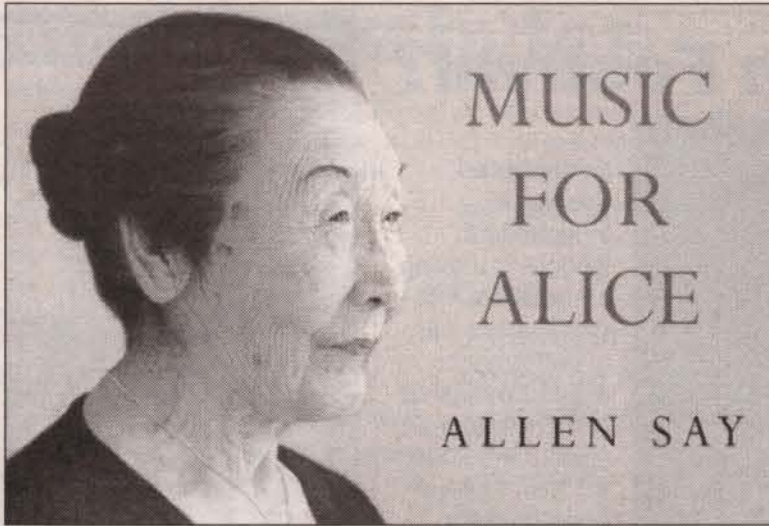
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Sat., May 15—Haru Matsuri Spring Festival; CANCELLED

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



"Music for Alice" author, Allen Say, will have a book signing and reception at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center May 22.

the Nikkei Legacy Center. Info: 503/224-1458.

Northern California

FLORIN

Sat., May 8—Florin Cultural Showcase; 3-7 p.m.; Florin Creek Park, 7420 Persimmon Ave.; sponsored by the Southgate Recreation and Park District. Florin JACL looking for volunteers. Info: Joanne Iritani, 916/395-7944 or Christine Umeda, 916/427-2841.

HAYWARD

Sun., June 6—52nd Annual JACL Junior Olympics; Chabot College; Entry deadline is May 7; age divisions from 8 years and under with "open" and "masters" division available; Sequoia JACL hosts. Info: Tom Oshidari 408/257-5609 evenings, 650/623-1314 days or email toshidari@dittech.com

SEBASTOPOL

Sun., May 16—Sonoma County JACL Annual Spring Breakfast; 8-12 p.m.; Enmanji Memorial Hall; French toast, ham, side of egg, fruit, coffee and juice for \$5.35; Make checks payable to Sonoma County JACL, P.O. Box 1915, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

SAN JOSE

Through June 30—Exhibit, "1942: Luggage From Home to Camp" by Flo Oy Wong; Japanese American Museum of San Jose; 535 N. Fifth St. Info: 408/294-3138; www.jamsj.org.

Central California

FRESNO

Sat., May 15—"E" Street Faire; 9-5 p.m.; proceeds go to the continual revitalization of Fresno's Chinatown district; sponsored by the Chinatown Revitalization Inc. Info: Kathy Omachi, 559/441-7915 or crifresno@sbccglobal.net.

MUSIC FOR ALICE ALLEN SAY

LOS ANGELES

Sat.-Sun., May 8-23—Takusen Inouye Calligraphy Exhibition; George J. Doizaki Gallery at JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; Tues.-Fri. noon-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 11-4 p.m. Free. Info: 213/628-2725.

Sat., May 8—Media Training Workshop for Asian Pacific American Community Nonprofits to Tap Expertise of Veteran Journalists; sponsored by AAJA; 1:30 p.m.; Asian Pacific American Legal Center library, 1145 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor. Info: Keith Kamisugi, 877/835-5679 or keith@keithpr.com.

Sat., May 8—21st Annual Children's Day Celebration; 10-4 p.m.; JACCC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St.; Chibi-K Kids for Kids Fun Run; San Tai San: 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament; Asian Pacific Arts and Crafts Faire; Come Fly With Me kite exhibition; The Beat Factory: learn to make music and instruments; 2nd Kids Taiko Conference. Info: 213/628-2725.

Sun., May 9—4th Annual Mother's Day Hawaiian Style; 11-4 p.m.; JACCC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St.; traditional Hawaiian craft workshops: feather weaving, ti leaf lei making, pandanus leaf weaving and gourd making; entertainment includes sounds of Hawaii and hula performances. Info: 213/628-2725.

Thur., May 13—WRAP Family Services honors Nancy Haruye Au; 6 p.m.; Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Conference Center, 555 W. Temple St. Info: 310/337-1550.

Sat., May 15—Asian Art Explosion 11-5 p.m.; L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center; sponsored by APIHR and Learning Curve; purchase fine art in all media from local API artists. Info: 323/860-7311.

Sun., May 23—Novelist/playwright Perry Miyake will read from his novel, "21st Century Manzanar"; 2 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. 1st St.; \$6 for non-members. Parking in adjacent lots.

PASADENA

Through June 20—Exhibit, "Kampai! The Arts of Japanese Sake"; Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Robles Ave.; explores the history of sake and the religious and social significance of Japanese rice wine; featuring sculpture, ceramics, lacquer ware, paintings, prints. Info: 626/449-2742 ext. 19; www.pacificasiamuseum.org.

SAN DIEGO

Wed., May 19—Union of Pan Asian Communities Annual Gala Dinner; Celebrating 30 Years of Service; 5-9 p.m.; Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive; \$150 per person. Info: 619/446-0805 or lfericks@upacsd.com.

TORRANCE

Sun., June 6—2004 Dr. Roy Nishikawa PSW District Oratorical Contest; 11:30 a.m.; Zamperini Field, Torrance Municipal Airport, 3301 Airport Drive; Open to high school students, age 16 or older, or full time undergraduate college students. Must be a JACL member before the competition. Deadline for entry is May 28. Info: Gerald Kato at the PSW District office, 213/626-4471 or youth@jacp-sw.org.

WEST COVINA

Sun., May 30—Memorial Service to honor War Veterans of the San Gabriel Valley; 1 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center courtyard, 1203 W. Puente Avenue, West Covina. Info: 626/960-2566.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

JACL Accepting Bids for National Convention 2008

The national JACL is accepting bids from any of its chapters wishing to serve as host site for the 2008 40th Biennial Convention. Bid packets with requirements for hosting a national convention are currently available from National JACL Vice President for General Operations David Kawamoto. The national JACL council will choose the 2008 convention site in August at this year's national convention in Honolulu.

Larry Oda, 2000 national JACL convention chair, is available and willing to discuss convention responsibilities with anyone interested in hosting a convention. For more information on bid packets or contact information for Larry Oda, please write, e-mail or call Kawamoto at 6917 Town View Lane, San Diego, CA 92120; dhkawamoto@aol.com; 619/287-7583.

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Taiko Project: (re)generation



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\$30 orchestra, \$27 balcony / \$25, \$22 JACCC Members & Groups (10+)
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Sunday only on show days 12noon - 5 pm

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Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Baba, Lily, 84, Reno, Nev., April 8; Chowchilla, Calif.-born, JACler; survived by son David; and sister Eunice Oshima.

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.

Green, Mitsuko Osaki, 79, Great Falls, Virginia, April 9; Brawley, Calif.-born; Heart Mountain internee; survived by husband David; son Timothy; daughters Jennifer (Thomas) McDonough,

Margaret (Keehln) Wheeler; sisters Yuriko Nitahara of Fremont, Calif. and Kikuko Moon of Honolulu; and 6 gc.

Kawakami, Charles S., Tottori-ken, Japan-born; survived by wife Mary; sons Ben (Anne) and Paul (LaVee); daughters Marilyn (Barnett) Suskind and Smiley (Pier) Sciume; 5 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Kinoshita, Kenneth Kaneto, 92, San Jose, March 17; Hiroshima-born; survived by wife Michie; sons Gene (Louise), Jerry (Janice) and Denny (Laura) Kinoshita; 6 gc. and 1 ggc.; brother Jim (Yacko) and sister

Phyllis Kinoshita, predeceased by brother Sid (Mitsie) and Yosh Murotani.

Seto, Rev. Paul S., 85, Santa Fe, N. Mex., Feb. 21; Haney, British Columbia-born; survived by sons Ted of Los Angeles and Peter of Mussoorie, India; daughters Thelma of Albany, Ohio, Linda of Taos and Sharon of Mussoorie; and 11 gc.

Takeshita, Roy K., 51, Spokane, March 29; Ontario, Ore.-born; survived by wife Patricia; daughter Miyeko; parents Ted and Rose; brother Marc (Yumi); half sister Kiyo (Paul) Teruya; parents-in-law Pat and Angie Calivo; brother-in-law Robert (Leilani) Calivo; and sister-in-law Cynthia Barbieto.

Tasaka, Masaaki "Nick," 91, Salt Lake City, April 9; Honomu, Hawaii-born, JACler; survived by wife Grace.

Yano, Miki Sugino, 83, April 8; Seattle-born; survived by daughters Irene (Art) Kato, Lillian (Carl) Clark and Janice Aoki; 8 gc.; 13 ggc.; brothers Frank and Bob (Aki) Sugino; and sisters Sally (Duke) Ikeda and Mitzi Kanegae.

Yokomizo, Ben J., 77, Sacramento, Feb. 24; survived by wife Mary; daughter Hitomi (Dan) Westfall; son Steven (Candice); sister Kikuko (Stan) Woodyard; and 3 gc. ■

DEATH NOTICE

ANICE UYEDA HIRABAYASHI

ROSEVILLE, Minn.—Anice Uyeda Hirabayashi, 80, passed away April 2. Formerly of Auburn, Wash., Pinedale and Tule Lake. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, William "Bill"; sons, Ron (Carol) and Larry (Pat); grandchildren, Glen, Christa, Mike and Brian; great-grandchildren, Thomas and Malani; brothers, Jess and Rich; sisters, Rose and Judy; and nieces and nephews.

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DEATH NOTICE

FLORENCE HIMEKO (UMEZAWA) ASAKAWA

Beloved Florence Himeko Asakawa, the second daughter of Kiyokichi and Sachiko Umezawa, was born in Tokyo, Japan on Jan. 28, 1916 and passed away April 19, 2004 at the age of 88. Surviving her are husband Moto; sons Bruce, Glenn, Donald and Larry; grandchildren Tasia (Claudio), Eric (Stephanie) and Kristofer; great grandsons Nicholas and Samokai; sister Grace Nixon and Dorothy Arakawa and brother George Umezawa. Older sister Lillian Ohye predeceased her. In Florence's words, she also had daughters "the easy way" because of her sons' wives and girlfriend, Sharon, Linda, Linda and Kara. Florence's family dates back seventeen generations. Her grandfather served the Emperor of Japan as a calligrapher and her mother Sachiko was chosen as a childhood playmate for the Emperor's children. Her mother and father settled in the Imperial Valley where Florence graduated from Calexico Union High School in 1934. After two years of business college in Los Angeles, she attended Keisen Jogako in Tokyo. In 1940, she married Moto and for 63 years, they remained devoted to each other. Despite her modest nature, Florence successfully raised four sons, helped found and co-own Presidio Garden Center and Florist with her husband. In her spare time, she became an accomplished Ikebana flower arranger, grew lovely roses, taught Sunday school, went surfing and freshwater fishing, traveled the world and was a formidable canasta, bridge and Scrabble player. All who met her were touched by her warmth, intelligence and beautiful smile. She has left us with a priceless, unforgettable legacy. Funeral and burial services were held April 24.

In Memoriam

Professor, Former Volunteer for WWII Internees Passes on Legacy

Joseph R. Goodman, 92, a prominent San Francisco medical researcher, professor and advocate for World War II Japanese American internees, recently died of complications from pneumonia.

Relatives called him as multi-talented and kind-hearted whose achievements during his 60-year career ranged from publishing important research papers on AIDS and Alzheimer's diseases to volunteering as a science teacher at a desolate WWII internment camp.

Shortly after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Goodman decided to live in the Japanese section of San Francisco "to help communication between the people of Japanese ancestry and others in the communi-

ty," recalled his son Robert Goodman to the San Francisco Chronicle.

After the government started rounding up JA internees at the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, Goodman continued to bring them items from the community.

After the war, Goodman worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Francisco and as a professor at the University of San Francisco.

Goodman is survived by four children, John of San Francisco, Lys of Los Altos Hills, Robert of Morgantown, West Virginia, and Molly Holt of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and four grandchildren. ■

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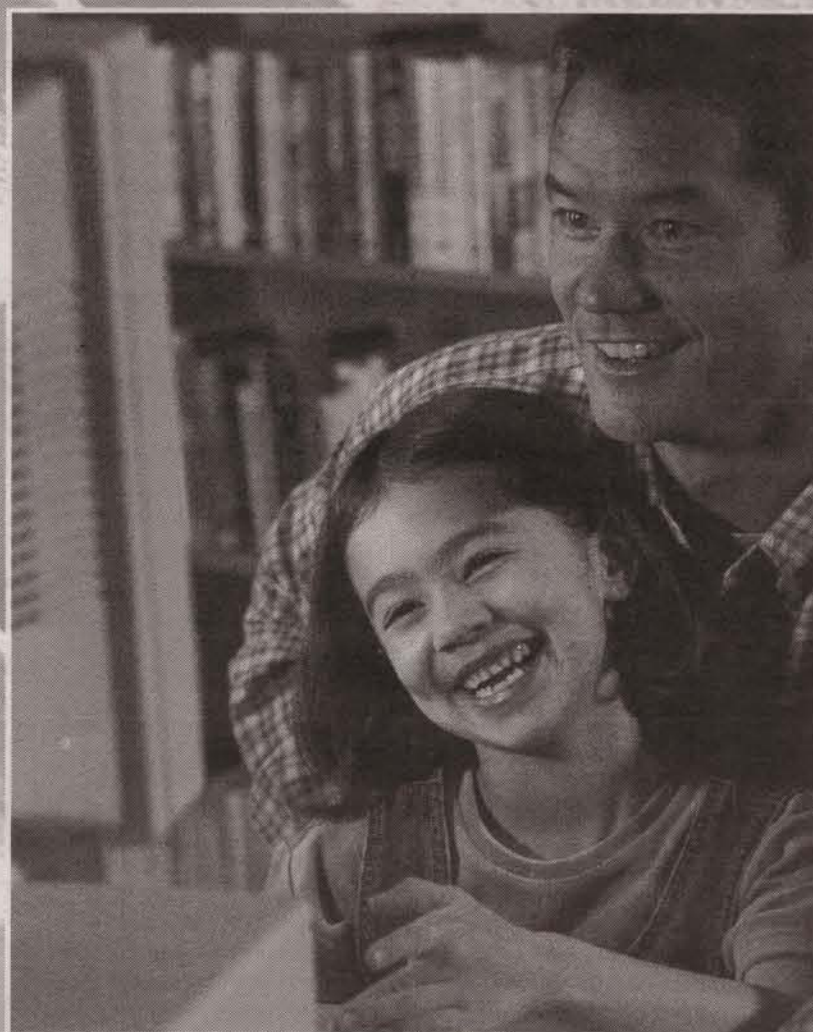
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MATCHMAKING

(Continued from page 1)

plaints West has received about his website are from Caucasian women and Asian men, he said.

"[Caucasian women] are afraid of the competition from Asian women — their reputation for being submissive — that's hard to compete with," said West. "The complaints from Asian men are that we are stealing women from them."

And there are literally hundreds of Internet sites like West's that promote stereotypical images of Asian women. At "Asian Girl Net" Asian women are described as the most ideal marriage partners and the site lists the characteristics that make Asian women ideal mates.

"Devotion to one's husband is part of the Filipino culture so they are affectionate and supportive at all times. They love children and give much of their time and effort to raising a happy family. They are also very good cooks," the site explains. Indonesian women are described as: "excellent wives, mothers and homemakers and are renowned for the way they take care of and 'pamper' their partner and their rich, spicy cooking."

Representatives from "Asian Girl Net" did not respond to inquiries from the *Pacific Citizen*.

Although these types of Internet sites are the extreme in promoting stereotypical images of Asian women for American men, many of the personalized matchmaking services that offer a more caring approach still play on these images.

Diana Zhou runs "Asian Soulmates" in Irvine, California promoting "professional Asian

women" for "Caucasian men." Her business specializes in matching Asian women from mainland China, the Philippines, Thailand, Korea and Japan for serious relationships with American men.

"Asian women are not as aggressive, they are more devoted in a relationship, more family-oriented, more traditional," said Zhou. "I think appearance wise, American men think Asian women are more attractive, have good manners, and they tend to be more feminine. Also, Asian women tend to be open-minded about the age difference. They don't mind a 10 to 15 year age difference."

Her sentiments are illustrated in the dozens of photos of her clients displayed in her office. Several pictures of older men, many gray-haired and in their 60s and 70s, can be seen with their much younger Asian brides.

Although Zhou believes most of her Asian female clients fit into the above stereotypes, she believes the images of Asian women seen on several questionable matchmaking Internet sites as submissive and exotic are misleading and false.

"They probably just watch movies and they think Asian women are submissive," she said. "But [my clients] are not really looking for the submissive type of Asian woman. Some of them have an image of Asian women that is not right and I will correct it," added Zhou, who uses a selective interview process to get to know her clients.

But it is the use of any of these stereotypical images of Asian women, whether considered to be positive or negative, in their promotion as ideal matches for American

men that is dangerous, said Kiran Ahuja, national director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF).

"You can't separate 'loyal' from 'docile' or 'submissive.' It's a power struggle," she said. "These are very much negative stereotypes and these men are not looking for equal partnerships."

Ahuja sees the use of stereotypes of Asian women by these various matchmaking services as marketing tools to attract American men looking for an obedient, docile woman.

"We are obviously concerned about the kinds of men who would be enticed by this type of marketing," she said. "They are preying on these women because of their economic situations."

And the concern extends to both Asian and AA women in general, added Ahuja. "It is part and parcel of what we struggle with. People can't tell the difference. We are constantly dealing with the exoticizing of Asian women and the perpetual foreigner stereotype."

According to NAPAWF, current estimates show a huge growth in the international matchmaking industry with 8,000 to 12,000 marriages between American men and foreign women, many from Asian countries. Ahuja estimates that there are about 200 International Marriage Brokers (IMBs), largely Internet and pen pal services, currently in the United States.

In 2002 Washington State, in response to several reports of abuse and even homicides in these "mail order bride" marriages, passed legislation to provide protection for these foreign women if they find themselves victims of domestic abuse.

And in 2003, federal legislation titled the IMB (International Marriage Brokers) Regulation Act, was also introduced to protect these women.

"Stereotyping of Asian women takes advantage of Asian women and it's problematic on multiple levels," said Josephine Escalante of Gabriela Network, a Philippine-U.S. women's solidarity organization fighting for the rights of Filipinas in the United States. "Men expect Asian women to be this way. Words like 'loyal' and 'traditional' are positive words but it doesn't play out as positive in reality."

The Gabriela Network is pushing for the passage of the IMB Regulation Act to give back some power to Asian women, especially the portion of the legislation that

would allow women to do background checks on the American men.

"Right now, there's an uneven situation. These women are given very little information about the men," said Escalante. "This [legislation] will help give women information to decide if they want to enter into a relationship with a man."

Although it's true that many foreign Asian women use the matchmaking industry to seek a better life in the United States, Escalante wonders, if given a better chance at home, would they be so eager to marry American men?

"It's problematic to use these industries to get out of their country," she said. "I wonder if given greater opportunities at home, if they would enter these marriages."

Fresno Chapter Donates \$10,000 to Nikkei Foundation



The JACL Fresno Chapter recently presented a \$10,000 check to the Central California Nikkei Foundation for their skilled nursing/assisted living project. The district was able to raise the funds over a three-year period of fundraising for the Shinzen Run. Left to right are: Sachiye Kuwamoto, Ernie Kazato, Tim Kurimaji, Bob Shintaku, Carolyn Ogawa, President Mel Renge, Emiko Takemoto, Tom Collins, Sam Masumoto, Marcia Chung, Mutsuko Sanwo, Mike Yatabe and Ken Yokota. ■

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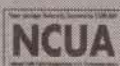


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