When Vega learned she was pregnant with their second child, they "fell in love all over again," Vega said. "We decided that together, the family will be a blessing for the world, and we will make the most of it."

Vega and Mala have been married since 2002, and they have two children together. They have been an inspiration to many in the Asian American community, and they continue to work towards greater acceptance and visibility for same-sex couples.

**With Little Debate, Fort Bend County, Texas Quickly Votes to Rename 'Jap Road'**

By CAROLINE AOYAGI

Two down, one more to go.

In a move that was surprising in its smoothness and lack of controversy, the Fort Bend County, Texas Commissioners unanimously approved the renaming of "Jap Road" at a public hearing Sept. 28.

"Jap Road" was an historic marker in Jefferson County when I first started working for the TAC, said Kenneth Chiu, head of the Committee to Change Jap Road. They "did not want to be caught up in the same type of controversy or have the bad press that Jefferson County had," she added.

The Fort Bend County Commissioners alerted them to the fact that "Jap Road" still existed in their county. The commissioners immediately agreed that the road name needed to be changed and the issue was placed on the agenda.

"Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert and the other County Commissioners approached them in 1992," said Tanamachi, referring to her more than 10-year campaign to have Jefferson County, Texas rename a similar road.

"I thought that once they found out how offensive the word 'Jap' was to Japanese Americans, that they would understand and change the name of the road," she added. "I never thought it would end up being a 12-year battle."

The Fort Bend County vote came just a little over two months after Tanamachi wrote a letter to Judge Robert Hebert and the other County Commissioners alerting them to the fact that "Jap Road" still existed in their county. The commissioners immediately agreed that the road name needed to be changed and the issue was placed on the agenda.

Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert and Commissioners wanted to do the right thing,

"We are pleased with the outcome," said Tanamachi. "We did not want to be caught up in the same type of controversy or have the bad press that Jefferson County had," she added.

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The Fort Bend County decision
COMMENTARY
A Referendum on American Liberty

BY STEWART DAVID IDEKA

Lessons learned from the 2000 election debacle were powerfully reinforced at a recent rally in my battle-ground state of Wisconsin. Asians, Blacks, Jews, Lutherans, Italians, and Russians - every group, young and elderly and collegian, even Independents and Republicans - a crowd as diverse as I've ever seen in my famously segregated city - met to hear from our marathon Senator, who stood up for the Patriot Act.

Beyond any partisanship, Japanese Americans must appreciate how courageous, lonely and thankless a path Russ Feingold took in his early opposition to the Act's blanket undermining of civil liberties. Some have impugned his loyalty for defending civil liberties; derided his position against racial profiling; attacked his bipartisan championship, with John McCain, of campaign finance reform. However, my neighbors of all parts and ethnicities are proud of this principle independence - a noble virtue, in my family, I see as my "quirky little Cheerleader State." The Senate rebuffed the attacks by passionately detailing his commitment to combating terrorism, the need to pursue and destroy "these Leaders, and efforts he's spearheaded" to track Al Qaeda cells proliferating outside the Middle East. And it is equally important, he insisted, to defend America's civil-economic well-being, health, and position on the world stage.

Gwen Moore, an aspiring candi-date to become Wisconsin's first African American U.S. Rep., also spoke about civil liberties with the no-nonsense toughness of a mom who pulled herself up from welfare. "If we had the Patriot Act in the 60s and '70s, we'd all be in jail," she observed sternly to fellow baby boomers, referring to historic demonstrations for civil rights, women's equality and against war policies in Southeast Asia.

Hearing them moved me, not only because of my family's internment, but because JAs have long seemed out of synch with our con-rumns, as we all often fail to grasp in obvious point. Wrong-headed folk discount the civil rights act as "a black thing" or civil liberties as "a immigrant thing." But the fundamental principle underlying both is: We are all Americans and we have inalienable rights if we assert and defend them.

When Feingold memorably observed, "It's called the Bill of Rights, not the Bill of Suggestions," I thought, Finally, everyone gets it.

Or do we? I learned in childhood to respect and not question elders. In my family, growing the garden, buying the ticket to the kitchen table; nobody knows who the other is voting for. But sometimes, discussing other issues, I hear some Nisei say they "haven't followed the Patriot Act," feel "it doesn't affect us," or may not care.

Of the hundreds of Nisei I've met nationwide, many have asked why someone like me - a monolingual, homeschooled, monolingual Asian American, with no experience with internment, with no knowledge of the pain many of us feel in our current condition - how I could have done that.

The answer: Girl on, and the value of American freedom were lessons I learned from my family. My great-grandmother, who taught me the Japanese language to schoolchild-ren, would often say "I don't care who is President based on an unprecedented number of votes." My grandfather, who died at the age of 84, would often say "I don't care what is happening at the local level, with all the attention on the presidency, all of us should do something similar, whether John Kerry or George Bush will be greeting your child everyday of school. They will not be writing your traffic ticket. Nor will they be determining whether your business permit gets approved or who gets the next raise or the next promotion. We JAs know the value of citizenship perhaps more than any other API group. Let's make sure our vote counts!"

Michael Matuda

Re Remembering
Congressman Horton

On Aug. 30, former Congressman Frank Horton, R-NY, died from a stroke at the age of 84. Unfortunately, a Washington Post obituary noting that Congressman Horton was the lead sponsor for the congressional joint resolution that resulted in President Carter designating the first week in May 1979 as the first National Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. Today, we honor Congressman Horton's leadership by awarding an annual scholar-ship in his name. Anything less will be to the lasting shame of us all.

As citizens, we cannot afford to ignore what is happening in the local level. With all the attention on the presidency, all of us should do something similar, whether John Kerry or George Bush will be greeting your child everyday of school. They will not be writing your traffic ticket. Nor will they be determining whether your business permit gets approved or who gets the next raise or the next promotion. We JAs know the value of citizenship perhaps more than any other API group. Let's make sure our vote counts!"

Juanita Yamamoto

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PACIFIC CITIZEN
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PACIFIC CITIZEN, OCT. 10, 2004

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MANAA Blasts Racial Slurs By Pulitzer Prize Winning Author

Media Asian Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) is criticizing Pulitzer Prize-winning author Seymour Hersh for saying “the nips” in a recent radio interview.

On Sept. 14 Hersh was on National Public Radio's “Fresh Air” with Terry Gross promoting his latest book, “Chain Of Command: The Price of War.” Gross asked the author to compare the reaction he was getting to this book with his investigation of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam (for which he won the Pulitzer Prize) and the secret bombing of Cambodia.

In rambling fashion, Hersh recalled going to Saturday Harbor - were called ‘Japs’ and it was always - the Americans were John Wayne and Robert Mitchum “Surely no nips, and it was always - the put in internment camps for the duration of the war).”

And there would be a scene - and prompt response on this matter.”

Swihart responded that she would forward Hersh’s mail to the author, but MANAA has yet to hear from Hersh.

Gov. Signs Kenny’s Law, Legislation That Provides New Hate Crime Protections

A hate crimes bill providing new protections for victims was signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Sept. 28 and will go into effect Jan. 1, 2005.

AB 2428, also known as Kenny’s Law, will provide hate crime victims with an automatic protective order once their perpetrator is released on probation, parole or conditional release from a state hospital. Additionally, AB 2428 gives courts and relevant agencies the authority to order anti-bias or sensitivity training for a hate crime perpetrator.

“Hate crime statutes vary from state to state in that perpetrators often target the same individual over and over again with impunity,” said Assembly Member Judy Chu, author of the bill. “That is why it is crucial for us to provide victims and their families with protective measures that a perpetrator is put on the street.”

AB 2428 is named after Kenneth Chiu, whose 13-year-old Asian American who was murdered in Laguna Hills on June 30, 2001, by his next-door neighbor, Christopher Heam. Hearn stabbed Chiu over 25 times in the driveway of his own home.

Hearn was found guilty of first-degree murder with special enhancement for lying in wait and hate animus. Hearn was ultimately found not guilty by reason of insanity and was sent to a state mental institution instead of prison.

After Hearn’s trial, Chu convened a public hearing on the case. Information presented at the hearing led to the introduction of Kenny’s Law.

APAs Are Concerned About Congressional Action on the 9/11 Commission Recommendations

The Asian Pacific American community expressed grave concern that the House of Representatives is using the implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations to promote unrelated policies harmful to people of the Asian Pacific Islander American community, and will significantly restrict immigrants’ rights by under-mining basic due process protections,” said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

HR 10’s Section 3009 would expand certain USA Patriot Act provisions, undermining due process by prohibiting habeas corpus review of most immigration decisions. Section 3009 also precludes federal courts from granting stays while deportation cases are pending. Finally, the provision authorizes the government to deport foreign nationals to countries that lack a functioning government.

Against this backdrop, Asian American and Pacific Islander American Legal Advocates (APAs) are concerned about the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations concerning the need to protect civil liberties and to institute checks and balances ensuring new anti-terrorism policies are effective and just.

“The commission also stressed a need for Congress to 'offer an example of moral leadership in the world, commit to treating people humanely, abide by the rule of law, and be generous and caring to our neighbors,'” a goal contradicted by many of HR 10’s provisions.

“Americans have the insight, capacity and forum to develop national security policies that are effective, humane and sensible,” said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of NAPALC (National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium).

University of Michigan’s Admissions Policy Still an Issue in Upcoming Elections

By JAMES PRICHARD
Associated Press Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than a year has passed since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the University of Michigan’s undergraduate admissions policy as too formulaic because it awarded points for race, but MANAA has yet to hear from Hersh.

The 9/11 Commission’s report, and actually ran counter to some of the most serious and important recommendations. "The platform we’re on, where ability and merit are the only reasons for either a scholarship or a job, is where we need to go," Maynard said.

The Chiu family played a key role in advocating for the passage of Kenny’s Law. Christopher Chiu, traveled to Sacramento twice to testify on behalf of his mother, Asian Pacific American Legal Advocates (APAs) has yet to hear from Hersh."

"We don’t want to be to anybody else.”

The other co-sponsors of the bill were House Democrats Carol Chisholm, Asian Pacific American Legal Action and Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality.

The high court in June 2003 upheld a general affirmative action policy in place at the University of Michigan’s law school while declaring its undergraduate formula to be too rigid. In response, the University of Michigan’s law school now adds an essay requirement to its undergraduate application that still considers race, but does not award points. "The platform we’re on, where ability and merit are the only reasons for either a scholarship or a job, is where we need to go," Maynard said.

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According to census data released recently.

California's Quintessential White Suburb Now Has Minority

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — Minorities now make up a majority of residents in Orange County, California's quintessential suburb, according to census data released recently.

One city that illustrates the rapid changes in Orange County, an area once known across the country as white, conservative and Republican, is Garden Grove, a city that now celebrates a Korean Festival, a Tet Festival and an Arab Festival.

Overall, 35 percent of California's 35.5 million residents are minorities, compared with 53 percent of 34 million residents in 2000, the data shows.

Fargo Mosque Vandalized

FARGO, N.D. — The Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations is calling for increased police protection at mosques in the United States after recent reports of vandalism, including one in this city.

Fargo police say fences were smeared on a door and tobacco juice was spit on the doorknob. Authorities say they do not know if the crime was hate-motivated.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, an Islamic civil rights and advocacy group, said Islamic centers in Minnesota also were vandalized recently. The vandalism included paintballs splattered on a building, fire damage to a storage shed and a bottle of rotten eggs thrown at worshippers.

Vandals targeted at Muslims also has been reported recently in Texas, Arizona, New York, Virginia, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., the council said.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

National Newsbytes

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The ads are by the group Colorado Families First.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, Oct. 15-Nov. 4, 2004

JACL Diablo Valley Chapter Names Scholarship Recipients

The National Trust for Historic Preservation presented the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) of San Francisco with its prestigious National Preservation Honor Award Sept. 30.

CHSA was one of 22 national award winners honored by the National Trust at its biennial 2004 National Preservation Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Known as the "Lantern on the Hill," the new Chinese Historical Society of America Museum & Learning Center is a San Francisco landmark that preserves Chinese American culture and history and stays alive.

In 1932, with the intention of integrating Chinese motifs and Western architecture, J. Morgan designed the Chinatown YWCA. In 1996, after moving from one temporary location to another, CHSA purchased the YWCA building to accommodate expanding programs and exhibitions.

After an earthquake left the building sitting dormant for 14 years, the landmark was transformed into a museum and learning center for the Chinese American community as well as visitors from across the globe.

In order to maintain the original architect's design, the CHSA commissioned Barcelon & Jang Architects to begin a restoration, reuse and preservation plan. Completed in 2001, the new museum and learning center incorporates much of the original historic structure and interfaces with contemporary utilities. From restoring the three Chinese towers with wooden spires to meticulously matching original paint stains, the new museum is an elegant tribute to the building's original design.

Unlike many museum projects, the $1.4 million funding for this renovation was a community effort. By working on a budget, the architects found unconventional ways to adapt the original structure into galleries and a learning center with a library and seminar space. As a community heritage museum, the CHSA Museum & Learning Center tells the story of Chinese immigrants' journey to America.

"The success of this museum is a testament to the value of preserving historic buildings," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "The preservation and reuse of this landmark is a great accomplishment for the Chinese American community."

The National Preservation Honor Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of their architectural and cultural heritage.

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Blue Cross of California has been providing health coverage to Californians for over 65 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

To learn more about the Blue Cross plan and how to become a member, please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-845-4875.

JACL Eden Township Chapter Awards High School Seniors

The annual Eden JACL Scholarship Awards Potluck Dinner was held at the Eden Community Center to award four recipients selected on academics and extracurricular activities. This year's recipients are (from left): Brandon Tanizawa, Ken Watanabe, Tyler Hirabayashi, and Steve Kawabata.

Chinese Historical Society of America Receives National Trust National Preservation Honor Award

Rowland Heights resident Jessica Chen said that her roommate recently got into an accident while trying to make a left turn on Fullerton Road. "I hear about accidents every week," she said.

Calling the traffic epicenter "a death trap waiting to happen," RHCC and RHRC representatives labeled the Planning Commission's decision misguided and accused county officials of relying unfairly in favor of the project. They fear the proposed temple will become a tourist attraction like the famous Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in nearby Hacienda Heights. They say such large facilities, which include dormitory units, would attract busloads of people for boisterous events and ruin the residents' quality of life.

But the chaotic picture illustrated by residents is stark contrast to the Buddhist Temple's recent morning service at its current site where the fenced parking lot remains relatively bare. Inside, an ornate Buddhist statue sits in front of a wall of lights as members and nuns quietly busy themselves with pre-service chores. When service begins, the room is filled with less than 30 people.

Guan, a nun at the Yuan Young Temple, said similar services are held twice a month while larger quarterly services and annual special events attract approximately 100 worshippers. The temple relied on member donations to fund the project.

"We want a very quiet place for us to meditate. We want to cater to our adherents," she said, adding that only 18 percent of land does not have the capacity to accommodate tourists. In the past, the temple members had invited the protesters to visit their current sites to show how small they are, but no one came.

The long-standing battle has also illuminated racial and social issues in the Rowland Heights community. Project Consultant Michael Lewis pointed out that there are already two religious facilities and another one is being proposed in the same area as the proposed Buddhist Temple site. In addition, Lewis said that members of the Christian Zion Church in the area were allegedly praying for the project's failure because of its "devil worship."

But both the RHCC and the RHRC say their protest is not grounded on religious reasons and how to appeal the Planning Commission's decision to the L.A. Board of Supervisors and explore litigation.

Eighty percent of land in other parts of Rowland Heights is classified for churches or religious institutions," said Ebenkamp, adding, "The area where the Buddhist Temple is set is expanding for rural, single-family use ... to maintain the heritage of the land for agriculture or horse riding.

Lewis said that if residents do appeal, they will make the same case to the Board of Supervisors that were made to the Planning Commission.

Through it all, Guan said the experience has not embittered temple goers who just want a space to worship.

"Anything that happens, we'll take it. But also, every time we pray for them, I believe all our members pray for them," she said.
because there's a class of people in Oregon who stand to be legally dis­riminated against if this case is lost. The class of people in criminated against is described in detail.

In late September, the group filed its opening brief in the case before the Oregon Supreme Court and oral arguments are scheduled for Nov. 17.

"When we were asked by ACLU of Oregon to sign on with them as supporters of the case, we were highly motivated and highly prodded," said Tateshita. "We believed that the legal issues presented in this case 'implicated the civil rights aspect of the issues surrounding same-sex marriage, which is a multi-faceted issue.'"

The JACL has already gone on record in support of same-sex marriage. At a national convention in 1994, the council passed a resolution in support of same-sex marriage, "becoming for the first time a public advocate of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage."

"I think that is a wonderful thing for our organization to support," said Tateshita. "We believe that it's important to continue educating JACLers about the issue."

"In general, for the Nisei and Sansei, gay rights is a relatively new phenomenon, and for some or many, it's uncomfortable," he said. "But I think the majority of our membership recognize that people should not be barred to same-sex couples."

The JACL lawsuit was filed in March in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland, Ore., on behalf of nine same-sex couples and Basic Rights Oregon. In late September, the group filed its opening brief in the Oregon Supreme Court and oral arguments are scheduled for Nov. 17.

"We were very pleased when national JACL quickly opted to participate in the case as well. And this has been a long time coming due to the importance of this issue to the entire organization."

**FEATURE STORY**

**Golf Catalina Vacation Sale**

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**PORTRAITS**

(Continued from page 1)

APAs. He finds that many LGBT APAs experience different forms of exclusion and social isolation if they do not occupy this position.

"As a gay Asian man, I often experience feeling isolated or excluded from the mainstream gay community. I don't see my image in our newspapers, magazines, movies, TV shows or what's held up to be 'sexy,'" said Patrick. "I believe that the LGBT community is making great strides in the gay rights movement, but I'm not sure they're making enough."

"The LGBT APA community continues to evolve, the struggle for cultural acceptance and visibility remains fresh. The 2000 census revealed that a total of 19,213 or 1.5 percent of APA households identified as being same-sex marriage. Some say these statistics show that LGBT APAs are becoming more accepted. Regardless, many are defining their own meaning of gay rights.

In June 2004, Mala and Vega successfully sued for gay and lesbian marriage rights in the state of Washington. A few years after their traditional Hindu wedding, the couple 'were thrilled that their marriage was treated as a "non-marriage." They were able to bring their children together one day, and want to do so in a legally recognized union.

"We will teach him that he is the coolest kid in the neighborhood for being who he is ... multi-racial and having two dads," said Lance, who is Chinese American. "Being nurtured is not a biological trait assigned to only genders."

Recently, the American Psychological Association agreed and adopted a resolution in favor of same-sex marriage. They stated that the ability to raise well-adjusted children is unrelated to parental sex orientation. But despite this, loving same-sex couples still struggle to gain legal adoption or marriage rights that do not recognize their union and protect their children.

"When I started my publication, one of my goals was to dispel stereotypes of gay people including the myth of gay men being pedophiles, so they should not be permitted to be parents," said Angelina, a Filipino American who is raising her adopted eight-year-old daughter, Jiana Acain Eisenberg, with her partner Susan Kato.

Like many other same-sex parents who want to start a family through adoption, Angelina and Susan did not adopt Jiana together from a foreign country. Susan filed the paper work as a single parent and Angelina filed as a "non-parent" adoption in order to get around the restrictions for same-sex couples. In their household, they teach Jiana to love and appreciate people of all colors and backgrounds.

In the last few months, the debate on gay rights has been fueled by the recent proposal for a federal ban against same-sex marriage and the upcoming presidential elections, but many say more work still needs to be done in order to stir discussions and awareness in the APA communities.

"We still don't have a place at the table," said Mala. "Unfortunately, the many white leaders in this [gay rights] movement feel the need to reach out to middle-America and the language the movement uses to characterize the fight only disenages people of color communities.

JACL Executive Director John Tateishi believes LGBT issues will find its place in the APA community. "We're in a kind of social twilight zone as Asians in the U.S. Like any kind of social issue that's difficult for many in society to accept, this issue is difficult for many people to educate."
BY TIM KORTE

Sports Writer

SEATTLE—Ichiro Suzuki got two final hits and pushed his major league record for a season to 262 in 1990, tying George Sisler's 1920 mark of 257. He was able to do this in the eighth off Mariano Rivera (407) pitched two-hit ball for one last curtain call after the Seattle's dismal 63-99 season. In the third inning but finished with a .312 career average in 18 seasons, all with Seattle. He chocked back tears when fans at Safeco Field summoned him for one last curtain call after the game ended.

"It was fighting it hard," Martinez said.

Park (407) pitched two-hit ball over seven innings and won for the first time since Aug. 26. He beat the Mariners 5-0 on April 16 at Safeco, pitching seven shutout innings with five strikeouts.

"It was a well-pitched game," Texas manager Buck Showalter said. "Doug came in and got some big outs in a tough place to pitch, Chan Ho pitched well. It was good to see him finish the season on that note."

Park walked three, struck out three and hit one batter with a pitch. His lifetime numbers at Safeco are 3-1 with a 0.79 ERA.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki got his second AL batting title and led the majors in hitting title and led the majors in hitting. His lifetime numbers at Safeco are 3-1 with a 0.79 ERA.

Suzuki won his second AL batting title and led the majors in hitting. This season he batted .312 with 157 hits on Oct. 1.

"There's a chance this is never going to happen again unless he does," said Melvin, who didn't know whether the front office would bring him back after Seattle's dismal 63-99 season.
The game also marked the end for Seattle designated hitter Edgar Martinez, who is retiring at age 41, and went hitless in four at-bats.

Martinez hit .263 in his final season but finished with a .312 career average in 18 seasons, all with Seattle. He chocked back tears when fans at Safeco Field summoned him for one last curtain call after the game ended.

Tears rolled down Musashimaru's face as the final cut was made by his stablemaster Musashigawa. After years of high-level gymnastics training she was forced to change sports due to an elbow injury.

After the Junior World Diving Championships, Ishimatsu and some of her Pacific Diving Academy teammates will travel to Annapolis, Maryland to compete at the CAMO Invitational where top divers from Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Great Britain will compete.

The first annual JACL Golf For Youth Tournament was held Oct. 9 at Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine, Calif. (Bottom row, from left): Tom Tolan, Ju Lo, Sho Haga, Kei Yamane and Floyd Moore.

The 237-kilogram (521-pound) Musashimaru attained the grand champion, also took part in the Autumn Grand Sumo Tournament. Musashimaru's sole foreign wrestler in Japan's ancient sport.

Born Fiamua Penitini, Musashimaru joined sumo as a new wrestler at the age of 18 after growing up in Hawaii.

The Samoan yokozuna won Emperor's Cup over his illustrious career and was the most successful foreign wrestler in Japan's ancient sport.

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Born Fiamua Penitini, Musashimaru joined sumo as a new wrestler at the age of 18 after growing up in Hawaii. Musashimaru's sole foreign wrestler in Japan's ancient sport.

Along with Konishiki and fellow grand champion Akebono, Musashimaru was part of a Hawaiian wave that dominated sumo in the 1990's.

The title of yokozuna is more than a sports achievement — it is considered a mark of honor, and its holders are held up to very high standards.

Musashimaru attained the yokozuna rank after the Summer Grand Sumo Tournament in 1999. His 12 titles are sixth-best on the all-time list.

After breaking into sumo in 1991, Musashimaru made steady progress in moving up the ranks and was promoted to the second highest rank of ozeki in 1994.

The 237-kilogram (521-pound) Musashimaru dominated opponents with a thrusting style and a right-handed belt grip that he used to perform.

Among his achievements was a string of 53 consecutive tournaments with eight or more wins. His last Emperor's Cup was at the 2002 Autumn Grand Sumo Tournament.
'Greatest' Return of Nisei to Arkansas

A S'VE TOLD friends since the end of September, "You all missed perhaps the most fabulous (if not the greatest) turnout of the Nisei in one place over one week in Little Rock, Arkansas."

Over 1,400 (Sansei and Yonsei included) came for the four-day gathering organized by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UARK) and the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) with major funding ($1.3 million) from the estate of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. And imagine the line-up of 13 huge buses traveling Sunday morn­ ing on I-530 south to Pine Bluff and via two-lane roads to McGehee. 105 miles from Little Rock. It was stup­ endous.

On our bus was Assemblyman George Nakano, who reminded us that the Jerome. Monument was dedicated in 1991. Greeting us were John Ellington at Jerome (now part of his farm) and Rosalie Gould at McGhee. As a child, John had visited Jerome with his father, who was a carpenter at the camp. Rosalie, like many of McGehee and recipient of the JACL-Edison Uno Civil Rights Award in 1992, began collecting camp artifacts in the 60s and main­ tained the cemetery at Rohwer with Court Judge Mark McRery.

During the two and half hour ride we viewed UARK's TV documen­ tary, "Time of Fear" on the bus. There was fear in Arkansas over the coming Japanese evacuation. The governor felt if the Army was kick­ ing out the Japanese from California because of war. He had no reason to accept them either until he was told the Japanese would be spending money in Arkansas. He agreed, but he insisted on conditions — that Japanese would be barred from buy­ ing land, etc., and segregation would continue. Of course, evac­ uees soon learned they were not "colorless" when they were permitted to leave.
The faces I readily recognized in the documentary were Sen. Dan Inouye, George Takei, Sen. Miku Murata, and Sumi Okita of Chicago. Yes. Dan was in "camp," among the Camp Shelby rookies at Jerome (FBI investigated camp nurse of camp newspaper at Jerome. Also in the crowded room was Billy Hasekawa, who had addressed the opening ses­ sions on the trials and triumphs of YAs.


Scanning the conference program booklet for other names of panelists, we saw — Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and Lawson Inada dis­ cussing camp experiences and how that influenced their writing. Again, it was George Nakano who explained why "ananse" was used throughout the conference, reason being the term logically fits the con­ cept of incarceration. John Tateishi (JACL) and Alan Nochio (NCRR), both active with the media hearings and campaign, were panelists with moderator Roger Daniels, professor emeritus of histo­ ry at Cincinnati and CWRC con­ sultant — a rare trio of spirti, I might add.

Son Bto (ex-S22d) who won a battle­ field commission prior to rescue of the lost Batalion (in France) from Harvard, Ron Duv (ex-Co. F-442nd) from Honolulu and Yuri Kochiyama (JACL) of the Biennium in 1996 from New York recalled what it was for families and soldiers at Jerome, Rohwer and Camp Shelby.

The eloquence of Mitchell Maki, acting dean at CSULAC's college of health and human services, and chair at the opening and closing sessions, reminded some of us of those golden years of the late Mike Musakka. He wanted to see my smiling face at these sessions — a political twist, if there ever was one. n

Service Battalion based at Ft. McClellan, Alabama) and modern­ tor Frankisks Odo from the Smithsonian Institution and author of "No Sword to Bury," about JAs in wartime Hawaii.

Calling out Camp Newpapers — Harry Saki, Paul Yokotsi (two editors of the papers at Rohwer and Jerome, respectively), with modern­ tor Jay Friedlander, who were in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly, "Freedom of the Press" on the camp newspaper at Jerome. Also in the crowded room was Bill Hasekawa, who had addressed the opening ses­ sions on the trials and triumphs of YAs.


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**Zhang Yimou: Martial Arts ASTRER**

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Zhang Yimou has a way with women. Of course, the 53-year-old Chinese director favors beautiful women, but the kind of beautiful women with innocence that is almost canceled by smoldering sensuality. He picks his messages carefully and then has an extended love affair with his muses by framing them exquisitely in all his films.

He immortalized Gong Li's pout to critical acclaim in "Raise the Red Lantern" and plucked a then unknown Ziyi, Ziyi, out of a Chinese drama school to star in "The Road Home." Ziyi, later moved on to star in Ang Lee's groundbreaking "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Perhaps, that is why Yimou is known as the "female director."

But in the United States, thanks to the friendly persuasion of fan Quentin Tarantino, Ziyi may be best be known as the skillful director of this summer break-through film, "Hero," starring international superstars like Jet Li; Maggie Cheung, Tony Leung and, of course, Ziyi.

The story about an invisible warrior's (Jet Li) attempt to assassinate a war-then emperor, became a smash hit in its native China in 2002 and then subsequently in the United States when released by Miramax two years later.

Now, Ziyi is not only a woman's man, but also Hollywood's latest darling director. In December, his second heart-pounding-kung fu action film, "House of Flying Daggers" - which he wrote, directed and produced — is set to take over nationwide big screens just in time for the holidays, and its some film critics are predicting, set to capture an Oscar statuette.

But after spending some time speaking with the director (through a translator), you get the feeling that all this hoopla is the last thing on his list of priorities.

Yimou is part of China's famed "Fifth Generation" filmmakers, which included Chen Kaige and Zhang Jilun, who began putting Chinese films on the world map after the Cultural Revolution. His 1994 film, "To Live," starring Li was banned in China for insubordination Communist portrayal.

"Twenty years ago, the environment of creation in China was different because we barely thought about making commercial films," said the director who reportedly sold his own film, "Hero," which made each shot look like artwork, to iconic in this film only with more earth tones.

And because love makes everything grand, the action, special effects and scale of "House of Flying Daggers" is bigger and better. The production design and choice of color in "Hero," which made each shot look like artwork, is echoed in this film only with more earth tones.

Zinou's part of his filmmaking technique is to surround himself with a talented crew.

"During the action scenes, I'm more of an assistant director... I just sit in front of the monitor and allow the stunt director to work," he said.

The director is now busy getting ready to shoot his latest film next month, which will be a story about his original love — ordinary people living ordinary lives. He's mum about who is cast, but emphasizes one thing: "No more fighting."

"House of Flying Daggers' opens Dec. 3.

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May 29 Williamsburg & Washington, D.C.
June 30 Scandinavia - Denmark, Sweden & Norway
July 18 Highlights of Japan for the whole family
July 30 Princess Alaska - Cruise & Land Tour
Aug. 13 Best of the Rhine River - Holland, Germany, France & Switzerland
Aug. 23 Russia - "Waterways of the Czars"
Sept. 12 Reflections of Italy
Sept. 15 Northern Japan - Hokkaido & Tohoku
Oct. 6 Cruise Canada & New England - New York - Radisson Seven Seas "Navigator"
Oct. 15 Oomens of Hokuriku plus Seoul & Taipei
Nov. 3 Southern Japan - Okinawa & Kyushu
Nov. 30 The Best of South America - Brazil, Iguaçu, Argentina & Chile
Dec. 6 Holiday Season in San Antonio
Amanda Davis

**Calendar**

**East Coast**

**New York**

**October 26**, 11-2 p.m.: Japanese American Cultural Center, 210-212 East 76th Street, Suite 205, New York, NY 10021. Call: (212) 371-4600 for info.

**October 28**, 11-3 p.m.: YWCA, 325 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10118. Call: (212) 769-5000 for info.

**November 1**, 12-3 p.m.: The Asian Cultural Council, 540 West 110th Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10027. Call: (212) 879-0250 for info.

**November 6**, 12-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.

**November 8**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.

**Washington, D.C.**


**November 4**, 12-3 p.m.:质量问题具体的回答，“如果美国政府强制征收该计划，将伤害120,000美国公民和他们的合法居民。”他们在一项声明中说。“我们需要的是一个合作的计划，而不是强制性征收。”

**November 7**, 11-2 p.m.: The Asian Cultural Council, 540 West 110th Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10027. Call: (212) 879-0250 for info.

**November 8**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.


**November 12**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.

**November 15**, 11-2 p.m.: The Asian Cultural Council, 540 West 110th Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10027. Call: (212) 879-0250 for info.

**November 17**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.

**November 19**, 11-2 p.m.: The Asian Cultural Council, 540 West 110th Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10027. Call: (212) 879-0250 for info.

**November 21**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.


**November 25**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.


**November 29**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.


**December 1**, 11-2 p.m.: JACL, 251 West 44th Street, Suite 1306, New York, NY 10036. Call: (212) 397-2000 ext. 100 for info.
IN MEMORIAM
Helene Matsunaga, Wife of Late Hawaii Senator, Died at 79

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

HONOLULU—Helene Hatsumi Matsunaga, the wife of late U.S. Sen. Spark Matsunaga, died in Honolulu on Saturday, Sept. 15. She was 79.

Born Helene Tokunaga, she married Spark Matsunaga in 1948. He died in 1990.

She is survived by sister, Mary (Glenn) Gokami of Seattle, Tracy (Kathy) Tsutsumoto of Bellevue, Jan Yorozu of Seattle; children, Guy (Lauren) Matsunaga, Karen, Askedo, Kathy (Art) Oehi; brother, Steve (Enzori) and sister, Minako Nishi.

Died in hospice care at her home in Honolulu.

Memorial services were held at the First Christian Church of Honolulu on Oct. 16. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Obituary for Helene Hatsumi Matsunaga, who died in Honolulu on Sept. 15

Helene Hatsumi Matsunaga was the wife of late U.S. Sen. Spark Matsunaga, who was born on July 25, 1919, in Honolulu, Hawaii, and died on Feb. 1, 1990. She was a mother of five children: Karen, Askedo, Kathy, Guy, and Art. She was also survived by her five grandchildren: Karen, Askedo, Kathy, Guy, and Art.

Helene was a dedicated wife and mother who always put her family first. She was a hardworking woman who worked in the family business, family-owned drug store, and later became a volunteer at the local hospital. She was a big Husky football fan and also loved outdoor activities such as fishing, camping, and reading. She was a big Husky football fan and also loved outdoor activities such as fishing, camping, and reading.

Helene was always there for her family and friends and was known for her kind heart and warm personality. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Helene Hatsumi Matsunaga during this difficult time. We are here for you, and we will do everything we can to support you in your time of grief.

We appreciate your support and understanding during this time.

We hope that this obituary has helped you to remember Helene Hatsumi Matsunaga's life and legacy. We will always be here for you if you need us.

Thank you for your support.

The obituary has been created by:

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By YUMI SAKUWAGA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Being Japanese American: A JA Sourcebook for Nikkei, Hapa ... & Their Friends
By Gil Asakawa
Stone Bridge Press
146 pp., $14.95 paperback

As Gil Asakawa aptly proves in his book, the Japanese American experience is not limited to internment camps and nadzus. Rather, embracing and knowing one’s JA identity entails a wide variety of things—from the simple act of eating miso soup and rice for breakfast to the cultural habit of mizu and modesty that has been unknowingly passed down for many generations.

Certainly, as Asakawa vividly shows to his readers, cultural identity involves not only the sweeping historical events that affect the JA community, but also a more microscopic level, it is also the food we eat, the language we speak, and the superstitions our parents teach us.

In a tone that is light enough for younger audiences and factually useful for older readers, Asakawa manages the impossible task of showing the hybridization of two conflicting cultures that results in the unique JA experience. Not only does Asakawa extensively explore traditional customs, the existence of JA communities and the current population of Japanese-related paraphernalia, he also strongly advocates coalition building among the younger audiences and factually shows to his readers, cultural identity and other related topics.

Kira-Kira
By Cynthia Kadohata
Atheneum Books for Young Readers
256 pp., $15.95

Adult writer Cynthia Kadohata gracefully steps into the realm of middle-school fiction with her debut young adult novel “Kira-Kira,” a poignant story that follows the trials and tribulations of a Japanese American family living in a small Georgia town in the 1940s.

“Kira-Kira” refers to the Japanese word for “glittering,” which is what Katie Takeda’s older sister, Lynne, uses to describe the color of the sky, people’s eyes and the bright sparkles of oceans. However, when Lynne falls suddenly ill, Katie must find the courage to continue finding hope and beauty in life’s unexpected obstacles.

Told through the first-person perspective of Katie, a young girl with a deep love for Lynne, her brother Sammy, and her hardworking parents who work long hours at the local hatchery, “Kira-Kira” is a quietly honest look at racial discrimination, personal tragedy and the undying love that keeps family together.

Building a Community; The Story of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County
By Gayle K. Yamada and Dhonne Fukami; edited by Diane Yen-Mei Wong

AACP, Inc.
189 pp., $35

This book focuses on the origins of the Japanese American community in San Mateo County, an area just south of San Francisco. Beginning from a handful of sojourners and immigrants seeking a better life, the San Mateo JAs created a community out of family ties, education and enterprise that still persisted in spite of the internment camp experience and the difficulties of rebuilding lives after World War II.

A thorough historical investigation of the origins of an ethnic community, this book includes an extensive array of photographs, interviews, sketches and diagrams.

TEXAS ROAD (Continued from page 1)
comes two months after Jefferson County voted to change its “Jap Road” to “Boondocks Road,” a decision that took more than ten years and often left a sour taste in the mouths of local residents and the JAs who had long fought for the change.

Now, only “Jap Lane” in Orange County, Texas still remains. Like “Jap Road” in Jefferson County, residents in Orange County have long insisted that the road was originally named to honor early Japanese settlers in the area and should not be changed.

Judge Carl Thibodeaux, head of the Orange County Commission, has not pushed for a name change because like the other County Commissioners, he is standing by “Jap Lane” residents who in a recent poll indicated they were overwhelmingly against a name change.

We Are Still Working on ‘Jap Lane’ in Orange County,” said attorney Scott Newar, who represented Tanumachi in a recent lawsuit to force a name change in Jefferson County. “While I am hopeful that that road will ultimately be renamed, it is going to take some time because the Orange County Commissioners appear—at least for now—to be unmoved by what happened in Jefferson County.

I am hopeful that Orange County will follow suit; I feel that it’s just a matter of time before Orange will be renaming their road as well,” said Tanumachi. “They need to show that they, indeed, do respect all citizens in our great state of Texas.”

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

WHENEVER I SEE THE PHRASE “CLASSIC MOVIES,” I IMMEDIATELY GET IMAGES OF HOLLYWOOD’S HEAVY HITTERS FLASHING THROUGH MY HEAD, CARRABS AND CITIZEN KANE. CAN’T WE CLASSICS? THERE ARE NO CLASSICS!

ASIAN IN CLASSIC CINEMA HAVE BEEN REGULARLY CENSORED OR EVEN PLAYED BY WHITE ACTORS LIKE RONNIE ROONEY OR PETER SELLERS. THIS CASE OUR HERO, BRUCE LEE.

WE MAY NOT BE IN THE CLASSICS OF YESTERDAY BUT PEAR TODAY: THINGS ARE SLOWLY CHANGING, FILMS LIKE THE KILLER, BETTER LUCK THIS TIME, KARATE KID AND KUNG FU ARE ALL SIGNIFICANT IN THEIR OWN PROPER WAY, IT JUST TAKES PATIENCE YOUNG GRASSHOPPER.

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