

## IT'S SPRING TIME

... and that means it's time for P.C.'s Spring Campaign.

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## NO 'REDSKINS'

Marshall High chooses Redhawks as new name.

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## JAP. ONSTAGE

Rachel Factor finds truth in Judaism.

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Comedy troupe bring their act to East West Players.

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Since 1929

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

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MAR. 18-31, 2005

## The Next Big Thing Has Already Arrived

Comedian Tina Kim sells out shows on both coasts with her wit and charisma. So can someone please give her a sitcom?

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—“I see myself as the next Ellen Degeneres or the next Rosie O'Donnell,” said comedian Tina Kim, as she digs into her lunch of spicy Thai chicken and rice.

It's a bold statement by any up-and-coming comedian's standards but the words roll off of Kim's tongue matter-of-factly as she continues to launch one rip-roaring joke after another during a recent interview. That's because Kim has got the talent to back up her words and most importantly — she knows it.

“I always wanted to be a star and I have the desire and the want to be a star,” said Kim, her words colliding into each other as she hurries to complete her thoughts. “I want my own sitcom; I want to be in the movies. It's already been developed and it's ready to go. I'm ready.”

Kim's rock steady confidence didn't materialize overnight. The 30ish Korean American's first career was as a TV news reporter and anchor in small towns like



Comedian Tina Kim uses her own life experiences for comic material. So far it seems to be working.

Missoula, Montana and Yakima, Washington. But after a few years of disillusionment, she sold her car in 1998 and bolted for New York to begin her new career as “Tina Kim — Comedian.”

As a child, Kim's only Asian American mentor was broadcast journalist Connie Chung, but it was when she first saw comedians

Henry Cho and Margaret Cho that she realized comedy was the path she was meant to take.

“I was mesmerized. When I saw Margaret Cho I thought I could do that,” said Kim. “If I didn't see Margaret Cho I would not have gotten into comedy. But because I saw her I believed I too could do it.”

Kim spent two years taking comedy classes — something she advises comic hopefuls to never do —

and put in her time with several temp agencies. Kim even worked for free at comedy clubs answering phones and handing out tickets in order to get five minutes of stage time.

But talent is hard to suppress and soon, comedy club owners began to

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## Texas' 'Jap' Roads May Become a Relic of the Past

Rep. Martha Wong introduces House Bill 1536 that would prohibit use of derogatory names or designations for public property.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

A longstanding injustice is about to be corrected in the state of Texas — that's if Rep. Martha Wong, R-District 134, has anything to say about it.

Wong has introduced House Bill 1536, legislation that would help eliminate all “Jap” roads in the state of Texas and would prohibit the use of all derogatory names and designations on public property.

“I think that when [these ‘Jap’ roads] were named, people didn't think it was derogatory. But times have changed,” said Wong. “I thought that this bill would be a good way to end this business.”

Wong recently attended several meetings in Orange County, one of three Texas Counties that has had to deal with the issue of renaming roads that contain the derogatory word “Jap.” Neighboring Jefferson County and Fort Bend County recently renamed their “Jap” roads and Orange County is currently in the process of selecting a new name.

People need to realize that “the word [‘Jap’] does hurt people,” said Wong, whose district is in Houston, Texas. “It's typical of Asian Americans to grin and bear it, but we need to let people know. I think getting the counties to change [the roads] is good.”

HR 1536 prohibits the use of derogatory names or designations

for public property, including buildings, streets, and parks. In addition to the word “Jap,” the bill prohibits derogatory words for all racial or ethnic groups.

The bill states in part: “In naming or giving a designation to public property, a governmental entity may not use a name or designation that is derogatory to a racial or ethnic group.”

The bill requires a two-thirds majority vote to take effect immediately. If the votes in favor are less than two-thirds, but still passes, the bill would take effect Sept. 1

Sandra Tanamachi has spent over a decade battling for change in the

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MARTHA WONG

## Doris Matsui Wins Special Election

By JIM WASSERMAN  
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO—Sounding themes familiar from her late husband's 14 campaigns, Doris Matsui handily won a special election to fill his term and will become the newest member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

With all precincts reporting March 8, Matsui had 69 percent of the overall vote and 88 percent



among Democrats in a race marked by 24 percent turnout. She flew to Washington, D.C., the next day and was sworn in March 10.

With her win in a 12-candidate field, Matsui, a lobbyist and former

See MATSUI/Page 2

## Launch P.C. Into the Digital Age

By GIL ASAKAWA  
P.C. Editorial Board Chair

Spring is coming around again, and you know what that means here at the *Pacific Citizen*, don't you?

It's time for you — the JACL member and loyal reader — to help the P.C.

grow and thrive, and be the best newspaper it can be! Please think of supporting the P.C. with your dona-

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## An Historic First: Philadelphia's Chinatown Gets Charter School

By Pacific Citizen Staff

For the first time in its history, Philadelphia's Chinatown has a public elementary school that it can now call its own.

In an historic vote March 9, the Philadelphia School Reform Commission unanimously approved a new charter school for Chinatown as more than 100 sup-

porters cheered and cried in celebration. “We need this school. We want this school. We are entitled to this school,” said Simon Lui of the Fujian Association of Greater Philadelphia, which represents 20,000 Chinese Americans citywide. “For over 150 years this community has suffered without any public investment. It is

past time for us to build a public insti-

tution in this community.”

“Approving this school sends a strong message that we value our immigrant communities,” said Neeta Patel, charter school coordinator.

The new Chinatown charter school — the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School (FOLKS) — will open this September in Chinatown North and will start as a

kindergarten through fifth grade school and will eventually go up to the eighth grade.

FOLKS will be a diverse, multi-racial school and will serve the needs of the immigrant and non-English speaking families throughout the city of Philadelphia. Classes will be taught in English and the school will offer Mandarin as an enrichment language course for all of its students.

In addition, folk arts and cultural traditions will be prominent throughout the curriculum as a way to help young people appreciate their culture and the cultures of other groups.

Charter schools are



Photo courtesy of Han Pan, Sing Tao Daily

Supporters of the charter school in Philadelphia's Chinatown voice their support at the March 9 Commission meeting.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN  
7 CUPANIA CIRCLE, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91755



## PACIFIC CITIZEN

7 Cupania Circle,  
Monterey Park, CA 91755  
Tel: 323/725-0083,  
800/966-6157, Fax:  
323/725-0064  
E-mail: Paccit@aol.com  
letters2pc@aol.com

### Executive Editor:

Caroline Y. Aoyagi

### Assistant Editor:

Lynda Lin

### Office Manager:

Brian Tanaka

Circulation: Eva Lau-Ting

**Publisher:** Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-4671, www.jacl.org  
**JACL President:** Ken Inouye  
**National Director:** John Tateishi

**Pacific Citizen Board of Directors:** Gil Asakawa, chairperson; Roger Ozaki, EDC; Casey China, MDC; Grace Kimoto, CCDC; Valerie Yasukochi, NCWNPDC; Ann Fujii-Lindwall, PNWDC; Larry Grant, IDC; Alayne Yonemoto, PSWDC; Maya Yamazaki, Youth.

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## SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

funded by tax dollars and are independent public schools. The schools are run and designed by groups of educators, parents, and leaders in the community. FACTS will be able to serve 286 students and will thus be able to earn at least \$1.8 million in taxpayer monies.

For over 150 years Chinatown has had only one school: Holy Redeemer, a Roman Catholic school that first opened in 1941. Those who cannot afford to pay the private tuition usually attend McCall Elementary School located about a mile south of Chinatown.

The successful effort behind the Chinatown charter school was led by Asian Americans United and the Philadelphia Folklore Project but was not without controversy. Opposing the Chinatown school was the Philadelphia Chinatown Community Development Corp. They argued that the charter school

was not necessary and would dilute students from Holy Redeemer and McCall.

Cecilia Moy Yep, a board member of the Chinatown Community Development Corp., accused members of AAU of creating contention in the community "with vague promises and misstatements of fact" in a recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* article.

But AAU garnered a great deal of community support, including 1,200 petition signatures, pre-enrollment forms from 56 families, 30 local and national endorsements, and several letters of support. They were also able to gain the support of the various communities including Rev. Robert Shine, former president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

In the end the vote to approve the charter school was unanimous with yes votes from Commissioners James Gallagher, Martin Bednarek, Daniel Whelan and chairman James Nevels. Commissioner Sandra

Dungee Glenn was absent from the meeting.

"Charter schools are not about unanimity," said Ellen Somakawa, AAU director. "They are about offering public school options — in this case to a community that has limited choices." ■



Supporters of the Chinatown Charter School hug and cry as the commissioners make their announcement.

## CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

tion again this year.

In January, when the P.C. editorial board met in Los Angeles, we felt a palpable sense of relief. Last year was a tough one for the P.C. It faced the same economic issues as the rest of JACL (which continue, of course, today). But it also seemed like this newspaper was in peril of facing the kind of cutbacks that would hurt its journalistic integrity, or even force it to become a membership newsletter instead of a viable, credible newspaper.

Instead, we came out of the Hawaii convention a strong, reliable source of APA news and a voice for the organization, and one that has the support of the national JACL board.

We also left Honolulu knowing that we are the main connection that many — maybe most — members have to the larger JACL community. We realize how important that role

is, and how fragile the economic climate can be, so we won't take this responsibility for granted.

The P.C. staff — Caroline Aoyagi, Lynda Lin, Brian Tanaka and Eva Lau-Ting — are to be commended for the incredible job they've done. It's an incredibly small staff to produce the paper you hold in your hands. Believe me, I know. I work for a daily newspaper, the *Denver Post*, which has several HUNDRED people on its payroll.

Sure, the scale is different. But the quality of journalism that goes into the P.C., and the level of commitment and dedication from this tiny group, is the same as the massive staff at my company.

I bow down humbly to the P.C. staff. Honestly.

What they bring you every two weeks is as insightful, credible and impassioned as anything served up in the national media for our community, for APAs, for Japanese Americans, and for the incredibly important membership of the JACL.

## MATSUI

(Continued from page 1)

Clinton White House official, completed what her television ads called a "uniquely Sacramento story." Succeeding her husband, the late U.S. Rep. Robert Matsui, she becomes the nation's 45th congressional widow since 1923 to assume the seat of her spouse. She is the third to win in California under such circumstances since 1998.

"It feels bittersweet, but my heart is full of hope and promise," said Matsui, minutes after giving a victory speech to cheering supporters. "This was a time when most of us wish we didn't have to be here, but that was not the way it was going to be."

She promised to continue her husband's legacy in Congress, working for "equality and the dignity of the elderly and making sure that Sacramento is even a better place to live and that America is stronger for the coming generations."

Absentee voters dominated the election and 72 percent of them favored Matsui.

The vote followed a seven-week campaign that quickly cleared the field of major Democratic challengers, then pitted her massive fund-raising lead and Washington experience against two fellow Democrats, five Republicans and candidates from the Green, Libertarian and Peace and Freedom parties.

Robert Matsui, 63, who represented the Sacramento-area 5th Congressional District for 26 years, died Jan. 1 at Bethesda Naval Hospital of complications from a rare bone marrow disease. He was the third-ranking Democrat on the

powerful House Ways and Means Committee and the party's leader in opposing President Bush's plan to partially privatize Social Security.

Matsui won national acclaim for 1988 legislation that apologized and made reparations for the World War II internment of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans in internment camps.

Doris Matsui, 60, announced her candidacy 12 days after his death and raised nearly \$700,000 within six weeks during political events in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento. Her donors included congressional Democrats, unions, trade groups, Washington-based political action committees and former Clinton administration officials.

Matsui's fund-raising and the blitz of television commercials it fueled in the race's closing weeks also prompted criticism from other candidates that she tried to "buy" her late husband's seat. Her nearest fund-raising rival, Julie Padilla, a Democratic activist who advocated the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, raised \$29,000.

Padilla was Matsui's closest competitor March 8, winning 10 percent of the Democratic vote and almost 8 percent overall.

Californians have twice recently elected congressional spouses to their husband's seats, in 1998 choosing Santa Barbara-area Democrat Lois Capps to succeed her husband, Walter, and Palm Springs Republican Mary Bono to replace her husband, Sonny.

Matsui's campaign issues included federal support for stem cell research and opposition to Bush's plans to revamp Social Security. She also called for improved flood control and expanded transit service in Sacramento. ■

options online, and I know the P.C. staff — with the input of the editorial board — will make great choices and help extend the reach of the *Pacific Citizen*, and of the JACL.

I've already established the Web address [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) (no, don't try it, there's nothing there yet!), as the first donation of the Spring Campaign. I urge all of you to join in the Spring Campaign with me, and help the P.C. grow to its next stage.

Together, we'll make the P.C. a truly powerful news source and community resource! ■

**NOTE:** Donations of \$150 or more will be listed in a Donor Hall of Fame on the *Pacific Citizen* website. Donations of \$100 or more will receive signed copies of Gil Asakawa's book, "Being Japanese American," while supplies last.

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

7 Cupania Circle  
Monterey Park, CA 91755  
fax: 323/725-0064  
e-mail: paccit@aol.com  
letters2pc@aol.com

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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.

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## JACL Congratulates Doris Matsui on Election Victory

Doris Matsui was sworn in March 10 as one of the newest members of the U.S. House of Representatives in a ceremony at the capital. In an overwhelming victory, Matsui takes over the seat of her late husband Robert Matsui who passed away Jan. 1.

Matsui becomes the first Asian Pacific American woman outside of Hawai'i to serve in Congress

woman of great strength and dignity, and we have no doubt that her service will continue the finest traditions of honor that are the legacy of Bob Matsui."

"Congresswoman Matsui's election is an historic first, as the first Asian Pacific American woman outside of Hawai'i to serve in Congress," said JACL Vice President of Public Affairs

**'She is a woman of great strength and dignity, and we have no doubt that her service will continue the finest traditions of honor that are the legacy of Bob Matsui.'**

Ken Inouye, JACL Nat'l President

and will represent the 5th District of California.

The JACL congratulated Matsui on her victory.

"We could not be more excited about Doris Matsui's election victory," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi. "She has a long history of working with the Asian American community on issues that are important to all Americans, and she knows the issues well. We very much look forward to working with her in Congress."

Ken Inouye, JACL national president, added, "JACL extends our heartiest congratulations to Congresswoman Matsui. She is a

Heidi Tanakatsubo. "As a Japanese American woman, I am extremely proud to have such a capable and committed role model in the House of Representatives."

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has already named Matsui to the House Rules Committee.

No stranger to public service, Matsui served on President Clinton's Transition Team, where she helped formulate early policy initiatives and assisted in the formation of the President's cabinet.

She also served in the White House as deputy assistant to the President and deputy director of public liaison. ■

## Lawmakers Want Congress to Rein in Patriot Act

By KELLY KEARSLEY  
Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash.—Some state lawmakers want to tell Congress they think the flagship federal law aimed at fighting terrorism should be changed to make sure it doesn't compromise people's civil rights.

The state House and Senate judiciary committees heard public testimony earlier this month on a measure that would urge Congress to pass a new law limiting some of the USA Patriot Act's broad surveillance provisions.

Passed in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Patriot Act expanded the government's power to investigate people suspected of supporting terrorism, and search and seize their personal property.

Congress is expected to consider possible changes to the Patriot Act this year.

Jafar "Jeff" Siddiqui, a Seattle real estate broker who immigrated from Pakistan 30 years ago, told committee members about a Hindu college roommate who once was hauled into a Pakistani prison without any explanation. The government simply cited safety and security, saying his friend was perceived as a threat.

He said his friend was held for a long time, then released — again without any explanation.

"It's not right, and it's not American," Siddiqui said. "They are not saving us by putting innocent people in jail."

Ian Spiers, a photography student from Seattle, told legislators about finding himself surrounded by armed law enforcement officers last May after he took photos of the Ballard Locks.

Referencing the Patriot Act, the officers told him it was illegal to photograph federal property, demanded his ID and told him he needed permission to return, he said.

After his case made headlines, the Army Corps of Engineers, which runs the locks, said such a rule doesn't exist.

The Patriot Act resolution has garnered support from both parties.

Reps. Jim Moeller, D-Vancouver, and Toby Nixon, R-Kirkland, are co-sponsoring the House version of the joint memorial — what lawmakers often call a "letter to Santa Claus." Sen. Adam Kline, D-Seattle, is sponsoring the Senate version.

The state's Republican attorney general, Rob McKenna, also supports the measure.

While most lawmakers acknowledge that such resolutions have no power to change anything, Moeller said letting Congress know about the state's concerns is important. ■

## Marshall High Students Replace Redskins Nickname

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARSHALL, Mich.—The students at Marshall High School have replaced the school's 75-year-old Redskins nickname, ending a controversy that lasted several years.

Marshall Public Schools announced Mar. 1 that the students voted for a new nickname, choosing from two possible replacements. By a vote count of 324-240, they picked the Redhaws over the Warriors, the *Battle Creek Enquirer* reported.

American Indian activists filed a civil rights complaint in July 2002, decrying the Redskins nickname as offensive and racist. The school board voted that September to shelve the name for at least two years as part of a proposed settlement.

The subject of American Indian nicknames and mascots has been a contentious one in Michigan and nationally at the K-12 and college levels.

In June 2003, the state Board of Education approved a resolution recommending that all Michigan

passage did not require schools to make any changes.

In Marshall, the question of whether the nickname is derogatory to American Indians resurfaced at school board meetings in 2000. In April 2001, the board decided it would look into a possible name change and, in February 2002, voted 5-2 to retire it.

Four of the five board members who voted to retire the Redskins nickname were recalled in a June 2002 special election. The fifth, former board President Darlene Neidlinger, lost her bid for re-election.

Two weeks after that special election, the remaining board members voted to rescind the nickname's retirement.

ment, pending the August 2002 special election of four new members.

The new school board reopened the issue after receiving the civil rights complaint. ■



**Out With the Old and in With the New — Marshall High School in Michigan recently decided to replace its old Redskins nickname (top) with the new Redhaws name. The bottom photo is a possible logo for the school.**

schools that use American Indian nicknames, mascots, logos and fight songs stop the practice.

The resolution said the board "strongly recommends" eliminating American Indian nicknames, but its

## Opposition to Native Hawaiian Recognition Bill Simmers in Islands

By RON STATON  
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU—When Gov. Linda Lingle testified before a U.S. Senate committee a few weeks ago, she said a bill to give Native Hawaiians political status similar to that of Native Americans is overwhelmingly supported by Hawaii Democrats, Republicans and people of all ethnic backgrounds.

In the islands, however, there is an undercurrent of largely ignored opposition to the so-called Akaka bill, even among the people it aims to help — Native Hawaiians. A range of opponents were interviewed by the Associated Press in advance of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee vote on the bill recently.

Opposition in the islands ranges from those who favor totally independent government for all of Hawaii's people to those who object to special privileges for any ethnic group in a state where no one race is a majority. About half of the estimated 400,000 Native Hawaiians in the United States live in the islands.

The legislation has also raised concern in other states. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, has said it could deplete already scarce federal funds for American Indian programs.

Local opposition comes despite strong bipartisan support at the recent hearing from Republican Lingle, Democratic Sens. Daniel Akaka and Daniel Inouye, and the state's Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The state Legislature also supports the federal bill, which has stalled in Congress's past three sessions.

Lingle told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee the bill is "vital

to the survival of the Native Hawaiian people" and to the character of the state. Rep. Neil Abernethy, D-Hawaii, called it "the most vital single piece of legislation" for Hawaii since statehood in 1959.

The unified political support comes even though the end result — what form the Hawaiian government entity will take — is unclear.

The proposed law would formally recognize Hawaiians as an indigenous people and set up a process for a governing entity to negotiate with federal and state gov-

ernments over land, resources and other assets.

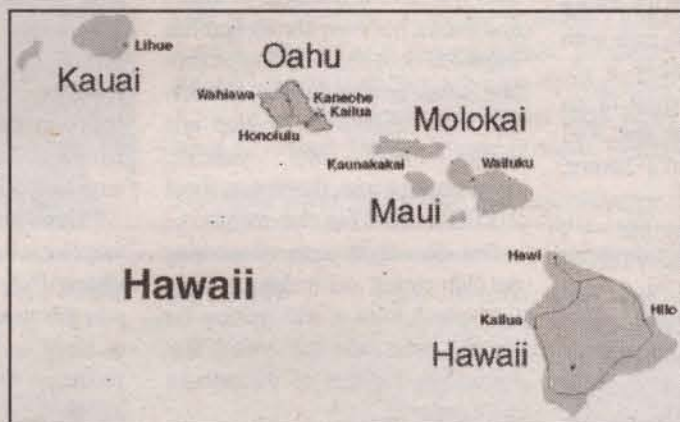
wards."

The bill provides a process for Native Hawaiians to establish a governing entity.

It also would set up an Office of Native Hawaiian Relations in the Department of the Interior to address Native Hawaiian issues.

"It is absurd to think of placing Hawaiians under the Department of the Interior," Fyfe said.

Opponents also object to the fact that no hearings on the current version of the bill were held in Hawaii, saying it has been changed several times. ■





# National Newsbytes

## By P.C. Staff and Associated Press Minorities Represent Only 19 Percent of Top City Positions

NEW YORK—Minority groups say that they are locked out of high-ranking positions in almost every agency in city government.

City personnel records show that in top positions in most city agencies, African Americans, Latinos and Asians make up about 57 percent of the city's workforce but only represent 19 percent of its senior and executive staffs.

Meanwhile whites make up only 41 percent of the workforce, but are in 76 percent of the top jobs.

The Bloomberg administration acknowledged it could do a better job of minority recruitment.

## Survivors of WWII's Bloodiest Battle Reunite on Iwo Jima

IWO JIMA, Japan—Veterans, hundreds of Japanese and American families, politicians and other dignitaries recently marked the 60th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima.

Though held almost every year for the past decade, the number of veterans — most now in their 80s — able to come out to this remote volcanic island from both sides is

dwindling.

## Author's Suicide Reveals Mental Illness Stigma Amongst Asians

NEWARK, Calif.—The family of Iris Chang said her suicide could have been averted if mental illness didn't have such a strong stigma in the Asian American community.

Making their first public comments since the 36-year-old best-selling author died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in November, Chang's parents and brother described the author's shame after she suffered a breakdown and was diagnosed with "brief reactive psychosis" and possibly bipolar disorder.

## Bill Would Make Hawaii an Expensive Place to Smoke

HONOLULU—Hawaii legislators are looking to almost double the cigarette tax over the next three years. The bill, which cleared the Senate and is currently being considered by the House, would boost the tobacco tax incrementally higher through 2008.

The end result would be today's \$5 pack of cigarettes costing \$6.20 in three years. If enacted, this bill would make Hawaii's tax rate on cigarettes the fourth highest in the nation.

Money from the new Hawaii tax would be distributed to the state's general fund, as well as prevention programs — with 50 percent going to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

## Women Get Paid to Have Another Baby

TOKYO—To combat a shrinking population, a small town in northern Japan has decided to give a cash award worth about \$9,600 to each female resident who has a third child.

Mothers will be handed a lump sum of \$4,800 within three months after giving birth to a third baby.

The women will then be given \$480 each year between the child's second and 11th birthday. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

## APA Author Makes Kiriyama Prize Shortlist

At just 49, Ha Jin, winner of the 1999 National Book Award, is the only American and the most senior of the five finalists on the shortlist for the fiction prize. Jin's *War Trash* is up against the works of talented young writers from all over the world.

Two prize winners, one for fiction and one for non-fiction, will be named on Mar. 29. The winners will share the U.S. \$30,000 cash prize.

## Jeb Bush Appoints Desai to Board of Governors



Akshay M. Desai, an Indian American physician based in St. Petersburg is the newest appointee to

the Florida Board of Governors, which oversees the universities and other educational institutions.

## Famed Female Violinist to Play for Tsunami Victims

Vanessa-Mae will perform a benefit concert for victims of the Asian tsunami in Bangkok next month, organizers said.

The London-based classical-pop violinist, who is half-Thai and half-Chinese, will perform songs from her latest album, "Choreography," at the April 5 event at the Thailand Cultural Center.



## Chef Chen to Run Sin City's Newest Casino Restaurant

Richard Chen, who helped run Shanghai Terrace at The Peninsula Chicago hotel, was signed to oversee Wynn Las Vegas' upscale Asian restaurant. It will be called Wing Lei, which means Wynn in Chinese. Wynn Las Vegas is scheduled to open April 28.

## Attorney Bats for NY Restaurant Workers

Saru Jayaraman, 29, executive director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), and Morocco-born waiter-founder Mamdouh Fekkah have made two Manhattan restaurants — Cité and the Park Avenue Café — pay \$164,000 to 23 workers to settle lawsuits for alleged discrimination and failure to pay overtime. ■

## TINA KIM

(Continued from page 1)

notice and book her for gigs. Soon she was producing her own shows and her efforts have earned her rave reviews in *The Seattle Times*, *The Boston Globe* and CNN. During the first season of "The Last Comic Standing" Kim was the only AA female to appear on the show.

"The crowds basically love me everywhere. My comedy is for everyone," said Kim. "It's all about me; it's all about charisma. I can say whatever I want and people will go with it because they like me."

"I know if Jay Leno ever saw me he would book me like that," said Kim, with a dramatic snap of her fingers. "I know he would but I have no connections. But in due time it will all happen."

Kim's humor is something everyone can relate to whether it's dating hell or her love of British men with buff arms, a nagging mother, or yo-yo dieting nightmares, most of us have been there and done that. And that's what makes Kim's humor, well, so darn funny.

"My wittiness and my life — I laugh at things — that's how I come up with things," she said. "I can't sit at home and come up with ideas. That's the last thing I would do."

The youngest of four siblings, Kim moved to Seattle, Washington from Korea with her parents at the age of four. Much of her routine delves into her life growing up in a Korean American family and the dualities that naturally come about are something most Asian Pacific Americans can easily relate to.

As a female, Korean American comic the comparisons to comedian Margaret Cho are obvious and it's something Kim has had to deal with her entire career. Although Kim has always admired Cho's career, she notes that they are very different.

"I don't get really pissed off because they only know Margaret Cho. My comedy is totally different

from her's," said Kim. "So I tell them come and watch me and you'll see the difference. You'll see we're completely different although we're both Korean."

Last year Kim made the move to Los Angeles "to become a star" and is adjusting to life on the West Coast where "the men never ask you out." As with all full-time comics waiting for their big break, Kim still worries about earning enough money to cover rent, car payments, and everything else that comes with big city living.

"Comedy is the hardest business ever. You can't survive doing comedy — only the rich and famous," she said. "They're already famous so for them it's fun time to run up on stage. Otherwise you don't make anything in comedy."

Unlike most comedians, Kim does not have a manager or agent. She books her own shows and has learned to do it all, including promotion, sales, producing, and artwork. She even learned to develop and design her own website, [www.tinakim.com](http://www.tinakim.com), that boasts about 2,000 Tina Kim fan club members.

But after eight years of working the club circuit and making a name for herself, Kim is still waiting for her big break and she admits that sometimes feelings of discouragement creep in.

"Some days I get discouraged. It gets lonely and sometimes I can't handle it anymore," she said. "But I snap out of it; I gotta keep going. I can't give up my dream because my dream is everybody else's dream ... and that keeps me going. I've come this far and there are a lot of people who want me to make it."

With so few AAs comics, especially, AA female comedians, Kim knows first hand how difficult it is to get recognition and the opportunity to showcase her talent.

"I have a double whammy because I'm a woman and I'm Asian. So they're like, 'Oh, she's

Asian. We don't have a lot of Asians that come to the shows so she can't perform.' That's my obstacle."

In the next couple of months Kim will be releasing her second CD, this time produced by David Drozen of Uproar! Entertainment who has worked with well-known acts like Margaret Cho, George Carlin, and Denis Leary. Ultimately, Kim wants to be a sitcom star where she can bring her own brand of humor into millions of American homes.

Kim also would like to find a husband, preferably someone like British hunk Robbie Williams, and have kids. "I want to get married right away because I love kids and I want a family," she said. "But whoever I marry has to be rich because I'm not going to suffer anymore," she said with a giggle. "I'm not in my 20s anymore. I want to be able to have a house and decorate it!"

Kim does not shy away from the title of "the next Margaret Cho" but is paving a path that is distinctively her own. She is more than willing to embrace the role of mentor for emerging comics.

"There are a lot of AAs that want to make it but just struggle and they give up," she added. "So it's going to take the strong to make it. Or I have to hurry and meet that rich Jewish producer. And then girl, I've made it!" ■

## Upcoming Tina Kim Shows

### New York City

April 15, 10 p.m.

New York Comedy Club  
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The first Manzanar Pilgrimage helped plant the seeds for a renaissance of AA identity and empowerment...

# First Manzanar Pilgrimage Participants Sought

An intergenerational effort headed by Warren Furutani and Yonsei filmmaker Tadashi Nakamura is being launched to conduct research that will result in a documentary on how the First Manzanar Pilgrimage became one of the major roots of the Asian American Movement.

On Dec. 27, 1969, the first of what will soon be 36 annual pilgrimages to Manzanar, one of America's World War II concentration camps, took place.

"Had we known what we were doing, we wouldn't have gone at that time — it was freezing," said Furutani who, along with Victor Shibata, came up with the idea.

In the late 60s Furutani and Shibata believed the AA movement needed a large-scale political statement much like the United Farm Workers march to Sacramento and the impact of the "Poor People's March" in Washington, D.C., and they decided to march to Manzanar.

The openness with which the camps are discussed today is opposite to the 1960s when little information on the camps was available and the community still shied away from discussing it. But soon people like Edison Uno and Sue Kunitomi Embrey, who became the head of what is now the Manzanar Committee, came forward to help open up the past.

The First Manzanar Pilgrimage helped plant the seeds for a renaissance of AA identity and empowerment that would result in AA Studies, community organizations, institutions and even governmental bodies to study the incarceration.

One such agency, the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), is enabling the research and documentation of the First Manzanar Pilgrimage and its impact.

Furutani and filmmaker Nakamura are urging people who attended the first pilgrimage to contact Furutani at 310/532-8707 or Karen Ishizuka at karenishizuka@hotmail.com.

The theme of this year's Manzanar Pilgrimage will be "Retrospection and Relevance: Commemorating the First Manzanar Pilgrimage and its Meaning for Today." The pilgrimage will take place April 30 and there will also be a tribute to Minidoka.

For information on this year's pilgrimage, contact the Manzanar Committee at [www.manzanarcommittee.org](http://www.manzanarcommittee.org). ■

# Training Tomorrow's Leaders



2005 JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference participants with Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.

Norwegian poet/playwright Henrik Ibsen once said, "A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." This year's JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference March 4-8 ensured that fertile minds of the future were nurtured and geared up to lead. The annual conference, funded by State Farm, brings the best and brightest to the nation's capital for challenging seminars and enriching activities.



LILY OKURA



Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta flanked by Millennium Club Members Larry Oda (left), Emily Teruya and Sheldon Arakaki.



OCA Members (l-r) Grace Rodriguez, Sophia M. Chang, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock.

JACL men through the generations (l-r): Rich Iwasaki (Portland Chapter), Tim Koide (Mt. Olympus Chapter) and Tom Hayashi (Greater Los Angeles Chapter) bond over dinner.



# Essay Contest Looks at Lessons of Internment



Monterey Park, Calif. Mayor Michael Eng (left) launches the 2005 Cherry Blossom Festival Essay Contest March 4 at Osso Sushi Restaurant. This year's theme is: "Lessons From Internment of Americans During WWII." Photographer Archie Miyatake (right) displays one of his father Toyo's pictures of the Rohwer camp taken during the War. Miyatake's photos will be on display during the eighth annual festival which takes place April 16-17 at Barnes Park located at 350 S. McPherrin Ave. Admission is free. ■

# CAPAL Announces 2005 Summer Scholarships

The Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL) has made available its 2005 scholarship applications. The application form is available at [www.capal.org](http://www.capal.org) and the deadline for submission is April 7.

CAPAL will award \$2,000 scholarships to three outstanding Asian Pacific American college students interning in the Washington, D.C., area during the summer of 2005. Eligibility is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Awarded annually since 1992, CAPAL scholarships are intended to enable outstanding APA students to work full-time and learn about ways to affect public policy that benefit their communities. With these scholarships, CAPAL hopes to provide

APA students with the financial means to successfully complete their summer internships.

For more information, call 202/270-6897 or e-mail [capalscholar@gmail.com](mailto:capalscholar@gmail.com).

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- Undergraduate & graduate students are eligible.
- [www.capal.org](http://www.capal.org)

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Its mission is to promote APA interests and success in public sector careers, to provide information and education on policy issues affecting the APA community, and to serve the APA community at large. ■

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## BASKETBALL

## Former Philippine Basketball Star to Face Trial in Vegas Slaying

LAS VEGAS—Despite conflicting testimony from two witnesses and a claim of self-defense, a judge ordered a former Philippine basketball star to stand trial for murder in the fatal stabbing of another man in November.

"There are more unanswered questions than answered on what started this whole situation," Las Vegas Justice Court Judge Ann E. Zimmerman said Mar. 3 before binding Rudy Distrito over for trial.

Authorities say Distrito, a defensive star during 15 years in the Philippine Basketball Association, stabbed Juan Amaya to death during a scuffle several blocks east of the Las Vegas Strip.

Distrito's defense lawyer, Robert Langford, called the Nov. 24 slaying self-defense.

"The burden is on the state to prove that it was not self-defense

and they have to prove that beyond a reasonable doubt," Langford said.

Distrito has been jailed since surrendering to authorities in December. He was scheduled for arraignment Mar. 21 in Clark County District Court.

Distrito's aggressive play for Ginebra San Miguel earned him the nickname "The Destroyer." He was suspended in 1995, his final season, for a flagrant foul against an opponent.

Manny Dumo, who is associated with the National Federation of Filipino Americans Association, compared Distrito with former NBA star Dennis Rodman, also known for an aggressive style of play.

"He's one of the super players in the Philippines," Dumo said of Distrito. "He was a star and a franchise player." ■

## RACING

## Revamped Fuji Speedway Unveiled

By JIM ARMSTRONG  
The Associated Press

OYAMA, Shizuoka Pref.—Toyota Motor Corp. recently unveiled a revamped Fuji Speedway, a state-of-the-art racing facility the Japanese manufacturer hopes will be among the best Formula One circuits in the world.

The 4.6-km circuit, situated at the base of Mount Fuji, officially obtained a Grade 1 license from F-

I's governing body FIA last month. Toyota holds a 93.39 percent ownership share in Fuji Speedway.

Fuji Speedway originally opened in 1966. Toyota, which is making a major push to get to the top of F-1, completed renovations on the new course this year.

Fuji Speedway could spell the end of F-1 racing at the aging Suzuka circuit in central Japan. Suzuka's contract to host F-1 expires after the 2006 season and Fuji Speedway is just over an hour's drive from Tokyo, while Suzuka is three hours from Nagoya by car.

Fuji Speedway boasts a 1.5-km main straight, the longest in the world. The last corner forms a hairpin turn, and will be the key point where drivers will showcase their competitive skills as they head into the main straight.

The main grandstand seats 22,000 spectators. ■

## SPEEKSKATING

## Ohno Wins Two U.S. Short Track Titles

WEST ALLIS, Wis.—Apolo Ohno and Hyo Jung Kim each won two races recently to complete sweeps in the U.S. National Short Track Speedskating Championships.

Ohno, from Seattle, won his fifth straight national title and seventh overall, and the 16-year-old Kim of Fullerton, Calif. took her first.

Ohno won the 1,000 meters in 1 minute, 31.046 seconds and the 3,000 in 5:15.208. He finished with 170 points for winning two time trials and every heat and final in four races. JP Kepka of St. Louis finished second in the four-day competition at the Pettit National Ice Center with 50.5 points.

Kim, who moved to the United States from South Korea in early 2004, won the 1,000 in 1:38.586 and the 3,000 in 6:01.691. Allison Baver of Sinking Spring, Pa., finished second to Kim in every event to place second in the overall standings.

"I'm really surprised," Kim said. "I'm really excited. I'm really happy about it."

Ohno said his sweep of the events was not as easy as he made it look.

"Absolutely not," Ohno said. "It's never easy." ■

## GOLF

## Wie, High School Sophomore, is All Class

Kahuku, Hawaii—When Michelle Wie returned to high school recently for her algebra and physics classes, she could tell her friends how she nearly won an LPGA tournament.

"She's an amazing player. There's no doubt about it," said Filipino winner Jennifer Rosales. "She's going to give us a lot of challenges and make us work harder."

Wie, a 15-year-old second-year student, finished two strokes behind Rosales in the season-opening SBS Open last month. In difficult conditions on her home island of Oahu, Wie was the only player to shoot under par for three rounds. She also was the lone amateur in the field.

Wie was trying to supplant Marlene Hagge as the youngest LPGA Tour winner. Hagge was 18 when she won the 1952 Sarasota Open.

Wie, who shared second place with Cristie Kerr, would have earned \$78,787 were she not an amateur. When told what she might have earned, she said "that's not too much," an assessment that should send chills down the spine of any future date.

"Well, I don't really feel like, 'Oh, I should've turned pro, darn it,' I'm just happy with my second-place finish," she said. "I like having a pretty carefree life right now, not having to think about if I don't make the cut that means I make no money."

Wie has yet to win on the tour, but in 2004 she would have earned more than \$250,000 in seven LPGA events, putting her in the top 50 on the money list. She had six top-20 finishes in seven LPGA events last year, including fifth at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the tour's first major of the year. This was her best finish in 18 LPGA starts.

"She is a veteran at 15, if she can be called that," Kerr said. "She has an amazing game and is a real sweet girl."

With companies like Nike and

Adidas watching, Wie

already is one of the world's most marketable golfers. She commands large galleries and has international appeal: Young, talented, photogenic and bilingual. Wie is fluent in Korean and is taking Japanese classes.

"We have to be patient. We can't get too ahead of ourselves," LPGA commissioner Ty Votaw said.

"I think what we have to look 25 years from now and look back on what she's accomplished, and not after any one week."

"She's still 15 years old and she's trying to do things that no other 15-year-old has done," he added. "That's certainly empowering all the young girls out there to say there are no limitations."

Wie began drawing international attention in 2002. A seventh-grader with braces, she became the youngest player to qualify for an LPGA event at age 12. Wie will play seven more LPGA events this year, including all four majors.

"I've grown a lot as a person and a golfer and I'm really proud of that," she said.



Young, talented, photogenic and bilingual: Wie says being number one is not a priority. 'I like having a pretty carefree life right now.'

She's still waiting to make the weekend field at a US PGA Tour event. Wie missed the cut at the Sony Open last month. The previous year, Wie beat 47 men at the Sony but fell one shot short of qualifying for the last two rounds.

Wie eventually plans to attend Stanford University, where Woods spent a couple of years, and turn pro when she's ready. Her father, BJ Wie, says money is not the issue. If that were the case, he said, she could have done so a year ago.

Votaw, who is leaving his job after the season, urges common sense in the tour's approach to Wie.

"My advice to whoever my successor is: You can't build on any one player," he said. "It's a kaleidoscope. It's a tapestry of colors. For the weight to any one person to be the savior, I think is a short shelf-life policy." ■

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→ The resources/research process we utilized to determine the KAMON of Shinshichi Nakatani (1846-1922), memorialized on the 'Drum Bridge' in Golden Gate Park, S.F.

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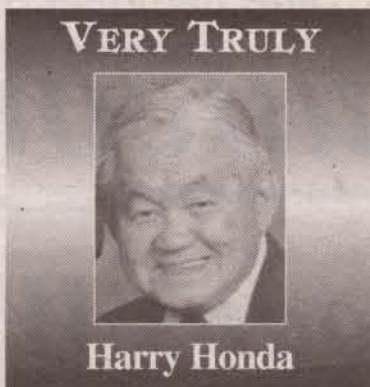
## Opening Shots From PANA-APN Convention in Canada

INVITATIONS AND PLANS for the biennial PANA-APN convention of Nikkei from North and South America in Vancouver, B.C., July 7-9, have been published for the past year on the Internet in English (<http://english.apn.cl>) and Spanish (<http://espanol.apn.cl>) and at [www.najc.ca](http://www.najc.ca). Invitations have been extended to Nikkei representatives from Cuba and Venezuela to APN, which is comprised of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and USA.

The acronym above stands for Pan American Nikkei Association/Asociación Panamericana Nikkei, the Spanish equivalent being incorporated constitutionally two years ago at the convention held in Bolivia. The registered trademark was secured by the Los Angeles-based PANA-USA about five years ago.

This year's convention is being co-hosted by the National Association of Japanese Canadians and the Greater Vancouver JCCA; its theme: "Our Heritage and Health in the 21st Century."

Participants will explore historic sites, make new and renew friendships, learn about other communities, countries and gain knowledge in such areas as: youth, intergenera-



Harry Honda

tional and community health, business and industry, human rights, and social and community development.

Some of the delegate activities include the History Tour of Steveston — Japanese Canadian fishing community, and National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Center; karaoke, golf tournament, reception with the Consul General of Japan, and sightseeing tours.

The convention registration fees before May 20 are: US\$290 for adults, and US\$145 for youth. The rates at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Vancouver are US\$140.

\* \* \*

This column has been home to PANA since its birth 25 years ago, when George Imai of Toronto, Carlos Kasuga and Enrique

Shibayama of Mexico City addressed the 1980 National JACL Convention in San Francisco. These guests from our neighboring countries were invited by the late Dr. Clifford Uyeda, then national JACL president, and Chuck Kubokawa, international relations committee chair.

Kasuga was elected PANA's first president in 1981 and served continuously until Kazunori Kosaka of Argentina was elected in 2001 at New York, site of, perhaps, the most dazzling reception in American Nikkei memory hosted by the Japanese ambassador to the United Nation at the glass-enclosed UN lounge overlooking the East River.

Traditionally, the keynote speakers were the best known or a ranking Nikkei dignitary. At the 1995 convention in Peru, it was President Alberto Fujimori at Lima's modern Japanese theater. At the 1997 convention in Mexico, Nikkei historians celebrated the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Mexico. At the 1999 Chile convention, it was Sen. Carlos Ominami, the nation's ranking Nikkei politician who related (en Español) the story of his grandfather who hailed from Fukui prefecture.

At the 2001 New York convention, it was Sen. Daniel Inouye, relating a first-hand account of the

442nd Infantry before an eager audience from South America and students from Japan.

At the 2003 Bolivia convention, a non-Nikkei cabinet minister challenged the Nikkei in Bolivia to develop the northern jungle lands of their country. Fortunately, the beleaguered nation was between crises.

\* \* \*

Initially, national JACL headquarters served as the North American base of the hemispheric association and Association of Japanese Peruvians the South American base in Lima.

Japanese was the language used by PANA delegates to bridge the communications gap. With the growing number of English-speaking young adults from South America, the gap is closing. Preservation of Nihongo has been one of the more popular workshop topics.

At the last workshop in Bolivia, curiously, panelists and papers chiefly relied on Spanish. The only paper delivered in English updated the work of the International Nikkei Research Project, which is expected to be online, "Discover Nikkei," according to the APN website in Chile, supervised by Roberto Hirose, executive vice president.

\* \* \*

To exchange historical data has been a major plank at PANA's plenary sessions. Bill Hosokawa was unexpectedly egged on by JACLers at the 1985 convention in São Paulo to relate our Nisei story that was simultaneously translated by professional translators in Spanish and Portuguese.

And this was the convention where the Japanese consul general and many Issei community leaders had snubbed because, as one Japanese reporter learned, they felt Americans were being very militant, pressuring the U.S. government for redress. Because there were no social barriers placed before Brazilian Nikkei during WWII and they had attained social positions and political offices, it was unwise to alarm other Brazilians unnecessarily.

The reporter from São Paulo *Shimbun* observed, "The American campaign for redress was being viewed [in Brazil] as a communistic move by leading Issei leaders. As a result, there was very little Issei participation at the convention."

That was 20 years ago. The attendance of the prewar Issei generation is practically nil today. However, Japanese nationals, who emigrated to establish Bolivia's two Japanese colonies, are postwar Issei immigrants and the "shin-Issei" comprise an essential human face in PANA-APN's destiny. ■

## HR 1536

(Continued from page 1)

Texas Counties where "Jap" roads exist. Although there has been a lot of hardship and disappointment over the years, she is elated with Rep. Wong's bill and is hopeful that change will come to the state of Texas.

"I feel this bill is important so that

all ethnic groups living in our great state of Texas will never have to experience the humiliation and degradation that 'Jap' Road caused so many Americans of Japanese ancestry," said Tanamachi, a third grade school teacher in Texas.

Tanamachi plans to attend an upcoming House Committee on Government Reform hearing on HB 1536 and has been asked by Rep.

Wong to speak in support of the bill.

"I plan to share my experiences living in Jefferson County when the road existed," she said. "I also plan to tell our Texas legislators about my three Texan uncles who were part of the 442nd RCT, and how my uncle, Saburo Tanamachi, was killed while helping with the rescue of the Lost Battalion."

Wong has high hopes for the bill and has already received the support of both Democrats and Republicans and in addition to the AA community, Blacks, Hispanics, and Whites have indicated their support of HR 1536.

"I think we have representation from across the state, from liberals and conservatives," she said.

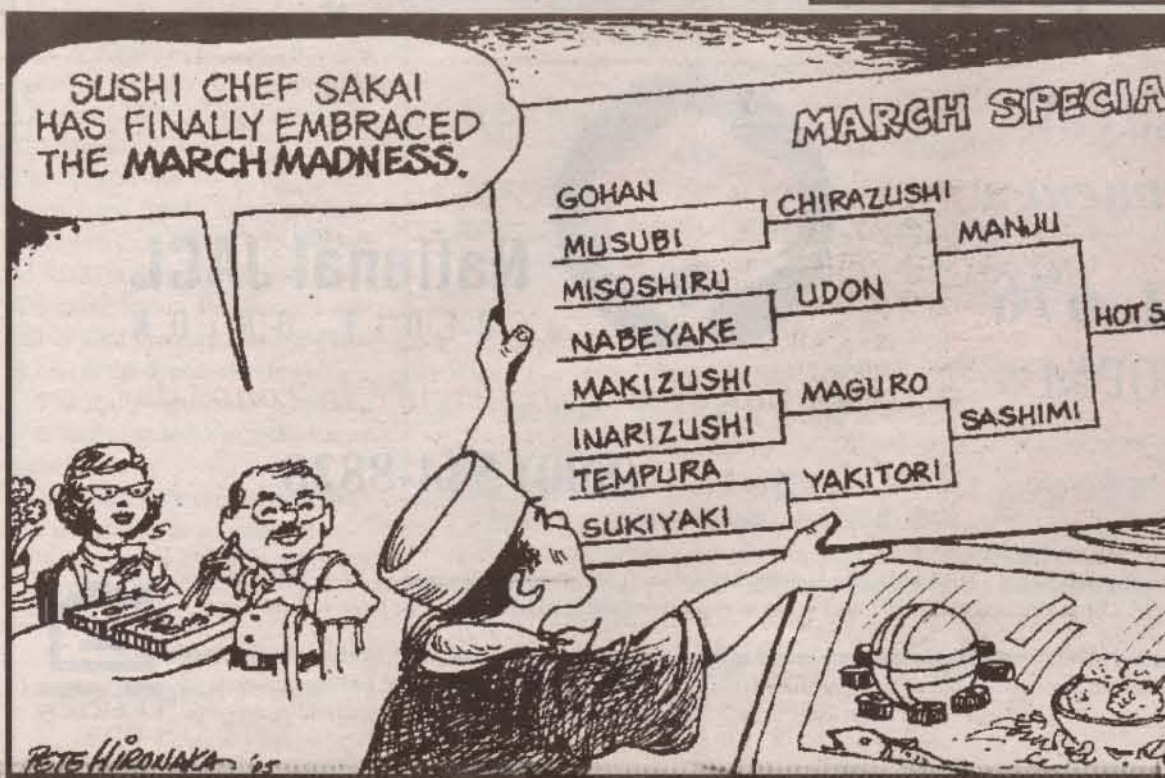
Once the bill gains approval in the House, Wong plans to take the bill to the Texas State Senate.

"... the passage of HB 1536 will show the rest of our country that Texans honor and respect people of all ethnic backgrounds," said Tanamachi. ■



Texas State Rep. Martha Wong (right) meets with Sandra Tanamachi in her state office to discuss HR 1536.

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## 2005 UPCOMING ESCORTED TOURS

DISCOVER TUSCANY & ROME (12 days, 2 hotel stays)	MAR 21
HOLLAND/BELGIUM TULIP CRUISE (11 days)	APRIL 9
JAPAN SPRING ADVENTURE (Takayama Spr. Festival, 12 days)	APRIL 11
INTER-LEAGUE SUMMER BASEBALL TOUR (11 days, 8 games + Cooperstown)	JUNE 10
ALASKA CRUISE W/ CRYSTAL CRUISES (departs from SF, 13 days)	JULY 5
MIDWEST BASEBALL TOUR (9 days, games @ ChiWS, Del, Cin, STL, KC, Mil, ChiC)	JULY 19
THE OZARKS & BRANSON (w/ Tauck Tours, 9 days)	SEPT 24
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days)	OCT 19
DISCOVER KYUSHU (13 days)	OCT 30
NEW YORK CITY HOLIDAY (6 days, incl 2 Broadway + Rockettes Xmas show)	NOV 28

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6/11-6/18	Yamato Eastern Canada, Boston to Montreal Cruise aboard the Maasdam, Holland America - Bar Harbor, Maine, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saguenay Fjord, Quebec.	Lilly Nomura
6/12-6/19	Yamato 7-Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Mariner of the Seas - Port Canaveral, Florida, Nassau, St. Thomas, St. Maarten.	Peggy Mikuni
6/20-6/27	Yamato 8-Day voyage of the Glaciers Cruise aboard the Dawn Princess - Anchorage, College Fjord, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Inside Passage, ends in Vancouver.	Grace Sakamoto
6/25-7/5	Yamato Summer Tour to Japan - Tokyo, Kurashiki, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	Lilly Nomura
6/30-7/12	Yamato Hokkaido Tour - Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Ikeda, Oshima, Lake Toya, Hakodate.	Peggy Mikuni
9/12-9/22	Yamato Eastern Europe Tour - Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Danube Cruise, Munich.	Lilly Nomura
10/13-10/19	Yamato New York City & Hudson River Valley Tour - 3 nights New York City with sightseeing, lunch at Tavern on the Green, a Broadway Show and more. Then 3 nights in the Catskills with visits to the U.S. Military Academy/West Point and Kykuit, former mansion of Nelson Rockefeller, enjoy wine tasting in the New Paltz area and dinner at the Culinary Institute of America.	Lilly Nomura
10/15-10/23	Yamato Heritage of America Tour with Collette Vacations - New York, Philadelphia, Amish Country, Shenandoah Valley, Williamsburg, Washington, D.C. Optional New York City pre tour, departure Los Angeles, red-eye on Oct. 12, 2 nights.	Sharon Seto
10/17-10/31	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - Osaka, Kurashiki, Hiroshima, Tsuwano, Hagi, Yuda Spa, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.	Peggy Mikuni
11/3-11/14	Yamato Splendors of the Nile Tour with Collette Vacations - Cairo, Memphis, Saklaka, Aswan, Nile Cruise, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Luxor, Optional Abu Simbel tour included in tour cost.	Grace Sakamoto
11/6-11/13	Yamato Tour New Zealand - Auckland, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua, Waitomo.	Grace Sakamoto
11/8-11/17	Yamato Okinawa & Kyushu Tour - Naha, Manza Beach, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Fukuoka.	Lilly Nomura
12/1-12/6	Yamato Branson Christmas Tour - One night in Kansas City and 4 nights in Branson, including Shoji Tabuchi, Yakov Shmirnof, Baldknobbers, Andy Williams, Chinese Acrobats, Christmas on Broadway Show, Precious Moments Park.	Peggy Mikuni

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# The 'J.A.P.' Factor

Even in Hawaii, Asian eyelids are the bane of a young girl's existence.

Growing up in Honolulu, Christine Frances Masaye Horii and her friend preened, folded, tucked and even flirted with the possibility of cosmetic surgery in order to be beautiful. But when the reflection in the mirror did not conform to the "Cheryl Tieg" type beauty, the little Yonsei girl silently blamed her ethnicity.

She learned dance as a form of expression to communicate her pain and emotions through her fingers and the movement of her hips. Soon, she was dancing in music videos, the "Arsenio Hall Show" and at the Radio City Music Hall as one of the world famous "Rockettes." She was also doing musical theater ("Shogun," "Miss Saigon") and appearing on various television commercials. But even with all the success she felt empty.

Then life threw her a curveball.

She met a "nice Jewish boy" named Todd Factor who only wanted to marry a nice Jewish girl and raise Jewish kids, so she searched her soul, found Judaism and her real calling in life. Now known as Rachel Factor, she headlines a national, one-woman theater piece cheekily titled "J.A.P.," which chronicles her unlikely journey from Honolulu to Hanukkah.

**Pacific Citizen: Why was your childhood so tortured?**

**Rachel Factor:** When I look back, my life wasn't so bad. I grew up in Honolulu and even in Hawaii, where there is a big Japanese population, we were affected by the whole idea of identity, which was of course affected by the media. Basically, I was living up to society's ideal. And in my case, I blamed it on my Japanese American ethnicity.

**PC: A lot of coming-of-age stories include a move to New York. Was it a complete shock to you coming from Honolulu?**

**RF:** I thought it would be, but it wasn't because I was so goal-orientated. All of my friends left home at the same time, but they were in college. I was in a learning environment too, but it wasn't quite structured the same way.

**PC: You describe the Broadway scene as 'gritty.' Do you have any horror stories to tell?**

**RF:** A group of women from 'Miss Saigon' were sitting around frustrated about the roles that we were auditioning for, so finally we thought that if we don't do something for ourselves we're going to keep complaining! We called ourselves the 'Killer Geishas A Go-Go!'

Initially, we wanted to do something so radical and weird — we wrote pieces and combined them into a series. It was extremely theoretical where we would present the typical Asian stereotypes and then break them down to show the audience that it's not exactly what they expected.

**PC: Sounds like the ground works to a greater project.**



*A woman's unique journey from identity crisis to Judaism becomes inspiration for her theater show.*

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor



**Love Transcends All:** The Factor family includes Todd, Rachel and their sons. Since converting to Orthodox Judaism, Rachel said she has found truth.

**RF:** It was through that theater community that my writing for this show (J.A.P.) kind of pieced together. Half of the show is about how I learned to love being Japanese American and realized that growing up, I suffered from internalized racism.

**PC: I heard your mother had an interesting reaction when you first told her you were dating Todd.**

**RF:** I met my husband through a mutual friend. She was making a short film and we were both helping her on the project. I called my mom and told her that I met this nice Jewish boy who wanted me to convert to Judaism and how ludicrous it is and she said, 'I was just thinking that you should marry a Jewish boy!' She thought the Jewish values of family and money were in line with Asian values!

**PC: What kind of ceremony is performed in order to convert to Judaism?**

**RF:** I went through two conversions ... we met with a rabbi for a period of time, which would determine if my intentions were pure. It was a yearlong process and the rabbi realized that we were working very hard and that my heart was in the right place.

**PC: What has been most difficult about the conversion?**

**RF:** For me rules in modesty — to cover my hair and not dance in front of men — was something I had difficulty with. But it gave me a sense of dignity to be proud of who I was and to stop flaunting body parts. The laws of modesty meant to accentuate what you truly want to accentuate. Instead of the baser nature, you always elevate yourself, which is beautiful because I was always looking for art to connect to something bigger than myself. I was looking for truth and I found it was in a religion.

**PC: Do you teach your children Japanese tradition?**

**RF:** Not a whole lot. If it's something they want to explore, then I will definitely support it. I had the opportunity to travel to Japan several times and I would love to take them as young children. And for us, we're culturally connected to Hawaii. It's important for me to have them connected to Hawaii and their relatives.

**PC: Where is home now?**

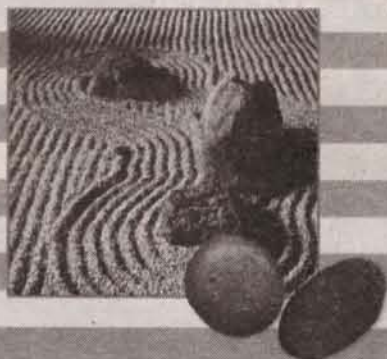
**RF:** In the end, Jerusalem is my home. I now live in Jerusalem. We bought a home and can't wait to get back.

**PC: Why are audiences women-only?**

**RF:** The voice of a woman in Orthodox tradition is considered nakedness; something private that's only shared with the husband or other women. It's marketed towards the Jewish audience, but it's also a story of an individual searching for herself. Part of the message that I want to communicate to mainstream audiences is that I kept an open mind.

**PC: Can you explain the significance of your title?**

**RF:** The whole J.A.P. thing was ultimately too good to pass up. Hopefully, it's tongue and cheek enough to not offend anyone. As I look deeper, it's just "J" period "A" period "P" period. It's much more than a derogatory word towards JAs if you look deeper. ■



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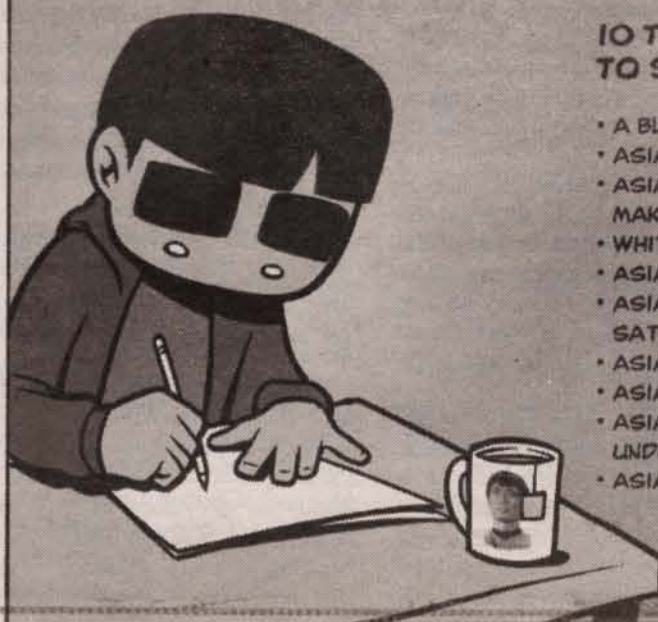
#### 'JAP' with Rachel Factor

Mar. 19 — Beth Jacob Cong., San Diego  
Mar. 21, 22 — Crowne Plaza, Los Angeles  
Mar. 27 — Sabes JCC, Minneapolis  
Mar. 30 — Yeshiva of Central Queens, Queens, New York  
April 3 — Bnos Leah Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York  
April 5 — Hafr High School, Five Towns, New York  
April 12 — Young Israel of the West Side, Manhattan, New York  
April 17 — Beth Tfiloh Mintzes Theatre, Baltimore, MD

For more information, visit [www.rachelfactor.com](http://www.rachelfactor.com)

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#### 10 THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE BEFORE I DIE:

- A BLACK GIRL WITH HER ASIAN BOYFRIEND
- ASIAN COUNTRY SINGERS
- ASIAN WORKERS ON THEIR LUNCH BREAK MAKING CAT CALLS TO WOMEN
- WHITE GUYS DELIVERING MY CHINESE FOOD
- ASIAN NEWS ANCHORMEN
- ASIAN CAST MEMBERS ON SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
- ASIAN MALE PORN STARS
- ASIANS ACCEPTING AWARDS ON TV
- ASIAN GAME SHOWS THAT DON'T INVOLVE UNDERWEAR AND EELS
- ASIAN MEN IN AFTERSHAVE COMMERCIALS



## JACL COMMUNITY Calendar

### National

#### SALT LAKE CITY

**Fri.-Sun., June 24-26**—2005 National JACL Student/Youth Conference; University of Utah; \$40 for members (includes lodging), \$60 non-members (includes youth membership and lodging). Info: Joshua Spry, youthchair@jacl.org or Todd Sato, youthrep@jacl.org.

#### VANCOUVER, British Columbia

**Thurs.-Sat., July 7-9**—XIII COPANI, "Heritage and Health in the 21st Century, 2005 PANA Convention; Hyatt Regency Hotel, 655 Burrard; Info: www.najc.ca.

### East Coast

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Sat., April 2**—7th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk; Registration and check-in 9:30 a.m., opening ceremony 10 a.m., walk begins 10:30 a.m.; National Japanese American Memorial, D Street and New Jersey Ave NW; \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and under; mail to: Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk, P.O. Box 3529, Washington, D.C. 20007; 4k walk around the Washington Mall. Info: NJAMF, 202/530-0015 or Ben Watada, 703/978-5365, email bgwatada@star-power.net or visit www.CherryBlossomFreedomWalk.org.

**Thurs., April 7**—National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Awards Dinner Gala; 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner; Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St. NW; Honorary dinner co-chairs Gen. Eric Shinseki (ret.) and George Aratani; honoring Daniel K. Inouye, Peter W. Rodino, Jr. and President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004); Pat Morita is the master of ceremonies; black tie optional; Info: 202/530-0015 or www.njamf.com.

**Sun., April 10**—The Twinkling, Sparkling Writing Life: 2005 Newbery Award Winner Cynthia Kadohata; 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Ave. NW; free and open to the public. Info: 202/786-2409 or www.apa.si.edu.

### Midwest

#### CHICAGO

**Thurs.-Sun., July 21-24**—Bi-District Conference of the MDC and EDC JACL; Radisson Hotel, 160 East Huron;



PHOTO BY: EUGENIO CASTRO

The 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors will be at the East West Players, Mar. 25-26 and April 1-2. (from top) Greg Watanabe, Peter J. Wong and Michael Hornbuckle.

room rate: \$129/night for single, \$139 for two doubles and \$154 for corner suite; room deadline is June 21; a welcome reception is scheduled for Thursday and a dinner on Saturday. Further details to follow.

#### CINCINNATI

**Sun., April 17**—Ohanami, Cherry Blossom Viewing Party, Japanese Bazaar and Bake Sale; 2-4 p.m.; Hyde Park Bethlehem Church, 3799 Hyde Park Ave.; sponsored by the Cincinnati JACL.

### Pacific Northwest

#### BELLEVUE, Wash.

**Tues., Mar. 22**—Screening, "Conscience and the Constitution"; 7 p.m.; Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave. NE, meeting room 1; dis-

cussion with producer, Frank Abe follows screening. Sponsored by Bellevue Community College.

#### SEATTLE

**Sat., Mar. 26**—Screening, "Conscience and the Constitution"; 2 p.m.; Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Microsoft Auditorium Level 1; discussion with producer, Frank Abe follows screening. Sponsored by the Washington Center for the Book.

### Northern California

#### SAN FRANCISCO

**Fri.-Sat., April 8-9**—"Justice Delayed Is Justice Denied." Assembly on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; Hastings College of Law; The Assembly of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, a grassroots public education forum, will focus on the personal testimonies of U.S. citizens and immigrants of Japanese, German and Italian ancestry in the United States and from Latin America, who have not received proper acknowledgment nor an apology for the violation of their civil and human rights due to U.S. government action during World War II. Info: Campaign For Justice, 510-528-7288, www.campaignforjusticejla.org or NJAHS, 415/921-5007, www.njahs.org.

### Southern California

#### LOS ANGELES

**Fri.-Sat., Mar. 25-26 and April 1-2**—18 Mighty Mountain Warrior present: A People's History of Sukiprata and "Hate Grits"; 8 p.m. "Sukiprata," 10 p.m. "Hate Grits"; East West Players, 120 N. Judge John Aiso St.; \$20 for "Sukiprata," \$10 for "Hate Grits," or \$28 for both. Reservations: 213/599-4990. Info: info@18mmw.com or www.18mmw.com.

#### TORRANCE

**Sat., April 9**—25th Anniversary of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California; Torrance Hilton; honoring Sumako Azuma II, Dan Kwong, John Esaki and Amy Kato; pre-paid reservations necessary; no tickets at the door. Info: Iku Kiriya, 310/326-0608.

**Sun., April 17**—Go For Broke Poker Tournament; 12-6 p.m.; Holiday Inn, Torrance; \$75 per player, \$65 per veteran; registration deadline is April 1. Info and registration: Stephanie Yorizane, 310/222-5711 or Poker@GoForBroke.org. ■

## JACL Establishes Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio Scholarship

National JACL is honoring Shigeki "Shake" Ushio, one of the founders of the National JACL Credit Union, with the establishment of the Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Scholarship for Entering Freshman students.

"JACL is extremely pleased to now have a scholarship honoring and recognizing the significant contributions of Shake Ushio. Mr. Ushio was a true leader of our organization," said National JACL Scholarship Chair David Kawamoto

who worked with the Ushio Family in developing this annual award.



Ushio was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1914 and lived in Utah his entire life. He worked as a farmer,

The emphasis of the award will be on community service in addition to academic and leadership achievement.

professional photographer, and insurance agent. One of his most significant contributions was during World War II, when people of Japanese ancestry had their bank accounts frozen or restricted. In order to alleviate the plight of these Japanese Americans, Shake helped found the National JACL Credit Union.

Ushio was a member of the JACL Credit Union's board from its beginning in 1943, serving 30 of those years as chairman of the board. During WWII, the national JACL office was forced to move from California to Utah and Ushio, the Intermountain District governor at the time, raised a yearly sum of more than \$10,000 (an amount equivalent to more than \$100,000 by today's standards) to keep the office running and JACL alive.

Ushio was also active with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, having served as president of the Japan Osaka Mission from 1980-1983, and as assistant director of Church Hosting from 1993-1996. He was also a board member of the Utah Endowment for the Humanities.

Ushio passed away in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Momoko (nee Tateoka), and their four children, Linda (Inouye), David, Shauna (Frandsen), and Ginny (Smith).

"Shake Ushio was a real icon of the JACL and also served his community in so many more ways. The JACL is honored to assist the Ushio Family in providing his annual award," said National JACL Vice President for Planning & Development Carol Kawamoto. ■

## Recruiting Members Pays Off With Cruise

By ANDREA K. PARKER  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Eight meals a day and a show every night are just a few of the perks included in the grand prize of the JACL's 2005 Membership Cruise Contest.

Donated by the JACL National Credit Union, the four-day Carnival Cruise Lines cruise from Long Beach, Calif. will be awarded to the winner of a drawing to be held in early July.

"We just did this to support JACL ... we always like to do that," said Silvana Watanabe of the JACL National Credit Union.

The cruise prize also includes airfare for two to and from Southern California. The ship will make stops at Catalina Island and Baja, Mexico during its round-trip journey from California. There is a casino on-board with Vegas-style shows and comedians for additional entertainment.

The names of all JACL members

who gift or refer new members, and the new members' names as well, will be entered for a chance to win. A current member's name will be entered to win for each new member recruited, so the chances of winning increase the more new members are signed-up.

"I really liked this idea because it gives everybody who participates a chance to win," said Edwin Endow, JACL national vice president of membership.

A 2005 membership application must be used to qualify for the drawing. Forms were a part of the membership packages mailed to everyone in early February and are also available from all chapter presidents, district governors and on the JACL website.

The 2005 membership forms include a gifted/referred by section, so national JACL will know who to enter in the cruise draw. To qualify for the drawing, forms must be sent to national headquarters and be post-marked by June 30. ■

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**March 25**, Good Friday service at 1:00 p.m. Holy eucharist from the reserved sacrament.

**March 27**, Easter Sunday - 6:00 a.m. Easter Vigil service, followed by breakfast served by our Young Adults from 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. (donations to support Young Adults), with live jazz band accompaniment. 9:45 a.m. Festival Easter Service. Spanish language service at 12:15 p.m.

For further information or directions, please call the church at (213) 387-1334. God's peace and blessing to each of you.

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The Rev. Nicole Janelle, Assistant Rector  
The Rev. Canon Richard Van Horn, Assisting Priest  
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All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Duenas, Magdaleno, 90**, Feb. 27; Philippines-born, World War II veteran, 101st Infantry; worked tirelessly to improve the experience of Filipino Veterans in the Bay Area.

**Fukunaga, Minori, 90**, Bonsall, Feb. 27; Kagoshima-ken, Japan-born Issei; survived by sons, Norio (Jane) and Tatsumi (Yasuye); daughter, Ikuko (James) Yabe; 6 gc.; brother-in-law, Isao (Hisa) Nitao; and sisters-in-law, Ayako Nitao and Sachiko (Takenori) Imagiire.

**Hatanaka, Hiromi, 89**, Anaheim, Feb. 23; survived by wife, Emiko; sons, Eddie (Mary), Harry (Linda), George and Frank (Leslie); daugh-

ters, Florence (Richard) Tanaka and Joyce (Oscar) Fong; 14 gc.; and 6 ggc.

**Higuchi, Tamotsu "Tom," 83**, Santa Barbara, Feb. 18; survived by daughters, Valerie Sugar and Jane Higa; son, David; and 4 gc.

**Kaku, Shizuye Margaret, 84**, San Jose, Feb. 19; survived by son, Richard; daughter, Dorothy (Yosh) Sato; 2 gc.; brother-in-law, Harry

*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.*

(Janice) Kaku; and sisters-in-law, Rose Kaku, Yuriko Kaku and Sumiko Hatakeda.

**Kawasaki, Harumi, 85**, Feb. 21; survived by sons, Ron and Paul; daughters, Pam (Gordon) Sakai, Diane and Jane (Eric) Kuroki; 6 gc.; and 3 ggc.

**Kuramoto, Thomas Hidetoshi**, Torrance; survived by wife, Katherine; son, Kent (Alice); daughter, Donna (Dean) Hokama; 5 gc.; sister, Mariko Enami; and sisters-in-law, Mary (Ted) Iwaki and Hatsumi Kuramoto.

**Matsuoka, Warren Yoshiyuki, 50**, Los Angeles, Feb. 16; survived by brother, Roy (Noreen).

**Moriyama, Hatsue, 95**, North Hollywood, Feb. 20; survived by daughters, Emiko Courmoyer, Kiyoko (Akira) Tomita and Michiko (Nobuo) Sugahara; 7 gc.; and 7 ggc.

**Murakami, Richard K., 90**, South Bend, Wash., Feb. 7; Nahcotta-born; survived by daughters, Adele, Cheryl, Irene and Diana (Larry) Magruder; and 1 gc. Predeceased by wife Setsuko.

**Obayashi, Kimiye, 89**, Gardena, Feb. 15; survived by son, Hideki (Jeanne); daughter, Masae (John) Toyama; 4 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sisters, Matsue (Jack) Okada and Ume Kita.

**Oshiro, Edward "Eddie" Shinsei, 83**, Los Angeles, Feb. 11; Hawaii-born Nisei.

**Oshita, Kiyoshi "Kebo," 78**, Los Angeles, Feb. 23; Seattle, Wash.-born Nisei; survived by brothers, Jack (Masako) and Mits (Hanako); and sister, Nellie (Harry) Sawada.

**Oto, Caitlin Nalani, 16**, Harbor City, Feb. 20; survived by parents Carl and Jennifer; step-father, Steve Carter; and grandparents, Ralph and Margaret Oto and Roy Hamada.

**Sakaue, Akilo, 84**, Midway

City, Feb. 26; survived by daughters, Linda (Don) Morita and Lori (Kevin) Rousseau; and 4 gc.

**Sumi, Yone, 94**, Santa Ana, Feb. 19; Tokyo-born Issei; survived by sons, Tim (Keiko) Yasumatsu and Frank (Irene); daughters, Ruby (James) Kato and Mei Miya; 11 gc.; and 9 ggc.

**Tanaka, Jack Tadashi, 88**, S. El Monte, Feb. 19; Reno, Nev.-born Nisei, WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, May; sons, Darryl (Debbie), Wesley (Erin) and Brent; daughter, Jill; 1 gc.; brothers, James and Fred (Joyce); sister, Rose (Jim) Nakamura; brothers-in-law, Frank (Momoe) and Roy (Tina) Shimazaki; sisters-in-law, Florence (Tsugio) Kubota, Janice (Kenny) Nishioka and Jean and Jeanne Shimazaki.

**Uchino, Bill, 78**, Torrance, Feb. 21; Venice-born Nisei; survived by wife, Michi; sons, Pat (Cherish), Gary and Brian; sister, Fuki Yoshiwara; sisters-in-law, Nobu Iseri and Tazuka

## DEATH NOTICE

## MIYOSHI FRANK SAKAMOTO

Miyoshi Frank Sakamoto of Browns Mills, New Jersey passed away Oct. 30, 2004. Formerly from El Monte, Calif. and Chicago, Ill., he was a retired, 20 year U.S. Army veteran. He is survived by his wife, Adi.



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Koyama; and brothers-in-law, Yukio (Yoshimi) and Teruo (Nobue) Iseri.

**Yamaji, Toshio "Toe," 76**, Sun Valley, Feb. 6; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Lois; brother, Haruo (Rosie); sisters, Teruko Matsumura, Fumiko Higuchi, Tamiyo (Paul) Matsumura and Taneyo Yamaji; brother-in-law, Ken (June) Kageyama; and sister-in-law, Jean (Sam) Miyamoto.

**Yamataki, Harry, 87**, Harrison, Ohio, Jan. 26; survived by wife, Louise; daughters, Eileen and Cheryl; son, Howard; and 3 gc.

**Yoshimura, Fumiko, 88**, Los Angeles, Feb. 20; survived by sons, Tamotsu (Midori) Teraji, Shoichiro (Sadako), Fujiya (Masako), Meiji (Eiko) and Kunio (Fusako). ■

## DEATH NOTICE

## GLORIA HIROKO UCHIDA

Gloria Uchida, 60, a resident of Santa Monica passed away Mar. 2; Beloved wife of Randy; loving mother of Andrew; daughter of Setsuko Lynch; sister of Teruhiko (Keiko) Nemoto of Japan; sister-in-law of Joan (Ron) Watanabe; aunt of Naoko, Yuichiro Nemoto both of Japan, and Scott, Lisa and Ryan Watanabe; she is also survived by many aunts, uncles and other relatives. A memorial service was held Mar. 12 at West Los Angeles United Methodist Church with Rev. Gail N. Messner officiating. Fukui Mortuary Directors, (213) 626-0441.



707 East Temple Street  
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Ph. 213/626-0441  
Fax 213/617-2781  
Gerald Fukui  
President

## IN MEMORIAM

## Jack McDowell, former JAKWV Board Member, Passes

Jack McDowell, a former Marine sergeant and board member of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, passed away Feb. 24 at the age of 86.

McDowell was married to another marine, Dorothy Katsura McDowell from Hawaii. Together the couple helped Japanese American veterans receive benefits and treatment as VA coordinators for JAKWV.

Born on June 13, 1918, in Casper Wyoming, McDowell entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 1938 at the age of 20. During World War II, McDowell, along with a number of his fellow marines, spent almost 45 months in a Japanese Prisoner of



War Camp in Manchuria. McDowell also fought in the Korean War and was involved in the historic landing at Inchon Harbor in South Korea.

McDowell and his wife Dorothy became involved with the formation of the JAKWV in 1995 and were charter board members. Both were active in all the JAKWV events in the Los Angeles area.

On Mar. 4, burial services were held at Rose Hills cemetery in Whittier, Calif. where he was laid to rest with a full U.S. Marine Corps Military service. At his funeral, veterans of WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, along with a few of his fellow prisoners of war from Corregidor, were there to give him a final salute.

McDowell is survived by his wife Dorothy and his sister Virginia Moriarty. ■

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