

Since 1929

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3035/ Vol. 140, No. 8 ISSN: 0030-8579

MAY 6-19, 2005

## Sandwich Generation: Pulling Double Duty

Stresses and lessons abound as the sandwich generation struggles to care for aging parents while raising their own families.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

When Lorinda Waltz's parents both fell ill over five years ago she willingly agreed to take care of them, building a two-bedroom Ohana unit for them behind her family's home in Honolulu.

Waltz, now 53, had just left her position at a company and was able to devote her energies full-time to taking care of her parents Lorraine and Fred Chang. But Waltz quickly learned that taking care of her parents was a 24-hour job of cooking meals, bathings, administering medications, and making sure they were safe from injury.

Soon, the daily stresses and drain on her energies started to take a toll. Waltz suffered a stress fracture in her foot from the con-



THE SANDWICH GENERATION—Lorinda Waltz and her husband Dick (far two left) recently celebrated the wedding of their daughter Allison and son-in-law Brandon. Also pictured is their son Jon.

stant climbing of stairs as she struggled to care for her parents. She also found she no longer had the time or energy left in her days to spend with her husband Dick and her two kids Allison, now 26, and Jon, 17.

"It's a lot of hard work. I could feel myself reaching a point of exhaustion — emotionally I needed help," said Waltz. "You do it because you need to do it but you

have to think of the core family." She added, "There was a loss of the warm and fuzzies from my family because I had no time. Just physically, I was exhausted."

Waltz is part of a growing group known as the "sandwich generation" — those taking care of elderly parents and growing children at the same time. It is estimated that

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## Sansei Businesswoman Uses Her Own Experiences to Help Those with Autistic Children

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

When Julie Azuma, 61, adopted her daughter Miranda in 1988 she soon realized her child wasn't developing as fast as the other kids. After years of doctor's visits and misdiagnoses, Miranda was finally diagnosed with autism at the age of six.

Azuma immediately began scouring stores for toys and resources to help in Miranda's development but was disappointed with the lack of products geared towards autistic children. She soon turned to doctor's offices and schools for help.

With the realization that other



JULIE AZUMA

parents of autistic children were likely going through the same dilemmas and the need to stay at home and care for Miranda and younger sister Sophie, Azuma decided to start her own business

providing autism resources in 1994 called Different Roads to Learning.

"When I first started my own business most people didn't think it would be successful," said Azuma, a Sansei, who hoped to at least make about \$30,000 a year in income. "It was frightening ... I never had my own business."

See AZUMA/Page 6

## U.S. Courthouse to be Named After Rep. Robert Matsui

By P.C. Staff and  
Associated Press

Washington—President Bush signed legislation April 29 naming the federal courthouse in Sacramento after the late Robert Matsui who represented the area for 26 years before his death in January.

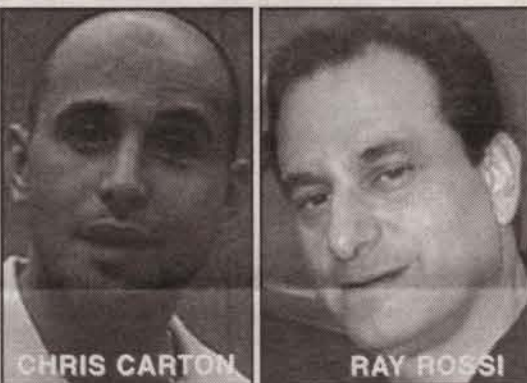
The House of Representatives had voted April 13 to rename

Sacramento's federal courthouse at 501 I Street the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse." The Senate previously had passed a similar bill.

Matsui's widow, Doris Matsui, who ran to replace him in Congress and was sworn in this past March, thanked colleagues in a floor speech.

"This courthouse, which symbolizes equal justice for all, was a major accomplishment for Bob personally but also for the city of Sacramento," she said. "It is such an

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CHRIS CARTON

RAY ROSSI

## New Jersey Radio Station Hosts Accused of Hate, Anti-Asian Sentiment

Among other comments, 101.5 FM's 'Jersey Boys' call APAs 'fringe people' and stir up debate about free speech and hate media.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

Even before the dust settled around HOT 97 FM's controversial tsunami parody song, two New Jersey radio station hosts have reignited the Asian Pacific American community's rage with their recent on-air racially derogatory comments about a local Korean American mayoral candidate and "Orientals." The incident is prompting APA groups to say same racist words, different radio show.

During the April

25 morning drive-time show, New Jersey's 101.5 FM (WKXW FM) hosts "The Jersey Guys" Chris Carton and Ray Rossi used a stereotypical Chinese accent to criticize Jun Choi, a candidate in Edison's Democratic primary for mayor.

According to a transcript of the show Carton said, "No specific minority group or foreign group should ever dictate the outcome of an American election. I don't care if the Chinese population in Edison

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## The Price of Becoming American

Think your immigration lawyer passed the Bar? Think again.

BY LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

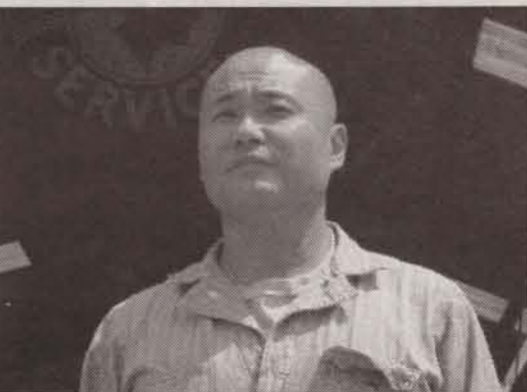
Yoshiyuki Noyori has American dreams, but in the 14 years that he has lived and worked in the United States, he has only had glimpses of those dreams being realized. Noyori is here on a work visa, but like many, he wants his uncertain life to be secured by a green card. He has relied on employers and immigration attorneys for help, but the dream always yields to rude awakenings. One time, a former employer abruptly withdrew sponsorship

for his green card application, hurling Noyori back to the beginning. In a second attempt at gaining permanent U.S. residency in 1992, his new employer set him up with Glen Krebs, an immigration lawyer based in Lexington, Kentucky.

Noyori lived in the Los Angeles area at the time and worked as a liaison for a business that exported automotive items to Japan. His boss at the time, Chad Lapides, said he had some skepticism about hiring

an out of state attorney, but said Krebs quickly allayed his fears in their first telephone conversation.

See IMMIGRATION/Page 12



Yoshiyuki Noyori's attempts to become a citizen have been thwarted by dishonesty.

## SPRING CAMPAIGN The Least I Can Do

By ANN FUJII LINDWALL  
P.C. PNW District Rep.

Have you ever thought of the day when there would be no more Pacific Citizen? I don't think many of us have. We just kind of expect it to be there, sort of like



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## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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**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  
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PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly except once in January and December by the Japanese American Citizens League, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755. OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time. ©2005.

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

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

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## COURTHOUSE

(Continued from page 1)

appropriate way to honor him in his years of public service for the city he loved, Sacramento, and the country he absolutely adored."

"Bob Matsui should ultimately be remembered for his civility, his dignity and his service to others. He was a selfless role model whose footprint will forever be imprinted on our Nation's history," said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda. "It is certainly fitting that the House honor his exceptional life, his public service with this very appropriate courthouse designation."

## CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

water out of the faucet.

Well, here in Seattle, we are dreading the summer with no snow-pack in the mountains, and in Los Angeles, there is the P.C., budgeting every penny, so they won't overspend, and maybe they'll have enough for just one more long-distance call.

Every bit of all the hard work that Caroline, Brian, Lynda and Eva put in day after day, week after week, month after month, probably begins to run altogether after a while, all for such a worthwhile cause. Who else would do such a thing? Would you? I'm not even sure if I would.

But I think the important point to be made is that "will I support" this publication of the largest Japanese American civil rights organization in the United States, and secondly, what will happen if we do not help these very, very, very hardworking staff?

I know it's hard to imagine what could or would transpire if there were no P.C. around anymore. To me, it's almost like there would be no more JACL; the two are joined at the hip forever, I believe, and it would be difficult to have one without the other. Sometimes I think we are spoiled because no matter what, the P.C. has been faithfully delivered to our door.

I realize you probably get tired of us asking you to help support the P.C., and rightly so. After all, you pay your annual JACL dues, and you "expect" to receive the P.C. every month, right? I also realize that you get asked a lot to donate to many worthwhile causes, one of which is probably the JACL. And if not, why not?

I have been involved in the JACL, off and on, for probably close to 20 years, chairing some committees and volunteering at a lot of events because I think it's important to do volunteer work, and what better organization to help?

I truly believe my life would not be as fulfilling if I was not an active

"I was fortunate to have counted Congressman Matsui among my friends, but Bob Matsui was a friend to all Americans," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "His selfless and principled service as a policymaker and a problem-solver is a timeless legacy, just as this courthouse will be a timeless reminder of this great man and his accomplishments. It is truly fitting that he be remembered through this designation."

Congressman Robert Matsui represented Sacramento, Calif. in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1979 until 2005. He passed away Jan. 1 of complications from a rare bone marrow disease. He was 63. ■

member of the JACL, helping on the scholarship and banquet committees, and taking part in the annual clean up at Aki Kurose Academy in Seattle, where we pull weeds, plant some flowers, and pick up the trash — a beautification project for the neighborhood.

It makes me feel good that I'm using my valuable time to help my community be a better place, and what I get out of it is knowing that I'm giving back to my ancestors, my grandparents, who worked so much harder, were unjustly interned in concentration camps in coming to America for a better life. I have not suffered one day in my young life. And I continue to "give back" every day, and appreciate the hard lives they all had to endure so that I can have it easy.

I was talking with my father today (as I usually do, about 3-4 times a week) about his new bowling league and our conversation turned in to one about the internment, since he was asked to go to Ellensburg, Washington to speak at the college there. I told him that I wish I could really understand what they experienced during World War II, and it's frustrating to me because these are my parents who were interned, yet I feel so far away from it. I really want to know more, but maybe the fact that I want to, and continue to "give back" helps fill that void.

So, why should you keep helping to support the P.C. and why should you have to do that? Well, I guess it's sort of synonymous with my story of wanting to understand my history and feel closer to my parents, and my desire to contribute to JACL's legacy and history in the United States.

I am very, very proud of being a Japanese American, being a member of the JACL and supporting the P.C. because it's important to me, and I guess I would feel I would be letting them down if I didn't try, at least. What if my grandparents and parents just gave up because it was too hard or too much work? I owe them all so much, I figure this is the least I can do. ■

## Letters to the Editor

### On Korematsu's Passing

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who refused orders for all Japanese Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor. The Los Angeles Times paid tribute to him with a full-page obituary which chronicled the life of this extraordinary man.

I grew up in San Leandro in northern California and knew Fred and his family. Our families attended the same church and he was one of my brother's best friends. We called him Toy in those days, short for Toyosaburo which was his Japanese name.

Granted, one of the reasons not to report to the assembly center at Tanforan racetrack was due to his desire to remain behind with his Italian American girlfriend. Nevertheless, Fred was quick to agree to become a test case to challenge the constitutionality of the internment orders.

He was heavily criticized for his stand to defy evacuation orders by many in the JA community. He was considered a troublemaker and worse, his own family did not support his decision. Yet he did not back down from his decision. That took a great deal of courage in the face of pressure from his own community and family. He stood by his convictions and for that principled stand we owe him a profound debt of gratitude.

We must be ever vigilant when our basic civil rights are threatened. This is even more germane today with the current climate in our country. Fred, your name rightfully deserves to be imbedded as one of the true heroes in the annals of U.S. civil liberties history.

Harry Kawahara  
Altadena, Calif.

### U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Needs State Advisory Committees

The decision recently announced by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to lay off staff and close two regional offices because of 9 percent budget cuts appears to show a lack of respect for the many staff and volunteers who have dedicated so much time, effort, energy and personal skills via the State Advisory Committees.

For more than the past decade, concerned citizen volunteers have held open hearings, published reports and have made strong recommendations that have resulted in positive community programs and an enlightened citizenry. The greatest impact the Commission has had, and will have, is because of the volunteer efforts of the State Advisory Committees.

Past mismanagement and fiscal irresponsibility will not be remedied by drastic staff cuts and closing of regional offices. The Washington office should be able to bear a 9 per-

cent reduction without closure of regional offices.

The results and efforts of many years of volunteer dedication should not be wasted. The U.S. Commission and its State Advisory Committees should remain the conscience of America.

Leo K. Goto

Colorado Chair

State Advisory Committees

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

### A Road Worthwhile

Your April 15-May 5 edition was filled with gems. Michael and Jenny King building a bridge between cultures was very heart-warming. I am acquainted with that bridge having been on it myself. The similarities between our cultures — Asian and Afro-American — are so many.

Sometimes my husband and I would complete each other's sentences. We had experiences of prejudice — socially, economically and professionally. There was no need to elaborate on the hurt we knew personally about making a way for our futures and those of children yet unborn.

Growing up hated and poor was not easy. Reading about the progress in civil rights and experiencing it made my old age worth the long and painful road.

I am grateful the P.C. tells about it, warts and all. I have been a reader since our "internment" in Heart Mountain. Our 60 years is a long, long time. Thank you.

Kay Kakimoto Willis

Santa Barbara, Calif.

### Reader Appreciates Asakawa's Commentary

Gil Asakawa's recent commentary on the playwright Rachel Factor recalled an incident that happened to my then teenage daughter. As a child during World War II, our family was the only ethnic family in a small white town in Pennsylvania. My brother and I became the target of schoolmates who often called us "Jap."

Years later, living in the New York area (I was a member of the NY chapter of JACL), my daughter invited a friend to play a duet with her at our church. The friend happened to be Jewish. When we got out of the car near the church, the friend looked at my daughter and said, "You look real J.A.P. today."

I was shocked. Later, I discovered the meaning of Jewish American Princess. Obviously, I still feel uncomfortable with "Jap" but I appreciated very much Asakawa's comments.

Philip Park

retired professor from Kwansei

Gakuin University

Nishinomiya, Japan

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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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## Study Finds AAs Under Represented on Prime Time Television



study with funding provided by the IW Group to look beyond the raw numbers that it has been compiling for the past several years.

For more information:  
www.NAPALC.org. ■

### Study Findings

- The percentage of regular APA characters on prime time television amounts to less than half of the actual APA population in the United States.

- APA regular characters are often absent from programs set in cities with high APA populations, such as San Francisco and Los Angeles, or severely under-represented in places like Hawaii and New York City.

- APA regular characters on prime time television generally feature less prominently than other characters, as demonstrated by their significantly lower screen times.

- On average, non-APA regular characters have four times as many romantic or familial relationships as APA regular characters. APA regular characters are generally absent from prime time situational comedies that feature families.

- Monoracial APA actors fare worse in nearly every measurement of character prominence and quality than multiracial APA actors on average in prime time.

A pioneering study on the representation of Asian Pacific Americans on television reveals a dearth of quality roles for APAs in prime time programming.

Published by the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, together with the Asian Law Caucus and Asian Pacific American Legal Center, "Asian Pacific Americans in Prime Time: Lights, Camera and Little Action" uses systematic research methods to analyze the type, quality, and complexity of characters portrayed by APA actors.

"The study shows that APA actors continue to face barriers in obtaining quality roles in Hollywood," said NAPALC President Karen K. Narasaki. "Because people tend to rely on characterizations from film and television to formulate beliefs about groups with whom they may be less familiar, representations of Asian Pacific Americans on prime time television may impact the treatment and perceptions of APAs in real life."

NAPALC commissioned the

## Tule Lake and Granada Considered for National Historic Landmark Status

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.—The Landmarks Committee of the National Park Service Advisory Board on April 20 unanimously approved the nominations of the Granada Relocation Center (Granada, CO) and the Tule Lake Segregation Center (Modoc County, CA) for designation as National Historic Landmarks.

The Granada Relocation Center was one of the smaller World War II camps, yet its significance is substantial. Today, the site contains numerous intact artifacts and structures, including piers of all of the watchtowers and a memorial cemetery.

The Tule Lake Segregation Center was located near the Northern California town of Newell, just south of the Oregon border. During WWII, the camp covered 7,400 acres and reached a peak population of 18,789 detainees. It opened as a relocation center in 1942 and was converted to the nation's only segregation center in 1943. Most of those held at the center had refused to sign loyalty oaths.

"Recognition of these sites for their historic significance is the culmination of a great deal of work by the local communities, by former internees and other Japanese Americans and by the staff of the Department of the Interior," said



Tule Lake Jail, 2004

JACL National President Ken Inouye. "The JACL is tremendously grateful for all their efforts, and we are very pleased by the Committee's votes today. We look forward to continuing to work towards the greater recognition and protection of all of the internment camps."

"The Committee was clearly impressed by the presentations made by the National Park Service staff and community members," said JACL Director for Public Affairs Kristine Minami, who testified at the meeting. "We are hopeful that the NPS Advisory Board and the Secretary of the Interior will consider and quickly approve the Committee's recommendations — and that other internment camps soon will be similarly considered for National Historic Landmark status."

Members of the Landmarks

Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board in Washington, D.C., voted unanimously to recommend that Interior Secretary Gail Norton approve the designations.

Jimmy Yamaichi, a camp detainee who helped build the Tule Lake camp stockade, attended the board hearing and spoke in support of the site designation. Yamaichi is a member of the Tule Lake Committee, which holds pilgrimages to the Klamath Basin every two years.

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. ■

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## Houston Chapter Honors WWII Veterans



### Honorary Texans—WWII

veterans are honored for their bravery with special plaques: (l-r) Marion Ferguson - 36th, Lawson Sakai - 442nd, Marty Higgins - 36th, Susumu Ito - 522nd, Joe Ichiuji - 522nd, Grant Hirabayashi - MIS, Willie Tanamachi - 442nd, Tommie Okabayashi - 442nd, and George Nakamura - MIS.

Photo courtesy of the Houston JACL chapter

By HOWARD LINDSAY

Japanese American veterans came from both coasts to Houston, Texas April 16 to be honored for their extraordinary bravery and service during World War II. The JACL Houston chapter organized the event, titled "The Japanese American Experience in World War II." The event was a continuation of the celebration of "100 Years of Japanese Texans."

Approximately 150 people came to meet the heroes, listen to their personal war stories, and learn about how they brought honor to their parents, most of whom were incarcerated in camps during the war.

The speakers and the topics they spoke on included: Grant Hirabayashi, MIS, Merrill's Marauders, "Merrill's Marauders: Nisei Rangers"; Joe Ichiuji, 522nd, "Go for Broke"; Susumu Ito, 522nd, "Experience of a Forward Observer"; Marty Higgins, 36th Division, C.O. "Lost Battalion," "The Texans, The Trap and Bravery"; and Lawson Sakai, 442nd, E Company, "From Enemy to Heroes."

Singled out for special recognition were the storied units, such as

the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, and Merrill's Marauders of the Military Intelligence Service, that fought valiantly in Europe and Asia on behalf of the United States. The 442nd suffered 314 percent casualties to become the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size.

Several veterans of the 36th Texas Infantry Division were present. In the town of Bruyeres, France, JA troops rescued the "Lost Battalion," of the 36th Texas Infantry Division, thereby earning the profound respect of their fellow soldiers.

In 1963, Texas Gov. John Connally made members of the 442nd "Honorary Texans."

The veterans, now in their 80s and 90s, were given individual plaques and they included: George Nakamura, MIS; Tommie Okabayashi, 442nd; Willie Tanamachi, 442nd, Replacement; and Marion Ferguson, 36th Division.

Not present but recognized were: Saburo Tanamachi, 442nd E Company, KIA; Goro Tanamachi, 442nd, Headquarters (deceased); Shigeru Imai, 442nd; Mutsuo

Kawamura, 442 (deceased); Norman Kishi, Burma; Nobumasa Kitayama, U.S. Infantry, Camp Hood; John Ogata, 442nd; George Otsuka, 442nd; Carl Otsuki, 8th Army Occupational Forces in Japan; Siggie Oyama, European Theater; George Sakato, 442nd, E Company; and Harry Shimotsu, 3rd Army in Europe

During the same week as the JACL Houston event, the Holocaust Museum-Houston held an exhibit, "Unlikely Liberators," that detailed how JA vets and Black soldiers from the 761st Tank Battalion, first liberated Jews from the WWII camps.

Soldiers from the 522nd were among the first to liberate the infamous Dachau, Buchenwald, and Landsberg concentration camps in Germany.

The Holocaust Museum exhibit also honored the WWII Japanese Consul of Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara, who violated his own government's rules in giving thousands of Jews Japanese exit visas that allowed them to escape the Nazis. ■

Howard Lindsay is the treasurer for the JACL Houston chapter.



## GENERATION

(Continued from page 1)

44 percent of Americans between the ages of 45 and 55 have children under 21 and also have aging parents or in-laws. Today, about 14 million U.S. workers are caring for aging family members.

The sandwich generation phenomenon is overwhelmingly prevalent in the Asian Pacific American community where taking care of one's elders is an imbedded part of the culture and a feeling of *giri*, or giving back, is an automatic response. Yet, this group often shies away from seeking help or speaking out about the issues. And frequently, senior care homes are an unpleasant option and families take on the care giving themselves.

"With most Japanese Americans there's a feeling of doing something to take care of the parents. The level of feeling is automatic," said Sandy Mori, development director for Kimochi, Inc., a nonprofit organization in San Francisco providing culturally sensitive care for senior citizens. "A lot of people of color are supportive of the elderly for a longer period of time."

Mori believes there is still a stigma surrounding senior care homes and facilities and a reluctance to



Fumi Yamanaka, 90, gets her hair done by her daughter Mitzi Toshima.

Photo courtesy of Keiro Senior Healthcare

older sister, furious with the decision to place their father in a home, took him out of the facility this past January. Although her elder sister had not been a part of her father's care until recently, she now cares for Fred full-time.

The struggles to take care of their ailing father have left permanent

sandwich generation caregivers there is still a stigma attached to seeking help from a senior care facility. In turn, many elders are reluctant to consider a senior home as an option, believing they are doing okay on their own.

"Caregivers need to realize that it's okay — that there is a better quality of life that these facilities can offer," said Ito, who noted that at Keiro, seniors receive much more social interaction and stimulation than they would living at home where caregivers often work full-time.

Bill Watanabe, 61, and his two older brothers took turns caring for their mother, 91-year-old Katsuye, after she suffered a stroke and became growingly absent-minded. Each week the brothers would coordinate their schedules to help their mother but four years ago the decision was made to place Katsuye, who is wheelchair bound, in Keiro.

"All of us of course willingly give ... but it's a huge toll on your time and your family ... you still have an obligation to your wife and kids," said Watanabe, who has a 27-year-old daughter. "It is stressful."

Watanabe, who is also the executive director of Little Tokyo Service Center in Los Angeles, is happy with the decision to place their mom in a senior care facility.

"Keiro is an excellent facility and I'm glad there is a Keiro," said Watanabe who encouraged other sandwich generation folks to educate themselves about the available options out there. "People need to know their options ... make informed decisions."

For former sandwich generation members Mitzi, 70, and Richard Toshima, 72, taking care of their mother — 90-year-old Fumi Yamanaka — has always been a family affair. For years, Yamanaka lived next door to her only daughter Mitzi and three grandchildren, but after she had several mini-strokes and falls, the decision was made to place her in the Keiro Intermediate Care Facility.

For three years now, the Toshimas visit their mother daily and have become regular volunteers and supporters of Keiro. In addition to helping the seniors with various activities like walking and shopping,

Mitzi, a former salon owner, volunteers in Keiro's beauty shop and Richard serves as a driver.

"At the beginning, there was a bit of stigma — she didn't want to be in a facility," said Richard. "But later she fit in."

"It's so much nicer being here ... at home it was hard to take care of my mother for 24-hours," said Mitzi. "Just do what I'm doing," she advised sandwich generation folks. "Come and visit everyday. It's the best way of caring for elders."

For many APA families, placing a parent in a senior care facility is the only option, where busy work schedules and a need to raise their own core families make 24-hour care giving an impossibility.

Margaret Harada, a Sansei, made the decision to place her mother, 86-year-old Suzuye Hirakawa, in San Francisco's Kimochi Home in October of 2001. After years of living independently, mild dementia and a heart condition left Hirakawa needing 24-hour care.

Although Hirakawa did not want to enter Kimochi Home at first, Harada's full-time work schedule and the need to take care of her two teenage daughters — Heather, now 19, and 15-year-old Lisa — left her with little choice.

"My mother still to this day says you put me here, that she'll never forgive me for it," said Harada, an only child whose father passed away 30 years ago.

But Harada, who regularly visits her mother along with her family, has noticed an exponential improvement in her mother who now has social interaction with the other residents and 24-hour supervision with Japanese speaking staff and Japanese meals.

"She doesn't have to worry about things," said Harada. "She has social interaction." She added, "My mom does realize that we're there every week."

Health professionals and those experiencing the sandwich generation phenomenon agree that seeking help and talking about the issues is a necessity and may help alleviate

some of the stresses. For Waltz, being able to join a support group like Project Dana, a volunteer caregivers program in Honolulu, helped her find some salvation as she struggled to care for her parents.

"You have no idea how relieved I was to see there are other people, they understand," said Waltz, who has now gone back to work full-time helping her husband with their construction business. "You need to tap into the resources. Caregivers get so bogged down, you wonder if there's any help out there."

"I'm amazed at the amount of experience people have," agreed Harada. "It's important to talk to peers who are going through it. It's communication; the more people you talk to, the better network you have."

"This is one of the biggest issues in America," said Mori, who warns that the number of sandwich generation folks is going to surge in the coming years with the baby boomer generation. "People are experiencing it so now they're being forced to talk about it." ■

### Available Resources:

**Project Dana**  
Volunteer Caregivers Program  
808/945-3736  
902 University Ave.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
projdana@pixi.com

**Kimochi Home**  
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415/922-9972  
www.kimochi-inc.org

**Keiro Senior Healthcare**  
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Los Angeles, CA 90033  
323/980-7555  
www.keiro.org

**Little Tokyo Service Center**  
231 E. Third St., Suite G-106  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213/473-1680, 213/473-1602  
www.ltsc.org



GIVING BACK—Mitzi Toshima and her husband Richard visit their mother Fumi Yamanaka, 90, daily at the Keiro Intermediate Care Facility where she is a resident and they are volunteers.

Photo courtesy of Keiro Senior Healthcare

place parents in them. "They don't feel they should do it, there's a lot of guilt," she said. "The family will do everything to avoid that at the sacrifice of more stress."

After years of home care, Waltz's mother Lorraine passed away in November 2003 at the age of 80 of diverticulitis (inflammation of the colon). Soon her father Fred, now 86, took a turn for the worse. Already suffering from diabetes, arthritis, and hearing loss, he started to suffer from Alzheimer's.

Her father's safety now became the overwhelming concern as Waltz tried to keep him from using dangerous household tools and leaving the stove on. In desperation, Waltz sought the help of nurses and home caregivers but her father's growing belligerence spread even to them, in the end refusing to eat meals and take his medications.

After much heartache and soul searching, Waltz and her family made the difficult decision to place her father in a state licensed private care facility, after consulting with their longtime family doctor.

"He was not happy there but he was adapting very well," said Waltz, who noted that he was making friends and taking part in various activities.

But after two weeks, Waltz's

scars on the family and to this day Lorinda and her sister do not speak and Waltz is no longer involved with the daily care of her father.

"The family dynamics will never be the same. We cope but I try not to have anything to do with it," said Waltz. "But I have absolutely not a single regret, no sadness. It gets to a point where you say it's either me or him. I have a family and I still love my father."

Beverly Ito, administrator of Keiro Intermediate Care Facility in Los Angeles, agrees that for many

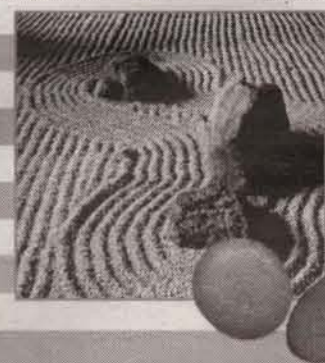
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The candidate must be a self-starter with an ability to work with minimal supervision and must have substantial knowledge of and familiarity with APA community issues to represent the organization in meetings with elected officials and members of the administration. Three or more years of proven leadership in nonprofit/public sector management preferred; Bachelor's degree required, JD preferred. Legislative experience a definite plus. Salary based on experience.

For job description and requirements, email [natdir@jACL.org](mailto:natdir@jACL.org), with "DC Rep" in subject.



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## COMMENTARY

## A Kristi Yamaguchi Encounter

By KATIE SOE

How often does one attend a dinner and have the privilege of receiving an award presented by Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi?

Well, this is only one of the many opportunities that the JACL has made possible for me.

On April 2, the NCWNP district celebrated "76 years of education, advocacy, and civil rights" at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, CA.

The "Spirit of 76" dinner opened with an introduction by District Governor Thaya Mune Craig, followed by a welcome by mistress of ceremonies Heidi Tanakatsubo. Especially impressive was eight-year-old Kiely Tchang who sang the Star Spangled Banner.

I was greeted with a flower lei as a Hikari Award winner. This honor recognizes youth and young adults who shed their "light" with dedicated efforts and service as community leaders. As the president of my high school's Red Cross Club, I had organized a bone marrow registration drive coordinated with the Asian American Donor Program. Inspired by a workshop I attended at the JACL National Youth Convention in 2003, this drive resulted in the addition of 25 new donors to the national bone marrow registry, in which Asian Americans are but a small percentage.

As I neared the table reserved for awardees, I learned that the banquet's guest of honor, Kristi

Yamaguchi, would be seated with us. Before I knew it, I found myself sitting right beside her! I had the amazing opportunity to chat with Kristi Yamaguchi throughout the evening and we discussed everything from her incredible life's journey to my trivial high school experiences.

Yamaguchi is an inspiring individual, for her dedication, perseverance, and personal commitment to making a dream come true. The evening encouraged me to reach out to the community, especially in ways which promote the recognition of AAs.

The arrival of dinner found Yamaguchi and I amicably conversing and of course, I got the prerequisite photograph and personalized autograph.

I also had the honor of presenting the Diablo Valley chapter's Kay Seno with a Legacy Award. Seno

became a JACL member in the 1940s and has made significant contributions to the organization, especially at the local level.

Particularly impressive is the fact that her participation in the JACL has grown through the years, serving as a model of commitment for all of us.

Legacy Award winners are recognized for motivating youth to remain with the JACL and create their own impact on the future. Certainly, Seno has done that and much more.

The "Spirit of 76" dinner event drew me into the JACL with a vice-like grip, spurring me to realize the important role of youth in carrying on its outstanding legacy.

During the evening, I met many fascinating individuals who I look forward to encountering again in the future.

"Once you get this award, [the JACL] will never let you go," Tanakatsubo told me.

A quiet smile spread across my face. I don't think I could let go either. ■

## NCWNP District Recognizes 'Unsung Chapter Heroes'

More than 400 JACL members and supporters honored 24 "Unsung Heroes" who serve as the backbone of the local chapters while also celebrating JACL's 76th anniversary.

The NCWNP district fundraising dinner took place on April 2 at the Blackhawk Auto Museum, an associate of the Smithsonian, in Danville, California.

To commemorate JACL's 76th anniversary and the theme, "Spirit of 76," the district recognized chapter honorees as well as JACL's long history of advocacy, education, culture, and civil rights.

Honorary Chair and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi presented the Legacy Awards. This year's recipients were: Berkeley - George Yasukochi (posthumous-

ly); Contra Costa - Esther Takeuchi; Diablo Valley - Kay Seno; Florin - Marion Kanemoto; French Camp - Fumiko Asano; Gilroy - Atsuko Obata; Lodi - Tom Kurahara (posthumously); Marin County - Toyoko Doi; Marysville - Frank Nakamura;

Monterey Peninsula - Frank Tanaka; Placer County - Frank Kageta; Sacramento - Terry Makishima, Toyo Nakatogawa, Teiko Matsuo and Myra Kiyota; San Benito County - Tony Boch; San Francisco - Yo Hironaka; San Jose - Sharon Uyeda; San Mateo - Steve Okamoto; Sequoia - Bud Nakano; Sonoma County - Martin Shimizu; Stockton - George Matsumoto; Tri-Valley - Steve Lai; and Watsonville-Santa Cruz - Iwao Yamashita.

The evening's program included the NCWNP District Youth Council Committee's presentation of 10 Hikari Awards, in recognition of contributions and service as community leaders. "Hikari" means light and through the award the committee recognized young leaders who give hope for a strong future for the community.

This year's recipients were: Nicole Adams, Annie Tomita Noguchi and Katie Soe (High School Category); Lindsay Nakano and Amanda Wake (College Category); Gavin Funabiki and Jeff Ota (Young Professionals Category); and Carol Kawase, Melody Takata and Jere Takahashi (Adult Allies Category).



Legacy Honorees with Kristi Yamaguchi (seated, center front), John Tateishi, JACL executive director (standing left rear) and Ken Inouye, JACL national president (standing right rear).

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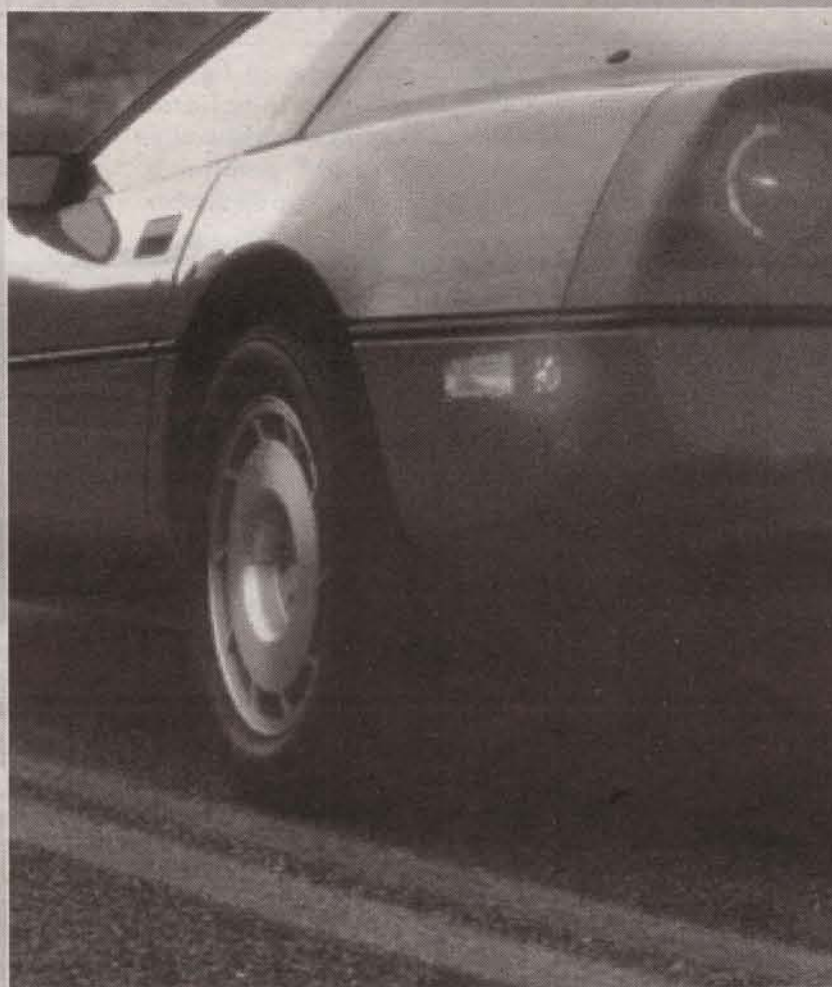
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## YOUTH FORUM

### Seijinshiki

By YUMI SAKUGAWA

During Spring Break I learned the hard way that wearing kimonos is not as glamorous as it looks.

The glossy photos that I developed afterwards completely belie this sentiment. For a millisecond of a camera's flash, I was able to pretend, in my demure smile, professionally applied make-up and painstakingly styled hair, that wearing the many heavy layers of my navy-blue kimono with crimson flower patterns was as easy and as natural as breathing.

Don't let the beautiful silk and the ornate decorations fool you. I'm sure you've probably seen period piece movies of graceful Japanese women who look so damn serene as they walk placidly through botanical gardens in their heavy geisha make-up, tiny little sandals and beautiful kimono costumes. Kimonos are supposed to represent a certain ephemeral, floating grace, when in reality wearing one feels like your ribcage is being crushed into your internal organs because it's so heavy and tight.

Before you jump to any conclusions, no, I was not trying out to be an extra in "Memoirs of a Geisha." The real reason for my donning a kimono was that I turned 20 this year, and I was partaking in the Japanese tradition of participating in a *seijinshiki*.

So what is *seijinshiki* and why is it such a big deal? *Seijinshiki* is a ceremony marking coming-of-age-day in Japan, where turning 20 represents a complete passage from adolescence to adulthood and you receive your voting rights. For young women, it is a tradition to



have their pictures taken in a long-sleeved kimono and celebrate this rite of passage with their family and friends.

I don't know how real Japanese women do it. Maybe they are naturally born with an innate gift to wear kimonos gracefully. Maybe all my years of growing up in sunny California and speaking English have somehow bleached away some aspects of my Japanese-ness, one of which being the ability to wear a kimono for extended periods of time without suffocating or showing any external signs of distress.

In any case, once the photo session was done, I was more than ready to shed the many layers of heavy cloth and settle back once more into the more comfy confines of my usual t-shirt and jeans.

Why do we go through these traditions, even though they make us uncomfortable, contort our bodies and weigh us down? It cost \$300 just to rent the kimono for this one occasion, not to mention hundreds of other dollars that went toward the photo shoot and the development of pictures. It's strange, the many things that cultural tradition compel us to do.

On the car ride back home from the long photo shoot, my mother spoke of how in Japan, a *seijinshiki* is a very big deal for young people,

maybe the Japanese equivalent of say, a high school graduation, where friends and family gather at one place and have a chance to see each other and celebrate one person's special day.

It almost made me sad hearing that. If I were in Japan, I would have had all my extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins with me, all of whom I hardly ever see — maybe once every couple of years.

Over here, my immediate family — myself, my brother, my mother and father — are a small, isolated island in the United States, so far away from the rest of our family. Still, my mother thought it was important enough for me to partake in this tradition, just the four of us, even if we weren't in Japan and even if not many of our Japanese American friends observed this tradition anyway.

As a Shin-Nisei born in America to two immigrant parents, I carry the burden of being the first generational jump from Japan to America. Immersed in a completely different culture and country, my American life drastically diverges from the Japanese upbringing that my parents and their parents' parents experienced back in Japan. It's amazing just how much my parents have managed to keep me from completely assimilating into American culture.

Still, the symbolic gesture of taking a *seijinshiki* photograph somehow keeps the linkage together. Now I can say I took part in something that my mother and grandmother went through, and feel somewhat closer to my Japanese heritage. When you think of it that way, the difficulty and discomfort of wearing a kimono doesn't seem so bad after all. ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently attending UCLA.

## AZUMA

(Continued from page 1)

Two years ago Azuma's business hit the \$1 million mark in gross revenue. Providing a wide array of materials and resources for parents of autistic children, all with a personal touch, Different Roads to Learning continues to grow. Last year the company grossed \$1.7 million and Azuma was recently featured in *Inc.* magazine as part of the segment, "26 Entrepreneurs We Love."

Different Roads to Learning ([www.difflearn.com](http://www.difflearn.com)) started off as an Internet business in 1995 and a year later, Azuma produced a paper catalogue. Starting off with a total of 30 products, today the site offers a selection of over 250 items including books, flashcards, puzzles, and videos. Azuma expanded the business to include DRL Books, Inc. in 1999 and has published several books on autism.

With a staff of three, Azuma continues to work out of her New York apartment providing products and answering e-mails and letters from concerned parents. Last year, the company finally automated the business and Azuma outsourced her shipping operations.

"It's very cathartic," said Azuma, who currently has about 24,000 customers worldwide accessing her business. "I'm able to help the parents and they really love what we do."

Since Azuma's daughter

Miranda was diagnosed back in 1994, the autism rate in the United States has increased dramatically. From 1990 to 1999 there was a 172 percent increase in the number of autism cases in the United States. Today, 1 out of 250 children are diagnosed with autism, making it the fastest-growing developmental disorder.

Although Miranda was diagnosed at the age of six, Azuma says children who are diagnosed early have the best chance of developing and have a higher likelihood of being able to academically enter kindergarten.

"Make sure kids are evaluated as soon as possible ... they'll make more progress," she said. "The more intervention, the better off the kids are."

Although there are a number of misconceptions about autism and autistic children, Azuma believes the largest is that all autistic kids are "savants."

"Some kids are very disabled but some are not that disabled. There's a wide spectrum," she said.

Today, Miranda is almost 17 and lives in a group home with six other autistic kids about 40 minutes from the Azuma's. The family visits regularly each weekend and Julie continues to be inspired by her daughter.

Recently, Azuma decided to take on a new Internet and catalogue business called the Mind and Memory Store providing various products for Alzheimer's patients. Although Azuma says she is still in

the "research stage" of her new business she has already accumulated 50-age appropriate products.

Her businesses keep her busy but Azuma is a regular volunteer in the Japanese American and Asian American communities. She is a past board member of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families and is currently on the New York Day of Remembrance Committee. Azuma's also been a member of the New York JACL chapter for over 20 years.

As a founding member and current chair of the non-profit Asian Women in Business, Azuma regularly encourages more AAs to start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs. She's noticed that although a number of Chinese, Korean, and South Asians have shown interest in starting their own businesses, JAs are still shying away.

"There's something about us that holds us back a bit," said Azuma. "I had enormous fear of starting my own business. Whether you can make it, the fear — will you be successful?"

Her advice to new business owners: keep your day job. Since businesses usually take about five years to get off the ground and start making money, first-time entrepreneurs should keep their day jobs while working on their own businesses on the side.

"There's always room for everybody," she said. "Entrepreneurship is the way to go. You just have to find a way to find your niche." ■

Registrations are being accepted for the National JACL Youth/Student Conference. Visit [www.jacl.org/youth](http://www.jacl.org/youth) for more information and registration information.

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THE OZARKS & BRANSON (w/ Tauck Tours, 9 days) SEPT 24  
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days) OCT 19  
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GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUNE 19-28  
Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Hamana, Hiroshima, Kyoto.  
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE JULY 3-10  
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13TH PANA CONVENTION TOUR JULY 5-14  
Vancouver-PANA Convention, Victoria, Radium/Fairmount Hot Spring, Lake Louise, Banff.  
CHINA HOLIDAY TOUR SEPT 3-17  
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HOKKAIDO HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 2-13  
Sapporo, Tokachigawa, Lakes Akan/Mashu/Kushiro, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Soukkyo, Otaru, Naboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate.  
GREEK ISLANDS HOLIDAY CRUISE OCT 3-14  
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OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 17-30  
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SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 10-22  
ARGENTINA-Buenos Aires; BRAZIL - Sao Paulo, Iguaçu, Rio de Janeiro, CHILE - Santiago, Valparaiso/Vina del Mar. Meet local Japanese in Argentina/Brazil/Chile. PERU OPTION - Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu.  
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## FOOTBALL

## Former Hawaii Quarterback Signs With Arizona

TEMPE, Ariz.—Former Hawaii quarterback **Timmy Chang** signed with the Arizona Cardinals April 25 after failing to be selected in the seven rounds of the National Football League draft over the weekend.

The record-breaking Saint Louis School graduate was one of several undrafted rookies signed, along with cornerback Aaron Francisco of BYU, a Kahuku High School graduate.

Chang set NCAA Division I career passing and total offense records as a four-year starter with the Warriors.

Chang will join four veteran quarterbacks on the Cardinals: Two-time

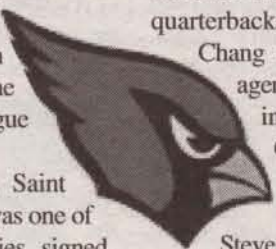
NFL MVP Kurt Warner, Josh McCown, Chris Lewis and John Navarre. The team did not draft any quarterbacks over the weekend.

Chang received several free-agent offers before deciding to sign with the Cardinals.

"It presents a really good situation," said Steve Dubin, Chang's agent in Los Angeles, who declined to discuss the terms of the signing bonus nor the length of the contract.

The NFL does not guarantee the contract.

"You still have to make a team (to receive a salary)," Dubin said. "You have to get on a roster to get paid. It's different from baseball." ■



## BASKETBALL

## NBA All-Star Yao Given Model Worker Award

SHANGHAI, China —It's official: Houston Rockets center **Yao Ming** is a "model worker."

Communist China's cabinet, the State Council, awarded the honor to both Yao and Olympic gold medal hurdler **Liu Xiang**, Zhao Jiaxiong, spokesman for Shanghai's Office for Choosing Model Workers, said April 27.

The model worker nominations of Yao and Liu, a gold medalist in the men's 110-meter hurdles at Athens, had sparked criticism among some Chinese who argued the award was meant to honor ordinary workers, not sports stars.

Yao described the honor, usually given to workers in more proletarian fields like industry, mining and public services, as "one more honor and encouragement from society,"

Xinhua News Agency reported, citing Yao's agent Zhang Chi.

"But compared to the contributions other winners had made to the motherland, there is still large room for me to improve," Xinhua quoted Yao as saying.

For decades, the model worker award has been turning unknown miners, teachers or factory workers into celebrities in the state media.

Yao became one of China's biggest sports heroes after joining the NBA in 2002 as the No. 1 draft pick. He won praise back home by returning during the NBA off-season to play with the national team.

Yao already has twice received a local version of the award from Shanghai. He also is an official spokesman for promoting the city. ■

## BASEBALL

## Maui's Fukuroku is One of Shortest Players in College Baseball

By JANIE McCAULEY  
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—When Maui native **Royce Fukuroku** steps in to hit, he resembles a batboy more than a batter. Even with his pants generously rolled under, they nearly hang to his heels and catch on his cleats.

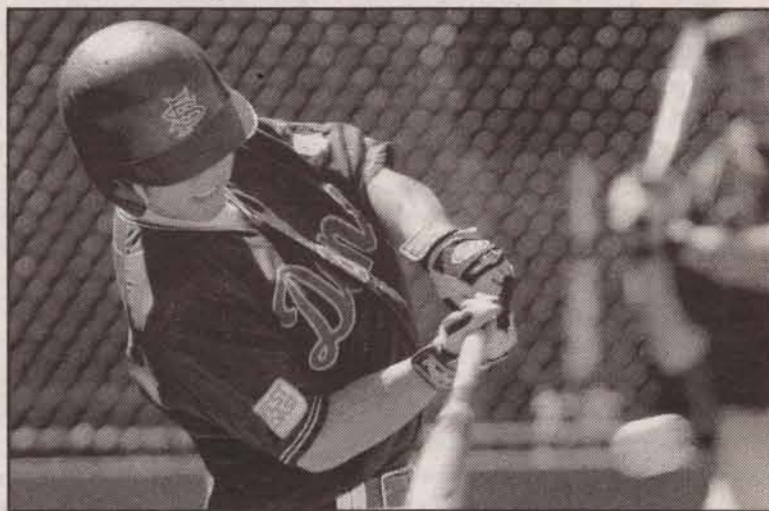
At 5-foot-3, San Francisco's senior second baseman is one of the shortest players in Division I. But the little man is doing big things for the Dons, who could be headed toward the best season in school history and, they hope, the program's first post-season berth.

"This year's one of those breakout years, and he's the biggest reason," USF coach Nino Giarratano said.

Fukuroku, who starred at Maui High School, got slighted by *Sports Illustrated*, but he doesn't care. In the April 18 edition, the magazine reported about players believed to be college baseball's shortest and tallest — and Fukuroku was left out. Louisville sophomore shortstop Chris Cates is also 5-3, while Notre Dame pitcher Ryan Doherty is 7-1. There were photos of those two.

Fukuroku hit a go-ahead RBI single in a 9-3 win over Sacramento State on April 19 for USF's fourth straight victory. Heading into a three-game weekend series against Loyola Marymount, he was batting .350 with 15 RBIs, and his five homers were tied for the team lead. Fukuroku also had seven steals in eight attempts and had been hit by a pitch a team-high nine times.

"It's great to hear the other teams talk about him. They always wonder how he does that or how small he is, how does he hit the ball that far?" pitcher Patrick McGuigan said. "Things don't get handed to him when he's that short. He goes out there to prove people wrong. They're not looking for him to succeed. ... He just brings an attitude that he can't be beat to the field every day and it rubs off on the other guys."



**CARRYING A BIG STICK**—University of San Francisco's Royce Fukuroku connects for a single off Sacramento State's Kyle Christensen April 20. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

Fukuroku knew he was not destined to be tall. His older brother also stands 5-3, his mom is 4-11 and his dad 5-6.

"I expected to be taller than what I am, but not much taller," he said. "I was always the smallest guy on my team. You had to be faster and quicker and you had to get stronger. Height wasn't going to be my ticket anywhere."

Despite his tiny but muscular frame — he weighs 150 pounds — Fukuroku decided at a young age he would be a college baseball player. He began scoring his brother's games at age 5 back home in Hawaii, and that's how he learned the game. Arizona State was always his dream school, but many of the big programs he contacted didn't show any interest.

"I never thought height would have been an issue," he said. "I'm just glad my coaches gave me an opportunity to play, because not too many places gave me a chance or even looked at me to play Division I baseball. I always knew I could do it. It was if other people believed I could do it."

Teammates call Fukuroku "Hawaiian Superman," and any pitcher will acknowledge that the

strike zone for someone of his stature is an unforgiving one.

The Dons had 27 wins heading into the series against LMU, only seven victories shy of the school-record 34 they had in 1998.

"I've seen us at our lowest," said Fukuroku, who will graduate this spring with a degree in business administration. "I just want to be part of history with this school. I don't know if I'm a sparkplug, but I just try to do my part any way to help the team."

Reaching the regionals — the first step toward the College World Series — would be huge for this program, which only three years ago finished 9-21.

With all the physical disadvantages Fukuroku has overcome, his coach would like to see him get a shot at the next level. Giarratano has done his share of campaigning to scouts.

"I hear from the scouts, 'If I had the gumption, I would take him, because he's a good enough baseball player,'" said Giarratano, whose 10-year-old son, Nico, spends hours with Fukuroku learning all sorts of skills. "I don't see why his size should matter. If he's good enough, he's good enough. I think he should be given an opportunity." ■

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## RADIO

(Continued from page 1)

has quadrupled in the last year, Chinese should never dictate the outcome of an election, Americans should."

Carton went on to call APAs "fringe people," "Orientals" and illustrated his point of view by saying, "Ching, chong, ching, chong, ching, chong" in a stereotypical, high-pitched voice.

Carton also complained about the lack of "Americans" in America. "It's like you're a foreigner in your own country, isn't it?"

Radio station vice president and general manager of Millennium Radio (101.5 FM's parent company) Andrew Santoro made a public apology April 27 claiming that the "Jersey Guys" were "having fun with the topic" with their "tongue-in-cheek" humor, but they never wanted to "hurt" anyone.

APAs are not amused and they are not taking the insults lying down. Many groups and politi-

cians have held news conferences calling for the boycott of the radio station's sponsors and the termination of Carton and Rossi. The Korean American Lawyer Association of Greater New York has publicly announced that they will file complaints with the Federal Communications Commission and the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

Asian Media Watch launched an online campaign against the "Jersey Guys" ([www.asianmediawatch.net/jerseyguys/](http://www.asianmediawatch.net/jerseyguys/)) demanding accountability for "racist propaganda targeting Asian Pacific Americans." And JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino sent a scathing letter to 101.5 FM Program Director Eric Johnson reminding him "that those who spew hatred of racist views on the air are undeserving of this public trust" and called for the removal of Carton and Rossi from the air.

JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi, who said he was offended when he read the transcript of the show, called this

"typical shock jock behavior" that will ultimately stir up anti-Asian sentiment.

"This is the kind of racist view that we as Asian Americans have to deal with all the time when fighting racism in the country. I really think these shock jocks are clever and dangerous with their wide listening audience," said Tateishi.

Choi is also angry about the comments made against him.

"Ethnic jokes are un-American," Choi told the *Pacific Citizen* via telephone while campaigning in Edison. "It's sad and unfortunate that even with all the civil rights advancement that Asian Americans have made, shock jocks can go on-air and try to undo all the progress by saying something like this and trying to get ratings."

Despite the mounting controversy, Choi said he is trying to remain focused on the campaign he wants to win.

"I can't be distracted by it," he said, adding that incidents like this "are another reason why Asian Americans need to continue to be

politically active."

This isn't the first time the "Jersey Guys" have landed in a firestorm of bad publicity. In January, Carton mocked New Jersey Gov. Richard J. Codey's wife for her battle with mental illness. This certainly is not the first time a radio station has lashed out at the APA community either. Many draw parallels to New York's HOT 97 FM's tsunami parody song fiasco that cost the hip-hop radio station and its parent company Emmis Communications (already besmirched with door-front shootings, continued allegations of racial slurs and now an attorney general's investigation into their face-slapping competition) more than \$1 million dollars in charitable donations to tsunami relief and a couple of employees.

CAHM, a diverse coalition of national and community-based organizations whose mission is to promote equality and balanced representation in the media, formed directly in response to the HOT 97 FM incident. To date, they have continued to demand accountability from Emmis even while the national attention has waned and the best known HOT 97 FM host associated with the tsunami parody song, Miss Jones

(Tarsha Nicole Jones), has returned to the airwaves.

CAHM recently met with New York State Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi, who then made a written inquiry to Emmis demanding explanation for the company's "poor judgment."

As state comptroller, Hevesi is the sole trustee of a fund that currently holds 225,500 of Emmis' shares. Karri Kokka of CAHM and JACL New York, said CAHM will be actively involved in the fight against Millennium, 101.5 FM and the "Jersey Boys."

The string of racially charged and anti-Asian broadcasts on the radio has fueled the debate on freedom of speech. Although 101.5 FM's officials have issued an apology, they qualify Carton's and Rossi's comments as entertainment and the "Jersey Guys" being the 'Jersey Guys.'"

Tateishi, however, said that if the radio station sanctions this type of behavior then "we'll respect their freedom of speech."

Choi said, "I draw the line at shock jocks saying that Chinese Americans and Asian Americans are not American. They call themselves the 'Jersey Boys,' but they are the most un-Jersey and un-American people I know." ■

## COMMENTARY

### Re: Should the P.C. Not Use the Word?

By EMILY TERUYA

I read P.C. Board Chair Gil Asakawa's commentary, "Should the P.C. Not Use the Word?" (P.C., April 15-May 5 edition.) The "word" in this case is the despicable racial slur, "Jap."

Asakawa ambiguously answers his own question.

At one point he said, "Not using [the word] anymore would be to put a Band-Aid over a very bad wound, and it would always fester." He concluded, however, "Our real victory will come when no one uses the word at all..." Huh? These two statements are contradictory.

The slur is part of our history and continues to be injected into our lives today whether we like it or not. However, we cannot criticize others for using it and then turn around and use it indiscriminately ourselves. Context is key.

Asakawa neglected to address why the P.C. decided on "The J.A.P. Factor" as its headline of choice for the article on playwright Rachel Factor (P.C., March 18-31 edition). He also neglected to address why the P.C. printed it in big, bold letters. Was it because it was an important

story? Was it to promote her play? Or was it because the P.C. knew those letters, and that word, would hit us emotionally in the gut?

Asakawa, in addition, neglected to address why the P.C. decided on using the phrase "J.A.P. Onstage" as its front-page teaser. Nowhere in his column does Asakawa or the P.C. take any responsibility or admit that better judgment could've been used. Do they really want us to believe that they expected JACLers to read "J.A.P. Onstage" on the front page of the P.C. and say to ourselves, "Oh, look, a story about a Jewish American Princess"? Hardly. They knew exactly what they were doing.

Though Asakawa asserted "'J.A.P.' stands for 'Jewish American Princess,'" nowhere in the P.C. article will you find any mention of that definition. As Asakawa wrote to me, "It's unfortunate that the acronym uses the same letters... but the context — and meaning — are completely different and unrelated." So, no harm was done? I disagree. Anyone can rationalize and justify the use of any acronym. If that's the case, what about "I.H.A.T.E.T.H.E.P.C."? Does something jump out or is it a harmless acronym for something we don't know. The burden is on the reader to figure it out.

As stated by a JACLer, "Most

people are not going to stop to distinguish this 'Jap' from that 'J.A.P.' They won't." Just as Factor has the right to her title, it's our right to be offended by it regardless of her intention and to be offended by how the P.C. "used" that title in a gratuitous manner.

"The assumption is that the P.C. doesn't have to clarify its usage of 'J.A.P.' and that every reader of the P.C. automatically knows what it stands for, even our Nisei in their 70s and 80s, and that no one should assume it's connected in any way to Factor's Japanese ancestry... Yeah, sure," another JACLer told me.

Even Factor acknowledges the racial implications and potential harm of her title. It's clear that she knows the term is hurtful, despite the punctuation marks.

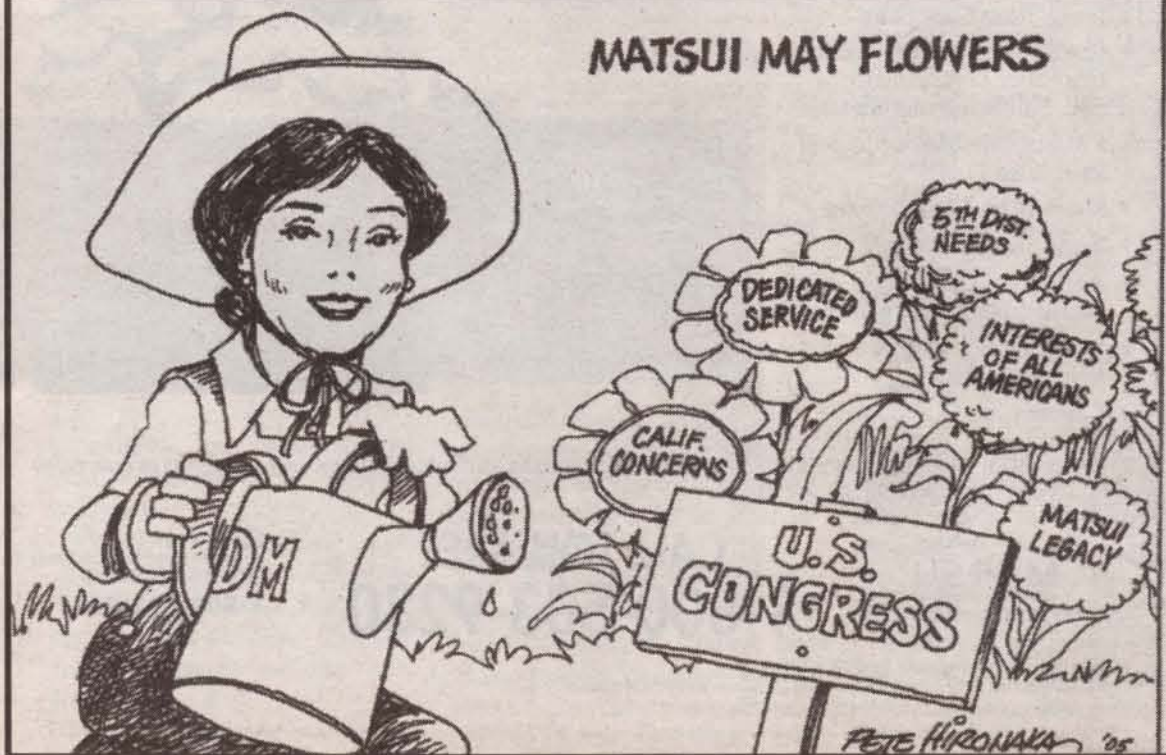
I understand the validity in using the term to educate, eradicate racism, etc., but when it's used in an exploitive manner and without hesitation or explanation, I question it. Again, context matters. There is a point when using the J-word stops being educational and is just downright offensive and inexcusable.


Higher standards and better guidelines are needed for the JACL's national publication. ■

Emily Teruya is a Millennium Club Member.




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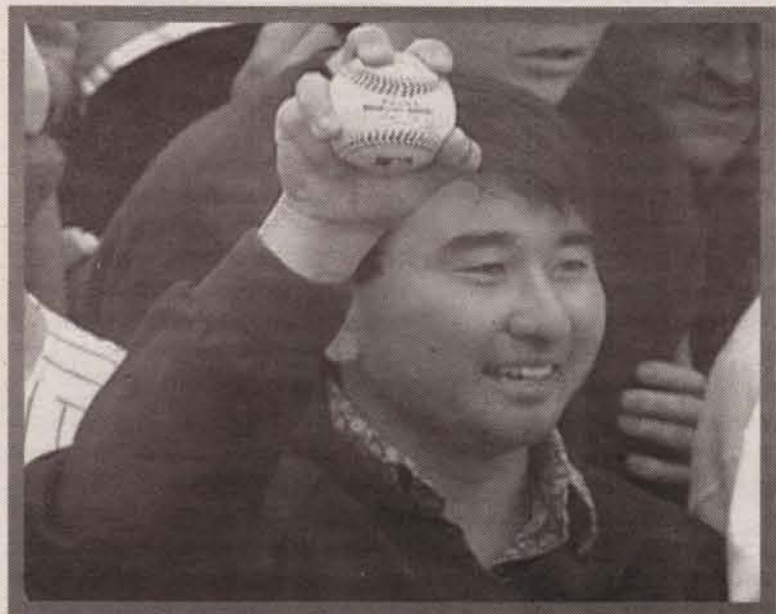


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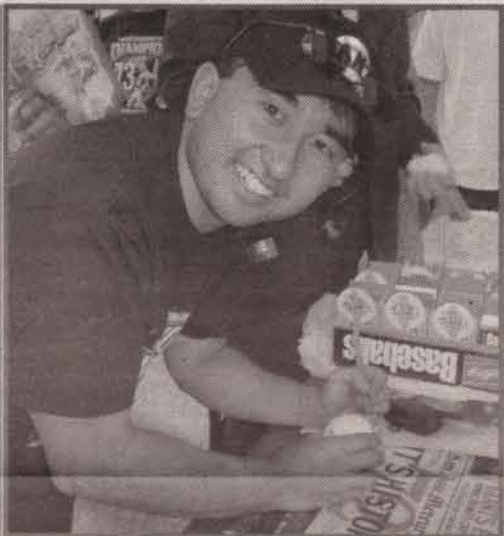
# Yours, Mine, Ours — Let's Make a Documentary!

**Patrick Hayashi thought catching a record-breaking homerun ball made him the luckiest guy in the world, not one of the most scorned.**



Take me out to the ball game ... and to court — TV news footage (above) shows Hayashi emerging from the scrum with the prize. And Hayashi's personal photos (right) reveal his ambivalence with new found fame.

Photos: (above) courtesy www.upforgrabsmovie.com and (right) courtesy Patrick Hayashi



One fateful day in October, a message from a Giant came hurling out of the sky and changed Patrick Hayashi's life forever. The message was in the shape of a baseball freshly hit off the bat of homerun king Barry Bonds and whispered sweet promises as it sailed over San Francisco's SBC Park.

"I will make you rich," the baseball said. "I will make you famous." Hayashi heeded the message and wanted to become its messenger, but so did hundreds of other hopefuls that momentous day (Oct. 7, 2001) when Bonds famously set the season record at 73 home runs.

"I think the idea was to go to the last ball game of the season and see if Barry Bonds could break the home run record ... there was a lot of electricity in the ball park. Of course I brought my baseball glove, but I thought the odds of it happening was highly unlikely," said Hayashi, pausing at the last part of his statement and then chuckling.

But in the first inning of the game, Bonds delivered and Hayashi emerged from a pile of bodies with the historic ball wedged in his hand.

What happened in the moments between the pushing bodies and flailing limbs became the center of an overexposed legal battle between Hayashi and Alex Popov, then a 38-year-old restaurateur who vehemently argued he was the rightful owner of the ball. Before the trial was over, Popov and his legal team would accuse Hayashi of assault, stealing the baseball out of his glove and biting a kid in the leg. Hayashi and his lawyers (Don Tamaki and Michael Lee) said he simply picked the ball off the ground and questioned Popov about a mysterious "sucker" ball that several witnesses saw in the pile of bodies.

Now for your viewing pleasure, the saga with all of its eye-rolling twists and turns can be relived in the upbeat documentary film, "Up for Grabs," a lighthearted, cheeky re-examination of the day (and the year-long litigation afterwards) when suing for a baseball became fair play.

## 'I Was Cast as a Greedy Person'

In the heat of the controversy four years ago, Hayashi seemed to wilt under the crush of attention.

"I don't enjoy being the center of attention. Part of it may be culture," Hayashi said via telephone from San Diego where he now lives and works. "I went to the park to have a good time and I was cast as a greedy person, but nothing that I did was wrong."

In one instance, he was a software engineer living quietly in San

Jose and in another he was sitting in the security room of SBC Park — while Major League Baseball officials verified the authenticity of the homerun ball — listening to a woman in another room talking openly about his inevitable loss of privacy. Elation turned to terror and he said he could not even steady his hand enough to sign his name. Like past homerun ball catchers, Hayashi was expected to participate in a press conference, but he opted out — a decision he told the *Pacific Citizen* he would change if he had a second chance.

"I would change [that decision] and talk to the press even though I'm not comfortable with sitting in front of cameras and talking about myself. People didn't know who I was," he said.

People did, however, know Popov who seemed to seize every opportunity to go on camera to explain his case. In the documentary, it's Popov who receives the most screen time, introducing himself to women at a bar as the guy who caught Barry Bonds' 73rd and ostentatiously burying himself in property law books to prepare for the trial. And like any reality TV star can attest, the camera does not lie.

Hayashi said that his name was dragged through the mud through association with Popov and also because of their racial differences — Hayashi is a third generation Japanese American and Popov is white.

"Was it the media? Was it the video? Was it the witnesses or was it just a preconceived belief that certain cultures receive the benefit of the doubt?" said Hayashi.

## 'He Can Look Back at It and Chuckle'

Almost five years have past since Hayashi, now 40, emerged from the human pile and entered an outrageous court battle and he said he is now able to reflect with some amusement.

The judge ruled for the two to sell the ball and split the proceeds, a decision he said he was happy with. However, the ball did not sell for the millions of dollars as it was predicted, only \$450,000 giving each party \$225,000, which was not enough to cover either sides' legal fees. Popov refused to pay his lawyers and now they are suing each other.

Hayashi's lawyers graciously waived most of their fees giving the

self-described baseball fan the monetary means to pay for his Masters degree in business and a used car.

But like in any other battle, there are lessons learned ("It was a rough process going through the negative press and people's perception. It makes me a little more cautious.") and scars that won't heal ("[Popov] was in it for the money and partly to be on television. I hope that's what the audience will get out of it").

"I think Patrick is a mild-mannered humble guy," said "Up for Grabs" Director/Producer/Co-Editor Michael Wranovics. "Early on, I was convinced that Patrick had stolen the ball from Alex's glove ... But at this point, my opinion of Patrick Hayashi has changed quite a bit. He never sought the limelight. He never let his ego take over. He seemed to have the ability to keep things in the proper perspective while all of this craziness was going on."

"And now, I can see that he has a sense of humor about the whole thing. He can look back at it and chuckle in a way that I don't believe Alex can," Wranovics added.

All the hype and drama has not soured Hayashi from baseball. He still counts himself a fan, but admits with a laugh that if he were at a game and a home run ball were to fly in his direction again he may not be as quick to dive for it.

"Yeah. The fear is there. I would be a little hesitant." ■

## 'Up for Grabs' Show Dates

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NEW YORK - Cinema Village  
**MAY 13th Openings**

WEST HOLLYWOOD - Laemmle  
Sunset 5

SANTA MONICA - Laemmle  
Monica

PASADENA - Playhouse  
ARCATA - Minor Theatre

SACRAMENTO - Crest  
**May 27th Openings**

SANTA CRUZ - Nickelodeon  
CLEVELAND - Shaker Square

**June 10th Openings**  
DALLAS - Angelika

HOUSTON - Angelika  
CHICAGO - Music Box Theatre

SAN DIEGO - Landmark Ken  
Cinema


**June 17th Openings**  
DENVER - Starz Center

Dates and time are subject to change. Check local listings.

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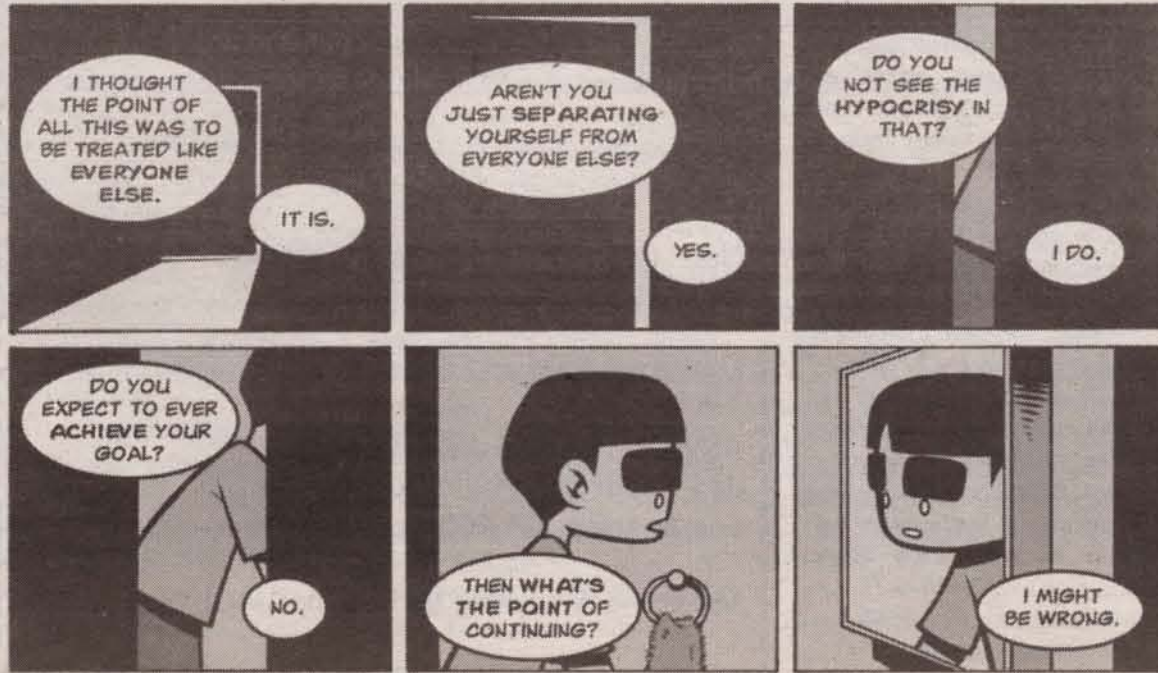
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# JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

## National

### PALOS VERDES, Calif.

**Mon., June 20**—Second Annual National JACL Golf Tournament; 10 a.m., noon shotgun start; Rolling Hills Country Club; \$200 per golfer, includes lunch, dinner, prizes, cart and awards. Info and applications: PSW Regional Office, 213/626-4471 or psw@jacl.org or Floyd Mori, 4thforrest@msn.com.

### 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.

**Tue., May 17**—11th Annual APAICS Gala Dinner; Washington, D.C. Capital Hilton; join APAICS for its annual celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in politics and public service. Info: www.apaics.org.

**May 21-Aug. 29**—Exhibition, "Shomei Tomatsu: Skin of the Nation"; 10-5 p.m. Wed.-Mon., closed Tues.; Corcoran Gallery of Art, New York Ave. and 17th Street, NW; Tomatsu is Japan's preeminent post-war photographer and his work has rarely been seen in the U.S. Info: 202/639-1700 or www.corcoran.org.

## Midwest

### CHICAGO

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

### CLEVELAND

**Sat., May 28**—APA Heritage Day, sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Federation; 1-6 p.m.; Cleveland City Hall; keynote speaker, Major Jesse Baltazar, retired Filipino American WWII Air Force officer, defender at Bataan, survivor of Death March; free. Info: David Namkoong, 216/921-3217.

## 2nd Annual JACL Golf Tournament Set for June 20

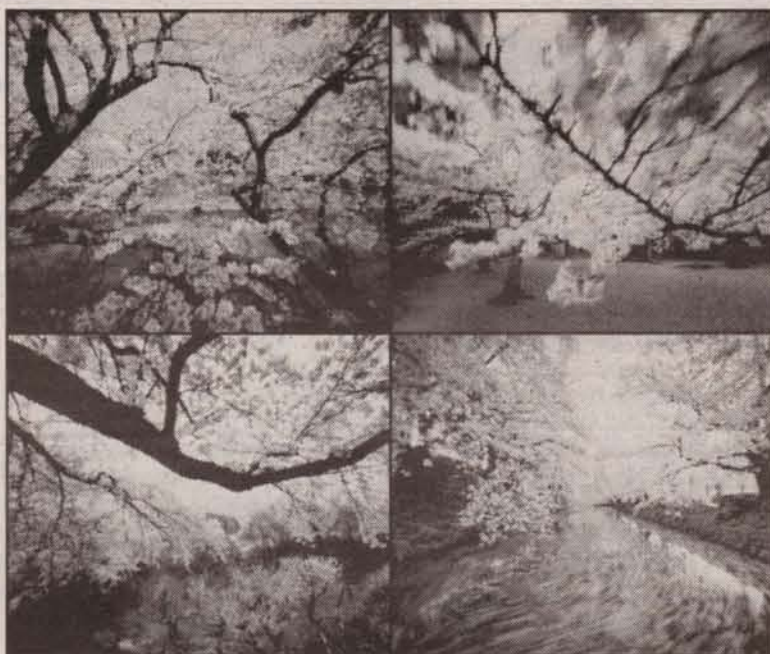
The 2nd Annual National JACL Golf Tournament will be held this year at the Rolling Hills Country Club on the Pales Verdes Peninsula in Southern California June 20.

Registration and practice time will begin at 10 a.m. with a putting contest from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and the shotgun start will begin at 12 noon. After the golfing and scoring is completed, an awards dinner will be held.

The cost of the tournament is \$200 per golfer which includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, prizes, and awards. George Aratani is once again the event's honorary chairman and major sponsor.

All golfers within JACL are urged to consider participating in this tournament which will benefit the programs of JACL. It is also an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful outing with fellow JACLers.

JACL chapters are being provided with application forms. Anyone wishing to become a sponsor or donate to this event or desiring more information or applications may contact the JACL PSW district office at 213/626-4471 or psw@jacl.org or Floyd Mori at 4thforrest@msn.com. ■



PHOTOS: STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

Sakura, an exhibition of a new series of photographs by photographer Taku Aramasa is now showing at the Stephen Wirtz Gallery in San Francisco.

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

**Sat., June 4**—Lecture, Iwao Takamoto, creator of Scooby Doo will share his work as an animator; 11 a.m.; NW Natural, 4th Floor Conference Room, 220 NW 2nd Ave.; hosted by the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center; \$5/lecture or \$25/lecture and lunch. Tickets: ONLC, 503/224-1458.

### SEATTLE

**May 12-June 26**—Exhibition, Visions of Buddha: Faces of Transformation; Ming's Asian Gallery, 519 Sixth Ave S and 10217 Main St, Bellevue; focuses on artistic adaptations by diverse cultures and traces the origins of Buddhism in India and its wide spread influence throughout Asia; Mon.-Thurs. 10-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

## Northern California

### BERKELEY

**Tues., May 10**—"Manzanar: An American Story"; Zellerbach Hall, U.C. Berkeley; under the artistic direction of Kent Nagano.

### SACRAMENTO

**Through June 30**—Time of Remembrance: The Japanese American Experience; Tues.-Sat., 10-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.; California Museum for History, Women and the Arts; features a replica internment camp barrack, complete with items used in the camps, sets the stage for an exhibit on the experiences of Japanese Americans in California;

starting with immigration, the story leads to internment and military service during World War II and culminates with redress for the wartime infringement of their civil liberties. The exhibit includes a tribute to Robert Matsui for his role in the fight for redress. Info: www.californiamuseum.org.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Through May 28**—Exhibition, "Sakura," a new series of photographs by Taku Aramasa; Stephen Wirtz Gallery, 19 Geary St. Info: 415/433-6870 or email: swg@wirtzgalleries.com.

**Wed.-Thurs., June 2-4**—California Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans; Radisson Miyako Hotel, Japantown; sponsored by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Info: 415/567-5505, info@CCLPEPconf.org or www.CCLPEPconf.org.

### SAN MATEO

**Sun., May 22**—Movie Matinee, "Shall We Dance"; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St.; free. Info: 650/343-2793.

### STOCKTON

**Sat., May 7**—Screening, "Only the Brave" by Lane Nishikawa; 2 p.m.; San Joaquin Delta College, Warren Atherton Theater, 5151 Pacific Ave.; tickets may be purchase through the Delta College Box Office, 209/954-5110.

## Central California

### HANFORD

**Sat., May 7**—Lecture/demonstration,

Ballads of Love and Death: A lecture/demonstration of *shinnai*, Japanese narrative song by Tsuruga Wakasanojo XI; 6:30-8 p.m.; Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth Ave.; \$25 for Institute members, \$35 for non-members; admission includes wine and hors d'oeuvres reception with the artist; all tickets by advance reservation only; RSVP by May 4 to 559/582-4915.

**Through July 30**—The Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art Presents: Drawn from Literature: Narrative Traditions in Japanese Art; 15770 Tenth Ave; \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and students with ID. Info: 559/582-4915 or www.shermanleeinstitute.org.

## Southern California

### CERRITOS

**June 21-24**—Shochiku Grand Kabuki Chikamatsu-za; Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts; Japan's most spectacular theater tradition makes its triumphant return to Southern California for the first time in nearly a decade featuring the Chikamatsu-za troupe; Tickets: 800/300-4345 or www.cerritoscenter.com.

### GARDENA

**Sun., May 15**—Health Education Day by Gardena Pioneer Project; 1-3 p.m.; Ken Nakaoka Center, 1700 W. 162nd St.; free and open to the public; translation will be provided for Japanese speaking. Info: Karen Uyekawa, 213/894-3235.

### LONG BEACH

**Through May 22**—International City Theatre presents Velina Hasu Houston's, "Tea"; Long Beach Performing Arts Center, 300 East Ocean Blvd.; Thurs., Fri. and Sat. performances begin at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 562/436-4610 or www.ictlongbeach.com.

### LOS ANGELES

**Wed., May 11**—Japan America Society of Southern California's 96th Anniversary Dinner and Gala Celebration; 6:30 p.m. cocktails in the outfield, 7:30 p.m. dinner on the playing field; honoring baseball coaching legends, Rod Deadeaux and Renza Ishii; both founded the Japan-USA Baseball Championship Series. Info: 213/627-6217, ext. 205 or www.jas-socal.org.

**Sat., May 14**—Manzanar Family Day at Union Center; 9:30 a.m.; Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St.; East West Players, LA Artcore and Visual Communications present free performances, short films, panel discussions, art exhibits and youth activities

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All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akune, John, 58**, Oxnard, Apr. 15; Denver-born; survived by sons, Jonnie and Kenji; brothers, Hiro (Mary) and Jerry (Jane); and sisters, Georgia Cooper and Irene (Larry) Kawata.

**Aoki, Chiyo, 89**, Monterey Park, Mar. 26; Los Angeles-born; survived by sons, Alan and Chuck (Susan); daughters, Mary (Osamu) Onishi and June; 4 gc.; brother, Ted (Kimiko) Kino; and sister, Ayako Kino.

**Fujinami, William Yutaka, 57**, Mandalay Shores, Mar. 13; Ogden, Utah-born; survived by sisters, Janice (Richard) Steckler and Rosan (Dale) Ito; and brothers, Wilbur (Becky) and Myron (Maridith) Ishii.

**Fujioki, Jean Yaeko, 63**, Gardena, Mar. 27; Los Angeles-born Sansei; survived by mother, Tsusako; sister, Ruby; and brothers, Nobuo (Emma) and Dick.

**Fukuwa, Lilly Yuriko, 89**, Gardena, Apr. 2; San Francisco-born Nisei; survived by sons, Harry (Pauline) and Nolan (Cathleen); daughters, Janice (Dennis) Sato and Dianne; 9 gc.; and brothers, Watson (Alice), Yoshio (Kaoru) and Ben (Nobuko) Noda.

**Hashimoto, Toshiyuki "Bill," 86**, Torrance, Apr. 6; Los Angeles-born Nisei; survived by wife, Lily; son, Calvin (Teresa); daughter, Loryce (Daniel Muramoto); 1 gc.; and brothers, Manabu (May) and Hiromu (Sakiko).

**Hata, Kouji, 77**, Torrance, Apr. 5; Santa Monica-born; survived by daughters, Grace (Robert) Liebl and Frances (James) Gillis; daughter-in-law, Fumiko Hata; 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; sisters, Margaret Fujisaka and Sakaye Kawamura; and sister-in-law, Nancy Hata.

**Higaki, Toshio Kenneth**, Gardena, Feb. 1; survived by wife, Sadako; son, Glenn; daughters, Wanda and Leslie (Mohammad); 2 gc.; sister, Yae (Takemoto); and brother-in-law, George (May) Sahara.

**Higuchi, James, 89**, San Jose, Apr.

4; one of the first JA doctors in San Jose and the first surgeon to perform an operation at Alexian Brothers Hospital. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States entered WWII, Dr. Higuchi, serving in the medical corps of a military engineering unit, was transferred out of California. He retired in 1985. Survived by wife Amy; sons, James, Paul and Michael; daughter, Mary Ann Mailliard; sister, Emily Filling; brother, William; 9 gc.; and 3 ggc.

**Kamimoto, Herbert Yogoro, 80**, Apr. 8; Puunene, Maui, Hawaii-born Nisei; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughter, Avis (Ralph) Honda; and 1 gc.

**Kino, Fumiko, 84**, Monterey Park, Mar. 26; survived by sons, Stanley (Karen) and Art; daughters, Sue (Alan) Endo, Wendy (John) Gutheil; 5 gc.; sister, Emiko (Kazuo) Saika; brother-in-law, Ted (Kimi) Kino; and sister-in-law, Ayako Kino.

**Kuritani, Lily Yuri, 92**, Mar. 24; survived by sons, Edward (Kumiko) and Kenneth (Ikuko); daughters, May (Clarence) Tanabe and Jean Mori; 9 gc.; and 7 ggc.

**Mito, Kimiye, 78**, Pasadena, Mar. 28; Compton-born; survived by husband, Tsutomu; daughters, Alice and Nadine; and brother, Tad (Kyoko) Taguchi.

**Miyamoto, Harry Taneo, 84**, Oxnard, Mar. 10; survived by wife, Michi; daughters, Margaret (James) Hosaki, Harriet (Robert) Hiji, Sue (Gary) Nakamura, Fumi (Steve) Nishimori and Joyce (David) Schoonmaker; sons, Ken (Karen), Paul (Sharon), John (Joan) and Alan (Heloisa); 28 gc.; 9 ggc.; brother, Roy; and sisters, Satsuki Nishi, Nobuko Shigenaga, Hisato Akazaki and Yoshiko Yoshida.

**Morey, Donn, 61**, Los Angeles, Apr. 21; passed away after undergoing a kidney transplant; Morey was President and CEO of The Morey Group, a governmental relations and land use firm. Active in community

affairs, he is past president of the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation and a Director of the Asian America Symphony Association. With his family, he has been a supporter of the Japanese American National Museum. Morey received his Bachelor of Arts from UCLA and attended law school at USC. He was the son of George and Sakaye. Survived by brothers, John, Jim and Jack; and sisters-in-law, Joyce, Janice and Clare.

**Morita, Takashi "Tak," 87**, Fresno, Oct. 19, 2004; WWII veteran, MIS; JACLer; survived by wife, Fukiko; daughter, Carole (Edwin, J.D.) Morita-Brewer; sons, Craig, M.D., Ph.D. (Gloria Lee, Ph.D.) and Stan; and 3 gc.

**Mui, Nobuo, 87**, Los Angeles, Mar. 30; Nisei; survived by wife, Aiko; and brother, Frank.

**Mura, Steven Yukiharu, 53**, Apr. 2; survived by wife, Marianne; sons, Keith, Alan and Jeffrey; mother, Kazuko; brother, Calvin (Patricia); sister, Irene Martin; mother-in-law, Mady Vettiger; and sister-in-law, Beatrice (Roberto) Rogantini.

**Nakamura, Helen Mineko, 76**, Apr. 9; survived by husband, Ed; daughters, Carol (Ken) Sakamoto and Gail Nakamura; brothers, George, Jiro, Ronald and Gary (Gerry) Matsuno; and sisters, Shigeo (Mitsuo) Hazama, Itsuko Matsuno and Nancy (Edward) Mino.

**Nakamura, Tom Toshio, 88**, Los Angeles, Apr. 3; Los Angeles-born Nisei; survived by daughters, Evelyn (Stanley) Morimoto and Carol (Eric) Iwafuchi; 6 gc.; and 7 ggc.

**Nakamura, Toshiko "Toy," 72**, Arcadia, Mar. 25; survived by husband, Tsutomu; daughters, Heidi Kelman and Connie Nakamura; 1 gc.; and sister, Fuji Kono.

**Nishimura, Dr. Shigeo, 86**, Spokane, Wash., Apr. 3; Deer Lodge, Mont.-born; served in Army Medical Corp during WWII; Spokane JACLer; survived by son, Richard; daughter, Jayne Coffman; 5 gc.; and 4

ggc.

**Nishiyama, Ben Shiro, 85**, Altadena, Apr. 6; survived by sons, Daniel (Keiko) and Michael (Irene); daughter, Janice (Scott) Warren; and 3 gc.

**Nojima, Nagatoshi J., 79**, survived by sister, Yukiko Miyahara; brother, George; and sisters-in-law, Joanne Nojima and Itoko Nojima.

**Oda, Frank A., 68**, Apr. 4; survived by wife, Sadie; daughter, Karen (Derek) Kollenda, sons, Gary (Marcia) and Bryan (Meg); 5 gc.; brothers, John (Nancy) and Glenn; and sister, Yuriko (Ken) Sawada.

**Ouchida, Kiyoshi Jimmie, 95**, Santa Monica, Mar. 31; Sacramento-born Nisei; survived by wife, Masako; son, Takashi; daughter, June (Shumei) Nagaya; 1 gc.; and sister-in-law, Tsuneko (Alan) Millet.

**Osumi, Kazuo, 80**, Sierra Vista, Ariz., Mar. 19; survived by wife, Ruby, sons, Ron (Deanna) and Dr. Alan (Bonnie); daughter, Patricia Osumi-Davis (Richard); and many gc.

**Ota, Henry Nobuyoshi, 69**, Culver City, Apr. 3; Calexico-born; survived by wife, Ruth; son, Robert (Janet); daughters, Tammy (Richard) Masuda and Sherri (Ron) Sera; 5 gc.; brothers, Harry (Lucy) and David (Bette); and brother-in-law, Bill (Tomoko) Sato.

**Sakawye, Ruby Hatsuko, 85**, Los Angeles, Apr. 7; survived by son, Eugene; daughters, Joy (David) Hamlin and Judy Sakawye; son-in-law, Susumu Kono; 6 gc.; and 7 ggc.

**Seto, Masao, 91**, Indio, Mar. 29; San Bernardino-born; survived by daughter, Sharon; sons, Rodney (Elydia) and Richard; 3 gc.; brothers, Thomas (Yoshiko) and George (Nobuko); and sisters, Misao (Yutaka) Yoshimoto and Yoshiye Musashi.

**Ujiye, Arthur Akira, 83**, Los Angeles, Mar. 30; Kaneohe, Hawaii-born Nisei; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT M Co.; survived by wife,

Loretta; son, Baron (Maria); daughters, Diane (Stan) Sawa, Gail (Randy) Honda and Susie (Bob) Bubbart; 5 gc.; brother, Satoshi; sister, Frances Yanase; sister-in-law, Masako Ujiye; and sisters, Miki Ujiye and Tsuruko Takeuchi.

**Yamashita, K. Stanley, 80**, Apr. 9; U.S. Army Ret. Lt. Col.; born May 17, 1924 in Los Angeles and grew up



in the fishing village of Terminal Island. Graduated from San Pedro High in absentia while in a WWII internment center in

Poston, Ariz. Yamashita began classes at Bethel College in Minn., but left to join the Army and served in the Pacific as a Japanese translator during WWII. Upon discharge, he returned to college, receiving a BA from Antioch College in Ohio. After retiring from the Army in 1978 to San Pedro, Calif., Yamashita returned to his studies completing two Master's degrees and receiving a Ph.D. in Comparative Culture from U.C. Irvine. Survived by wife Dorothy; daughters, Karen (Ted) Kitada, Mari (Ret. Lt. Col. Richard) deMoya and Dana (Mark) Emmert; and 5 gc.

**Yoshimitsu, Nobuko, 73**, Los Angeles, Apr. 3; survived by husband, Shigeru; son, Roy (Stacy); daughter, Ann (Paul) Ito; mother, Nami Shimbashi; brothers, Kenzo (Ritsuko) and Hideaki (Michiyo); and sister, Aki (Shinji) Hisada. ■

#### DEATH NOTICE

#### KANAME OKAMOTO

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Kaname Okamoto passed away April 18. Terminal Island born, he was an Air Force veteran and resided at Manzanar, Seabrook, N.J. and Yokohama, Japan. He is survived by his wife Sachiko; daughters, Sonya (Anthony) Lum and Pam (Gary) O'Brien; 3 grandchildren; 4 brothers and 4 sisters.

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## IMMIGRATION

(Continued from page 1)

"He spoke Japanese fluently and he was Ivy League educated," said Lapides who was referred to Krebs by a family member (and attorney) for his reputation as a top-notch immigration lawyer. "I trusted that he was taking care of what he was supposed to be taking care of."

Noyori never met Krebs. Instead, he was told that Krebs had a San Jose, California office where all his paperwork would be transferred and handled by Krebs's assistant Robert Higa.

"That's when the problems started," said Noyori.

Noyori worked with Higa for over four years to get his H1-B visa (a temporary classification for non-immigrants to work in the United States) renewed and his green card application started for the second time. Then Higa suddenly stopped returning phone calls and went missing forever, along with Noyori's passport. Higa had promised to return the passport after the Consulate General's Office in Osaka reviewed it, but then he vanished. And to make matters worse, Krebs called from Kentucky to say that contrary to what was promised, the filing for Noyori's green card had not been done.

Lapides said he paid \$15,000-\$25,000 for visa and green card services, the latter of which was never provided.

"[Higa] was not a paralegal and not an attorney. Every time I asked Krebs about his title, he was evasive and said that he was just a guy who helped him out," said Lapides. "He didn't help us at all. What they did actually hurt us."

According to legal experts, taking out of state clients is permissible

because immigration law is a federal matter but having unqualified employees file paperwork and counsel clients is not. Higa's qualifications may always remain a mystery and Krebs — who still practices law in Kentucky — is not likely one to provide any clarification. He did not respond to any of the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment.

Now 45 years old, Noyori is still living in Los Angeles but is now working for a new employer under an H1-B visa and he's hoping that the third time will indeed be the charm.

"It's ridiculous having to apply for a green card three times," he said, adding that he never felt angry just disappointed. "But I lost four and a half years."

Noyori is one of the luckier victims of immigration fraud.

Stories about new immigrants getting tricked into paying high sums of money in exchange for poor immigration services from attorneys and imposters calling themselves lawyers, immigration consultants or legal assistants have such devastating endings that they sound like urban myths in the Asian Pacific American community. The stories usually include loss of money, demoralization and deportation. But these stories are not all works of fiction; they are derived from real-life tragedies with real victims.

According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, immigration fraud in general increased by 33 percent from 2002-2003. One of the most pervasive forms of immigration fraud in the APA community usually involves immigration consultants who have no legal background but offer legal services and consultants who simply lie about their legal training. Every year, countless new

Asian immigrants entrust their futures in the hands of imposters who favor opening offices in ethnic enclaves and advertising immigration services in phone books, newspapers and on their storefronts.

Becoming an immigration consultant can be as simple as hanging a sign in front of an office building and waiting for foot traffic.

### The Enemy from Within

According to Joann H. Lee, directing attorney for the Asian/Pacific Islander Community Outreach Unit of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, there are a few different types of cases of immigration fraud that range from the consultant or attorney filing paperwork poorly to ordering their client's deportation after money is collected.

These phony immigration consultants infiltrate the Asian community from the inside.

"My parents were immigrants and my first home was in Chinatown," said Wei C. Wong, an attorney in Alhambra, California. "They [the perpetrators] looked like the victim and spoke the same language — the old 'let me help you, my friend' — gives them entry into people's trust ... the guard is down when dealing with one's own."

Wong, along with Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association's (SCCLA) Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, have filed 13 cases for civil prosecution involving fraudulent immigration consultants. In the past 10 years, districts attorneys in states with high Asian resident percentages like California, West Virginia and Texas have performed sting operations to crack down on the bustling immigration business. In California, immigration consultants are required to post a \$50,000

bond with the secretary of state's office and post signs indicating that they are not attorneys.

But in a site survey of 20 randomly selected immigration offices in the Los Angeles area, the *P.C.* did not find any such offices with visible signs posted. Additionally, many of the immigration offices listed in the current SBC Smart Yellow Pages under "immigration and naturalization consultants" either denied offering such services or referred the *P.C.* to an off-sight attorney when asked for evidence of compliance to bond requirements.

A representative from API Group in Alhambra, Calif. told the *P.C.* they discontinued immigration services despite being listed in current phone books several times and China United Immigration Law Office, also in Alhambra, referred us to Attorney James Andion after they were asked for their bond surety number. According to the California Bar Association, Andion works for a law firm in Downtown, Los Angeles and has been penalized several times for ethical violations including faulty advertising.

It's only lawful for paralegals and assistants to use the attorney's title and backing if the office belongs to the attorney himself, said Wong. Experts also point out that a legitimate law office would bear the attorney's name in the business title.

"These [immigration consultants] don't have to take any classes. Nothing. There's nothing stopping them from saying whatever they want to say. There are no ethical rules. There's no training. They are completely unregulated," said Wong.

When these unqualified individuals sit in a position of power over unknowing victims there is a problem, he added.

### Who Pays? We Do.

There are legitimate immigration consultants who provide valuable non-legal help such as translation services, but Wong said that the unauthorized practice of law has "definitely increased and has expanded to traditional legal services, such as personal injury and other areas of law."

As laws continue to change, so too does the business of immigration consultants. Offices are opened and closed within short amounts of time and "backed" by real attorneys, making these cases extremely difficult to prosecute. Victims are generally very reluctant to report fraud crimes.

It's easy to turn a blind eye to the problem, but Wong points out that ultimately we are all paying for these crimes with our tax dollars.

Immigration fraud is even going high tech with thousands of Web sites offering speedy services making even the internet savvy and educated consumer a potential victim. Companies like Immigration Form Process Center, LLC ([www.visa-forms.com](http://www.visa-forms.com)) and American Immigration Center ([www.us-immigration.com](http://www.us-immigration.com)) charge high prices for paperwork that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offers for free.

"It's important to get competent help from the beginning," said Lee, especially since immigration law is constantly changing.

"You mark the wrong box in immigration, it's so hard to ever fix," said Wong. "The profile of the fraud victim runs the gamut — from the sophisticated to the poor. People hear what they want to hear. They can't seem to heed the statement, 'If it is too good to be true, it probably isn't true.'" ■

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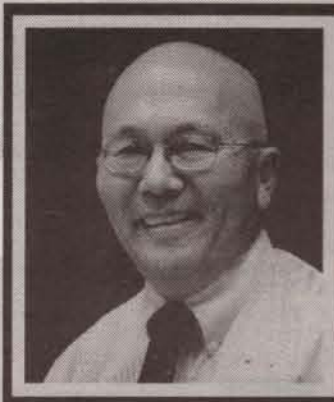
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