Experiences to Help Those with Autistic Children

Executive Editor
By CAROLINE AYAGI

When Lorinda Waltz’s parents both fell ill over five years ago she willingly agreed to take care of them, building a two-bedroom Okama 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, bathtubs, 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 constant 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 10 million have adopted this role.

By LYNDA LIN

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 LYNDA LIN

Even before the dust settled around HO1-97 FM’s controversial tsunami parody song, two New Jersey radio station hosts have ignited the Asian Pacific American community’s ire with their recent on-air racial derogatory comments about a local Korean American mayoral candidate and “Oriental.” The incident is prompting APA groups to say same racist words.

During the April 25 morning drive-time show, New Jersey’s 101.5 FM (WKXW FM) hosts “The Jersey Guys” Chris Carton and Ray Bond used a stereotypical Chinese accent to criticize Jun Chee, 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

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

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

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

By LYNDA LIN

The Price of Becoming American

Think your immigration lawyer passed the Bar? Think again.

By LYNDA LIN

Yoshiyuki Noyori has American dreams, but in the 14 years that he has worked in the United States, he has only had glimpses of those dreams being realized. Noyori is here on a work visa, but said 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.

In the past March, 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 Lapidus, said he had some suspicions 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.
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 he be remembered through this designation."


I was fortunate to have counted Congressmember Matsui as a close friend, and Bob Matsui was a friend to all Americans," said John Tatsuki, JACL executive director. "His selflessness and principled service as a policymaker and a problem-solver is a timeless legacy, just as this courtroom and the building that houses this great man and his accomplishments. It is truly fitting that he be remembered through this designation."

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who will have a day named in his honor. As Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor, 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 Landos 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 in those days, for Toyoobashiru, which is his Japanese name.

Granted, one of the reasons not to apply to the assembly center at Tashiora racetrack was due to his desire to remain true to his heritage. 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 JACL community. He was considered a troublemaker and was his own worst enemy for his refusal to back his decision. That took a great deal of courage in the face of pressure from his own constituents and family. He stood firm in his convictions and for that principled stand he won him a profound debt of gratitude.

We must be ever vigilant when our current climate in our country will become more hostile. The recent attacks on Muslims by the FBI and the IRS are examples of such attacks. This is even more germane today with the current climate in our country.

Fred was a selfless role model whose life and what he did are examples of the freedoms we enjoy in this country. His life is a testament that we must never forget the sacrifices that were made.

Every time I was asked a question about making a way for our history to be told, I always gave the same answer. There is no other way.

I am grateful the P.I.C. tells it as it is. "PACIFIC CITIZEN" is still our voice. I am thankful for the support during our "internment" in Heart Mountain. It will always be a long, long time. Thank you.

JACL members are encouraged to change their address to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

National Letters
Sidney Yonehara

Letters to the Editor

On Korematsu's Passing

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who will have a day named in his honor. As Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor, 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 Landos 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 in those days, for Toyoobashiru, which is his Japanese name.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who will have a day named in his honor. As Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor, 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 Landos 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 in those days, for Toyoobashiru, which is his Japanese name.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who will have a day named in his honor. As Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor, 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 Landos 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 in those days, for Toyoobashiru, which is his Japanese name.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who will have a day named in his honor. As Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor, 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 Landos 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 in those days, for Toyoobashiru, which is his Japanese name.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fred T. Korematsu who will have a day named in his honor. As Americans to evacuate the West Coast states after Pearl Harbor, 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 Landos 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 in those days, for Toyoobashiru, which is his Japanese name.
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 (Grenada, CA) 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 center 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, by Japanese Americans and by the staff of the Department of the Interior,” said JACL National President Ken Inouye: “The JACL is tremendously 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 Yamashita, a camp detainee who helped build the Tule Lake camp stockade, attended the board hearing and spoke in support of the site designation. Yamashita 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.

Houston Chapter Honors WWII Veterans

Honorary Texans—WWII veterans are honored for their bravery with special plaques: (1-r) Marion Ferguson - 36th, Lawson Sakai - 442nd, Marty Higgins - 36th, Susumao Ito - 522nd, Joe Kihiji - 522nd, Grant Hirabayashi - MIS, Willie Tanamachi - 442nd, Teresia Okabayashi - 442nd, and George Nakamura - MIS.

By Howard Lindsay

Japanese American veterans came from both coast to coast to 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 WWII.

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

Looking out for special recognition were the stories of Unit 8 and the 442nd who died in action. The veterans, now in their 90s and 90s, were given individual plaques and they included: George Nakamura, MIS; Tommie Okabayashi, 442nd, Replacement; and Marion Ferguson, 36th Division, C.O.

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 Osaki, 8th Army Occupational Forces in Japan; Siggie Oyama, European Theater; George Sakato, 442nd, E Company; and Harry Shimomoto, 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 561st Tank Battalion, first liberated Jews from the WWII camps.

Soldiers from the 522nd were among the first to liberate the infamous Dachau, Buchenwald, and Bergen concentration camps in Germany. The Holocaust Museum exhibit also honored the WWII Japanese Consulate General at San Francisco, Chisho 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.

Since 1947 the JACL HEALTH TRUST has offered Health Care coverage to JACL members.

To protect you and your family from even common accidents and illnesses the JACL HEALTH TRUST provides Blue Cross of California health care coverage. Blue Cross of California has been providing health coverage to Californians for over 65 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

To learn more about the Blue Cross plan and how to become a member, please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-948-8875.
GENERATION
(Continued from page 1)

44 percent of Americans between the ages of 45 and 55 have children under 21 and also have aging par­
ents. In-betw." Today, about 14 mil­
lion U.S. workers are caring for aging family members. The sandwich generation phe­

nomenon is overwhelmingly preva­

lent 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 sup­

porting out about the issues. And fre­

quently, 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 the Japan American Cultural Society of San Francisco providing culturally sensitive care for senior citizens. "A lot of people of color are supportive of their families for a longer period of time." Mori believes there is still a stigma surrounding senior care homes and facilities and a reluctance to place parents in them. "They don't feel they should do it, there's a lot of guilt," he said. "The family will do everything except that at the sacrifice of more stress." After years of home care, Waltz's mother Lorinda passed away in November 2003 at the age of 80 of diverticulitis (inflammation of the colon). Soon her father Fred, now 96, 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 items and 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.

As a result of a change in attitude, search, 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 vari­

ous activities.

But after two weeks, Waltz's sandwich generation caregivers there is still a stigma in seeking help from a senior care facility. In turn, many elders are reluctant to consider a senior home as an option, believing they are too young to be okay on their own.

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

Bill Watanabe, 61, and his two older brothers took turns caring for their mother, 91-year-old Katuye, after she suffered a stroke and became increasingly absent-minded. Each week the brothers would coordinate their schedules to help her mother but four years ago the decision was made to place Katuye, 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. "We encouraged other sandwich generation folks to edu­
cate themselves about the available options out there. People need to know their options and 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 suffered several mini-strokes and falls, the decision was made to place her in the Keiro Intermediate Care Facility.

For three months now, the Toshimas visit their mother daily and have become regular volunteers and supports of Keiro. In addition to helping the seniors with various activi­
ties like walking and shopping, some of the stresses. Waltz, being able to join a support group like Project Dana, a volunteer care­
givers program in Honolulu, helped her find some salvation as she struggled to care for her parents.

"You have this idea how relieved I was to see there are other people, they understand," said Waltz, who has now been back to work full­time 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 gener­

ation folks is going to surge in the coming years with the baby boomer generation. "People are experienc­ing it now so they're being forced to talk about it."}
COMMENTARY

By KATIE SOE

H ow 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 Muse Craig, followed by a welcome by mistresses of ceremonies Heidi Tanakatsubo. Especially impressive was eight-year-old Kiely Tchang who sang the Star Spangled Banner.

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 AsAs. The arrival of dinner found Yamaguchi and I amicably conver­ sating 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, like her participation in the JACL and create their own importance role of youth in carrying forth and of course, I got the prerequisite photograph and personalized autograph.

As I neared the table reserved for Kristi Yamaguchi throughout the evening and we discussed every­ thing 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 AsAs. The arrival of dinner found Yamaguchi and I amicably conver­ sating 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 involved 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 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.

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

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.

Honorous Chair and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi presented the Legacy Awards. This year's recipients were: Berkeley - George Yasukochi (posthumously); Contra Costa - Esther Takeschi; Diablo Valley - Kay Seno; Florin - Marion Kanemoto; French Camp - Fumiko Asano; Gilroy - Atsuko Oba; Lodi - Tom Kurahara (posthumously); Marin County - Toyo Doi; Marysville - Frank Nakamura; Monterey Peninsula - Frank Tanaka; Placer County - Frank Kageta; Sacramento - Terry Makishima, Teco Nakagawa; Saito Matuse and Myra Kiyono; Sum Benito County - Tony Bochi; San Francisco - Yo Himeoka; San Jose - Sharon Uyeda, Sue Matsue, Steve Okamoto, Sequesta - Bud Nakane; Sonoma County - Martin Shimizu; Stockton - George Matsumoto; Tri-Valley - Steve Lai; and Watsonville-Santa Cruz - Iwoa 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 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 Kawane, Melody Takata and Jere Takahashi (Adult Allies Category).

National JACL Credit Union

242 South 400 East • Salt Lake City • UT 84110 • Phone: 800-544-8828

NCUA Member • NCUA Federal Credit Union

Effective Opportunity Lender
AZUMA
(continued from page 1)

Two years ago Azuma's business hit the $1 million mark in gross revenues, providing a wide array of materials and resources for parents of autistic children, all with a personal touch. Different Roads to Learning (www.differentroads.com) started out as an Internet business in 1995 and a year later, Azuma produced a paper catalogue. Starting out with a total of 39 products today the site offers a selection of over 250 items including books, flashcards, puzzles, and videos. Azuma expanded in 1997 and is currently in partnership with 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. There aren't many phone calls or letters from concerned parents. Last year, the company finally had enormous fear of putting the kimono on. If I were in Japan and even if I had a number of chances to see Akie and their parents' parents experienced back in Japan. It's amazing that we're still together and 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 that I have a son, I see part in something that my mother and grandmother went through, and feel somewhat connected 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."

"Tani Sakagawa is currently attending UCLA."

On the car ride back from the photo shoot, another spoke of her, in Japan, a seijinshiki is a very big deal for young people. 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. Many 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 prior to the age of six, often have a clearer understanding of their condition and manifestation. They have an extra in "Memoirs of a Geisha." is a cerebro-glial cell. external signs of distress. 'of my usual t-shirt and jeans. If we weren't in Japan and even if I had all my extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins with me, all of whom are "savants." And I hardly ever see any once every couple of years.

Over here, my immediate family myself, my brother, my mother and grandmother live in an 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 it was only for a day. And my Japanese American friends observed this tradition anyway.

I was 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 have. My parents' parents experienced back in Japan. It's amazing that we're still together and 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 that I have a son, I see part in something that my mother and grandmother went through, and feel somewhat connected 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 Sakagawa is currently attending UCLA.

maybe the Japanese equivalent of a seijinshiki. It's a cerebro-glial cell. external signs of distress. 'of my usual t-shirt and jeans. If we weren't in Japan and even if I had all my extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins with me, all of whom are "savants." And I hardly ever see any once every couple of years.

Over here, my immediate family myself, my brother, my mother and grandmother live in an 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 it was only for a day. And my Japanese American friends observed this tradition anyway.

I was 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 have. My parents' parents experienced back in Japan. It's amazing that we're still together and 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 that I have a son, I see part in something that my mother and grandmother went through, and feel somewhat connected 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 Sakagawa is currently attending UCLA.

NATIONAL/COMMENTARY

By YUMISAKUGAWA

in my demure smile, professionally breathing.

movies of graceful Japanese women

ribcage is being crushed into your

sions, no,

and tight.

a

an extra in "Memoirs of a Geisha."

lesions to adulthood and you

for parents of autistic children, all

Entrepreneurs We Love."

with a personal touch, Different

array of materials and resources

paper catalogue. Starting off with

expanded the business to include

an Internet business in 1995 and a

Autism.

Last year, the company finally

accessing her business. "I'm able

Two years ago Azuma's business hit the $1 million mark in gross revenues, providing a wide array of materials and resources for parents of autistic children, all with a personal touch. Different Roads to Learning (www.differentroads.com) started out as an Internet business in 1995 and a year later, Azuma produced a paper catalogue. Starting out with a total of 39 products today the site offers a selection of over 250 items including books, flashcards, puzzles, and videos. Azuma expanded in 1997 and is currently in partnership with 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. There aren't many phone calls or letters from concerned parents. Last year, the company finally

NATIONAL/COMMENTARY

By YUMISAKUGAWA

in my demure smile, professionally breathing.

movies of graceful Japanese women

ribcage is being crushed into your

sions, no,

and tight.

a

an extra in "Memoirs of a Geisha."

lesions to adulthood and you

for parents of autistic children, all

Entrepreneurs We Love."

with a personal touch, Different

array of materials and resources

paper catalogue. Starting off with

expanded the business to include

an Internet business in 1995 and a

Autism.

Last year, the company finally

accessing her business. "I'm able
PACIFIC CITIZEN, May 6-19, 2005

**FOOTBALL**

*Former Hawaii quarterback Timmy Chang signed with the Arizona Cardinals after being undrafted.*

**BASEBALL**

*Maui’s Fukuroku is One of Shortest Players in College Baseball*

By JANE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—When Maui native Royce Fukuroku steps on the field, he’s just trying to hit the batter 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 been a big 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 on players believed to be college baseball’s shortest and tallest and Fukuroku was left out. Singaporean powerhouse 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 series with Loyola Marymount, he was batting .350 with 15 RBIs and his five home runs 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 got on bases or how small he is, how does he hit the ball that far?” Fukuroku’s teammate, Patrick McGowan said. “Things don’t get handed to him when he’s that short. He goes out and competes against people wrong. They’re not looking for him to succeed... he just brings an attitude that he can’t be fasted the day every and it rubs off on other guys.”

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 be a problem, and he’s done a good job,” USF coach Nino Giarratano 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.”

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-503-9230
Our hearing impaired or voice impaired members may dial the Relay Line at 1-800-250-8881

**BASKETBALL**

*SHANGHAI, China—It’s official. Yao Ming is a “model worker.”*

Communist China’s cabinet, the State Council, awarded the honor to Yao Ming, the giant Houston Rockets center.

For decades, the model worker award has been turning unknown miners, teachers or factory workers into celebrities in the state media. The model worker nominations exceed. . . He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just brings an attitude... He just bring...
has quadrupled in the last year, Chinese should never dictate the outcome of an election, Americans should."

Carton went on to call APAs "stingy people," "Oriental," and illustrated his point of view by saying, "Ching, chong, ching, chong, ching" 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 Santana made a pub-
lic 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 any-
one."

APAs are not amused and they are not taking the insults lying down. Many groups and politi-
cians have held news conferences calling for boycotting of the radio station's sponsors and the termina-
tion 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/je svayguys) demanding accountability for "racist propaganda targeting Asian Pacific Americans." And JACL Midwest Director William Yoshio sent a scathing letter to 101.5 FM Program Director Eric Johnson reminding him that "those who spew hatred of racist visions on the air are underserving 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 vision 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 at-
ting.

Despite the mounting controver-
sy, 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 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 ill-
ess. This certainly is not the first time a radio station has lashed out at the APA community either. Many draws parallels to New York's HOT 97 FM's tsunami par-
ody song fiasco that cost the hip-
 hop radio station and its parent company Emmis Communications (already besmirched with door-
front shootings, continued allega-
tions of racial slurs and now an attorney general's investigation into their face-slapping competi-
tion) 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 wan ed 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 cur-
rently holds 225,500 of Emmis' shares. Kaari Kokka of CAHM and JACL New York, said CAHM will be actively involved in the fight against Millenium, 101.5 FM and the "Jersey Boys."

The string of racially charged and anti-Asian broadcasts on the radio has fueled the debate on free-
doms of speech. Although 101.5 FM's officials have issued an apolog-
y, they qualify Carton's and Rossi's comments as entertain-
ment 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 them-

selfs the 'Jersey Boys,' but they are the most un-Jersey and un-
American people I know."
Patrick Hayashi thought catching a record-breaking homerun ball made him the luckiest guy in the world, not one of the most scorned.

One fateful day in October, a message from a Giant came hurtling 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 Home run 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 reaching new heights.

"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 bought my baseball glove, but I thought the odds of it happening was highly unlikely," said Hayashi, passing at the last part of his statement and then chuckling.

But in the first inning of the game, Bonds 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 andfalling heads became the center of an overexposed legal battle between Hayashi and Alex Popov, then a seventh-grader whose actor 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 leading to the leg, (Hayashi) and his lawyers (Don Tamiaki 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 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 seeing 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 want 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 when he was nine and lives. “I went to the park to have a good time and I was cut 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 homeron 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 of the 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 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 the court as the guy who caught Barry Bonds’ 73rd and ostentatiously burying himself in protection law books to prepare for the trial. And like any reality TV star can attest, the camera does not lie.

“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.

“Can He Look Back and the”

Almost five years have pass since Hayashi, now 40, emerged from the humbling pill 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 $580,000, giving Popov $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 grudgingly waived most of their fees giving the self-described baseball fan the money means to pay for his Masters degree in business and a used car.

But like in any other battle, there are lessons learned, but a was a fraught process going through the negative press and people’s perception. It makes not a little more cautious,” and scars that won’t heal ("Popov is in 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/Ci­ editor Michael Wrights. “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,” Wrights added.

All the hype and drama has not soured Hayashi from baseball. He still loves it and like a kid with a laugh that if he were at a game and a home run ball were to fly over his head, 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

MAY 2014

SAN FRANCISCO: The Presidio Theatre (Thursday, near Scott) (949) 903-4142

OAKLAND: The Upstairs (Friday) MONTREY: Oren

FRESNO: Regal Manhattan Mall

NEW YORK: AMC Empire (Times Square)

WEST HOLLYWOOD: Lammie Sunset 5

SAN DIEGO: La Jolla

SEATTLE: Arroyo

DALLAS: Angelika

HOUSTON: Angelika

SAN DIEGO: La Jolla Theatre

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

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

I thought the point of all this hubbub was to be treated like no one was watching. It IS. Yes. It IS.

Do you never think about the hypocrisy in that?

I think that’s the point of continuing.

Do you not think the hypocrisy in that?

I’m not the only one.

We all are.
NATIONAL JACL GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM

$200 Fee per golfer
Includes golf, cart, lunch, awards, dinner.

Name

Index/Handicap

JACL Chapter

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

Desired foursome

Note: Desired foursomes should mail in the entry forms together.

Mail entry form and check to:

PSWDC National JACL Golf
244 South San Pedro Street, #406
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Make check payable to: National JACL Golf

NOON-12:30 p.m. - Set up Tee boxes, cart and club rentals
12:30 p.m. - Lunch served
1:00 p.m. - Awards ceremony
1:15 p.m. - Start play
3:00 p.m. - End of play
3:15 p.m. - Presentation and awards ceremony
4:00 p.m. - End of day

PHOTOS STEPHEN WITZ GALLERY

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

Ballads of Love and Death: A lecture/demonstration of shiawase, Japanese narrative song sung by Tatsuya Watanabe Jr., 6:30-9 p.m.; Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15707 Yorba Ave., Yorba Linda, for $55 for members; $85 for non-members; admission by ticket only; no refreshments; all audience members must have received the ticket; all proceeds are to benefit the institute; for more information: www.ruthandshermancollection.org.


Southern California

CRITERA

June 21-24 - Shinkansen Grand Canal Championship - Center for the Performing Arts, Japan’s most spectacular laser light theatre production makes its triumphant return to Southern California for the final time in nearly a decade featuring the Shinkansen laser portraits; Tickets, 800/460-4355 or www.centerticket.com.

GARDENA

May 19 - Health Education Day - Education for Justice in America; 10 a.m.; Ken Nakakita Center, 150 W. 62nd St.; free and open to the public; information will be provided for Japanese-speaking people on healthy life style; Info: 415/567-2450.

Long Beach

Through May 22 - International Cherry Blossom Festival; Beaumont Civic Center, 1200 Civic Center Plaza; 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Info: 562/250-0000.

Los Angeles

May 11 - Japan-America Society of Southern California’s 96th Annual Dinner/Dance Gala Celebration; 6:30 p.m. cocktails in the out-door courtyard of the playing field; honoring baseball coaching legends Rod Deadeaux and Renza Ishii; both found in the Japan-USA Baseball Championship Series. Info: 213/827-6226 or info@la-corporatechamber.org.

May 14 - Memorial Family Day at 9:30 a.m.; Union Center for the Arts; 213/742-9475 or eastwestplayers.com.

May 15-22 - Century City clean-up; 8 a.m.; corner of Pleasant Valley Road and El Toro; Info: 310/679-6000; Century City is hosting a cleaning of a neglected cemetery, burial of many souls. Info: Ellen Matlin, 310/523-6077 or jw@centurymall.com.

May 27 - Cherry Blossom Festival; 10 a.m.; Heritage Park, 144 W. Garvey Ave.; free parking. Info: www.festivalofsacredmusic.org or 562/986-2566.

Classified Ads

EMPLOYMENT

DIVERSITY: Our People Make The Difference

In our quest to hire the best, Securitas USA is committed to the Spirit of Diversity and a commitment to making available opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds. Securitas USA strongly supports diversity in the workplace and has the following career opportunities available in the areas of Security Services/Security Officers, Security Management, Security Operations/Technical Support.

Applications for more information regarding these opportunities and others, please contact your local office for the office nearest you or join our visit our website at www.securitas.com/securityusa.

GARDENA

May 21 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 15770 Tenth Ave.; $25 for Institute members, $35 for non-members; Info: 310/540-9266 ext. 2249.

Preserve Your Assets Through Estate Planning

ATTEND ONE OF THE FOUR SEMINARS

FREE BOOK

LITTLETON

Saturday, May 14
10 a.m.
3201 S. Hudson St.
JACC

GARDENA

Saturday, May 21
10 a.m.
15770 Tenth Ave.
JACC

SACRAMENTO

July 15
10 a.m.
120 Judge John Aiso St.
JACC

OXNARD

April 30
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

May 13
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

May 20
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

May 27
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

June 3
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

June 10
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

June 17
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

June 24
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

July 1
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

July 8
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

July 15
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

July 22
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

July 29
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

August 5
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

August 12
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

August 19
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

August 26
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

September 2
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

September 9
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

September 16
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

September 23
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

September 30
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

October 7
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

October 14
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

October 21
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

October 28
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

November 4
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

November 11
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

November 18
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

November 25
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

December 2
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

December 9
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

December 16
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

December 23
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD

December 30
10 a.m.
407 E. Camino Real
JACC

OXNARD
Save Energy, Save Money
For Your Business

Lower your electric bill with programs designed with your business in mind. SCE’s Express Efficiency Program, and our Summer Discount Plan put money back where it counts — your bottom line. Save even more each month by installing a programmable thermostat and compact fluorescent bulbs.

To learn more, please visit www.sce.com and click on “ Rebates & Savings,” or call (800) 756-4777.
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 would be 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 Kreb's assistant Robert Higa.

"That's when the problems start ed," said Noyori.

Noyori worked with Higa for over four years to get his H-I-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 was 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.

As it turned out, Noyori was 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. 

"[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 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 Noyori is living in Los Angeles but is now working for a new employer under an H-I-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 in 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 devastat­ ing endings that they sound like urban myths in the Asian Pacific community. They usually lose money and often lose their bonds for deportation. But the 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 the Asian Pacific American community rose 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 to people who simply lie about their legal training. Every year, countless new Asian immigrants entrust their futures to the hands of imposters who favor opening offices in ethnic enclaves and advertising immigration consultants in phone books, news­ papers and on their storefronts.

"Unscrupulous 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" — but I was young and trusting. I didn't want to go to the immigration office and post signs indicating that I was an attorney and backing the attorney himself, said Wong. "It's better to take 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 mak­ ing even the internet savvy and edu­ cated consumer a potential victim.

According to Immigration Form Process Center, LLC (www.visa­ forms.com) and American Immigration Service (www.as-immigra­ tion.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 fix," said Wong. "The profile of the fraud victim runs the gamut — from the desperate 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.'"