

Since 1929

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



MAY 20-JUNE 2, 2005

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## Hey Baby, What's Your Blood Type?

Much like horoscopes, the Japanese believe blood type determines a person's characteristics and marriage-ability, but lately the practice has come under increasing skepticism.

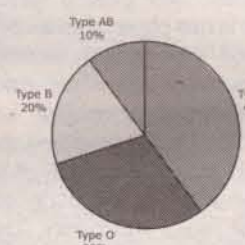
By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

In the numerous bars and clubs that cover the U.S. landscape, a common pick-up line is, "What's your sign?" — as in zodiac sign. But cross the Pacific Ocean to the island of Japan and it's not the signs of the zodiac potential mates are interested in, it's your blood type.

Whether you're an A, O, B or the more uncommon blood type AB, many Japanese believe it's a person's blood type that determines an individual's characteristics. So whether you're applying for a job or seeking out a potential mate,

the Japanese will often ask the ubiquitous question: "What's your blood type?"

"I don't think it's totally accurate, but I think it is not too far off either," said Yuko Fujita, a native of Japan who currently lives and works in Los Angeles. A Type B, Fujita first learned of using blood types to determine characteristics from a TV show in Japan that explained the



Some famous blood types (top to bottom): Junichiro Koizumi (A), Akira Kurosawa (B), and Jackie Chan (AB). The pie chart above shows the different Japanese blood types.

See BLOOD TYPES/page 2

## Buying a Slice of Americana

A JA businessman with a penchant for preserving American history buys a historic town along Route 66 for the price of a small house.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

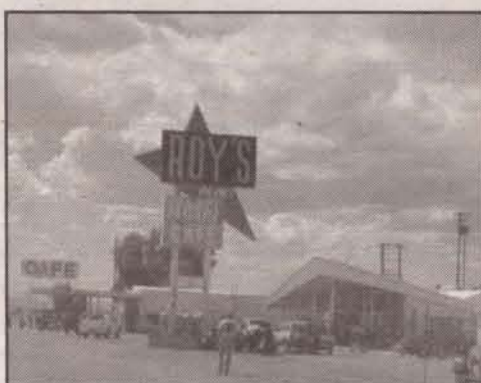


PHOTO: JACK MARCUS

CHINO, Calif.—To the untrained eye, the small desert town of Amboy,

Amboy, a desert town along Route 66 was recently bought by Albert Okura.

California is part of a forgotten world heavy with dust and crumbling with neglect ever since its once booming location along Route 66 fell away from use. Once when Route 66 was king, Amboy provided weary travelers with a place to sleep and a hot meal while their cars were refilled with gas, but today the

town has a population of zero and its existence is continually in danger of being swallowed up by the Mojave Desert's raw environment. That is until Albert Okura saw a premonition in the desert.

"I see the future — the future is going to be moving out [to the

See AMBOY/page 8

## SPRING CAMPAIGN Touchstone for the Future

By ROGER H. OZAKI  
P.C. EDC Bd. Rep.

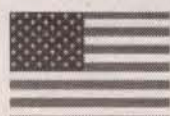


known, has evolved into a world-

See CAMPAIGN/page 2

Since its inception in 1929 in California, the *Pacific Citizen*, or the P.C., as it is affectionately

## Voices of War, Peace



### MEMORIAL DAY 2005

Young APAs in the Armed Forces talk about their experiences and whom they will remember on Memorial Day.

By CORY GREEN  
THOMAS KIM  
TIMOTHY TANAKA  
CHING TUAN  
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

From the heroic rescue of the "Lost Battalion" in the French Vosges Mountains in World War II to the present day reconstruction of Iraq, Asian Pacific Americans have etched their contributions and patriotism in the pages of U.S. history. They are the mostly nameless and faceless heroes who charged on when hope was low and found united cause when most Americans were divided.

In honor of Memorial Day and Asian American Heritage Month, the *Pacific Citizen* asked four young APAs deployed to different parts of the world to tell their unique stories about war, peacekeeping and the heroes they will remember this Memorial Day holiday.

Like in any other community, no two stories or perspectives are alike. In their words, these are their stories.



PHOTO: THOMAS KIM

A moment of safety—Thomas Kim (center), with his brigade and Iraqi police, raided homes for insurgents. His goal was to come home alive.

*'Sept. 11th made the sprockets in my head first go in motion.'*

Cody Green, 21  
Filipino American  
Lance Corporal 2nd Marine Air Wing, Marine Air Group 26, HMM-764  
Currently active in his second rotation in Iraq as 6112 CH-46 mechanic and collateral duties inspector

Watching that second plane hit the world trade center made me think. I obviously had to tell [my family] I wanted to enlist because I was only 17 when I was sworn in to the Armed Forces. They didn't want it for me, especially my mother. She came to America so I could receive a good education. I made

my promise to use the Montgomery G.I. Bill to go to college. That was the only way I could get them to sign my enlistment contract.

Here missions are classified, but I can tell you that there really isn't a single most dangerous mission. Just being in Iraq is dangerous in its own. The villages and towns that surround U.S.-controlled areas are filled with people who were brought up to kill and hate us.

My wife (Sara Green) is the first person that I think about when on a mission. She doesn't believe in the war in Iraq but she believes in me. She has always been there for me and I know that she will be there the rest of my time on Earth. I am here

See MEMORIAL DAY/page 4

## Fighting HIV/AIDS Discrimination in the API Community

The Banyan Tree Project, a national year-round campaign, launches the first annual API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Executive Editor

Charles Siron, 41, has been living with HIV for the past six years. Like most, he has his good and bad days. Today, he's dealing with Cryptococcus pneumonia with the coughs and lack of energy. He's also developed diabetes because of his HIV medication and suffers from kidney problems and asthma. A formerly robust 185 pounds, he now weighs in at 150 pounds.

But even when Siron — a Filipino American from Manila who now calls San Francisco his home — isn't feeling his best, he's always willing to talk about HIV and AIDS and the need for education and open discussion in the Asian Pacific American community.

"Silence equals death," he said. "If I just sit here and die, it does no good. We need more education in

the API (Asian & Pacific Islander) community. Most people don't talk about it but we need to break down the barriers."

Siron is speaking out about his experiences as part of the Banyan Tree Project, a national year-round campaign to help fight discrimination against APAs living with HIV/AIDS. The A&PI Wellness Center in San Francisco, along with six other sister organizations, is spearheading the effort and they recently launched the first ever National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day May 19.

"The API cultures do value silence ... keeping it within the family. But that doesn't work all the time," said John Manzon-Santos, A&PI Wellness Center executive director. "Cultural barriers become cultural baggage ... We need open discussion."

"When [HIV/AIDS] happens to an API it happens to the API family. And if the family is not supportive it can be pretty difficult," he said. This project gives "permission to talk

See BANYAN TREE/page 11

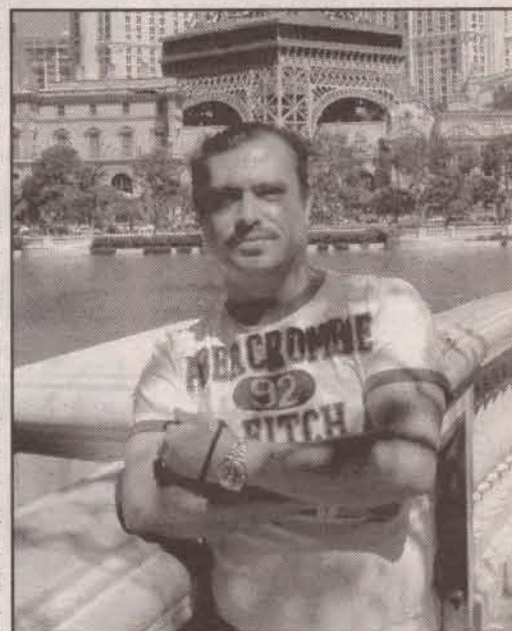


Photo courtesy of Charles Siron

Charles Siron, on a recent visit to Las Vegas, has dedicated his life to fighting HIV/AIDS discrimination in the APA community.



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Form 3575)

## BLOOD TYPES

(Continued from page 1)

historic origins of the practice.

"I talk about blood types among  
my girlfriends," said Fujita, who  
admits that the topic comes up often  
when she goes out with her friends.  
"I find it interesting that I know a lot  
of Type B Japanese women who  
have stayed in the United States."

Japanese native Keiko Takayama,  
a Type B, believes there is a place  
for using blood types and for some  
people, the comparisons often hit  
the bull's-eye. "There are some peo-  
ple who talk about blood types. It  
comes out in conversation, especial-  
ly when you're meeting someone  
for the first time," she said. "I think  
there is a place for it and for some it  
hits home."

The practice of determining a per-  
son's character traits by blood type  
is so widespread in Japan that more  
than 90 percent know what their  
blood type is. Type As are said to be  
perfectionists while Type Os are

described as outgoing. Type Bs are  
often goal oriented and strong-mind-  
ed while Type ABs are said to have  
split personalities, being both outgo-  
ing and shy.

The practice has grown so wide-  
spread that many Japanese compa-  
nies ask for applicants' blood types  
and workers are often divided up by

ties loudly criticizing this coun-  
try's growing reliance on blood  
types to determine a person's charac-  
teristics.

"It's mere superstition," said  
Tatsuya Sato, associate professor of  
psychology at Ritsumeikan  
University, in an interview with the  
Associated Press. "Linking blood

## 'Linking blood type and personality is not only unscientific, it's wrong'

Tatsuya Sato, associate professor of psychology  
Ritsumeikan University

Type As, Os, Bs, and ABs. Potential  
mates are often meted out by blood  
types and "What's your blood type?"  
is often one of the first questions  
asked on a date. Even a school was  
recently reported to be studying  
kindergarten children by their blood  
types.

But lately the practice has come  
under growing skepticism with  
Japanese magazines and commen-

type and personality is not only  
unscientific, it's wrong."

Psychologists in the United States  
agree that there is no scientific basis  
for the practice of using blood types  
to determine a person's characteris-  
tics.

"I know of no scientific basis for a  
blood type-personality connection,"  
said Anna S. Lau, assistant professor  
of psychology at UCLA. "I would  
place this practice in the category of  
pseudoscience. It sounds potentially  
quite harmful."

Cognitive Psychologist Geoff Ho  
agrees. "My general feeling about  
this is that physical measures such as  
blood type grossly oversimplifies  
personality and is not a very good  
predictor of personality," he said.

Blood types were first discovered  
in 1901, but the Nazis in Germany  
soon used the discovery to declare  
their race's superiority. The use of  
blood types to determine characteris-  
tics in Japan goes back to the 1930s  
when its militaristic government  
used the theory to breed better sol-  
diers.

The practice was abandoned  
shortly afterwards but was revital-  
ized in the 1970s when broadcaster  
Masahiko Nomi wrote a popular  
book in support of the theory. His  
son Toshikata currently runs the  
Human Science ABO Center and  
continues to promote his father's  
blood type theory.

"Blood type chemistry is the only  
known objective standard by which  
to differentiate among the physical  
composition of all creatures, includ-  
ing human beings," said Toshikata

Nomi. He adds, "The science of  
human nature cannot be so easily  
explained by blood type alone. Still,  
this will be the first step in exploring  
the unknown world."

Although the use of blood types is  
a common practice in Japan today it  
is still relatively unheard of in the  
United States, even among Japanese  
Americans. And of those who may  
have heard of the practice from par-  
ents or relatives, very little credence  
is given to blood type character  
determination.

"I'm sure there are similarities  
among people with the same blood  
type but to determine someone's per-  
sonality is a bit much," said Maria  
Murakawa, a Shin Nisei. "When I'm  
with a group of Japanese people I've  
just met, the subject of exchanging  
blood types for the sake of getting to  
know each other always comes up. I  
just think that it's too general to lump  
people's personalities between four  
categories."

"I've heard of it but don't believe  
it," said Frances Yokota, a Yonsei  
who has heard her Japanese girl-  
friends talk about blood types from  
time to time. Yokota, a Type A,  
admits that she will sometimes  
indulge in the occasional daily horo-  
scope but much like blood types  
doesn't take it too seriously. "Some-  
times I read horoscopes just  
for fun, but I don't believe it."

For most Japanese today the prac-  
tice of using blood types is for fun  
and is to be taken lightly, much like  
how those in the United States con-  
sult their zodiacs to determine com-  
patibility with a new mate or indulge  
in a daily reading of their horoscope.

"Yes, we Japanese talk about  
blood types a lot, when you have a  
new boyfriend, or a new friend,"  
said Kaoru Imazeki, a Type B. "But  
I guess we can't rely too much on  
blood types. For me, I believe it but  
don't care even if my friend's blood  
type and my blood type don't get  
along."

"Japan has a much longer history  
compared to America and I think  
blood types are believed by the vari-  
ous generations in Japan," said  
Fujita. "But my belief is just for  
fun." ■

## CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

class publication. Since that time,  
the P.C. has brought news about the  
Japanese American community and  
the larger Asian American commu-  
nity to its readers.

Many of you reading this article  
today will remember the articles  
from the June 1, 1984, issue of the  
P.C. There were articles written by  
Minoru Yasui about the need for  
Redress; Bill Marutani's East Wind  
column; an article by Bill  
Hosokawa about a Nikkei colony in  
Florida; and an editorial about  
Mondale winning Asian endorse-  
ments for his candidacy.

Just like life before cell phones,  
lap tops, Pentium III's, hummers,  
Internet banking and marketing, and  
SPAM that doesn't come in a can,  
the P.C. has come a long way with  
beautiful color headlines and pic-  
tures, expanded news articles, car-  
toons, and book reviews.

Indeed, the P.C. has become a  
world-class newspaper under the  
leadership of the Executive Editor  
Caroline Aoyagi and her staffers:  
Brian Tanaka, Lynda Lin, and Eva  
Lau-Ting. They are dedicated to  
publishing the P.C. on a regular  
schedule. Neither rain nor floods  
nor tsunamis will prevent them from  
doing their jobs. That's the  
American spirit, and I for one salute  
them for a wonderful accomplish-  
ment.

I have a passion for the P.C.  
because it is the link to our past,  
present, and future. We must contin-  
ue to preserve and support the P.C.  
because of the many JA pioneers  
who came before us and are no  
longer with us. The JA story must be  
preserved for generations and gen-  
erations. I am a firm believer that  
every generation must be educated  
and enlightened because of history  
revisionists who attempt to change  
historical facts to suit their hidden  
agendas.

Ask yourself, what does the P.C.  
mean to me? Raising a family in  
rural Georgia, my parents eagerly  
awaited their weekly P.C. For them  
it was a link to their family in  
California and news from home. I  
remember thinking that the P.C. was  
solely for the people in California  
because all of the news seemed to  
be about California.

It wasn't until years later when I  
graduated from the University of  
Georgia and became active in the  
JACL Southeast chapter and the  
Eastern District that I realized how  
important the P.C. could be for me.  
It puts me in touch with the JA com-  
munity which spans several genera-  
tions (Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei, and  
Gosei). And it helps me to learn  
about the experiences of others in  
the AA community and gives us a  
collective voice in expressing our  
views about due process and equal  
protection as guaranteed by the  
Constitution.

Now, what would happen if you  
received notice that this was your  
last issue of the P.C.? Think about  
that for a moment. No more P.C. No  
more news about civil rights. No  
more news about the JA commu-  
nity. No more book reviews of books  
written by JAs. No more editorials.  
No more Spring Campaigns.

Would you miss the P.C.? The  
answer is a resounding YES. It goes  
without saying that the P.C. is the  
lifeblood of JACL and neither can  
survive without the other.

Let's be united and support the  
P.C. by giving generously to the  
2005 Spring Campaign and encour-  
aging our friends to join JACL. A  
generous gift of \$100 or more will  
make it possible for you to receive a  
free copy of Gil Asakawa's wonder-  
ful book, "Being Japanese  
American" (while supplies last).

The next time you see Caroline,  
Brian, Lynda, and Eva, give them a  
high five and thanks for doing a  
great job. The accolades are long  
overdue. ■

## Letters to the Editor

### Re: Teruya's Commentary

I would like to thank Emily  
Teruya for her recent comments  
addressing the usage of the "J" word  
(P.C., May 6-19 edition.) I think the  
majority of younger Japanese  
Americans are too far removed  
from the WWII "J-p" issue and  
don't see or care about the underly-  
ing implications. Or maybe it is  
thought that "we should just get  
over it" and move on with our lives.

Unfortunately for many JA com-  
munity members that is not possi-  
ble. It certainly was not possible for  
my nine year old daughter to "just  
get over it" when a fellow 4th grade  
student jokingly directed the "J-p"  
word towards her.

The consensus that the word has a  
different meaning because of the  
periods is weak. Emily's point of  
using the word unconsciously  
essentially creates a sense of apathy

that ultimately becomes a festering  
problem down the road.

Rachel Factor knowingly used  
the word in the title of her show to  
promote herself at the expense of  
the Japanese American and Jewish  
American communities. I agree that  
the P.C. as a voice of the JACL  
members and our policy to educate  
against stereotypes and derogatory  
remarks should never use the "J"  
word in such a glorified manner.

Carol Kawase

Sonoma County Chapter

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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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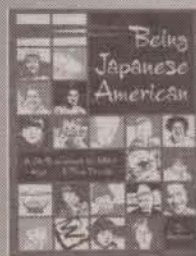
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book, "Being  
Japanese  
American."

\*Only a few  
books left!



## In the City of Leaks, Wen Ho Lee Tries to Find the Leakers

By PETE YOST  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—A federal appeals court debated May 9 whether to overturn a contempt ruling against five journalists who have refused to identify their sources for stories on Wen Ho Lee, the nuclear scientist whose career was cut short when his name surfaced as an espionage suspect.

Lee is suing the government for leaking his name to the news media during a political frenzy late in the Clinton administration when Republicans accused the White House of ignoring China's alleged theft of U.S. nuclear secrets.

Lawyers said that the journalists have a qualified First Amendment privilege to protect the confidentiality of their sources and that a lower court judge erred in finding the reporters in contempt. A \$500-per-day fine was suspended pending appeals.

Lee Levine, representing Associated Press reporter H. Josef Hebert and *Los Angeles Times* reporter Robert Drogin, said the judge in the case "simply bundled all the reporters together" without drawing distinctions in the stories they wrote or broadcast.

The other journalists found in contempt in the case are James Risen and Jeff Gerth of *The New York Times*, and Pierre Thomas, formerly of CNN and now of ABC.

Lee's lawyer framed the case in terms the judges readily understood.

"There is, especially in this town, a culture of leaks," Brian Sun said.

"This town?" U.S. Court of

Appeals Court Judge David Sentelle asked in mock surprise, bringing laughter in the courtroom.

Sun said he unsuccessfully questioned 21 government witnesses about the leaks before turning to the news media for answers.

"We were asking them questions every which way from Sunday to find out who they were talking to,"

Sun said of interviews with government witnesses.



WEN HO LEE

Lee was fired from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. He said government officials leaked information about him to reporters, violating the Privacy Act in pointing to him as a suspect in the possible theft of nuclear secrets for China.

Indicted on 59 felony counts alleging he mishandled nuclear weapons information, Lee pleaded guilty to a single charge after spending nine months in solitary confinement.

His treatment drew an apology from a federal judge, who said the case had embarrassed the nation and every citizen.

Appeals court judges A. Raymond Randolph and Sentelle reacted skeptically to the news media's suggestion that Lee should have done more interviews with government witnesses to find out the sources of the leaks.

Randolph pointed to other cases in which far less questioning of witnesses had been done before the plaintiffs targeted the news media.

The Lee case is among several recent high-profile examples of reporters facing punishment for refusing to reveal sources. ■

## New Report Reveals AA Voting Trends in 2004 Presidential Election

Asian American voters, despite their diverse backgrounds and languages, voiced common concerns across ethnic lines, citing the economy/jobs as the most important factor in their vote for president and civil liberties as the most important civil rights issue.

More than one-third (38%) of those polled were first-time voters, and almost one-half (46%) needed language assistance in order to vote.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) released these findings from its national multilingual exit poll of almost 11,000 AA voters in the November 2004 Election, the largest nonpartisan survey of its kind in the nation, in a briefing May 16 at the Longworth House Office Building.

"Multilingual exit polls reveal vital information about Asian American voting patterns that are regularly overlooked in mainstream voter surveys," said AALDEF Executive Director Margaret Fung. "This report demonstrates that Asian American voters are increasingly cohesive across ethnic lines. And because so many Asian Americans are first-time voters, language assistance at the polls should be expanded under the Voting Rights Act, to promote greater civic participation."

The new AALDEF publication, "The Asian American Vote 2004: A Report on the Multilingual Exit Poll

### Specific highlights of the report include:

- Asian Americans were largely Democratic voters;
- Economy/jobs was the most important issue to AAs in voting for president;
- AAs shared common political interests, even across ethnic lines;
- AAs turned to ethnic media outlets for their main source of news; and
- Language assistance and bilingual ballots are needed to preserve access to the vote.

in the 2004 Presidential Election," provides a snapshot of the voter preferences of Asian Americans in 20 cities in eight states: New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The five largest Asian groups surveyed in 2004 were Chinese (46%), South Asian (25%), Korean (14%), Southeast Asian (6%), and Filipino (5%). Eighty-two percent were foreign born while 29% had no formal U.S. education.

The report contains numerous tables and charts that describe the party enrollment, English proficiency and issue preferences of first-time voters, foreign-born voters,

women voters, and young voters.

AALDEF Staff Attorney Glenn Magpantay noted that many exit poll respondents encountered serious voting barriers, with hundreds of voters directed to the wrong poll site and hostile or poorly trained poll workers making racist remarks to AAs voters. AALDEF received more than 600 complaints of voting problems, including numerous instances of AA voters being improperly required to show identification.

"It is critical that civil rights laws are vigorously enforced, so that Asian Americans are not denied their fundamental right to vote," said Magpantay.

AALDEF has conducted exit polls of AA voters in every major election since 1988. Over 5,000 Asian New Yorkers and 3,000 Asian voters in four states (NY, NJ, MA, MI) were surveyed in AALDEF's 2000 and 2002 exit polls, respectively.

Based on findings from the 2004 exit poll and AALDEF's election monitoring efforts over the past decade, AALDEF will be advocating for the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2007, including expanded provisions for language assistance under section 203.

Copies of the report can be obtained online at [www.aaldef.org](http://www.aaldef.org) or by calling the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund at 212/966.5932. ■

## National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and  
Associated Press

### New Jersey 101.5 FM Loses Ads Due to Shock Jocks' Racial Slurs

EWING, NJ—Hyundai Motor America and Cingular Wireless pulled their advertising support from NJ 101.5 FM because of a recent broadcast during the afternoon drive time show where shock jocks Craig Carton and Ray Rossi mocked Edison mayoral candidate Jun Choi's Korean American heritage.

On the air, Carton said no minority group should dictate the outcome of an American election and delivered portions of his statements in mock-Asian accent. His comments prompted Asian American groups to call for a boycott of the program's sponsors and demands that the DJs be fired. Radio station management apologized April 27.

### Miss Info is Back

NEW YORK, NY—HOT 97 FM's Miss Info (Minya Oh) is back on the air with her own weekend show from 8 a.m. to noon. She is also providing "celebrity drama" reports on FunkMaster Flex's 7-8 p.m. evening shifts Monday-Thursday.

Oh, who is Korean American, was the only member of Miss



Jones' morning team who objected to the racially insensitive tsunami parody song.

### U.S. to Help Fund Asian Tsunami Early Warning System

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—The U.S. government will help set up and provide much of the funds for a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean. President George W. Bush signed documents May 11 allocating \$907 million for relief in countries hit by the December tsunami.

There was no early warning system in the Indian Ocean when a massive earthquake struck on Dec. 26, setting off tsunami that devastated coastal regions in 11 countries. More than 176,000 people died in the disaster and around 50,000 others remain missing, presumed dead.

### New York Targets Immigrant Slavery in 'Human Trafficking' Bill

ALBANY, New York—Attorney General Eliot Spitzer wants to make the act of human trafficking a felony. A bill that would provide needed enforcement tools for the growing crime could be acted on before the legislative session is scheduled to end June 23.

The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act was passed in 2000 and since then Congress and the Bush administration have proposed several measures to bolster it.

As many as 20,000 immigrants are smuggled into the United States each year and forced into slavery or

prostitution often through the major ports of New York, California and Florida.

### Fairfax County School District Orders Revision of Books

FAIRFAX, Virginia—A concerted yearlong campaign by Indian American parents in Virginia's Fairfax County has resulted in a revision of textbooks on Indian history, ensuring that children will not look at Indian culture as mere "karma, cows and caste." They recommended that teachers expand their lessons on topics including Hindu writings.

Five publishers have made modest changes in the texts, and the panel of professors has recommended that the county purchase eight revised books.

### Search Continues for Killer of Queens Brother, Sister

NEW YORK—Police are searching for the killer who stabbed a pair of Hong Kong immigrants to death in their Queens apartment. Sharon Ng, 21, and her 18-year-old brother Simon were discovered May 12 around 9:40 p.m. by the woman's boyfriend. Both had been stabbed repeatedly, and they were found in separate bedrooms in the apartment they shared in the Flushing section.

Police have yet to make an arrest in the case. The siblings had moved to New York with their parents in 1997 and stayed in the city when their mother and father returned to Hong Kong. ■

## Japanese Court Says City Illegally Denied Overseas A-bomb Survivors Right to Aid

MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO—A Japanese court ruled May 10 that survivors of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima that now live abroad are entitled to receive the same medical benefits and funeral costs as enjoyed by survivors living in Japan.

The Hiroshima District Court ruled against the city of Hiroshima, which twice rejected the claims of three survivors and the wife of a fourth man who died that now live in the United States, saying the government-run support program should also cover survivors living outside Japan.

The claimants — all from California — were entitled to survivor benefits, the court said in a statement.

Under the Atomic Survivors' Support Law, survivors of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that are officially recognized by the government are eligible for state health care and other benefits, including monthly allowances of up to 140,000 yen (US\$1,260) and free medical checkups, as well as their funeral costs.

"The law is designed to broadly provide support to those with health problems resulting from the atomic bombings," according to a summary of the ruling. "The appropriate

interpretation is that the law allows those seeking medical costs and other allowances from abroad to apply directly to the government."

Teruko Morinaka, a 73-year-old plaintiff, and three others, including the one who died, moved to the United States after surviving the Aug. 6, 1945 U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima. They later visited Japan and obtained the government certificates to be eligible for the government support program.

Morinaka, a Japanese American born in Ohio, was visiting in Hiroshima, her father's hometown, at the time of the atomic bombing, and has since developed liver ailments due to radiation exposure, Kyodo News reported.

When they sought their allowances in 2003 and 2004 by submitting documents by mail, however, Hiroshima denied their claims, saying they do not live in the city.

Foreign-based survivors have often been excluded from such benefits, but a landmark ruling in 2002 forced the government to funnel more relief to victims living abroad.

The May 10 ruling could also help other atomic bomb victims living abroad to get compensation.

There are 285,600 atomic bomb survivors, including 5,000 living abroad. About 900 survivors live in the United States. ■



## MEMORIAL DAY

(Continued from page 1)



**CODY AND SARA GREEN**

in Iraq making a difference in life. Not only mine but for people who need help to fight for their rights. Not very many people can tell the world that he or she is a Marine, a Marine that has been in Iraq twice.

My personal hero was my grandfather on my stepfather's side. He was a Marine drill instructor, one of the best jobs in the Marine Corps. He passed away last year when I was out here. My stepfather was in Operation Desert Storm. I would like to be more knowledgeable just like him.

*'The proudest moment I had in the military was coming back from Iraq alive.'*



**THOMAS KIM, 25**  
Second Generation Korean American  
Counterintelligence (CI) Agent  
3rd brigade 2nd Infantry  
Division, 1-14 Cavalry Squadron  
Returned from active duty in  
Iraq as Human Intelligence  
Collector and CI Agent in  
Cavalry platoon

I decided to enlist after my second year of attending the University of California, Riverside. It was during a time in my life when I was most confused and vulnerable. I was in

the process of changing majors and I felt that I was learning nothing from school. I was always interested in joining a government agency such as the FBI or CIA and figured this would help with job experience and give me an advantage when applying to a government agency.

I have a couple regrets about joining, the big one being time. I had to enlist for five years (when I initially only wanted to join for two to three) because of the job. It required a top-secret security clearance and a lot of schooling. I found out during that time, that this was not the career path I wanted to take, so now I have to play catch up with my education. I thought I'd be able to finish my degree while in the military, but in reality there was little time for school.

When I was with the Cavalry, I had to raid homes of insurgents, go on convoys from Balad to Scania, do cordon and searches in the city of Samarra and Mosul, do daily patrols through Mosul, and go on "Quick Reaction Force" (QRF) when soldiers received [armed] contact.

You would think when soldiers go on raids to find people or do cordon and searches or attack cities that they'd be most vulnerable. But that didn't seem to be the case with me. I was in most danger at times I felt most comfortable and felt we were safe. In Samarra, we were outside the city setting up a traffic control point when mortars rained down on us.

Also, when we were doing convoy missions from Balad, I was bored to death standing outside the hatch of a Stryker watching cars pass, when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off on a fuel truck directly behind us. All I heard was the beginning of a loud boom and then I went deaf (I wasn't wearing hearing protection because most of the time on convoys, nothing happens). There was smoke and dust everywhere, and for awhile (it felt like a long time), I was stunned and in shock. I then heard the clacking

of an AK47 and saw a person on the highway about 100 meters off the blast area. I opened fire on five guys that dismounted from a vehicle.

To this day, I don't know if I hit them, nor do I care. All our goals were to get out of bad situations alive not to kill a lot of people or get medals or awards ... to just make it back alive with all our limbs and eyesight intact.

I've found out that intelligence work is really not my thing. I hope to become a pharmacist. I'd like to help people in an area where I won't see blood, deal with the dead ... but I'll still be helping people maintain their health and hopefully I can travel with doctors to third world countries and help dispense drugs in those areas.

*'I am glad to give back and serve this country.'*



**TIMOTHY TANAKA, 20**  
Shin-Nisei  
Sergeant Headquarters and  
Headquarters Company 1/160  
Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry  
Division  
Currently on active duty in  
Kosovo in the S6 Battalion  
Communications Section provid-  
ing computer technical support

Getting accepted to UCLA pushed me to the National Guard. Although I am going to be three years behind after this deployment, I have learned so many new skills and seen so much more of the world that it's worth it. I am proud to be American. With all the opportunity to do absolutely anything I am glad to give back and serve this country.

Kosovo is not a terribly dangerous place. Our mission here is to "Provide a Safe and Secure

Environment." The most dangerous issue for us would be ice in the winter (we're mostly from Southern California) and the narrow roads and offensive drivers. Carpal Tunnel [Syndrome] is a bigger threat to me as my job consists of sitting at a desk and typing the day away.

My grandfather was in the Imperial Japanese Navy during WWII. He enlisted when he was 17. He was in Shanghai, Singapore, the Solomons, the Battle of Midway and several other places. He told me every ship he was on sank, but only after he moved to another. He got processed out of the Navy on Okinawa just before it was invaded. I guess you can say he was lucky.

[On Memorial Day] I will remember the Japanese American soldiers of the 100th and the 442nd RCT and all the JA citizens that fought for the U.S. in WWII. Facing hate and discrimination back home they still volunteered for service to prove their loyalty to their country.

*'Put on the uniform, and everyone is the same.'*

**CHING TUAN, 33**  
Chinese American  
Sergeant of the U.S. 3rd Division,  
2nd Infantry (Stryker Brigade)  
Returned from Mosul, Iraq and  
currently stationed at Fort  
Leavenworth, Kansas

I personally had no unique challenges in the Army as an Asian American and female. I am the first enlistee in my family. However, both my grandfather and father served in the Taiwan Nationalist Army decades apart.



**CHING TUAN**

Aside from dodging mortars and bullets, I'd have to say driving in convoys with no close air support [was dangerous]. You're basically taking your chances to avoid IEDs and sniper bullets.

My proudest experience was counseling and befriending younger soldiers while I was in Iraq. My biggest achievement is coming back alive and in one piece ... perhaps a life revelation. ■

Dear Editor...

Write a letter  
to the P.C.  
letters2pc@aol.com

## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Judy Chu Honors San Gabriel Valley APIAs

Assembly Member Judy Chu recognized outstanding APIAs in the 49th Assembly District in honor of Asian American Heritage Month.



The nominees had to live, work or provide services in the 49th District. The winners were: **Olivia Lou** (art/music); **James Wang** (business/entrepreneur); **Dr. Victor Cheng** (community activism); **Choi Nim Yan** (education); **Kaleigh and Kimberly Komatsu** (family); **Herald Cancer Association** (health); **Hong Kong Schools Alumni Scholarship Foundation** (non-profit); **Vanda Yung** (women's issues); **Eugenia Shue** (senior); **Diana Lu** (youth).

### RFA Host Wins Prestigious Gleitsman Award

Veteran Chinese labor activist, Radio Free Asia (RFA) broadcaster **Han Dongfang** received the U.S.-based Gleitsman Foundations' 2005 International Activist Award.

He shares the award and U.S. \$100,000 prize with founders of the UK-based Global Witness. Han will donate his portion of the money to the China Labour

Bulletin Legal Defense Fund, which supports the organization's workers' rights litigation program in China.

### Senators Inouye, Stevens to Receive American Patriot Award



The National Defense University Foundation said this year's American Patriot Award will be presented to **Sen. Daniel K. Inouye** (Hawaii) and **Sen. Ted Stevens** (Alaska). The black-tie awards gala will take place at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Dec. 1.

Inouye will receive the award for his valor in World War II and for his Congressional leadership for more than 45 years. Stevens will receive the award for his sustained dedication to advancing the nation's security policy and his service in WWII.

### Wells Fargo Names Toda to Lead API Public Relations Strategy

As Wells Fargo's public relations consultant, **Stacey Ann Fong Toda** is the first in the company's 153-year history to exclusively oversee API public relations. She will manage media relations, strengthen relationships with API community leaders and develop API communications strategies.

Toda joined Wells Fargo from the office of former California Assembly Member George Nakano. ■

## Blue Cross of California



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To learn more about the Blue Cross plan and how to become a member, please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-848-4875.





## 2005 Topaz Pilgrimage Set for June 11

The 2005 Topaz Pilgrimage will be held June 11 and will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the closing of the Topaz Internment Camp which held over 8,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The public is invited to attend the day long program featuring exhibits of artifacts, historic photographs, videos and a theater production which will offer information about the WWII camp that was once the fifth largest city in Utah.

Tours of the camp site will be conducted throughout the day. Over 500 acres of the main living areas remain untouched since the camp was closed. Outlines of roads and paths, the foundations of the latrines, and remnants of rock gardens created by internees are still visible in the Sevier Desert.

Over 75 former internees from the San Francisco Bay area are expected to attend the pilgrimage.

Program activities will take place

in the Delta City Park on Main Street and at the Camp site.

After the outbreak of war in 1942, over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, 70 percent of whom were American born U.S. citizens, were rounded up by the U.S. Army and transported to ten isolated camps around the country. Most spent over three years living in crude wooden barracks surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers manned by armed sentries.

Topaz was closed 60 years ago on Oct. 31, 1945. It was not until the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that the U.S. Government officially apologized for the fundamental violations of the civil rights of the internees.

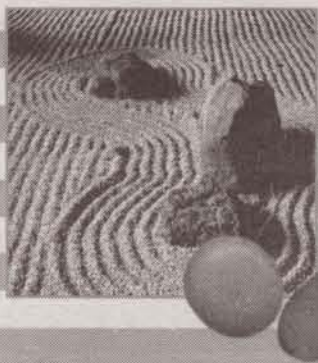
For additional information about the pilgrimage, call 435/864-2279 or 435/864-2098.

The pilgrimage is sponsored by the Topaz Museum Board, a non profit, volunteer organization whose mission is to preserve the story of Topaz. ■

## Chapters Raise \$65,000 to Purchase Obata Mural



After a two-year fundraising effort by the JACL chapters of Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley and Watsonville-Santa Cruz, along with California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB), the goal of raising \$65,000 was met to purchase a sumi-e painting by noted Japanese American artist Chiura Obata. The JACL chapters felt the important painting would serve as a catalyst to educate students about the history of JAs. The painting was purchased from the Trotter Galleries of CSUMB. Pictured here in front of the Obata mural are fundraising committee members (l-r): Dr. Chris Hasegawa, CSUMB development officer; Sally Smith, wife of CSUMB President Peter Smith; Sue Antle; Kimi Kodani Hill, author of "Topaz Moon, The Internment Art of Chiura Obata"; and Larry Oda, committee chair. ■



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GRADUATION 2005—The graduates pose for a picture after receiving their high school diplomas.

## 63 Years Late, JAs Get Their High School Diplomas

Sixty-three years after having their high school education cut short by the impending World War II and relocation to the various American internment camps, several Japanese Americans who attended school in Imperial County, California finally received their long overdue high school diplomas in a ceremony May 6.

The diplomas were made possible by a new law, AB 781, passed in 2004 that authorizes high school districts to retroactively issue diplomas to students of Japanese ancestry who had their education cut short by the WWII internment.

The event was sponsored by the

Imperial Valley JACL and the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) in Imperial, California.

Among the recipients were Brawley High School, Calipatria High School, Central Union High School, and Imperial High School graduates from the classes of 1942-1946: Keiko Hosokawa, Haruko Ishimine, Oscar Kodama, Sam Miyamoto, Hanako Nishida, and Larry Shimamoto.

Daughters and granddaughters of Sho Horibe, Haruyo Kubota, and Frank Miyamoto accepted honorary diplomas on their behalf. Eleven diplomas will be sent to honorees that could not attend the event.

The Imperial Valley commencement is the first scheduled ceremony for 2005. Other Nisei graduation ceremonies are being planned with high schools and communities throughout California.

The California Nisei Project is working with schools and community organizations to create opportunities to honor the Nisei with their high school diplomas and facilitate an exchange of "living history" for current high school students.

To find out how you or your family can sign up and support the California Nisei Project, or to find out if any efforts have begun in your region, visit [www.canisei.org](http://www.canisei.org). ■

## Go For Broke Foundation Announces Floral Tribute Endowment for JA WWII Soldiers Interred Overseas

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation recently announced it has been selected to administer a floral tribute endowment for American World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry and their officers who were interred in U.S. cemeteries overseas.

The fund was established by California attorney and appraiser Ronald Yamada, whose late father was a 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) veteran, in February as a one-time tribute. But because of the overwhelming response and donations, floral tributes will continue to be placed every five years.

Yamada, who is also executive director of the Ted Tanouye Memorial Foundation and administrator of the Eiro Yamada Memorial Scholarship, decided to implement the fund after returning from the Epinal American Military Cemetery in France on Memorial Day 2004. He was deeply troubled to discover none of the 13 gravesites of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT at Epinal had floral tributes.

Since that visit, he set up a fund for all 39 JA soldiers and their officers, who were not Asian, buried or memorialized in five European cemeteries, including the "Tablets of the Missing" interred overseas and one Military Intelligence Service soldier memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

His initial goal was to raise \$1099 in time for Memorial Day this year, and within 48 hours of sending out a request for funds, he had exceeded that goal — all of these initial funds

were from contributors of the post-WWII generation.

"While visiting the Epinal and Florence American cemeteries with veterans of the 100th/442nd, many stories struck a cord with me," said Yamada. "Immediately upon our arrival at the Florence American Cemetery, Sadaichi Kubota, a lieutenant and platoon leader of the 442nd RCT, located the grave of

went out alone, the sniper would have had only one target.

Kubota never forgot Beanie's sacrifice and promised to one day pay his respects at Beanie's grave. Nearly 59 years later, Kubota fulfilled his promise. Kubota stated he lived his life for two people; his and Beanie's. Sadly, Kubota passed away four months later.

Yamada added, "It is difficult to

express the solemnity of an overseas American military cemetery, thus it is extremely important to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the liberty of a free world."

There are 13 JA soldiers and their officers interred or memorialized at the Epinal, France cemetery; 13 at the Florence, Italy cemetery; nine at the Sicily-Rome cemetery; two are buried at the Lorraine, France cemetery; one is memorialized at the Netherlands cemetery, and one at the Manila, Philippines cemetery.

For a complete list of names, contact the Go For Broke Educational Foundation's Resource Center at 310/328-0907 or email [ResourceCenter@GoForBroke.org](mailto:ResourceCenter@GoForBroke.org).

To make a contribution to the floral tribute endowment, send checks payable to the Go For Broke Educational Foundation with a note clearly specifying it is for the floral tribute to: P.O. Box 2590, Gardena, CA 90247.

For more information, contact the Go For Broke Educational Foundation at 310/328-0907 or email [esoldier@GoForBroke.org](mailto:esoldier@GoForBroke.org). The Go For Broke Educational Foundation is a nonprofit, 501c3 corporation. ■



Pfc. Tadao 'Beanie' Hayashi and fell to his knees. He laid a silk lei carefully around a cross on his grave. He lit some incense before clasping his hands together in Buddhist prayer. None of us approached him. It was his sacred moment."

Pfc. Beanie Hayashi, who volunteered from Poston II incarceration camp, accompanied Lt. Kubota during a reconnaissance detail. Kubota insisted Beanie stay behind to watch over the rest of the platoon, but Beanie was adamant on escorting him. While the two advanced through the hills, a single shot rang out and Beanie fell dead. If Kubota



## J-Town Task Force Launches Book Project

The Japantown Task Force, Inc. (JTF) is about to embark on a book project about Japanese Americans in San Francisco in partnership with Arcadia Publishing. Arcadia Publishing is the leading local history publisher in the United States, with a catalog of more than 3,000 titles in print and hundreds of new titles released every year.

The book will contain approximately 200 photos and short excerpts capturing the history of the early immigrants establishing roots in San Francisco to a thriving business- and cultural community. Topical areas include family, spiritual life, military service, war relocation and post war resettlement, sports and recreation, activism, arts and culture, business and new immigrants and changing demographics. This will be a timely publication as the community commemorates Japantown's centennial in 2006.

Japantown Taskforce, Inc. was established as a non-profit community development, planning and preservation organization in 2001 to promote the preservation and revitalization of one of California's three remaining Japantowns, San Francisco's Japantown.

Individuals, families and community organizations are encouraged to share their photos and history in this community project. Proceeds from the premier edition will benefit the National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Library and Japantown Taskforce, Inc.

Lucy Kishiue is the project manager and will work with interns Misako Mori and Darryl Abantao.

Members of the Review Committee are: Hatsu Aizawa - Businessman, Seiko Fujimoto - Japanese Benevolent Society, Sumi Honnami, Linda Jofuku - JTF executive director, Greg Marutani - San Francisco JACL, Karl Matsushita - Japanese American National Library, Judi Nihei, Ben Pease - Cartographer, Kathy Reyes, Rosalyn Tonai - National Japanese American Historical Society executive director, Dr. Himeo Tsumori - Ret, Bill Wong - editor and journalist, and Ken Yamada - Japanese American National Library.

Contact the Japantown Task Force, Inc. at 1765 Sutter Street, Suite 1, San Francisco, CA 94115, 510/305-6652, kishiue1@pacbell.net for more information. ■

## Gala Dinner Pays Tribute to Californians Instrumental in Redress Campaign and California Civil Liberties Program

The "California Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans" gala dinner will pay tribute to Californians who played a vital role in the historic Redress Campaign and the California Civil Liberties Program.

The dinner will be held June 3, 7 p.m. at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco's Japantown. The dinner will close the statewide conference sponsored by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program - California State Library.

Dinner Co-Chair Carole Hayashino explained that the theme of the dinner, "Justice, Courage, Hope," was selected to express "the spirit of the community working together on redress and our friends

who stood with us throughout the years. Their efforts represent the values of justice and courage. And, they gave us hope."

"This dinner, like the conference, is not only about the past; it's about the present and the future," she said. "And, a reminder that we have a responsibility to the legacy of justice, courage and hope for future generations."

The dinner program will pay tribute to Japanese Americans who never gave up and worked tirelessly on the passage of the redress bill, HR 442, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It will also acknowledge those few individuals who stood up for the constitutional rights of JAs during 1942.

A photo presentation titled "Moment of Silence" will highlight individuals who have passed on and who were instrumental in the Redress Campaign and the California Civil Liberties Program.

Serving as dinner emcee will be Wendy Tokuda who currently anchors KRON 4 News and reports on a special ongoing news series called "Students Rising Above." In addition to her work as an award-winning journalist, she is also a best-selling author of children's books.

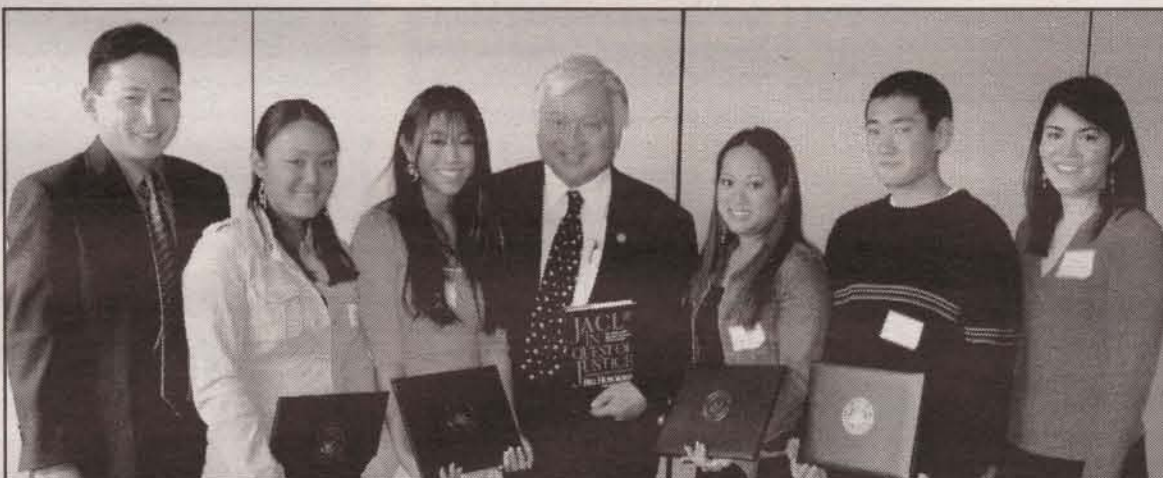
Tickets to the dinner are \$65 per person; corporate tables and community tables are available. A 6 p.m. reception will precede the dinner.

The "California Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans" will be held June 2-4 at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco. This working conference is sponsored by the California State Library California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, and is an essential initiative in communicating civil liberties through the lessons of the JA experience and bridging communities of understanding.

The conference will also showcase the individual projects created by CCLPEP grant recipients, as well as forums on internment as it influences us today. Conferees will have direct input to the future directives and priorities of the CCLPEP.

For more information about the June 3rd dinner event, or the California Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans, contact JCCCNC at 415/567-5505 or visit [www.cclpepconf.org](http://www.cclpepconf.org). ■

## San Mateo JACL Holds Scholarship Luncheon



The San Mateo JACL's Scholarship Luncheon was held May 1 with Calif. Congressman Mike Honda as the keynote speaker. Pictured here (l-r) are: Brent Nakagiri, scholarship chair; Kristine Chiba, scholarship recipient; Justine Morey, scholarship recipient; Congressman Mike Honda; Kelley Hasegawa, scholarship recipient; Robert Takahashi, scholarship recipient; and Heidi Tanakatsubo, national JACL vice president of public affairs. ■

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for your support and friendship  
over the past 5 1/2 years.

With gratitude,  
Kristine Minami  
Director for Public Affairs (1999-2005)  
Washington, DC Office

### JOB OPENING

#### Director of Public Affairs in Washington, DC Office

The JACL seeks an energetic, resourceful individual for the position of Director of Public Affairs in the Washington, DC office. Under the direction of the National Executive Director, the Director for Public Affairs maintains the public affairs office of the JACL in Washington, DC and is responsible for the organization's government affairs as legislative liaison to Members of Congress and the Senate, as well as interactions with the administration. Specific duties include tracking legislation; monitoring regulatory decisions; writing press releases; interacting with the public and the media; working in coalition and with membership to effectively advocate issues of concern; creating and disseminating action alerts; maintaining the legislative function of the JACL website; convening and directing an annual leadership training program and implementing other programs throughout the year.

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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### GOLF

## Pak Trying to Find Balance, Game

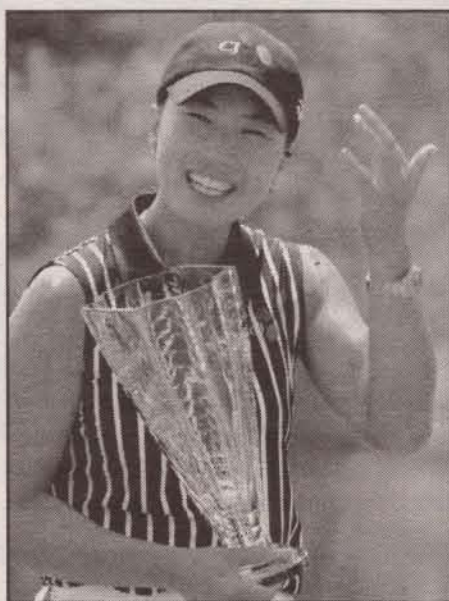
WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—**Se Ri Pak** spent the last seven years focusing all her attention on her golf game, determined to get into the U.S. LPGA Hall of Fame.

Now that she's qualified, though, Pak finds herself struggling. She wants more balance in her life, and is trying to find other interests besides golf. But it's hard to break from routine, and the conflict is taking a toll.

"Through last year, I always just make one (goal), trying to be the best. So I work on and spend the whole year for my game," she said. "I am trying to have some more time without the golf. Just trying to — everything has to come together. I am not really used to this and that."

Pak's career began with quite a splash. She got her first American tour victory at the 1998 LPGA Championship, then won the U.S. Women's Open after a 20-hole playoff. In her first seven seasons on the tour, she won 22 times, including four majors.

Her win at the Michelob Ultra Open last year gave her enough points to qualify for the Hall of



AP PHOTO

Se Ri Pak won the Michelob Ultra Open in 2004 but has yet to win a tournament since.

Fame, though she still must meet the 10-year playing requirement.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself," she said. "Nobody can tell me, 'You have to win every week.' I am the one that keeps telling me

that. Every single week I want to see my name on top of the leaderboard."

But Pak said she knows she needs more out of life, and her family and friends have been supportive. Her father recently told her to cut herself some slack, to not practice if she didn't feel like it. And her entire family — including the family dog — came to support her this recently.

Still, it's hard for Pak to relax. Especially when her game isn't where she wants it to be. Or where she's used to it being. Her best finish in four starts this year is a tie for 27th, at the Kraft Nabisco Championship. She's missed one cut, and withdrew from the Safeway International.

"It was difficult to change a little bit," she said. "I think I have to live with having more balance in my life. This game is — I love this game, but it is really hard work. I guess my life is more important than this strange game." ■

### BASKETBALL

## Study: NBA is Pro Sports' Best at Achieving Diversity

By **MIKE BRANOM**  
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla.—The National Basketball Association received an A in racial diversity from a university study released May 4, the top grade among America's pro sports leagues.

The NBA also is tied with Major League Soccer in providing opportunities for women, according to a study by Richard Lapchick of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport.

The NBA earned an overall grade of B-plus, the best in sports. In racial diversity the grade was an A, and in gender issues it received a B.

Most of the study focused on the 2003-04 season.

"(NBA Commissioner) David Stern set the tone by example and that's really an important thing to

do," Lapchick said.

In the league offices, 43 percent of the professionals were women and 29 percent were minorities.

An A was achieved if at least 24 percent of the positions were held by racial minorities, B if it was 12 percent and C if it had only 9 percent.

For gender, an A was earned if 40 percent of the employees were women, a B for 35 percent, a C for 30 percent, a D for 25 percent and an F for anything below that.

In a study released last month, Major League Baseball earned an overall C-plus, a B-plus in racial diversity and a C in gender.

The NBA also earned an A in racial diversity in Lapchick's previous report in 2003.

Baseball received a B-plus that year, the NFL a B-minus, and the NHL a C.

The NBA has one black owner:

Robert Johnson, of the Charlotte Bobcats. Also, the league has three black CEOs/presidents and five black general managers.

On the 30 team rosters, 76 percent of the players were black — the lowest since the 1991-92 season — and 2 percent Latino and Asian. The number of white players increased to 22 percent, two percentage points higher than the 2001-02 season covered in the last report.

As of Jan. 1, there were 12 black coaches, although that number had decreased to 10 by the end of the regular season.

There are three women with majority ownership of NBA franchises. Colleen J. Maloof and Adrienne Maloof-Nassif are part of the family that owns Sacramento Kings, while Irene Pollin is co-owner of the Washington Wizards with her husband, Abe. ■

## Yao Plans to Hang Out in Houston, Not China, for Summer

By **JOEL ANDERSON**  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON—**Yao Ming** rested comfortably in a chair and smiled at the thought of a summer without basketball.

At long last, the big man will get a break.

"I just want to relax," Yao said. "I don't want to do anything. I'm not too used to being relaxed."

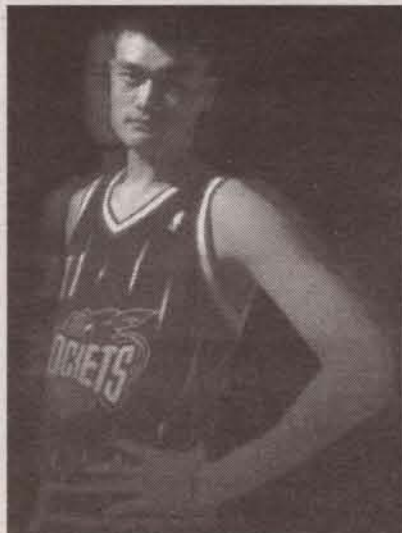
Yao will head into his first NBA offseason without any obligations, a big change from the previous two summers when he returned home to play with China's national team.

At 7-foot-6, Yao was already one of China's biggest sports stars — quite literally — after entering the NBA in 2002 as the No. 1 draft pick. However, the challenges of year-round basketball and travel have taken a toll.

His commitments to China's national team have limited his ability to improve his conditioning and skills in the offseason and he is often hurt by fatigue during the grueling NBA season.

"What you want and what happens is not totally in your control," Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "Everybody understood there were going to be other commitments that he was going to have to honor. We respect Yao for honoring his commitments."

Sitting at the Rockets' arena May



9 before he and his Houston teammates scattered for the offseason, Yao said he'd consider playing for China in the Asian Games, which start July 19 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, but wouldn't commit to doing much else for the summer.

"The first thing about my summer is I don't want any scheduling," Yao said. "I don't want to wake up and think about what I need to do."

The Rockets already have drafted an offseason program in case he sticks around.

An MRI exam will determine if he needs surgery to remove loose particles from his left ankle, followed by rehabilitation and training in Houston for at least a couple of months.

Rockets strength and conditioning coach Anthony Falsone, who traveled to China with Yao and trained the Chinese national team last summer, has marveled at Yao's durability and on-court production despite a schedule that leaves little time for improvement.

Regardless, Yao has gained upper-body strength to match his natural lower-body power. Falsone will try to keep Yao at about 300 pounds, however, saying that any added weight would further limit his mobility and jumping ability.

The next offseason goal for Yao, Falsone said, is to improve his stamina. Despite the limitations, Yao made modest gains in his third NBA season. He led the Rockets to their second-straight playoff appearance and showed signs that he could eventually develop into the dominant center he once was expected to become.

Yao averaged 18.3 points, 8.4 rebounds and two blocks during the regular season. His numbers went up in the postseason as he averaged 21.4 points in the first-round loss to the Mavericks.

The best of Yao could be to come. With more time to prepare, he could make marked improvement over the summer. ■

Stories by Associated  
Press and Pacific Citizen.



## AMBOY

(Continued from page 1)

desert]," said Okura, who recently bought Amboy for \$425,000 cash, a price he jokes is about the going rate for a small house in this market. He has a plan to restore and preserve the rich history of the town and eventually turn it back into a must-stop location for travelers and tourists.

"I've always dreamt of owning a town," he said. "I think it's destiny."

Perhaps there is no better way to describe how a Sansei who grew up in rural Wilmington, Calif. as the nephew of civil rights leader and past JACL president K. Patrick Okura would become the unlikely

owner of an indelible piece of American history.

"From the time I was a little kid, I believed that I had a destiny in life, but I had no clue what it was," he said. "I would collect things like comic books and *Mad Magazine* and save them ... I would always go over board."

Now he counts an iconic town (a little over 500 acres) with its own gas station, motel, restaurants, post office, church, and two airplane runways as part of his collection. How the town stands today is how it has always been.

But owning Amboy was a dream that almost did not come true. Okura was prevented from buying Amboy in 2003 when it was originally put

up for sale by then owners Walt Wilson and Timothy White. The asking price just two years ago was a whopping \$1.9 million, which Okura was able to negotiate down to \$1.2 million.

"I thought it was a great deal," he said with a laugh. An accounting mix-up forced him to drop out of the deal, but he "never forgot about Amboy," so when he heard that Amboy was being offered to the highest bidder in March, Okura jumped at the chance. This time, he convinced owner Bessie Burris, who owned and operated Amboy with her husband Buster for many years before Wilson and White, that he was the next ideal owner. Not wanting to lose the town for the second time, Okura hopped in his car and drove to Burris' home in Twentynine Palms to close the deal with cash.

"We have complete confidence in Mr. Okura's ability to restore the town, preserving it for our children and their children's children," said Bonnie Barnes, Bessie's granddaughter.

Thinking big seems to be in his blood. Okura, 53, started his fast food career as an hourly employee at Burger King and then opened his



PHOTO: LYNDA LIN

**The business of chickens** — Albert Okura has seen his Juan Pollo restaurant chain grow to 31 locations. To publicize his business, Okura balances preservation with redevelopment.

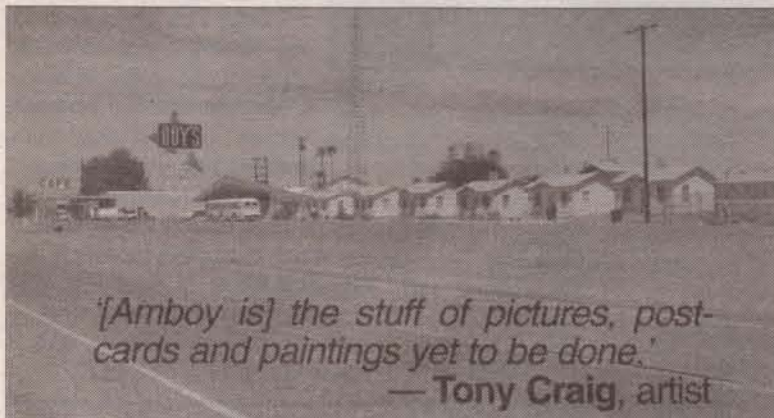


PHOTO: JACK MARCUS

## Habemus Papam — Benedict XVI: a Nisei Sidebar

THE NAME of the new pope, BENEDICT, bears a Japanese American angle that points to the 100th Infantry Battalion in one of the great WWII battles in Italy at Monte Cassino, the site of the ancient abbey founded by St. Benedict, in 530 AD. It was here that the 100th earned its nickname, the Purple Heart Battalion.

In Thomas Murphy's "Ambassadors in Arms: Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion," German defenses at Monte Cassino were depicted as mountainside fortifications that withstood direct shell fire. Many stone houses in town were miniature forts with snipers controlling the narrow streets. The town of Cassino was deserted; the civilians took refuge at the abbey.

Col. James Hanley's "A Matter of Honor" (1995) recounts the 100th's mission was to attack the castle halfway up the mountain on the eastside. The 100th encountered stone walls, mines and wire along the Rapido River, which flowed by Cassino. While crossing the dry bed of river at night, Baker Company was hit by intensive cross-fire of machine guns and artillery. Only 14 out of 187 men made it to the wall on the other side.

"The valor and spirit of the men from Hawaii were outstanding that," as Hanley notes, "the numerous casualties earned it the *nom de guerre*: the Purple Heart Battalion."

Monte Cassino, an isolated hill between Naples and Rome, became the metropolis of Western monasticism in the early sixth century. Benedict, of noble birth from Sabine, was sent to Rome for a liberal education but revolted, and escaped "from the licentiousness of his companions in the city" to the hills south of Rome (as noted in "Butler's Lives of the Saints" about St. Benedict).

A young recluse, he lived in a cave for three years and was fed by food lowered in a basket over the rock by a hermit he had met in the mountains.

Others gathered around Benedict, attracted by his way of living "and

### VERY TRULY YOURS



Harry Honda

miraculous powers." As disciples, they were the nucleus to create the community of monks, taking the vow to obey him and be trained, now the celebrated "Benedictine Rule" of poverty, chastity and obedience. Little by little, the monks rebuilt the abbey of St. Benedict around 530.

These were the Middle Ages, 400 AD to 1100 AD (sometimes known as the Dark Ages in Western civilization), when monasteries persevered in midst of the decline of the Roman Empire and barbaric invasions from north and east.

The abbey at Monte Cassino was sacked by the Lombards from northeastern Italy around 570-90; the monks fled to Rome.

By 1100, Monte Cassino and other abbeys in western Europe became self-governing communities, ruled by the abbot as a center for worship, of learning, of culture and the arts.

Towns and villages were formed as the poor, the sick, the aged, travelers and refugees flocked to the monks for help.

Monte Cassino, placed under direct papal protection, reached its highest point of prosperity and influence from 1050-1103. Garibaldi unified Italy in the 1860s and secularized the churches and abbeys, except the Vatican State and Monte Cassino — details gleaned from the Scholar's Edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1911), a 29-volume, India-paper-edition but lacking one volume that I had acquired for \$5, as I remember, from an individual visiting Toyo Miyatake Studios many decades ago.

\* \* \*

One often heard Pope Benedict XVI was the first German pope in nearly 1,000 years.

To quench my curiosity, a careful reading of Richard P. McBrien's book, "Lives of the Popes" (1997) uncovered there were five German popes during the Middle Ages: Gregory V (996-99); Clement II (1046-47); St. Leo IX (1002-54), known for his crowning of Charlemagne, king of the Franks; Damasus II (1048, July 17-Aug. 9); and St. Gregory VII (1073-1085).

\* \* \*

Here's a final note that ought to be shared.

While the castle-like abbey with massive stone walls appeared as a fortress, the Germans had told the Vatican they would not occupy the monastery and kept their word. Their gun emplacements were built into the side of the hill.

The Americans finally admitted in 1969 that the monastery had not been a part of German defenses, despite Allied insistence to the contrary during and after the war.

The British government investigation to the bombing was kept from the public for 30 years when it concluded in 1979 no such "irrefutable evidence" existed. ■





When her life seemed most perfect, Georgia Lee dropped out of Harvard, formed a production company with college friends and took on Hollywood with her bold film, 'Red Doors.'

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor



# IN A GEORGIA STATE OF MIND

Georgia Lee steps into the spotlight onstage posture perfect in a crimson dress like a human highlight amidst scrappy filmmakers clad in jeans and corduroy. She talks about how in her early 20s she sent her first short film to Martin Scorsese's fan mail, laughs at her naivety, and then announces the West Coast premiere of her first feature film, "Red Doors," which also happened to enviably be the closing film of this year's Los Angeles-based VC Film Festival.

A week later, from her parents' home in Connecticut, Lee reflects on that night as "very much like a friends and family screening" where jokes about a family dog named Lucky really struck emotional chords with the largely Asian Pacific American audience. And for Lee, the hysterically dark story about the Wongs, an emotionally frayed Chinese American family, was so deeply personal that she inserted a part of herself in the film. Literally.

Look closely and the little girls dancing and ice-skating in the Wongs' home videos are really Lee and her real-life sister as young girls.

"Truth is stranger than fiction," Lee said, adding with a laugh, "We debated about 're-shooting' and making fake home videos, but there was the issue of not having any money ... and there was a graininess there that could not be replicated. It was decaying the way home videos do."

The home videos are in fact gems — little winks from the filmmakers to the fascinated audience — that make the otherwise conventional story about a disconnected modern American family so intimate and touching.

"I've been obsessed with the idea of memory and identity and what is a real story because memory is so subjective. I was playing with that — taking these objective real memories [in the home videos] and injecting them into a created story."

She collected nearly 100 hours of personal home video footage, holed herself in the editing room and watched herself grow up all over again.

During the film's post-production phase, Lee's mother lost her battle with cancer and suddenly the self-proclaimed "semi-autobiographical" story took on a whole new resonance.

"I couldn't even watch the home videos without crying," said Lee.

While the film is loosely based on her own life, she says everything is "hyper-dramatized" for entertainment. The story about a seemingly perfect Chinese American family crumbling under the weight of miscommunication seemed organic. One day, she left a draft of the script on the table and her father, a scientist with a penchant for philosophy just like the father in the film, read the title of the script and puzzled, "Red Doors?" We have red doors!"

"Hmmm," said Lee with a laugh.

movie's eldest sister Samantha (played by "Charlotte Sometimes" Jacqueline Kim), an ambitious businesswoman.

Not so long ago, Lee was hating every moment of being a business consultant and attending Harvard Business School (where she also received her undergraduate degree in biochemistry), so she took a leave of absence from school and her then "resume perfect" boyfriend, moved to a friend's kitchen and began changing the focus of "Red Doors" from just a story about Samantha to an ensemble cast complete with a silently desperate father, a traditional mother, a lesbian middle sister and a rebellious youngest sister (played by Lee's real sister Kathy Shao Lin Lee).

But like she said before, truth is stranger than fiction. Lee never went to film school, instead she spent five months in Rome on the set of "Gangs of New York" as an apprentice to Scorsese — who believe it or not — watched the short film she sent to his fan mail and took her under his wing.

To make "Red Doors" come to life, Lee elicited the help of family members and college friends Jane Chen and Mia Riverton to form a production company, Blanc de Chine.

When all was said and done, "Red Doors" won this year's Tribeca Film Festival award for

New York Best Narrative Feature.

## Setting the Record Straight

"I wasn't going to make a 'Joy Luck Club Two,'" said Lee about some critical posts on the Internet message boards (including [www.asianamericanfilm.com](http://www.asianamericanfilm.com)) condemning the film for having two out of three of the onscreen relationships be between an APA woman and a white man.

"We were like *blink, blink* naïve and suddenly there was this flame war going on against us. I completely understand the argument about the under representation of Asian American men in the mainstream media. I completely agree," she said. But added, "What was most important to me was the family theme. I am Chinese American and I don't know about you, but my family never sat around the table and talked about how it sucked to be immigrants."

It's more important to portray APAs like anyone else, said Lee, who said she originally cast Asian actors in the roles of the male love interests, but both dropped out at the last minute. Ultimately, Lee said her decision was based on who was best for the role.

Flame wars aside, the next biggest hurdle for "Red Doors" is gaining distribution to come to a theater near you.

"I think right now there is a critical mass of creative fountainheads and Hollywood will start to notice that these stories can be commercial. I think these are exciting times," said Lee.

"Red Doors" will screen at CineVegas and Outfest Film Festivals this summer. ■

For more information: [www.red-doorsthemovie.com](http://www.red-doorsthemovie.com), [www.cinevegas.com](http://www.cinevegas.com), or [www.outfest.org](http://www.outfest.org).

## Harvard to Hollywood

There are more parallels between the movie and real life. According to Lee, her own life is mirrored in the



"The two friends who are my co-producers actually want to make films, so that helped!" Jane Chen (left), Mia Riverton (center) and Lee formed Blanc de Chine films to make 'Red Doors' independently.

## SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

[secretasianman@weirdydog.com](mailto:secretasianman@weirdydog.com) • [www.BlackLeva.net/sam](http://www.BlackLeva.net/sam) • ©2005 Tak Toyoshima



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National business and Professional Directory

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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@jaclo.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@jaclo.org or Todd Sato, youthrep@jaclo.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 PHILADELPHIA

**May 28-Dec. 2005**—Exhibition, "Kacho-ga: Flowers and Birds in Japanese Art"; Philadelphia Museum of Art, galleries 241, 242 and 243; Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 26th St.; 75 works from the collection examines the wealth of such motifs found in Japanese art from the eighth century to the modern age. Info: 215/763-8100 or www.philamuseum.org.

### WHEATON, Maryland

**Sat., June 25**—JACL Picnic; 12:30 p.m.; Wheaton Regional Park, Shelter D, Shorefield Road; barbecue, pot luck, raffle, carousel, miniature train. Info: Clyde Nishimura, 703/719-6720.

## Midwest

### ALBUQUERQUE

**Sun., June 5**—Festival of Asian Cultures; 11-3 p.m.; Cesar Chavez Community Center, 7505 Kathryn SE; free, Asian arts, craft, food, cultural entertainment.

**Sun., June 12**—Annual New Mexico JACL Picnic; 11-3:30 p.m.; Holiday Park, Comanche NE (between Juan Tabo and Tramway NE); free hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and shave ice; help with side dishes and dessert.

### 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

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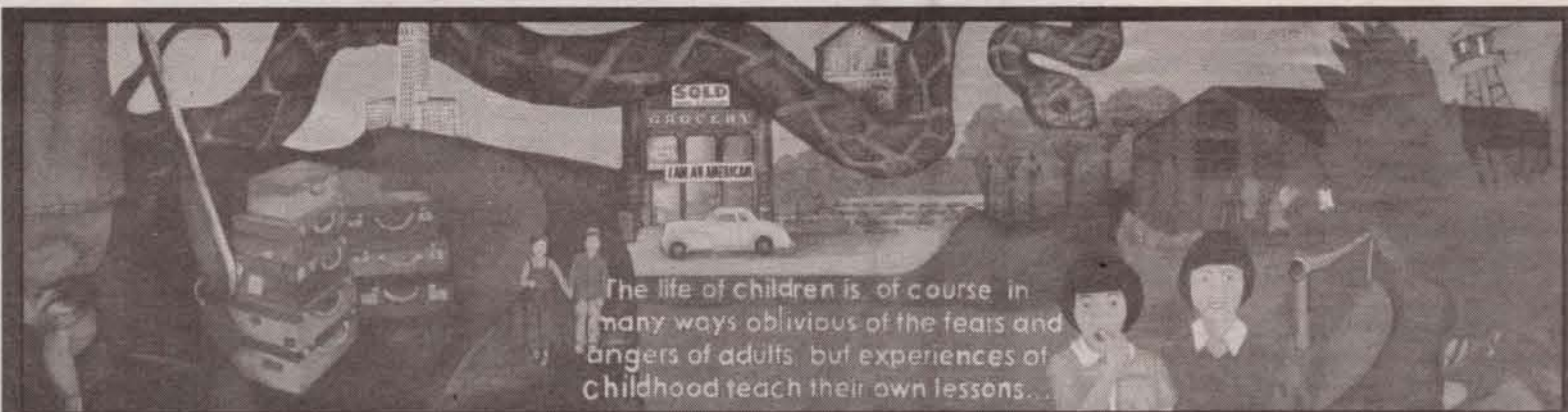


PHOTO: JANM

This mural was painted by a group of Arkansas high school students after learning about the internment of Japanese Americans in their home state. They will speak about their project May 21 at JANM.

American WWII Air Force officer, defender at Bataan, survivor of Death March; free. Info: David Namkoong, 216/921-3217.

## Intermountain MINIDOKA, Idaho

**Fri.-Sun., June 24-26**—Minidoka Pilgrimage; buses from Seattle and Portland will travel to the site for the 3 days of events. Info: minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net or 425/649-0100.

## 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.

**Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 18-21**—JACL Intermountain and Pacific Northwest Bi-District Conference; Embassy Suites Hotel, Downtown, 319 SW Pine St.; early registration deadline, June 1; for brochure and info: www.pdxjaclo.org or 877/843-6914.

## Northern California BERKELEY

**June 4-5, 11-12**—Lewis Suzuki shows

his latest work with Pro-Arts' East Bay Open Studio 2005; Suzuki Studio, 2240 Grant St.; also open by appointment. Info: 510/849-1427.

### MANZANAR

**Sat., May 21**—The Camp Dance, featuring guest vocalist, Mary Kageyama Nomura "The Songbird of Manzanar"; 7 p.m.; Manzanar National Historic Site; free; seating limited; advance reservation required. Info: 877/878-2727.

**Sun., May 22**—Hiroshi Kashiwagi will read poetry and stories from his memoir, "Swimming in the American;" 11 a.m.; Q & A session will follow with a book signing.

### PALO ALTO

**Fri., June 3**—Ruminating in RealTime with Drue Kataoka; 6:30-9 p.m.; University Art Center, 267 Hamilton Ave.; an evening brushed by inked memories with nationally acclaimed, Tokyo-born, Master Sumi-e artist. Info: www.drue.net.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., May 21**—Kimochi Spirit Awards Celebration; 2-4 p.m.; PG&E Energy Center, 851 Howard St.; honoring Japanese Community Youth Council, Nihonmachi Little Friends, Satsuki-Kai and Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Ladies Auxiliary to Post 9879, VFW. Info and reservations: 415/931-2294.

**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.

## Central California HANFORD

**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 LOS ANGELES

**Sat., May 21**—Arkansas students who painted a mural after learning about the experience of JAs in their state speak about their project; 2 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; sponsored by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation with support from the city of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department; free for museum members or paid general admission. Info: 213/625-0414.

**Sat., May 28**—2005 Nisei Vets Memorial Day Events; 11 a.m.; National Japanese American Memorial Court at JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; jointly hosted by the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, Japanese American Vietnam Veterans and the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance honoring those killed during WWII; the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Grenada and Iraq. Info: Frank Kamita, 310/515-1369, Sam Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688 or Victor Muraoka, 818/590-6724.

**Sat., May 28**—Orange County Sansei Singles (OCSS) evening of dancing, fun and light refreshments; 7-11 p.m.; Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Social Hall (basement); \$10 members, \$13 non-members; RSVP deadline May 24. Info: Larry, 310/649-5293 or Peggy, 323/727-9989.

**Mon., May 30**—Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council Memorial Day Program; 11 a.m.; Evergreen Memorial Park, 204 N. Evergreen Ave. Info: 213/268-6714.

**June 2-5, 9-12, 18**—The Pink Dress, a puppet theatre production presented by Triumvirate Pi Theatre in association with JANM; JANM's Dr. Toshio and Chizuko Inahara Gallery Foyer, 369 E. First St.; based on a true incident from the Maruyama family experience in Colorado; written and directed by Leslie Kitashima-Gray, puppet designs by Beth Peterson with assistance from Sam Koji Hale; \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 15 and museum members. Reservations, 213/625-0414 ext. 2249.

### SAN DIEGO

**Sun., June 5**—Annual Japanese Cultural Bazaar; 11-5 p.m.; 2929 Market Street near downtown; presented by the Buddhist Temple of San Diego; proceeds benefit the temple's many programs; free and open to the public. Info: 619/239-0896 or www.btsd.net.

### WESTMINSTER

**Mon., May 30**—Nisei VFW Post 3670 Memorial Day Service; 3 p.m.; Westminster Memorial Park, 14801 Beach Blvd. Info: Deen Matsuzawa, 714/826-2425, Norio Uyematsu, 714/637-1800 or Bob Wada, 714/992-5461.

## Arizona-Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Sat., June 11**—Ikenobo Ikebana Chapter of Las Vegas celebrates its 30th anniversary; 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Ponderosa Room; demonstration by Headmaster Sen'ei Ikenobo from Kyoto, Japan; free; tickets for the headmaster's demonstration, \$15. Info: 702/496-3763. ■

## 2005 UPCOMING ESCORTED TOURS

INTER-LEAGUE SUMMER BASEBALL TOUR (11 days, 8 games + Cooperstown) JUNE 10  
ALASKA CRUISE W/ CRYSTAL CRUISES (departs from SF; 13 days) JULY 5  
MIDWEST BASEBALL TOUR (9 days, games @ ChiWS, Det, Cin, STL, KC, Mil, CHC) JULY 19  
THE OZARKS & BRANSON (w/ Tauck Tours, 9 days) SEPT 24  
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days) OCT 19  
DISCOVER KYUSHU (13 days) OCT 30  
NEW YORK CITY HOLIDAY (6 days, incl 2 Broadway + Rockettes Xmas show) DEC 8

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## PROPOSED TOURS AND CRUISES FOR 2005

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

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**Garcia, Fermin Nunez, 57**, Spokane, Wash., Apr. 28; Spokane JACler; survived by wife, Eileen; mother-in-law, Kimi Fukukai; son, Scott; daughter, Kim (Henry) Williams; brothers, Jesse, Joe, John and Mike; and sisters, Delia Santamaria and Christine Sandoval.

**Kobashigawa, Yeiki, 87**, Wai'anae, Hawaii, Mar. 31; WWII veteran, 100th Battalion; one of 22 American of Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry that were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Clinton. Survived by wife, Haruko, sons, Merle and

Floyd; daughter, Jill Yamashiro; 2 gc.; brothers, Seichi and Richard; and sister, Ruby.

**Masuda, Yuriko, 83**, Fountain Valley, May 4; French Camp JACler; survived by sons, Allen (Setsuko), Dale (Marquita) and Steven (Sung); daughter, Sandy (Bill) Saeki; 9 gc.; brother, Roy Yonemoto; and sisters, Edith Ichijui and Tomie Takahashi.

**Nunotani, Wallace "Wally," 83**, San Francisco, Mar. 15; San Francisco JACler; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by daughters, Karen (Lawrence) Kern, Pamela (Clarence-Sean) Donahoe and Marsha Nunotani; son, Daniel (Anita); and 8 gc.

**Uyeda, Carl K., 82**, Little Rock, Ark., Apr. 18; survived by son, Craig (Sandra); daughter, Cheryl; 3 gc.; brothers, Kenneth, Leon, Raymond, Samuel and Henry

Uyeda; and sister, Mildren McCauley. ■

## DEATH NOTICE

## ITU MIYASHITA

DE SOTO, Tex. — Itu Miyashita, beloved mother, wife, grandmother, sister and friend, was taken by the Lord



May 3 at the age of 86 to join her husband, John, of 51 years who passed away in 2002. Itu is survived by her three children: Craig and wife Dawn of The Woodlands, Glenn and wife Sonia of Grapevine and Laura Thompson and husband Keith of De Soto; 6 grandchildren: Matt, Phillip, Michael, Mandy, Samuel and Sarah and numerous extended family members. Itu fought a long battle with Alzheimer's and was finally overcome by other health complications. Itu enjoyed a full and happy life, which included traveling and living abroad while John worked with AAFES, crossword puzzles, TV game shows and spending time with her family. Funeral services were held May 7 at Windsor Park Baptist Church in De Soto with Dr. Chris Seidlitz and Rev. Judith Brandt, officiating. Interment is at Little Bethel Memorial Park in Duncanville. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made in memory of Itu Miyashita to Alzheimer's Association, 7610 N. Stemmons Frwy., #600, Dallas, TX 75247-9952 (www.alzdallas.org).

West/Hurt Funeral Home  
217 S. Hampton Road  
De Soto, TX 75115  
972-223-6314

## DEATH NOTICE

## DONALD HAMILTON ESTES

Donald Hamilton Estes, 68, died Saturday as a result of complications related to cardiac surgery performed earlier in the week. Born in Nebraska, he came to San Diego in 1939 and has been a resident of North Park for over 65 years.



A graduate of Roosevelt Junior High and San Diego High, he earned his BA and Master degrees from SDSU, and was a life-long educator. He first taught at La Jolla High for 7 years and then spent the remainder of his 43-year teaching career at San Diego City College where he was Professor of Political Science and History. He held various academic/administrative positions at City College, most notably the chair of the Professional Growth Committee, vice-chair and chair of the Department of Social Sciences, member of the City College Executive Committee, and President of the Evening Academic Senate. He also served as a Senator on the Statewide Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges.

Mr. Estes was a noted authority on the Japanese American experience; he authored numerous articles and frequently spoke in many forums on the subject. He created or coordinated major exhibits regarding the Japanese American community, including "The Hundred Year Road: Japan to San Diego" shown in the San Diego Museum of History; a 4-city, oral history study on the resettlement of the Japanese Americans following World War II (Japanese American National Museum); a video made for the 50th anniversary reunion of the Japanese Americans from San Diego who were incarcerated in the Poston Arizona Camp III during WWII; and several others. He was very active in the San Diego Japanese American community. He is a founding member of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and had been an Executive Board member since its inception, in addition to serving as curator. He was on the Board of the San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) since 1967, serving twice as its President, the newsletter editor for 20 years, and historian since 1990. He received the Silver Pin Award from the National JACL for his long-standing service to the Japanese American community. He also had been a member of the Scholarly Advisory Board of the Japanese American National Museum since 1989, and was on the Executive Board of the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego from 1990-93.

Mr. Estes had a life-long affiliation with the Boy Scouts (BSA), dating back to 1948 when he became a Boy Scout. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and received the Explorer Silver Award in 1953, and served as an adult leader ever since. He was Scoutmaster of Troop 53 in North Park as well as a Scoutmaster for the 1985 National Jamboree. He was actively involved in Boy Scout training, including serving as the San Diego District Council Training chair for 4 years. He served as a member of the Executive Board of the San Diego County Council from 1986-98 and was the Council Assistant Commissioner (1990-91) and Commissioner (1992-94). He received numerous awards from the local BSA, including the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, Outstanding Scoutmaster of the Year, and the Distinguished Commissioner award. He was also the recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Eagle Award presented by the National BSA for his outstanding contributions to his profession and community as well as his service to Scouting.

Mr. Estes is survived by his wife, Toshiye Carol Estes, sons Matthew (Rajam) and Kumao, and daughter Cynthia Torres; sisters-in-law Sumiyo Kastelic (Frank), Claire Estes (nephews John and Tom Estes), Joanne Hasegawa (niece Robyn Grendziak), Leslie Hasegawa (Douglas Bartlett and nephew Loren), Patricia Hasegawa (Ed Zimmerly and nephew Jon); and brothers-in-law Michael Hasegawa (Mary Lou), and Gene Hasegawa (Arlene and nephew Garrett Akio).

Services were held May 11 at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market St., San Diego.

Donations: In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD), P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988.

## IN MEMORIAM

## Lane Nakano, Co-star of Film about JA Soldiers Dies

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Lane Nakano, who appeared in the World War II film "Go for Broke!" about Japanese American soldiers who fought in Europe, has died. He was 80.

Nakano died April 28 after a long bout with emphysema, his family said.

Nakano played the lead JA part of Sam in "Go for Broke!" The movie about the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team was directed by Robert Pirosh and starred Van Johnson as an Army lieutenant who trained a volunteer JA unit.

Nakano himself had served in the 442nd unit after he and his family



were uprooted from their home in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles and sent to an internment camp in Wyoming after the Pearl Harbor attack.

After serving in France and Italy, Nakano returned to Los Angeles, where he became a well-known singer in the JA community.

He also starred in the 1965 film "Three Weeks of Love" and had smaller movie and television roles.

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## BANYAN TREE

(Continued from page 1)

about HIV/AIDS."

And it is through the courageous stories of APAs living with HIV/AIDS that the message of fighting discrimination is making the most impact.

When Siron was first diagnosed back in 1999, he was hospitalized for a short period and for several months he suffered from depression, something he admits he still goes through from time to time. Every one of his friends abandoned him when they learned of his diagnosis; even the friends of his long-time partner didn't want anything to do with him.

Siron, an adoptee, held a family conference a few months after he was diagnosed HIV-positive. The revelation was difficult for most of his family, devout Catholics, to handle at first, but they have grown to support him. But even to this day, one of his brother's no longer talks to him.

"When I was first diagnosed ... I asked God, 'Give me anything else but this.' But God believes I can handle this," said Siron, a Catholic. "I lost all my friends. They stayed away from me, from us. You have to rebuild your friendships."

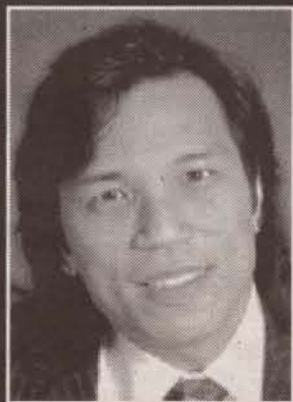
Siron continues to face a lot of stigma not only from the general community but also the APA community, something that surprised him at first.

"There's a lot of stigma among Americans and even APIs. That was really surprising," he said, noting

that he had hoped to gain some support and comfort from his fellow APAs. "It was like being crucified. I was chastised by my own race."

According to the A&PI Wellness Center, there was a 54 percent increase in AIDS diagnoses among APIs in the United States from 2000

HIV-positive in 1999 back in her homeland of Thailand, the first thoughts to run through her mind were: "Oh my God ... I'm going to die." But almost as painful was the reaction of her family when she told them her tests had come back positive.



**"The API cultures do value silence ... keeping it within the family. But that doesn't work all the time ... Cultural barriers become cultural baggage ... We need open discussion."**

— John Manzon-Santos

A&PI Wellness Center executive director

to 2003. Although the number of reported AIDS cases in the API community is relatively small (6,924 cases in 2002) compared to other groups, under-reporting and misclassification obscures the true impact on this community. Also, a culture of silence and shame thwarts access to HIV prevention and treatment.

And API women are not immune. Of the reported API AIDS cases in 2002, 13 percent were women and a significant number of API women who have HIV/AIDS reported not understanding their at-risk status. Yet, 49 percent of API AIDS cases among women were due to heterosexual contact, the highest of any racial group.

When Mem first learned she was

"They couldn't take it. They were scared of me," she said, recalling how her family would separate her food and utensils from the others for fear of contracting the HIV virus. Now 30, Mem currently lives in San Francisco, and withheld her last name to conceal her identity.

Mem contracted the HIV virus from her former longtime boyfriend back in Thailand who was bisexual. Although she experienced severe depression at first, getting treatment at the A&PI Wellness Center in San Francisco not only helped to alleviate her T cell count but also her outlook on life.

"I'm really healthy now. I call my family every week and tell them I'm doing well. They are more accepting now," said Mem.

al."

The lack of understanding of HIV/AIDS in the APA community is something both Siron and Mem deal with on a daily basis. Although the HIV virus is transmitted mainly through blood and is difficult to contract, many APAs still believe that any contact — including touching, hugging, or kissing — will transmit the disease. Some still falsely believe they can contract the disease by sharing food or chopsticks.

"HIV is a hard disease to get. It's a huge myth that you can't touch people," said Manzon-Santos. These myths "really isolate people and creates stigma."

Manzon-Santos knows the issue of HIV/AIDS "pushes a lot of buttons" in the community but he's

hopeful the Banyan Tree Project will create more awareness in the coming years.

We don't want to be "in your face," he said about the project. Manzon-Santos compared their efforts to "dropping water on a stone. Every drop [represents] awareness. The process takes time."

Both Siron and Mem are hopeful that by telling their stories they can help stymie discrimination against those living with HIV/AIDS in the APA community.

"People are still ignorant about HIV/AIDS," said Mem. "People should talk about it more and we need more education about HIV/AIDS."

"If this thing happened to me it must happen to a lot of people out there," said Siron. "I try to have a positive outlook and help the community." His message: "have open hearts, open minds." ■

*The Banyan Tree Project is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the sister organizations include: Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (San Francisco & Washington D.C.); Asian Health Coalition of Illinois (Chicago); Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (Los Angeles); Hawai'i Multicultural HIV/AIDS Resource Project of Life Foundation (Honolulu); and Massachusetts Asian & Pacific Islanders for Health (Boston). For information about the Banyan Tree Project, go to [www.banyantreeproject.org](http://www.banyantreeproject.org) or 866/5BANYAN.*





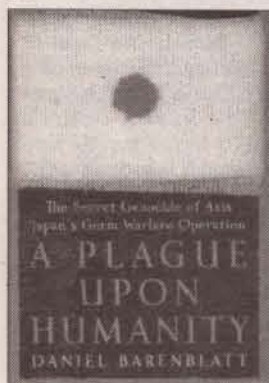
By YUMI SAKUGAWA

# BROWSE BOOKS

ideas for bookworms

## A Plague Upon Humanity: The Secret Genocide of Axis Japan's Germ Warfare Operation

Harper Collins Publishers  
Daniel Barenblatt  
pp. 256; \$25.95 hardcover



"A Plague Upon Humanity" meticulously exposes the disturbing story of Japan's campaign of human experimentation and extermination that have been denied and marginalized for a long time. Using real testimonies from

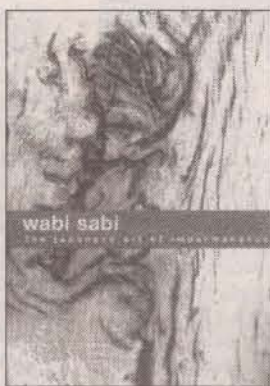
victims, graphic descriptions from Japanese doctors involved and biomedical evidence from human remains, Barenblatt illustrates a disturbing picture of what happens when medical ethics and basic human morals are inverted for the pursuit of military power and imperial domination.

## Wabi Sabi: The Japanese Art of Impermanence

Tuttle Publishing  
Andrew Juniper  
pp. 165; \$12.95 paperback

Wabi Sabi, a design movement that has gotten trendy in interior decorating very recently, is

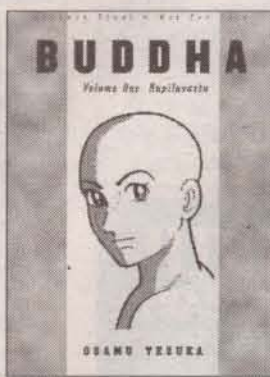
actually an ancient aesthetic philosophy that stems back to fifteenth century Japan. This book examines the history, culture, art, design and spirit of the form that has influenced Japanese philosophy and poetry for centuries, and can now be applied in a more contemporary context.



## Buddha, Volume One: Kapilavastu

Vertical  
Osamu Tezuka  
pp. 288; \$24.95 hardcover

Osamu Tezuka, known as the godfather of manga comics and the Walt Disney of Japan, is known for combining humor and humanism in an engaging visual form that created memorable graphic novels for many generations.



"Buddha," Tezuka's epic graphic life of

Siddhartha, is now available for the first time for English readers.

## Love After War

Curbstone Press  
Edited by Wayne Karlin and Ho Anh Thai  
pp. 626; \$19.95 paperback

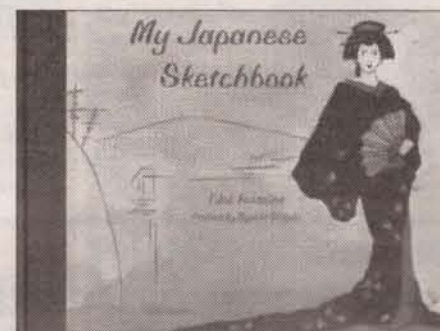
"Love After War" is the largest anthology of Vietnamese writers that presents both established authors as well as many exciting new voices. This impressive collection shows the myriad of literary voices that struggles with the history of a country marred by decades of war and tragedy, and also the continuing will to find love and redemption in spite of the suffering.



## Birthmark

Southern Illinois University Press  
Jon Pineda  
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Half Filipino and half white, Jon Pineda explores the many threads of his identity in this collection of poems. Family, father/son dynamics and cultural identity are few of the many topics that are captured in his words.



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## Year of the Snake

Southern Illinois University Press  
Lee Ann Roripaugh  
pp. 80; \$13.95 paperback

Lee Ann Roripaugh, whose poems have appeared in many prestigious publications, explores her dual Japanese and American cultural identities. ■

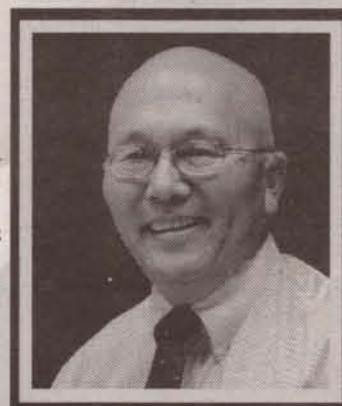
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