As Supreme Court Justice Replacement Talks Take Place, Where Are the AAs?

BY CAROLINE Aoyagi
Executive Editor

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s announcement of her retirement recently shocked both sides of the philosophical aisle and now conservatives and liberals, women, and minorities are scrambling to have their say in President George Bush’s choice for her replacement. But in the midst of all the rhetoric, Asian Americans are raising their voices and asking: isn’t it about time for an AA Supreme Court Justice?

“It is only a matter of time before we see an Asian Pacific American on the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Attorney John C. Yang, immediate past president of the Asian Pacific American Legal Defense and Education Fund (or APALDEF) and chair of the group’s Judiciary Taskforce. “The selection of a Supreme Court Justice is in part a political decision.”

He adds, “It’s a two-way street. Asian Pacific Americans must continue to do a better job of becoming active politically . . . At the same time, the current political leaders must recognize that there is an appalling lack of Asian Pacific American representation in the judiciary and upper levels of government.”

Smart, Young and Running for City Council

BY LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Eugene Kang has his mind set on becoming a city council member this summer. For the Aug. 2 election in his hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Kang is working with a campaign manager and volunteers at campaign headquarters (his house) to make signs and go door-to-door. He tells voters he champions affordable housing options and vehemently opposes instating more taxes.

He also wants to reform the University of Michigan’s reputation, which he says suffers from fraternity hazing and sorority marijuana scandals. If elected, he wants to improve the communication between the university and the city.

Kang is 21. He is a senior at the University of Michigan majoring in political science, but is not even on the business majors track. YOUNG POWER: Eugene Kang, 21, is ready to take office.

Photo courtesy of Eugene Kang

JACL Execll-tive Director

New York Times

It's been 17 years since Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, providing redress to Japanese Americans for the World War II internment. In those 17 years, various groups and people have taken and been

COMMENTARY
Redress Legacy

BY JOHN Tateshi
JACL Executive Director

JA Activist Yuri Kochiyama Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

BY AMY E. Ikeda
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Yuri Kochiyama, 84, may appear a typical friendly Japanese American grandmother, but she has lead anything but an average life. This grandmother of nine was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, an honor in recognition of her work for over four decades at the forefront of social justice movements alongside activists such as Malcolm X.

“Getting a Nobel Peace Award would be the last thing I would think of,” said Kochiyama. “I found out through a phone call that I was nominated. I thought someone was trying to be funny, playing a joke. But it turned out to really be a woman researcher for the Nobel Peace Prize Committee.”

Kochiyama is one of the women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize through the “1,000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005” project. The $5.8 million project, initiated by Gaby Vermont-Mangold, a member of the Swiss Parliament, collectively nominates 1,000 women to signify the underrepresen-

ment generally.”

So far the odds are not stacked in their favor. Never in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court has an AA sat on nor even been considered as a nomi­nee for the post by a U.S. president. As the list of possible nominees continues to leak, there is no mention of an AA candidate although two Hispanics, an African American, and three women have so far been short­listed; dominating the list are White men.

And it’s not that there is a shortage of qualified AA judges and lawyers to replace O’Connor who announced her retirement July 1. AAs have been rising in the ranks and several hold esteemed judgeships and academic positions throughout the country. Last October, The New York Times ran an article with possible Supreme Court Justice nominees and Harold

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COMMENTARY

Remembering Lily and Pat Okura

BY EMILY MURASE

It is with great sadness that I learned of Lily Okura's death in June, just months following that of her lifelong partner and husband, Pat. Anyone who had ever experienced her warm hospitality of Lily and Pat Okura at their home in suburban Washington, D.C., will not soon forget it. They extended their home to countless JACLers for chapter board meetings, receptions to welcome guests, and countless others who remember most fondly Richard and Michelle Amano, Eusa Masakado, Marilyn Nagano Schlief, John Nakahata, Clyde Nishimura, Steve Nose, and David Sugari.

Those of you who knew Lily will remember her impeccable style, her perfect etiquette, and her exuding approach to every issue. None of you who knew Patrick will remember his outspoken leadership and his steadfast loyalty.

I first met Lily and Pat in the Fall of 1993 when I arrived in Washington, D.C., on a fellowship to join the Clinton White House. I had been a member of the JACL Japan Leadership Conference in 1979, but before moving back to the States and was looking forward to joining the Washington JACL chapter hearing that it was a well-organized group. Pat played an integral role in orienting participants in the chapter leadership. Leadership Conference, I vividly recall a workshop he organized about the early days in the fight for redress. Pat and I had served as a former national president of the JACL. I naively considered him my mentor. That fall, I attended a chapter board meeting that Lily and Pat hosted and was immediately welcomed as the newest member of the D.C. JACLers family. With few acquaintances in the area, I was very grateful to be so warmly received into this community. There were countless others who were members of this close-knit family, but I remember most fondly Richard and Michelle Amano, Eusa Masakado, Marilyn Nagano Schlief, John Nakahata, Clyde Nishimura, Steve Nose, and David Sugari.

When I knew them, Lily and Pat were devoting their lives to chapter affairs. Lily served as the long-time newsletter editor, while I was painstakingly written in longhand, then typed on her typewriter, printout in his life, and contributed to chapter members. In her “Bits and Pieces” monthly column, Lily kept tabs on important workings and goings of chapter members. In other ways, she created real and lasting connections between and among chapter members.

In December 1976, half a year after the Sacramento convention, Edition passed over unusually and left a gap in the commentary column. In his place, Clifford Uyeda was asked to step in as the JACL’s redress committee chair, and it was under his chairmanship that the JACL committee produced the so-called “Sacramento guidelines.” The guidelines, which proposed $25,000 per individual affected by the internment, plus the creation of an endowment trust fund, and an apology by the government.

Redress guidelines were presented to the national council along with the Seattle “Boot-Strap” proposal at the 1978 convention. I was privileged enough to convey the organization’s priority issue, but there was a significant change that occurred at the Sacramento convention. Mike Masakado addressed the council and stated that the organization had extended a resolution that placed redress as a priority issue, but there was a significant change that occurred at the Sacramento convention. Mike Masakado addressed the council and stated that the organization had extended a resolution that placed redress as a priority issue, but there was a significant change that occurred at the Sacramento convention.

I was standing with Edison when Mike made that announcement, knowing that was the beginning of the organization’s effort to move into redress, the JACL would inevitably fail as it sought to develop the strategy.

A year earlier, in 1975, the Seattle chapter had produced an audiotape proposal for redress. Called the “Bootstrap Plan,” Seattle’s proposal called for a $130,000 one-time cash payment. It was the first concrete and specific proposal developed anywhere in the country.

We need to acknowledge that the earliest conversations took place in 1974. As the director of the JACL’s educational center at the time, I recommended that as they should be in light of the significance those contributions played in changing history.

I want to help support JACL’s mission to protect civil rights, education and promote cultural values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

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This form can be used as a reminder of an order. This time, the “redress” changed. For so many, it was the beginning of a long, hard journey.

In the years since, I have been touched over the course of their long lives by what is it to be an American Muslim. From the experiences of those who have lived through it to the present day, the lives of Lily and Pat in fundamental ways, she created real and lasting connections between and among chapter members.

I want to support JACL’s mission to protect civil rights, education and promote cultural values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

P.C. Spring Campaign

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And it was these guidelines that formed the basis for the ultimate redress provided to JAs by the U.S. government.

The year 1978 was the starting point of the redress campaign, launched in 1976 by the JACL at the dedication of the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City. It was the point from which the JACL began its mission to mobilize its chapters and commit its resources to vindicate the hope for redress.

It was the starting point of a long and difficult ten-year campaign in which the JACL and its constituents would go on to seek redress from the U.S. government. And make no mistake about it: the redress campaign never would have happened without the JACL’s commitment and effort.

Dear Editor,

I found their identities fixed from the past and raised as a problem within the larger context of Japanese and MUSLIM OF what it is to be...
APAs Still Missing From Supreme Court Discussions

(Continued from page 1)

Hongija Koh, a dean of Yale Law School, was at the top of the list. Koh is a well-known scholar who has worked in both the Democratic and Republican administrations.

In addition to Koh, qualified candidates include: Circuit Court Justice A. Wade, Baltimore County Circuit Court Judges Ronald S. W. Lew, Denny Chin, Susan Oki Makino, Anthony W. Ishii, George H. K. Tateishi, JACL national president and Robert M. Takusagi. State Supreme Court Justices include: Ming Chin and Joyce Kennard in California; and Ronald Moon, Paula Nakayama and Simeon Acoba in Hawaii.

“Interestingly, ABA statistics show that enrollment of APAs in accredited law schools is about six percent, a figure higher than the national APA population of four percent. So why hasn’t an APA candidate ever been considered for the U.S. Supreme Court?”

A number of jurists argue that the Supreme Court should be reflective of the various populations it serves, bringing a diverse representation to the highest court in the land. The groups also note that since a fellow APA serving on the bench would encourage more APAs to follow in their paths toward the judiciary positions.

“Having an Asian American on the Supreme Court means winning equal justice for Asian Americans,” said S.B. Woo, president of 80-20, a non-partisan political action committee that has been actively promoting AA candidates for the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Mind you the Supreme Court ordered the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. In contrast, once we have a spot on the Supreme Court, every individual contemplating acting unjustly towards Asian Americans will be conscious that such injustice could eventually be appealed to the Supreme Court.”

It is essential that the court reflect the diversity of viewpoints and experiences of the country’s residents, said Yang. “Throughout history, Asian Americans have been perceived as perpetual foreigners, even by judges. Having an Asian American on the Supreme Court may help to combat such stereotypes and prevent those miscarriages of justice.”

Attorney John C. Kang

21-Year-Old Aims High as He Vies for City Council Seat

(Continued from page 1)

Kang says his opponent is his “political opposite” and, in almost every sense, Rapundalo is. The former Republican is chair of the city’s Transportation and Public Works Committee. Kang is a member of the citizens advisory council.

But Kang says he’s not intimidated.

“This guy has the right kind of background for [city council] — he’s a lot older and he has a lot of experience,” said Kang. “But I have a burning desire to do this.”

“I really love Ann Arbor. I love the vibe. That’s what really spurred me [to run]. What better way to give back to the community?”

So far he has joined in the potential for an $80,000 couch ban resolution. Kang said he intends to make an issue of the couch ban, which was passed by the city council, would banning couches from the city’s July 4th parade.

While on summer break from his last year at the University of Michigan, Kang fills his time with campaign activities such as participating in Ann Arbor’s July 4 parade.

What better way to give back to the community?" said Eugene Kang about his bid for city council. "While on summer break from his last year at the University of Michigan, Kang fills his time with campaign activities such as participating in Ann Arbor's July 4 parade. 
National Newsbytes
By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

'Tsunami Song' Producer Starts on Bay Area Morning Show
SAN FRANCISCO—Rick Delgado, the producer fired for his role in the HOT 97 FM parody song that made light of the tsunami tragedy, says his racial humor was misinterpreted, and told the San Jose Mercury News that he won't do that again, "because I like their food and want to eat in their restaurants."

Japanese WWII Prayer Flag to Be Returned Home
EVANSVILLE, Ind.—A prayer flag Japanese teenagers signed more than 60 years ago for a classmates being deported to fight in World War II has been returned to Japan, a year after an Evansville man found the flag in his late father's possessions.

Jerry Keller, 55, found the silk flag, which is red and white and covered with the brushed signatures of kamikaze torpedo pilots Yoshio Imagaki's high school classmates, last year while rummaging through a family cedar chest.

The prayer flag will be returned to Shimanto City, to high school student Imagaki attended before entering training to pilot a named, suicide torpedo designed to sink American ships in the final year of the war.

Mosque Targeted by Arsonist
SALEM, Ore.—A mosque in Salem was set on fire late Thursday night. Officials said a hate crime resulted.

The blaze was reported about 10:44 p.m., near the Salem Community Center. Three men were arrested in connection with the incident.

Hate crimes against Muslims rose 52 percent to 141 last year compared with 2003, and civil rights violations reported to the council jumped 49 percent, in a report issued in May.

Reality Show Canceled after Civil Rights Groups Express Outrage
"Welcome to the Neighborhood," a reality show on ABC slated to debut July 11, was canceled after its subject matter provoked complaints on civil rights grounds from the National Fair Housing Alliance.

The show pits seven families against each other in pursuit of a home in a suburban neighborhood in Southwest Austin. Among the contestants were families of different ethnic descent including Asian American, gay couple, a husband and wife who are "covered in tattoos" and a family that practices "pagan spirituality," according to ABC's Web site.

Critics called the show stereotypical and a violation of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination by housing providers on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability.

APAs in the News
By Pacific Citizen Staff

Noguchi Set to Make First Space Flight
Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi made his first ever space flight when the US Space Shuttle Discovery made its scheduled July 13 launch.

Noguchi, 40, becomes the sixth Japanese astronaut ever to go into space. He is trained as an astronautical engineer, with a degree from the University of Tokyo. He lives in Houston with his wife and three daughters.

Big Island Mayor Kim Mulling Bid for Governor
Hawaii's Big Island Mayor Harry Kim, who won his first term as a Republican, says he is considering a run for governor next year — as a Democrat.

Kim, 65, told local media that he has never been a Republican and is thinking about running against Gov. Linda Lingle, a Republican, next year.

Hara Announces Run for Seattle Port Commission
Lloyd Hara recently announced his bid for the Port of Seattle's Port Commission in the Sept. 20 primary to determine the top two candidates for the Nov. 8 election.

Hara served as Seattle's city treasurer and King County's auditor. If elected, he will be the first APA to serve as a commissioner in the port's 94-year history.

Iwasaki Nominated for New Judgeship
Boffin lawyer and Salt Lake City Justice Court Judge Paul Iwasaki was nominated by the governor for a new judgeship in the 2nd District Juvenile Court. If confirmed by the senate, he would become one of two minority judges in Utah north of Salt Lake City.

Madison Group Hopes to Preserve Japanese School, History
By ASSOCIATED PRESS
REXBURG, Idaho—When Madison School District officials bought an old farm with the intention of building a school, they didn't realize one already stood on the 160-acre property.

It's no wonder. The old building, hardly looked like a school, with a hole in the roof and a beehive tacked in one wall. Only a small brass bell and a few wooden desks reflected the structure's intention.

But the discovery of the 1920's-Japanese Language School has given some residents an idea to resurrect the old school and use it as an educational museum or cultural library, in conjunction with the new high school slated to be built nearby.

In 1923, about 50 Japanese families lived in the area. They came to the United States to work on the railroad, and when that work was completed they stayed to harvest sugar beets or find other work in the community.

Their sons and daughters attended public schools in Rexburg, where they learned to read and write English. But on Saturdays and all summer long, they attended the Japanese Language School, where they learned to read and write in their native tongue.

"It was built by all our fathers from scratch," said Kats Miyasaki, who attended the school for five years. "As more students went to the school, they (built) three additions onto it."

Students competed in baseball and basketball against other Japanese Language Schools around the region, Miyasaki said. In April and May, they held a Spring Festival celebrating the cherry blossom.

"We want to preserve the history of the school, and we're exploring options to accomplish that," said Janet Goodlife, Madison School District School Board president.

"It's very unique, a valuable piece of Idaho history," said committee member Janet Ugaki, whose father attended the school. "We'd like to preserve the property and turn our eye toward the future and the past."

Lowell Parkinson, another committee member, said it could be used to teach today's students about the Japanese internment camps and the "tragedy of bigotry of hatred of other cultures."

But school officials aren't yet sure what will happen, and say they must consider what is best for the planned high school and how any preservation project would be funded.

"We want to preserve the history of the school, and we're exploring options to accomplish that," said Janet Goodlife, Madison School District's grant administrator.

An architectural preservationist from the Idaho Heritage Trust Fund will examine the building, Goodlife said.

Goodlife also said the district is looking into private funding to see what money would be available if officials are able to move forward with the preservation.
NPS Invites Public Comment for Minidoka Project

The National Park Service is inviting the public to view the draft plan and give feedback by mail. Comment forms can be downloaded from the NPS Web site or by participating in public workshops. The final round for workshops will be held July through August in different states.

The purpose of the workshops is to discuss and finalize a management plan that will effectively provide for Minidoka Project, released detailing the reconstruction of historical features and buildings development of interpretive facilities, expansion of the site's boundar- ies, extensive educational outreach program as well as proposed budgets to implement the plan. Copies of the public comment form can be viewed at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/min or obtained from the NPS by calling 206/220-4157 or e-mailing: MIN@parkplanning.nps.gov.

JANM Delegation, Japanese Officials Vow to Strengthen U.S.-Japan Relations

A Japanese American National Museum delegation shared the JA experience with Japanese officials in an effort to strengthen the relation­ ship between the two countries at a series of meetings and events held in Japan recently.


"The relationship between Japan and the United States is most important in the world," said Inouye. "And Japanese Americans historically have played a role in ensuring that bilateral relations remain strong."

Japanese officials and delegation members agreed to continue working together on future projects.

"As both nations face many challenges, it is a good time to strengthen the relationship between Japan and Nikkei in hopes of greater exchange between our countries," added Inouye.

The dinner which will be held at

JACO SCW District to Honor 'Women Effecting Change' at Awards Dinner

The JACL Pacific Southwest District will honor "Women Effecting Change" at this year's Annual Awards Dinner at the Irvine Marriott Sept. 10.

This year's honorees are: Los Angeles Police Commissioner Room, during Ochai, former Villa Park Mayor, and Regina Kawanami, and Dr. Mary Oda. Proceeds from the dinner support JACL's efforts to recruit and train young Asian Pacific Americans to become future community leaders.

"The PSW JACL is looking forward to honoring Ms. Kawanami, Regi and Ms. Oda for their strength, courage and dedication to the JA community and the country," said Florence Ochia, former PSWD governor. "These women are exemplary role models for our up and coming leaders in the JA and API communities."

Ochia was appointed to the board of Los Angeles Police Commission­ ers in 2001 by former Mayor James Hahn. She began her career as a second­ ary teacher in Los Angeles and Montebello Schools. She is one of 12 women in the class of '72. Her studies were interrupted by the incar­ ceration of JA in camp, in camp, and in camp, she served as a women's volunteer with the JACL. She was able to return to her studies and com­ plete her medical degree. After the war she and her brothers chose to return to the Sun Fernando Valley, where hospitals had previously segregated hospital beds. She provided much needed medical services for the health of the community.

"The relationship between Japan and the United States is most important in the world," said Inouye. "And Japanese Americans historically have played a role in ensuring that bilateral relations remain strong."

Japanese Americans have played a role in ensuring that bilateral relations remain strong.
JACL Youth/Student Conference

Strengthening Our AA Identity

By KATIE SOE

I watched the city lights below shrink until they were merely dim specks against the dawn. When I awoke an hour later in the same narrow airplane seat, sunlight spilled through the open window illuminating a brochure sprawled on my lap. It read:

"Strengthening our Asian American IDENTITY." We had arrived at Salt Lake City, home of the 2002 Olympics and — for the next three days — the 2005 JACL National Youth Conference.

Arriving early in the morning, my traveling companions included another youth from the JACL Berkeley chapter and our adult chaperone. The dinner/dance began at 5 p.m., so we took advantage of the free day to explore one of the city’s highlights: the new two-block-long Gateway Mall.

Later that evening, the youth delegates mingled and attended a captivating “Living Voices” presentation. An actress spoke and gesticulated, bringing to life the story of a young Hawaiian flower girl rescued by her father from the无线_doors of a Honolulu luncheonette. Enthusiasm was apparent, but now “DNA’s all the same.”

As the sun began to set, we found ourselves at the University of Utah stadium sky boxes overlooking a magnificent and panoramic view of the city. Here we held an elegant banquet honoring Vision Award winner Mee Moua, the first Hmong American woman elected as Minnesota State Senator. Unfortunately, Moua had an emergency session and was unable to attend, so U.S. Rep. Mike Honda accepted the award for her. He spoke on the issue of diversity, stating that “the DNA’s all the same. We’re all 99.999% the same except for that tiny little part that makes us appear different.”

You’re just as beautiful as anyone else,” he assured us. “The American idea of beauty is just an ideal.”

Moua had sent a videotape, addressing the JACL youth in attendance. She encouraged us to speak up and overcome our fears. “When you feel that ball of fears in your throat, those are the voices that never had the opportunity to be heard.”

As the banquet concluded, adrenalin roared and the DJ appeared on stage. “You’re just as beautiful as anyone else,” he assured us. “The American idea of beauty is just an ideal.”

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We Can Make A Difference In Your Life.
ST. PAUL — The Hmong Minnesota International Sports Tournament is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

It began as an excuse for a gathering of clans in 1980, but the festival which takes place at Como Park has become a national attraction.

"It’s just like the State Fair," said state Sen. Moe Moua, DFL- St. Paul, who as a child attended the event and worked in the booths. "This is a great get-together for Hmong Americans."

The festival features a soccer tournament that draws teams from across the country and attracts more than 20,000 people a day. There is also dozens of food and merchandise booths.

"It’s a major event," said St. Paul police officer David Yang, who provides security. "It’s a good family reunion."

There is also dozens of food and attractions they might not have seen in the public address system in hopes of helping them reunite with relatives they might not have seen in decades.

"It’s a good thing we can do for our own people," he said.

Hmong Sports Festival Turns 25

SILVIS, Ill. — Sometimes it takes a good cry for Michelle Wie to get over a disappointment. Other times, punching something does the trick.

There’s no need for either this weekend. Despite a stunning collapse at the John Deere Classic, the 15-year-old knows her time is coming.

And it could be sooner than most expected.

"On the LPGA Tour, I made the cut on my fourth try," she said. "My fourth try (on the PGA Tour) is coming up, so I’m really looking forward to that."

That’s not just teenage precociousness talking. Though Wie showed her inexperience with disasters on two of her last four holes, causing her to miss the cut by two strokes, she also showed she can hold her own with the boys.

She played a PGA Tour event at St. Paul from Thailand in the last 25 years," said Sia Houn Yang, chairman of this year’s tournament that draws teams from across the neighboring states. It has since grown into the largest Hmong festival in the country, costing more than $200,000 to stage and attracts people from France, Thailand, Laos, Canada, China and across the U.S.

"It’s become a tradition for our people the past 25 years," said Sia Houn Yang, chairman of this year’s festival. "It’s good for the community and it’s good for the city."

There will be a special effort to welcome the thousands of new Hmong refugees who have come to St. Paul from Thailand in the last 15 years. Yang said they will announce the names of recent arrivals over the public address system in hopes of helping them reunite with relatives they might not have seen in decades.

"It’s a good thing we can do for our own people," he said.

Victory soon: 15-year-old Michelle Wie didn’t make the cut at the John Deere Classic, but many say the best is yet to come. (AP)

Golf stories by Associated Press and P.G. Staff

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Victory soon: 15-year-old Michelle Wie didn’t make the cut at the John Deere Classic, but many say the best is yet to come. (AP)

BASEBALL

Japan Upset by IOC Decision to Drop Baseball, Softball from 2012

By JIM ARMSTRONG

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan did its best to keep baseball in the Olympic program, making the decision by the International Olympic Committee to drop the sport from the 2012 London Games that much harder to take.

Japan sent its top professional players to the Athens Olympics where they took home the bronze medal.

Since baseball was first introduced as a medal sport at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Japan’s national team has won three medals.

"I know the Olympics conflict with the regular season and it’s difficult to send players," Softbank Hawks pitcher Tatsuyoshi Wada, who was a member of Japan’s team in Athens, said. "But we did it and that makes the achievement all the more fulfilling."

Baseball and softball, which will remain on the program for the 2008 Beijing Games, are the first sports cut from the Olympics since polo in 1900.

IOC officials said baseball was targeted because it doesn’t bring top Major League players to the Olympics and because of the sport’s steroid problems in the United States.

South Korea and Taiwan also sent professional players to the Olympics and the perception in Japan was that Asian nations suffered because of a lack of cooperation from Major League Baseball.

"The Olympics were a great opportunity to promote Japanese baseball," said Kazuhito Wada of the Seibu Lions, who also took part in Athens. "We did everything we can to get baseball back into the Olympics someday but we can’t do it alone."

This really hurts Japan," added JOC Secretary General Tsutomu Hayashi. "Baseball and softball are both team sports that draw a lot of excitement and are the only ones that medals are a virtual certainty."

Japan’s softball team won the bronze medal in Athens and has been a model contender since the women’s-only event was put on the Olympic program.

"All I can say is that this is both disappointing and frustrating," former Japan softball coach Taeko Iwasaki said.

I really feel sorry for the players."

SUMO

Asashoryu Off to Winning Start at Nagoya Sumo

TOKYO — Grand champion Asashoryu picked up right where he left off with a convincing win July 10 over Miyabiyarna on the opening day of the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament.

Evolving in the final bout at Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium, Asashoryu, the lone grand champion competing in sumo, got right off the board with a good drive on his opening opponent. He wielded a good meter (3 feet) off the dirt surface before calmly depositing his opponent outside the ring.

AP ENCODE

Grand champion Asashoryu easily beat his opponent at the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament.
There was another way of relating our way of living to community, especially during these times. As one who recalled hopefully playing in the Young Buddhist Association sports program, Rev. Grant, the Methodist churchman, urged the JA world to continue this Buddhist-Christian dialogue of community, especially during these times.

Rev. Mas Kodani (Senshin Buddhist Temple) drew applause when he relayed going immediately after the 9/11 attacks in New York to the Muslim mosque adjacent to the USC campus. The mosque is several blocks from Senshin.

How many know Rev. Mas began the “Taiko Movement” years ago (1960) that has blown nationwide? The beating of the Japanese drums of many sizes and style has Buddhist roots, though one seldom makes that point.

Conference director Fr. James Frederick, LMU professor in comparative theology, featured the WW II story of Buddhists and Christians in the camps. As he once told me: “Religious believers must find ways to resist the forces that are driving us apart. Today, friendships that reach across religious boundaries should be seen as a virtue, not a vice.”

He is a San Franciscan, a Roman Catholic priest who has lived in Japan, studied as a Fulbright scholar at Rikkyo University and author of “Fifth Among Peoples: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions” (Paulist Press, 1999).


Blending Combat and Couture with a Little Patriotism

Designing bridal gowns, as Yosihiko Yoshioka says, is a family affair. Mothers and daughters show up to her New York-based studio in the posh Soho District to try on dresses and start bowing over the perfection of the look, often the designer's eyes well up too.

"It's the woman's most important day," said Yoshioka softly over the bustling of cars in front of her studio. "It's special. I'm so happy with what I'm doing.

In her line of business, emotional attachment is commonplace because the 36-year-old couture designer helps to make wedding dreams come true. But she has also found a way to blend her business sense with her patriotic duty by dressing military brides and ladies marrying military officers with their perfect one-of-a-kind gowns at a deep discount.

Yoshioka's dresses retail for as high as $4,000, an intangible amount for many brides on a tight budget, but she offers GI brides up to a 75 percent off discount on the gowns of their choice. The money paid for these handmade dresses only covers the cost of material and labor, she said.

"I always think I can help somebody from my business," she said. As a result, the unlikely worlds of couture and combat intersect.

Yoshioka's extended "family" of emotional brides now includes ones who wear military boots, beneath press their own weight and expertly coordinate naval ship traffic in the ports.

Katye Allos, a coast guard lieutenant, is currently on a two-year sabatical to get married to her fiances, also a coast guard lieutenant. She found out about the GI discount when one of her friends clipped out a newspaper article about Yoshioka.

"I wandered down to Soho... I checked out a few dresses and fell in love with an A-line dress with really delicate lines," said Allos gleefully. "A lot of people talk about patriotism and giving back to the troops, but she's found a personal way to contribute.

Yoshioka started the GI discount last June just when another war touched her life. She grew up in Japan where wartime stories were deeply buried wounds and she suffered losses of friends in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

So when she learned that one of her employees' brother was deployed to Iraq, Yoshioka saw the loneliness and yearning of those waiting for their loved ones to come back home. It broke her heart to think of wartime lovers, like her husband's parents who met during World War II, who had to bear the uncertainty of separation, so she decided to do anything in her power to help.

"I cannot ignore [the war]," she said.

Since she launched the discount service, Yoshioka has helped over 100 military brides at her boutique, Bonaparte-NY, slip away from wartime realities into their fairytale dreams.

"She's a real generous and kind designer. "When I work as 'unusual and ethereal.' "Yoshioka is already ruminating ways to help after the recent terrorist attacks in London. "It's easy to make flat designs," said Yoshioka, turning her attention to new opportunities to expand her business with humanitarian efforts.

Besides preparing for Fashion Week in September, when she will be debuting her evening dress line, Yoshioka is already removing over ways to help after the recent terrorist attacks in London. "I think she's really giving. If there's a need... she will go out on a lim..." said Porter-Fyke.

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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

In no two years of being a dad, I've come to wonder. genitalia. is that normal? is that... 

JAPANESE WORDS MAKE ME LAUGH

KINGDOM: JAR

WASHINGTON: NUTS

MY FAVORITE JAPANESE CHARACTERS.
CINCINNATI

Saturday, July 23 and Saturday, July 30 — Workshop, Health Care Advance Directives, presented by two doctors from the Rockwell Scientific Center Auditorium, at 10:49, Canton's Rossie, presenters are Carol Peters, Attorney, and Pamela Wright, M.S.W., of Vita Hospice; hosted by Ventura County JACL, and sponsored by Vita Hospice: free; R.S.V.P. by July 25.

SACRAMENTO

Saturday, July 23 — Lecture, “Dharma for Non-Buddhists,” by the Buddhist Temple’s Buddhist Meditation Education Committee as part of its annual series on “Mind and Buddhist.” Info: 603/724-906, or through the Buddhist Temple.

PORTLAND

Sunday, July 24 — Daruma Craft Boutique; 209 South Division Center, 1965 Alliance Ave.; sponsored by the West Valley JACL; proceeds to benefit the West Valley JACL Senior Clubhouse and activities. Info: www.darumafestival.org.

WATSONVILLE

Sunday, July 31 — Watsonville Taiko 5th Annual Natsume Matsuri: 12:5-p.m.; La Selva Beach Clubhouse; $5/adult, $3/child, under five; ticket includes all activities; food is cutie four parking on Florida Ave. Info: 813/426-9526 or www.watsonvillejaco.net

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

GARDENA

Sunday, July 2 — “Morning Conversation with Naomi Hirahata and the Writing Craft,” 10 a.m.; Ken Nakada Community Center; location: 1624 South Street between Normandie and Western Avenues; sponsored by the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California and Miyoko Books; Info: 310/223-466; or Date Site, 310/599-5491.

LOS ANGELES

Thursdays, July 7 and July 14 — First and Central Avenue Concerts, presented by 3ACM in association with the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy and sponsored in part by the city of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department; 7:30 p.m.; in the institution’s plaza at First and Central Ave.; July 28, Kuma Taiko, Aug. 4, dj Chob i Sobih and Friends, Aug. 25, East L.A. Taiko (Continued)

Executive Leadership Opportunity

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. Duties include developing and implementing NJAMF fund raising strategy; working with NJAMF Board on the development; modification and implementation of NJAMF’s goals and strategic plan; and daily management of NJAMF operations, staff and volunteers.

Mandatory qualifications include at least 5 years experience as Executive Director or in senior executive management position; experience in nonprofit organization management; experience in grant proposal writing; excellent oral and written communication skills with attention to detail; understanding of the Japanese American experience during World War II; and excellent relationships with community and public leaders that will substantially assist in carrying out the above responsibilities.

Salary: $65,000 - $95,000 (Commensurate with Experience) with benefits

Position Location: Washington DC

Type: Full - Time Experienced

Application Deadlines: August 15, 2005

For a copy of the full advertisement for this position, contact Tina Carter at Th Roberts Group at tcarter@therobertsgrroup.net, or by fax 202-463-8998.

NJAMF and The Roberts Group are equal opportunity employers.

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation

1620 I Street NW, Suite 925
Washington, DC 20006

For a copy of the full advertisement for this position, contact Tina Carter at The Roberts Group at tcarter@therobertsgrroup.net, or by fax 202-463-8998.

NJAMF and The Roberts Group are equal opportunity employers.
IN MEMORIAM

Japan's Oldest Man Dies at 110

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO—Japan's oldest man, 110-year-old Kohichi Shigetaka, has died of pneumonia, an official said July 4. Shigetaka died on July 3 at a hospital near his home town in Hiroshima, prefectural (state) officials said.

Man Believed to Be JA Found Dead in Drifting Yacht

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO—Japan's Coast Guard spotted a drifting yacht June 6 off the Japanese northeastern coast in the Pacific Ocean and found a man dead inside, believed to be an 81-year-old adventurer from California who had been seen in distress a week earlier.

NOBEL PRIZE (Continued from page 1)

Kochiyama believes, creating bridges with many ethnic groups through her work for social justice. A Nobel, Kochiyama was born in 1921 as Mary Yuriko Nakahara in San Pedro, California. Her parents were Marxist parents who had been active in supporting political causes.

To me Malcolm X was the most principled man but I do not think people think of him as peaceful... If I could I would dedicate the Nobel Peace Prize to victims of war, violence, injustices and natural disasters.

—Yuri Kochiyama

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Araki, Kinya, 91, La Palma, June 2; survived by husband, SSKU; sons, Rodney and Michael; daughter, Tami (Al) Stumpf; grandson, Michael; sister, Nancy; and sister-in-law, Hide Hamaguchi.

Gohata, Masako, 90, Policem, June 5; survived by sons, Yasoorei (Nancy) and Masaomi (Sae); sister, Shigeki (Yasuo) Itoh; and siblings, Yasutomo and Sake (Kiyoko) Isae; 8 gc.; and sister, Masumi Hayashi and Kazumi Hayashi.

Inoume, Anna Kiyoke, 97, Los Angeles, June 2; survived by sons, Katsutoshi and Tadashi; daughter, Iris (Bob) Teragawa; Jean Callahan; and sisters, Akiko (Tanaka) and Shizuyo; 10 gc.; and sister, Michiyo (Tsuru). Nishimura.

Honda, Noboru, 78, Rancho Santa Margarita, June 1; survived by wife, Mary; daughter, Kathleen (Daniel) Jordan; 3 gc.; brothers, David; and sisters, Alice Nobue, Sumi (Masaru) Kido and Besa (Harry) Kitoyama.

Honda, Mylo, 68, Los Angeles, June 13; survived by husband, Shunzo; sons, Ken (Yasumri) and Koh; daughter, Junko (Matthew) Kimura; 2 gc.; and sisters, Musumi Hayashi and Kazumi Hayashi.

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Matsutsuyu, Janice Setsuko, 80; survived by wife, Shizue; sister-in-law, Grace; and brother-in-law, Hiro Asano.

Kamoun, Dick, 87, Cerrieo, June 12; survived by wife, Michi; daughters, Barbara and June (Emmie) Rivera; sons, Don (Mary) and Doug (Marta); 7 gc.; brother, George; and sister, in-law, brother-in-law, and in-law, Jack Yamamoto.

Kawakami, Mansue, 86, San Leandro, Jan. 16.

Kuwahara, Frank, 92, Palos Verdes Estates, May 27; survived by wife, Sumiko; sons, Howard (Phyllis) and Jeanne (dean); daughter, Jean; grandchildren, 5 gc.; and great-grandchildren, 1 gc.; and brother, Tais (June).

Matsumura, Setsuji, 70, Midway City, May 25; survived by wife, Laura; and brothers, Ichiro (Emiko), Toshiro (Sachi) and Yuno (Masaru).

Miyagi, Minoru, 86, Nagoya, May 31; survived by daughters, Michiko and Jane (Jim) Yoshida; 1 gc.; brothers, Tokuo and Setsuko; and sisters, Mary; sisters, Kay Ota and Yoe (Hiro). and sisters, Mutsurni Hayashi and Kazumi Hayashi.

Otsuka, Takashi, 80, Gardena, June 8; survived by wife, Edith; sons, Mary (Amete) Kawamura; Kevin (Valerie); Dan (Sandra) and Darrell (Layla) Tatsuno; and grandchildren 1 gc.; and sister, Mabel (Mike).

Rikio (Tadamasa) Tsuboi and his wife, Masako.

Tom, Aiko) Asato, 80, Monterey Park, May 30; survived by wife, Mary; sons, Kenreich; 1 gc.; and sisters, Mutsurni Hayashi and Kazumi Hayashi.

Ap Photo

A farmer from Hiroshima, Shigetaka became the oldest


The nation's oldest person is a 112-year-old woman Yone Minagawa of Fukushima, also in southern Japan, in January, 1893, according to the Health Ministry.

Shigetaka used to enjoy watching samurai dramas on TV and eating sushi and eel. He had been hospitalized over the last two years and spent most of his time in bed.

The oldest living man is Emad Marrone in Turkey, born in 1912.

Japan has one of the world's longest average life spans. In 2003, Japanese women set a new record for life expectancy, at 85.3 years, while men live an average of 78.3 years.

Experts say a traditional fish-based, low-fat diet may be Japan's secret to long life.

The man is believed to be Saeke Hatshiba, who has been missing since he left the Miiu Port near Tokyo in June, heading for home in the southern prefecture of Okinawa.

Officials are investigating the cause of his death. The Coast Guard said the man is believed to have died days ago.

Hatashita reached Japan from San Diego in December after a successful 18,000-mile solo trip by boat to his wife's ashes here, Kyodo News Agency said.

The man is inside, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

The Coast Guard believes, creating bridges with many ethnic groups through her work for social justice. A Nobel, Kochiyama was born in 1921 as Mary Yuriko Nakahara in San Pedro, California. The day Pearl Harbor was bombed, like thousands of others, Kochiyama's father was taken away to a federal prison without a fair trial. After her release, she worked as a medical attendance her father passed away.

Kochiyama, along with (12,000 other JAs during WWII was forced
Memoria Scholarships at Aptos Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

$1,000 as civic and community involvement.

Village Park, recently receiving

participation in the YMCA. Events will include family activities and a dining theme Oct.

Buchanan YMCA Needs Old Photos for 'Sentimental Journey'

The second annual "Sentimental Journey" reunion of former Japanese YMCA members and participants will take on a sports theme Oct. 8 in San Francisco.

This year's theme is "YMCA Sports Memories" and will feature well-known sports figures that have benefited from their participation during World War II. His widow, Keiko Kitayama, was present at this year's ceremony.

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The planning committee is requesting old photos of Buchanan YMCA sports teams, clubs and social events for a visual display at the reunion.

To contribute photos, contact Reeshemah Davis, Buchanan YMCA at 1530 Buchanan St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or 415/931-9611.

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The new site focuses on the network of detention facilities during WWII.

A new Web site recently launched by Densho goes behind the bars and walls of 69 detention facilities that held more than 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II to bring a dark history back into light.

The site entitled, "Sites of Shame: An Overview of Japanese American Detention Facilities," looks at the extensive national incarceration network that supported two waves of removal and imprisonment.

The first wave was the 5,500 Japanese immigrant men arrested by the FBI and held in Department of Justice and U.S. Army internment camps. The second was comprised of the 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry — two-thirds U.S. citizens — who were removed to temporary "assembly centers" and then held in War Relocation Authority incarceration camps.

An interactive map of the U.S. highlights the 69 detention facilities and allows for quick access to basic detention site information such as dates of operation, location, climate and geography of the surrounding area, as well as key facts about the people imprisoned at the site.

Complementing this basic information is additional multimedia content about each individual site including video clip memories from people who lived the camp experience, historic and current day photographs, and web links to additional resources.

In the "One Family's Story" section, Web site visitors can learn more about the personal impact of camp through the voices of Toshio, Mitsuye and Joe Yasutake who were incarcerated during WWII.

"Sites of Shame" is the latest addition to Densho's principal Web site designed to showcase the organization's content-rich digital archive of video life history interviews, photos and documents focusing on the unjust incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

Densho's collection of more than 230 indexed and transcribed visual life histories and 6,000 captioned photographs and documents grows larger every year.


Densho preserves these testimonies and images to preserve JA legacy and to caution against violating the civil liberties of any people in the name of national security.

The Japanese word Densho means "to pass on to the next generation," or to leave a legacy. The Seattle-based nonprofit organization was founded in 1996. Its mission is to educate, preserve, collaborate, and inspire action for equity.


National JACL Credit Union membership requirements: The members or shareholders of this credit union shall be restricted to those persons who at the time of application are members of the National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) or members living under the same household of the immediate families of members of this credit union and organizations of JACL, with loans to such organizations not to exceed their shares and/or deposits.