

MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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PAGE 2



HISTORIC FIND

Madison, Idaho hopes to preserve Japanese school.

PAGE 4

学校

GMING BACK

NY designer makes wedding dreams come true at a discount.

PAGE 9

THE WINDY CITY

Chicago JACL prepares to host bi-district, July 21-24.

PAGE 10



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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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JULY 15-AUG. 4, 2005



INSIDE
Michelle Wie fails to make history at John Deere Classic.

PAGE 7

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 NAPABA (National Asian Pacific American Bar Association) and chair of the group's Judiciary Committee. "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 govern-



WORTHY CANDIDATES: (clockwise, top right) Yale Law School Dean Harold Koh, District Court Judge Ronald S.W. Lew, Circuit Court Justice A. Wallace Tashima and District Court Judge Denny Chin. Many more Asian Pacific American judges and lawyers may not even be considered for a Supreme Court post.

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 short-listed; 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

See SUPREME COURT/Page 3

Texas Approves 'Jap Lane' Name Changes

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Orange County, Texas' "Jap Lane" road signs have finally been taken down.

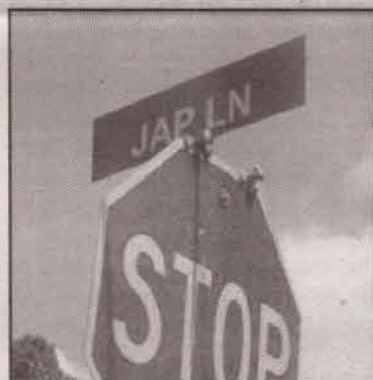
After a protracted battle with local residents, Orange County workers removed the sign many considered to be racially insensitive last month.

In its place, new names have been chosen by "Jap Lane" residents to reflect the character of the community. To replace the racial slur, they chose three names for different segments of the road: Duncanwoods Lane, Japanese Lane and Cajun Way.

Orange County Commissioners approved the name changes during their July 5 commissioners court meeting.

JACL Houston chapter member George Hirasaki told the *Beaumont Enterprise* that as a child growing up near "Jap Lane," racism was a common occurrence and the word "Jap" was often the weapon of choice.

At the commissioners meeting,



Hirasaki testified that his brother and sister suffered from racial slurs. John Dubose, Orange County Precinct 3 Commissioner gave Hirasaki two street signs: "Japanese Lane" and "Jap Lane," according to the *Enterprise*.

Hirasaki along with many other JAs and civil rights organizations have been fighting for a name change for over a decade. Last year, civil rights groups successfully sued for a name change in neighboring Jefferson County, where last year "Jap Road" became "Boondocks Road."

Dubose said he led the effort to rename "Jap Lane" in order to avoid a lawsuit and bad publicity. ■

COMMENTARY Redress Legacy

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

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



See REDRESS/Page 2

Smart, Young and Running for City Council

This university student knows he's an unlikely candidate, but he's passionate about change.

By LYNDALIN
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 volunteer staff 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 headline-grabbing incidences like fraternity hazing and sorority marijuana scandals. If elected, he



Photo courtesy of Eugene Kang

YOUNG POWER: Eugene Kang, 21, is ready to take office.

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 English and Philosophy. During his summer break, he's not on vacation or parked in front of PlayStation II — he's planning to beat out Stephen

Rapundalo, a former Republican mayoral candidate who later changed sides to become a Democrat, to represent his section of the city, Ward 2.

If elected, Kang will be the first Korean American council member in his municipality.

See CITY COUNCIL/Page 3

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 try-

ing 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 \$3.8 million project, initiated by Gaby Vermont-Mangold, a member of the Swiss Parliament, collectively nominates 1,000 women to signify the underrepresented accomplishments of tireless

women working for peace around the world.

Three women have already been selected by the project committee and will represent the 1,000 women. As a symbolic nomination, their identities will not be released unless one wins. Since the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 only 12 women have won.

Kochiyama is among the 40 women nominees from the United States. If the 1,000 women nominees are awarded, Kochiyama will be the first Japanese American woman recipient.

"Yuri is someone who has dedi-

See NOBEL PRIZE/Page 11

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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 Patrick. Anyone who had ever enjoyed the warm hospitality of Lily and Pat Okura at their lovely home in suburban Washington, D.C. will not soon forget it. They opened their home to countless JACLers for chapter board meetings, receptions to welcome participants in the JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference, as well as parties to welcome newcomers to the area and bid adieu to those moving away.

Those of you who knew Lily will remember her impeccable style, her perfect etiquette, and her exacting approach to every project. Those of you who knew Patrick will remember his outspoken leadership and his unshakable tenacity.

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 chapter while working in Tokyo just before moving back to the States and was looking forward to joining the Washington, D.C. chapter after hearing that it was a well-organized group.

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, Etsu Masaoka, Marilyn Nagano Schlieff, John Nakahata, Clyde Nishimura, Steven Nose, and David Sugiura.

When I knew them, Lily and Pat were devoting their lives to chapter affairs. Lily served as the long-time newsletter editor which she painstakingly wrote in longhand, then typed on her typewriter, printed, and distributed to chapter members. In her "Bits and Pieces" monthly column, Lily kept tabs on

REDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

given credit for the success of the redress campaign.

Let me state at the outset: Redress for Japanese Americans would not have happened, could not possibly have been accomplished, without the JACL. The primary and maybe only reason redress happened, let alone succeeded, is because the JACL took on the issue.

This isn't to say that other groups in the JA community didn't contribute, some significantly at times, to the effort. And of course the JA congressional members were absolutely critical. But the fact is that the idea of redress came to fruition through the JACL and the success of the redress effort came about through the hard work and enormous sacrifices of the JACL.

As I've read the histories of the redress campaign, it irks me to see that the JACL is relegated to what I consider almost a secondary role at times when the reality is that this organization's role was the most significant factor in the entire campaign. And frankly, I'm tired of the way in which the JACL's incredible contributions are not acknowledged as they should be in light of the significance those contributions played in changing history.

We need to acknowledge that the earliest conversations took place in Los Angeles with a group called EO9066 Inc, made up mostly of street activist Sansei in the 1960s. As far as I am aware, that was the begin-

ning of public discussions of a reparations movement.

In 1970, Edison Uno wrote the first of a number of resolutions on redress, introducing the issue to the JACL national council at the Chicago convention. And in each subsequent convention, resolutions carried the JACL deeper into the issue and towards commitment. In 1972, the organization adopted a resolution that placed redress as a priority issue, and then again in 1974, adding the controversial component of compensation.

Again, in 1976, the national council adopted redress as the organization's priority issue, but there was a significant change that occurred at the Sacramento convention. Mike Masaoka addressed the council and stated he had changed his views on the issue of compensation and believed it was important and necessary among our demands.

I was standing with Edison when Mike made that announcement, knowing it had changed the course of the JACL's effort toward reparations. We both knew that without Mike's support on the issue of compensation, the JACL would inevitably falter as it sought to develop a strategy.

A year earlier, in 1975, the Seattle chapter had produced an audiotape package with their proposal for redress. Called the "Bootstrap Plan," Seattle's proposal called for a \$10,000 tax check-off strategy. It was the first concrete and specific proposal developed anywhere in the community.

important comings and goings of chapter members. In this, and many other ways, she created real and lasting connections between and among chapter members.

Pat played an integral role in orienting participants in the Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference. I vividly recall a workshop he organized about the early days in the fight for redress. Since Pat had served as a former national president of JACL, I naively considered him part of the leadership "establishment." I was very surprised to learn of his protracted struggle to persuade JACL to pursue redress, the hostility from JACL leadership to his belief that it was time to confront the U.S. government about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and his decision to forge ahead, despite opposition from the JACL leadership.

Eventually, the JACL would formally support Pat's work, but had it not been for his early advocacy, we might still be suffering quietly, silent about the egregious violations of civil and human rights perpetrated by our government during WWII. What I learned from the workshop was that Pat had been quite a rebel early in his life, fighting tooth and nail for official recognition of government wrongdoing.

The wartime incarceration shaped the lives of Lily and Pat in fundamental ways. They once shared with me that when they married, they vowed not to bring children into this world, a world where their government could imprison its own citizens solely on the basis of race. Instead of having children of their own, the two adopted every new JACL member as family and I was certainly a beneficiary.

The legacy Lily and Pat Okura have left to the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter as well as to the national organization will undoubtedly continue for generations. Their tireless and devoted service to the community, and to individuals within that community, will remain an inspiration to the hundreds, indeed thousands, of people they have touched over the course of their long lives (Pat had celebrated his 90th birthday before his death). I know that knowing them has certainly changed my life. ■

Emily Moto Murase, PhD, writes from San Francisco where she lives with her husband Neal Taniguchi and their two daughters Junko Bryn (6) and Erin Izumi (3). She currently serves as executive director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women.

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 from the JACL's convention at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City. It was the point from which the JACL made its commitment to mobilize its chapters and commit its resources to vindicate the honor of JAs during WWII.

It was the starting point of a long and difficult ten-year campaign in which the JACL spent over \$1 million 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.

It's a much too long and complex story to tell in the limited space of this column. Perhaps over a series of columns as time allows. ■

Letters to the Editor

What It Means to Be an American

Reading Barbara Takei's recent commentary "Shikata Ga Nai" was gratifying. I've wondered why so many of Japanese ancestry talk so much about identity — so much so that I am beginning to study the problem. As an 80-year-old retiree I do have some time and lots of memories. And the notion of identity has begun to pose a problem since I don't know what to make of it.

But, the case reported suggests that by assisting those in the Muslim community, the "Japanese" both

found their identities fixed from the past and raised as a problem within the larger context of Japanese and Muslims of what is it to be an American. And, working on a the larger problem I feel is not only better for one's own identity but for the nation as well.

Takuya Maruyama
Los Angeles, Calif.

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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the Pacific Citizen.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

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APAs Still Missing From Supreme Court Discussions

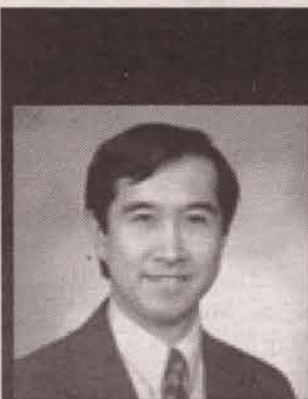
(Continued from page 1)

Hongju Koh, 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. Wallace Tashima and District Court Judges Ronald S. W. Lew, Denny Chin, Susan Oki Mollway, Anthony W. Ishii, George H. King, Dana Makoto Sabraw, and Robert M. Takasugi. State Supreme Court Justices include: Ming Chin and Joyce Kennard in California; and Ronald Moon, Paula Nakayama and Simeon Acoba in Hawaii. Anthony B. Ching, was the first-ever solicitor general of Arizona and other current and former deans of law schools include Frank Wu, Wayne State; Wallace Loh, University of Washington; and Allen Easley, William Mitchell College of Law.

"Until recent years, there was not the large pool of available and acceptable candidates. We now have many brilliant jurists who could wear one of the nine black robes with the capabilities the position requires," said Attorney Dale Minami, one of the lead attorneys in the landmark *Korematsu vs. U.S. coram nobis* case.

"There are jurists such as United States Court of Appeals Judge Wallace Tashima and California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin who are well-qualified to serve on the Supreme Court. They deserve to be considered for appointment."



'It is essential that the court reflect the diversity of viewpoints and experiences of the country's residents,' said Yang. 'Throughout history, Asian Americans often 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

said Attorney Albert Muratsuchi, former JACL PSWD regional director.

Currently, of the 876 federal judiciary seats nationwide, only seven judges are AA or Pacific Islander, roughly about one percent, according to the Asian American Bar Association. At the state level, only about 1.5 percent of judges are Asian Pacific American, according to the American Bar Association. 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 4.4 percent.

So why hasn't an AA candidate ever been considered for the U.S. Supreme Court? The answer may be in the numbers where AAs as a group make up only 4.4 percent of the national population thus resulting in a weak political presence. The Hispanic community on the other hand has been growing at an exponential rate and currently make up 14 percent of the population. Their

growing numbers and influence can now be seen in the potential Supreme Court nominations of Emilio Garzo, 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and Alberto Gonzales, U.S. attorney general.

"There are a growing number of Asian Americans who are qualified but you still have to align parties and philosophies. President Bush hasn't put many Asian Americans ... on the bench," said Karen Narasaki, president and executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. NAPALC is a member of the Coalition for a Fair & Independent Judiciary, a network of nearly 100 national and state organizations.

Still, many APAs argue that the U.S. 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 seeing a fellow APA serving on the bench would encourage more APAs to follow in their paths toward

judgeship 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 actively been promoting AA candidates for the U.S. Supreme Court. "Mind you the Supreme Court okayed 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 often 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 mis-

carriages of justice."

Although several groups had been prepared for a change in the U.S. Supreme Court, their belief was that ailing Chief Justice William Rehnquist, 80, would be the first to retire. A moderate jurist, O'Connor, 75, has often cast the pivotal decision on numerous controversial issues such as abortion, affirmative action, and the death penalty during her 24 years on the Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Committee is likely to hold meetings about six weeks after President Bush submits his nomination, which will likely be in early August. Bush has said he would like to have a replacement for O'Connor in place by October.

Although APAs are pushing for a fellow APA candidate, they emphasize that being a member of the community isn't the only qualification they are looking for.

"It's not important only that an Asian be on the U.S. Supreme Court, but the *right* Asian, someone who's demonstrated cultural sensitivity and awareness to APA cultures and communities," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "I mean, it does no good to have an Asian version of a Clarence Thomas on the high court."

"We don't just want any Asian American on the Supreme Court," agreed Woo. "We want an Asian American who is not only a highly qualified jurist but also one who truly believes in equal justice and equal opportunity for all Americans. We want a Thurgood Marshall not a Clarence Thomas." ■

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

(Continued from page 1)

Kang says his opponent is his "polar opposite" and, in almost every sense, Rapundalo is. The former Republican is chair of the city's park advisory commission, a homeowners association president and a member of the citizens advisory committee.

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?" he added.

So he formed a campaign led by a 30-something law student, collected enough signatures to get his name on the ballot and then began persuading voters to look past his young age and inexperience, which he knew would be a problem.

"I was bracing myself for that [attitude]. '21-years-old? Grow up a little bit and we'll think about it!'" he said with a laugh. He knows that when he knocks on voters' doors, he has to change their minds.

"They're thinking 'He's younger than my own son! I don't even trust my kids with money and here I'm supposed to trust him with the city's money?'"

But so far he said residents have been very supportive.

"People have been saying that it's great that a young person in Ann Arbor is interested in participating

in civic duty."

Residents most frequently ask what he can bring to the table and Kang tells them that when they go to vote in August, they are not voting on experience they are voting on a perspective that's different from the dynamics on the current city council.

"Ann Arbor has a homogenous city council with members who are career city servants," said Kang. "I am asking for a measure of trust."

The city council is divided into five wards representing each section of the city. The race for Ward 2 in August marks the end of Republican representation in the city. Ward 2's current council member, Mike Reid, was the lone Republican. He decided not to run for reelection when his term runs out this summer.

The timing was perfect for Kang whose civic sensibility was awakened last summer during an eight-week Washington, D.C. internship where he realized that he was well informed about state and national issues, but not local. He threw himself into research about Ann Arbor, the city where his parents settled after leaving Korea.

At the University of Michigan,



Photo courtesy of Eugene Kang

'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.

Kang said he has always been politically active. Last year, the university and the city collided over a proposed couch ban ordinance, which if passed by the city council, would have put an end to university students' love of lounging on their porches. When the students made statements to the city council supporting their couches, Kang said council members were condescending.

"They talked to us like we were three years old. 'Thanks for sharing your concerns. Let the big boys handle this,'" he said. "That's unacceptable." Especially in a city where almost 25 percent of the population is between 18-24.

The couch ban never went into effect and then Kang started think-

ing, what if young people could play a role in shaping legislation and not just protesting it?

"Eugene is great. He is incredibly bright," said University of Michigan Professor Marvin Krislov who taught Kang in two courses. "I think it's great that a young person has gotten involved and he's also gotten other students excited about his campaign."

"He has an advantage having grown up in Ann Arbor. He's very thoughtful and perceptive. I think he's ready and I know it can be done," he added.

But not all skeptics have been convinced.

Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje met Kang for the first time recently at the city's July 4th parade and

while he echoes the sentiment that having a young person aspiring for the city council is exciting, he thinks "21 is pushing it a little bit on the young side."

"Most folks in the city council come with more seasoning," said Hieftje, pointing out that most council members serve on city boards and commissions before making the transition to the city council.

Win or lose this August, Kang said he's showing the Asian Pacific American community the importance of being civic minded.

He sees an importance in getting the APA community to feel like a legitimate political group.

"There is a need for [APAs] to be more visible. Whether I win or not, the importance is making people see the political process as a possible avenue for change," he said.

The plan seems to be working so far. Some of his parents' friends who didn't even vote in the presidential election have told him that they are excited about casting their votes in August.

And if he emerges victorious, Kang even has a plan to balance civic duty with his studies.

"The luckiest part for me is that you're only in class 2-3 hours a day. There's still almost 14 hours of useable time." ■

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 tsunami parody song has found a new job with Bay Area radio station WILD 94.9 FM.

Starting July 11, Delgado headed the 6 a.m. "Strawberry in the Morning" show. At HOT 97 FM, he was the writer of the parody song that made light of the tsunami tragedy. But Delgado 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 classmate heading off 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 Reller, 55, found the silk flag, which is red and white and covered with the brushed signatures of kamikaze torpedo pilot Yoshio Inagaki's high school classmates, last year while rummaging through a family cedar chest.

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

Mosque Targeted by Arsonist is Possible Hate Crime

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—A fire set at the Islamic Center of Bloomington July 9 is being investigated as a hate crime.

Someone threw a rock through a window, then poured a flammable liquid into the building and ignited it, officials said. No one was inside the mosque when the fire occurred at about 2 a.m. and damage was confined to the kitchen area. A burned Quran was found outside.

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 to 1,522, the Council on American-Islamic Relations said 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 10 was canceled after its subject matter provoked complaints on civil rights grounds from the National Fair Housing Alliance.

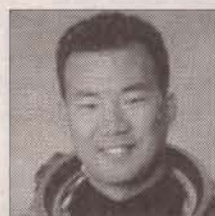
The show pits seven families against each other in pursuit of a home in a suburban neighborhood in Southwest Austin. Among the contestants were families of different ethnic descent including Asian American, a gay couple, a husband and wife who are "covered in tattoos" and a family that practices "pagan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

Bountiful 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. ■

'It's very unique, a valuable piece of Idaho history.'

— **Janet Ugaki**, whose father attended Japanese language school

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 tucked 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-era 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.'

— **Janet Goodliffe**, Madison District School District

complete with Kimono-clad girls performing traditional dances and a potluck.

"We had a great time over there," Miyasaki said.

The school also served as a Buddhist meeting house and Japanese movie theater, but it closed in 1941 as the United States entered World War II.

"I was just getting to the point where I could read some of the harder letters," Miyasaki said.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese families saw their books burned, their rifles and cameras taken. They had to use passports to travel from one county to another, Miyasaki said. Some families were sent to internment camps.

But now, some former students

and community members say it's time to revive the Japanese school, and combine it with public education.

A committee is working with the Madison School Board to decide how best to preserve the school.

"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.

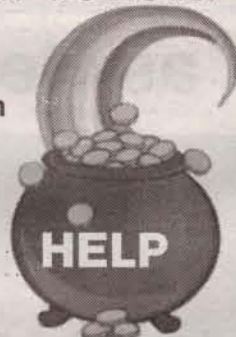
"We want to preserve the history of the school, and we're exploring options to accomplish that," said Janet Goodliffe, Madison School District's grant administrator.

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

Goodliffe 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. ■

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NPS Invites Public Comment for Minidoka Project

The National Park Service is inviting public comment on the draft plan for preservation and reconstruction of the Minidoka Relocation Center.

The NPS is asking 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 protect the site and educate the public about this chapter in American history.

During World War II, over 13,000 individuals of Japanese heritage were interned at Minidoka, located near Twin Falls, Idaho. Now, the Minidoka Internment National Monument provides public education about the internment experience.

For the past three years, the NPS has undertaken a public planning process to develop a long-term management plan for the Minidoka site. The Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the site was recently

released detailing the reconstruction of historic features and buildings, development of interpretive facilities, expansion of the site's boundaries, extensive educational outreach program as well as proposed budgets to implement the plan.

Copies of the public comment form can be viewed at: <http://park-planning.nps.gov/miin> or obtained from the NPS by calling 206/220-4157 or e-mailing: MIIN_GMP@nps.gov. ■

Public Workshop Schedule
Oregon—Sat. July 16
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave.
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

San Francisco—Tues., Aug. 9
National Japanese American Historical Society
1684 Post St.
6-8 p.m.

Los Angeles—Wed., Aug. 10
Japanese American National Museum
Nerio Education Center
369 East First St.
6-8 p.m.

University Receives \$1.5 Million Japanese Book Collection

Pittsburgh's Pitt University Library System recently received a book and periodical collection valued at more than \$1.5 million from Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation. The addition of this collection doubles the university's existing East Asian Library holdings.

The Mitsui Collection contains 64,199 volumes written in Japanese and English and contains information from the mid-19th to the late 20th centuries. It encompasses subjects ranging from social movements to labor problems.

The collection will serve as an educational and research tool for students and professionals in Japanese programs affiliated with the University's Asian Studies Center.

"Great collections are an impor-

tant part of what makes a great university," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "The richness of the Mitsui Collection is extraordinary. It is a rare treasure from which students, scholars and the community at large will benefit in perpetuity."

When Mitsui Bank and Sumitomo Corporation merged, the Mitsui Collection became available to the university through collaboration with Japan's Keio University. To finance the shipping of the collection, SMBC Global Foundation donated an additional \$85,000 to the university.

Pitt's university library system is the 26th largest academic research library in North America and the 16th largest among the public libraries of the prestigious 62-member Association of American Universities. ■

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 relationship between the two countries at a series of meetings and events held in Japan recently.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, who also spoke with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, led the symposium on "Japanese American and the Future of U.S. Japan Relations."

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

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

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

Inouye was joined by actor



Pictured (from l-r): Dr. Margaret Oda, chair of the National Museum Board of Trustees; U.S. Sen. Inouye, chair of the National Museum's board of governors; Prime Minister Koizumi; Ambassador Schieffer; Irene Hirano, National Museum president and CEO; and Yoriko Kawaguchi, special assistant to the prime minister and former foreign minister of Japan.

George Takei, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki and Airbus Japan CEO Glen S. Fukushima on a panel with Japanese leaders.

The members of the National

Museum delegation attended receptions hosted by the Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and U.S. Ambassador to Japan J. Thomas Schieffer. ■

JACL PSW 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 Rose Matsui Ochi, former Villa Park Mayor Carol Kawanami,

and Dr. Mary Oda. Proceeds from the dinner will 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, Ms. Ochi and Ms. Oda for their strength, courage and dedication to the JA community and the community at large," said Hiromi Ueha, PSWD governor. "These women are exemplary role models for our

up and coming leaders in the JA and API communities."

Ochi was appointed to the board of Los Angeles Police Commissioners in 2001 by former Mayor James Hahn. She began her career as a secondary teacher for the Los Angeles and Montebello School Districts. Ochi

has also served as director of Community Relations Services for the Department of Justice and has served the City of Los Angeles for 20 years. She played an active role in JACL serving as national vice president of membership in 1983.

Kawanami was elected mayor of the city of Villa Park in 1980, making her the first Japanese American female mayor to serve on the mainland. Her role in the community has gone far beyond this office serving

as national president of the American Lung Association and in the JACL on the SELANOCO chapter board of directors. During the struggle for redress, Kawanami also helped in developing and implementing a lobbying strategy to gain congressional support for redress.

Dr. Oda is a 1941 honors graduate of UCLA. She began medical school as one of three JAs and only one of 11 women in the class of '72. Her studies were interrupted by the incarceration of JAs. In camp, she served as a doctor's assistant before she was able to return to her studies and complete her medical degree. After the war she and her brothers chose to return to the San Fernando Valley, where hospitals had previously declined to treat JA patients. She provided much needed medical services for the health of the community.

"We are proud to support the JACL PSW's awards dinner as a sponsor," said George Tanaka, Japanese Market Segment Manager of the Union Bank of California sponsoring the dinner. The awards dinner will also be sponsored by Northrop Grumman.

Tickets for the awards dinner are priced at \$100 for the general public and table sponsorships are available as well. For more information about the PSWD awards dinner, to reserve tickets, or become a sponsor, contact the district office at 213/626-4471 or psw@jacl.org.

The dinner which will be held at the Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman Avenue. Registration will be start at 4:00pm and dinner will begin at 5:00pm. ■

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, with "DC Rep" in subject.

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- 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
- 10/24-11/7 New Dates - Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - Osaka, Kurashiki, Hiroshima, Tsuwano, Hagii, Yuda Spa, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka. Peggy Mikuni
- 11/3-11/14 Yamato Splendors of the Nile Tour with Collette Vacations, a Smithsonian Journeys Travel Adventure: Cairo, Memphis, Sakkarah, 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. Peggy Mikuni
- 12/5-12/9 Yamato Branson Christmas Tour - 4 nights in Branson, including Shoji Tabuchi, Yakov Shmirinof, Bobby Vinton, Bakkenobbers, Andy Williams and Precious Moments Park. Peggy Mikuni

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JACL Youth/Student Conference

COMMENTARY

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/mixer 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 then attended a captivating "Living Voices" presentation. An actress spoke and gesticulated enthusiastically while a movie played on the screen behind her, creating the mood and setting for her narration. The multimedia approach brought to life the story of a young Japanese American girl growing up

on the West Coast during the 1940s for an audience whose grandparents had actually lived through that tumultuous period. As a result, I began to develop a clearer understanding of my cultural past and the focus of the conference's theme: identity.

The next morning, opening speaker Steve Nakajo of Kimochi asked conference attendees how being JA has shaped our lives, emphasizing the importance of knowing and fighting for who we are. He encouraged us to voice our own experiences and concerns, planting a seed that immediately sprouted into an animated and fruitful open discussion.

The first set of workshops focused on Asian Americans from an international perspective — our changing image throughout history, in politics and business, and on school campuses. The second set of workshops was based on identity through the arts. One of my favorite parts of the conference (because of its hands-on approach), this session offered seminars in tai chi and yoga, obon dancing, taiko drumming, sushi-making, and more. I was attracted to the obon dancing class, as my grandmother is an avid practitioner of this art, and I now look forward to dancing at the Obon Festival on Maui for the first time later this summer with my newfound skill.

A mentorship luncheon sated

both our ravenous appetites and curious minds. Each youth dined with a prominent AA in a profession that interested the young delegate. I was inspired by a music and dance journalist, while others sat with experts in business or fashion, and with the former and current national JACL presidents.

As the sun began to set, we found ourselves at the University of Utah stadium skyboxes 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, adrenaline roared and the DJ appeared on the set. A dance! The energy of youth burst forth into the night, capping off a day of discovery and excitement.

On our last morning, we marveled

COMMENTARY

In Search of Our Voice

By SEAN MIURA

Until June 24 at approximately 5:30 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, I had never met a Yonsei outside of my family. None of my Asian friends had relatives in America during World War II, so when I started the standard teenage identity crisis, I had no one to identify with.

Talking to friends about being Japanese American would result in a subtle nod and a "Yeah, those camps were bad" without anyone understanding how I felt. So when I heard about the JACL Youth Conference this year, I jumped at the chance to go.

What better timing? I'm about to start my senior year of high

at how quickly the weekend had passed. Closing keynote speaker Gil Asakawa helped us pinpoint habits stemming from our AA culture, and recall experiences that were rooted in prejudice.

All too soon, the JACL Youth Conference was over, and each of us went our separate ways, armed with a new sense of awareness. Yet, we know that in spirit, every one follows the same path: the path toward our own identity. ■



school and soon I'll be filling out college applications left and right that ask who I am. This would be the perfect place to answer that for myself.

The plane touched down in Salt Lake City that Friday morning, and as soon as I arrived at the University of Utah campus where the conference was, I started to notice things. I was meeting people with last names like "Hattori" and "Matsumoto," but with first names like "Lindsay" and "Chris." They had parents that weren't from Tokyo or Osaka, but from Gardena, Salt Lake City, and Seattle.

Whenever I heard anyone butcher their own Japanese name, I felt so relieved that I wasn't the only kid who didn't pay attention at Japanese school. I was meeting all these kids like me, JAs on both sides of the hyphen.

I now know that beyond the feeling of isolation that had held me so tightly, there is a group of kids who know what I'm talking about and understand how I feel.

I used to think that the JACL would be gone with the Nisei slowly leaving us and my generation uninterested, but now I know that I was wrong.

My generation has started to look for its voice, and I'm lucky enough to be part of the search. ■

Sean Miura, 16, writes from New Jersey.

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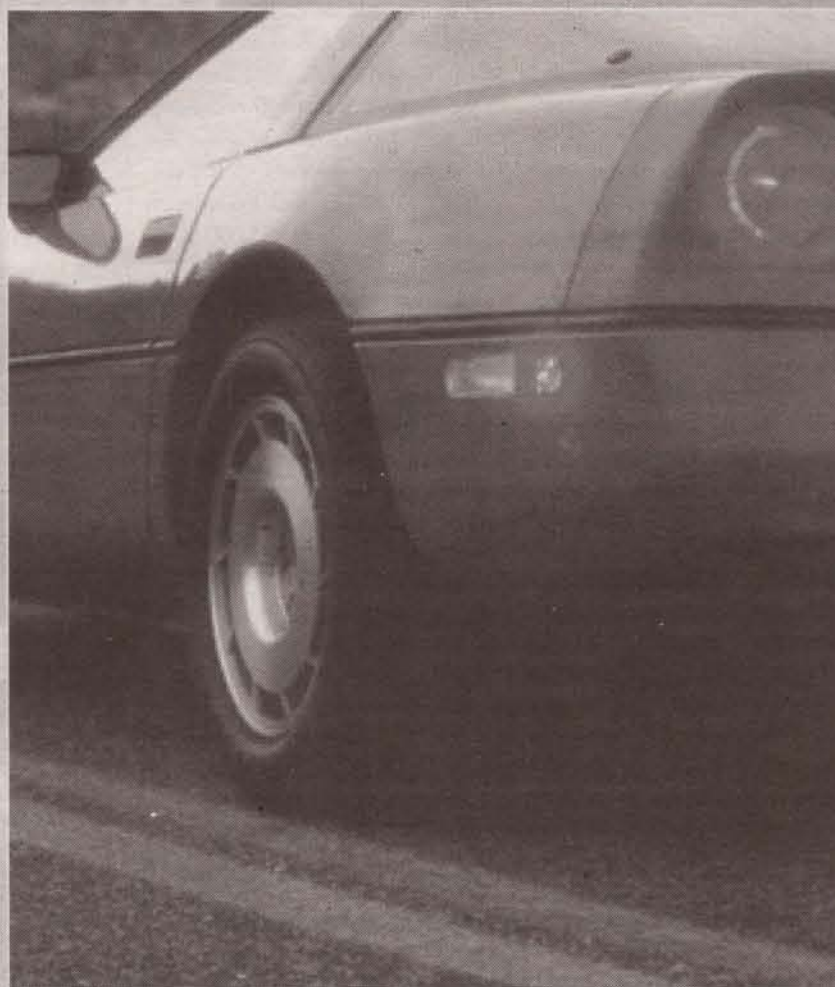
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'It's a major event ... It's a good family reunion.'

—David Yang, St. Paul police officer

Hmong Sports Festival Turns 25

ST. PAUL—The Hmong Minnesota International Sports Tournament is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

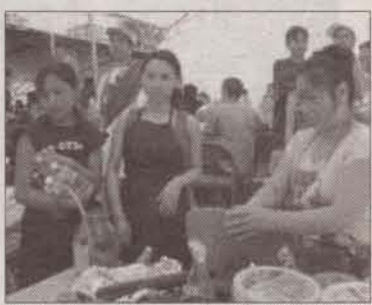
It began as an excuse for a gathering of clans in 1980, but the festival which takes place at Como Park has become a national attraction.

"It's just like the State Fair," said state Sen. Mee 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."

The first one cost perhaps \$5,000 and was put on for a few hundred thousand Hmong who had settled in Minnesota and 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 Ka Houa 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 year. 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. ■

GOLF

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff

Wie's Time Still a Ways Off, But It's Coming

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 1 under, and her tie for 88th equaled that of three-time major champion Nick Price. She finished ahead of 54 men, including former British Open champ David Duval and playing partner Nick Watney.

Look at the results. When she missed the cut by seven strokes at the Sony Open in January, poor putting was partly to blame. Last week, Wie ranked 20th in putting. She made all but two from within 10 feet, and was 2-for-3 from 15 to 20 feet.

She had only one three-putt, though it was the start of her downfall last Friday.

"She played very well. Good putter, very good short game," said Scott Gutschewski, one of Wie's playing partners. "I was very impressed with her short game, and she hits the ball straight. So a pretty



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)

good combination for 15. You don't see too many 15-year-olds with a short game like that."

Her long game got better, too. When she arrived at the TPC at Deere Run, B.J. Wie said his daughter's drives were averaging about 260 yards. During her two rounds, she averaged almost 277 yards, including a 310-yard drive both days on No. 2.

She's also starting to show the kind of flair that sets great players apart. She was so far right off the tee she couldn't even see the No. 9 green last Thursday. But from 200 yards out, she played a slice that not only reached the green, but allowed her to make birdie.

"I feel like my game is a lot more consistent," she said. "I feel like I'm in the little control room pressing the buttons now. It feels good."

Still room for improvement, she's going to have to get stronger if she wants to compete with the men on a regular basis. She also needs to

improve her focus.

"I just really realized how important the last six holes are. I just have to think about that from now on," she said.

But she's only 15. Tiger Woods didn't even play his first PGA Tour event until he was 16. It took him eight tries to make a cut, and he was 19 when he tied for 41st at the Masters.

Wie plans to keep playing occasional PGA Tour events, and she's playing in the men's U.S. Amateur Public Links this week at Shaker Run in Lebanon, Ohio.

The winner has traditionally gotten a spot in the Masters. Her father also left open the possibility she could turn pro after she turns 16 in October.

"As Todd Hamilton said the other day, she's going to make a cut on the PGA Tour," said Clair Peterson, tournament director at the John Deere Classic. "If it wasn't today, someday. ■"

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 Tsuyoshi 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

'This really hurts Japan ... baseball and softball are both team sports that draw a lot of excitement and are the only ones that medals are a virtual certainty.'

—JOC Secretary General Tsutomu Hayashi

remain on the program for the 2008 Beijing Games, are the first sports cut from the Olympics since polo in 1936.

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 problem in the United States.

South Korea and Taiwan also sent professional players to the Olympics and the perception in Japan was that Asian nations suf-

fered because of a lack of cooperation from Major League Baseball.

"The Olympics were a great opportunity to promote Japanese baseball," said Kazuhiro Wada of the Seibu Lions, who also took part in Athens. "We'll do 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 medal 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 Utsugi 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 Miyabiyama on the opening day of the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament.

Fighting in the final bout at Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium, Asashoryu, the lone grand champion competing in sumo, got both hands on the belt of Miyabiyama and hoisted the komusubi wrestler a good meter (3 feet) off the dirt surface before calmly depositing his opponent outside the ring. ■



AP PHOTO

Grand champion Asashoryu easily beat his opponent at the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament.



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Different Time Zone, Same Standard of Beauty

By AMY IKEDA

As a Yonsei, I've often struggled with the lack of diverse representations of Asian Americans in the media. And just when I thought I had come to terms with growing up in a society where blue-eye, blonde hair Abercrombie models are often portrayed as the ideal standard of American beauty, I was dismayed to see many of these same values in Japan.

I recently traveled with my grandmother around Japan for three weeks visiting her siblings. My hopes were to learn more about my family, ameliorate my mangled Japanese, and piece together a better understanding of what it means to be Japanese American. Expecting to find answers about my Japanese heritage and culture, I was disappointed to see American mainstream values of beauty so deeply infiltrated into modern Japanese society.

Walking through the busy streets of Tokyo, I saw Gap clothing stores with blonde models in the storefronts. Movie stores carried a plethora of American films, even the unpopular ones. They had in stock just about any American television show DVD collection.

In the train station I passed a large photo display of Audrey Hepburn and a coffee shop named after the Beatles. Now and then I would do a double take at huge billboards with Richard Gere advertising a watch or Sean Penn's latest movie.

It all felt so surreal. Was I really in Japan? Had I ever left Los Angeles? As I retired to our hotel room I remember flicking on the television only to see a Japanese crowd excitedly screaming at Tom Cruise's arrival at the Japanese premier of his new film "War of The Worlds."

I was blown away with the amount of American mainstream media images plastered all over Japanese cities. Prior to my visit I had assumed Japanese media would be like American media — a beauty standard focused on the majority — but I was surprised to find a somewhat reversed situation.

In America, where the media often portray minorities as unattractive, foreign or invisible, and the butt of stereotypical jokes, it saddens me that the land of my ancestors is saturated with media images from America that set European

Americans, yet again, as the standard of beauty.

The appeal of European American beauty for the Japanese seems different then the American enchantment with Asian cultures. My impression is that many Japanese people view Caucasian Americans as the ideal of beauty, admiring their clothes, lifestyles, tall noses, and large eyes.

Whereas in America no matter how popular Asian cultures are in the mainstream, only the Asian products are accepted as beautiful, not so much the Asian people.

The fascination with European Americans in modern Japan does not



Amy with her grandmother Mitsuko Murase.

seem to bother many Japanese people the way the narrow standard of European American beauty upsets AAs and other minorities living in the United States.

My second cousins seemed grateful and excited about American fashions and attractive movie stars in Japan, seeing it all as popular and harmless. Perhaps the Japanese do not realize they are slowly losing some of their culture and self-identity to European American values of beauty.

This trip really did help me reaffirm what it means to be Japanese American — the feeling that I can never completely fit into one society but trying to find comfort living in-between both worlds.

When my grandmother and I got off the plane at LAX many Asian passengers walked over to the foreign passport line.

As my grandmother and I walked to the U.S. passport customs, an LAX attendant looked at us, waving a U.S. passport and saying slowly in English, "U.S. passports only."

I didn't say anything and just let him continue staring at us while he continued waving his passport saying "U.S. passports only" even slower.

I smiled to myself and thought yup. I am definitely back home. ■

Amy Ikeda, a Cal State Northridge senior, is currently interning at the Pacific Citizen.

Our Evacuation Story Told Another Way

HERE WAS ANOTHER way of relating our World War II story of Japanese Americans in the camps before a mostly non-Nikkei group, some Caucasians and Asians in their brown Buddhist robes.

They were attending the 7th International Conference of Buddhists and Christians at the Japanese American National Museum to listen and ask questions of Christian and Buddhist clergymen.

The event was organized by Loyola Marymount University (my alma mater, '50). Although the Evacuation may have been familiar for some, the four panelists conveyed personal perspectives, some of which might have been depicted by the permanent JANM exhibit, "Common Ground: The Heart of a Community."

Rev. Paul Nagano (Baptist), eldest of the panelists (recently retired in Alhambra) and the first speaker, ably pictured the pre-Evacuation atmosphere; why the camps and incarceration followed, and how he organized a program for youth at Poston. He also remembered the next speaker, Rev. Art Takemoto (Buddhist), was among attendees at his meetings at Poston, "but he got away." Both, incidentally, were prewar schoolmates at Roosevelt High in Boyle Heights.

Rev. Art said young people at Poston pegged teenagers from Boyle Heights as a *yogore*, "the dirty one." Art was one of those so tagged.

Japanese expressions were translated as they came up. (WRA in 1945 published a list of Japanese terms heard in the camps. The lexicon was later embellished by Nisei readers of this column.)

I was reminded by Rev. Art, of the establishment of the BCA

VERY TRULY YOURS



Harry Honda

(Buddhist Churches of America) in 1944 at Topaz that was the wartime base for the Buddhist Mission of North America. Bishop Ryotai Matsukage, ministers and lay leaders, all internees at Topaz, agreed it was time to be registered as a California corporation, succeeding the mission organized in San Francisco a half century earlier.

There was a nostalgic reference as Rev. Art (only he could make it) pointed across the street at what was Nishi Hongwanji, where he attended as a youth, became a Bussei lay leader and interpreted what the Buddhist priest at Poston was saying in Japanese.

He casually admitted he didn't know Buddhism well nor fully understood the language, but he was fulfilling a needed role that led him to study more.

After the war, he was ordained as priest after graduating from Ryukoku University, the Shin Jōdōshu seminary in Kyoto, as moderator Rev. Kingston Yagi (Christian) explained.

Rev. Grant Hagiya (Methodist) drew spontaneous applause when recalling that the Evacuation took place in the name of "national security" and that it shouldn't happen again — referring to Arab Americans.

It seemed natural for him to delve into the legacy of Evacuation, a mystery to him,

being born years after Evacuation in Santa Maria.

Rev. Grant said he truly couldn't fathom the fear nor trauma that surrounded his parent's and grandparent's generations in wake of Pearl Harbor. He sensed it was the "shikataga-nai" nod by evacuees that made life bearable in the camp.

As one who recalled happily 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.

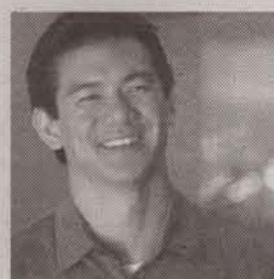
How many know Rev. Mas began the "Taiko Movement" years ago (1968) that has blossomed nationwide? The beating of the Japanese drums of many sizes and style has Buddhist roots though one seldom makes that point.

Conference director Fr. James Fredericks, LMU professor in comparative theology, featured the WWII 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 Ryukoku University and author of "Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions" (Paulist Press, 1999).

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TWIN TOWERS • 2005

PETE HIRONAKA '05



'I always think I can help somebody from my business.'
— Junko Yoshioka

Blending Combat and Couture with a Little Patriotism

Designing bridal gowns, as Junko 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 bawling 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 bleating 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 military women on a tight budget, but she offers GI brides up to a 75 percent off discount on the gown 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, bench press

their own weight and expertly coordinate naval ship traffic in the ports.

Katy Alberts, a coast guard lieutenant, is currently on a two-year sabbatical to get married to her fiancé, 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 ... checked out a few dresses and fell in love with an A-line dress with really delicate lines," said Alberts gleefully. "A lot of people talk about patriotism and giving back to the troops, but she's found a personalized way to contribute."

Yoshioka started the GI discount last June when yet 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 employee's 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

It's her cutting style that sets Yoshioka apart from other designers. To create her dresses, she just drapes fabric over a dummy and begins cutting - skipping the usual first step of sketching.

"It's easy to make flat designs," she said. "I design three dimensionally."

"My dresses are really simple. It's an organic style," she added.

Also organic was her rise to fashion designer. Yoshioka studied fashion design against her parents' wishes at Tokyo's Mode Gakuen School.

After fashion school, she made the natural leap across the country to the fashion capital of the world - Milan - and earned her masters degree while designing ready-to-wear for big name fashion houses like MaxMara, Atsuro Tayama and Ante Prima.

But something was missing.

She felt like a machine stamping out forgettable designs rather than creating. While on vacation four years ago in Hawaii she met her husband orthopedic surgeon Steven Sheskie and for their big day, she could not find a dress to wear.

"I said 'Why not? I'll make [one] by myself,'" and they had a small wedding in Bermuda where the idea for her empire first came to mind.

"Wedding dresses are the kind of dresses you never forget," said the designer. "With couture, it's one of a kind all made by hand."

Her clients in combat can't help but notice the difference too.

"[The dress] is like nothing I've ever seen," said Alberts.

"Her style is sleek, modern, but old-fashion at the same time," said Marlis Porter-Fyke of The White Dress Couture and Vintage Bridal Boutique in Corona Del Mar, California.

And with the GI discount service coming to an end this August, Yoshioka is already looking at new opportunities to expand her business with humanitarian efforts.

Besides preparing for Fashion Week in September where she will be debuting her evening dress line, Yoshioka is already ruminating 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 limb," said Porter-Fyke. ■

WHERE TO FIND JUNKO DRESSES

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www.alexandrasalon.com

The White Dress
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CA
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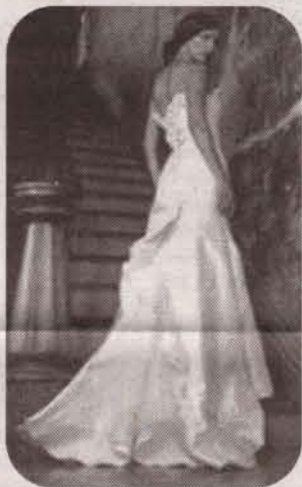
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Osaka, Japan

By LYNDIA LIN



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 person," said Jessica Fox, owner of a Washington, D.C. bridal boutique called Promise ... for the Savvy Bride. Fox described Yoshioka's work as "unusual and ethereal."

"[Yoshioka] sees a balance in life that is seen in her dresses ... her symmetrical lines," said Fox.



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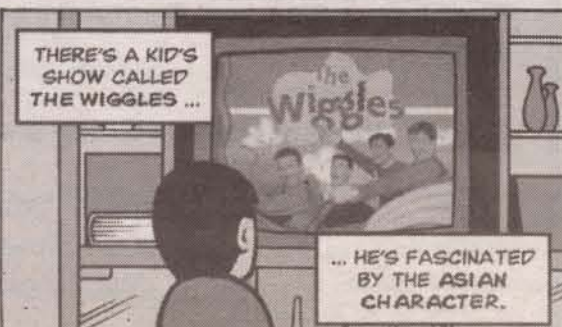
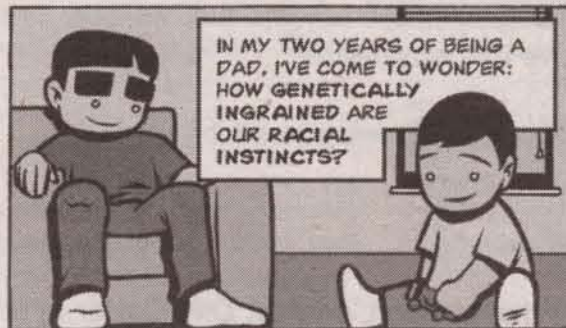


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JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Midwest

CHICAGO

Thurs.-Sun., July 21-24—Bi-District Conference of the MDC and EDC JACL; Radisson Hotel, 160 East Huron; room rate: \$129/night for single, \$139 for two doubles and \$154 for corner suite; room deadline is June 21; a welcome reception is scheduled for Thursday and a dinner on Saturday. Further details to follow.

CINCINNATI

Sun., Aug. 14—Cincinnati JACL Annual Potluck Dinner; 4 p.m.; Hyde Park Bethlehem Church, 3799 Hyde Park Ave.

CLEVELAND

Sun., July 24—JACL/ CJAF Scholarship Luncheon; 12:30 p.m.; Shinano Restaurant, 5222 Wilson Mills Rd.; \$18/person, \$15/student; R.S.V.P. by July 20. Reservations: Keith Asamoto, 216/921-2976, kasamoto_jacl@yahoo.com or Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416, wsodini@aol.com.

Sun., Aug. 14—2005 Community Picnic; 10-6 p.m.; Brushwood Shelter, Furnace Run, Summit County Metro Park; Cost: donation on site to CJAF Scholarship and Community Service Activities or send to: John Ochi, 868 Lander Rd., Highland Heights, OH 44143; performance by JACL Icho Daiko Taiko Drumming Group, games, relays, prizes for children of all ages, hiking, volleyball and fishing; sponsored by the Cleveland Japanese American Foundation.

ST. LOUIS

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 3-5—2005 Japanese Festival; Sat. and Sun. 10-8 p.m., Mon. 10-5 p.m.; Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd.; \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$3 Garden members, \$3 children ages 3 to 12; featuring sumo wrestling; sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Japanese Activities Committee. Info: www.mobot.org, 314/577-9400 or 800/642-8842 (24-hour recording).



The JACL district conference season kicks off with the MDC-EDC Bi-District in Chicago, July 21-24. The PNW-IDC Bi-District is in Portland and the PSW-CCDC-NCWNPDC Tri-District is set for Irvine, Calif.

Northwest

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 13—19th Annual Bon Odori; 5 p.m. food sales, 6 p.m. dancing; Capitol Lake at Water St.; sponsored by the Olympia JACL in partnership with the Olympia-Yashiro Sister City Association; free. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562 or sgtmilehibob@att.net.

PORTLAND

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

Northern California

SACRAMENTO

Fri., July 22—"The Care and Preservation of Treasured Memories and Family Documents" presented by Jan Ken Po Cultural Association; 7 p.m.; Asian Community Center, 7375 Park City Dr.; featuring Georgiana White, Special Assistant for the JAAC for Education and Outreach, Emeritus; donation, \$5/person. Info and reservations: 916/489-1291, 916/427-8108 or jkpca21@yahoo.com.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 13-14—59th Annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar; noon-9 p.m.; Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Info: bazaar@buddhistchurch.com.

SAN MATEO

Sun., July 24—Movie matinee, "Twilight Samurai"; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St.; Info: 650/343-2793.

SARATOGA

Sat., Aug. 20—Daruma Craft Boutique; Saratoga Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave.; sponsored by the West Valley JACL; proceeds to benefit the West Valley JACL Senior Clubhouse and activities. Info: www.darumafestival.org.

WATSONVILLE

Sun., July 31—Watsonville Taiko 5th Annual Natsu Matsuri; 12-5 p.m.; La Selva Beach Clubhouse, 314 Estrella Ave.; \$5/adult, \$3/child, under 5 free; admission includes all activities, food is extra; free parking on Florido Ave. Info: 831/426-9526 or www.watsonvilletaiko.org.

Southern California

GARDENA

Sat., July 9—"A Morning Conversation with Naomi Hirahara and the Writing Craft"; 10-1 p.m.; Ken Nakaoka Community Center, Room C, on 162nd Street between Normandie and Western Avenues; sponsored by the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California and Midori Books. Info: Hazel Taniguchi, 310/328-1238 or Dale Sato, 310/539-3491.

LOS ANGELES

Thurs., July 28—"First & Central Summer Concerts" presented by JANM 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: Kinnara Taiko, Aug. 4: dj Cheb i Sabbah and Friends, Aug. 25: East L.A. Taiko featuring Maceo Hernandez, Sept. 1: Marta Gomez, Sept. 29: "Of Melodies Old: New Music from the APPEX Ensemble". Info: JANM, 213/625-0414.

PALOS VERDES
Mon., Aug. 15—4th Go For Broke Golf Tournament; Palos Verdes Golf Club, 3301 Via Campesina; \$250/player, \$225/veteran; deadline to register is July 29. Info: Chris Ohama, 310/222-5702 or chris@goforbroke.org.

SAN DIEGO

Sat., July 23—Lecture, "Dharma for Dummies"; 7 p.m.; Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market St.; Bob Bombu Oshita of the Sacramento Betsuin will give the lecture; presented by the Buddhist Temple's Buddhist Education Committee as part of its annual series on Shin (Pure Land) Buddhism. Info: 619/239-0896, info@btsd.net or www.btsd.net.

THOUSAND OAKS

Sat., July 23 and Sat., July 30—Workshop, Health Care Advance Directives; 1:30-4 p.m. both days; Rockwell Scientific Center Auditorium, 1049 Camino Dos Rios; presenters are Carol Peters, Attorney, and Pamela Wright, M.S.W., of Vitas Hospice; hosted by Ventura County JACL and sponsored by Vitas Hospice; free; R.S.V.P. by July 20. Info and R.S.V.P.: George

Wakiji, 805/383-2703, Joanne Nakano, 818/991-0876 or vcjacl@hotmail.com.

WEST COVINA

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 19-21—Youth Leadership Seminar, "Get in the Habit of Leadership"; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; Fri. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; ages 14-20; \$25/person (includes Sat. lunch/dinner, Sun. lunch and snacks during the seminar); Info: Brandon Leong, 909/629-2896 or NewsetteEditor@esgvjcc.org.

Arizona-Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Mon.-Wed., Sept. 26-28—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel/Casino; Sept. 26 (Mixer Night), Auloni Kaeka and the Brothers perform; Sept. 27 (Banquet Night), Brian Maeda, writer/producer will premiere his documentary on Louis Frizzell, who served as the music teacher in Manzanar, followed by an update by the Manzanar National Park Rangers; registration deadline is Aug. 1. Info: Seizo Tanibata, (Gardena area) 310/327-1864, Victor Muraoka, (Valley) 818/368-4113, Ray Kuwahara, (Orange County) 714/521-4036, Sus Ioki, (Venice) 310/202-9199.



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34th Annual Nisei Week 家紋と苗字展 祭 (Japanese Family Crest & Japanese Surname)

KAMON & MYOJI EXHIBIT
August 20 & 21, 2005 11AM-5PM
Higashi Honganji / 505 E. 3rd St., Rm. #5, L. A., CA

- ★ 日本人の苗字史は、家紋でわかるようになっています。You can trace and discover the rich history behind your **MYOJI** (Japanese surname) through your **KAMON** ("family crest").
- ★ 日系米人は『移民もののふ始祖一世』の苗字史をプロンズ「J. A. 家紋」にして、二千年残すことができます。Our bronze "J. A. KAMON" are designed to eternally commemorate & record the **KAMON, MYOJI** & history of your **ISSEI** forefather for 2000 yrs.
- ★ 1975年に創立した吉田家紋文庫は、専門書に加え、日本全国の膨大な地名史を集録した「日本歴史地名大系」全五十巻の入手完了を機に、苗字史を象徴した J. A. 家紋を残したい方々のご質問に資料を揃えて会場で指導します。In 1975, we established the U.S.'s foremost private library of **KAMON** & related references. This year, we completed our acquisition of the *Nihon Rekishi Chimei Taikei*, a 50-volume series. Utilizing this most current, on-site version of our **KAMON** Library, we will be responding to inquiries about the **KAMON, MYOJI** and "J. A. KAMON" at our exhibit.
- ★ 会場には、家紋・苗字史を深すヒントになる年代別家紋表や参考文献を展示。Also on display will be charts, diagrams, & references on **KAMON & MYOJI** to aid you in self-tracing their histories.



YOSHIDA KAMON ART
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KEI YOSHIDA, Researcher/Instructor



NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Arai, Kimi, 91, La Palma, June 2; survived by husband, Sakai; sons, Ross (Cindy) and Jun (Erni); daughters, Riki (Tadamasa) Tsuboi and Meiko (Yuji) Masumiya; 13 gc.; 12 ggc.; brother, Rembo (Hana) Yoshitomi; sister, Teru Nakashima; brother-in-law, Tom Sakai; and sister-in-law, Hide Hamaguchi.

Asano, Kazuye, 83, Los Angeles, May 31; survived by daughters, Michiko Sharp and Jane (Jim) Kenreich; 1 gc.; brother, Tom (Aiko) Sakata; and brothers-in-law, Mikio Asano and Katsunobu (Shizuye) Asano.

Asato, Satoshi, 80, Monterey Park, May 30; survived by wife,

Fumiko; sister, Lydia (William Reardon) Ranger; and sister-in-law, Misao Asato.

Gohata, Masako, 90, Pacoima, June 5; survived by sons, Yasumori (Nancy) and Masanori (Sung Nam); daughters, Shigeko (Tadashi) Iura and Yukiko (Rodney) Isa; 8 gc.; and 12 ggc.

Honda, Nobuo, 78, Rancho Santa Margarita, June 1; survived by wife, Mary; daughter, Kathleen (Daniel Jorissen) Honda; 3 gc.; brothers, Arthur and Earl (Nora); and sisters, Alice Nobui, Sumie (Masaru) Kido and Bessie (Harry) Kiyoto.

Ikeda, Miyo, 68, Los Angeles, June 13; survived by husband,

Shizuo; sons, Ken (Yurimi) and Koh; daughter, Junko (Matthew) Kimura; 2 gc.; and sisters, Mutsumi Hayashi and Kuniko Sano.

Inadomi, Anna Okiye, 97, Los Angeles, June 2; survived by sons, George (Jeanette) and Larry (Gale); daughters, Iris (Bob) Teragawa, Jean (Phil) Ishimaru and Kiyu (Atsushi) Tashima; 10 gc.; 11 ggc.; brother, Shigeshi (Mitsie) Nishikawa; and brother-in-law, Roy Kaminishi.

Isozaki, Takeshi, 80, Gardena, June 8; survived by wife Esther; sons, Marty (Annette Kashiwabara), Kevin (Valerie), Dan (Sandra) and Daryl (Lauren); daughter, Stephanie (Scott) Ueda; 13 gc.; sister, Molly Kobayashi; and brothers, Sam (Jean), Rub (Ats), Tamo (Matsy) and Aki (Reiko).

Jinbo, Masaru J., 91, Fountain Valley, June 2; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Shizue; sister-in-law, Grace Jinbo; and brother-in-law, Akira Kitada.

Kamon, Dick, 87, Cerritos, June 12; survived by wife, Michi; daughters, Barbara and Jane (Ernie) Rivera; sons, Don (Mary) and Doug (Maria); 7 gc.; 7 ggc.; brother, Tak (Margaret); and brother-in-law, Jack Yamamoto.

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

Kuwahara, Frank, 92, Palos Verdes Estates, May 30; survived by wife, Sumiko; sons, Howard (Phyllis) and Ray (Jeanne); daughter, Jean (Scott) Devenport; 3 gc.; 2 ggc.; and brother, Tats (June).

Matsutsuyu, Janice Setsuko, 71, Los Angeles, June 1; survived by brothers, Ichiro (Emiko), Toshiro (Sachi) and Yuzo (Gene) Matsutsuyu.

Mikuriya, Kei, 86, Pasadena, June 6; survived by wife Yoshi; son, Rob (Tracy); and 4 gc.

Morimoto, Kay Kinu, 88, Gering, Neb., June 23; survived by son, Dennis; brother-in-law, Gene Morimoto; and sisters-in-law, Alyce and Ruby Morimoto.

Nagahiro, Mary Midori, 80, May 28; survived by husband, Masao; sons, Randy (Marian), Bill, Denis (Lori); daughter, Melanie; 3 gc.; 3 ggc.; and sister, Emi (Tommy) Nogawa.

Negi, Donald K., 82, San Francisco, May 31; survived by wife, Mary; sisters, Kay Ota and Yoe Inabu; brother-in-law, Jerry (Audree) Kanagawa; and sisters-in-law, Joan (George) Fujihara and Lois (Skipper) Yee.

Suto, Barbara Teruko, 57, Los Angeles, June 4; survived by parents, Fred and Mary; sisters, Margaret (Anthony) Nunes and Roberta Suto; and brother, Rev. Steven (Margaret).

Tabata, Hisaye, Midway City, June 2; survived by husband, Mitsuru; daughter, Janet (Tamotsu Inouye); son, Daniel (Felicia Balbuena); 1 gc.; sisters, Fumi Sekigawa, Kiyoko Shimizu and Kazuko Ige.

Takeda, Yukiko, 73, Gardena Grove; survived by sisters, Fusako, Sumiko (Hiroshi) Terauchi, Setsu and Yoko.

Yamanouye, Yuki, 75, Simi Valley, June 5; survived by husband, Sekai; son, Randy; daughter, Jann (Richard) Adachi; and 2 gc.

Yamauchi, Fred Masayuki, 82, Burbank, June 5; WWII veteran; survived by son, Stanley (Tina); daughter, Sally (Jason) Fenton; 3 gc.; and

sisters, Bette (John) Endo and Peggie Barncastle.

Sakata, Victoria, Solana Beach, June 10; survived by husband, Kay; and daughters, Audrey Sakata and Nancy Uyeda.

Shinada, Noriko, 57, Torrance, June 16; survived by husband, Takeei; son, Dr. Shuntaro (Asaki); daughter, Lisa (Dickson) Hatai; 2 gc.; and brothers, Takeshi (Toyoe) Yoshida and Ike (Carol) Yoshida.

Wake, Marumi, 88, Los Angeles, June 14; survived by sons, Howard, Floyd, Ron (Julie) Nishimura, Tommy Mizuta, Arthur and Dennis (Yukie) Wake; daughters, Carol (Bill) Hoshiko, Rae Nishimura, Gloria (Bob) Hoshiko.

Yamamoto, Tayeko, 91, Spokane, Wash., June 24; survived by daughter, Jan Crouch; son, Don; 3 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sister-in-law, Ada Honda. Preceded in death by husband, Ichiro and brothers, Harry, George, Minoru and Joe Honda.

Yamate, Kiku, 78, Saratoga, June 15; survived by daughter, Carol Poetry-Yamate; son, Gordon; brother, Mitsuru Yasuhara; and 2 gc. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Japan's Oldest Man Dies at 110

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO—Japan's oldest man, 110-year-old Kohachi Shigetaka, has died of pneumonia, an official said July 4.

Shigetaka died on July 3 at a hospital near his hometown in Hiroshima, prefectural (state) spokesman Shinichi Yokota said.

A farmer from Hiroshima, Shigetaka became the nation's oldest Japanese man in July 2004.

Japan's oldest man is now Nijiro Tokuda of Kagoshima, southern Japan, who is just one month younger, Yokota said.

The nation's oldest person is a



AP PHOTO

112-year-old woman — Yone Minagawa of Fukuoka, also in southern Japan, born in January, 1893, according to the Health Ministry.

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

The oldest living man is Emiliano Mercado Del Toro, 113, of Isabela, Puerto Rico, according to Guinness World Records.

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, lowfat diet may be Japan's secret to long life. ■

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 went missing during his solo voyage back to the United States, officials said.

A Coast Guard patrol vessel spotted the yacht, Miya, about 740 miles southeast of the coast of Miyagi prefecture after local fisherman reported seeing a drifting yacht with a

man inside, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

The man is believed to be Sakae Hatashita, who has been missing after he left the Miura Port near Tokyo in June, heading for home in California.

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

Hatashita reached Japan from San Diego in December after a successful trans-Pacific solo trip to bury his wife's ashes here, Kyodo News Agency said. ■

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NOBEL PRIZE (Continued from page 1)

cated her life to ensuring peace in this world and is well deserving of this consideration," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "As a fellow Japanese American, I'm very proud of Yuri's nomination, however the results might be. Her being nominated puts her in the ranks of some of the women of the world who have made great contributions to the world."

Kochiyama believes the Nobel Peace Prize should be used for life sustaining causes. If she could, Kochiyama would use the monies to rebuild the devastation natural disasters have inflicted on land and people. While Kochiyama is grateful that the project is a collective nomination that will give more women a chance to be recognized, she does not shy away from speaking critically about the Nobel Peace Prize.

"The Nobel Peace Prize is suppose to stand as a prize for those who did exceptional work for peace," said Kochiyama. "There have been controversies over the names of past recipients. I believe that there were several recipients that were horrible choices and did not work for peace. The worst recipients were Theodore Roosevelt and Henry Kissinger and the worst nominees were George Bush senior and Tony Blair."

A trailblazer, Kochiyama has always stood up for what she

believes, creating bridges with many ethnic groups through her work for social justice. A Nisei, Kochiyama was born in 1921 as Mary Yuriko Nakahara in San Pedro, California. The day Pearl Harbor was bombed, like many JA community leaders, Kochiyama's father was taken away to a federal prison without a fair trial. After much interrogation and lack of medical attention her father passed away.

Kochiyama, along with 120,000 other JAs during WWII was forced

"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

into internment camp. At Rohwer Camp in Jerome, Arkansas she met her husband Bill Kochiyama, a 442nd soldier. After the war they lived with their six children in Harlem where Kochiyama met Malcolm X. The Kochiyamas supported redress for JAs who were interned during WWII and the development of ethnic studies.

"Looking back I don't have any regrets," said Kochiyama. "Except maybe I would have spent more time with my husband and kids. I have been criticized for this, though I actually did most of the human rights work after my children grew up."

From her experience with racism during WWII, Kochiyama and

Malcolm X were able to relate to one another. Becoming very active in the civil rights movement Kochiyama was the only non-African American member of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity. When Malcolm X was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in 1965, Yuri was the first friend to run on stage and cradle Malcolm X's head.

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

With Puerto Rican Independistas, Kochiyama took over the Statue of Liberty for nine hours in 1977 to support the release of Puerto Rican nationalists, one dying of cancer. Kochiyama has also been active in supporting political prisoners such as Mumia Abu Jamal, Eddy Zheng and Yu Kikumura.

"The biggest challenge for world peace for the present and future must be to stop U.S. imperialist policies," said Kochiyama. "And that goes for not only the U.S. imperialists but any imperialists who may want to start something aggressive."

The Nobel Peace Prize is named after Swedish scientist and businessman Alfred Nobel. The recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded at the Oslo City Hall in Norway on Dec. 10. ■

Whereabouts

Whereabouts is free of charge and run on a space-available basis.

TOYOKO WAKOMOTO

MICHIKO HOSAKI

Angelina (nee Chaves) Nordell is seeking her two classmates from Lompoc. They attended Lompoc Union Elementary and Lompoc Union Junior High prior to evacuation. With information, please contact the *Pacific Citizen* at 800/966-6157.

DEATH NOTICE

ALICE OKADA TATSUNO

SAN JOSE — Alice Okada Tatsuno, 91, passed away May 21 due to sudden heart failure. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Dave M. Tatsuno; sons, Rod and Sheridan; daughters, Arlene Damron, Valerie Sermon, and Melanie Cochran; 4 gc. and 2 ggc. In keeping with her wish, a private inurnment service was held.

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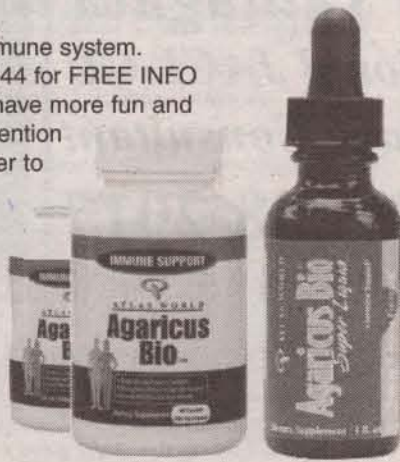
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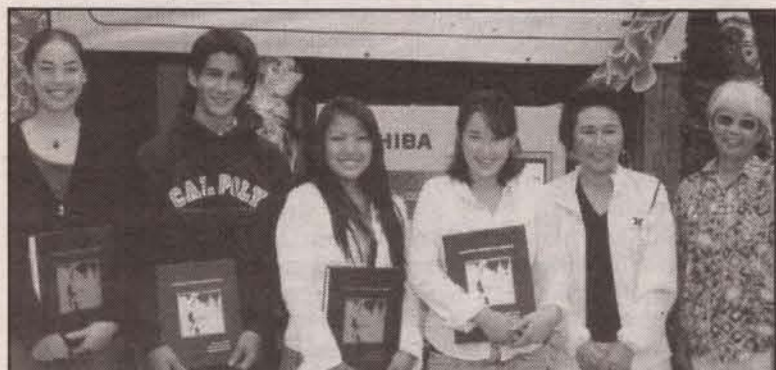


Photo courtesy of Mas Hashimoto

Pictured are the 2005 Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship winners (l-r): Mary Mayeda, Kevin Clouse, Shannon Kato, Tamiko Kikuchi with Keiko Kitayama and Scholarships Chairperson Carol Kaneko.

Chapter Announces Kee Kitayama Scholarship Winners

Four high school graduates were awarded this year's Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarships at Aptos Village Park, recently receiving \$1,000 each.

The award, presented by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter, recognizes young talent for their academic achievement as well as civic and community involvement.

This year's recipients are Aptos

High School graduates: Mary Mayeda, Kevin Clouse and Tamiko Kikuchi. Shannon Kato of Scotts Valley High School was also a winner.

Kee Kitayama, a former JACL president, was a Bainbridge Island native, one of the first groups of Japanese Americans to be forcibly evacuated during World War II. His widow, Keiko Kitayama, was present at this year's ceremony. ■

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 in the YMCA. Events will include family activities and a din-

ner.

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. ■

Densho Unveils 'Sites of Shame' Website

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.

Among those interviewed are U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, Walt Woodward, editor of *The Bainbridge Review* and model for the main character in the best-seller "Snow Falling on Cedars," and Gordon Hirabayashi, one of the Supreme Court challengers of the

exclusion orders.

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. ■

For more information: www.densho.org/sitesofshame and www.densho.org.



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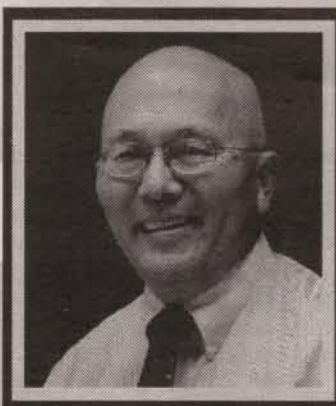
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