

MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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**NEVER FORGET**

Community remembers tragic shooting of Joseph Ito.

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**ONSCREEN HERO**

Filipino star crosses over to Hollywood in 'The Great Raid.'

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**FESTIVAL WEEK**

L.A.'s Nisei Week Festival celebrates 65 years.

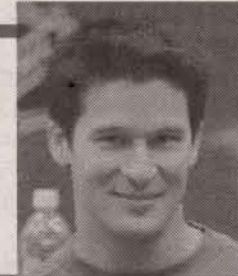
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Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

**INSIDE**

Hockey all-star Paul Kariya heads to Nashville, Tennessee.

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#3042/ Vol. 141, No. 4 ISSN: 0030-8579

AUG. 19-SEPT. 1, 2005

Pursuing the American (Baseball) Dream

The Samurai Bears, the first all Japanese professional baseball team, make history while players pursue dreams of a major league baseball career.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

The melodic sounds of the Japanese national anthem can be heard playing in the background as the Japanese baseball players get ready to take their positions on the grassy field. A quick glance around the stadium reveals loyal fans cheer-

ing their team on with an "oendan" and a wave of their "jetto fusen" balloons. Pretty soon taiko drummers and ondo dancers will entertain the enthusiastic crowd.

No, you're not in Tokyo, Japan. This is Fullerton, California and you're watching the independent Golden Baseball League's all Japanese baseball team — the Samurai Bears.

"With the success of Ichiro [Suzuki] and [Hideki] Matsui — top notch Japanese baseball players who can play at the all-star level

See **BASEBALL**/Page 12



Yuuchi Nomura hustles for a headfirst slide into home plate.

An Extraordinary Life Outside of Picture Frames

Yuki Llewellyn is the little girl in the famous evacuation photo. Now she's hoping to bring a part of her life into focus by returning to Manzanar for the first time.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

In her childhood mindscape, Manzanar looks like an abstract painting where images, colors and sensations blend together without borders. Her memories of a place called "home" in the early part of her life are fuzzy at best, but Yukiko Llewellyn's face may be one of the best reminders of the World War II evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans.

She is the little girl in the photo with the pageboy haircut, sitting amidst duffel bags and suitcases with a half eaten apple in her right hand and a purse in her left. The emotions drawn across her face are a mix of fear, confusion and sadness. Yukiko (or Yuki as she likes to be called) was three years old when photographer Clem Albers immortalized her image in



Photo by Charles Mercer Photography

"The best part about that photo is that it's anonymous," said Yuki Llewellyn, 66. "It doesn't need to be Yuki. It just needs to be a child. It's so much more powerful that way."

history — she is now 66.

"It just seems kind of ironic that my claim to fame is from an accidental photo taken at a time of great stress to adults," said Yuki by telephone from her Champaign, Illinois home. "It's a part of my life that I've

had to embrace."

Historians and community members regard the photo as emblematic of a dark historic event.

"This is one of a number [of] See **LLEWELLYN**/Page 2

WWII Veteran Ben Kuroki to Receive Distinguished Service Medal

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb.—A farm boy from Nebraska who has the distinction of being the only Japanese American known to have flown over Japan during World War II is in line for a rare military honor.

Ben Kuroki, the son of Japanese immigrants who was raised on a Hershey, Neb., farm, has been approved by the military to receive the Distinguished Service Medal, the third highest of the U.S. Army's decorations.

A banquet in his honor was held recently in Lincoln, and on Saturday

he received an honorary doctor of letters degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

W. Don Nelson, the Nebraska director for U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, said that after several years of providing documentation and filling out forms, the award had been approved by the military.

Kuroki manned bomber guns in 58 missions in four different air



BEN KUROKI

force groups over Europe, North Africa and Japan during the war, the only known American to have done so. That includes the famed attack on Ploesti, Romania, that claimed the lives of 310 Americans. He was awarded a Distinguished

Flying Cross with two oak-leaf clusters before receiving an honorable discharge.

There's no doubt he deserves the Distinguished Service Medal, said John R. Doyle, a Lincoln attorney and highly decorated WWII veteran.

"It's just phenomenal he went on that many missions. He was amazing," Doyle said. "And fighting prejudice all the way, that was remarkable."

Kuroki, who now lives in Camarillo, Calif., said he feels humbled by the efforts of so many Nebraskans who have worked to see him awarded with the medal.

"Most importantly, I feel that it gives credence to the word 'democ-

racy,' and it's Americanism at its very best," he said. "I feel that more so than any personal glory it gives to me."

Kuroki was born in Gothenburg in 1917, one of 10 children of Shosuke and Naka Kuroki, Japanese immigrants who later raised their family along with potatoes and beets near Hershey.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Kuroki's father urged him and his brother to volunteer for service. After being turned down by recruiting officials in North Platte, the

See **KUROKI**/Page 8

COMMENTARY Looking at the JACL

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

When I stepped in as the JACL executive director, we commissioned a study to determine the demographics of the organization. Having spent a number of years on staff as the redress director in the 1980s, I



See **TATEISHI**/Page 2

JA Artists Reflect on the 60th Anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings

By AMY E. IKEDA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Artist Clement Hanami feels a close connection to the horrific subject of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Hanami's mother who passed away in 2002 was a hibakusha, an atom-bomb survivor. But it was not until his 20s that Hanami found out about his mother's past.

"Growing up I knew she had these visible keloid scars on her legs but I never knew they were as a

See **BOMBINGS**/Page 4



Artist Clement Hanami stands beside his exhibit, "Fat Man/Little Boy" that was recently shown at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

PACIFIC CITIZEN
 7 CUPANUA CIRCLE, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91755

PACIFIC CITIZEN

7 Cupania Circle,
Monterey Park, CA 91755
Tel: 323/725-0083,
800/966-6157, Fax:
323/725-0064
E-mail: Paccit@aol.com
letters2pc@aol.com

Executive Editor:

Caroline Y. Aoyagi

Assistant Editor:

Lynda Lin

Office Manager:

Brian Tanaka

Circulation: Eva Lau-Ting
Intern: Amy Ikeda

Publisher: Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225, fax: 415/931-4671, www.jacl.org
JACL President: Ken Inouye
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LLEWELLYN

(Continued from page 1)

photos] that shows individuals being impacted," said Franklin Odo, director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institute. "In this case, the young girl is surrounded by evidence of the horrendous event, the mounds of baggage. She is isolated amidst the evidence and clearly represents an innocent victim of great injustice."

In late September, the little girl in the photo is making her first return trip to Manzanar, stopping first at Los Angeles' Japanese American National Museum to research the camp years that she lived through but remembers very little about. Like many other young internees, Yuki feels a need to fill in the blank spaces where her memory left off. She doesn't have any recollections of the evacuation except what her mother has told her.

"She said, 'Sit there and don't move. Here's an apple!'" Yuki recalled with a laugh.

The discoveries she makes about her past will be recorded in an autobiography dedicated to her son and her 87-year-old mother, Mikiko Hayakawa, who raised Yuki as a single mother through the turbulent war years by working at a store in Manzanar.

Mikiko never talked about Manzanar and cannot understand why her daughter wants to revisit such painful memories. But for Yuki, the memories are not all bad. It's the lack of clarity of some of life's moments that proves to be frustrating.

"I want [my mom] to know what I have learned," she said. "I want to bring some closure to the past."

'They are not unhappy memories.'

Yuki was born in Los Angeles in 1939. Three years later, she was sitting on a suitcase and eating an

apple.

Most of the memories Yuki does have of growing up in the barracks and mess halls of Manzanar are warm and perfumed with sweet scents of mochi making and open houses, a tradition which she and her mother carried on even after the war.

"They are not unhappy memories," said Yuki. "I was a child."

As a young girl, she remembers a trip to the cinema — a makeshift venue in the mess hall with a few rows of chairs and a white bed sheet acting as the silver screen. Her mom had arranged for a teenage girl to take her to the movies for the day and on the playbill was a western film

chocked full of swaggering cowboys who killed Indians. For young Yuki, the similarities between what was happening onscreen and in real-life weighed heavily, so she threw her head back and began to cry.

"The Indians were getting killed and they looked like us!" she exclaimed, adding that the scenes in the movie were set in the desert like the parched world that surrounded them beyond the barbed wire. "I thought the cowboys were going to come kill us! The teenage girl was just so disgusted with me!"

Yuki was seven years old when the world opened up beyond Manzanar. They settled in Cleveland, Ohio where Mikiko became a garment worker and Yuki entered kindergarten because she didn't speak English.

"It was about the only time I was the biggest kid in the class," she said wryly.

TATEISHI

(Continued from page 1)

had a pretty good sense of what the age spread would be in the JACL.

What we learned was that 27 percent of our membership was 75 years or older, and about 50 percent was 60 years and older. That was five years ago.

Since over 50 percent of our revenues come from membership dues, what those statistics give us is a stark picture of our revenues and our future. The 27 percent in the study represents our Nisei membership, which also happens to be the most generous and financially supportive segment of the entire membership.

Like all civil rights organizations in this country, the majority of our

members are on the older side. It's the Nisei who fought the hard battles to gain equal rights for Japanese Americans and Asian Americans. They crossed the color line and defied whatever powers there were to gain their place in this country.

There was a moment in the history of America when being Japanese meant you had no rights and were sent to prison just because of the color of your skin. There was a time when being Japanese in America meant you could not assume you had the rights afforded to Whites and had to fight for every right you got or had.

There was a time when being Japanese or Asian in America meant you were treated as a second-class citizen.

For Yuki, the post-war years were accented with life's little byproducts — happiness, tragedy and an unlikely twist of fate. She was a senior in high school when she got into a car accident and flew through the windshield right as the engine blew up.

"Wouldn't you know it, it was December 7," said Yuki ironically.



Photo courtesy of the National Archives

She received about 360 stitches in her face and her right eyelid was torn off, so she had to wear a patch. In a flash, all her college dreams were gone until a plastic surgeon with no experience reconstructing Asian eyes offered to help. He stitched her right eyelid like all of his other Caucasian patients and to

completely shut her right eye.

"It looks like me," she said simply.

'That little girl' is all grown up.

Yuki joked that her mother wanted her to either be a teacher or marry a teacher, so she chose the first option. In 1977, she became the assistant dean of students at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) where she along with a team of other teachers started an Asian American experience class. Yuki naturally taught the JA internment portion.

In her classes, she infused words in history books with personal stories. One of her favorites is a childhood memory of sneaking through the camp's watermelon field in the dark night with a group of friends to sink their teeth into the juicy melons. They ate to their hearts' content and the next morning, the watermelon

If we've come a long way, it's because of all the hard battles fought and won by the Nisei. In today's world, those color lines no longer exist as they once did, though I dare say they're still there. We just can't see them as well, or they've morphed into different shapes.

But they're still there in many instances, as witnessed by a growing anti-Asian sentiment in this land.

The difference is that in today's world, we know we can assume our place as equals and we're ready to challenge those who would deny us our rights. Not only do we assume we have equal rights, we have them.

And therein lies the challenge for us as a civil rights organization. The young Yonsei, or the Nisei generation, doesn't see the need for the JACL in their lives. They're not victimized by racism as we once were and they can make many social assumptions that we would not have possibly considered.

So what's the answer to the prognostics of the demographic study we did five years ago? Do we change the JACL to make it relevant for younger generations or do we find what's relevant about our mission for them?

This is the challenge facing Membership Vice President Edwin Endow. Finding a way to bring younger members into the JACL. Finding younger members who share the passion and vision to fight for equality in this country, regardless of whose rights are being tested or denied.

plunder was big news.

"We were all delighted because we thought we put one over on the adults. But little did we know that they knew exactly who we were. I mean there was a barbed wire fence all around us — who else could it be?"

Her students loved this story and always exclaimed, "You had fun?"

"Of course I did. I was a kid!"

In over 35 years as an educator Yuki said students were awestruck and often asked for her autograph because she is that little girl.

"Personal stories such as Yuki's are critical to quality education," said Kent Ono, director of UIUC's Asian American Studies Program. "Her personal story helped students understand that this historical event actually affected people and altered the course of their lives forever."

At UIUC, Yuki was a vocal advocate for Asian American issues. Her colleagues credit her with helping to develop many of the programs for the Asian American Studies Department, one of the largest in the Midwest.

But beyond the academics, Yuki also excelled at relating to people.

"If you measure success by the number of pictures, wedding announcements and baby announcements you get from former students than Yuki was in a class by herself," said Susan Maul, Yuki's former supervisor at UIUC.

But with her career as an educator behind her (she retired in May 2002), Yuki is embarking on a more personal odyssey. Her only son David, 29, is supportive of her return to Manzanar. She's excited about the trip to once again feel the whipping wind and dry isolation of Manzanar. She's especially looking forward to creating a fluid record of her legacy.

"I don't have endless days ahead of me. I better do it now when I can. Then I can revel in the fact that I've accomplished it. You know you always say, 'Oh, I have to do this, but I'll do it later?' I don't have later," she said. ■

It's a long, hard challenge but one that has to be met if the JACL is to continue through this new millennium. I happen to think that's a challenge worth meeting, not because I'm the director of this organization, but because I know what the JACL has done and is capable of doing. We are where we are because of the Nisei and the JACL.

No one cared enough to give us our rights. We had to fight for them, not just for ourselves, but for everyone. And that's the passion of this organization, to ensure the rights of all.

It's a noble cause and certainly one worth supporting and fighting for. ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

7 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, CA 91755
fax: 323/725-0064
e-mail: paccit@aol.com
letters2pc@aol.com

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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.

JACL MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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Workers Celebrate Decade of Freedom After Sweatshop Bust

By LAURA WIDES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES—Ten years after she was freed from a suburban sweatshop prison, Nantha Jaknang still has nightmares about being locked behind its razor-wire fence, sewing for 16 hours a day without seeing the sun or moon.

In her dream, the men who held her captive demand she work harder.

"Tomorrow we need more work," they tell her. "We need more."

Shortly before dawn on Aug. 2, 1995, authorities stormed the apartment complex where Jaknang and some 70 other Thai immigrants slept on mats, 10 to a room, in El Monte, a working-class suburb east of Los Angeles.

Their slavish treatment shocked Americans and sparked lawsuits, new regulations and even a Smithsonian exhibit.

The case brought dramatic changes but hasn't eliminated wage and safety abuses in the garment industry, where the vast majority of workers are undocumented immigrants.

"Unfortunately, abuse is still an everyday occurrence," said Kent Wong, director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education. "Many are unaware of their rights, and even if they are aware they're being victimized, they have no confidence that they can do anything about it."

As they prepared for their annual reunion Aug. 6, many of the El Monte workers still find satisfaction knowing their plight helped shed light on sometimes deplorable conditions.

"I never thought it would be that big," said Sukanya Chuai Ngan, 44, who runs two restaurants with her

husband Win, another former worker. "People, customers, see me and still say 'El Monte, El Monte.' They remember."

The workers won more than \$4 million in lawsuit settlements against firms such as Mervyn's, Montgomery Ward & Co. and B.U.M. International for which they allegedly made clothes through sub-

"We are locked together now... we are close like a family."
— Nantha Jaknang, former sweatshop worker

contractors. The companies admitted no wrongdoing and said they had no knowledge of the conditions.

After sharing money with Latino workers at another site run by the same employer, each Thai worker pocketed between \$10,000 and \$80,000, depending on their time at the complex.

"We are locked together now," Jaknang, 47, said. "We are close like a family."

Meanwhile, Congress has approved the granting of visas for immigrant victims of human trafficking and made it easier for investigators to get search warrants targeting suspected sweatshops.

In California, home to the largest segment of the U.S. garment industry, manufacturers must now guarantee that subcontractors pay workers fairly.

El Monte was the first of several high-profile sweatshop cases a decade ago. The negative publicity led companies such as Nike, Gap and even Kathie Lee Gifford's clothing line to start issuing their own reports about working conditions at garment factories.

"It used to be see no evil, hear no evil. Now apparel companies have whole divisions for corporate responsibility," said Julie Su, a lawyer at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center who represented the Thai workers.

In the decade since their plight was revealed, investigators haven't seen another case as egregious. Still, abuse continues amid industry downsizing, as more and more work is moved overseas.

About 500,000 garment industry jobs remain in this country, compared to more than a million a decade ago, said Pietra Rivoli, a business professor at Georgetown University and author of "Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy."

Larger retailers are careful to protect their brand name from workplace scandals, but small boutiques, Internet and catalogue retailers — a growing share of the market — are less likely to make sure that suppliers follow labor laws, said Ilse Metchek, executive director of the California Fashion Association.

And while state and federal enforcement efforts spiked after El Monte, payouts for overtime violations have declined in recent years.

Last year, federal investigations resulted in about \$4.8 million in back pay to 6,722 employees, most of it for overtime, according to the Department of Labor. That's less than half of what was paid in 2000.

In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently launched a new push to enforce state labor laws, saying he would add 62 new positions.

Jaknang said things are better at her sewing job now that she has a green card. But she still sees many undocumented workers paid less than minimum wage.

"They accept whatever the owner pays," she said. "They hide when the inspection comes." ■

'Kamehameha is the last hope of the Hawaiian people,'
— Nainoa Thompson

Protests of Hawaiian Only Schools Ruling Held Throughout the Islands

By ALEXANDRE DA SILVA
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU—Blowing conch shells and chanting Hawaiian prayers, some 15,000 people marched through downtown Honolulu Aug. 7 to protest a federal court ruling striking down Kamehameha Schools' Hawaiians-only admissions policy as unlawful.

"We are outraged," said Lilikala Kameeiehiwa, a professor of Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had given the school until Aug. 23 to seek a rehearing by the full court.

The court in San Francisco ruled 2-1 on Aug. 2 that the private school's policy of admitting only native Hawaiians amounted to "unlawful race discrimination" even though the school receives no federal funding.

The decision shocked school officials and devastated the Native Hawaiian community. The school has defended the exclusive policy as a remedy to socio-economic and educational disadvantages Hawaiians' have suffered since the 1893 U.S.-backed overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy.

"Our hearts have bled in these past four days," Michael Chun, headmaster at the school's main Kapalama campus on Oahu, told the massive crowd blanketing the courtyard surrounding Iolani Palace — the former residence of the Hawaiian Kingdom's last two monarchs.

"We must stand together to

focus and right this wrong," Chun said. "March tall, march proud, march strong."

Gov. Linda Lingle said the court's decision was "not just."

The Kamehameha Schools were established under the 1883 will of a Hawaiian princess. About 5,100 Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian students from kindergarten through 12th grade attend the three campuses, which are partly funded by a trust now worth \$6.2 billion.



Kamehameha Schools were established in 1883 by Princess Pauahi Bishop (right). Admission is highly prized in Hawaii because of the quality of education and the relatively low cost.

Non-Hawaiians may be admitted if there are openings after Hawaiians who meet the criteria have been offered admission.

The lawsuit against the school was brought by an unidentified non-Hawaiian student who was turned down for admission in 2003.

Classes will start Aug. 17 at its Big Island campus and Aug. 18 in Honolulu. Attorneys have not said which campus the teenager wants to attend.

"In time of crisis, and we are in crisis, we've got to come together... Kamehameha is the last hope of the Hawaiian people," said Nainoa Thompson. ■

Texas Is the Newest Major Minority State

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press Writer

EL PASO, Texas—With a growing Hispanic population, Texas has joined the District of Columbia and three other states, including Hawaii, as a majority-minority state, according to population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

According to the population estimates based on the 2000 Census, about 50.2 percent of Texans are now minorities. In the 2000 Census, minorities accounted for about 47 percent of the nation's second most populous state.

Five other states — Maryland, Mississippi, Georgia, New York and Arizona — aren't far behind, with about 40 percent minorities. Blacks and Hispanics are the largest minority groups in those states.

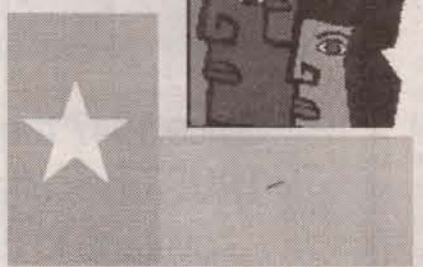
While a state demographer said the new estimates should be no surprise, public policy analysts said these states and the country as a whole need to bring minority education and professional achievement to the levels of Anglos. Otherwise, these areas risk becoming poorer and less competitive in the world market.

Lawmakers need to start with immigration reform, said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in

Washington, D.C.

"Immigration is good for the United States... it's important for us to keep our doors open, but we need to keep an eye on the people coming in," Frey said.

"While initially it will be a state problem, eventually it will be a national issue,



and education is the best way to deal with it."

Frey said bringing minorities' education and salary levels in line with Anglos should be a top priority and needs federal support.

This demographic shift, which Frey and other experts attribute to Hispanic immigration, could also lead to more bilingual education. The demand already exists and is not being addressed, said Tatcho Mindiola, director of the University of Houston's Center for Mexican American Studies.

Mindiola said the country should

also expect to see an eventual political shift, which is likely to include more Hispanics running for public office at all levels of government.

Complications from the cultural shift aren't likely to be exclusive to states that already have majority-minority populations, Frey said.

Nevada, for instance, has seen a massive influx of minorities in the last 15 years, reducing the percentage of Anglos since the 1990s from nearly 80 percent to about 60 percent. Such a rapid shift is likely to cause growing pains that include trying to balance the needs of a growing and younger minority community with an aging Anglo community, Frey said.

"That's the kind of state that is going to have to deal with quick transition," Frey said.

Though some areas may never see this shift and Hispanics may not eventually reign as the largest minority group — as a group Hispanics have increased in greater numbers than any other minority — the country is expected to continue the trend.

"If you look in the 1990s, in every one of the 50 states, non-Anglo Hispanic populations grew faster than Anglo populations," Murdock said. ■

Family, Advocates of Slain Postal Worker Remember Tragic Hate Crime

To commemorate the sixth anniversary of the tragic shooting deaths of Filipino American postal carrier Joseph Iletto and the North Valley Jewish Community Center victims, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) will hold an Aug. 26 press conference to pay tribute and reflect on the lessons of that day.

Iletto's family along with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other elected officials will also be in attendance for the press conference.

The 1st Joseph Iletto Fellowship Lecture featuring journalist and activist Helen Zia will follow the press conference with the theme, "Words of Empowerment: Creating a Nonviolent Society Through Peace Advocacy."

Iletto was gunned down Aug. 10, 1999, by white supremacist Buford O. Furrow Jr., who said the postal carrier looked like a "chink or spic" and was a federal employee. Furrow also wounded three young children, a teenage counselor and an elderly receptionist in his rampage.

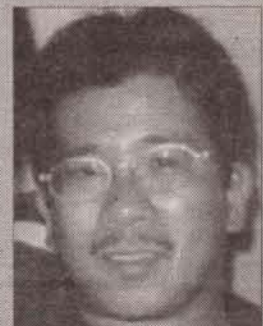
"Joseph's death reminded us all that our work against hate and violence is now more important than ever," said Stewart Kwoh, APALC

president and executive director. "We must remain vigilant against those who seek to hurt us based on the language that we speak or the color of our skin."

"My brother and other victims of hate violence are the human faces behind the tragedy of hate crime," said Ismael Iletto, Joseph's brother.

"With this event, we hope to encourage our youth to join our struggle against inequality and intolerance and take an active role in creating a just society." ■

1st Joseph Iletto Fellowship Lecture
When: Fri., Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
Where: National Center for the Preservation of Democracy (NCPD), Downtown Little Tokyo
For more information visit www.apalc.org/iletoevent or call 213/977-7500



National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Police Arrest Two in JA Officer's 1970 Death

BERKELEY, Calif.—Two men, one of them a retired teacher, were arrested in the 1970 death of a Japanese American police officer that authorities have linked to the Black Panthers.

Berkeley police alleged that Styles Price and Don Juan Graphenreed were involved in the shooting of rookie officer Ronald Tsukamoto. He was the first JA police officer hired in Berkeley and the first city officer killed in the line of duty. He had been on the force less than a year when he was gunned down on Aug. 20, 1970. The killing was the third targeting of an officer in the San Francisco Bay area within a two-month span.

Police are still looking for a third suspect they say served as a lookout during the ambush and is believed to be out of the country.

Waffle House Operator Reaches Settlement

RICHMOND, VA.—Waffle House restaurants settled four civil rights lawsuits filed by customers who said they were racially discriminated and treated rudely. The settlement requires Northlake Foods Inc. to enact compliance programs to ensure Waffle House customers are treated equally. Other terms of the settlement have not been released.

The suits were filed against Waffle House restaurants in Hopewell, Fredricksburg and Chesapeake, Va. on behalf of nine Black, one Hispanic and two Asian American plaintiffs.

They allege that they were denied service or subjected to discriminatory treatment when they tried to eat at the restaurants.

More than 15 similar lawsuits are pending against Waffle House and other franchisees in four other states.

Nisei Veterans Center Gets \$1.5 Million

KAHULUI, Hawaii—The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center on Maui has received \$1.5 million in state grant money to help cover the cost of completing its adult day care building. Gov. Linda Lingle released the funds during a groundbreaking ceremony recently.

The center's corporation was formed in 1991. Last September, organizers began construction on an intergenerational center that will serve as a memorial to honor Japanese American veterans who fought in World War II, including the men of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Utahns Dialogue in Diverse Languages

SALT LAKE CITY—Although English is still the predominate language used in Salt Lake County households, roughly 16 percent are speaking in other tongues while at home.

Data collected in 2000 by the Modern Language Association shows the ethnic makeup of the county changing. The data was compared by zip code and found that six in 10 people speak Spanish, German, Bosnian and Vietnamese.

About 25 percent of Salt Lake City's population speaks a language other than English at home. ■

BOMBINGS

(Continued from page 1)

result of the atom bomb," said Hanami. "After I found out then I thought, 'Why didn't I know? Why hasn't she shared this with me?' Now it is obvious to me that this was the most terrible, traumatic, and unimaginable thing that could happen to anybody."

Eager to understand this part of his mother's life that had remained tucked away for decades, Hanami remembers trying to have conversations about the bombings with his mother but only receiving informational responses that were on a need-to-know basis. It wasn't until he shared his art with his mother that she opened up about her experience.

"When my mom and I talked I would ask her how she really felt but she didn't want to talk about it because it made her feel very emotional," said Hanami. "Creating these art pieces, provoked by imagery and sensory feelings sparked insightful conversation and critical thoughts from an emotional level."

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, Hanami's art installation, "Fat Man/ Little Boy" accompanied by a special program centered on the theme of peace was held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles Aug. 9.

"The program was ... an opportunity to reflect on the events that hap-

pened 60 years ago which continues to be relevant today and to share messages of peace and hope within the community," said John Guzman, public programs specialist at JANM.

The atomic bombs dropped on Aug. 6, 1943, and Aug. 9, 1945, by the U.S. military took an estimated 220,000 lives. The number of people to later develop cancer and other life threatening ailments from radiation are still unknown.

Hanami's art installation "Fat Man/ Little Boy" is named after the Little Boy bomb that was dropped from a B-29 Superfortress on Hiroshima and the Fat Man bomb dropped on Nagasaki. Hanami's multimedia installation led visitors into the chilling exploration of atomic weaponry and into his personal story.

"I think the piece itself is really about a dialogue between a mother and a child or a lack of," said Hanami. "It's really a personal piece and I hope people use this to open communication in their own family. Everyone's life is so rich with experiences that it is a tragedy to have missed the stories from one's own family legacy."

Scattered along the corridor of Hanami's art piece were colored photos of the *Drosophila melanogaster* fruit fly that were used to test genetic effects of radiation. The most pronounced exhibit was a room that evoked the senses with loud sounds of planes flying above and a toy replica of a B-29 bomber placed under a strong light

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Filipino American Woman Gets Top White House Cooking Post

Cristeta Comerford is the first woman hired as White House executive chef. Comerford, who is Filipino American, has been an assistant chef at the White House for 10 years.

Mrs. Bush has been trying out applicants for the job in recent months, asking them to prepare test meals at special functions and private meals at the residence.

Comerford has a bachelor's degree in Food Technology from the University of the Philippines. She has worked at restaurants in Austria and Washington.



Park Awarded Chicago Tribune Prize for Young Adult Fiction

Linda Sue Park has been named the recipient of the 2005 Chicago Tribune Prize for Young Adult Fiction for her novel, "Project Mulberry," which weaves the story of a Korean American seventh-grader with the author's conversations with the character.

Park will receive her award at the Chicago Humanities Festival this fall. The *Chicago Tribune* will also publish the winner in its books section.

Park won the 2002 Newbery Medal for "A Single Shard," a novel



that projected the toy into an eerie almost life size shadow.

"To me that imagery sort of tells the whole story from the perspective of a child to an adult," said Hanami. "The shadow and the object are interconnected yet they are so apart. The shadow is more impermanent and is only present when there is a light. The light is a metaphor for thoughtful, critical thinking."

Hanami's work attempts to understand not solely the atomic bomb experience but the metamorphosis into an atomic era. Hanami feels not enough people critically think about the possibility of a nuclear war even though it is a very real and present threat.

A variety of other artists articulated expressions of peace and reflection through song, spoken word, and performance at an evening program that culminated the daylong event. Among them was composer Scott Nagatani who debuted his orchestrated rendition of Walter Myers' poem "A Child of War."

Being involved with the anniversary program held special significance for the musical director who had family in Higashi-Hiroshima at the time of the bombing.

"It is important that we remember that the poem is one of thanks, offering and sweet forgiveness," said Nagatani. "Since the Meiji restoration in the late 1870s, all of Asia has literally been shaped by war. We are all children of war, but instead of hating and being angry, we offer gifts and praise to the child in ourselves and the children of the world." ■

APAs in the News

about an orphaned potter's apprenticeship in 12th century Korea.

Sasaki-Hill Named Touro University's New Associate Dean

Debbie Sasaki-Hill is the new associate dean of clinical affairs at Touro University College of Pharmacy located on Mare Island on the San Francisco Bay.

Sasaki-Hill received her degree in pharmacy at the University of the Pacific. She worked in community practice at Longs Drugstore for 29 years and was hired April 1 by Touro University.

JAs Get Recognized for Loving Community Sports

Gardena High School Athletic Director Ed Kamiyama was named one of the recipients of the 2005 Aki Komai Memorial Awards. Ed's wife Sue Wada Kamiyama, a former Bell High School athletic director, will also be honored posthumously. She died of cancer last year.

The Marutama Kamaboko Company will also be an award recipient. The company was a prominent sponsor of JA sports.

The awards were formed in honor

of Aki Komai, the post-war publisher of the *Rafu Shimpo* and founder of the Nisei Athletic Union (NAU), and given to individuals who exhibit a devotion to JA community sports.

The awards will be given out at the NAU Reunion Sept. 17 at Los Angeles' Japanese American National Museum.

Scientist, Teacher Wins Blue Planet Prize

Dr. Gordon Hisashi Sato was awarded one of the two Blue Planet Prizes for developing a new mangrove planting technology in Eritrea.

Sato graduated from Manzanar High School in 1944 and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He obtained a Ph.D. degree at the California Institute of Technology in Biophysics and taught at the University of California, San Diego for over a decade.

Each year, two Blue Planet Prizes are awarded to individuals or organizations that make outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application to solve global environmental problems.

The awards ceremony will be held Oct. 19 at the Tokyo Kaikan. The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University in Shibuya Ward, Tokyo the next day. ■



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Community Gathering to Preserve Historic Little Tokyo

Preserving the legacy of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo will be at the heart of conversation at an upcoming conference.

"Ties That Bind 3," the third gathering convened to discuss the future of the Japanese American community will focus on Little Tokyo, which has recently been threatened by the rapid influx of new development.

"Little Tokyo, the historical cultural nexus of the largest JA community in America is facing a critical juncture of survival," said Bill Watanabe, conference chair and executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation. "We must maintain this historic neighborhood so that rich cultural history, heritage and connections are kept alive for future generations to enjoy."

The conference will be a forum for researchers and community members interested in preservation

issues to discuss and develop strategies for neighborhood revitalization, heritage education and policy changes to promote and preserve the legacy of the few remaining Japantowns in the United States.

Ties that Bind 3

When: Sat., Sept. 17
Where: Centenary United Methodist Church in Little Tokyo
Open to the public
How Much: \$30 general, \$15 student

Dr. Anthea Hartig, western regional director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will keynote the event along with Linda Dishman, executive direc-

tor of the Los Angeles Conservancy. Afternoon workshops will provide opportunity for participants to discuss specific strategies for Little Tokyo preservation and revitalization.

There is a general registration fee of \$30 and \$15 for students, which includes lunch and materials. Two levels of sponsorship are also available: "Preservation Pioneers" at \$200 and "Preservation Supporters" at \$100.

For more information, visit <http://ties.janet.org> or call Tiffany Katayama at 213/473-3022. ■

Buddhist Temples Hold Obon Memorial Service for Departed Japanese Students



The New York Buddhist Church, Seabrook (N.J.) and Ekoji (Va.) Buddhist Temples held an Obon memorial service at Willow Grove Cemetery in New Brunswick, N.J. recently. A portion of the cemetery holds the gravesites of seven Japanese-born Rutgers College students, and the daughter of a Japanese diplomat, who died between 1870 and 1886.

This is the 21st year the three temples have gathered for the Obon service, which is preceded by a cemetery clean-up and washing of the headstones by members of the New York Buddhist Church. Each of the temples also has an annual Obon festival, with dancing and taiko performances. ■

PSWD Trust Fund Donates to Local Nisei H.S. Diploma Project




Gerald Kato, program director for the JACL Pacific Southwest District presented a check for \$2,000 to Sadako Sogioka for the California Nisei High School Diploma Project. The money will be used to offset some of the expenses to pay for the graduation ceremony planned for Nisei who were denied graduation because of wartime evacuation from their homes. The graduation ceremony is set for Aug. 21 at Los Angeles Trade Tech. Other committee members are: (l-r) Harold Muraoka, Min Tonai, Warren Furutani, Toshi Ito, John Saito and Tad Kowta.


JACL Health Benefits Administrators Celebrate 40th Anniversary



This year marks 40 years of partnership between the JACL Health Benefits Administrators and Blue Shield of California. Pictured are the board of trustees: (Top row, left to right): Gerald Takehara, vice chairman; Gus Barlas, consultant; Dr. Richard Ikeda; Douglas Urata; Dr. Jim Yamaguchi; Stephen Divizich, administrator; Dr. Leroy Morishita; Jim Oshima; Seated, left to right: Betty Oka, John Yasumoto, chairman; Kikuo Nakahara, treasurer; and Shig Naito. Not pictured: Kevin Nagata and LeeTrucker Esq., legal counsel. ■



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Japanese American Citizen's League

JACL Chapters Continue to Give to Accomplished Youth

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL chapters from across the country continue to give generous scholarships to their youth members.

At the recent Berkeley chapter annual awards luncheon six graduating high school students received scholarships for their scholastic and community achievements. The recipients are: Cory T. Hiraga of Albany High School, Christina K. Hironaka of Piedmont High School, Rya K. Inada of College Park High School, Derek T. Morishita of Bishop O'Dowd High School, Jennifer M. Moriuchi of College Prep School and Adam Ohashi of Bishop O'Dowd High School.

The South Bay chapter recently held its annual Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship awarding scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,150 to five accomplished students in scientific fields. The recipients are: Nicole Adachi of Torrance High School, Allison Fujii of Palos Verdes High School, Derek Kuwahara of South Torrance High School, Juli Matsumoto of Pepperdine University and Shoji Ueki of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Greater Los Angeles Singles chapter recently awarded two deserving high school graduates from single-parent homes with the Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship. A check for \$1,000 each was presented to Marisa Kimura from Narbonne High School and Ami Takahashi from



Photo courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Tanaka

BERKELEY SCHOLARS—2005 JACL Scholarship recipients (l-r): Jennifer Moriuchi, Adam Ohashi, Rya Inada, Cory Hiraga, Christina Hironaka and Derek Morishita.



South Bay JACL Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship

Pioneer High School.

The Chicago chapter recently held its 48th annual scholarship luncheon awarding six high school graduates with awards that ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each. The recipients are: Alaina Mizuki (Harry Haruo Murakishi Memorial Scholarship), Alan Moy (Dr.

George Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship), Kaoru Naganuma (Nisei Ambassadors Drum Corps Trust Fund Scholarship), Stephanie Nitahara (Mary Sakai Memorial Scholarship), Phillip Ozaki (Noboru Honda Memorial Scholarship), and Scott Sakoda (Mas Nakagawa Memorial

Scholarship).

The Diablo Valley chapter also held their annual scholarship luncheon recently where recognition was given to five scholarship recipients. The Diablo Valley chapter scholarship was awarded to Brandon Endo who will be attending Berkeley. The George S. Fujioka Memorial Scholarship was presented to Minh Nguyen who has completed her AA degree at Contra Costa and is transferring to Berkeley. The Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki Scholarship was awarded to Daniella C. PoyWing who is entering the Samuel Merritt Bachelor Program in nursing. The recipients of the Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki special award are Ezechimere A. Wachuku, who will be attending UC Berkeley, and Ken Russell Coelho who is currently attending UC Berkeley.

The Sequoia chapter presented \$4,500 in scholarships and awards to four community college students and three high school graduates. Rabiah Khalid and Andre Nguyen were the two recipients from De Anza College in Cupertino; Deborah Wang and Mohamed Traore received the scholarships from Foothill College in Los Altos Hills; Justine Morey and Dane Sakino of San Mateo High School and Dane Sakino of Cupertino High School were the two high school scholarship recipients.

And Michelle Imai received the Harry and Elsie Yoshida Memorial Award in recognition of her high extracurricular involvement. ■

New Initiative Protects Immigrant Rights

A new initiative will help defend immigrants against local and state enforcement of immigration laws.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) launched the new initiative to protect immigrants' rights through community education and outreach, advocacy and legal representation. A new legal rights pamphlet for immigrants and their families is also available on the organization's Web site.

The organization said there is a need for the new initiative especially with the recent increase of state and local entities around the country getting involved in the enforcement of immigration laws.

Recent examples include the passage of the Real ID Act by Congress, which requires states to take immigration laws into account when they issue driver's licenses.

As a result of these policies, immigrants are deterred from accessing city and state services and cooperating with government agencies for fear of immigration consequences.

The civil rights group said the lack of trust would lead to unsafe communities.

Organizations that would like to schedule a "know your rights" training, conduct outreach or refer individuals in need of legal representation should contact AALDEF at 212/966-5932. Visit www.aaldef.org for more information. ■

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HOCKEY

Kariya Sees New Rules, Nashville as Perfect Fit for Himself

By TERESA M. WALKER

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Take away the red line, add shootouts to end ties and the chance for two-line passes.

Mix that with a speedy, hard-working team, and Paul Kariya said Aug. 8 it was an easy decision to pick the Nashville Predators as his new home.

The Predators introduced Kariya at a news conference after announcing Aug. 5 that they had signed the 10-year veteran and seven-time All-Star to a \$9 million, two-year contract. Kariya said this team is a perfect fit.

"I think all the rules changes really benefit this club. It's a team based on speed and work ethic and the goaltending. I think the rules changes that come into play are only going to benefit Nashville," Kariya said.

"And that's one of the reasons why I chose here."

Kariya heard from more than half the teams in the NHL during free agency even though he was coming off his worst season as a pro in his one season with Colorado. He scored only 36 points and played in 51 games in 2003-04 because of injuries.

He had been just one of many stars with the Avalanche, and Kariya said he welcomes the opportunity to be the top player on and off the ice.

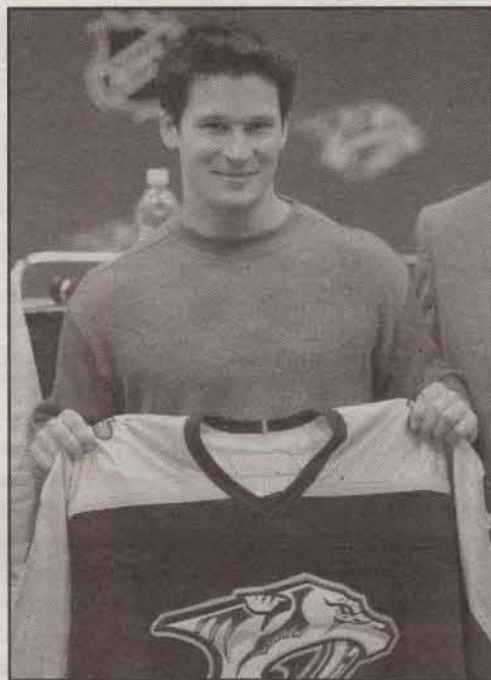
Kariya sees no comparison with his first NHL team, the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. He helped lead the Mighty Ducks from an expansion franchise to the 2003 Western Conference champions and now is on a team with only six seasons of history.

"This is a playoff team that took Detroit to six games last year. It's similar in that it's an expansion club at a different schedule, a different timeline," Kariya said.

The Predators started with the promise of building through the draft, and owner Craig Leipold helped negotiate the new labor deal that includes the NHL's first salary cap at \$39 million and is very friendly to small market teams such as Nashville.

Leipold was beaming as he handed Kariya his new sweater at the news conference, and he said he knows it took the Predators time to reach this point. But he said he believes they finally have something really special to offer.

"This is a team that's going to be a lot of fun to watch. We've built this team based on the new rules, a fast team that is going to be a win-



Paul Kariya, a seven-time NHL all-star, displays his new Nashville Predators jersey. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

ning team," Leipold said.

General manager David Poile said it was easy to sign Kariya thanks to the level playing field brought by the new labor agreement. He sees Kariya as the type of player with his 705 career points to challenge other players to be better, and now the Predators must realize they really are in a competitive era.

"It makes a great statement for a small market like Nashville to be put on the map with the other teams, people in the National Hockey League that were somewhat naysayers whether Nashville was going to make it," Poile said. "We're going to give it our best both on and off the ice."

Coach Barry Trotz thinks Kariya will fit on his roster perfectly, and he looks forward to having him as an option on shootouts.

Goaltender Tomas Vokoun, who won a world championship with the Czech Republic, said it wasn't easy watching other teams stock up on free agents early last week. Adding Kariya gives the Predators a big confidence boost.

"We have as good a chance as everybody, and I really believe that ... This team can go all the way," Vokoun said. ■

DECATHLON

Bryan Clay Earns Decathlon Gold

HELSINKI, Finland—Bryan Clay looks too small to be the "world's greatest athlete." But he was nevertheless triumphant on a cold, wet and windy night Aug. 10 at the world track and field championships.

Clay, at 5-foot-11 dwarfed by his mammoth opponents, defeated Olympic champion and world record holder Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic, 8,732 points to 8,521, to win the gold medal in the decathlon, 10 events completed in awful weather over two days.

The victory gave the United States nine medals through five days of competition — six gold and three silver.

Clay, Olympic silver medalist in Athens, kept the world decathlon title in American hands, replacing Tom Pappas, who won it in Paris in 2003 and is injured this year.

"Bryan is truly a special athlete," fellow U.S. decathlete and Cadillac, Mich.-native Phil McMullen said. "He's short, composed, with extreme explosiveness, and with extreme intelligence to really grasp all the events — in heated competitions."

For Clay, though, the victory was not his biggest event of the summer.

He was there for the birth of his son Jacob on July 1.

"I helped deliver the baby and everything. That was probably the most exciting moment of my life," Clay said. "This is a somewhat close second."

Training at his alma mater, tiny Azusa Pacific near Los Angeles, Clay hasn't received the worldwide attention afforded Pappas and Sebrle, but that should change with his victory.

"I know that it doesn't sound like it, I really don't mind not having the recognition," he said. "I'm kind of one of those guys that likes to come out, do my job, go home and be with my family. I can't tell you how much I want to just pack everything up and go home and be with them."

Born in Texas and raised in Hawaii, with a Japanese mother and African American father, Clay credits his success to intense training under a team of coaches headed by Azusa Pacific men's coach Kevin Reid.

"I've been dreaming about this since I was a little kid, since I was 8 years old. So I'm just glad that dreams are finally starting to come true," he said. ■

FOOTBALL

Arizona Cardinals Cut Chang

PRESCOTT, Ariz.—The Arizona Cardinals released record-setting quarterback Tim Chang and three other players Aug. 9 and acquired a tight end off waivers, bolstering a position of need.

Also cut were running backs Larry Croom and Roger Robinson and cornerback Clarence Curry.

Chang finished his career at Hawaii with NCAA records for attempts (2,436), completions (1,388) and yards passing (17,072). But he was undersized by NFL standards for the position at 6-foot-1, and was passed over in the draft.

He came in as the team's fourth quarterback, a slot which usually translates into the practice squad.

Kurt Warner, Josh McCown and John Navarre are the top three quarterbacks, all but McCown brought in by second-year coach Dennis Green.

Robinson, who rushed for 2,015 yards and 14 touchdowns in two years with Division I-AA Northern Arizona, was another rookie free agent.

Croom and Curry were second-year Cardinals veterans. Croom started one game last year when Emmitt Smith was sidelined by a toe injury, but only played in five other games; Curry was with the team the last five weeks of 2004 and made his NFL debut in the season finale. ■

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Japanese Heritage in Transition

THE HIGHLIGHT of the Pan American Nikkei Association convention last month in Vancouver, B.C., in my opinion, was the keynote address delivered by Arthur K. Miki, a retired educator and community activist. As president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians for eight years (1984-1992), he led the negotiations to achieve redress in 1988 for Japanese Canadians interned during World War II.

Art dwelled on the convention theme: "Heritage & Health in the 21st Century." He clarified whatever notion I had about "health" from the immediate sense of physical and mental well-being to a greater sense of soundness and future of the Japanese heritage in Canada — the "health" of their community.

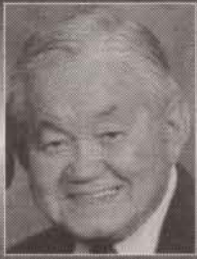
In the process, Art shared some Japanese Canadian history.

"Only a generation ago, the Japanese who were born in Canada did not have the right to vote. This applied not only to the Japanese but also to Chinese, East Indian and Aboriginal peoples" — a statement from Art, who was responsible for granting Canadian citizenship to applicants in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

* * *

Art then pondered: "What will be the state of Japanese heritage in [Canada] and how does this affect the health of the [Canadian

VERY TRULY YOURS



Harry K. Honda

Japanese] community?" He pictured heritage having to do with language, traditional arts, history, culture and "especially the values that identify us as Japanese that were passed down from parents, grandparents and forefathers to us as Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and now Gosei."

With the rising number of Canadian Sansei inter-marrying, Art fears the Japanese heritage the Issei passed on to their children will slowly vanish. Despite what one politician has declared: "They cannot be assimilated as Canadians no matter how long the Japanese remain in Canada." Yet Art counters that Japanese Canadians have become "the most assimilated ethnic group in Canada."

In 1941, there were some 23,000 Japanese Canadians, 95 percent living along the west coast of British Columbia. Because of war, nearly 22,000 were uprooted, placed in

internment and prisoner-of-war camps or relocated to sugar beet farms. As the war ended, Japanese Canadians were scattered east of the Rockies and not allowed to return to British Columbia until 1949.

"This scattering resulted in the loss of community ties. Many refuted their ethnic background and identity. It is no wonder that in a climate of hostility, the loss of heritage and culture accelerated," Art declared.

Thirty years later, Canada's archives revealed the government's actions were motivated by racism. In the 1970s, Canada's multiculturalism policy encouraged ethnic groups to preserve, enhance and share their cultural heritage as "an important and unique characteristic of Canada."

While attending a youth forum for Asian Canadians, Art heard one saying their parents dictated which professions they should enter but not into the arts.

Parents also had great expectations their children adhere to their heritage and cultural values. Moreover, the children felt obliged.

New Report Highlights Problems Faced by APA Voters

Asian Pacific American voters in four states did not receive adequate language assistance during last year's elections, according to a report released by the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC) and its affiliates.

The report revealed many polling places across the States did not make interpreters and bilingual poll workers accessible to voters as required by the Voting Rights Act, now in its 40th year as law.

The report, "Sound Barriers: Asian American and Language Access in Election 2004," detailed observation results of 466 polling stations in Illinois, Texas, Washington and California during the Nov. 2, 2004, elections.

Among other results, the report revealed that many of the polling sites did not post signs indicating the availability of interpreters.

According to Section 203, the language assistance provision of the Voting Rights Act, polling places must provide limited English-speaking Asian, Latino, Native American and Alaskan native speakers with the same information and opportunities as the English-speaking voters.

Community groups say the report draws attention to the continuing problems faced by APA voters with limited English skills. To overcome the barriers, researchers recommend improving the training of poll workers, increasing voter education outreach, increasing accessibility of

multilingual material and increasing the recruitment of bilingual poll workers.

Almost 3 million APAs voted last November. Compliance with Section 203 and other provisions of the Voting Rights Act resulted in an increase in the number of APA voters, according to the Department of Justice.

Section 203 will expire in 2007 and APA groups are working to have it re-authorized by Congress. ■

A copy of the report is available at: http://www.napalc.org/files/sound_barriers.pdf and <http://www.napalc.org/files/appendix.pdf>.

Violations at the Polls

— In Los Angeles County, a poll worker sent an APA voter to the back of the line for "causing too much trouble" because of the voter's limited English.

— In 96 polling places, there were no instructions in other languages on how to use the voting machines, the sample ballots or directional signs.

— In Cook County, Illinois one election judge who could not understand a voter said that the voter should learn to speak English.

— About 50 percent of the poll workers in Chicago, Cook County and 62 percent of the bilingual poll workers in King County, Wash. did not wear badges indicating their language ability.

immigrants from Japan and efforts of community organizations to help encourage cultural identity and involve the younger generations.

Art notes Japanese heritage should not be confused with Japanese culture or Japanese Canadian culture. "Culture is more fluid and can live on through people who are interested, not necessarily Japanese Canadians. Heritage is different as these are values and traditions handed down directly from our Japanese ancestors."

The Nikkei community may only survive another two generations. But Art assures: "Japanese Canadians have become valued members of Canadian society. [By] adding to the diverse and integrated society, the "health" of Canada will have been enriched." ■

Available is a 300-page history of Japanese immigration to the Americas and of PANA's past conventions, written by Emi Kasamatsu of Paraguay in Spanish and English. For a copy, send a \$15 donation to PANA-USA, Arturo Yoshimoto, 2625 E. 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90033. It was published in June, 2005. Supply is very limited.

KUROKI

(Continued from page 1)

brothers were able to enlist in Grand Island, 150 miles to the east.

Kuroki earned his way onto a bomber crew and flew missions that took him all over the world, including Japan.

Because of his Japanese ancestry, he was initially rejected when he asked to serve on a B-29 bomber that was to be used in the Pacific. But after repeated requests and a review of Kuroki's stellar service record, Secretary of War Harry Stimson granted an exception.

After the war, Kuroki enrolled at the University of Nebraska, where he obtained his journalism degree in three years. He published a weekly newspaper in York for a short time before moving to Michigan and finally to California, where he retired as the news editor of the paper in Ventura in 1984.

Kuroki has been speaking out against racial intolerance for more than 60 years.

"It's definitely improved, but there are still problems," Kuroki said. "And there probably will be as long as there are humans." ■

Have a story idea?

Send it to the
Pacific Citizen:
paccit@aol.com



The George Aratani Foundation served as the major sponsor for the last two JACL Golf Tournaments.

COMMENTARY

2005 National JACL Golf Tournament

By FLOYD MORI
JACL Wash., D.C. Rep.

The First National JACL Golf Tournament was held in 2004 at Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine, California. The Second National JACL Golf Tournament was also held in Southern California this summer at Rolling Hills Country Club on the beautiful Palos Verdes Peninsula. Next year's tournament will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area and is currently in the planning stages.

A very special and heart felt thank you is extended to George Aratani for his vision and support as our honorary chairman and to the Aratani Foundation for the generous financial support as the major sponsor of the golf tournament.

Thank you also to our other sponsors: Anheuser Busch (David Kim who golfed in the tournament and won a Skin), San Gabriel Valley JACL, Telesis Physical Therapy, Yamagata Enterprises, Solid Vision Group (Alice Danao), CCDC JACL, Union Bank, PSW JACL, and The National JACL Credit Union.

Additionally, prizes were donated by the Arizona JACL chapter, Union Bank, Japan Airlines, Kings Hawaiian Bakery, Golf Coast, Japanese American National Museum, Yonemoto, CCDC JACL, United Airlines, American Airlines, John Yamane, The Scott Nelson Family, Mile Square Golf Club, Brian Moriguchi, Fairways Pro Shops (Floyd Mori), Pacific Citizen,

Trader Joes, and Ken Inose.

Thank you to Ken Inose, who is a member at Rolling Hills Country Club and who was instrumental in helping us secure these beautiful facilities for our 2005 golf tournament and to the other Rolling Hills members who golfed in our tournament.

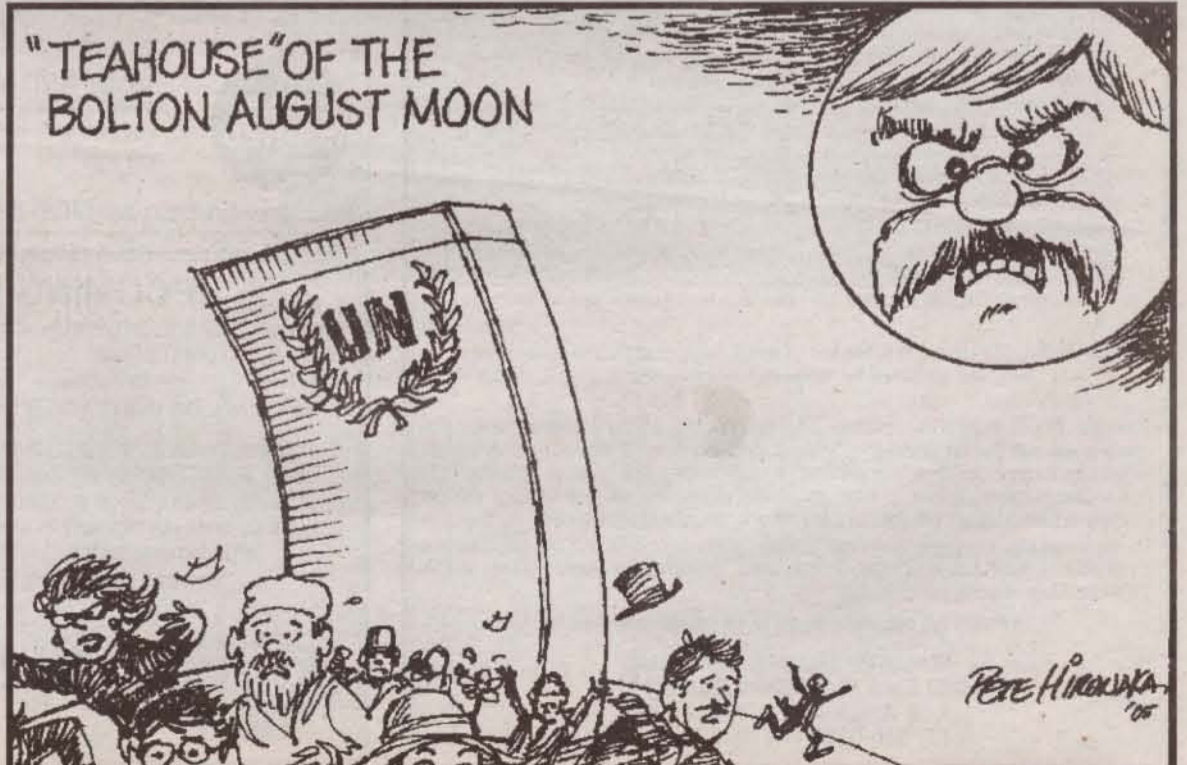
Thanks to all the individual golfers who supported the tournament and enjoyed a wonderful event and to the JACL chapters who sponsored golfers. Congratulations to the golf winners and also to all those who won prizes in the drawings.

The tournament would not have been possible without the special efforts of those who served on the golf committee (especially Kerry Kaneichi, Nancy Takayama, Ron Ikejiri, and Flo Kuraoka, and others) and all the volunteers who helped run the tournament. The committee and volunteers deserve our thanks as do our Executive Director John Tateishi and our National President Ken Inoue for their support.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who helped make the tournament a success.

I would like to encourage all golfers to plan to participate in the next National JACL Golf Tournament in the San Francisco Bay Area. It promises to be an enjoyable event and is a great way to support JACL. ■

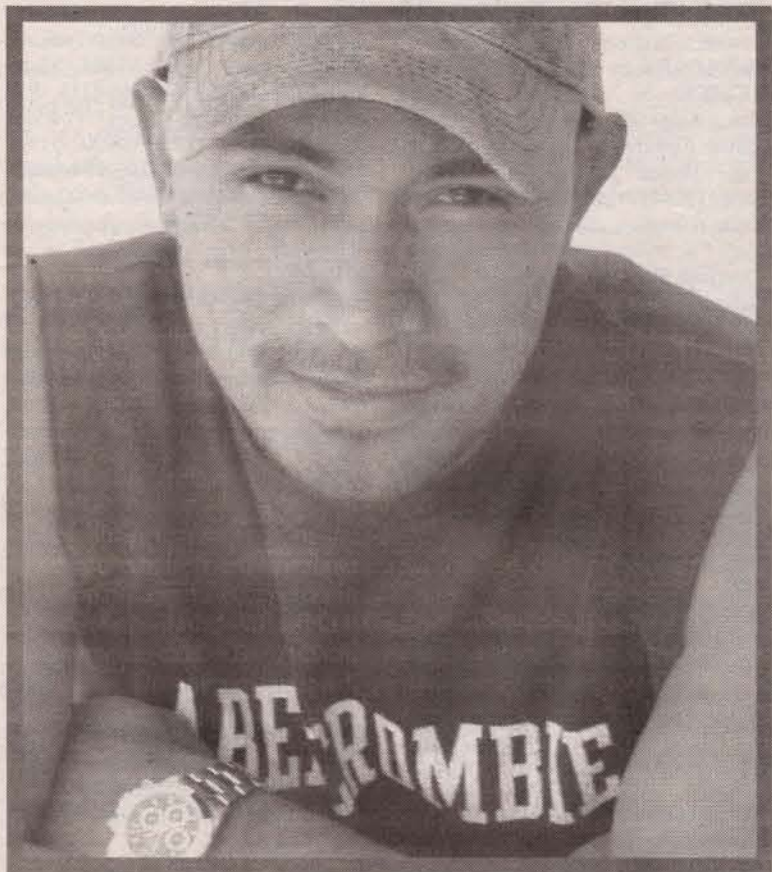
Floyd Mori, former national JACL president, was the Golf Tournament chairman in 2004 and 2005.



Q&A

Cesar Montano

Inserting Filipino pride in Hollywood's version of history.

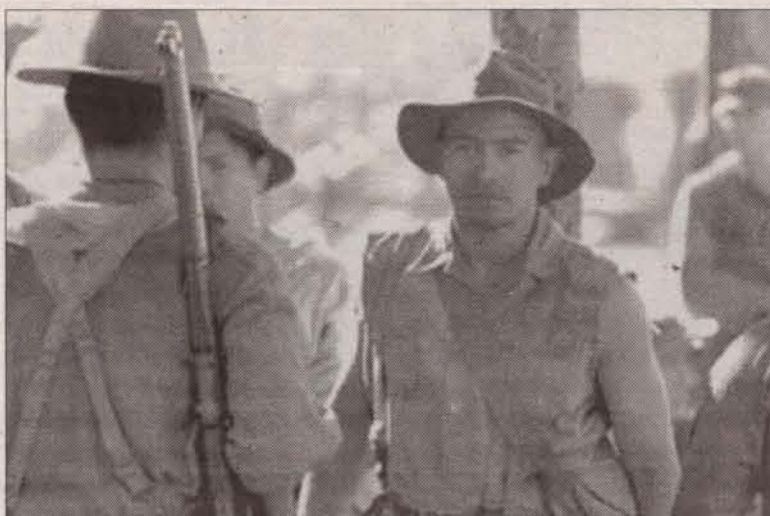


By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Cesar Montano waited almost three years for the moment he could see himself as a national hero — albeit on celluloid.

As Capt. Juan Pajota in Miramax's World War II epic "The Great Raid," Montano stands toe-to-toe with actors Benjamin Bratt and James Franco (of "Spider-Man"), making him the first major Filipino actor to cross over to Hollywood.

In the film based on a true story, Pajota, along with the Filipino guerrillas and a small band of American Rangers, liberate 511 prisoners of war cap-



CELLULOID HERO: Cesar Montano's portrayal of real-life WWII Filipino war hero Juan Pajota (below) marks a cross over success and garners more attention for Filipino veterans.



tured by the Japanese Imperial Army in the Philippines. And while Hollywood likes to rewrite history and place ethnicity in the background, Montano's Pajota confidently leads the raid that historians call one of the most daring.

Montano, 43, who is a super star in his native Manila, said the role is a dream come true. But not all of his fans are won over. His four-year-old daughter Angelina Isabel (with wife Sunshine Cruz) is perhaps a little jaded when it comes to seeing her father's face splashed across movie posters.

"She says, 'Yeah. Big deal, Dad,'" said Montano laughing.

The film's release was delayed for a few years reportedly because of sensitivity with the current Iraq War. But Montano said it's an important story to tell.

"It takes one good story to come up with a great hero," he said by phone from Manila.

And perhaps the timing is right. Many Filipino WWII veterans who fought under the American flag are still fighting for benefits equal to those given to their American brethren.

It was a role Montano took seriously. He read the book "Ghost Soldiers" by Hampton Sides, on which the movie was based and traded stories with Pajota's real-life family members. He spent five months in Queensland, Australia for the shoot and endured boot camp along with the rest of the cast.

Although he acknowledges that the wartime themes (violence and racial slurs) are probably unsavory on the world's palate, it's a piece of history that needs to be recognized. But mostly, Montano feels so lucky to play a dignified Asian war hero in his Hollywood debut.

Pacific Citizen: How did you get the part?

Cesar Montano: Many other Filipino actors were also auditioning for the role, but I was shooting a film down in the province (Montano is also a director and producer). I wasn't paying attention to the local news, so my agent had to go out of her way to go on location and tell me there is an ongoing audition and that I've got to come to Manila. I was busy filming and directing. I couldn't leave the project. But I did! There was no harm in trying! I left the province, left the shoot and went to Manila and that was it. I was the last one to audition.

PC: Is it true you signed a three-picture deal with Miramax?

CM: I signed a three-movie contract with Miramax. "The Great Raid" was one of them and now I have another two. I am going to L.A. in two weeks to get an agent

in the U.S. I am so excited. It's a dream come true. All I want is to do more films [in the Philippines] and bring it to international film festivals ... like the Cannes Film Festival. Getting this role is an extra bonus to me.

PC: What other kind of research did you do to play Pajota?

CM: I went ... to Cabanatuan [the location of the POW camp during the war] three hours from Manila to meet Pajota's family. I met one of Pajota's daughters in Sydney. I was standing there talking to my friend at a restaurant bar and I heard someone talking to my back, "So you are doing the part of Colonel Pajota?" I said, "Colonel? You mean captain?" And she said Pajota became a colonel before he died. She knew because she was his daughter. I was so excited! I said, "The book didn't say that!"

PC: How much pressure is it to portray a national hero?

CM: Here in the Philippines, we have a lot of heroes ... Captain Pajota is not as celebrated. I had to go out of my way to do my research. Pajota is an unsung hero. It's really an honor to play Pajota.

PC: Are you disappointed you had to wait three years for this movie to be released?

CM: I was doing local projects to keep busy. People kept asking when the Hollywood movie was coming out and tease that it was going straight to video and I would say, "They spent a lot of money on it. They're waiting for the perfect time to release it."

PC: Is this the perfect time though? With the war in Iraq ongoing and the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings?

CM: For most people across the world, I know it's a very sad story. It's war and we don't like to remember it, but we owe it to the young generation to share the lessons with them. The younger generations don't care what happened during WWII — they are losing their identity and movies like these are doing [their parts] to fill the emptiness.

PC: You're a huge star in the Philippines, what makes you want to make the leap to Hollywood?

CM: I'm a big fan of the great Hollywood movies. Who would never dream of working with Al Pacino? Honestly I dream of working with them. So it happened — I got one small part. I had to move on to see if this small opening could open a door. ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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Now PLAYING!

'The Great Raid'
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Directed by: John Dahl
Check local listings for show times

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JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY

Sun., Aug. 21—New York JACL Annual Summer Picnic; 1:30-5:30 p.m.; 122 Ridgcrest Rd.; potluck with drinks and hot dogs provided. RSVP: Aileen, 212/873-4170, aileen8@aol.com or Lillian, 973/680-1441, lckimura@att.net.

NEW HOPE, Penn.

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 16-18—Zen Art Exhibit/Workshops; Minguren Museum at Nakashima Woodworkers, 1847 Aquetong Rd. Visit nakashimawoodworker.com.

NEW YORK CITY

Sat. Sept. 17 and Thurs., Sept. 22—New York City Taiko Group Recruitment; Sat. 2-6 p.m., Thurs. 7-9 p.m.; applicants must attend both sessions, send an application, legal waiver, and \$25 application fee to reserve workshop space; application can be downloaded from www.sohdaiko.org or by calling, 212/769-5775; workshop and most Soh Daiko practice sessions are held at the New York Buddhist Church, 332 Riverside Dr. Info about the church: 212/678-0305 or www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org.

Midwest

ALBUQUERQUE

Sun., Sept. 25—Aki Matsuri 2005; 10:30-4:30 p.m.; Park Square (Louisiana Blvd. and Indian School Road NE; free admission and entertainment, great raffle prizes, Japanese food, arts, crafts and demonstrations. Info: Esther Churchwell, 505/883-5320 or 6kalan4@comcast.net.

MINNEAPOLIS

Sun., Nov. 13—Twin Cities JACL Afternoon at the Theater; 2 p.m.; In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St.; "The Pink Dress"; Q/A session with local internees and reception to follow; \$10/adults, \$5 children 12 and under (nonreserved seating); Reservation deadline through Twin Cities JACL is Aug. 31. Tickets/Info: Lil Grothe, 612/727-3542.

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).

Intermountain

FRUIT HEIGHTS, Utah

Sat., Sept. 10—10th Annual JACL Golf Tournament; Davis Park Golf Course; 8 a.m. shotgun start; benefits youth scholarships and leadership development programs; \$70 includes cart, prizes, awards and lunch; make check out to Utah JACL Golf, c/o National JACL Credit Union, P.O. Box 1721, Salt Lake City, UT 84011. Info: Floyd Mori, 801/572-2287.

Northwest

BELLEVUE

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 10-11—Aki Matsuri; Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE; Sat. 10-6 p.m.; Sun. 11-5 p.m.; free admission and parking; Sat. 2 p.m. on the stage in the Gym. David Neiwert, author of "Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community" will be on hand to lead a special program featuring some of the original interviewees from Bellevue; Lake Washington JACL and Puyallup Valley JACL are participating. Info: 425/861-7865 or www.enma.org.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Sat., Sept. 10—Yuri Kochiyama and Diane Fujino Author Event; 2 p.m.; Heller Lounge located in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union, UC Berkeley; Diane Fujino, author of "Heartbeat of Struggle: The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama" discusses the book with special guest, Yuri Kochiyama; sponsored by the UC Berkeley Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific Student Development; parking available in the MLK garage. Info: Eastwind Books, 510/548-2350 or books@ewbb.com.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Sat., Sept. 10—Midori Kai, Inc. Paradise Royale Casino Night; Mountain View Buddhist Church; early ticket pur-



Nisei Week mascot, Aki the Akita, poses with the 2005 Nisei Week royal court. Nisei Week is celebrating its 65th year.

chase deadline is Aug. 30.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 2-4—Fashion fundraiser by Sachiko Eileen Tabata Fitzpatrick; Fri. 1-4 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 11-4 p.m.; Kintetsu Mall across from May's Coffee Shop; benefit San Francisco Buddhist Temple Dharma School; Sept. 17-18 at Hyatt San Jose; to benefit San Jose Betsuin Jr. Choir; Sept. 24-25 at the Seaside Buddhist Temple in Seaside.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Sept. 24—"It happened in Santa Clara County ... Exploring the Historical and Ongoing Impact of the Japanese American Internment;" 10-12:30 p.m.; Wesley United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall), 566 North 5th St.; event will feature a keynote address and slide presentation by Mas Hashimoto; free, light refreshments will be served; co-sponsored by the West Valley JACL, San Jose JACL, and Japanese American Museum of San Jose. RSVP Required to: Kellie Takagi, 650/498-8333.

Sat., Oct. 15—"Continuing Commitment to Serve Our Community" 4th Annual Community Recognition Dinner; 5 p.m.; San Jose Hyatt; honorees include: Ken Iwagaki, Aiko Nakahara, Peter Nakahara (posthumously), Dr. Ko Nishimura, Tom Shigemasa, Yoshihiro Uchida, and Chidori Band; past San Jose JACL President Wayne Tanda will emcee; silent auction, entertainment by Chidori Band; Info: Jeff Yoshioka, 408/363-8191 or jyoshioka@msn.com.

SAN MATEO

Sun., Aug. 28—Movie matinee, "Rhapsody in August"; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St.; Info: 650/343-2793.

Sun., Sept. 25—Movie matinee, "Eat a Bowl of Tea"; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St.; Info: 650/343-2793.

Sun., Sept. 25—2005 San Mateo JACL Golf Tournament; Poplar Creek Golf Course, 1700 Coyote Point Dr.; 10 a.m.; \$68 w/cart, \$81 w/cart; RSVP by Sept. 8; send entry fees and form to: Vince Asai, 745 Pico Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403; please make checks payable to San Mateo JACL; entry form can be downloaded at www.sanmateojacl.org. Info: Vince Asai, 650/349-3590.

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.

Southern California

IRVINE

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 9-11—NCWNPDC/CCDC/PSWDC Tri-District Conference; Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman Ave., 800/228-9290; \$79/night; conference fees: \$100/attendee, \$50/youth; other events not included in conference registration include the PSW Dinner or Casino Night; deadline Aug. 19. Info: PSW Regional Office, 213/626-4471 or www.jaclpsw.org/tridistrict2005.htm.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Aug. 20—"One Night Only: Happy 40th Birthday East West Players!" fundraising event; 7 p.m.; David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St.; silent auction begins at 6 p.m.; \$250 for VIP, \$100 in the orchestra and \$60 in the balcony; hosted by the East West Players Council of Governors led by chair George Takei. Info: Trent Steelman, tsteelman@eastwestplayers.org or 213/625-7000, ext. 19.

Through Nov. 27—Toshiko Takaezu: The Art of Clay; JANM, 369 E. First St.; exhibition features the recent work of Toshiko Takaezu, an artist at the forefront of breaking down the traditional barriers between functional and sculptural art. Info: 213/625-0414 or www.janm.org.

Through Aug. 21—65th Nisei Week Festival; Little Tokyo district; Aug. 13 Nisei Week Car Show; Aug. 13-14 Anime Festival; Aug. 14 Sumo Tournament and demonstration; cultural exhibits and the Grand Parade. Info: Nisei Week Festival office, 213/687-7193 or www.niseiweek.org.

Thurs., Aug. 25—"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.; 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.

Sat., Sept. 17—Ties that Bind 3

Conference; Centenary United Methodist Church; \$30/general, \$15/student; focus will be on Little Tokyo. Info: Tiffany Katayama, 213/473-3022 or ties.janet.org.

Thurs., Sept. 22—Benefit concert, Changing Lives and Saving Families at Showtime 2005; 7-9:30 p.m.; George and Sakaye Aratani/Japan America Theater; Kilauea, featuring Daniel Ho, reunites to perform at this benefit concert for AADAP. Info: 323/293-6284.

VENICE

Sun., Aug. 28—4th Annual Venice Culver Community Law Day; 1-3:30 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr.; will cover Estate Planning, Social Security and Medi-Cal; co-sponsored by the Japanese American Bar Association, the Venice Culver JACL, LTSC, and APALC. RSVP to: Diana Nishiura, Esq., 213/897-2160, 310/838-9862 or Carole Yamakoshi, 310/581-6691.

Sun., Sept. 25—Aki Matsuri fall boutique by West LA JACL Auxiliary; 9:30-3:30 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr.; free admission, cash or check purchases only, free parking and hourly prize drawings. Info: Jean, 310/390-6914 or Eiko, 310/820-1875.

WEST COVINA

Sat., Oct. 1—33rd Annual Aki Matsuri Fall Festival; 12-8 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; food, raffle, games, bingo and demonstrations. Info: 626/960-2566 or 626/337-9123.

Arizona-Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Stew Rice

by EDWARD SAKAMOTO
Directed by JAMES NAKAMOTO

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Enomoto, Takashi, 89, Whittier, June 24; survived by wife, Fusako; son, Yo (Setsuko); 2 gc.; brothers-in-law, Sueo (Teruko) Tabata and Saburo (Tokiko) Tabata; and sister-in-law, Matsuko (Masao) Iriyama.

Flowers, Tokiko Takahashi, 75, July 28; survived by husband, Jerry; daughter, Vicki (Stan) Cooper; step-daughter, Terre (John) Jolly; 1 gc.; 3 step-gc.; 2step-gc.; and sisters, Keiko and Hideko.

Fujikawa, Hede, 77, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 20; survived by husband, George; son, Michael; brothers, Ted (Toy) and Danny (Karen) Shimizu; and sisters, Hana (Shoji) Kubo and Mai Shimizu.

Fujioka, Tadashi C., 85, Juneau, Alaska, June 27; WWII veteran, 442nd; **Cherry Tsuruko, 84**, July 29; survived by daughters, Sarajan Fujioka and Barbara Edwards; and sons, Jeff and John.

Higashi, Mutsuo, 83, S. San Gabriel, June 25; survived by sons, Ben (Margie), David (Christine) and Eddie (Eleanor); daughter, Jeanne (Steve) Gekko; 9 gc.; brothers, Haruo

and Tadato (Teiko) Higashi; and sister-in-law, Shizu Higashi.

Himel, William, 90, Catonsville, Md.; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife Mitsuko; sons, YHT Harlan and James; daughter, C. Marie; 3 gc.; sister, Mora Lincoln; and brother, Chester; predeceased by wife, Sakiko.

Ichikawa, Russell Ken, 45, Lakewood, July 21; survived by wife, Dana; son, Ethan; parents, Kazuya and Fusako; sisters, Ann and Laura (Jack Howland); mother-in-law, Toni Tomita; and brother-in-law, David (Sharon) Tomita.

Ichimaru, Joan Hatsumi, 75, Los Angeles, July 13; survived by husband, Saburo; daughters, Alison and Tracy; son, Paul (Linda); and 5 gc.

Iyoya, Rhoda Akiko, 79, Pasadena, July 17; survived by husband, Rev. Nicholas; daughters, Susan (Jeffrey) Lai and Carolyn (Dan) Irving; sons, Martin (Pam) and Calvin (Miki); brothers, Jonathan (Marie) and Joseph (Joyce) Nishimura; and son-in-law, David Kono.

Kameta, Hanako, 86, Monterey Park, June 10; survived by son, Ken;

daughter, Kayko (Jon) Jorgensen; brother, Kiyoshi (Hiroko) Kato; and sister, Ayako (Shige) Kishiyama.

Kawaguchi, Suzuko Alice, 88, Torrance, June 25; survived by son, Dick (Beverly); daughters, Jeanne, Amy and Arlene (Paul) Watanabe; 5 gc.; 4 ggc.; brother, Sonny Yonesawa; and sister, Dorothy (Mac) Ishida.

Kawamura, Yukio, 77, Palo Alto, July 24; survived by wife, Yoko; daughter, Kim; son Rick (Junko); and 2 gc.

Kobayashi, Rose Toshimi, 75, Los Angeles, July 17; survived by son, Keith; daughter, Wendy (Scott) Kohno; 4 gc.; brother, Mori Takahashi; and sister, Gayle (Mike) Izuno.

Kobayashi, Virginia S., 66, July 6; survived by brother, Ronald and his family.

Kudo, Ben B., 75, July 16; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by two sons, three gc., one ggc., a sister and two brothers.

Maemura, Shinobu, 69, Gardena, July 17; survived by son, Michael; brothers, Nobuo (Kazumi), Susumu (Ana) and Terumi; sister, Kazuko (Richard) Eubank; and sisters-in-law, Louise Mayemura and Akiko (Tadaaki) Kato.

Masuda, Fujiko, 74, Buena Park, July 19; survived by husband, Hayden; son, Michael; daughter, Sandee (Brice) Masuda-Hunt; 1 gc.; brothers, Ted and Bob (Grace) Morinishi; sisters, Emiko (Edward) Yoshikawa and Nobuko Tanihara; and sister-in-law, Alice Nouchi.

Masumoto, Michi, 73, Fontana, July 14; survived by sons, Gary (Mary) and John; 2 gc.; brothers, Seiji and Hiroyuki Taira; and sisters, Take Fukumoto, Fuji Kijima, Toshi Hayashi and Tomi Nakai.

Mitsuda, Carolyn Lee, 61, July 19; survived by husband, Toshio; daughter, Stacey; parents, Edmund and Frances Lee; father-in-law, Shigeo Mitsuda; brother, Richard (Rose) and Daniel (Sandy); sisters, Beatrice (Edwin) Chu and Anna (Harry) Why; sister-in-law, Janice Mitsuda; and brother-in-law, Mark (Linda) Mitsuda.

Mitsueta, Takashi "Mits," 86, Torrance, July 7; survived by wife, Emy; son, Steve; daughters, Janice (Wayne) Nakayama, Joyce Tsuji and Judy (Eric) Greenwood; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Bob (Yuki) Mitsueta; sister, Bonnie (Koke) Horino; and sister-in-law, Kaye Dote.

DEATH NOTICE

ELEANOR GERARD SEKERAK

Eleanor Gerard Sekerak, daughter of May Bell Masterson and August Gerard, born April 20, 1917 in Sacramento, Calif., died July 4. Raised in Oakland, graduated from University High School, and UC Berkeley with an M.A. in Political Science and General Secondary Teaching Credential. As a college student she worked for Oakland Parks and Recreation, then served as assistant and executive of Big Sisters of Alameda County. During World War II she taught for the War Relocation Authority at Topaz, Utah. From 1947-1977 she was a Social Studies Teacher-Counselor at Hayward High School. At one time she was an active member and officer of Delta Kappa Gamma, Dunsmuir Historic Estate, honorary life member of PTA, Life Deacon of Eden United Church of Christ (Congregational), member of HACS, Hayward Historical Society area museums, conservation and historical preservation organizations. Her hobbies were reading, oil painting, flower arranging, and embroidery. She was preceded in death by brother Robert Paulsen Gerard, and by husband of 52 years, Emil E. Sekerak. Emil was a graduate of Ohio's Antioch College and Education Director of the legendary Berkeley Co-op. Eleanor is survived by daughters, Constance S. Austin and her husband, Darrell of San Diego, Nancy Clem of Stockton; son, Norman Sekerak of Honolulu; 4 gc., nieces, nephews, cousins, and an honorary granddaughter, Jana Chinn and husband, Corey. Contributions to Scholarships, Inc., P.O. Box 5000, Hayward, CA 94540 are preferred in lieu of flowers. A memorial service at Eden UCC Congregational, Birch Street and Grove Way, Hayward, Sat., Aug. 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Miyakawa, Rinko, 86, Los Angeles, July 18; survived by son, Ron (Marilyn); daughter, Janice; 4 gc.; and brothers, Eiji and Toshio (Ida) Ninomiya.

Miyata, Sumiko, 69, Gardena, July 28; survived by husband, Satoshi; daughters, Tracey (Frederick) Muller and Keiko; sister, Betty Akiyama; sister-in-law, Ethel Mayekawa; and brothers-in-law, Randy (Michiko), Hideo (Hitomi), Sam, and Roy (Mary) Miyata.

Muraki, Soyo, 78, Altadena, June 16; survived by brothers, Naurhiro (Shigeo) and Minoru Hayashi; sisters, Kayo (Mikizo) Hikiji and Kuniyo (Yukiyo) Okazaki; and sisters-in-law, Makie Muraki and Sumie Muraki.

Nagafuji, Mitsuko, 90, San Francisco, July 17; survived by son, Jerry (Pearl); daughters, Akemi and Kathy; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sisters, Chizuko and Fumiko Shimada and Setsuko (Fred) Shimasaki.

Nagaki, Kiyoko "Kay," 83, Westchester, July 9; survived by sons, Ralph and Bobby Matsuzaki; brothers, Joe, Yoshio, Tokuchi Nagaki; and sisters, Sakae Tsuda and Chilko Watanabe.

Nakaoka, Fumiko, 81, Carson, July 5; survived by daughters, Sharleen (Minoru) Aoki and Marleen (Fari) Yousofi; and 3 gc.

Nakashima, Sammy Hiromitsu, 78, El Monte, June 11; survived by daughter, Cynthia (Darren) Gilbert; step-daughter, Kathy Sachii; 1 gc.; brother, George (June) Nakashima; and sister, Bette (James) Nakatomi.

Nakatomi, James Kazuo, 89, Sacramento, July 19; survived by wife, Bette; son, Douglas (Sharon); daughters, Barbara, Debra (Bob) Miyamoto and Judy (Ricky) Schleisinger; 8 gc.; 4 ggc.; and sisters, May Ono and Alice (John) Otani.

Nomi, Grace Yasue, 79, Monterey Park, June 3; survived by husband, George; sons, Scott and Gary; daughter, Carol (Michael) Shimokochi; 2 gc.; and sister, Shizuye Awamura.

Ochiai, Garrick Kenji, 42, Buena Park, July 28; survived by wife, Joyce; daughter, Kallie; parents, Clyde and Hiroko; and sister, Natalie (Ross) Ito.

Ohly, Sadako Inoue, Rosemead, 66, June 16; survived by husband, Robert; daughters, Bessie Hedrick and Eilene Ohly; 3 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Okamoto, Blanche Mitsuyo, 86, Monterey Park, July 4; survived by husband, George; son, Charlie (Cathy); 1 gc.; and brothers, George (Shizuko), Fred (Lilly), Roy (Sumi) and Floyd (Pauline) Shiosaki.

Seino, Akira, 60, June 21; survived by wife, Tomi; brother, Kenichiro (Teru); sisters, Keiko (Yoshiharu) Uchi and Yoshiko (Masaharu) Sako and Mitsuko (Kozo) Baba; and sister-in-law, Mieko Seino.

Shimbashi, Sam Shigeo, 85, Los Angeles, June 24; survived by wife, Kazuko; son, Gary (Misako); daughter, Setsuko (Leonard) Yamamoto; 4 gc.;

DEATH NOTICE

GEORGE MUSUBU TESHIMA

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — George Musubu Teshima, 85, passed away July 22. Born Feb. 26, 1920 in Gallup, George was a World War II Veteran with the 442nd Army Regimental Combat Team Company E and a Purple Heart recipient. He enjoyed golfing, making pottery, hunting and fishing. He was the owner/operator of the Togo Carpenter Shop for many years. George retired from the Gallup McKinley County School system as a maintenance supervisor. He volunteered many years for Little League in Gallup and youth activities in Kingman, Ariz. where he and his wife had retired for 13 years prior to her death. George is survived by daughters, Patti Herrera of Gallup and Carole Morris of Nooksack, Wash.; sons, Larry of Grants and Richard of Big Bear, Calif.; and sisters, Mary Constant and Kiyoko Teshima and Yone "Frances" Teshima, all of Gallup; 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He was predeceased by wife, Margaret; father, Togo; mother, Umano; sister, Tatty Kikuchi; and brothers, Joe and Togo. A memorial service was held July 26. Donations may be made to the Building Fund of 1st United Methodist Church, 1800 Red Rock, Gallup, N.M. 87301.

sister, Hideko Yanagita; sisters-in-law, Asako (Tadao) Inoue, Shizuko (Terashi) Kusumoto and Akiko (Kazuo) Nakagawa; and brother-in-law, Mitsuji (Yoshiko) Shiokawa.

Shiode, Kiku "Kay" Miyaoi, 83, Culver City, July 12; survived by husband, Jimmy; daughter, Anne (Edward) Ito; son, Daniel (Deena); 4 gc.; and brother, Yoshio (Chieko) Miyaoi.

Shitara, May, 96, Los Angeles, June 22; survived by sons, Ken (Nancy), Fred (Judy), Joe (Cheri) and Tom (Sallie); daughter-in-law, Sue Shitara; 9 gc.; and 11 ggc.; and sisters-in-law, Misae Kato and Fuku Kato.

Shoji, Joji George, 85, San Pablo, July 4; U.S. Army; survived by wife, Yayeko; son, Joseph; daughter, Linda; sister, Namiko Sugaya; and brother, Tadao.

Taguchi, Kyoji, 65, Torrance, July 12; survived by wife, Marcy; daughter, Anne; and by a brother and two sisters in Japan.

Takahashi, George M., 85, July 12; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Lydia; and sister, Mary Clark.

Takaki, Tamotsu Tom, 70, Los Angeles, July 21; survived by wife, Etsuko; son, Hideo; daughter, Emiko (Ryan) Hama; 1 gc.; brother, Shigeki (Joan); and step-brother, Masao Miyamoto.

Tanihara, Noboru "Harry," 89, Walnut, June 7; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Nobuko; son, Craig; daughter, Grace (Ron) Inouye; 2 gc.; sisters, Yaeko Nobusuye and Kimiko Nakagawa; sisters-in-law, Emiko (Edward) Yoshikawa and Fujiko (Hayden) Masuda; and brothers-in-law, Ted and Bob (Grace) Morinishi.

Tsakada, Kayoko, 86, Monterey Park, July 21; survived by daughters, Grace (Mark) Nozaki and Irene Germain; 2 gc.; sister, Masako Suzuki; and brother, Yukio Mizoguchi.

Uchida, Fumi, 89, Los Angeles, July 22; survived by son, Kenneth (Arlene); 3 gc.; and sister, Alyce Noda.

Uchida, Tom, 87, Huntington Beach, June 16; survived by wife, Clara; son, Tim (Susan); daughter, Joyce Iwai; 2 gc.; sister, Frances (Allan) Kobata; and brothers, Chuck (Toshi) and Tsutomu (JoAnn).

Ushiroji, Kikumi, 78, West Covina, June 17; survived by daughter, Aya (Akitoshi) Kamimura; 2 gc.; brother, Koshiro Tsujiuchi; and sister-in-law, Etsuyo Ushiroji, Misao Nakane and Yayoe Tsujiuchi.

Yamane, Takeo Henry, 93, Torrance, July 12; survived by wife, Mishiyo; daughters, JoAnn (Edward) Yamada and Sanaye (David) Doi; sons, Steven and Lawrence (Diana); 7 gc.; 11 ggc.; sisters, Haruye Ushio and Tomie Goto; and sister-in-law, Chiyoko Yamane.

Yoshimi, Ayako, 88, Monterey Park, June 30; survived by sons, Allan, Ted (Janet) and Dennis; daughter, Frances; brothers, Harry, Bill, Frank (Kazuko), Robert (Yukiko) and Michinori (Mutsuko) Yokoyama; and sisters, Masako Morita, Yoshiko Yokoyama and Michie (Henry) Murakami. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Kara Kondo, Yakima County Community Leader, Passes

Yakima County community leader Kara Matsushita Kondo of Terrace Heights, Wash., passed away unexpectedly on July 31. She was 89.

Kondo leaves behind a legacy of civic volunteerism, such as her 40 year involvement as an active member and officer with the Yakima County League of Women Voters; a founding member of the Yakima Valley Human Rights Scholarship program; and board of director with the Heritage University.

Kondo, however, is most known for her 22 years of service on the Yakima Urban Area Regional Planning Commission and was considered an authority on water quality issues. She also served on several Washington statewide advisory committees on water issues.

"She lived a very rich life," said sister Marjorie Matsushita Sperling. "She certainly embodied what one

person can accomplish when you put your passion into serving the community."

Kondo was born in Wapato in 1916 to the Matsushita family. Kondo and her family were among the more than 1,200 Yakima Valley

residents who were sent to the Portland Assembly Center and then to the Heart Mountain War Relocation Authority camp in Wyoming. In camp, Kondo worked briefly for the *Heart Mountain Sentinel* before getting married.

When Kondo received her redress check in the 1990s, she donated a portion of it to the Heritage University. The university recently set up the Kara Kondo Scholarship in her memory.

She was predeceased by her husband Tak and is survived by her two children, Lance and Elaine; and sisters Marjorie Sperling and Amy Nose. ■

"She certainly embodied what one person can accomplish when you put your passion into serving the community."

—Marjorie Sperling



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SAMURAI

(Continued from page 1)

and draw a lot of fans — we wanted to bring a global aspect to the genre of baseball that only our fans can see," said Amit Patel, general manager of the newly formed Golden Baseball League. "We wanted to distinguish our league."

The Samurai Bears are the first all Japanese professional baseball team to ever play regularly in the United States. One of eight teams in the Golden Baseball League which covers California and Arizona, the Samurai Bears made their debut May 26 with a roster of 24 Japanese and Japanese American players.

There is a wide range of experience amongst the players — some have played in the Japanese major leagues and the U.S. minor leagues while other players have come straight from the collegiate level in Japan and the U.S. In addition to introducing the Japanese style of baseball play to an American audience, the general goal of the league is to be a stepping stone for players to move on to the major leagues both here and in Japan.

"This is the first all Japanese team

therefore it's a giant leap for international baseball in general," said 32-year-old Yuji Nerei, a first baseman and coach of the Samurai Bears who played for several years in the minor leagues with the Montreal Expos. This league "is a platform for younger Japanese ballplayers to play baseball in the United States."

Unlike the other teams in the league, the Samurai Bears do not currently have a home base and spend the entire season, a full 90 games, traveling from city to city on their team bus and living in hotels.

The other teams include: the Chico Outlaws, Fullerton Flyers, Long Beach Armada, Mesa Miners, San Diego Surf Dawgs, Surprise Fightin' Falcons, and the Yuma Scorpions.

The traveling has definitely taken a toll on the team and was vividly illustrated in the team's dismal 1 and 12 record at the beginning of the season. In addition to living out of a suitcase for days on end, the Japanese players have had to adjust to a new diet, new culture and to a high level of professional play that many of the players are not accustomed to.

But with changes in the team roster and the addition of new players,

the team slowly started to show some progress and post some more wins. They also seemed to become better accustomed to their hectic traveling schedule.

"The beginning was rough and the players had a hard time adjusting to the U.S. type of ball," said Shingo Mitsumori, 22, a Samurai Bears pitcher recruited halfway through the season from Fordham University. He also acts as the team's unofficial translator. "But now we're playing good ball. It's a new team here and there's a bunch of ballers."

"It's been a disadvantage ... the burden of living out of a hotel. But



I'm learning a lot and it's exciting. The league and the players have definitely learned a lot," said Wesley Yazzie, 28, a Samurai Bears left-handed pitcher from Palo Alto, Calif. who is half Japanese.

With more than 70 games now under their belt, the Samurai Bears ended the day on a high note recently with wins over the Fullerton Flyers in a double header. Although they are still in last place in the Arizona Division with an overall record of 26-45, team members see their first season in the Golden Baseball League as a success.

"At the beginning of the season, we were 24 separate baseball players but through the season we became one family," said Nerei. "Now we can go back to Japan and



The Samurai Bears currently do not have a home base, but they have a loyal contingent of fans in Fullerton and Long Beach.

spread information and knowledge about U.S. baseball."

"We're now a part of history," said Warren Cromartie, manager of the Samurai Bears and long time all-star player in the Japanese major leagues. "We're getting better—the players made a name for themselves."

He added, "It was a challenge for some of the guys, a little overwhelming at times. But these guys didn't complain. They came over and withstood it. We're like a group of gypsy Japanese."

The Golden Baseball League is currently averaging about 1,400 fans per game and is likely to reach their goal of 1,500 fans this year. And wherever the Samurai Bears travel, there is always a loyal contingent of fans. In cities like Fullerton and Long Beach, California, where a high number of Japanese and JAs reside, loyal fans can number anywhere from 150 to 350 people.

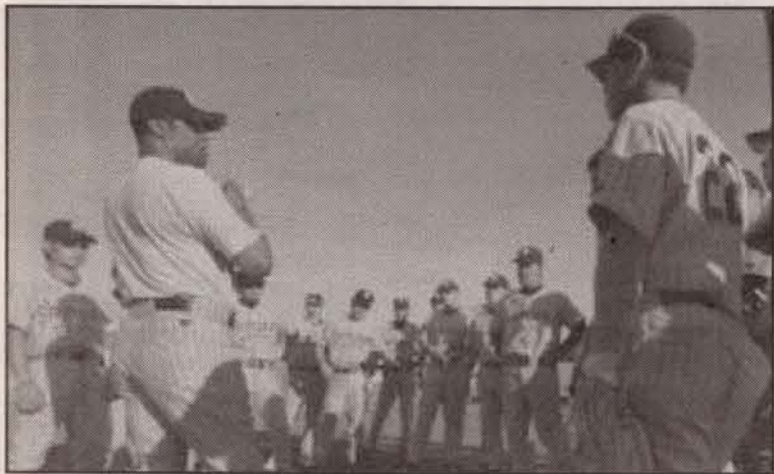
Although the league was not profitable this year, that was never the main goal. "We've been really pleased," said Patel of the league's first year, noting that already ten

players have moved on to Major League Baseball teams. "It's really validated our effort to put teams in California. There is a lot of talent on the West Coast. We've proven from a fan perspective that the Golden Baseball League is very valuable."

Patel also hopes to get a home base for the Samurai Bears in the near future so there is more level playing field with the other teams. Although he admits there is nothing currently in the works, he hopes to find a city where there is a good deal of local support from the community.

In a few weeks time the Samurai Bears' inaugural season will come to an end with a final game in Mexico against the Yuma Scorpions Aug. 30, where the league will continue its quest to become a global entity. In the meantime, the Samurai Bears players are hopeful their one-year experience in the Golden Baseball League will lead to a major league baseball career.

"In the best case scenario I'll be picked up by a major league team in Japan," said Mitsumori. "If not, I'd love to play here again." ■



Former major leaguer and Japanese Baseball star Warren Cromartie (second from left) gives his players a pre-game pep talk.

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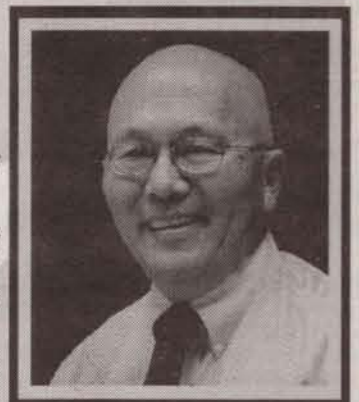
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