SEPT. 11 REMEMBRANCE

By LYNDA LIN

Assistant Editor

PORTLAND, Ore.—Alice (Tsunenaga) Tanaka had not seen Marvin Lee since they graduated from high school more than 30 years ago. Like many other Asian Pacific Americans growing up in 1950s Portland when Chinatown was the hot spot for APA community activities, they were regulars at social events.

"We never went [to a dance] together but we sure did dance with each other a lot," said Lee.

They were among the approximately 100 attendees at the first-ever Pacific Northwest Baby Boomer Reunion held in conjunction with the Intermountain Bi-District Conference Aug. 18-22.

For one night Aug. 19, the hallways of a downtown Portland hotel echoed with exclamations of "Baby Boomers Party On!"

A Strong Sense of Justice

David Neiwert was a Seattle-based journalist when tales of the WWII internment grabbed his heart and never let go.

By LYNDA LIN

Assistant Editor

PORTLAND, Ore.—As a journalist, David Neiwert knows a good story when he hears one.

While interviewing former Japanese Americans in the early 1990s for a series of articles in a Seattle newspaper, Neiwert was deeply affected by their personal stories of injustice.

One interviewee told a heart-wrenching story about having to leave her dog behind as a little girl caught in wartime hysteria. Another described the feeling of returning home from the internment camp only to find his childhood house torn down.

These stories always stuck with Neiwert, who turned the newspaper series into a recently published book, "Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community."

The book, which Neiwert talked about, was a remarkable read for anyone interested in understanding the history of the American internment camps during WWII.
Call All JA Korean War Vets

As a Sunset and proud daughter of a Korean War Veteran, I have come to understand the phrase “Forgotten War Heroes.” My father was in the Korean War and until recently I never knew what he did in the U.S. Army. To this day, he adamantly declares, “I did nothing important.” I disagree. I am proud of his participation in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and I am eager to learn more about the different roles JAs played in America’s battlefronts. I am pleased to invite all JA Veterans to share their stories. We want to know. If you do not tell us about your contributions and sacrifices, who will?

I am currently working with the JKWW to collect wartime stories...YOUR stories...stories about your comrades who never came home...stories from the mess halls to the front lines. The JKWW needs your help in creating a book about your history.

To date, no historical account of the Korean War has been published exclusively from the viewpoints of men and women who served. Together we can begin sharing.

If you cannot write, we can record your stories. Please indicate your interest in the appropriate space on the card. If you do not want to write about yourself, write about someone you know who can’t tell his or her story. The important task is to record this part of history before it is too late.

Please send me your stories. I can be reached at shoho@fullerton.edu or 714/778-8459. I don’t own our younger generations anything, but help us preserve your legacy.

Suzan Uemura (Stokes)
Research Technician
California State University
Fullerton

Re: Robert Murase

We appreciate your reprint of the Associated Press report on the death of Robert Murase, respected landscape architect. Not only was he respected, but also he was highly regarded by the people of the community and by the people for his artistry.

Many of his friends and associates in the Pacific Northwest are distressed that the Associated Press article failed to mention the Japanese American Historical Plaza located in Portland, Oregon. It is a memorial to the f&oslash;i pioneer; to the Japanese Americans who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S.; to the internment during World War II; of Japanese ancestry; and, to the Constitution of the U.S. and the Bill of Rights. The memorial service for Robert was held on the grounds of the Historical Plaza, which was dedicated August 3, 1990.

Robert was a board member and vice president of Oregon Nikkei Endowment, a non-profit corporation created to maintain the Japanese American Historical Plaza.

The Murase family requests that memorials to honor Robert Murase be donated to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment in the name of Nobuko Masukawa, Treasurer, 5054 E. Burnside Street, Portland, OR 97215.

Henry Sakamoto
President, O.N.E.
Portland, OR

Reading Material

For decades, the book “America’s Conscription Crisis” by Harry Low and “Nisei and the ‘Quiet Americans’ by Bill Hosokawa have sat untouched on my bookshelf. Recently prompted by queries about my World War II camp life by my wife’s young nephew, I read “Camp.” The book is how reading about my World War II camp life by my wife’s young nephew, I read “Camp.” The book is both very well written and full of information I did not know.

If anyone is like my nephews, turn off the TV and start reading.

Naiomi Kashkarab
San Diego, Calif.
NY Lantern Ceremony to Honor Victims of Sept. 11

Hundreds of traditional Japanese floating lanterns will drift along New York's Hudson River Sunday, Sept. 11 to commemorate the lives lost in the terrorist attacks.

The event is sponsored by the New York Buddhist Church, which continues the tradition for the fourth year.

The ancient custom of floating lighted lanterns in the water is a symbolic way of respecting the lives that have gone before us. The ceremony pays respect to the lives lost at the World Trade Center with a commitment to building a peaceful future.

Each year people in Hiroshima, Japan gather to float lanterns in remembrance of the victims of the atomic bombings and all victims of war.

The ceremony will be led by Rev. T.K. Nakagaki, head minister of the New York Buddhist Church, and assisted in the water by the New York Kayak Company.

The event is free — donations are appreciated — and open to the public. For more information: 212/678-0305 or www.newyorkbudhistchurch.org.

Sept. 11 WTC Memorial Floating Lanterns Ceremony Where: Sun., Sept. 11, 6-7 p.m. Where: South Side of Pier 40 (W. Houston St. & West St.)

What: 6 p.m. — Preparation of lanterns; writing loved one's name(s) and/or message for peace 6:45 p.m. — Opening Music 7 p.m. — Meditation & prayer by religious leaders 7:10 p.m. — Sutra chanting & greeting 7:40 p.m. — Floating of lighted lanterns on Hudson River

Former Internees Get Diplomas 50 Years Late

By LAURA VIDES Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES—Amid tears and their grandchildren's shouts of glee, 50 Japanese Americans sent to internment camps during World War II received diplomas, finally earning recognition from the communities they were forced to leave more than a half century ago.

The honorees, wearing colorful leis and sashes, walked down the aisle of Los Angeles Trade Technical College's auditorium Aug. 21. Some needed canes, a few were in wheelchairs, and more than a few had tears in their eyes.

The graduates represented the largest group of former internees to receive their diplomas at one time.

Takahisa Hoshizaki, who should have graduated from Belmont High School in 1944, was one of two student speakers. He told the crowd how his education and life demeanor when he was sent to the camps in Wyoming.

"Some may consider a high school diploma just a piece of paper, but it's a symbol to me," Hoshizaki told a crowd of several hundred.

Toshiko Aboshi, 77, accepted her diploma while her grandson Nicholas Echeverria, 23, accepted one for Aboshi's husband, Joe, who died in 2001.

The Los Angeles resident said she hopes the event gave her grandchildren insight into a chapter that for so long was a source of shame to many of her generation.

"We both went to Nic's graduation. That was a very special moment," she said. "I hope Nic will feel this is a special moment."

The diploma project is the result of legislation sponsored by Democratic Assemblywoman Sally Lieber allowing school districts to bestow diplomas to students interned by the U.S. government during World War II.

The government interned more than 120,000 ethnic Japanese, most of whom were born in the United States, amid widespread anti-Japanese sentiment, between 1942 and 1945. Children went to school in the camps and received diplomas there, but not from the schools they were taken away from.

Since Lieber's legislation passed last year, more than 400 people have received diplomas, some posthumously.

In 1988, the U.S. government officially apologized for the internments and offered $20,000 to eligible survivors, but the diplomas have helped survivors make their experience relevant to the younger generation.

"For all you young people who are going to call out to grandma for representing your family today, this is the unfolding of history right before your eyes," said Warren Furutani, board of trustee member for the Los Angeles Community College District.

Jordan Maldonado, 14, of the Fresno area, learned about the significance of their great-grandparents' internment camps during World War II as part of his civic studies this year.

"They were just so thankful that someone had taken the time to realize how hard it was for them," Maldonado said.

Tom Machida, 79, of Simi Valley, said getting his diploma in June, along with the 400 graduating seniors at Elks Grove High School, provided a long-awaited sense of closure.

"I'd never had one before because I left the camps before graduation," said Machida, who was sent to a camp near Poston, Arizona, and later served in the U.S. Army. "I realize it's a symbolic gesture, but it felt so good."

Heart Mountain Interpretive Walk Gives Glimpse into Internment Life

The kiosk at the beginning of the walking tour provides historic and geographic information about the camp.

A $7 million learning center is slated to open in 2007.

By DAN LEWENREZ Associated Press Writer

POWELL, Wyoming—Most of the buildings are gone. Many were little more than taxpayer shacks when the first internees arrived at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, a World War II internment camp for Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The desolate landscape that so harshly greeted new arrivals in the summer of 1942 looks much the way it did then, with a little more grass maybe, and a little less sagebrush.

But the memories remain, preserved both by locals and by internees determined never to let this happen again on American soil.

A new interpretive walking trail on this hardscrabble plateau gives visitors a glimpse into life at Heart Mountain, where more than 10,000 internees were forced to live during the war. They were among some 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans forcibly removed from Washington state, Oregon, California and western Arizona and sent to camps in the nation's interior.

So many were sent to Heart Mountain that the camp became Wyoming's third-largest city at the time.

But the interpretive walk consists of a paved loop running about 1,000 feet with an introductory kiosk and eight information stations that describe different aspects of life at the camp, from the injustices to the successes.

For example, while nurses working at Heart Mountain were paid $150 per month, while JA nurses were paid $16 per month.

Yet the internees managed to create a functioning community with self-government, farming, a school, Boy Scout troops and even a newspaper. For its next project — an interpretive learning center on the site of the camp's former military police compound — the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation wants to tackle the question of how citizens treat each other in times of crisis.

Dave Reetz, president of the foundation, said he hoped to break ground on the $7 million center next year, and hoped to open the center in 2007.

"We want exhibits that challenge our thinking, that make us think about the deeper issues about the internment. There are constitutional issues — what is the law? What did the law say? What were the civil liberties involved here? We're going to basically focus on the overarching issues.

Reetz said it's important that the center is finished while former internees are still around to pass along their stories.
NEIWERT

(Continued from page 1)

in a workshop at the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Bi­
district Conference Aug. 18-22, focuses on the creation and destruc­
tion of the JA community in Bellevue.

"What drew me in initially was the story. I thought, 'You know, I'm a journalist. I can do a good story. I like good stories.' Especially stories that tell us how we got to where we are now," said Richard Neiwert. "What made those stories striking was the extent to which [the JA people] hadn't been wronged and the extent to which their own ability to heal had brought them back, to me that was astounding the rest of us had to think about."

Growing up in Idaho Falls, Neiwert was aware of the internment, but a Seattle-based museum display of the Minidoka Concentration Camp left a more lasting impression. That's when he discovered his excitement of historical events were personal narratives that needed to be heard.

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Neiwert, who said he changed his name when his journalism teacher told him "Neiwert" was the thing you had to do. "I tried to make clear to everyone it how that could be heartbreaking," he added. "I've been talking to people that I haven't talked to in 30 years and just because of this," added Lee Perkins. "There's a need for something like this."
Eddy Zheng

(Continued from page 1)

deportation to China. Zheng's lawyer Zachary Nightingale requested that the hearing be postponed to allow time for Zheng's new wife to petition his residency. Nightingale "prepared to testify in court about the history of our relationship but the judge didn't require that."

After two decades in prison, Zheng's luck finally shifted when a San Francisco immigration judge agreed to postpone the hearing until Oct 24th. "I know that I will have a better chance due to the judge granting me a continuance so I can process my visa application," said Zheng. "The first thing I will do if I am released in America is take a deep breath of fresh air and spend the top of my lungs 'Freed at last.' I will spend the day with my family and friends celebrating by 'eating, hugging, talking, laughing and laughing.'"

A Dark Past Left Far Behind

Once a skinny teenager with little sense of consequence who ran with a rough crowd in Oakland's Chinatown, Zheng, now 36, has caught the attention of many supp- orters who have been impressed with his transformation including California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Assembly Majority Leader Wilma Chan, Congressman Mike Honda, and Assembly Members Leland Yee and Judy Chu.

"Eddy represents on many levels what is wrong with our immigration system today," said Victor Wong, president of the Asian American Bar Association. "Zheng's having pled to charges as an immigrant juvenile and having done time, he should not be subject to a second round of punish- ment in the form of deportation. Eddy has clearly reformed [and] would be a contributing part of the Asian American and progressive communities, and all of his family ties are here in the U.S."

Zheng had a difficult childhood, according to his supporters. He lived in a two-bedroom Oakland apartment shared by seven. In China his father had been in the military and his mother was a government accountant but in America as non-English speaking immigrants, Zheng's parents had to take low-income jobs. His father worked at a local Burger King and his mother worked as a live-in childcare provider for another family, only coming home once a week. School was difficult for Zheng who was one of the few Chinese students at a predominantly African American junior high. He often went to hang out in Chinatown where he befriended two older boys. In January 1986, Zheng and his two friends robbed a Chinese immi-grant family's home at gunpoint. The teens also drove to the family's home at gunpoint. He was tried as an adult and received a sentence of seven years to life.

Starting Anew Behind Bars

From the confines of the San Quentin prison, Zheng stayed away from drugs taught himself English, earned his GED, became one of the few inmates in California to gradu- ate college from prison by earning his Associate's Degree and contin- ued to take classes even after he earned the highest available degree. "Education is something that gave me strength as I embarked on the journey of transformation," said Zheng. "Also the people whom I have encountered were progressive radicals, revolutionaries and com-passionate human beings. Their mantra of life, said Zheng. 'The abil- ity to make a positive difference in someone's life, in society and in this earth of human kind inspired me to do so many positive things. I realize that my life is miraculous and I have the potential to save lives through my knowledge.'

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We Can Make A Difference In Your Life
Attendees learned to make healthy sushi.

Honoree: Former JACL National President Jim Tsujimura (with wife Lolita Sakamoto Tsujimura) was recognized with the JACL Distinguished Service Award.

Young Leaders: (back, l-r) Adam Sandoval, Marc Stillman, (front, l-r) Mari Tanaka, Lindsay Yonetani and Tori Tadehara at the awards banquet.


Family Ties: Portland JACL Chapter Pres. Rich Iwasaki grew up in 'the sticks' of Hillsboro. At the Baby Boomer Reunion, he caught up with his 'city cousin' Marilyn (Mizote) Sholian.

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JACL National President Ken Inouye, Tom Potter, Portland mayor and JACL Civil Rights Award recipient, and Emcee Henry Sakamoto.

During a workshop Micki Kawakami makes a list of JACL's accomplishments.

Two generations of JACLers Henry Sakamoto (foreground) and son Scott.

Members of IDC, PNW and the National Board.

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LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Memee's Homer Completes Comeback, Lifts Hawaii to Title

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Michael Memee got some encouraging words from his manager just before he came to the plate with the Little League World Series title game on the line.

"You know what? You are due for one," Hawaii manager Layton Alvidio said,暗示ed in three at-bats.

Alvidio's words proved prophetic.

Memee lined a pitch over the center-field wall in the bottom of the ninth inning to give West Oahu of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, a 7-6 win over defending champion Curacao, Aug. 28 — the first game-ending home run in a Little League final.

"I knew it was gone," Memee said afterward, a necklace made of candy pieces strung around his neck.

After the homer, Memee rounded third with his right hand held high and he barreled toward jubilant teammates waiting for the party to begin.

And his teammates took the traditional victory jog around the Lamade Stadium warning track, drawing cheers from fans.

"He got one up in the zone. It was high and he took it over," Alvidio said with the winner's plaque sitting on his lap. "I just jumped for joy." Alvidio planned to give his team

Some time to unwind before the flight back to Hawaii the day after the game. West Oahu because the first team from Hawaii to win a Little League World Series title. And it took a stunning come-from-behind

Memee, a 15-year-old from Ewa Beach, hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to give West Oahu (12-0, 8-0) a 6-5 victory over Curacao, which outscored Hawaii 18-3 in the first two games of the series.

"If I find out what's wrong, I'll fix it," Memee said.

The Japanese goaltender signed a two-year contract with the Los Angeles Kings this earlier this month and will attend rookie camp next month.

While some have likened him to the age of nine. He preferred it over other sports in which he was involved. It wasn't until he was 11 that he switched to playing goalie when asked by his coach.

Other than the prospect of signing a contract, the 2004 World Badminton Championships will be mastering English.

"I don't know about Howard but I'm working on it," said Fukufuji, who watches reruns of "Seinfeld" to practise his English.

At home plate with the Little League World Series Championship game, AP (Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

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badminton

Gunawan, Bach Win United States' First

World Badminton Title

Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach won the United States' first World Badminton title in Badminton Aug. 21 night at the World Badminton Championships. The pair, seeded 13th in men's doubles, rallied in the final game for a 15-11, 10-15, 15-11 victory over No. 2 Carlos Wijaya and Sigi Badrudin of Indonesia, who were seeking their first world title since 1997.

"I don't know about Howard but I ran out of gas," Gunawan said. "I just tried to concentrate and keep going. The crowd really helped a lot that gave me more spirit, more motivation."
My Sweet Vacation from Being an Oppressed Asian American Woman

B ecause, men, women and that they are being oppressed by Asian American heritage. I have stumbled upon a racial utopia where Asian men are considered sexy in the media circuits. Asian women dance in kimonos in TV commerci­als without accoutrements cries of objectification and Tokenism. Asian American pop­ularly represented everywhere in every stratum of society!

Trot not, this is all very decep­tively easy to achieve. The only catch is that it is only possible in a place where everyone is, well, already Asian to begin with.

As I write this, I am currently in Okinawa, the southernmost island of Japan, spending time with family whom I haven’t seen in nearly over a decade. I eagerly anticipated this temporary foray out of the country as a much-needed vacation from work and school. I didn’t expect that I would also be taking a break from my Asian American identity as well.

Just as how I shed unneeded layers of clothing to accommodate the hot and humid weather, so I shed my Asian American-ness to accom­modate the sudden change in geo­graphical location. After all, it is kind of pointless to assert your Asian American-ness when nearly everyone around you is the same ethnic background anyway.

Who would have thought that having an ethnic identity could get so cumbersome sometimes?

What my extended family takes for granted on a daily basis, I eagerly soak up like an unexpected monorail, walk the city streets and go night clubbing without being self-consciously aware of the fact that I am a female racial minority in a very predominantly white society.

As I enjoy this brief freedom to be just another college-age girl without all the racial baggage of being a yellow fever fantasy, model minority and ninja assassin rolled into one, all this new perspective from abroad certainly makes me wonder. Has all the ethnic studies I’ve absorbed in college back home made me so cynical that I’ve begun to see everything and everyone solely through the untrusting lenses of racial politics?

This is not to say that I am racially self-absorbed with myself I suspect I am being objectified by every passing stranger on the street or lose sleep over being an ethnic minority every night. Like most people, I can get through the day without burning ulcers in my stom­ach over how I resent the fact that I am being oppressed by The Man.

Still, certain moments — whether it is the tingling, irritated feeling I get in my scalp every time I hear that annoying “Hajinku Girls” song or the slight unease I feel if I am the only Asian person in a class­room — ultimately remind me that a racial hierarchy indeed does exist, and I am definitely not in the majority.

People should be able to have the freedom to be just who they are — not objectified figureheads of the particular ethnic background that they happen to be. Or is it asking too much for a too much in a place like America.

What is the ultimate goal, then, in a society where people of all races and backgrounds are bumping elbows and shoving each other for a piece of the representational pie?

Should we all simply assimilate under one common culture, thus eliminating this sticky business of being racially marginalized? Or are all the collective burdens of being stereotyped and misunderstood by a predominantly non-Asian society simply the price we must pay for holding onto our cultural ties, whether it be speaking Japanese with your grandparents or eating a fresh batch of udon over rice for breakfast?

These are difficult questions that certainly have no easy answers, and will not be concretely concluded anytime in the near future.

I do know, however, that on more than one occasion I was tempted to stay in Okinawa and turn my back on all the turmoil of racial politics that was going on back home. Why not just forget all this messy business of affirmative action, interna­tional marriage, racial profiling and whatever else, and move to Japan where race isn’t such a big deal anyway?

Truth be told, it is too late to de­Americanize my Asian American upbringing. I miss my friends back home, and honestly, I kind of miss speaking English too. Late at night, after an entire day of eating, speak­ing, and breathing all things Japanese, I still feel compelled to go online on my laptop and peruse through my obligatory checklists of Asian American empowerment sites (all nicely organized under a My Favorites folder labeled “AZN”) to make sure that I’m not missing anything important.

It’s been a nice vacation from being an ethnic minority, but in the end, there is still plenty of work to get done back home.

...I WAS THE ONLY ASIAN IN THE ROOM.

Dinner, Casino Night Planned as Part of Tri-District Weekend

Tickets are still available for the 9th Annual Pacific Southwest District Awards dinner.

This year’s theme is “Evolving Change” as it honors three outstanding women: former Los Angeles Police Commissioner Rose Ochi, Dr. Mary Oda and former Villa Park Mayor Carol Kawakami.

The dinner will take place at the Irvine Marriott with 4 p.m. registra­tion and 5 p.m. dinner. Tickets are $50 per seated place and are available for a table of ten. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards district programs includ­ing youth, scholarships, leadership development and internships.

The 9th Annual Awards dinner is being sponsored by Northrop Grumman, United Parcel Service and Union Bank of California. Following the dinner, PSW will host a Casino Night with Vegas style games including blackjack, let it ride, 3 card poker, roulette and craps. This event is open to the public with advance tickets at $55 and $30 at the door. Dancers will be competing to win drawing tickets for a chance to win prizes.

“We are excited to try a different fundraising activity that reaches a broader spectrum of participants,” said Amy Kato, Casino Night chair­person. “It’s a fun way to learn table games without losing actual money.”

For more information about the Tri-District Conference, Awards Dinner or Casino Night, please contact the PSW office at 213/626-4471.

San Diego JACL Seeks Local JA Veterans to Honor

The San Diego JACL is searching for local veterans of Japanese ances­try to honor at its Nov. 5 luncheon. All San Diego area Nikkei veter­ans are urged to attend. The San Diego JACL. Information sought includes: name, address, phone and e-mail, branch of service, rank and dates served. Family members may submit this information on behalf of deceased veterans so that their names can be included in the lunc­hion program.

The first-ever event to be held at the Doubletree Hotel will include lunch, entertainment, a slide-show presentation featuring images of veterans living or deceased, and recognition of each veteran. Friends and families of the Nikkei veterans will be able to join in the recognition event.

The San Diego Nikkei veterans will be invited as special guests to a celebration of their service, regardless of branch or years served. San Diego JACL is also inviting sponsorships from individuals and corporations.

Please send veterans’ information or contributions to San Diego JACL, Attn: David Kawamoto, 1031 25th St., Suite D, San Diego, CA 92102-2102.

For additional information, please contact Robert Ito, Veterans Luncheon Chair, at (858) 560-5205 or rplato@inigard.com.

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2005 TOURS

Sept 22 America Once More - South 14 Days - 26 Meals - $3295 - By bus LA to P towon/Pass to San Francisco/Oakland - 4 nights at the Doubletree Hotel will include lunch, entertainment, a slide show presentation featuring images of veterans living or deceased, and recognition of each veteran. Friends and families of the Nikkei veterans will be able to join in the recognition event.

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Sept 22 America Once More - South 14 Days - 26 Meals - $3295 - By bus LA to P towon/Pass to San Francisco/Oakland - 4 nights at the Doubletree Hotel will include lunch, entertainment, a slide show presentation featuring images of veterans living or deceased, and recognition of each veteran. Friends and families of the Nikkei veterans will be able to join in the recognition event.

The San Diego Nikkei veterans will be invited as special guests to a celebration of their service, regardless of branch or years served. San Diego JACL is also inviting sponsorships from individuals and corporations.

Please send veterans’ information or contributions to San Diego JACL, Attn: David Kawamoto, 1031 25th St., Suite D, San Diego, CA 92102-2102.

For additional information, please contact Robert Ito, Veterans Luncheon Chair, at (858) 560-5205 or rplato@inigard.com.
Margaret Cho is willing to go there.

The half formed idea gathering dust in the back of your mind? She's already screamed it at the top of her lungs. With Cho, there is no better lip, just unashamed, some times cringing candelor.

"For me everything is fair game," said Cho. But after the world premiere of her latest show "Assassin," which debuts simultaneously on a gay television network. In the show, she unleashes her frustration on the Bush administration, pokes fun at the media fascination over the death of Osama bin Laden ("No. He's not dead yet, but he may be after this commercial break") and tries to kill you with her one good eye. Trust us, it's not pretty.

These are busy days for the comedian. She just wrapped up her "Assassin" tour in July and is planning to infiltrate our all our senses with her first feature film "Bam Bam and Celeste" and a new book: "I Have Something to Stay and Fight." She takes a moment to spend some time with the PC, so close your eyes when you read this or you'll miss it. Open your ears because the lady has something to say.

Pacific Citizen: Your shows have become more political. What ticked you off?
Margaret Cho: I don't think it was anything specific. It was a combination of things — the war in Iraq and the gay marriages in San Francisco — that were happening all at once and they were things I wanted to talk about.

PC: Besides the usual suspect — Bush and Cheney — who else made you angry?
MC: It's the new conservative lack as American attitude about dominating the world but without any kind of reason or consideration. Like how we're looking at Iraq and not thinking about human beings there, but as something we need to dominate. It's this conservative attitude that creates lazy thinking and these slogans that accuse people of being Anti-American if they're not thinking of the government is doing on your behalf. I think you need to be able to question what the government is doing on your behalf.

PC: Besides the usual suspect — Bush and Cheney — who else made you angry?
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PC: What's like what's happening in the red states?
MC: It's incredibly encouraging. They are so warm and so welcoming because it's a different kind of message from what they're getting and it was a great thing, I wanted to see what I could contribute.

PC: One of the funnest parts of 'Assassin' is when you talk about being booked for a Republican hotel owners convention. How does someone book Margaret Cho and not know what they are getting?
MC: It's really alarming. I was really glad to do it, but they could've dealt. I don't know how they didn't know. I think they looked at my work and thought, 'Oh, she won't be controversial.' Of course, that's just speculation, but that's the only thing I could think of.

PC: Are there some really personal moments too. Especially when you talk about your mom's heart attack. Is she OK?
MC: Yeah. She's OK now. That happened before the beginning of the tour. I was just very concerned about it and worried. I thought it was important to talk about it.

PC: Why do Asian moms stash money and goods in strange places?
MC: It's because they have to mediate all these different worlds. Asian moms have to juggle personal moments too. Especially when you talk about your mom's heart attack. Is she OK?
MC: Yeah. She's OK now. That happened before the beginning of the tour. I was just very concerned about it and worried. I thought it was important to talk about it.

PC: Who do you feel "the burden of representation" in having to speak for an entire race of people?
MC: It's such a weird identity. I'm not only speaking for this whole group, I have to mediate all these different worlds. Asian moms have to juggle personal moments too. Especially when you talk about your mom's heart attack. Is she OK?
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PC: Who do you look up to?
MC: I look up to a music artist, someone who I thought was so much fun and so talented. It's so fun to have another Korean American around because it's so intense and he's so like me in many ways. The film is a...
CALIFORNIA

JACL-COMMUNITY CALENDAR

East Coast
NEW HAVEN, Penn.

NEW YORK CITY
Sat., Sept. 17 and Thurs., Sept. 22—New York City Taiko Group Rehearsal and Show: 2-6 p.m.; auditions 2 p.m.; participants must attend both sessions. For information, call 712/609-7775, workshop and 20th Taiko Drums practice will be held at the New York Buddhist Church, 352 Riverside Drive. Info about the church: 212/924-6400 or www.nyworldpeaceibd.com.

Midwest
ALICE
Sun., Sept. 25—Aki Matsui 2005, 10:30-4:30 p.m.; Park Square (Louisiana) Boulevard and Seventh Street South Road NE; free admission and entertainment, youth craft projects, Japanese food, arts, crafts and demonstrations. Info: 608/339-3536, janmaia113@sbcglobal.net.

MINNEAPOLIS

INTERMOUNTAIN
FRONT RANGE
Sat., Sept. 10—10th Annual JACL Golf Tournament: 8 a.m. shotgun start; benefits internees and reception to follow. Info: Casey Folks,623/572-9913 or casyfolks@aol.com.

NORTHWEST
BELLEVUE
Sat., Sept.10—11th—Aki Matsui: Bellevue Community College Golf Course; 8 a.m. shotgun start; benefits youth scholarships and leadership development programs; $70 includes cart, prizes, awards; free lunch, and shuttle; check out the club at JACL.Org; Info: Lisa Sakata, 602/371-8452.

PORTLAND
Sat., Sept. 24—Matsutake: A Living Legacy; Tues.-Sat., 11-3 p.m.;, Dogen Nekiyama Legacy Center; 18 years of service will feature a lecture, slide show, performance and food made with the mushroom; 1-30 p.m.; Info: Karina Gillis, 503/224-1458.

SEATTLE
Sat., Oct. 1—"Celebrating 120 Seasons,"Niki Nishimura celebrates 30 years of the Seattle chapter of the Tenri Church; The West Seattle, 1900 5th Ave.; free admission, donates to the cafe and a raffle. Info: Mary Ann Amos, 360/726-6513 or muran@nikiomitobon.org.

Salt Lake City
Sat., Sept. 9—2nd Annual Gala and Auction; 5:30 p.m.; Monticello Golf Club. Info: Nicki Carlin, 602/622-7101, nici@statlinumbanion.org or www.statlinumbanion.org.

Northern California
BERKELEY
Sat., Sept. 2—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 "How to Be an Ally of the Poor"; "The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama" discusses the book with special guest, Yuri Kochiyama. Info: Banal Tashiro, special sponsor of the UC Berkeley Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific Student Development; parking available in the MIL garage. Info: Educational Books, 510/485-2500 or books@ewbb.com.

San Jose
Sat., Oct. 15—Authors Panel, Pinay Berkeley Asian American Studies and Power: Peminist Critical Theory; 2 p.m.; Asian Pacific Student Development; discusses the book with special guest, Luther King, Jr. Student" Union, UC books@ewbb.com.

San Francisco
Sat., Sept. 10—26th Annual Fairy Festival; Davis Park Golf Course; 8 a.m. shotgun start; benefits youth scholarships; $70 includes cart, prizes, awards; free lunch, and shuttle; check out the club at JACL.Org; Info: Lisa Sakata, 602/371-8452.

Central California
HANFORD
Sat., Sept. 24—"I have a dream" Southern California
IRVINE
Sat., Sept. 4—NEWSPAC/CCDCP/PWDC Tri-District Auction; Irvine Marriott, 7216 Van Buren Blvd; 602/809-2280, 7190nights; Free: 900,000 exhibitions, including the 2007 San Francisco Art, Food and Wine Festival; info: 310/998-6997, karl@newspac.com.

Kansas City
SEFTON PARK
Fri.-Sun., Sept. 16-18—The matsutake, 1:30-3 p.m. Info: Katrina Uchida, 310/642-6717 or dawang@keystrokes.net.

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Jack Herzig, "Unsung Hero', Dies at 83
By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Los Angeles — Jack Herzig, a 78-year-old retired shipyard worker, died Aug. 21 at 7200 Block of Sepulveda Blvd. in Canoga Park.

Mr. Herzig was born in Los Angeles and attended Los Angeles High School. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he saw action in the Pacific and was wounded in the Battle of Okinawa.

He went on to work for the shipyard for 42 years, where he became a union organizer.

Mr. Herzig is survived by his wife, Mary, and four children: Carol, John, Jack and Mark. He also leaves four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Aug. 31 at Marycrest Memorial Park in La Porte, Calif. Interment was private.
REMEMBRANCE
(Continued from page 1)

I heard enough in regard to Sept. 11th remembrance events. The Muslim voice should be sought out in these Sept. 11 remembrances because it was our religion that was hijacked and because I have frequently heard other people saying, "Why don't Muslims speak out?"

We want to speak out, but no one really asks us or seeks our voice.

Mohammed Khawar is president of Muslim Students Association at the University of Texas in Austin.

'I think through interactions with the "others," we will be able to normalize ourselves in their eyes.'

Nazeef Ibrahim, 26

I was removed from the society I had known my whole life. Since that point, I became viewed as a Muslim by society rather than an American. It brought many new questions to mind: how can I reconcile being Muslim in America? Are these two conflicting identities? Along with dealing this, there was a huge vacuum that needed to be filled — being representatives of Islam to America and society at large. The pressures of the personal and societal changes were very difficult to deal with. It cost me grades in school, losing contact with old friends, tough times with family etc. Personally, I started to rely heavily on prayer and spiritual based activities to give me a strong basis with which to deal with the immense pressure placed on our communities. I also relied heavily on conferences (for Muslim students) and discussion groups to build a broader understanding of what our community was going through and how to deal with it. I regularly speak at classes centered around diversity and understanding.

I do feel discriminated and targeted by the government. I have dealt with many cases of students being deported, having their rights trampled on. I myself am questioned over my major, where I travel, who my friends are, etc. I have had to justify to the government that I am not a terrorist. Muslims are not afforded the basic principle of innocent until proven guilty.

However, I am against Muslims having to constantly defend and justify themselves. We don't find Asian Americans asked to condemn actions in China; nor do we find African Americans called to condemn the actions of the Sudanese government. I think that Muslims are held to a different standard; despite the fact that we have as a global community spoken out against the aggressive stance of radical groups.

I think through interactions with the "others," we will be able to normalize ourselves in their eyes.

'We have grown to become a better nation and become more educated about religions.'

Nure Elatari, 34

I was affected indirectly [by Sept. 11] because I am an Arab-Muslim woman who is very active in the community. It was frightening to go out worry about being attacked or discriminated against.

Now I had to defend myself. Society had judged the Muslims to be guilty before proven innocent. Against my will, I became a spokesperson and a leader for something that our community was not responsible for.

Muslim Americans mourn because we as human beings have lost people in our world. It is sad to lose any human being no matter what faith or ethnicity they may be apart of. It does not change the fact that we are all human beings.

As a Muslim community lost many people in the events of Sept. 11. It is pushed aside, but we must remember and make it aware that Muslim Americans died as well. Not just people of other faiths. Death is death, it has no color or gender or ethnicity and we cannot judge whether ones life is more important then another.

I have been a part of many events in remembrance and interfaith for Sept. 11. I have done interfaith events to bring together the two faiths and the people. I have been very vocal on the Islamic faith and given speeches and talks to different organizations and schools.

More interest has been focused on Islam and what it means and what brings people to do what they do for the sake of the faith. I enjoy talking and educating those who want to know. So I see that as a positive and progress in the right direction.

I will continue to reach out to the communities needs and help out as much as possible. It is important to remember because the people who died have not died in vain. There death has brought out something bigger and better then just a mass killing. We have grown to become a better nation and become more educated about religions.

Nure Elatari is the program and media director of the Council for American Islamic Relations in Arizona.

'...we need to showcase ourselves.'

Aladdin Elaasar, 43

I was a victim of Sept. 11. I lost a job right after Sept. 11.

A coworker refused to work with me a verbally assaulted me. When I complained, the administration decided to fire me. In another occasion, a neighbor lashed out at me for parking my car near his lot.

I consider myself a mixture of Americans and Muslims, and through the media. We need to come together as a society and learn to understand the Muslims and how it has negatively impacted the lives of millions of people in the United States: Asians, Africans, Hispanic, Arabs, Muslims, citizens and non-citizens, and immigrants.

This year, I'm planning to continue to raise awareness and educate the public about these issues through the media. We need to remember and learn so mistakes will not be repeated, and also to come together as a society and learn from each other.

It's very important for the Muslim American community to participate in commemorative activities, and be out there and reach out to the mainstream American society and educate the public about at least the basic historical facts about us because there's a great deal of misinformation, bad news, misconceptions and ugly stereotypes, about this community out there.

In order to counter that, we need to showcase ourselves and tell the stories of ordinary Muslim Americans who are working hard and contributing to this society daily.


Compiled by Lynda Lin

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