

MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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BI-DISTRICT 'VALUES'

JACLers gather in Portland for the PNWDC-IDC Conference.

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Margaret Cho slays onscreen, TV with her new show 'Assassin.'

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Musician Daniel Ho, Kilauea Band play at AADAP in Little Tokyo.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



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West Oahu Ewa Beach's win gives Hawaii a first-ever Little League title.

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SEPT. 2-15, 2005

SEPT. 11 REMEMBRANCE

Voices of an Unheard Community

By MASHOOD KHAWAR
NAZEEF EBRAHIM
NURE ELATARI
ALADDIN ELAASAR
Special to the Pacific Citizen

It's been almost four years since the terrorist attacks changed Americans forever, but one community still feels the stinging effects. In their own country, they are most affected, but least heard. Here in their own words, some Americans who practice Islam talk about how the events of Sept. 11 changed their lives and how they plan to remember the tragedy.

'Every anniversary, I spend the day reflecting on how the bombings have affected me personally...'



Mashood Khawar, 21

I was directly affected by the bombings because, one, I am an American, and, two, because I am a Muslim. I was raised in this country since I was five years old. This is my culture and I consider myself an American, and just because I hap-



pen to be Muslim, does not mean that I do not love this country like any other American.

I know that Islam is a beautiful religion that is followed by millions of peaceful people around the world. The events of Sept. 11 remind me that the actions of a few people can have a great deal of influence — unfortunately in this case — a very evil influence. I know that the decisions I make as an individual are meaningful, and I can show people that my religion and my coreligionists condemn the actions of those 18 hijackers on Sept. 11.

There have been occasions, where I have heard snide remarks from customers where I used to work. But I am very fortunate to live in a city like Austin, where the community embraces all kinds of minorities, more so than anywhere

else I have lived.

Because Sept. 11th, probably affected Muslims more than any other religious or ethnic group in this country, let alone the world. It is important for Muslims to show that they are peaceful, law-abiding citizens of this country that care for this country, to dispel any wrong notions that other people have about Islam.

I have participated in moments of silence, candlelight vigils and the blood-drive our student organization hosts every year to commemorate Sept. 11. Every anniversary, I spend the day reflecting on how the bombings have affected me personally as well as how they have affected the Muslim community and the rest of the world.

I do not feel that the Muslim American Arab American voice is

See REMEMBRANCE/page 12

Zheng Fights Deportation with Love

After he spent nearly 20 years in prison, Eddy Zheng's supporters, new wife say he's paid enough for the crimes he committed at 16.

By AMY E. IKEDA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Eddy Zheng's deportation hearing took an unexpected turn when only two days prior to his July hearing, Zheng exchanged wedding vows from behind prison plexiglas walls with U.S. Citizen Shelly

Smith. As a token of their love, Zheng made Smith an origami ring.

"The timing felt perfect," said Smith in an e-mail to the Pacific Citizen. "I want to spend my life with him here in the U.S. and if we didn't get married now, there would be almost zero chance of that happening."

Although exchanging vows over a phone in divided rooms of



Eddy's family with Shelly Smith. Eddy (right) married Smith shortly before his deportation hearing.

Photo courtesy Shelley Smith

the Yuba County Jail is not the typical dream wedding, their marriage couldn't have been any timelier for Zheng's fight against deportation.

"Everyone is in the U.S., my family and friends," said Zheng in a letter to the P.C. "When I made the decision to fight against deportation I went in with the mindset that I will make a miracle happen along with my supporters. I am optimistic that I will win the case, at the same time remaining realistic."

Zheng, who immigrated on a green card at 12 in 1982 to Oakland from China, has spent 20 years in jail for a robbery-hostage crime committed at 16. He now faces

See EDDY ZHENG/page 5

COMMENTARY Redress: The Strategy

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

The Japanese American redress campaign was one of the most remarkable grassroots campaigns ever seen in this country. It was a campaign that no one imagined could have succeeded, and yet it



See TATEISHI/page 2

PNWDC-IDC BI-DISTRICT

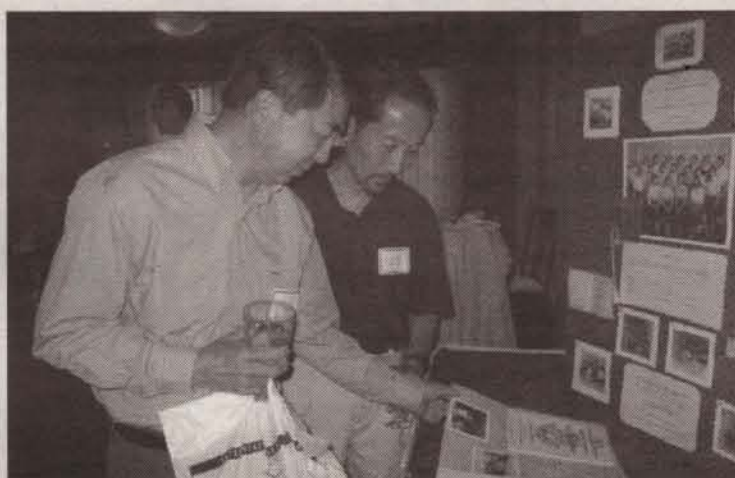


PHOTO: LYNDA LIN

MEMORIES: Don Shoji (foreground) and Duane Watari, both 55, reminisce about old times. "Back then the Japanese and Chinese socialized together a lot," said Shoji.

Baby Boomers Party On

At the Bi-District Conference, the first-ever Pacific Northwest Asian Baby Boomer Reunion was the place old friends could share life stories, memories.

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 to meet old friends at the first ever Pacific Northwest Baby Boomer Reunion held in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Bi-District Conference Aug. 18-22.

For one night Aug. 19, the hallways of a downtown Portland hotel echoed with exclamations of

See BOOMERS/page 4

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 American internees 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

See NEIWERT/page 4



PHOTO: LYNDA LIN

HAUNTING IMAGES—David Neiwert interviewed many former internees and their families living in the Pacific Northwest. He was able to break the barriers of silence with reticent survivors because he was 'neutral.'

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

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TATEISHI

(Continued from page 1)

did, and in so doing, changed history.

What made it so remarkable was that we were such an insignificant political force in the arena of American politics. Japanese Americans constituted one-half of one percent of the American population, did not represent big money, voted mostly Democrat, and apart from our Japanese American friends in the Congress, had no political clout. On top of all that, in the 1980s the U.S. was losing a savage economic trade war to Japan, giving rise to a volatile anti-Japanese sentiment throughout the United States.

By all odds, the redress campaign should not have succeeded. Any gambler would have bet on the other side.

So how did we succeed when the odds were so against us? And what was the strategy?

There were a number of factors that contributed to our success, but the basic strategy was laid out early and developed in two parts. The first was to keep the focus on the Constitution and to make this a Constitutional issue rather than an issue about the injustice committed against Japanese Americans. It was important not to make this about us, because, frankly, no one cared about us. The Constitution, after all, was the issue, and we could point out that the basic tenants of the Bill of Rights had been violated in our case. It was a powerful argument.

The second part of the strategy was developed as we moved toward the first legislative battle to seek the creation of a federal commission. Edison Uno had convinced me early that the JACL, with its network of chapters, was the only organization that could possibly carry a grassroots campaign. As I took the helm of the JACL's redress effort, my strategy was exactly that: to use the chapters across the country to educate the public in their local areas and to build coalitions in their communities for support of the issue. That was how we would win congressional votes despite our small numbers.

It was a strategy that depended on the Nisei because it was they who could best talk with true passion about their experiences during the war. It was a strategy that was derived from my experiences as a

student at UC Berkeley in the 1960s, the days of the student movement, and more specifically, the Free Speech Movement (FSM). It was during FSM that I observed that students, who normally had no power in a university setting, could gain power and truly make a difference if enough of them came together through a passionate belief in a cause.

It was the Nisei who had the passionate belief in the issue without the anger of the Sansei, and that was a critical factor in advocating the issue. What was important was to educate the public, and I knew the Nisei could best do this because they're wonderful storytellers, especially when it comes to personal experiences.

'It was the Nisei who had the passionate belief in the issue without the anger of the Sansei, and that was a critical factor in advocating the issue.'

All they needed were the facts, the tools, around which to frame the issue of the injustice, and then their personal stories and their humility would humanize and make real the constitutional issue of the campaign.

I had enlisted the assistance of Bill Yoshino, who at that time was new to the JACL as the Midwest director to work with me on the campaign. I recognized in him an insightful mind and saw that he was a great strategic thinker. It was Bill who came up with the idea of asking chapters to seek resolutions from their city councils to support the campaign.

We needed to test the machinery, he said, as a way to prepare our chapters for the political campaign that lay ahead. It was a great idea because, as it turned out, it was the critical training ground into the political arena for many of our members.

Many JACLers, personally inexperienced in the political arena, were intimidated at first but made the effort nevertheless, and one by one, we received resolutions not only from their city councils but also from their boards of supervisors. By the time we began the political campaign to seek passage of the commission bill, the first redress legislation, our members were more than ready for the fight.

As I launched the campaign from the Salt Lake City Convention, the JACL was strongly divided on the issue of reparations, reflecting the JA community's views. But two years later, President Jimmy Carter signed the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act, the result of the

JACL's campaign.

No other group in the JA community believed in the commission bill. Most were harshly critical and some in fact tried to obstruct the bill. It was the JACL membership that stood alone in advocating the com-

mission concept as they sought the support of their friends and allies in their communities. And ultimately, it was the JACL that got the commission bill passed, the critical first step in a ten-year struggle for redress. ■

Letters to the Editor

Calling All JA Korean War Vets

As a Sansei 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 battles. I am pleading to 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 JAKWV to collect wartime stories ... YOUR stories ... stories about your comrades who never came home ... stories from the mess halls to the front lines. The JAKWV 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 JA voices of its men and women who served. Together we can begin sharing.

If you cannot write, we can record your stories on tape and transcribe them. If you don't want to write about yourself, write about someone you knew 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 sshoho@fullerton.edu or 714/278-8459. You don't owe our younger generations anything, but help us preserve your legacy.

Susan Uyemura (Shoho)

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 profession and by the people for his artistry.

Many of his friends and associates in the Pacific Northwest are disappointed that the reprint article failed to mention the Japanese American Historical Plaza located in Portland, Oregon.

It is a project that Robert Murase was inspired to create after attending a Day of Remembrance event in Portland in 1979. It is a permanent memorial to the Issei pioneers; to the Japanese Americans who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S.; to the internment during WWII of people 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 remembrances to honor Robert Murase be donated to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment c/o Nobuko Masuoka, Treasurer, 5504 E. Burnside Street, Portland, OR 97215.

Henry Sakamoto

President, O.N.E.
Portland, OR

Reading Material

For decades, the book "America's Concentration Camps" by Allan Bosworth and "Nisei: 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 "Camps" and am now reading "Nisei." Both books are very well written and full of information I did not know.

If there are any others like me, turn off the TV and start reading.

Naomi Kashiwabara

San Diego, Calif.

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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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.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org. ■

Sept. 11 WTC Memorial Floating Lanterns Ceremony

When: Sun., Sept. 11, 6-9 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

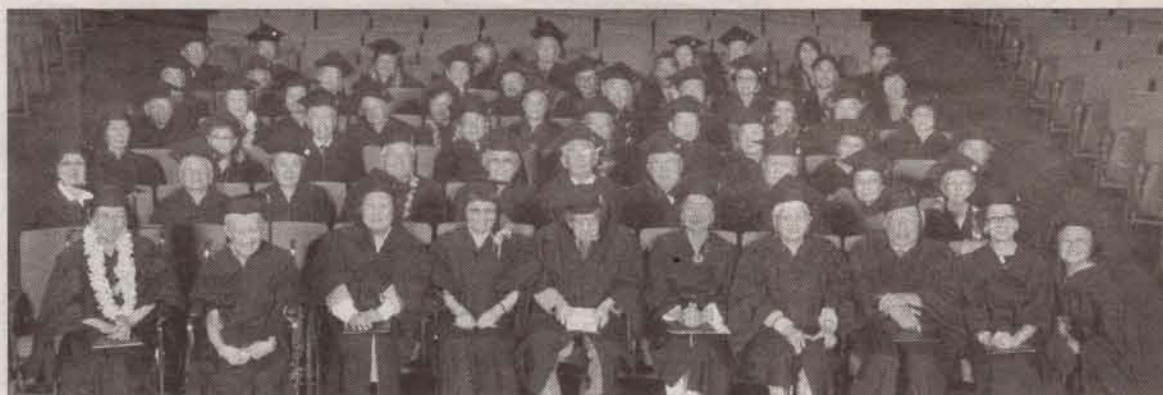


Photo courtesy of Darrell Miho & LA County Office of Education

Former Internees Get Diplomas 50 Years Late

By LAURA WIDES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES—Amid tears and their grandchildren's shouts of glee, 58 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 half a 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 ever receive their diplomas at one time.

Takashi 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 detoured 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 Aiboshi, 77, accepted her diploma while her grandson Nicolas Echevestre, 23, accepted one for Aiboshi'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 generations.

"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 experience of her great-aunt Harriet Shirakawa Ishibashi through the state's California Nisei High School Diploma project.

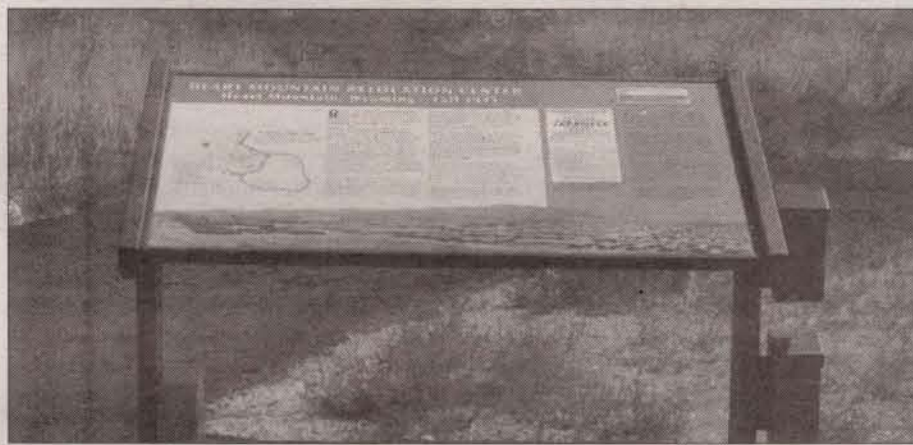
After learning about the program at her high school, Maldonado persuaded Shirakawa to get her diploma and to begin talking about the family's past. Maldonado began searching for all the Niseis forced to leave Fowler High School during the war and found 58, 14 of whom received their diplomas this year.

"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 Sacramento, said getting his diploma in June, along with the 800 graduating seniors at Elk 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 LEWERENZ
Associated Press Writer

POWELL, Wyoming—Most of the buildings are gone. Many were little more than tarpaper 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 10,700 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.

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, white 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. ■



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BOOMERS

(Continued from page 1)

"It's been years!" and "I haven't seen you in ages!"

Richard Louie, 55, grew up in the suburbs of Portland but came to Chinatown every weekend to meet with friends he affectionately referred to as "the kids."

"It was the thing you had to do. There were very few of us back then and you knew everybody and everybody knew each other's parents," he said.

"It was our generation."

But over the years, the tight knit APA Chinatown community became decentralized and its residents moved their separate ways. For Robbie Tsuboi, the only occasions to see old friends were during funerals.

"The last few years, we've been going to so many funerals with the parents and even people our age dying," said Tsuboi. "And we thought we'd better stop seeing each other at funerals where we'd go 'Oh hi. How are you?' and then we'd leave."

"I want to see these people before I die. I have a lot of good memories growing up with these people and I don't want to see them at funerals," added Tsuboi, a member of the JACL Portland chapter.

It was during a funeral that Tsuboi, 56, first came up with the idea to organize a reunion. She pitched the idea to her childhood friends, Anne Wong Cohen and Frances Lee Perkins, whom she had not seen since high school. From there, the search for old friends began.

They started a committee which met once a month and launched an outreach blitz calling familiar names in the phone book and sending mass e-mail invites.



PHOTO: LYNDIA LIN

REUNION ORGANIZERS—(l-r) Frances Lee Perkins, Anne Wong Cohen and Robbie Tsuboi.

"Anyone on our Christmas list got called," said Wong Cohen.

At the event, baby boomers from all over the United States were greeted with old photos and familiar faces. They marveled over receding hairlines, admired family photos and danced the night away.

Don Shoji and Duane Watari, both 55, thumbed through a photo album and reminisced about old times. They attended high school together and kept in touch through the years. At the reunion, they got to meet other old classmates.

"It's fun to see what our generation is doing," said Shoji.

"It's all about renewing old friendships," said Wong Cohen. "Besides I want to see how some of these people turned out!"

The reunion was also a fundraiser for the Jr. JACL or Unite People. Tsuboi said it was important to set an example for younger generations. The event raised \$2,800 from raffle ticket sales and personal donations.

"[The youth] are going to be carrying out legacy and the things that we started and what we fought for ...

and they need to know that they are going to turn out as good as us," said Tsuboi.

Rich Iwasaki, a baby boomer and Portland chapter president said it was important to have the reunion during the Bi-District Conference because many JACLers are baby boomers.

"All of us in this age bracket want to see people that they haven't seen in awhile," said Iwasaki. "Reunions are always fun."

The possibility of another baby boomer reunion is undetermined. With more help Tsuboi, Wong Cohen and Lee Perkins are musing over the possibility of having it once every five years.

At the event, Wong Cohen and Lee Perkins reunited with some members of an old Chinese dance group. When the former dancers found each other, they screamed in excitement and struck a dance pose.

"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." ■

Manzanar Guard Tower Dedication Set for Sept. 17

In the summer 1942, shortly after 10,000 Japanese Americans arrived at Manzanar War Relocation Center, the U.S. Army constructed eight 37-foot-high guard towers around the perimeter of the mile-square camp. Each tower was equipped with a search light and machine gun and staffed by Military Police.

Currently, the National Park Service (NPS) employees are reconstructing one of the towers in its historic location on the east boundary of the site.

The NPS and Friends of Manzanar will host a dedication event Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. near the guard tower.

Event activities include a reading and book signing by critically acclaimed poet Lawson Fusao Inada, a Sansei who was interned with his family, and a demonstration of traditional Japanese bookbinding by studio artist Jennifer Anderson of Hiromi Paper International.

The event is free and open to the public. Manzanar National Historic Site is located along U.S. Highway 395, six miles south of Independence, Calif., and nine

miles north of Lone Pine.

For more information on the guard tower reconstruction and programs and projects at Manzanar, visit the NPS Web site at www.nps.gov/manz or call 760/878-2194 or 760/878-2932. ■



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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 destruction of the JA community in Bellevue, Seattle.

"What drew me in initially was the story. I thought, 'You know, I'm a journalist. This is a good story. I like good stories. Especially stories that tell us how we got to where we are now,'" said Neiwert. "What made me turn it from a newspaper series to a book was the people. I felt this powerful obligation to tell these people's stories because ... once you realize the extent to which [the internees] have been wronged and the extent to which their own ability to heal have brought them back, to me that was something the rest of us had to think about."

Growing up in Idaho Falls, Neiwert, 48, was always aware of the internment, but a Seattle-based museum display of the Minidoka Camp inspired the journalist to dig deeper. What he discovered during his excavation of historical events were personal narratives that needed to be heard.

Bellevue residents didn't feel as segregated or discriminated against by their neighbors during WWII because most were farmers who tended to help each other, said Neiwert. Almost 60 percent of the Bellevue internees were involved in agriculture.

But the cultural difficulties were still as prevalent as in any other community. One former internee confessed that she had a ritual of pinching her own skin to appear "more White."

"What made those stories striking to me was what was being said about the Japanese children at the time ...

which was that they have all been indoctrinated in these Japanese schools and they were all brought up for emperor worship and that they would never be American," said Neiwert.

"They wanted nothing more than to be considered American and yet here are all these people running around and saying, 'They're not American.' You could just imagine ... how that could be heartbreaking," he added.

Neiwert, who calls the internment "a slap in the face" of JAs living in Bellevue and elsewhere at the time, worked on "Strawberry Days" steadily for 13 years.

He interviewed former internees and chatted with their family members, who would often become emotional when they talked about how their parents were wronged. Those who were usually reticent about their internment experiences opened up to Neiwert because he was "a neutral source," but the tears would flow. He collected old pre-war family photos of JA Bellevue farmers posing in never-ending stretches of farmland.

"I'm just one of those people who have a strong sense of justice," he said.

Neiwert also penned "Death on the Fourth of July," a non-fiction account of a July 4, 2000 hate crime in Ocean Shores, Washington and "In God's Country," an exploration of patriot extremist groups. He also won a National Press Club Award in 2000 for his MSNBC.com article on domestic terrorism.

What sets "Strawberry Days" apart, according to the author, is its sequential timeline of events and policies that directly led to the internment.

"I think people think of the internment as a sort of aberration," said Neiwert.

In the book, he traces 30 years of anti-Asian sentiment from the Alien Land Laws to the Yellow Peril.

"You can't describe the whole of the internment without talking about the racism," he said. "I tried to make clear to everyone how it happened as almost an inextricable series of incremental steps ... each one harmless or even logical at the time, but with each step, it took us along this path."

Neiwert sees similar steps being taken in the same direction since Sept. 11. Although the racism isn't as overt in government policies as in the past, he noted the racial attitude expressed towards Muslim and Arab Americans and war detractors is very much the same.

"Give us another terror attack or two and I'll say all bets are off," he said.

The author is also planning to issue a challenge to Michelle Malkin, author of the controversial "In Defense of Internment," whom he calls "Balkin' Malkin" in his Web blog because she allegedly keeps dodging his challenges.

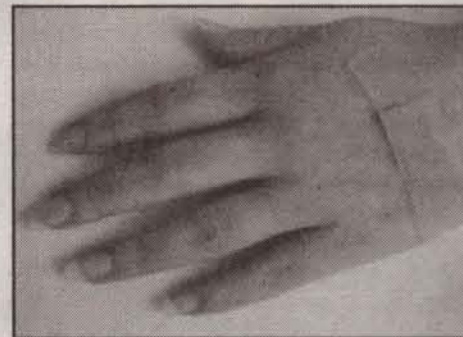
Neiwert, who said he changed "Strawberry Days" to directly address post Sept. 11 sentiment, wants to debate Malkin. He doesn't care where, when or how, so long as it isn't on a conservative radio show.

To Malkin who argues that the internment during WWII was a patriotic duty to defend the country like present day war policies, Neiwert has definite dissenting ideas.

"I think patriotism has to do with how strongly you believe in what it means to be American," he said. ■

"Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community" is available for purchase on amazon.com.

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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.

"We've had a relationship for a long time," said Smith about their relationship, which started in 1999. "I was 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 yell at 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 supporters 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 punishment 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 predominately 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 immigrant family's home at gunpoint. The teens also drove to the family's store and stole cash and merchandise, reported the *East Bay Express*. All three were arrested and Zheng pled guilty to 18 felony counts. 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 graduate college from prison by earning his Associate's Degree and continued 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 compassionate human beings. Their actions in donating their lives to make this world a better place for everyone inspired me."

Zheng circulated a petition to implement Asian American Studies into the prison system. Prison officials then searched his cell and wrote him up for passing his poems and essays to be published in a San Francisco newspaper. He was also punished by more than nine months in administrative segregation. With the help of Victor Hwang of the Asian American Bar Association, Peter Kang and other lawyers who fought adamantly for Zheng's freedom of speech, he was able to appeal his violation.

"I fought for Asian American Studies because I wanted to dispel stereotypes and racism," said Zheng. "I wanted others to learn about Asian culture and history as we learn theirs."

Zheng focused much of his energy on making a difference with at-risk youth. He took public speaking courses to participate in crime prevention programs for teens visiting the prison. He also created a curriculum for at-risk immigrant teens that is used by San Francisco's Chinatown Community Development Center.

Tri-Valley JACL Scholarship Winners



The Tri-Valley JACL chapter awarded scholarships to three high school students at their annual awards luncheon recognizing them for their scholastic and extracurricular achievements. This year, all three recipients are graduates of San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif. The winners are (l-r): Frederick Matsuda, who will be attending UC Berkeley; Elysse Yoshizuka, who will be attending Cal State Long Beach; and Ryan Suzuki, who will be attending UC Irvine. ■

"I worked with at-risk youth because I'd experienced the consequences of my destructive actions," said Zheng. "At the same time I was able to rehabilitate myself despite growing up in an oppressive and negative environment."

Zheng has several job offers in the U.S. to work with at-risk youths. He wants to go on speaking tours to share his experience. He also wants to go back to college to further his education and one day write a book about his life's lessons.

But his future is still undetermined.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement did comment about the

case.

"I think that we will be able to convince the immigration judge that Eddy deserves a waiver to avoid deportation," said Nightingale.

"I've learned that the more I suffer the stronger I become, that's the mantra of life, said Zheng. "The ability 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." ■

For more information about Eddy Zheng, visit: www.eddyzheng.com.

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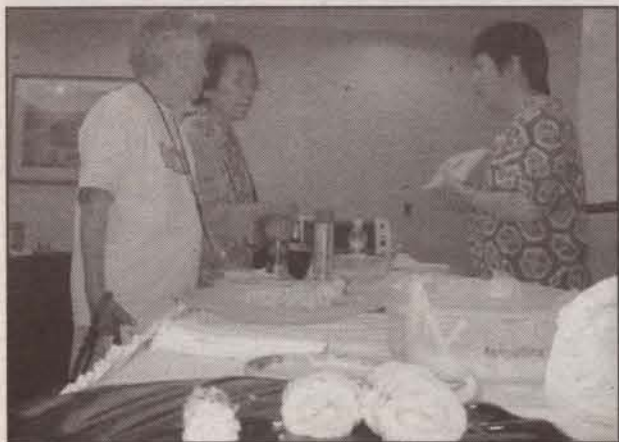
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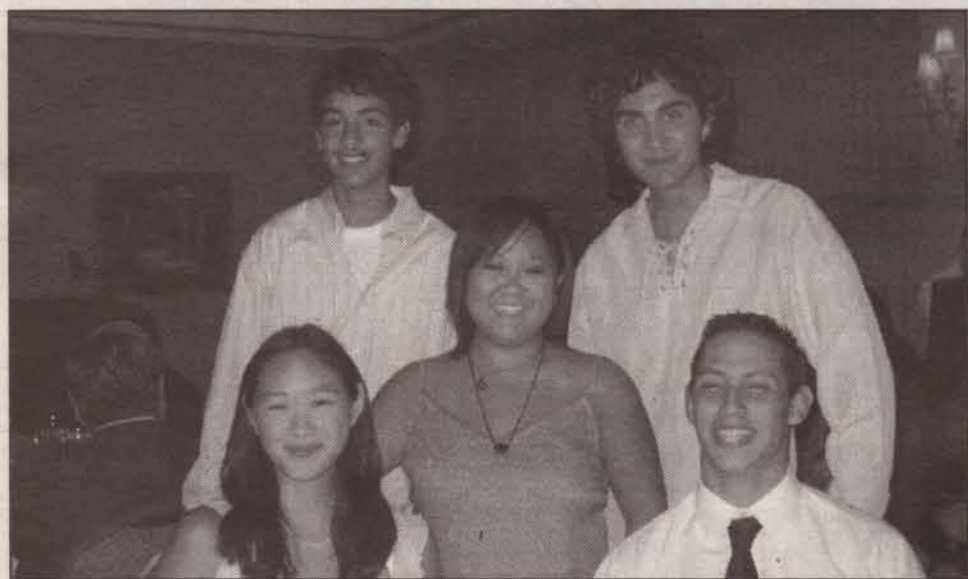
Attendees learned to make healthy sushi.



Alice Sumida



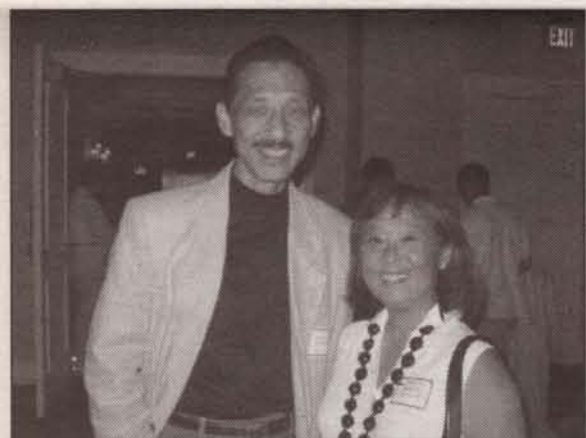
HONOREE: Former JACL National President Jim Tsujimura (with wife Lolita Sakamoto Tsujimura) was recognized with the JACL Distinguished Service Award.



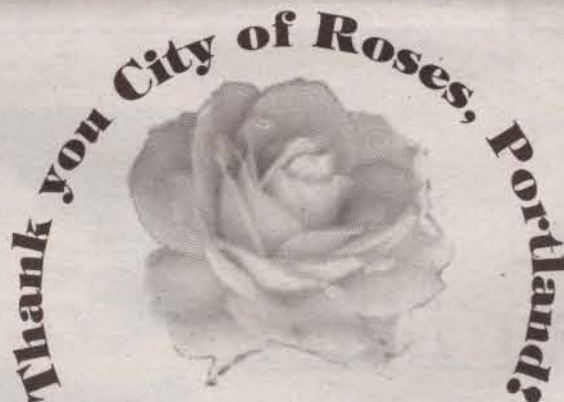
YOUNG LEADERS: (back, l-r) Adam Sandoval, Marc Stillman, (front, l-r) Mari Tanaka, Lindsay Yonetani and Tori Tadehara at the awards banquet.



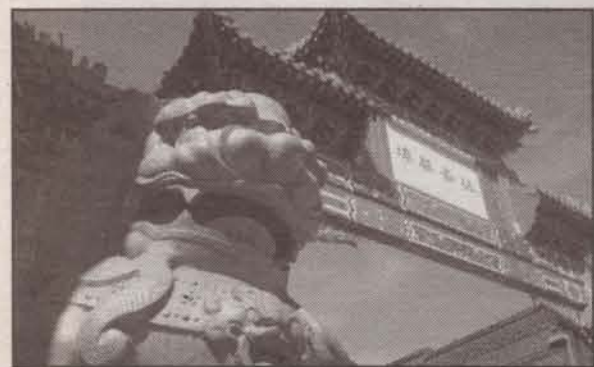
Community leaders talked about effective methods of coalition building. (l-r) Oregon Commissioner on Asian Affairs Jim Hanna, Joy Shigaki, Seattle JACLER and Wing Luke Asian Museum capital campaign manager and Wajdi Said, executive director of Muslim Educational Trust.



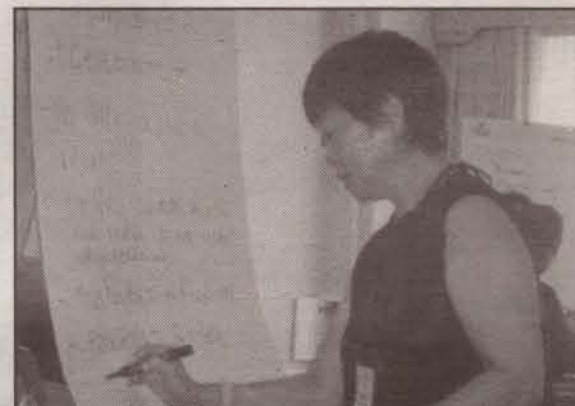
FAMILY TIES: Portland JACL Chapter Pres. Rich Iwasaki grew up in 'the sticks' of Hillsboro. At the Baby Boomer Reunion, he caught up with his 'city cousin' Marilyn (Mizote) Sholian.



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



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 accomplishment.



(l-r) Robbie Tsuboi, Linda Tanaka and Linda Tamura model a clothing line from Sachiko Collection.



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MOZART'S MUSICAL CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR.....MAY 17-27
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR.....JUNE 26-JULY 5
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE.....JULY
BOY SCOUT JAPAN JAMBOREE TOUR.....AUGUST
JAPAN AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR.....OCTOBER
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR.....NOVEMBER
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LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES Memea's Homer Completes Comeback, Lifts Hawaii to Title

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.—Michael Memea got some encouraging words from his manager just before he came to the plate with the Little League World Series title game tied in extra innings. "You know what? You are due for one," Hawaii manager Layton Aliviado told Memea, hitless in three at-bats.

Aliviado's words proved prophetic. Memea lined a pitch over the center-field wall in the bottom of the seventh inning to give West Oahu of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, a 7-6 win over defending champion Willemstad, Curacao, Aug. 28—the first game-ending home run in a Little League finale.

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

After the homer, Memea rounded third with his right hand held high and he barreled toward jubilant teammates waiting for him at home plate. Later, he 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," Aliviado said with the winner's plaque sitting on his lap. "I just jumped for joy." Aliviado planned to give his team



Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles third baseman Rudmichaell Brandao, 13, watches as Ewa Beach, Hawaii's Michael Memea heads home after hitting a walk-off game winning solo homer in the seventh inning of the Little League World Series Championship game. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

some time to unwind before the flight back to Hawaii the day after the game. West Oahu became the first team from Hawaii to win a Little League World Series title. And it took a stunning comeback

from a three-run deficit to tie it in the bottom of the sixth to set up the dramatic ending. Before the rally sent it to extra innings, for just the second time, Aliviado said he told his team: "If you guys want it, let's go get it."

With runners on second and third and no outs and Hawaii trailing 6-3, Vonn Fe'ao scored from third on a bunt base hit by Ty Tirpak. Zachary Rosete then hit an RBI single to left close it to 6-5.

Three batters and one out later, Alaka'i Aglipay hit a bouncer to second that looked as if it would be an easy double play, but he beat out the throw to first, allowing Rosete to score the tying run.

"We didn't expect them to come back like that in the sixth," Curacao manager Vernon Isabella said through an interpreter.

Hawaii's runs in the sixth and seventh innings came off reliever Christopher Garia, who was entering his fourth inning of work when Memea came to bat in the

seventh. "I knew he was tired, but I asked him to go the extra mile," Isabella said. "I didn't notice any flaws in his mechanics and the extra time in between innings did not hurt us." ■

HOCKEY Japanese Goalie Signs Deal with Kings

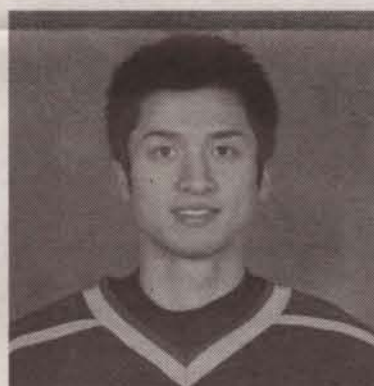
Yutaka Fukufuji's NHL dream is coming closer to reality. The Japanese goaltender signed a two-year contract with the Los Angeles Kings this earlier this month and will attend rookie camp next month.

If the 22-year-old doesn't make it with the Kings, he'll likely be assigned to LA's AHL farm team, the Manchester Monarchs.

"My goal is to play in the NHL," Fukufuji said at news conference. "I know it will be tough but I'm ready for rookie camp and I'm looking forward to taking on my rivals."

The six-foot-one, 170-pound Fukufuji was selected by the Kings 238th overall in the 2004 NHL draft. He played for the Bakersfield Condors in 2004-05 and posted 27 wins, with three shutouts and a 2.48 goals-against average while helping the team to the East Coast Hockey League playoffs.

While some have likened Fukufuji to baseball's Hideo Nomo



or soccer's Hidetoshi Nakata, the soft-spoken goaltender says he's got other things on his mind than being a pioneer.

"I'm not thinking about becoming the first Japanese player in the NHL," Fukufuji said. "Sure, if it happens, I'll be happy but right now I've got a lot of work ahead of me."

Fukufuji made his pro debut in North America on Feb. 7, 2003, with the Cincinnati Cyclones of the ECHL. He won four games and lost

three, and had a 3.13 GAA.

Fukufuji began playing hockey at the age of nine. He preferred it over the other sports in which he was involved. It wasn't until he was 11 that he switched to playing goal when asked by his coach.

Other than the prospect of stopping a Mario Lemieux slap shot, Fukufuji says his biggest challenge will be mastering English.

"I can't speak English very well but I'm working on it," said Fukufuji, who watches reruns of "Seinfeld" to practise his English.

The Kings open training camp Sept. 14. Goaltenders Mathieu Garon and Jason Labarbera are expected to compete for the starting job. ■

BADMINTON Gunawan, Bach Win United States' First World Badminton Title

Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach won the United States' first world 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 Candra Wijaya and Sigit Budiarto 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." ■

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My Sweet Vacation from Being an Oppressed Asian American Woman

Behold, men, women and children of Asian American heritage: I have stumbled upon a racial utopia where Asian men are considered sexy in the media circuits, Asian women can dance in kimonos in TV commercials without accusatory cries of objectification and heck, Asian people are just represented everywhere in every stratum of society!

Trust me, 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 upbringing 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 an everyday basis, I eagerly soak up like an unexpected novelty: the ability to ride the

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA



Yumi Sakugawa

monorails, 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 so 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 "Harajuku Girls" song or the slight unease I feel if I am the only Asian person in a classroom setting — bluntly 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 that asking for 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 *nattou* 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, interracial 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 de-Americanize 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 plow through my obligatory checklist of Asian American empowerment Web 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. ■

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 contact 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 luncheon 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 C-chair, at (858) 560-5205 or rpito@itogirard.com. ■

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 "Effecting Change" as it honors three outstanding women: former Los Angeles Police Commissioner Rose Ochi, Dr. Mary Oda and former Villa Park Mayor Carol Kawanami.

The dinner will take place at the Irvine Marriott with 4 p.m. registration and 5 p.m. dinner. Tickets are \$100 per seat and \$1,000 for a table of ten. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards district programs including youth, 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 \$25 and \$30 at the door. Players will be competing to win drawing tickets for a chance to win prizes.

"We're 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."

The National JACL Credit Union, Pacific Southwest District, Inouye Shively & Longtin CPA, Tatsumi and Partners, Hiroshi and Georgia Ueha and Ted and Michelle Namba are some of the table sponsors. Table sponsorships are still available.

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



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- Oct 10** Hokkaido & Tohoku "Fall Foliage" ALMOST SOLD OUT
- Oct 17** - Uraihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days -25 Meals - \$3595 Tokyo, Sado Island, Toyama, Kanazawa, Fukui, Amanohashidate Kinosaki, Tottori, Matsue, Izumo, Daizen & Kyoto. ALMOST SOLD OUT
- Oct 31** Fall Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" 11 Days - 24 Meals - \$3295 Tokyo, Takayama, Nara, Kobe, Takahashi, Miyajima, Hiroshima Inland Sea Cruise, Shodo Island & Kyoto. ALMOST SOLD OUT
- Nov 10** - Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku - 12 Days -28 Meals - \$3695 - 3 Days Okinawa, Nagasaki-Unzen-Kumamoto-Miyazaki-Saiki, Kyushu - Ashizuri-Kochi-Takamatsu, Shikoku & Osaka.

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November — Fall Japan Classic - Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku

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- Oct. 15** Onsen of Hokuriku plus Seoul & Taipei
- Nov. 3** Southern Japan - Okinawa & Kyushu
- Nov. 30** The Best of South America - "Brazil, Iguassu, Argentina & Chile"
- Dec. 6** Holiday Season in San Antonio
- 2006** (Partial listing of trips to come)
- Jan. 14** Discover New Zealand
- Feb. 7** Panama Canal Cruise plus Costa Rica & Caribbean on Crystal Symphony
- Mar. 30** Japan - Cherry Blossoms & Fuji-san
- Apr. 13** China - Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River Cruise, Shanghai & Hong Kong
- May** Japan - Along the Japan Sea
- June** Canadian Capitals - Montreal, Toronto, Quebec & Ottawa plus Niagara Falls
- July 5** Alaska Cruise and Land Tour on Coral Princess
- July 17** Japan - Highlights of Japan
- Aug. 11** Treasures of the Rhine River
- Sept. 4** Istanbul to Athens on Radisson Seven Seas Navigator
- Oct. 5** New England - Fall Foliage
- Dec.** Egypt - Land of the Pharaohs (Including Nile River Cruise)
- Note:** Japan Tours in September, October and November

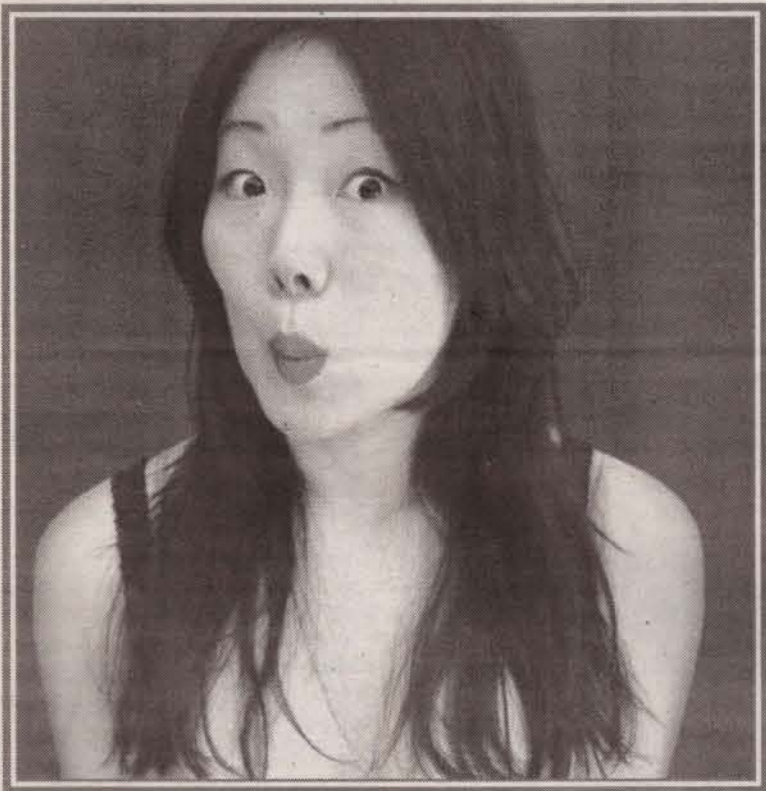


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Q&A



Margaret Cho

The lady is an assassin



'She's so cute. I wish I could be like her. I want to be so delicate and less scary ... I'm so scary!'
— on actress Zhang Ziyi

By LYNDALIN Assistant Editor

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 bitten lower lip, just unabashed, some times cringing candor.

"For me everything is fair game," said Cho the morning 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 the pope ("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 comedienne. She just wrapped up her "Assassin" show 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 Chosen to Stay and Fight." She takes a moment to spend some time with the P.C., so close your eyes when you read this if you offend easily, but 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 kick ass 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 question the government. I think you need to be able to question what the government is doing on your behalf. It's that type of mentality ... that's like [a] jock itch.

PC: What's it like performing in the red states?

MC: It's incredibly encouraging. They are so warm and receptive because it's a different kind message from what they're getting and it was a great thing. I wanted to see what I could contribute.

PC: One of the funniest 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 couldn't deal. I don't know how they didn't know. I think they looked at my race 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: There are 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: I think it's because they have to mediate all these different worlds. Asian moms have to juggle their female identity, American society and family. They are switchboard operators trying to make a connection and it's very hard.

PC: 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 live for this entire race and be the voice of this underrepresented group looking for representation. It's very strange and I try not think about it. That's how I deal with it.

PC: Who do you look up to?

MC: I look up to my mother. I look up to any immigrant who survives — my parents came here in the 60s and I really admire them doing something so brave. Looking beyond that, Sandra Oh, she's a great actress. I love BD Wong ... Lucy Liu who I also love. But there have been so few! We get one every five years!

PC: You star with one in 'Bam Bam and Celeste' — someone who shares your last name.

MC: [John Cho's] 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

... love story about a couple of misfit kids who leave hometown to go to New York to be on a reality TV show. It mirrors my life a little. It would be what my life would be like if I hadn't left home. I play my mother and myself very much.

PC: What's difficult about being in your first fiction movie?

MC: It was a collaborative effort, which was difficult. I had to learn how to create a vision with others, so that was an interesting thing. I love the film. And there's always the [difficulties] of financing because it's not mainstream family film. It's so hard to Asian American film, but it's not hard at all to make an Asian film. I don't know why that is. There's this love for Jackie Chan, but take the kung fu out ... I can't figure it out.

PC: Do you have political aspirations?

MC: I don't know. Not right now. It's not one of my priorities right now. ■



'Assassin'

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NEW YORK
Long Island, Cinema Arts
Centre, 423 Park Ave., Huntington

Quad Cinema
34 West 13th St.

TEXAS
32 Highland Park Village
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JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

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 6kalani4@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 Sept. 30. Tickets/Info: Lil Grothe, 612/727-3542.

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.

PORTLAND

Sept. 18-Nov. 1—Matsutake: A Living Legacy; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center; Sept. 18 opening will feature a lecture, shigin performance and food made with the matsutake, 1:30-3 p.m. Info: Katrina Gilkey, 503/224-1458.

SEATTLE

Sat., Oct. 1—"Celebrating 120 Seasons," Nikkei Concerns celebrates 30 years of enriching the lives of seniors; The Westin Seattle, 1900 5th Ave.; featuring live and silent auctions and a raffle. Info: Mary Ann Arnone, 206/726-6523 or mamone@nikkeiconcerns.org.

Sat., Oct. 8—Mavin Foundation's 3rd Annual Gala and Auction; 5:30 p.m.; McCaw Hall at the Seattle Center. Info: Nicki Carrillo, 206/622-7101, nicki@mavinfoundation.org or www.mavinfoundation.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.

Sat., Oct. 15—Authors Panel, Pinay Power: Feminist Critical Theory; 2 p.m.;



Daniel Ho will perform with Kilauea at AADAP's Showtime 2005 benefit concert, "Changing Lives and Saving Families," Sept. 22 at the George and Sakaye Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo.

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., 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.

Central California

HANFORD

Sept. 6-Dec. 3—Woman as Art / Woman as Artist: Two Sides to the Female Figure in Later Japanese Painting; Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth Ave.; \$5/adults, \$3/students, members and children under 12 are free. Info: www.shermanleeinstitute.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.

HeHer Lounge located in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union, UC Berkeley; a Feminist authors panel discussing the Filipina/American experience; co-sponsored by the UC Berkeley Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific Student Development and Eastwind Books. Info: Janet Duong, 510/642-6717 or duong@berkeley.edu.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

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

Mon., Sept. 19—Seminar, Understanding Arthritis and an Update on Arthritis Medication Safety; 2-3:30 p.m.; Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St.; parking available at Japan Center Garage; Brian R. Kaye, M.D., F.A.C.P. is the featured speaker; free, Japanese translation will be provided; sponsored by Pfizer, Inc., Assessing Care of Vulnerable Elders and Kimochi. RSVP: 415/931-2294.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Sept. 24—"It happened in Santa Clara County ... Exploring the Historical and Ongoing Impact of the

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19. Info: PSW Regional Office, 213/626-4471 or www.jaclpsw.org/tri-district2005.htm.

LOS ANGELES

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

Thurs., Sept. 29—"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.; 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.

Sept. 17-Oct. 2—2005 World Festival of Sacred Music; the largest citywide Festival in Los Angeles offering forty-five events over sixteen days in venues across Los Angeles; most performances are free, but ticketed performances are available through each venue box office. Info and schedule: www.festivalofsacredmusic.org, 310/825-0507 or info@festivalofsacredmusic.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.

Thurs., Sept. 29—35 Years of Asian Pacific Film and Video; 8:30 p.m.; Ford Amphitheatre; Visual Communications's 35th Anniversary celebration pairs groundbreaking moving images of Asian Pacific America with live performances, climaxing with the VC Digital Slam. Tickets, 323/461-3673 or www.fordamphitheatre.org, \$15/general admission, \$12/students and VC members. Info: 213/624-2188 or www.vconline.org.

SANTA BARBARA

Sat., Oct. 8—3rd Annual Santa Barbara JACL Golf Tournament; Glen Annie Golf Club. Info and reservations: Wade, 805/448-9912.

VENICE

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

Sat., Sept. 24—Las Vegas JACL Friendship Picnic; 11-5 p.m.; Floyd Lamb State Park; potluck with hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks provided; parking \$6. Info: Marie Hollingsworth, 702/658-8806.

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

Mon.-Wed., Oct. 3-5—Heart Mountain IX Reunion; Riviera Hotel and Casino. Info: Bacon Sakatani, baconsakat@aol.com.

PHOENIX

Sat., Sept. 24—Golf Tournament, hosted by the Asian Chamber of Commerce to benefit ASU Asian Pacific American Studies Program; 8 a.m. start, scramble format; Biltmore Country Club; \$100/player; sponsorship levels available. Info: Ted Namba, caseyfolks@aol.com, 623/572-9913 or Lisa Sakata, asiansun@aol.com, 602/371-8452. ■

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IN MEMORIAM

Educator, Community Leader Dies of Liver Cancer

Longtime educator and community leader George Kiriya died in his Torrance home of liver cancer. He was 74.

After three decades as a teacher and administrator, Kiriya served on the Los Angeles Unified School Board in 1995 representing the South Bay and Harbor Area. He was hand-picked by popular trustee Warren Furutani to be his successor, but was unseated four years later.

As an administrator, he was credited for helping to restore music and arts programs in the district's elementary schools, opening the Wilmington Skills Center and many other achievements. As a teacher at Pasteur Junior High School, Kiriya started a multicultural pilot course called "American Intercultural Heritage."

With Go For Broke, he led teacher-training sessions on integrat-

ing JA history into the classroom.

During World War II, he was held at Manzanar and Tule Lake internment camps, but returned to Los Angeles — where he was born in 1931 — and graduated from University High School in 1950. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

He earned a bachelor's degree in U.S. history from UCLA, a teaching credential from USC and a master's degree in school administration from Pepperdine University.

Kiriya was a founder and past president of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California and was the advisory council chairman for Coastal Asian Pacific Mental Health Services for 18 years. He also served on the board of the East West Playhouse.

Kiriya is survived by his wife Ikuko, four children, William, Bob, George and Traci; three brothers, Taketo, Steve and Yukio; sister Haru Ikkanda; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Aug. 24 at Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. ■



Jack Herzig, 'Unsung Hero', Dies at 83

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Jack Herzig, a lawyer who with his wife found documents that helped gain redress from the United States for the World War II internment of Japanese Americans, has died. He was 83.

He died Aug. 21 at his Gardena, Calif., home from colon cancer, said his son-in-law Warren Furutani.

Jack believed words like "relocation" and "internment" did not cover up the imprisonment factor, said Terry Shima executive director of the Japanese American Veterans' Association.

In the 1980s, Jack, a WWII veteran and his wife spent many hours researching in the National Archives. Aiko worked on the Commission on Wartime Relocation during the day and researched alongside Jack after work, added Shima.

Jack and Aiko discovered documents in the National Archives and other repositories that refuted the government's claim that the evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans were justified on the basis of military necessity.

They found documents that

proved government prosecutors suppressed, altered and destroyed evidence during its prosecution of Fred Y. Korematsu. The documents enabled a team of largely Asian American attorneys to file a petition for a writ of *coram nobis*, a rarely used legal strategy to overturn convictions after new evidence is discovered.

"I will remember Jack as a teacher who taught me to be a Japanese American again," said Grant Ichikawa, Jack's close friend of ten years. "Talking to Jack over the years made me realize the time and effort he put into research, appearing before committees, appearing before Congress [and] defending Japanese Americans."

Dale Minami, who helped form the legal team to exonerate Korematsu, called Jack an unsung hero.

Herzig is survived by his wife, daughters Gerrie Lani Miyazaki and Lisa Abe-Furutani, and sons David Abe and Tommy Herzig. ■

Funeral services were held Aug. 27 at Green Hills Memorial Park in Palos Verdes, Calif.

Professor of Japanese Studies Dies at 84

By Pacific Citizen Staff

UC Berkeley professor emeritus and pioneer of post-war Japanese studies in the U.S. Donald Howard Shively died Aug. 13. He was 84.

Shively died from complications of Shy-Drager syndrome at a nursing home near his home in Berkeley.

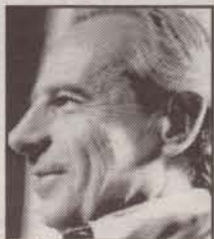
He was an authority on kabuki drama and the Tokugawa period of Japan. He taught at many universities including UC Berkeley where he

served as chair for the university's Center for Japanese Studies from 1958-60 and later director of the East Asian Library. He retired in 1992.

Shively was born in Kyoto, Japan in 1921. He was Harvard educated and served as a Japanese language officer in the Marine Corps during World War II, where he later rose to the rank of major and received the Bronze Star Medal.

In 1982, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government.

Shively is survived by his wife, Mary Elizabeth Berry, two sons Kent and Evan, two daughters, Anne and Catherine, two sisters and three grandchildren. ■



All the towns are in California except as noted.

Ichinotsubo, Shigeru, 94, Lawndale, Aug. 6; survived by sons, Ronald (Cheryl) and Howard; daughter, Mildred Ichinotsubo; 2 gc.; and sister-in-law, Miyo Ichino.

Ikehara, George Seigo, 71, Covina, Aug. 3; survived by wife, Kazuko; daughters, Nancy Ikehara and Janet (Victor) Saucedo; 3 gc.; brother, Jim (Hideko) Ikehara; and sisters, Asako Miyagi and Eiko (Danny) Sanders.

Imoriya, Yoshio "Terry," 48, Aliso Viejo, Aug. 5; survived by wife, Naomi.

Iseri, Yukio, 68, Westminster, Aug. 7; survived by wife, Yoshimi; daughter, Naomi (Sean Comer) Iseri; stepson, Raymond Cheng; sisters, Tazuka Koyama and Michi Uchino; and brother, Teruo (Nobue) Iseri.

Kamigaki, Bessie Emiko, 67, Aug. 7; survived by husband, Albert; daughters, Sheri (Steve) and Cindy (Kevin); 4 gc.; sisters, Yuriko Kamigaki, Bernice Yoshida, and Helen (Edwin) Nagata; and brothers, Kenneth (Sumiko), Harry (Linda) and Glen.

Kanetomo, Grace M., 86, Santa Barbara, Aug. 15; survived by sons, Gary, Frank, Ken and Allen Kuroda.

Kato, Maryko Mari, 84, Fountain Valley, Aug. 14; survived by sons, Steven, Michael (Boyoung) and Duane; daughter, Jeanne (Nelson) Goodness; 3 gc.; sister, Tadako (Iwao) Aoki; and brother-in-law, Isamu Hazama.

Kawashiri, Kiyoshi, 72, Gardena,

Aug. 1; survived by brothers, Shigeru (Lilly) and Yu (Patty) Kawashiri; and sisters, Hideko Shono, Setsuko (Bob) Speck, Yuri Omatsu and Chiyo (Eddy) Endo.

Matsumoto, Victoria, 51, Aug. 3; survived by sister, Kathryn.

Miyahara, Hideo, 79, Monterey Park, Aug. 3; U.S. Army veteran; survived by daughters, Sharon Miyahara and Kim (Earl) Takemura; and 4 gc.

Noda, Tamotsu Tom, 81, Sun Valley, Aug. 9; survived by wife, Aiko; sisters, Mitsue Oyama, Yasuko Nagata and Haruko Asari; and sisters-in-law, Tomiko Noda, Masako Hoshino and Yoko (Takahiko) Morita.

Oda, Daron Tatsuro, 38, Winnetka, Aug. 6; survived by his wife, Yvonne; son, Devon; parents, Kay and Nancy; and brother, Jon (Monique).

Ota, Madeline Iyoko, 62, Los Angeles, Aug. 4; survived by mother, Mabel; and sister, Candice (Gary) Funakoshi.

Suehiro, Mitsuo, 91, La Palma, July 29; survived by wife, Kinuko; brother, Isamu; sisters-in-law, Toki and Peggy Suehiro.

Tanimura, Mary, 83, Los Angeles, Aug. 1; survived by son, Jimmy (Susan); daughter, Yumiko Fujimoto; 4 gc.; and sisters, Chiyoko Morita and Nellie Yoshioka.

Tsuehijama, George Shoji, 80, Monterey Park, Aug. 9; survived by wife, Sumiko; sons, Roy (Barbara) and Brian; 2 gc.; sisters, Kazumi Uyechi and Toshiko (Tetsuo) Nakamura; brothers-in-law, Takeo (Doris) Kato and Mitsuo

(Kiyoko) Kato; and sisters-in-law, Toshiko (Ben) Uyemura and Masako Matoi.

Uchida, David Yoshito, 84, West Los Angeles, Aug. 10; survived by wife, Mary; son, David (Lana); daughter, Janet Aston; 2 gc.; sisters, Mary Kinō and Sumi Takeno; brothers, Leo (Florence) and George (Frances) Uchida; and brother-in-law, Jimmy Fukuhara.

Yamakawa, George Hiroshi, 86, Westminster, Aug. 1; survived by wife, Yoshiko; son, Mikio (Kathy); daughters, Setsuko (Hidetaka) Noguchi, Kyoko (Jim) Arakawa and Yoko Yamakawa; 7 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Yamamoto, Masako, 90, Spokane, Aug. 4; survived by daughters, Karen Yamamoto, Shari Kiriha, Lynn Snider, Suzi Anderson and Jean Tsutakawa; and 7 gc. ■

DEATH NOTICE

JOHN "JACK" HERZIG

GARDENA, Calif. — John "Jack" Herzig, 83, passed away Aug. 21 at his residence. Beloved husband of Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig; loving father of Gerrie Miyazaki, Lisa Abe (Warren) Furutani, David Abe, and Thomas (Kathy) Herzig; grandfather of Laurence Toshiro Moore, Sei and Joey Furutani, Lea Mariko, Kimberly Tamiko and David Tadashi Abe; he is also survived by many other relatives. Memorial services were held Aug. 27 at Green Hills Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to your organization of choice. Fukui Mortuary Directors, 213/626-0441.

DEATH NOTICE

WALTER MASAO KURIHARA

DINUBA, Calif. — Walter Masao Kurihara, 78, passed away July 31 following a major vascular surgery at Stanford University Medical Center and the Palo Alto-Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center for four months. Born in Tulare, he lived in Orosi/Dinuba for 68 years. He graduated from Orosi Union High School and served in the U.S. Army for two years in Sendai, Japan with the Engineering Corps. Walter farmed with his brothers, Don, John, and nephew Pat in establishing the Kay Bee Farms for 58 years. Surviving him are sisters, Marie, Velma Kurihara and Betty Ozawa, all of San Francisco; nephews, Patrick of Orosi and Rick of La Canada; and nieces, Ellen Laines of Fresno and Sydney Furtado of Orinda. His brothers, Don and John preceded him in death. A memorial service will be held Sat., Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Palm United Methodist Church in Dinuba.

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DEATH NOTICE

TATSUYA "TATS" NAKAE

EL CERRITO, Calif. — Born June 25, 1927 in Newcastle, Tatsuya "Tats" Nakae, 78, passed away July 21 due to complications from lung cancer. He is survived by wife, Masako; sons, Jeff of El Cerrito and Les (Maryann Scott) of Danville; daughter, Marta (Larry) Schmidlin; granddaughter, Kayla of Oakland; brothers, Howard of Newcastle and Taky of Winnetka; sisters, Chiyo Kakehashi of Gardena and Miyo Uratsu of Richmond and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held Sept. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Berkeley United Methodist Church, 1710 Carleton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to "Standing Guard" project, Sierra College, 5000 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin, CA 95677; Alta Bates Cardiac Rehab Center, 3030 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705 or a personal charity of choice.

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REMEMBRANCE

(Continued from page 1)

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.

Mashood 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 Ebrahim, 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, 24

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 spokeswoman 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.

We 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 than 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 my self a mixture of both worlds and cultures. I'm so comfortable in my skin, being bicultural and bilingual. I consider it a privilege. I encourage people to learn more about other cultures. In my career, I used that: I'm a bilingual teacher, translator and a published author in both English and Arabic.

I wrote articles that were syndicated across the U.S. and overseas in addition to a book about the

impact of Sept. 11 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. ■

Aladdin Elaasar's book, "Silent Victims: The Plight of Arab & Muslim Americans in Post 9/11 America" can be purchased at www.authorhouse.com.

Compiled by Lynda Lin



Agree?
Disagree?
Opinions?

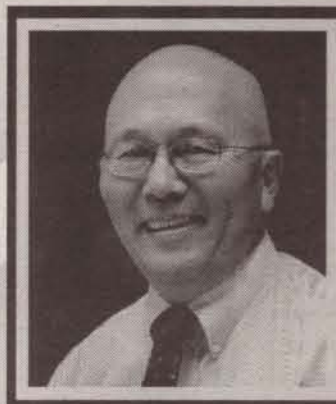
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