

ICON HONORED

Fred Korematsu has Davis school named in his honor.

PAGE 3



CAMP PROTECTION

Groups work to protect Topaz and Minidoka internment camps.

PAGE 5

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Check out the P.C.'s new Web site! — COMING MID-OCTOBER



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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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OCT. 7-20, 2005

Halloween-themed Web site Brings Back Memories of 'Kung Fool'

APAs say Halloween may be a time for fun and fantasy but some costumes that parody ethnic groups are definitely offensive.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

When it comes to Halloween costumes a quick perusal of the Internet provides an endless array of choices whether you dream of being Batman, Princess Leia, Harry Potter or the ever-popular witch or devil characters. But when it comes to dressing up as a specific ethnic character, what are the boundaries and when does fun turn into racism?

A few years ago the Asian Pacific American community was dismayed when Disguise, Inc. distributed its "Kung Fool" costume with buck teeth, slanted eyes, and a headband with the Chinese character for



The geisha and samurai costumes (left) found on Halloweenmart.com's Web site are accompanied by phrases like: "Ready to serve her master" and "The Oriental Geisha Princess always beautiful and silent."

"loser." This year it's Halloweenmart.com and its array of geisha and samurai costumes with accompanying phrases like: "Did someone call for Sushi?" "Ready to serve her master," and "The Oriental Geisha Princess always beautiful and silent."

"Halloween is all in good fun.

These days it can be all about being tasteless, too. There is tasteless and there is racist. A distinction exists," said Gail Price, an Asian woman who was offended by Halloweenmart.com's Asian-themed costumes after doing a Google search. "Have you noticed

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JACL Strives to 'Strike a Balance' with Budget

The national board narrowly adopts a third quarter budget with a slight surplus.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—JACL moves into the third quarter with a slight surplus of \$14,375, said the national board during its Sept. 23-25 meeting.

The news came as a welcome relief from deficit predictions, but keeping the budget from falling into a dangerous shortfall is what JACL National Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kobayashi calls "a delicate balance."

Despite the positive number, JACL is functioning with the bare minimum of staff members while providing the same level of service, said the board members.

"We never have a surplus if you

account for the shortage of staff," said JACL National President Ken Inouye. "People think that because we have a surplus that means we're okay. We're not spending more than what we're bringing in, but we've had to service the community with much less personnel."

In these difficult financial times, a surplus is short-lived.

"Whatever surplus we're able to create will invariably be used very quickly in the next quarter because we're unable to get ahead of the budget enough to build reserves," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi.

To strike, and even get ahead, of the delicate balance is a battle dependent on the members.

"... We are still very dependent on the generous donations of our members and those companies and

See BUDGET/Page 2

Asian American Student Fights School for Equal Rights

A Santiago High School senior accuses school administrators of trying to make gay issues invisible.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

An occasional peck on the lips and hugs made the school administration mad.

For Charlene Nguon, 17, the simple human gestures were expressions of love unfettered by rules, so she distributed them liberally to her girlfriend. But on a high school campus, a place dominated by rules, the gestures resulted in serious disciplinary actions that she says were unfairly leveled against her because of her sexual orientation.

Hugging and kissing her girlfriend led to Saturday school, suspension and a forced transfer to another high school, she claims, all



LEADER: Charlene Nguon, 17, a high school senior, was forced to transfer schools because she showed affection to her girlfriend. Feeling unfairly singled-out, she along with her mom and the ACLU are suing for equal treatment.

Photo courtesy of the ACLU

because she was "out to the whole school." So the soft-spoken teenager, along with the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the Gay-Straight Alliance, are suing the school district in an effort to stop discrimination and harassment of gay and les-

bian students on campus.

"It was just hugging," said Charlene by phone from her Garden Grove, Calif. home. Straight couples that display the same affection and more at Santiago High School (SHS) do not get disciplined, she added.

JACL to Sign Onto Amicus Brief in Support of Same-Sex Marriage

Just as JACL fought against anti-miscegenation laws in the 1960s, its stance in support of same-sex marriage remains firm.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Almost 40 years have passed since the last anti-miscegenation laws were stricken from the books — a hard fought battle that finally gave interracial couples the right to marriage. And JACL was front and center.

In 2005 JACL continues to fight for the right of individuals to marry but this time on a different playing field: the right of same-sex couples to

See SAME-SEX MARRIAGE/Page 7

Charlene first met her girlfriend Trang in science class. They sat next to each other and their proximity bloomed into friendship. During the summer of their junior year,

Charlene felt a strange pang in her heart, but she denied those feelings at first.

"I did not consider the possibility

See NGUON/Page 4

COMMENTARY A Future for JACL?

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

Whenever I talk to young Asian American audiences, I'm often struck by how many of them question the need for civil rights advocacy in today's world.

I'm surprised that so many can feel that discrimination against Japanese Americans and Asians



See TATEISHI/Page 4

Reaching into the Community to Rebuild Dreams



Photo courtesy BPSOS

FIRST RESPONSE: APAs affected by Hurricane Katrina rushed to the Hong Kong Mall seeking help from community groups.

APA groups, leaders are helping the unrecognized victims of the hurricanes.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

When the water washed away all of their earthly belongings they did as they usually do — they banded together, pooled resources and provided aide to others with familiar faces.

For Asian Pacific Americans living in the Gulf Coast region devastated last month by back-to-back hurricanes, their own community was their only lifeline. Many who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina lived in the shadows of Buddhist temples and supermarkets before being threatened by a second storm. Through the destruction and recovery, they searched for semblances of themselves and their neighbors in the countless news images beamed across the world, but found none.

"The government never paid any attention to us. We're very

See HURRICANES/Page 12

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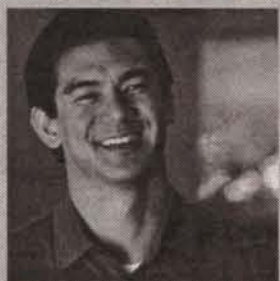
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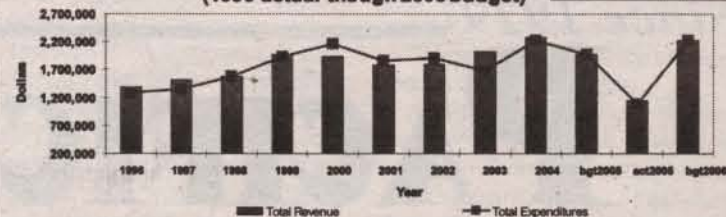
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Revenues vs. Expenses – YTD

JACL National Comparison of Revenues to Expenses (1996 actual through 2006 budget)



❖ Note significant revenue changes are a result of

- ✓ Membership flow has been steady
 - Thanks to membership and membership for keeping the membership flow strong
- ✓ Drop in expenditures

BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

organizations that donate toward helping us accomplish our goals," said Kobayashi.

Getting Rid of the 'Hiccups'

The operational budget went through a series of revisions, which included Kobayashi's prediction at the quarterly meeting of a possible \$81,000 deficit. However, with a more careful review of revenue sources during the Sept. 24 budget balancing session, board members were able to get a clearer picture of the financial situation.

"In the operation budget discussions, we began by reviewing our revenue sources and put in much more realistic numbers, which in turn was realized in a surplus for the JACL," said Kobayashi.

The revised budget was adopted Sept. 25 by a narrow 6-5 margin with three abstentions and JACL National President Ken Inouye issuing the tie-breaking vote. NCWNP District Gov. Thaya Mune-Craig, MDC District Gov. Ron Katsuyama and Kobayashi abstained.

"I abstained on the revised budget because I didn't feel that we, the national board, had gone through a full program management review of each program," Kobayashi explained. "The hope would be that the board would carefully consider whether what has been done and what is to be done to reflect the desires of the national council as directed via the program for action."

Board members who voted to adopt the revised budget were: PNW District Gov. David Masuo, National Youth Council Chair Josh Spry, Youth Rep. Todd Sato, IDC District Gov. Silvana Watanabe and EDC District Gov. Hiro Nishikawa. Board members who voted no were: CCDC District Gov. Bobbi Hanada, Vice President of Membership Edwin Endow, Vice President of Planning & Development Carol Kawamoto, PSW District Gov. Hiromi Ueha and Vice President of Operations Larry Oda.

Inouye said he voted to adopt the revised budget because the issue was a question of allocation, not a question of excessive expenses.

"The reason why I wanted to approve it was because based on our analysis, we were not going to incur any additional personnel cost. We had spent a lot of time making sure that we made responsible financial decisions that would keep us on course," he said, adding that the most sound fiscal decision was to not incur any more expenses by foregoing the hiring of new staff and putting programs that do not have enough funds on the shelf.

"Given that this was the first operational budget that we passed as a national board, we definitely are going through a learning process here and will get rid of the hiccups that happened here in future meetings," said Kobayashi.

"That said, I do believe that the budget passed taken in total will

probably come pretty close to what was stated for total revenues and expenditures," he added.

As of Sept. 25, the revised budget shows a total of \$1,800,171 in total revenue and \$1,785,797 in expenditures. Membership income topped off at \$960,416 and fundraising brought in \$226,350. Public support, which Kobayashi noted is meeting budgeted goals, came in at \$121,000.

Some larger expenditures included \$547,799 for operations, \$399,843 for the Pacific Citizen and \$126,212 in community outreach and support.

JACL investments as of Sept. 19 include the National Endowment Fund at \$384,637, the Masaoka Endowment Fund at \$317,562 and the Life Trust Endowment Fund at \$443,757. The Legacy Fund is currently at approximately \$5.9 million, said Ted Tsukahara, investment policy chair, at the meeting.

Preparing for the Future

As JACL heads into the fourth quarter board members say they are actively preparing for the challenges, citing membership and finances as the organization's biggest challenges.

JACL's finances are about the same as last year's, said Kobayashi, who is continuing his work with board members to put together a financial reporting system. Several new programs such as the Millennium Club and the 'Spirit of 76' campaign are revenue generators.

The national board is also still in the early stages of the audit process to ensure compliance with California's Non Profit Integrity Act.

"The biggest obstacle facing the JACL is a set of long-term programs that membership and leadership can really get behind," said Kobayashi. "We need to find this goal/program/project and then start implementing a set of actions that by themselves may be small, but in total will help re-shape the organization that lives up to the motto 'For Better Americans in a Greater America' for this century." ■

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* "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 Applauds Passage of Hate Crimes Legislation

The JACL applauded the U.S. House of Representatives' recent passage of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act. The measure, which would expand the federal hate crime statute to include hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation and disability, passed the House by a vote of 223-199 as an amendment to the Children's Safety Act of 2005.

"We laud the House of Representatives' recent action to expand protections to vulnerable segments of our society," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "This vote recognizes that while rights and liberties deserve respect, they also require vigilance and aggressive enforcement. We look forward to working with the Senate to pass this bill."

"This bipartisan vote is a strong statement in support of providing local law enforcement with the tools to fight crimes motivated by bias," said Kenneth Inouye, JACL national president. "The JACL has a long history of supporting hate crimes legis-

lation, and we will work actively to press the Congress to enact this bill. The Senate has passed similar measures twice before, and we urge them to do so again."

"This vote recognizes that while rights and liberties deserve respect, they also require vigilance and aggressive enforcement."

John Tateishi
JACL Executive Director

In 1988, the JACL provided testimony in hearings before a Judiciary Subcommittee of the Senate in support of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, and the JACL has continued efforts to support

legislation to provide greater tools to the law enforcement community through the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act.

In addition to federal advocacy, the JACL has organized a grassroots anti-hate program among its membership and recently published "A Troubling Legacy: A History of Anti-Asian Sentiment." Additional materials available through the JACL Anti-Hate Program are: "When Hate Hits You: A Hate Crime Response Guide"; "Words Can Kill the Spirit," a brochure on racial slurs; and a brochure entitled "Anti-Asian Sentiment on Campus." ■

Roberts Sworn In as Chief Justice

JACL and various APA groups had opposed his nomination but Roberts easily wins confirmation.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

Although the JACL and various APA groups had voiced their opposition to John Roberts nomination, he easily won confirmation and was sworn in as the 17th chief justice of the United States in a White House ceremony Sept. 29.



Roberts, 50, a well-known appellate lawyer, replaces the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist after winning confirmation by the Senate on a vote of 78-22. Now the battle will shift to the nomination of White House counsel Harriet Miers to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. President Bush announced his former personal lawyer's nomination Oct. 3. Miers, 60, has never been a judge. If confirmed, she will become the second woman behind Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the nation's highest court.

The JACL formally announced its opposition to the confirmation of Roberts as the Chief Justice Sept. 16. Also announcing their opposi-

tion was NAPALC (National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium) and U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

"Judge Roberts's record over the past 25 years raises red flags for the Japanese American Citizens League. We are concerned that his views are overly restrictive of basic civil rights, and nothing he has said during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings would indicate that there has been any departure from his previously held views," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director.

In JACL's review of Judge Roberts' record, several of his views were found to stand in opposition to those of the JACL including:

- consistently demonstrated hostility to fundamental civil rights issues;
- taken positions that seek to weaken the First Amendment's position on the separation of church and state;
- argued against affirmative action in the *Adarand* case, asserting that the federally mandated program being reviewed resulted in the hiring of inadequately qualified candidates;
- sought to limit Title IX, which protects women against discrimination in education;
- criticized a Supreme Court decision striking down a Texas state law that prohibited children of undocumented immigrants from entering

public schools; and

• opposed revisions of sections of the Voting Rights Act that would empower minority representation in elections for local and state government.

"With due respect to his remarkable career in the legal profession," said Ken Inouye, JACL national president, "Judge Roberts has consistently taken positions that have sought to limit the rights of minorities, and on that basis, the JACL must oppose his confirmation to the Supreme Court."

"Although there were concerns about substantial issues raised by what little written record was released, we had hoped that the testimony he gave during his confirmation hearing would reveal a commitment to civil rights that was not apparent in his record," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of NAPALC. "Unfortunately, his answers have done little to allay the fears and concerns of those working to protect the civil rights of this country."

"While he could have given a more informative response to some of the documents he authored during his time as a Reagan Administration lawyer, he chose instead to say that he was simply following the wishes of his higher ups," said Honda. "The documents in question raised serious concerns about his views on immigrant rights and his support of the Voting Rights Act." ■

U-M Faculty Seek Help After Asian Students Harassed

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—Several University of Michigan faculty members have asked school President Mary Sue Coleman to take action after two reported cases of ethnic intimidation against Asian students.

In a letter Sept. 22, the professors in the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies program said the incidents "unmasked more pervasive ethnic and racial discrimination that remains undocumented," the *Detroit Free Press* said.

Coleman responded in a letter to the professors, saying she would "not tolerate actions that target or intimidate members of our community based on race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity ... or other personal characteristics."

About 13 percent of Michigan students are Asian.

On Sept. 15, two Asian students were walking about 11:15 p.m. when they saw a white man urinating from his apartment balcony onto their arms, said Ann Arbor Police Lt. Chris Heatley. He said the man

swore at the students.

On Sept. 16, Cindy Chuang, president of the school's Taiwanese American Student Association, said she was walking with two female Asian students when two white men

"Acts of ethnic intimidation are intolerable. Further, the alleged disgusting behavior directed at the Asian American students demands the full use of resources at your disposal."

Director Bill Yoshino
in a letter to the university

confronted them. She said the men told them "you speak good English and you speak with a white accent."

The Ann Arbor Police Department issued warrants for the two men thought to be University of Michigan students shortly after the incident. The police are currently classifying the crime as ethnic intim-

idation but other charges that are being considered are assault and indecent exposure. The police are still investigating the incident.

The two accused students have been interviewed by the police and are denying the charges. They claim they poured beer over their balcony, not urine.

The local Asian Pacific American community have come out in support of the two Asian students and held a rally recently at the university calling for a change in attitude at the campus.

JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino addressed the APA community's concerns in a recent letter to the University of Michigan and the Ann Arbor Police Department.

"Acts of ethnic intimidation are intolerable. Further, the alleged disgusting behavior directed at the Asian American students demands the full use of resources at your disposal. We strongly request a thorough investigation of all aspects of the incident and if the evidence warrants, comprehensive charges must follow," wrote Yoshino. ■

Davis Elementary School to be Named After Korematsu

The Davis Board of Education recently voted to name the school district's newest campus after civil rights pioneer Fred Korematsu. The new school will be named the Fred Korematsu Elementary School at Mace Ranch.

Korematsu passed away earlier this year leaving behind a notable legacy. His fight to resist the



forced relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II and his subsequent efforts to throw out his wartime conviction made a lasting mark on the successful JA Redress campaign.

Although several different names were proposed for the new school—including John Barovetto, a Davis High School graduate who was killed in Vietnam in 1968 and the Mace Family who owned a 1,700-acre ranch in the 1950s which today covers the Mace Ranch neighborhood—the board voted 3 to 2 in

favor of Korematsu. Adding the Mace Ranch portion to the school's name was a last minute compromise by the Davis school board members.

During the school board's meeting several individuals spoke in favor of the Korematsu name for the new school, including many members of the Japanese American community.

Korematsu's names was originally proposed by Madhavi Sunder, a University of California, Davis law school faculty member and chair of a citizen committee to name the school. ■

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TATEISHI

(Continued from page 1)

in general is a thing of the past, and even though they acknowledge that anti-Asian racism exists and are aware of racial incidents, they don't feel it affects their lives.

I suppose they're right in some ways. Being part of the JACL may not serve any direct needs for them today. Asians today can go anywhere, buy homes

anywhere, marry anyone they want, compete for mainstream jobs, send their kids to the best schools, enjoy the full privileges of citizenship. Despite all the above, every now and then we deal with cases that are disturbing because they reflect something about us and the way we're viewed in America: "Jap" Road and Lane in Texas, shock jocks using racially derogatory words to refer to Asians, the insulting attitudes expressed in incidents like the infamous "Tsunami Song," some politician saying the internment was okay, some celebrity using the J-word. The list can go on and on.

It's true, as some may tell me, that whether an individual JA or Asian American confronts any of these types of incidents probably won't affect his or her life directly.

Maybe not directly. It's not like a smack in the face. It's more insidious. It's like a growing cancer: you don't see it but it's there, and if you don't stop it, it continues to grow unabated.

And what is the danger of that?

There's a social theory of language that says, in essence, language helps shape social reality. If that's true (and I think it is), then language (i.e., "Jap") informs social realities (how others view us). The implications of this are troublesome because it says a lot about how JAs and Asians in general are viewed by mainstream America.

It's not unusual at all to hear racial slurs about Asians uttered almost without second thought. I'm not referring to radio's shock jocks who seem at times to do this daily. The level of intelligence among them is so lacking that they almost don't count. Except they do. Their listeners buy into their mentality (or maybe they're already there, and so listen to them), and such things often become learned behavior. It's lan-

guage shaping social reality.

The J-word, or any of those derogatory words we hear at ugly moments, serve only to humiliate and dehumanize us. That's why it's important that we challenge them. That's why the JACL exists: to challenge racist attitudes towards AAs because those attitudes chip away at our sense of freedom, our feeling that we're not encumbered by attitudes that limit who we are and want to become.

Is civil rights passé for AAs, for JAs?

Some would say for JAs, perhaps, but I personally don't think so. For AAs, not by a long shot.

JAs, as an ethnic minority in America, are one of the most assimilated groups in society. We've been here five and six generations and have assimilated to the degree that we know the rules of the game, we know how to maneuver through the racial obstacles of American society. And all the political social barriers that lay like roadblocks limiting our freedom and our participation as American citizens are gone.

And so what's the big deal, I'm sometimes asked.

The big deal is this: there is racism in America and always will be so long as we continue to be the most diverse country in the world. We JAs may not feel the brunt of that racism directly, but there are thousands of Asians who immigrate to this country each year, and they're the ones who are affected by the anti-Asian sentiment brewing in America.

Never forget Vincent Chin, killed with baseball bats because he was mistaken as Japanese. We're all in this together.

The JACL played a key role in eradicating hundreds of state and local statutes and many federal laws that limited the rights of AAs in the past. As a civil rights organization, the JACL's record is remarkable.

Those in our community who disparage us have no idea what the JACL has accomplished for JAs and AAs in the past, and they have no idea what we continue to do.

I would challenge anyone who questions the value of having the JACL around today.

For me, when things go awry, it always comes back to the same question: if not the JACL, then who?

NGUON

(Continued from page 1)

of being gay," said Charlene, who added that Trang confessed her love first. "Then I thought maybe I'm gay too."

Their love story played out in public just like any other teenage couple — arms slung over shoulders accompanied by fleeting kisses between classes. But then the punishments started. School officials continuously told the couple to stop expressing affection towards each other and Principal Ben Wolf disciplined the couple with Saturday school for sitting with their arms around each other, according to the lawsuit.

Convinced that they were being discriminated against, Charlene's friends took photos of heterosexual couples kissing in plain sight of school officials without getting disciplined. But the punishments for Charlene and Trang kept pouring in.

Despite their public expression, at home Charlene — who is of Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese descent — had not yet come out to her family. It was Wolf who broke the news in a Dec. 16 phone call to Charlene's mother, Crystal Chhun.

"I was just crying because I was scared how she was going to perceive me," Charlene said, who like Trang received a one-week suspension for defiance and an additional punishment of a school transfer in the middle of the year. School officials wanted the couple separated and cited an unflattering blog entry Charlene wrote about a teacher, a punishment she said for her First Amendment right to free speech.

Charlene is a straight-A student ranked in the top five percent of her class with no prior record of discipline. When news of the suspension reached Charlene's older sister Eileen Malm, her maternal mind began to race with horrible possibilities — *Drugs? Sex? Vandalism?*

But the softly spoken answer threw her off guard.

"It's worse. I kissed a girl."

"I'm very open-minded. I totally understand that [homosexuality] is not something you choose," said Eileen, who called Wolf to hear both

sides of the story. "After I hung up the phone, I did not think he was fair at all."

As a result of Charlene's suspension, she was disqualified from the National Honor Society and near the end of her junior year was forced to transfer to a high school over four and one-half miles from home. To cover the distance, she biked to school on stretches of road without bike lanes.

The resultant scars from the battle with the school run deep. Charlene's grades suffered at the new school and the unfair treatment left her feeling so "hopeless and helpless" that she considered dropping out. And she's the luckier one. Trang's traditional family has not been as supportive.

"It's complicated," said Trang, who added that the strain has forced her to stay away from home.

The lawsuit filed Sept. 7 seeks to clear Charlene's otherwise flawless school record and calls for the school district to provide a safe learning environment for all, as required by the California non-discrimination law.

SHS has also been reluctant to allow a Gay-Straight Alliance, a network of on-campus clubs, to form. Campus computers even filter the organization's Web site from viewing, said Charlene.

"What has happened to Charlene is one of the worst examples of discrimination that I have seen," said Christine P. Sun, an ACLU staff attorney representing Charlene in the lawsuit. "Charlene is a straight-A student, and is praised uniformly by her teachers for being cooperative and enthusiastic about her schoolwork. But instead of holding Charlene up as an example of a model student, the school seems intent on derailing her success just because she is gay."

This case is part of a recent nationwide trend of school officials forcing gay students to be invisible, said Sun. A group of journalism students at East Bakersfield High School in Calif. are suing their school for cen-



Charlene discusses her case at a recent press conference with her mom Crystal.

soring newspaper stories about gay students and a New Jersey lesbian student said her school officials did not do enough to protect her against years of physical and verbal attacks.

"We have brought this case to stop schools from treating students unequally just because they are gay," said Sun.

An official at the Garden Grove School District did not comment on the case, but Alan Trudell, the district's public information officer, indicated the next step would be determined in the courtroom.

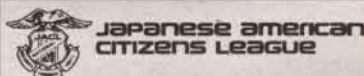
With the ACLU's help, Charlene was able to return to SHS last month to complete her senior year. Her days are mostly normal unless you count the gossiping classmates and the teachers who give her "bad looks." During a Sept. 15 assembly Wolf, with Charlene and Trang in the audience, explained why his actions are free from prejudice.

"He said it very generally. He mentioned us a lot. I felt very angry and very entertained at the same time," Charlene said.

With her name splashed across newspaper headlines and a protracted legal battle ahead, the case has far exceeded the scope of innocent kisses. The couple is now refraining from expressing their love for each other on campus because they "don't want to give the school any more ammunition."

In preparation for the protracted legal battle ahead, Charlene's soft-spoken words are lined with a determined edge.

"We need to teach the administration that they can't discriminate against people. I feel like the school is doing everything to oppress gay people and make them invisible." ■



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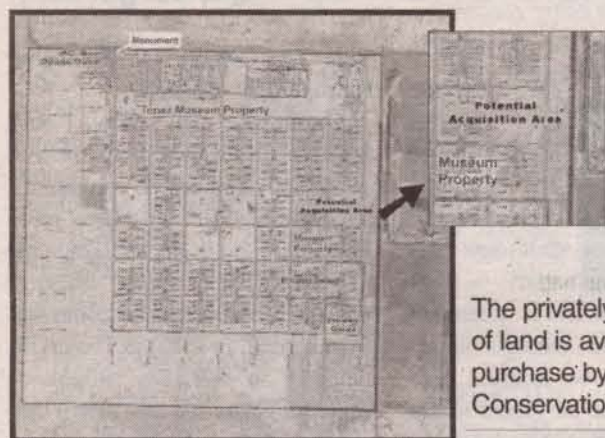
Under Special Circumstances is the story of the impact of the World War II evacuation of the Japanese Americans to concentration camps upon the life of seventeen-year-old Mike Murata, a native-born citizen (Nisei), residing with his family on Terminal Island in the Los Angeles harbor on December 7,

1941. Summarily evicted under a web of suspicion and prevented from tuna fishing for a livelihood, they are herded behind barbed wire into makeshift communities in the hinterlands. History comes alive with the vivid descriptions of life in the camps, Mike's exploits at the battles of Peleliu and Okinawa, his relationship with his Italian American boyhood friend, Jimmy V., and his affair with the vivacious Kathy Kanai. To follow Mike as a soldier, attorney, judge, and congressman on his way to high honors is an exciting learning experience.

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Help Fund the JA Internment Camp Protection Initiative



The privately owned plot of land is available for purchase by the Conservation Fund.

The Topaz Museum, Friends of Minidoka, National Park Service and the Conservation Fund are working to acquire two key properties from private landowners that will help preserve the Topaz Camp in Utah and the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho.

In a race against time, the partners are scrambling to raise \$250,000 to purchase key lands at Topaz by Oct. 15. They are also working to raise funds to support land acquisition, restoration and education efforts at Minidoka.

The groups hope to purchase 92 acres from a private landowner at the Topaz internment camp near Delta, Utah. This land represents the largest remaining piece of land of the original 640-acre campsite, which eventually housed more than 8,000 Japanese Americans, mostly from the San Francisco area.

If the Conservation Fund can successfully raise the \$250,000 necessary to acquire the property, it will donate the land to the

Topaz Museum for long-term public stewardship and restoration. The Topaz Museum currently owns and manages the remaining 522 acres of the site and is working to list the camp on the registry of National Historic Landmarks.

In partnership with the Friends of Minidoka, the Conservation Fund aims to acquire more than 120 acres from a private landowner adjacent to the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Today, the 73-acre monument is only a fraction of the former campsite's original 950-acre core area. While in operation, the camp held more than 9,000 people — mostly from Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

The National Park Service is in the final stages of a general management plan that, if approved, would allow for expansion of the monument's boundary to include these private lands and allow for the restoration of residential barracks blocks and expand opportunities for education and interpreta-

tion.

If the Fund can reach a final agreement with the landowners, and if the partners can successfully raise the funds necessary to preserve the property, the land will be donated to the Friends of Minidoka (who have agreed to hold it for the National Park Service) for long-term public stewardship and restoration.

The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit organization, has protected more than 4 million

acres of America's most important natural and cultural areas, including some of the country's most historically significant landscapes.

To help the Conservation Fund's Japanese American Internment Camp Protection Initiative, please visit the Web site at www.conservationfund.org to make a donation or pledge or call 703/525-6300. All gifts or pledges can be restricted to a specific camp, or made in honor of a loved one. ■

Relocation Camp Wins Landmark Recommendation

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A portion of a relocation camp that housed 18,000 Japanese American detainees during World War II has been recommended as a National Historical Landmark.

Members of the National Park Service Advisory Board unanimously recommended the designation of 42 acres of the former Tule Lake Relocation-Segregation Camp in far Northern California.

The camp was designated as a relocation center in 1942 and converted to the nation's only segregation center in 1943. The 42 acres, a small portion of the 7,400-acre camp site, includes the stockade, along with the motor pool and portions of the former military police compound. The parcels of land included are owned by the state of California or the Bureau of Reclamation.

"When it comes to the Japanese Americans and relocation camps, these are not places where the committee spent a lot of time wondering if they are significant or not. They are significant," said Antoinette Toni Lee, acting assistant associate director for the Historical Documentation Program in Washington, D.C.

More than 120,000 JAs, mostly citizens or legal residents, were displaced from their western United States homes and held in 10 relocation camps during WWII. Tule Lake was the largest center with a peak population of 18,789 detainees.

Lee presented the Tule Lake proposal as part of the advisory boards meeting recently in New York City. She said arguments for the designation were given earlier this year during a previous hearing.

The camp site is located just off Highway 39 near Newell. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

San Jose Has First Vietnamese American Councilmember

Madison Nguyen easily beat attorney Linda Nguyen in the District 7 election Sept. 13 to become the first Vietnamese



American to win a seat on the San Jose City Council.

Madison, a school board member, already held the distinction of being the first Vietnamese woman to hold public office in California.

Nearly 10 percent of San Jose's population is of Vietnamese descent.

Democrat Elected to Calif. 53rd Assembly District

Torrance City Councilman Ted Lieu defeated three Republican opponents to win the election to California's 53rd Assembly district in a special election.



Lieu, the lone Democrat on the ballot, captured 59.9 percent of the votes — three times his closest challenger. By winning a majority, Lieu avoids a Nov. 8 runoff. ■

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Nat'l JACL Awards \$60,000 in Scholarships

The national JACL recently announced its 2005 scholarship winners. The following are recipients from the freshmen and undergraduate divisions with excerpts from their personal statements. This year JACL awarded 29 scholarships totaling \$60,000.

ENTERING FRESHMEN

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial

Choketsu Uga
New York Chapter
Princeton University
Computer Science

Since immigrating to New Jersey from Kanagawa in 1994, I remained the sole Japanese student in my grade throughout elementary and middle school. In 2003, I founded and am now



President of the Academy Japanese Society, and worked with the Dean of Academics to start a Japanese course at my high school. The course entitled "Global Entrepreneurship" was designed to help my schoolmates better understand the words and ways of the Japanese. Teaching this highly successful Global Entrepreneurship course has served as my way of bridging the American and Japanese cultures together.

Though only recently introduced to JACL, I have joined the New York chapter and am supporting a fellow member to protest a radio station host for her disparagement of tsunami victims and racial discrimination against AAs.

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial

Christine Hironaka
Berkeley Chapter
Stanford University
Pre Med, Japanese Language, or History

As the daughter of two Sansei parents, I was surrounded by the JA culture my entire life. As a student, I loved the curriculum and activities of the Daruma-No-Gakko (Japanese culture and language school) and I later enjoyed these activities with younger Daruma students when I returned as a Daruma teacher's aid. However, when I think about JA culture, I cannot forget JA history: Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066, internment, 442nd and the atomic bombs — just a few of the many events that immediately come to mind.

Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi

Katherine Thomas
Sacramento Chapter
Mass Institute of Technology
Mathematics and Biology

Since the age of six, I have attended the Port of Sacramento Japanese



School. Learning the Japanese language to the fullest extent possible has been a large part of my life and I have enjoyed the journey. After graduation from the school, I have continued to enjoy the very intimate community surrounding the school by continuing to volunteer five hours a week for the lower grades.

In addition, I have founded a Japanese Culture Club at my school. The club itself is built to combat Japanese stereotypes and to provide an ample opportunity for those in the Japanese class to learn more about Japanese culture than that of which just Amine and Manga can teach.

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial

Christine Fujinaka
Lodi Chapter
Loyola Marymont University
Undeclared

In his speech to the 57th session of the United Nations, its President,



Mr. Jan Kavan, stated, "The cultural heritage of a people is the memory of its living culture ... The protection of the heritage and its transmission to future generations are ethical imperatives." I firmly support this statement and believe that by partaking in JA community activities and learning about Japanese culture, our heritage and traditions will continue to live on and enrich lives.

Participation in JACL, the Sister City Student Exchange Program, and other AA activities has provided me with the precious opportunity to experience and learn more about my Japanese heritage and has opened the path to learn first hand about new and exciting aspects of my culture.

Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial

Christopher Mukai
Fowler Chapter
UCLA
Undeclared

My involvement in JACL has been through my membership as a



junior member. I have been enrolled as a student/youth in the organization and have participated in the Fowler JACL's annual picnic. I am also involved in the Fowler

Buddhist Church and its Young Buddhist Association. Our group has participated in Coats for Kids, Toys for Tots, Shoeboxes for Soldiers, Star Tree Adoptions, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We support the Nikkei Senior Center and help with its annual Casino Night fundraiser and have recently given aid to the Tsunami Relief Effort."

Masao & Sumako Itano Memorial

Christina Shigematsu
West LA Chapter
UC Berkeley
Undeclared

"People should not hate that which they do not understand".



These sagacious words came from a teenage girl, not much older than me. Raised in a predominately white community, I had never experienced a hate crime. However, an incident at school changed this thought more immediately than I had anticipated. One particular English class offered at my school is entitled Japanese Literature, abbreviated as "Jap. Lit." on the students' schedule. One student asked if I was in "Jap. Lit." and I was appalled beyond words. Without malicious intention, this student had backtracked decades of progress towards unifying cultures. I carefully explained to the student the consequences of her words and how they affected me and other students of race in the school.

Gongoro Nakamura Memorial

Traci Kuratomi
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Smith College
Undeclared

I am a student member of the JACL and am very involved in the



JA community. I love reading the newspaper and learning about all the issues that are facing JAs. It's really empowering to see the difference we are making in the world and the prejudices we are overcoming.

My interaction with the JA community has taught me one incredibly important thing, to have pride in my heritage and myself. My interactions with other JAs and learning about my future has given me pride in being JA. In the future, I want to remain part of the JA community, whether through church, camp, or other programs.

Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial

Michael Shinzaki
San Diego Chapter
UCLA
Computer Science/Electrical Engineering



My Japanese heritage has always been a unique and enriching characteristic that sets me apart from many of my peers and is something I can derive from throughout any obstacle or endeavor in life. I have been instilled with the urgent senses of trust, hard work, and freedom that JA citizens have historically prided themselves in.

By participating in the first ever JACL Nikkei Student Union "Inheriting Tomorrow" High School Leadership Conference on the UCSD campus, I was able to interact with other students. We discussed our stances on freedoms and rights, our connection with our heritage, and the ways in which we all hoped to implement them into our daily lives. We will live in the future as adults, as responsible citizens, and as members of a tightly knit community.

Mas & Maji Uyesugi Memorial

Derek Kuwahara
South Bay Chapter
Wesleyan University
Business or Pre-Med



I have always been curious about my Japanese heritage. As a fourth generation Yonsei, I know little about the history of my family prior to their immigration from Japan to the United States. For this reason, I have always tried to incorporate some of my Japanese heritage into everything I do.

Outside of school, I have been a student member of the Go For Broke Educational Foundation. I learned through this organization of JAs who fought for the U.S. in WWII, including my great-uncle who was killed as part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. I was excited to coordinate my Boy Scout Eagle Project in honor of Ted Tanouye, the only member of my hometown to receive the Medal of Honor.

Mitsuyuki Yonemura Memorial

Michael Ishii
Fresno Chapter
University of Pennsylvania
Business



I am involved with the Fresno JACL chapter and most recently have participated in the Japanese New Year's Festivities held at the Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art at the Clark Center in Hanford, Calif. In addition, I have volunteered for several events for both the Fresno and Clovis chapters including the Clovis JACL Shrimp Dinner Fundraiser, and various duties at the

Shin Zen Garden Run Fundraiser for the Fresno chapter.

Throughout high school, I have been involved with both the AA community and Fresno community. We have reached out to less privileged areas of the city through home visitations, Christmas package deliveries, and work at a community food bank. In addition, I have participated in activities to provide school supplies and coat drives during the fall and winter for the Southeast Asian Refugee Community in Fresno.

UNDERGRAD

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial

Margaret Reed
Washington, D.C. Chapter
George Washington University
History

I plan to pursue my education in history until I receive my Ph.D. and as I narrow my field of study my mind has been turning towards my Japanese heritage as well as my own experience as a JA woman. I am currently heading both the Education Committee and Speaker's Bureau for the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter. I'm working to recruit the next generation to continue to educate the youth of America about JACL and the rich history and culture of the JA heritage. My knowledge of the JACL has just started and I plan to continue to broaden my knowledge of the organization and everything it stands for. As a history major, I plan to enter into the fields of research and education and I plan to pass on my knowledge of JACL and of the JA heritage.



Kenji Kajiwar Memorial

Michael Morita
Sacramento Chapter
UCLA
Mechanical Engineering

I have met so many dedicated community leaders who have other primary jobs. I hope to also establish myself in my profession and use my influence to strengthen the



JA community. I would like to join the Board of Directors of a JA organization and volunteer to help coordinate fundraising events. But at this stage in my life, the best way I believe I can make a difference is to promote youth involvement and let my voice be heard. In order to preserve the JA environment that I remember so clearly and that played such a significant role in my life, I must now do my part. I owe it to our ancestors who forged the way and to the future youth who, without the help of my generation, will be missing out on a very influential part of growing up — a sense of community.

Nobuko R. Kodama

Japanese Food Makes 'Miso' Happy

As a college student, this is my first year living in the apartments. No longer protected by the security of regular dorm meals and proximity to campus, I have upgraded to the tumultuous freedom of having my own apartment with three other friends.

But this isn't a self-absorbed contemplation about adult responsibilities and moving away from home. This is a candid examination of the many quirky and subtle things that makes one Japanese American. No, seriously.

When we talk about getting in touch with our JA roots, we immediately hit upon the obvious suspects: speaking the language, getting involved with community festivals, and learning cultural activities such as odori and taiko. We sometimes forget one of the most obvious and very essential elements that characterize a culture.

The food, of course.

It is something that all JAs can connect to. It doesn't matter if you are a Yonsei, a Shin Nisei, a Hapa or an Issei. Heck, you don't even have to be Japanese to appreciate the subtle genius of Spam musubi.

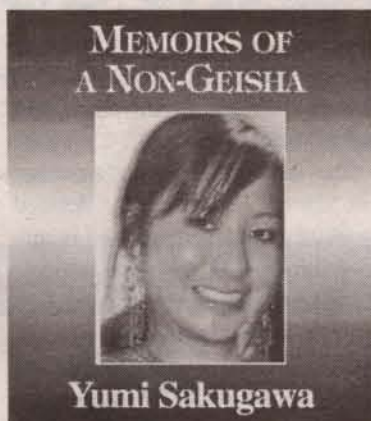
The most obvious and important things in your life hit you of their heartbreaking significance only when you are suddenly deprived of them. Like moving away from home to start college life in the dorms, for example, and eating dorm food *all the time*.

Weeks into eating the same trite spaghetti and "ethnic" dishes that had all the bland authenticity of Panda Express orange chicken, it was only then that I began weeping metaphorical tears for all the great Japanese food that my mother always made for me growing up.

Nothing makes you appreciate culture like a home-cooked meal.

Apartment life, lacking in meal plans, grants you some freedom to cook the things you really want. And my mother, with her uncanny maternal ways, knows that I love Japanese food more than anything else. She made sure to send me away with frozen packets of steamed white rice, bags of dried seaweed, miso paste and all the other bare essentials that would keep my gustatory homesickness at bay.

As I slowly and laboriously expanded my nonexistent culinary skills to concoct very basic Japanese dishes that required minimal cooking knowledge (steamed



rice with wasabi fish flakes, curry rice, gyoza pan-fried with vegetable oil, spaghetti with fish roe sauce ...), I realized that I was mimicking the home away from home kitchen environment that I'm sure my mother experienced upon moving to America: the long pilgrimages to the few Japanese food markets scattered around the city, finding soy sauce bottles at Ralphs, and going through a bag of Japanese shrimp chips — all in an attempt to recapture the elusive memory of a taste that has followed you since the beginnings of childhood.

Just last night, my friends and I watched a Japanese movie on my laptop on our apartment's kitchen table. An old movie from the late 1980s, it is a movie called "Tampopo," which follows the story of a man helping a middle-aged woman achieve her goal of making the best ramen shop in town.

More than that, it is a cinematic love letter to the primal yearnings and desires that food has the power to awaken among ordinary people. Without a love for the basic substance that feeds us, whether it be miso soup or tonkatsu, we lose track of who we are.

We huddled around the kitchen table in the darkness of the night as the movie flickered on the computer screen. Tantalizing close-up shots of ramen bubbling with pork fat and spring onions on its amber surface hovered before our eyes. As a Japanese narrative waxed poetic on the perfect way to eat a bowl of ramen, my own JA roots throbbed with a fierce pride of understanding.

Yes, what better way to get in touch with your culture than food?

Yumi Sakugawa is currently a junior at UCLA, majoring in art with a minor in Japanese and Asian American studies.

COMMENTARY

Returning 'Home' to Manzanar

By YUKI LLEWELLYN
As told to Lynda Lin

Editor's Note: The little girl in the famous evacuation photo returned to Manzanar for the first time Sept. 21. She met with the Pacific Citizen the next day to talk about her journey to the past. Here is her account in her own words.

We got into Lone Pine and went past the camp to Independence. I saw the gate and I said, "It's right off the highway!" That meant that if it were off the highway, people in the camp could've seen the cars going by. I'm just so amazed how close to civilization the fence was.

I had an appointment with the park ranger at 1 p.m., so I had a little bit of time to explore on my own. The interpretative center had a listing of everyone who was in Manzanar. They also had a huge screen that listed everyone in Manzanar, so it was kind of fun finding my name.

The ranger printed out for me information on whether I was a child in camp, when I left and where I went. The date that we entered was wrong because it listed June 1942 and I asked how come I remember leaving Los Angeles in April? They said because Manzanar was listed as an assembly center and it didn't become a camp until June 1st, so everyone is listed as having been in the camp.

It was almost like, "Son of a gun! I was really here!" I thought, "What else can I find out about myself?"

When we were touring the exhibit inside, there was a young woman park ranger at the desk who welcomed people when they came in and she was telling everyone that the little girl in the picture was here today. Quite a few people stopped me, which was fine. But one guy who must have been 60 or 70 but not older than that because he must have still been young during the war, grabbed my arm and he said, "I didn't know. I didn't know that this camp was here. I didn't know that there were camps like these."

I said that's part of the problem. It wasn't in our history books. It wasn't that you didn't care it's just that nobody told you.

He started to weep. He said, "I am so sorry that this happened to you and this happened to all these people."

He grabbed me and hugged me

and that was the most moving thing. It was a chance encounter. I told my tour guide later that the apology from Bush didn't compare to this man weeping and telling me that.

I asked the ranger if I could get some sand from the space where the block stood and he said, "Sure. Did you bring a baggy?" I did bring a baggy, but my friend also brought a baggy for the sugar in her coffee, so we emptied that out. It was a Scooby Doo baggy. Well, I didn't think anything of it, but the ranger was hysterical. He said the guy who created Scooby Doo was interned at Manzanar.

He helped me get some sand. It's been 60 years since I was there, but he picked up a piece of bamboo. Somebody had a rock garden in that area. He also found a nail that was from the barracks that had been there and little rocks signifying nothing except that they were there. I thought do I have to get a gallon container for all this?

I'm one of those people who collects seashells when I go to the beach. When I went to the Bahamas a long time ago, I have shells that are still in the bathroom that I still remember because it was part of a holiday. This was not a holiday but it was to document that I had been there. That this was the ground that I walked on when I visited and it



was also the ground that was there when I lived there. I don't know how I am going to preserve it—I'm not leaving it in the baggy obviously!

My mom knew I was going to visit Manzanar and always wanted to know why I wanted to go back to such a dark period in her life. It was a dark period in *her* life. I don't have dark or light. Now I can understand why she wouldn't want to go back. As an adult it would've been hell on earth. I was so lucky to have been a child — a young child at that — I didn't know what it was like not to be incarcerated. I just thought it was great that everyone looked like me! I have never since that time lived in a place where everyone looked like me.

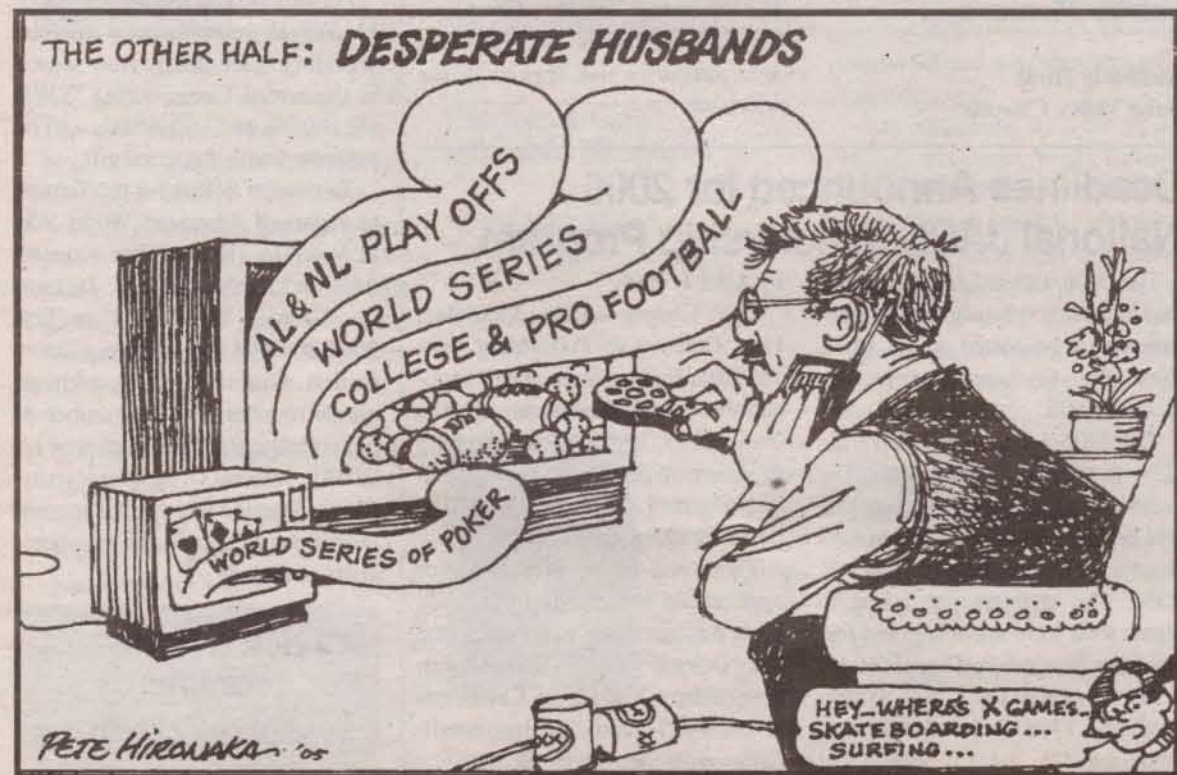
I've always said "the photograph" was a chance photograph. It wasn't an accomplishment of mine. The happiest moment is the fact that I did discover something that I have been looking for all my life. The closure will be if I can write about it.

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National business and Professional Directory

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

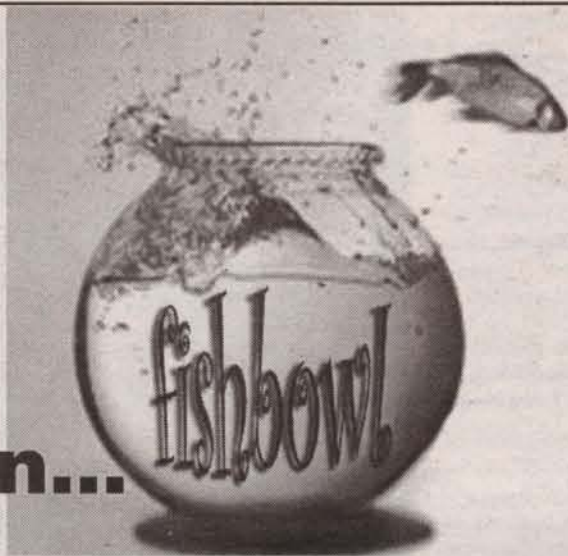
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Kayo Hatta, the 'actor's director,' spotlights Hawaiian society in her last film project.



Exploring the 'Nitty Gritty' SIDE OF PARADISE in...



Kayo Hatta (above) directs the Rays of the Rising Dawn in a dream sequence that features outcast Lovey (Mie Omori) in singing extravaganza.

Photos courtesy Fishbowl Film



By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

In "Fishbowl," the kids of paradise constantly swim up against barriers usually unseen in the hypnotizing travel ads about Hawaii. But in 13-year-old Lovey Nariyoshi's world at the end of the rainbow, life is dappled with blueberry scented bullies and the inability to find the right words at the right time.

Bespeckled with thick-rimmed glasses and blessed with a rotund crown of curly hair a la another off-beat film character named Napoleon Dynamite, Lovey (played by newcomer Mie Omori) is like the splotchy fish in a fishbowl filled with radiant golden fish like Lori Shigemura (Jordan Mukai), who is the head of a popular girls club called the Rays of the Rising Dawn.

There's a group like the Rays in every school — the pretty girls in pretty clothes who wear the same perfume, carry the same pencil cases and delight in picking apart smaller fish. And for Lovey and best friend Jerry (Billy Lam), finding words to fight back is always lost in a cluster of Hawaiian Pidgin English.

"It's just another universal kids' story of wanting acceptance told from the local Hawaiian perspective," said producer Linda Barry.

The film's voiceover and dialogue is spoken entirely in Pidgin, an unprecedented use of language

without subtitles. Hatta, who was born in Honolulu, had said she was attracted to the lyricism of Pidgin, a plantation language long regarded as inferior to standard English.

In the film, the kids tug with social issues of language and class.

"She wanted to show the 'slice of life' from the other side of paradise — the nitty gritty side ..." said Barry.

The short film based on the novel, "Wild Meat and Bully Burgers" by Hawaiian writer Lois-Ann Yamanaka, was filmmaker Kayo Hatta's last project before her untimely death. She died in a drowning accident at a friend's home July 20.

Hatta, who was also a screenwriter and an educator, directed and co-wrote the 1995 Sundance Audience Award-winning film "Picture Bride."

She was an "actor's director," said Hatta's longtime friends and film collaborators Barry and Eleanor Nakama-Mitsunaga.

"She likes to work very closely with the actors and it's always a collaborative effort," added Nakama-Mitsunaga.

Now Hatta's friends, fans and community members are celebrating the filmmaker's life and work with festival screenings of "Fishbowl," including an Oct. 22 Hawaiian homecoming tribute screening along with "Picture Bride."

"Fishbowl" was shot in Oahu with a shoestring budget. Hatta was a fan of Yamanaka's work and wanted to bring the colorful stories and all its authenticity to the big screen, but as usual swam against the barrier of funding. Through the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), they were able to make a short film, but Hatta had wished to turn the short film into a feature-length trilogy covering Lovey's and Jerry's antics from junior high through high school.

"I remember she had me read 'Wild Meat and Bully Burgers' back in 1997," said Barry, who was

drawn to the script herself because Lovey reminded her of her own mother, a plantation kid born and raised in Kauai who faced a similar dilemma with Pidgin. "I think [Lovey and Hatta] are both independent minded women with strong convictions."

The cast is made up mostly of local Hawaiians kids — most of whom spoke Pidgin and worked with an on set dialect coach.

The "Fishbowl" shoot, which took place over a decade after "Picture Bride," pushed Hatta into the spotlight and was filled with happy memories. Barry was 33 weeks pregnant during the open casting call in Hilo.

"We did screen tests for 150 people that day," she said. "Then we went out for a nice dinner because we couldn't believe we did that ... we were so hungry! We enjoyed our food!"

Between films, Hatta developed other projects and turned down commercial film jobs, but her ultimate dream was to let her artistic vision run free without any of the budgetary constraints she struggled with all along.

And during her Hawaiian homecoming screening, fans and friends will gather to celebrate her life and work and reflect on what could've been. ■

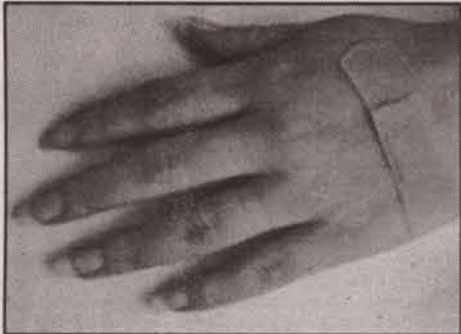
For more information check www.fishbowlfilm.com.

'FISHBOWL' SCREENINGS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
DC APA Film Festival
Oct. 8, 3 p.m. as part of the
Hawaiian Short Films
Showcase
www.apafilm.org

HONOLULU
Hawaii International Film
Festival
Oct. 22, 6 p.m. - Kayo Hatta
tribute screening along with
'Picture Bride'
Oct. 27, 8 p.m.
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Check local listings

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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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JACL COMMUNITY Calendar

Midwest

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.

Northwest

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Sun., Oct. 16—Nidoto Nai Yoni: Voices of the Past and Present Japanese American Internment Conference; 1-5 p.m.; IslandWood, 4450 Blakely Ave. NE; free; co-sponsored by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC), Densho and IslandWood. Info: 206/855-4300 or www.islandwood.org.

PORTLAND

Sat., Oct. 15—Japanese Art Festival; 10-4 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St.; a benefit for Epworth United Methodist Church; free parking.

Through 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. 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

APTOS

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 15-16—Lucien Kubo will be showing her colorful, philosophical and narrative mixed media paintings, assemblage and alternative photo process artworks as part of the 20th Annual "Open Studios" of Santa Cruz County; 11-6 p.m.; 220 Huntington Ct. Info: Lucien, 831/464-8845.

BERKELEY

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

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Oct. 8—API Legal Outreach Celebrates 30 Years of Service; headquarters of Google; Luau by the Bay with Master Chef, Sam Choy. Info: www.APILegalOutreach.org or info@apilegaloutreach.org.

Fri., Oct. 21—Sansei Live! 2005, A Celebration to Benefit Kimochi, Inc.; 6:30-11:30 p.m.; the Presidio Officers' Club; \$75/general admission, \$25 after 9 p.m.; featuring entertainment, raffle, art exhibition and culinary demonstrations. Info: 415/931-2294 or www.kimochi-inc.org.

Sat., Nov. 5—Buchanan YMCA Sentimental Journey II: Reliving Sports Memories; 5-9 p.m.; Buchanan YMCA, 1530 Buchanan St.; open to individuals who passed through the YMCA's doors, but to also Asian sport participants of the 40s-70s throughout California; planning committee is also seeking old photos to be included in a photo display. Info: Reeshemah Davis, 415/931-9622.

Sat., Nov. 5—San Francisco JACL's Annual Health Fair, "Kenko No Hi"; 9-1 p.m.; Christ United Presbyterian Church, 1700 Sutter St.; flu shots, cholesterol, bone density and diabetes checks and more. Info: 415/273-1015 or sfjacl@yahoo.com.

Sat., Nov. 19—Screening, "Liberty Lost - Lessons in Loyalty"; 1 p.m.; Nihonmachi Terrace, 1615 Sutter St.; a re-enactment of the evacuation produced by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, presented by Mas Hashimoto; co-sponsored by SF JACL and Nikkei and Retirement. Info: 415/273-1015 or sfjacl@yahoo.com.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Oct. 15—"Continuing Commitment to Serve Our Community" 4th Annual Community Recognition Dinner; 5 p.m.; San Jose Hyatt, 1740 North 1st St.; honorees include: Ken



'The Pink Dress' is a puppet theater piece about Tsuki, a young Japanese American girl living in the Amache Internment Camp in Colorado during WWII. 'The Pink Dress' is written and directed by Leslie Kitashima-Gray.

Iwagaki, Aiko Nakahara, Peter Nakahara (posthumously), Dr. Ko Nishimura, Tom Shigemasa, Yoshihiro Uchida, and Chidori Band; \$75/person; 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., Oct. 23—Movie Matinee, "A Story of Floating Weeds"; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St. Info: 650/343-2793.

SARATOGA

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 15-16—28th Annual Crafty Foxes Holiday Boutique; 10-4 p.m.; Saratoga Community Center, 13777 Fruitvale Ave. (across from West Valley College).

WATSONVILLE

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 8-9—Watsonville Taiko 14th Annual Anniversary Performance; Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.; Henry Mello Center for the Performing Arts, East Beach and Lincoln Streets; Tickets: Henry Mello Center, 831/763-4047 or www.mellocenter.com; \$15/ adults, \$12/seniors and children 12 and under. Info: 831/426-9526 or www.watsonvilletaiko.org.

Central California

HANFORD

Through Dec. 3—Woman as Art / Womean 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

GARDENA

Sun., Oct. 23—Legal Clinic hosted by the Japanese American Bar Association (JABA); 1-3 p.m.; Saniku Tozai Gakuen (East West Language School), 16110 La Salle Ave.; co-sponsored by Little Tokyo

Service Center, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and the Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles. Info: 323/801-7913.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Nov. 5—"The Triangle Project: Journey of the Dandelion," featuring Yoko Fujimoto, PJ Hirabayashi and Nobuko Miyamoto; 8 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St.; \$25/orchestra, \$22/balcony, \$20 and \$17 for JACCC members and groups; directed by Kevin Higa; invokes ritual through stories, taiko and dance, to bring light and harmony to our fractured world; Tickets: 213/680-3700. Info: www.jaccc.org.

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

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., Oct. 9—6th Annual Frances Kitagawa Leadership Development Program Luncheon; Venice Japanese Community Center; Warren Furutani is the guest speaker; \$30/person. Info: Sharon Kumagai, 310/719-2364 or Carole Yamakoshi, 310/581-6691.

WEST COVINA

Sat., Nov. 5—Fall Frolic Scholarship Dance sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley JACL; ESGVJCC, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; benefits the scholarship program; donation \$10; music provided by Jim Ikehara; Herb Amano will hold a line dancing session from 7-7:30 p.m. Contact Toshi, 909/861-9676 for group reservations of 8 or more. ■

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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
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Fukuoka, Hagii, Iwakuni, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Okayama, Himeji Castle, Kyoto.
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HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUROCT 3-15
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All the towns are in California except as noted.

Flowers, Tokiko Takahashi, 65, Del Rey Oaks, July 28; survived by husband, Gerald; sisters, Keiko and Hideko; daughter, Vicki (Stan) Cooper; 1 gc.; step-daughter, Terre (John) Jolly; and 3 step-grandchildren.

Fujii, George S., 90, Los Angeles, Sept. 15; survived by wife, Dr. Gertrude; brother-in-law, Kenneth (Mary M.D.) Sugioka M.D.; and sisters-in-law, Arlie (Dr. Robert) Gildner, Mabel Kenneth, Mary Sakamoto and Dora (George) Uyeno.

Fujii, Sally, 84, Lomita, Sept. 13; survived by husband, Wayne; daughters, Janice (Glenn) Sutow and Patty (Marty) Nakazawa; 4 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Fred (Misako) Tanaka; and sister-in-law, Miyoko Tsukamoto.

Fujiyoshi, Tokio, 84, Chicago, Ill., Aug. 18; survived by wife, Chiyoko.

Furukawa, Louis Masamichi, 90, Los Angeles, Aug. 30; survived by brother, Richard and John.

Hirano, Teruko, 101, Westminster, Sept. 23; survived by son, Takashi (Shizuko); daughter, Akiko Paulson; and 4 gc.

Ikeda, Masa, 97, Sept. 9; survived by sons, Sus (Sadako), Joe (Chiye) and Min (Lil); daughters, Sumi Nakamura, Sachi Ikeda and Kaz Nose; 9 gc.; and 15 ggc.

Imanaka, Ayako, 82, Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 22; survived by daughter, Pamela Schrack; son, Gregory; 2 gc.; brother, Scotty Mizukami; and sister, Dottie Kasai.

Inafuku, Ellen Chan, 61, San Gabriel, Sept. 20; survived by husband, Paul; son, Eric; and brothers, Walter, Stewart (Joyce), Leland (Florence), Steven (Yolanda) and Raymond Chan.

Inohara, Scott Jiro, 48, Sept. 17; survived by brother, Glenn (Ana); and sisters, Jolette, Glynne (Jeffrey) Inohara-Todd and Bryn Inohara.

Ishigo, Hisae, 81, Gardena, Sept. 13; survived by sons, Clarence (Linda), Leroy, Roger, Terry (Irene) and Carl; 4 gc.; brother, Yasuji (Itsuko) and Haruo (Mitsuko) Takasaki; sisters, Sachiko (Akira) Nakagawa, Chieko (Takeo) Yamamoto and Reiko (Harold) Nakazawa; and sister-in-law, Tatsue Takasaki.

Kagawa, Otoku, 93, Inglewood, Sept. 13; survived by daughters, Youko and Sanaye Kagawa, Miyuki (Shuko) Yoshikami and Ritsuko (Takaho) Nakata; 5 gc.; and 7 ggc.

Kaku, Masako, 84, Los Angeles, Sept. 6; survived by husband, Yoshiro; daughter, Joyce Adachi; and sister-in-law, Tsugi Segawa.

Kamida, George Sadao, 61, Torrance, Sept. 17; survived by son, Sheldon; and sister, Shirley (Tom) Shinsato.

Kamiyama, Keiko, 75, Rowland Heights, Sept. 7; survived by wife haruko; sons, Zensho (Maria), Masami (Adriana) and Masanao (Takiko); daughters, Emilia (Susumu) Maeda and Cristina (Francisco) Teruya; 16 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister-in-law, Toyoko Kamiyama.

Kojima, Hisashi, 78, Los Angeles, Sept. 9; survived by wife, Sekiko; son, Craig; daughter, Elaine; brother, George (Noriko); and sister, Yoneko Kurihara.

Lew, Jon Fong, 92, Aug. 29; survived by wife, Sandra; daughter, Sonya Sandrachild; sons, Terry (Debra) and Les; and 4 gc.

Maeyama, Takako Agnes, 72, Sept. 23; survived by husband, Koji; sons, Wesley (Susan) and Danny Yamaoka; daughter, Laura Yamaoka; 3 gc.; mother, Setsuko Mukai; sisters, Shigeko (Harold) Muraoka and Emmy (Tadashi) Yamaoka; brother-in-law, Bert (Grace) Maeyama; and 5 sisters-in-law and 1 brother-in-law in Hawaii.

Maruya, Mey, Culver City, Sept. 6; survived by brothers, David (Mary Jo) and Al (Mickey); and sister-in-law, Sumi (George) Maruya.

Masumura, Shigeko, 86, Gardena, Sept. 15; survived by son, Yoshimitsu (Fusako); daughters, Tomiko (Yoshiharu) Sueoka, Hiroko (Hideo) Miura, Keiko and Yoshiko Masumura; 8 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister, Chiyoko Asamoto.

Mayeda, Tamiki, 85, San Gabriel, Sept. 12; survived by wife, Mabel; daughter, Phyllis Kato; son, Glenn (Karen); 3 gc.; brother, George (Fumi), Isamu and Shoji (Kris); and sisters-in-law, Florence Tsukagawa and Lillie

Komai.

Mitoma, M.D., Crashi, 84, Loma Linda, July 29; survived by wife, Mary; son, Glenn (Hannah); daughter, Terri (Richard) Kuniyama; 6 gc.; sister, Susanne Orpin; and brother, Susumu (Alyce).

Mochizuki, Hisashi "Ray," 88, Gardena, Sept. 12; survived by son, Hisashi (Janet); daughter, Eimee (Gary) Miura; sister, Atsuko (Noboru) Takeuchi; and 3 gc.

Nii, Haruo, 91, French Camp, Sept. 14; French Camp JACler; survived by 3 gc.; and brother, Toshie.

Norihiro, Haruko, 78, Sept. 9; survived by husband, Paul; sons, Mickey and Kenny (Emma); daughter, Alison (Michael) Sugimoto; 4 gc.; and brother, Masakazu (Midori) Izumikawa.

Ogumori, Kimie, 87, Gardena, Sept. 27; survived by husband, Masashi; daughters, Betsy (Edward) Yamashita and Janet Hirokawa; son, Clyde; 5 gc.; 2 ggc.; brothers, Kazuo (Doris), Haruo (Edna) and Satoshi Wakida; and sisters, Masuyo (Shigeru) Oyama and Miwako Yoshida.

Ogura, Rosemary Tomiye, 85, Altadena, Sept. 19; survived by husband, Shuichi; daughters, Jane and Judy (Gilbert) Fujimoto; 2 gc.; and sister, Yoshiye Goto.

Ohara, Shigeyuki, 75, Burlingame, Aug. 29; survived by wife, Chiyoko; daughters, Mayumi (Kunio) Otsuka and Kimiyo (Hanzel) Lawas; son, Shig (Martha); and brother, Ikuo (Hisako) Ohara.

Osaka, Dick, 79, Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 21; WWII Veteran, Army; served two terms as mayor in Milton, Wash.; survived by wife, Sue; sons, Rich (Gale), Randy, Doug and Darren; 2 gc.; brother, Tom; and sisters-in-law, Bessie Osaka, Hiroko Tsuboi, Ruth Yahanda and Mollie Yamaguchi.

Ozaki, William (Bill) K., 89, Woodbine, Ga., Aug. 24; WWII Veteran, Army Air Corps; survived by wife, Hana; sons, Roger (Karen), Bill (Bonnie) and Mike (Rosie); daughter, Donna Ishikawa; 10 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Pang, Allen Y.S., 73, Gardena, Sept. 11; survived by wife, Nancy; sons, Anson and Rankin (Susan); 2 gc.; parents, Richard and Dorothy Sakuma; and brothers, Melvin, Dennis (Irene), Roland (Jennifer) and Harlan (Jennie) Sakuma; sister, Patricia Yoshida.

Sone, Marianne H., 79, Oceanside, Aug. 27; survived by son, Eddy (Kim) Sone; daughter, Margie sone; 4 gc.; brothers, Henry (Midori) and "T" Iriye; and sisters, Lily Shinohara and Grace Omori.

Takeda, Mary Hiroko, 85, West Los Angeles, Sept. 11; survived by son, Paul (fiancee Carrie Higashi); 1 gc.; brother, Frank (Hannah) Takahashi; sister-in-law, Fumi Takahashi; and brother-in-law, Ben Masuda.

DEATH NOTICE

YAYE TOGASAKI BREITENBACH

Yaye Togasaki Breitenbach, a retired Psychiatric Nurse, died Sept. 17 at the Oakland Care Center. She was 96. Born in San Francisco, Yaye graduated from Berkeley High School, and the University of California, Berkeley. She was trained as a nurse at Children's Hospital, and did graduate work in Nurses Education at Columbia University. She joined the Army Nurses in 1944, and finished her career with the rank of Major. Yaye was the Chief Nurse at the Salt Lake City Veteran's Administration Hospital; worked at VA hospitals in Hawaii, Pennsylvania, and Long Island, New York. She spent most of her career at the Bronx VA Hospital as a Psychiatric Nurse. She retired in 1973. She married Josef Breitenbach, a world renown photographer in January 1980. They traveled around the world extensively together for his photographic work until his death in 1984. Yaye was very involved in the New York chapters of the JACL, JASSI, the Nikkei Jinkai, and the American Nurses Association. She also was a dedicated docent every week at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After 40 years in New York, Yaye moved to Oakland, Calif. to be closer to family. She is survived by her brother Shinobu Togasaki of San Jose, and 31 nephews and nieces spanning 3 generations. Donations may be made in Yaye T. Breitenbach's name to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

Tanikawa, Junko, 88, Los Angeles, Sept. 15; survived by son, Harry; daughters, Aileen (Dennis) Maruki, Janis (Morris) Fukumoto and Gale (Leo) Hamabata; 8 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Dr. Kenneth (Joan) Hamada; and sister, Anne (Sam) Kobayashi.

Teraji, Dr. Tsutomu Tom, 89, Sept. 11; WWII Veteran; survived by brother, Shuichi (Lily); sister, Shigeko (Louise) Morimoto; and brother-in-law, Toki (Viola) Kawahara.

Tomita, Take, 101, Sunland, Sept. 15; survived by sons, Toichi (Sumie) Nakanishi, Roy (Hasako) and George (Emiko); 3 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Uchio, Akira, 68, Torrance, Sept. 10; served in U.S. Army; survived by wife, Yasuko; sons, Ted (Alejandra) and Edward (Rebecca); daughter, Emily (Steve); and 5 gc.

Uyehara, Otto A., 88, Anaheim, Sept. 6; expert on diesel engines and the internal combustion engine process; born in Hanford to Rikichi and Umi Uyehara in 1916. Graduated from the Univ. of Wisconsin in 1942 with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering in 1943 and 1946 respectively. His marriage to Chisako Suda lasted 58 years until her passing in 2004; survived by son, Otto; daughters, Susan J. Schultheiss and Emi R. Uyehara (Pablo Stewart); and 5 gc.



Uyehara, Otto A., 88, Anaheim, Sept. 6; expert on diesel engines and the internal combustion engine process; born in Hanford to Rikichi and Umi Uyehara in 1916. Graduated from the Univ. of Wisconsin in 1942 with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering in 1943 and 1946 respectively. His marriage to Chisako Suda lasted 58 years until her passing in 2004; survived by son, Otto; daughters, Susan J. Schultheiss and Emi R. Uyehara (Pablo Stewart); and 5 gc.

Wada, Thomas Siji, 42, Sept. 9; survived by wife, Paula; sons, Preston, Matthew and Aaron; parents, Donald and Mizue; and brother Ted.

Watanabe, Katsuye, 91, Lakeview Terrace, Sept. 9; survived by sons, Kinichi (Tamiko), Kinjiro (Ruby) and Y. Bill (Ruth); 9 gc.; 12 ggc.; brother, Tom (Teruko) Furuyama; sister-in-law, Yoshiko Furuyama; and 1 brother and 2 sisters in Japan.

Wilson, Nancy Akemi, Manhattan Beach, Sept. 7; survived by husband, Robert; parents, Shigeichi and Fumie; and sisters, Mayumi (Tsuyoshi) Kira, Kazumi (Toshio) Kuwahara.

Yamada, Lance Toshiaki, 30, Los Angeles, Sept. 5; survived by parents Isao and Linda; and fiancée, Eileen Bemenderfer.

Yamasaki, Seichi, 85, Los Angeles, Sept. 16; survived by wife, Chitose; son, Yo (Edie); daughters, Yuri (Eiji) Watanabe and Mari Yamasaki; 4 gc.; and a brother and sister in Japan. ■

DEATH NOTICE

GRACE "HATSIE" WADA

Grace entered Nirvana Sept. 6 at the age of 92. Adored wife of Shigeo and sister-in-law of George and Kin Wada, she was a resident of Watsonville and Antioch. Grace is survived by her children, Barbara Wada, Michael & Deborah Wada and Karen Niiyama; grandchildren, Ross, Laurie and Kris Niiyama and Ricky Wada; and great-grandchildren, Alexandra Nicole, Kyle Shigeru and Sydney Lauren.

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Photo courtesy BPSOS

Evacuees try to make ends meet, but resources are dwindling.

HURRICANES

(Continued from page 1)

underrepresented," said Minh Nguyen, a 21-year-old New Orleans native who evacuated the city shortly before the first storm.

The news of their frustration spread through the national APA community creating a network of support from some unlikely sources.

Dennis Ngin, a 21-year-old student from the University of Florida, was moved to action by the lack of news coverage focused on the plight of APAs and an influx of appeals in his e-mail inbox to assist the displaced Vietnamese community in Louisiana.

An estimated 50,000 APAs, mostly Vietnamese Americans, lived in the drowned areas.

Ngin called upon his fraternity brothers at Pi Delta Psi to lend a helping hand. They decided to create a Web site (www.therefuseerelief.com) to channel all of the information into a one-stop shop.

"We saw this as an opportune time to assist the community," said Ngin, 21. "[The site] functions as a symbol that we do care about the refugee community. These people are not alone. Even more, it is young Asian Americans who have taken

the charge in helping the refugee community."

With a stark photo of displaced refugees on its homepage, the site provides a directory of organizations working on the relief efforts and information on how to donate. It is a cause that the national Asian American fraternity said dovetails with one of the pillars of their brotherhood — cultural awareness.

According to Ngin, who is Cambodian American, the site was created specifically to assist the refugee community, many of whom are working-class shrimp fishermen with limited English skills.

And it goes far beyond just listing resources. Countrywide, APAs have answered the clarion call for direct assistance.

Congressman Mike Honda wrote a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff expressing his concern over reports of the DHS using information about the legal status of hurricane victims seeking government assistance. The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) along with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) has set up work centers across the country to help evacuees find jobs. Musical performances dropped notes to raise money and groups set up relief funds.

For the APAs who are picking through the shambles to get back on their feet, a familiar helping hand is the most support they will receive.

"It's the cultural camaraderie," said Tram Nguyen, Katrina relief program manager for Boat People SOS, a national organization that provides assistance to the

Vietnamese American community.

After the Katrina devastation, the BPSOS office in the Bellaire district of Texas overflowed with APA evacuees who flocked to the office's location inside the Hong Kong Mall rather than to shelters. The numbers were so overwhelming that BPSOS, which operates seven shelters, signed a temporary lease to open up an annex office down the hall.

After Katrina, they saw several hundred evacuees per day and dispensed up to 300 Hepatitis A vaccinations — a Federal Emergency Management Agency requirement — from its medical center each day. But after Hurricane Rita, BPSOS reopened its doors to 400 additional displaced families from the Beaumont and Port Arthur area.

COSTUMES

(Continued from page 1)

that Asians are the only people that it is ok to parody still?"

In total there are six geisha and samurai costumes worn by non-Asian models on the Halloweenmart.com site. The offending phrases are in large print beside the photos in an attempt to entice the costume buyer. Ironically, many of the costumes confuse the Chinese and Japanese cultures so that the "Geisha Princess" costume is actually a *cheongsam*, a Chinese traditional dress, and the "Dragon Samurai" costume looks more like a Chinese warrior.

"Each year, we seem to deal with this kind of problem with costumes," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "We don't see those awful Sambo costumes because they were so obviously racist. Only if we continue to bring pressure on [Halloweenmart.com] will they get it, but obviously they don't get it right now."

"These cultural faux pas are most offensive," said Price, who hopes that Halloweenmart.com will cor-

"We were on track with Katrina, but now things have become a little more chaotic," said Nguyen, pointing out that their resources had already reached a critical low after Katrina.

"The desperation for these people is rising."

The local APA community's self-sufficiency may be its own undoing.

"Because there wasn't the initial outcry for help, the government thinks that we can handle it from here out," said Nguyen, who compares the problem to the model minority myth. "The first two to three weeks [after Katrina], we handled everything on our own, but to be honest without the proper funding our annex office will close at the end of October."

rect their cultural references and rewrite their marketing slogans to be less offensive, especially to Asian American woman. "Cultural distinction is not only for Europeans," she said.

Halloweenmart.com President Ann Siegel said her company has been selling the geisha and samurai costumes for 12 to 15 years and does not see any problems with them, suggesting that the *Pacific Citizen* take the issue up with the costumes' manufacturer.

But when told that other Halloween Web sites — including buycostumes.com, halloweenstreet.com, and extremehalloween.com — sell similar costumes without the offensive slogans she said, "I have no comment at this time," and abruptly ended the interview.

One change that was recently made to the Halloweenmart.com site was the phrase "beautiful and silent" accompanying the "Oriental Geisha Princess" costume which was replaced with "beautiful and mysterious."

But beyond the Asian-themed costumes, it seems that a number of ethnic group are fair game. A quick

search of the Halloweenmart.com site shows a vast array of Egyptian-themed costumes, Arab dancers, Native American dresses, and French maid outfits. These costumes may also be considered offensive so are APAs being overly sensitive when they voice their displeasure with Asian-themed costumes?

"As far as anyone calling me 'overly sensitive' I would say ...

How about a mammy costume called 'Aunt Jemima' with the saying 'Big fat lazy mammy making you some pancakes, fo sho.' ... Or a Shylock outfit replete with skullcap and curly locks 'Jewish Merchant makes a profit,'" said Price. "These are tired ethnic stereotypes. The ones about Asians are no less funny than ones about other people."

"Those who think we're overreacting obviously have no understanding of what it's like to be the brunt of racist or cultural jokes," said Tateishi. "I have no objection to costumes that, for example, might be of a samurai or a geisha, but what I do find objectionable is when such costumes become caricatures or are used to stereotype attitudes." ■

For more information go to www.bpsos.org and www.therefuseerelief.com.

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