

INSIDE  
Hear from your  
Board Members!

# Pacific Citizen

Special New Year's Issue



INSIDE  
See 2005 in  
pictures.







## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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• GIL ASAKAWA •

## Starting the New Year with a Clean Slate



**H**appy New Year to all of the loyal readers  
of the *Pacific Citizen*. *Akemashte*  
*omedeto gozaimasu!*

Asian cultures take the New Year much more  
seriously than Western cultures. Westerners focus  
on New Year's Eve and make it the time for par-  
tying and cutting loose. Sure, there are people  
who do their share of contemplating, but not like  
Asians do on New Year's Day.

We don't just make those hollow pronoun-  
cements about losing weight and working harder, or  
promising to be better people. We're all about  
doing, not just talking. We spend the days leading  
up to Jan. 1 cleaning house and making sure we  
start the year with a literal, not a figurative, clean  
slate.

The P.C. is starting 2006 with a truly clean  
slate, having completed its move to a whole new  
location back in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo neigh-  
borhood.

It's been a busy year for the P.C. and its small,  
dedicated staff. Last year about this time, the P.C.  
was covering racist comments about tsunami vic-  
tims that were aired on a New York radio station.  
Throughout the months, as it does every year, the  
P.C. reported on racial incidents far and wide, kept  
tabs on news from the Asian Pacific American  
community, and, of course, covered the important  
work of the JACL.

These aren't trivial duties, yet only a scarce few  
news organizations cover civil rights issues and  
specifically the APA community as closely as the  
P.C. The P.C. is the only national news media that

shines a light on these topics as part of its mission,  
and considering its small staff size, it does it with  
admirable passion, fairness and thoroughness.

So as the P.C. starts the New Year settling into  
its new digs, I'd like to praise Caroline Aoyagi-  
Stom, Lynda Lin, Brian Tanaka and Eva Lau-Ting  
for their dedication to the JACL and to the P.C.

Here's more reason to congratulate the P.C.

*'These aren't trivial  
duties, yet only a scarce  
few news organizations  
cover civil rights issues  
and specifically the  
APA community as  
closely as the P.C.'*

staff: the paper has won two runner-up awards  
from New America Media, in the organization's  
7th Annual Ethnic Media Journalism Awards,  
dubbed by the "Jim Lehrer News Hour" as the  
Ethnic Pulitzers. Caroline Aoyagi was cited for  
her article "Mexican Americans Seek to Right a  
Wrong," and Lynda Lin for "The Price of  
Becoming American."

This was the first time stories were submitted  
for a contest, so it's truly an honor to gain such a  
high profile for these awards.

This year, we can look forward to more of their

consistent news coverage, and I for one will watch  
with great interest as the P.C.'s Web site  
(<http://pacificcitizen.org>) becomes an important  
part of the operation. Remember, it isn't just a  
"newspaper" anymore. It's a news organization,  
and you can find the news via both the paper edi-  
tion and online. Although the Web site will usual-  
ly only display a few stories from each issue, I  
think it will become increasingly an important  
avenue for disseminating the information that  
makes the P.C. such an important asset to the  
JACL.

The staff takes very seriously the fact that for  
many JACLers, the P.C. is the only constant link  
to the organization, and so its mission is made that  
much more critical.

If the P.C. doesn't cover the news that matters  
to us, who will? The local newspaper/Web  
site/TV station? Not likely — especially if you  
(like me) live far away from the West Coast con-  
centrations of Asians.

So, I'm glad to see the P.C. is starting the year  
with its clean slate, and look forward to serving  
another year as the chair of the P.C.'s editorial  
board. It's an honor and truly a privilege to be  
connected with such an important news organiza-  
tion, and to watch it grow into its online version.

I hope you feel the same about the P.C., and  
value it as much as I do.

Here's to a terrific 2006 for all! ■

*Gil Asakawa is the current editorial board chair-  
person of the Pacific Citizen newspaper.*



## '05 Through the Lens

< SNAP. > 2005 in a flash. The year left

behind indelible memories of national disasters, com-  
munity triumphs and heartbreak. If a picture is worth a  
thousand words, what comes to mind when you take a  
photographic journey through some of the major  
moments of the year? Start here.



Photo courtesy of Congresswoman Doris Matsui's Office

The APA community lost Robert T. Matsui (right) Jan. 1 to bone  
marrow cancer. His sudden death shocked the community he  
served as a longtime Democratic Congressman and civil rights  
champion. His legacy lives on through his wife, Doris, who won  
his Congressional seat in a special election. Pictured above,  
Doris is sworn in Mar. 10 by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (left)  
with son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna.



See more '05 pics PAGE 8

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the writers.

\* "Voices" reflect the active, public dis-  
cussion 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.



• KEN INOUE •

## A Word from the President: Reflections



During this past year I had the opportunity to speak to many JACLers as I attended numerous installation dinners and town hall meetings that were sponsored by these chapters. At these meetings it became quite clear that JACL has become one of the most important civil rights organizations in the country because of the strength and character of its members.

I have tried to summarize just a few of the characteristics that I have observed concerning the type of person and characteristics of those individuals who are JACL members:

A JACL member recognizes and thanks the Nisei generation for having the foresight to create a national organization which has allowed our community to participate in the democratic process at the local (chapter, district) and national levels.

A JACL member is an individual who is willing to spend countless hours in order to pursue cultural and coalition-building activities in their local communities.

A JACL member is an individual who understands that one of the greatest allies of race prejudice and bigotry is silence. For this reason, a JACL member will speak out



against social injustice. We understand it was the deafening silence of the majority that allowed the government to intern our entire community solely on the basis of our ethnicity and without regard to the protections guaranteed to all Americans as provided by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

A JACL member is an individual who understands the importance of a community-based organization such as

Ken Inouye, JACL national president (second from right), on a recent visit to Houston, Texas is welcomed by local JACLers. The visit was one of many town hall meetings held last year.

JACL. JACL provides a legitimate forum from which we are able to express ourselves with respect to civil liberty issues that affect all of us who live in this great country.

A JACL member is an individual who loves this country and jealously protects the Constitution and Bill of Rights for we believe these documents are the glue that keeps this great nation together today, tomorrow and especially in times of crisis.

I am proud to be a JACL member and it is an honor for me to have the opportunity to serve one of the most important civil rights/liberties organizations in this country as we work together to build a greater America for all Americans.

My best wishes to all of you and your families for a safe, healthy and prosperous new year. ■

*Ken Inouye is the JACL national president.*

• LARRY ODA •

## A Report from General Operations



Happy New Year! General Operations had a very fruitful year in 2005. We have been very productive this past year and while everything that was accomplished may not have been enjoyed by everyone, we are making progress in maintaining the organization as a well-run machine.

Staff is happy that the national board has acknowledged their efforts by implementing the first cost of living increase they have seen in five years. Collectively, the board felt it was important to recognize the hard work and dedication of the diminished staff. This joy comes at a price because the permanent nature of this expenditure means the board must find additional revenues to offset these costs or reduce expenses which have already been extensively trimmed.

This past year we completed a thorough review and revision of the Personnel Manual and an examination of our policies. The Financial Oversight Committee had recommended, on more than one occasion, that some of the policies stated did not conform to current labor laws and these concerns were addressed.

The Personnel Committee deliberated for over a year to revise the manual and we can still do more. One of the recommendations coming out of our review was to separate the policies out of the manual to make two documents: a personnel handbook and a manual of personnel policies. We are very fortunate to have Susan Kumagai, a San Francisco attorney, assisting in this endeavor.

The one issue that impacts everything we want to or can do is revenue. The national board is very aware of the declining membership numbers and is actively pursuing strategies to regain lapsed members and to recruit new ones.

Back in 2001, JACL President Floyd Mori commissioned a Blue Ribbon Committee of community leaders, some of whom were outside of JACL, to review our organization with an unbiased eye. The intent was to give us some insight into what we were doing well, but also what we could do to improve our image to encourage others to join.

Some of their recommendations have been implemented and others have been given less priority. The Blue Ribbon Committee gave us some things to think about. Five years later we still grapple with many of the same concerns and we are still trying to find our way.

There are some things we can do for the short term to stabilize our financial condition, like borrowing from reserves, but the long-term solution is less concrete. Vice President for Membership Edwin Endow is in the midst of implementing his plan to recover lapsed members, and with the help of Milo Yoshino and Frank Sakamoto, instituted a new membership category, the Millennium Club, for the most committed supporters.

We are fortunate to have Mark Kobayashi as our secretary/treasurer to oversee expenditures and to give the national board understandable updates of our financial condition. Supporting our efforts to pro-


vide programs of value, Carol Kawamoto has taken the task of overseeing the teacher training workshops and curriculum guides for middle and high school teachers as part of her responsibilities as vice president for planning and development. This education component of our mission is one of the more sellable programs that interest corporate donors.

Heidi Tanakatsubo is keeping JACL in the public eye, in her role as vice president for public affairs, and President Ken Inouye is holding town hall meetings to extol the virtues of JACL to remind everyone that there is still a need for this organization.


The last six months of our term will be spent formulating the next biennium budget and preparing for the JACL National Convention in Phoenix, June 21-24. We are facing some challenging decisions because we have some important programs that are ripe for corporate funding to help our financial situation, but we are straining our resources to provide a quality product. We are hopeful that the national council will have some initiatives to help in the decision-making.

I'm very proud to be a part of this national board because of the commitment each member has demonstrated to preserve our cultural heritage and to keep the organization at the forefront of civil rights and social justice in America. We have a story to tell and we do it very competently. ■

*Larry Oda is the JACL national vice president of general operations.*



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• EDWIN ENDOW •

## Building JACL Membership in 2006



Happy New Year and my best wishes to all you for a prosperous 2006. Before we start writing about this coming year, I would like to report on 2005. No report would be appropriate without first thanking all of you for your efforts in helping to recruit members. Your hard work, generosity of time, talents, money, and your commitment to JACL are deeply appreciated.

Thank you to Tomiko Ismail at national headquarters for making sure that all of the membership information is recorded promptly and correctly, in addition to all of the other things she does. Finally, I would especially like to thank Lucy Kishiue, our independent contractor to the membership department. It is only through her hard work, commitment, expertise and other talents that your reports, communications and all of the other membership work gets done.

Both Tomiko and Lucy have been invaluable to JACL, and all us, especially me, owe them a tremendous amount of thanks.

We have been seeing a slow and steady decline in membership over the past many years. The membership numbers in 2005 through November compared to the same period in 2004 continued to follow this declining trend. The good news is the rate of decline was smaller. Your efforts to recruit new members is starting to take effect. In addition, we decided to also put more emphasis on recapturing our members who had lapsed.

In that spirit, your district governors: Ron

Katsuyama, MDC; Hiro Nishikawa, EDC; Silvana Watanabe, IDC, Thaya Mune Craig, NCWNP; Bobbi Hanada CCDC; Elaine Akagi, PNW; and Alayne Yonemoto, PSW, started a campaign to reach out to our lapsed members. The goal was to get 500 lapsed members to rejoin and also get 500 new members through the holiday gift membership push. The national staff as well as the other national board members are all involved.

To help the cause, prizes were collected for a drawing to be held in the beginning of March. All who participate will be entered into the drawing. Lapsed members who rejoin, new members, members who gift,

members who refer new members AND all of the members from each chapter who help in the telephone calling campaign will be entered.

There is a list of many of the prizes in this issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. Dec. 1, 2005, through Feb. 28,

2006, is the eligibility period for the drawing. You still have a chance to participate OR you can participate again.

For 2006, the JACL is offering a new benefit: Protective Tru-Script Discount Prescription Drug Program. Your chapters are getting the information now, so you should be receiving it soon. You will be able to join via the Internet through the JACL Web site.

Remember, this is a program for our members who are under 65 years old and not eligible for the Medicare Part D for seniors. I hope that this program will help many of you with your prescription costs.

Let's make 2006 a great year for JACL! Thanks again for your continued support. ■

*Edwin Endow is the national JACL vice president of membership.*

• CAROL KAWAMOTO •

## Planning and Developing the JACL



It has been my pleasure to serve the JACL as this biennium's national vice president for planning and development. This position suited me because it oversees several programs which I have worked on in the past. It is important to me to see these programs (along with all of JACL's programs) flourish.

The JACL is fortunate to have the ongoing support of its membership. Our Annual Giving Program and our Mid-year Campaign are vital parts of our organization's income and your generosity enables the JACL to continue its work.

During the last biennium, the national JACL scholarship program has been run by volunteers. Our organization is indebted to the San Francisco, Berkeley and San Diego chapters for providing much needed assistance with this program. My husband, David (national JACL scholarship committee chair), was able to contact most of the donor families to elicit their input on the status of their named scholarships. With this information, the JACL made some minor adjustments to the program.

With these adjustments, the program went from 22 scholarships totaling \$47,500 in 2004 to 29 scholarships totaling \$60,000 in 2005. Part of this increase is due to David's work with donor families to establish two new scholarships. He is also working with another donor on establishing a new "cultural arts" scholarship.

Thanks to Karen Yoshitomi, PNW regional director, and Steve Okamoto of the San Mateo chapter for their hard work and commitment in getting the JACL's Planned Giving program started. We have reviewed different options for this program and are now preparing RFPs (requests for proposals) for prospective vendors.

I have long been involved with the JACL's National Education Committee. I am very pleased to see the continued work of this

focused and dedicated committee. The education program continued to provide teacher training workshops on the Japanese American experience. A DVD has been created to convey the story of the internment through the voices of those who experienced it. This DVD will supplement the JACL's Japanese American Curriculum Guide.

Also, during this last biennium, Bill Yoshino, MDC regional director, has been instrumental in working on the development and the completion of an APA Curriculum Guide. This guide's format will be similar to the JACL's present JA Curriculum Guide with sections including a history of the Asian American experience, a chronology of important dates, a section profiling prominent AAs, a section on demographics and issues, and lesson plans.

Some of my goals for the remainder of this biennium in 2006 will be to work on getting our planned giving program launched, continue the oversight of and improvements to the scholarship program, and work with Greg Marutani to facilitate teacher training workshops in Arizona and California.

I will also work with the JACL staff to continue the preliminary work on the development of their recommended new programs: a national speakers bureau, an on-campus student empowerment program, and a Center on Race Relations and the seeking of corporate and grant funding sources.

We are extremely fortunate to have such hard working and dedicated staff members who are so committed to the betterment and success of our organization.

Happiest of New Years to all JACLers! Thank you so much for your continued support. It is an honor and pleasure to serve you as a member of the national board. ■

*Carol Kawamoto is the JACL national vice president of planning and development.*



JACL CURRICULUM GUIDE

Holiday Greetings  
**Aiko Iseyama**  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

*Happy*  
**2006**

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## 2006 - Year of the Dog

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INOUE, Chieko ..... (64)  
IWATA, Eiko ..... (25)  
KANEGAL, Toy ..... (24)  
KURASHITA, Mitzi & JUNG, Al ..... 90230  
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Chelsea, Toshie,  
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Kurino, not pictured



Happy Holidays to  
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• BOBBI HANADA •

## Highlights from the Central Calif. District Council



As district governor of the JACL Central California district council I send you greetings and a Happy New Year! Our chapters continue to be a vital service to our members and take an active role in the community they serve. These are just a few highlights of the events held in our communities this past year:

The Livingston-Merced chapter held their film festival last March in honor of the Day of Remembrance. They had a fantastic reception to the showing of "Forsaken Fields," "Honor Bound," and "Day of Independence." They were fortunate to have Tim Toyama and Chris Tashima, the creators of "Day of Independence," share their experience in the making of their film with the audience.

This year the Livingston-Merced chapter will be holding their film festival on Feb. 18 at Merced College followed by their annual dinner.

The Fresno chapter held their 20th Annual Shinzen Run last April. The event was moved to April to take advantage of the cool weather and to include a 10-mile course to

**'Our chapters continue to be a vital service to our members and take an active role in the community they serve.'**

the run. The proceeds from this event have benefited the Nikkei Foundation in Fresno, the Shinzen Garden at Fresno's Woodward Park plus the chapter's scholarship fund. This past year the Nikkei Foundation was able to purchase and open their Assisted Living Facility to benefit the aged Japanese American community.

The Fresno chapter is currently gathering historical information on the early settlement of the Fresno JA community and hopes to publish their findings this year.

The Clovis chapter had their successful Shrimp Dinner for their community last February. This event is always sold out and the whole town comes out to support

the dinner. Through the success of this dinner they are able to fund their scholarship program.

The CCDC held their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in May. Our local chapters and the district presented 20 scholarships to our high school graduates and undergraduates. We also held our annual Memorial Day Ceremony in May to honor our fallen Nisei Veterans who served our country so bravely in World War II.

CCDC, with assistance from the Fresno chapter, was able to sponsor nine youths to attend the JACL National Youth Conference in Salt Lake City. At our Annual Installation Banquet in October we honored and recognized Travis Nishi, Deborah Ikeda, Sherman Kishi and Takami Misaki (posthumously) for all their hard work and dedication to JACL.

CCDC and the Nikkei Foundation have collaboratively formed the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee. This committee, under the leadership of Judge Dale Ikeda, is working towards having the last remaining building from the Pinedale Assembly Center registered as a historic building and more importantly to have a memorial built to honor those who were interned there.

It has been an honor serving our community and I look forward to working for you as a national board member in 2006. See you in Phoenix in June! ■

*Bobbi Hanada is the current Central California district governor.*

• HIRO NISHIKAWA •

## Greetings for 2006 from the EDC



As a recently elected governor, I am finding my way around our large geographic district covering the East Coast and Atlanta, Georgia. I'm counting on the support of very capable predecessors like Paul Uyehara (Philadelphia) and Clyde Nishimura (Washington, D.C.) as well as former national president Lillian Kimura (New York). I draw inspiration and sustenance from their prior contributions and their enthusiasm to progress JACL into the future.

As on the West Coast we in the East are seeing attrition in membership of the Nisei generation as they pass on. Thus, we have to focus on the Sansei and more importantly the Yonsei generation to be engaged in the issues of our times. To many of the Asian Americans who have landed recently on our shores, our Nikkei population is perceived as being the establishment. The history of our struggles and successes certainly provide inspiration to them.

Despite the striking down of alien land laws in the states, obtaining naturalization privileges for Asians and other law-abiding residents, striking down anti-miscegenation laws, and liberalizing of immigration policies during the latter half of the 20th century, there continues to be challenges facing the newer Asian Americans.

In part these arise from language

difficulties, the time it takes to become acculturated, and being perceived as "foreign." For Nikkei and JACLers, we've been there and done that. From our relative position of achievement and privilege, it is incumbent on us to help others move into the American mainstream. Not by doing it for them, but rather to work with them for a level playing field that assures everyone's

civil rights and equal protection and treatment under the law. Thus we continually seek coalition partners on a variety of issues.

In looking to the future, JACL needs to reinvent itself. The effort to move to an

annual convention is one way. The financial arguments for doing this are certainly attractive. However, there needs to be a careful assessment of the issues of JACL governance, which will be impacted by an annual convention cycle.

This discussion is underway at EDC and will receive careful attention. One of the simple (but hard to answer) questions is: "Should JACL become a 'top-down' organization instead of being a 'bottom-up' one that it has been up to now?"

I trust that other district councils are making equally considered assessments of this issue, so that there will be well thought out deliberations at the national convention this year in Phoenix. Hope to see you all there! ■

*Hiro Nishikawa currently serves as the EDC governor.*

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## JACL Membership Contest

**WHO:** Open to new members, renewed lapsed members, gifting members, referring member and current JACLers

**WHEN:** Now through February 28, 2006

**WHY:** JACL membership needs to increase!

**RULES:** Sign up any person for a JACL membership and you, plus the new member, will receive one entry into the JACL membership drawing. You may also gift a membership or renew a lapsed member. The more people you sign up, the more entries you earn. JACLers benefit when membership increases. Drawing will be held the first week of March.

### PRIZES:

Autographed books by:

Gil Asakawa, Being Japanese American: A JA Sourcebook for Nikkei, Hapa...and Their Friends (10 copies)

Karin Higa, The Art of Hideo Date

Pete Hironaka, Report From Round-Eye Country: A Collection of Sketches, Both Verbal and Visual, by a Transplanted American!

Akemi Kikumura-Yano, Encyclopedia of Japanese Descendants in the Americas: An Illustrated History of the Nikkei

Kristine Kim, Henry Sugimoto: Painting an American Experience

Mas Masumoto, Epitaph for a Peach

Kerry Nakagawa, Through a Diamond: 100 Years of Japanese American Baseball

Allen Say, Grandfather's Journey

George Takei, To the Stars: The Autobiography of George Takei

Frank Wu, Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White

Helen Zia, Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People

JACL's 75th Anniversary Booklets (25 copies)

Suedy's Kooki Sushi "Obento" The most popular "sampler" size of SUEDE'S KOO-KI SUSHI, who would believe they are made of chocolate? The covered obento (lunch) box has a shiny black finish with an inner tray that can be stacked to create a double-decker box.

Case of California Wine

Pair of tickets to an Arizona Diamondbacks (vs. LA Angels) game-June 23, 24, or 25, 2006 (in conjunction with the JACL National Conference)-(2 prizes)

Pete Hironaka's limited edition posters (Issei and Nissei, framed, autographed by the renowned artist)

Los Angeles Getaway-Overnight hotel stay for two, lunch with George Takei at the Thousand Cranes Restaurant in the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo, guided tour of the Japanese American National Museum, pair of tickets to an East-West Players theater production.



• THAYA MUNE CRAIG •

## Greetings from the NCWNP District

Happy New Year and greetings from the JACL Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District's 32 chapters.

The NCWNP district had a busy year in 2005. The district event for 2005 was the 2nd NCWNP fundraiser dinner which was held in April. Again, we convened at the beautiful Blackhawk Auto Museum in Danville. Our event was titled "Spirit of 76, JACL, 76 years of Education, Advocacy and Civil Rights."

We honored individuals from 21 chapters. Our Legacy Award honorees are the unsung heroes of our chapters and of our organization. The NCWNP District Council Youth Committee presented the Hikari Award to 10 high school students, college students, young professionals and adult allies for their contributions and service as community leaders.

A Special Recognition Award was accepted by attorney Edwin Prather, who represented five young students who spoke out against anti-Asian violence and persevered in court to send a message that Asian Americans will not be passive victims of bigotry. Their challenge to the race-based assault/bigotry personifies JACL's organizational mission of fighting for civil rights, education and tolerance in our society.

The honorary chair was figure skating star, Kristi Yamaguchi. Kristi charmed the over 400 attendees with her presence and added a special sparkle to the evening. The district plans to host the fundraiser dinner every other year. Larry Oda, Monterey chapter was again the gen-

eral chairman.

Time of Remembrance events were held by many chapters in February. Many chapters jointly sponsored a large event and invited other ethnic groups to participate in a day of educational programs.

The world premier of "Manzanar: An American Story," a symphony of music and word was performed by the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Maestro Kent

immeasurable contributions to the organization.

The NCWNP District Golf Committee is currently preparing to host the National JACL Golf Tournament on Oct. 2. We are very excited about having our tournament at Harding Park, a municipal course in San Francisco.

The Harding Park Golf Course plays host to the World Professional Golf Association and witnessed a sudden death playoff between Tiger Woods and John Daly in 2005. The WPGA will return to Harding Park in 2007 and 2009. We are committed to offer golfers a tournament that they won't want to miss as well as raising funds for JACL. We have a great committee headed by Jason Higashi (Sonoma County) and Jim Craig (Placer County).

Our district is committed to increasing our membership numbers. The end of the year membership drive to re-capture lapsed members will hopefully prove to be successful when the final numbers are counted. Membership will continue to be an important goal for 2006. Milo Yoshino and Emily Teruya have worked diligently as our district membership chairs. They have given the chapters the tools to gather new members and will be continuing this work into 2006.

As governor of the NCWNP district, I look forward to seeing both delegates and supporters at the 2006 National Convention, "Phoenix Rising: Leadership for a New Generation," June 21-24. ■

Thaya Mune Craig is the current NCWNP district governor.



Thaya Mune Craig and MaryJo Kubota-Arcarese.

Nagano. Many district members heard this work written by Naomi Sekiya, Jean-Pascal Beintus and David Benoit. Philip Kan Gotanda was the writer/director of the project which was originally commissioned by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

It was a beautiful evening of music, word and also included an exhibit of works of art based upon the internment camps and sponsored by the Japanese Museum of San Jose.

Our Tri-District Conference, "Effecting Change," was held in September in Irvine with the Pacific Southwest and Central California districts. NCWNP honored San Mateo chapter co-President, MaryJo Kubota-Arcarese, during the Awards Luncheon. The Tri-District Conference recognized the work of three JACL women that have made



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- SOLD OUT**
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- April 4-18** **Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan** - 15 days/13 nights. Tokyo, Sendai, Matsushima, Niigata, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Kurashiki, Hiroshima and Kyoto. **Peggy Mikuni**
- SOLD OUT**
- May 22-31** **Yamato Canadian Rockies by Rail Tour with Collette Vacations** - 10 days/9 nights British Columbia, Victoria, Vancouver, Rocky Mountaineer® Train, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. **Sharon Seto**
- 6/25-7/2** **Yamato Alaskan Cruise aboard Holland America's Westerdam** - 8 days/7 nights. Seattle, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria.
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- 7/17-7/29** **Yamato Summer Tour to Japan** - 13 days/11 nights. Tokyo, Hakone, Kanazawa, Takayama, Kyoto and Hiroshima.
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- October** **Yamato Tour to Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand** **Lily Nomura**
- 10/2-10/16** **Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** **Tyler Tanaka**
- November** **Yamato Best of Spain Tour** - 12 days/10 nights. Barcelona, Bilbao, Burgos, Madrid, La Mancha, Cordoba, Seville, Jerez, Costa del Sol, Granada and Toledo. **Peggy Mikuni**
- Nov. 2-16** **Yamato South Pacific Wonders Tour with Collette Vacations** - 15 days/12 nights. Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook and Christchurch. **Philippe Theriault**

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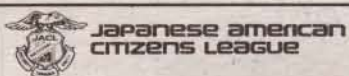
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• SILVANA WATANABE •

## Celebrating JACL's 77th Anniversary



**G**reetings and Happy New Year to all. This year will be a busy time for everyone, from the JACL national board all the way to the chapters.

This year we celebrate the national JACL's 77th anniversary. How awesome is that! Moreover, we are here to be a part of this very special period in time.

Which leads me into wanting to talk about and invite everyone to the JACL national convention this June in Phoenix, Arizona. When I say, "invite everyone" I really mean everyone!

The national JACL convention is not an event for just the JACL board members and the delegates who help make changes and decisions to our by-laws and constitution (which shape the future of JACL.).

It's also about people. A community of people that help and continue to teach, strengthen, and protect their own and other communities bonded by cultural diversity.

This is an opportunity for people and families to meet and share, exchange ideas, and maybe meet a future spouse as my friend Kai did. (For anyone that knows Kai ... we are still wondering how this special miracle happened.)

My children will tell you that our family has two family vacations: the first is called "our JACL family vacation" and the second is "our regular family vacation." They are excited to go, and they are so focused on

those swimming pools.

Jeff, my husband, has stayed at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort in Phoenix for his work. His work EVCO paid \$250 a night for members of their staff to attend a hose convention (yes, he is a hosier). So, the \$98 a night that John Tateishi, JACL executive director, negotiated with the resort is a steal. Now, Jeff is not a very vocal person, but he is telling everyone we know about the resort and the convention. He wants (someone else of course, not him) to get buses caravanning down to Arizona. This is how excited he is.

There is an enormous commitment that is in place to make

all this possible. Ted Namba and his family, the Arizona chapter, and many, many members of the Arizona community, along with the national JACL staff are working very hard to have this JACL convention happen for you and our families.

I encourage all of you, your friends, and your family to attend the national JACL convention. Let's meet and celebrate the national JACL's 77th anniversary together. It will be fun and memorable. I promise there will be something for everyone at every age! ■

*Silvana Watanabe is the JACL Intermountain District Council governor.*

• RONALD M. KATSUYAMA •

## A Message from the Midwest District



**T**he Midwest District Council began 2005 with five chapters from the former Mountain Plains District Council joining with the nine chapters from the MDC. Governor Sharon Ishii-Jordan's knowledge of JACL and her vision of JACL's future helped ensure a smooth transition.

The MDC and its 14 member chapters have worked hard to advance the national JACL's programs. Particular emphasis has been upon sustaining youth involvement in JACL's local, regional, and national activities, informing educators about the JACL Curriculum Guide and promoting its use through participation in regional and local conferences, and supporting JACL's anti-hate crime and anti-defamation initiatives.

I have had the privilege of serving as the newly elected MDC governor during the last half of 2005. It has been refreshing to have a close look at JACL's ongoing programs, and I am glad to share some thoughts:

At its best, JACL's programs have potential for creating an enduring legacy for genera-

tions to come. However, more information about the current programs should be shared with our members. With an active and ongoing dialogue about the possibilities and priorities for our organization, I believe members will become even more proud of the energy and progressive actions that are being taken to preserve and extend hard-fought civil and human rights of all Americans.

Members should be assured that the JACL will not rest on the laurels of its 77-year history, marked by many, noteworthy accomplishments. Instead, the JACL continues to develop its civil and human rights, educational, and cultural programs through dedication in addressing issues of all Americans who fall victim to social injustice in the United States.

For example, the JACL continues to direct attention to the need for:

- laws that protect the vulnerable against hate crimes;
- policies that will ensure opportunities for historically disadvantaged people in education and employment;
- immigration reform that will help re-unite families;

• programs that improve the access of minorities to culturally competent health care services; and

• education that informs students, teachers, and the general public about the remarkable Japanese American experiences that have helped shape American history.

I believe that I speak for the entire MDC in saying that we look forward to opportunities in 2006 to advance JACL's mission with progressive and creative ideas.

For example, the MDC is sponsoring a survey to assess our members' views about current issues and JACL's priorities.

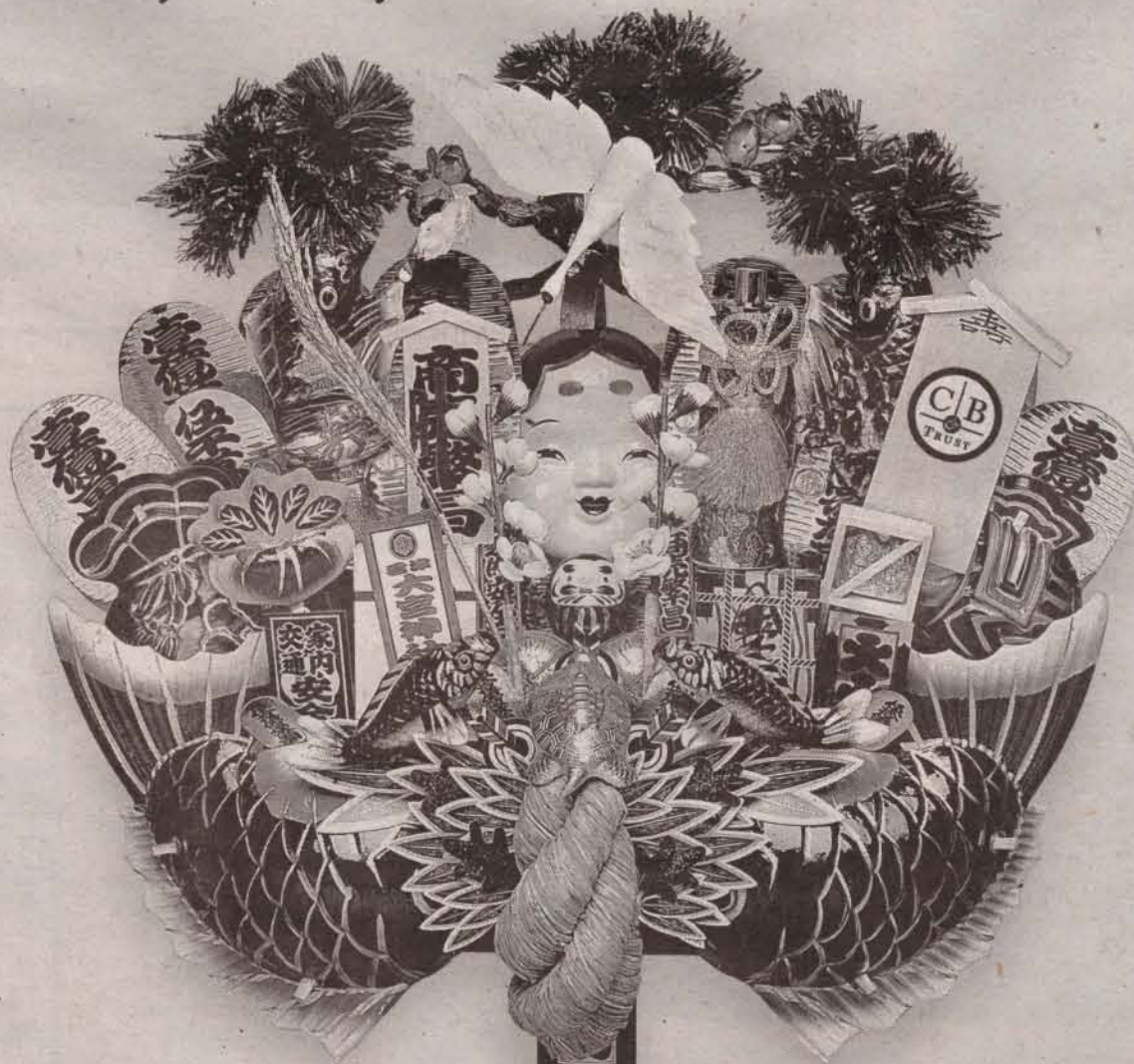
We plan further sponsorship of youth activities and local and regional educational programs for the public as well as for professionals. And we look forward to being active participants in the upcoming national convention.

The MDC sends its best wishes to all JACL members and friends as we work together toward achieving our worthy goals. ■

*Ron Katsuyama is the newly elected MDC governor.*



In the new year, may fortune smile on those who dream.



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'Our entire radio family is ashamed by this ...' — Adam Schiff, HOT 97 FM



MISS JONES



MISS INFO



PHOTO: JAY SMOOTH

While the body count reached 200,000 after the South Asian tsunami, popular New York hip-hop radio station aired a Jan. 26 tsunami parody song. Choice lyrics included 'screaming Chinks.'

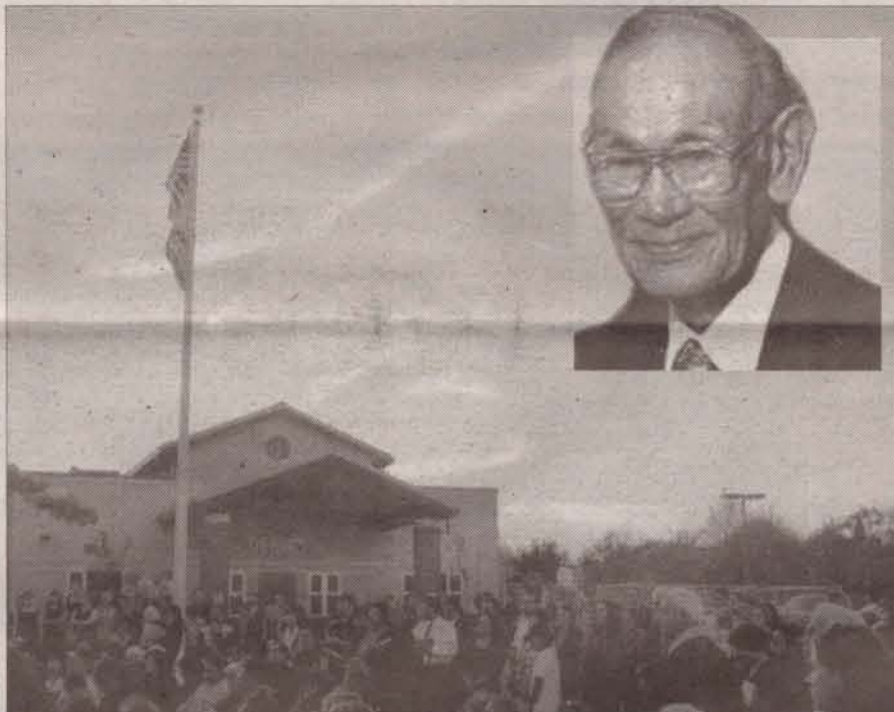
The APA community protested strongly and HOT 97 lost revenue. The main player in the scandal, Miss Jones (Tarsha Nicole Jones) is still hosting the morning show with one less team member — Miss Info (Minya Oh) — who now has her own show.



## 2005 IN PICTURES



Former JACL National President K. Patrick Okura passed away Jan. 30 at the age of 93. His wife, Lily, who was one of the first female officers to serve on the national JACL board, passed away June 14.



To honor the man who battled internment, the Davis Board of Education, in September, named its newest school the 'Fred Korematsu Elementary School.'

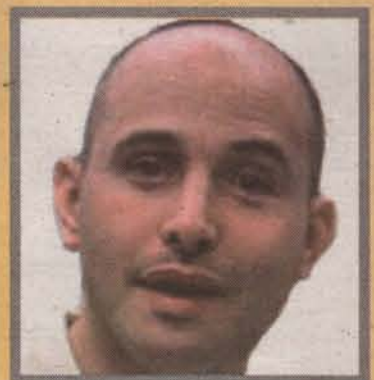
Korematsu did not attend the November opening of the Calif. school with his namesake. He died Mar. 30 of respiratory illness. He was 86.

### Controversies



The San Francisco 49ers' in-house video was an inside joke, but when it was leaked to the press the football team knew it was no laughing matter. A segment featured a stereotypical buck-toothed portrayal of Chinese Americans.

Video star and team public relations director, Kirk Reynolds, (left) was fired and team officials begged for forgiveness from the APA community.



CHRIS CARTON



RAY ROSSI

New Jersey radio hosts Chris Carton and Ray Rossi maligned mayoral candidate Jun Choi and other 'Orientals' during an April 25 broadcast on 101.5 FM. They later apologized to Choi on-air.



'The desperation for these people is rising.' — Tram Nguyen of BPSOS after Hurricane Katrina.



Photos courtesy of BPSOS

In 2005 we were reminded that natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are not just black and white issues. Thousands of Gulf Coast Asian Pacific Americans sought refuge at a local supermarket (left). Today, APAs are still trying to rebuild their destroyed communities (right).



REMEMBERING ONE WAR: 442nd veterans celebrate their 62nd anniversary in Hawaii Mar. 20 (AP Photo)



FIGHTING ANOTHER: Thomas Kim (standing, second from left) added to the growing discord over the war in Iraq. In a special Memorial Day P.C. article, he said his proudest military moment was coming home alive.



Photo courtesy of Darrell Miho & Los Angeles County Office of Education

Fifty years after being forced to discontinue their education during World War II, 58 Los Angeles Nisei hope their new high school diplomas replace old memories of injustice.



Orange County, Texas' "Jap Lane" is put to a stop. The racial slur is now a relic of the past.



Five years after the terrorist attacks, APAs show they still remember. Here, the New York Buddhist Church commemorates the tragedy with floating lanterns.

Col. Young Oak Kim  
1919-2005

'I don't care about leaving a legacy...'

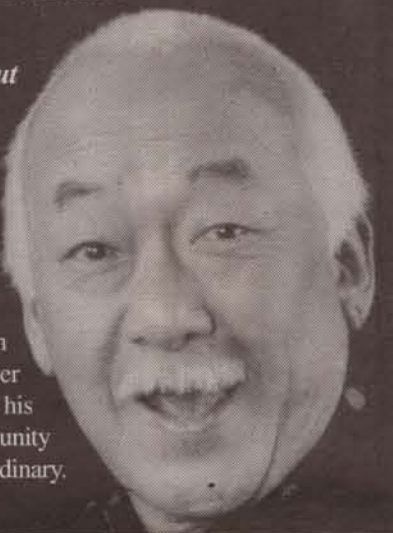
But the highly decorated WWII military hero made history with his bravery in the 100th Infantry Battalion & 442nd RCT. In February, France honored him with Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.



1932-2005

'Daniel-san, never put passion before principle. Even if win, you lose.'

said Pat Morita's Mr. Miyagi in "The Karate Kid Part II." In life, his passion for acting culminated in an Oscar nomination and over 100 films, but it's also his dedication to the community that made him extraordinary.



## MILESTONES



Ben Kuroki received the Distinguished Service Medal and an honorary doctorate of letters degree from the University of Lincoln-Nebraska.



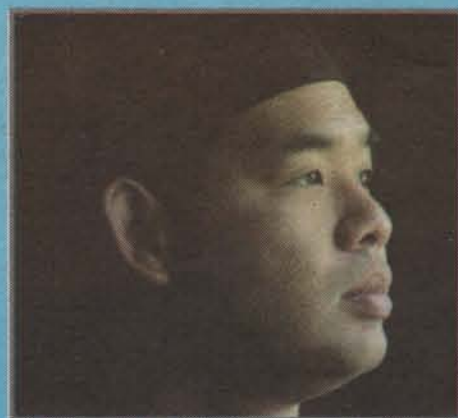
At 84, Yuri Kochiyama was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in June for her longtime work for social justice.



After being slandered by a pair of New Jersey shock jocks (SEE PAGE 8) Jun Choi went on to win the Edison mayoral elections in November.



Boston elects Sam Yoon as its first APA city councilor.

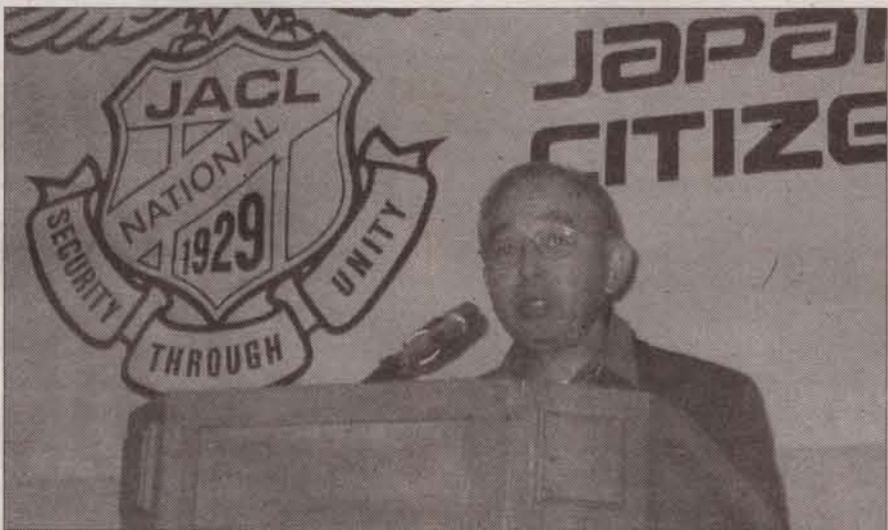


Army Capt. James Yee was honorably discharged in January after nearly three years of espionage suspicion. He pens 'For God and Country' to blow the covers off of military prison abuse.





JACLers with Lily Okura (seated, center) at the JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference in March.



JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi addresses the audience at the Tri-District Conference in Irvine, Calif.

JACL's MISSION: '... to promote cultural, educational & social values...'



Young JACLers practice obon dancing at the Youth Conference in Utah.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES



Alice (Tsunega) Tanaka and Marvin Lee at IDC's first APA baby boomer's reunion.



MDC Regional Director Bill Yoshino, Judge Sandra Otaka and JACL Nat'l President Ken Inouye at the MDC/EDC Bi-District.



PSW Gala Honorees (l-r) Carol Kawanami, Rose Ochi and Dr. Mary Oda.



Yuki Llewellyn, the little girl in Clem Albers' famous internment photo, returns to Manzanar for the first time this past summer.

## 5 Sports & Entertainment

Michelle Wie goes pro at 15!



Gwen Stefani appropriates ethnic identity by employing the Harajuku girls.

"Memoirs of a Geisha" hits the silver screens ... without real geishas.

Ichiro gets his own Starbucks card.

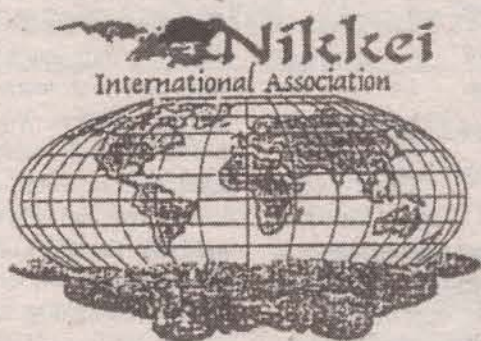


Hawaii wins its first Little League World Series.





## Happy New Year from NIKKEI INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



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- May 21 China - Shanghai, Yangtze River Cruise, Xian & Beijing
- June 17 Salt Lake & National Parks - Including Yellowstone, Tetons, Mt. Rushmore
- July 5 Alaska Cruise and Land Tour on Coral Princess
- July 17 Japan - Highlights of Japan
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- Sept. 2 Tahiti Cruise on the "Paul Gauguin"
- Sept. 21 Japan - Hokkaido and Tohoku
- Oct. 5 New England - Fall Foliage
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• ELAINE AKAGI •

## Alive and Well in the Pacific Northwest



Greetings to all from the rainy, rainy Pacific Northwest. The Year of the Dog is upon us and with it hopes of good health, prosperity and happy times. As the newly elected governor of the PNW district, I'm thrilled to be representing the region on the national board. Although newly elected this doesn't mean I'm new to the job. I served as governor of the PNW from 1998-2002, but the faces on the board are different and also the energy. I'm excited to be a part of this young, new board.

We in the Pacific Northwest have been alive and well. Our 10 chapters in Alaska, Washington and Oregon have been active in education, civil rights and maintaining a presence in our local areas, as well as regionally. As a "new" governor, elected at the end of 2005, we have much the same goals for 2006.

We have been working with other groups to stave off initiatives to restrict individual rights. If not done through legislative initiatives, campaigners are going to the people to further their agendas. It is a never-ending task, which takes diligence and commitment to maintain the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

This year we will hold a national JACL convention in Phoenix, Arizona. It's expected to be an exciting convention and the Phoenix chapter has been working diligently to plan events, workshops and meetings for members and their families to enjoy.

The theme for this year's convention, "Phoenix

Rising: Leadership for a New Generation," fits perfectly into the major project in the PNW. In planning for the JACL of tomorrow, and attracting future young leaders for our organization, the PNW is working on a strategic plan to see what our organization will look like in 10, 20 or 30 years.

Our Strategic Plan, led by a capable Sansei, Jeffrey Hattori, past president of the Seattle chapter, will be our major focus for our biennium. We know our community demographics are changing, and our challenge is to change with it. As our elderly Nisei step aside for the younger Sansei and Yonsei leaders, we must think and plan for the Gosei and "Hapa" generations coming up.

The PNW plan is to work with a variety of focus groups in Oregon, Washington and Alaska to winnow out thoughts of the community on interests and how they see the JACL of the future.

The PNW is looking forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix this June. The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa looks to be a relaxing, yet stimulating setting for the convention. Please plan to join us there. And if you have some thoughts about what the JACL of the future will be, share those thoughts with us. A national perspective, as well as our district perspective, will help formulate a strong plan for our future.

We'll see you all in Phoenix, June 21-24! ■

Elaine Akagi is the newly elected governor of the JACL Pacific Northwest District.

• FLOYD MORI •

## JACL in the Nation's Capital



JACL continues to have relevance today. Racism, prejudice, and discrimination, unfortunately, may never leave this world. Although most political leaders and the general populace seem to decry the acts of blatant racism of the past and have been working for decades to combat it, overt examples of racism are still being experienced by ethnic minorities on a fairly regular basis.

A Japanese American young man had such an encounter not long ago at the Salt Lake City airport. While waiting for his plane, he entered a coffee shop. A woman seemed to bump into him purposely in a crowded area. She looked at him but made no attempt to apologize. After some comments, she became belligerent, threw her coffee at him, and shouted demeaning racial epithets at him.

Recently I have been attending meetings regarding, among other subjects, immigration and the voting rights act. Although people did not think there would be a need for the voting rights act after 40 years, it still is needed today for some ethnic minorities to have a fair chance to vote.

Since 9/11 American citizens and others of Muslim descent have been treated by the U.S. government in similar ways to the Japanese Americans during World War II. Here in the United States, detention of Muslims and other people of the Middle East without any access to due process has had a devastating impact on thousands of families since 9/11. Although the world has

come a long way in making progress against racism, there are times when we revert to actions of the past in the unfair treatment of others.

Recent legislative proposals seek

to penalize immigrants instead of finding a fair path for them to gain legal citizenship and also have a legal mechanism for immigrants to

See MORI/Page 13

## American Holiday Travel

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- JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR ..... MAR 26-APR 6  
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- SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR ... APR 26-MAY 2  
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- MOZART'S MUSICAL CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR ..... MAY 17-27  
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- GRANPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR ..... JUNE 25-JULY 4  
Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Hamana, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE ..... JULY 2-9  
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- HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR ..... OCT 3-15  
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- TAHITI HOLIDAY CRUISE ..... OCT 21-29  
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- AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR ..... NOV 1-18  
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• ALAYNE YONEMOTO •

## Capitalizing on Our Resources



I begin 2006 with a new term as governor of the JACL Pacific Southwest District. I had the advantage of working closely with Hiromi Ueha in her previous two terms as PSW governor. I plan to continue the projects and positive momentum of the past years.

With my involvement in various projects on the district and national levels, I have had the opportunity to interact with the different national staff positions. I have come to learn that the regional directors are tremendous resources for the national organization. Their expertise is drawn upon for many things including: national committee work, national programs, district programs, and local community collaborations.

The presence of national staff helps us to provide a consistent presence in the community. Their effectiveness reaches to every part of the organization. I recognize their impact and can also feel their absence when positions are not filled.

There is an open national staff position in PSW. To counterbalance the need for more national staff, members of PSW need to take advantage of our volunteers' strengths by orchestrating a sharing of resources.

Without a regional director, PSW

has lacked the ability to weave chapter partnerships for the organization. But PSW has experts in many areas including: civil rights, membership, programming, events, community networking, Web site development, and fundraising. We have some chapters that have successful relationships with each other. They are able to assist each other in planning events and other collaborative efforts.

I hope to extend these partnerships to more chapters in JACL. By formally pooling our collective resources, I hope to build a stronger internal and local community network for JACL by taking advantage of each opportunity in 2006.

During my term I will strive to represent the desires of my district. I am sorting out the goals that I have made for myself as I prepare the agenda for the PSW executive board retreat. At the retreat, the PSW executive board will brainstorm new ideas, review previous outcomes, set new goals, and decide upcoming programs. I will use this time to plant creative seeds in to the minds of the board. I want them to think of positive opportunities for JACL. We always need creative minds in membership and fundraising.

We can also use this year to reconnect with other community

organizations. PSW chapters need to reconfirm themselves as needing a place among the local community leaders by rekindling the relationships with other organizations of our community. I am fortunate to belong to a district that has active chapters in many geographic areas. But without a PSW regional director the district has lacked cohesion.

In the areas where JACL has a strong link to their local community, we need to take advantage of their strength and link them to other JACL chapters that are looking for a model or assistance. I want to formulate a plan with the PSW execu-

tive board to assist our chapters with networking efforts.

This year we also need to showcase the good programs that we currently offer. Our district is preparing

to host the 2006 convention. We will have chances to showcase JACL in the pre-convention events. These events can introduce

members and potential members to the tangible benefits of JACL. It will also create opportunities for JACL members to talk to new people about the intangible benefits of JACL.

I hope that my district will use

each interaction as an opportunity to gain a new member, meet a community partner, develop a new local sponsor, or maybe simply find a new volunteer.

I hope 2006 is the year we fill the open PSW regional director position. The director's required duties as a national staff member will parallel the efforts that PSW will put forth this year towards building stronger chapters. We understand that having a regional director is a benefit to the entire organization because they are able to help form and gather resources of all types for all of JACL.

I look forward to working with you. ■

Alayne Yonemoto is the newly elected PSW district governor.

**'The presence of national staff helps us to provide a consistent presence in the community. Their effectiveness reaches to every part of the organization.'**



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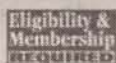
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**MORI**

(Continued from page 11)

be reunited with their families. This also sounds like issues that were fought by the Asian communities in the early 1900s when anti-Asian sentiment was rampant. It is critical that the United States remain an open nation that welcomes the ideas, cultures, and economic benefits that come from diversity. Building walls to keep others out sounds like the folly of isolationism of a century ago.

Working in Washington, D.C. for JACL has been a great experience so far. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of our nation's leaders. These are good people who are making sacrifices to serve their fellow men and women. Their schedules are very full and time will not allow them to do all that is asked of them.

Many leaders on both sides of the political aisle have been instrumental in helping JACL to move forward with our areas of concern.

Although it may be time for JACL to look at other directions of focus besides civil rights and the camps, those issues will continue to be the core of our activities.

JACL will continue to work in coalition with other Asian American organizations to bring about a better way of life for all.

Here's wishing all of you A VERY HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! ■

*Floyd Mori is the JACL Washington, D.C. representative and is a former JACL national president.*

• GERALD KATO •  
**To My Extended Family**



Happy New Year! It is with mixed emotions that I have left the Pacific Southwest District office as PSW Programs Coordinator. I am excited about the new challenges that await me, but at the same time, I'm sad to leave the PSW office and its members whom I regard as extended family.

It was an honor to be a part of an organization with such a rich history and national influence. When I started in 1999, I didn't realize how influential JACL had been in shaping American history during the 1900s. I developed a greater appreciation of the organization as I learned the values of protecting our civil liberties.

I am grateful for the opportunities that were afforded to me and to the people that I have met during my tenure at JACL. I would be remiss if I didn't mention some of my memorable JACL moments.

The single greatest event that I was involved with is the 2003 JACL Gala Dinner. A combined joint effort between PSW and National

JACL, it showed that JACL is still the showstopper. It was amazing to hear Secretary Norman Mineta, Senator Daniel Inouye, Congressman Honda and the late Congressman Matsui speak and share their insight. Sen. Inouye's tribute to his family was the most touching speech I had ever heard and one that I shall remember.

An honorable mention and funniest moment would have to be at the 2003 PSW/CCDC/NCWNP Tri-District in Visalia, Calif. when then National JACL President Floyd Mori smashed a whipped cream pie on then National Vice President of Public Affairs Ken Inouye's head. I imagine it was a spur of the moment thing and caught us who were in the room by surprise. While it may not have been funny for Ken, he was a good sport about it. He earned points from me for keeping his poise.

I established many relationships but none greater than the ones with the five interns who worked in the PSW office. Kyle Tajima, Eric

Nakano, Cory Hayashi, Jessie Kikuchi and Craig Ishii were my interns from 2002 until 2005. It was great to connect with each intern, to hear about issues that concern them and to give them guidance as they worked on projects for PSW. The commonalities that were shared helped each relationship, whether it was music, politics, sports or how to connect with today's youth. I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have mentored and guided me over the years. I would like to thank former PSW Regional Director Beth Au for taking a chance and hiring me. I also would like to thank JACL Executive Director John Tateishi for believing in me and allowing me to work on some national programs — that experience was invaluable.

Most importantly, I want to thank Carol Saito, whose knowledge of the organization and community helped me so much. Carol truly is the backbone of PSW and I thank her for her friendship.

Lastly, I want to thank my wife Amy Kato (Matsumoto) for being supportive of me while working for JACL. (If it wasn't for JACL we would have never met.) I know it wasn't always easy, but we persevered.

I wish the organization well and hope that 2006 and years to come will be prosperous. I hope to see everyone in Phoenix at the national convention. ■

*Gerald Kato served as the PSW youth coordinator and PSW programs coordinator for six years.*

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## In Memoriam - 2005

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akao, Kathleen, 57**, Santa Cruz, Nov. 27; first Asian American Superior Court judge in Santa Cruz County. She is survived by her son, Kristoffer; father, Tokio Katayama; and brothers, Danny, Bobby and David.

**Amano, George Koichi, 84**, Torrance; WWII veteran.

**Breitenbach, Yaye Togasaki, 96**, Oakland, Sept. 17; joined the Army Nurses.

**Chino, Joe, 84**, San Diego, Nov. 10; WWII veteran.

**Date, Hideo, 98**, Queens, N.Y., Jan. 6; watercolor artist from the 1920s and 30s.

**Dengkhim, Tenzin Choeku, 19**, Virginia, April 2; first Tibetan-American killed in Iraq; Marine Lance Cpl.

**Duenas, Magdaleno, 90**, Feb. 27; WWII veteran, 101st Infantry.

**Estes, Donald Hamilton, 68**, San Diego; founding member of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and served on the San Diego JACL board since 1967.

**Fujioka, Tadashi C., 85**, Juneau, Alaska, June 27; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Fujita, Shigeuki David, 86**, Los Angeles, June 23; WWII veteran.

**Fukai, Mason M., 85**, Spokane, Wash., Sept. 18; served U.S. Army.

**Fukano, Miyo, 109**, Tracy, Nov. 1.

**Fukuchi, Tokko, 86**, Los Angeles, Oct. 14; WWII veteran.

**Fukutome, Ichiro, 86**, Sacramento, Sept. 30; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Furukawa, Richard Isao, 93**, Los Angeles, Oct. 9; WWII veteran.

**Hanada, Mitsuru, 55**, Tokyo, May 30; "Prince of Sumo," former ozeki.

**Hashimoto, Shichiro, 102**, West Los Angeles, Aug. 29.

**Hata, Nadine, 63**, Feb. 25; was vice president emeritus at El Camino College, where she served as faculty member, academic dean and vice president for academic affairs.

**Hatta, Kayo, 47**, Encinitas, July 20; filmmaker; 1995 film "Picture Bride" won an audience award for best dramatic film at the Sundance Film Festival.

**Hayashi, Rodney Ken, 57**, Los

Angeles, Jan. 18; Vietnam War veteran.

**Herzig, Jack, 83**, Gardena, Aug. 21; along with his wife, Aiko, helped discover documents that refuted the government's claim that the evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 JAs were justified on the basis of military necessity. WWII veteran.

**Higa, Jensei, 70**, Monterey Park, May 17; Vietnam veteran.

**Himel, William, 90**, Catonsville, Md.; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Hiramatsu, Richard Y., 91**, Santa Maria, Mar. 3; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Hirano, Teruko, 101**, Westminster, Sept. 23.

**Horiuchi, Tsutomu, 80**, Salt Lake City, July 8; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

**Hwang, Henry, 77**, San Marino, Oct. 8; founder of first federally chartered Chinese American bank (Far East National Bank). Father of playwright David Henry Hwang.

**Inaba, Frank, 88**, Moses Lake, Wash., July 3; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Jinbo, Masaru J., 91**, Fountain Valley, June 2; WWII veteran, Army.

**Kamimoto, Herbert Yogoro, 80**, April 8; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Kaminishi, Minoru, 88**, Torrance, Jan. 3; 442nd RCT, Company L.

**Kawashima, Robert "Bob," 79**, Pasadena, Jan. 7; WWII veteran.

**Kihara, Shigeya, 90**, Oakland, Jan. 16; original instructor of the first U.S. Army language school established in 1941 on the Presidio of San Francisco to teach American soldiers Japanese.

**Kim, Col. Young O., 86**, Los Angeles, Dec. 29; retired U.S. Army Col., a highly decorated military hero of WWII and the Korean War who later worked to help



Los Angeles's Asian communities. Kim died from cancer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, according to Diane Tanaka, associate director of

the Go For Broke Educational Foundation, which Kim co-founded and served as chairman emeritus. Born in Los Angeles to Korean immigrants, Kim was drafted at the start of WWII and assigned to the Army's 100th Infantry Battalion. One of just two Koreans in the primarily JA outfit, he declined the offer of a transfer, saying all soldiers were Americans. He returned to Los Angeles after the war and started a successful business but re-enlisted when the Korean War broke out. He became captain of the 442nd RCT, the first Asian American to hold such a post, and directed his unit's drive to push back enemy forces from the 38th parallel. Their efforts helped create a buffer between North and South Korea. For his heroics during the two wars, Kim won about 20 medals, including a Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, three Purple Hearts, a French Legion of Honor and Italian Military Valor Cross. He helped found organizations that helped Asian immigrants and civic foundations, including JANM, the Korean American Museum and Go For Broke. Kim is survived by three stepsons, Jerry and Tom Surh and Corey Covert; sister, Willa; and brothers, Jack and Henry.

**Kinoshita, Tom Masanori**, Yuba City, Korean War veteran.

**Kiriyama, George, 74**, Torrance; educator and community leader. served on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board. He was also a founder and past president of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California.

**Kitashima, Tsuyako "Sox," 87**, San Francisco, Dec. 29; community activist



who helped JAs in the Bay Area gain redress. Born July 14, 1918 in Hayward to Masajiro and Yumi Kataoka. She earned her nickname because her non-Japanese friends couldn't pronounce the "Tsu" in her first name. In 1980, Kitashima joined the National Coalition of Redress and Reparations and quickly became the face and voice of the redress program in the Bay Area. She also helped the Office of Redress Administration (ORA), the government agency set up to distribute redress and locate those that were eligi-

ble. Kitashima was involved in many community organizations, including the Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, the San Francisco chapter of JACL, the National Japanese American Historical Society, the Asian Law Caucus and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. She was preceded in death by her husband Tom. The loving sister to the late Nobuko, Lillian, Masao and Hisao. She is survived by her son Alan (Sylvia), grandson Aaron, and her brother James (Boe).

**Kobashigawa, Yeiki, 87**, Wai'anae, Hawaii, Mar. 31; WWII veteran, 100th Battalion; awarded the Medal of Honor by President Clinton.

**Kobayashi, Akira, Larry, 80**, Camarillo, May 27; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Kobayashi, Edward "Sam," 87**, Montebello, Nov. 25; WWII veteran.

**Kobayashi, George, 92**, Pasadena, Nov. 30; decorated veteran of the OSS serving in China-Burma-India Theater of Operations during WWII.

**Kondo, Kara, 89**, Terrace Heights, Wash., July 31; Yakima County Community Leader. Most known for her 22 years of service on the Yakima Urban Area Regional Planning Commission.

**Kondo, Robert Kiyoshi, 72**, Whittier, Oct. 5; Korean Conflict veteran, Marines.

**Korematsu, Fred, 86**, San Francisco, Mar. 30; challenged the WWII internment orders that sent 120,000 JAs to internment camps. Later had his conviction overturned in the 1980s. In 1998 President Bill Clinton awarded him the highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**Koyama, Ura, 114**, Tokyo, April 5.

**Kuda, Masao Joe, 82**, Los Angeles, April 28; WWII veteran.

**Kudo, Ben B., 71**, July 16; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Kurihara, Walter Masao, 78**, Dinuba, July 31; U.S. Army.

**Kuwabara, Henry Hideo, 86**, Culver City, May 7; WWII veteran, MIS; Korean War veteran.

**Lederer, Midori Shimanouchi, 81**, Manhattan, N.Y., Mar. 9; Founder and president emeritus of Japanese American Social Services Inc., a non-profit organization providing social services to Asian Americans in New York.

**Maruno, Arthur J., 54**, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Aug. 26; Vietnam vet, Air Force.

**Matsushita, Mike, 37**, London, July 7; died in the London terror bombings.

**Matsui, Robert T., 63**, Sacramento, Jan. 1; Longtime member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Matsui was an attorney who became a City Council member before winning election to the fifth congressional district in 1978. He went on to serve 26 years in Congress, most recently winning his 14th term. Matsui was the third ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee. Also served as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. His most memorable accomplishment was his role in helping to pass legislation that apologized for the internment policy and provided compensation for the survivors to Japanese Americans that were sent to concentration camps during WWII.

**Matsumura, Ito, 102**, Santa Monica, Jan. 16.

**Mayeda, John, 83**, Longview, Wash., July 17; WWII veteran, Army.

**McDowell, Jack, 86**, Feb. 24; WWII veteran, Marines; former Japanese American Korean War Veterans Board

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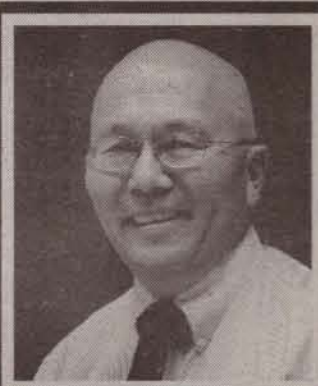
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Member. Together with his wife, Dorothy Katsura McDowell, helped JA veterans receive benefits and treatment as VA coordinators for JAKWV.

**Mibu, Kiko, 101**, Gardena, Jan. 13.

**Mink, John, 81**, Honolulu, Oct. 18; husband of Hawaii Congresswoman, Patsy Mink. Awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for service in WWII.

**Miyamoto, Hisao "Bob,"** San Leandro; WWII veteran, MIS; Korean War veteran.

**Morikawa, George Yoshimi, 87**, Buena Park, Oct. 23; WWII veteran.

**Morita, Noriyuki Pat, 73**, Las Vegas, Nov. 24; played Mr. Miyagi in the "The Karate Kid" series of movies, which also earned him an Oscar nomination. He began as a stand-up comedian working on the Playboy Club circuit and Las Vegas. His big break came when he was cast as Arnold in "Happy Days."

**Murase, Robert K., 66**, Seattle, July 18; landscape architect; his work can be found in the gardens at the Oregon Convention Center and the "Garden of Remembrance" in downtown Seattle. He created the settings for the early corporate campuses of Microsoft, Nike and Amgen. He also designed the courtyard of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

**Nagai, Masaaki, 85**, Nov. 24; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Nakano, Lane, 80**, Los Angeles, April 28; actor, played the lead JA part in the movie, "Go for Broke!", about the 442nd RCT.

**Nakatsuka, Larry, 85**, Hawaii; Honolulu Star-Bulletin reporter. Was also an aide to two Hawaii governors and U.S. Sen. Hiram Fong. He was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Asian American Journalists Association in 2000. He joined the Star-Bulletin after graduation from St. Louis School in 1939, the first Japanese American reporter on the staff. He was the first JA to win a Harvard University Nieman Fellowship, leaving Hawaii for a year of study in 1951-52. Born in Hanalei, Kauai, he was named Kaoru, but the faculty at St. Louis School called him Lawrence, a name that stuck for life. He is survived by sons, Roy and Paul, daughter, Laura, brother, James, and sisters, Audrey Oyama and Leslie Miyashiro.

**Nishikawa, Hanako, 100**, Monterey

Park, Feb. 10.

**Nishimura, Dr. Shigeo, 86**, Spokane, Wash., April 3; served in the Army Medical Corp during WWII.

**Nishimura, Tadao George, 84**, Los Angeles, Mar. 9; WWII veteran.

**Nunotani, Wallace "Wally," 83**, San Francisco, Mar. 15; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

**Ohishi, Ken, Aug. 29**; retired Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

**Okura, Gengo, 86**, Las Vegas, Jan. 14; WWII veteran.

**Okura, K. Patrick, 93**, Bethesda, Md., Jan. 30; former JACL National President and founder of the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. Formed the Omaha JACL in 1947. Inducted into the Montgomery County Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2002. Was also JACL's JA of the Biennium winner in 1978 and was awarded the Ruby Pin in 1999.

**Okura, Lily**, Bethesda, Md., June 14; pioneering leader of JACL. Longtime member of the Washington, D.C. chapter and board. One of the first female officers to serve on the national JACL board. Was the recipient of JACL's Silver, Sapphire, and Ruby pins.

**Osaka, Dick, 79**, Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 21; WWII veteran, Army.

**Ota, Minol "Doc," D.V.M., 88**, San Jose; first president of Wyoming and Montana JACL.

**Ozaki, Fumio J., 80**, Los Angeles, Nov. 21; WWII veteran.

**Ozaki, William "Bill" K., 89**, Woodbine, Ga.; Aug. 24; WWII veteran, Army Air Corps.

**Rimes, Garry Wesley, 30**, Santa Maria, April 1; Marine Cpl., killed in Iraq.

**Ritchie, Sue, 101**, Northridge, July 3.

**Saiki, Patsy S., 90**, Honolulu, Dec. 2; author and educator who beat cancer at 35 and went on to become an award-winning author, educator, volunteer and philanthropist. Saiki wrote 5 books, including "Sachie: A Daughter of Hawaii" and "Ganbare: An Example of Japanese Spirit." While serving as research chair of the JACL from 1979-1981, Patsy interviewed more than 100 internees or their immediate family members. She compiled the research into her book, "Ganbare: An Example of Japanese Spirit." She is survived by daughters, Mae Kuboyama and Kathleen Kiyuna;

sons, Ken and Dennis; 7 gc.; and 10 ggc.

**Sakauye, Eiichi Edward, 93**, San Jose, Nov. 30; Chronicled Heart Mountain History. Published the book, "Heart Mountain: A Photo Essay" which contains many photos and stills from 8 mm film that he took while interned at Heart Mountain. Later help found the Japanese American Museum of San Jose.

**Sasai, Tadaichi Ted, 78**, Monterey Park, Dec. 27; WWII veteran.

**Sasaki, Herbert, 84**, Hattiesburg, Miss., May 13; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; Korean War veteran.

**Sato, Eddie Hirofumi, 82**, Chicago, Feb. 4; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; 232 Combat Engineers.

**Shigetaka, Kohachi, 110**, Tokyo, July 3.

**Shimamoto, Bill, 87**, Pasadena, May 31; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Shively, Donald Howard, 84**, Berkeley, Aug. 13; UC Berkeley professor and pioneer of post-war Japanese studies. WWII veteran, Marines.

**Shoji, Joji George, 85**, San Pablo, July 4; U.S. Army.

**Sin, Cardinal Jaime, 76**, Manila, June 21; Roman Catholic Cardinal; outspoken advocate of democracy who played a key role in the "people power" revolts that ousted two Philippine presidents.

**Sugiura, Takashi, 93**, Rockville, Md., Mar. 15; retired Smithsonian Institution Conservator of East Asian paintings.

**Tagami, Kan, 87**, Honolulu, Nov. 24; served from 1946 to 1951 as personal interpreter-aide for General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces Pacific. As MacArthur's interpreter, Tagami, highly decorated veteran of Burma campaign, was present at key moments in the U.S. Occupation of Japan, such as the historic meetings between MacArthur and each of Japan's Prime Ministers during this period. A native of Selma, Calif., who went to Japan in his youth, was a career military officer. Drafted into the Army prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was selected as a student and later instructor for the new, all-Japanese American Military Intelligence Service Language School. In 1996 Tagami was inducted into the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame in Huachuca, Ariz. He is survived by his wife, Sadae; sons, Randall and John; and daughter, Janis Yamauchi.

**Takagi, Harry O., 85**, Tokyo, May 22; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Takahashi, George M., 85**, July 12; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Tanaka, Jack Tadashi, 88**, S. El Monte, Feb. 19; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Tanihara, Noboru "Harry," 89**, Walnut, June 7; WWII veteran, 442nd.

**Tanikawa, Hideo Jimmy, 85**, Los Angeles, Feb. 24; WWII veteran.

**Tanimoto, Frank Toshio, 59**, Westminster, Dec. 5; Vietnam War veteran.

**Tange, Kenzo, 91**, Tokyo, Mar. 22; architect, designed the twin gymnasiums for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

**Teraji, Dr. Tsutomu Tom, 89**, Sept. 11; WWII veteran.

**Teshima, George Musubu, 85**, Albuquerque, N.M., July 22; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, Company E.

**Tomita, Take, 101**, Sunland, Sept. 15. Toyoda, Susumu "Sus,"

**Tsuji, Yasushi Stan, 77**, Rolling Hills, May 8; Korean War veteran.

#### DEATH NOTICE

#### ALICE "MIZ" TSUKAHARA

GARDENA, Calif. — Alice "Miz" Tsukahara, 77, passed away Dec. 20 after a lengthy illness. Born on Dec. 12, 1928 in Santa Barbara, she was interned during the war at Gila River, Ariz., then re-settled in Gardena. Alice worked for the city of Gardena for over 30 years, most recently as deputy city treasurer. She enjoyed her retirement spending time with her relatives and hobbies. She was well loved and respected by friends and family and her bubbly personality will sorely be missed. Alice is survived by her sister, Chiyoko Hiraoka and was preceded in death by her two brothers, Yoshikazu and Paul (Yoshihiro/Boake). Affectionately known as Auntie Miz, she was one of the favorite aunts of Naomi Imoriya (Tsukahara), Shelley Kurata (Hiraoka), Hiroshi Tsukahara, Trudy Hiraoka, Peggy Lamaysou (Hiraoka), Mardy Machara (Tsukahara), Ken Tsukahara, and Louise Tsukahara. She also had 8 grand-nieces and nephews. Private interment services were held at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes.

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**Tsukahara, Theodore**, Seal Beach, Feb. 24; WWII veteran, 442nd Infantry.

**Uchio, Akira, 68**, Torrance, Sept. 10; U.S. Army.

**Ujiye, Arthur Akira, 83**, Los Angeles, Mar. 30; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, M Company.

**Wagner, I.J. "Izzy," 89**, Salt Lake City, Feb. 1; provided employment to JAs during and after WWII as owner of Wagner Bag Company.

**Yamaji, Toshio "Toe," 76**, Sun Valley, Feb. 6; Korean War veteran.

**Yamashita, K. Stanley, 80**, Apr. 9; U.S. Army Ret. Lt. Col., WWII veteran, MIS.

**Yamashita, Shigeru, 86**, Hacienda Heights, Feb. 5; WWII veteran, MIS.

**Yamauchi, Fred Masayuki, 82**, Burbank, June 5; WWII veteran.

**Yoshizawa, Akira, 94**, Tokyo, Mar. 14; origami master. ■

#### DEATH NOTICE

#### ROBERT M. MITORI

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Robert M. Mitori, 71, passed away Dec. 13. He was a past president of the St. Louis JACL and spoke at several St. Louis area schools about growing up in a World War II internment camp. Mr. Mitori was born in Stockton, Calif. and was the seventh on nine children born to Kango and Katsumi Mitori. The family had a farm in the San Joaquin Valley, but in 1942 the family was sent to a temporary assembly center at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds in California. Six months later, they were moved to an internment camp in Rohwer, Ark. The family was released in 1946 and moved to Pevely, MO. Mr. Mitori moved to St. Louis before joining the Army. He was in a combat engineering battalion stationed in southern Germany. Mr. Mitori graduated from Washington University in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and worked at the McDonnell Douglas Corp. for more than 25 years. He retired in 1993. Mr. Mitori is survived by wife, Nobuko Anne; son, Steven; daughters, Wendy (Sandford) Roll, and Jody (Lynden Steele) Mitori; sisters Ishi (John) Kim, Alice (Roy) Delaney, Jean Reavey, and Ann (Robert) Hattori; and three grandchildren.



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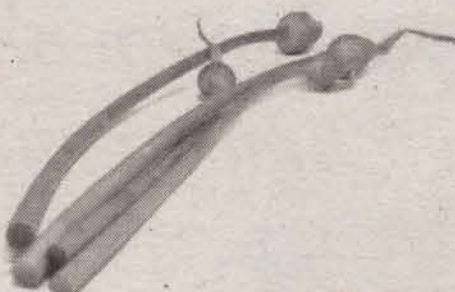
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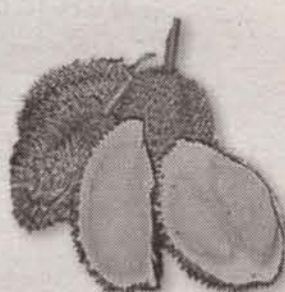
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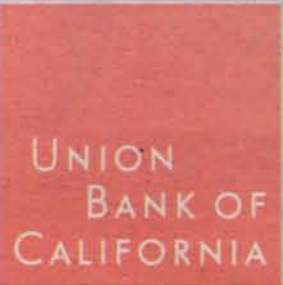
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