



Judging Alito
JACL, APA organizations say no to the new Supreme Court justice.
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Preserving JACL History
JACL Hall in Monterey, Calif. has been an APA hub for 80 years. Now it's received a preservation grant.
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torino 2006



Can Kwan Catch Gold?
She's not alone. Find out which APA Olympians will dominate.
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Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Day of Remembrance
Find a DOR event near you.
LISTING PAGE 10

#3050/ Vol. 142, No. 2 ISSN: 0030-8579

FEB. 3-16, 2006

Zoning Chinatown



PHOTO: STEPHEN FRANDSEN

To help the New York ethnic enclave recover from Sept. 11th, the state launches a business development effort, but at what cost?

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

At Fortune Furniture, a family-owned business with a 10-year history in New York's Chinatown, tra-

ditional hardwood chairs are placed next to modern futons. It's a merchandising trick that owner Steven Tin uses to keep up with the times.

Tin, 50, grew up in Chinatown, the largest Chinese ethnic enclave in the United States. Over the years, he has seen his old neighborhood expand further out to the Lower East Side to accommodate what he calls the "new immigrants and yuppies" looking for housing in Lower

See CHINATOWN/Page 6

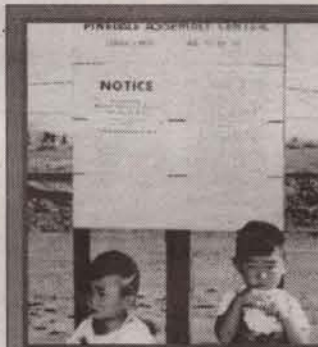
JAs Fight for Memorial at Former Pinedale Assembly Center

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

The dilapidated warehouse located on the northwest side of Fresno, Calif. may not look like much for the everyday passersby but for Jim Hirabayashi the building holds historic significance not only for his family but for tens of thousands of Japanese Americans.

For almost three months following the start of World War II this location was home for Hirabayashi, then 15, along with his parents and three siblings. The area was then known as the Pinedale Assembly Center, a temporary holding area for 4,823 JAs. Eventually they would head to Tule Lake, one of ten internment camps scattered across the Western States.

"It was kind of strange to be locked up. It was hot and dusty," said Hirabayashi who still remembers the train ride to Pinedale, his



The dilapidated warehouse above sits on land that was once home to more than 4,800 Japanese Americans during World War II.

first-ever. "Right away our family life just broke apart," he said, noting the lack of privacy and the dissolution of the core-family environment he had been used to.

Today, the owners of the warehouse want to tear it down to make

room for office buildings. But before demolition can begin, the local JA community wants the area declared a California Historical Landmark and have asked owner

See PINEDALE/Page 4

Fighting for Eternal Peace

A group of Korean veterans are suing a cemetery in the outskirts of Los Angeles for fraud, misrepresentation.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

In the grassy area, Kunsup Chang, 82, saw more than a final resting place—he saw eternal glory and happiness. A former air force major in his native land during the Korean War, Chang immigrated in 1970 to the United States in search of a better life. Then as the saying goes, life happened. His family thrived and he became a U.S. citizen, but thoughts about the future continued to cloud his mind.

Where would he rest in his adopted land?

Hope broke through one day in

2001 when Chang and a group of Korean veterans were bused to Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora, Calif. On the pastoral grounds, they were promised a one-of-a-kind Korean War veterans' memorial. This was where he would be buried among other veterans, promised the cemetery salesperson in Chang's native language of Korean. In-language brochures with color sketches of the memorial were pushed in their hands.

But five years later, not one stone has been moved to build the memorial and the elderly veterans who bought plots but could not wait for

'At the time we just trusted everything that [Oakdale] was telling us.' — Kunsup Chang



Kunsup Chang (l) and Young Soon Ahn.

what was promised to them, are buried in scattered parts of the cemetery. When questioned about the memorial, an Oakdale employee said they were temporary resting places for the veterans while the memorial was being built, said Chang through a translator.

In early January, Chang along with 16 other Korean veterans who bought plots sued the cemetery for fraud, false advertising and misrepresentation.

"We wanted to be buried together as veterans," Chang said slowly rubbing his hands together. He signed the English-only contract to buy two plots for \$3,500. "At the time we

See CEMETERY/Page 12

APAs Successfully Campaign Against Racist T-Shirts

Spencer's, a national retailer of novelty items, sold racist caricatures, stereotypes, said community members.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Spencer's, a popular national retailer, is discontinuing the sale of three racially offensive T-shirts in response to protests from the Asian Pacific American community.

"I would like to express Spencer's deepest regrets for any offense derived from merchandise carried out in our stores," said Spencer's Public Relations Manager Mike Champion in a Jan. 19 letter to a Web blogger who initiated the protest.

The T-shirts priced at \$30 for two, featured Asian caricatures and lewd jokes that many considered racist. One paired a cartoon of a bucktooth, slant-eyed Asian man wearing a queue under a straw hat with the message, "Hang out with your Wang out." Another featured a

See T-SHIRTS/Page 4



PHOTO: JONG LEONG

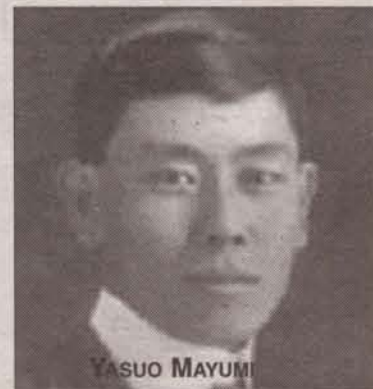
Jefferson County, Texas to Honor Mayumi Family

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

Sometimes good things result from controversy.

Although the town of Fannett in Jefferson County, Texas may be better known as the place where residents fought a 12-year battle against renaming controversial "Jap Road," the town now plans to build an historical marker in honor of a local pioneering Japanese family.

"As the Fannett residents pass by the marker each day, they can be reminded that they were blessed that Yoshio and Yasuo Mayumi settled and introduced rice farming to their area," said Sandra Tanamachi, a school teacher who led the 12-year fight to rename "Jap Road." "They can feel proud that in 2006, they



YASUO MAYUMI

were able to properly pay their respects to the Mayumi family."

During the name change controversy, Fannett residents had long insisted "Jap Road" was named in honor of the Mayumi family who settled in the area in 1905. But Japanese Americans and various

See MAYUMI/Page 12

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P.C. Wins Prestigious Writing Awards

Pacific Citizen Executive Editor
 Caroline Aoyagi-Stom and
 Assistant Editor Lynda Lin are
 both winners of the New
 California Media Awards dubbed
 "The Ethnic Pulitzers" by the Jim
 Lehrer News Hour.

Aoyagi-Stom was named run-
 ner-up in the "Inter-Ethnic
 Relations" awards category for
 "Mexican Americans Seek to
 Right a Wrong," her article on the
 little-known Mexican Repatriation
 of the 1920s and 1930s. Lin was
 named runner-up in the "Best
 Investigative/In Depth" category
 for "The Price of Becoming
 American," an examination of one

immigrant's plight to become a
 U.S. citizen.

This was the first time the P.C.
 submitted articles for the annual
 NCM Awards.

The NCM Awards were pre-
 sented by New California Media,
 America's largest association of
 ethnic media. The organization
 recently changed its name to New
 American Media. Over 40 judges
 selected winners from 300 print,
 broadcast, and online submissions
 in more than 10 languages from
 Spanish to Punjabi.

The NCM Awards were pre-
 sented at the San Jose Fairmont
 Hotel Jan. 26. ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts
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 in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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Letters to the Editor

Reader Finds 'Haole Hubby Club' Article Offensive

The Haole Hubby Club's article,
 "Top 10 Reasons to Marry a Haole"
 lists reasons for marrying white men
 such as "they think you're cute and
 exotic" and "your children have a
 decent chance of being taller than
 5'4" ... "while claiming that they are
 not promoting interracial marriages.

While I'm sure this article was
 written lightheartedly, I found it
 offensive because it objectifies Asian
 American women and mixed-race
 children, as well as commercializes
 interracial marriages. The language
 used in this article implies that being
 racially Asian is a Darwinian disaster
 because we don't have the phenotypic
 characteristics or physical struc-
 tures of whites and moreover
 degrades AA men by situating them
 as the polar opposite of an imagined
 ideal of white masculinity while fur-
 ther accessorizing AA women
 according to typical mass-media
 stereotypes as physical objects of
 desire and fantasy.

Most appalling was that this arti-
 cle listed superficial "benefits" of
 interracial marriage by only dis-
 cussing exchanges such as artifacts,
 food, and producing mixed-race off-
 spring, as well as alluding that inter-
 racial marriages are an Asian-white
 phenomenon.

Why is it necessary for these
 women to implicitly disparage
 Asian-ness and glorify whiteness?
 Why can't they describe their hus-
 bands on qualities other than their
 race? These women really ought to
 measure the worth of their spouses
 and themselves on factors other than
 physicality and race.

As JACL is an ethnic interest
 group that strives to eradicate stereo-
 types and preserve the well-being of
 all AAs, I believe we have a social
 responsibility to lead by example.
 Before we expect others to take us
 seriously and work with us to eradi-
 cate stereotypes of AAs in our com-
 mercial and institutional domains,
 we must first work within our own
 community structures to insure that
 the written discourses we produce
 are congruent with our organization-
 al goals.

Rachel Endo
 Savoy, IL

Derogatory or Harmless?

I enjoyed reading the Top Ten lists
 of various subjects, serious and oth-
 erwise. One exception was the arti-
 cle by J. "E." Kuida and T. Osumi
 and their list of 101. When I came to
 No. 95, I disagreed with their com-
 mentary that the terms Kuichi and
 Kurombo were derogatory. I was
 under the impression that in speak-
 ing to our Japanese parents
 Kurombo was merely a physical
 description of a black person, no
 more, no less. Certainly there was no
 derisiveness in its use.

I grew up in a small town near
 Chicago amidst a heavy concentra-
 tion of Eastern European immi-
 grants. Their children (my play-
 mates) must have been indoctrinated
 about the bad side of Jewish people
 because I never heard such talk from
 my parents.

When I entered high school, I had
 some Jewish kids in my class and I
 noticed that they were invariably
 smart kids. My opinion of Jews start-
 ed to change. The fact is that the
 Jews are a remarkable group of peo-
 ple who have had a tremendous
 impact for the good in ALL fields of

human endeavor in spite of universal
 prejudice along with persecution.
 So, what has this to do with Kuichi?

As a teenager I still had a residue
 of prejudice (without cause) toward
 Jewish people and in referring to
 some act supposedly a Jewish trait,
 I'd say to my sister that he or she was
 a Kuichi. When she asked what a
 Kuichi was, I explained that
 "Ku" (nine in Japanese) plus "Ichi"
 (one in Japanese) equals "Ju" (Jew)
 (ten in Japanese). It was not meant to
 be a pejorative. It is like Kurombo,
 harmless.

Shigeo Yuge
 Via e-mail

Attention All Lovers of Golf

The 3rd National JACL Golf
 Tournament will be held at Harding
 Park in San Francisco on Oct. 2 at
 the "muni" course where Tiger
 Woods recently won an exciting
 World Golf Championship.

Ours will also be an exciting
 event, one in which you can com-
 pare your score with Tiger's. We
 invite all who wish to sponsor and/or
 play in this tournament to sign up as
 the field will be limited to the first
 144 golfers.

The theme of this tournament,
 "Swing For Justice," is most appro-
 priate for we after all are fundamen-
 tally a civil rights organization.
 Many may wish to "swing" in honor
 or in memory of Minoru Yasui, Fred
 Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi,
 Mitsue Endo, Mike Masaoka,
 Saburo Kido, Rosa Parks, Thurgood
 Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King,
 Jr., John F. Kennedy, Robert F.
 Kennedy, or other civil rights lead-
 ers.

The purpose of this letter is to ask
 your readers for information about
 playing golf in "camp." Did you
 know that Poston II had two "cours-
 es," a 9-hole course behind Block
 220 and another 5-hole course near
 Block 209? Did your camp have a
 course? Do you remember playing
 golf in camp? Do you have photo-
 graphs you are willing to share?

As a nine-year old, I caddied for
 James "Chic" Abe of Salinas, Block
 220, and made 10 cents. It was the
 only money I "earned" while in
 camp. I bought a war bond stamp
 with the dime. But, that's another
 story.

If you know of anyone who
 played golf in camp, please write to
 a professional "gawlfir," Mas
 Hashimoto, 578 Vivienne Drive,
 Watsonville, CA 90576, or call
 831/722-6859, or e-mail:
 hash79@earthlink.net.

Mas Hashimoto
 Watsonville, CA

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 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.

Alito Ascends to Supreme Court

JACL strongly opposes the nomination based on the judge's record on affirmative action, Constitutional protections.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Despite strong opposition from civil rights and Asian Pacific American groups, Samuel Anthony Alito Jr. was confirmed Jan. 31 as the 110th Supreme Court justice in one of the most partisan votes for a high court nominee in modern history.

Alito was confirmed 58-42, the smallest number of senators in the president's opposing party to support a Supreme Court justice. All but one of the Senate's majority Republicans voted for his confirmation, while all but four of the Democrats voted against Alito.

JACL voiced strong opposition to Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court based on his "judicial lean-

ings that would make tenuous the Constitutional protection of American citizens," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"Judge Alito's legal opinions and writings over the past several years have left a clear record of an individual whose legal views could have serious negative impact on the nation's Asian American communities," the letter stated.

JACL joined 60 other national organizations opposing the nomination based on Alito's past opposition to affirmative action programs, support of racial discrimination in employment cases and a "proclivity to undermine due process and privacy protections."

Alito, a former federal appellate

judge, U.S. attorney, and conservative lawyer for the Reagan administration from New Jersey was selected as the replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has been a moderate swing vote on the court.

It was his Reagan-era work that caused the most controversy during his three-month candidacy for the high court.

Critics noted that while he worked in the solicitor general's office for former President Reagan, he suggested that the Justice Department should try to chip away at abortion rights. He also wrote in a 1985 job application for another Reagan administration post that he was proud of his work helping the government argue that "the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion."

Democrats unsuccessfully tried to rally support to filibuster Alito.

Alito was ceremonially sworn in Feb. 1 at a White House East Room appearance. ■



Last Link to Truckee's Chinatown Has New Lease on Life

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

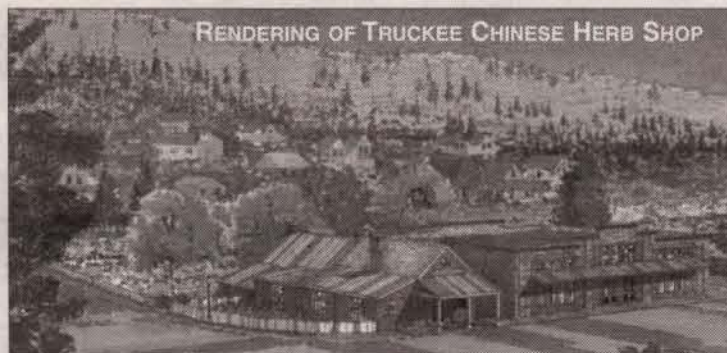
TRUCKEE, Calif.—The last link to Truckee's 19th century Chinatown has a new lease on life after undergoing a painstaking two-year restoration.

The Chinese Herb Shop, built in 1878, now will be leased for retail or office space. It was unveiled at a ceremony staged by historians, builders and others recently.

The structure is the only building to survive fires that ravaged the Sierra town's Chinatown, said Gordon Richards, president of the Truckee Donner Historical Society.

"It is the last remnant," he told Truckee's *Sierra Sun* newspaper. "That's what makes it so important. All the other buildings down there burned."

Contractor Steve Isbell preserved historic materials of the building while making it structurally sound.



Each board or timber that was removed and restored was returned to its original place, Isbell said.

In the process of taking the building apart, Isbell found signs of the Herb Shop's past.

Burnt timbers and siding, which were found as layers of wood were peeled back, demonstrate the many times the building endured flames. The Herb Shop's brick walls helped it survive several fires.

Isbell also found the building's

small second floor covered in dirt, which was important because dirt acted as a primitive fire extinguisher.

When a blaze tore into the roof, Richards said, it would unleash the dust and dirt, which would often extinguish the flames.

"That was a common fire protection in Truckee," he said.

Historians think the basement of the building may have been used as an opium den, as was the case with many cellars in the late 1800s. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Former 'Loveline' Host Mocks APA Awards

Radio personality Adam Carolla is being criticized for mocking an Asian American awards show. In the Jan. 24 broadcast, a segment on the Asian Excellence Awards was dubbed over with a series of "ching, chong" sounds.

The Adam Carolla Show is aired in 10 West Coast cities with large APA populations. Community groups like the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) and the Coalition Against Hate Media (CAHM) have blasted Carolla and parent company CBS for their insensitivity.

CBS Radio's Vice President of Communication Karen Mateo told the P.C., "The segment was meant to be humorous and was not meant to offend anyone," but declined to comment further.



Farmers Branch Police Chief Resigns Amid Charges of Racism

Farmers Branch Police Chief J.R. Fawcett resigned Jan. 24, several weeks after making an inappropriate racial remark about a Vietnamese police recruit.

The incident took place in early December when Fawcett said, "As long as I'm chief, we won't have any gooks working in Farmers Branch."

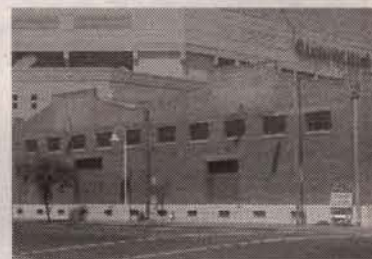
Fawcett apologized for the comment, and said he has no bias against anyone of Asian or Vietnamese heritage. Fawcett was chief of police in Farmers Branch for 15 years, and had worked for the city for 32 years.

Sun Mercantile Building Makes Endangered List

The Arizona Preservation Foundation is calling the Sun Mercantile building in downtown Phoenix one of Arizona's most endangered historic places. The preservation group released its list of properties it believes are of major historical significance and critically endangered.

The Sun Mercantile is the last building of a once thriving Chinatown. It is also at the heart of a \$200 million, 39-story luxury hotel and condominium project being proposed by Phoenix Suns majority owner Robert Sarver and his development partners.

The list comes on the heels of a lawsuit filed to save the building by organizations representing the APA community, historic preservationists and neighborhood associations.



APA Professors Land on Political Blacklist

Three APA university professor have been targeted by a Web site's research on left-wing professors. UCLA Law Professor Jerry Kang, Historian Vinay Lal and Lecturer Kent Wong made the Web site's "Dirty Thirty" list because of their reported history of "radical" ideology. The site is run by the Bruin Alumni Association, a non-university affiliated organization that recruited student surveillance to reveal professors who promote their political views in class.

All those "targeted" are seeking to formulate a collective response. ■

APAs in the News

By P.C. staff and Associated Press

Reverend, JACler Wins Honors from Alma Mater



Rev. Wallace Takeshi Fukunaga, a Honolulu JACL board member, was recognized Jan. 25 as a distinguished alumnus of the Pacific School of Religion. Fukunaga was honored for his work rebuilding the churches and the school he served and championing peace.

He participated in the civil rights movement, went to Vietnam during the height of the war with a delegation of the World Council of Churches and served as president of the Hawaii ACLU. He earned his doctorate in ministry from the Pacific School of Religion where he has been a trustee for six years.

Gardena Inducts Wall of Famers

The city of Gardena selected four honorees for its wall of fame. George Inouye, Iku and George Kiriya and Tad Uyemura were inducted to the Gardena Wall of Fame Jan. 21. They were chosen for their commitment to the betterment of the community.

JACL Credit Union Gets New Vice President

Dean Hirabayashi is the new executive vice president of the National JACL Credit Union.

He has 21 years of credit union experience in management and operations. He also has been a prior board member of many community organizations as well as a Credit Union board member for the past decade.

Hirabayashi is a member of the JACL Mount Olympus chapter in Salt Lake City.



Salinas Valley Honors Scholarship Winners, Educators

The Salinas Valley JACL awarded eight graduating high school seniors with scholarships for outstanding participation in their schools and community.

The winners are: Nicole Cisneros (also the winner of the student essay contest), Samantha Couch, Jerramy Hayashi, Ryan Kong, Kevin Kuramura, Kari Yamamoto and Tracy Yamamoto.

Dr. Pamela Durkee was also honored with the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. ■

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PINEDALE

(Continued from page 1)

Granum Partners and the city of Fresno to help remember the former Pinedale residents by building a permanent memorial.

"It's very important that this memorial be something that teaches the future generation of what happened and why," said Hirabayashi, 79. His older brother Gordon is well known for refusing to be interned and taking his fight all the way to the Supreme Court. "This memorial is important because of the historical lesson on racism — it isn't over by a long shot."

The JACL Central California District and the Central California Nikkei Foundation have formed the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee and attended a Jan. 10 Fresno City Council meeting to discuss the proposed California Historical Landmark status for the former assembly center. The Fresno Historic Preservation Commission has already approved the nomination of the site to the local register of historic resources.

The city council will revisit the issue Feb. 28 after Granum Partners asked for an extension.

"The memorial is a reminder that in times of national stress there is a tendency to value civil liberties less and make compromises," said Dale Ikeda, a Superior Court Judge, and chair of the memorial committee. He noted the similarities between the JA story and the events following the Sept. 11 attacks. "The issues are still relevant."

The proposed Pinedale Memorial has garnered the support of several

city councilmembers including District 2 Councilman Brian Calhoun whose area encompasses Pinedale.

"I think it's a good idea. All the parties involved want — I want — a memorial to be there," he said. "We want this to be a very nice place ... a part of the past, yet a celebration that we've moved well beyond that."

But so far community members and the property owner have not been able to agree on several issues, including where the memorial will be located and how large it will be.

"We're looking for a compromise," said Calhoun, who is hopeful that an agreement can be reached by the time the city council meets again in February.

The owners had offered a memorial within a 90-foot traffic turnaround and \$25,000 with the condition that the memorial site be operated by the city of Fresno. But committee members rejected the idea believing the turnaround area would cause a traffic hazard and does not allow passersby a chance to appreciate the memorial.

The committee wants a .5-acre of land adjacent to the turnaround for the memorial and \$100,000 for landscaping and interpretive materials for the memorial. Architect Irv Miyamoto and landscape architect Paul Saito have volunteered their services for the project which will use materials from the current building.

"We can't deal with the developers directly but we are willing to do this project with the city," said Ikeda, who indicated that talks with the developers have thus far not been fruitful.

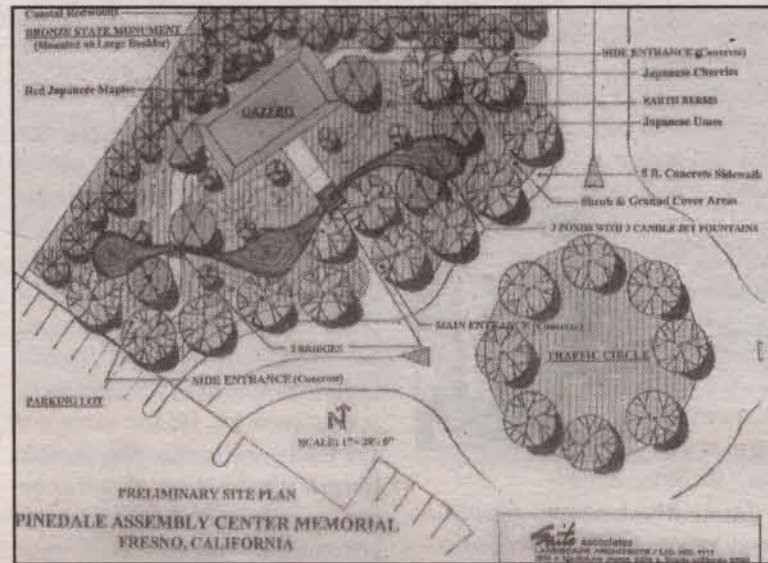
Al Solis, planning consultant for

Sol Development Associates, has been contracted by Granum Partners to work with the city to come up with an acceptable memorial.

"We're working on a compromise to meet everyone's expectations," said Solis, who noted that architects

one should be living," recalled Suda. "There was nothing but squirrels and rabbits, basically a hunting ground."

Jack Hata, 84, remembers the exact day he was taken to Pinedale with his mother. "It was May 17, 1942 — my 21st birthday," he said.



The Pinedale Memorial plan.

from both sides are currently working on a proposal. "We're letting the two sides work it out."

From May 7 to July 23 in 1942 more than 4,800 JAs, largely from Oregon, Washington, and Sacramento, made their way to the Pinedale Assembly Center. The building was eventually established by the U.S. Army as an Army and Air Force base on Aug. 1, 1942, and was also the former location for the Sugar Pine Lumber Co.

Dr. George Suda, 90, had just gotten out of Dental College when he entered the Pinedale Assembly Center with his parents and sister.

"It was a desert, a place where no

His father was interned separately.

Suda would eventually end up at the Gila River camp and Hata spent time in Tule Lake. Both men agree that a Pinedale Memorial is a good idea.

"I think it will be nice," said Suda. "People still don't know anything about this story."

Added Hata, "I think it's nice that a city is willing to put up a memorial."

The idea for a memorial and entry into the local register of historic resources is not unprecedented. In 1992 The Fresno County Fairgrounds, also a location for a temporary assembly center for JAs during WWII, was approved as a California Historic Landmark and today a memorial sits on the former site.

In addition the Manzanar camp was approved as a National Historic Landmark in 1985 and there is currently a proposal to approve the same status for the Tule Lake camp. Late last year HR 1492, the Camp Preservation Bill, was unanimously approved by the House. The bill would designate \$38 million in grants for the preservation of the internment camps and the various assembly centers, including Pinedale.

Although Ikeda is hopeful a decision on the memorial will be made at the Feb. 28 council meeting, he believes they may be heading towards a lengthy process.

"There will be some sort of memorial but the question is what scope," he said. "Personally I want at least a groundbreaking by Feb. 19, 2007, if not a completed project." ■

The Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee will host a Day of Remembrance Dinner Feb. 18 at the Manhattan Restaurant in Fresno. For more information, contact Ken Yokota at 559/431-4662 or 559/978-3705 (cell).

T-SHIRTS

(Continued from page 1)

Buddha image with a joke about penis size and one was emblazoned with an image of a rooster and "Suk Mai Cock."

"Our choice of the pieces you described was unfortunate, but we never intended to disrespect or cast racism on any ethnic group," continued Champion in the letter. "It is our mission to offer unique, unusual and other surprising products — products that simply cannot be found anywhere else. In our long history, usually we get accolades for our inspiring and entertaining assortments. Obviously, not this time."

Since 1947, the Spencer's chain has been hawking novelty items and humorous gifts targeted at 18-25 year olds. To date, there are over 600 mall locations throughout the United States and Canada, according to its Web site.

It was at a mall in Victoria, British Columbia that Jong Leong, 30, first spotted the T-shirts prominently displayed in the store's window. It reminded him of the infamous anti-Asian Abercrombie and Fitch T-shirts that caused so much controversy four years ago. He left the store, thought about it some more, and returned a few days later to talk to the manager.

"Growing up in Victoria, there weren't too many Asians, so I really understood what racism was all about. I was the butt end of many racially motivated jokes," said Leong. "Back then I didn't have a voice because I was a kid, but now as a consumer, I want my voice heard."

Leong explained to the Spencer's store manager, who was also Asian American, why the T-shirts were offensive and was given the number to Spencer's corporate headquarters. Leong also snapped photos of the T-shirts and sent the information to Vanessa Au, 29, who launched the Web site, wearingracism.blogspot.com, and an online petition



demanding action from the retailer.

"I was disgusted. I was disappointed too because I know the issue with Abercrombie and Fitch wasn't very long ago, so I would think that retailers have learned their lesson," said Au. "You get the feeling of, 'Here we go again.'"

She felt the jokes and caricatures "screamed of late 19th century anti-Chinese propaganda."

Particularly, the T-shirt with the image of Buddha juxtaposed with the reference to the penis, which she said would not have been taken lightly had it been another religious deity.

Both Au and Leong say Spencer's ethnic humor is directed only at Asians. Spencer's did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment. The P.C. also found the Buddha T-shirt on sale at a Torrance, Calif. Aahs, another novelty store chain. An Aahs representative said he wasn't aware of the T-shirts and therefore could not comment.

Online retailers like David and Goliath, Inc., T-shirt Hell and large chains like Burlington Coat Factory have all drawn criticism for their Asian-themed apparel.

The reoccurrences point to a larger issue.

"These products illustrate that society accepts that racism against Asians/Asian Americans is socially tolerated and acceptable, and it disgusts me to no end," said Jun Zuniga, who launched a similar January 2005 campaign against Burlington Coat Factory. "I think these shirts are the 'canary in the

coalmine' so to speak and they indicate that racism, when directed towards APIs, is more acceptable to 'mainstream America.'"

Some critics even within the community say there are bigger battles to fight.


"This isn't my joke. It's a joke on us," said Au.

"... Those who tell us that we take all this too seriously fail to see their own racism in much the same way a white supremacist fails to see his or her own mean-mindedness. There seems to be more and more of this type of ridiculing of Asians in this country, and unless we confront this type of thing, the public just won't have a clue about how insulting it is to the APA community," said John Tateishi, JACL national executive director.


Spencer's promises to be more sensitive with their selection of merchandise, but Au and Coalition Against Hate Media in another letter call for a meeting, diversity training and proceeds made from the T-shirt sales to go towards an APA related charity.

The successful campaign has left those affected with mixed feelings.

"I guess the way I feel is akin to someone repeatedly calling you 'Chink' and using their fingers to slant their eyes, and when things get out of control a parent has to step in and issue an apology for the actions of their child. Nice, but you have got to wonder what type of person this child is and how he/she was raised," said Leong. ■



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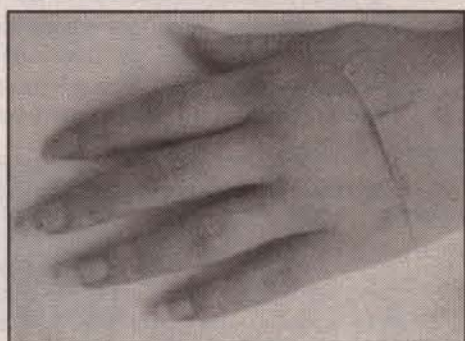
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To learn more about the Blue Cross plan and how to become a member, please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-848-4875.



Monterey JACL Receives \$15,000 Preservation Grant

The Monterey Peninsula JACL recently received a matching grant from the Thomas Doud, Sr. and Anita M. Doud Fund I of the Community Foundation for Monterey County for its building preservation project.

The historic JACL Hall on Adams Street was given historic landmark designation in 2001 as one of the last Western False Front buildings in Monterey and the oldest continuously operating social hall for the Japanese American community in Monterey.

Built in 1926, the building has served as a community center, meeting hall, church and school. More recently, the building has become an Asian cultural center and hosts a variety of community activities including Japanese and Chinese language classes and cultural classes in bonsai, taiko drumming, judo, and jujitsu. It is also the meeting place for Veterans of Foreign Wars Nisei Memorial Post 1629.

"This couldn't have come at a

better time," said Jeff Uchida, Monterey chapter president.

Repair efforts have been stalled because of cost and state building code constraints.

The Monterey JACL is holding a fundraising campaign to renovate the hall so it can again be used to benefit the children of the Monterey Bay Area. ■



To help preserve the Monterey JACL Hall, send donations to: Japanese American Citizens League, P.O. Box 664, Monterey, CA 93942-0664

For information contact Larry Oda: 831/758-7107; 831/375-3314 home or Jeff Uchida 831/644-9566.

• FLOYD MORI •

Leadership Conference and Medicare



It is time to think about the JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference which will be held from Mar. 10-14. This program, originally started for JACL by John Tateishi, JACL executive director, is now held jointly each year with the Organization of Chinese Americans to acquaint our leaders and potential leaders with the legislative process and to help them learn about current public policy issues facing our communities.

It is hoped that this program will encourage some of our members to run for public office as well as to become valuable leaders within the JACL chapters, districts, and national organization.

Each JACL district is able to send two people to this intense five-day conference. If you are interested, please check out the JACL Web site at www.jacl.org. Click on programs and then on leadership development to learn about the Leadership Conference. You can see a schedule of the program from last year's conference as well as the application form and other information. Those interested in attending should contact their chapter president and district governor as soon as possible.

Seniors on Medicare within JACL should have received information from various sources about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program by now. JACL had endeavored to acquire grant money to assist the chapters in implementing a program of informing our members. Although JACL was not successful in obtaining funds, it is anticipated that our chapters are able to help with this program. Many chapters have already held information meetings.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program is available to EVERYBODY who is in the Medicare program. There is extra financial help for special categories of individuals. Both brand name and generic medicines are dispensed through the program.

There are four phases for a recipient to participate in the prescription program.

1. Understanding what the program is;
2. Deciding whether or not to enroll in the program;
3. Choosing the specific plan in which to enroll; and
4. Joining or enrolling in the program.

The initial enrollment period for those who are eligible is from Nov. 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. In order to get coverage, an individual must enroll. Specific information may be found by going to the Web site www.medicare.gov. If you are not comfortable using the computer, ask a son or daughter, friend or neighbor to assist you.

Each chapter president or representative should have received a resource kit from Medicare to assist in implementing this program. These were supplied to the district governors by Medicare to assist our members. The Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) will provide all the training and materials needed by the chapters to serve their communities. Specific training can be performed on a district basis or regional basis corresponding to the geographical divisions of CMS.

JACL would like all its members and friends to be able to maximize their health dollars by understanding and possibly using the CMS Prescription Drug program. ■

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

LA DOR to Focus on Mexican 'Repatriation' Campaign

This year's Los Angeles Day of Remembrance program will focus on the historic events surrounding the so-called Mexican "repatriation" of the 1930s in which federal, state and local governments conspired to remove over one million individuals of Mexican descent from the U.S. The program will also explain the current campaigns to gain official apologies and redress.

Under the theme, "Claiming History: Justice Along Color Lines," the program will feature public officials, scholars, artists and other interested individuals who seek to educate the public on this little-known chapter of American history.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, with unemployment rampant, sentiment arose in several states that the presence of Mexican and Mexican American laborers contributed to job loss. Many were expelled and thousands left voluntarily in the face of intimidation and threats of violence.

California State University, Los Angeles Professor Francisco E. Balderrama will serve as keynote speaker. He co-wrote the book, "Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s."

Congressman Xavier Becerra, on behalf of Japanese Latin Americans, will describe his efforts to pass legislation to apologize to those who

were wrongly denied their civil rights during World War II. Poets Gloria Alvarez and Amy Uyematsu will recite from their works as part of the program. Alayne Yonemoto will emcee the program. ■

2006 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

JA National Museum, Little Tokyo
Feb. 18, at 2 p.m.
Free. No reservations required

Info: Call NCRR at 213/680-3484, PSWD at 213/626-4471, or the National Museum at 213/625-0414.

The program is co-sponsored by Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR), the PSWD JACL, and the National Museum

CHINATOWN

(Continued from page 1)

Manhattan's limited real estate market. The ability to adapt to his surrounding community has been crucial for his business, which like others in the area, was almost brought to financial ruin after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

After the World Trade Towers collapsed near Chinatown, Tin lost 50 percent of his business. Since then recovery has been slow.

"I'm really involved in the community, so I get a lot of referral business. Other businesses may not have that," he said.

To encourage economic recovery from the 2001 terrorist attacks, New York Gov. George Pataki and legislative leaders in January declared Chinatown an Empire Zone (EZ), a tax-free business zone. Businesses are now eligible for a laundry list of incentives including a 10-year exemption from state sales tax and special reduced utility rates.

The news came as a welcomed surprise for Tin who hopes the EZ designation will help the community build itself back up.

"Any help from the government is good. Chinatown faces a lot of problems," he said. "I am positive

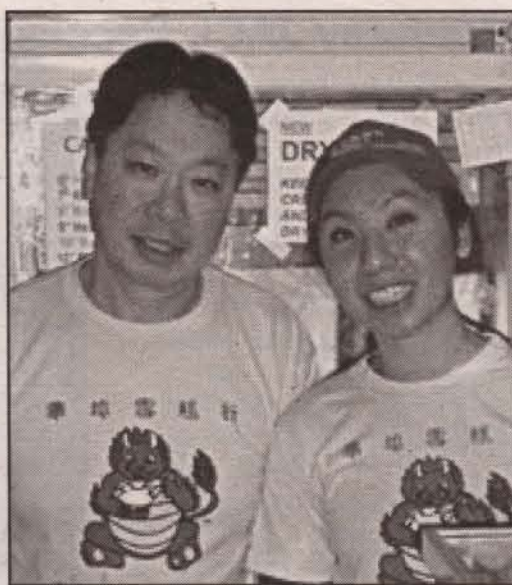
about it. I have an open mind."

But other business owners see the EZ designation as a seal of ill fate for Chinatown and its residents. Signs of gentrification have already arrived in the forms of a McDonald's and a Starbucks embedded in an ornately Chinese architectural façade. Some fear that the new tax-free designation lays down a welcome mat for big businesses.

Phillip Seid founded the Original Chinatown Ice Cream Factory 28 years ago with his brothers and now runs it with his daughter, Christine. The colorful shop at 65 Bayard Street attracts a cult following and has earned many critic's awards for its Asian blend of gourmet ice cream and sorbet. But even with the success, Seid, 56, is worried about the future of his shop.

"Small businesses like these," he said between heavy sighs, "very few survive."

He too grew up in a Chinatown of



Phillip Seid and his daughter Christina own and operate the Original Chinatown Ice Cream Factory in New York.

a different time where a family could open a restaurant and sustain a living by just catering to their community members. Now businesses have to draw in heavy traffic in order to just stay afloat. He expresses concern about the money that is coming into Lower Manhattan and how he may be squeezed out.

"The real estate is going up like crazy. Small time businesses like mine can't keep up. I think when

our lease is up we're going to have some problems," added Seid.

Chinatowns like the one in Washington, D.C. underwent revitalization efforts and emerged as a community much less for Asian Pacific American residents than a playground for consumers. And the danger of New York's Chinatown losing its soul for profit is very real, according to Peter Kwong, professor of urban affairs at Hunter College.

To revitalize an urban area like Chinatown, the city usually looks to encourage more business development and tourism by investing in beautification and remodeling efforts. But to Kwong, "improvement" is a relative term with many consequences.

"These changes are a mixed bag that people are not thinking about," he said. "When thinking about these changes, people need to ask the question: 'At what cost?'"

The cost here may be the authenticity of New York's Chinatown, which unlike other enclaves of its kind is a place where people live, work and play. Approximately 150,000 people currently call Chinatown's packed 32 square blocks their home.

"It's an organic hole," said

Kwong. "You encourage tourism, you have to invest in making the streets safer, cleaner, building new attractions, but that does not help the people who are living there."

"Tourism is not always good for ethnic communities," he said.

But many agree Chinatown needs help. It had been suffering a slow decline even before the terrorist attacks. Reports cite that almost one-third of Chinatown workers lost their jobs after Sept. 11 and the median household income is about \$38,000, according to the most recent U.S. Census figures.

"The Empire Zones are useful economic tools to rebuild economic viability," said John Wang, president of the Asian American Business Development Center. "Empire Zoning attracts business to come or expand."

Every community goes through transformations, but some worry that these so-called improvements will change the very nature of Chinatown and make it economically out of reach for its APA residents.

"Authenticity is not how a storefront looks. Authenticity is if Chinese people are still patrons," said Kwong. "[The revitalization efforts] maintain culture, but not the people." ■

JACL Masaoka Fellowship Deadline is April 1

The program is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills in public service.

JACL is now seeking candidates for its Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship, an annual program that places extraordinary students in Congressional offices to learn about public policymaking firsthand.

For three and one half months, the successful candidate will serve his or her fellowship in the office of a U.S. Senator or a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The fellow will receive an \$8,500 stipend and roundtrip airfare to Washington, D.C.

The fellowship period may be the fall term (September-December 2006) or the spring term (February-May, 2007) and will be arranged with the Congressional office and the fellow.

All students who are in at least their third year of college or in graduate/professional programs and who are U.S. citizens are encouraged to

apply. Preference will be given to those with a demonstrated commitment to Asian Pacific American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community.

The JACL established the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity.

The most recently selected fellow was Michelle Sugi of Apple Valley, Calif., who just completed serving in the office of Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii. ■

Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund

Work for a member of Congress in the nation's capital.

Interested persons should visit the JACL Web site at: www.jacl.org/masaoka.html for information and application or contact the JACL Washington office: 202/223-1240, dc@jacl.org.

Oregon Memorial Needs Donations to Commemorate WWII Evacuation

During World War II, Min Yasui was among many of the JAs from Oregon ordered to leave home for barracks behind barbed wire. Today, the Eugene JA Memorial Committee and the Eugene Parks Foundation are working to establish a memorial to commemorate the evacuation.

The Spirit Mountain Foundation has given the organizations a challenge grant of \$50,000. It is to be matched dollar-for-dollar by July 26, 2006.

The memorial will be built on the corner of Hult Center for the Performing Arts, the cultural hub of the city of Eugene and the point of assembly for the evacuees in 1942.

The permanent public artwork will be created by bronze sculptor David Clemens and artist Kenge Kobayashi. The bronze sculpture of a young girl sitting atop stacked luggage will be the heart of the memorial. Along the perimeter, rock columns with embedded graphics of Yasui, Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi, along with other symbolic pictures, will depict the significance of justice, perseverance and honor.

An educational program is also in the works to tell the heroic stories of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. ■

To help the Eugene JA Memorial Committee and the Eugene Parks Foundation meet their July 26, \$50,000 goal send donations to:

'Lane Arts Council, EJAAM' Eugene JA Memorial Project Smith Family Bookstore 768 East 13th Ave. Eugene, OR. 97401

INFO: Smith Family Bookstore 541/345-1651 Contributions are tax deductible.

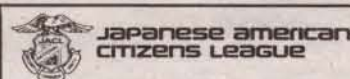
PSWDC Receives \$10,000 Grant



The JACL Pacific Southwest District recently received a \$10,000 grant from Southern California Edison to revamp its Web site.

The new Web site will include a comprehensive calendar of events and news. The updated site will aid JACL's advocacy efforts on core issues including hate crime prevention, leadership development, education and youth-related matters.

Pictured (l-r): Edison Public Affairs Region Manager Marissa Castro-Salvati, former PSW Program Director Gerald Kato, PSW Administrative Assistant Carol Saito and JACL National President Ken Inouye.



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TOBY DAWSON

Born: Nov. 30, 1978 — South Korea
Hometown: Vail, CO
Years on Team: 8th

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 6th World Cup win in '05
- 2nd in '04 World Cup moguls standings
- Three World Cup wins in '04
- Seven World Cup top-3s in '04
- Two bronze medals at '03 Worlds
- 2002 U.S. duals gold medalist

'I like to go big and jolt the crowd.'

At three, Dawson was adopted by Vail ski instructors and placed in skis at age four. During his teens, he focused on freestyle and began carving out a reputation for innovativeness and fearlessness in the air.

Dawson coaches and trains at freestyle camps in Japan, where he has a ski camp set up in his name just outside of Nagano. He dedicates his summers to working as a counselor at the Korean Heritage Camp for Adoptive Families, a camp he once attended.

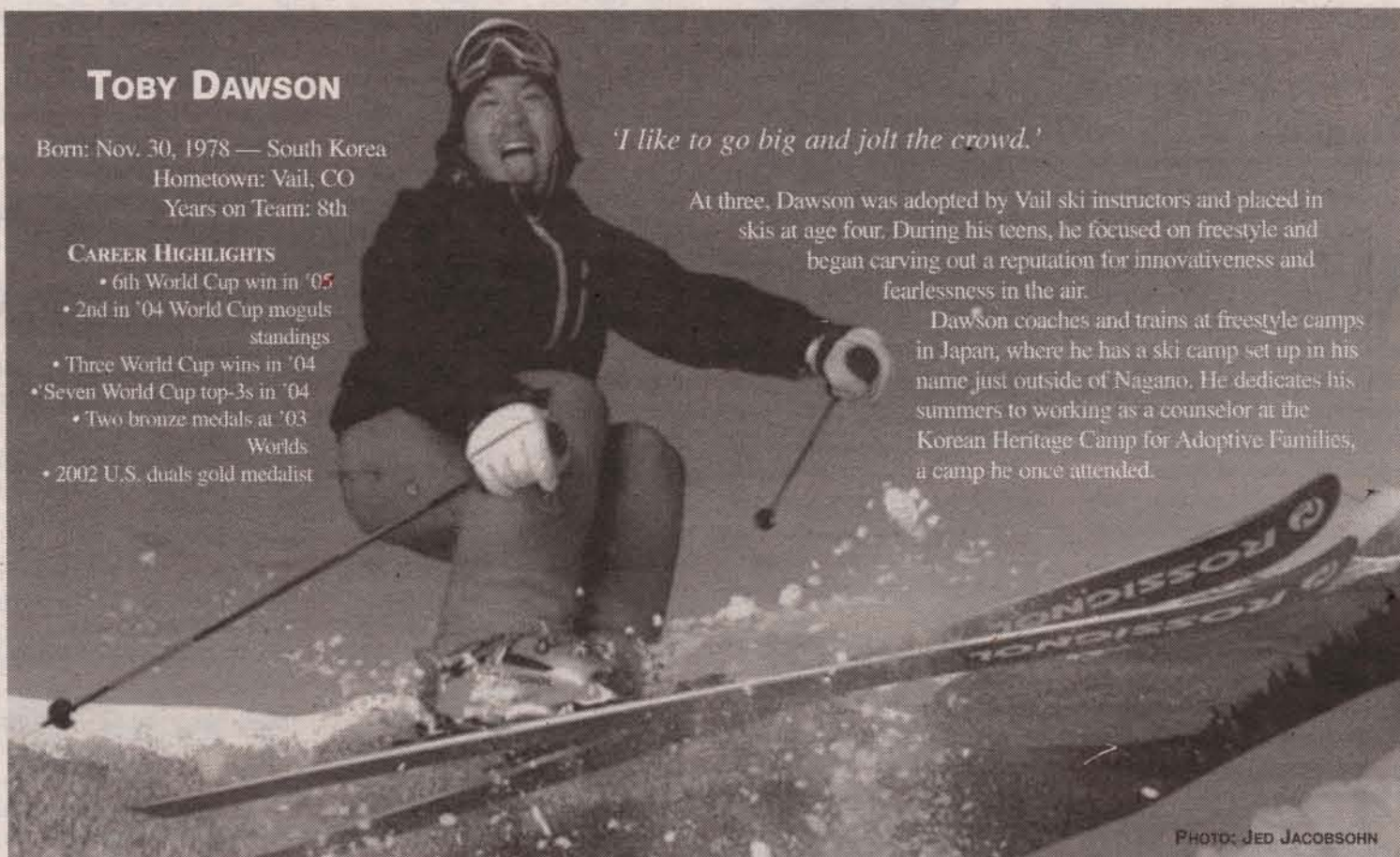


PHOTO: JED JACOBSON

From Feb. 10-26, our athletes go play on ice, snow and Italian fields in hopes of coming home with some gold. Meet the APA Olympians ready to take the Winter Games by storm.

APA Olympians See Gold in Torino

FIGURE SKATING Rena Inoue



PHOTO: PAUL HARVATH/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Born: Oct. 17, 1976 — Hyogo, Japan
Training Town: Los Angeles, Calif.

'05-'06 Highlights

- 1st at State Farm U.S. Championships ('06)
- 4th at Trophée Eric Bompard
- 2nd at Smart Ones Skate America

Inoue began skating at four when her doctor suggested it might help her asthma. She went on to become a two-time Olympian for Japan in singles and pairs, but lists her life defining moment as her decision to compete for the U.S. Along with partner John Baldwin, 32, Inoue made history at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships where they successfully executed a throw triple axel.

Michelle Kwan

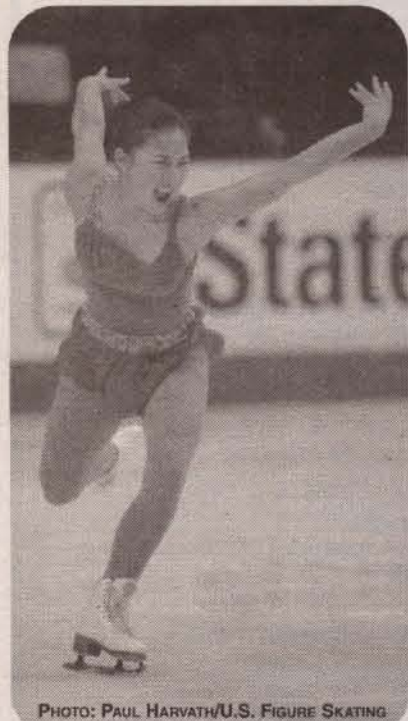


PHOTO: PAUL HARVATH/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Born: July 7, 1980 — Torrance, Calif.
Training Town: Artesia, Calif.

The most decorated figure skater in U.S. history, Kwan has won an unprecedented 42 championships, including five World Championships, seven consecutive and eight overall U.S. Championship titles, and two Olympic medals, but the gold remains elusive.

Kwan made the Olympic team with a stir of controversy.

She was picked after petitioning U.S. Figure Skating, which granted the figure skater one last shot at gold.

And while she may not be the same skater who went to Nagano and Salt Lake City as the gold-medal favorite, she remains a contender.

SPEEDSKATING Hyo-Jung Kim



PHOTO: U.S. SPEEDSKATING

Born: Nov. 6, 1988 — Seoul, South Korea
Residence: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Program: U.S. Elite Short Track Team

Career Accomplishments

- American Record Holder for 1000 meters
- '04 World Cup Team

Kim started speedskating when she was 11 years old at her elementary school. It was the only sport she has ever done before coming to the U.S. She likes the speed of short track and because "it is helping to make my body strong."

Apolo Anton Ohno

Born: May 22, 1982 — Seattle, Wash.
Residence: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Team: U.S. Elite Short Track Team

Career

Accomplishments

- 2002, 2006 Olympian
- 2005 World Cup Overall Champion
- '05 2nd Place World Champion
- Two-time Olympic medalist

When Ohno set foot in South Korea for the first time after he won the gold medal in 2002 — when a South Korean was thought to be unfairly disqualified — 100 riot policemen were at the airport to protect him. He will face rival Ahn Hyun-Soo in an epic battle on the ice in Torino.

ICE HOCKEY

Julie Chu

Born: March 13, 1982 — Fairfield, Conn.
Position: Forward

Career Accomplishments

- First Asian Pacific American woman to compete on the

U.S. National or Olympic Hockey Team

- 2002 Olympic Winter Games
- 2004 World Championships, silver

As a student at Harvard University, Chu is one of the highest scoring players in the history of the school and was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year in 2003. At eight, her parents started her in figure skating, but less than one month later, Chu was on the other side of the rink shooting slapshots.

Chu does not speak Chinese fluently and her grandmother does not speak English, so they use the "thumbs-up" signal to communicate during games.

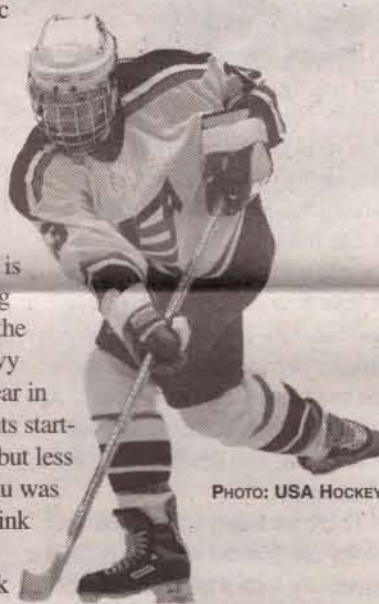


PHOTO: USA HOCKEY

FAMILY CURLERS

Bob Fenson
Coach

'... But there's nothing more rewarding to me than taking and molding four junior curlers into a national champion.'



Pete Fenson
Position: Skip

Born: Feb. 29, 1968 — Bemidji, Minn.

His curling hero is his dad.



Eric Fenson

Position: Vice skip

Delivers: Right-handed

Born: May 6, 1971 — Bemidji, Minn.

'I grew up watching my parents curl. I was always at the club and traveling around watching my dad curl with his men's team.'



PHOTOS: U.S. CURLING ASSOC.

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •
MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA



Go UCLASIANS

We had just seen over 40 people audition to get into our Asian American theater group the past several days, and we were tired as heck.

Although I say about 80 percent of the people auditioning for the coveted 14 spots were of Asian-descent, every now and then a non-Asian dropped-in because after all, there really aren't any major theater groups on campus other than ours.

"I can also, you know, play the white best friend sidekick if you ever need one," one Caucasian girl wryly informed me and two other staff members when asked how she would be able to contribute to the theater group.

Now how many times do you see this scenario? A white person vying to get into a predominantly AA organization. Talk about reverse affirmative action. It struck me as one of those loopy "What-if?" scenarios used in cheesy T.V. shows. What would things be like if Asians took over America?

Perhaps a microcosmic answer to that question can be found in a university like UCLA — which, as everyone knows, really stands for University of Caucasians Living among Asians. UCLA is quite an Asian-friendly place to be, as it is located within immediate vicinity of at least four different boba cafes and boasting one of the largest AA Studies departments in the nation, not to mention a predominantly AA population (according to college-board.com, five percent more than Caucasians.)

There are many things you start taking for granted when you go to a university with a large AA population such as UCLA.

For starters, just by walking through the main campus you are confronted by a plethora of AA student organizations recruiting newcomers. Unlike those other schools with low AA student populations that have to settle for one or two generic Asian and Pacific Islander organizations, we have the luxury of catering to the most esoteric AA outlook.

Are you a Filipino woman interested in the nursing field? A Korean

American with a penchant for hip-hop dance? No problem, we have it all!

Additionally, you can enroll in a wide variety of AA Studies courses, which means you get to be surrounded by progressive AAs who are all well-versed in the trappings of the Model Minority Myth and fume about "Memoirs of a Geisha" as another white man's yellow fever fantasy projected onto the silver screen.

Speaking of "Memoirs of a Geisha," while the reactions to the movie among my Asian friends at UCLA ran from the political extreme ("I think everyone should boycott this movie, especially AAs!") to the near-apologetic ("I know I shouldn't want to watch this movie because of its Oriental overtones, but ..."), I was too stunned to make any caustic comment about the objectification of Japanese women when several of my white friends started gushing about how much they wanted to see the movie because it looks so good.

This is what happens when you surround yourself with too many Asian people for extended periods of time. You get a sort of mini-culture shock when you go back to mainstream white America.

Honestly, I'm not sure if this is a good thing or a bad thing. On one hand, I am probably less likely to encounter creepy folk like Michael J. Lohman, a Princeton graduate who was last year caught cutting hair off of Asian women on the Princeton campus and pouring his body fluids into their drinks.

Still, on the other hand, I am sometimes afraid that going to such an AA friendly environment such as UCLA blinds me to the realities that exist beyond the boundaries of campus life, and thusly leaving me wholly unprepared to face any place that isn't full of other progressive AAs.

I guess I'll find out for myself once I graduate from school and start living outside of L.A. Until then, I'll have a medium boba with Thai iced tea, please. And make sure the tapioca pearls are extra fresh. ■

• HARRY HONDA •

VERY TRULY YOURS



Frohe Weihnachten und ein Gutes Neues Jahr

"It's pretty cold here (in southeastern Austria), -10°C/14°F. Snow, 54-inches deep! Roads are frozen, so I wear my good old golf shoes that have spikes! Time flies so fast! The older you get, the faster Time shrinks! Hoping you and your family enjoy the Yuletide atmosphere to its fullest. To do that, forget all worldly trifle (sic) matters and RELAX. Don't think of anything!

"You may agree the world is Crazy, the weather's Crazy! But Elders like us who have survived the war, coming through all adversities, should calmly enjoy the rest of their lives. Right?"

The German greetings from Frank Fukazawa is simply — *Happy Christmas and a Good New Year*. And I wondered how many Nisei our age, besides me, agree with him "to calmly enjoy" the rest of our lives.

Yet, there are concerns with the arrival of the new year, 2006.

This will be a "crunch" year for George W. Bush. The sixth-year in office for a president can be precarious agenda-wise, especially for Mr. Bush in wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. To maintain an even keel, Bush keeps saying: "We're fighting the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan and across the world, so we do not have to face them here at home."

Makeup of the next Congress may reflect how deep the crunch is. The numbers to remember — all House seats are in contention: 231 Republicans and 202 Democrats. In the Senate are 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats and 1 Independent. Up for election are 15 Republicans and 18 Democrats.

Many remember the scorn of the Vietnam conflict of the 1960s. How much will Iraq play with voters in the crunch? Social Security, Medicaid, globalization, trade with China may be greater determinants come November.

And policies in Japan continue to change. U.S. nuclear-powered ves-

sels can enter their waters. Our troops stationed in Japan are leaving Okinawa. Will an anti-American thrust in Japan ripple across the Pacific and sully or damage whatever strengths persons of Japanese ancestry enjoy today?

While JA baby-boomers now reaching 60 (our Sansei folk) have made their history (like earning more money than their parents did), the Spanish term Tercera Edad, "the Third Age," fits them well.

Turning to Latin America, the dominant feature for 2006 is the number of presidential races that began with Bolivia and Chile in December, Costa Rica in February, Peru on April 9, Colombia in May, Mexico in July, Brazil and Ecuador in October, Nicaragua in November and Venezuela in December.

The *Rafu Shimpō* has kept the Alberto Fujimori name on their front page since his return to this hemisphere by private jet from Tokyo to Santiago. He was my choice as the top Nisei of the 20th Century. Two and a half years ago during my week in Bolivia after the PANA convention in July, newspapers there headlined he was forming a political party to seek the presidency again.

This is the Year of the Dog ("Inu-no-Toshi"), the animal regarded as friendly, beneficial and protective in Japanese folklore. Statues of a dog, together with the

lion, guard entrances of many temples and shrines in Japan.

Dog-year people, according to Japanese fortunetellers, inspire other people's confidence and know how to keep private secrets absolutely private. They have a deep sense of duty and loyalty, are extremely honest and always do their best in their relationships with people. But they have "terribly sharp tongues; are not good at social gatherings, somewhat selfish and terribly stubborn."

In Japanese history, Shogun Tsunayoshi [1646-1709] was so fond of dogs that he was nicknamed Inu-Kubo (Dog Prince). He was born in the Year of the Dog and called for special respect in the treatment of dogs. Because he was so severe enforcing his edict, the resentment that followed damaged his reputation as a ruler.

Those who were born in 1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, or this Year of the Dog, are, according to one Chinese soothsayer (in Google), "can look forward to a year in which to really shine, personally or professionally."

Among the famous people born in the Year of the Dog are Bill Clinton (1946) and George W. Bush (1946).

Allow me this final quote from Harry Fukuhara's Christmas letter. "For many, (the year) 2006 means they are in the dog-house or dog-tired and to others being good at dog-trot, dog-paddle and dog-nap. We are lucky dogs to have you as a friend." ■



American Holiday Travel

2006 TOUR SCHEDULE

- HOKKAIDO WINTER FESTIVALS HOLIDAY TOUR** FEB 5-13
Sapporo, Abashiri Ice-floe Cruise, Sounkyo, Asahikawa, Otaru, Lake Shikotsu, Noboribetsu, Enjo 5 Snow/Ice Festivals.
- AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** MAR 9-21
Nairobi, Amboseli Park, Mount Kenya Park, Samburu Reserve, Lake Nakuru Park, Masai Mara Reserve.
- JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR** MAR 26-APR 6
Fukuoka, Hagi, Iwakuni, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Okayama, Hirajima Castle, Kyoto.
- SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR** ... APR 26-MAY 2
San Francisco, Napa Valley Wine Train, Sacramento, Gold Country Tour, Sierra Nevada Rail, Reno, Lake Tahoe, Dinner Cruise on Lake Tahoe.
- MOZART'S MUSICAL CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR** MAY 17-27
Celebrate Mozart's 250th Anniversary with special events, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** JUNE 25-JULY 4
Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Hamana, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE** JULY 2-9
Seattle, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria, HOLLAND AMERICA LINE
- NOVA SCOTIA-PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOLIDAY TOUR** SEPT 19-28
Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Moncton, Charlottetown, Anne of Green Gables, Baddeck, Cabot Trail.
- HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR** OCT 3-15
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Oirase Valley, Hiroshima, Akita, Kakunodate, Matsushima, Sendai, Nikko, Tokyo.
- TAHITI HOLIDAY CRUISE** OCT 21-29
Papeete, Raiatea, Taha'a, Bora Bora, Moorea, RADISSON'S PAUL GAUGUIN
- AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR** NOV 1-18
Calms, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Melbourne, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua, Auckland.
- NEW YORK CITY GETAWAY TOUR** DEC 3-7
City tour, Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, United Nations, South Street Seaport.

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Untangling English Slang

Q&A with MAY PARE, waitress, author and idiom expert.



By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

During the day, May Pare took orders, chatted with customers and served food at a Southern California restaurant where she has been a familiar face for over two decades. While refilling coffee mugs, she would often overhear customers make puzzling expressions.

What exactly does "butt ugly" mean? What exactly did a person need to "get off their chest" or "keep tabs on"?

The Thai native started compiling a list of these strange expressions and researching the meanings of these idioms, regional speech or dialect. When she discovered that many of these expressions used body parts to convey meaning, a light bulb went off in her head.

Pare, a former English teacher at Chulalongkorn University, published "Body Idioms and More" to help learners of English like herself understand conversational English, which isn't governed by strict grammatical rules. Her book has won her recognition from the local press, loyal customers at Shakers Restaurant in Glendale, and even native speakers who also find the book entertaining and informative.

Pacific Citizen: Were you always a curious scholar?

May Pare: I didn't plan on working at Shakers this long. I kept telling myself I had to look for a new job. But it's easy to make money working as a waitress (though it's hard work) and I feel comfortable there. By the time I realized it 20 years had gone by!

I wasn't a curious person at all when I was growing up. I'm probably more curious now because I need material for my writing. With English (I started learning it in elementary school), I always went back (and still do) to Thai and compared how we would say the same thing in Thai. I remember having so much trouble with using the right tenses in English because we don't have such a thing in Thai. Being able to pinpoint the differences helped me learn English faster.

PC: How would you research the meaning of the idioms?

MP: I usually knew pretty much the basic meanings of most idioms (partly because of my educational background and partly because I've been living here long enough); I just hardly used them myself. But I did sometimes have problems with slang terms or double meanings of some idioms. I didn't have my computer when I first started, so I just went to the library and took notes on index cards. Sometimes my co-workers and customers would help me out with definitions and/or sentence samples.

I love to learn new expressions and I think I'm pretty observant. I

often pay attention to the kind of language people use. If it sounds good, I try to remember it so that I can later use it myself. People who know me well can tell you right away that I always ask them questions about words or expressions. I sometimes do my research on the Internet. I do take a lot of notes when I listen to radio talk shows or when I read the newspapers.

PC: What were the most difficult idioms to research and find the meaning of?

MP: Not just one idiom that I had difficulty writing about, it's the whole section — about "ass." I don't use this kind of language and never really felt comfortable writing about it. I almost took it out of the second edition because I thought it might sound too offensive. My editors insisted that I keep it since it's part of the language that you can't ignore — even so vital to some people!

PC: Which English idioms are your favorites to use?

MP: I think I use them more now. The ones I use all the time at work are: "Keep an eye on my station, I need to go to the bathroom!" and "I'm not a mind reader; how would I know what he/she wanted if he/she didn't tell me?"

PC: What are some examples of Thai language idioms?

MP: Some Thai idioms are exactly the same as in English. Sometimes it's just a matter of different word order:

- English: Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth.
- Thai: Born with a silver and (a) golden spoon in one's mouth.
- Others are completely different:
- English: A no-brainer.
- Thai: As easy as peeling a banana and putting it in one's mouth (Don't ask me why we say it this way!)

PC: You've become a celebrity at Shakers. Are your customers commenting on your success?

MP: My customers, co-workers as well as my bosses tease me all the time now. [They say] is May's book on the *New York Times* bestseller's list yet? Would you like to sit at our celebrity's table? I never like to be the center of attention, but all the publicity does help me with my self-esteem. I feel much, much better about my work and my life in general. People also look at me differently now. They know I'm capable of doing things other than waiting on tables.

PC: In addition to definitions you have some quotes from Cliff Burton, the former bassist from Metallica, and football coach Vince Lombardi. How do you determine which quotes to use?

MP: I'm not a Metallica fan or a football fan. I just love collecting quotes. When I first started writing this book, I didn't even think about adding all these quotes. The idea came much later. My criteria: The quote is easy to understand. It has some deep meaning or something I can agree with. It fits the topic/idioms under discussion.

PC: What's surprised you about the idiom-defining process?

MP: I'm still amazed that American people really like the book even though it is written more for those who learn English as a second language. Ninety five percent of the ones who bought the book are Americans. My husband always teases me that I seem to get better responses from English-speaking people than the people I targeted.

I'm really proud of the fact that Glendale Public Library bought six copies of my book even before all the publicity started. La Crescenta Valley High School Library also bought one.

I inspired my mother to start writing about her life (in Thai, of course). She's 86 years old now. I'm so glad she started it while she still remembers things. I had no idea that the book is also good for autistic children as well as deaf and hard of hearing students until people wrote to me and told me about it. ■

BODY IDIOMS AND MORE

May Pare

EXCERPTS:
Blood is thicker than water. (saying): Family ties are stronger bonds than other relationships.

Pin someone's ears back (v. phr.): Slang. To beat; to scold. "After winning five games in a row, the Lakers finally had their ears pinned back by the Celtics."

Put your finger in the air to see which way the wind is blowing. (expression): To do what's popular, follow the crowd.

Mealy mouth. (n. phr., adj. phr., v. phr.): A contemptuous term we apply to those unwilling to state facts or opinion directly.

For more info: www.bodyidioms.com, maypare@comcast.net.



KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2006 TOURS

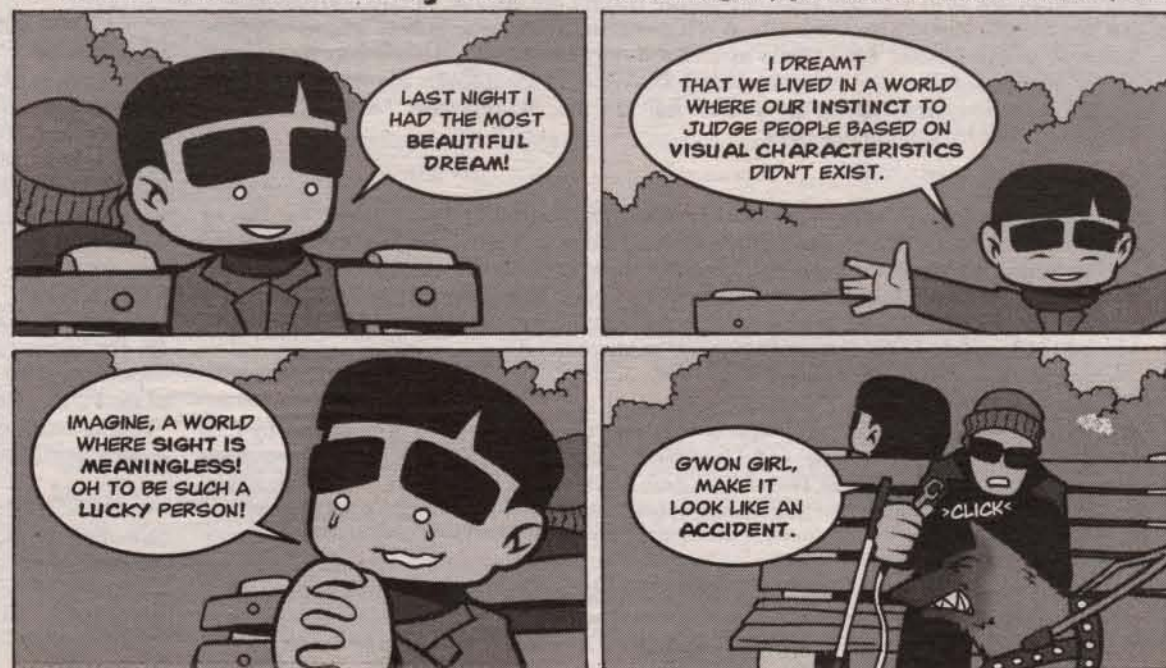
- Mar. 13** Best of China - 9 Day - All Meals - \$2495 - 3 days Beijing - 2 days Xian - 2 days Guilin - 2 days Shanghai.
- Mar. 27** Spring Cherry Blossom - 11 Day - 24 Meals - \$3395 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Okayama - Takahashi - Hiroshima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Apr. 17** New Japan Tour - 11 Day - 26 Meals - \$3695 - Fukuoka - Arita - Hirado Island-Amakusa Islands-Kumamoto-Kurume-Moji-Osaka-Kushimoto-Nagoya-Lake Kawaguchi-Hakone-Shimoda-Tokyo.
- Apr. 26** NEW DATES! Orient Deluxe with Cruise - 12 Day - 22 Meals - \$3695 - Hong Kong - Singapore - 3 day cruise to Malaysia & Thailand - Bangkok.
- May 15** NEW DATES! Copper Canyon Adventure - 9 Day - 19 Meals - \$1895 Tucson, AZ, Mexico, San Carlos-El Fuerte-Copper Canyon-Creel-Chihuahua-El Paso, TX.
- June 6** America Once More "Southwest" 8 Day-14 Meals-\$1695-Mesquite Zion & Bryce-Monument Valley-Durango-Santa Fe-Sedona-Laughlin
- June 19** Summer in Hokkaido - 11 Day - 26 Meals - \$3695 - Sapporo - Souunyo Gorge - Saroma - Shiretoko Peninsula - Lake District - Kushiro - Sahoro - Shiraoi - Lake Toya - Hakodate - Lake Shikotsu.
- July 3** Summer Japan Classic "Family Tour" 10 Day - 21 Meals - \$3095 Child 11 & under \$2795 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Hiroshima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- July 18** Glacier National Park & Rockies - 7 Day - 12 Meals - \$1995 - Calgary - Banff Springs - Lake Louise - Columbia Icefields.
- Aug. 13** Eastern Canada & Niagara Falls - 9 Day - 17 Meals - \$2195 - Montreal - Quebec - Ottawa - Lake Ontario - Toronto - Niagara Falls.
- Aug. 30** Central & Eastern Europe - 12 Day - 26 Meals - \$3995 - Prague - 7-Day Danube River Cruise - Nuremberg - Vienna - Budapest.
- Sept. 22** Waterways of the Czars - 13 Day - All Meals - From \$3695 - Moscow to St. Petersburg. **SOLD OUT**
- Oct. 9** Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Day - 24 Meals - \$3795
- Oct. 16** Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Day - 25 Meals - \$3695
- Oct. 29** Fall Japan Classic - 11 Day - 24 Meals - \$3450
- Nov. 9** Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku - 12 Day - 28 Meals - \$3795
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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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Calendar

National

CHANDLER, Ariz.

June 21-24—JACL National Convention; Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. Info: www.azjaci.org.

SAN FRANCISCO

Mon., Oct. 2—3rd Annual National JACL Golf Tournament, "Swing for Justice"; Harding Park Golf Course, 99 Harding Road; sponsorships are available; field is limited to 144 spots. Info: Patty Wada, NCWNP JACL Regional Office, 415/345-1075.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Feb. 12-Mar. 20—Exhibit, Out of the Desert: Art and Craft of the Internment; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; exhibit features a variety of arts and crafts that were made by JAs while confined to the internment camps during WWII. Info: 503/224-1458 or www.oregonnikkei.org.

Sun., Feb. 26—Book presentation, "Kamishibai Man," by Allen Say; 1:30-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; "Kamishibai Man" is a tale of an old storyteller who returns to the city and discovers the children he used to entertain have not forgotten him; co-sponsored by Japan America Society of Oregon and Portland Sapporo Sister City Association. Info: June Arima Schumann, 503/224-1458.

Northern California

OAKLAND

Sun., Feb. 12—JASEB Crab Feed and Drawing; 4 p.m. first seating, 5:30 p.m. second seating, take-out available from



PHOTO: OREGON NIKKEI LEGACY CENTER

An exhibit of arts and crafts held at Minidoka, circa 1943. Gift of Fumiko Haraguchi Kato.

4:30-6 p.m.; Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., 2nd Floor; \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door; proceeds support JASEB's home and community based senior services. Info/tickets: 510/848-3560.

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Feb. 18—4th Annual Northern California Time of Remembrance; 11:30-4 p.m.; California Museum of History, Women and the Arts, 1020 O Street; professor and author Eric Muller is the guest speaker; sponsored by the JACL chapters of Placer County, Sacramento, Florin, Lodi, Marysville and Stockton. Info: Nancy Whiteside, 916/319-8194 or nwhiteside@dhs.ca.gov.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Feb. 25—Asian Art Museum

Guided Docent Tour; 9:30 a.m.; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; join fellow JACLers on a guided tour of the art museum; JACL members \$15/adults, \$12/seniors 65 and over or students, children under 12 free, \$20 non-members.

Sat., Mar. 18—"Carrying On: Tribute to Japanese American Family-Owned Businesses", NJAHS Annual Awards Dinner; 6-9 p.m.; Radisson Miyako Hotel, Japantown, 1625 Post St.; honorees include: California Flower Market, Koda Farms, Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, Uoki Sakai, Okamoto Family and Benkyo-do Confectioners. Info: 415/921-5007.

Central California

HANFORD

Through Mar. 6—Modern Mode: Kimono for Japan's New Woman; Meisen kimonos from the first half of the twentieth century; guest curator, Sharon Sadako Takeda; The Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth Ave. Info: www.shermanleeinstitute.org.

Southern California

BURBANK

Feb. 2-5, 8-12—Asian Bird Flu Over the Cuckoo's Nest presented by the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors; Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.; GTC-Burbank, 1111-B W. Olive Ave.; opening night reception Feb. 2, preview Feb. 1; \$15 general admission. Reservations/Info: tickets.manja.org/18mmw/asianflu.

818/754-4500 or info@18mmw.com.

CAMARILLO

Sun., Feb. 12—Ventura County JACL Installation Luncheon; 11:30 a.m.; Spanish Hills Country Club, 999 Crestview Ave.; \$35 per person before Jan. 30, \$38 at the door; guest speakers, Toshi Ito, author of "Endure" and Cindy Kumagawa, publisher of "Endure." Info: Anne Chilcott, 805/492-0146 or vcjaci@hotmail.com.

LOS ANGELES

Through May 14—Traveling exhibition, Isamu Noguchi - Sculptural Design; JANM.

Sat., Feb. 11—Book signing, Dixieland

Sushi by Cara Lockwood; 2 p.m.; JANM; East meets South in Dixieland Sushi, a delightfully offbeat tale about big fat weddings, the burdens of love and the clash of cultures.

Mon., Feb. 20—20th Annual Cultural Night presented by the UCLA Nikkei Student Union; 7 p.m.; Royce Hall; Tickets: Jean Chin, jean.chin@gmail.com or 310/562-1290. Will call begins at 6 p.m.

Fri., Mar. 31—CAUSE 13th Annual Dinner; 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner; Los Angeles Marriott Downtown, 333 S. Figueroa St. Sponsorship opportunities: 626/356-9838.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., Feb. 25—Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon; noon; Riverside Golf Club, 1011 North Orange St.; guest speaker is Dr. Stuart Sumida, Professor of Biology at CSU San Bernardino, and has been a consultant to special effects artists and animators on over 30 feature length films; \$20/person; make check payable to Riverside JACL and mail to Junji Kumamoto, 675 Spruce St., Riverside, CA 92507 by Feb. 11. Info: Irene Ogata, iogata@yahoo.com or Dolly Ogata at 951/684-7962.

Arizona

PHOENIX

Sat., Feb. 4—JACL Teacher Training Workshop; 9-3 p.m.; Arizona Historical Society; Facilitators are Carol Kawamoto and Greg Marutani. Info: Lisa Takata, takata@dancris.com.

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 25-26—Arizona Matsuri Festival; 10:30-4:30 p.m.; Heritage Square, 7th St. and Monroe. Info: Beth Cole, beth.cole@phoenix.gov.

CCLPEP Information Meetings

Questions about the 2006 CCLPEP grant application? Interested in learning more about CCLPEP? Come to one of the public information meetings with Elaine Yamaguchi, program director. Check www.library.ca.gov/cclpep/index.cfm for periodic updates.

Feb. 9 - Gardena Public Library, Mayme Dear Branch, 11 a.m., 1731 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena, 310/323-6363.

Feb. 10 - JACCC, 1 and 4 p.m., 244 S. San Pedro St., Suite 505, Los Angeles, 213/628-2725.

Feb. 11 - Pasadena Public Library, San Rafael Branch Library, 11 a.m., 1240 Nithsdale Rd., Pasadena, 626/744-7270.

Feb. 16 - Daly City Public Library, 6 p.m., 40 Wembley Dr., Daly City, 650/991-8023.

Feb. 17 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, San Jose, 3 p.m., 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose, 408/808-2000.

Feb. 7 - Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, 7 p.m., 12900 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite 240, Garden Grove, 714/636-9095.

Feb. 8 - San Diego Central Library, 6 p.m., 820 E St., San Diego, 619/236-5800.

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JACCC
244 S. San Pedro St.

GARDENA
Saturday, Feb. 25
9AM to 11AM
Ken Nakaoka Center
1670 W. 162nd St.

FREE BOOK Alan Kondo's "Path to Ansei"
- A Japanese American Guide to Financial Success -
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2006 NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

CHICAGO

Sun., Feb. 19—"Identity: Post Internment, Generational Effects of America's Concentration Camps." 2 p.m.; DeVry University, 3300 North Campbell (parking is west of the building). Info: 773/728-7170.

DENVER

Sun., Feb. 19—DOR 2006; 2:30 p.m.; Simpson United Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff, Arvada, Colorado. Program includes: "Within the Silence," a one actress play which follows a family through the internment experience. The play is written by Ken Mochizuki and will be acted by Alison Hirito.

FRESNO

Sat., Feb. 18—Day of Remembrance Dinner; 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner and program; Manhattan Restaurant, 1731 W. Bullard Ave. Keynote speaker is Hon. James A. Ardaiz, Presiding Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeal. Presented by the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Feb. 18—2006 Day of Remembrance, "'Claiming History: Justice Along Color Lines' to Focus on 1930's Mexican 'Repatriation'"; 2 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum. Professor Balderrama is the keynot speaker and Congressman Becerra will describe his efforts to pass legislation to create commissions to examine the WWII events and to apologize to those who were wrongly denied their civil rights. Poets Gloria Alvarez and Amy Uyematsu will recite from their works. Alayne Yonemoto will emcee. Co-sponsored by the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR), JACL Pacific Southwest District and JANM. Info: NCRR, 213/680-3484, JACL PSW Office, 213/626-4471 or JANM, 213/625-0414.

MERCED, Calif.

Sat., Feb. 18—Merced County Japanese American Film Festival to commemorate the Day of Remembrance; 2-4:30 p.m.; Merced College, Leshner Library 1. "From a Silk Cocoon" and "Stand Up For Justice" are scheduled to screen. In between showings, a Nisei monologue on the JA experience during WWII will feature two students from the Golden Valley High School Drama Program. Sponsored by the Japanese Americans of Merced County Committee, Cortez JACL, Livingston-Merced JACL and the Social Science Department at Merced College.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Feb. 25—"Caught in Between. What to call home in times of war," a documentary by Lina Hoshino. Merion Friends Meeting, 615 Montgomery Ave., Merion, PA. Speakers: Tsiwen Law, Attorney at Law; Marwan Kreidie, Philadelphia Arab American; Iftekar Hussain, CAIR. Free admission. Free refreshments. Info: Joyce Horikawa, 856/427-9431 or Miiko Horikawa, 610/525-6620.

PORTLAND

Sat., Feb. 18—10 a.m.-noon; Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Dr.; This DOR event will commemorate the anniversary of the internment, and use it as a time to reflect on the need for tolerance, especially in times of national emergency and war. Participants include members from the Portland JACL

Board, JACL Portlands Unite People youth group, Mary Gruenewald and possibly Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and First Lady Mary Oberst.

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Feb. 18—4th Annual Northern California Time of Remembrance; 11:30-4 p.m.; California Museum of History, Women and the Arts, 1020 O Street; professor and author Eric Muller is the guest speaker; "How to Stand Up for our Civil Rights after 9/11" panel, 2:30-4 p.m.; \$7.50 prepaid donation before Feb. 14, \$10/person after, students 18 and under, free; sponsored by the JACL chapters of Placer County, Sacramento, Florin, Lodi, Marysville and Stockton. Info: Nancy Whiteside, 916/319-8194 or nwhiteside@dhs.ca.gov. Registration info: www.NCTOR.org or Joanne Iritani, 916/488-8821.

SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., Feb. 18—Day of Remembrance 2006. Lunch begins at noon, Japanese Church of Christ, 268 West 100 South with the program beginning at 1 p.m., Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, 211 West 100 South. The program will focus on women and their experiences during the war. The program also features a panel discussion and a short film highlighting woman's achievements. Art and photographs will also be displayed. Lunch is \$10 and the program is free. Info: Diane Akiyama, 801/277-6115.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Feb. 26—"Carrying the Light for Justice! 25th Anniversary of the Redress Hearings" DOR 2006; 2-5 p.m.; AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres, 1881 Post St. Invited keynote speaker is Senator Daniel Inouye. Program will also feature Dr. Satsuki Ina, new film excerpts "From Resettlement to Redress" and "The Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians", Shigin by Susumu Saiki, Melody Takata, and IBBP West Children's Choir. San Francisco Public Defender, Jeff Adaci, is the emcee. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. An interfaith Candle Lighting and Reception will follow at JCCCNC. Sponsored by the Bay Area DOR Consortium. Info/tickets: 415/921-5007.

STOCKTON

Sat., Feb. 25—Day of Remembrance 2006; 10-2 p.m.; Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr. The featured event is a collection of photos from Stockton resident, Richard Yoshikawa, which depicts life in the Rohwer camp. The photographs are part of an online collection at the University of the Pacific. Participants are asked to help identify individuals in the photos. The documentary, "Time of Fear" will also be presented. Lunch will be provided, but space is limited. R.S.V.P. to Ted or May Saiki, 209/465-8107. Info: Aeko Yoshikawa, 209/952-5578.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sun., Feb. 19—Question 27, Question 28, a play by Chay Yew; 2-5 p.m.; Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, 14th St. and Constitution Ave. NW; starring Dian Kobayashi, Emily Kuroda, Tamlyn Tomita and Shannon Holt; program is presented by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Veterans Association and the JACL.

In Memoriam - 2005-2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Amano, Yasue Ozeki, 85, Livonia, Mich., Nov. 8; survived by sons, Robert (Marilyn) and Richard (Carol); daughter, Nancy (David) Lindennmuth; and 4 gc.

Asai, Woodrow, New York, Dec. 31; New York JACLeR; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Hisayo; son, William; daughter, Nancy and several grandchildren.

Doi, Wesley Toshihiko, 69, San Rafael, Nov. 23; U.S. Army, former San Francisco JACLeR president and governor of NCWNP District; survived by wife, Toyoko Sumida; sons, Darrell (Grace Chan), Gregory (Kanami Ogiwara) and Clifford (Mi Kyong Kim); and 5 gc.

Finucane, James Finbar, 91, Columbia, Md., Dec. 30; Washington, D.C. JACLeR; survived by wife, Kiyo; sister, Eileen McKenna; sons, James, Thomas, Robert, Matthew, Stephen and Martin; and 22 gc.

Hayataka, Ida A. (Mitori), 81, Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 3; survived by

husband, Hiroshi; sons, Todd (Tracy) and Glenn; daughter, Holly; brother, Robert (Ann) Mitori; sisters, Ishii (John) Kim, Alice (Roy) DeLaney, Jean Reavey, Ann (Robert) Hattori; and 3 gc.

Iijima, Chris, 57, Honolulu, Dec. 31; Univ. of Hawaii law professor, once toured the country with the Yellow Pearl trio singing about Asian American identity; survived by wife, Jane Dickson; sons, Alan and Christopher; parents, Takeru and Kazu; and sister, Lynne.

Kajitani, Iko, 97, Selma, Nov. 2; survived by son, Toshihiko; daughter, Alice Nakahata; 5 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Kanki Mary F., 86, Sunnyvale, Jan. 5; survived by sons, James (Lydia) and John (Kim); daughters, Barbara and Phyllis (Pascal); brothers, Keith and Bill (Alice) Okamoto; sisters, Ada Tsurutani, Sumako (Charlie) Nakamura and Eva (Aki) Inaba; and sister-in-law, Grace Okamoto.

Miles, Eiko, 72, Oxnard, Nov. 19; sur-

vived by husband, Joseph; two brothers and a sister in Japan.

Nakamura, Toshio, 92, San Jose, Nov. 2.

Nakayama, Leo, 79, Cressey, Dec. 18; JACLeR Thousand Club; survived by wife, Mary.

Okazaki, Seiichi Jerry, 86, Whittier, Dec. 16; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughters, Donna (Bryan) Mimaki and Eileen Okazaki; son, Ross (Helen); and 2 gc.

Omori, Chisato (Chi), 84, Spokane, Wash., Oct. 19; survived by wife, Aiko; son, Ron; daughters, Marlene (Bob) Ota and Tami (Nathan) Edwards; 3 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sister, Tazu Higashi.

Scroop, Lynda Patricia, 52, Cerritos, Nov. 30.

Shikuma, Sonoko N., 85, Watsonville; survived by husband, Enji; son Mark; brothers, Kazuyo and Yashima Nakayama; and sister, Natsuko Hayashi.

Tanabe, Eru "Elle," 83, Dec. 22; New York; survived by 14 nieces and nephews and the Alexander Heard family of Nashville, Tenn.

Tanaka, Sam K., 100, Whittier, Jan. 3; survived by wife, Setsu; daughters, Teiko (Leo) Martinez and Amy Miyano; 2 gc.; 4 ggc; and sister, Tome Okamura.

Terasaki, Sam, 71, Aromas, Dec. 22; survived by brothers, Roy and Bob; sisters, Kimiye Terasaki-Welch and Rosie Terasaki.

Ushiro, Sueko, 94, Nov. 17; survived by daughter, Marilyn (Peter); 7 gc.; and 9 ggc.

Uyesugi, Kenneth Kenji, 87, Dec. 10; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Ruby; daughter, Shari (Teruo) Yamamoto; son, Kevin (Kim); 6 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Jack; and sisters, Helen and Jeanette.

Watanabe, Kanichi (Bud), 87,

Stockton, Oct. 31; French Camp JACLeR; survived by daughter, Patsy Ronayne; and 2 gc.

Yasuda, Kentaro, 82, San Francisco, Oct. 6; survived by wife, Jane; daughter, Yumi; son, Ken; 4 gc; sister, Yae; and brother, Tetsu.

Yasukochi, Bess, 87, Berkeley, Jan. 19; survived by daughter, Valerie Yasukochi (James Duff, Jr); and nieces, Rhoda (Fred) Seiji, Pat (George) Toda, Emi (Bob) Tabuchi and Laura (Felipe) de La Rosa. ■



Philanthropist, Leader Passes at 96

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Longtime community leader, philanthropist and humanitarian Clarence Iwao Nishizu died Jan. 25. He was 96 years old.

The son of a farmer, Nishizu took over the family's farm operation at the age of 21 before working as a real estate salesman and broker to assist Japanese American farmers sell or swap their farmland.

His commitment to the JA community was deeply rooted. He founded several JACLeR chapters including SELANOCO and Riverside. He was campaign chair of the Cal State Fullerton University's Environmental Science Education and Conference Center.

The center expanded the arboretum's educational use of environmental science. The Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum was a part of the project, which honored the agricultural legacy of JAs.

Nishizu was one of four Southern Californians in 1996 to receive the Japanese government medal for promoting Japanese culture and fostering better U.S./Japan relations. He was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement award by the Orange County Japanese American Lawyers Association.

In 1999, Cal State Fullerton honored Nishizu with an honorary doctorate, the highest university award. ■

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CLARENCE IWAO NISHIZU

Clarence was born on December 9, 1910 in Los Angeles, and he passed away on January 25, 2006 in Fullerton. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen; daughter, Julie Takamine; grandson, Brady Tanaka; and sisters, Grace Fujita and Florence Sugimoto.

Clarence deeply touched the lives of many who knew him, truly an inspiration to not just family, but to members of the JACLeR, JEMS, Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, OCJAA, and other organizations which he supported. Ingenious, energetic, charismatic, and definitely colorful, Clarence's style, keen foresight, common sense, and tenaciousness enabled him to attain numerous achievements in his lifetime among which are: selection as the first Japanese American appointed as Foreman of the Orange County Grand Jury; founder of four JACLeR chapters (Riverside, San Gabriel, No. San Diego, and SELANOCO); author of one volume of the oral history project of the Nisei Experience in Orange County by Cal State Fullerton, recipient of Kunsho, the Japanese Government medal recognizing his efforts to strengthen ties between Japan and the U.S., tireless worker in helping to secure passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 for redress, and Honorary Doctorate given by CSUF.

His faith in God, belief in the Meiji era concepts of filial piety and loyalty to country, led him to achieve success in many areas of his life—most notably, the love and admiration of his children and grandchildren, and friends. He had a whimsical, impish naiveté which always brought a chuckle to many. He will be missed by all.

Survived by daughter, Jean (Greg) Shikata, daughter, Carol (Richard) Matsuoka, son, Glenn Nishizu, daughter, Deborah (Paul) Hancock, daughter, Kathy (Gerald) Tanaka; grandchildren, Deron (Sylvia) Matsuoka, Lori (Glen) Tagami, Jill (Aaron) Axtell, Jennifer (Kim) Kira, Marc Takamine, David Shikata, Justin Tanaka, Jordan Miller, and great-grandchildren. Also survived by sister, Dorothy Okamoto, sister, Ruth Goya, brother, John (Trudes) Nishizu, brother, Henry (Miwako) Nishizu; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services will be held at Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 2000 N. Fairview St., Santa Ana, on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Fullerton Arboretum, c/o California State University of Fullerton, P.O. Box 6850, Fullerton, CA 92834-6850 (Please write: "In Memory of Clarence Nishizu" on the memo line).

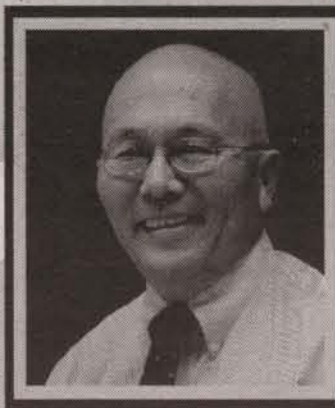
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MAYUMI

(Continued from page 1)

civil rights groups argued the name was derogatory and forced a name change. The area is now known as "Boondocks Road" named after a former business in the area.

"Since the residents of Fannett chose to rename the road Boondocks Road, it was essential for the marker to be built," said Tanamachi. "Thus, the Mayumi family will be honored and remembered in Texas for their enormous contribution to our state."

Yoshio Mayumi settled in the town of Fannett in the early 1900s buying 1,700 acres of land to farm rice. His brother Yasuo ran the farm. The family ran the farm until 1924 when the Mayumis sold the property and Yasuo returned to Japan.

The Mayumi family story was often lost in the road renaming controversy but will now be highlighted by the marker which will sit in a field located on Boondocks Road. The marker was approved by the Texas Historical Commission in early January.

"The Mayumi family feels very happy that the people in Texas remember and honor their ancestors," said Hellmut Klicker, who lives in Japan with his wife Michiko, a direct descendant of the Mayumi family.

"Yoshio Mayumi did not achieve his dream of building a life for himself in Texas, but he succeeded in his higher aim of building bridges between Japanese and Americans,"

he said. "He and his brother Yasuo won the hearts and minds of the people in Fannett by their modesty, sincerity and generosity."

Although the road renaming controversy took over a decade to resolve, Tanamachi was not surprised at how quickly the Mayumi family marker was approved.

"Following the changing of J-Road in Jefferson County, two other counties, Ft. Bend and Orange, which had J-Road/Lane, changed the names of their roads as well," she said. "So it was only fitting that Texas would finally honor the Mayumi family properly."

The exact wording of the marker is currently being developed by state officials. They plan to use information from a narrative provided by Fannett resident Wayne Wright, who lives on the formerly named "Jap Road" in a house built with materials from the original Mayumi family house.

Wright had fought hard against renaming "Jap Road" but in an interview with *The Enterprise* he said, "All along we wanted to honor the Mayumis for their contribution out here. I was very thankful I could do my little part in it."

In addition to Wright and state officials, representatives from the Anti-Defamation League, participants in the application for the historical marker, will have a chance to give final approval to the marker's wording.

The Mayumi family marker will be completed this year, likely in the summer. ■



CEMETERY

(Continued from page 1)

just trusted everything that [Oakdale] was telling us."

The veterans were told that 200 plots needed to be sold in order to build the memorial, so Chang bought two more plots to help fulfill the quota. He paid installments for two years before stopping payment.

Julie Su of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) who filed the suit on behalf of the veterans said the cemetery took advantage of the elderly and monolingual by making them buy plots that they never intended to create. Oakdale advertised the memorial in local Korean language newspapers and even gave group tours on several Memorial Day ceremonies to promote the location, she said.

Fraud cases involving companies that take advantage of immigrants with limited English skills are common, said Su. In 2002, APALC filed a lawsuit on behalf of Chinese consumers who accused Alhambra, Calif.-based Wondries Toyota of promising deals in Chinese different from what was written in the English language contract. The dealership settled, but the case prompted the passage of the Consumer Protection for New Californians bill, requiring some businesses to provide in-language contracts.

"I am shocked that this happened to Korean veterans," said Calif. Assemblywoman Judy Chu, who sponsored the bill. "They expected to be treated with respect. It is only fair that if these businesses make money off of immigrants, they need to provide contracts that they are

signing in the language they speak."

The new law, however, does not extend to the funeral industry and cases like the Korean veterans are extremely common regardless of language, said Kevin Flanagan, spokesperson for California Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, which is also looking into the case. He calls it a "textbook case" for complaints about needs that were

'We wanted to be buried together as veterans.'

— Kunsup Chang

promised, but did not appear in the contract.

"It's a case where even when someone says you're going to get this, and this. Don't worry about it. No. Worry about it," said Flanagan.

For the veterans, it was Jin Heung Kim, an Oakdale employee named in the suit, who visited local senior citizen centers to urge the veterans to quickly purchase the plots and not be left out. Now there are nearly 800 plots purchased by the veterans.

A spokesperson from Service Corp. International, the parent company of Oakdale Memorial, said they are working with the plaintiffs to try to come up with a fair resolution, but declined to comment on the progress of the veteran's memorial.

Former soldiers like Young Soon Ahn, 77, who are separated from their native country want to be remembered for their sacrifices. He bought two plots in 2002 — one for himself and one for his wife.

"In my mind, I thought there is a

cemetery for veterans in Korea. It's this very great place and all the veterans are buried together and it's where the kids can go see their dads there and be very proud of their dad's military service. And when I heard that there was going to be one here, it made me really happy. There's nothing that can make me happier," said Ahn through a translator.

The former infantry battalion colonel thought his combat days were behind him, but now he is embroiled in a legal battle in the twilight of his life.

"I bought these plots trusting what they told me I was buying into. Of course I want to fight for these plots and I can always give them to my kids. I don't have to keep them for myself. I really want to reveal the truth of what happened here," he added.

The veterans' attorneys want to make an example of Oakdale and send a message that it is not okay to take advantage of helpless immigrants. But for now, Ahn can only hope and wait. Recently, the retired acupuncturist visited some gravesites at Oakdale and was reminded of an old saying.

"There's an old saying that if the burial plot is in a good place, then the family will be happy. The future generation will be well taken care of. It made me really angry and it made me think that I had to address this issue."

Ahn's children have had to prepare another plot just in case the legal battle drags on too long.

"I just learned that I have to be really careful and vigilant when someone tries to sell me something," he said. ■

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