



Convention Time
Mark your calendar for
JACL's 'Phoenix Rising'
extravaganza.
PAGE 5



Oscar Bid
Filmmaker Steven Okazaki
hopes his short documentary
about atomic bomb survivors
will be recognized.
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



torino 2006
Dreams Dashed
An injury forces Michelle Kwan to withdraw from her last chance at gold.
SPORTS PAGE 7

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Day of Remembrance
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LISTING PAGE 10

#3051/Vol. 142, No. 3 ISSN: 0030-8579

FEB. 17-MAR. 2, 2006

Houston's AA Festival Fights for Visibility Amidst Controversial Cancellation Decision

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

For their performances, children practice moving their feet in the choreographed footsteps of their ancestors and plucking the strings of a pipa, a curvy Chinese instrument usually not seen or heard by a mainstream audience. They practice performances to bring their cultural songs, dances and arts to a Pan Asian stage in Texas, but this year the long-standing festival was cancelled, a move that set off what is being called a mortal combat between festival officials and its longtime host venue.

Citing its new commitment to professional performances, board members of Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre in December rescinded a grant for the Houston Asian American Festival (HAAF), an annual two-day event in October of mostly community-based performers it has hosted for 20 years.



PHOTO: KIM HOGSTROM

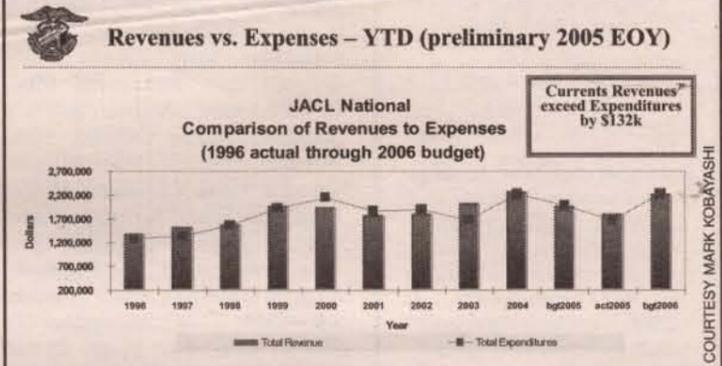
Houston Asian American Festival Executive Director Glenda Joe (right) and Daniel Watanabe, festival president and vice president of Houston JACL, are fighting to keep the 26-year-old festival alive at Miller Theatre this Oct. 22-23.

"We're not putting this festival down," said Paul Beutel, Miller Theatre artistic director. "It's not in sync with our mission right now. That's key to us, professional caliber performances. Our collective opinion after last year's festival in October — once we experienced it — was that it was not at the caliber we wanted."

At contention were the "recital type" children's performances and martial arts demonstrations.

The decision enraged festival officials, raised accusations of ethnic bias and left performers like Changlu Wu and the young students at her Houston-based classical Chinese music school

See FESTIVAL/Page 12



NATIONAL BOARD MEETING JACL Closes '05 with Surplus, Warns of Future Shortfalls

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL national board reported a surplus in the 2005 budget, but put off discussing 2006 and finalizing the 2007-2008 biennial budgets until the next meeting in April.

The \$132,288 surplus in 2005 is primarily due to a decrease in membership decline, Millennium Club renewals in December and a drop in expenditures, said National JACL Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kobayashi at the Feb. 11-12 national board meeting. Successful fundrais-

ing campaigns including Annual Giving and the JACL golf tournament and a one-time personal donation from Anthony Plummer, a longtime JACLer, also contributed to the surplus in 2005.

The good news comes with several sobering caveats. Although JACL's membership decline is the smallest it has been in the last 12 years, the number is still dropping, reported Edwin Endow, national JACL vice president of membership. Since January 2005, membership has fallen 1.7 percent.

See FINANCES/Page 3

Groups Hope to Tell Little Known Little Tokyo Story

But a proposed walkway and mural on Azusa Street marking the location of the founding of the Pentecostal Church Movement has faced roadblocks the past decade.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Congested traffic and the hustle and bustle of tourists and residents alike are an everyday characteristic of the four blocks that make up Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. There's a lot of history here from the first Japanese immigrants in the 1900s, the upheaval of the internment years, and the resurgence of the area in the 1970s and 1980s.



The Azusa Street Memorial Committee hopes this year they will see a mural on this wall commemorating the founding of the Pentecostal Church Movement. But their efforts are being stymied by various community groups.

And one little known part of Little Tokyo history can be found here on Azusa Street, a small section that is little more than an alley with the occasional garbage truck or delivery van. This is the location where African American pioneer Pastor

William Seymour founded the Pentecostal Church Movement, a movement that now boasts 500 million members.

Today all that stands to commemorate this historical event are a couple of small plaques, a street sign, and a grapefruit tree planted in memory of Pastor Seymour. For the

See AZUSA STREET/Page 3

Amache Camp Will Become National Historic Landmark

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRANADA, Colo.—This was a place no one talked about for a long time.

The people once warehoused on this 160-acre stretch of land choked with sagebrush and crumbling concrete foundations didn't.

Neither did the people who lived in the town less than a mile away. When an eager, young high school teacher arrived in town 15 years ago and asked his students how to get to Camp Amache, they responded with blank faces.

"Amache?" they asked. "What's that?"

Today they know. Today — thanks largely to the same teacher who persisted in

See AMACHE/Page 6



AA Groups Blast Radio Personality Adam Carolla for Anti-Asian Comments

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Several Asian American groups, including JACL, recently came out with statements criticizing radio personality Adam Carolla for his anti-Asian comments mocking an Asian American awards show.

In a Jan. 24 national broadcast of the Adam Carolla Show, Carolla mocked the Asian Excellence Awards in a 52 second segment which was dubbed over with a series of "ching, chong" sounds.

"In this day and age, it is inappro-

priate that an industry leader such as CBS allows one of its radio personalities to ridicule Asian Americans with racist stereotyping over the airwaves," said Heidi Tanakatsubo, JACL vice president of public affairs, in a JACL statement.

"Asian Americans constitute not only a large segment of the U.S. population, but also a significant

portion of CBS listeners and viewers.

"While Mr. Carolla may try to hide behind the excuse that this was a 'joke,' there is no humor to be found nor excuse to be made for demeaning an entire community with racism," she said.

"Once again, he's equating stereotyped foreign aspects of Asian language and culture with Asian Americans," said Guy Aoki, founding president of MANAA (Media Action Network for Asian

See RADIO/Page 3

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Phoenix Rising:
Leadership for a New
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JACL National Convention
June 21-24, 2006
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17
WEEKS



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Annual Giving a Success

By JOHN TATEISHI
Executive Director

A belated Happy New Year.
As we begin the New Year, I'm
happy to report that our year-end
annual giving campaign was
a resounding success.

Our goal was \$100,000,
but in many ways, that was
optimistic as we began the cam-
paign with a few starts and stumbles
in late November.

Thanks to so many of you, we
exceeded our goal and reached over
\$108,000! Where normally we have
600-700 supporting our campaign,
this year we had over 900 contribu-
tors.

So thank you, all of you who
responded so generously in



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response to our appeal for support of
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els of our contributors will be
acknowledged as a way to thank
those who donated to this campaign.

And to those of you who mis-
placed your solicitation letters and
are clamoring to join the other
donors, it's not too late. You can still
join in on the campaign by sending
your contributions to the JACL
national headquarters with a nota-
tion that this is for the annual giving.
We'll end this campaign on the last
day of February.

You can't get a 2005 tax write-off
but you can certainly get an early
start on 2006 write offs!

Once again, thank you to all of
you who donated to the year-end
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support are very, very much appre-
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to print all the letters we receive, we
appreciate the interest and views of
those who take the time to send us
their comments.

FINANCES

(Continued from page 1)

And after suffering major program and staff cutbacks in what JACL Executive Director John Tateishi called "awful years financially," the national organization is still hobbled by lack of staff members.

"Even though we had more income than expenses, we still find ourselves in the situation where we don't have enough people to run the operations in the manner that we should," said JACL National President Ken Inouye.

Key staff positions, which were either cut or never refilled because of financial strife include: the Pacific Southwest regional director, two positions on the *Pacific Citizen* staff and several administrative help positions at the San Francisco national headquarters.

The surplus, some board members noted, is the first time in a long time that the organization's movement isn't dictated by deficit, but it also raises some challenges in planning the next biennial budget. Board members launched into a budget balancing session that stretched late into the night Feb. 11. The debate, which centered on the priority of new hires afforded by the next biennial

budget, was deferred until the April 7-9 quarterly meeting to give board members more time to gather feedback from their districts.

"It's certainly good news that we have the surplus, but at the same time we have challenges to make sure that we are responsible in terms of safeguarding those revenues and also plan our budget with an eye towards being responsible as well," said Inouye.

"We actually have an opportunity here because we have a little bit of breathing room and given that we really do need to decide what we want to do with the organization," said Kobayashi.

Endow announced the launch of a new membership campaign which includes the slogan, "Just do it" to encourage members to recruit one new member. But with about four months left before the national council meets in Arizona for the JACL convention, Tateishi said without a strong push for more members, a dues increase may be the only other way to break the cycle of staff shortages and threats of deficit that have plagued the organization over the years.

"The only way I can see us getting out of this is to raise membership dues. If we examine all the staff positions that are critical and that we

don't have right now I think it says a lot about the state of the organization," said Tateishi.

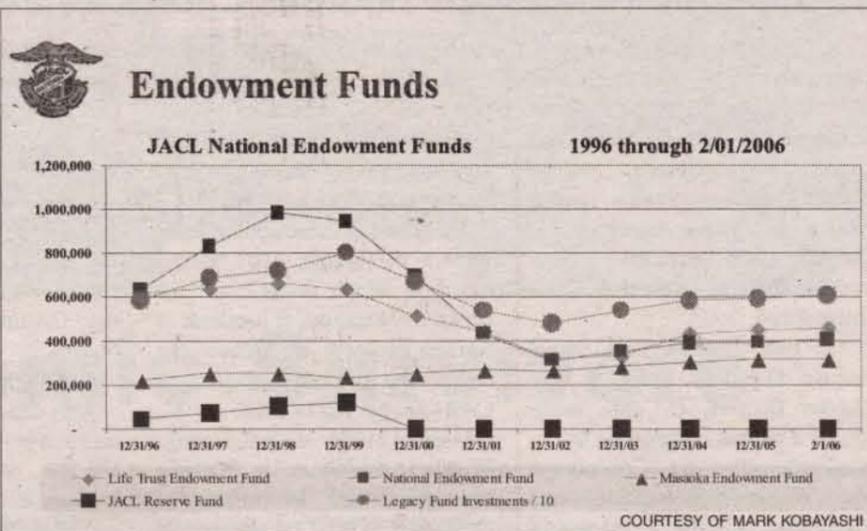
As of Dec. 31, membership revenue topped off at \$1,017,609. Public support, which reached \$94,095, has also met its budgeted goal. Fundraising came in at \$176,808, grants brought in \$119,208 and the P.C. made \$190,637, according to the Dec. 31 budget report.

The surplus will be put into a reserve fund governed by the Finance Committee.

JACL's investments also met budgeted goals. As of Dec. 31, the Life Trust Endowment Fund was at \$453,087 and the Legacy Fund as of Feb. 1 was at \$6.075 million with corpus at approximately \$5.4 million.

"It's been a long time since this has happened, so we are very happy to see that," said Kobayashi at the meeting.

The Investment Policy Committee (IPC) met Jan. 28 and



reviewed the performance of the endowments. According to an analysis of the endowment spending policy between Feb. 2004 to Jan. 2006, there is a total of \$259,733 to distribute for programs in the next biennium.

In planning the 2007-08 budgets, board members debated the priority of new hires, but Kobayashi said that JACL could face the possibility of another deficit in the next biennium.

Some projected revenue sources in 2007-08 are soft monies with no guarantee to come in, said Kobayashi, who pointed out that the surplus in 2005 included surprise

income like the Plummer donation.

"It sounds like [we] cry wolf because I said so often through the P.C. that we're in a serious budget crisis that we need donations ... but what I think what Mark did at the very end — looking at the realities of the revenue side of the budget — was very sobering and I think it pointed to the fact that we're going to be in a very tight budget biennium based on the numbers we're looking at this time," said Tateishi.

The next quarterly board meeting is scheduled for April 7-9 at the JACL headquarters in San Francisco.

AZUSA STREET

(Continued from page 1)

past 10 years the Azusa Street Memorial Committee has been fighting to build a memorial at the location but has faced resistance from some community groups. They are hoping that this year, the 100th anniversary of the Azusa Street founding, they will finally see some progress.

"This is the story of an African American that stood shoulder to shoulder with Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Les Hamasaki, an urban planner and member of the Azusa Street Memorial Committee. "Pastor Seymour brought multiculturalism that today's Los Angeles is all about, and he brought it one hundred years ago."

In 1906 Pastor Seymour opened the Apostolic Faith Mission at 312 Azusa Street, holding services for thousands of followers in a multicultural environment, something unheard of in those days. The uneducated son of former slaves, Seymour's efforts would be the starting point for the worldwide Pentecostal Church Movement, a movement that *Life Magazine* listed as No. 62 on its list of "The 100 Most Important Events & People of the Past 1,000 Years." Pentecostals believe that through baptism they can speak in tongues, witness signs and perform miracles.

"Many Pentecostals look at the site as sacred to their history," said Cecil M. Robeck, professor of church history and ecumenics at Fuller Theological Seminary. "There is no other site in the world that can lay claim to being the cradle of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements like the Azusa Street Mission."

In April, more than 100,000 people are expected to attend the Azusa Street Centennial Celebration in Los Angeles. Part of the week-long celebrations will be a visit to the Azusa Street site and Bill Watanabe, chairman of the Azusa Street Memorial Committee, is hopeful that there

will be more for the visitors to see than a garbage filled alleyway.

"This is a big time event. The mural will attract visitors, give them something to see when they look for the site," said Watanabe, who is also the executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center. "This is a great story that still speaks to us. A hundred years ago an amazing thing happened ... Yet no one knows about this," he said.

The memorial committee's proposed project includes a memorial on the northside wall and an Azusa Street SpiritWalk promenade that will tell Pastor Seymour and the Pentecostal Church's story. Proponents believe the memorial would bring welcome tourist dollars to the Little Tokyo area and put the ethnic enclave on the map as a "spiritual door to the world."

The monument is estimated to cost about \$250,000 and they have already received a \$25,000 grant from the Tom Bradley Foundation and a promised \$25,000 in-kind service from the Community Redevelopment Agency. The memorial committee has already garnered the support of the L.A. Human Relations Committee and Councilwoman Jan Perry whose district includes Little Tokyo.

But for the past 10 years the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, the owners of the property on which the wall sits, have not given their approval for the mural.

Victor Wong, JACCC director of administration, says a power panel for its entire plaza is contained in the wall and that a mural would not be feasible. He also noted that future development plans for the plaza may necessitate demolition of the wall.

But although the JACCC is not in favor of the mural, Wong notes that the Center is working closely with the Azusa Street Centennial Celebration coordinators in planning several events at the JACCC including a hospitality center, various performances, and prayers. The Center has also given an in-kind

'Many Pentecostals look at the site as sacred to their history,'

— Cecil M. Robeck, professor



contribution to the memorial committee.

"For logistical reasons ... the wall does not work for this placement," said Wong. "But we do honor Pastor Seymour. This is a significant piece of Little Tokyo history. It started here and there is no question it has historical significance in Little Tokyo."

But Watanabe believes the reasons for JACCC's reluctance for a mural "are not strong ones." He noted that if the power panel portion of the wall is a concern, the committee is willing to design a mural that would not affect that area. They also note that a mural does not have to cover the entire north wall, but could take up a smaller portion of it.

Some speculate that the Azusa Street mural is not on the top of JACCC's priority list right now due to much larger concerns such as the survival of the Center which has been experiencing well-known financial problems the past several years.

"JACCC is struggling for survival ... the mural is not on their list of priorities," said Watanabe.

Ironically, Hamasaki, a former JACCC board member for 20 years, believes a mural would bring needed dollars to the Center since it would become a must-see tourist destination for Pentecostals. He also noted that the Pentecostal Church has offered to buy some of the property but that JACCC has declined the

offer.

"Improving the alley would increase JACCC's property value. We need people coming in through here," said Hamasaki.

More recently some concerns have been raised by the Nikkei Interfaith Council, a group of various Christian and Buddhist churches in the Little Tokyo area. They believe the values and beliefs of the Pentecostal Church are in direct opposition to their beliefs, especially on ethnicity, diversity of culture, and gender orientation issues.

"The Nikkei Interfaith Council has values we believe are at odds with the values associated with this church," said Pastor Mark Nakagawa of the Centenary United Methodist Church, who noted that

although Little Tokyo may be the home of the Pentecostal Church Movement, Japanese churches and temples have been here even longer.

"We're not against any organization coming into Little Tokyo based on ethnic background," said Nakagawa. "Our goal is to facilitate dialogue that provides clarity about every religious organization that seeks to have a presence in Little Tokyo."

Robeck, who is also a member of the Azusa Street Memorial Committee and author of "The Azusa Street Mission and Revival: The Birth of the Global Pentecostal Movement," believes that many people, even in the Christian community, do not know very much about the Pentecostal movement.

"Pentecostalism is not a homogeneous group. There is great diversity within this movement. Historic stereotypes are not adequate to describe the current situation," he said.

Robeck plans to meet with members of the Nikkei Interfaith Council March 20 to resolve any questions and concerns.

The memorial "is important to Little Tokyo; it is important to JAs. It is a part of a major movement even if you don't believe in the movement," said Hamasaki.

"This is good for Little Tokyo," said Watanabe. "It would be an historic site not only for Pentecostals but for Little Tokyo." ■

RADIO

(Continued from page 1)

Americans). "Since forming in 1992, we've sent more letters of complaint to Adam Carolla than anyone else. It's like the guy can't help himself."

The JACL is calling on CBS to issue and on-air apology, mandate that Carolla attend sensitivity training, and provide an opportunity to host Americans of Asian ancestry on the Adam Carolla show to speak about the incident.

The Adam Carolla Show is aired in 10 West Coast cities with large

Asian Pacific American populations. In addition to JACL and MANAA, the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) and the Coalition Against Hate Media (CAHM) have blasted Carolla and parent company CBS for their insensitivity.

So far Carolla and CBS have not issued apologies.

In an interview with the *Pacific Citizen*, CBS Radio's Vice President of Communication Karen Mateo said, "The segment was meant to be humorous and was not meant to offend anyone." ■

Groups Announce New Redress Efforts for JAs and JLAs

As the Day of Remembrance approaches, the Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!, JACL, and Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress recently announced new redress efforts for Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans.

New Redress Commission Bill Introduced

On Feb. 15 U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., introduced a redress commission bill in Congress called the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act."

The bill will establish a federal commission to study the wartime violations committed by the U.S. government against Japanese Latin Americans during World War II, and make recommendations for any appropriate remedies based on their findings. The findings and recommendations of the new commission can serve to strengthen efforts to pass pending redress legislation, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act.

The groups encouraged commu-

nity members to contact their representatives in Congress to urge support of this new legislation.

Community Delegation to Deliver WWII "Enemy Alien" Report and Video to Congress

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the historic 1981 redress hearings, which documented the personal testimonies of hundreds of former internees throughout the country and led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Inspired by the original hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), organizers held an expansion of these commission hearings at a two-day public testimonial event in San Francisco called "The Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians."

The Assembly focused on the personal testimonies of immigrants of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry in the United States and from Latin America who were targeted as "enemy aliens" and endured such violations as discriminatory restrictions, arrest and intern-

ment without due process, forced deportation and use in prisoner exchange.

In May 2006, a community delegation will deliver copies of the Assembly Proceedings Report and Video to the U.S. Congress and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR, a body of the Organization of American States).

JLA Petition At IACHR

With little progress in the U.S. courts, a petition was filed with the IACHR on behalf of former Japanese Latin American internees.

The IACHR will soon decide if it has jurisdiction over this case seeking to hold the U.S. government accountable for the ongoing failure to provide redress for WWII war crimes and crimes against humanity.

For more information, contact:
Campaign for Justice:
Redress Now For Japanese Latin Americans!, P.O. Box 1384,
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510/528-7288
www.campaignforjusticejla.org
info@campaignforjusticejla.org.

JACL Mourns Passing of Civil Rights Icon

As Coretta Scott King was laid to rest near Atlanta, Georgia, the JACL mourned the loss of a civil rights icon and expressed condolences to her family.

Catapulted to national prominence after the death of her husband Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, Coretta Scott King immediately served as an outspoken advocate for civil and human rights for all people and continued to do so through the decades. She spoke not only of a need for



racial justice, but also deplored all forms of discrimination and inequity wherever she saw it.

"Coretta Scott King was an inspiration to everyone," said Heidi Tanakatsubo, JACL vice president for public affairs. "As a woman, she was an incredible role model for me as well as to all minorities and she will be greatly missed. I only hope that the JACL can work to continue her struggle for human and civil rights."

The leadership of the JACL participated in the March on Washington, the largest civil rights demonstration ever, on Aug. 28, 1963. Organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other civil rights organizations, nearly 300,000 people took part in the march to protest racial discrimination and support major civil rights legislation. ■

Civil Rights Leaders Meet with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

A diverse group of civil rights leaders met recently with U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to discuss civil rights issues of concern to all Americans.

Among the topics discussed at the Feb. 8 meeting were the reauthorization and restoration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, federal civil rights enforcement (including the protection of voting rights for displaced citizens of Louisiana), immigration policy, and the wire-tapping and surveillance of American citizens.

"We urged the attorney general to actively support the reauthorization and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act," said Theodore

'Enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws is part of the attorney general's constitutional responsibility and cannot be done in a vacuum.'

M. Shaw, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (NAACP LDEF). "We also shared our deep concerns about the Justice Department's lack of civil rights enforcement in recent years and the electronic surveillance of American citizens, a practice that has a history of being used to harass and undercut the civil rights community."

"This meeting offered an excellent opportunity to thank the attorney general for reviewing the functioning of the immigration courts and to call upon the Justice Department to address the erosion of due process rights accorded to immigrants and the alarming increase in using immigrants as scapegoats," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

"We carried the message that all of these issues are of paramount importance to Americans and that the civil rights community is united in its commitment to ensure that we are working together with the administration to address them," said Ann Marie Tallman, president and

general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

The group encouraged the attorney general to meet regularly with civil rights leaders in the future.

"Obtaining input from the civil rights community should be a standard practice, not an occasional occurrence," said Marc H. Morial, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League (NUL). "Enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws is part of the attorney general's constitutional responsibility and cannot be done in a vacuum. We hope today's meeting is the beginning of an on-going and productive dialogue between the attorney general and the civil rights community."

Attending the meeting were: Wade Henderson, executive director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Morial, NUL; Narasaki, AAJC; Shaw, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; Hilary O. Shelton, representing NAACP president Bruce Gordon who participated by phone; and Tallman, MALDEF. ■

DNC to Host First AAPI Summit

The Democratic National Committee recently announced the first national Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Democratic Leadership Summit to be held on March 31 and April 1 at the Marriott Hotel in San Jose, California.

The theme of the summit will be "Moving Forward: From the Table to the Ticket."

A room block is reserved at the rate of \$109 per night. Participants can contact the hotel to reserve a room by calling 800/228-9290, and requesting the "Democratic National Committee" room block. The cut off date for reserving under the room block is March 17.

Interested participants can register online by going to <http://www.democrats.org/aapiconference>, or by calling 202/479-5141. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

APA Advocacy Group Says NYC Violated Voting Rights Act

NEW YORK—An Asian Pacific American advocacy group is accusing the city Board of Elections of violating language-assistance provisions in the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) filed a lawsuit Feb. 6 in Manhattan federal court. The suit, on behalf of five voters and four organizations, alleges that the city agency isn't properly fulfilling requirements to provide language help for APAs with limited English proficiency and that APAs were encountering discrimination when they tried to vote.

Under federal law, election notices, voter notices and other material must be published in Chinese in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens and in Korean in Queens. Voters with limited English proficiency are also allowed to receive translation assistance while in the voting booth. According to the 2000 Census, there were 92,570 Chinese adult citizens with limited English proficiency in those three counties and 11,835 Korean adult citizens with limited English in Queens, AALDEF said.

The four organizations represented in the lawsuit are the Chinatown Voter Education Alliance, the Young Korean American Serve and Education Center Inc., the Korean American Voters' Council and the Chinese American Voters Association.

Eddy Zheng's Deportation Hearing Continues

SAN FRANCISCO—Eddy Zheng, who has served over 19 years for a robbery he committed at 16, had the chance to speak publicly on his own behalf at his Feb. 6 deportation hearing.



Zheng was cross-examined for about four hours before the court heard testimonies from supporters of his freedom including the assistant district attorney who prosecuted Zheng for his crime in 1986, according to Anmol Chaddha, a Zheng supporter.

The Department of Homeland Security wants to deport Zheng, who is not an American citizen. The hearing continued Feb. 13 and the judge is expected to make a decision soon.

His proponents say he deserves another chance since redeeming himself in prison by working with at-risk youths and developing an APA curriculum.

Atomic Bomb Survivors Living in Brazil Praise Japanese Court

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Three Hiroshima atomic bomb survivors who live in Brazil are praising a Japanese court ruling granting them years worth of back medical payments and a support group called the move a belated act of justice.

The Hiroshima High Court ordered the local government to pay US \$24,667 in unpaid medical expenses to Shoji Mukai, Teruo Hosokawa and Mitsugu Horioka.

For years, benefits were paid only to survivors living in Japan. But a court ruling in 2002 gave survivors living outside Japan the same benefits. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Mui is City's First APA Detective

Kenneth Mui, a police officer for nine years, is Cambridge, Massachusetts' first Asian Pacific American police detective. He was recently transferred from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority office. He was awarded the Boston Police Department Commissioner Award and the Medal of Valor in 2001.

Col. Mizusawa is Promoted to Brigadier General



PHOTO COURTESY JAVA

Mizusawa gets new stars Jan. 27.

Col. Bert K. Mizusawa was promoted to Brigadier General Jan. 27 and joined 43 other APA generals and admirals. Mizusawa is currently serving as an Army reservist. During his duty time, he serves as Army Materiel Command assistant deputy chief of staff for operations.

Mizusawa, a West Point graduate, has served the U.S.

Government as both a civilian and member of the U.S. Army. As a civilian, he was head of the Department of the Army's interagency and international affairs. He was also a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

During his military career, Mizusawa has served in both active and reserve capacities. With combat service in Korea and Afghanistan, he has been awarded the Silver Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal. ■

Portland Chapter Honors Past Presidents



The JACL Portland chapter recently celebrated the start of the New Year by honoring 22 past presidents of the Portland chapter. As a group, their leadership has spanned 59 years of the chapter's 78 year history.

The attending past presidents with their year(s) of service include: George Azumano (1947), Mary Minamoto (1948, 50), Akira Iwasaki (1964), George Hara (1965), Albert Oyama (1967), Nobu Tsuboi (Azumano) (1968), James Tsujimura (1970, 72, 84), Homer Yasui (1973, 80, 81), Albert Abe (1974), Harold Onishi (1975), William Koida (1976, 77), William Sugahiro (1978);

Miki Yasui (1980, 81), Michael Irinaga (1986), Joseph Wahl (1988-89), Scott Sakamoto (1990, 91, 2000, 01), June Arima Schumann (1992, 93), Connie Masuoka (1994, 95), Sharon Takahashi (1998, 99), Setsy Sadamoto Larouche (2002, 03), Chip Larouche (2002, 03, 04), and outgoing president, Rich Iwasaki (2004, 05).

East West Players Celebrates 40th Anniversary with Visionary Awards Dinner April 10

East West Players, the nation's premier Asian American theatre, is celebrating its milestone 40th anniversary with a gala event at the Hilton Universal City high atop the hills of Hollywood on April 10.

East West Players' annual Visionary Awards Dinner and Silent Auction is an award-winning event that salutes artists who have raised the visibility of the Asian Pacific American community through theater, film and television. Proceeds from the evening will benefit East West Players' educational and artistic programs.

"East West Players has reached a milestone anniversary that has made it one of the oldest theaters of color in the United States and a cornerstone in the Asian American com-

munity," said East West Players Producing Artistic Director Tim Dang. "This is an amazing achievement for an arts organization to have survived 40 years despite government cutbacks, uncertain economic times, the September 11 attacks, and the 1965 and 1991 Los Angeles Uprisings."

Past Visionary Award honorees have included actresses Tia Carrere, Nancy Kwan, Lea Salonga and Lucy Liu; actors George Takei, Alec Mapa, B.D. Wong and Jet Li; comedienne Margaret Cho; director John Woo; and playwrights David Henry Hwang and Chay Yew.

Other awards to be presented will include the Made in America award that recognizes an artist who has made a significant contribution to

AA theatre and the Rae Creevey Award, named in honor of an Emmy Award-winning founder of East West Players recognizing commitment and volunteer service to EWP.

The East West Players 40th Anniversary Visionary Dinner and Silent Auction will be held April 10 at the Hilton Universal City, 555 Universal City Drive, Universal City, CA 91608. The no-host reception and silent auction will be at 6 p.m. with the dinner and event program starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$175-\$1,250.

For more information on East West Players 40th Anniversary Visionary Awards Dinner and Silent Auction contact Managing Director Trent Steelman at 213/625-7000 Ext. 19 or tsteelman@eastwestplayers.org. ■

Countdown to JACL 2006 Convention

• TED NAMBA •



What's new about the 2006 Phoenix JACL convention? Well, we know that there will be lots of heated discussion in the national council meetings, extensive debate on both the budget and several worthwhile resolutions, and some hotly contested elections for national JACL officers, but that's nothing new for our Biennial National JACL Convention.

So what's new? Let me share a few examples of what's new at JACL 2006

Convention: Our convention planning committee is focusing on making JACL 2006 a fun, exciting, educational and memorable experience for Gosei, Yonsei, Sansei, Nisei and everyone else. In our "Family Room" at convention, kids from ages 5-13 can check in daily to see what activities are going on each day. Examples of activities include completing puzzles to win free stuffed animals to making your own lei and learning how to do a Polynesian dance.

"Phoenix Rising: Leadership for a New Generation" is the theme for JACL 2006 so for our older Gosei and Yonsei, we will offer special youth (ages 14 to 20-something) activities, a separate youth workshop, and hold a separate Welcome Mixer for our youth to enjoy. We are even considering giving youth the option of organizing a special fundraising event to benefit national

JACL youth during JACL 2006.

As a 40-something Sansei, my views are not always identical to our youth but I think we all need to be flexible and listen to the views of our JACL youth as they are without question, the future of our organization.

For our Sansei and Nisei, here is something new for JACL 2006. We are currently in the midst of adding a new workshop to the already printed JACL 2006 registration form.

Archivists

from the Arizona Historical Foundation, Arizona State University and State of Arizona recently made two exciting discoveries during a collaboration of their archives: 1) a rare, in color, but now silent film of the building of Poston and 2) five large, exquisite watercolors by Kukanen Tsuruoka.

You will have the opportunity to watch this amazing 25-minute film at the just recently created workshop for JACL 2006, "Hidden Treasures: How Arizona has Documented Japanese American Relocation Camps." We will also offer a free shuttle to ASU to check out some of their new exhibits on the two Arizona internment camps.

I'll share numerous other exciting reasons for you to check out JACL 2006 in upcoming issues of the Pacific Citizen, including the fabulous food that will be served at all of our luncheons and dinners, the fun evening at Rawhide Western Town for our Welcome Mixer, the highly entertaining "Camp Dance" musical, the refreshing water slide at the pool at our beautiful convention venue, the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa which also features a nice canal boat ride from the resort to the casino, two championship 18 hole golf courses, Aji Spa, Koli Equestrian Center, HuHuKam Heritage Center and lots, lots more

See you at convention! ■

Hotel Registration Information:

A block of rooms has been reserved for the convention at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa. To make reservations, call 1-800-325-3535 and be sure to mention you are attending the JACL National Convention for the special rate of \$95 per night. Reservations must be made by May 31.

The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa is located at 5594 West Wild Horse Pass Blvd. in Chandler, Ariz. ■



Convention Registration Form

(Return with payment)

Name _____
 (Please print) Last First MI Age
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Daytime Telephone Number _____
 Evening Telephone Number _____
 E-mail address _____
 Chapter _____
 Category Delegate Booster Millennium Club
 Alternate 1000 Club National Board/Staff
 Youth 1000 Club Life Masaoka Fellow
 Other (Specify) _____

Mail Check and this form together to: JACL 2006 - Registration
 P.O. Box 3455

Make check payable to JACL 2006 Phoenix, AZ 85030-3455

- or -

To pay by charge card, fill out credit card information below and mail to above address:
 (Print legibly)

Cardholder's Name _____
 MasterCard or Visa (circle one)
 Account Number _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Note: Registration will not be processed without accompanying payment (check or charge card). This form is for convention registration only and NOT for hotel reservations, which should be made directly with the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Spa and Resort at Gila River, Phoenix, Arizona. If you are registering for more than one person, please use additional forms or copies.

Registration Fees

| CONVENTION PACKAGE REGISTRATION (includes Individual Events listed below) | Before 4/30 | After 4/30 | |
|---|-------------|------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package | \$225 | \$250 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package | \$115 | \$125 | \$ _____ |
| <small>(A reduced registration fee for Youth/Students who are 25 years of age or younger or currently enrolled in a college, trade school or university. Youth Package includes all of the events in the Regular Convention Package.)</small> | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (all included in package registration) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops | \$25 | \$30 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Mixer | \$50 | \$60 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon | \$50 | \$60 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet | \$100 | \$110 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon | \$50 | \$60 | \$ _____ |
| SPECIAL EVENTS (not included in Regular Package Registration) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Dance Dinner & Show | \$85 | \$95 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Dance Show Only | \$25 | \$30 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament | \$75 | \$85 | \$ _____ |
| <small>(Join the AZ Nikkei Golf Club at the Whirlwind Golf Course on June 25, 2006)</small> | | | |
|  Convention Package | \$ _____ | | |
| Individual Events | \$ _____ | | |
| Special Events | \$ _____ | | |
| Total | \$ _____ | | |

Register Early to save money!
 "Early Bird" postmark by April 30, 2006

For office use only:

| Date Received | Check Number | Charge Card | Amount |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| _____ | _____ | Yes/No | \$ _____ |
| By _____ | | | |

All Veterans Reunion Rescheduled for 2007

The All Veterans Reunion previously set for Veterans Day weekend Nov. 10-12, 2006, has been rescheduled for Feb. 16-18, 2007, due to a conflict with other veterans' organizations during the Veterans Day weekend.

With a change in format, the postponed reunion will now be co-sponsored with the State of California Nisei VFW Posts together with the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance, Japanese American Korean War Veterans, the Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee and the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council (NVCC) of Southern California.

"The purpose for this huge undertaking is to bring together veterans of all wars, especially those of Japanese ancestry of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Middle Eastern wars," said Reunion Chairman Sam Shimoguchi.

Supporters of the reunion include the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) from Washington, D.C., Sadao Munemori Post 321 American Legion, DAV Nisei Chapter 100, 100th/442nd Veterans Association, Los Angeles Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9938, Golden Gate VFW Post 9879, San Jose VFW Post 9970, 6th District Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9902, San Fernando Valley Nisei Memorial VFW Post 4140, Kazuo

Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670, and the MIS Club of Southern California.

Past State Commander and present Commander of the San Jose Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9970 Henry Wadahara, a Vietnam War veteran stated that a new stronger effort will take place at the reunion to obtain the names and addresses of JA Vietnam War veterans for histor-

combat related. Currently the JAKWV has a list of over 3,000 names of those who served during the Korean War era.

Names, stories, questions and other information relative to the book may be directed to Robert Wada, 410 W. Amerige Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832-1709, 714/992-5461, fax: 714/525-9761 or e-mail to RobertW@rwadasurveyors.com.

The reunion is scheduled to be held at the new Otani Hotel and Garden in the Little Tokyo section of downtown Los Angeles, California. On Saturday there will be a featured luncheon with Keynote Speaker Retired Major General Rodney M. Kobayashi, U.S. Army. On Sunday there will be a memorial service at the location of the Killed in Action all war monuments in the nearby Japanese American National Memorial Court. With the recent deaths of three JAs in the Iraq War, a special tribute will be given at the memorial service.

Registration forms and additional information for the reunion will be forthcoming. ■

For more info:

Chairman Shimoguchi:

310/822-6688,

e-mail samkuni@verizon.net;

JAKWV President Victor Muraoka

818/368-4113,

v.muraoka@verizon.net

NVCC President Bob Hayamizu

323/292-3165.



ical purposes and to pass on to our future generations. A special registration area will be set aside for registering Vietnam War era veterans.

Also in conjunction with the reunion, the Korean War veterans are in the process of preparing and publishing a hardbound book tentatively titled, "Japanese American in the Korean War." The book will feature a section on the 248 JAs who were killed in action. The Korean War veterans want all Korean War era veterans to send in their stories regardless if it is combat or non-

part because JAs did not speak of it.

Then one day in the 1960s, Nishida's nephew told his class about his parents' internment in a camp during the war.

"The teacher told my brother he was lying," said Derek Okubo, vice president of the National Civic League in Denver. "My mom got very upset. I remember them saying, 'I guess we have to talk about it.'"

In Granada, people didn't talk much about Amache after the war, either.

The deserted camp became a place where youngsters went to play cards, dance and drink beer. Many called it the "Jap Camp." The school didn't teach what happened there, and few discussed it.

"I guess nobody was interested," said Leslie Carter, 76, who had a job in 1945 demolishing the buildings when the camp closed.

It wasn't just a lack of interest.

For some, feelings about the camp lingered — and feelings had always been mixed.

During the war, some were resentful of the government's seizure of land to create the camp — resentment directed not only against Uncle Sam but also against the people forced to live there.

At the same time, residents appreciated the boost to the economy. Internees could come into town and spend money at stores.

Some were uncomfortable. "We felt strange," said former Gov. Roy Romer, who was a teenager in the nearby town of Holly. "Why were folks herded here? It was just strange."

The incarceration, Romer figured then, was just a consequence of war. "It was something beyond our reach," he said. "It dawned on us after the war how unfair it was."

Others didn't draw that conclusion.

AMACHE

(Continued from page 1)

teaching the town its history and Japanese Americans determined to prevent a repetition of their past — Amache has become a place everyone knows.

It has a highway sign and brochures. It has a museum.

Now, it also has the official stamp of national recognition.

This year, the camp where thousands of JAs were held during World War II will become a national historic landmark, Department of the Interior officials said Feb. 10 in Denver.

In 1942, soon after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government ordered the exile of thousands of JAs to 10 internment camps across the country.

Amache, hastily built on land seized by the government from farmers in the town near the Kansas state line, was one of them — a veritable city, with a hospital, commissary, post office, rows of barracks and more than 7,000 inhabitants.

Sachi Nishida arrived as a 6-year-old on a train with the window blinds pulled down.

"There were soldiers with rifles. I was so glad I was with my mom and dad," recalled Nishida, now of Culver City, Calif.

During the next several years, her life consisted of eating in a mess hall, experiencing ferocious thunderstorms and living without privacy in Barrack 10H7C.

When the camps closed, her family settled in Denver, where other kids didn't seem to know anything about the camps. When Nishida referred to Amache, they thought she was talking about a summer camp.

"So many people do not know what happened," Nishida said, in

Leadership Council Announces Internship Program

The California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJALC) recently announced the 2006 Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program. Now in its fifth year, 50 interns and 14 Japanese American community groups in Los Angeles and the Bay Area have participated in the NCI program.

Applications for NCI 2006 are now available for prospective interns and organizations at www.nikkeiyouth.org and are due in March.

The participation of young people is one of the keys to sustaining the rich culture and traditions of the JA heritage. The goal of the NCI program is to provide cultural exposure and develop the next generation of community leaders.

The program runs from June 24 through Aug. 18. Interns spend four days a week working on Nikkei community projects, and one day in cultural training and leadership development activities. Interns will receive an educational stipend of up to \$2,000. Applicants must be age 18 by the start of the program, have a strong interest in community work and a desire to develop leadership skills. Applications are due by March 24.

NCI is funded through grants from the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Global Foundation and the Union Bank of California Foundation, as well as many other community sponsors. The program is coordinated by the Little Tokyo Service Center in Los Angeles and the Japanese Community Youth Council in San Francisco.

For more information and an application, please check www.nikkeiyouth.org or contact Amy Phillips at the Little Tokyo Service Center 213/473-1698 or aphillips@ltscc.org. ■

2006 Nikkei Community Internship

- Applications are available at www.nikkeiyouth.org or from the Little Tokyo Service Center, 213/473-1698

- Applications are due March 24



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IOC Executive Board Backs Olympic Recognition for Pacific Islands

TURIN, Italy—The Marshall Islands, a former U.S. territory and nuclear testing site in the Pacific, is in line to become the latest member of the Olympic club.

The IOC executive board recently proposed recognition of the islands' national Olympic committee. The move goes to the full International Olympic Committee in the next few days for formal approval.

The Marshall Islands, a series of atolls and reefs with a population of around 60,000, will become the 203rd country or territory with Olympic status.

"This is a great morale boost, sporting wise and internationally," said Kevan Gosper, an Australian IOC member who heads Oceania's regional Olympic body.

The decision opens the way for the Marshall Islands to send a team

to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Gosper said he expects a handful of athletes to qualify, possibly in weightlifting, wrestling or tennis.

With IOC recognition, the country will receive a yearly allocation of about \$150,000 to help develop its sports programs.

The Marshall Islands, located about halfway between Hawaii and Australia, has been an independent republic since 1986. The islands were wrested from Japanese control during World War II and put under U.S. jurisdiction as a U.N. trusteeship. Between 1946 and 1958, the United States detonated 67 nuclear tests there.

The Marshall Islands will become the 16th country in Oceania with IOC recognition, leaving only one other — Tuvalu — still seeking Olympic status. ■

GOLF

Wie to Play Men's Tournament in Korea

HONOLULU—Michelle Wie will play against men on the Asian Tour in Korea, accepting an invitation recently to play in the SK Telecom Open.



K.J. Choi is the defending champion of the tournament, to be held May 4-7 at a course to be determined.

Wie was born and raised in Hawaii, but her parents are from South Korea and it was the first lan-

guage she learned. At the Sony Open last month, Wie conducted television interviews in Korean and English.

Wie played an LPGA tournament at Jeju Island, South Korea, in 2003, finishing last in the 69-player field as a 14-year-old.

It also will be her eighth time competing on a men's tour.

The 16-year-old high school junior, who turned pro in October, came close to making the cut at the Casio World Open on the Japanese tour in November.

Wie's next event is the Fields Open in Honolulu on the LPGA Tour, which will be played Feb. 24-26 at Ko Olina. ■

Oh no! American Short Track Star Stumbles in Turin Debut

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

TURIN, Italy—Apolo Anton Ohno leaned into the turn as he's done so many times before, the golden blades carrying him easily along the milky ice at speeds approaching 30 mph.

Suddenly, he felt that razor-thin edge slipping away.

His skates quivered. His legs wobbled. His left hand scraped the ice in a desperate attempt to stay up.

Ohno didn't go down, but it didn't matter. There would be no Olympic gold medal for the soul-patched American on the first night of short track.

The South Koreans celebrated a 1-2 payback for 2002, when a gold medal was taken away from one of their own and given to Ohno instead. On Feb. 12, Ahn Hyun-soo won the 1,500 meters, while teammate Lee Hosuk claimed the silver.

Ohno wasn't around to do anything about it, falling out after almost falling down in the semifinals.

"I put a lot of dedication and time into this sport. To not even make that final and be able to challenge those top skaters, it hurts," he said.

Ohno stumbled with 1 1/2 laps to go in his semifinal heat and wound up last across the line among those still skating, hunched over with his hands on his knees. His split-second



Apolo Anton Ohno (right) of the U.S. stumbles behind China's Li Ye during their semi-final heat in the Men's Short Track Speedskating 1500 meter race Feb. 12. Ohno failed to reach the final. (AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian)

mistake ruined any chance of defending his Olympic title in a much-anticipated showdown against Ahn and Lee.

China's Li JiaJun won the bronze.

"It really breaks my heart to watch that," said Allison Bayer, Ohno's teammate and girlfriend. "I know he's the best skater in the world and he really didn't have a chance to show that. But the Olympics aren't over."

Indeed, Ohno still has three events left to match or beat the gold and silver medals he won in Salt Lake City. As they say in this wacky sport, "That's short track."

"It is a shame," Ahn said. "All the

Koreans were obviously expecting a race between myself and Ohno. So in that sense I'm disappointed for the Koreans. They were waiting for the final showdown."

While it took more than five minutes to post the official results, Ohno already had headed off to the cool-down area to unlace his skates. The only thing that would be gold on this night was the color of those snazzy blades.

But Ohno still has three races left. "What happened today doesn't change anything that happened four years ago," he said. "I still feel like I'm a great skater and an Olympic champion. But today wasn't my day to win." ■

NBC Loses Its Biggest Star from Winter Olympics

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK—Michelle Kwan's withdrawal from the figure skating competition is a crushing loss for NBC, leaving the network without its biggest Winter Olympics star only two days into the Turin Games.

Women's figure skating traditionally is the most-watched Winter Olympics event, and NBC was counting on the Torrance, Calif., native's quest for gold to be its most compelling story. More women than men usually watch the Winter Games, and that's due largely to figure skating.

"It's like a lead actor leaving a series," said Marc Berman, television analyst for Media Week Online. "It's not positive."

NBC broke into its overnight rebroadcast of its prime-time coverage at 4:20 a.m. EST to report Kwan's withdrawal.

"She's probably the most significant athlete at these Olympic Games," said skating analyst Scott



MICHELLE KWAN

Hamilton. "And so for her to pull out is a gigantic story, and a loss for the U.S. team because so much of the focus was going to be on her."

Earlier, Hamilton reported in prime-time about Kwan's shaky workout. Recognizing the importance of figure skating, NBC had hired well-known skating analyst Dick Button for its broadcast team. NBC also inaugurated a daily one-hour show just on skating, aired each evening on the USA Network.

Kwan's withdrawal will most hurt

NBC in attracting casual viewers who might not have watched much Olympics coverage otherwise — the type of person who transforms something merely popular into a television event, Berman said.

"I'm not a die-hard viewer of the Olympics," he said. "But I wanted to watch Michelle Kwan. And I would have gone out of my way to watch it."

NBC's rivals aggressively are trying to compete against the Olympics this year. Fox, for instance, will air four "American Idol" episodes during the Olympics, and each "Idol" episode so far this season has had more viewers than the Olympics opening ceremony did on Feb. 10.

The opening ceremony was seen by 22.8 million people — half the number of viewers for the opening of the Salt Lake City games four years ago.

"Nobody expected them to do 45 million again," Berman said. "To lose about half the audience — that's big. That's dangerous. That's very dangerous." ■

Inoue, Baldwin Land First Throw Triple Axel in Olympic History, Place 7th

TURIN, Italy—Rena Inoue made history-making 3 1/2 times after being thrown by partner John Baldwin.

The American pairs champions from Santa Monica, California landed the first throw triple-axel in Olympic history during their short program, but Inoue nearly landed face-first on the throw Feb. 13 during the long program when the pair attempted a throw triple axel.

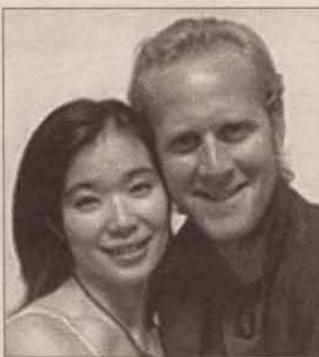


PHOTO COURTESY U.S. FIGURE SKATING

No other pair tried the move, not even the eventual winners, Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin.

The pair placed 7th overall.

They also struggled with some spins and their side-by-side triple toe loops.

Inoue, who recently revealed she had a bout with cancer diagnosed eight years ago. Inoue is now 29, a two-time U.S. pairs champion with Baldwin and is skating in her third Olympics — twice before as a part of the Japanese team. She became a U.S. citizen in September.

Most importantly, she's healthy.

Nearly eight years ago, she thought she had pneumonia, but doctors found a spot on her lung. She said she underwent six months of chemotherapy and has been cancer-free since. She requires only one visit to the doctor per year, and she hardly ever talks about it. ■

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• HARRY HONDA •

VERY TRULY YOURS



Kansha — And a Time to Remember

FOCUS OF THE annual Day of Remembrance programs center on Feb. 19, the date when President Roosevelt issued E.O. 9066 that, briefly put, authorized establishment of military zones, the Evacuation of Japanese Americans and their removal to internment camps.

The declaration of war on Dec. 8, to say the least, had the FBI arresting enemy aliens, posting blackout regulations and doubting the loyalty of Japanese Americans. In Hawaii, martial law was declared with a military governor. Japanese schools and newspapers were immediately suspended. The greater task of rebuilding fortifications began. Until the attack, the president and military leaders did not think Japan had the capacity to attack the fleet in Hawaii. Moreover, the fleet was considered a deterrent.

What turned my mind was reading how the Hawaiian Nikkei community addressed and paid tribute to individuals surrounding Dec. 7, 1941, in a booklet, "Kansha—In Appreciation: the 100th Anniversary of Japanese in Hawaii 1885-1985," published 20 years ago.

"Kansha" is the Japanese concept of enduring gratitude. The inaugural committee sought to identify those "with humanitarian interests [who] had significant impact on the economic and social well-being of Hawaii's Asian immigrants and their descendants," as pointed out by then Gov. George Ariyoshi. The committee had conceded identifying all individuals deserving of "Kansha" was an impossible task.

That many names are unknown to Japanese Americans on the Mainland reveals a big void, such as the missionaries who greeted the Japanese immigrants in the 19th century: Rev. Dr.

Charles Hyde, Theodore Richards, Frank C. Damon, Japanese YMCA founder Frank C. Atherton; and strong voices to assure Nisei children a public education: Elsie H. Wilcox at Kauai and Henry P. Baldwin on Maui, and newspaperman and later Gov. Wallace R. Farrington for creating the College (now University) of Hawaii in 1907.

Federal Judge Horace W. Vaughn naturalized Hawaiian Asians (838 Japanese included) for military service in WWI despite previous rejection by the naturalization office in Washington.

Miles E. Cary, McKinley High School principal (1924-1948) distressed by internment of West Coast Japanese, volunteered to establish a public school system at Poston, Ariz., in 1942. UH President Gregg Sinclair advanced the concept of bridge building, linking East and West.

Prewar leader in education Oren E. Long, and later U.S. senator, increased the number of schools. As governor he appointed the first two AJAs to a cabinet level: attorney general Michiro Watanabe and state treasurer Sakae Takahashi.

Dr. Andrew W. Lind, race relations analyst, cited in his October 1942 paper, "The Japanese in Hawaii under Wartime Conditions," "that the overwhelming majority of the Japanese in Hawaii are loyal to the United States."

Charles R. Hemenway, educator-lawyer-businessman, persuaded the FBI and military government of Hawaii to stand against mass evacuation of Hawaii's Japanese after Dec. 7, 1941.

Robert L. Shivers, agent in charge of the FBI office in Honolulu from 1939-1943, often testified, "There was not one single act of sabotage in Hawaii during the course of the entire war."

Gen. Kendall J. Fielder, chief intelligence officer for the

Military Governor, in midst of war, declared that Hawaii's Japanese "were just as American as you are, or I" and with Shivers successfully led Military Governor Delos C. Emmons to state on Dec. 17 that neither mass evacuation nor internment of Japanese in Hawaii was contemplated.

Gen. Emmons put his military career at risk by not acting on directives from Washington to terminate all Japanese civilians employed by the Army in Hawaii. Then in his first radio broadcast as military governor on Dec. 14, 1941, announced that no act of sabotage had been committed during and after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He later replaced Gen. DeWitt on the Mainland.

About 10 years ago, Ted Tsukiyama recalled Bill Hosokawa had brushed upon the concept of "kansha" to acknowledge representatives on the Mainland. But that spark never ignited into a large-scale effort that national JACL and *Pacific Citizen* might undertake. Hawaii JACLers endorsed the concept but guardedly. "Who is and who isn't to be honored," a point raised by Brian Niiya, who edited the "Encyclopedia of Japanese American History: an A-to-Z Reference from 1868 to the Present" [2000].

MIS Norcal (Military Intelligence Service of Northern Club Assn.) has tackled this for the Mainland through its new book, "In Good Conscience: Supporting Japanese Americans during the Internment," on deck for an upcoming column. ■



Agree?
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Detroit JACL Honors City Council President



PHOTO COURTESY TOSHI SHIMOMOURA

CELEBRATING MARYANN: Detroit JACLers celebrated with Detroit City Council President Maryann Mahaffey at a recent Peace and Justice Award Banquet where Mahaffey was honored for her longtime work in civil liberties and human rights. Mahaffey first joined the Seattle JACL in 1946 and later become involved in the Detroit chapter after she moved to Michigan. Pictured above (l-r) Nob Shimokochi, Bob Takemoto, Toshi Shimomoura, Maryann Mahaffey, Mikiyo Takemoto, Eiko Takemoto and Scott Kurashige. ■

Kimochi, Inc. Hopes to Identify Centenarians

To celebrate Kimochi, Inc.'s 35th anniversary in 2006 and in honor of the 100th year of San Francisco's Japantown in the Western Addition, Kimochi, Inc. is seeking to identify Japanese Americans and Japanese-speaking individuals who will be 100 years old or older in 2006 or a descendent of those who had reached 100 years old prior to their deaths.

The centenarian must currently live in San Francisco or have

lived here during any part of his/her lifetime.

These centenarians will be honored with the Kimochi Spirit Award at Kimochi, Inc.'s 35th anniversary event on May 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco's Japantown, 1625 Post Street.

For more information, call Sandy Mori at 415/674-0219 or email her at Smori@Kimochi-Inc.org or Stella Kiyota at 415/674-0217. ■

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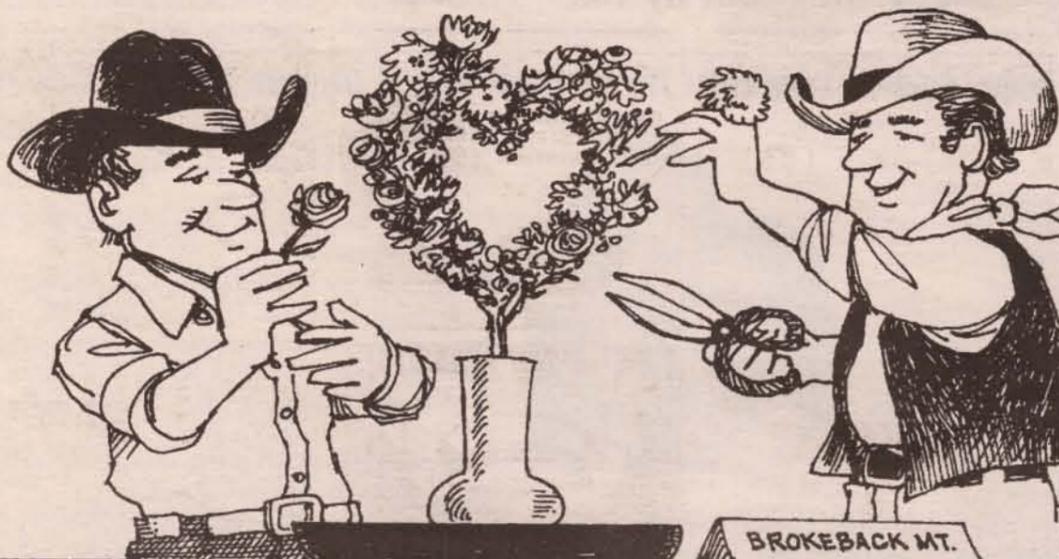
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THIS YEAR'S IKEBANA ENTRY



PETE HIRQUAKA '06



Memories of the bomb continue to wash up ...

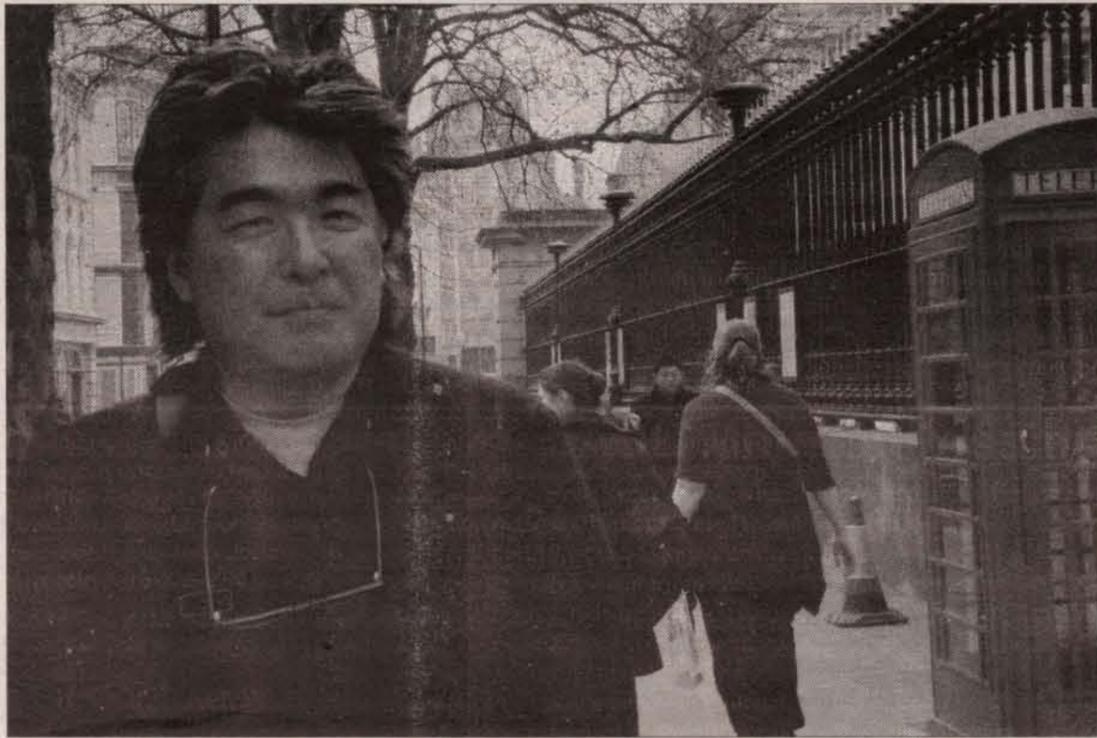


Rituals to commemorate, but without real memories



Tuned in to Atomic Survivors

A JA filmmaker hopes to take home an Oscar for his short documentary about hibakusha from Hiroshima, Nagasaki.



By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

It's one shared moment that fascinates Steven Okazaki. Thousands of different people looking skyward at a dropping bomb, and in an instant, countless life stories are left in the rubble.

"It's a hard subject to escape once you begin looking into it," said Okazaki about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which instantly killed over 100,000 in August 1945 and many more over the years.

Okazaki's documentary film career began 25 years ago with "Survivors," an examination of the effects of the bombing on survivors or *hibakusha*. It won acclaim and airtime on the Public Broadcasting Station, but left the filmmaker with the urge to look deeper.

"I had this nagging feeling where, for personal reasons, I needed to try to

connect a little better," he said.

His latest documentary, "The Mushroom Club," revisits the survivors' story featuring 10 *hibakusha*, the youngest of which was three months old in utero when the bomb changed her life.

"The Mushroom Club" is up for an Academy Award this year in the category of short documentary and Okazaki, already a two-time Academy Award nominee, can't quite quell the feeling of nervousness. He won his first Oscar in 1991 for "Days of Waiting."

"I was just thinking about it this morning," he said by phone while on route to shop for Oscar outfits with his wife Peggy Orenstein in Berkeley, Calif. "Geez, I've been through this twice before, you'd think there would be a sense of being older and wiser. Maybe being older makes you more nervous."

THE LONG JOURNEY

Okazaki planned to make another *hibakusha* documentary in 1995, the 50th anniversary of the bomb-

ings, but for political reasons the project fell through. He had received funding from various Japanese groups and the Smithsonian Museum, which was at the time eager to cross-promote its Enola Gay exhibit. But financiers balked at Okazaki's unflinching creative vision. When censorship issues came up, he dropped out.

"It was a bitter lesson," said Okazaki, 54, about how political and touchy the subject can still be.

On the 60th anniversary, he began working with producers again to develop the documentary and made "The Mushroom Club" on a shoestring budget traveling to Japan to interview survivors over the course of a few years. It was a film, he said, he made for himself.

"Whenever I run into people, they ask me 'What are you doing?' and I'd say Hiroshima and they'd say 'Well, what are you doing after that?' It's still really uncomfortable for people to talk about."

With the film, he wanted to take the fear out of talking about the historical events.

"It's about people. Every documentary has made it very political. We know that war and bombs are horrible, but we forget the human cost."

THE PERSONAL STORIES

On the 35-minute film, survivors unbosomely deeply embedded feelings of guilt. One elderly woman weeps over acting selfishly after the bombing, and an artist who devoted his life to telling his family's story reanimates the horror of bodies melting away in comic book form.

For the interviews, Okazaki had to push some survivors out of reticence, but most really wanted to tell their stories.

"It's a terrible burden to hold these stories in," he said, pointing out that these stories are often ignored in a country that has not fully come to terms with its past. "In Japan, survivors are still treated as outsiders. I think there's some sort of automatic response when it's a difficult subject matter to not want to talk about it."

During one trip, Okazaki entered a café with a female survivor who unsuccessfully tried to minimize her scars with make-up. Everyone in the café including peace activists turned away and would not look at her.

These are signs of a country falling away from its commitment to peace and slipping back into militarization. For the first time since World War II, Japan sent troops to fight the war in Iraq.

"I think Japan is in a political precarious situation," said Okazaki who visited a popular teenage hang-out spot in Japan recently to ask a few youths the significance of the date Aug. 6, 1945. No one knew and one guessed a large earthquake occurred on that date.

In addition to "The Mushroom Club," which is scheduled to air on the HBO channel in August, Okazaki is also working on another feature length *hibakusha* documentary for release next year. ■

The 78th Annual Academy Awards will air March 5.

FILMOGRAPHY

"Survivors" (1982)

"Unfinished Business" (1985)
Academy Award nominated documentary about three JAs who challenged internment.

"Living on Tokyo Time" (1987)
A comedy about a Japanese dishwasher and her deadbeat husband was theatrically released.

"Days of Waiting" (1991)
Academy Award winning short documentary about Estelle Ishigo, a Caucasian artist interned with other JAs.

"Troubled Paradise" (1992)

"Hunting Tigers" (1993)

"American Sons" (1994)
Examines the effects of racism on APA men.

"Black Tar Heroin: The Dark End of the Street" (1999)
Emmy nominated HBO documentary about five young heroin addicts.

"Rehab" (2005)

"The Mushroom Club" (2005)



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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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OH GEEZ, WHAT'S HE WATCHING NOW?

IT'S WHEN ASIANS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY GET TOGETHER AND ...

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Calendar

National

CHANDLER, Ariz.

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

Through 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

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Mar. 11—23rd Annual Tsubaki Dance Club Spring Dance; 7:30 p.m.; Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St.; \$20 in advance and \$23 at the door. Info: Norman Wong, 916/933-7717 or Phil Lum, 916/427-5667.

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.

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

GRANDA HILLS

Sun., Mar. 12—"Appreciation and Retirement Luncheon" hosted by the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center; 12:30 p.m.; Odyssey Restaurant, 15600 Odyssey Dr.; honoring Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi and Dr. Mary Oda; \$30/person. Ticket info: Harold Muraoka, 818/886-7633.

LOS ANGELES

Sun., Feb. 19—Manzanar Pilgrimage Fundraiser; 2 p.m.; Maryknoll Catholic Church Auditorium, 222 Hewitt St.; featuring the Camp Dance. Info: Kerry, 310/532-7562.

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

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.-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. ■

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.

CLEVELAND

Sun., Feb. 19—Day of Remembrance; noon-3:30 p.m.; Colony Dining Room, Baldwin Wallace College. Info: Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976 or Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416.

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 keynote 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 (NCR), JACL Pacific Southwest District and JANM. Info: NCR, 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 CLEMENTE, Calif.

Sat., Feb. 25—Casa Romantica Japanese American Day of Remembrance; 2-6 p.m.; Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada. Program will feature a panel discussion of JA internees during WWII and a taiko performance. Info: Casa Romantica, 949/498-2139.

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 JCCNC. Sponsored by the Bay Area DOR Consortium. Info/tickets: 415/921-5007.

SAN JOSE

Sun., Feb. 19—26th Annual Day of Remembrance; 5:30 p.m.; San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North 5th St. "Stand Up for Justice" program will include the film "Stand Up for Justice - The Ralph Lazo Story," Congressman Mike Honda, and other speakers with a performance by the San Jose Taiko. Sponsored by the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee. Info: Masao Suzuki, 408/373-0817.

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. ■

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- 3/25-4/2** **Yamato Japan Sampler Tour with General Tours** - 9 days/7 nights. Tokyo, Mt. Fuji/Hakone, Kyoto/Nara, Osaka.
- 3/29-4/8** **Yamato Art Tour of Japan** - 11 days/9 nights. Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Takayama, Naoshima with overnight at the Benesse House, Takamatsu to visit the Isamu Noguchi Gardens Museum and Kyoto.
- April 4-18** **Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan** - 15 days/13 nights. Tokyo, Sendai, Matsushima, Niigata, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Kumashiki, Hiroshima and Kyoto. Peggy Mikuni
- May 22-31** **Yamato Canadian Rockies by Rail Tour with Collette Vacations** - 10 days/9 nights British Columbia, Victoria, Vancouver, Rocky Mountaineer Train, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Sharon Seto
- 6/25-7/2** **Yamato Alaskan Cruise aboard Holland America's Westerdam** - 8 days/7 nights. Seattle, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria.
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- 7/17-7/29** **Yamato Summer Tour to Japan** - 13 days/11 nights. Tokyo, Hakone, Kanazawa, Takayama, Kyoto and Hiroshima.
- July 8-14** **Yamato South Dakota Tour with Collette Vacations** - 7 days/6 nights. The Black Hills & Badlands, including Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial and Deadwood.
- Sept. 15-26** **Yamato Italian Lakes & Greek Islands with Collette Vacations** - 12 days/10 nights. Milan, Stress (Lago Maggiore), Como, Venice, 7 night Mediterranean cruise including Bari, Katakolon, Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes, Dubrovnik, Venice, Verona.
- 9/28-10/9** **Yamato Exclusive Canada/East Coast Fall Foliage Tour** - 9 days/8 nights. Niagara Falls, Cooperstown/Baseball Hall of Fame, Stockbridge to visit the Norman Rockwell Museum, Newport (Breaker's and Marble House), Boston, Lincoln, Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa. Tour Director: Philippe Theriault
- October** **Yamato Tour to Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand** Lily Nomura
- 10/2-10/16** **Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** Tyler Tanaka
- November** **Yamato Best of Spain Tour** - 12 days/10 nights. Barcelona, Bilbao, Burgos, Madrid, La Mancha, Cordoba, Seville, Jerez, Costa del Sol, Granada and Toledo. Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 2-16** **Yamato South Pacific Wonders Tour with Collette Vacations** - 15 days/12 nights. Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook and Christchurch. Philippe Theriault

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In Memoriam - 2005-2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Akahoshi, Jay, 61, Los Angeles, Jan. 12; survived by wife, Susan; son, Jason; daughter, Sheryl (Troy) Higa; 1 gc.; sister, Alcene Cain; and mother-in-law, Kimiko Nakagawa.

Arita, Anna Fumiko (Sato), Altadena, Dec. 30; survived by daughters, Ardell Furuta and Jean (Carl) Kato; and 2 gc.

Asahara, James Yasuhiro, 66, San Francisco, Oct. 30; survived by mother, Kikue; and sister, Keiko (John) Higaki.

Asami, James Shinzo, 87, Los Angeles, Dec. 25; survived by son, Shin (Mary); and 3 gc.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, Jan. 28; member of Hawaiian musical comedy troupe Society of Seven; survived by wife, Reeza; daughters, Erica and Jewel; son, Gary; and stepson, Santino.

Fukunaga, Edwin "Eddie" Tokumi, 71, Jan. 13; survived by mother, Miyeko; sisters, Kay and Jeannie; and daughters, Julie, Linda and Diane.

Funai, Tamae, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 22; survived by daughters, Teruko (Dahn), Carol and Helen (Gene) Erickson; 1 gc.; and sister, Hideko (Tosh) Matsumoto.

Hall, Charles W., 86, Seattle, Jan. 6; survived by son, Gordon; daughter, Ellen; and 6 gc.

Hankawa, Kay, 88, Los Angeles, Jan. 8; survived by daughter, Julie Onouye; son, Kingo (Kathy); sister-in-law, Shizue Hankawa; 5 gc.; and 11 ggc.

Hashima, Yasuko, 73, Los Angeles, Jan. 4; survived by husband, Ryoji; daughters, Marie (Charles) Lofton and Anna (Abraham) Oren; 2 gc.; brother, Shigeo (Sanae) Maruyama; brothers-in-law, Roy (Yoko) Hashima, Adolphus Niccolls and Ray (Utako) Hashima; and sisters-in-law, Etsuko (Katsumi) Igarashi and Miyeko (William) Kawata.

Higashi, Mas, 72, Gardena, Jan. 10; survived by wife, Jeanne; son, Michael; brothers, Richard and Alfred (Hazel); sister, Marjorie (Edward) Nakaji; and sister-in-law, Gail Tamaribuchi.

Hirata, Sammie O., 81, Spokane, Wash., Dec. 8; U.S. Army; survived by wife, Lili; sons, Roli, Eric, Terry (Rene),

and Deyo; daughters, Mia and Lisel (Mike); 2 gc.; and 4 ggc.

Hotta, Michiyo, 92, Pasadena, Jan. 1; survived by sons, George (Toshiko) and Isamu; 2 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Ikeda, William M., Dec. 24; survived by his father; wife, Kathleen; daughters, Loreen and Bobbie; son, Darin; and 4 gc.

Inano, Masako (nee Kawahara), 85, Dec. 20; survived by husband Henri; daughter, Arlene Uchida; and 4 gc.

Iwamoto, Charles "Chuck," 41, Temple City; survived by wife, Hea; mother, Arlene; and brother, Richard.

Iwasaki, Chito, 94, West Los Angeles, Jan. 5; survived by daughters, June (Bill) Hamamoto and Mildred Iwasaki; 4 gc.; and sister-in-law, Mary Kitashima.

Kai, James, WWII veteran, MIS; survived by sons, Smiley (Janet), Thomas (Suzanne) and John (Suzan); daughter, Janice (Cary) Yant; 7 gc.; 3 ggc.; companion, Jean Ginoza; sister, Sarah Tanimoto; and sisters-in-law, Grace Kaii, Dorothy Hoshi and Ester Izumi.

Kawamura, Yukio, M.D., El Cerrito, Jan. 17; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughters, Debbie (Henry) Izumaki and Suzi (Dr. Ron) Tawa; son, John (Cindy) and grandchildren.

Kishi, Yoshiko, 92, Gardena, Jan. 19; survived by son, Glenn (Kathy); daughters, Sumiko (William) Naritomi and Jane (Jerry) Nakagawa; 5 gc.; sister, Tomeko (George) Kakita; and sister-in-law, Kiyoko Nakagawa.

Kosako, Shigeru, 89, Monterey Park, Jan. 14; survived by wife, Toshiko; daughters, Shigeo (Howard) Miyamoto and Masako (Brian) Takagi; son, James; 4 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Minoru Kosako; and sister-in-law, Hatsuyo Kosako.

Kozaki, Takayuki Jack, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 12; survived by wife, Mioko; daughter, Anna (John) Eakins; sons, Roy (Aileen), Paul and John; 5 gc.; and brother, Harry.

Kunihiko, Shizuo, Garden Grove, Jan. 15; survived by brothers, Matsuo and Mitsuo; sons, Dean, Alan, Howard and Steve; daughter, Carolyn; 14 gc.

and 2 ggc.

Masui, Roy, 70, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Lillian; and sisters, Kiyomi Ozaki, Teruye Shimozaki and Sets Akaba.

Mitsui, Sadao, 87, Torrance, Jan. 13; survived by daughter, Susann (George) Takaki; son, Larry; 1 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sisters, Masako Mitsui and Miyako Makiyo.

Morikawa, Aki, 85, Gardena, Jan. 2; survived by husband, Kazuo; brother-in-law, Kiyoshi (Misa); and sisters-in-law, Yuriko Yoshimine, Sue (John) Kanno and Harumi Saavedra.

Murakami, Masako, Jan. 10; survived by husband Sam; daughters, Judy (Parviz) Entezari, Martha (Sonnie) Soto, Joanne (David) Payton and Peggy (Ryan) Markus; son, Edward (Audrey); 7 gc.; 3 ggc.; and sister, Keiko (Hiroaki) Iwamoto.

Nagaki, Joe Hideoyoshi, 87, Payette, Id., Jan. 10; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by wife, Anna; son, Byron (Sylvia); daughters, JoAnne (David) Fortier, Susan (Jerry) Inouye, Terry (Robert) Fukuda and Marian (Travis) Cave; 11 gc.; 1 ggc.; brothers, Yoshio and Tokuchi; and sisters, Sakae Tsuda and Chiyoko Watanabe.

Nakazawa, Motoko Murayama, 92, Los Angeles, Dec. 28; survived by sons, Tadashi (Jinko) and Shin; daughters, Miyako Kadogawa and Leiko (David) Dahlgren; 7 gc.; 8 ggc.; and brother, Makio Murayama.

Okamoto, Hideko Helen, 79, Los Angeles, Dec. 21; survived by daughter, La Rene (James) Kokones; sons, Glenn Baker and Wayne (Cathy); 5 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Masami (Yuki) Ono; and sister, Nancy Anderson.

Okihara, Teresita, 65, Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 28; survived by husband, Ralph; son, Alexander; 1 gc.; 4 brothers; and 3 sisters.

Omokawa, Toyoko, 81, Glendora, Jan. 12; survived by son, Wayne (Susan); 2 gc.; sister, Shizuko Uragami; brothers-in-law, Kanji (Lily) Omokawa and Frank Ota; and sisters-in-law, Sue Shoda and Itsuko (Johnny) Ota.

Osumi, Mary Haruye, Gardena, Jan. 15; survived by son, Timmy (Iris); 1 gc.; and brother-in-law, Joe (Mitzi) Nagano.

Ota, Gary Hiromichi, 80, Alameda, Dec. 30; survived by wife, Louise; sons, Roger (Lisa) and Kevin; daughter, Tracy

(Gene) O'Sullivan; 2 gc.; 3 sisters; and 1 brother.

Otsuji, Jane Namiko, 80, Jan. 13; survived by sons, Ronald (Karen) and Daryl (Cathy); sister-in-law, A. Steven Fernandez; 7 gc.; 2 ggc; brothers, Tom, Harry (Miyako) and Roy Tanabe; and sisters, Ruby (George) Suzuki and Helen (Edgar) Hamasu.

Sakamoto, Sam Isamu, 74, Gardena, Jan. 6; survived by wife, Yoshie; daughter, Nina Yachiro; son-in-law, Rob Hino; 3 gc.; and sisters, Yuriko, Tsuyako, Tsuneko and Yasuko.

Shimazaki, Frank Junichi, 79, Jan. 15; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Momoe; sons, Alan and Junji; daughter, Elaine; brother, Roy (Tina); and sisters, May Tanaka, Florence (Tsugio) Kubota and Janice (Kenny) Nishioka.

Shinoda, Lily, 86, Alhambra, Jan. 10; survived by brothers, John (Elizabeth) and David (Nancy) Shigekawa; sisters, Mari (William) Tanaka and Miko (Carl) Yoshimine; and in-laws, Chiyo Shigekawa, Paul (Hamako) Shinoda and Dr. Megumi Shinoda.

Shiozaki, Isamu, 79, Los Angeles, Jan. 9; survived by sister, Yasuko (Kiyoshi) Shiozaki; and brother, Yutaka.

Suehiro, Isamu, 86, Los Angeles, Jan. 8; survived by wife, Tokia; daughters, Shirley Thornhill, Patricia Larson, and Naomi Suehiro; 5 gc.; and 6 ggc.

Sugimoto, Lily Y., 82, Monterey Park, Jan. 7; survived by son, Dennis (Jamie); 1 gc.; and sister, Donna Inouye.

Sumii, Lillian, 75, Las Vegas, Jan. 11; survived by husband, Shuzo; son, Ronnell (Lee Ann); and 2 gc.

Tagami, Michiko K., 72, Ojai, Jan. 6; survived by husband, Tom; daughter, Susan (David) Nowicki; brothers, Sam

(Betsy) Tagami and Jack (Michiko) Hirai; and sisters, Kikue Horikawa and Tsuyako (Jim) Nakamura.

Takahashi, Ritsu, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 8; survived by sons, Richard (Emiko) and Yasunori (Kazuko); daughters, Wakako (Ted) Maesaki and Makiko (Shigeo) Iwai; and 3 gc.

Tatsuno, David M., 92, San Jose, Jan. 26; his historical film of his time in camp was placed on the National Film Registry; opened the Nichi Bei Bussan store in San Jose; survived by daughters, Arlene Damron, Valerie Sermon and Melanie Cochran; sons, Sheridan and Rod; 4 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sister, Chiye Watanabe.

Yamada, Ume, 84, Los Angeles, Jan. 6; survived by daughters, Taeko (John) Haneda and Yoko Shirai; son, Charles (Janet) Lyman; 4 gc.; and 5 ggc.

Yamane, Edward Mamoru, 81, Monterey Park, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Yasue; son, Michael (Katherine); daughters, Lori (James) Kodama and Patti (Edward) Shinoda; 11 gc.; brothers, Eugene (Irene), Herbert (Jean) and Hisashi; sisters, Margaret (George) Morimoto and Lillian (Charles) Tamabayashi.

Yasumura, Isamu Sam, 75, Long Beach, Jan. 10; survived by wife, Fumiko; son, Robert (Yuri); daughter, Grace Yasumura; 1 gc.; sister, Kiku (Steve) Ogata; and brothers, Kenji (Tsuru), Mutsuo (Joy Greene) and Hachiro (Linda) Yasumura.

Xiliang, Feng, 86, Beijing, China, Jan. 30; U.S.-trained journalist who in 1978 helped launch the *China Daily*, the communist government's main English-language newspaper; survived by his wife and daughter. ■

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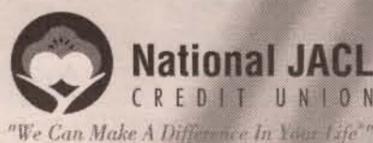
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We also need to communicate that we will be out of communication and commission
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Reminder that we will be closed on Monday, the 20th in observance of Presidents Day.

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FESTIVAL

(Continued from page 1)

scrambling for answers. It takes Wu six months of preparation to develop her students' — age five to eight — skill level and self-esteem for the festival. Last year, her students played "Yankee Doodle Dandy" along with other traditional Chinese songs.

"It was so cute! I think the quality is high. I am so proud of them," said Wu, who has played at the festival for 10 years. Some of her students have played with professional groups, but for others the festival is their first taste of acclaim. So far she has avoided telling them about the cancellation.

"It's so very sad because they're looking [forward] for next year, for whole family time."

A 'Progenitor for Cultural Arts Performers'

The festival, which started in squares and strip malls 27 years ago, has grown into a weekend-long spectacle with food, cultural artifact exhibits and over 1,000 performers representing Houston's diverse communities. Asian Pacific American leaders wanted to bring residents out of their cloistered ethnic enclaves and celebrate their different cultures as one APA community.

Over the years, the festival has also paid tribute to history and heroes. At the inaugural event, surviving members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were honored onstage. The emotions almost overflowed, said Daniel Watanabe, HAAF president and JAACL Houston vice president.

"Here were the sons of immi-

grants who fought for the country standing before an audience who were also predominantly immigrants," said Watanabe, who was also the festival's first chairperson.

The festival was a way for APAs to show off their heritage to all of Houston, he added.

In 1985, the festival moved to

has organized the festival since its inception and has seen the children of former young performers return to the stage. "The festival has become a progenitor for cultural arts performers."

The War of Words

Joe accuses theatre officials of



PHOTO COURTESY: ASIANFESTIVALHOUSTON.COM

The sticking point: Miller Theatre wants to steer away from 'recital type' children's performances, which have been a part of the Houston Asian American Festival since its inception.

Miller Theatre, a public venue that provides tax-funded entertainment programs in a public park south of downtown. The event also received grant funding from the Miller Theater Advisory Board (MTAB), a mayor appointed board currently with two APA members, which collectively rescinded this year's festival grant of \$24,100.

"We're regressing," said Glenda Joe, HAAF executive director, who is half Chinese American half Irish. Growing up in Texas, she was ostracized because of her ethnicity.

"I had never done anything Asian until I did my first Asian festival. I got there and thought, 'Wow. Look at all these Asians!'" added Joe, who

creating different requirements for minority festivals and unfairly changing rules.

"It's a mortal combat," she said about the current situation. "They are trying to kill us by slicing away little pieces of skin at a time."

Beutel disputed the claim and pointed out that MTAB is funding five other Asian events this season reserving HAAF's rescinded grant monies for Asian programming. Although it is unusual for MTAB to withdraw funding, the decision was based on performance quality, insufficient attendance and cost, he said. According to his records, last year's festival cost nearly \$50,000 with an "inordinately high amount" of

administrative cost while attracting 5,500 people over two days. For the evening martial arts program, he estimated 400 attendees. The venue has 1,500 seats and the adjacent lawn can accommodate up to 4,000.

But Joe contended that attracting 5,500 people on the same weekend as the Major League Baseball's World Series was a testimony to the festival's popularity.

"[The MTAB] attended one martial arts demonstration, counted the attendance and said the entire program was not attracting enough of an audience — that's not professional," said Watanabe.

City council members have been called upon to mediate and festival officials are looking into filing a lawsuit or a complaint to the city's inspector general.

Miller Theatre is simply seeking more professional representation of Asian culture, said Bridgette Lee, an MTAB member. "Each season, there are multiple such performances including the Sixth Annual Houston Grand Taiko Festival. One of our desires is to attract an acclaimed Asian organization to perform in Houston that will appeal to a wide audience of Asians and non-Asians alike."

Lee added that she has not received any complaints about the board's decision.

Caught in the crossfire are performers like Jay Mochizuko, who also produces an annual Taiko program for Miller Theatre. He along with his Kaminari Taiko group have been performing at the festival for 10 years. His wife, Midori, has also performed classical Japanese dance at the festival for a decade. And while he's not happy about the withdrawal of the grant, he also pointed out that

MTAB funds other programs that are similar to the AA Festival.

"Being a performer, we don't want to get into politics. When people get involved in arm wrestling with the city council and the mayor ... I don't know what kind of image that portrays. Is it positive? Is it negative?" said Mochizuko.

Festival supporters say the event is also a vital tool to keep younger generations tuned into their heritage.

"It makes the students strive to learn something about their cultures. We have to keep this going otherwise some of these customs will go away. You usually see these performances on TV, but we get the live thing. We have excellent talent," said Watanabe.

But Beutel said it's about change.

"Change is a hard thing. It's particularly hard for an organization like this that has been here for a number of years. Miller has chosen to serve the citizens of Houston in a different way, by focusing on professional performances; our mission has changed. To say that we devalue or disrespect any culture is unfair," he said, adding that HAAF officials are encouraged to reapply for a grant or rent out the facilities.

No matter the outcome, Joe said the festival will take place as scheduled at Miller Theatre even if she has to come up with the funding herself.

"Miller Theatre is the home of the Asian American Festival. It has seats for our old people, it has beautiful trees for our kids to play under, it has nice bathrooms not porta potties... it's a public park. The Asian community deserves its space." ■

For more info: <http://www.asianfestivalhouston.com> and <http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.org>.

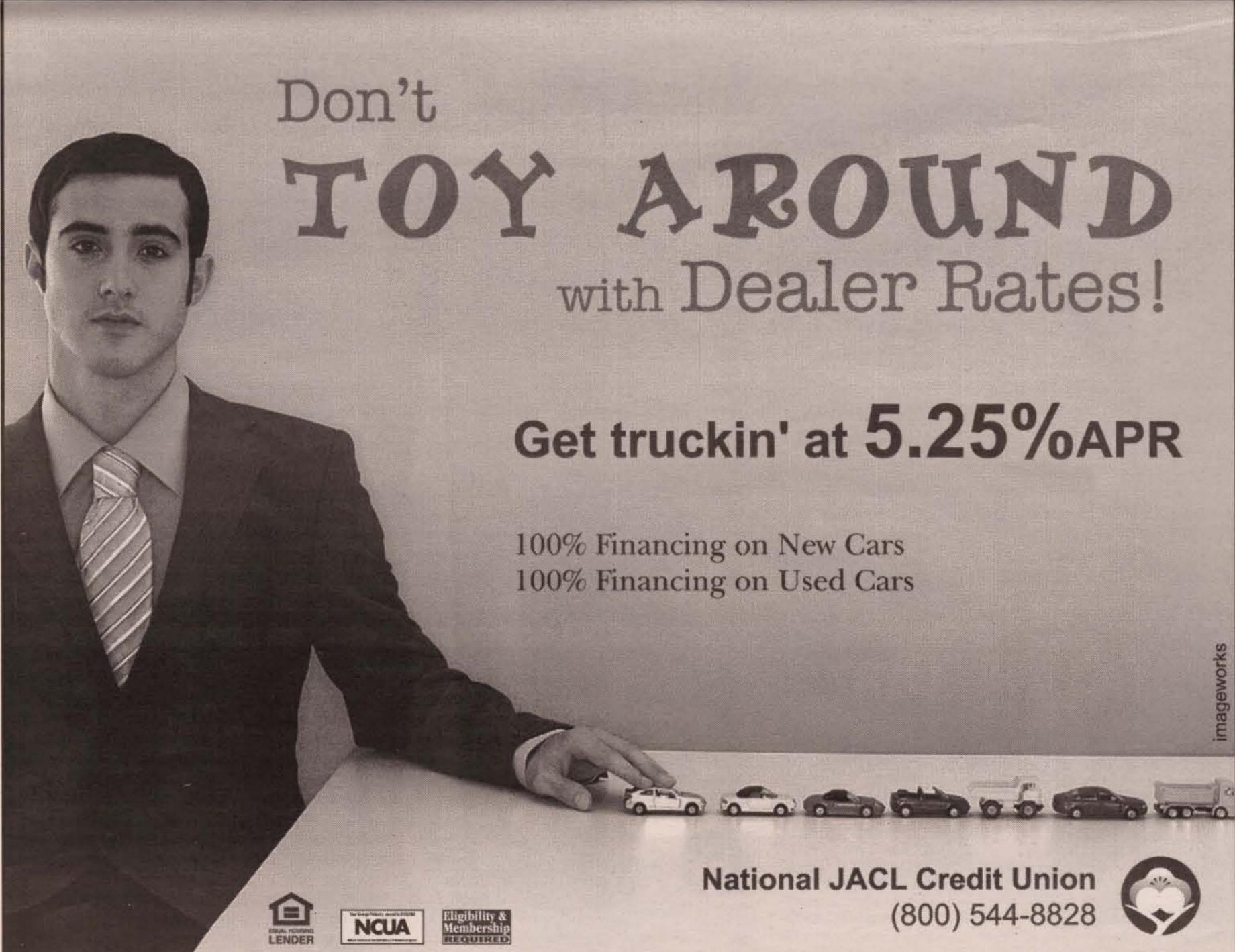
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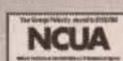
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