



Name for the Times

Utah's natural monument to railroad workers gets a respectful name.
PAGE 3



Proving Innocence

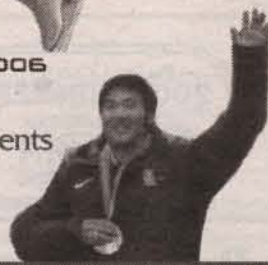
Jessica Sanders followed her instincts to make a documentary about the wrongfully convicted.
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



torino 2006

Medal Moments

Did your athlete make the cut?
SPORTS PAGE 7



A Street for Mine
Artist Mine Okubo is honored posthumously.
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Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3052/ Vol. 142, No. 4 ISSN: 0030-8579

MAR. 3-16, 2006

Notice: Japantown for Sale

With two malls, two hotels, and a theatre up for sale in San Francisco's Japantown, many worry about the historic area's survival.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

When Aaron Kitashima thinks of "home" he doesn't talk about a house or the city where he lives. For Kitashima, home is San Francisco's Japantown, an historic area where he grew up and where his family has deep roots in the local Japanese American community.

With the recent announcement

that several properties in Japantown are up for sale — including two malls, two hotels, and a theatre — Kitashima, a 22-year-old San Francisco State University student, worries about the survival of Japantown. The timing couldn't be more ironic: this year Japantown is celebrating its 100th year anniversary.

Refusing to sit back and stay silent, Kitashima has launched a petition drive to protest the sale of the properties and "possible destruction of San Francisco's Japantown" (<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/jtown/petition.html>), one of only three Japantowns left in the country. So far the petition has collected over

11,000 signatures, some from as far away as England.

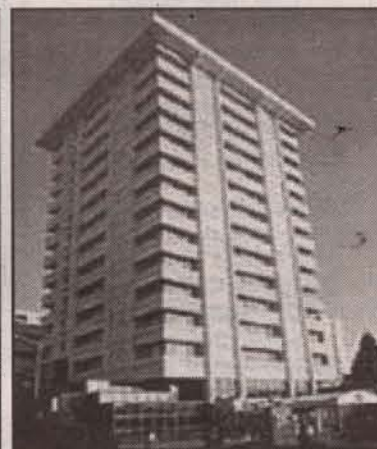
"We're losing three-quarters of Japantown, it's a real eye-opener," said Kitashima, who is the grandson of local icon Sox Kitashima who recently passed away. "If [my grandmother] was still here, she would do practically the same thing."

"We're trying to preserve the heritage and culture of Japantown for all Japanese Americans," he added. "We need to make sure the later generations remember the history of Japantown."

In late December Kintetsu of America Corporation announced that financial difficulties had forced



The AMC Kabuki Theatre and the Radisson Miyako Hotel are some of the properties currently up for sale in San Francisco's Japantown.



the company to sell its properties in Japantown which include the Miyako and Kintetsu Malls, and the Miyako Hotel and the Miyako Inn Best Western. The AMC Kabuki

Theatre, the home of several events including the San Francisco International Asian American Film

See JAPANTOWN/Page 12

Groups Hope to Raise Preservation Funds for Historic Harada House

The Harada House, badly damaged in the recent rains, is the historic site where a pioneering battle against racist Alien Land Laws took place.

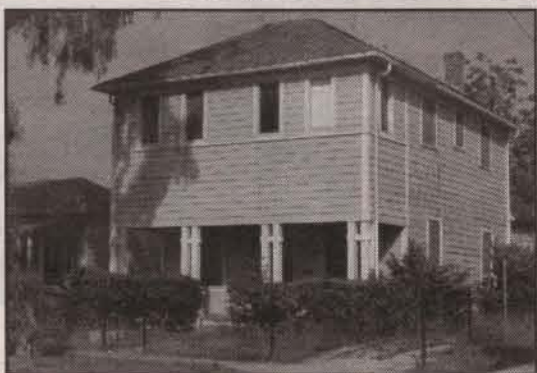
By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Naomi Harada can still remember the change in her father Harold's voice every time he would speak about the two-story house located on the quiet, pepper tree-lined street in Riverside, Calif. For the Harada family, the house represents so many memories; stories that span a century of Japanese American history.

This is the house where Naomi's grandfather Jukichi Harada fought for a better life for his wife and six children, taking on a historic battle with the U.S. gov-

ernment and its anti-Asian Alien Land Laws of the time. Although Jukichi, a restaurateur, as a Japanese immigrant could not own land, he bequeathed the Riverside home to three of his children, U.S.-born citizens.

Jukichi's actions in 1915 would encounter the wrath of his White neighbors and would eventually land him in court in the landmark case *California vs. Harada*. The case was unprecedented and in 1918 the Riverside County Superior Court would side with Jukichi, allowing his children ownership of



The historic Harada House sits on a residential street in Riverside, California.

See HARADA/Page 6

Tule Lake, Granada/Amache Are Officially Named National Landmarks

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

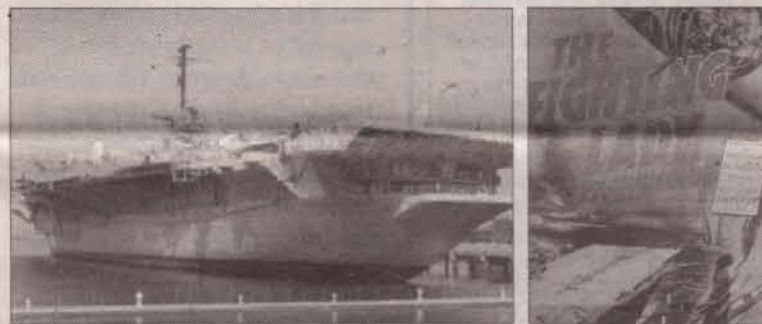
Part of Tule Lake Segregation Center and the Granada/Amache Relocation Center have been officially designated a National Historical Landmark.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton signed the designations just days before Day of Remembrance events commemorated across the nation. The National Historic Landmark designation is the highest such recognition for historic properties. Fewer than 2,500 historic places carry the title.

Tule Lake's 42-acre landmark area includes the former stockade, the motor pool and portions of the former military police compound. No public lands are included. The Granada/Amache camp currently includes a system of historic roadways and barrack foundations as

See TULE LAKE/Page 2

Maritime Museum Criticized for One-Sided Telling of WWII History



The USS Yorktown and a poster of the WWII film the museum plays.

The program includes a wartime documentary and flight simulator, which encourages children to shoot down Japanese enemies.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

For Kenji Tanaka, 9, a weekend field trip to a maritime museum in South Carolina became a test of character. Along with his peers, he watched a World War II documentary with images of American pilots getting ready to fight the Japanese and then watched his friends climb into a flight simulator to shoot down

virtual enemies who looked like his father. He quietly ingested these images and listened to his friends joke about the "enemies" until he returned to his Atlanta, Georgia home where the tears flowed freely.

"When he got back from the trip, it looked like he was run over by a truck!" said Elizabeth Tanaka about her son. "Kenji didn't do the simulator because he said it's like shooting his dad. He said 'I feel like people hate me.' My son was crying for half an hour."

Elizabeth couldn't believe her ears — the Tanakas like to instill

See MUSEUM/Page 4

Woman's Miscarriage May Point to Failures in Immigration Law



Zhenxing Jiang recovers at a hospital shortly after her miscarriage.

PHOTO: Jacky Tik Wong, Sing Tao Daily

Critics say the government violated the woman's civil rights with immediate deportation efforts. A bill being considered by Congress could increase these types of removals.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Zhenxing Jiang suffered the miscarriage, but her community shares in the pain and outrage. Asian Pacific American and human rights groups are rallying for justice for the 32-year-old Philadelphia resident who lost twin babies while government officials were trying to deport her.

Jiang, who was 13 and one-half weeks pregnant, immigrated illegally to the United States with her husband 10

See IMMIGRATION/Page 11

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Phoenix Rising:
Leadership for a New
Generation



JACL National Convention
June 21-24, 2006
Chandler, Arizona

15
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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

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Letters to the Editor

Looking for SRHS Graduates

I am writing to ask for your help in locating the following Japanese American students who were interred in the Spring of 1942 from Santa Rosa High School in Santa Rosa, California. SRHS is in search of these past students for the purpose of issuing to them the high school diplomas that they were denied so many years ago.

Asano Kasai, Fred Kasai, Tokie Kasai, Jack Kimura, Manabu Kimura, Suea Kimura, Hazine Mayeda, Shigato Mayeda, Mary Morikawa, Mae Murakami, Mary Otsuka, Yukio Sameshima

If you have any information please contact me at 707/576-1135 or aannpugh@hotmail.com. Thank you for your help.

Ann Pugh
via e-mail

Bravo!!

Bravo, Bravo!! This was the most interesting Holiday P.C. since I have been a member. Actually, longer. My business, "Natural Selection," has had an ad for decades in the Holiday Issue. This issue I looked through and actually read about 90 percent. Usually I skim and look at our ad then recycle. This year's edition was a lot of fun, funny articles, especially Gil Asakawa. I've saved that one to show my White friends (maybe they'll "get it" now!).

I love my friends but they think I may be too "sensitive." I try to explain but I think now they will see how someone else feels and a male at that! It gets "old" real fast being "exotic" doesn't it?!

Again, bravo. This is what you needed, like a transfusion, new blood!

Karen K. Ishibashi
Chicago, IL

Donations Needed for Japanese Cemetery

The Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland is appealing to former Portlanders to send contributions for the maintenance of their Japanese cemetery. This appeal is especially to those who have family buried at the cemetery.

Contributions may be sent Mr. Kay Endo, Cemetery Fund Treasurer, 4423 SE Railroad Avenue, Milwaukie, Oregon, 97222.

George Azumano
Chair, Cemetery Committee

Memorial Should Include Mitsuye Endo

The folks in Eugene are to be commended for their plans for a WWII Memorial there which will, among other things honor Minoru Yasui, Fred Korematsu, and Gordon Hirabayashi with graphic representations (P.C., Feb. 3-16).

But surely they have forgotten someone. Four Japanese American litigants protested incarceration all the way to the Supreme Court. Mitsuye Endo should have her representation there as well.

Roger Daniels
Bellevue, WA

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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the Pacific Citizen.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

John Toshima, Pres., American Kal Ent., Inc.
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COMMENTARY

The Home Stretch for Minidoka

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

In December 2003, in the week between Christmas and New Year's, I got a call from Dan Sakura, a Sansei who worked in the Clinton White House in the office of environmental affairs.

With only a few days left in the year, Dan had what I thought was a crazy thought, given that Bill Clinton was about to leave office and hand the government over to George Bush. Dan's idea was to find a way to designate one of the World War II internment camps as a historic landmark and preserve it forever.

Dan was excited and said he had come up with an idea to accomplish what we had discussed a month earlier. At that time, I was skeptical because the memory of how long it took to get a designation for Manzanar was still fresh in my memory. But Dan, ever an optimist, was determined to do something while he was in a position to help.

So on that day, just a couple of days before the New Year, his call was to tell me he had found a way to do this: the Antiquities Act, which was completely unfamiliar to me. We quickly assessed the nine remaining camps and agreed that Minidoka stood the best chance of getting a historic landmark designa-

tion.

Two weeks later, Bill Clinton signed a presidential order designating, among other things, Minidoka as protected land under the Antiquities Act. And that eventually authorized the National Park Service to launch an administrative study to plan the preservation of Minidoka for the future.

Dan is now with the Conservation Fund as the Director of Government Relations and still working on preserving Minidoka as a tribute to those who spent the war years there. The Conservation Fund has raised or committed funds to the purchase of lands adjacent to Minidoka, but there is unfinished business there.

March 17, just days away, is the deadline for raising the remaining \$250,000 to purchase the 120 acres Herman farm adjacent to Minidoka. The purchase of this acreage would complete the restoration of the old camp site.

As Dan says, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leave a legacy. The Conservation Fund is looking for pledges of any amount to save Minidoka forever, to leave a legacy that will tell the story forever about the lives of Japanese Americans in that desolate landscape during WWII.

If you want to pledge your support, contact Dan at his office: 703/525-6300. Or you can reach him by email at dsakura@conservation-fund.org.

Remember, March 17. The deadline to save Minidoka. ■

TULE LAKE

(Continued from page 1)

well as a cemetery.

"This is a remarkable achievement and one that is critically important for preserving this site as a reminder for future generations," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "There is a profound lesson in Tule Lake and all the other camp sites that the Constitution can only have meaning if those entrusted to protect it have the wisdom and courage to do so."

Preservation groups including the Tule Lake Committee and the Conservation Fund worked with the JACL, Congressman John Doolittle, R-Calif., and Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., to garner support for the designation.

The JACL Washington, D.C. office had focused its efforts on the landmark designation once it helped ensure passage of the Camp Preservation Bill introduced by Thomas in the House of Representatives.

"This is great news and an important validation for Tule Lake," said Hiroshi Shimizu, chair of the Tule Lake Committee and preservation committee member, who was a toddler while incarcerated at Tule Lake with his parents. "Landmark status is what we have been working toward all these years, and it is hard to believe we are finally there."

Of the 10 WWII internment centers, the largest and most controversial was Tule Lake, which housed over 18,000 people. It was designated as a relocation center in 1942 and converted to the nation's only segregation center in 1943. Those who voiced objections to their imprisonment were brought to Tule Lake, a

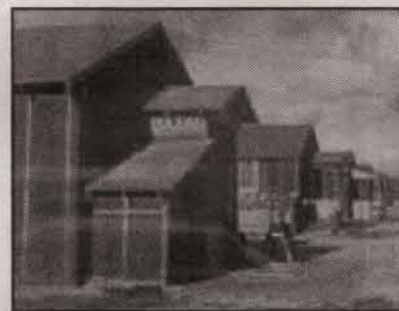
high security prison.

Last year, a National Park Service advisory board unanimously recommended the designation for the area that was part of a 7,400-acre camp.

The Granada/Amache Relocation Center was the smallest of the 10 camps and was only half complete when the first evacuees began arriving in August 1942. It housed 7,597 internees, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

"We've waited a long time for this day to happen," said Jimi Yamaichi, the 85-year-old advocate and spokesman for the Tule Lake

preservation effort. Yamaichi, along with members of the Tule Lake Committee which organizes bi-annual pilgrimages to the camp site, spent much of the previous decade working to ensure that Tule



The barracks at Tule Lake.

Lake would not be forgotten.

"These national gems are exceptional places that shed light on our history and help explain our past," said Kit Kimball, director of inter-governmental and external affairs for the Secretary of the Interior.

For Tule Lake, the next step is a resources study to gather information from the public to help determine how the site may be further developed, said Floyd Mori, JACL director of public policy.

The National Park Service could be directed to do a study that would outline various options, such as developing the area as a national, state, county or local park. Other former internment centers, including Manzanar in Southern California, have been developed as parks.

A ceremony celebrating Tule Lake's landmark status is slated for July 3 at the Ross Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls, Oregon. ■

Inouye Wants Panel to Probe WWII Internment of Japanese Latin Americans

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

HONOLULU—Sen. Daniel K. Inouye has introduced legislation to create a commission to study America's World War II and post-war internment of Japanese Latin Americans and to recommend appropriate remedies.

The panel would also determine

Latin America, stripped of their passports, brought to the United States and interned in camps our government had set up.

"When I first learned of the wartime experiences of Japanese Latin Americans, it seemed unfathomable. But it happened," he added.

From 1941 and 1945, U.S. and Latin American officials arbitrarily



'When I first learned of the wartime experiences of Japanese Latin Americans, it seemed unfathomable. But it happened.'

— Sen. Daniel Inouye

how the actions of the United States affected Latin Americans of Japanese descent.

Inouye said in a statement that he introduced legislation to mark Feb. 19, 1942, the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the internment of about 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"Each year, on the anniversary of this date, the internment is remembered both for the pain it caused, and the lessons that can be learned. I am certain that these lessons can propel this great nation forward toward more equal justice for all," Inouye said in a Feb. 16 statement.

"Far less known, ... is the story of Latin Americans of Japanese descent taken from their homes in

arrested about 2,300 persons of Japanese descent used for prisoner exchange with Japan. By the end of the war, those not used for prisoner exchange were subject to deportation proceedings. Some had to remain in the United States because their country of origin refused them re-entry.

"It is a part of our national history, and it is a part of the living histories of the many families whose lives are forever tied to internment camps in our country," said Inouye. "By establishing a new commission, I believe our great nation will be able to give finality to, and complete the account of federal actions to detain and intern civilians of Japanese ancestry." ■

Mike Honda Named to Special Task Force on Hurricane Katrina



A woman sits by the debris left after the devastating effects of Louisiana's Hurricane Katrina. Congressman Mike Honda plans to introduce legislation to help the devastated communities.

Photo courtesy of BPSOS

Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., is poised to introduce legislation that will require federal programs to respond adequately to the needs of limited English proficiency (LEP) communities in the hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast.

He recently joined a special task force on Hurricane Katrina. The Democratic Task Force on Hurricane Katrina will be dedicated to coordinating efforts and expertise to provide an effective recovery plan for the region. Members of the task force will keep the Democratic Caucus and the Congress fully informed and aware of activity and initiatives taking place.

"I'm eager to serve on this special task force and begin to make constructive progress toward helping our fellow Americans recover from the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina," Honda said, who has visited the Gulf Coast. "... I have seen first-hand how the federal government continues to fail in its responsibility to help the most vulnerable communities."

In February, Honda traveled to Houston with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to evaluate the post-Katrina relief efforts. He has also hosted a disaster preparedness forum in his hometown of San José.

"The task force will be the conscience of this Congress, it will look at all facets of the disaster and will put the people of our Gulf Coast first. We must move past incompetence and inaction and work to help families to return to their homes, rebuild the region and protect against future disasters," said James E. Clyburn, D-South Carolina, House Democratic caucus chairman.

"Right now, Congress needs to take the lessons learned from this catastrophe and make the necessary statutory and regulatory changes before the next disaster strikes — be it an act of God or an act of man," said Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Mississippi, who will chair the task force. ■

Utah Monument Gets More Respectful Name

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Chinaman's Arch, a natural monument near Utah's Promontory Point, will now be called Chinese Arch to pay better tribute to the laborers who helped build the Transcontinental Railroad.

The name change was unanimously approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Feb. 9 concluding a two-year campaign spearheaded by local Asian Pacific American groups to eradicate derogatory and racist names from geographic sites.

The new name will be reflected in newly printed Federal maps, Web sites and the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the nation's official geographic names repository. But first, the name change must be signed off by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, said Roger L. Payne, executive secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

The change was proposed last summer by members of the Utah Organization of Chinese Americans (UOCA), who argued the name "Chinaman" was derogatory.

"To be described as a 'Chinaman' was an insult implying a person was unclean and unsuited for anything but performing hard manual labor for little wages," said UOCA founder and current chair Michael Kwan on the organization's Web site.

UOCA submitted a name change petition to the board last



Chinaman's Arch in Utah's Promontory Point will now be called Chinese Arch after a unanimous vote of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names recently.

July with full support from the Utah City Council, a sharp contrast to the renaming campaigns of Texas' "Jap" Road and Lanes, which collectively stretched over a decade because of local opposition. The naming of Oregon's Chinese Massacre Cove last October also met resistance from county commissioners who were not in favor of the name because they felt there would be too much emphasis on one negative event.

The successful campaigns could have an impact on future renaming efforts.

"The first successful 'Jap' Road renaming to Boondocks Road was instrumental in persuading the other two Texas counties with Jap Lanes that renaming is the only

correct decision," said Micki Kawakami, a JACL Pocatello-Blackfoot and Sawtooth member who was also on the five-member Arch Renaming Committee.

Although the origins of the arch's name is unclear, it most likely dates to the 1880s when thousands of Chinese laborers who worked on the railroad lived in nearby camps, according to the *Salt Lake City Tribune*. During that time, the Central Pacific Railroad met the Union Pacific Railroad at Promontory Summit and completed the Transcontinental Railroad.

A plaque placed near the arch still bears the old name and pays tribute to the "strength and durability" of its former residents. ■

School Collects Stories from WWII Camps

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND—Some told the story on a few rare occasions, some never — not in over 50 years — not even to their children.

But there is something about seventh-graders, 12- and 13-year-olds, who invite adults old enough to be their grandparents to their school, who set up video cameras, who ask in sweet, matter-of-fact voices, "What happened?"

The stories flowed from there.

Gray-haired men and women bit their lips. Their voices broke. A few wept.

That didn't stop them from describing the FBI agents who showed up at their doors back in the 1940s when they were kids, and hauled their dads away, of the soldiers who led them to the barbed-wire camps and watched over them, of living in toiletless shacks, imprisoned for years for one reason. Their parents or grandparents had been born in Japan, the country that had just bombed Pearl Harbor.

They weren't spies plotting to destroy America. They were Americans.

That didn't seem to matter. When they walked out of the camps, the shame and guilt that had built up in the two or three years they were there became the invisible gags many of them wore for decades.

That's why the seventh-grade project at Harmon Middle School in Aurora is so important.

They call it "Honor for All — The Japanese American Experience."

It began in 2002 when reading teacher Renee Caminati asked her seventh-graders to read "Farewell to Manzanar."

The book tells the true story of a JA family's three years at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California.

The students were shocked.

"Did this really happen?" they asked Caminati.

She could have just said yes.

Instead, she showed them.

ries.

They're tiny — booklets, really.

But they tell the story of how 120,000 Japanese and JAs from the West Coast lived during the last half of WWII, how they walked 50 yards or more to get to bathrooms, of the rooms they lived in, lit by one bare light bulb, of the mattresses of straw, of the bedbugs and scorpions they slept with.

"And our only crime was that we looked like the enemy," said Ed

'... our only crime was that we looked like the enemy.'

Ed Ezaki

chairman of the speakers bureau for the JACL Cleveland chapter

She invited JAs who moved to Cleveland from the West Coast after their internment to speak at the school's Diversity Day.

More former internees came to the school later, one at a time, so students could sketch their portraits, snap their photos, videotape every word they said. It took months, but in the end, the seventh-graders wrote biographies of each survivor.

While they wrote, Caminati applied for a grant and the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation came through with \$4,000 to turn the stories into books. The first five rolled off the presses in 2003.

The students published eight more the following year and a few others the two years after that. So far, the students have written 17 sto-

Ezaki, chairman of the speakers bureau for the JACL Cleveland chapter.

Now Harmon Middle School teachers are searching for other Cleveland-area internees who want to tell their stories so they can keep the project going.

The students say, capturing the stories becomes more important every day.

Tom Fujimoto, the subject of one of the books, died last year.

And Hank Tanaka, the subject of another and former president of the national JACL, is on oxygen in an assisted-living center because of pulmonary fibrosis.

"We're in our mid-80s," Tanaka said, "and in 10 years, many of us will be gone." ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Inada Named Oregon Poet Laureate



Lawson Fusao Inada, a famed poet whose "Before the War" became one of the first books of poetry by an Asian American to be released by a New York publisher, was recently named the poet laureate of Oregon.

Inada, 66, was born in Fresno, where his father was a dentist. His internment experience is the subject of many of his best-known poems. Inada has taught at Southern Oregon University since 1966. His appointment as poet laureate is a two-year term that pays \$10,000 a year with an additional annual grant of up to \$10,000 for program activities.

He is the fifth person to hold the position and the first since William Stafford resigned in 1989.

Pioneering Ethnic Studies Scholar to Receive Honorary Doctorate from Whitman

Ron Takaki, a pioneering scholar in the field of American ethnic studies, has been chosen as the keynote speaker for Whitman College commencement ceremonies May 21. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree during the commencement ceremonies.

Takaki, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley, has taught more than 10,000 students in a 32-year career. The grandson of immigrant Japanese plantation workers in Hawaii, he is the author of 11 books, including "Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans."

Post Office Renamed for Late Congressman

A Temecula, Calif. post office on Feb. 21 was renamed after former Congressman Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian Pacific American in Congress.

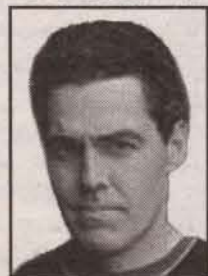
Born in a small village in India, Saund came to the United States at age 20 to study at UC Berkeley, where he earned a Master's degree and a PhD in mathematics. He became a citizen in 1949 and was elected to Congress in 1956, where he served three terms in a district that was in both Riverside and Imperial counties. It was during the campaign for his fourth term that he suffered a stroke. He died in 1973. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Carolla Apologizes for Offensive On-Air Remarks

LOS ANGELES—Adam Carolla, the radio host who was criticized for his anti-Asian comments, made an on-air apology Feb. 22 for a "Ching Chong" skit mocking the Asian Excellence Awards.



"A quick order of business to take care of. An apology to the Asian community. We did a bit a few weeks back that offended many people. It was unintended to offend these people. We do a show here that is a little irreverent and sometimes we cross the line and we definitely crossed it this time. And it was not meant to offend. It did. And for that we sincerely apologize to the good people of the Asian community. So we apologize and we thank you for your support," said Carolla.

'Banzai' Returns to TV G4

LOS ANGELES—"Banzai," the game show that APA groups heavily protested in 2003 will be a part of G4 TV's program line-up starting in March. Hosted by "Mr. Banzai," the show spoofs game shows and was criticized for being racist. FOX Television pulled the show after protests mounted.

The show is set to premiere Mar. 7 at midnight, according to the G4 Web site. The television network did not immediately respond to requests for comment. G4 specializes in video games targeting males 18-34. It reaches 54 million homes nationwide.

City May Rename Street for Vietnamese Newspaper Publisher

WESTMINSTER, Calif.—The family of the founder of the nation's longest-running Vietnamese-language newspaper is asking city officials to stop discussions about naming a street after the ailing icon.

A proposal to rename Moran Street in honor of Yen Do, the founding publisher of *Nguoi Viet Daily News*, has backfired, creating a rift among some of *Nguoi Viet*'s competitors that work along Moran Street and prompting debate about the pioneer's contribution to the community.

The idea of renaming the street began last year when some in the community felt it was time to honor a Vietnamese American in the city. Do founded *Nguoi Viet* in 1978 to inform the developing Vietnamese community about news in its homeland and how to navigate life in the United States. It has since grown into a daily institution in Little Saigon, home to the nation's largest concentration of Vietnamese Americans.

Do retired last year because of diabetes and complications from kidney disease. ■

MUSEUM

(Continued from page 1)

cultural pride in their children with annual trips to Japan to visit family members and balance after school activities like origami with the Boy Scouts, the reason why Kenji visited Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum Feb. 3-5. He wanted to earn his merit badges for aviation and citizenship.

The museum is touted as one of the most popular attractions in the Carolinas and features a collection of WWII warships and aircrafts. Its centerpiece is the USS Yorktown, a highly decorated warship, and the Destroyer Laffey, which was hit by five Japanese kamikazes during wartime combat. Both are now docked side-by-side in the still water of Charleston Harbor and host many educational programs and seminars each year.

But now the museum is drawing criticism for what critics are calling a one-sided account of history.

"I understand it's about patriotism," said Kenichi Tanaka, a first generation Japanese American who accompanied son Kenji to Patriots Point as a chaperone. "I think it's okay to show [the film and flight simulator] to adults but children who are in the fifth and sixth grades? They don't have the same level of comprehension. It's not good exposure."

"There was no explanation that this was just in World War II... they just showed the movie and moved on," he said, adding that the film seemed like wartime propaganda filled with the racial epithet, "Jap." Museum officials contend that they are giving students a hands-on account of true events during WWII.

"The mission of the museum is to teach the sacrifices and courage during World War II," said David Burnette, Patriots Point executive director. "The point here is to learn a little about World War II and we fought the Japanese."

He said there is not enough time

in the program to include other aspects of history.

The film, "The Fighting Lady," is a 1945 Academy Award winning documentary about the USS Yorktown directed by William Wyler, who made the film while serving as a lieutenant colonel in the armed forces. The museum has been screening the film for the past 25 years, and occasionally interchanges it with the 1970 film "Tora! Tora! Tora!" which was shot aboard the ship, said Burnette.

Although he doesn't remember the word, "Jap" being used in "The Fighting Lady," he said it wouldn't be a surprise because the documentary reflects America of the 1940s and the language of the time.

"Even if the particular film they show is an award winning documentary, it doesn't excuse the use of a film that uses racially objectionable language in today's world. Essentially, they rationalize their own racism and racist views, and what's particularly bothersome about it is that thousands of kids have gone through that museum and have learned, perhaps innocently on their part, to view anyone who's Japanese in derogatory and demeaning terms," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi, who called the museum's program "outrageous."

"Growing up in my family we would never use that type of language," said Elizabeth who is Caucasian. "This is another thing to make people hate people."

She called the museum to complain about the film and the flight simulator, a 15-seat motion simulator that gives riders the sense of being on a combat mission. Kenji did not volunteer to go on the ride, which showed a Japanese pilot getting into a plane with the Japanese



PHOTO COURTESY KENICHI TANAKA

The Tanaka family (back, l-r): Elizabeth, Kenichi; (seated, l-r): Yoko and Kenji.

flag undulating in the wind, said Kenichi. An audio recording encouraged riders to shoot "the enemy."

There are five programs used in the simulator, one of which is the WWII scout mission which gives the impression of launching off of a battle ship and getting attacked by a Japanese fleet, said Betty Floyd, the museum's flight simulator supervisor.

"It's a warship. You can't alter history," Floyd said.

But Tateishi said there is a hidden danger in telling history this way.

"Their brand of racism is disgusting but dangerous because they hide behind the label of telling the truth to promote their racist views," he said.

Burnette said he has otherwise heard no complaints from visitors about the program and charges parents and chaperones with the responsibility to fill in the blanks and provide the context of history for young visitors who would otherwise not understand.

"I wouldn't agree. I think it's [the museum's] responsibility to explain all the fighting and shooting," said Kenichi, who added that museums should be an educational place that also teaches peaceful alternatives.

"The flight simulator was not educational," he said. ■

For more information: <http://patriotspoint.org/>



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• TED NAMBA •

'Havin' Fun' at the Welcome Mixer



"You Ought to be Havin' Fun." I'm dating myself with this tune as it was the unofficial theme song of my wife Michele's UCLA sorority back in the day. We're so busy with being "Better Americans in a Greater America" that we sometimes forget

steps to help get our whole group on the dance floor for at least a couple of tunes.

Rawhide will be a fun venue for JACLers of all ages as there are shops to browse through, games to play (e.g. shooting gallery), rides to enjoy (e.g. train ride, camel ride,



to let loose and have some fun. This is the reason why we are going to kick off the JACL 2006 National Convention in Chandler, Arizona with a fun, Western style Welcome Mixer on June 21.

Our Welcome Mixer Chair, Lisa Sakata, is seven months pregnant but she is still hard at work planning a fun event where JACLers can get reacquainted with old friends and meet many new friends. This mixer will be held at Rawhide which is a Western Town that recently moved to the site of our JACL 2006 venue, the beautiful Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa.

This mixer will feature Western style barbeque, Western music, and line dancing. Speaking of line dancing, several of our JACL 2006 Convention Committee members, including Peggy Matsuishi, wife of our Arizona chapter president, have been brushing up on their dance

burro ride) and the kids can even pan for "gold." I recently met a female judge from Japan who was visiting Rawhide and she mentioned to me that when you read a "what to do in Arizona travel book" in Japan, it clearly mentions Rawhide as a place to visit.

JACL friends in Northern California have mentioned that several JACLers up there are already in the process of getting their Welcome Mixer outfits together. We're planning to hold a "best dressed JACL cowboy and cowgirl" contest at the mixer so bring your cowboy boots, cowboy hats, jeans and plan on enjoying a fun filled kick off event.

If you don't have room to pack your cowboy hat, don't worry because Lisa is working on getting a straw hat and bandana for everyone who registers for the JACL 2006 convention.

See you at convention! ■

College Names Street After JA Artist, Alumnae

A California college that Mine Okubo once attended honored the Japanese American artist posthumously in a three-part celebration Feb. 22, which included a street-renaming ceremony, reception and the debut of a new play based on Okubo's life.

During the ceremonies, Riverside City College's (RCC) interior campus portion of Riverside Avenue was renamed to honor Okubo who was the college's 1974 alumnus of the year.

A performance of "Mine: A Name for Herself," was also debuted. The play written by Mary Curtin and Theresa Larkin traced the life of Okubo using a performance salon set in the artist's New York apartment.

Okubo, a native of the city of Riverside, graduated from RCC in 1935 and went on to fame as an author and artist depicting her family's internment at Topaz during

World War II. Since cameras and photographs were not permitted in the camp, Okubo began to sketch, draw and paint her bleak world.

Her book, "Citizen 13660," which contained text and 206 drawings, garnered rave reviews when it was published in 1946. She gained international recognition as an illustrator whose work was featured on covers of several major national magazines.

Okubo passed away in Manhattan February 2001 at the age of 88. ■



(l-r) Playwright Mary Curtin, Yoshi Okubo, Mine's older sister, and Seiko Tanaka Buckingham, Mine's niece at the Feb. 22 tribute.

JACL Chapters Observe Day of Remembrance



Panelists from Utah's DOR event offered candid stories of their WWII experiences. Back row (l-r): Haruko Moriyasu, Jeanette Misaka, Elsie Shiramizu, Alice Hirai, and Maxine Furubayashi. Front row (l-r): Alice Kasai, Mary Kawakami, and Grace Oshita.

JACL chapters across the nation commemorated Day of Remembrance last month.

The Boise Valley JACL and the Friends of Minidoka were among 25 participants in the DOR ceremony held in Idaho Gov. Dirk

Kempthorne's office. For the past five years, Kempthorne has hosted a proclamation signing to recognize Feb. 19 as the anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Three Utah JACL chapters sponsored "2006 Day of Remembrance:

Through a Woman's Eyes." The Mt. Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front chapters screened "Words, Weavings, and Songs" a film that highlights the careers of three Nisei women during World War II. Following the film, Jeanette Misaka moderated a panel discussion featuring seven local women who told personal stories about their wartime experiences. ■

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

(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.)

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

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\$95/night, mention JACL National Convention

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GLAS Chapter Calls for Scholarship Applicants

The Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter is calling for applicants for their annual Hana Uno Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000.

The scholarship was established in 1992 as a memorial to Hana Uno Shepard, who before her death in 1987 was an ardent GLAS/JACL member for many years and active in the redress movement. The annual scholarship is given to students to become acquainted with some of the goals of the JACL. The history of the scholarship itself helps youth connect with their historical past.

To qualify, applicants must be college bound seniors with a good academic achievement record from single-parent families. The student should be of Japanese descent and a resident of L.A. or Orange County. Application forms are made through the students' high school college counselors. If their school has not received application forms, the counselor should request them from the scholarship chairperson.

To qualify for review by the GLAS Scholarship Committee, applications must be postmarked by May 8, or faxed by that date to the scholarship chairperson at 310/559-4024. Please call 310/839-1194 for application forms or information. ■

HARADA

(Continued from page 1)

the property.

"My dad was passionate about the House becoming public domain, something that could be shared and from which one could learn from. He often told stories about his family, he was a great story-teller," said Naomi, a nurse who lives in Los Angeles. "My family deeply believes that the story of the house, the very fact that it still exists, needs to be shared with others. What happened to Japanese Americans need not happen to anyone else."

The Harada House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990 and in 2004 the home was donated to the Riverside Metropolitan Museum for preservation. Currently the museum is working on a long-range plan to raise funds for the historic house's preservation and to ensure the story of the Harada family is not forgotten.

"The importance of the site, its significance puts me in awe. The multilayer stories of the site are phenomenal," said Lynn Voorheis, the Museum's curator of historic structures and collections. "The story is so much larger than the Japanese American story. It is a story about what it means to be an American, an immigrant in this country."

"The house symbolizes the heart or foundation for fighting for what one believes, that it is one's right to have shelter, and that right was questioned by the state of California in 1913, and my immigrant grandfather, Jukichi Harada, fought for that for the sake of his children," said Naomi. "The house also symbolizes our protection of those rights by the United States Constitution. Our society needs continual reminding of this. Physical structures such as the Harada House can serve as a learning tool."

Today, the saltbox cottage house is almost exactly the same as when it was built in the 1880s and is in dire need of repair, especially after the recent rainstorms in Southern California. A new roof needs to be installed and the chimneys are in such bad condition they had to be removed. The foundation of the house is crumbling and recently support pylons were installed temporarily. Plaster throughout the house is also crumbling and the museum is working hard to stabilize the structure.

The Harada House is a literal time capsule, a treasure trove of information on the Harada family and the history of the JA community. Thanks largely to the efforts of Jukichi's daughter Sumi, the only Harada to return to Riverside full-

time after the war, much archival materials have been kept in pristine condition. After Sumi's death in 2000 her younger brother Harold worked to preserve the house. He passed away in 2003.

"It's like King Tut's tomb. Sumi

including: a list of items taken to the camps, identification tags, a 1942 calendar that still hangs in the laundry room, and Harold's inscription: "Evacuated on May 23, 1942 Sat."

Family friend Jess Stebler looked



HARADA FAMILY—Rear (l-r): Mine, Mrs. Masa Atsu Harada, Masa Atsu and son Calvin, Sumi, Clark; front (l-r): Yoshizo, mother Ken, Harold, and father Jukichi.

saved everything," said Voorheis. "It shows the continual experience of Japanese American history in the United States. It expands the entire 20th century."

Many of the documents from Jukichi's historic court battles have been collected. The Harada family also documented their forced incarceration in Topaz during World War

after the Harada's house during the war and his correspondence with the family has also been preserved. Also amongst the collection are Harold's items from his time serving in the historic 442nd Regimental Combat Team, including his uniform and letters.

Today, the only indication of the house's significance is a small plaque dedicated shortly after the Harada House was declared a National Historic Site. The museum hopes to eventually develop the site further and perhaps have a permanent exhibition and oral histories.

So far the Riverside Museum has raised and applied for about \$249,000 in various grants including FEMA, The Getty, and the California Cultural and Historic Endowment. They've also asked Congressman Ken Calvert, R-Corona, to push for \$500,000 in federal funds to help in the preservation

of the Harada House.

Mark Takano a Harada family friend who Sumi used to babysit, is currently the president of the Riverside Community College Board of Trustees and is helping to raise funds for the Harada House. He recently went on a trip to Wash., D.C. with other College Board members to push for federal funds for the house.

"I think this story is quite poignant. Property rights is a fundamental right as a people," said Takano, 45. "This story is worthy of preserving, teaching it to our future generations."

Members of the Riverside JACL chapter have asked their members to help in the current fundraising efforts and to write letters to Congressman Calvert seeking his support. They hope the work Sumi and Harold did to preserve the Harada family's history will be remembered.

"The chapter has always been around the house. When Sumi lived there, she was the center of communications for what went on in the chapter. But more importantly, that small historical marker in front of the house represents a major hurdle that was jumped by their family," said Riverside chapter member Doug Urata. The Haradas "were pioneers in getting past the limitations that the government put on Asians."

Naomi and the Harada family are excited about the preservation efforts currently underway and are working with the museum in their fundraising efforts.

"There is great historic significance to the house," she said. "Not simply the history but how in America's past there have been attempts to take away the rights of its citizens. From a historical preservationist's point of view it is a gold mine." ■

NJAVC Announces New Study on the WWII Occupation of Japan

The National Japanese American Veterans Council (NJAVC) has announced plans to sponsor a comprehensive study of the role that Nisei linguists played in the successful occupation of Japan. The study would fill a major gap in the JA military history during World War II and its aftermath.

As the study requires both funds and immediate action, the NJAVC plans to initiate a campaign to raise funds needed to conduct archival and field research, particularly to interview Military Intelligence Service (MIS) veterans and their counterparts in Japan.

The study will preserve a comprehensive account of how JA linguists helped to bridge the language and culture barriers that had existed between the occupiers and the occupied. The study will also examine archival records to establish what

planning had been done in contemplation of the occupation, and whether that planning became an action plan once Japan had been defeated.

Focus will be directed on what responsibilities were given to the MISers, and their success in accomplishing their mission. Over all, the study will examine the ways in which MISers helped to achieve a successful occupation and, thereby, aided in the emergence of Japan as a major world economy.

The study could provide insight on how negative feelings of occupation can be overcome through a program of communication and cultural awareness. The study could take at least two years.

Although records of JA service in the European theater has been well publicized, relatively little has been written about the Nisei who had

served in the MIS during the nation's war in the Pacific.

While a part of that historical gap will be filled later this year with the publication of a U.S. Army study of the MIS role during the war, the NJAVC noted that the Army does not plan to conduct a study of the occupation.

The NJAVC plans to include recollections of surviving MIS personnel and the Japanese.

All veterans, particularly those who served in the occupation, and others interested in seeing this vital part of JA military record memorialized as part of WWII history are being urged to send their contributions to the: National Japanese American Veterans Council, Japan Occupation Study, P.O. Box 391, Vienna, Virginia 22183, 5307-L Kalaniana'ole Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii, 06821. ■

Gilroy, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapters Hold Tri-Installation Dinner



PHOTO: MAS HASHIMOTO

Three JACL chapters installed new officers in a joint dinner recently. Officers of the Gilroy, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapters were installed at the Masonic Center in Morgan Hill. Pictured above: (l-r) Kurt Kurasaki, San Benito County JACL president; Michael Hoshida, Gilroy JACL president; Ken Inouye, JACL national president; and Takeshi Kaneko, substituting for father Paul Kaneko, president of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. ■



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- Apr. 26 NEW DATES! Orient Deluxe with Cruise** - 12 Day - 22 Meals - \$3695 - Hong Kong - Singapore- 3 day cruise to Malaysia & Thailand - Bangkok.
- May 15 NEW DATES! Copper Canyon Adventure** - 9 Day - 19 Meals - \$1895 Tucson, AZ, Mexico, San Carlos-El Fuerte-Copper Canyon-Creel-Chihuahua-El Paso, TX.
- June 6 America Once More "Southwest"** 8 Day-14 Meals-\$1695-Mesquite Zion & Bryce-Monument Valley-Durango-Santa Fe-Sedona-Laughlin
- June 19 Summer in Hokkaido** - 11 Day - 26 Meals - \$3695 - Sapporo - Sounkyo Gorge - Saroma - Shiretoko Peninsula - Lake District - Kushiro - Sahoro - Shiraoi - Lake Toya - Hakodate - Lake Shikotsu.
- July 3 Summer Japan Classic "Family Tour"** 10 Day - 21 Meals - \$3095 Child 11 & under \$2795 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Hiroshima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- July 18 Glacier National Park & Rockies** - 7 Day - 12 Meals - \$1995 - Calgary - Banff Springs - Lake Louise - Columbia Icefields.
- Aug. 13 Eastern Canada & Niagara Falls** - 9 Day - 17 Meals - \$2195 - Montreal - Quebec - Ottawa - Lake Ontario - Toronto - Niagara Falls.
- Aug. 30 Central & Eastern Europe** - 12 Day - 26 Meals - \$3995 - Prague - 7-Day Danube River Cruise - Nuremberg - Vienna - Budapest.
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San Francisco, Napa Valley Wine Train, Sacramento, Gold Country Tour,
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Meet local Japanese in Sao Paulo & Buenos Aires.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUNE 25-JULY 4
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- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE JULY 2-9
Seattle, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria, HOLLAND AMERICA LINE
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Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate,
Oirase Valley, Hiroaki, Akita, Kakunodate, Matsushima, Sendai, Nikko, Tokyo.
- TAHITI HOLIDAY CRUISE (Bonus ends April 30) OCT 21-29
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torino 2006



SPEEDSKATING

Another Win for the Goateed American, Plus a Bronze

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

TURIN, Italy —A perfect race from start to finish for Apolo Anton Ohno.

He made this another Olympics to remember on the final night of short track speedskating Feb. 25, winning his second Olympic gold medal — and even crossing the line first for a change.

Unlike his disputed victory in Salt Lake City, Ohno didn't have to wait for the judges to disqualify the skater in front of him.

Sensing victory was his in the 500-meter race, he threw up his arms and screamed, "Yesssss!" A look of pure joy and relief spread over his face.

"To lead from start to finish doesn't happen very often," he said. "For me, it was the perfect race."

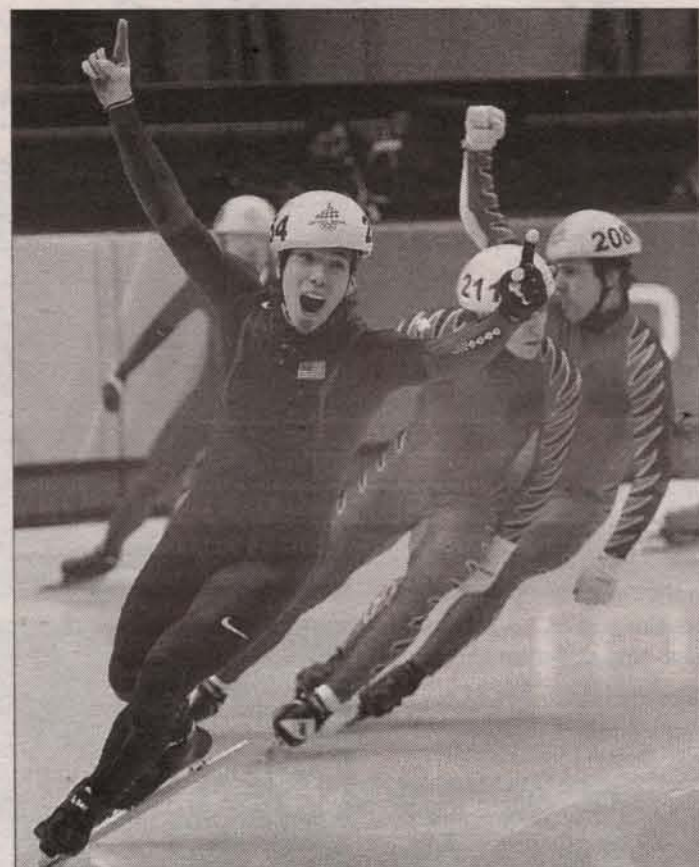
Well, this being short track, nothing is ever quite perfect.

Ohno got to the final on a disqualification, moving up when a Chinese skater was called for impeding.

Then, after two false starts by other skaters in the final, Ohno either got the ultimate start — or got away with one. Television replays showed him tilting forward ahead of everyone else, and getting to the crucial first turn with a clear lead.

The soul-patched American wasn't done. In the final race of the evening, the 5,000 meter relay, he surged past the Italians on the next-to-last lap to grab the bronze medal — the first U.S. medal in that event since 1994.

Ohno's eyes widened when he



Apolo Anton Ohno crosses the finish line to win the gold medal ahead of Canada's Francois-Louis Tremblay (211) and Eric Bedard (208) in the Men's 500 meter final in Short Track Speed Skating. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

crossed the line in the 500, as if he couldn't believe he had another gold. He leaped into the arms of a U.S. coach and grabbed a U.S. flag for the victory lap. American fans rocked the arena, just as they did when he thrilled them by winning gold and silver in Salt Lake City.

"So much emotion, so much passion, everything was moving through my body," he said.

Three new medals make him just

the fourth U.S. Winter Olympian to win that many in a single games, joining long-track speedskaters Eric Heiden, Sheila Young and Chad Hedrick.

Though only 23, Ohno hasn't decided whether to return for another Olympics.

"I've got to figure out what the next part of my journey is going to be," he said. "I'm just enjoying the moment right now." ■

FIGURE SKATING

Arakawa Wins Women's Gold, Cohen Gets Silver

TURIN, Italy—Shizuka Arakawa skated off with Japan's first medal of these Olympics — a gold in the showcase event.

The 2004 world champion stunned favorites Sasha Cohen of the United States and Irina Slutskaya of Russia to claim figure skating's biggest prize Feb. 23.

Arakawa did it with an elegance and technical brilliance that even had two-time Olympic winner Katarina Witt standing and applauding before the Japanese skater was done. Cohen fell twice and finished with a silver; Slutskaya fell once and took bronze.

The Japanese team has struggled in the mountains and on the ice in Turin. But Arakawa, third after the



short program and a mere .71 points behind Cohen, was magnificent. Her spectacular spirals thrilled the crowd and impressed the judges.

She was emotionless for most of her four-minute routine, then broke into a smile that only got bigger

when scores were flashed. When her personal best of 125.32 points for the free skate were displayed, she flashed a "V" for victory sign then pumped her fist when she moved into first place with 191.34 points.

Arakawa, 24, became the first Japanese Olympic gold medalist in figure skating and just the second with any medal; Midori Ito, one of Arakawa's idols, won silver behind Kristi Yamaguchi in 1992. Ito led the cheers of the flag-waving Japanese in the crowd.

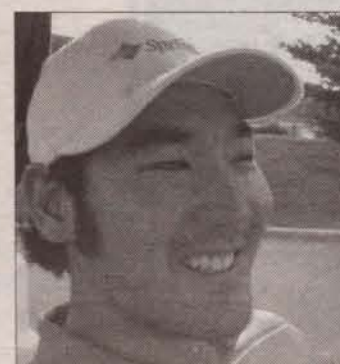
Arakawa landed five triples, three in combination, and her gliding lean-back move, performed directly in front of the judges, was particularly brilliant. ■

FREESTYLE SKIING MOGULS

Dawson Tries to Find His Birth Parents

TURIN, Italy—Now that he's won an Olympic bronze medal in freestyle skiing moguls, American **Toby Dawson** can focus on determining whether any of the people who have claimed to be his birth parents are telling the truth.

Adopted by Vail, Colo., ski instructors Mike and Deborah Dawson when he was around 3 years old — no one knows his exact birthday — Dawson wondered whether his birth parents were watching Feb. 15 as he skied the mogul course at Sauze d'Oulx and



captured the bronze medal.

"I've struggled with that this year a little bit," Dawson said. "The only

problem is I've had some people claiming that they're my birth parents and stuff, random phone calls, so I'm taking this process very slow and we'll see what happens."

Dawson's adoptive parents were told he was found either on the streets of Seoul or on the steps of a police station in that city. His birth date of Nov. 30, 1978, was simply given to him by the people who found him.

He was scheduled to be in South Korea on March 1, to ski at a World Cup moguls. ■

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA



Twenty Years, and We're Still Going Strong

If someone asked you, a busy college student, to spend several consecutive weekends constructing and painting elaborate backdrops for a scene that only lasts 15 minutes, or for several months, without pay, to disable your social and academic life to plan logistics for an evening event that will be over in about three hours, you would think that most rational people would say no.

You would be surprised.

Just very recently, the Nikkei Student Union at UCLA had their twentieth Nikkei Student Union Cultural Night show. It is a huge event that always takes place on the weekend closest to February 19, which any Japanese American should know is the anniversary of Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

For those of you who don't know, cultural night shows are elaborate productions put on by student-run ethnic organizations that showcase various aspects of the culture that the organization represents. In the case of NSU, our main showcases are traditional odori dancing, taiko drumming and modern hip-hop dance, all interspersed within an original storyline involving the JA community.

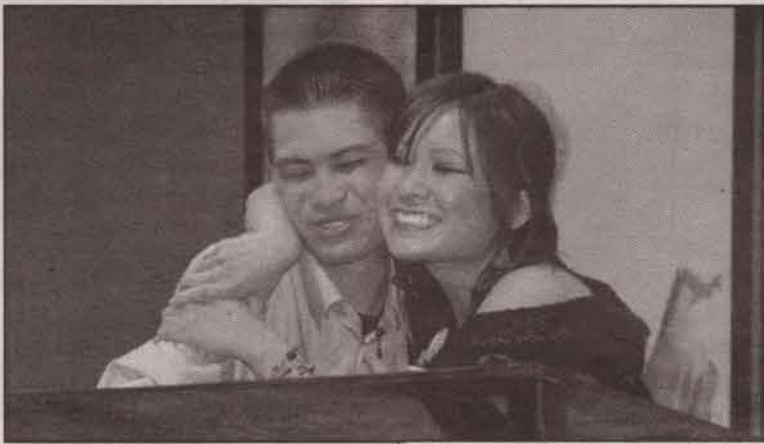
This has been my third year being involved in it and my second year being the scriptwriter. Every year, I am amazed just how much work and time goes into something that only lasts for a single night.

Why do we do it?

Good question.

Being involved with an NSU Cultural Night production means that for the majority of your winter quarter, your entire life revolves around Cultural Night, whether it means having odori practice every other day, practicing your dance moves in a cold parking lot late into the night or cramming in four weeks to remember lines from a 40-page script. In the crunch time leading up to the actual event, it means all day rehearsals over an entire weekend and ordering out a lot of cheap Asian food during practice.

While I'm sure individual reasons to take on such a masochistic



PHOTOS COURTESY NICK TANG



Yumi (above) made a cameo at the UCLA Nikkei Student Union Cultural Night show. The production includes odori dancing, taiko and poetry reading (left).

endeavor ranges widely from personal growth to simple stage-whoring, it's still inspiring that all of these things culminate to a single event that gives young Nikkei and other non-Nikkei interested in the JA culture a chance to show everybody else their dedication in keeping the voice of the community alive.

In particular, one minor event sticks in my memory. It was a cold Sunday morning, and I was walking up to the main auditorium tired and running late for an all-day rehearsal. Preoccupied with being sleep-deprived and overly stressed, I caught the eye of a fellow cultural night performer walking beside me whom I've seen around but never directly talked to before. As we made our way up the stair steps leading to the rehearsal area, we both began talking about how we got involved with the show in the first place.

An Indian American fourth year student, he said that he got into odori dancing by a random fluke because one of his classmates involved in NSU happened to mention how odori dancing is always in dire shortage of men. Unlike the fast pace of taiko drumming and

modern hip hop dance, odori is much more subdued and subtle in the movements of the body.

"It's insane just how intense it is," he said. "You watch the teacher do it and it looks so easy, but it's so much more complicated than that. It's like telling a story with your body, and you have to get it down just right."

What do you know. Being involved with cultural night means that you still get to learn something new about your own culture, and it does not necessarily have to come from another JA. Little things like that keep me going. ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently a student at UCLA.



Agree?
Disagree?
Opinions?

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Intercollegiate Nikkei Council Announces Revisions, Youth Conference

The Intercollegiate Nikkei Council (INC), a coalition of Japanese American college groups across Southern California, plans to host its biannual youth conference, Revisions, May 13 at the Japanese American National Museum.

The conference will address issues affecting a new generation of Nikkei youth.

The conference will consist of workshops with topics as diverse as JA activism in the community, leadership, empowerment, and Taiko drumming.

"What's unique about Revisions is that it is planned entirely for the youth, by the youth," said Mickie Okamoto, co-chair for the event. "Through discussions and workshops we want to revise our view of the Japanese American community and begin to train leaders for the future."

Participants will also have a chance to network during discussion groups and activities as well as socialize during the conference's concluding activity — a dance in the plaza of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. In addition, high school students will learn more about the college experience through the eyes of JA college students from campuses such as UCLA, USC, UCI, UCSD, and LMU.

"Many of us in the Intercollegiate Nikkei Council participated in Jr. Young Buddhist Association events,

played Japanese American basketball, and went to Japanese language school," said Craig Ishii, outreach coordinator for Revisions. "One of our priorities is letting high school students know that there are organizations on different college campuses that foster this same sense of Japanese American community."

Ultimately, Revisions hopes to highlight and unite an increasingly diverse JA community.

"We are Yonsei, we are Shin-Nisei, we are Hapa, we are immigrants," said Megumi Tomatsu, president of the UCLA Nikkei Student Union. "The next generation of youth must be ready to work with all these communities to form a new identity for Japanese Americans." ■

For more information, contact Craig Ishii at craig.ishii@gmail.com or visit the Revisions Web site at www.revisionspleaseupdateme.com.

INC was formed in 1995 to unite an increasingly large number of JA organizations on campuses across Southern California. Active member organizations include: UC Los Angeles, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, USC, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Barbara. INC

activities include attending the Manzanar Pilgrimage, volunteering in Little Tokyo for Chibi-K and San Tai San during Children's Day, and planning the biannual Revisions Youth Conference.

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An APA filmmaker takes a critical look at the judicial system in the documentary

'AFTER INNOCENCE'

UNLOCKING INNOCENT LIVES



By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

All the former convicts in Jessica Sanders' film "After Innocence" are not the usual suspects. They are living evidence of the shortfalls of the American judicial system, which erroneously convicted and incarcerated the innocent.

The list of the innocent is diverse: a police officer from Boston, a congenial Pennsylvania man who in 1985 voluntarily waited on a street corner for police officers after a rape victim identified him as the perpetrator, even a soft spoken Florida man who stoically awaited his release after 22 years.

The key to their release was located in the DNA left at the crime scenes. With present day scientific technology, the film focuses on seven exoneration cases and the evidence that set them free decades later to face a second round of injustice.

Sanders spent over a year shooting the film and following the exonerees, chosen to represent diversity in geography, social economic background, family and recovery situations.

"All of the subjects are strikingly articulate," said Sanders, who wrote, directed and produced the award-winning documentary. "Maybe it's from having to be in prison for so long and having all the time to reflect."

What started out as an idea, which came to Sanders while she was "already in the world of criminal justice" as an associate producer of a 2002 NBC television documentary, evolved into a compelling scrutiny of the system. "After Innocence," Sanders' first feature-length documentary won the 2005 Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and is currently in full theatrical release.

"I just thought the subject was so provocative — how do you survive prison when you're wrongfully convicted. Then I met the people and they were all so positive. There was just something about them ... I knew I had to do everything it took to make this film," said Sanders, who had just returned home to her native Southern California after a weekend trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico for her film's premiere.

She "cobbled" the film together by assembling a group of filmmakers who were just as passionate about telling the stories and slowly garnered attention and funding until Showtime Television came aboard and announced it would premiere the documentary later this year.

Now, she says the film is being used by politicians, schools and civil rights groups to shed light on the little-known plight of exonerees.

"People come up to me and say, 'You've really changed my views on the justice system' ... I think it's great," said Sanders, who also won an Academy Award for her work on "Twin Towers," a 2003 short documentary about two brothers during the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

DNA, she said, is the window to the flaws in the judicial system. "Now they can see that there is a problem," she added, pointing out that 80 percent of wrongful convictions are caused by faulty eyewitness identification.

"Jessica is a very bright and obviously passionate woman who wants to use the opportunity given to her to

make a social statement with her work. It is the highest goal one can try in the world they know. She gave me a boost in my own platform to do the same in my life as being part of the film 'After Innocence,'" said Nicholas Yarris, a former Pennsylvania death row prisoner who was released after spending 21 years in solitary confinement.

In the film, Yarris talks about being allergic to fresh air because his body had grown accustomed to recycled air. "Strange," he says quietly while driving in a car with the phrase, "8,057 days" emblazoned across the back.

"I think Jessica represents Asian women very proudly and she continues to show the larger world that contribu-

tions need to be made from every group the world is made up of with her actions not her words. That is why I have so much love for her," added Yarris, who is now living in London, England and expecting a child with his wife Karen.

"I had to tell a dramatic story and the story comes from the people in the film," said Sanders.

In Sanders' family, telling a good story seems to flow in the bloodline. She comes from a "film family,"

'I just thought the subject was so provocative — how do you survive prison when you're wrongfully convicted ... I knew I had to do everything it took to make this film.'

with "a lot of strong Asian women role models." Her mother, Freida Lee Mock, worked on the documentary "Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision," with her father Terry Sanders. Both are multiple Academy Award winners.

"Growing up, my family had more film in the fridge than food," she said with a laugh. "When I made my first student film, my parents were the only ones who really understood the difficulties and the process."

She gained experience working with her parents on various projects, but says there was really never any handholding from her mentors.


At Sundance last year, when "After Innocence" won the coveted jury prize, Sanders' parents teased her in a way that is perhaps too familiar to other Asian Pacific Americans — they asked her why she didn't become a lawyer instead. ■

For a list of theaters and film festivals where 'After Innocence' will take place, visit www.afterinnocence.com.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

secretasianman@weekkydig.com • www.BlackLava.net/sam • ©2006 Tak Toyoshima



HI, I'M ADAM CAROLLA. ABOUT A MONTH AGO, I DID A RADIO SKIT WHERE I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE RECENT ASIAN EXCELLENCE AWARDS. THE SKIT HAD PEOPLE READING ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES FOR ALMOST A FULL MINUTE REPEATING "CHING CHONG" DOZENS OF TIMES. I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY DAMN FUNNY. BUT DEEP INSIDE I KNEW IT WAS AN UNORIGINAL GAG AND I ONLY WANTED THE ATTENTION FOR MY NEW FM RADIO SHOW.

I JUST COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING ORIGINAL SO I WENT WITH THE CHEAP SHOT. THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD, WHEN TALKING ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE, IS BRINGING UP FRIED CHICKEN AND WATERMELON. ALTHOUGH I THINK THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY TOO.

IN THE END I THINK I'M JUST IN PANIC MODE BECAUSE I KNOW I'M NOWHERE NEAR THE REPLACEMENT FOR HOWARD STERN THAT PEOPLE WANT ME TO BE AND IT KILLS ME TO BE IN THAT JEW'S SHADOW. I CRY EVERY NIGHT IN THE TUB, ALTHOUGH I DON'T FILL IT WITH WATER SINCE, BEING PART ITALIAN, THE OIL AND WATER DON'T MIX.

PLEASE LISTEN TO MY SHOW. I KNOW I'M NOT VERY FUNNY BUT AT LEAST YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU LISTEN TO IT. I PROMISE, NOTHING NEW OR ORIGINAL. JUST THE SAME OLD TIRED CRAP, OK? PLEASE?

Calendar

National

CHANDLER, Ariz.

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

SAN FRANCISCO

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

East Coast

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mar. 10-24—Citizen 13559: The Journal of Ben Uchida, a World Premiere Kennedy Center Original Production; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Family Theater, 2700 F Street, NW; follows the story of a young JA boy of 10 as his world changes overnight with the signing of EO 9066; directed by Chay Yew. Info: www.kennedy-center.org.

Sat., April 1—8th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk; 9:30 a.m.; National Japanese American Memorial;

keynote address by USMC Captain Bruce Yamashita; \$15 for individuals, \$5 for children 11 and under. Info: 202/530-0015, 703/978-5365 or www.nicoleyamada.com/freedomwalk/index.html.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Sun., Mar. 5—Book reading, "The Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in the Life of a Japanese American Family"; 1:30 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; Lauren Kessler will read from the revised edition of the book about the Yasui Family of Hood River, Ore.; \$3 donation; the book will be available for purchase, \$25.

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.

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., Mar. 18—Tribute, "Carrying On: Tribute to Japanese American Family-owned Businesses" in Celebration of Japantown's Centennial; 6:30 p.m.; Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St.; \$150 per person; RSVP by Mar. 10; honoring the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, California Flower Market, Steve Okamoto, Barbara Marumoto-Koons and Allen Okamoto of the Okamoto Family, Benkyo-do Confectioners and Uoki Sakai. Info: NJAHS, 415/921-5007.

Central California

HANFORD

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

Southern California

GARDENA

Sun., Mar. 5—Seminar of Medicare Prescription Drug Plan; 1-3 p.m.; Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1700 W. 162nd St.; Dianne Kujubu Belli is the Administrator of Community Based Care at Keiro Nursing Home and will speak; free; co-sponsored by the Gardena Pioneer Project, Japanese American Bar Association, Senior Citizens' Bureau of the City of Gardena and Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Info: Karen Uyekawa, 213/894-3235.

GRANADA 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

Through May 14—Traveling exhibition, Isamu Noguchi - Sculptural



PHOTO: MICHAEL LAMONT

Ronald Banks as 'Sweeney Todd' and Marilyn Tokuda as 'Mrs. Lovett' in Sweeney Todd at Los Angeles' East West Players through Mar. 19.

Design; JANM.

Through Mar. 19—Sweeney Todd at the East West Players; 8 p.m. Thurs., Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sat. and Sun.; \$40 for orchestra, \$35 for balcony. Tickets: 213/625-7000 x20 or www.eastwest-players.org.

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.

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

Sun., May 7—1st Annual JACL PSW Golf Tournament; noon shotgun start; Tijeras Creek Golf Course; sponsorships still available. Info: Kerry Kaneichi, kkaneichi@aol.com, PSW Office, 213/626-4471 or www.jaclp-sw.org/golf.htm.

Arizona

CHANDLER

Sun., Mar. 26—Arizona JACL Chapter Picnic; 9:30-2:30 p.m.; Desert Breeze Park; fishing, food, bingo, games, special entertainment for young and old. Info: Kathy Ikeda, night_huntress17@yahoo.com.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sat., Mar. 18-May 5—Exhibit, "Mo'ili'ili — The Life of a Community"; 2-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Community Gallery; 2454 S. Beretania St.; the exhibit tells the history of this O'ahu community and rekindles long-forgotten stories through photographs and memorabilia; free; gallery hours are Tues.-Sat. 10-4 p.m.; book cost is \$26.95. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633. ■



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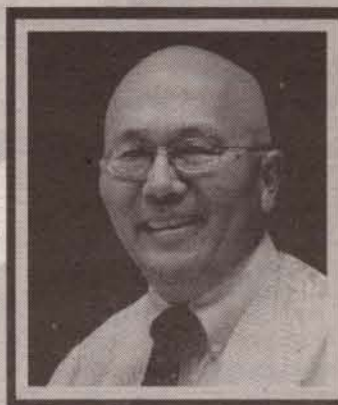
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In Memoriam - 2005-2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Arakawa, George M., 87, Los Angeles, Jan. 21; survived by sons, Floyd and Baron (Ann); daughter, Pearl (Herb) Aguirre; brothers, Iwao (Otome), Lawrence (Agnes), Patrick (Yolanda) and Saigo (Katsuko); and sisters, Mabel (Shinso) Tamahana, Dora Jinohara and Sueko Arakawa.

Arata, Hajime, 41, Los Angeles, Jan. 27; survived by mother, Sueko; and sisters, Kumi (Eric) Yeakey and Naomi (Donald) Teshima.

Ariyama, Elaine Tatsuye, 74, Jan. 12; survived by sisters, Carol Kinoshita, Adeline Tom and Denise Dunn.

Calvert, Kimie Tashima, Dec. 23; survived by husband, Fred; son, Phil (Erika); 3 brothers; and 4 sisters.

Fukunaga, Yoshihiro, 76, Gardena, Jan. 25; survived by wife, Yuriko; sons, Kenny and Robert; daughter, Helen (Wayne) Ackley; and 2 gc.

Hagiwara, Jaine O., 84, Long Beach, Jan. 28; survived by son, Michael; daughters, Patti (Gordon) Akers and Maureen (Mark) Keckesen; 4 gc.; brother, Min (Kimi) Oi and Mako Oi; brother-in-law, Pat (Misako) Hagiwara; and sister-in-law, Grace (Paul) Hiyama.

Inamura, Shigeo, 86, Los Angeles, Jan. 15; survived by wife, Masuye; son, Brian (Wendy); 2 gc.; brother, Toshio (Aiko); and sister-in-law, Yoshiko (Isao) Sakurai.

Isobe Yoshiro, 76, Los Angeles, Jan. 28; survived by companion, Teruyo Chuman; son, Ichiro Takahashi; brother, Tohoru; and sister, Toshi (William) Nishimura.

Kawaguchi, Tad, 74, Torrance; Korean Conflict veteran; survived by wife, Mary; sons, Mark and Glenn; 2 gc.; brother, David (Linda); sister, Emi (Floyd) Yamauchi; brothers-in-law, Mas (Doris) and Thomas (Rose) Miyasaki; and sister-in-law, Irene Miyasaki.

Kido, Lawrence T., 65, Los Angeles; survived by wife, Jill; son, Scott; brother, Edwin (Nora); sister, Gladys Wandas; mother-in-law, Kimiko Nakashima; brothers-in-law, Wayne (Judy) and Reginald (Joyce) Nakaoka; and sister-in-law, Gloria (Wayne) Sakai.

Minamide, Yasuji, 86, Jan. 26; survived by sisters, Yaeko Inoda, Kiyoko Yoshida, Asako Minamide, and Kimi Minamide.

Nakasaki, Alan Masaru, 46, Jan. 26; survived by sisters, Vivian (Robert) Arnold, Donna (David) Dahman and Karen (Edward) Ikehara; and fiancée, Patricia Acuna.

Natsuhara, Shizue, 77, Orange, Jan. 28; survived by husband, Joe; and sons,

Stephen, Edward and Lance.

Nimura, Takanori "Pro," 85, Holtville, Jan. 28; survived by brother, Saburo; and sisters, Mitzi Tanamachi, Akiko Tateishi and Misao (Fred) Masukawa.

Noguchi, Masahiro, 61, Gardena, Jan. 27; survived by wife, Chigusa; sons, Chris (Irma) and Seiya; 2 gc.; brother, Hideaki (Mary); sister, Kyoko Noguchi; mother-in-law, Teruko Takahama; and brother-in-law, Haruiki (Consuelo) Takahama.

Okumura, Shoichi, 78, Huntington Beach, Jan. 24; survived by wife, Teruko; daughters, Sherilyn (Clayton) Hirayama and Ann (John) Sadakane; son, Donn; 2 gc.; and mother, Chieko.

Sakaji, Tomoichi, 85, Santa Maria, Jan. 28; survived by daughters, Janice (Taka) Yokota and Naomi (Jason) Tong; 4 gc.; sister, Hina (Tak) Shigenaka; and brother, Haru (Alys).

Shiba, Tadao, 80, Long Beach, Jan. 17; survived by brother, Susumu (Mitzi); sister, Mae (Ben) Shimazu; 1 gc.; and sister-in-law, Joanne Shiba.

Takahashi, Thelma Toshiko, 88, Los Angeles, Jan. 18; survived by sons, Allan (Nancy) and Reid (Wendy); 2 gc.; sister, Helen Tsutsui; and brother, Susumu (Shirley) Arima.

Takahata, Alice Kimiko, 82, Los Angeles, Dec. 16; survived by son, Russ (Ruth); daughter, Nancy; 2 gc.; sister, Mitzi Oji; brother-in-law, Tsutomu Takahata; and sisters-in-law, Mitsuko Kuwamoto and Suzuko Takahata.

Takai, Roy Tetsuo, 87, Pacheco, Feb. 6; U.S. Army, MIS; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Sandra (Fukuji) Sugie and Debra (Michael) Cox; sons, Roy (Elaine), Neal (Virginia) and Mark (Laura); and 7 gc.

Uyeda, Glen Kazuma, 84, Canoga Park, Jan. 28; Korean Conflict veteran; survived by son, Mark; daughters, Cynthia (Gary) Shimozone and Tami (Kerry) Arnold; 5 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sister, June (Johnny) Kauzlarich.

Watanabe, Toshiko, 85, San Dimas; survived by son, Timothy (Linda); 3 gc.; 3 ggc.; brother, George Fukuda; and sisters, Fumiko (Art) Furuno and Kathy (Tad) Katayama.

Watanabe, Tsuruye "Mary," 83, Carson, Jan. 29; survived by sons, Ronald (Nalani) and Donald (Karen); daughter, Elizabeth Tambara; 10 gc.; 9 ggc.; 1 brother; and 3 sisters.

Yamayoshi, Tetsuo Tom, 89, Chicago, Ill.; survived by daughter, Patricia (Randy) Davis; 2 gc.; brother, Nobuo Yamayoshi; and sister, Itsue Tsukada. ■

IMMIGRATION

(Continued from page 1)

years ago and had been applying for asylum from her native China because of the country's strict one-child policy. They ran a restaurant in the city and raised two American born sons. But on Feb. 7, she met with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in Philadelphia for what she reportedly thought was a regularly scheduled meeting, but was instead taken to New York's John F. Kennedy Airport to be placed on a flight to China.

Family members and advocates say Jiang was pushed and dragged into the backseat of the van. She said she was not given any food or water and ridiculed when she complained of stomach pains. At a nearby hospital Jiang miscarried.

The local community roared in protest with a Valentine's Day protest rally near the Liberty Bell and a press conference where TianChen Zhang, Jiang's brother-in-law, talked openly about the tragedy.

"This is a story about immigrants. But it is also a story about humans — just like you and me," said Zhang through a translator.

ICE officials denied any wrongdoing and said Jiang was treated with care. She had exhausted her appeals and was ordered to leave by an immigration judge, said an ICE spokesperson in a statement. Once she is medically cleared, an immigration judge will determine Jiang's fate again.

ICE did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* request for comment, but Jiang's attorney Richard Bortnick said officials have agreed to postpone deportation procedures until Aug. 25.

The statement said Jiang did not express a need for medical attention, but groups are decrying the government agency's treatment of a pregnant woman.

"The brutality of the seizure from the ICE agents have unnerved all communities," said Helen Gym of Asian Americans United, a group

which founded the Philadelphia Hoya Chinese American Association where Jiang's sons, aged 4 and 7, attend school.

The boys are "completely traumatized" and fear being taken away by immigration officials, said Gym. Jiang returned to her family Feb. 15, but both she and her husband have gone into hiding.

"The family is feeling very vulnerable," Gym added.

'This is a story about immigrants. But it is also a story about humans — just like you and me.'

— TianChen Zhang

The event has also drawn criticism from APA leaders.

"The actions of the ICE officials are cruel and atrocious," said New York Councilman John C. Liu, who visited Jiang in the hospital. "How can anyone just stand there and mock the tearful pleas of a pregnant woman in pain? This is beyond belief. This is not what the United States of America is about. Heads must roll at ICE."

Although ICE said the case would be investigated by the Office of Professional Responsibility, many critics say Jiang's case is a textbook example of the failures of U.S. immigration law.

The larger issue is a bill being considered by Congress that could affect all communities nationally.

The Sensenbrenner-King Bill (HR 4437), a bill which passed the House last December and is currently in Senate committee, would

amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen immigration law enforcement. Opponents argue it will penalize anyone who aids undocumented immigrants, including healthcare workers and those who are unaware of the person's immigration status.

The AAU is spearheading a petition drive directed at Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, who is chairman of the Senate's Committee on the Judiciary to protest the bill.

"We're happy to see federal legislators concerned about national security and the safety of Americans. Unfortunately, this bill makes us less secure and puts the safety of all Americans at risk," said Liu. "By further criminalizing immigrants and eroding our civil rights, several provisions of this bill will have the unintended consequence of decreasing cooperation between targeted communities and law enforcement, increasing harassment and racial profiling of innocent Americans, and widen the vulnerability of workers to abuse and exploitation by unscrupulous employers."

"This bill is simply un-American," Liu added.

In the meantime, APA and civil rights group are hoping the Jiang family tragedy will shed light on an immigrant's plight. Bortnick said he is in the process of filing a petition with ICE and the courts to allow Jiang to stay in the United States with her family and become a citizen. ■

DEATH NOTICE

SHIGEO WADA

ANTIOCH, Calif. — Shigeo Wada, 94, entered Nirvana Jan. 24 to be with his adored wife, Grace. He was a long-time resident of Capitola and more recently, Antioch. He is survived by his brother, George (Kin); children, Karen Niiyama, Barbara Wada and Michael (Deborah); grandchildren, Ross (Laurie) and Kris Niiyama; great-grandchildren, Alexandra, Kyle and Sydney Niiyama and Richard Wada; nephews, Ted (Barbara) Wada and Gene (Marsha) Wada; and nieces, Patti Maruyama, Sandy (Tom) Kadotani, Susan (Bob) Moore, Lynn Wada, Gayle (Alan) Uyematsu and Teri (Abe) Mamaghani.

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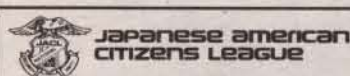
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JAPANTOWN

(Continued from page 1)

Festival, is also up for sale. AMC Entertainment recently merged with Loews Cineplex and due to an anti-trust agreement the State Attorney General's office has forced AMC to sell the Japantown theater.

Kintetsu is hoping to finalize the sales of its properties by the end of March and the AMC is aiming for the middle of April. When the sales are finalized, Japantown will see a change in ownership in three-fourths of the area.

The sale of the Kintetsu properties has so riled the local Japanese American community that a meeting was held Feb. 21 with San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, and Kintetsu representatives. Close to 200 Japantown merchants, residents, and community leaders attended the meeting to ensure their message was clear: any new owner must respect the unique history and culture of Japantown.

"I hope we get a good neighbor that's committed to the community," said Linda Jofuku, executive director of the Japantown Task Force, Inc., a non-profit organization that works to preserve and develop the historic area. She noted they want to avoid what happened in 2000 to the Kintetsu owned Japantown Bowl when developers converted the historic site into condominiums even after community protests. "This neighborhood is important to preserve and revitalize what we have left."

"I know the properties will likely be sold but I am expecting the owners to find people who will ensure the integrity of the culture and neighborhood will remain the same," said Kitashima.

Community members believe the

best way to do this is to keep the property in the hands of the JA community. Allen M. Okamoto, a prominent realtor in San Francisco, is currently working on a deal to buy the Kintetsu properties. The deal would involve a pooling of pension funds which would mature in 5 to 7 years at which time a new buyer from the JA community would be sought.

But the offer may be too little too late since Okamoto admits it is still "a work in progress" and the short time frame set by Kintetsu to sell the properties leaves him "caught between a rock and a hard place." They are also working in the dark since Kintetsu has not revealed an asking price for the properties.

Still, many believe Okamoto is going in the right direction.

"We would like to see Kintetsu consider the offer from the community, to allow the community to have ownership in its own community," said Paul Osaki, executive director of JCCCNC (Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California). "The community wants to direct its own future. If we lose the land, we're eventually going to lose the community."

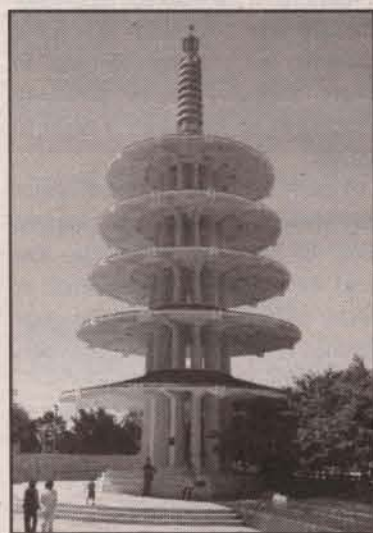
"If we get an outside buyer and they decide to unload the property, 15 years later we're going to go through the same thing again," said Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director. "The best thing is to put it into the community's hands. If we care about the community, why not consider it? We're talking about the future of Japantown."

But the community's offer has not gotten much response from Kintetsu representatives. Attorney Don Tamaki has been hired by Kintetsu to handle the negotiations for its properties. He believes the community offer is "not in the best interest of J-Town."

In the past several weeks Kintetsu

has considered several offers for the properties and have rejected many, including pensions fund offers structured much like the community's recent offer, he said. Since the community offer will be comprised of 95 percent pension funds and only 5 percent local ownership monies, in 5 to 7 years a new buyer will need to be found.

"It's not good for J-Town to face another sale in five years. A pension



fund candidate is not a good candidate," said Tamaki, who noted that Kintetsu has some potential buyers right now who he believes will respect the history and culture of Japantown. "We risk losing them if we open the process again."

Many believe the current situation in Japantown is placing stress on current U.S.-Japan relations, especially if Kintetsu, a Japanese owned company, does not seriously consider an offer from the JA community.

"If the sale leads to the demise and loss of the community. It will set back U.S.-Japan relations 100 years," said Osaki. "It's an unfortunate thing."

"In my view it's not just about a sale. In the long run it will impact

the way we view each other," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "JAs are not going to forget this if this turns out badly for us. Our concern is preserving the Nihonmachis that are left."

But Tamaki believes Kintetsu has been open with the community. In addition to disclosing the property sales, Kintetsu is making a concerted effort to find buyers who are interested in holding the properties long-term and have rejected any buyers who want to flip the property.

"[Kintetsu] is being sensitive to the community and they are working with the city. They are not going to turn it into a Walmart," said Tamaki. "Change is difficult but they want to manage the change so the culture and vision of Japantown continues."

Makoto Yamanaka, consul general of Japan, supports the current efforts to preserve the history of Japantown. "I sincerely hope that negotiations concerning the sale of a large portion of Japantown's commercial facilities, involving Kintetsu, community leaders, and other parties, will result in the cultural preservation and development of Japantown as a vibrant landmark in this community," he said.

City officials are working to ensure Kintetsu and any new buyer it selects will work with the Japantown community to preserve and develop the historic area. Mayor Newsom and Supervisor Mirkarimi have already come forward in support of preserving Japantown.

"Any future owner should be put on notice that the City will require the preservation of the cultural significance of Japantown," said Newsom in a letter to Kintetsu. "The importance of preserving San Francisco's Japantown is even more significant given that only three

Japantowns remain in the United States."

Jofuku believes the current property sales are a reality check for the community and shed a harsh light on the current economic realities of the area.

"I think it's good that people heard everything today but I don't think it's going to change anything," she said. "We need to take a good look at what this means ... everything can't stay the same forever. Kintetsu has been bleeding red for years — they have to sell."

In the early 1900s and 1920s JAs numbered around 4,000 to 5,000 in Japantown where many community members lived, worked, and played. The area has gone through a number of changes including the World War II internment and redevelopment in the 1960s to make way for the Geary Expressway. Today, JAs only number around 1,000 and many of the area businesses are no longer JA owned.

Although weekend traffic in the area continues to be brisk, especially when planned events are held like the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Asian American Film Festival, weekday traffic is slow and many businesses continue to struggle to make ends meet.

And with the end of March around the corner, reality is settling in. Many believe the pending sales of the Kintetsu properties will play a vital role in determining the future direction of San Francisco's Japantown.

The properties "are the core of Japantown. If that falls, it will be a domino effect," said Okamoto.

"These properties represent so much of Japantown, so much of our economic revenue," said Osaki. "Its loss can devastate the community, devastate Japantown." ■

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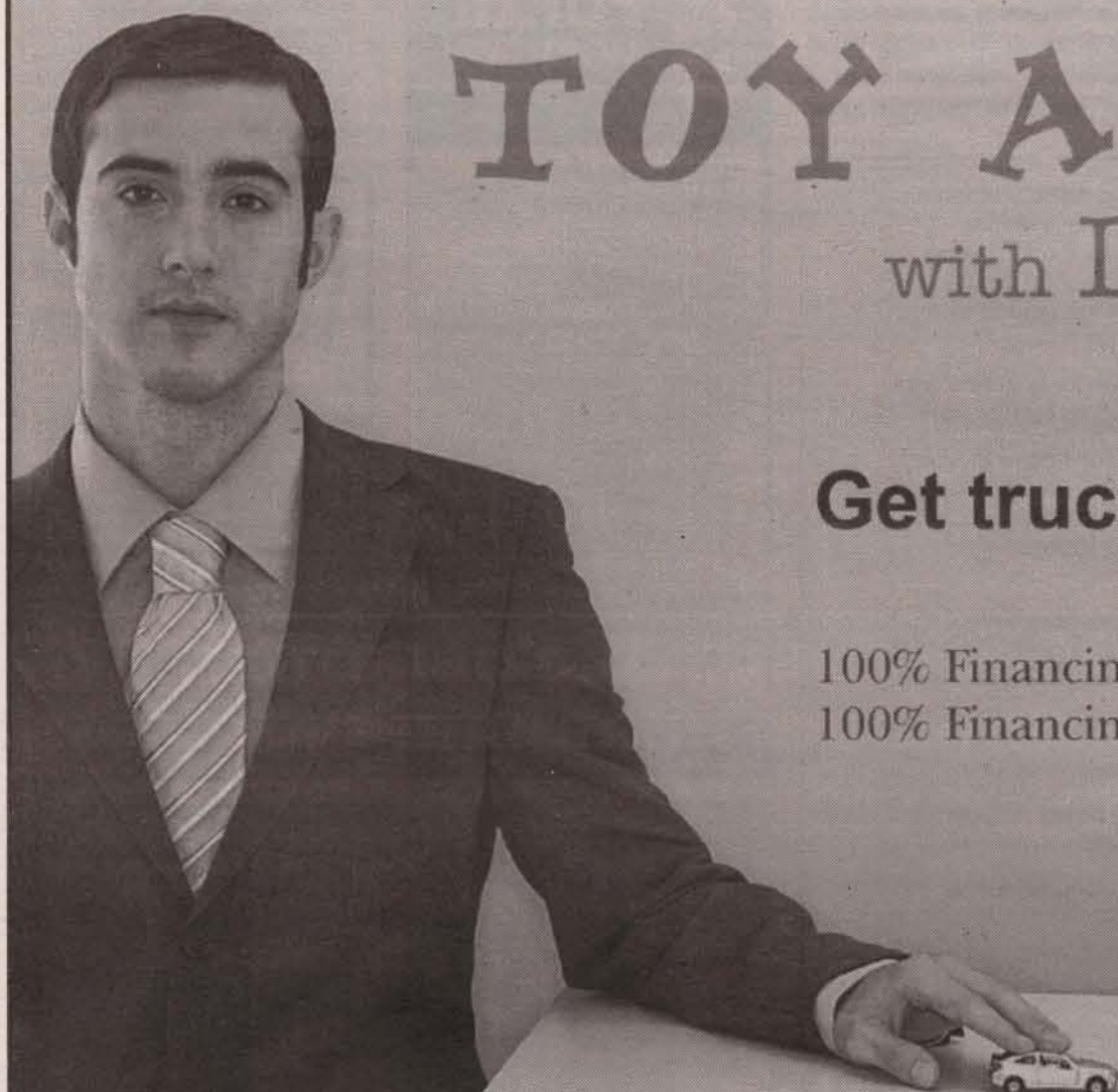
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