

Spring Campaign

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COUPON PAGE 2



Finding Megumi

Two American filmmakers search for the story behind Japan's most famous kidnapping victim in, 'Abduction.'

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



The End of Japantown?

San Francisco's two hotels are sold to a Beverly Hills company igniting controversy over the endangered enclave.

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 3

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3053/ Vol. 142, No. 5 ISSN: 0030-8579

MAR. 17-APR. 6, 2006



PHOTOS COURTESY FLOYD MORI



AGAINST THE ODDS: Asian Pacific Americans in the Gulf Coast are still struggling to rebuild their lives torn asunder by the hurricanes of six months ago. A family (above) tries to rebuild their livelihood — a fishing boat and another couple (left) try to replace the motor in their severely damaged boat.

JACL, APA Groups Reach Out to Hurricane Victims

Many lack the skill and resources to navigate through federal bureaucracy. Community leaders are offering free legal help in April.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

For many Gulf Coast Asian Pacific Americans, "home" is a small space on the floor of a Buddhist Temple, a parked car or simply a pillow and blanket next to mountains of debris. Six months after hurricanes swallowed their world, the APA community is still struggling to get back on its feet.

Like other affected communities, they are having trouble accessing federal support, but language barriers and cultural reticence further hamper their plight. For too many,

just filling out forms is impossible. Help, as it usually does, is coming from within the community.

APA lawyers and groups including the JACL will be offering free legal assistance to help victims navigate through the bureaucracy and understand their due process rights. The first Legal Community Education Clinic is slated for April 1-4 at the Hong Kong Mall in New Orleans.

"There was a sense of outrage and frustration over the inequity," said Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) Staff Attorney Juliet K. Choi about the region's APA community. Since disaster struck, she has been dedicated to the recovery efforts traveling to the devastated regions and talking to victims. The

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PHOTO COURTESY HODGETTS AND FUNG

Curtain Comes Back Up on Historic Japanese Theater

Little Tokyo had nearly three decades to forget about the Linda Lea, but new plans to turn it into a cutting edge APA entertainment center resurrects its memory.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Before its closure in the 1980s, the Linda Lea Theater was a portal to feudal Japan where samurai deftly wielded their swords across the silver screen. But unlike the timeless film heroes it brought to the Japanese American community, the Downtown Los Angeles theater suffered its own mortal fate. For nearly 30 years, it has been a shuttered time capsule — its pastel marquee of a kimono-clad woman and fluttering butterflies is the only reminder of its grand past.

See THEATER/Page 12

UIC Students Fight for an AA Studies Program

More than 16 years after students demand the establishment of an AA Studies program, UIC students are still waiting.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Political science major Brandon Mita, 21, first took an Asian American Studies course at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) during his freshman year and immediately wanted to learn more about his AA roots. Unfortunately, his interest in AA Studies would have to be put on hold since UIC does not currently have an AA Studies program.

Mita's unrealized interest in learning more about AA history and culture is something UIC students have experienced for the past 16 years. Since 1990 students here



Members of the Asian American Coalition Committee (left), a student group at UIC, are fighting for an Asian American Studies program, a fight that has been ongoing for the past 16 years.

have lobbied for the establishment of an AA Studies program to no avail. But this year the Asian American Coalition Committee (AACC) — a UIC student group — is stepping up efforts and refusing to take no for an answer.

"Many administrators and faculty already know the Ethnic Studies arguments and verbally support it, but they have failed to do anything

about it," said Mita, 21, chairperson of AACC. He added, "Asian American Studies is not just for Asian American students. It's for everyone."

The AACC has produced a detailed proposal on the need to establish an AA Studies program at UIC and have demanded immediate

See UIC/Page 4

SPRING CAMPAIGN Expanding P.C.'s Online Presence

By GIL ASAKAWA

I'm incredibly fortunate. I've been working in online journalism since 1996 — 10 years on the digital cutting edge!



I've been a journalist as a writer, editor, freelancer for almost 30 years, but it's the past decade that defines my career. That's because the Internet

See CAMPAIGN/Page 2

An ESPN Foul Up

In World Baseball Classic series, ESPN uses 'JAP' in box score during a Korea vs. Japan game.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Baseball fan Roberto Ryukichi Santiago, 29, had just sat down to watch a World Baseball Classic Korea vs. Japan game on ESPN when something caught his attention during the second inning.

In large capital letters the word "JAP" was scrawled across Santiago's television screen. ESPN was giving its viewers the box score before going to commercial and



had decided to use the derogatory term as the abbreviation for Japan.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe it," said Santiago of Washington, D.C., a self-described

See ESPN/Page 2

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ESPN

(Continued from page 1)

"huge baseball fan" who had decid-
ed to watch the game with his
Korean roommate. "I'm shocked
that anyone involved in mass media
would not know that 'Jap' is an
offensive term."

"As a Japanese American I grew
up learning about the internment,
discrimination ... the term is histori-
cally offensive," he said. "My grand-
mother's blood still boils whenever
she hears it."

Santiago immediately wrote a let-
ter of complaint to ESPN encourag-
ing the network to use the accepted
"JPN" abbreviation for Japan but is
still waiting for a response from the
sports network.

calls to ESPN, the sports channel's
communication department released
the following statement: "We made a
mistake which was corrected after
the first telecast. The JPN abbrevia-
tion will continue to be used going
forward."

The use of "Jap" has long histori-
cal roots as a racist term that was
often used to disparage JAs during
World War II. But even today many
individuals and corporations are
unaware that the term is offensive.

eBay has long used the term to
abbreviate all things Japanese on its
popular auction site and recent bat-
tles in Texas to rename "Jap" Roads
and Lanes has gotten a lot of media
exposure. Slip-ups like the recent
ESPN incident illustrate that much
more education still needs to take

**'Subtle racism against Asians is not
a well-publicized issue ... But some
things we should not tolerate.
Someone [at ESPN] wasn't thinking.'**

— Roberto Ryukichi Santiago

And he was not the only baseball
fan to be shocked by ESPN's use of
"JAP" that continued to appear
throughout the entire game. Bill
Kawaguchi of Salt Lake City, Utah,
63, had decided to take in the game
when he too noticed the derogatory
word appear on his television screen
Mar. 5.

"'Jap' is derogatory. If [ESPN]
doesn't know it is, they are ignorant.
I grew up being called a slant-eye
'Jap'," said Kawaguchi, a Vietnam
War vet who does not want his
grandkids to have to put up with
people using the offensive term.

The World Baseball Classic has
been trumpeted as a first-time inter-
national event to promote the sport
of baseball. In addition to Asian
countries Japan, Korea, Chinese
Taipei, and China, the United States,
Italy, Cuba, and Mexico are also tak-
ing part. The final round of games
for the international tournament will
take place this weekend on ESPN.

In response to *Pacific Citizen's*

place.

"It's unfortunate that ESPN used
the abbreviation 'Jap' for Japan on
the WBC game involving Japan,"
said John Tateishi, JACL executive
director. "My experience with ESPN
has been that they're sensitive to this
type of thing, so my guess is that
they're not aware of what they're
doing."

Both Santiago and Kawaguchi
plan to watch the upcoming games
and will continue to root for Japan.
They hope that ESPN will learn
from this incident and use the
accepted "JPN" abbreviation for
Japan.

"People take it for granted that
'Jap' is offensive," said Kawaguchi.
"Some people are so callous in their
way of thinking but they are offend-
ing my race."

"Subtle racism against Asians is
not a well-publicized issue," said
Santiago. "But some things we
should not tolerate. Someone [at
ESPN] wasn't thinking." ■

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Spring Campaign

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CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

has changed so much of the news
media.

There's so much choice for your
news these days!

Back in the day — way back —
the choices were few. You depend-
ed on friends, family and neighbors
for the latest gossip, er, news. You
read your local newspaper every
morning. You tuned into your
favorite radio station (very few
radio stations even have news
departments anymore).

And you watched the evening
news on TV. Since 1980, you've
had the choice of CNN, a 24-hour
news source, and more recently,
other cable news networks such as
MSNBC and Fox News.

But you can't be near a TV with
cable and tune into CNN anytime,
right? So you click to CNN.com, or
the Web site of your local newspa-
per, or maybe Yahoo or Google's
news sections. You don't even need
to be at a computer — you can get
the news with your cell phone.

Thanks to the Internet, you can
access news anytime, almost any-
where. And, the news can be updat-
ed so you're getting the latest infor-
mation. Just think, the morning
paper that hits your door is actually
filled with old news — it's all stuff
that was available on the Internet
yesterday.

Newspapers aren't going away.
But news is changing, or at least,
the way news is delivered. For
many of you, and certainly for the
next generation of news con-
sumers, the most popular choice of
news source is already the Internet.

That's why I'm introducing this
year's *Pacific Citizen* Spring
Campaign.

Your support for the *P.C.* this
year will be entirely dedicated to
improving and expanding the
P.C.'s Web site, which is at
<http://www.pacificcitizen.org>.

Last year's Spring Campaign
raised funds so that your small but
dedicated *P.C.* staff could build and
launch the Web site. Thanks to your
donations, the site was online by
the fall, without expensive Web
designers and time-consuming out-
side contractors having to get
involved.

The Web site you see today is the
result of Brian Tanaka, the *P.C.'s*
very hardworking business manag-
er, attending some HTML classes
and learning how to put up a Web
site. Your funding went to a hosting
company and software, and Brian
did the rest. He posts the stories
from each issue, and maintains the
site.

Editor Caroline Aoyagi and
Assistant Editor Lynda Lin are also

learning to post stories and work on
the Web site.

The site currently has only a
sampling of the stories from the
print edition of the *P.C.*, but the
staff and the *P.C.* Editorial Board
have great big dreams for the
future.

Wouldn't it be great if JACL
members had access to all of each
issue's stories, by logging in to a
secure member's area? That way,
visitors to the site can get a taste of
the *P.C.'s* important (and award-
winning) journalism, but JACL
members can read the entire issue.

Maybe the issue could be e-
mailed to members; certainly, a
notice could be e-mailed when a
new issue is available.

And, as the Web site becomes
more and more robust, wouldn't it
be great if stories are posted as they
happen, so you don't even have to
wait for the print edition to find its
way into your mailbox?

Wouldn't it be cool to have mul-
timedia stories, with videos, slide
shows and audio available on the
site?

I'm getting ahead of myself here.
That's because I've been working
online for 10 years, and I've seen
these and many more amazing
developments become possible on
the Web.

The *Pacific Citizen* just began its
online journey, and it needs your
help to move into the future.

The *P.C.'s* Web site is already a
wonderful accomplishment, and I
urge you to visit it regularly. And,
your donations for the Spring
Campaign this year can assure the
ongoing development of the site so
that it can be the best resource pos-
sible for news about the JACL, and
coverage of issues that are impor-
tant to Asian Pacific Islander
Americans.

Thanks for your support! ■

*Gil Asakawa is the editorial chair-
person of the Pacific Citizen news-
paper.*

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The columns are the personal opinion of the
writers.

* "Voices" reflect the active, public discus-
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viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific
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* "Short expressions" on public issues,
usually one or two paragraphs, should
include signature, address and daytime
phone number. Because of space limita-
tions, 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.

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Japantown's Hotels Are Sold to Beverly Hills Co.

SAN FRANCISCO—The two signature hotels in San Francisco's Japantown have been sold without a guarantee of long-term ownership, according to local reports.



The sale of the Miyako Hotel and Miyako Inn Best Western is part of a larger package that includes most of the three-square-block Japantown mall, which the Beverly Hills company 3D Investments is negotiating to buy. 3D is willing to commit to a 15-year minimum ownership period on the mall property, according to Don Tamaki, the attorney representing the properties' owner Kintetsu Enterprises of America.

Terms and price of the sale have not been disclosed. The sale was signed Feb. 28 and will be finalized 30 days after the signing.

3D Investments owners promised to keep a Japanese theme in the lobbies of the hotels but could not promise fidelity to a Japanese menu at the Miyako Hotel restaurant, Tamaki told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Initiatives That Help Low-Income APA Students May be Cut

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Wu Receives Racial Harmony Award

Congressman David Wu, D-Oregon, was presented with the Joseph Papp Racial Harmony Award for his work on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), which works to ensure legislation reflects the needs of APA communities. The award is given every year by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

Wu is the first and only Chinese American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Yee: Suspicion of Muslims Hinders War on Terror

The former Muslim chaplain at the U.S. Army base at Guantanamo Bay who was once suspected of espionage says the military is discouraging American Muslims from helping more thoroughly in the war on terror by mistreating detainees and viewing Islam suspiciously.

James Yee, the Springfield native who was arrested on suspicion of espionage in his role as spiritual adviser to Muslim detainees at Guantanamo, claims he and other American Muslim service members at the detention center were also viewed with suspicion by military commanders.

In an interview with the

SAN FRANCISCO—For the upcoming budget, President George W. Bush has proposed eliminating loan programs and programs that assist first-generation and low-income students to attend college.

Upward Bound, the TRIO Program and Gear-up are some of the education initiatives to be cut from Bush administration's proposed 2007 budget. The cuts prompted outcry from the APA community, which has long benefited from the program.

About 61,000 students are enrolled in more than 800 Upward Bound programs across the county.

Museum to Honor Railroad Workers

CARSON CITY, Nev.—A group has unveiled plans for a \$50 million museum in Carson City that would honor 19th century Chinese railroad workers in the West.

Plans call for the 250,000-square-foot complex to feature a six-story conical building with windows that reflect gold, flanked by two six-story buildings that resemble ancient Chinese fortifications known as gateways. Visitors would be able to look out over surrounding Eagle Valley from the top of the building. One of the gateways would be used for preserving artifacts while the other would be for changing exhibits.

Museum officials hope to open the museum in the next four or five years with the help of private donations secured by a steering committee. A section of the old railroad between Virginia City and Carson City is expected to open as a tourist attraction by 2012. ■

Associated Press before addressing the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee's New Jersey chapter Mar. 11, Yee said his case is one of the things that makes American Muslims wary of cooperating more fully in the war on terrorism.

He also said the Bush administration needs to reach out to U.S. Muslim groups, who he said are eager to improve America's security.

APA Law Officers Honored for Combating Hate

Sgt. Brian Moriguchi of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was named one of the recipients of the Helene and Joseph Sherwood Prize for combating hate program. The prize, presented by the Pacific Southwest regional board of the Anti-Defamation League recognizes law enforcement officers who demonstrate a dedication to combat hate and promote civil rights.

Moriguchi investigated hate crimes, aggressively addressed civil rights violation and worked with victims targeted by these crimes. He also serves on the Climate for Trust Program training Russian officials on ways to combat bigotry and xenophobia in Russia.

Special Agent Quan Vuong of the Riverside Arson Task Force was also an award recipient. ■



MORIGUCHI

Gresham Postpones Monument Decision

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRESHAM, Ore.—Dr. Herbert Hughes delivered thousands of local babies and was Gresham's longest-serving mayor. On the day he left office 50 years ago, the city declared it "Dr. Hughes Day."

Leaders in Oregon's fourth-largest city planned to again put the spotlight on Hughes by voting to honor him with a monument. But the city council postponed a March 7 vote after getting criticism from Japanese Americans and others who read an article in *The Oregonian* newspaper that recounted Hughes' involvement with an anti-Japanese group during World War II.

Mayor Chuck Becker on March 7 called for a new task force to establish criteria for recognizing citizens and community leaders.

Hughes appeared to have a brief history with Oregon Anti-Japanese Inc., a group formed to oppose people of Japanese ancestry returning to their Gresham-area homes and farms after being sent to internment camps or serving in the U.S. military.

The head of Gresham's Historic

Resources Council Advisory Committee, which is proposing the memorial, said the former mayor's contributions outweigh any perceived missteps and the new effort to honor his service should move forward.

David Lindstrom, who serves as

'No one wants to disparage him ... But we need more information.'

— Rich Iwasaki
Portland JACL

the advisory committee chairman, said he spent two months in 2003 researching Hughes' involvement with the group. He could find only a single reference to Hughes in newspaper stories about the group and uncovered no further evidence of anti-Japanese sentiment by Hughes in talking to local residents who remember the era.

Lindstrom said even though there isn't a lot of hard evidence, his per-

sonal belief is that "because the (anti-Japanese) movement became so nasty, and because his name does not appear later, and knowing he was a very humane person, I feel he saw the fact it was wrong and quietly dropped out."

The city's inquiries, however, were largely limited to newspaper archive research, and did not seek input from people of Japanese ancestry. That, in the view of JA advocates, was an oversight.

"I'm very pleased (the council) reacted to the groundswell," said Chip Larouche, treasurer of the JACL Portland chapter.

The council took no public testimony March 7. But letters of concern were entered into the public record.

"No one wants to disparage him," said Rich Iwasaki, another JACL leader. "But we need more information."

The proposed monument would be placed at the location of the doctor's former office. At first, it would consist of a temporary wooden marker, to be replaced after about \$2,500 is raised with a boulder with a brass plaque attached to it. ■

APIA Alliance Requests Meeting With CBS Radio and KLSX FM Over Carolla's Racist Remarks

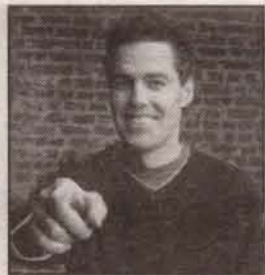
LOS ANGELES—An alliance of Asian Pacific Islander American organizations located on the West Coast have requested a meeting with CBS Radio and KLSX-FM executives to address the APIA community's concern and outrage regarding the Jan. 24 broadcast by Adam Carolla which parodied the Asian Excellence Awards.

During the broadcast, Carolla's show used stereotypical mock Asian language (ching-chong). Although Carolla apologized to the APIA community during his Feb. 22 broadcast, the Alliance still hopes to meet with the executives to discuss several requests that were not addressed by CBS Radio.

"Carolla did apologize during his show," said Alayne Yonemoto, JACL PSWD governor. "However, he did not mention any of the remaining requests that have yet to be addressed."

It took almost one month for CBS Radio and Carolla to officially

respond to the community's complaint. In the meantime, the APIA alliance launched a letter campaign demanding an apology and for the company to take certain steps to prevent a similar incident from happening in the future including disciplinary action for Carolla.



'It's clear that Carolla needs an education on the dangers of using racist stereotypes ... he has a history of utilizing racial slurs as part of his performance.'

— Guy Aoki, MANAA

After several sponsors including many Fortune 500 companies dropped their advertisement with Adam Carolla's show, CBS executives met with Karen Narasaki of the Asian American Justice Center in Wash., D.C. and have expressed willingness to meet with APIA representatives from the West Coast.

"The support of these sponsors is critical to changing attitudes. Without these companies voicing their concerns to the executives at

CBS, I highly doubt the apology from Mr. Carolla would have been issued. We appreciate the companies' support and respect for the APIA communities," said Grace Yoo, executive director of the Korean American Coalition.

The alliance hopes to meet with CBS Radio executives to discuss policies addressing racist stereotypes, to implement sensitivity training for all executives and employees and for CBS Radio, KLSX-FM, and Carolla to pursue educational programming regarding race and ethnic stereotypes.

"It's clear that Carolla needs an education on the dangers of using racist stereotypes," said Guy Aoki, founding president of Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA). "MANAA has been monitoring Carolla since he has a history of utilizing racial slurs as part of his performance. We've sent more letters of complaint to Adam Carolla than anyone else in our 14-year history." ■

Rep. Becerra Introduces Bill to Study JLA Internment

Seeking to rectify an egregious wrong committed by the U.S. government during World War II, Rep. Xavier Becerra, CA-31, with Representatives Daniel Lungren, CA-3, and Mike Honda, CA-15, introduced the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act of 2006" on March 8.

If signed into law, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act of 2006 would create a commission to investigate and study the wartime violations committed by the U.S. government against JLAs during WWII and make recommendations to Congress for any appropriate remedies based on their findings.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the 1981 Commission on

Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings, the conclusions of which led to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that provided



BECERRA

an official apology and financial redress to most of the Japanese Americans who were subjected to wrongdoing and confined in U.S. internment camps during WWII.

"Eighteen years after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, there still remains unfinished work to completely rectify and close this regrettable chapter in our nation's history," said Rep. Becerra.

Between December 1941 and February 1948, approximately 2,300 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry became the victims of mass abduction and forcible deportation from 13 Latin American countries to the United States. The U.S. government orchestrated and financed the deportation of JLAs to be used as hostages in exchange for Americans held by Japan.

An identical version of Rep. Becerra's legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate Feb. 16 by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (HI). Joining Sen. Inouye on the bill were Sens. Ted Stevens (AK), Patrick Leahy (VT) and Carl Levin (MI).

"Further study of the events surrounding the deportation and incarceration of Japanese Latin Americans is both merited and necessary," said Rep. Becerra. ■

HURRICANE

(Continued from page 1)

same comments became a refrain in a universal cry for help — many received rejection letters or low payout amounts for disaster assistance from federal agencies and insurance companies. They did not know they could appeal those decisions.

The fishing community, many who are of Vietnamese and Cambodian descent, have always lived in relative isolation in Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish and did not know federal assistance existed. Business owners who felt they fared better than the fishermen discovered they were losing out on assistance.

In the Vietnamese Catholic community many generally feel grateful for what they have, mostly because they have experienced worse. They say they came with "just two hands at least twice" from North to South Vietnam and then to the United States with only the clothes on their backs, said Choi.

Current images of the devastation speak loudly of the victims' makeshift lifestyles, but in one of her many trips to the affected areas, Choi has seen fishermen fix their broken boats all day and sleep next to them at night. At the Bo De Buddhist Temple in Orleans Parish, families with small children forced others to sleep in cars.

"I couldn't believe it," said Choi, who then walked through the parking lot. "There he was, the 81-year-old fisherman wrapped up in blankets and sleeping in an SUV ..."

"What the affected APA communities lack is any broad community and political strength. They have

churches and some community leaders, but do not have the experience to approach the right agencies," said Floyd Mori, JACL director of public policy, who has visited the region along with Choi and representatives from other APA organizations.

"I was amazed at the positive attitude of these people who have lost everything. These people are very strong and have a will to get by and to work to rise above where they were when Katrina hit," said Mori who likens the hurricane victims' plight to that of World War II internees who left everything to go to camps. "We can help and will help them the best we can."

To fill in where federal assistance falls off, officials from the Legal Community Education Clinics are expecting six APA bilingual out-of-state attorneys, some regional attorneys and law students to work *pro bono* in April. Language assistance will be provided in Vietnamese, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese and possibly Cambodian. At least 200 people are expected to attend, but in the APA community where information travels rapidly by word of mouth, the number could spike.

"We hope to see some tangible help as a result of this clinic and that this will be the first of more to come," added Mori.

Other organizations involved are: National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations and National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse.

"I grew up in New Orleans in the Vietnamese community there. I am



PHOTOS COURTESY FLOYD MORI

Debris in the New Orleans area was still prevalent this March, six months after the hurricanes. Most APAs continue to rebuild despite being homeless and lacking federal resources. Tim (right) struggles to rebuild his boat. Many rebuild their boats with the help of family members and friends because they can't afford to hire contractors.



trying to do some outreach for this project because the community needs all sorts of help as I know the interests and rights of the Vietnamese and other new communities in New Orleans often get lost in the Black-White paradigm of the South; they are invisible in their own way down there," said Steve Ngo of the law offices of Minami, Lew & Tamaki.

The region's racial paradigm is one of the many obstacles that APAs come up against. Last October, Choi pointed out there was more mainstream news coverage on the plights of pets in the affected areas than APAs.

"I was pulling out my hair," she

said. "I'm an animal lover ... but at the same time, come on now!"

Timing is also crucial — the deadline to file for federal assistance was Mar. 11 and AAJC had been asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for an extension or an exception for victims identified after the deadline because of language and cultural barriers. At press time, some victims' advocates have heard that a 30-day extension is being granted, but FEMA has not officially responded to the request.

"Unless we're individually searching boat to boat ... it's impossible to find every single person," said Choi. ■

Can You Help Hurricane Victims?

Bilingual attorneys and law students (Vietnamese and Cambodian preferred) can provide invaluable language and cultural assistance.

Those interested in traveling to New Orleans and volunteering for the Legal Community Education Clinic April 1-4 should contact the JACL D.C. office: 202/223-1240 or dc@jacl.org.

Travel and lodging costs may be free for students.

UIC

(Continued from page 1)

responses from university leaders. They have also circulated petitions and are planning a campus-wide sit-in Mar. 29 to publicize their efforts.

The group has set forth a detailed timeline for the university. By the fall of 2008 they would like to see the creation of six faculty lines to develop and teach courses in an AA Studies program. By the fall of 2010 they want the establishment of an interdisciplinary major within an AA Studies program.

So far many students and professors have come out in support of an AA Studies program at UIC.

"I am very supportive of student efforts to establish AA Studies," said UIC Assistant Professor Mark Chiang, one of only two professors who currently teaches AA Studies courses at the university. "Over the last two decades, student demands and activism have spurred the establishment of most of the new AA Studies programs across the country."

"Asian American Studies is important because ... growing up, our entire education of U.S. history was taught from a Eurocentric perspective, completely leaving out the important contributions that Asian Americans and other minorities have made to this country," said UIC student Jenny Yeh, 22, AACC vice-chair. "Being left out in history allows all of us Asian Americans to feel as if we do not belong here."

The UIC campus is located in the heart of downtown Chicago and boasts an AA student population of

24.3 percent, the largest minority group on campus. Yet, UIC's Ethnic Studies Department does not include AA Studies even though African American Studies, Latin American Studies, and Native American Studies programs have long existed.

UIC's sister university, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) established an AA Studies minor program in 1997 even though their AA student population is half of UIC's with 12 percent. Even neighboring private universities Northwestern and DePaul can boast AA Studies minor programs.

UIC students believe AA Studies is too important a topic to dismiss and now is the time for their university to catch up with the other institutions.

"Even though it is downright embarrassing that Asian American students have been underserved for so long, it is hard to convince people that this fact is true," said Heather de Guia, AACC senior advisor. "The administration keeps saying that they need to see that there is student demand, but really they need to be pushed to a limit where they will be inadvertently forced to give students a broad educational system that will benefit all."

"It's an issue of priorities — I am optimistic that the university has the initiative and intellectual vision to recognize that building Asian American Studies, and Ethnic

Studies as a whole at UIC, is not doing anyone 'a favor,'" said UIC Assistant Professor Helen Jun. "It's in the best interests of an urban research university that has one of the most diverse student and local populations in the entire country."

UIC officials say they recognize the importance of an AA Studies program but current budgetary constraints have prevented them from taking action. They note that two AA Studies faculty members were

many hires are continuously being made, but none are for Asian American Studies faculty," said Yeh. "Basically, though funds have decreased, the administration continues to fund those programs which they deem important, and it is quite obvious that Asian American Studies is not one of them."

"The fact that two Asian American Studies faculty were hired at UIC despite these restrictions demonstrates a commitment to

Yet an AA Studies program may even be more important for AA students here in the Midwest since unlike on the West Coast, they do not have the same opportunities to learn about AA culture.

"The Midwest and the West Coast are entirely different," said Mita, who believes acculturation is easier to achieve on the West Coast because of the much larger AA population. "In the Midwest there is less opportunity to learn about ourselves. There is only one paragraph [about us] in our history books."

"I think there continues to be much ignorance and lack of awareness in this region in general," said Yeh. "Perhaps it is because the Asian American percentages are not as high relatively in the Midwest compared to the West Coast, but we seem to be constantly fighting ignorance and apathy that exists among faculty, staff, AND students."

Students at UIC hope the Mar. 29 protest will provide an opportunity to gain public support for their efforts to finally establish an AA Studies program at the university. They know they have a fight on their hands.

"I don't think the administration has felt enough pressure from the students or surrounding community," said Yeh of UIC's inaction. "They aren't scared of the Asian American students here, so they probably don't believe that there would be any consequences if they don't adhere to student demands."

"This has been an internal struggle within UIC. We need to create public visibility," said Mita, who expects over 200 people to attend the March rally. "This is just the beginning." ■

UIC

'They aren't scared of the Asian American students here, so they probably don't believe that there would be any consequences if they don't adhere to student demands.'

— Jenny Yeh, UIC student

hired in 2002 and in 2004 an AA Resource and Cultural Center was established.

"Asian Studies and Asian American Studies are a priority of the university but it is a budgetary issue," said UIC spokesperson Bill Burton, who noted that the other Ethnic Studies programs were developed before the cuts. "The entire campus has suffered more than \$100 million in budget cuts."

But for AACC and many in the UIC community, budgetary reasons are not good enough. Sister university UIUC has 12 core professors in its AA Studies program, and they do this with a budget of \$1.29 billion. UIC has a budget of \$1.36 billion yet only 1.5 faculty members are in AA Studies.

"Even with budget constraints,

the field, but many faculty and administrators at the school seem to feel that Asian American Studies is not a high priority at the moment," said Chiang. "Part of the reason for this lack of urgency seems to stem from the general perception that the Asian American students are a model minority, and so do not need the kinds of assistance and resources that other students might require."

Baby boomers of the 60s and 70s may recall the AA movement that helped to establish AA Studies programs throughout the United States. Now such programs are par for the course, especially on the West Coast. UCLA formed its AA Studies program in 1969 and in 2004 the UCLA Department of AA Studies was established.

• TED NAMBA •

JACL 2006: An 'Oasis'



"Paradise" was the term past National JACL President Floyd Mori used to describe Honolulu, site of the JACL 2004 national convention. For the JACL 2006 national convention, Floyd, an avid golfer might choose the term "oasis" to describe this year's convention venue, the Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa.

As you exit I-10 at Wild Horse Pass Road (exit 162), you will see the Wild Horse Pass Resort several miles south of the freeway. Driving up to the resort, you soon see a meandering river and lush green fairways from the resort's two championship 18-hole golf courses at Whirlwind. Just across the way from the clubhouse, there is the Aji Spa, which has unique Native American treatments developed from ancient rituals using ingredients such as red clay from the Gila River, and Cholla cactus buds to help purify and rejuvenate the body.

Entering the resort, you will immediately notice the beautiful murals on the high ceiling. Straight ahead through the large windows, you might see one of the 1,500 wild horses that still roam on the Gila

River Indian community. If you walk to the left, you will find an outstanding restaurant, Kai, which is the perfect place to celebrate a special occasion during the week of convention. Kai features award winning Chef James Wilder, who is renowned for creating unique and indigenous menu experiences.

Heading down to the lower level, you get a glimpse of the large pool, which features a waterslide that is a replica of the Casa Grande Ruins. Also, you will notice a canal boat that takes guests from the resort to the nearby Gila River Casinos (if you enjoy slots, blackjack, poker and bingo). There is also the Koli Equestrian Center on the property and the nearby Huhugam Heritage Center, which is a wonderful place that tells the stories of the history, cultures and language of the peoples of the Gila River Indian Community (Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh), and honors the ancient Huhugam.

Now, we all know that our biennial JACL national conventions are all about getting together for the national council meetings but we also realize that after meeting all day on Thursday and Saturday, it will be a

nice treat to stay at a beautiful resort where we can enjoy good food and fun activities.

Speaking of good food, our Sayonara Banquet Committee Chair Dr. Richard Matsuishi has tasted all three courses, which will be served at the gala Sayonara Banquet and is very confident that everyone will thoroughly enjoy this elegant meal.

National JACL Executive Director John Tateishi has secured a great convention rate of just \$95 per night for this four-star resort. Room rates at the Wild Horse Pass Resort this time of year are more than quadruple our convention rate (check www.wildhorsepass.com).

Let's work hard at JACL 2006, have some fun, and treat ourselves by staying at this fabulous resort at a super rate!

On second thought, Floyd might call Wild Horse Pass Resort something other than an "oasis" after hitting a few golf balls into the river or lakes when he plays a round at Whirlwind...

See you at convention! ■

Ted Namba is the chairperson of the 2006 national JACL convention in Arizona.

• TODD SATO •

Youth Activities at Convention



Do you know what you are doing over the summer? I have an idea on how to spend one week of your summer vacation. Come out to the Biennial JACL National Convention in Arizona. If you are wondering what is going to happen for the youth other than soaking up the Arizona sun by the pool then keep reading.

Some of the activities that are being planned will test your knowledge of JACL and the Japanese American community. I know that you have either seen parts of the whole show of "Jeopardy" and/or "Family Feud." Imagine the categories are all about JACL or Japanese American community related. I guarantee that these games will test your knowledge and you will have a fun time.

Other activities that are being planned will not test your knowledge but it will test other skills you have acquired, like using hashi. One of these games is the Azuki Bean Hashi Race, where the objective is to get all the azuki beans from one end to the other end. Another fun activity will use a classic character:

Godzilla. This is where your creative sides come out, taking dots candy and toothpicks to create your own version of Godzilla.

To remind you all, these activities are still in the early planning stages, nothing has been finalized and there is still enough time to create more activities or take out some. I am still taking suggestions on which activity or game you feel would be fun.

I hope this will get you excited to see that there is something for the youth, other than walking around Wild Horse Pass and soaking in the Arizona sun by the pool. In addition to the activities for the youth there is the Youth Luncheon and the youth workshop. I encourage all the youth to go to their local chapter and district and find some way to get to Arizona in June. Start fundraising now!

If you want more information about convention or any of the national youth/student programs, please do not hesitate to contact me, youthrep@jacl.org.

See you all in Arizona. ■

Todd Sato is the national JACL youth representative.



The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa is a four-diamond resort that includes two 18-hole golf courses. The Gila River Casino is also just a short boat ride away.

Blessing, Dedication Ceremony for Bainbridge Island JA Memorial Set For Mar. 30

Leaders from six different faiths will consecrate and dedicate the land prior to construction of the first phase of the "Nidoto Nai Yoni — Let it not happen again" Japanese American Memorial on Bainbridge Island.

The Mar. 30 special ceremony will be held from 10-11 a.m. at the

site of the former Eagledale Ferry landing on Bainbridge Island.

The Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council — whose organization seven years ago initially proposed creating a memorial to honor the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to be forcibly removed from their homes and displaced to internment camps — will be joined by members of the Bainbridge Island Buddhist Temple; the Islamic Center of Washington, Idriss Mosque; the Kol Shalom congregation; the Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America & Tsubaki Kannagara Jinja; the Suquamish tribe; the Seattle Baptist Church; and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

This American story began on March 30, 1942, when 227 Bainbridge Island men, women and children were gathered up by armed U.S. Army soldiers and taken to the Eagledale Ferry Landing. There they boarded the ferry Kehloken and departed on a lonely journey with an unknown destination and fate.

These Bainbridge Island families were the first of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans — two-thirds of them U.S. citizens — to be exiled from the West Coast.

The National Parks Service has completed a two-year study that could lead to the memorial becoming a satellite unit of the National Parks System. To date, the \$5 million memorial project has raised more than \$2.1 million — \$1.1 million for development and \$1 million for land. A scale model of the proposed national memorial will be on display at the event. ■

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Booster	<input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club	<input type="checkbox"/> National Board/Staff	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Masaoka Fellow	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			

Mail Check and this form together to: JACL 2006 - Registration
P.O. Box 3455
Phoenix, AZ 85030-3455

Make check payable to JACL 2006

- or -

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

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

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

Registration Fees

CONVENTION PACKAGE REGISTRATION (includes Individual Events listed below)

	Before 4/30	After 4/30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package	\$225	\$250	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package	\$115	\$125	\$

(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	\$

(Join the AZ Nikkei Golf Club at the Whirlwind Golf Course on June 25, 2006)



Convention Package	\$
Individual Events	\$
Special Events	\$
Total	\$

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

For office use only:

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

Last Call for Submissions for San Jose Japantown Book

Later this year the San Jose Japantown History Book will be available featuring a collection of images, stories and information about one of the last remaining Japantowns in the United States. This will be the last chance for anyone wanting to contribute materials or photos to this project to contact the committee.

For the past several years, the team of Curt Fukuda, Jim Nagareda, Janice Oda and Ward Shimizu has been conducting interviews, archiving photos and researching the 100-plus years of the only Japantown that exists in its original location. Readers will enjoy the comprehensive written history and the largest collection of unprecedented photos from public and private collections.

The participation of the community is essential to the success of this legacy project. The project committee is still looking for photos in and around San Jose Japantown, news



Marching Band on the NE corner of 5th and Jackson Street, Sept. 3, 1927. Photo courtesy of the Mineta Family.

clippings, and family documents which illustrate the people, places and events that distinguish this community.

Materials can be scanned and returned within a short amount of time. To date, numerous recorded interviews, hundreds of photos and countless hours of research have already been completed.

Proceeds from this project will benefit the Japanese American

Museum of San Jose and other community organizations. Updates on the release date for the book will be available later this year.

For more information on the project, visit http://smithfu.com/gallery_nihonmachi.htm. For submissions please contact Jim Nagareda 408/971-6456, e-mail: NagaStudio@aol.com or Janice Oda 408/261-9110, e-mail: JaniceOda@aol.com. ■

Fresno Hosts Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project DOR Dinner

A Day of Remembrance dinner sponsored by the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee to remember the forced exclusion and detention of Japanese Americans during World War II was held recently in Fresno, Calif.

The Pinedale Committee hopes to establish an appropriate memorial at the site of the former Pinedale Assembly Center. The committee's fund-raising goal for the dinner was to raise \$17,000 towards the cost to acquire State Historic Landmark No. 934 and to develop and display interpretive materials about internment, the Nisei soldiers, and Redress at the site. With generous sponsors including County Bank and United Security Bank, the committee raised over \$20,000.

James Ardaiz, presiding justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal and chair of the Pinedale Advisory Committee, was the keynote speaker. Justice Ardaiz has done extensive research about the internment of Japanese Americans and the accom-



Joan Conway (center), District Manager for Assemblyman Juan Arambula presents a resolution to Judge Dale Ikeda (left) and Justice James Ardaiz of the 5th Court of Appeal. Photo courtesy of Robert Shintaku

plishments of the JA soldiers during WWII.

"Marking the Pinedale Assembly Center is important ... to ensure that the lesson of Order 9066 never be lost to the shadows of history else how will we aspire to not repeat history's failures?" said Ardaiz.

Joan Conway, district manger for

Rep. Juan Arambula, presented a resolution from four State Senators and four Assemblymembers prepared by Sen. Chuck Poochigian.

The Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee is planning another Day of Remembrance dinner to be held Feb. 17, 2007. ■

White House Commission Encourages AAPI Seniors to Call Medicare Prescription Coverage Multilingual Helpline

The President's Advisory Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is on the road to urge AAPI seniors nationwide to take advantage of the new Medicare Prescription Drugs coverage.

"The Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 is the most comprehensive change to the Medicare system since its inception in 1965," said Jimmy Lee, executive director for the White House Initiative for AAPIs. "Many people who don't have prescription drug coverage are unaware that they can save thousands of dollars on the cost of their medications under the new Medicare Part D Benefit."

Everyone on Medicare is eligible to join a drug plan under Medicare Prescription Drugs coverage (Part D). Under Part D, there are many drug plans to choose from and for the AAPI populations, this can be somewhat complicated without someone's assistance.

The Commission strongly

encourages AAPI Medicare beneficiaries to call the NAPCA Multilingual Helpline for individual assistance in finding and enrolling in the most suitable plan before the enrollment deadline on May 15.

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) is a national non-profit organization and a leading advocate for Asian Pacific American seniors. The NAPCA Helpline was set up specifically to help AAPI seniors navigate through the Medicare Part D process so that they can have access to the best plans for their specific situation.

Over 20,000 seniors have called the NAPCA Helpline and got the assistance they needed from bilingual counselors in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and English.

"We've helped a number of API seniors who will save anywhere from a couple of hundred dollars to a couple of thousand dollars a year on their prescription drugs," said Clayton Fong, president and CEO of NAPCA. "In one case NAPCA helped a Vietnamese senior enroll in a plan that will reduce the monthly cost of her five prescriptions from over \$300 to just \$16. ■

NAPCA Toll-free Multilingual Helpline:

English: 800/336-2722

Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin): 800/582-4218

Korean: 800/582-4259

Vietnamese: 800/582-4336

Reserve a Seat for the April 29 Manzanar Pilgrimage

Seat reservations on the 60 passenger air-conditioned bus for the April 29 Manzanar Pilgrimage are now being accepted.

On that morning, the bus will depart from Little Tokyo, Los Angeles at 6:30 a.m. All passengers are expected to be at the departure point by 6:15 a.m. They will return to the same place at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Participants must bring their own lunch, drink and snacks as there are no facilities to purchase food at Manzanar National Historic Site. The bus will have restroom accommodations and water will be provided at the site.

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. Confirmation letters will be mailed to individuals who have a reserved seat. Others will be placed on the waiting list.

The theme for this year's program is "Footsteps in the Hallway: The Effect of Internment on America's Youth."

To reserve a seat, make a pre-paid, non-refundable fee of \$25 payable to the "Manzanar Committee." Payments must be mailed before April 9. For address and information, call: 818/894-7723. ■

On the web: www.manzanarcommittee.org.



This Interfaith Service was a highlight of the 2001 Manzanar Pilgrimage. The 2006 pilgrimage takes places April 29.



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'Through practice, diseases like high blood pressure and heart disease can be eased, even cured.' — Lin Senlin about ice swimming



China's Ice Swimmers Splash Their Way Through Winter

By AUDRA ANG
Associated Press Writer

HARBIN, China—It's so cold it hurts to breathe, but Wu Jing wears only a purple swimsuit and ruby-red high heels as she struts around a pool cut into river ice two feet thick.

In minutes, she will join a dozen other swimmers in the frigid Songhua River, part of a twice-daily show where performers ham it up on diving boards made of ice blocks covered in hemp sacks before splashing into an 80-foot by 30-foot hole cut in the ice.

Wu waves to warmly dressed people who paid the equivalent of \$3.50 each to watch the show. It's zero degrees Fahrenheit under the morning sun.

Harbin is a hot destination when it's cold, drawing millions of tourists each year to a winter festival whose highlights include replicas of world monuments painstakingly modeled out of ice. Think Arc de Triomphe and Big Ben lookalikes.

There's an ice carving competition, a Siberian tiger park, sledding and a restaurant made of ice, where customers cook meat and vegetables in boiling broth at the table.

Winter swimming began in China in the late 1940s and has unexpectedly taken off, said Lin Senlin of the China National Swimming Association's Winter Swimming Committee. He said there are now about 200,000 registered amateur ice swimmers in China — mostly retirees — although there are likely more unofficial participants.

The purported health benefits are the main draw, he asserted: "Through practice, diseases like high blood pressure and heart disease can be eased, even cured."

Wu Jing, the 52-year-old "Queen of Ice Swimming," said the activity helped her get over a divorce and realize her lifelong dream of being in the spotlight. She said she got her nickname from Russian ice swimmers when she beat them in a competition in the 1990s.

The swimmers, mostly aged 50 to 70, perform between December and March, and are paid 75 cents for each show. ■

BASEBALL

Mariners' Manager Wouldn't Mind Ichiro Speaking Out Again

By GREGG BELL
AP Sports Writer

PEORIA, Ariz.—Ichiro Suzuki rarely spoke a critical word about the Seattle Mariners during his first five U.S. Major League Baseball seasons until he walked into manager Mike Hargrove's office after Seattle's second consecutive 90-loss, last-place season and complained about the club's direction and teammates' preparation.

Hargrove initially wasn't sure Suzuki's venting would be worthwhile.

"Yeah, initially it was kind of 50-50," the manager said before Japan's national team played the Mariners in an exhibition game Mar. 8. "Then, as we all thought about it, we said, 'Yeah, that was beneficial.'"

"It was a fair discussion. Both of us got to say some things that we probably wanted to say for a long time. None of it (was) animosity."

Suzuki hit .303 with 206 hits last season — pretty good, but well shy of his U.S.-record 262 hits the previous year.

"For me, rather than keeping something inside, it's better to get things out in the open," Suzuki said through interpreter Ken Barron. "Now that things are out in the open, I feel really good right now, ready for the next season."

'For me, rather than keeping something inside, it's better to get things out in the open.'



son."

So good and ready, he has noticeably taken a leadership role with his national team. He jokes with his teammates on the field. He yells encouragement, willingly accepts the spotlight. At times in interviews, his voice has been hoarse from all the chatter.

"I think I should have been shouting more in the past. I think this husky tone is pretty cool," he said. "I've never been officially named captain by the manager. But if you look at my experience in baseball, I'm definitely the veteran on the team."

Suzuki played nine years in Japan, then joined the Mariners in 2001 and was voted MLB's American League Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player. ■

BASKETBALL

Yao Ming Named China's No. 1 Celebrity in Forbes

NBA star Yao Ming topped *Forbes* magazine's annual mainland Chinese celebrity rankings for the second consecutive year.

The *Forbes* annual ranking is based on income and media exposure within China.

According to *Forbes*, Yao raked in US \$21.1 million in 2005. He was showed on Chinese TV 228



times, mentioned in newspapers 8,050 times and made four magazine covers. Yao was searched on the Internet nearly 4 million times.

His No. 1 spot was helped by his new deal with the Houston Rockets.

The center signed a five-year contract worth more than US \$75 million in September. ■

FIGURE SKATING

Kim Wins First South Korean Gold at Figure Skating Worlds

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia—Kim Yu-na upset defending champion Mao Asada of Japan Mar. 9 to win the women's crown at the World Junior Figure Skating Championship — South Korea's first title at a major international skating event.

"I still cannot believe today that I am in first place," said Kim.



The 15-year-old Kim skated to the tune of Paul Williams' "Papa, Can you Hear Me," landing five triple jumps, including a double axel-triple toe loop-double toe loop combination. ■

Stories by P.C. Staff and
Associated Press



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PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2006

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| May 22-31 | Yamato Canadian Rockies by Rail Tour with Collette Vacations - 10 days/9 nights British Columbia, Victoria, Vancouver, Rocky Mountaineer® Train, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary.
Sharon Seto |
| 6/25-7/2 | Yamato Alaskan Cruise aboard Holland America's Westerdam - 8 days/7 nights. Seattle, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria.
Peggy Mikuni |
| 7/3-7/15 | Yamato Hokkaido Tour - Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate.
Peggy Mikuni |
| 7/17-7/28 | Yamato Summer Tour to Japan - 12 days/10 nights. Tokyo, Kanazawa, Wakura Onsen, Takayama, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
Peggy Mikuni |
| 7/8-7/14 | Yamato South Dakota Tour with Collette Vacations - 7 days/6 nights. The Black Hills & Badlands, including Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial and Deadwood.
Grace Sakamoto |
| 8/16-8/26 | Yamato Alaska Cruise Tour aboard Holland America's Zuiderdam - 7-day land tour/ 4-day cruise. By motorcoach from Anchorage, McKinley Explorer rail to Denali National Park and Fairbanks, motorcoach to Beaver Creek, Whitehorse, cruise from Skagway to Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, Inside Passage, and disembark in Vancouver. |
| 9/15-9/26 | Yamato Italian Lakes & Greek Islands with Collette Vacations - 12 days/10 nights. Milan, Stresa (Lago Maggiore), Como, Venice, 7 night Mediterranean cruise including Bari, Katakolon, Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes, Dubrovnik, Venice, Verona. |
| 9/28-10/6 | Yamato Exclusive Canada/East Coast Fall Foliage Tour - 9 days/8 nights. Portland, Maine, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, Verona, Cooperstown, Newport Rhode Island. Tour Director: Lily Nomura |
| 10/2-10/16 | Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - Kyoto, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Beppu, Kumamoto, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Tokyo.
Peggy Mikuni |
| 10/12-10/23 | Yamato Best of Spain Tour - 12 days/10 nights. Barcelona, Bilbao, Burgos, Madrid, La Mancha, Cordoba, Seville, Jerez, Costa del Sol, Granada and Toledo.
Philippe Theriault |
| Nov. 2-16 | Yamato South Pacific Wonders Tour with Collette Vacations - 15 days/12 nights. Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook and Christchurch. |
| December | Yamato Best of Branson - Including Shoji Tabuchi, Mike Ito with the Baldknobbers, Chinese Acrobats, Andy Williams and more! |

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VERY TRULY YOURS



Mainland's Kansha Project at Bat - 'In Good Conscience'

TO BORROW SOME baseball terms, in the dugout there were some extraordinary people who went to bat for us after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Mainland Nisei culled their memories and stories about them that became the "Kansha Project."

In telling these stories, MIS NorCal scores high with publishing this monumental book, "In Good Conscience: Supporting Japanese Americans during the Internment," 308 pages, authored by Shizue Seigel. MIS NorCal assumed the project "because many of us Nisei during WWII volunteered from the very internment camps where we were unjustly incarcerated," Col. Harry Fukuhara (ret.) writes in the preface. "We dedicate the book to those who extended kindness to us and our families when we needed it the most."

Here are some names that are relatively unknown to this column. Dr. Roger Daniels of Cincinnati praised the book as "a most worthwhile effort as it focuses on the all-but-forgotten few outsiders who stood by the Japanese American community during their wartime ordeal."

Roscoe & Gladys Bell of Berkeley, Calif., spent three years at Topaz with their children, ages 6 to 14 at the time. Being on the War Board, Roscoe knew with nearly 90 percent of crops in California grown on Japanese farms, any mass removal of JAs would seriously impact the nation's supply of produce. He remembered his shock that the government was planning to go ahead with the eviction. Then in July the U.S. government closed its California office of Agricultural Economics where he was in charge. Abruptly jobless, but told

of an opening as chief of agriculture at Topaz in central Utah, soil-scientist Roscoe applied and was accepted. His agricultural program of truck crops, tofu-making, egg farm and hog operation produced food-stuffs totaling \$200,000 per year. The children attended school with internees.

Helen Ely had landed her first job in 1939 teaching at Compton High, where a third of the student body was JA. Instead of accepting one of three tenures offered by the school district, she told the superintendent she was leaving for a place called Manzanar "to be with her Nisei students." She came from a family with a tradition of activism. Her grandmother's barn in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had been a stop on the Underground Railway.

Mrs. Nellie Nakamura from Los Altos recalled the prewar relationships of **Earl and Marjorie Minton** of Mountain View that began in 1920 with the local Japanese community. Earl donated the lumber and served as chief architect to build the Japanese Community Church. Marjorie gave free piano lessons. One of her students passed on her hopes to her son, Kent Nagano, now a celebrated conductor of classical music.

Pansy Ham was a volunteer Sunday school teacher at the Japanese Christian Church in San Bernardino. Phyllis Mizuhara remembered her as a successful painter and a high school teacher who taught the social graces, "skills most of us had not learned at home," and dancing to young adults. Her position as administrator of the Japanese mission lasted until 1942, but she did not abandon the community as recounted in her essay that won second place in a competition sponsored by the California Civil Liberties Public

Education Program.

Claude and Florence Mount of Glendale, Calif., were elementary school educators, who hired Harry Fukuhara as a "schoolboy" in 1939. He did chores while living at their home, a short commute to Glendale Junior College. Glendale then was a well-to-do, all-white community and Harry recalled Dec. 7 changed his life almost immediately. His mother and brothers were in Japan. He quit school, found it hard to land a job to support his sister and her daughter who had come from Seattle and stayed with the Mounts until May, when they were sent to the assembly center in Tulare.

Mrs. Mount wrote faithfully to Harry, then a MIS specialist in the Pacific. On a USO tour in early 1944, John Wayne was surprised to see Nisei soldiers fighting in New Guinea. When the film star returned to California, he phoned the Mounts, relating the important role that Nisei were doing. "Exploits of the 100th and 442nd were not yet known, so the Mounts were proud to spread the news of Japanese American contributions in the Pacific to the war effort," Harry noted. ■

For a copy of "In Good Conscience," contact AACF, P.O. Box 1587, 529 E. Third Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401, soft cover (\$26.95) and limited hard cover (\$39.95), resident CA sales tax, shipping and handling extra, 800/874-2242.



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Award to Help Playwright Tell JA Story

Playwrights of Japanese descent with American or Canadian citizenship are encouraged to apply for the Ruby Yoshino Schaar Playwright Award, established by the New York JACL.

The Ruby Yoshino Schaar Biennium Playwright Award was established in 1984 to encourage talented playwrights to tell the story of the Japanese American or Japanese Canadian experience in North America.

Yoshino Schaar was a vocal artist, a teacher of voice and a fighter for social justice. During her lifetime, her vocal talents were always used to promote a positive image for those of Japanese ancestry.

At the start of her career in Alameda, Calif., Ruby participated in musical programs in her community and starred in student productions. She continued to pursue her studies in music at the University of

California, Berkeley.

After World War II, Yoshino Schaar worked with various groups to smooth the Nikkei's transition from these camps to the "outside" world.

In 1946, Ruby pursued her musical career in New York City. As one of the few JA vocal artists performing at that time, she was a pioneer in paving the way for recognition of future Nikkei artists. She also taught voice to many aspiring actors and actresses soon to achieve recognition.

She was also active in the JACL and was instrumental in rejuvenating the New York chapter, where she served as chapter president and executive director.

Upon her Aug. 26, 1987 death, Yoshino Schaar and the JACL had a common goal to leave a legacy to ensure that the story of the Japanese minority would be told and understood by future generations. ■

Ruby Yoshino Schaar Playwright Award

• Manuscripts are restricted to one per applicant and are to be accompanied by a completed application form postmarked no later than April 1.

• Applicants must be of Japanese descent with American or Canadian citizenship and sponsored by an active member of JACL or a chapter of JACL.

• The applicant must have had at least one of his/her plays presented in a public forum, such as an established theater, workshop or formal reading.

• Any play theatrically produced before Jan. 1, 2004, will not be considered.

• Manuscripts will be judged for dramatic excellence and insight into the JA or Japanese Canadian experience. Historical or sociological data should have a factual basis.

Send only a clear copy of the typed manuscript in a professional format. Do not send originals. Applications are available from the National JACL Web site (www.jacl.org) or from New York JACL: New York JACL, 75 Grove Street, Bloomfield NJ 07003. Forms and manuscripts should be mailed to the New York JACL.

For more information, contact Lillian Kimura at 973/680-1441 or lkimura@att.net.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

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

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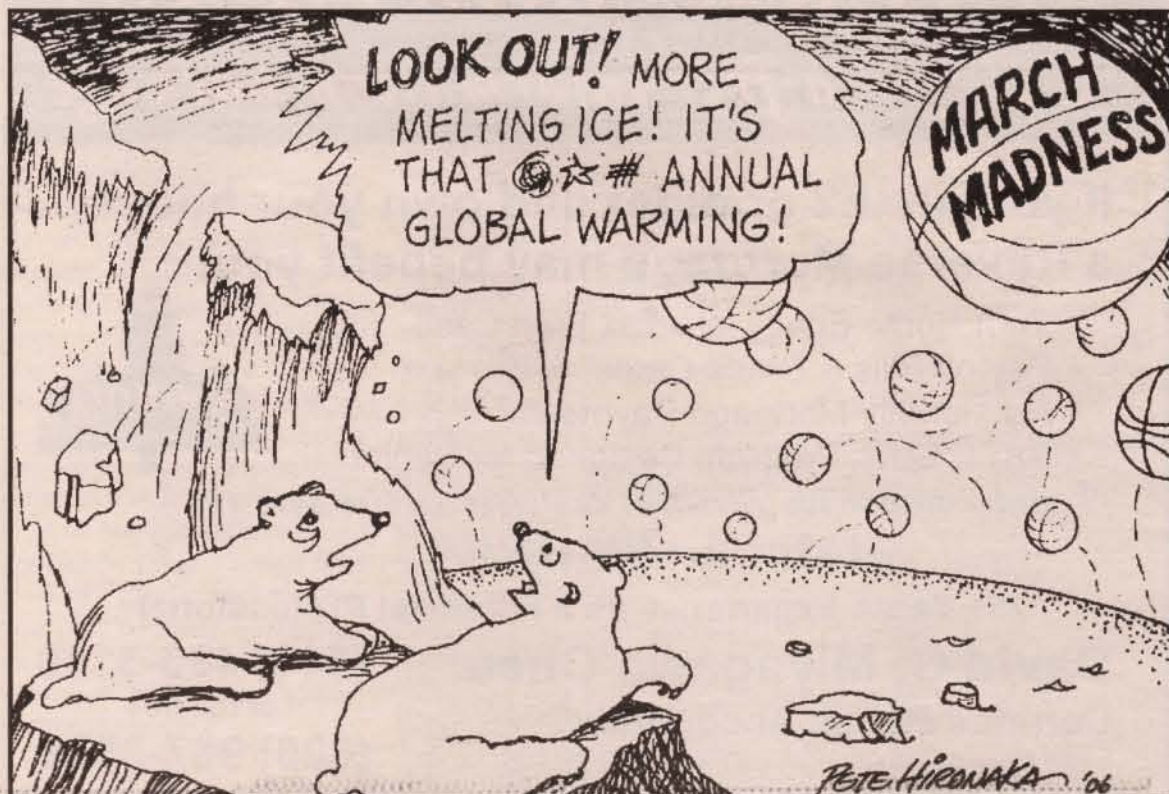
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It's every parent's worst nightmare: 13-year-old Megumi Yokota was last seen waving goodbye to a friend while on the way back to her Niigata, Japan home — then she was gone. Her mysterious journey into the unknown, now almost into its 30th year, captivated the attention of and strained relations between two countries.

But when Chris Sheridan and Patty Kim first came across the story in a newspaper snippet, they saw more than a sensational mystery steeped with politics — they saw human drama.

"There are real people involved," said Sheridan. "A 13-year-old child. I think about the headspace I was in when I was that age and it's every parent's worst nightmare, but for a child of that age who's afraid of the boogeyman type figure that snatches us from our bed in the middle of the night ... that's terrifying."

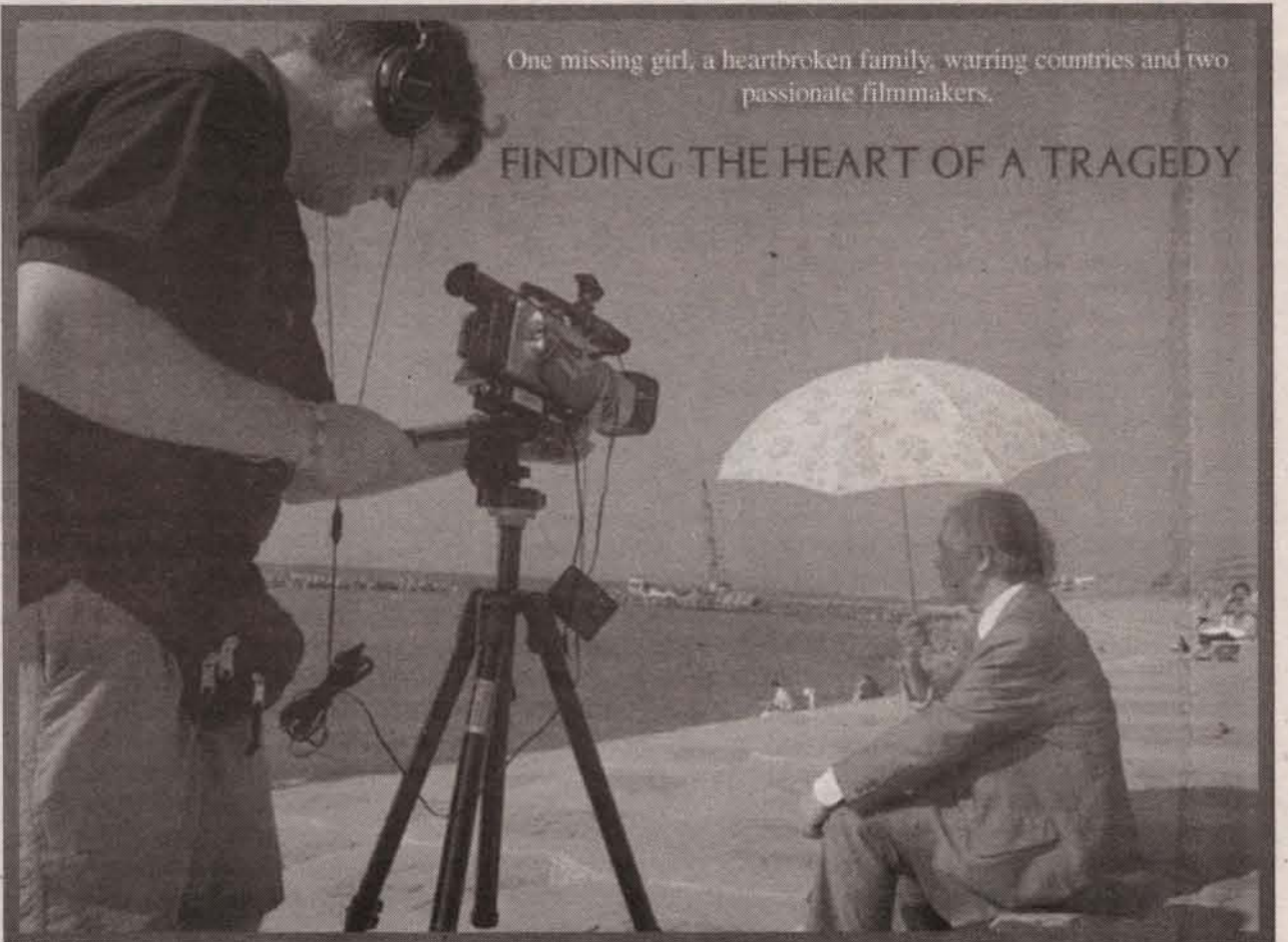
Megumi, a girl who loved to sing and laugh, was one of the 13 Japanese citizens abducted between 1977-82 by North Korean spies to teach language and culture. Her life and her long-suffering family were side notes to the political drama until Sheridan and Kim focused their cameras on the Yokotas' plight for the documentary, "Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story."

"Her parents describe her as the light of their lives. She was the oldest of two younger brothers, who are twins," said Sheridan, a Washington, D.C. based television producer and filmmaker. "Her parents said when she disappeared, the dinners were quieter ... she's one of those kids who you know would've been successful and loyal to her family."

"Here was this little family dragged into this political web of deceit. I think if I were to present this story as a Hollywood script people would say it could never happen. But it did," he said.

Above all, they wanted to bring this story to a Western audience.

To make, "Abduction," the husband and wife team traveled to and from



PHOTOS COURTESY SAFARI FILMS

Japan over the course of a year.

"We looked at our credit cards to see how much room was on there, begged a few people and just did it," said Sheridan. Much of the film's \$450,000 budget came from the filmmakers who jointly shot, produced, directed, and edited the film. Kim is a freelance filmmaker with *National Geographic*.

"We never fought like the way we did while making this film," said Sheridan. "But the best about it is we loved the end results."

"I'm like the steering wheel and she's the engine."

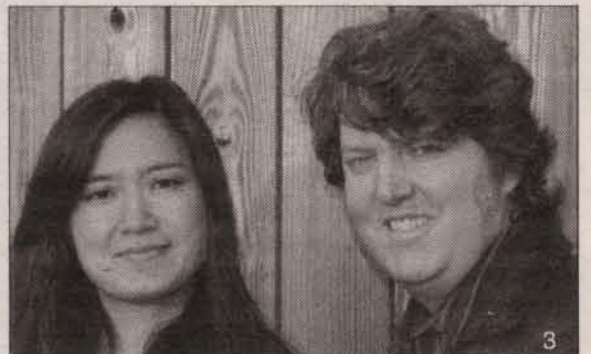
"Abduction," which will screen this month at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, won over its biggest fan — famed filmmaker Jane Campion, who climbed on board as executive producer. The creative partnership actually took root nearly 20 years ago when Kim saw Campion's film "Sweetie" and decided to write her a letter, which led to a pen pal relationship of sorts.

"Then, out of the blue, I think she said she was making this film and that she met Chris and they were married," Campion said. "Patty and Chris said, 'Can we send you some material to have a look at?' And when Patty sent it, I was very excited by the material because it was unusually beautifully shot and had really captured my attention, the subject of it."

The documentary is set up to allow the audience to go through the same emotional highs and lows as the subjects involved. Questions of Megumi's fate continually resurface in heartbreaking interviews and shocking revelations. To peel away the layers of the story, the filmmakers formed a deep connection with the Yokotas.

"The families were open to talking, but their concept of a documentary was so different. They were used to press conferences and formal interviews. We had to tell them 'No. We want the in-between stuff. Americans aren't going to connect with you if you're dressed in a suit and tie sitting down at a table. They want to see you as you really are.' At first, it was really difficult for them to understand, but they were able to relax and we would go into their home a lot to film those 'in-between' moments," said Sheridan.

They also convinced a Japanese television network to open up its archives, which provides some of the key moments in the documentary including footage of the



1. Shigeru and Sakie in happier times with all their children: Megumi and twins Takuya and Tetsuya Yokota.

2. Chris Sheridan films Megumi's parents looking out to sea. This is the area that their daughter was abducted by North Korean spies nearly 30 years ago.

3. Sheridan calls his wife Patty 'the engine.'

Yokotas making a plea on a missing person's television show for their daughter's return. Sheridan and Kim popped the tape in and the emotions overflowed.

"If we didn't get the archival footage there wouldn't be a film. It's really indicative of the roller coaster you go on as filmmakers," he said.

Over the years, there has been much speculation about what happened to Megumi. Stories have emerged about how she may have been locked in the room of a ship bound for North Korea where she hysterically scratched at the door until her fingernails broke off. Others claimed to have seen her alive in North Korea, but the fate of the little girl seen in one haunting photo wistfully looking into the snowy distance is still wrapped up in mystery.

"The fact that a child was taken illustrates the brutality and the criminal act. Who would do that?" said Sheridan.

Filmmakers Chris Sheridan and Patty Kim will participate in a panel discussion at the **San Francisco Asian American Film Festival** Mar. 20 and screen "Abduction" Mar. 21. For more info: www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org and www.safarimedia.net.

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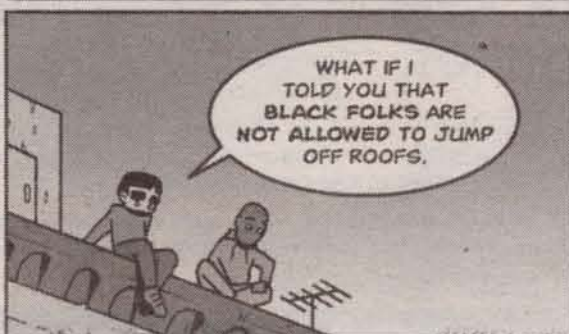


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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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Calendar

National

CHANDLER, Ariz.

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

SAN FRANCISCO

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

East Coast

NEW YORK

Sat., Mar. 25—Day of Remembrance 2006, 25th Anniversary of the Japanese American Congressional Redress Hearings, "Redress, Relections and Connections"; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; University Settlement, Houston Street Center, 273 Bowery, classrooms 2 and 3; free admission, donations welcome. Info: Tsuya Yee, tanguri@hotmail.com or 212/229-5712 ext. 3005.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Mar. 25—Annual Installation/Graduate Recognition Dinner; 6 p.m.; H. K. Golden Phoenix Restaurant, 911 Race St.; Speakers include Julie Nishimura, Danny Peak and John Tateishi. Info: Toshi Abe, 609/683-9489.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Through Mar. 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/free-

domwalk/index.html.

Midwest

GRANADA

Sat., May 20—Amache Spring Pilgrimage; 11 a.m. arrival at Amache camp site and ceremony, noon Granada High School and program, 1:30 p.m. Amache museum tour; potluck with refreshments provided by Friends of Amache; \$20/person. Info: Jim Hada, 303/237-2159.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

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

Northern California

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Apr. 8—Lecture, "Japanese Design Accents for Your Home and Wardrobe"; 10 a.m.; Parkview Presbyterian Church, 727 T St.; \$5 donation; trunk show and sale of decorative pieces will follow between 11-3 p.m. Info: 916/427-2841 or www.john-marshall.to.

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.

Mon., Mar. 27—Health Education Seminar, Keep Your Heart Healthy; 2-3:30 p.m.; Kimochi, Inc, 1840 Sutter St. (JCCNC); speakers include Donna Lew and Maria Maranon, both of the American Heart Association; free; Japanese translation will be provided. RSVP to 415/931-2294.



Citizen 13559: The Journal of Ben Uchida, a World Premiere Kennedy Center Original Production is now playing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

SAN JOSE

Sat., April 8—Poetry Event, Haiku in the Teahouse; haiku workshop from 10-noon, featured poets start at 1 p.m.; Japanese Friendship Garden, Kelley Park, 1300 Senter Rd.; featuring Fay Aoyagi and Wendy Wright; free and open to the public. \$6 parking; sponsored by the Poetry Center San Jose, teh Yuki Teikei Haiku Society and the City of San Jose, PRNS. Info: Roger Abe, 408/779-5783.

Southern California

CALABASAS

Sun., May 7—Hawaiian Feather Lei Making; 2-3:30 p.m.; Soka University, 26800 W. Mulholland Hwy.; serves as a prerequisite for three workshops on July 2, 9, 16; free and open to the public. Reservations and info: 818/878-3741 or nativegarden@soka.edu.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Mar. 18—Book reading and lecture, "The Life of Isamu Noguchi"; RESCHEDULED FROM FEB. 19; 2 p.m.; JANM; Masayo Duus and Peter Duus, who collaborated on the biography, will talk about the life and times of Isamu Noguchi. Info: 213/625-0414 or www.janm.org.

Through Mar. 19—Sweeney Todd at



Registration is being accepted for the Pacific Southwest District JACL's 1st Golf Tournament. Call 213/626-4471 for more info.

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.

MONTEREY PARK

Sat.-Sun., April 22-23—Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival; 11-6 p.m.; Barnes Park, 350 S. McPherrin Ave. Info: Dan Costley, 626/307-2541 or ci.monterey-park.ca.us/home/index.asp?page=812.

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.

WEST COVINA

Sat., May 6—2006 Cherry Blossom Festival; noon-7 p.m.; West Covina Civic Center Courtyard, 1444 W. Garvey Ave.; free parking.

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, nighthuntress17@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.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

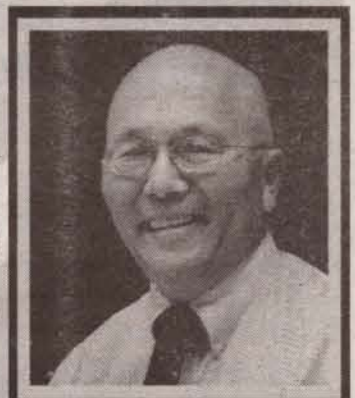
Oct. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel in downtown; will feature a golf tournament, workshops, a welcome reception and a Saturday evening dinner dance; hosted by Las Vegas JACL; open to everyone. Registration info to come. ■

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DEATH NOTICE

HIDEO MAYEDA

LOS ANGELES — Hideo Mayeda, 78, a Los Angeles-born Nisei resident of the city, passed away Mar. 2 at Huntington Memorial Hospital. He was a U.S. Army (Sergeant - Reconnaissance group) and was a member of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans Association, the Uptown chapter of the Southern California Gardeners Association and the APAN chapter of the JACL. He is survived by his wife, Hiroko; sons, Gary (fiance Chris Vuu) and Glenn; brothers, Ray (Rose), Kenzo and Toyone (Ann); sister, Koharu; sister-in-law, Itsuko; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Funeral services were held Mar. 10 at Rose Hills Memorial Park Hillside Chapel under the direction of Rose Hills Mortuary with Rev. George Matsubayashi officiating.

IN MEMORIAM

Former Gardena City Councilman Mas Fukai Passes

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Former Gardena City Councilman Mas Fukai who served on the council for 28 years has died. He was 79.

Fukai died Mar. 5 at Community Hospital in Gardena after a lengthy illness though a precise cause

of death was not given. Fukai's health had steadily gotten worse after suffering a stroke in 1995.

Fukai was praised by many as a leader in the city and in the Japanese American community, especially spearheading youth issues and issues affecting JAs.



"He was synonymous with somebody who was somebody," said Gardena Mayor Paul Tanaka in an interview with the *Daily Breeze*. "Everyone knew Mas Fukai. If you needed something you could call him up. He could take care of it."

Fukai was born on Jan. 2, 1927, in the city of Gardena. He and his family owned a farm prior to World War II when they were relocated to an internment camp in Gila, Arizona.

While in camp he joined the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of corporal. He returned to Gardena in 1947. He went on to enjoy a lengthy career in the insurance industry. He first ran for Gardena City Council in 1974.

Fukai is survived by his wife Yuri, son Rick and daughter Janice. Private funeral services were held.

In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Arai, Sakai "Saki," 100, Gardena, Feb. 2; survived by sons, Ross (Cindy) and Jun (Erni); daughters, Riki (Tadamas) Tsuboi and Meiko (Yuji) Masumiya; 13 gc.; 14 ggc.; sister, Hide Hamaguchi; brother-in-law, Roy (Hanna) Yoshitomi; and sister-in-law, Teru Nakashima.

Embrey, Gary Kinya, 48, Feb. 11; survived by girlfriend, Adrienne Benedict; mother, Sue; brother, Bruce (Barbara).

Hamamoto, June M., 72, Los Angeles, Feb. 2; survived by husband, William; son, Dean; daughters, Vicki (Alex Nurse) Hamamoto and Gwen (Michael) Hering; sister, Mildred Iwasaki; and sister-in-law, Mary Hamamoto.

Harada, Genzo, 84, Los Angeles, Jan. 30; MIS Korean Conflict veteran; survived by wife, Mary Ann; son, Keith (Sharon); daughter, Gayle (Larry) Jue; 4 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brothers, Jack (Faye) and Robert (Fumi).

Harada, Henry Chikashi, 79, Monterey Park, Feb. 22; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Michiko; son, Mike; daughters, Kathy (Alon) Carmel and Carol (Michael) Ardelyan; 3 gc.; and sister, Claire Nakashima.

Hayashi, Frank, 81, Los Angeles, Feb. 5; survived by daughters, Dale, Joey (Matt) Woods and Debbie; 3 gc.; sister, Sachiko (Frank) Kato; and sisters-in-law, Tomoye Hayashi and Kyoko Hayashi.

Higuchi, Sumiko, 84, Buena Park, Feb. 24; survived by daughters, Trudy (Jesse) Teshima; Meri (Ben) Kishiyama, Naomi Higuchi, Carolyn (Edmond) Gee, Cathy (Daryl) Otsuji and Helene (Mitchell) Born; son, Dale; brother, Ewao (Katherine) Matsunaga; 12 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Hirahara, Frank, 79, Anaheim, Feb. 7; survived by wife, Mary; and daughter, Patti (Terry) Takeda.

Hirata, Charles T., 88, Los Angeles, Feb. 13; survived by daughter, Bonnie Ruivivar; sons, Byron and Tom; 3 gc.; and sister, Alyce (Shigeo) Fukuyama.

Hirohama, Kent Taro, 40, Santa Ana, Feb. 4; survived by mother, Lilyan; sister, Janis (James) Pollard; and brother, David (Jocelyn).

Iino, Haruyo, 94, Los Angeles, Feb. 12; assistant publisher of the *Rafu Shimpō*; survived by son, Ron (May); 2 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Ray (Harumi) Komai; brothers-in-law, Sho and Joe Iino; and sisters-in-law, Emiko and Kay Komai.

Ishii, Jack Togo, 84, Feb. 1; survived by sons, Art (Kyoko), Ken (Debbie) and Robert (Arlene); daughter, Arlene Iwamoto; 4 gc.; 3 ggc.; and sisters, Kiyo (Frank) Abe and Sumi Koda.

Ishimoto, Norman Masao, 78, Los Altos, Feb. 1; U.S. Navy; survived by wife, Sady; son, Bruce; 2 gc.; sisters, Edna and Irene; and brothers, Steve, Stan, Gerald and David.

Kurihara, Sachiko, 81, Gardena, Feb. 13; survived by husband, Jiro; son, Michael (Arlene); brother, Arthur

Sakakura; sister, Emie (Shuichi) Obata; and sisters-in-law, Michiko Sakakura, Mary Hamada, Sue Okamura and Lorraine (Harry) Suzuki.

Lyum, Helen Marie, 81, Torrance, Feb. 15; survived by son, Mark (Brenda); daughters, Karen (John) Gulliver, Janet Schantzen and Paula (Brian) Dean; 7 gc.; brother, Randy Park; and sisters, Alice (Vern) Totten, June McMeekin and Shirley Park.

Marumoto, Asako, 94, Westminster, Feb. 28; survived by daughters, Midori (George) Koyama, Yukari (Robert) Mikesell and Seiko (Larry) Kikuta; sons, Hiroki (Shizue) and Bill; 13 gc.; and 15 ggc.

Matsumoto, Helen, 69, Montebello, Feb. 7; survived by husband, George; daughters, Jennifer (Craig) Kotani and Maureen (Glen) Nakamaru; 2 gc.; sisters, Mildred (George) Yoshimura and Florence (Henry) Shimomura; and brother, Harold (Marion) Nagamine, Jr.

Matsuoka, Grace Shizuko, 81, Feb. 13; survived by brother, Harry; sister, Michi Kitaura; children, Pamela, Gary, Rodney and Richard; and 4 gc.

Mayemura, Tomio, 77, Torrance, Feb. 19; survived by sisters, Mary Shirozono and Himi Morishige; brother, Roy; brother-in-law, Henry Doi; and sister-in-law, Sue Mayemura.

Mitsunaga, Koji, 76, Los Angeles, Jan. 30; survived by wife, Shirley; son, Kevin (Barbara); daughter, Karen (Timothy) Boyer; 5 gc.; 2 brothers; and 4 sisters.

Mukai, Tomeo, 83, Spokane, Wash., Feb. 15; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by daughter, Gwen (David) Utley; son, Michael (Mary); 5 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brothers, Tom and Joe.

Nakagama, John H., 76, Gardena, Jan. 31; survived by daughters, Susan (Harold Payne) Nakagama and Jeanne (James Dorsey) Nakagama; 1 gc.; and son-in-law, Keith Kishiyama.

Nagami, Toyoko, 99, Los Angeles, Feb. 25; survived by sons, Mas (Setsuko), Takeshi (Arlene) and Henry (Sanaye); daughters, Nancy and Dorothy Reed; son-in-law, Richard Muraoka; 13 gc.; and 16 ggc.

Nakagiri, Hisaye, 86, Culver City, Feb. 14; survived by sons, Dan (Nancy) and Tom; daughters, Sanaye (Sean) McCarthy and Karen (Wayne) Eguchi; 4 gc.; brother, Hisayuki (Kazuko) Shimizu; sisters, Kiyoe Oki and Sakae (Motomu) Shimizu; brothers-in-law, Shig (Donna), Jim (Mary) and Bob (Irene) Nakagiri; and sisters-in-law, Yaeiko Ishioka, Masaye Kato, Margie Morikawa, Florence Nakagiri, Jane Shintani and June (Jim) Akioka.

Nakahiro, Fumio, 73, Los Angeles, Jan. 31; survived by wife, Kiyoko; sons, Fumio (Araceli) and Richard (Tamara); 2 gc.; sisters, Frances (Harry) Tamura, Yoshiko (Kay) Kanazawa and Takako (Victor) Suzuki; and sister-in-law, Yoshiko Nakahiro.

Nakano, George, 90, Pasadena, Feb. 8; survived by wife, Sumie; and sister-in-law, Yukie Nakano.

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Inouye, Wife of U.S. Senator, Dies at 81

Margaret Inouye, the wife of Hawaii's senior U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye died Mar. 13 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from complications of colon cancer. She was 81.

She was recently hospitalized after an examination found small blood clots and some fluid in her right lung, according to Sen. Inouye in an official release.

"As she has done throughout her life, Maggie handled her difficult situation without complaint and with dignity and grace. Although her chemotherapy treatments would leave her drained, she always had a smile for you and she retained her optimistic outlook," said the senator, who met then Maggie Awamura in



1947 as a student at the University of Hawaii.

She was a speech teacher and on their second date, the future senator asked for her hand in marriage.

"She was a most special woman and she will always be in my heart," Inouye said.

Maggie was also a cornerstone in the senator's political life, sometimes giving speeches on his behalf. It is she whom he credits for his ascension to the U.S. Senate.

"As the wife of our senior senator, Mrs. Inouye played a prominent role both publicly and behind the scenes in representing Hawaii in our nation's capitol," said Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle to the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

In addition to the Senator, she is survived by her son Daniel Inouye Jr., and five sisters. Funeral arrangements are pending. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Delbert Wong, First Chinese American Judge Dies at 85

Judge Delbert E. Wong, the first Chinese American appointed to the bench in the continental United States, has died at the age of 85.

Wong died Mar. 10 from complications after a heart attack, said Kent Wong, his son. He was playing golf on the morning he died, his son added.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Wong graduated from Stanford Law School in 1949. Then-Gov. Pat Brown appointed him to the Los Angeles Municipal Court bench in 1959.

Two years later, Wong was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court, where he served for more than 20 years. Before that time, the only such jurists had been in the Territory of Hawaii, according to the *Metropolitan News-Enterprise*.

He retired in 1982 and worked as

a private judge.

Born in Hanford and raised in Bakersfield, Wong earned an associate of arts degree at Bakersfield College. He also attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his wife, Dolores Wing. They married in 1948.

"He was not only a good friend, but an inspiration to the community and to lawyers throughout the country," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "He was really a role model."

Wong is survived by his wife Dolores, his sons Kent, Duane and Marshall, his daughter Shelley Wong Pitts, and three grandchildren.

Services were held Mar. 16 at the Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Memorial Park. ■

IN MEMORIAM

AA Journalist Sam Chu Lin Dies at 67 in Burbank

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

BURBANK, Calif.—Sam Chu Lin, a pioneering Asian American journalist known for his coverage of Asian communities, has died. He was 67.

Chu Lin became ill Mar. 5 upon arriving at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank on a flight from Phoenix, said his son, Mark Chu Lin. He was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, although the cause of death was still unknown, said his son.

Since the 1960s, Chu Lin had worked as an anchor and a television and radio reporter. He was one of the first AA reporters to rise to network news when he worked for CBS News in the 1970s.

"He loved people and loved to help them," said Judy, his wife of 33 years.

He seemed destined from childhood to be a broadcast reporter, his

wife added, noting that Chu Lin told her that as a teenager he would listen to the radio at night and imitate the voices of the top broadcasters.

Chu Lin had been working as a reporter for KTTV Fox 11 since 1995, according to a statement from the station.

Locally, he had also worked for KTLA-TV and for KFWB radio. He wrote columns and articles on AA affairs for *Asian Week*, *Rafu Shimpō*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*, according to the KTTV statement.

"Sam was truly a remarkable man," said Esther Wu, AAJA national president. "His commitment and dedication to the Asian American community can be felt throughout his body of work. Sam opened the door for many Asian American journalists. We will all miss him."

During his career he won awards from The Associated Press, United Press International, The Greater Los Angeles Press Club, and the Radio and Television News Association, according to KTTV.

Chu Lin is survived by his wife, two sons and his mother. ■



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THEATER

(Continued from page 1)

Aki Asakura, a Nisei who was born and raised in Little Tokyo, used to go to the Linda Lea with his parents to see the *benshi* films.

"They would read scripts and make sound effects with drums and a lady would play the *shamisen*," he said. "My dad used to take the family to go see Japanese movies on Friday nights." At that time, *chanbara* (samurai) films were all the rage.

These days, cars just drive past the dilapidated building at 251 S. Main St. without a second look. But for many former patrons the Linda Lea was more than a movie house, it was a cultural gathering place and with the new redevelopment efforts the theater may come back to life again.

New York based ImaginAsian Entertainment, Inc. in partnership with Cinema Properties Group in Costa Mesa, Calif. announced last month that it was going to turn the historic theater into a modern Asian American theater and cultural center. The \$2 million 8,000-square-foot project, which is scheduled to be completed this summer, will include a 300-stadium seat theater, a pan-Asian food cafe and karaoke rooms that double as meeting rooms.

The ImaginAsian Center, as it will be called, will be the city's only theater dedicated to screening Asian Pacific American films. The news came as a welcome surprise to many community members who have grown used to the negative effects of gentrification in their already disappearing ethnic

enclaves. For a change, an APA organization is coming back to the community.

"ImaginAsian formed with the community in mind," said Michael Huh, the media company's vice president of marketing and strategic development. "It was the creation of five Asian Americans who decided to get together and start this because when they were younger they would watch TV and have nothing to relate to. Now their children watch TV and nothing much has changed."

Since the 2003 launch of iaTV, touted as the first 24-hour AA network, the company has expanded to other forms of media including radio, Internet as well as home video and film distribution.

The ImaginAsian Theater in midtown New York is also a key destination for APA film festivals and other live events. For the recent Oscar night, the New York theater was packed with community members who came to see APAs like Ang Lee vie for a golden statuette.

Los Angeles' ImaginAsian Center promises to be more.

"Everything about it is bigger and better," said Huh emphasizing the center's capability to host live events. "The live stage will allow us to have more Q&As with talent, more community orientated gather-

'For me it was like an umbilical cord to Japan.'

— Jim Matsuoka, about the Linda Lea



MODERN CLASSICS: The Linda Lea as it stands today. "We are bringing [the theater] up to speed ... placing it in a contemporary idiom," said Craig Hodgetts of the architectural firm Hodgetts and Fung.

ings, more band performances and talent searches. It runs the gamut.

"We're about expanding Asian American presence," Huh added.

"I would agree that ImaginAsian's presence will help preserve the historic cultural neighborhood of Little Tokyo, and it's impact could possibly extend out to Chinatown," said Ron Fong of the Little Tokyo Service Center, a community development group which had been involved in fundraising efforts to renovate the theater.

"I also think it's important to remember how diverse Little

Tokyo has been through the decades, and I think ImaginAsian's programming reflects that pan-Asian diversity," Fong added.

Sue Ann Kirst of Cinema Properties said they chanced upon the Linda Lea while scouting for other real estate. They purchased the theater at the "crossroads of Chinatown and Little Tokyo" in 2004 with plans to bring an independent film venue back to downtown.

The downtown building has always had a relationship with the film industry. During the early part of the 20th century, it was a Spanish language and Filipino theater before it was christened the Linda Lea in the 1960s, said Kirst. For two decades it was one of only three Japanese language movie houses in Los Angeles. The theater may have also functioned as a burlesque house, but its full history is still shrouded in sensationalism and mystery.

"For me it was like an umbilical cord to Japan," said Jim Matsuoka, about the Linda Lea. As a young adult, Matsuoka would frequent the theater to take in a Japanese samurai drama or a yakuza film. His Issei parents, like many others, spent most of their days working hard to support the family, so the theater became a window into Matsuoka's cultural history. Saturdays at the Linda Lea were usually an energetic social scene, so Matsuoka would go on Sundays and get lost in a different cinematic world.

"Of course it was a romanticized version of a Japan that didn't exist anymore ... but it was enjoyable watching the variety of films that

we couldn't see anywhere else," said Matsuoka, a Nisei.

"We are bringing [the theater] up to speed ... placing it in a contemporary idiom," said Craig Hodgetts of the architectural firm Hodgetts and Fung. "The key to the vision is to make it a social place for discussion of film; spending time as opposed to turning your back on it in the street."

Upon completion, ImaginAsian officials say they will premiere first-run and classic APA films as well as satellite-fed broadcasts like sporting events in the theater and on a rooftop screen, which would allow for boisterous participation. Wireless Internet connection and foreign language DVDs will also be available for purchase at the center's shops.

"This reaches way beyond just showing films. It's way ahead of the curve and I think theaters are trending towards this kind of place," said Hodgetts.

"We wanted a place where people can go to hang out as well as have a public meeting place for meetings and forums," said Kirst, who added that they want to work with the community in order to find out what events to bring to the center.

For now, Linda Lea's original form stands between modern condominiums and newly erected businesses like a relic of the neighborhood's rich history.

Change is inevitable, but former patron Matsuoka said he would have to reserve any opinion of the new center until he sees it for himself.

For now, the Linda Lea will be as it is in his memories. ■

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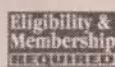
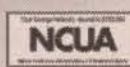
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