



## Spring Campaign

Be a Wall of Famer!  
Donate \$150 or more  
towards P.C.'s Web site  
and get recognized.  
COUPON PAGE 2



Hey Batter, Batter!  
Baseball 'camp' takes on a whole  
new meaning in 'Day of  
Independence.'  
Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKERS PAGE 9



## Itching to Write?

If you think you've got the tal-  
ent and ambition then apply  
for the P.C. internship.

HOW TO APPLY PAGE 2



Since 1929

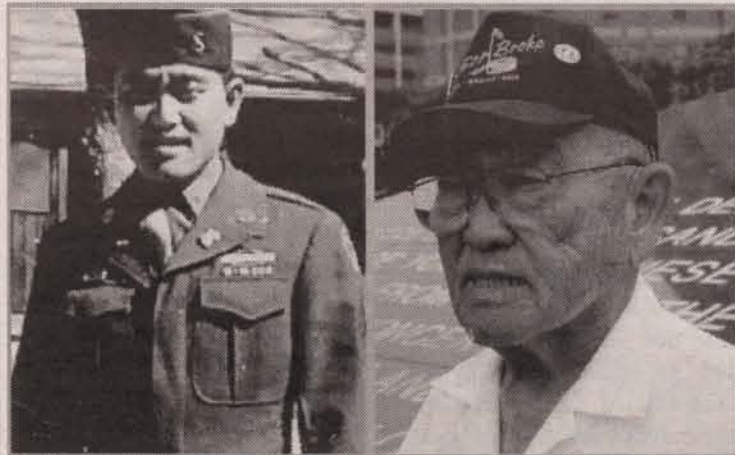
# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3057/ Vol. 142, No. 9 ISSN: 0030-8579

MAY 19-JUNE 1, 2006

## Two Heroes, Two Wars — A Lifetime of Memories



Time changes, but war stays the same. The pain of loss and the acts of heroism carry on from one generation to the next. For Memorial Day, the Pacific Citizen interviewed two veterans — one Nisei, the other Yonsei — from two different wars. Here, they share their stories and remembrances with you in their own words, as narrated to Lynda Lin.

## TOKE YOSHIHASHI, 83

Entered the service April 1944  
at 21  
Served 2 1/2 years with 100th  
Battalion, A company

We were the Yoshihashis from  
Pasadena.

I went [into the service] first  
because we were the first group of  
Japanese out of Gila River. My  
brother went into the service a  
month after I did. He trained in  
Camp Shelby and I trained in  
Camp Blanding, Florida.

It was nice to at least get out of  
camp life.

We didn't have a choice where  
we were going to go. We knew we  
were going to the 442nd, which  
was strictly infantry. Nowadays,  
the guys have a choice — they can  
go into the Navy, the Marines, the  
Air Force. In those days, we didn't  
have a choice. We just ended up in  
the infantry.

I was real proud when we came  
back. We brought the colors of the

100th/442nd back to Washington,  
D.C. and we marched down  
Constitution Avenue. President  
Truman was there and he pinned  
another unit citation on the flag.

## On the Gothic Line

The objective for the 100th —  
and we were the spearheads — was  
to capture Georgia Hill. The 3rd  
Battalion was on our right. We  
would see them climbing the higher  
mountain.

They had to hike all night where-  
as we didn't start out on April 5,  
1945, until 3:30 or 4 o'clock [in the  
morning]. We just hiked up and got  
into position.

Then at 5 o'clock the artillery  
came and that's when we started.

Luckily I was in the 1st platoon.  
The night before we were going to  
go out to hit the line, they pulled  
back our platoon sergeant and pla-  
toon leader. They were replaced by  
a fellow named Kusaka, who came  
out of the 2nd platoon, and Ken

## MEMORIAL DAY

Toke Yoshihashi (left) as a  
young man in the 100th  
Battalion and today as a Go  
For Broke docent.

Robert Nakamoto (bottom)  
split time between music,  
family and liberating Iraq.



SEE ALSO: List of Memorial  
Day events near you.

CALENDAR PAGE 10

Kaneko. Since they changed offi-  
cers on us — we didn't know him,  
he didn't know us — the 2nd pla-  
toon leader offered to go on the line  
for us and let us go in reserve.

We were along the path and we  
didn't dare go too much off of the  
path to go into the ravines and stuff  
because they were all mined. They  
would bring back wounded.

Nobody wants to die, but we  
were there to fight.

We would catch a lot of shells  
too. The same morning, along the  
path there was this big overhang-  
ing rock. A couple of my buddies  
were there. I'm over here in the  
hole and I crossed the path and  
went over to talk to them and  
wouldn't you know it a big shell  
came and hit the top of that big

See VETS/Page 12

'SB 1615 is an essential move by the state of California to  
respond to and recognize its growing mixed heritage population.'

— Megan Emiko Scott, Swirl, Inc.

## Multiple Choices: Identifying With More Than One Race

California is poised to  
become the first state to  
allow mixed race persons to  
check more than one race  
box on government forms.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

When Megan Emiko Scott, 25,  
fills out government forms in her  
home state of California, she's  
forced to make a decision 7 million  
of her fellow mixed race individuals  
must make: which one race cate-  
gory is she going to choose — White,  
Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native  
American or Other?

In Scott's case it's a choice  
between Asian or White and more  
often she chooses Asian since she  
knows a lot of government data is

collected from the forms she fills  
out. But she often wonders, why  
can't she choose to identify with  
both her Asian and White ancestry?

The answer may come in the  
form of Senate Bill 1615, "The  
Ethnic Heritage Respect and  
Recognition Act," proposed by Sen.  
Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, that will  
allow all mixed race Californians  
the option to check more than one  
race box when filling out official  
government forms. If passed,  
California would become the first  
state to follow in the footsteps of a  
similar bill passed by the federal  
government in 1997.

"SB 1615 is an essential move by  
the state of California to respond to  
and recognize its growing mixed

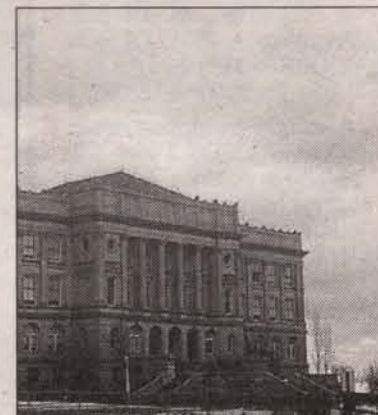
See SB 1615/Page 6

## Carving Out the Omaha School System Along Racial Lines

Three new school districts  
for three different ethnic  
communities. Critics call  
the legislation to divide the  
public school system a set-  
back in race relations while  
residents weigh-in on dis-  
cussion of a 'learning com-  
munity.'

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

At the end of her freshman year,  
Kimberly Nguyen, 16, transferred  
from Burke High, a mostly white  
school located near the western bor-  
der of the Omaha Public School  
District (OPS), to Central High on  
the lower east side. When she told  
her friends, most were puzzled why  
she would choose to go to a "black



OMAHA'S CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

school."

Central High's largest minority  
group is African American, accord-  
ing to school data. Nguyen, who is  
Vietnamese American, made the  
decision because of academics,

See OPS/Page 6

PACIFIC CITIZEN  
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Phoenix Rising:  
Leadership for a New  
Generation



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

4  
WEEKS

## Discovering Your JA Roots

JAs today are turning to  
the Internet and fellow  
community members to  
learn the tricks and tips of  
tracing one's family  
genealogy.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Most Japanese Americans today  
know, often very well, who their  
Ojiichan and Obaachan are but how  
about your great-grandfather and  
great-grandmother? Add more  
"greats" and you'll likely be lost in  
a world of unknowns.

It's a dilemma many JAs find  
themselves in today, especially  
since the experiences of the intern-  
ment camps left many Issei and  
Nisei reluctant to maintain ties with

their ancestral home. Often, the  
younger generations like the Sansei  
and Yonsei become the driving

See JA ROOTS/Page 4



A MEMORABLE VISIT—  
Julie Kawaye (left) and  
Jennifer Reven (cen-  
ter) visit the family  
cemetery in Tsuta,  
Hiroshima prefecture  
with their Japanese  
relative Goro Kato.





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## SPRING CAMPAIGN

# Be the Decider and Make the Pie Higher

By CASEY CHINA  
and ANDY UEHARA

"I think we all agree, the past is over." While they will not complete-  
ly go away, printed news-  
papers are becoming a  
thing of the past. These  
days, informa-  
tion is most  
quickly and  
widely distrib-  
uted via the  
Internet. That's why we need your  
contribution to this year's Spring  
Campaign, which will go toward the  
expansion and development of the  
*Pacific Citizen* Web site.

"This is still a dangerous world.  
It's a world of madmen and uncertain-  
ty and potential mental losses." The  
only way to combat this crazy  
world is information! We must dis-  
seminate information about our P.C.  
to the world, because the P.C. loves  
Freedom. As we all know, Freedom  
is the way to fight the axis of evil!

"Rarely is the question asked Is  
our children learning?" Yes, no  
more elegant words can be said  
about the state of education in this  
nation. Therefore, we must promote  
reading. Putting the P.C. online will  
make another source of reading  
material easily accessible to young  
students and the public.

"Will the highways of the Internet  
become more few?" If we let the  
P.C. neglect its Internet presence, I  
dare say the answer is: Yes. The  
highways of the Internet will  
become more few.

I know some people might ask:  
Can a P.C. newspaper and Internet  
site coexist together? My answer is:  
"I know that the human being and  
the fish can coexist." If humans and  
fish can do it, the P.C. in print and  
online can do it, too.

While you are "working hard to  
put food on your family," every lit-  
tle bit counts. As individual Spring  
Campaign contributors, we should  
be shouting, "I am a pitbull on the  
pantleg of opportunity." For we are tak-  
ing aggressive bites into the  
opportunities that the  
Internet pro-  
vides!

Also, what better way is  
there to "Knock down the tollbooth"  
to accessing the P.C. for many  
young students? After all, when you  
think of a young person you know,  
is it easier to picture him or her read-  
ing a newspaper or surfing the  
Internet? Without a doubt, making  
the P.C. Web site even better will  
help us reach out to younger audi-  
ences.

"I mean, I read the newspaper. I  
mean, I can tell you what the head-  
lines are. I must confess, if I think  
the story is, like, not a fair appraisal,  
I'll move on. But I know what the  
story's about." I often learn for the  
first time what the story's about,  
when I read the original reporting in  
the P.C. With your help, just as the  
reporting in the P.C. stays on the  
cutting edge, so will our online pres-  
ence.

In the end, there is nothing more  
that I can say, other than, "Make the  
pie higher! Make the pie higher!"  
With your contribution, you can  
help us make the tallest pie ever and  
improve the P.C.'s online presence.  
After all, you're the decider, and  
you decide what is best. ■

Andy Uehara and Casey China,  
MDC P.C. board representative,  
write from Denver, Colorado.  
Quotes are attributed to George W.  
Bush.



CASEY CHINA



ANDY UEHARA

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Spring Campaign  
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**Calling All Interns!**

Wanted: part-time summer intern for the  
*Pacific Citizen*.  
Reward: working with an enthusiastic staff  
and gaining experience in a workplace envi-  
ronment.

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper, the national  
publication of the Japanese American Citizens  
League, is currently looking for someone to work at its Los  
Angeles office part-time, including some evenings and weekends.  
Various duties include reporting, researching, rewriting of press releas-  
es and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American commu-  
nity and the JACL a plus.  
College or grad students currently majoring in English or Journalism  
preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a California driv-  
er's license.  
The application deadline is June 19.  
If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the *Pacific  
Citizen*, 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email:  
editor@pacificcitizen.org, attention: Caroline Aoyagi-Stom. ■

## Shosuke Sasaki, a Man of Convictions

It was with nostalgia that I read in  
the *Pacific Citizen* the excellent col-  
umn "Use of 'Jap' in Print is Slowly  
Diminishing After 50 Years" by  
Harry K. Honda. It brought back  
many memories of very fine, dedi-  
cated people whom I have had the  
privilege of knowing such as:  
Sandra Tanamachi of Texas; the late  
Shosuke Sasaki of New York City  
and Seattle; Woodrow Asai and  
Everett James Starr of New York;  
George Yuzawa and Moonray  
Kojima also of New York. All of  
them campaigned very strongly  
against the word "Jap" through  
major newspapers, the courts, and  
the federal government.

Sasaki in particular by his vehe-  
ment writings, and consistent appeal  
against the word "Jap" made other  
people who respected him uncom-  
fortable that they were not doing  
enough. He apparently deeply felt  
the connotation surrounding the  
word from his youth, college years,  
and war years.

It was, therefore, revealing to me  
to find in Honda's column that in  
1965 national JACL published its  
"Please Don't" leaflet to eliminate  
the use of the derogatory term.

The JACL is a vast organization  
with many opinions and nuances.  
Its membership is motivated by many  
undercurrents, social, political, and  
economic. Sasaki nevertheless felt  
that the word "Jap" could have been  
acted upon more expeditiously. I  
understand he subsequently  
resigned from JACL.

I shall be going to the West Coast  
this spring and hopefully I shall visit  
Seattle and Sasaki's grave. The  
Japanese community in some  
respects is a close knit community.  
Sasaki as a representative of that  
community was a very fine man  
with strong convictions.

Yueichi (Kelly)  
Kuwayama  
Washington, D.C.

## 'Racist' Immigration Bill

Regarding the "Immigration"  
article in the Apr. 21-May 4 *Pacific  
Citizen* (page 1), I noted the quote  
from John Tateishi (page 3) in  
which he called the Sensenbrenner  
anti-immigration bill one of "the  
most draconian, racist immigration  
bills" ever, and whose ideals "are  
only thin smokescreens for racist  
views."

If the JACL executive director  
has had the advantage of seeing the  
whole text of the bill, he may be cor-  
rect; but most of us either have not  
read the text or have failed to note  
the language in the bill, as provided  
in the press, that justifies Tateishi's  
characterization of the bill as  
"racist."

As a top representative of a non-  
profit group that defines itself as  
nonpartisan, John perhaps could  
have cited the language in the bill  
that is undeniably racist. Otherwise,  
Republican members of the JACL  
could well be offended; and that  
could risk our losing another group  
of JACL members.

Especially in an election year,  
when our Republican JACL col-

leagues may be beginning to feel  
embattled, with the GOP in some  
disarray and the president they  
helped to elect standing so low in  
the polls, we should be extra careful  
about making statements that may  
sound partisan to such members. ■

Hugh Burleson  
Lake Washington Chapter

## A Disturbing Direction

Some of the recent articles, posi-  
tions and associations with other  
organizations attributed to national  
JACL are disturbing and the current  
direction the organization has taken  
is not the JACL that I had associat-  
ed with in the past.

I am and have been a Thousand  
Club member for over 35 years and  
a past Philadelphia chapter presi-  
dent. There are many beneficial  
activities that the organization has  
done and is doing for the members.  
However, there is a vocal group that  
is pushing the organization to take  
political positions and promoting  
associations with organizations that  
are not necessarily in the neutral  
position that is expected of a nation-  
al non-profit organization.

There are common issues that the  
organization can foster but some of  
the recent positions being taken can  
only alienate the members resulting  
in a decrease in membership and not  
attract new members. If the organi-  
zation wants to cater only to a cer-  
tain group of individuals, JACL's  
membership will stagnate, if not  
decrease.

The P.C. needs to present bal-  
anced positions of the issues and the  
organization needs to temper the  
rhetoric on controversial issues. The  
individual members can take posi-  
tions and express their opinions but  
the national organization needs to be  
more cautious about positions taken  
since it should represent all of the  
members. To arbitrarily assume that  
all members have the same opinion  
is a serious mistake.

If the national organization takes  
the position that it only wants mem-  
bers that are in "lock step" with its  
position, please advise us so that  
alternative course of actions can be  
taken by the members. ■

Howard Okamoto  
Marin Chapter

Send letters  
to the editor:  
pc@pacificcitizen.org

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\* "Voices" reflect the active, public discus-  
sion within JACL of a wide range of ideas  
and issues, though they may not reflect the  
viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific  
Citizen*.  
\* "Short expressions" on public issues,  
usually one or two paragraphs, should  
include signature, address and daytime  
phone number. Because of space 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

## Study finds Hepatitis B Infection Higher Among Asian Immigrants

NEW YORK—East Asian immigrants in New York City are at a higher risk of contracting deadly liver disease than other Americans because of a prevalence of hepatitis B infection among the population, a new study finds.

Screenings at community health centers throughout the city last year found nearly 15 percent of East Asian immigrants had chronic hepatitis B, according to a study published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, a journal published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The condition is cited as the most common cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer.

The condition is contracted through the blood, and not through casual contact. The condition is preventable, and U.S. vaccination programs have greatly reduced infection rates over the last decade.

## Bush Honors APAs with Volunteer Service Awards

WASHINGTON—Celebrating APA Heritage Month, President Bush, May 12, presented his volunteer service award to five APAs who have helped the needy.

The recipients included Virginia Ganzon-Sturwold of San Francisco, a tutor at Francis Scott Key Elementary School in San Francisco.

Other honorees were: Dotty Eng of Alexandria, VA., a volunteer with Gold Star Wives of America; Durai Pandithurai of Cedar Hill, Texas, an executive for the Salvation Army who helps families prepare their taxes and create retirement plans; Sister Theresa Pham of Houston, who helped organize the relief efforts of the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and Ravi Sankar of Oviedo, Fla., who helps students study for college entrance exams by teaching math at the Chinmaya Mission of Central Florida and assists other students who cannot afford review courses.

## Senate to Consider Bill to Recognize Hawaiians

HONOLULU—Federal legislation to recognize Native Hawaiians as indigenous inhabitants of Hawaii is once again set to be considered by the U.S. Senate, said Sen. Daniel Akaka, the bill's sponsor.

Akaka, who has campaigned for seven years for the Native Hawaiian Recognition bill, also known as the Akaka bill, said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has agreed to file a cloture motion during the first week of June to force debate and a vote on the measure.

The cloture motion requires the backing of 60 senators to force debate and a vote on the proposal.

The bill would establish an office in the Department of the Interior to address Native Hawaiian issues. It also would create an interagency group composed of representatives of federal agencies that currently administer programs and policies affecting Hawaiians.

In effect, the federal government would recognize Hawaiians as a native population, as they already do American Indians and Native Alaskans. ■

## APAs in the News

### Meng's Daughter Enters Race for His Assembly Seat



Days after Assemblyman Jimmy Meng decided to decline reelection, his daughter Grace Meng officially made a bid for his 22nd Assembly District seat.

Grace Meng, 31, said she would make a formal announcement in coming weeks, but she wanted to end speculation about her future political ambitions. Rumors had been circulating for weeks, long before Jimmy Meng announced his health would keep him from running again, that

Grace Meng intended to follow in her father's footsteps.

### Roger Ozaki Receives Asian American Honor

Dr. Roger Ozaki, testing center director for Georgia Perimeter College in Lawrenceville, recently was honored at an Asian American gala in Atlanta.

Former CNN anchor Sachi Koto presented awards to Ozaki at the first Who's Who in Asian American Communities in Georgia gala, held April 29. The event honored 67 Georgians for their contributions to the local Asian American community and the state's cultural and economic growth.

A veteran in higher education, Ozaki is responsible for the operation of GPC's Lawrenceville campus testing center, which offers academic testing services annually. He earned his Ed.D. degree from the University of Georgia, a M.Ed. from Georgia Southern University and a B.S. from the University of Georgia.

### Kobayashi to Receive John Cardinal O'Hara Award

Notre Dame's John Cardinal O'Hara Award for outstanding and distinguished service to the University of Notre Dame will be presented this year to Dr. Francis M. Kobayashi of South Bend, Indiana.

Kobayashi is the professor emeritus of aerospace and mechanical engineering. He retired a decade ago as assistant vice president of the graduate school's research division from 1948-1968. ■

# Voting Rights Act Reauthorization Receives Bipartisan Support

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The House Judiciary Committee May 10 overwhelmingly approved a 25-year extension of the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

The committee approved 33 to 1 the bipartisan legislation HR 9, the "Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006."

HR 9 is expected on the House floor at the end of May.

Key provisions of the original Voting Rights Act of 1965 are set to expire in 2007. The act was designed to combat voting discrimination and to break down language barriers.

The reauthorization of the act includes Section 203 that requires language assistance to voters in covered jurisdictions; and Section 5 that requires pre-clearance from the Department of Justice for numerous voting changes in covered jurisdictions, including redistricting, annexation of other territories or political subdivisions, and polling place changes.

Asian Pacific Americans have suffered from discrimination at the polls and still face language barriers when attempting to vote. By providing APAs with equal access to voting and helping combat voting discrimination, the act gives APAs power to influence the poli-

*'Discrimination in the electoral process continues to exist and threatens to undermine the progress that has been made over the last 40 years.'* — F. James Sensenbrenner



cies that impact their community, said the Asian American Justice Center in a statement.

"The Voting Rights Act is perhaps one of the most important civil rights legislation for Asian Americans," said Karen K. Narasaki, AAJC president and executive director. "We are pleased that the bipartisan leadership in the House and Senate are supporting legislation to ensure all Americans continue to have the ability to exercise their right to vote."

"Discrimination in the electoral process continues to exist and threatens to undermine the progress that has been made over the last 40 years. By extending the VRA for an additional 25 years,

HR 9 ensures that the voting rights of all Americans regardless of race or color will be protected," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, who introduced HR 9.

"The Voting Rights Act has ensured that the promise of America, the right to full participation in our democracy, will be protected.

"The overwhelming support for renewing this landmark legislation in the Judiciary Committee, and in the Congress, demonstrates again that protecting the right to vote is a fundamental American value," said Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, HR 9 original cosponsor and judiciary constitution subcommittee ranking member. ■

## Matsui to Receive Honorary Doctorate Posthumously

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The late Congressman Robert Matsui will be recognized posthumously with an honorary doctorate from the California State University, Sacramento. His widow and current U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, will accept the award May 20.

Robert spent 26 years representing the Sacramento area until his death in January 2005.

Matsui and his family were interned at Tule Lake. During his Congressional career, Robert helped guide the landmark Civil Liberties Act of 1988 through Congress. The act led to a formal apology and compensation from the U.S. government to Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

He advocated for funds to expand

Sacramento's light rail system, build a new federal courthouse and improved flood protection. In one



of his last acts as a congressman, he secured \$950,000 in federal appropriations for the planned Science and Space Center at Sacramento State, a figure that has now grown to \$1.5 million through the efforts of his wife, Doris.

Matsui's service to the region and the nation was recognized with numerous awards. In 2001 he received the Joe Serna Jr. Unity Award from the Capitol Unity Council. The Child Welfare League of America twice named him Congressional Advocate of the Year.

The Anti-Defamation League gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award and he was also recognized by national transit and small business organizations.

Before he became a congressman, Matsui served as vice mayor of Sacramento and headed a Sacramento law practice. In 2005, Doris Matsui was elected to complete his term.

The honor will be presented during the college of business administration ceremony at noon, May 20 at the Hornet Stadium. ■

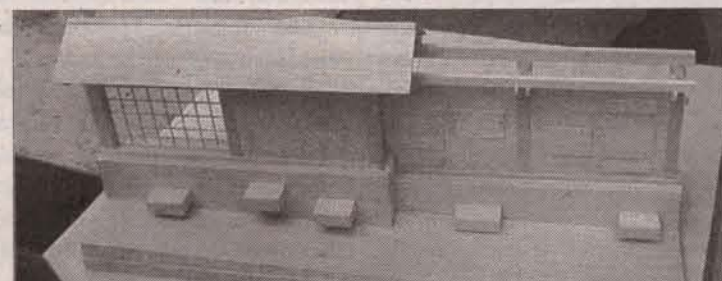
## Gov't Endorses National Park Status for Bainbridge

The Interior Department has released a report supporting the inclusion of a Bainbridge Island memorial honoring the first Japanese Americans interned during World War II in the National Park System.

Under the proposal, the memorial would be included in the National Park System as part of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho.

The memorial is to be built at the former Eaglesdale Ferry Dock on Bainbridge Island, the site where the first JAs were shipped off to internment camps.

The study was commissioned and funded over three years ago in legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jay



Inslee, D-Bainbridge Island, in the House and U.S. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell.

Results were released just one month after Inslee wrote a letter urging Interior Secretary Gale Norton to expedite the report, considering the advanced age of surviving internees.

"This March marked the 64th anniversary of the internment of 227

Bainbridge residents, who were the first of almost 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast who were forcibly removed, exiled and interned," said Inslee, a resident of the island.

Construction of the memorial on Bainbridge Island began in early April. Funding for the project has come from private donors and the state of Washington. ■



## Finding Your JA Roots

(Continued from page 1)

forces to find the missing pieces of their family genealogy.

Sansei-han Jennifer Akiko Reven, 21, did a family history project in high school tracing back some of the names of her ancestors and soon became interested in doing a full genealogical search. She has managed to trace back her mom's side of the family five generations and three generations of her dad's side.

"I was waiting for years for other older family members to do this but the older members started to die," said Reven, originally from Sacramento but currently living in North Carolina at Fort Bragg where her husband is currently stationed. "I started to realize that if I didn't do this, 10 years from now there would be nobody to do this."

Reven's quest has taken her to Japan twice already. On the last trip she and her sister Julie managed to get in touch with her long lost relatives in Hiroshima. Her aunt's cousin, who spoke English surprisingly well, took them around to the various sites and she was able to make a memorable visit to the family gravesite.

"They didn't know that we existed. It was the first time our family had been back in 20 years," said Reven, who speaks and writes a bit of Japanese but communicates with her new-found relatives in English. She described her recent trip to Japan as "awesome" and now regularly corresponds with her Japanese relatives, mostly through e-mails.

For Sansei Chester Hashizume, 51, tracing his Japanese roots was never a priority, especially growing up in New Jersey with few fellow Asian Americans and speaking no Japanese. But 18 years ago he moved to the West Coast and after a stint at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, Hashizume got inspired to explore his family ancestry and can now trace his family back five generations.

"The Nisei have lost touch with Japan and so there is nothing to pass on to their kids. From the Sansei generation on our connection to Japan becomes less and less. But as adults we have become interested" in tracing our roots, he said.

Hashizume's search would ultimately bring him to Hiroshima and Ishikawa prefectures for the first time. He's been back twice now and regularly corresponds with his cousins through letters in basic English, establishing close-knit relationships that he never thought would be possible.

Both Reven and Hashizume have now collected an immense amount of information on their family histories, facts and anecdotes that had never been passed down to them from their immediate family members.

Reven discovered that her maternal side of the family, the Miyamuras and Katos, are originally from the area of Suda in Hiroshima. Her dad's side (Shingu, Kawaye) come from Kumamoto, Hiroshima, and Kochi in Shikoku. Most of her family immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s, returned to Japan, and came once again to the States prior to World War II. Several of her family members were interned at Tule Lake,

some at Manzanar and Amache, and many of her relatives in Japan were directly affected by the atomic bombings in Hiroshima.

"I've tried to talk to everyone who is still alive," said Reven, who has also found extended family members throughout California and even some who are currently living in Brazil.

Hashizume learned details of his family history that his mom and dad, now both deceased, did not pass down to him and his two older brothers.

His paternal grandfather Yosaku Hashizume arrived in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1919 with a cousin to sell ceramics and laquerware and eventually opened up a giftshop. His maternal grandfather Katsukichi Munekiyo was in Portland, Oregon from 1905 to 1910 before he married his grandmother and moved to California. He also discovered that his maternal ancestors were likely descendants of samurai and one of his relatives in Japan, Hiroshi Munekiyo, is a famous jazz musician.

Experiences like Reven's and Hashizume's are not unique and many JAs have been inspired to take the first steps to discover their family roots.

Sansei Stuart Terashita, 47, from Seattle has started his own genealogy Web page (<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Garage/4464/Home.html>) where he not only writes about his JA family roots but lists techniques and ideas that he has learned from others.

"I guess the lack of knowledge about my father's side of the family started me on the search. I published the genealogy page so other JAs don't have to stumble around like I did," said Terashita. "Besides, with the reach of the Internet these days some long lost relative might read my page and contact me."

Like many of his fellow Sansei, Terashita's family did not talk much about their Japanese family ancestry although he now knows they were originally from Wakayama prefecture. His father's family lived in Bainbridge Island and was one of the first groups to be ordered to internment camps during World War II.

"When they got the order to evacuate, [my grandfather] had one of the sons take anything that looked Japanese including correspondences to relatives and place them in a clay pot and bury it on their property," he said. "To this day we still can't find the clay pot or their contents."

Like Terashita, Hashizume has also used his own experiences to help those wanting to trace their family roots. For the past 14 years Hashizume has hosted regular workshops throughout Southern California on how to trace one's Japanese family genealogy. He shows his clients how to trace your Japanese family tree, how to find your ancestral home or "furusato," and how to obtain your koseki or "family registry." He also goes over meanings of family names and identifying family crests.

In general most JAs do not speak Japanese so the language barrier is the biggest hurdle for those tracing their family roots.

"We're not like the Chinese who



**FAMILY ROOTS**—Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Hashizume family's confectionary shop (top) are family members and employees. The family business was sold shortly after World War II.

Chester Hashizume's paternal grandparents, Yosaku and Kimi Hashizume, from Ishikawa prefecture are pictured at right.



encourage young people to still speak Chinese. We don't speak Japanese," said Reven.

Reven and Hashizume, like Terashita, have also relied on the Internet in their research.

On Genealogy.com several people in search of their Japanese ancestors posts messages and requests for assistance on the Japan Genealogy Forum. Reven used people searches on Yahoo! and also recommends cyndyslist.com that has a Japanese forum. She's also noticed that many young JAs are looking for their ancestors on sites like myspace.com.

Other Web sites include: Keizu-Japanese Genealogy ([members.tripod.com/runker\\_room/family.htm](http://members.tripod.com/runker_room/family.htm)); Japan GenWeb (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~jpn-gwgw>); and Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

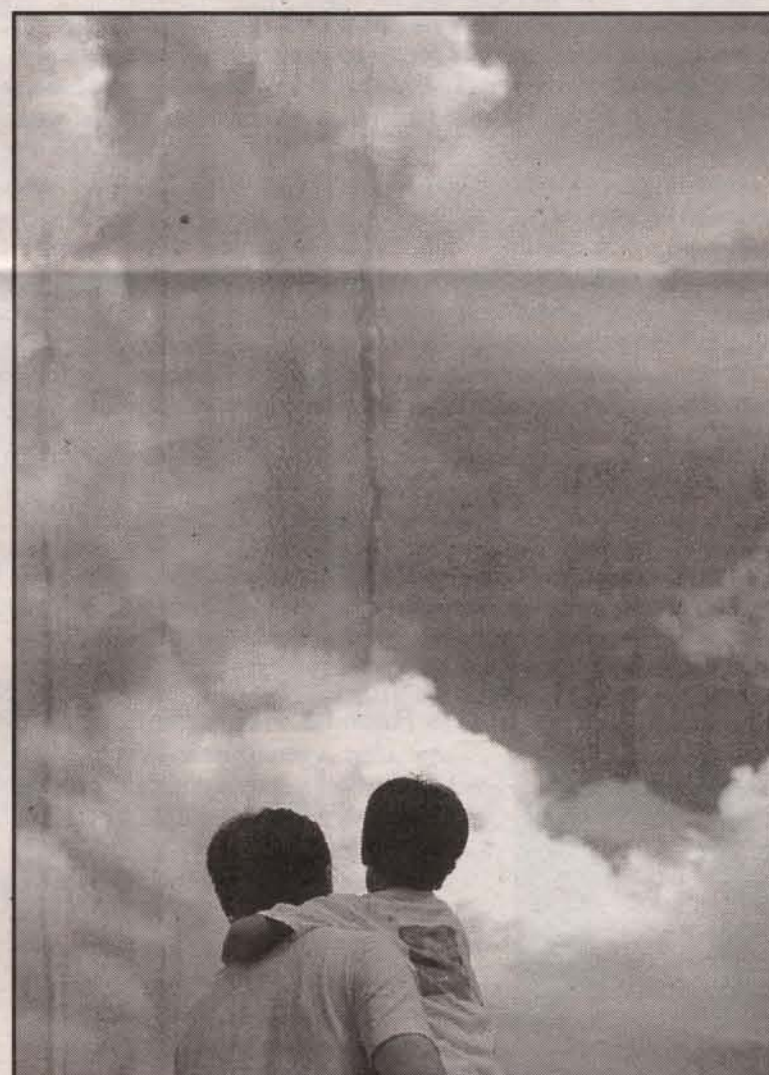
Although Hashizume is not quite sure how many people from his workshops end up finding their relatives or take the big step to visit Japan, he is happy to be able to pass on what he has learned from his own experiences.

"I like to help other people who are interested in finding their ancestors. That experience for me was very good even though for a long time I wasn't interested in my ancestry," said Hashizume. "Exploring my ancestry has been very rewarding. This is our heritage, a way to try to make a connection."

Reven hopes to pass on what she has learned of her family's roots to her daughter Lillian Kimiko, 1 1/2 years old, and help her relatives rekindle long lost relationships.

"I want to go as far back as I can," she said. "I have gotten a lot of fulfillment but I'm not going to stop." ■

For more information about Chester Hashizume's workshops, contact him at [chashizume@earthlink.net](mailto:chashizume@earthlink.net) or 626/644-1954.



## Health Plans for California JACL Members

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at

1.800.400.6633

or visit

[www.jaclhealth.org](http://www.jaclhealth.org)





• TED NAMBA •

## Why is JACL 2006 in Arizona?



Did you know that a Japanese man, Hachiro Onuki (aka Hutchlon Ohnick), was one of three partners who first brought electricity to Phoenix in 1886? This Issei pioneer married Catherine Shannon from Tennessee in 1888, became a prominent civic leader of Phoenix where he served on the Board of Education, and voted as a naturalized citizen (likely one of the first Issei inter-marriages in America as well as one of the first Issei to become naturalized).

Did you also know that JAs who lived on one side of a major street in Arizona were forced to go to an internment camp during World War II but those JAs living on the other side of that street did not go to camp?

I wanted to share a couple of these tidbits of JA history here in Arizona. It's nice having national JACL conventions in different parts of the country so we all have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the various communities our members live in. At the JACL 2006 convention you will have a chance to learn a little about Arizona JA history and also visit some beautiful places that Arizona has to offer.

In our convention exhibits hall, one can purchase wonderful items from popular vendors such as Nikkei Traditions from San Jose, Calif. and The Sachiko Collection from Irvine, Calif. One can also browse through educational booths such as the JAAZ (Japanese Americans in Arizona) Oral History Project where you will see interesting items such as artifacts from Gila River and Poston. One may also purchase books from a half dozen authors whose books share the JA experience. There will be many other interesting, fun, and educational exhibitors in the

exhibits hall.

Steve Tokita from Mountain West Travel will be coordinating optional activities for convention attendees. Steve's pricing is quite reasonable so think about taking that one day trip to Sedona where one can enjoy breathtaking scenery and cooler temperatures (boosters only as delegates should not cut any business sessions!).

The excursion to the Ro Ho En Japanese Friendship Garden in Central Phoenix will surprise JACLers as it's hard to imagine that such a striking, beautiful Japanese Garden can thrive in the desert. The Heard Museum is unquestionably the best Native American Museum in the Southwest so it's another excursion you may want to check out.

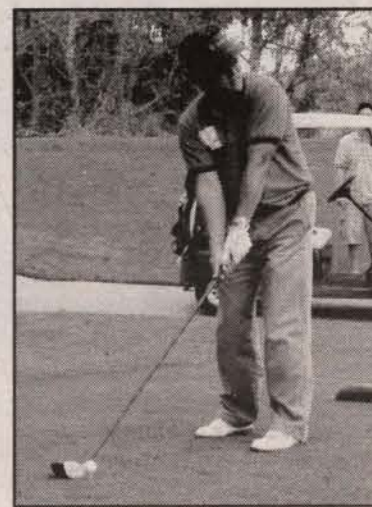
Steve will be sending details out about these optional activities to those who have registered for convention but if you can't wait, call him at 800/487-4574.

June 21-24, 2006, will be a fun-filled and productive week for JACL delegates, boosters and friends. A nice golf shirt and shorts are appropriate dress for the majority of Arizona establishments during the summer. However, make sure you pack jeans/Western wear for the June 21 welcome mixer at Rawhide and a sharp suit/tuxedo or evening gown/dress for the elegant Sayonara Banquet on June 24. Don't forget to also pack the swimsuit as the Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa has a nice pool. Additionally, JACL 2006 attendees will get a discount at the resort's Whirlwind Golf Course and Aji Spa.

See you at convention!

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

## PSW District Holds 1st Annual Golf Tournament



The PSW district held its first annual golf tournament May 7 at Tijeras Creek in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif. The tournament featured 84 golfers in five divisions. Men's 'A' Flight winner Rich Risberg (above left) is congratulated by tournament chairman Kerry Kaneichi. Gary Mayeda (above right) prepares to drive one dead solid perfect. The results from the tournament were as follows (in order of finish): 'A' Flight: Rich Risberg, Stan Matsuoka and Shing Yamada; 'B' Flight: Sab Sakamoto, Richard Kawano and Mark Taniguchi; 'C' Flight: Jimmy Sasahara, Yoji Niho and Bill Yamane; Women's Flight: Ash Alidio, Michiko Okamura and Kathy Quock; and Callaway Flight: Kelcey Kinjo, Nick Saiki and Todd Sato. ■

## Go For Broke Unveils New Name, Future Initiatives

Plans include the building of an education center and Little Tokyo headquarters.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES—The Go For Broke National Education Center announced plans May 11 to build its national headquarters and public education center adjacent to the Japanese American National Museum and the current Go For Broke memorial.

The veterans organization, which is currently headquartered in Torrance, Calif., received a \$1 million grant through the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCEH) to cover preliminary construction costs.

Go For Broke anticipates breaking ground and opening the building to the public in 2010.

The 50-year lease with the city of Los Angeles gives Go For Broke

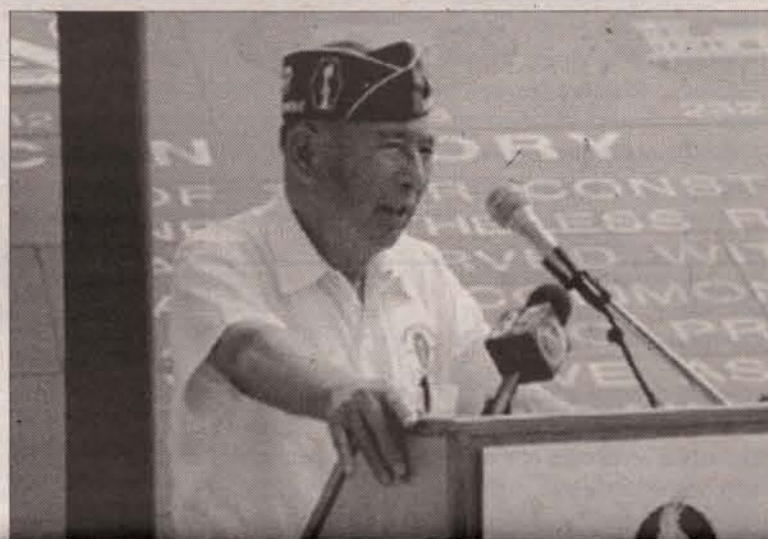


PHOTO: L.LIN

Manabi Hirasaki, 552nd Field Artillery Battalion veteran and co-chair of the Go For Broke National Education Center.

three years to raise the necessary funds to build the center. The organization plans to raise the \$15 million needed to build the center.

The center will offer technology-

focused, interactive exhibits using Go For Broke's oral history archive and research assistance.

The organization also unveiled its new name, The Go For Broke National Education Center. Previously the organization's legal name was the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation and operated as the Go For Broke Educational Foundation.

The new name reflects the current and future of the organization and its goals to be the leading nationally focused organization committed to preserving and teaching the veteran story.

"In 1989 the veterans had a dream to build a monument, that dream was realized in 1999 when the Go For Broke Monument was unveiled to the public," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, executive director and president of the Go For Broke National Education Center. "Today they have another dream, to have a center adjacent to their monument that will ensure their American story lives on and can contribute to the great American ideals of freedom and equal opportunity for all." ■

### 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 5/31	After 5/31	
<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	\$

Early Bird Registration Deadline: May 31

### HOTEL INFORMATION:

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa  
(800) 325-3535  
\$95/night, mention JACL National Convention  
R.S.V.P by May 31



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Opinions?

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## SB 1615

(Continued from page 1)

heritage population. California currently has the largest number of mixed heritage residents — 1 in 6 babies born in this state are multiracial," said Scott, a Bay Area chapter leader of Swirl, Inc., a social justice organization serving the mixed heritage community. "If passed, SB 1615 will set an important precedent for similar legislation in other states."

SB 1615 was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 25 but still needs to get the nod from both the Senate and House appropriations committees since the bill would have a fiscal impact. The bill requires that the state record and report the number of persons who identify as being multiracial and also contains safeguards to allow for the continued enforcement and monitoring of civil rights.

Mixed race persons know they still have a long fight ahead, especially since some Republicans have already voiced their opposition, but believe the passage of this bill is important in reaffirming their right to identify with more than just "one box."

"Every mixed-race person alive can relate a story about the first time he or she ever came face to face

with a standardized form and was forced to choose one side over another," said Jonathan Masaji Brent, executive director of Multiracial Americans of Southern California (MASC). "By passing SB 1615, the California State Senate affirms the right of these mixed race children to be part of

*'Every mixed-race person alive can relate a story about the first time he or she ever came face to face with a standardized form and was forced to choose one side over another.'*

— Jonathan Masaji Brent,  
executive director of Multiracial Americans  
of Southern California (MASC)



two communities. This bill will not change our world over night, but it is a crucial step in the right direction."

In addition to self-identity, proponents of the bill say it will finally allow for accurate data collection on the mixed race community that up until now has been sorely lacking, especially in areas like health and education. With recent studies claiming a higher occurrence of violence and drug abuse among mixed race youth, a closer look at this community needs to begin.

"Are these studies accurate? Is

there a need for additional programs related to drug abuse and violence that specifically target mixed race youth? Maybe, maybe not. However, this underscores the importance of a full understanding of the community, one that can only come if agencies that collect data cease to assign mixed-race people to

one group or another," said Brent. "Without knowing where we are as a community, it is impossible to know where we could or should be going."

In 2000, the federal government for the first time allowed mixed race persons to select more than one race box in the U.S. Census. As a result more than 7 million people took up the government's offer, including 1.6 million Californians, the home of the largest mixed race population.

But the fight to pass legislation at the federal level took several years of advocacy by mixed race individ-

uals and organizations and many believe the current efforts at the state level are going to follow the same route. They believe many in power find the current race categories "convenient" and changing to a multirace option would not only be costly but time-consuming.

"By recognizing that individuals are becoming more diverse, California is recognizing the importance of multiple races in one's identity as opposed to one that's 'most important,'" said Joshua Spry, national JACL youth council chair. "This might allow the state government to custom services not only to White, Black, Latino, or Asian, but to the African-Asian American, the Thai-Cambodian American, and in the end allow for services that try to fit individual needs, identities, and experiences more closely."

The Asian American community has been noticeably vocal in the current debates. Of all mixed race persons, AAs have the highest outmarriage rates, making the impact of SB 1615 on this group potentially huge.

"SB 1615 is supported by many Asian American organizations," said Scott, but added, "While this support is important and encouraging there's still more education and outreach to be done by and for mixed heritage individuals within the Asian American community, as

well as other traditional communities of color."

"I think that our community feels like it's shrinking. The phrase 'outmarriage' even implies that you marry and you or your children are out of the circle, so to speak, never to come back in," said Spry. "I think recording data showing the growing diversity in demographics, will prove to our community that it's changing, but not being destroyed."

Although the 2000 U.S. Census resulted in some important changes for the mixed race community, much more still needs to be done at both the federal and state levels. If SB 1615 is successful, proponents hope that other states will be encouraged to follow California's lead.

"California is the first state to propose such legislation. We are hopeful that other states will follow suit," said Scott.

"Every mixed race person can remember the first time he or she came face to face with a standardized form. And those of us who raised our hands and spoke up will tell you that our voices seemed quite soft in comparison to the rigidity of the constructs before us. But seven million voices in unison are pretty damn loud," said Brent. ■

## OPS

(Continued from page 1)

proximity to home and friends.

"And while Central undoubtedly has the best academics of those two, there are a lot more fights and cliques at Central," said Nguyen. "I believe this is true not because kids from the south side of town are rowdy and bad because that's not true."

"I believe most of the kids from Central come from working class families. They are taught it's a dog-eat-dog world and things aren't always fair."

Like any other city, the school district's student body is inextricably tied to demographic changes. Omaha's burgeoning population has led to the formation of racially and socio-economically divided communities. On the west, more affluent suburban areas boom with its own separate school district while older communities on the eastside are mostly made up of lower income housing.

To keep federal funding and diversity intact, the OPS tried bus-ing students and forming magnet schools on the east side. Last year, OPS officials announced its "one city, one school district" campaign to fold all school districts into the OPS in order to share property tax dollars more equitably. When the idea was met with resistance by suburban schools, the OPS went to the Legislature.

The Omaha Legislature on April 13, in a move criticized by some as state-sponsored segregation, voted 31-16 to pass LB 1024, a bill to divide OPS into three districts — one mostly black in the northeast, one predominantly white in the west and one largely Hispanic in the southeast.

The idea came from Sen. Ernie Chambers, the state's only African American senator, who later told the Associated Press that his African American constituents would have a better education if they had more control over their district. Republican Gov. Dave Heineman

signed the bill into law the same day.

Almost immediately, headlines screamed of racial segregation and pundits wrote editorial pieces intoning the Jim Crow mantra of "separate but equal."

"We will go down in history as one of the first states in 20 years to set race relations back," Omaha Sen. Pat Bourne told the AP.

Asian Pacific Americans, who only account for about 3 percent of the population, are scattered throughout the city. Nguyen is convinced that if LB 1024 is enacted, OPS will become more racially divided.

"The fact of the matter is, two districts will end up having mainly working class/middle class/minority kids, while the other is mostly Caucasian [and] upper class," she said. "I believe if we did enact LB 1024, the bad would get worse while the good just gets better leaving the kids who live in the 'bad' school district out of the chance to see new surroundings," said

Nguyen.

But other Omaha residents like Jeri Endo say there are some positive points getting lost in the misleading dialogue about racial segregation. For instance, students will now have the ability to choose where they want to go rather than settle on the closest school.

Omaha's schools aren't racially segregated, they are the products of economic growth, said Endo, who lives in the suburban Millard School District.

"People would say 'Oh my gosh look at this!' But it just so happens that's where people live," she said.

The problem of "equal" public education isn't unique to Omaha. Los Angeles' suburban sprawl creates large disparities in academic achievement and the Chicago School District has required oversight from the federal government for the past 25 years. Chicago's schools and communities are among the most segregated in the nation, according to a 2004 study by Harvard

University's Civil Rights Project.

The redistricting of OPS will take effect in 2008 although the measure has already been met with opposition from Attorney General Jon Bruning, the OPS superintendent and some local civil rights groups.

Sharon Ishii-Jordan, a professor at Omaha's Creighton University, said imposing a segregated school system is unfair for families that may not have the transportation means to choose a different school system. But she along with other community leaders have been working with the OPS over the years to build more inclusive communities and schools.

"One of the pros of this legislation is that it brought all the school districts in the greater Omaha area together to talk about what it means to be a 'learning community,'" said Ishii-Jordan.

OPS officials are still debating alternatives for the split. The Omaha 100th Legislature is scheduled to convene Jan. 3, 2007. ■

## Veterans, Volunteers Needed for Go For Broke's Hanashi Oral History Interviews

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation's preservation initiative, the Hanashi Oral History Program, ensures the "hanashi" or "story" of the Japanese American World War II veterans is not forgotten.

With nearly 670 interviews currently in its archive, Hanashi's goal is to collect another 100-plus by year's end. To help reach its aggressive goal, Hanashi is looking for veterans who would like to be interviewed in the following areas:

- New Jersey area (May 19-22)
- Chicago (June 22-28)
- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. (June 22-28)
- San Francisco (July 7-9)

Additionally, interviews are held at Go For Broke's Torrance, Calif. headquarters throughout the year.

Hanashi is seeking all JA WWII veterans to interview and empha-

sizes that all men and women who served played a role during the war and are essential to the complete story.

Women are also encouraged to be interviewed, as their role in the Women's Army Corps (WACs) during WWII is important.

Interviews are not strictly focused on the war itself; they cover all aspects of the veteran's life ranging from childhood to post-war and resettlement.

Travel accommodations to out-of-town sites are provided by the program.

The Hanashi archive is searchable and viewable on Go For Broke's website, [www.GoForBroke.org](http://www.GoForBroke.org).

To provide a name of veterans to be interviewed or to volunteer, contact Tim Yuge at 310/222-5705 or email: [hanashi@goforbroke.org](mailto:hanashi@goforbroke.org). ■

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### PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2006

- 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.
- 9/28-10/6 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: Philippe Theriault
- 10/2-10/16 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** - Kyoto, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Beppu, Kumamoto, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Tokyo. Peggy Mikuni
- 10/11-10/22 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
- 10/23-11/10 Yamato Tour to Italy in conjunction with the International Dry Cleaners Congress Convention** - Part 1 Oct. 23-Nov. 1 Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Positano, San Casciano del Bagni, Florence & Bologna. Part 2 Nov. 5-10 Venice, Verona, Simione and Milan. Tours can be taken separately or combined. Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 2-16 Yamato South Pacific Wonders Tour with Collette Vacations** - 15 days/12 nights. Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook and Christchurch.
- December Yamato Best of Branson** - Including Shoji Tabuchi, Mike Ito with the Baldknobbers, Bobby Vinton, Lee Greenwood & Crystal Gayle, Yakov Smirnoff and Andy Williams. Peggy Mikuni and Lily Nomura

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PHOTO: NISEI BASEBALL RESEARCH PROJECT AND FRANK KAMIYAMA COLLECTION

Baseball legend Kenichi Zenimura was only 5 feet tall. Here he stands next to Lou Gehrig (left) and Babe Ruth.

## BASEBALL

### Baseball Legend Kenichi Zenimura Among 2006 Class of Electees to the Shrine of Eternals

The board of directors of the Baseball Reliquary, a Southern California-based nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering an appreciation of American art and culture through the context of baseball history, recently announced the 2006 class of electees to the Shrine of the Eternals.

Josh Gibson, Fernando Valenzuela, and **Kenichi Zenimura** received the highest number of votes in balloting conducted in the month of April by the membership of the Baseball Reliquary.

The Shrine of the Eternals is the national organization's equivalent to the Baseball Hall of Fame. The three electees will be formally inducted into the Shrine of the Eternals in a

public ceremony July 23 at the Pasadena Central Library, in Pasadena, California.

Of the fifty eligible candidates on the 2006 ballot, Josh Gibson received the highest voting percentage, being named on 38 percent of the ballots returned, followed by Fernando Valenzuela with 32 percent and Kenichi Zenimura with 32 percent.

Often called the "father of Japanese American baseball," Zenimura (1900-1968) was a pioneering player, coach, manager, and organizer whose contributions and influence spanned the Pacific. Born in Hiroshima, Zenimura acquired a passion for the game in his youth and, after moving to Fresno, California in 1920, he founded the

Fresno Athletic Club, a JA baseball team that lasted more than 50 years and attained national recognition.

During World War II, the Zenimura family was sent to internment camps in Fresno and Gila River, Arizona, where under Kenichi's guidance, baseball fields were constructed and teams and leagues were formed behind barbed wire. Huge crowds flocked to the games and baseball was credited with bonding wartime internees, giving them a sense of normalcy and community pride.

Zenimura returned to Fresno after the war, where he continued playing (he caught his last game at age 55) and coached until his death in 1968. ■

## FIGURESKATING

### Olympic Gold Medalist Arakawa to Turn Professional

TOKYO—Turin Olympic gold medalist **Shizuka Arakawa** said May 7 she will turn professional to perform in ice shows, leaving behind the world of international competition.

Arakawa skipped the March figure skating world championships in Calgary, Canada, and also recently said she will sit out this year's Grand Prix series.

"By performing in ice shows, I want to repay my debt of gratitude to the world of figure skating," Arakawa said at a news conference. "I'm glad I can end my career feeling satisfied. I'm not leaving with any regrets as I embark on a new road."

Arakawa, 24, said she plans to perform in ice shows in Japan and

**A FIRST—** Shizuka Arakawa poses with her gold medal at the Turin Olympic games. She is the first Japanese figure skater to win a gold medal.



the United States.

Arakawa, the first Japanese skater to win a gold medal, was just 16 at the Nagano Games, and placed 13th.

Although she didn't make the world team until 2003, she won the world title in 2004 with an astonishing display of jumping that included a pair of triple-triple-doubles and a triple-triple in the opening 30 seconds in a performance that

dethroned Michelle Kwan as world champion.

Arakawa's departure comes at a time when Japan is becoming a rising power in women's figure skating. **Mao Asada** won the Grand Prix final, but at 15 was too young to compete in Turin or the world championships.

**Miki Ando**, **Yukina Ota** and **Yukari Nakano** also are top-level skaters. ■

### Yao Pleased with His Recovery

HOUSTON—Houston Rockets center **Yao Ming** said his injured left foot was improving, but he was still wearing a protective boot and was unsure when he'll resume basketball drills.

Yao broke his left foot on April 10 in a game against Utah and sat out the final four games of the NBA season. He had surgery that week to repair the fifth metatarsal bone in his foot.

"It's getting better every day," Yao told Houston television station KRIV. "Actually, I can walk without crutches. I get treatment every day, upper body lifting and some (riding) bike."

Yao's agent has said he hopes the Chinese center can be back on the court in June and prepared to play for China in this summer's world championships. ■

## BASKETBALL

### Rex Walters Named Head Coach of Florida Atlantic University's Men's Basketball Team

**Rex Walters** was recently named as head coach of Florida Atlantic University's men's basketball team.

This is Walters' first gig as a head coach. He previously served as associate coach of the team under Matt Doherty. Prior to joining FAU, Walters served as assistant coach at Valparaiso University.

Prior to taking on coaching assignments, Walters played profes-



sionally in the NBA for seven seasons, including with the New Jersey Nets, Philadelphia 76ers and the Miami Heat. He averaged 4.6 points and 1.7 assists per game in 13.7 minutes. He also played at the college level, starring for two seasons at Kansas.

In the 2005-06 season, Florida Atlantic finished its season in the Atlantic Sun Conference with a 15-13 record overall and the team's best conference record ever at 14-6. ■

Stories by P.C. Staff and Associated Press



• HARRY HONDA •

## VERY TRULY YOURS



### Amazing Internet Breaks Through the Venerable PC

IT'S BEEN ALMOST a year since acquiring a new computer with all the bells and grunts — connecting to the Internet, copying a CD and whatever else it can do. So it was rewarding to read P.C. Board Chair Gil Asakawa's editorial "Expanding P.C.'s Online Presence" for it fits into this column about mass media, its beginning and direction with respect to JACL's membership publication.

At a Little Tokyo conference in 1985 about immigrant Japanese newspapers and their English sections in America, I turned in a paper, "The Nisei Beat: the Day to Day Grind," on the origins of printing because it was a Chinese invention of the Late T'ang dynasty (712-756) during its brilliant Golden Age, an account of the first Japanese language "konnyaku-ban (hectograph)" newspaper in San Francisco in 1886; and how I entered the trade in the 1930s.

Because of the huge numbers of characters in Chinese, monks carved on stones, later on wood, a whole page from the classics, inked them to reproduce copies (rub-bings) of the text. A picture of a book of Buddhist sutras printed in 1124 — 400 years before Gutenberg's Bible was printed — appears in Fairbank's classic *East Asia*.

\*\*\*

Johann Gutenberg, who had invented the "movable type," published 200 copies of the Bible in 1456, the year when "mass media" was born. Till then, manuscripts were all hand-written and pages carved onto wood blocks.

Gutenberg established himself in Strasbourg, Germany (a city familiar to Nisei veterans of the 522nd Field Artillery), and printing religious tracts off his hand press.

As this technology spread across Europe, use of Latin declined and the vernacular rose. Martin Luther used the printing press to print the Bible and other texts in German. William Caxton, who learned printing in Germany, established his press at Westminster in 1477.

An illustration of Caxton's hand press shows it hadn't changed much when the Declaration of Independence was printed in 1776. Its opening line, "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary..." is still unforgotten from high school print shop days to master the California job case loaded with movable type. Such were my first days in journalism — learning the basics of printing.

\*\*\*

"Movable type" seems to have been re-invented by a San Francisco couple who had ample time on their hands. One began "blogging" — posting her journal online — with little anecdotes of her childhood days. Like a printing press on the Internet, her website Movable Type opened a new era that began five years ago, and swelled with personal participation. *The Economist* calls this a culture "already familiar to teenagers in rich countries." And the paper quips: "Most older people, if they are aware of the transition at all, find it puzzling."

One survey (Pew Internet) found 57 percent of American teenagers

create text, pictures, music and video over the Internet. An informal Yonsei survey, I would think, might put that percentage close to 75 percent.

\*\*\*

The other morning on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, a lad 18 years old didn't know what to believe about the news from Iraq as heard on TV. It means young people of today, or most people in the future, will have to decide for themselves what is real and worthwhile on the internet. Meanwhile, the carefully edited mass media model, the newspaper, often regarded as one source of truth, is hurting as circulation and advertising keeps dropping.

The new culture fosters people to become a permanent blogger or a publisher. A former magazine writer in South Korea, Oh Yeon Ho, is known to be the world's most successful online newspaper publisher, according to *The Economist*. His newspaper has no reporters on its staff. He relies instead on articles from contributors or "citizen journalists." His *Ohmy News* has a "tip jar" system, inviting readers to reward good work with small donations. One good article, it was reported, produced about the equivalent of \$30,000 in just five days.

\*\*\*

In the 1970s, the late Prof. Harry Kitano had reason to believe the Japanese American community would be gone by the new millennium because of interracial marriages. Miraculously, the community press has served the JA identity, thanks to the vernaculars in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Denver and Chicago. The Los Angeles-based *Pacific Citizen* savors its unique national spread.

As the media continues with Internet, this past year with my new computer has been a useful and fun experience for what's yet to come. As Gil poses, "Wouldn't it be great if JACL members had access to all of each issue's stories by logging on?" ■

### COMMENTARY

## A Brief History of the JACL Curriculum Guide

By GREG MARUTANI

On Sept. 17, 1987, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, Congressman Norman Mineta called for the vote on HR 442, the Civil Liberties Act, which was signed into law Aug. 10, 1988, by President Ronald Reagan.



Representatives from the San Francisco JACL met with then-Assemblywoman Jackie Speier to ask for her support in bringing the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry into the California classrooms.

Speier introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 37 that stated: "the state and school districts are urged to adopt instructional materials that reflect, in appropriate subject matter fields, accurate and objective versions of the Japanese-American internment experience as a violation of human rights, rather than as an act of military necessity" and "that the Superintendent of Public Instruction be requested to notify superintendents of school districts, county offices of education and those textbook publishers who have provided, and who are interested in providing, instructional materials to the schools of this resolution." It passed on Aug. 29, 1989.

Then on June 6, 1990, the San Francisco School Board adopted "A Day of Remembrance" resolution based on ACR 37. Recognizing that the district did not have any curriculum material that adequately addressed the historical events that

led to the internment, an ad-hoc group of community educators managed to assemble a curriculum guide that was then financed by a number of donations. The material was photocopied, and with the assistance of the district administration, distributed to every teacher in the district.

At the request of the San Francisco chapter, the national JACL adopted the guide as a project, and established the JACL National Education Committee.

Fast forward to 2006 and that guide has been printed and updated four times, has been distributed at more than 60 teacher training workshops across the country, many through the chapter network of the JACL, and has served as a prototype for others, including the Go For Broke Foundation and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

At a recent meeting with State Sen. Speier, who is currently running for lieutenant governor in California, I thanked her for her work on ACR 37 and presented her a copy of the JACL Curriculum Guide so she could see the results of her work and the support of our community's efforts to bring the story of the internment into the classrooms.

To date, over 3,500 copies of the curriculum guide have been distributed through the work of local JACL chapters and placed in the hands of teachers, most who attended a teacher training workshop.

If your chapter is interested in sponsoring a teacher training workshop, e-mail: [education@jACL.org](mailto:education@jACL.org). ■

Greg Marutani is a member of the JACL National Education Committee.

Send us your comments  
to [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org).

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# Swinging for the Barb Wire

Q&A with Chris Tashima and Tim Toyama

In a garden  
In the desert  
A young pine tree grows  
My son

With these words tucked in his heart, Zip (Derek Mio) finds it within himself to "throw smoke" in a baseball game set in a field of sand and barracks. Under the gaze of soldiers in a watchtower, boys take part in the greatest American pastime. On May 20, "Day of Independence," a coming of age short film, may catch an Emmy. And filmmakers Tim Toyama, 54, and Chris Tashima, 46, are gearing up to accept their JA of the Biennium Award at the JACL National Convention in Arizona this June. With an Academy Award already under their belts, the filmmakers talk about coming up to bat for the community. — Lynda Lin

**Pacific Citizen:** It's emotional just to see a camp recreation on screen, how did you feel setting foot on this fictional camp?

**Chris Tashima:** Yes, we built the 'camp' set — a total of five barrack façades plus a baseball field, backstop and dugouts — on donated farmland outside of Stockton, Calif. Walking around our set, and working on it, for the couple of days of prep and the three days we filmed there was a very emotional experience for me. I was moved to tears a couple of times.

It was very hot, dusty, uncomfortable, lonely, and desolate where we were filming. But, we also had hundreds of people there, most of whom either were in camp or had family that had been there all coming together for this common cause: to tell the camp story as truthfully as we could. Some of the carpenters who built our set were Nisei who had been in camp, some who had helped to build real barracks 60 years earlier.

**Tim Toyama:** I remember seeing the extras get off the buses at the location; they were in their period costumes and it looked just like the old photos and home movies from camp. It felt as if I stepped into a time machine.

**PC:** This film breathes new life into the retelling of the experience through a younger perspective.

**CT:** This was largely one of our goals — to present something engaging for younger viewers just to get them thinking and asking questions. I think it's easier to engage an audience, especially younger aged, with narrative work as opposed to non-fiction or documentary films. And using baseball along with music, dancing, elements of romance, etc., were also intended to help draw our audience into the lessons on history layered within.

**PC:** That being said, are you two baseball fans?

**TT:** I'm a baseball fan, but when I was a kid I was a Dodger fanatic (this is during the 1960s). I never played in baseball leagues, although my brothers played in the JA leagues. My dad used to play baseball in the pre-war JA leagues. He played for the Nishi Hongwanji team in Little Tokyo and later in Guadalupe for the Aratani team.

**PC:** Why was baseball chosen to tell this story?

**CT:** There are plenty of ironies about playing 'America's pastime' behind barbed wire. We've heard this discussed by Nisei who played ball in camp. As all-American kids, born in this country and raised in American culture, like with any kid, it is assumed, or maybe never given a thought. Then to have



PHOTOS COURTESY CEDAR GROVE PRODUCTIONS

everything taken away ... but in the midst of this, to be able to play baseball perhaps allowed some to defy those who may have pointed a finger at them. And it was a way for communities to share in this defiance, if not just to serve as an escape for nine innings.

**PC:** This film really distinguishes between the Issei and Nisei by using accents.

**CT:** We were very dedicated to portraying as much truth, as we know it, in the film. I feel very lucky to have known three of my grandparents most of my life. Having grown up hearing that sound — how an Issei talks — which is different from the Japanese accent of Shin Issei, I knew specifically how our older characters should sound. And it became my tribute to them.

**PC:** Talk about the poem Zip's father writes him at the end. It seems to have some personal resonance.

**TT:** I was looking for a way for Zip's dad to say, 'I'm so proud of you, I love you, son.' Just writing it in prose didn't seem compelling enough; I needed something that was deeply felt. Plus, I thought an Issei would say it in an indirect way. Also, I wanted Zip's dad to give something to Zip as a gift. So a poem seemed the way to go. Imagine, having your dad write a poem for you!

**PC:** Talk about your next project — a 442nd film called 'Memorial Day'?

**TT:** I'm working on a play about the 442nd, which I hope will also become a film. The story that I'm working on concerns a Caucasian female war correspondent who joins the 442nd during the last part of the war. This is inspired by a female war correspondent who wrote stories about the 442nd for the *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. Seeing the 442nd through the war correspondent's viewpoint is a different and unique way to tell the story of the 442nd.

**PC:** 'Memorial Day' will feature



**BASEBALL CAMP:** Skip (Derek Mio) winds up for a fast ball. The national pastime is a fresh twist in internment films. Chris Tashima (left) plays a fallible umpire.

many of the characters from 'Day of Independence.' Will there be a third installment about life after the war and redress?

**CT:** We have not planned this, but it is a period of history I am very interested in telling. While we have had different plays, films, documentaries about camp and the 442nd, the resettlement period remains largely unexplored. I hope to do something about it soon.

**PC:** Will the two of you ever switch roles with Tim in front of the camera?

**TT:** No, never. Ever. I'm not an actor. Even though I've done some 'extra' work, it's been for the experience and to have some fun! My last stint as an extra was being a zombie (perhaps typecasting?).

**PC:** Having already won an Academy Award, does being nominated for an Emmy feel like old hat now?

**TT:** The Emmy nomination is a thrill! What's great about the nomination is that it says "Day of Independence" is a noteworthy film. It recognizes everyone who helped make it. The nomination could also mean that more people will want to see it, thereby acquainting more people with the internment.

**CT:** Not at all. Receiving the nomination was extremely gratifying for me. Just to be nominated, seriously. It is an extremely competitive market and an honor to be recognized amongst so much great, important work.

**PC:** You both have also been selected as JACL's 'JA of the

Biennium,' an honor you immediately share with Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. Which acceptance speech will you be more nervous for?

**CT:** For me, there is much more significance to accepting the 'JA of the Biennium,' award than the Emmy. First of all, we don't know if we'll win the Emmy, and even if we do, we are limited to only one person speaking, and for no more than one minute.

But, secondly, and more importantly, the JACL award means a great deal, as recognition from our community, and our people, who know and understand and appreciate what we are doing.

**TT:** For me, I'm not nervous about the Emmy because Chris will do all the talking! I'll be real nervous about the speech for the JACL, mostly because it's in front of the community and so many great people have received the award. What an honor for us. ■

Read bonus parts of the interview  
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Order your VHS copy of 'Day of Independence':  
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## PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

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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](http://www.azjacl.org).

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Mon., Oct. 2**—3rd Annual National JACL Golf Tournament, "Swing for Justice"; Harding Park Golf Course, 99 Harding Road; \$200 before July 1 and \$250 after; sponsorships are available; field is limited to 144 spots; committee is also looking for golf stories from camp, email to Mas Hashimoto at [hashi79@earthlink.net](mailto:hashi79@earthlink.net). Info: Dean Suzuki, 925/212-1137 or Tom Maruyama, 650/400-1070, co-chairs.

## East Coast

### NEW YORK

**May 18-20**—Meet author/photographer Kip Fulbeck of "Part Asian, 100% Hapa" who will sign his book and take photos of individuals on an appointment basis; May 18, 6:30 p.m.; NYU Asian Pacific American Institute, 41-51 East 11th St., 7th Floor; book signing; May 19, 6:30 p.m.; JAA, 15 West 44th St., 11th Floor; book signing and video screening; May 20, 9-noon; Hapa photo shoot; RSVP for each event by May 15 to 212/869-4000 or [nlyum@darumany.com](mailto:nlyum@darumany.com).

## Midwest

### CHICAGO

**Sat., May 20**—Teacher Training Workshop, "What it Means to be An American"; Hubbard High School, 6200 S. Hamlin; will explore the similarities of the JA's WWII experience and the Americans of Middle East descent post 9/11; \$20/reg. fee; primarily for social science teachers K-12; co-sponsored by Chicago JACL and the Chicago Public Schools. Info: 773/728-7170 or [chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.org).

### CLEVELAND

**Sun., June 4**—Cherry Blossom Festival; 11:30-3 p.m.; Cleveland Metroparks, Brookside Reservation. Info: Chiaki Nakayama, 440/684-0860.

## MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., May 27**—Japanese American National War Memorial Court, 244 S. San Pedro St.; 11 a.m. Event will feature the Gold Star mothers from the Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraqi War and WWII. Info: Frank Takeyama, 310/329-9469, Sam Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

### WESTMINSTER, Calif.

**Mon., May 29**—Westminster Memorial Park, 14801 Beach Blvd.; 3 p.m. Keynote speaker is Ron Yamada, the son of the late Eiro Yamada, veteran of L Company, 442nd RCT. Info: Deen Matsuzawa, 714/826-2425, Norio Uyematsu, 714/637-1800 or Bob Wada, 714/992-5461.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Mon., May 29**—Arlington Cemetery; 11 a.m. Featuring wreath laying and program. Program includes President Bush laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier. JAVA President Bert Mizusawa will represent JAVA and Asian American veterans in this event. The National Memorial Day Parade begins at noon down Constitution Ave. Those wishing to participate in the parade are requested to contact Grant Ichikawa, 703/938-5857, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net) or Terry Shima, 301/987-6746, [tshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:tshima@worldnet.att.net) for headcount purposes.

### COLUMBUS

**Sat.-Sun., May 27-28**—Asian Festival; Franklin Park; Icho Daiko and Sho-Jo-Ji performing; free parking and admission.

### GRANADA, Colorado

**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.

## Intermountain

### DELTA, Utah

**Mon.-Fri., June 12-16**—Training class for teachers, "Specialized History: WWII and the Internment of Japanese Americans; 8-5 p.m.; Millard District Office, 285 E. 450 N; \$250 (shared lodging) due at registration; registration form available at [www.usoc.k12.ut.us/curr/soc.st/prof\\_dev/workshops.html](http://www.usoc.k12.ut.us/curr/soc.st/prof_dev/workshops.html); includes a field

trip to Topaz. Info: Robert Austin, 801/538-7708, [robert.austin@schools.utah.gov](mailto:robert.austin@schools.utah.gov) or Elaine Jones, 801/538-7977, [elaine.jones@schools.utah.gov](mailto:elaine.jones@schools.utah.gov).

### TWIN FALLS, Idaho

**Thurs.-Fri., July 6-7**—Workshop, Civil Liberties in Wartime; College of Southern Idaho; a two-day symposium, spanning from JA cases in WWII to current challenges of balancing national security and protection of civil liberties; register through Boise State Univ. Extended Studies or day of event; free; will feature Prof. Roger Daniels, author of "Concentration Camps, North America and JACL PNW Regional Director Karen Yoshitomi; Minidoka Pilgrimage will follow on July 8-9. Info: Russ Tremayne, 208/732-6885, [rtremayne@csi.edu](mailto:rtremayne@csi.edu) or Dr. Robert Sims, 208/426-3777, [rsims@boises-tate.edu](mailto:rsims@boises-tate.edu).

**Sat.-Sun., July 8-9**—Minidoka Pilgrimage; participants will visit the

grounds of the Minidoka Internment National Monument as well as tour an original barrack; participants will also have an opportunity to take part in workshop sessions; pilgrimage package with bus from Seattle is \$200/\$150 seniors 75 or older, package without bus is \$75/\$65 for seniors; fees include Fri. dinner, Sat. lunch and dinner, and Sun. lunch; buses will leave from Bellevue Community College on Friday morning. Info: Alan Momohara, [minidokapilgrim-age@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrim-age@comcast.net).

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

**Through June 10**—Exhibit, Kimono: Tradition in the Modern Age; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m., April 9 1-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; featuring discussion of kimono design, past and present, kimono demonstrations and reception with refreshments; \$3 admission fee, free to ONLC members. Info: Katrina Gilkey, 503/224-1458.

## Northern California

### MANZANAR

**Through May 21**—Manzanar Art Show and Sale; 9-5:30 p.m. daily; Manzanar National Historic Site, 5001 S. Highway 395.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., July 15**—JACL Youth Fishing Derby; San Pablo Dam Reservoir; for youth ages 8-12; lunch and snacks will be provided for the youth; free but limited to first 30 whose parents complete and submit an application and release form; Nisei Fishing Club will provide rods, reels and bait; a minibus will leave from Japantown at 7 a.m. to shuttle the youth; families are encouraged to make it a family event and to bring a dish to share with the volunteers; applications are available at the Paper Tree, 1743 Buchanan or SF JACL, 415/273-1015. Please leave your name, address and telephone number.

### SAN JOSE

**Sat., May 20**—San Jose Chidori Band's 53rd Anniversary Concert; 7 p.m.; San Jose Buddhist Church, 640

N. Fifth St.; tickets are \$10/each. Info: 408/260-2533.

### SAN LORENZO

**Sat.-Sun., June 10-11**—Eden Township JACL Bazaar; Sat. 3-8 p.m., Sun. 11-7 p.m.; Eden Community Center, 710 Elgin St.; food, games, bingo and raffle prizes. Info: Ron Sakaue, 510/276-0752.

### STOCKTON

**Sat., May 27**—Stockton JACL Annual Picnic; 10 a.m.; Micke Grove Park; races, horseshoes, softball, water balloons and more. Info: May, 209/465-8107 or Nelson, 209/476-8528. BBQ for high school and college youth call Kyle, 209/368-0288.

## Southern California

### LOS ANGELES

**June 18-20**—Conference, "Next Big Bang: The Explosion of Asian American Theatre; keynote address by Roberta Uno with other panelists: Philip Kan Gotanda, Jessica Hagedorn, Dan Kwong and Tisa Chang; showcase performances June 19-20 will be at the Aratani/Japan America Theatre at 8:30 p.m.; tickets are \$10 and open to the public through the East West Players Box Office, 213/625-7000; conference registration fee is \$300; to register visit [www.nextbigbang.org](http://www.nextbigbang.org) or call East West Players.

### RIVERSIDE

**Sun., May 21**—Riverside JACL Scholarship Dinner; 5 p.m.; First Christian Church, 4055 Jurupa Ave.; please bring a main dish and salad; dessert and beverages will be provided. Info: Michiko Yoshimura, 909/784-7057.

## Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Sat., May 27**—Las Vegas JACL Friendship Picnic; noon-5 p.m.; Floyd Lamb State Park; open to everyone; park is located off Durango. Info: Marie or Jack Hollingsworth, 702/658-8806.

### RENO

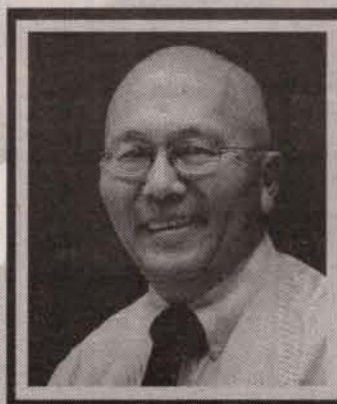
**Sun., May 21**—Reno JACL Mother's and Children's Day Potluck; noon; Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada St.; don't forget your potluck dish. ■

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**IN MEMORIAM**
**Embrey: Manzanar Committee Chair  
Emeritus, Community Leader**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Sue Kunitomi Embrey, an activist and champion of equality, passed away in the early morning hours of May 15 in Los Angeles. She was 83.

Embrey's health had been in decline even before she underwent surgery in April, according to her son Bruce. She died of complications from the surgery.

She leaves behind a legacy as a community leader. As the chair emeritus of the Manzanar Committee, Embrey is credited with getting Manzanar a national historic site designation. For years, she was a constant presence at the annual Manzanar pilgrimages, but her waning health kept her away for the last two.

As a teenager during World War II, Manzanar was a temporary home

for Embrey, who was born and raised in Los Angeles. While interned, she wove camouflage nets for the war effort, and worked at the camp newspaper, *The Manzanar Free Press*.

After the war, she graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree in English, and received her Master's in education from the University of Southern California.

As an educator, she taught young children and ESL classes until she retired in 1994 from the Los Angeles Unified School District.

She was also a staunch labor activist, said Bruce, and many of his childhood memories are of accompanying his mother in pickets lines and rallies.

"She was always such a quiet and very sweet person, yet she was extremely tenacious and fought consistently. She was a fighter. She fought her whole life. She was looked at as someone who was dignified, very patient, and couldn't tolerate any inequality," added Bruce.

**In Memoriam - 2006**

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Fujii, Tamae, 94**, Los Angeles, Mar. 10; survived by husband, James; children, Robert (Junko), Larry (Katherine) and Mickey; 2 gc.; and sisters, Natsuko and Michie. Goto.

**Higashi, Steve, 55**, Rosemead, Mar. 31; survived by wife, Michi; sisters, Frances (Harvey) Iwamizu, and Barbara (Richard) Heisler; brothers, Richard and Larry (Vic); sisters-in-law, Machi (Gary Nishitsuji) Kamei, Emi (Glenn) Kusumi, and Cathy (David) Okita; and father and mother-in-law, Katsuya and Kiyomi Kamei.

**Inagaki, Roy Matazo, 88**, Torrance, Mar. 21; survived by wife, Mary; sons, Steve (Linda) and Eugene; daughter, Norine; and 3 gc.

**Kihara, Kenji, 90**, Arleta, Mar. 9;

*This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$18 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.*

survived by wife, Hayako; sons, Isamu (Hideko), Donald (Donna) and Ken (Coleen); 6 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brother, Hisao (Hatsue) Ito.

**Maeda, Hatsuko "Florence," 98**, Torrance, Mar. 26; survived by son, Itaru (Kazue); and daughter, Ruriko (Henry) Halm.

**Murakami, Shigenobu**, Fountain Valley, Mar. 21; survived by daughters, Katherine (Gary) Quan and Janet (Earl) Otoide; 5 gc.; 4 ggc.; brother, Katsuyoshi Murakami; and

Embrey, a JACler, was also a board member on the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation Advisory Board, the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California and the National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco.

At the 2004 Manzanar pilgrimage, Embrey donated a vial of Italian soil to the National Park Service in honor of Sadao Munemori, who was honored posthumously with a Medal of Honor.

"People ask me why it's important to remember and keep Manzanar alive with this Interpretive Center. My answer is that stories like this need to be told, and too many of us have passed away without telling our stories," Embrey said in a speech.

Embrey is survived by son Bruce, daughter-in-law Barbara Becker and two grandchildren Monica Mariko and Michael Tetsuo.

Her family is planning private family services, and later, a public celebration of her life. ■

sisters, Shizuye Okamoto and Masaye Masukawa.

**Nakamura, Mary, 56**, Playa Del Rey, Mar. 10; survived by husband, Genji; parents, Frank and Kimiko Fujioki; sister, Anna Koval; and brother, John.

**Senzaki, Takashi "Tak," 84**, Los Angeles, Mar. 28; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Denise and Nadine (Steve) Takayama; sons, Norman (Susan) and Lloyd (Tami); 4 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Kayo (Chiz); sisters-in-law, Maggie Konishi, Ruth Kobayashi and Miyo Senzaki; and brother-in-law, Robert (Itsie) Kobayashi.

**Tashiro, Hatsue, 90**, Golden, Colo., April 7; survived by husband, Haruo; children, Elaine (Pierre), Steve (Patricia) and Wendy Nura; brother, George; and sisters, Hannah (Ogawa) and Mary (Iwaoka).

**Tomono, Yoko, 78**, Laguna Woods, Mar. 21; survived by husband, Kiyoshi; sons, Wayne (Cheryl) and Vic; daughter, Elaine (James) Tomono-Lee; and 3 gc. ■

**Whereabouts**

Whereabouts is free of charge and run on a space-available basis.

**YUTAKA AMANO**

Richard Barlow Hatch is looking for Yutaka Amano. They went to Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra before Yutaka's family was sent to Santa Anita. With information on Yutaka please call the *Pacific Citizen*, 800/966-6157.

**DEATH NOTICE****KIMIYO ENTA**

CHICAGO—Kimiyo Ena, 82, passed away Feb. 24. Beloved wife of Chinoree; loving sister of Leo Kiyohiro and his wife Yuriko. Kimiyo was active in odori, shamisen, and koto in the Chicago area for the last 48 years.

**DEATH NOTICE**
**FUMIYE "TONI"  
TAKAMOTO**

SAN JOSE—Fumiye "Toni" Takamoto, 87, passed away April 19. She is survived by her daughter, Sharon (Harry) Hasegawa; grandson, Bradley Hasegawa; sister, Yuki Sumida; and sister-in-law, Grace Takamoto.

**Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II:  
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By Thelma Robinson



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**DEATH NOTICE****TOM TSUJI**

WORCESTER, MASS. - Tom Tsuji, 88, of Worcester passed away May 4 at the UMass-Memorial Medical Center, Worcester. Tom was born in San Diego, Calif. Aug. 8, 1917, son of the late Shojiro and Yone Sawa Tsuji.

He graduated from Oakland Technical High School, and studied music and earned a B.A. in 1941 from San Francisco State College, now UCSF. In addition to drums, Tom was a very accomplished marimba player during his years as a student.

With the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, his family was sent to the Tanforan Assembly Center in Calif., where Tom founded the Tanforan Tooters, an orchestra.

The group became the Topaz Tooters when they were transferred to the Topaz Internment Camp in Utah. They played at school dances and other functions both in Topaz and in communities outside the camp.

Following his release from internment, Tom relocated to New York City, where he studied further as a tympanist and percussionist. He became the chief tympanist of the New Orleans Symphony, and percussionist in the Minneapolis Symphony, thereby becoming the first Nisei in a major American symphony. Tom is mentioned, cited and quoted many times in George Yoshida's book, *Reminiscing in Swingtime: Japanese Americans in American Popular Music, 1925-1960*.

While in New Orleans, he also was employed by the Hall Drum Co. He came to Worcester when offered a position at the former Walberg & Auge Music Co. He also was employed at Norwood Music in Worcester and Valente Music in Marlborough, Mass..

Tom was a life member of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians of Greater New York City, and Local 174-496, A.F. of M. of New Orleans.

Tom is survived by his beloved and devoted former wife, Annette Biscari Tsuji, who looked after him in his declining years; a sister, Minnie and her husband Sus Ito of Wellesley, Mass.; their children and families, Linda and her husband James Ito-Adler, sons Justin and Jayson; Celia and her husband Barry Doe, children Lisa and Jesse, all of Belmont, Mass.; Daniel Ito and his wife Ellen and their daughter Amanda, of Honduras; and Bruce Ito of San Francisco.

Tom was predeceased by a sister, Marie Toguchi. Her surviving children are Robert Toguchi and his wife Janice and their children Michael and Allison of Altoona, Penn.; and Susan and her husband Stephen Blair of Monfort Heights, Ohio.

A memorial service will be held in Worcester at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army, 640 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608, or a charity of your choice.

The Athy Memorial Home, 111 Lancaster St., Worcester, Mass. is directing funeral arrangements.



## VETS

(Continued from page 1)

boulder and one of my friends, Saburo Tsuchiyama, got hit right next to where I was.

The shrapnel blew up and hit his leg. Right away we cut his pants and put a bandage on it and called the medics.

That evening Kusaka stepped on a mine and that was very ugly. My friend and I tried to cut his boot off and the heel of the boot was blown apart and you could see the joint and bones. We did what we could for him, but I know he must've suffered.

We had this reunion in Vegas for the 100th and I asked about Kusaka and they said 'Oh yeah, he lost his leg.' He died a couple of years ago.

The 2nd and 3rd platoon were right on line, they were right up there and Sadao Munemori was in the 2nd platoon. That's when he got his Medal of Honor that first day. We knew each other enough to say hi especially when we were in the Champagne Campaign. We were by different outposts. If he'd go by, we'd talk. I think we heard the news of his death the next day.

### Remembrance

To see the guys getting killed was the worst part.

Remembering ... doesn't bother me too much anymore.

For Memorial Day, we go to Evergreen and pay our respects. [I remember] my friends who died. Like Minoru Ishita — we were drafted together from camp. He went to G Company of the 442nd. We called him 'Onions.' I don't



**REMEMBERING:** Toke Yoshihashi (right) with friend Minoru Ishita, who died during World War II.

know how he got that name!

The Iraq War seems like a completely different type of war. It seems to me there's no set line that you're going to fight and keep pushing. They have all the car bombs. And it seems like they are more mechanized.

I feel for them. Being in the service, I can understand partially what they're going through.

**ROBERT S. NAKAMOTO, 45**  
Sergeant with the Tennessee National Guard  
West Point graduate

In our family on my mother's side, one of my ancestors, Monroe McPherson, served as a first sergeant in the Civil War. Two of her uncles served in World War II. One of her brothers served in the Marine Corps. My father served in the Air Force during the Korean War. One of his brothers, Donald Nakamoto, served in Vietnam in the Army.

[Military service] was something that was in me for as long as I can remember. I realize it's not everyone's cup of tea. I do believe it's important that citizens serve their nation, and sometimes that means military service.

I had some relatively minor non-combat injuries at Camp Shelby prior to going overseas and headaches from an explosion in Iraq. I'm not fully recovered, but am doing better.

I've been working pretty hard on recovering. My wonderful wife, Sherri, is also helping me by feeding me a pretty healthy diet of vegetables and fruit. She held the fort down while I was gone for 21 months. We have been blessed with five children, whom she home-schools, so you can imagine it wasn't easy.

### Walking in the Footsteps of History

At Camp Shelby, it honestly took

a while for me to realize exactly where I was in terms of American history. Ironically, when I received my alert notification about going to Iraq, I had been thinking about the example of the 442nd's service. After I realized that I was walking on the same ground they had prior to going overseas, it was a humbling experience.

At the Camp Shelby museum a section is devoted to the 442nd RCT. It really opens one's eyes to look at it. The 442nd had enormous casualties and endured some of the toughest fights any U.S. unit saw during the war.

Due to the sacrifice that they, and other Japanese Americans, made in the war and the years following the war, I did not have to endure the racial discrimination that they did. My analogy is they made a broad road so that their children and descendants would not have to fight that battle again, at least nothing of that magnitude.

There were, and are, times when I feel every time I put on a uniform that I'm at an advantage with "Nakamoto" on my nametag. They, and the other JAs who served in other units during that conflict and later conflicts set such a good example that in some ways it's a given that you are someone who can be counted on.

The conflicts are not too similar.

While I'm grateful I've been allowed to serve our nation, I don't think the intensity of combat is remotely similar. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, at times, probably lost more men in a few minutes than our Regimental Combat Team lost in a year.

Equipment wise, probably the

biggest difference is the amount of electronics and computers the military now uses. In Iraq I had a navigation computer, night vision devices and a remote controlled airplane.

On the military front, I don't think you can compare serving in Iraq to serving in France and Germany during WWII.

Iraq, while not safe at times, was not like fighting the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe. There were many times I thought about how grateful I was we weren't fighting the Germans like the 442nd did.

### A Step Back

My Uncle Donald recently passed away. He was a Vietnam veteran.

I often think of him. I'm still in sorrow he's gone. I also think of Uncle Benard and Uncle Harry who served in WWII, and who have also passed away.

I also think of all of the others who served and are now gone. I also think of their families. In many ways, I believe it was harder on my family here at home than it was on me in Iraq.

[Memorial Day] is a day to reflect on the sacrifice our ancestors made so that we could live in a free land.

Today, the United States is facing many challenges. I believe it's important for Americans to remember their example and participate in trying to ensure we leave our children a free land.

I believe the Republic we live in is a rare treasure in mankind's history. I can't imagine not working to try to make our nation a better place to live in. ■

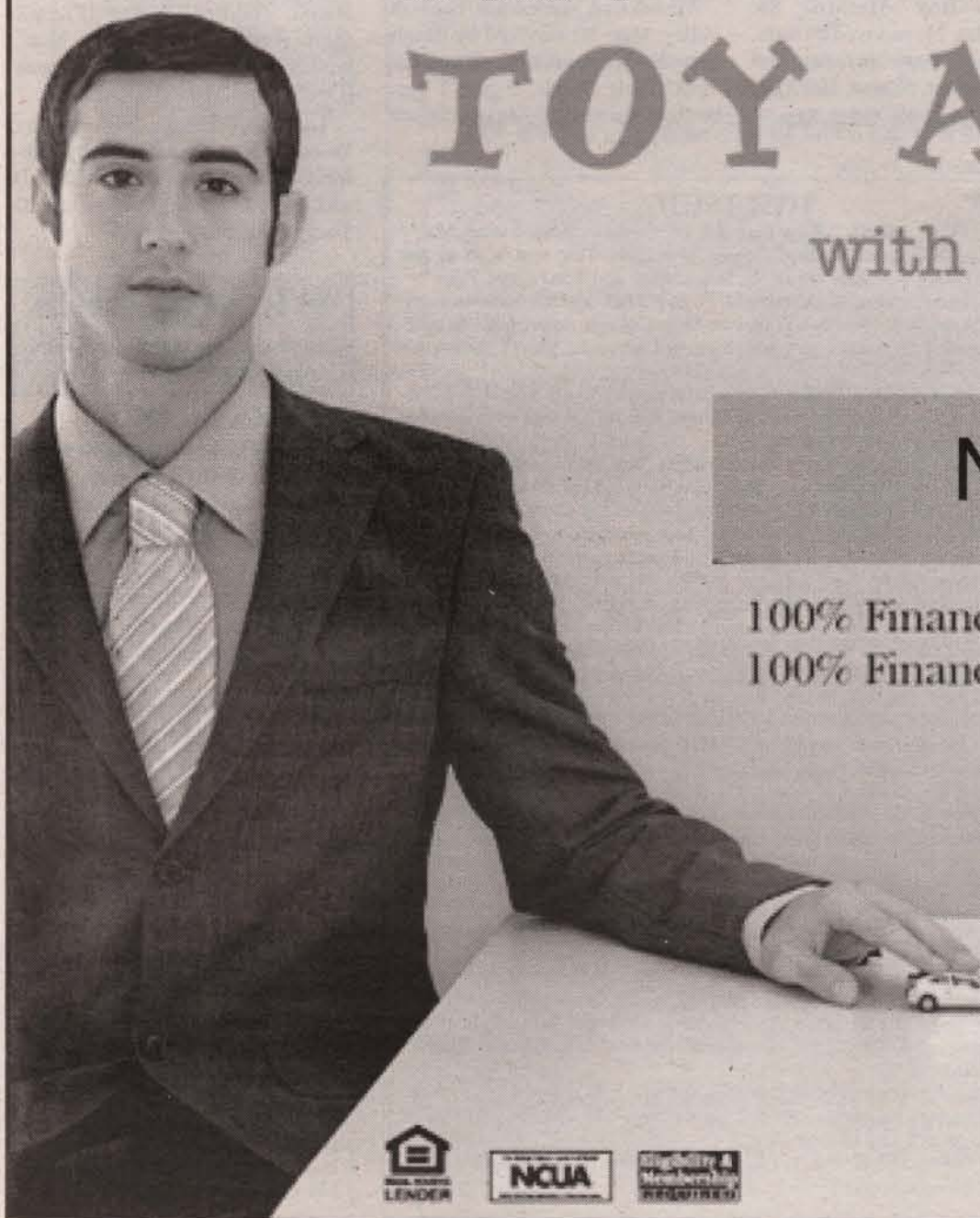
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