Two Heroes, Two Wars — A Lifetime of Memories

MEMORIAL DAY

Toke Yoshishahi (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.

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 by Lynda Lui.

Toke Yoshishahi, 83
Entered the service April 1944 at 21
Served 2-1/2 years with 100th Battalion, A company

We were the Yoshishahis 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 mountains.

They had to hike all night where 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 platoon leader. They were replaced by a fellow named Kushka, who came out of the 2nd platoon, and Ken Kaneko. Since they changed offi­cers on us — we didn't know him, he didn't know us — the 2nd platoon leader offered to go on the line for us and let us go into reserve.

We went along the path and we didn't dare go too much off 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 overhang­ning 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 rock.

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 set­back in race relations while residents weigh-in on discussion of a 'learning community.'

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

At the end of her freshman year, Kimberly Nguyen, 16, transferred from Burke High, a mostly white school located near the western bor­der 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 school.'

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, filled 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 category 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 filing 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 heritage populations," said Megan Emiko Scott, Swid, Inc.

Discovering Your JA Roots

It's a dilemma many JAs find themselves in today, especially since the experiences of the intern­ment camps left many Issei and Nisei reluctant to maintain ties with their ancestral home. Often, the younger generations like the Sunseit and Yonsei became the driving force 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 Ojiuchan and Obachan are but how about your great-grandfather and great-grandmother? Add more "greats" and you'll likely be lost in a world of unknowns.

Discovering Your JA Roots — Page 4

A MEMORIAL VISIT
Julie Kawaye (left) and her sister Julie Kawaye-Kato (right) visit the family cemetery in Tsuta, Hiroshima prefecture with their Japanese relative Goro Kato.
SPRING CAMPAIGN

Be the Decider and Make the Pie Higher

By CASEY CHINA and ANDY UEHARA

While you are "working hard to put food on your family," every little bit counts. A Pacific Citizen Campaign contributor, we should be "shouting," I am a pit bull on the "paws of opportunity." For we are taking aggressive steps to expand the opportunities that the Internet provides!

CASEY CHINA

ANDY UEHARA

What is better is there is "Knockdown the tootbhol' 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 reading a newspaper or surfing the Internet? Without a doubt, making the P.C. Web site even better will help us reach out to younger audiences.

I mean, I read the newspaper, I mean, I can tell you what the headline is. I turn pages, I know what the story is, like, not a fair appraisal, I'll move on, but I know what the story is. I offer them 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 presence.

In the end, there is nothing more that I can say, other than, "Make the pie higher! Make the pie higher!" With your contributions, you can help us make the tallest pie ever and improve the P.C.'s online presence: become more fun!

I dare say the answer is: Yes. The highways of the Internet will become more secure for me too. 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 secure for me too.

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.

Letters to the Editor

Shosuke Sasaki, a Man of Convictions

It was with nostalgia that I read in the Pacific Citizen the excellent column "Use of 'Jap' in Print is Slowly Diminishing After 50 Years" by Harry K. Honda. It brought back many memories of very fine, dedicated people whom I have had the privilege of knowing such as: Sandra Tamashiro of Texas; the late Shosuke Sasaki of New York City; Los Angeles; Woodrow Asai and Everett James Starr of New York; George Yuzawa and Moonjung Koay of Canada; Harry Umezu of Seattle; All of them campaigned very strongly against the word "Jap" through major newspapers, the courts, and the federal government.

Sasaki in particular by his vehement writings, and consistent appeal against the word "Jap" which targeted the people who respected him uncomfortably that they were not doing enough. He apparently deeply felt the "anti-Japanese" discrimination caused him from his youth, college years, and war years.

It was, therefore, revealing to me to learn a "How to Write News Stories" that in 1965 national JACL published its "Please Don't" leaflet to eliminate the use of derogatory language. The JACL is a vast organization with many opinions and nuances. Its membership is motivated by many different considerations, 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 I shall meet with Seattle and Sasaki's grave. The Japanese community in some respects is a close knit community. Sasaki as a result of the involvement of that community was a very fine man with strong convictions.

Wyndie (Teddy) Kawagoyama

Washington, D.C.

Race' 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 Senate-passed 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 had the advantage of seeing the whole text of the bill, you may be right; but most of us either have not read the text or have failed to note the bill's passing by, as printed in the press, that justices 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 colleagues may be beginning to feel emboldened, with the right to edit articles. Your children learning? Yes, no.

Can a 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.

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Especially in an election year, when our Republican JACL colleagues May 4 Pacific Citizen...
**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 existing provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

The committee approved 33 to 0 the bipartisan legislation HR 9, the "Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Reauthorization and Amendments Act 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 changes to voting practices in covered jurisdictions, including redistricting, annexation of other territories, and polling place changes.

Asian Pacific Americans have suffered from discrimination at the polls and are often 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 policies 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, AACR 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 numerous voting changes in covered areas 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.

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**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 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.

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

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**Gov’t Endorses National Park Status for Bainbridge**

*By Pacific Citizen Staff*

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 Service as part of the Bainbridge Island Internment National Monument in Idaho.

The memorial is to be built at the former Naval Printing Plant on Bainbridge Island, the site where the first Japs were shipped off to internment camps.

The project 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-jun 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 their 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 grave site.

"We know that we exist. 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 connects with her Japanese relatives, mostly through e-mails.

For Sansei Chester Hashizume, 31, 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 onward, people in 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 lineages, 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 Minchido in Hiroshima. Her dad's side (Shingu, Kawaye) come from Kumamoto, Hiroshima, and Kochi in Shikoku.

Most of her family emigrated 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 Yousoki Hashizume arrived in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1919 with a cousin to sell ceramics and lacquerware and eventually opened up a giftshop. His maternal grandfather Katuichi Munekiyo was in Portland, Oregon from 1905 to 1910 before he married his grandmother and moved to California.

He also discovered that his mother's 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.graci­ties.com/SiliconValley/Garage/4464­Home.html) where he not only writes about his JA family roots but lists techniques and ideas that he has learned from others.

"I think the lack of knowledge about my father's side of the family started me on the research. I published the genealogy page so other JAs don't have to stumble across it 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 didn't talk much about their Japanese family ancestry although he 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 once of the sons take anything that he thought useful during the evacuation," 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 at the Genealogy Forum. Reven used people searches on Yahoo and also recommends cyndylist.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: Kira-Japanese Genealogy (members.tripod.com/ranker_room/­family­html); Japan GenWeb (http://www.rootsweb.com/j­pn­gen­web); Ancestry.com (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 Lilian Kimiko, 1 1 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 or 626/544-1954.
### 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) propels 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 Sasaahara, Yoji Niho and Bill Yamanaka; Women’s Flight: Ash Alido, Michiko Okamura and Kathy Quock; and Callaway Flight: Kerrey Kinjo, Nick Saiki and Toddi Sato.

### For Go For Broke Unveils New Name, Future Initiatives

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

### 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 ‘Fresno’, Calif., received a $1 million grant through the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) 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 three years to raise the necessary funds to build the center. The organization plans to raise the $1.5 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.”

### Get Your Voice in the Pacific Citizen!

E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org

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### Convention Registration Form

**Name**

[Please print] Last Name First Name Middle Initials

**Address**

City, State, Zip-Code

**Daytime Telephone Number**

**Evening Telephone Number**

**E-mail address**

**Category**

- Delegate
- Booster
- Millennium Club
- Alternate 1000 Club
- National Board/Staff
- Youth 1000 Club Life
- Manoosha Fellow

**Mail Check and this form together to:**

- **JACL 2006 - Registration**
  - P.O. Box 4455
  - 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:

**Cardholder’s Name**

**Account Number**

**Expiration Date**

**Signature**

**Registration Fees**

**CONVENTION PACKAGE REGISTRATION**

(includes Individual Events listed below)

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**INCLUSIVE EVENTS (all included in package registration)**

- Workshops $25
- Welcome Mixer $50
- Awards Luncheon $50
- Symposium Banquet $100
- Youth Luncheon $50

**SPECIAL EVENTS (not included in Regular Package Registrations)**

- Camp Dance Dinner & Show $85
- Camp Dance Show Only $85
- Golf Tournament $75

**JACL 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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Ted Namba • Why is JACL 2006 in Arizona?

D id you know that a Japanese man, Hachiro Onuki, Okinawa (Hutchinson, Okinawa), was one of three partners who first brought electricity to Phoenix in 1896? This Okinawan 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 in likely one of the first JACL inter-marriages in America as well as one of the first JACLs to be 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; Civil War 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 activities at this year’s convention that one can purchase wonderful items from popular vendors such as Nikkei Traditions from San Jose; Civil War 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 activities at this year’s convention.

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

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- Symposium Banquet $100
- Youth Luncheon $50

**SPECIAL EVENTS (not included in Regular Package Registrations)**

- Camp Dance Dinner & Show $85
- Camp Dance Show Only $85
- Golf Tournament $75

**JACL 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
heritage population. California currently has the largest number of mixed race individuals in the U.S. in part because many of those born in this state are multiracial," said Scott, a Bay Area chapter leader of Swift, 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 18 but still needs to gain the support of the Senate and House appropriations committees since the bill would have a fiscal impact. The bill requires the state record and report the number of persons who identify as being multiracial and also contains safeguards to allow for the protection of personal information 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. They hope 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 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. By passing SB 1615, the state will be able to claim that mixed race populations are scattered throughout the state. By coming to grips with this reality in a more accurate way, California is recognizing the importance of multiple races in one's identity as opposed to one that's "most important," said Kosai Spady, national JACL youth council chair. "This might allow the state government to adjust services not only for African American, White, Black, Latino, or Asian, but to the African-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, Asians have the highest turnout rates, making the impact of SB 1615 on this group potentially huge. "SB 1615 is supported by many Asian American organizations," said Brent, "but we also need to show 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 'outmarried' even implies that you or your children are out of the circle, so you never come back in," said Spady. "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, many debates still need 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 a state-level solution and I hope geographically 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 standard form and was forced to choose one side over another," said Jonathan Masaji Brent, executive director of Multiracial Americans of Southern California (MASC).

"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).

In 2000, the federal government for the first time allowed mixed race persons to select more than one race in the U.S. Census. As a result more than 7 million people took advantage of this new option. As of 1.6 million Californians, the home of the largest multiracial race population. But the fight to pass legislation at the federal level took several years of advocacy by mixed race individuals 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 it provides an opportunity for students 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. 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's extraordinarily competent and some local civil rights groups.

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, encourages the "telling" 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 WWII veterans to interview and emphatically says that all men and women who served played a crucial role 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-state interviews are provided by the program.

The Hanashi archive is searchable and viewable on Go For Broke's website, www.GoForBroke.org.

To provide a name of veterans to be interviewed or to volunteer, contact Tim Yone at 310/222-5705 or email: hanashi@goforbroke.org.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, Mar 19, 2004

"1615 (Continued from page 1)"
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 South Bay California-based nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering an appreciation of American art and culture through the lens 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 Padres University 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 2A 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 would 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 the United States. Arakawa, the first Japanese skater to win a gold medal, was just 16 at the Nagano Games, and placed 13th again.

Although she didn't make the world team until 2005, 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 ris­ ing power in woman's figure skating. Mao Asada won the Grand Prix final, but at 15 was too young for the Turin or the world championships.

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

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 Dohery. Prior to joining FAU, Walters served as assistant coach at Valparaiso University.

Prior to taking on coaching assignments, Walters played professionally 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.
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 whistles — connecting to the Internet, copying a CD and whatever else it can do. So it was rewarding to read PC Board Chair Gil Asakawa's editorial "Expanding JACL'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 Tang dynasty (712-756) during its brilliant Golden Age, an account of the first Japanese language "kongpakusonographia" (photography) 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 (rubbings) of the text. A picture of a book of Buddhist sutras printed in 1124 - 400 years before Gutenberg's Bible was printed - connecting to the Internet copy was Johann Gutenberg, who had invented the "movable type," published 200 copies of the Bible in 1456, the year when "mass media" was born. Then, manuscripts were all hand-written and pages curved onto wood blocks.

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 published in 1776. Its opening line, "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary ..." is still untouched from high school print shop days to muster the California job case loaded with movable type. Such were my first days in journalism - learning the basics of printing.

"Movables 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 Moveable 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 interacial 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 a pose to asking whether if JACL members had access to all of each issue's stories by logging on?

Send us your comments to pc@pacificcitizen.org.
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 become a baseball player set in a Japanese internment camp. 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 be in the 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 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 barracks façades plus a baseball field, backstop and dugouts — on donated farmland outside of Woodland, Calif. While 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 easier to engage an audience, especially younger aged, with narrative work as theJAleagues. My dad used to play baseball in the pre-war JA

PACIFIC CITIZEN: Did your audience into the lessons on history layered within.

our audience into the. period costumes and it looked just like the old photos

In a garden

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COLUMBUS
Sat., May 27—28—Asian Festival; Franklin Park: Icho Daloo and Sho-jo-Ji performing; free parking and admission.

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

INTERNATIONAL
Mon.-Fri., June 12-16—Training class for teachers; "Specialized History: WWII and the Internment of Japanese Americans; 8-5 p.m. Milliard District Office, 285 E. 450 N; $250 (shared lodging) due at registration; registration form available at www.uow.k12.ut.us/cfc/oc/str/profdev/worksheets.html; includes a field trip to Topaz. Info: Robert Austin, 801/538-7700; robert.austin@ schools.utah.gov or Elaine Jones: 801/538-7977; 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 Japan cases in WWII to current challenges of balancing national security and protection of civil liberties; register through Boise State Univ. Extended Studies or online at www.csu.edu.

ROANOKE, Va.
Sat., May 20—ROANOKE JACL; Wash. D.C. bus trip to the National World War II Memorial at 8 a.m. Participants will also visit Washington D.C. attractions; $95 includes bus fare, admission fees, and a continental breakfast. Info: Robert Kip Fulbeck, Oregon Nikkei Benevolent Fund, 503/1224-1408.

CIVIL LIBERTIES IN WARTIME
Mon.-Fri., July 24-28—ROANOKE JACL: Conference, "Civil Liberties in Wartime"; participants will visit the National World War II Memorial; includes a field trip to Washington D.C.; fee is $95. Info: Robert Kip Fulbeck, Oregon Nikkei Benevolent Fund, 503/1224-1408.

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SPECIAL TO THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

By Pacific Citizen Staff

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

Embry’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, Embry is credited with getting Manzanar a national historic site designation. For years, she was the principal organizer of the annual Manzanar pilgrimages, but her waving health kept her away for the last two years.

As a teenager during World War II, Manzanar was a temporary home for Embry, 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 Mercury.

After the war, she graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, with a B.A. 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 also was a staunch labor activist, said Bruce, and many of her 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 won her whole life. She was looked at as someone who was un­­sighted, very patient, and couldn’t tolerate any inequality,” added Bruce.

Embry, a JACCCer, was also a board co-chair on the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation Advisory Board, the Japanese American Historical Society of California, and the National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco.

--via Interpress

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In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns in California except as noted.

Fujii, Tamie, 94, Los Angeles, Mar. 10, survived by her husband, 1 child, 2 sisters, and 3 nephews. Nita Okamura.

Higashi, Steve, 55, Rosemead, Mar. 31, survived by her wife, 3 kids, 1 brother, and 1 sister. Numa & Michie Oda.

Imagaki, Roy Matazo, 88, Torrance, Mar. 21, survived by her 3 kids, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. Kiharu, Kenji, 90, Arleta, Mar. 9.

TOM TSUJI

WYOMING — W. Va. Tom was interned at the MMSC from 1943 to 1945 where he earned a B.A. in 1941 from San Francisco State College, now UCSF. In addition to drums, Tom was a very accomplished musician playing his years as a student.

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

The group became the Tanforan Troopers 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. A tympanist and percussionist, because the chief tympanist of the New Orleans Symphony, and percussionist in the Minnesota Orchestra, thereby becoming the first Minnesota-hires top American symphony. Tom is mentioned, and cited many times in George Frideric Handel in America, a spoken piece in Swingtime: Japanese Americans in American Popular Music, 1925-1966.

While in New York, he also was employed by the Hall Drum Co. He came to Wright and Gross, a position at the former 924 Musical Music Co. He also was employed at Woodrow Music in Worcester and Valerie Music in Marblehead, Mass.

Tom was a life member of Local 902, American Federation of Musicians of Greater New York City, and Local 174-496, A.F. of M. of New York.

Tom wrote and performed for Yutaka Amano. They went to work for Keppel High School in Ahambra before Yutaka’s family was sent to Santa Anita, with whom he continued on Yutaka please call the Pacific Citizen, 800-996-6157.

YUTAKA AMANO

Richard Barlow Hatch is looking for Yutaka Amano, as an orchestra. They went to work for Keppel High School in Ahambra before Yutaka’s family was sent to Santa Anita, with whom he continued on Yutaka please call the Pacific Citizen, 800-996-6157.

KIMIYO ENTA

Chicago—KIMIYO ENTA, 82, passed away Feb. 24. Beloved wife of Chauncey, 50 years of marriage; survived by Kiyohiro and his wife Yuriko. Kiyiyo was active in odor, 70 years of marriage; Kiyohiro is a Chicago area for the last 48 years.

YUMI "TONI" TAKAMOTO

SAN FRANCISCO—YUMI "TONI" Takamoto, 87, passed away April 7. She was survived by her daughter, Sharon (Harry) Hasegawa, grandson, Bradley, and her sister-in-law, Mari Okamura. Obituary
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 stopped 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 outfits. 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 think we heard the news of his death the next day.

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. We called him ‘Onions.’ I don’t 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’re more mechanized.

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

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 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 those conflicts 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.

I believe the Republic we live in 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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