

Special Arizona Convention Issue

Pacific Citizen

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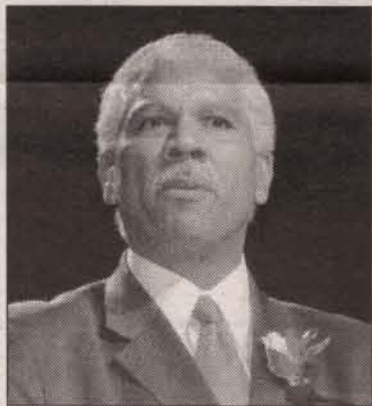
JULY 7-20, 2006

Council Elects 2006-2008 Nat'l JACL Board



ELECTION RESULTS—The JACL national council cast their votes and the 2006-2008 winners were announced June 24. The new board members are (l-r): Mark Kobayashi, secretary/treasurer; Heidi Tanakatsubo, v.p. public affairs; Carol Kawamoto, v.p. planning & development; Larry Oda, president; Kimberly Shintaku, youth chair; Leilani Savitt, youth rep; Sheldon Arakaki, v.p. general operations; and Edwin Endow, v.p. membership.

NAACP Director Highlights JACL's Civil Rights Legacy in Keynote Address



NAACP Dir. Hillary Shelton

Cedar Grove Productions honored with this year's JA of the Biennium Award; Sandra Tanamachi is recognized for her efforts to eliminate Texas J-Roads.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

This famous Martin Luther King, Jr. quote is as fitting today as it was

back in 1963 and it is a message that Hilary Shelton, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, brought to the JACL national convention's Sayonara Banquet June 24.

“We’re living in a time that is almost as challenging as the era when the JACL was founded ... Just as in the past, we are facing formidable threats to civil rights, civil liberties,” said Shelton.

See BANQUET/Page 4

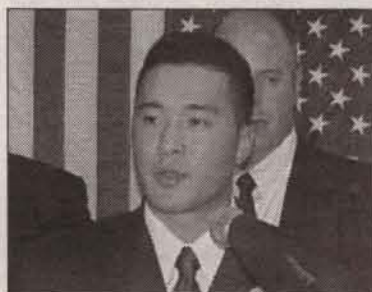
JA Officer Makes It Official, Refuses Deployment to Iraq

P.C. readers add their voices to the controversy surrounding 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's decision.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

First Lt. Ehren Watada fulfilled his pledge to refuse deployment to Iraq when his unit was ordered to deploy June 22 and the 28-year-old Honolulu native refused to accompany them.

Watada is now officially the first commissioned officer to publicly refuse deployment to Iraq. He also



First Lt. Ehren Watada speaks at a press conference in Tacoma, Washington last month.

See WATADA/Page 9

JACL's Executive Director Announces Resignation

Tateishi: ‘Maybe it’s time for some change.’

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

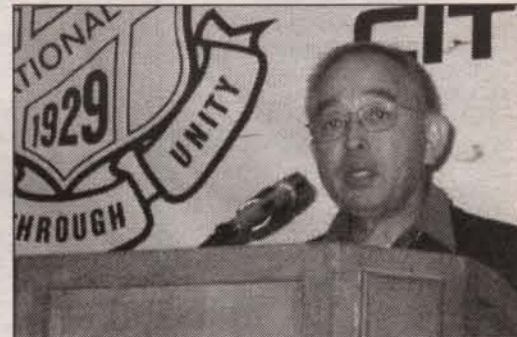
CHANDLER, Ariz.—After more than six years as JACL national executive director, John Tateishi is stepping down. He made the announcement at the June 25 meeting of the new national board in Chandler, Arizona citing personal reasons.

“I’ve been thinking about it for quite some time,” said Tateishi to board members the morning after all convention activities concluded. He cited the job’s stress, workload and lack of staff as some of the reasons, but his decision came amid national board elections controver-

sy. According to Tateishi, an individual from the Pacific Southwest District accused him of influencing the elections. Threats were made, he said.

“I don’t do well with threats,” said Tateishi to the *Pacific Citizen*. “Ironically at that point, I decided not to resign.” He was as he

has always been in his long career in the civil rights arena — resolved to fight. But while standing in the footsteps of his ancestors at the rededication of the Gila River monument the morning after the elections, Tateishi reflected on a life that has not been his own for quite some time.



FILE PHOTO

John Tateishi announced he is stepping down at a national board meeting June 25.

In the desert, a confluence of reasons led to his decision. He thought about camp a lot. He thought about all the moments that have lead up to this. Then he announced his resignation with an effective date of whenever a replacement is found.

See TATEISHI/Page 9

JACL Sets New Course with Next Biennial Budget

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—The national council adopted a biennial budget that includes aggressive measures to curb membership erosion, fund programs and fill long vacant staff positions.

At the June 21-24 national convention, council members examined the risks and benefits of some proposed fundraising measures.

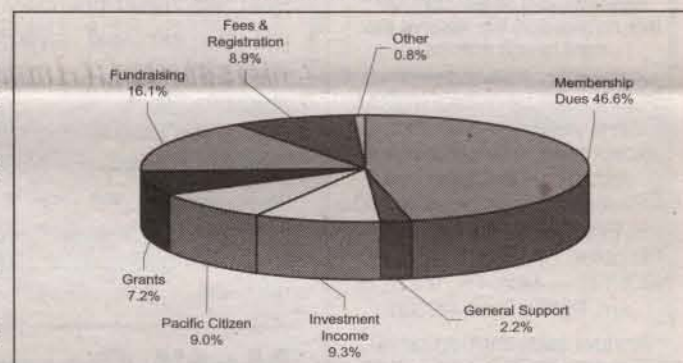
The 2007-08 budget includes the following fundraisers:

- a \$5 dues increase in general (single, couple/family and youth) membership, which gets rid of the chapter/district insurance premium payment;
- an annual fundraising gala dinner in Washington, D.C.; and
- an annual golf tournament.

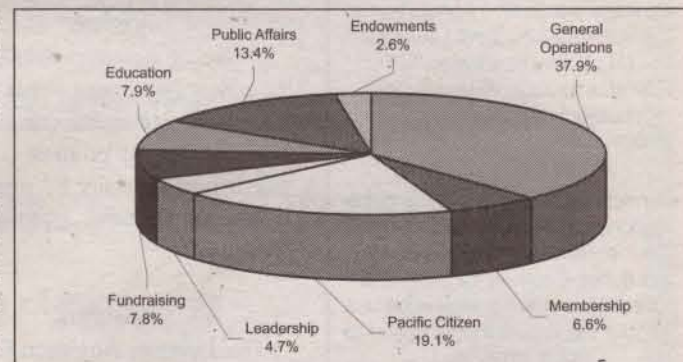
In addition, JACL districts and chapters need to meet aggressive new membership targets. The PSW district will strive to recruit four new Millennium Club members while the

See BUDGET/Page 2

2007-2008 Revenue Sources



2007-2008 Program Costs

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Strong Foundation, Strong Future

By LARRY ODA
Nat'l JACL President

Following every biennial convention, JACL faces a transition of leadership. The national board frequently uses the first meeting after convention to survey the state of JACL and begin to take up the baton of leadership passed to them by the outgoing board.

The recent national board meeting on June 25 was a fine beginning



See ODA/Page 4

Mineta Resigns, Citing ‘Time to Move On’

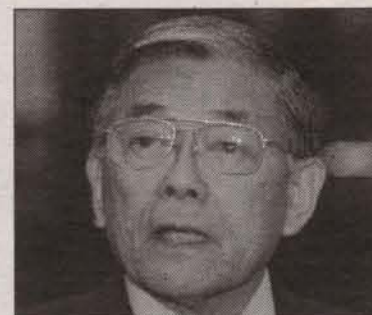
JACL passes an emergency resolution honoring his longtime service.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

CHANDLER, Ariz.—Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, the first Asian Pacific American to serve as Cabinet secretary, announced June 23 his exit as the Bush administration's transportation secretary — a position he held for over five years.

Mineta, 74, became the longest-serving transportation secretary since the department was formed in 1967.

“It is time for me to move on to other challenges,” Mineta said in a letter to President Bush. His resignation is effective July 7.



AP PHOTO: CARLOS OSORIO

Sec. Norman Mineta announced his resignation June 23.

The news came as a shock for many JACLers amidst the flurry of convention activities. JACL Executive Director John Tateishi broke the news during the Youth Luncheon to gasps and looks of disbelief from an audience that has

See MINETA/Page 8



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Nat'l Director: John Tateishi

Pacific Citizen Board of

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PNWDC; Larry Grant, IDC;
Sharon Kumagai, PSWDC;
Maya Yamazaki, Youth.

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BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

other districts have the goal of find-
ing one each — a total of six. The
national board has also committed
to reducing the membership attrition
rate, which has been in continual
decline over the years.

These measures have been imple-
mented in part to fill vacant staff
positions, increase membership and
launch new programs.

New staff positions included in
the next biennial budget are:

- a PSW regional director to be
hired on January 1, 2007 (moved up
from the initial start date of April 1,
2007);
- a part-time bookkeeper based in
national headquarters (80 percent);
- a part-time assistant for the
JACL executive director (80 per-
cent).

The next biennial budget, which
passed the national council with rel-
ative ease, was due to the prelimi-
nary work by the national board in
marathon budget balancing sessions
and in the workshops at convention,
said newly elected JACL National
President Larry Oda.

"There were some compromises
in doing this, but in the end, it will
be the best for JACL," said Oda,
who also pointed out the Program
for Action was completed early
enough this biennium for national
board members to prioritize the
budget.

"I've mentioned that the capacity
building effect of hiring another
regional director will make mem-
bership outreach, program develop-
ment, and completion much easier,
and this increased capacity will
assist in obtaining new sponsors for
programs," he added.

With the announcement of John
Tateishi's resignation as JACL exec-
utive director, the new national
board unanimously approved June
25 a motion to make the hiring of
the bookkeeper a priority.

Vision

Aware of our responsibilities as
the oldest and largest Asian Pacific
American civil rights organization,
JACL strives to promote a world
that honors diversity by respecting
values of fairness, equality and
social justice.

Mission

The Japanese American Citizens
League is a national organization
whose ongoing mission is to secure
and maintain the civil rights of
Japanese Americans and all others
who are victimized by injustice and
bigotry. The leaders and members of
the JACL also work to promote cul-
tural, educational and social values
and preserve the heritage and legacy
of the Japanese American commu-
nity.

Advocacy

Goal: To make the JACL the
leading Asian American civil and
human rights organization dedicated
to the elimination of bigotry and dis-
crimination, to the protection of
Constitutional and civil liberties,
and to the preservation of our com-
mon heritage.

Objectives: Challenge bigotry
and discrimination and promote
equity for all Americans and others
who reside in this country regard-
less of race, creed, gender, religion,

"Compared to past
budgets of my recol-
lection, this one
comes the closest in
my mind to balance
expenses with as
realistic revenue
sources as possible,"
said Nat'l JACL
Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Kobayashi.
"That isn't to say that
it doesn't have risk, it
certainly does as
pointed out in my
presentation to the
national council
about the budget
especially in the
areas of membership,
Legacy Fund distri-
bution and the gala
dinners, but the
national council
weighed these issues
and felt comfortable
with the risk that we
know of."

The next biennial
budget shows a total
of \$4,319,207 in rev-
enue and a total of \$4,319,208 in
program costs.

After the national council adopted
the next biennial budget, it also
passed a motion introduced by Vice
President of Membership Edwin
Endow to increase the dues of some
lifetime membership categories. To
become a lifetime member, an indi-
vidual pays a one-time lump sum.

The new amounts are:

- Century - \$5,000
- Life Trust - \$3,000

The increase — which will have
no fiscal impact in the next bienni-
um because the portion of the mem-
bership dues that goes into the
investment fund for the budget has
already been determined — will go
into effect Jan. 1, 2007. Any monies
collected from this increase will be
reflected in the 2009-10 budget.

A resolution introduced by

JACL 2007-2008 Biennial Budget

	2007	2008	Total
Revenue Sources:			
Membership Dues	\$ 1,021,114	\$ 995,736	\$ 2,016,850
General Support	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 94,000
Investment Income	\$ 200,979	\$ 200,979	\$ 401,958
Pacific Citizen	\$ 195,000	\$ 195,000	\$ 390,000
Grants	\$ 176,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 311,000
Fund Raising	\$ 267,000	\$ 428,641	\$ 695,641
Fees & Registration	\$ 144,200	\$ 239,200	\$ 383,400
Other	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 35,000
Total Revenues	\$ 2,068,793	\$ 2,259,056	\$ 4,327,849
Program Costs:			
General Operations	\$ 694,533	\$ 947,308	\$ 1,641,841
Membership	\$ 155,004	\$ 131,374	\$ 286,378
Pacific Citizen	\$ 404,489	\$ 421,107	\$ 825,596
Leadership	\$ 113,887	\$ 90,380	\$ 204,267
Fundraising	\$ 170,770	\$ 166,865	\$ 337,635
Education	\$ 172,722	\$ 170,396	\$ 343,118
Public Affairs	\$ 302,276	\$ 276,374	\$ 578,650
Endowments	\$ 55,112	\$ 55,252	\$ 110,364
Total Program Costs	\$ 2,068,793	\$ 2,259,056	\$ 4,327,849

Midwest District Governor Ron
Katsuyama amended the proposed
biennial budget by increasing the
JACL staff's cost of living
allowance (COLA) to 2.5 percent
and another resolution sponsored by
the Seattle JACL allocated \$15,000
towards strategic planning and orga-
nizational development.

A motion to help fund the strate-
gic plan with monies from the 2006
budget was narrowly approved by
the national board June 21 with
immediate past president Ken
Inouye casting the tie-breaking vote.

For the third quarter 2006
finances, the national board reported
a \$300,917 surplus as of May 31. It
is an inflated number because the
cost of the national convention is
not yet reflected, said Kobayashi.

"We are definitely headed in the
right direction," said Oda. "From

this point forward the board will be
identifying our objectives and
reporting on our progress along the
way."

Aggressive goals take hard work,
said Kobayashi. But all those
involved are ready to "take a step
forward with both eyes open and
ready to roll up our sleeves to
achieve a greater JACL." ■

JACL Summary of Investments as of May 2006

Legacy Fund	\$5,991,883
Life Trust Endowment	\$460,851
National Endowment	\$404,470
Masaoka Fellowship	\$323,662
Reserve	\$458,245
Scholarship	\$897,279
Student Aid	\$32,662

Source: National Investment Policy
Committee

Nat'l Council Sets 2007-08 JACL Program for Action

or sexual orientation.

Advocate for equal opportunity in
all aspects of American life, particu-
larly through vigorous support for
affirmative action programs and
immigrant rights.

Advocate for the protection of our
Constitutional civil liberties to
ensure that these rights are not
infringed upon nor diminished.

Advocate for the continued vige-
lance in combating racial and ethnic
profiling, especially of the Arab and
Muslim American community.

Strengthen the JACL's institu-
tional relationships with organiza-
tions in all communities, elected and
appointed officials, policy makers,
and community leaders on the
national, state and local levels.

Support JACL's presence and
advocacy role in Washington, D.C.

Develop and implement a com-
munications plan to timely and
effectively inform the JACL mem-
bership and others about the adv-
ocacy activities and accomplish-
ments of the JACL.

Tolerance and Diversity

Goal: To foster a greater under-
standing and appreciation for values
of tolerance and diversity and elim-
inate stereotypes, prejudice and big-
otry.

Objectives: Expand the capacity
of the tolerance & diversity program

by hiring staff or providing program
fellowships.

Educate the community and the
public about anti-Asian sentiment
through workshops, forums and
educational materials.

Respond to incidents of defama-
tion and hate crimes.

Maintain the JACL Anti-hate
Network.

Leadership

Goals: To develop a new genera-
tion of leaders from within our com-
munities who will strengthen
JACL's ability to lead, to advocate
and to sustain the core values of our
organization. The Japanese
American Citizens League will be a
preeminent leader in promoting
social justice for all.

Objectives: Work with the JACL
youth/student council, national
board, district organizations and
other groups to increase outreach
efforts to recruit the best and bright-
est from Japanese American com-
munities.

Seek out leaders of Japanese
ancestry who are successful in busi-
ness, academia, politics, etc., and
encourage them to apply their lead-
ership skills to the national organi-
zation.

Increase the visibility and stature
of the national organization so that
all Japanese Americans, particularly

young people, will aspire to work
with the organization.

Increase funding for education
and training opportunities for those
who wish to serve in any capacity in
the JACL and other community-
based venues.

Consider increasing funding for
independent research on social jus-
tice issues, particularly as they relate
to the Japanese American commu-
nity, to provide more leverage when
our leaders speak out about these
issues.

Consider earmarking scholarship
funds to encourage Japanese

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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writers.

* "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.

David Kawamoto Honored as JACLER of the Biennium

Portland chapter and Playwright Soji Kashiwagi are also recognized.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—It may have been a surprise to David Kawamoto when he heard his name announced as this year's recipient of the "JACLER of the Biennium Award," but for those who have known the former national board member, the award was expected and well-deserved.

"Wow," was all Kawamoto could muster at first as he accepted his award with his wife Carol, also a former JACLER of the Biennium

awardee, by his side. The award was presented during the JACL national convention's Awards Luncheon June 23.

"I'm honored to be included," he continued, noting that several of his mentors, including Roy Nishikawa and Helen Kawagoe, are among past winners.

Kawamoto has been active at all levels of the JACL. A former national vice president of general operations, he also served as the PSW district governor. He has been a longtime member of the PSW district board and is the immediate past president of the San Diego chapter.

Most recently Kawamoto took on the task of the National JACL Scholarship Program, largely due to the decrease in national staff. Not

only was he able to organize the program's archives, this past year he increased the number of national scholarships to 29 with a total of \$60,000 awarded to various students.

Ken Inouye, immediate past JACL national president and a former JACLER of the Biennium, presented the award to Kawamoto calling him a "great JACLER" and a role model for all JACLers.

"He exemplifies the best of what JACL is," said Inouye.

"JACL, it's something I get more out of than I can possible give," said Kawamoto. "I'm honored to receive this award ... and I share this with all of you."

See AWARDS/Page 8

"JACL, it's something I get more out of than I can possible give."

— David Kawamoto



AWARDEES: (back, from left) Rich Iwasaki, Michelle Sugi, Susan Leedham, Ken Inouye, Chip and Setsy Larouche (front, from left) John Kodachi, Soji Kashiwagi, David Kawamoto, Mary Ferrell and Jeffrey Burton.

Newbery Medal Winning Author Cynthia Kadohata Honored With Vision Award



VISION AWARD: The JACL Nat'l Youth/Student Council chose author Cynthia Kadohata as this biennium's Vision Award honoree. The award was presented June 22 during the JACL national convention in Phoenix. Pictured here (l to r) are Joshua Spry, past youth chair, Kadohata and Todd Sato, past youth representative.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—It may have taken close to 40 short-story submission rejections and four years of endless effort before her first story was sold to *The New Yorker*, but Cynthia Kadohata today is the author of five novels and has a Newbery Medal to her credit.

Her early career ambitions as an aspiring young writer who endured cramped apartments with unwanted cockroaches, and years later winning the highest award for children's literature, is fondly recalled as a "difficult journey." And yet through it all, Kadohata has remained true to her gut instincts of always writing about her "home."

"The whole world seemed to be telling me not to be a writer ... not to write about the Japanese, but I kept at it," said Kadohata who was honored with the Vision Award by the National JACL Youth/Student Council June 22, an award given to an Asian American who

has "inspired youth to reach for their goals."

"For me it seems that all I can do is write," she added. "I believe a writer's vision comes from what I call their 'home.' For me being a writer means finding that home."

Kadohata is the author of both adult novels and novels for children and youth adults. Her adult works include: "The Floating World," "In the Heart of the Valley of Love," and "The Glass Mountains." Her first kid's novel, "Kira-Kira," was awarded the prestigious American Library Association's Newbery Medal in 2005.

Her latest work is another children's novel entitled "Weedflower," a story that takes place at the Poston internment camp on the Colorado River Indian Reservation and explores the friendship between a young JA girl and a young Mohave boy who lives on the reservation.

"Many writers have more than one home," said Kadohata. "For me some of my homes as a writer

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"It's there and it festers and it devastates you."

— Gilbert Lee, on losing his dad to hepatitis B

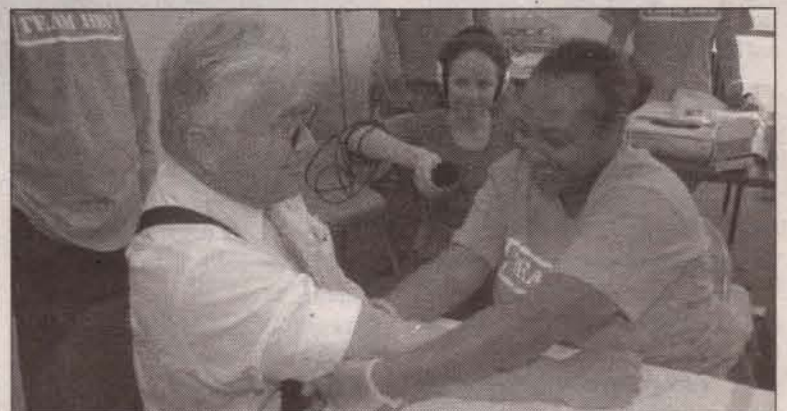


PHOTO COURTESY GRACE NIWA

Rep. Mike Honda gets tested during San Francisco's recent Hepatitis B Awareness Week.

Calling Out the Silent Epidemic

JACL passes an emergency resolution to support legislation and education on hepatitis B.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—It was a disease that rested in the shadows of their lives until its awakening ravaged them. Gilbert Lee lost his father Tommy to hepatitis B in 2003, and since then it has become a personal mission to raise awareness about the silent epidemic in the Asian Pacific American community.

On grassy fields where loved ones gather to bid farewells, he realized the impact of the disease on his personal life — a friend's father also succumbed, his grandmother carried the disease and another friend's father was fortunate enough to get a transplant before the disease took him too. That was three funerals in three-plus years, said Gilbert, 30.

So he decided to do something about it.

He launched a Web site and a video with sobering statistics:

- 1 in 10 APAs are carriers
- More than half of the hepatitis B carriers in the U.S. are APAs
- Over 1 million people die from hepatitis B related diseases in the world each year

And perhaps most frightening of all, there is a vaccine for hepatitis B.

"It affects our community in ways unrealized by people in our community and the general public. Asians don't really know," he said. "It's there and it festers and it devastates you."

Hepatitis B is a disease caused by infection with the virus HBV, which can be transmitted by blood transfusions, sharing or reusing needles and unprotected sex. It is more common among APAs than any other racial or ethnic group and many APAs become infected when unknowing mothers pass it on to

their children, according to the Asian Liver Center (ALC) at Stanford University, the only non-profit organization in the U.S. with a mission to address the higher rate of hepatitis B and liver cancer among APAs.

HBV can lead to cirrhosis of the liver, liver failure, and liver cancer. But the ALC says many APAs remain untested so the disease, which doesn't have many detectable symptoms, continues to lurk.

Gilbert's personal mission is just one of many grassroots and national efforts to help raise awareness about hepatitis B as well as issues of health disparities and access to health care programs in the APA community.

The first ever National Hepatitis B Act (HR 4550) was introduced to Congress Dec. 15, 2005, by Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, and Rep. Charlie Dent, R-PA, to focus government funding and advocacy for hepatitis B education, research and treatment. In San Francisco, awareness is raised through various activities during May's "Hepatitis B Awareness Week."

At the June 21-24 national JACL convention, the national council unanimously passed an emergency resolution to support legislation like the National Hepatitis B Act as well as encourage members towards "development and/or support educational and outreach programs that promote the health and wellness of JACL members and other Asian Americans."

"This is the direction which JACL should move in," said MDC Gov. Ron Katsuyama, who introduced the emergency resolution for consideration. "Not to become a

See HEPATITIS B/Page 5

SNAPSHOT

JACL National Convention Workshops

Native Food and Preparation
Participants took in the traditions and flavors of native food.

Multiracial Identity: The New Face of Japanese Americans and the U.S.



JAs have the highest rate of outmarriage (75 percent), according to Dr. Christine Iijima Hall (above), district director of employment and recruitment at Maricopa Community College in Phoenix. The interactive discussion was based on her dissertation research in 1979 — the first ever study conducted on mixed race identity.

Shared History: American Indian and Japanese American Experience of Internment at Gila River and Poston

Arizona's two WRA internment camps are the only camps that were located on American Indian reservations. A panel discussion consisted of members of both the JA and Native American communities sharing their experiences and memories.

True Southwest: Indigenous Experiences

The panel discussion focused on the history and culture of the Akimel O'otham, a Native American tribe that calls Gila River its home. Workshop participants also learned about current challenges facing the community.

Post 9/11 Impact on Ethnic Communities in the U.S.



Since Sept. 11, effects of the Patriot Act and other government-enacted policies have rippled through the South Asian American communities. Participants heard from some members of a Sikh American group about what it's like to look like the perceived enemy.

Exploring Healthcare Disparities in the Asian American Population

APAs experience higher levels of illness in several major health categories. Health care experts participated in a panel discussion about these disparities.

The Politics of Camp Preservation

Preservationists and representatives from the National Park Service and the Conservation Fund talked about the political and legislative process of developing practical solutions and strategies toward camp preservation.

Japanese Americans in Arizona Oral History Project

See WORKSHOPS/Page 5

Cedar Grove Productions and Tanamachi Honored at Sayonara Banquet

(Continued from page 1)

"Just as in the past, all of us in the JACL and the NAACP need to remember our common victories. Hold fast to our common values. Keep fighting on our common struggles," he continued. "Just as in the past, if we just stand fast and stand together than eventually ... we will prevail."

Shelton noted that since the 1930s, the JACL has fought for not only the rights of Japanese Americans but also for Chinese Americans and all Americans of color.

Just as the NAACP has done since its founding in 1909, the JACL has also fought for issues of "simple justice." Issues like the desegregation of public schools, the disenfranchisement of people of color, immigration, and heroic World War II veterans to call their own are common throughout the history of both organizations.

"Indeed for a long time the JACL and the NAACP were among the few organizations of any time who are willing to challenge the basic policies of the federal, state, and local governments," said Shelton.

And today's fight for civil rights and liberties continues to press on, taking lessons learned from the past to face current challenges. Issues like the continuing fight for humane immigration legislation, the renewal of the historic Voting Rights Act, and issues of privacy and racial profiling in the ongoing fight against terrorism remain top priorities for both the JACL and NAACP.

"All of us in the JACL and the NAACP know what it means to be on the wrong end of the disenfranchised, discrimination, and dehumanization," said Shelton.

"The fact is there are no lasting victories in the fight for civil rights and civil liberties. We are challenged ... now more than ever before."

Shelton noted that it is the unique history of the JA community — the lasting legacy of the WWII internment camps and the lessons learned from the historic accomplishments of the WWII Nisei veterans — that provides JAs the unique opportunity to uphold this nation's civil liberties.

"You know better than anyone how human dignity can be sacrificed in a time of national challenge and emergency but when the world's greatest democracy sheds its own Constitution and the Bill of Rights then our enemies are the only winners and our people and our traditions are the real losers in America," he said.



HONOREES: Chris Tashima (left) and Tim Toyama were honored with the Japanese Americans of the Biennium Award.

Sandra Tanamachi was recognized with the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award for her decade-plus efforts to rid the state of Texas of 'Jap' Roads.

The awards were presented at the Sayonara Banquet June 24.



JACL Executive Director John Tateishi with Sayonara Banquet speaker Hilary Shelton of the NAACP.

Shelton honored the Nisei and Issei for their struggles to uphold their civil rights while imprisoned in WWII internment camps and encouraged the younger generations to honor their legacy by continuing the fight for justice for all.

"Tonight we remember those that came before ... and if they can persist and prevail in the face of formidable obstacles ... then together we can do nothing less in our own time," he said.

"Decades from now ... our children and their children will say we stood our ground, that we kept the faith. We passed along an America worthy of the struggles and the sacrifices of those who built it and bettered it."

JAs of the Biennium

The highest public honor given by the national JACL is the "Japanese American of the Biennium Award" and this biennium's recipients are the founders of Cedar Grove Productions, Chris Tashima and Tim Toyama, in the "Arts/Literature/Communications" category. The award honors JAs who have made a marked impact in their respective fields.

Already proud owners of an Academy Award, Tashima and Toyama were recently nominated for a Northern California Emmy award for their most recent film, "Day of Independence," a film that explores one family's internment experience through the all-American game of baseball.

"This is a great honor," said Toyama, who called his niece Megan Toyama onstage to join him in accepting the award.

"The thread that connects all of us, who we are ... What binds us is our stories ... we have to pass on our stories to future generations," he said.

Since its founding in 1996, Cedar Grove Productions has helped to develop projects that highlight the Asian American experience, something sorely missing today in mainstream Hollywood. The co-founders formed the production company in tribute to Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who saved hundreds of Jews during WWII. Sugihara's story is told in their award winning film "Visas and Virtue."

"This mean a lot to us," said Tashima, who thanked Toyama and honored members of his family including his grandfather and parents. "I walk in their footsteps. When you honor me, you honor them."

Toyama and Tashima's next project is "Memorial Day" which will tell the story of the Nisei WWII vets. But in addition to the vets' story, many more stories have yet to be told, including a film about the Resisters of Conscience.

"There's so much more work to do," said Tashima.

Since the award's founding in 1950, 49 Japanese Americans have been honored with the JA of the Biennium award. Tashima and Toyama now join the likes of Mike Masaoka, Sen. Daniel Inouye, Michi

Weglyn, and Kristi Yamaguchi as recipients of the prestigious award.

Edison Uno Civil Rights Award

It took Sandra Tanamachi more than 12 years but her efforts not only helped to bring about the end of "Jap"

Roads and a "Jap Lane" in three Texas counties, she has helped to educate the country on the historical significance of this derogatory term.

In honor of her efforts, the national JACL recognized Tanamachi with this year's "Edison Uno Memorial Civil Rights Award," an award that is given to organizations or individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of civil rights.

"I did this for the Issei, Nisei generations who had to endure so much during World War II. For our Nisei veterans, the sacrifices they made. This is a small way of saying thank you and that we have not forgotten your sacrifices," said Tanamachi.

Tanamachi was living in Beaumont when she first learned of the county's "Jap Road." She began efforts to educate the town about the

history of the term and asked that the Jefferson County Commissioners make a name change. At first all of her efforts were rebuffed and she began receiving hate mail.

Undeterred, she persisted and in 2001 she formed the Committee to Change "Jap Road" with the help of several people including Thomas Kuwahara of Louisiana. In 2003, the committee sent a petition to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing Development to push Jefferson County to rename "Jap Road." In the end the negative publicity helped convince the county to rename its road and today it is "Boondocks Road."

Soon after the change in Jefferson County, Fort Bend County and Orange County changed the names of their "Jap Road" and "Jap Lane" respectively.

"I did this also for our future generations so we celebrate now because there are no more J-Roads in the state of Texas," said Tanamachi.

The award was established in 1985 in honor of Edison Uno for his lifelong dedication to human and civil rights. Tanamachi now joins the company of Ismael Ahmed, Morris Dees, and Ross Hopkins as winners of this prestigious award. ■

ODA

(Continued from page 1)

and I believe the organization, including board, staff, and members are eager to work together to carry out the organization's mission.

However, JACL will soon lose a renowned champion of civil rights and a stalwart servant to the organization, as John Tateishi announced his resignation as national director at this meeting. John will graciously stay on until another director is identified, and I thank him for continuing to serve JACL during the transition of executive leadership.

John has repeatedly displayed such a willingness to put the interests of JACL at the top of his priorities and I hold a deep sense of gratitude for his enduring commitment, a feeling I believe is reflected throughout the organization.

'The recent national board meeting on June 25 was a fine beginning and I believe the organization, including board, staff, and members are eager to work together to carry out the organization's mission.'

— Larry Oda,
JACL Nat'l President


During John's tenure as national director, he has made numerous contributions and has done so at critical times. Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, John represented JACL as one of the first civil rights organizations to speak out against racial profiling and retaliatory attacks on Sikhs, Muslims and South Asians. John also warned

against government-imposed violations of civil rights due to "hysteria" surrounding the war on terrorism.

Following the market downturn in 2001 and 2002, John successfully engaged major corporate sponsors for JACL programs to diversify our funding. In the face of significant challenges, John has deftly steered the organization in the right direction, toward financial stability and a continued presence in the civil rights arena.


John Tateishi has successfully partnered with the staff and past national boards to establish a strong foundation for JACL's future growth.

As we work to identify a suitable successor to the national director, I am confident that the current national board and staff will build upon this foundation to guide JACL toward a strong and prosperous future. ■



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Japanese American
Citizens' League

HEPATITIS B

(Continued from page 3)



PHOTO COURTESY GILBERT LEE



ALL THE LEES: In happier times (top, from left) Jason, Gilbert, Elizabeth and Tommy, who passed away in 2003. Bay Area APAs (left) recently lined up to get tested.

health care provider, but to join in the coalition and help in organizing and raising awareness for screenings."

Katsuyama is active in the Dayton, Ohio Asian American Council and a coalition which counts JACL as a component. With his involvement in health conferences, he saw how important it was to help the underserved APA communities.

"One might ask, why should JACL be involved in such an initiative? We are basically a civil rights organization. My answer is that civil rights has many facets," said Katsuyama in a statement to the national council. "We continue to be vigilant in our anti-defamation efforts, and this must continue. However, we have not entered other arenas. As we move toward universal health care, it is said that health disparities in status, access to care, and provision of quality and appro-

priate types of care will become among the salient civil rights issues of the 21st century."

The importance of the emergency resolution was underscored by the June 8 Food and Drug Administration approval of a vaccine that blocks two strains of viruses that cause cervical cancer.

"What they say about [the disease] striking quickly ... we had him for three and one-half months," said Gilbert, 30.

Looking back, he attributes his father's passing to lack of awareness even on his doctor's part. But he's encouraged by the national movement to push for more education.

"It becomes a situation where our community can embrace it as a cause," said Gilbert. ■

ON THE WEB

<http://gililee.home.comcast.net/livercancer.html>
<http://liver.stanford.edu>



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AT A GLANCE Resolutions

R1 JACL Salaried Personnel Cost of Living Adjustments Passed

Amends the proposed budget to increase the COLA of all JACL salaried personnel to 2.5 percent and to give COLAs the highest priority.

R2 Supporting the 11th National JACL Singles Convention

Passed without debate
 Requests support and attendance of this national event.

R3 Supporting Immigrant Rights and Responsible Immigration Reform

Passed as Amended
 Opposes immigration policies driven by fear, racism and xenophobia, and opposes deportation of immigrants based solely on their political opinions.

R4 Relating to the Life of Congressman Robert T. Matsui

Passed without debate
 Recognizes the life and work of the late congressman. He

was also honored with a video tribute at the Sayonara Banquet.

R5 Relating to a Policy on the Use of Racial Epithets

Passed without debate
 Opposes the continued use of the word "Jap" and other derogatory racial, religious or sexist remarks.

R6 Encouraging Study Tours to Japan

Passed
 Encourages members to promote U.S.-Japan relations. Encourages study tours to Japan.

R7 Relating to Strategic Planning and Organizational Development

Passed as modified
 Calls for a national strategic planning committee and the implementation of a strategic plan in 2007-08.

ER1 Relating to Recognizing the Life and Contributions of Hiromi Ueha*

Passed without debate
 Recognizes the life and work of Hiromi Ueha who passed away this year.

ER2 Support of the Reauthorization to Extend Provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*

Passed
 Directs JACL to urge Congress to ensure the extension of the Voting Rights Act.

ER3 Relating to Addressing the Health Disparities and Access to Health Care Programs and Services Among APIAs*

Passed unanimously
 Directs JACL to support legislation such as the National Hepatitis B Act, which would allocate research funding for cancer-causing diseases.

ER4 Thanking the Hon. Norman Y. Mineta*

Passed unanimously
 Thanks Norman Mineta for his service as the Secretary of Transportation and for his service to the nation and the JACL.

ER5 Courtesy Resolution*

Passed unanimously
 Thanks the Arizona chapter for its efforts in hosting the 39th Biennial National Convention.

* Denotes an emergency resolution

Constitution and Bylaws

CB1 National Convention

Referred to special committee

Bylaw amendment implementing annual national conventions and national council sessions. A motion was made to refer to a special committee. The committee is instructed to submit an analysis of the proposed change to an annual convention to the national council at or prior to its next

meeting.

CB2 Staggered Elections

Motion was not made

Bylaw amendment putting into action an election cycle of three national officers from the even to odd years. This proposal is subject to the condition that CB1 is ratified.

KADOHATA

(Continued from page 3)

have been my childhood, my ethnicity, my family, and the American landscape."

Born in Chicago and raised as a child in Georgia and Arkansas, she recalls moving around a lot with her two siblings, her mom, and her dad who made a living as a chicken sexer, spending long hours in chicken hatcheries. With a chuckle she fondly adds "the highway" to her list of "homes."

Growing up in rural Georgia and Arkansas with few JAs (the few JAs were mainly fellow chicken sexers), Kadohata recalls the novelty of growing up as a very visible minority. When her younger brother was born in Arkansas, she remembers the entire staff at the local hospital dropping by because they had never seen a JA baby before.

Just before her fourth grade year, Kadohata's parents divorced and she and her siblings returned to Chicago with her mother, "a voracious reader" who instilled a love of reading in her children.

Kadohata's successful novel "Kira-Kira" is based on her early childhood memories growing up in rural Georgia and Arkansas. And although her Newbery Medal for "Kira-Kira" has recently brought her much exposure and success, she recalls the difficulty in getting her

first novel published in 1989.

"In those days there were very few Asian American authors," she said.

Many of her relatives told her "no one wants to read about Japanese" and an editor told her to stop writing so much about Asian American characters.

But Kadohata never listened to her critics and chose the topic of the World War II internment camps for her most recent novel "Weedflower."

Kadohata first learned about the camps in fourth grade but didn't find out the details until she took an ethnic studies course at the University of Southern California.

Her father had been interned at Poston and so she decided to make this the setting for "Weedflower." But soon she discovered she was having a hard time getting the description of the camps right and missed her deadline by one and a half years.

"I couldn't get it right," said Kadohata, whose research for "Weedflower" included extensive interviews with former internees and many visits to the Poston camp.

During this time she began the process of adopting her son Sammy from Kazakhstan. Her trips to this impoverished country, the desolation, and missing her home made her wonder if this experience was somehow similar to what her father



Kadohata won the 2005 Newbery Medal for 'Kira-Kira.'

had endured in Poston.

"Writing about the camps ... brought me closer to him than I had ever been," said Kadohata of her father. And she was finally able to complete her novel "Weedflower."

Kadohata makes her home in Southern California today and is currently working on her next novel for kids that deals with the Vietnam War. The book is set to be released next Spring.

Like her previous novels, Kadohata is determined to stick close to home, something she has relied on over and over during her career.

"Let us Asian Americans make sure to remember to write our own histories," she said. "We must be true to our homes when we write, just as we must be true to our hearts when we live." ■

WORKSHOPS

(Continued from page 3)

This workshop presented information about JAs in the Arizona Oral History Project. Included were short video clips and a documentary developed by Arizona State University students.

Celebrating the Human

Spirit: Collecting, Curating & Displaying the Art of Arizona's WWII Relocation Camps

The work of artist Kukanen Tsuruoka was featured.

What Do Youth Really Want?

This youth-only workshop allowed younger members to address issues they care about the most.

What About a JACL Future for Seniors?

As JACLers advance in age and statistics indicate people are living longer, past National JACL President Helen Kawagoe, National 1000 Club Chair Frank Sakamoto and Pacific Citizen Editor Emeritus Harry Honda talked about a JACL future for seniors. ■



2006 JACL NATIONAL



LEADERSHIP—Convention Chair Ted Namba (left), Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and Ken Inouye, immediate past national JACL president.



Etsu Masaoka, JACL National President Larry Oda and Edith Ichijui at the Sayonara Banquet's VIP reception.



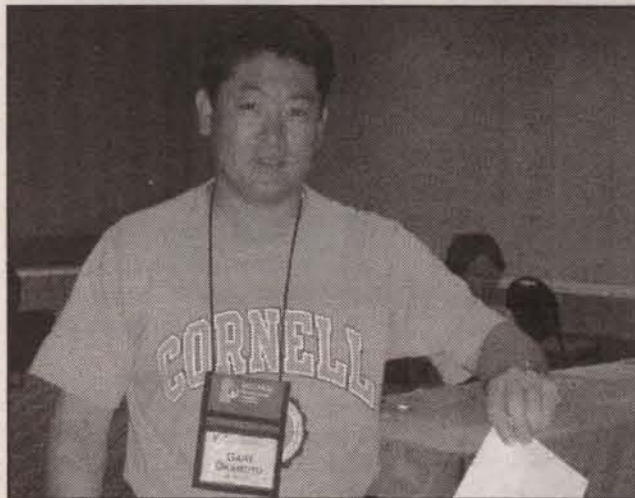
Ken Inouye (left) and Jeff Itami are just a pair of cow-pokes in their gear at the convention's Welcome Mixer held at the Rawhide Steakhouse.



CAMP DANCE—The Carmen Miranda Boys show us what they've got.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION—(from left) Convention Chair Ted Namba with Mas Inoshita, Joe Allman and Michele Namba. Inoshita and Allman were recipients of a special JACL recognition award at the Sayonara Banquet.



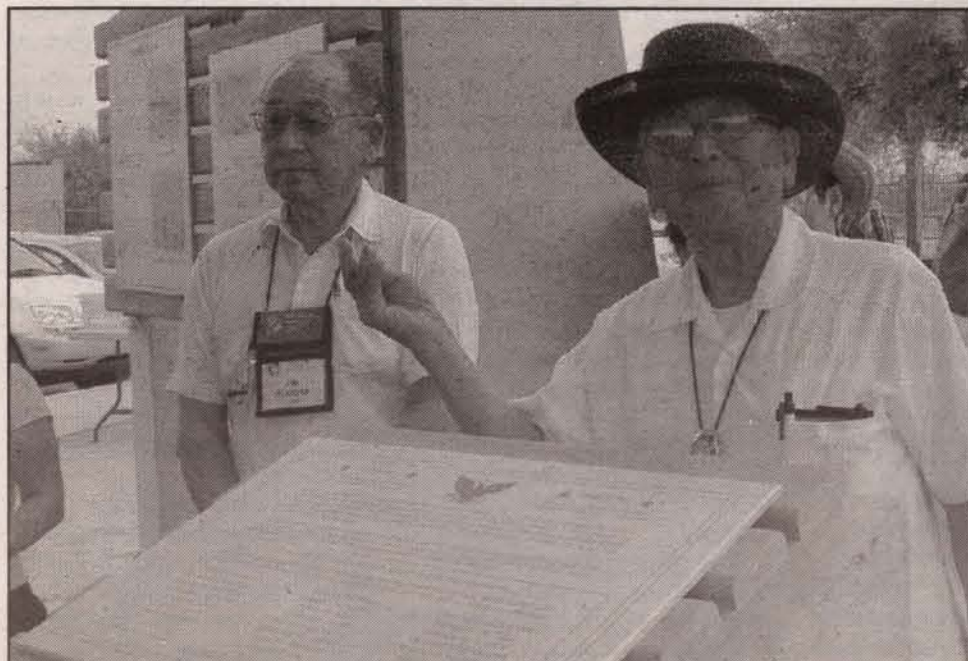
Gary Okamoto of the Mt. Olympus chapter casts his vote.



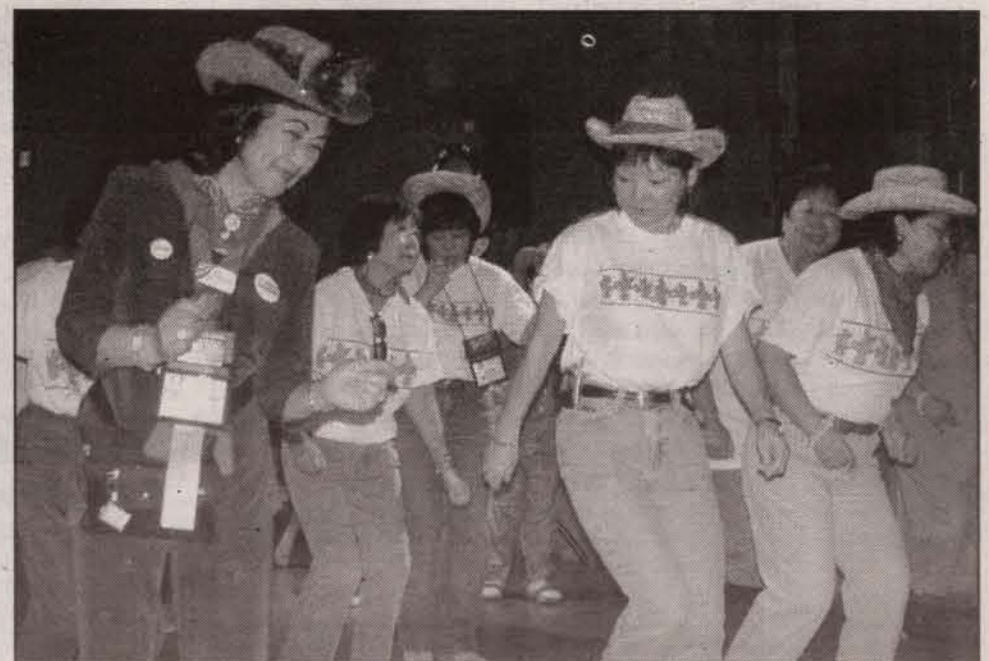
Ken Inouye thanks the crowd and asks them to take a seat after he was presented with the President's Pin during the Sayonara Banquet.



Ethan Hirabayashi dreams of the day he can legally gamble as Helen Kawagoe, former national JACL president and current Gardena Valley member, looks on.



Arizona JACL's Jim Kubota (left) and Mas Inoshita at the rededication of the Gila River Camp monument. The ceremony was held before temperatures reached the 100s.



Elsie Taniguchi (left) and the Arizona JACL line dancers get their groove on. Elsie was a finalist for the 'Best Dressed Cowgirl.'

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the JACL National Youth Council before the Youth Luncheon. (Clockwise from top left): Brigham Walker, Blake Honda, Megumi Kaminaga, Kimberly Shintaku, Leilani Savitt and Caroline Kawaguchi.



MIN YASUI ORATORICAL CONTEST PARTICIPANTS—(from left) Winner Julian Antram, Sara Hidano-Cardinelli, Naomi Oren, Mari Michener Oye and Marc Stillman.



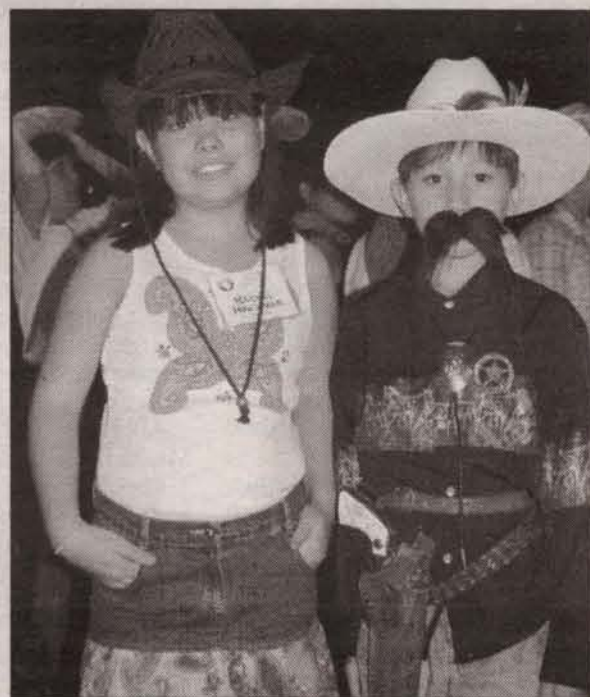
EDC MEN—(from left) Stanley Kanzaki of New York, Paul Uyehara of Philadelphia and Clyde Nishimura of D.C.



RUBY PIN AWARDEES—Former JACL National President Lillian Kimura, JACL Washington, D.C. Rep. Floyd Mori, and Irene Mori were awarded JACL's Ruby Pin. They are pictured with past national president Ken Inouye.



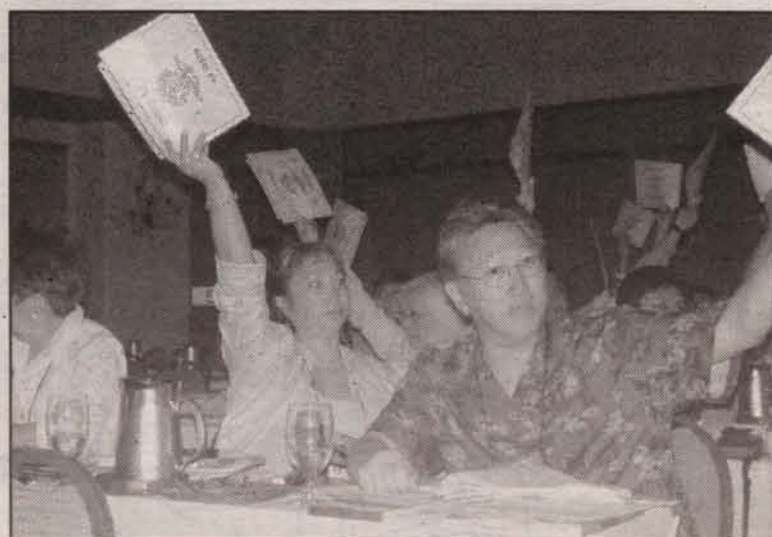
CONVENTION UNDERWRITERS—(clockwise, top left) National JACL Credit Union's Charlie Brown, Terrell Nagata and Silvana Watanabe; AT&T's David Lin, State Farm's Leslie Moe-Kaiser and Ford Motor Company's Michael Schmidt.



Rachel Hinchman and Kameron Shee were the winners of the Best Dressed Cowgirl and Cowboy contest at the Welcome Mixer.



We'll see everyone in Salt Lake City in 2008. "You Bet'cha!"



Larry Ishimoto and the CCDC make sure to get their votes counted.

AWARDS

(Continued from page 3)

The JACler of the Biennium Award is awarded to a JACL member who has made significant contributions to the overall strength and growth of JACL. It is awarded in memory of Randolph M. Sakada, a former JACL president. Kawamoto joins the likes of Clifford Uyeda, John Tateishi, and Andy Noguchi as recipients of the award.

George Inagaki and Ruby Yoshino Schaar Awards

Kawamoto wasn't the only person in the room surprised to learn they were award winners. The Portland chapter learned that they had been awarded this year's George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award.

This award was established in 1968 by the Venice-Culver JACL chapter and recognizes a chapter that has worked for the betterment of society through social, civic, and legislative activity. It is in memory of Inagaki, a former national JACL president and first chairman of the JACL Thousand Club.

The Portland chapter was honored for increasing their membership by 10 percent, for their close to



JACler of the Biennium, David Kawamoto at the Awards Banquet.

100 programs for chapter members, their coalition building efforts, and their Nikkei Community Directory that was published in 2005.

The chapter takes home a \$500 check.

The Ruby Yoshino Schaar Playwright Award is awarded to a playwright who has worked to tell the story of Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians.

This year's awardee is Soji Kashiwagi whose most recent play "Camp Dance," a play that takes a look at the World War II internment camps and how dances played a vital role, has been touring the country.

"We as Japanese Americans need to start the tradition of telling our stories ... keep our history alive," said Kashiwagi, who asked the Nisei to tell their stories and encouraged the youth to ask the Nisei about their stories.

Kashiwagi takes home a check for \$3,000.

Also Recognized Were ...

National JACL presented a Special Recognition Award to Jeffery Burton and Mary Farrell who as husband and wife have worked tirelessly to preserve the archaeological integrity of the WWII internment camps. The couple was instrumental in the recently dedicated Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site at the Coronado National Forest.

"All of these sites need to be commemorated because this story needs to be told," said Burton.

Burton and Farrell are also the co-authors of "Confinement and Ethnicity," a book that takes a look at the various WWII JA relocation sites.

Michelle Sugi of Apple Valley, Calif., the 2005 Mike Masaoka Fellow, also spoke of her recent experience working out of Sen. Daniel Inouye's office.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," she said.

Each year, a Mike Masaoka fellow is selected to serve a term in the office of a U.S. representative or senator to learn first hand the inner-workings of serving in public office.

The 2006 fellow is Dana Nakano who will serve his fellowship in U.S. Rep. Mike Honda's office. ■

MINETA

(Continued from page 1)

long counted Mineta as an icon.

The next day an emergency resolution was introduced by Alan Teruya of the Tri-Valley JACL to honor Mineta for his service and support of the JACL and the APA community.

The emergency resolution, which was unanimously passed by the national council, thanks the transportation secretary in part for his "many years of dedicated service to the nation and his lifelong support of the JACL, and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors."

And the gratitude continues to pour in for the man who close friends call Norm. His career has been a series of firsts.

He was first to serve as a Cabinet secretary when President Clinton appointed him to the Commerce Department in 2000. He was first to serve as mayor of a major city — his native San Jose, Calif., where the airport bears his name. He was also first to chair a congressional committee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, called Mineta a "leader remembered for the amazing legacy of public service."

"I thank him for his mentorship, friendship and his great contribution to the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and to the people of this country," said Honda in a statement.

"Norm Mineta has been a dedicated statesman and tremendous leader

in the service of our country as a Congressman, Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation," said Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii.

White House press secretary Tony Snow announced Mineta's resignation and quelled rumors of an ousting.

"He was not being pushed out," Snow said.

Bush said Mineta — the only Democrat in his Cabinet — played a vital leadership role in strengthening the security of seaports and airports.

"Norm worked hard to help eliminate red tape and liberalize the commercial aviation market," Bush said in a statement. "After Hurricane Katrina, Norm and his team were able to rapidly repair and reopen the region's major highways, airports, seaports and pipelines."

There had been speculation for years that Mineta was on the verge of quitting, sometimes because of his health and sometimes because of rumors about a shake-up of Bush's Cabinet.

He is one of only three original Bush Cabinet members still serving. The others are Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

After the Sept. 11 hijackings, Mineta oversaw the creation of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which took over responsibility for aviation security from the airlines. He also oversaw the leasing of the Chicago Skyway and the Indiana Toll Road to foreign companies in exchange for the right

to collect tolls and the passage of a six-year, \$286.4 billion highway spending plan in July, after nearly two years of wrangling with Congress.

"The man knew what he was doing," said Alan Pisarski, a Washington-based national transportation policy analyst.

Mineta, the son of Japanese immigrants, was sent at the age of 10 to an internment camp in Wyoming with his parents. Years later as a U.S. congressman he won passage of redress legislation.

"Norman Mineta is one of America's greatest assets," said Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii. ■

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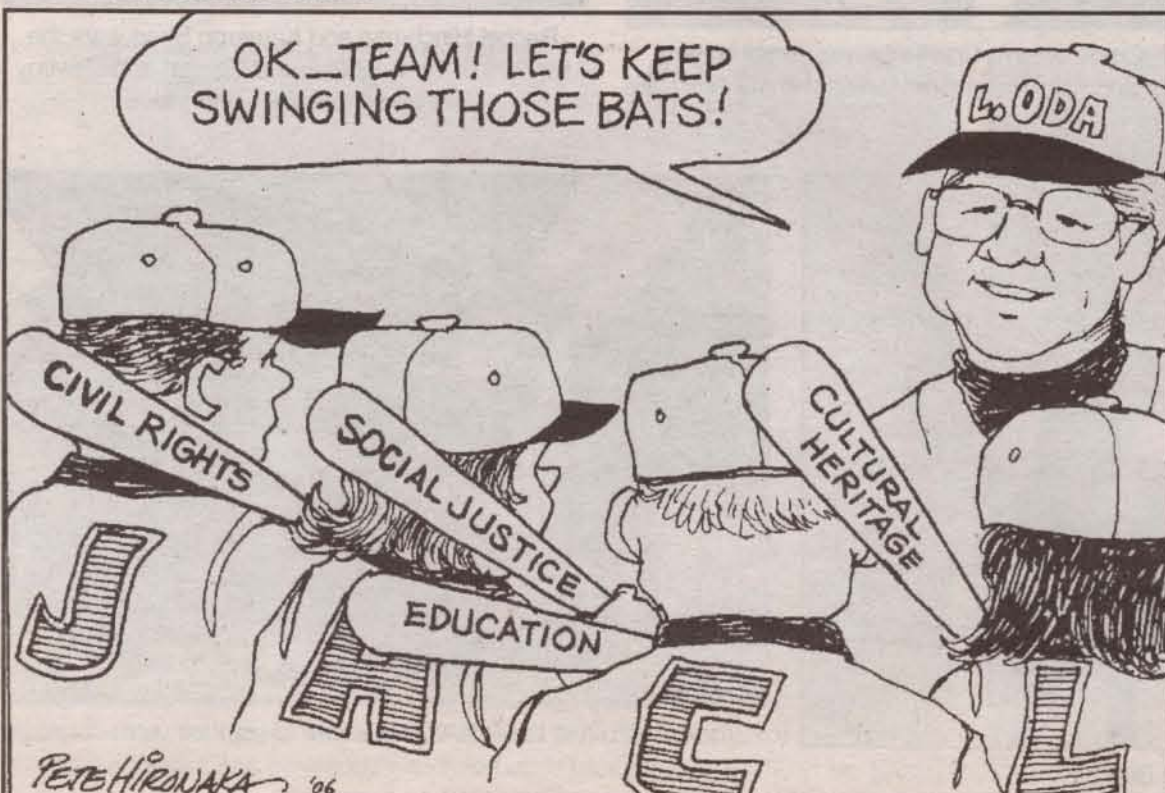
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P.C. Readers Add Their Voices to Watada Debate

(Continued from page 1)

becomes the first Asian American officer to do so.

"I refuse to be silent any longer. I refuse to be party to an illegal and immoral war against people who did nothing to deserve our aggression. My oath of office is to protect and defend America's laws and its people. By refusing unlawful orders for an illegal war, I fulfill that oath today," said Watada in a prepared statement.

Watada's decision has created a huge divide among those that support the three-year war in Iraq and those who are against the war and fully support the first lieutenant's decision. This divide is echoed in the comments from various P.C. readers (see below) who were asked to voice their opinions about the current controversy.

On June 27 a National Day of Action was held in dozens of cities across the country in a show of support for Watada, including New York City, Portland, Atlanta, and his native home of Honolulu.

Watada's decision also has the support of his family.

"My son's decision to refrain from deploying to Iraq comes through much soul searching. It is an act of patriotism. It is a statement to all Americans, to men and women in uniform, that they need not remain silent out of fear, that that they have the power to turn the tide of history ...," said Watada's mother, Carolyn Ho, in a statement.



The Watada family sits before an interview about Ehren's plight. Supporting their son's decision to refuse deployment to Iraq are his mom Carolyn Ho and father Robert Watada.

PHOTO: JEFF PATERSON

The first lieutenant has not been officially charged with any crime but is currently being restricted to the Fort Lewis, Washington base where he has been stationed. He has also been ordered to have no communication with non-military personnel except his attorney. The Army is currently investigating Watada for comments he has made in opposition of the war.

Watada is not considered a conscientious objector since he is not against all wars, just the war in Iraq. His earlier attempts to resign his commission were refused and the officer now faces possible court martial charges for refusing to take part in the war.

The following are letters from P.C. readers addressing the controversy surrounding Lt. Watada's decision:

What a brave young man! Regardless of dove or hawk, we all now know that the American peo-

ple, and our ally countries, were deliberately lied to about why we needed to go to Iraq. And now, over 2,500 of our young men and women have died.

What is most sad is to learn that he's one of — if not THE first — officer to have the guts to stand up and do what is right, despite the consequences to himself. THAT is true American patriotism.

Lt. Watada and his family deserve all the support we can give them during this difficult time. It is not often we come in direct contact with a true American hero.

Sharon Maeda
Seattle

□

There are many people in Hawaii who feel righteous about slamming Ehren Watada for refusing to go to Iraq, but I feel they have overlooked the fact that as one ascends the organization in which one becomes affiliated with, information available at one level is not automatically made available to all. And there are facts which are adamantly NOT made public.

I feel it was very natural for Ehren Watada to start questioning the why's and wherefore's of this war. If one has to fight, let it be an honorable fight ... and that should be felt in your heart.

I'm glad Ehren has the support of his family and friends because he will have a tough row to hoe. The military will undoubtedly make an "example" out of him. The WWII AJA vets probably don't understand why he won't just carry out his duty unquestioningly, and a lot of Japanese and Hawaii people who do sympathize will probably just keep quiet.

So to Ehren, I say "Do what you feel is right ... do what is in your heart, because that will carry you thru this stage in your life."

Yvonne Lau
Honolulu

See WATADA/Page 12

TATEISHI

(Continued from page 1)

He will stay on until a transition takes place, continuing to function as director to make the changeover smooth.

"There is a time to see things for what they are. It came to me Sunday morning and I was thinking about so many things: camp, the redress campaign, [my wife] Carol was with me and I thought about her sacrifices." For years while he was running the redress campaign as JACL's national redress director, Carol virtually raised their two children alone, Tateishi said.

"Looking out into the desert I thought it's not fair to ask her to keep doing this for me."

Days after his announcement, he spoke exclusively with the P.C. about his decision, the election controversy and the future of the JACL.

Assessing the Present

"I've been considering [resigning] for about a year," he said, but refrained from making a formal announcement because he wanted to support the Arizona chapter as it prepared to host the convention. He also wanted to first "set the new course" with the new board.

"It was in my thinking about the amount of stress the job requires with so little support," he said about the organization's insufficient number of staff members. When he came on as executive director, there were eight national staff members, but for the past few years that number has been cut in half.

He's been able to farm off work to the regional directors and volunteers, but he's still left with a lot of different duties outside of his job description. But at the same time, he counted only seven weekends in the last two years in which he didn't have to work.

There is some help on the way. In the recently passed 2007-08 budget, some monies have been allocated to hire an assistant and a bookkeeper for the national headquarters, but the assistant will mostly fill a secretarial void, which won't completely alleviate the workload.

And there was the controversy that erupted shortly after the election of the new board, which imbued him with renewed energy.

"I thought to the hell with it. I told my wife I wasn't going to resign. The next morning, in the desert, I decided I'm not going to be that petty," he said emphasizing his decision did not come as the result of this election.

"I think it's time," he said.

Rethinking the Future

"We've raised the profile of the JACL. We've raised the profile by doing significant things. I am very happy with where the JACL is right now," said Tateishi. "I'm very proud of where JACL is today relative to when I stepped into the director's position. I'm really pleased with what I've accomplished in the civil rights arena."

"My goal was to expand the scope of the organization and broaden who we are. We have the experience, we have the personnel and we certainly had the ability to attend to not only civil rights, but also issues of access and the ability of the community to feel that they have a voice in such issues as education and not get threatened by legislation like immigration."

As director, a part of his goal was to diversify the organization's funding base so not to be completely dependent on membership dues. He traveled all over the country for face time with corporate funders, but when the economy took a turn for the worse he found himself grounded from travel. Still, he has established strong relationships with some funders, for which he expressed regret for leaving while on the cusp of building bridges towards JACL's future.

"I think the organization needs to rethink its vision," said Tateishi. "Maybe it's time for some change."

Among some of the changes he suggests is a commitment to hire an associate director to take care of the administrative work, which would allow the national director to function as a fundraiser and spokesperson. He also advocates the idea of moving JACL's headquarters to Washington, D.C.

"Things have changed a lot. A majority of Asian Americans still live on the West Coast, but we're a global society."

There has also been some public criticism including some recent letters criticizing Tateishi's position on immigration reform printed in the P.C.

"I don't know if I represent the views of the general membership. Maybe it has become more conservative ... I think the organization needs to rethink that and find a voice that represents that."

For Tateishi, the end of this chapter is bittersweet. Soon he'll be "just like any other member" who will help and volunteer when called upon, but looking back on his tenure his feelings are mixed.

"I haven't achieved what I wanted to do," he said. "I do leave with a lot of mixed emotions." ■

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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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Calendar

National

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; entry fee includes golf cart, bento lunch, tee prizes and dinner; 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. Info: co-chairs, Jason Higashi, 707/837-9932, jltjh@comcast.net or Jim Craig, 916/652-0093, thayajoyce@sbcglobal.net.

Midwest

CLEVELAND

Sat.-Sun., July 15-16—Cleveland Buddhist Temple Obon Festival; 5-7 p.m.; obon dance and taiko drumming, 7:30 p.m.; Sun. obon service at 10:30 a.m. followed by luncheon.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Fri., July 14—Performance, Shakuhachi music by Alvin Takewawa Ramos; 7 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; Shakuhachi music is performed by Japanese bamboo flute; \$15, \$10 for ONLC members. Info: 503/224-1458.

Through Aug. 27—Exhibit, "Big Drum: Taiko in the United States," Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m.; traveling version of JANM's exhibition; features photographs, artifacts and media arts; \$3 donation; free to ONLC and JANM members. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458.

Northern California

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.

Southern California

GARDENA

Sat., July 22—Hana Uno Memorial Scholarship and Chapter Benefit Dance presented by Greater LA Singles JACL; 7-11 p.m.; Ken Nakaoka Center, 1670 W. 162nd St.; \$20 donation. Info: Miyako, 310/839-1194 or Janet, 310/835-7568.

LOS ANGELES

July 19, 21, Aug. 9, 11—Performances, "At Home in This World"; 7 p.m.; UCLA's Gloria Kaufman Dance Theater

Thurs., July 20, Aug. 3, 24, Sept. 7—JANM's First and Central Summer Concert Series; 6 p.m.; featuring: July 20, Okinawan Fold and Hawaiian Taiko; Aug. 3, Lenine and DJ Sergio Mielniczenko; Aug. 24, Riffat Sultana & Party; Sept. 7, Dengue Fever. Info: www.janm.org.

Feb. 16-18, 2007—All Vets Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Little Tokyo; open to all JA veterans from all wars and conflicts; Maj. Gen. Rodney Kobayashi will be a luncheon keynote speaker. Info: Sam Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688, samkuni@verizon.net; Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113, v.muraoka@verizon.net or Bob Hayamizu, 323/292-3165.

SIMI VALLEY

Sat., July 15—Japan America Society of Southern California 97th Anniversary Dinner & Gala Celebration; 5 p.m. silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner and program; The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Air Force One Pavilion; 40 Presidential Dr.; "Bridging the Skies Across the Pacific" will honor ANA Airways, American Airlines, Japan Airlines, Northwest Airlines and United Airlines. Info: JASSC, 213/627-6217, ext. 205 or info@jas-social.org.

TORRANCE

Sat., Sept. 16—PSW JACL Annual



Alvin Takewawa Ramos will perform Shakuhachi music July 14 at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Shakuhachi music is performed using a bamboo flute.

Awards Dinner; 5 p.m. registration, 6 p.m. dinner; Torrance Holiday Inn. Info: PSW Office, 213/626-4471 or office@jacpsw.org.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Oct. 17-19—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; Tues. Welcome Mixer 6:30 p.m. in the Ohana Room; Wed. slot tournament and buffet dinner and program. Info and applications: Henry Nakano, 714/871-8179, Sam Ono, 310/327-5568, Cabby Iwasaki, 714/637-1412, Shig Kuwahara, 626/289-7892 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

Oct. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel, downtown; events include: Fri.: golf tournament at Palm Valley Golf Club, welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch and morning free play golf at Highland Falls Golf Club; room rates are Fri. and Sat. \$76/night for single and double occupancy, Thurs. and Sun. is \$54; open to everyone; hosted by the Las Vegas JACL. Info: www.mwt.com/jaclsingles or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/790-9547. ■

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PROGRAM

(Continued from page 2)

Americans to enter fields where they can make the most impact on public policies, i.e. academia, politics, journalism, policy research. Encourage scholarship recipients to participate in and strengthen their local JACL chapters.

Enhance leadership skills by presenting public-speaking workshops.

Education

Goal: To educate our membership and the public at-large about the Japanese American historical experience and the lessons that the internment holds for the future conduct of our government related to our Constitutional liberties.

Objectives: Continue to develop educational materials including updating the Japanese American curriculum guide.

Promote distribution of the curriculum guide and other materials to teachers by attending national and regional conferences of the National Conference for the Social Studies.

Present workshops for teachers to educate and encourage integration of lessons about the Japanese American experience and the internment in the curriculum.

Continue to advocate for the inclusion of Asian Pacific American experience as part of the national social studies standards.

Encourage chapters in each state to advocate for the inclusion of Asian Pacific American studies through changes in state learning standards and school codes and through the inclusion of questions related to Asian Pacific American experience in state and standard (ACT, SAT, etc.) achievement tests.

Encourage the need to educate about tolerance and diversity by promoting multicultural education.

Encourage and enable chapters to

organize book clubs and film festivals as a means to promote the discussion and understanding of APA history and culture.

Youth

Goal: To support and guide the youth into JACL at all levels, to provide programs of mentoring and leadership development to enhance their ability to succeed in life as well as to contribute to the future success of the JACL.

Objectives: Integrate youth participation and create leadership opportunities at all levels of the organization, including national committees.

Promote and encourage youth participation and involvement in JACL sponsored events at all levels of the organization.

Actively support and fund youth to get to both the National Convention and the National Youth Conference.

Provide (a) guidance or training for districts to help accommodate new youth representatives to transition onto the Youth Council.

Membership

Goal: To increase and diversify the membership base of the JACL.

Objectives: Develop and implement a plan to retain membership over the next biennium.

Develop and implement a plan to attract new members that reflect the changing demographics of the Japanese American community.

Financial Development

Goal: To diversify the financial base of JACL with less dependence on membership dues as the primary income source for JACL.

Objectives: Organize a financial development committee to develop a plan for researching and identifying income sources; monitor progress toward increasing income.

Hire a full-time financial development staff person to pursue new sources of income; to cultivate private, foundations, and corporations and to maintain regular contact with potential sources.

Support annual national conventions as a means of on-going support.

Establish a closer tie with Japanese government and corporations for program and fund development purposes.

Continue efforts to implement a planned giving program with effective marketing strategies.

Organize a planned giving committee to monitor and identify prospective planned giving sources.

Web site and Internet

Goal: To improve the public visibility of the JACL and increase dissemination of critical information by improving the design and content of the national Web site.

Objectives:

Include an education/historical aspect to the site by including biographies of prominent Japanese Americans in politics, academia, business, etc.

Improve the design of the site to include more content and user direction on the home page (e.g. mission statement on the top of the home page, fully utilize the right side of the home page, and link to the *Pacific Citizen*).

Increase funding for web design to ensure online content is timely and relevant.

Work with the JACL chapters to ensure all chapter links are included in the national Web site.

Encourage chapters to create their own Web sites to be maintained with timely and current information.

Increase use of the internet to disseminate information to members.

Organizational Structure

Goal: To enhance the efficiency

and effectiveness of the JACL to carry out its organizational mission.

Objective: Establish a committee to study and make recommendations to improve the governance and operations of the organization and report its findings at the next meeting of the JACL National Council.

National Strategic Planning Process

Goal: To develop a comprehensive National Strategic Planning initiative that will create a 5-10 year plan or "roadmap" to ensure the organization remains viable, relevant and vibrant for years to come.

Objectives: Establish and convene a National Strategic Planning Committee with representatives from the National Board, district council and youth

Identify and access new funding sources (internal and external) dedicated to supporting the development

and implementation of the National Strategic Planning Committee and Initiative

Work on ongoing Phase I implementation of the National Strategic Plan of the Pacific Northwest District

Develop and determine Phase II and III strategies for other geographic/district samples across the country

Regularly share key findings and information on the Strategic Planning process with the national board, district councils and chapters.

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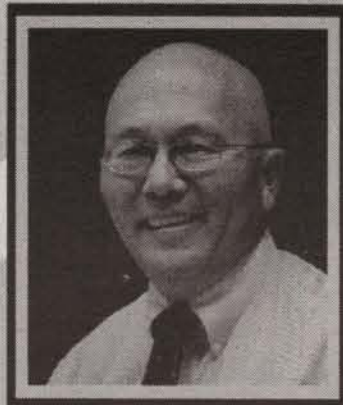
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This spoiled brat of 28 years can't have it his way as supported by his family. No one forced the lieutenant to receive a commission after graduation and if he did not know what came with a U.S. Army commission then he should resign. Going to the stockade to avoid or refuse to be deployed to Iraq adds fuel to the enemy and endangers his fellow U.S. troops in Iraq.

We who lived through WWII, internment, and serving in the military via draft (Vietnam) accepted our duty to serve as a price to live in the United States.

He is entitled to his own opinion privately on the war in Iraq, but the uniform he is wearing dictates what and where he is to be deployed, and that decision is not his to make.

Assuming he is not a conscientious objector, and we had many during the Vietnam conflict, he should consider moving and changing his citizenship to Canada.

Roy M. Takeuchi
Stockton, CA

I, too, agree with Lt. Watada that the war in Iraq was not justified, but I do not agree with the conclusion he has reached.

Lt. Watada must understand that what is going on in Iraq is being done in the name of the United States not George W. Bush. The U.S. got itself into a terrible situation now with Iraqis killing each

other, Iraqis killing Americans, and Americans killing Iraqis. Since the U.S. is responsible for the current situation, the U.S., with help from other allies, must restore order for the people of Iraq. We cannot, in our conscience, abandon Iraq in the middle of the mess we created.

What we need in Iraq are great front line leaders like Lt. Watada, who I am sure is capable. He and the men he commands can demonstrate to the Iraqi people that America is truly there to help them, not only in defeating terrorists, but in helping them gain some stability and peace in their lives.

Tom Miyasaki
Via e-mail

I applaud 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's decision to refuse deployment to Iraq. Instead of taking a position on the front line of the war, he has chosen to be in the vanguard of those who refuse to deploy to Iraq because of a conviction that this war is immoral and illegal. I agree, along with thousands of other loyal Americans. To invade a country, slaughter its people and ravage their lands without provocation is a monstrous evil, totally unworthy of a great nation such as ours.

What makes Lt. Watada's action singularly courageous is that there have been other seasoned officers who've been there, done that, then returned to tell us the war was a mistake. He, on the contrary, a young man, probably on a fast track

of promotion, will refuse to go at the outset, refusing "to be a party to the illegal and immoral war against people who did nothing to deserve it."

No doubt Lt. Watada will be castigated by some, even punished, for his considered decision, just as those 300 or so brave men in the WWII concentration camps were criticized and punished for refusing to report for induction because their citizens' rights had been violated. I believe the lieutenant knows what's in store for him and is still willing to follow his heart and stick to his principles.

I say bravo! to him. And I thank him for making this hard decision. And by it, making this country a better, more honorable, place for our children and grandchildren.

Mei Nakano
Sebastopol, CA

First Lt. Ehren Watada will not win any military medals for his extraordinary act of conscience and moral integrity. That, apparently, is not what our military is all about.

But Watada has proven himself a human being first and foremost, and a soldier second. As a fellow human he chose to fulfill his unspoken commitment to humanity rather than to violate that trust in favor of the impersonal machinations of an arrogant military. He dared to make it a personal issue. It will be a costly choice but his conscience will be clear.

Watada may never be recognized as a national hero, especially by his own image-conscious Japanese community. But he surely will be recognized for his honesty and courage by humanitarians throughout the world and throughout history.

Yosh Kurokiya
Heart Mountain Draft
Resister of 1944

First Lt. Ehren Watada took the soldier's oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." Pres. George Bush took a similar vow when he assumed his high office.

The crucial question is: Did Bush violate his oath with his unprovoked attack on Iraq, based on a series of false claims, without a declaration of war by Congress? If so, then following his battle orders may be aiding and abetting an unlawful act.

Bush's allegations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction proved totally false. Iraq hadn't made a single terrorist attack before our invasion. Her present violence is insurgency against our occupation.

Lt. Watada is not alone in his stand that the Iraq war is illegal and immoral. A large majority of the American people, including many retired generals, strongly oppose this war.

As a Christian Republican and a 442nd RCT veteran, who enlisted

from Minidoka Relocation Center, I voted for George Bush in 2000. But I repented and voted against him and some Republicans in 2004.

Mas Odoi
442nd Veteran

As a former WWII Army veteran and a 442nd RCT rifleman, I have often wished that I had had then, the courage of conviction of the 1943 draft resisters and now, Lt. Watada, to protest and defy the Faustian "bargains" (internment and reopening of the draft) which were imposed unconditionally (and unconstitutionally) in 1942 and 1943.

Eji Suyama
Ft. Meade, SD

I support very strongly 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal to serve in Iraq. I applaud his decision and the courage it took to make it. He has behaved honorably and honestly. The repercussions might be very harsh but the consequences of violating his conscience would be even harsher.

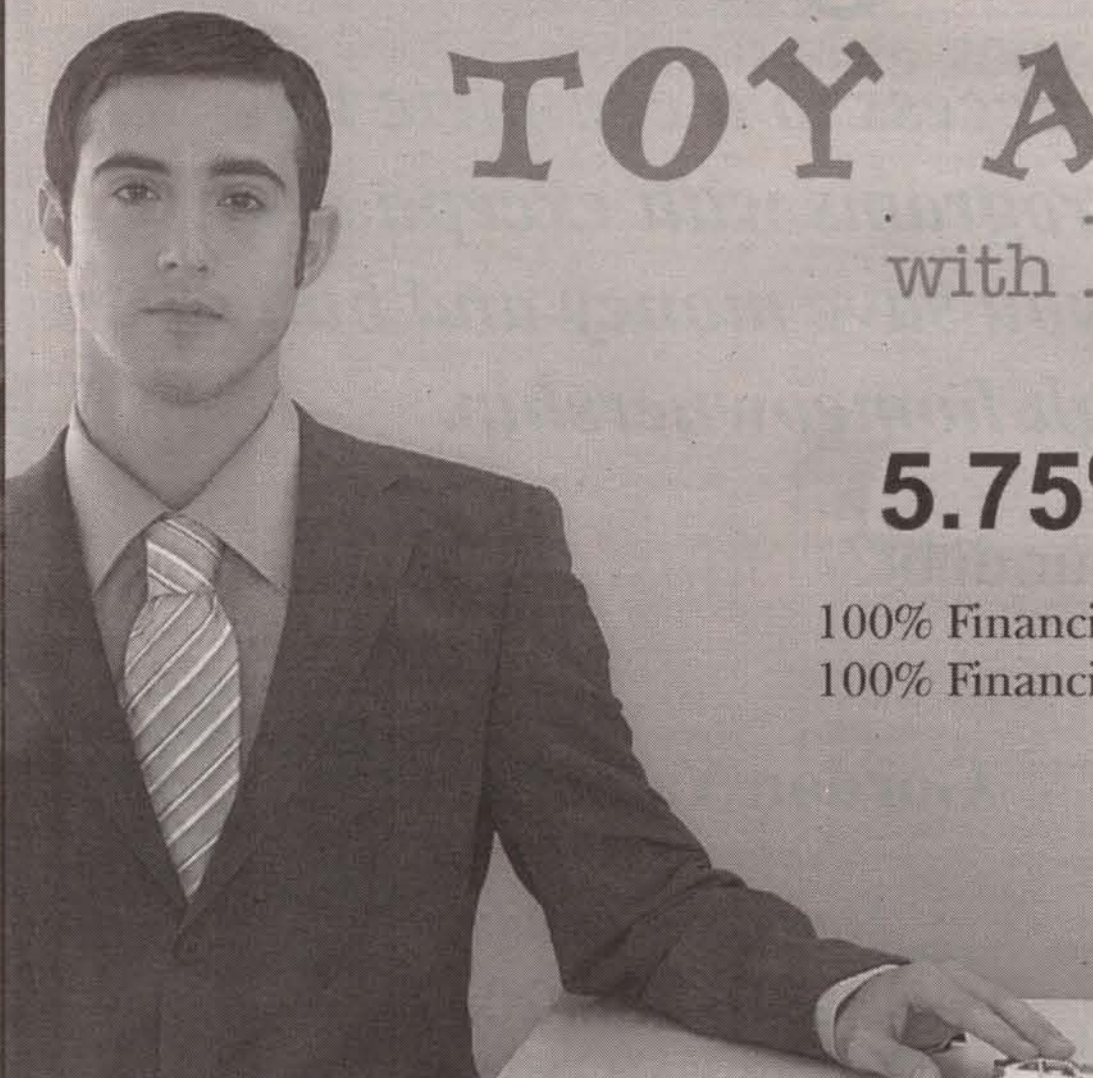
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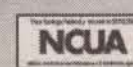

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