



Immigrants are America's Families, Workers and Neighbors

Dear Congressman:
I am deeply concerned that the current immigration policies undermine our democratic values and threaten the well-being of our nation. I urge you to take action to ensure that our immigration system is fair, just, and secure. Thank you for your service to the people of America.

Dear Congressman,
An APA coalition launches a picture postcard campaign for immigration awareness.
NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 4



Where is home?
Sansei Art Nomura looks at JAs who live in Japan in his documentary 'Finding Home.'
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



A Legend After His Time
Kenichi Zenimura, the 'father of JA baseball' gets inducted into Shrine of Eternals.
SPORTS PAGE 7

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

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Aug. 4-17, 2006

Exclusive: One on One With Ehren Watada

The 1st Lt. has now been officially charged by the U.S. Army for his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq. In an exclusive interview with the *Pacific Citizen*, he reflects on his decision and its impact both personally and on the larger community.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

It's been just a little over a month now since 1st Lt. Ehren Watada followed through with his decision to refuse deployment orders to Iraq after offering to serve in other areas of the world and rendering his resignation. Now the U.S. Army has officially charged him for his actions and he will face a pre-trial hearing Aug. 17.

From Fort Lewis, Washington

where he is currently stationed and working in an administrative position, Watada speaks with the *Pacific Citizen*. Although he now faces three charges — missing troop movement, conduct unbecoming an officer, and contempt towards officials — he has no regrets.

Reflecting on the impact his decision has had both personally and for the larger Japanese American community, we get a rare glimpse into the reasons behind Watada's controversial decision.

Pacific Citizen: How has the response from the Japanese American community and the larger Asian Pacific American community been since you

'No regrets. How could I regret making the moral choice? How could I regret refusing to participate in something I believe is illegal?'

— 1st Lt. Ehren Watada



announced your decision in June?

Ehren Watada: Just by reading a few of the comments, the response has been fairly polarized. I didn't expect a large proportion of Asian Americans or Japanese Americans to rally to my side. To

See WATADA/Page 6

Judge Orders Eddy Zheng's Removal

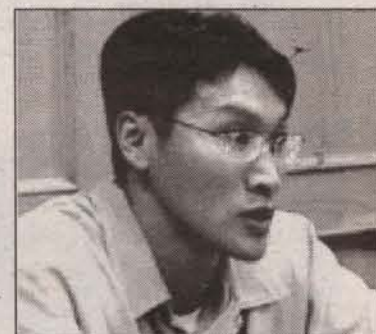
The wait yielded an unwanted decision for Zheng's supporters — Yuri Kochiyama is among them — but the decision to appeal rests on the man who spent the last 20 years in prison.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Eddy Zheng, a convict turned community youth educator and caged poet, will be deported if he does not appeal an immigration judge's July 19 decision to deny his application for relief.

To date, he still has to decide whether to appeal the judge's ruling, said Zheng in a July 28 letter to the *Pacific Citizen*. Weighing on his mind are the legal fees and the health of his elderly parents.

The judge would only stop the deportation if it were a matter of



Zheng, who testified at his hearing last year, faces deportation.

national security, said Zheng's lawyer Zachary Nightingale.

Citing a 2002 removal proceedings by the U.S. Department of Justice, the judge also determined Zheng's removal from the country would not inflict extraordinary hardship on his family beyond the "normal" difficulties of family separation.

"[Zheng] himself is young, healthy and educated. He will expe-

See ZHENG/Page 12

An Identity Shift

Ellen Yamamoto not only discovered she was adopted, her identity as a JA was shattered when she learned she was actually Korean American.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Ellen Yamamoto, 59, was rummaging through some old photographs when she came across a black and white photo of her sitting and smiling on her father's lap. Faded and a bit yellowed now, she noticed the writing on the back of the photo didn't seem quite right. The original wording had been altered by her mother.

Curious, she dug out her birth certificate from Shizuoka, Japan. Soon she discovered even more discrepancies, raising some serious questions about her birth.

In a search for answers she called up an old family friend and confronted her relatives. Sadly, her parents



Ellen Inae Yamamoto (above) and at 1-years-old (left) with her adoptive father Francis.

Francis and Nobu "Mari" Yamamoto had passed away years ago and could not answer her questions. But soon, without too much prying, the truth about her birth and her real family were laid before her eyes, a truth that had been kept secret by all of her relatives.

For the past 59 years, Ellen has lived her life as a Sansei mother of three boys. But now at the age of 60 she has discovered that she is adopted and not of Japanese ancestry but is Korean American.

"For 59 years I was Ellen Yamamoto. But now I discovered I'm not JA but 100 percent Korean," she said. "Everyone knew I was adopted. I was the only one who

See ADOPTION/Page 5

Bush Signs Voting Rights Act Extension; APA Groups Hail Victory

'The Voting Rights Act has been critical in encouraging Asian American and other language minority voters to become more engaged in our nation's civic life.' — Margaret Fung, AALDEF

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

President Bush on July 27 signed legislation extending for 25 years the Voting Rights Act, the historic 1965 law which opened polls to millions and outlawed racist voting practices.

"Congress has reaffirmed its belief that all men are created equal," he declared.

Bush signed the bill amid fanfare and before a South Lawn audience that included members of Congress, civil rights leaders and family members of civil rights leaders of the recent past. It was one of a series of high-profile ceremonies the president is holding to sign popular bills into law.

Asian Pacific American groups

are also celebrating the victory.

"We applaud the actions taken by Congress and President Bush to ensure that every American citizen will continue to have equal access to the vote. The Voting Rights Act has been critical in encouraging Asian American and other language minority voters to become more engaged in our nation's civic life," said Margaret Fung, executive director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF).

The law also strengthens the original Voting Rights Act by enforcing Section 203 — the language assistance requirement that is so important to the APA community — more

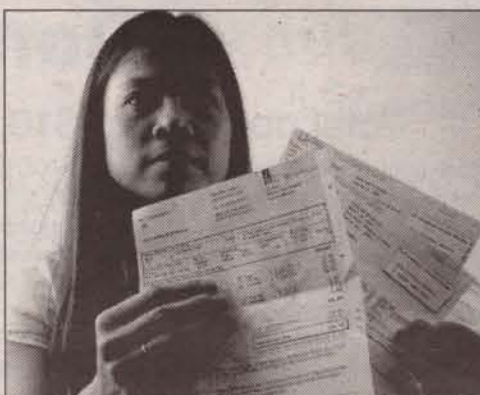
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Under One Roof — The Second Generation's Burden

Deferring independence, young professional APAs are increasingly bearing financial responsibilities for their parents.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Imagine just getting out of college and signing your name to one of the largest purchases of your life — a house on a suburban Los Angeles tree-lined street. Nancy Vo's hands visibly shook as she scrawled her name across pages of legal documents binding her to a



six-figure debt and three decades confined to financial shackles.

But at least the vanilla colored house with the wrought iron fence would be a place for all to call home

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS: Nancy Vo is responsible for utility bills and portions of the mortgage at the home she helped buy with her siblings.

Kids buying homes for their parents is a growing trend, according to national statistics.

— all meaning her immigrant parents, two brothers and two sisters, one of whom is married and living with her husband and two kids in the master bedroom.

The Vo family gives new meaning to the description of a full house. This one was bought by siblings ranging in age from 18-34, who worked and saved just to buy a house for their parents, not so much as a gift but as a necessity.

"We were always moving around and my dad really wanted a permanent place," said Nancy, 27, who remembers moving three times in one year. Her parents worked in garment factories when they first immigrated from Vietnam, but when her dad fell ill over a decade ago the revenue stream steadily dwindled,

See ONE ROOF/Page 7



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Letters to the Editor

Readers Continue to Speak Out on Watada

If all members of the U.S. mili-
tary had the right to refuse deploy-
ment, then the power to declare war
would be transferred from Capital
Hill to the Pentagon. Imagine this,
Congress believes that it is in our
national interest to take military
action. Twenty percent of our mili-
tary personnel "think" that such an
action is immoral, thirty percent
"think" that it is unconstitutional.
Because half of our Armed Forces
refuse deployment, Congress
decides not to authorize military
action. I wonder if 1st Lt. Ehren
Watada and his supporters gave any
thought to this?

I, for one, adamantly oppose giv-
ing our Armed Forces the power to
decide which wars we will or will
not fight in. The power to declare
war is perhaps the ultimate power.
Our founding fathers were wise in
putting that power in the hands of
our elected civilian government.

Lt. Watada believes the war is
immoral and unconstitutional. If
that is true, then it is the duty of
Congress and the Supreme Court to
take action, not Watada or anybody
in the U.S. military. Until they do,
it is the duty of Watada to obey orders
and go to Iraq. His refusal to do so
undermines our Constitution just as
well.

Wayne Okubo
San Jose, CA

Hurray for 1st Lt. Ehren Watada
for standing up for American values
and the important lessons many
Americans have forgotten from the
Nuremberg Trials following WWII.

U.S. citizens and soldiers are
responsible for their judgment in
following orders from their govern-
ment, which are against interna-
tional standards of conduct. Certainly
the unjustified attack by the U.S. on
Iraq falls into this category.

If justice prevails, Lt. Watada will
be vindicated, and American offi-
cials who lied to get us into this war
and those who advocated torture
and the destruction of civil liberties
guaranteed by our Constitution will
be held accountable.

Richard T. Schultz
Hayward, CA
Combat Infantry Veteran
WWII (South Pacific)

I am relieved that the national
JACL seems to be taking a cautious
approach in regard to the 1st Lt.
Ehren Watada matter. While indi-
vidual JACLers are entitled to voice
their opinions, JACL as an organi-
zation needs to be sure of the facts
and its grounds for taking positions,
particularly on matters of notoriety.

When a person is commissioned
as an Army officer, he or she accepts
certain responsibilities and obliga-
tions and there are things you do not
do regardless of personal belief or
wishes. Two such matters are: 1.
never disobey a lawful order; and 2.
never show disrespect for the com-
mander-in-chief or members of
Congress.

In my time, I never disobeyed an
order, but I did on one occasion, as a
junior officer during the Korean
War, make a disparaging remark
about President Harry Truman on
learning of his dismissal of General
Douglas MacArthur as commander
in chief of the United Nations & Far
East Command. I was immediately
admonished by a senior officer who
heard me and cautioned me not to
disparage the President. I never for-
got that lesson.

In Watada's case, I feel sorry for
him that he apparently did not have
anyone, a fellow officer or a chap-
lain, he could turn to for counsel and
advice as to how he could resolve
his situation without disgracing
himself and his family. He must
have known the obligations he
accepted when he accepted his com-
mission.

This matter is troubling to me per-
sonally because a soldier with the
same last name that I was privileged
to serve with, Staff Sergeant
Andrew Watada, was killed in
action just a few weeks before the
personal incident cited above.

Shigeki J. Sugiyama
Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
Past National JACL President

I volunteered from Heart
Mountain. I survived the rescue of
the "Lost Battalion." I know
courage. First Lt. Ehren Watada is
courageous. I agree with him: the
war in Iraq is illegal.

He took an oath that does not
require him to obey illegal orders.
As for lowering the morale of his
fellow soldiers, a Zogby poll shows
that over 70 percent of the military
personnel in Iraq are already against
the war. He is not increasing casual-

ties as some claim. The best way to
end casualties is to end this unpopu-
lar war. Lt. Watada is helping to do
just that.

Don Matsuda
Via e-mail

I support 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's
decision and have signed his peti-
tion and donated money. His action,
to me, is more like the Nisei who
defied Executive Order 9066 and
chose not to go to the internment
camps. Daniel Ellsberg said people
need to speak with courage when
they know the truth. Watada is say-
ing what many of us are thinking,
but he is willing to go to prison for
his beliefs.

During the Vietnam war, I was a
volunteer nurse working with
Vietnamese civilians at a leprosy
hospital. I have seen the negative
impacts of war on a country and the
people.

Harriet Fukushima
Oakland, CA

First Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal
of deployment to Iraq reminds me
of the post-WWII Nuremberg
Trials. The Allied court, judging the
Nazi generals, severely reprimand-
ed them for criminal acts perpetr-
ated against the innocent Jews. The
response to the charge was, "We
were only following orders."

The court's final judgment was
that a soldier could refuse orders
that were inimical to one's moral
beliefs. Lt. Watada was doing the
same. I commend him for his
refusal of deployment to Iraq and
his willingness to face the conse-
quences for his refusal.

Kathy Reyes
Via e-mail

I find myself ambivalent about
Lt. Ehren Watada's decision to
refuse deployment to Iraq. I am in
full agreement with his assessment
of the situation in Iraq and the
duplicious manner in which the
Bush Administration deceived the
Congress and the American public
into authorizing his ill-conceived
plan to invade Iraq, but the remedy
for this is to impeach the President
and the Vice President and to termi-
nate Donald Rumsfeld's tenure in
the Department of Defense.
Realistically, this is not going to
happen, even if the Democrats
should win control of one or both

houses of Congress in November.

Most rational Americans today
agree that the invasion of Iraq was a
mistake, so the issue is no longer
whether or not the invasion was just-
ified. The issue today is how to
extricate ourselves without aban-
doning the Iraqi people to cope with
the mess that we have created there.
Lt. Watada's decision does not seem
to recognize this issue.

I truly hope that Lt. Watada's
lawyers are successful in having
some or all of the charges against
him dismissed, but I think that the
military has too much at stake to not
prosecute him to the fullest extent
allowed by military regulations and
code of conduct. I am sure, howev-
er, that Lt. Watada was fully aware
of the potential consequences when
he made his decision and is pre-
pared to accept whatever may result.
For this, he is to be respected, unlike
those who did one thing during
WWII and now, when there is no
cost involved, declare that they wish
they had done otherwise.

Katsumi Hikido
Campbell, CA

To Robert Watada and all those
JAs speaking out for his son:

Obviously the *Pacific Citizen*
clearly shows bias by printing most-
ly letters in overwhelming support
of this individual. I hope this pub-
lication will have the guts to print this
response to all those putting him on
a pedestal.

It's nice that 1st Lt. Ehren Watada
feels he can cherry pick his assign-
ments after VOLUNTEERING for
active duty as an officer, knowing
all the risks and potential dangers
involved in military life, post 9/11.
No one drafted or forced him to join
the Army and he most certainly
received and accepted officers' pay
until he realized things could get a
little rough in Iraq.

Watada says he will gladly serve
in Afghanistan. Would you entrust
your loved one under his command
and leadership? This individual can-
not be trusted in all walks of life, not
just the military. To call him a man
is an insult to all the men and
women who not only sacrificed
their lives for this country but for all
of us Americans who believe a
man's word and handshake are
everything. You can whine, moan
and betray all you want Watada, but
for once, please take your punish-
ment like a man.

Wayne Yamato
West Los Angeles
U.S. Army Veteran

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tions, letters are subject to abridgement.
Although we are unable to print all the letters
we receive, we appreciate the interest and
views of those who take the time to send us
their comments.

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Lamm Gets Slammed for Comments on Racial Minorities

DENVER—Former Gov. Dick Lamm is being criticized for saying racism and discrimination are not excuses for minority underachievement. Lamm, whose new book addresses that same issue, said in a July 24 speech, "I'm willing to say there is racism and discrimination, but that is not an excuse for minority underachievement. Blacks and Hispanics do half as much work as Asian students, and they get half as much grades. They have to stop telling people they are not succeeding because they are victims."

After community leaders spoke out against the comment, Lamm responded by saying, "We must recognize that all the civil rights and affirmative action laws in the world are not going to solve the problem of minority underachievement."

DJ Apologizes for Racist Prank Calls

TOLEDO—A disc jockey for WTWR-FM (98.3) has been suspended without pay for making racially insensitive remarks during prank calls to Chinese and Japanese restaurants, according to the market manager for Cumulus-owned radio stations.

The station's program director, Brent Carey, was also fired. "Lucas" whose real name is Josh Garber, made an on-air apology.

Reading from a prepared statement, Lucas said, "Those calls reflected poor judgment on my part and resulted in an outcry from the Asian community who interpreted my statements as derogatory and offensive. For that I apologize, as it was not my intention, in any way, to offend the Asian community, or to mock those of Asian ancestry."

JAMsj to Stay Put at Current Site, Proceed with Expansion Plans

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) is staying at its present Fifth Street site and proceeding with its original capital expansion plans.

JAMsj was asked to consider relocating to the City Corporation Yard at Sixth and Jackson Streets. Original expansion plans were put on hold, but after months of meetings, board members decided against the relocation citing among other reasons, financial concerns.

The museum will be closing Aug. 31 for expansion. During construction, the library/research center will be open to the public.

Schaefer Refuses to Apologize for Remarks

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Comptroller William Donald Schaefer refused to apologize to a Korean American group for July 5 remarks he made linking South Korean immigrants to a recent missile firing in communist North Korea.

The 84-year-old comptroller met privately with the delegation, but declined to sign a letter of contrition prepared by his own chief of staff.

"I don't have to apologize, I didn't say anything to apologize for," he said.

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

UCSF Genetics Pioneer Earns Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Yuet Wai Kan, a leader in the field of human genetics, was honored July 20 with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America. It is the first time the award has been presented.

Kan is the Louis K. Diamond Professor of Hematology at UCSF. He was the first to establish that a single DNA mutation could result in a human disease.

Community Pioneers to Be Honored at Nisei Week Festival

The Nisei Week Foundation, a nonprofit organization that sponsors the annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, named its 2006 Nisei Week Pioneers: **Jim Kanno, Mineshizu Kitsu, Maki Miyahara, Mack M. Miyazaki, Kunio Paul Shiba and Satoru Toyoda.**

These pioneers represent the best of the greater Los Angeles JA community and will be honored at a special luncheon Aug. 16 at the New Otani Hotel & Garden.

Nakagawa Receives Award for a Lifetime of Sharing Untold Stories of JA Baseball Pioneers

Nisei Baseball Research Project founder **Kerry Yo Nakagawa** was chosen as the recipient of this year's Tony Salin Memorial Award. The award presented by the Baseball Reliquary is given in recognition of a person's contribution to the perpetuation of baseball history and for bringing attention to the tales of the game's forgotten heroes.

Nakagawa received the award during the Reliquary's Shrine of Eternal Induction Ceremony July 23. ■

Bipartisan Coalition Files Bill to Honor Internees

U.S. Reps. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., and Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, filed legislation in the House July 17 that would include a Bainbridge Island, Wash., memorial honoring the first Japanese Americans sent to World War II internment camps in the national park system.

The bill would codify into law the results of a Department of the Interior study released this May by making a memorial at the former Eagle Lake Ferry Dock a satellite site of an existing monument in Jerome County, Idaho.

"Eagle Lake Ferry Dock belongs in the lexicon of historic sites designated as national parks and preserved for future generations because Bainbridge Island residents bookend a chapter in American history that needs to be retold with one goal: that fear should never drive us to such acts again," said Inslee, a member of the House Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over national parks.

Inslee, who led efforts in the House to commission and fund the Interior Department study hails from Bainbridge Island. Simpson's district includes Minidoka Internment National Monument, one of two U.S. internment camps that now have national-park designation.

Located on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, the now defunct Eagle Lake Ferry Dock was the site from which the first 227 internees in the nation were forcibly removed from their homes and communities under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1. From Bainbridge Island, they were taken to the Manzanar Relocation Center in California. In 1943, they were transferred to the Minidoka Relocation Center.

This May, several years of fundraising and planning culminated in the groundbreaking and first phase of construction of a memorial at the former Eagle Lake Ferry Dock and in five acres of Joel Pritchard Park. Called "Nidoto Nai Yoni," or "let it not happen again," \$2 million of the \$5 million project has been raised so far, with funding coming from private donors and the state of Washington.

"The addition of this important site will help to preserve the history of the Japanese American commu-



Bainbridge Island JAs being led to the ferry.

nity on Bainbridge Island and provide a lasting educational resource for Kitsap County, the Northwest and the nation," said Dan Sakura, director of government relations at The Conservation Fund.

The Inslee-Simpson bill must be approved by the resources panel before it can come to a vote on the House floor. A companion bill has not yet been offered in the Senate. ■

LAUSD Superintendent Cites WWII Internment in Speech

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—As Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa touted his proposal to take over city schools, the district superintendent used his annual speech to rail against the mayor and his plan.

Superintendent Roy Romer said July 20 that city schools were not as bad off as the mayor has portrayed them in recent speeches. The superintendent trumpeted gains in test scores and other data that compared the Los Angeles Unified School District favorably with other big city districts.

Romer also compared the mayor's yearlong drive to win support for the takeover plan to the U.S. government's propaganda campaign to justify internment of Japanese Americans during World

War II.

"It has tremendous consequence for this city because if you indoctrinate — propagandize — a population long enough into a mistruth they believe it," said Romer, who is set to retire this fall after six years as superintendent.

Former school board member Warren Furutani and other Japanese American leaders held a press conference later that day to condemn Romer's statement.

"I thought it was pretty offensive to try to connect Antonio to the same propaganda machine that put Japanese in internment camps during World War II," Furutani said. "I thought that was out of bounds."

Romer later apologized to those offended by his comments but did not back away from his criticism of Villaraigosa.

Villaraigosa, in a subsequent news conference outside City Hall, criticized Romer's remarks.

"To compare the facts of what is going on here in L.A. Unified to the internment of the Japanese is

absolutely wrong," he said.

Later, at a Westwood church, the mayor bashed school officials for failing to improve graduation rates. He cited figures that show that only about a half of all students graduate on time and said that major changes were needed to improve city schools.

Villaraigosa had sought legislation giving him nearly complete control over the district, which covers most of Los Angeles and all or part of 31 other cities, as well as some unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

In June, after facing strong opposition, Villaraigosa agreed to a compromise with legislative leaders and the teachers' union. Under the new proposal, the mayor would share management of the district with the superintendent and the elected school board. The mayor also would have the power to hire and fire the superintendent.

Gov. Schwarzenegger said he would sign the bill if it passes in August. ■



ROMER

Former Army Chaplain Says He was Unfairly Detained at Border

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE—Former Army Capt. James Yee, whose work as a Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo ended when he was arrested and accused of spying, says he believes he was unfairly detained at the Canadian border recently on his way back from a day trip.

Yee, who spent 76 days in solitary confinement before being cleared of all charges in March 2004, said in a telephone interview



YEE

July 23 with The Associated Press that memories of his experience in Army detention came back to him while he was being questioned for two hours at the border July 22.

"Perhaps this is an indication I'm still of interest to the federal government," Yee said.

He said customs officials were polite and professional but would not tell him why he was stopped or if he had done anything wrong.

A number of other people were stopped at the border, had their vehicles inspected and then were sent on their way in about 10 minutes while he was being questioned from 8 to 10 p.m., Yee said.

At the time, he speculated he was held for an extended period because the FBI had been called.

Border inspections by customs agents are routine, said Mike Milne, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He said he could not comment specifically on why Yee was stopped at the border.

Yee said his drive to Canada from his home in Olympia, Wash., to see a Cirque du Soleil performance in Vancouver, British Columbia, was his first trip outside of the U.S. since he was honorably discharged from the Army in 2005.

He was also carrying Muslim religious items, including a Quran and a prayer rug and cap.

"Maybe these things raised eyebrows, even though this is all against terrorism," Yee said. ■

NYC Diversity Presents New Set of Challenges

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—When the New York Asian Women's Center opened in the early 1980s, the only language used other than English was Chinese. These days, the domestic violence shelter offers services in more than a dozen Asian languages.

How does executive director Tuhina De O'Connor feel about that? Frustrated. "It's just not enough," she says.

That's because when you put together all the languages and dialects spoken by the city's Asian communities, you're counting somewhere around 50 of them, spoken by people hailing from at least two dozen different countries.

As Census figures and everyday experience readily show, increasing diversity is a part of life all over the Empire State, carrying its own set of complications depending on the region. Sure, the kinds of issues that upstate communities are starting to see — different cultures and people in places that may not have had them before — are old hat for a metropolis with the storied immigrant history of New York City.

But increasing diversity presents different kinds of challenges for New York City. As the Latino and Asian populations have exploded in recent years, they've grown not only in sheer numbers but in com-



New York's APAs celebrate Chinese New Year.

plexity. And none have had to adjust more to that reality than the community organizations that have been serving those groups.

Just looking at the Census categories for New York City over time is a revelation. On the 1970 form, when looking at the countries that foreign-born residents came from, the places listed for Asia were Western Asia, China, Japan and Other Asia.

For year 2000 data, a visitor to the Census Web site can break down New York City's Asian population in a number of ways: Indian, Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai or Vietnamese.

The organizations working with

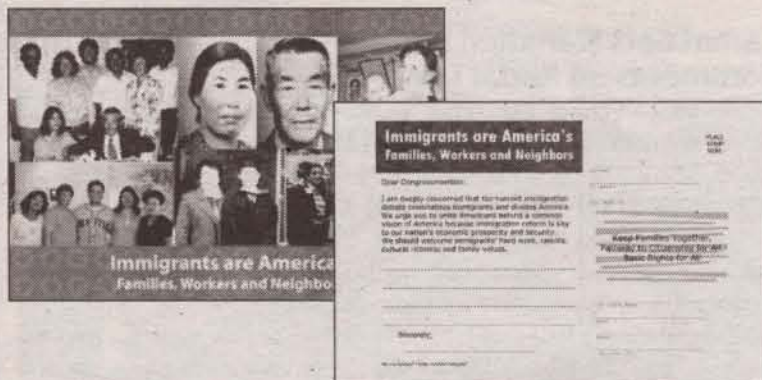
these communities say what's important is finding issues various ethnic groups have in common.

Of course, that is somewhat easier to do in the Latino community, since they share a language which in turn shares an alphabet with English. Not so much in the Asian community, where there are a multiplicity of tongues, some of which are written in completely different lettering systems.

But despite the challenges, it's important to build a sense of community that extends past a particular country of origin, said Wayne Ho, executive director of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families. It's the best way to build political and social power.

He said, "By pushing a pan-Asian identity, we have a louder voice." ■

APA Communities Unite to Launch National Picture Postcard Campaign



Asian Pacific American organizations recently announced the launch of the "We Are America" Picture Postcard Campaign. Throughout the summer, national and local organizations serving APA communities will reach out to its members to send tens of thousands of picture postcards of immigrant families, workers and neighbors to members of Congress urging them to support just and humane immigration reform.

"Asian Pacific American families are deeply impacted by our immigration laws," said Lisa Hasegawa, chair of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans. "This campaign is a compelling way for immigrants and descendants of immigrants to tell their stories and send photographs of immigrants as America's families, workers and neighbors."

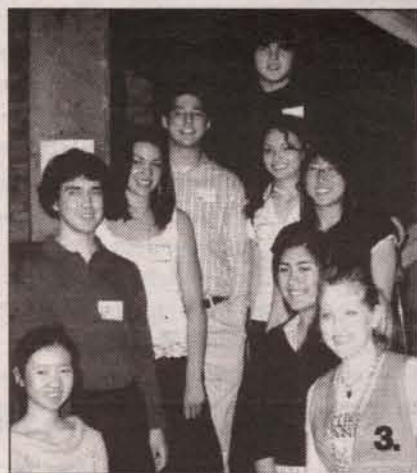
The passage of the immigration bill, H.R. 4437, sparked historic mass mobilizations across the coun-

try. Immigrant communities, in particular APA communities, have been engaged in fighting for workable and comprehensive reform. Local and national APA groups, including JACL, joined together to initiate the Picture Postcard Campaign to build upon the momentum of the immigration marches.

APA communities are uniquely impacted by the entire gamut of problems stemming from the current immigration system. Of the 15 million APAs living in the United States, 67 percent or 8.7 million are immigrants, 1.5 million are undocumented and millions more are caught in immigration backlogs, forced to wait many years to be reunited with their family members.

The Picture Postcard Campaign will galvanize APA communities to express concerns, shape the debate and unite Americans behind a common vision that immigration reform is good for America. ■

JACL Chapters Honor Young Scholars



San Jose JACL named this year's scholarship recipients recently at a buffet luncheon held at the Issei Memorial Building backyard. This year's scholarship awards totaled \$11,650.

San Jose JACL

1. THE RECIPIENTS (pictured above, from left): Michael Suh received a \$1,000 San Jose JACL Award; Jason Kusumoto won the \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship and a \$500 CYS Scholarship; Addi McClure took home a \$400 San Jose JACL Award; Lindsay Matsushita received the \$500 Ada Y. Uyeda Memorial Scholarship and a \$250

San Jose JACL Award; Carolyn Finney collected the \$3,000 Kenji Sakaue Memorial Scholarship; Stephanie Wilcox received the \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship; Brittini King received the \$500 Karl Kinaga Memorial Scholarship and the \$500 Lanette Yoneko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship.

(Not pictured) Allyson Yamashita and Lynley Takaki.

San Fernando Valley JACL

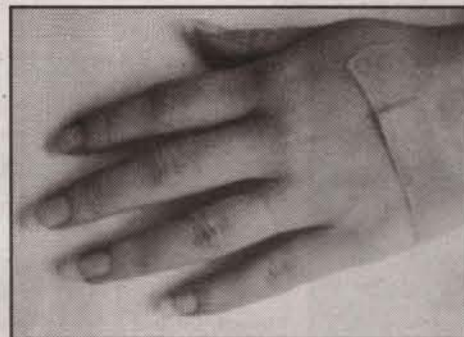
2. HONOREES: Timothy Kenichiro Maki (right) is graduating from Faith Baptist and will be attending Pepperdine University as a creative writing major. Megan K.

Sadakane (left) is graduating from Cleveland High School and will be attending the University of California, San Diego.

Twin Cities JACL

3. SCHOLARS: The Twin Cities JACL awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to high school graduates. At the 43rd Annual Scholarship Awards Program held recently at the St. Anthony Event Centre in Minneapolis, the following recipients were honored: (l-r) Kay Satoh, Matthew Carlson, Rachel Girard, David Motoyoshi, Tyler Kempton, Danielle Tanaka, Christine Sako, Mariko Yoshimura Rank and Natalie Nakasone. ■

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JA Woman Discovers Adoption and a New Identity

(Continued from page 1)

didn't know."

For the past year, Ellen, a retired account executive living in Pasadena, Calif., has been trying to adjust to her new-found Korean American identity. It's a task made even more difficult by an upbringing that engrained the Japanese culture into her.

"I speak Japanese fluently," said Ellen, who was raised in both Japan and the United States. "Everything in my house, everything is Japanese. Japanese culture is engrained in me."

Now she's trying to mesh the Japanese and Korean cultures as best as she can.

"I've been eating a lot of Korean food, buying Korean groceries, and watching Korean TV with subtitles," she said with a chuckle. But "it's almost like it's too late" to learn a new culture, she noted sadly. "But I'm proud to be 100 percent Korean."

The unraveling of a secret adoption

Francis was a MIS soldier stationed in Korea during World War II. It was here that he met Ellen's adoptive mother, a full-blooded Korean whose real name was Bae Kuja. Eventually she would take on a JA identity and the name Nobu after adopting Ellen.

Although the adoption was a shock, Ellen soon learned that the woman she had been raised to think was her aunt, her adoptive mother's younger sister, was her birth mother.

Halla Huhm (nee Bae Yoonja), had had a bitter divorce from Ellen's birth father, spurred by accusations that he had committed adultery. A struggle over their only child ensued. Single and divorced, Ellen's birth mother made the dif-



Ellen Inae Yamamoto (fourth from left) and her son David (right of Ellen) at a reunion with their Korean relatives (above).

Ellen's birth parents (left) during happier times. Here they pose with Harry Sasaki, an MIS soldier who was friends with Ellen's adoptive father Francis. Harry was one of the first people Ellen sought to learn more information about her adoption.

ficult decision to give Ellen to her sister and brother-in-law so she could have a better life in the U.S.

"She decided to give me a new life ... so her daughter would have a better life," said Ellen, who learned she was born in Seoul, South Korea and that her real name is Inae Kim. "I never knew I was her daughter."

Ellen's birth mother eventually remarried and moved to Hawaii where she went on to have a successful career as a Korean dance master. But she would have no more children. Ironically, in 1979 Halla made a visit to Southern California where she spent time with Ellen and her three boys, all the while assuming the role of Ellen's aunt. It would be their last meeting.

In 1994, Ellen's real mom died of breast cancer, never able to acknowledge Ellen as her daughter. Since both her adoptive and real mothers had had strained relations for several years since the late 70s, Ellen never visited her mom while she was sick nor did she attend her funeral.

As Ellen pondered time lost and feelings of regret, she held a weathered, black and white photo of her at the age of one with her real mother kneeling beside her, both smiling at the camera.

"I understand why they kept it from me. I understand about the adoption. But in 1994 I was almost 50. I should have been given the opportunity to ease her pain," she said.

Her adoptive parents eventually had a natural child, Ellen's younger brother Fred. Francis passed away of cancer in 1979 and Nobu died in 2003, both never revealing the secret of Ellen's adoption.

Discovering her Korean roots

In September 2005 Ellen and her middle son David Ito made a trip to South Korea to not only meet her Korean relatives for the first time but to find her real father, a man who was still a mystery to her.

Although her Korean relatives admitted knowing about Ellen's adoption, they did not remember much about her real father, even

his first name. They had long ago lost touch with him and they claimed the family registry document of Ellen's birth had been burned in a fire in 1949.

But what she did learn she pieced together from faded memories. If her father were alive today he would be 88-years-old. His last name was Kim and he had come from a prominent family in the city of Taegu where her paternal grandfather had built a school.

She also discovered that her real father had not wanted to give her up for adoption.

If Ellen's father is still alive today, she wants to thank him. "If I look at it objectively, I was very, very fortunate," she said noting she could have been given to her real dad's family and stayed in Korea, a country impoverished by WWII. "I'm fortunate in that sense, real lucky."

Ellen also learned that her Korean relatives were Japanese sympathizers during WWII, particularly a great-aunt on her maternal family's side. This fact has not helped her in her search for her father. It seems no one wants to resurrect this part of the family history.

So Ellen has decided to stop searching for her father for now out of respect for her Korean relatives. But a distant cousin has offered his help, taking the lead and continuing the search for him.

"I'm done. I feel like I've come up against a wall. I feel suffocated ... I can't go beyond that wall to communicate with him," said Ellen, who believes her Korean relatives may still be hiding some information about her father, suspicious of her motives. "Money is not what I want. I just want to know who my dad is."

Adjusting to a new identity

On Ellen's recent trip to South Korea she bought a Korean doll and placed it alongside the traditional Japanese doll in its glass case. Reflecting on her newfound identity, she feels a sense of relief in finally discovering her true ancestral roots.

"The pressure's off," said Ellen who now goes by the name Ellen Inae Yamamoto in recognition of her Korean ancestry. "There's a sense of freedom" but "I regret that I don't know about my culture."

Growing up Ellen recalls her mother hinting they were part Korean "many times removed." Ironically, Ellen admits she never

felt like she was "a good Japanese," a feeling reinforced by constant criticism from her adoptive mother. She admits to being "very outspoken and forthright," characteristics not always cherished in the Japanese culture.

"I was always told I was a poor Japanese ... now I know why," she said.

She tries not to be bitter about her family's long silence about her adoption. Although she forgives her adoptive father, she has feelings of resentment towards her adoptive mom, a woman she describes as "manipulative" and "mean" and with whom she had always had a difficult relationship.

"I don't have feelings of bitterness towards my father," said Ellen who described Francis as a generous and kind man. "I'm still dealing with a lot of anger towards my adoptive mother. My mom made up a lot of stories."

Ellen's three sons have been supportive during her recent ordeal. They too grew up with a JA identity but are now adjusting to being half Korean American. But for them, it's all about being Asian American.

"It really doesn't make much of a difference to me. I guess now I really am Asian (its kind of an eclectic term)," said Ellen's son David.

"Being half Korean is difficult to classify and a bit too wordy to explain. To me, when I go to Japan they say 'oh, you're an American' not Japanese'; when I am in the U.S. they say 'you're Japanese-Korean-American,'" he said. "There are just too many labels and qualifiers. Shouldn't we just be human beings and treat each other as such?"

Ellen's relatives here in the U.S. say nothing has changed and they still consider her a part of their family.

"It doesn't make a difference. I love her anyway," said Francis' sister Miyo Senzaki, 86.

Although Francis had told Miyo about Ellen's adoption long ago, he had sworn her to secrecy. But he never gave her any background information on Ellen's adoption, including who her real family was.

"I felt really bad but I never questioned my brother. My brother loved Ellen so much," she said.

On Aug. 5 the Yamamoto family is holding a family reunion in Southern California. Although Ellen is still coming to terms with her family's decision to keep her adoption a secret, she plans to attend.

"I'm trying to let it go. Keeping a grudge is not going to help me. I'm still the person on the outside that I always was," she said.

"I'm more embarrassed. I tried so hard to be a part of the family. I was always on the outside of the family because they didn't like my mom" but "I have no axe to grind with any of them."

Ellen is planning another trip to South Korea in 2008. She also hopes to tell her story in a future book she has already begun to write.

"In my mind I have come to a closure." Telling her story has been "therapeutic" and "cathartic" she said. "It helps me deal with this new identity." ■

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An Interview With Watada on His Controversial Decision

(Continued from page 1)

be honest, I didn't know what to expect. I feel relieved that all Americans, regardless of race or creed, including AAs have lent their support. This really shouldn't be an issue about race. Yet, it is curious to note, that the majority of soldiers who have voiced their support in person, have been minorities. Whether they see me as giving a voice to minorities in the Army or simply fighting for minority rights I don't know.

PC: How have you been doing since the charges were announced? Any regrets?
EW: No regrets. How could I regret making the moral choice? How could I regret refusing to participate in something I believe is illegal? How could I continue to be silent — condoning the continual violation of laws by our nation's leaders?

To understand my position, you first have to ask yourself what you believe is the role of an American soldier. Is he or she a mercenary — obliged by a signed contract to follow all orders without question? Or can he or she be a freethinking, educated, and rational person, given the opportunity to discern between lawful and unlawful orders?

Not surprisingly, the prevailing attitude whether assumed or reinforced is "yes" to the first question. The Army has always strongly relied on the authoritarian command structure where orders are followed without question and the assumption is that those issuing the orders are trusted and honorable. Yet, my experience tells me that those who issue the orders are not infallible, including our civilian leadership. Reliance on an unquestioning, blindly obedient Army is a slippery slope which can only lead to the likes of Abu Graib and many other atrocities that will never be known by mainstream America.

So then we go back to the role of the American soldier. The ability and responsibility to question is not a foreign thought even in the Army. Just a month before my former unit deployed, a battalion commander (lieutenant colonel) was relieved of his command. This came about because his subordinate commanders formed a consensus that he nurtured a negative command climate and voiced their dissent to the battalion commander's boss.

According to my detractors, this would constitute mutiny! Surely, these captains should have waited for this lieutenant colonel's command time to end (after Iraq) — after all, he had trained with these men for over a year. But these men committed no such crime, because fortunately for them and their men, there exists a system of accountability. I would hope that your readers can take this example and apply it to my situation.

PC: As you know, the JA community has long revered its war vets, especially its WWII vets. Do you think your decision has had a negative impact on their accomplishments?

EW: The 442nd Infantry and 100th Battalion are one of the most decorated units in American Army history. Many Americans who have served or are serving in the military will never know this fact. The JAs who served during WWII fought a two-front battle. They fought against the Germans, Italians, and Japanese. They also fought for their civil rights and that of their families. Some even saw it as fighting for their honor and loyalty as Americans.

Participating in the war in Iraq

shows neither honor nor loyalty. If my family was behind barbed wire today, I would not fight in Iraq. This is a war based upon deception of the American people and conducted in full violation of the Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law, and the laws of land warfare. This is not a WWII fight against German or Japanese aggression. In this war, we the Americans, are the aggressors.

Do my actions reflect negatively on their accomplishments? I would say, no. They fought for honor and loyalty. I am fighting for the honor of our country, through which we do not condone the torture of prisoners of war and we don't condone a war fought for reasons akin to the Nazis and Imperial Japan.

Despite conflicting loyalties, I am fighting for the allegiance to which I swore an oath to uphold and defend — the Constitutional laws and principles of democracy. My decision brings honor to veteran JAs. Instead of perpetuating war crimes and a war of aggression, I am actively trying to put a stop to it. Instead of being the "quiet, obedient Japanese," I am fulfilling my oath to protect my soldiers and this country from our government. This is all at great expense — when the easier, safer path would have been to do my tour in Iraq.

PC: Some of the JA vets organizations have said that you knew what you were getting into when you signed up for the U.S. Army. Is there anything you would like to personally say to the JA WWII veterans?

EW: It is important to remember that there are JA vets who individually support me. These JA vet organizations, I assume are referring to blind obedience and loyalty to the civilian leadership. My oath of office specifically dictates neither of those assumptions. They must remember that they volunteered to fight against injustice, tyranny, and aggression. Their decision to join the Army was not out of compulsion. I would hope that these vets see parallels in my actions.

When I volunteered after 9/11 to serve my country I knew I would have to follow orders — sometimes without rhyme or reason. I would have to be obedient and respectful to authority. Never did I believe I would have to follow orders that were contrary to my moral beliefs and illegal. Moreover, never could I have conceived that my trust in leadership would be shattered because of their deception used to wage this war.

We must remember our duty and obligation to do what's morally right. It's not that I disagree with this war; it's not a matter of choice. The government has broken the law and is forcing soldiers to do the same. My ultimate orders provided by the Constitution are simple: refuse to condone or participate in a crime, hold your superiors accountable, and if all possible protect life. For these JA vets to tell me to go to Iraq anyway is wrong and irresponsible.

PC: You could now possibly face prison time if you are convicted of the charges. How are you dealing with this possibility?

EW: I knew joining the Army, whether it was fighting in a foreign war or now fighting for the rights of soldiers, meant sacrifice. In combat, you may lose a limb, bodily functions, or your life. Speaking out against an authoritarian government and refusing to obey their unlawful orders may mean loss of liberty and other less than pleasant things. These are both sacrifices



First Lt. Ehren Watada thanks his parents Carolyn Ho (left) and Robert Watada (right) for supporting his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq, often facing criticism themselves.

PHOTO: JEFF PATERSON

and commitments made to the American people as an American soldier. I gave my life to protect freedom and democracy — a sacrifice I am willing to make by doing the right thing.

In a way I'm already free. Physically they can lock me up, throw away the key, leave me to rot and contemplate my "crimes." For a long time I was in turmoil. I felt compelled to fulfill the terms of my contract despite what I knew to be utterly wrong. Only when I realized that I served not men and institutions but the people of this country, did I believe there was another answer. That choice was to do what is right and just.

PC: The national JACL recently released a statement regarding your situation. Although they did not have a position on your refusal to deploy to Iraq they did express concern about two of the charges against you: contempt towards officials and conduct unbecoming an officer. Do you take any comfort in that a national JA organization has come out with such a statement of concern?

EW: From my understanding, the vote, even though it was favorable to me, was very close. It was heavily and very emotionally disputed. Despite the reservations of many members, I am eternally grateful for their public support. I would hope that in time, those who disagree with me, will see that my actions are representative of all the proud things JACL stands for.

PC: What are some of the lessons that the younger generations of JAs can take away from your situation?

EW: Be involved. Be an informed citizen who is willing to act and sacrifice for the freedom and democracy we all cherish. The voting age was changed to 18 because we realized that if America's young men and women were eligible to die for their country at that age, they should have a say.

I say be involved, because as a young man working my way through school, playing tennis, surfing, and partying on the weekends, I never was. Beyond skimming the front-page headlines, I never delved into the deeper issues behind politics and current events. Beyond one class in college, I never realized how certain past administrations have wrecked havoc upon third world countries in the name of power and greed.

Would I be where I am now if I had never joined the Army? Absolutely not. I would not be in a position to do what I am doing or even be aware of what's really going on in Iraq. But that's not an excuse for inaction or ignorance. I advocate mandatory service be it in the military or some other volunteer organization.

PC: How have your fellow soldiers been treating you since you announced your decision?

EW: Immediately after my public statement, you could cut the tension in the air with a knife. Some

things were said around me, within hearing distance, but not to my face. The majority of negative comments were made to those who worked directly with me. I was probably the least popular person on Fort Lewis.

Most who had been friendly and cordial to me before, greeted me with silence. Some of the lieutenants I was close with told me in confidence that although they did not agree with my decision, they knew I was a good person, respected my decision, and sincerely wished me good luck.

Since my transfer out of my deploying unit, I work with a mixture of senior officers and civilians. All of them have been polite and professional. To my surprise, I have been approached by several soldiers of all ranks who have voiced their support. I have also had complete strangers approach me in the outlying communities to lend me words of encouragement.

I am not under any illusions. I know there are those who despise me and would like to see me harmed; I have received just as many of those types of messages. Fortunately, for now, I have been spared the worst.

PC: Your family has been very outspoken in support of your decision. How are they dealing with your situation? What has

their support meant to you?

EW: The support of my family has been immeasurable and helped me to realize how important it is to love, understand and support one another. At times I know my parents fear for my safety and my future. It's actually ironic considering they would be facing the same fears had I deployed. I had to reassure them that no matter what the outcome, I am at peace because I did the right thing.

To go through what I am experiencing would definitely have been much more difficult without the support of my family. Even my parents at one point needed much convincing and explanation. But even if I did not have their support, it would not have stopped me from making my decision. In fact it was made before I told them.

For my parents to come out publicly and support me exemplifies their courage and integrity. They could just have easily supported me from the shadows. Instead, they have opened up and exposed themselves to the same hatred directed towards me. They face the same danger to their personal safety and future risks for standing up for me and our common cause.

PC: Many of the P.C. readers have come out in support of your plight. Is there anything that you would like to personally say to them?

EW: Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for taking an interest and supporting a cause which belongs to all conscientious Americans. But it is not enough. There are many more servicemen and women who believe as we do and feel trapped. Help them realize that they too have a choice — they too can do the right thing. Be vocal, take an active interest, and force others to do the same. All of us must be willing to sacrifice if we want to see change. ■



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- Oct. 16 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days - 25 Meals - \$3695**
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Izumo Taisha, Mt. Daizen Hot Springs & Kyoto.
- Oct. 29 Fall Japan Classic - 11 Days - 24 Meals - \$3450** Tokyo-Takayama-Nara-Kobe-Takahashi-Miyajima-Hiroshima-Inland Sea-Shodo Island-Kyoto.
- Nov. 9 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days - 28 Meals - \$3795 - 3**
Days Okinawa Karatsu, Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu - Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Osaka.
- Dec. 13 Deluxe Radisson Tahiti Christmas Cruise - 9 Days - From \$2694** - Papeete - Raiatea - Tahaa - Bora Bora - Moorea - Papeete.

2007 PREVIEW

- Jan 20 - Panama Canal Cruise - Crystal Harmony
- Mar. 13 - Best of China - Mar. 26 - Spring Japan Classic
- Apr. 9 - Japan - Off the Beaten Track - May 7 - Japan Panorama Tour
- May 18 - Orient Cruise - with Viet Nam
- June 6 - Music Cities Tour - July 2 - Summer Japan Classic

- Aug. 12 - Best of Eastern Canada
- Sept. 2 - Greece & Turkey Cruise - Celebrity Cruise
- Sept. 26 - Fall in New England - Oct. 11 Hokkaido/Tohoku
- Oct. 22 - Uranihon - Nov. 1 - Fall Japan Classic - Oct. 10 - Okinawa

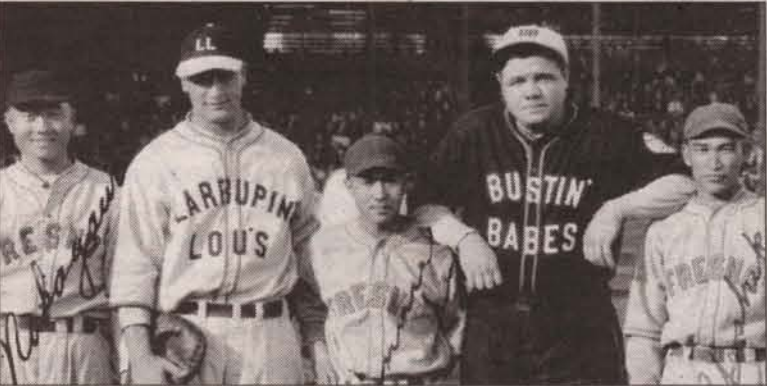
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BASEBALL

Zenimura Enshrined by Baseball Reliquary



LEGEND IN THE MIDDLE: Zenimura with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Kenichi Zenimura, the "father of Japanese American Baseball," was inducted into the Baseball Reliquary's Shrine of Eternals July 23 in a ceremony at the Pasadena Central Library in Pasadena, Calif.

Zenimura was honored along with baseball greats Josh Gibson and Fernando Valenzuela.

The Baseball Reliquary is a non-profit organization that works to foster an appreciation of American culture and art through the context of baseball history, and the Shrine of Eternals is the organization's equivalent to Cooperstown's National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Zenimura was a baseball pioneer bringing the sport to the World War II internment camps and to the Japanese mainland with a series of tours. One of his lasting contributions was leadership of the Fresno Athletic Club, a JA all-star organization that lasted more than 50 years. Zenimura also worked as a coach and played infielder and catcher until he was 55.

Born Jan. 25, 1900, in Hiroshima, Japan, Zenimura moved to Hawaii in 1907 and spent his childhood

there. He picked up the game in Mills High School, and won back-to-back Island Championships for the school in 1918 and 1919. In 1920, he moved to Fresno, Calif., and later organized a ten-team Nisei baseball league.

Like the Negro Leagues, Zenimura and other Nisei faced immense discrimination, and had to play in their own leagues and teams. His teams were so efficient, especially his all-star Fresno Athletic Club, that when Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went barnstorming in the west in 1927, Zenimura and other JA players were invited to join them.

Playing baseball in the camps was a way to maintain normalcy and to build a sense of community in demanding times. The games were hugely popular and were critical in helping the internees bond together in the face of adversity and discrimination.

After the war, Zenimura continued to coach and spread baseball around the West. He was the first JA elected into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1979. Zenimura died Nov. 13, 1968, but his mark and influence on baseball continue on today. ■

ONE ROOF

(Continued from page 1)

and the siblings had to step up to the challenge.

Nancy says she didn't mind turning over her savings. After all, it's the burden of the second generation, isn't it?

Historically, second and third generation Asian Pacific Americans have always been the bridges between two cultures. Issei parents relied on their American-born children to skirt the Alien Land Laws and many second generation APAs become unofficial translators for parents and grandparents. Now more than ever, second generation APAs find themselves inextricably bound to homes with two or more generations under one roof.

"I was happy to do it," said Nancy, who is looking for an apartment. If she moves out she still plans to pay her share of the family's bills.

A Home By Any Means Necessary

The number of American households with three or more generations living under the same roof rose 38 percent from 1990 to 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The more hands a family has, the better its chance of survival — it's an adage that conjures images of a past era, but the plight is very much grounded in 2006.

To pay the bills for their three-bedroom house, the Trieu family has a payment breakdown based on income and age. Vince, a 28-year-old city employee, pays for the utility bills and 40 percent of the mortgage, his younger brother contributes 35 percent, his older sister puts in 15-20 percent and the remainder is shared by his mom and younger sister.

They bought the house in El Monte, Calif. four years ago, and now he's looking for his own place.

'It's strange sometimes. They try to tell me what to do, but I'm thinking, "Okay. This is my house,"' said Nancy Vo (below) about her parents.



"I sacrificed my savings and partially my freedom," said Vince. "I wanted to move out, but with my contributions, it's pretty difficult to do so. I would probably still have to make most (if not all) of what I pay now if I did move out. Now, since my brother got a full time job, he could take care of the utilities when I do get out."

Vince's longtime girlfriend also pooled her income with her siblings to buy a condo that four generations call home. The couple is looking towards the future while keeping family obligations in mind.

"Right now, I'm waiting for my younger sister to finish her school and get a job to help with the mortgage. So when I do move out, I won't have to pay too much and it won't seem like I'm abandoning them."

"My sister will probably be finished by the end of the year, so I will probably move out by the end of next year," said Vince.

"I don't resent anything. It was a pretty smart decision to buy the house when we did. The only thing I resent is that we didn't do it sooner."

Multigenerational Angst

For Nancy, privacy comes at a premium.

In the evenings, all activities come to a halt to keep the children asleep and in the early hours of the morning, bright-eyed nieces thunder into the bedroom Nancy shares with her college-age sister. Sleep is a luxury, she said.

Then there's the tenuous relationship she shares with her elders whom she's culturally required to honor and respect, but in such tight quarters and with overlapping responsibilities, nerves get exposed.

Multigenerational families living together can cause tension, experts say, especially in households where "adult" responsibilities like paying the bills are taken over by the younger generations.

"It's strange sometimes. They try to tell me what to do, but I'm thinking, 'Okay. This is my house,'" said Nancy.

"I can't wait to get out," she said, but added that her family is more cohesive than most. She counts her siblings as her closest friends and her candidate of choice for a roommate in a new apartment?

"My brother." ■

American Holiday Travel

2006 TOUR SCHEDULE

- NOVA SCOTIA-PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOLIDAY TOUR SEPT 19-28
Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Moncton, Charlottetown, Anne of Green Gables, Baddeck, Cabot Trail.
- HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 3-15
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sapporo, Naboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Oirase Valley, Hirosaki, Akita, Kakunodate, Matsushima, Sendai, Nikko, Tokyo.
- TAHITI HOLIDAY CRUISE OCT 21-29
Papeete, Raiatea, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea. RADISSON'S PAUL GAUGUIN
- AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 1-18
Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Melbourne, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua, Auckland.
- NEW YORK CITY GETAWAY TOUR DEC 3-7
City tour, Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, United Nations, South Street Seaport, Rockefeller Center, Broadway Show.

2007 Tour Program Preview

- PANAMA CANAL HOLIDAY CRUISE JAN 31-FEB 16
From Florida to Los Angeles. HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE
- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR FEB 4-12
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Asahikawa, Sapporo, Otaru, Naboribetsu. Ice floe cruise & 5 snow/ice festivals.
- INDIA HOLIDAY TOUR MARCH
New Delhi, Agra, Buddhist Triangle, Bombay, Aurangabad.
- COPPER CANYON ADVENTURE HOLIDAY TOUR MAR 25-APR 2
- SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR APR 26-MAY 11
Buenos Aires, Iguassu, Riode Janeiro, Sao Paulo. Extension to Lima, Machu Picchu. Meet Local Nikkels.
- SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR APR 25-MAY 1
- JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR MAY 16-27
Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kanazawa, Noto Peninsula, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Kyoto.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUN 24-JUL 3
Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Hamana, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE JULY
- AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 1-13
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MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Coloring Outside the Box



For a week, I was a volunteer for Unicamp, a non-profit charity organization at UCLA that allows children of underprivileged families from Los Angeles to enjoy summer camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. Unlike my standard L.A. routine of chilling in air-conditioned boba cafes with wireless internet, Unicamp meant that I didn't shower for a week, sang a lot of camp songs and enjoyed a wonderfully unpolluted view of the stars at night. That, and I was always surrounded by kids half my age.

No matter how much kids are willing to give up MP3 players, video games, make-up or cell phones for a week, you can't expect them to leave everything behind, including ingrained attitudes concerning race and class.

Our group of kids was from West L.A. and consisted mostly of African Americans and Korean Americans. This meant that for the most part, kids tended to cluster amongst color lines with very little intermixing.

When a group of Korean American girls got into a lengthy discussion on the merits of kimchi, an African American girl overhearing this loudly quipped, "What the heck is kimchi?"

Many of my fellow Unicamp volunteers expressed frustration over this. They tried a number of different tactics to alleviate this problem by assigning arranged seating during meal time and trying to separate the ethnic cliques during group activities.

"It's not like they're hostile towards each other or anything," one volunteer said. "They just prefer to be like that, being amongst themselves."

Hearing this discussion brought back a lot of memories. I remember the sense of disillusionment I felt upon entering middle school, when the standard adolescent hierarchy of the cool and uncool kids became more harshly enforced, and not only that, kids wanted to stick with other kids of the same color. White kids with other white kids, Hispanic kids with other Hispanic kids, Asian kids with other Asian kids, et cetera.

It doesn't get that much better in

adulthood. After all, I understand this inherent desire to cluster with people who have the same cultural and racial upbringing as I do. Upon entering college, I eagerly threw myself into Asian American classes, AA organizations and essentially enlightening myself on all things AA. I sometimes wonder if I did all this at the expense of alienating my non-AA friends.

I think this is one of the reasons why I decided to join Unicamp this year. It was a nice change from what I was usually used to doing. Forget the model minority myth and the objectification of Japanese women and the lack of AA representation in the media. Regardless of ethnic background or cultural background, we're all here to help out the kids; let's forget this whole race discussion for just one second.

Of course, when you are in Los Angeles, there is no escape from the race discussion. Coming up to camp was a rude awakening of just how much work we have to do to promote interracial harmony so our next generation of children are not so alienated from each other among strictly defined color lines.

Within our Unicamp circle, we keep reminding each other of the starfish story that was told to us the night before we left for camp. The story basically goes like this: a man comes across a child who is spending an entire afternoon picking up starfish from the beach and throwing it back into the ocean. The man retorts that it isn't remotely possible for the child to save all the starfish in the world washed up on the scorched sand. The child throws a starfish into the ocean and replies, "But it made a difference for that one."

I remember one particularly trying night when we were all discouraged, sleep-deprived and overwhelmed. One volunteer told an anecdote of how during a thunderstorm, a Korean-American girl and an African-American girl crawled into a sleeping bag together because they were both scared of the loud noise and comforted each other. We all eagerly soaked up this small incident. One starfish, maybe.

Yumi Sakugawa is currently attending UCLA as an Art Major.

COMMENTARY

A Meeting at Tule Lake

By SOJI KASHIWAGI

It was a moment my family will never forget.

Mary Matsuda Gruenewald, an 81-year-old Nisei woman from Seattle, sat with us in this small, intergenerational discussion group at this year's Tule Lake Pilgrimage held on July 1-4 in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Mary is the author of her memoir, "Looking Like the Enemy." She came to the pilgrimage on a mission, and her message would touch my family deeply.

My father, Nisei writer Hiroshi Kashiwagi, 83, my mother, Sadako, and the rest of my family were imprisoned at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, which would become home to the "No-No Boys."

The "No-No Boys," were condemned by members of the JA community — including the JACL at its 1946 national convention — as "disloyals" and "troublemakers." Being condemned as "disloyal" has left a scar on my dad that's so painful that he and many other No-No Boys refuse to talk about it.

When I met Mary for the first time in Seattle in May, she told me she was planning to attend the Tule Lake Pilgrimage, and was going to speak out in support of the "No-No" position. This, coming from the sister of a 442nd vet and a life-long advocate of the "Yes-Yes" position, was a remarkable statement.

So there we were — my younger brother Hiroshi, my mom and I — sitting in a circle with Mary, her daughter Martha, and several others. "Through the process of writing my story," she said, "I have come to realize that I have been wrong about my attitude toward those who answered 'No-No' to the loyalty questions, and I want to take responsibility for the hurt I have caused them."

Then she started to cry, but bravely continued. "And I want to apologize to Hiroshi Kashiwagi and the Kashiwagi family for what I have done, and I ask them for their forgiveness."

And then, the tears began to flow — from almost everyone in the room.



"I believe the healing in our community has to start one person at a time," Mary told me later.

"I never gave much thought as to why people said No-No," she said.

But in writing her book, "I did more research on the subject, and realized I was part of the Yes-Yes group who had condemned our own."

"Then when I saw you in Seattle and you told me that your father had felt like a pariah all these years, that hit me like a punch in the stomach," she said.

The Nisei soldier story, she said, has overshadowed the importance of what groups like the No-No Boys, Renunciants and Heart Mountain Resisters did, and that their positions were our democracy in action as they stood up for every American's Constitutional right to protest and dissent.

"Each side is worthy — they're both very worthy," she said. "They're both in support of the Constitution. One is not better than the other."

Normally, I would end the story on this note. However, there's one more story to tell.

On July 3, about 260 of us from the pilgrimage attended the JA cultural program at the Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls. As we walked outside after the show, we were met with the sobering news that two of our five buses had had a total of three windows shattered by a BB gun, causing \$2,600 in damage. The next day, theater staff also found a bb-hole in the window of the theater.

That day the theater also received

a call from a woman who ranted on for 15 minutes about how "they bombed Pearl Harbor and killed our children." Local police and theater staff concluded that the bus incident was a case of vandalism and "criminal mischief."

From where I was sitting, this felt very much like an act of violence against us. One bus window can be written off as vandalism. Three bus windows, plus the theater window, is sending a definite message to our group. To me, it reminds us that hate is very much alive, and we, as JAs, can still be victims of it, no matter what position we took during the war.

And with recent news of North Korea testing nuclear missiles, nearly 200 people killed in a terrorist attack on a train in India, a brutal tit-for-tat confrontation escalating between Israel and Hezbollah, and a continuing war raging in Iraq, the only thing left to say is: "Peace, please."

For all of us in the JA community, my plea to you is this: Let it start with us.

After 60 years, it's time to let the old grudges go, and if you can't, then please stop slamming those who took a different position during the war. We need to move on to the bigger battles still in front of us, like hate and racism — and shattered windows on our buses.

Peace, as Mary Matsuda Gruenewald says, happens one person at a time. Let it start with us. ■

Soji Kashiwagi is a playwright and producer from Pasadena, Calif.

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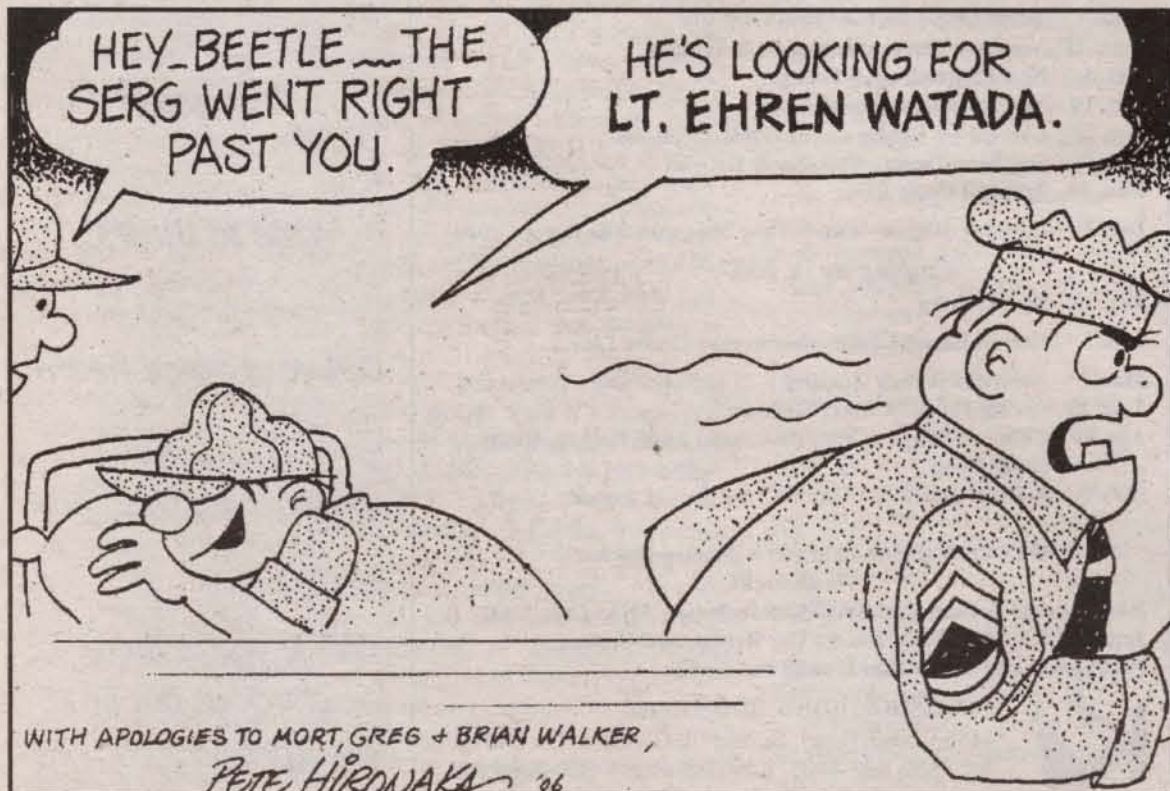
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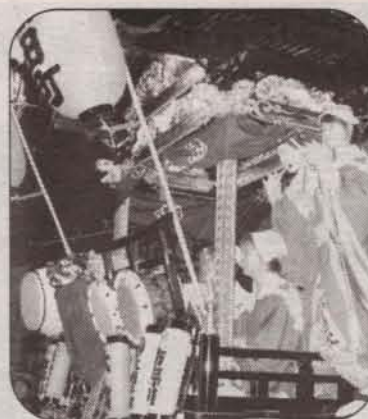
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PHOTOS COURTESY ART NOMURA

'I grew to understand what I previously disliked,' said Nomura (left) about Japan.

His documentary juxtaposes the country's mixture of the modern with traditions.



samurai didn't measure up to cowboys and Japanese culture just seemed inferior.

Then in 2001, Nomura's son, freshly graduated from Penn State with a degree in biochemistry, accepted a fellowship from an institute in Japan. Almost immediately upon arrival, his all-American son started cheerleading about Japan too.

"I thought 'Hey I have to check this out,'" said Nomura.

The Sansei professor of film and television production at Los Angeles' Loyola Marymount University applied for a Fulbright research grant to make a documentary about Japanese Americans who chose to live in Japan.

And with camera in hand, he went to find out how *ichiban* Japan really is.

Nomura's feature length documentary, "Finding Home," is as much a personal film for his father as a meditation on identity and cultural authenticity. In his voice over narrations, he often speaks to his father while trying to untangle questions about the country he's heard so much about.

His reactions were very mixed — on the one hand there was the historical and cultural areas that seemed to challenge time contrasted starkly with the "haphazardly organized" cities and commercial areas.

He interviewed over 50 JA expatriates who chose to live in Japan and heard reasons varying from the good food to a deeply embedded hatred of American political hypocrisy.

"I could sympathize with all their reasons," said Nomura, who spent five months there. One expatriate said he didn't like to stand out.

"I could understand that. If you're a Japanese American living on the West Coast, you're more likely to be among people who look like you, but you still feel like you're on the outside of it," said Nomura. "I don't particularly like standing out."

In one scene, he films his surroundings on a train and everyone around him looked like him.

"That was odd. I was not used to it. Seeing so many people that look like you — that was overwhelming in a good way because there's a kind of relaxation that happens. You don't have your guard up wondering, 'Who's looking at me?'" said Nomura.

As the camera roles, Nomura captures contradicting images of an old world in modern times and a lot of diversity represented. He captures interviewees in intimate moments of self-reflection while waxing philosophical on the questions of home and identity.

A beefy Hawaiian-born wrestler proudly wears a t-shirt with the proclamation "purebred" while talking about feeling truly American for the first time when he came to Japan. At the end of his odyssey, Nomura comes up with a personal answer for the question: where is home?

As for the *ichiban* question: "Japan was a pretty good place ... I grew to understand what I previously disliked," said Nomura. "I understood my own behavior more."

"I'm definitely an American and I appreciate that I am of Japanese ancestry." ■

For screening information or to order a copy of 'Finding Home' go to www.artnomura.com or www.arrupeproductions.com

Why would JAs choose to live in Japan? Art Nomura seeks answers in his documentary 'Finding Home.'

LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

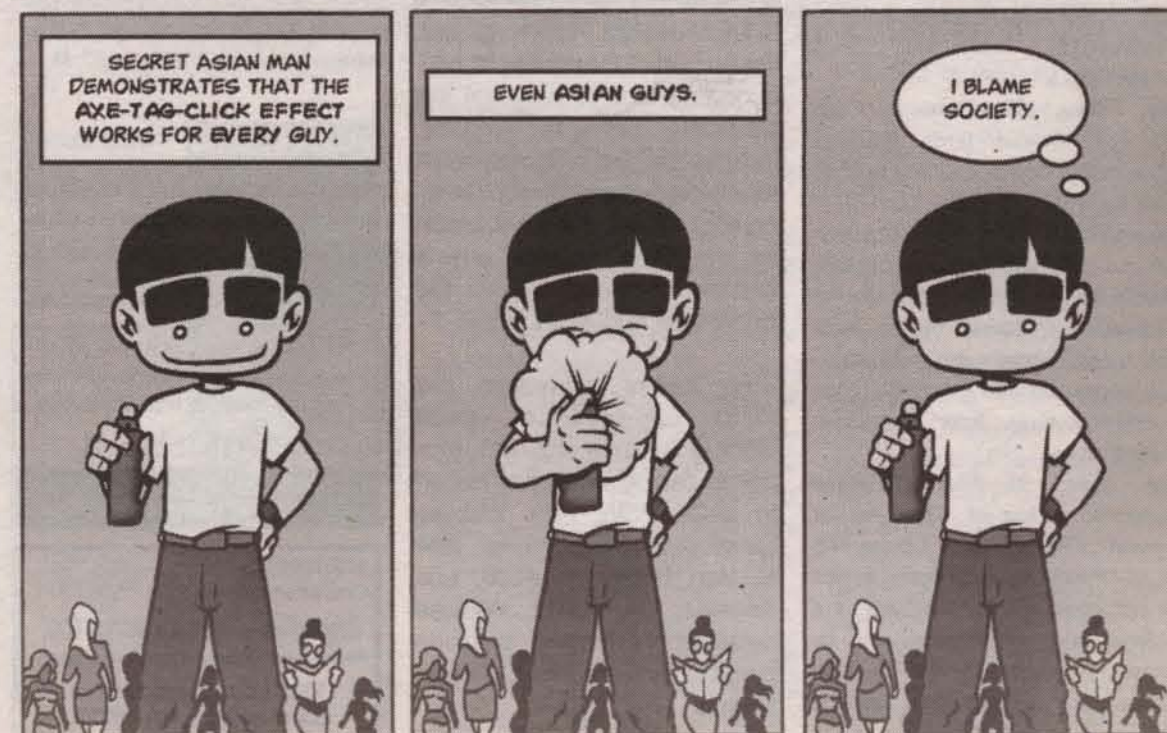
"I was never a big fan of Japan growing up," said Art Nomura about his formative years with a Nisei father and Issei grandmother who were "unabashed cheerleaders for Japan." For them, everything about the motherland was *ichiban*.

But the praise fell on deaf ears. As a teenager he would retort, "Why don't you go live there?" Growing up in the 1950s when World War II was still fresh in the American psyche and John Wayne ruled the big screen, the Japanese were portrayed as the bad guys, so Nomura naturally aspired to become a cowboy.

"I wanted to fit in and be an American," he said, but he was forced into Japanese school on Saturdays where he would feel like an outsider. In his young mind,

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 Early Bird registration, deadline extended to Sept. 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.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Through Aug. 20—Exhibition, "Diamonds in the Rough: Japanese Americans in Baseball"; Salt Lake City Public Library, 210 East 400 South; Mon.-Thurs. 9-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9-6 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.; the exhibit chronicles 100 years of Nikkei ballplayers—their struggles, triumphs, and legacies. Info: SLC Public Library 801/524-8200.

Pacific Northwest

BELLEVUE

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 9-10—Aki Matsuri Fall Festival; Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA; Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; free admission and parking; a Japanese cultural arts event featuring JACL Lake Washington chapter displaying "Eastside History Panels" and a Power Point presentation from writer, David Neiwerth. Info: www.enma.org or call 425/861-7865.

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 12—Olympia Bon Odori; food sales begin at 5 p.m., entertainment at 6 p.m. and obon dancing at 7 p.m.; Capitol Lake at Water Street; sponsored by the Olympia JACL and the Olympia Sister City Assn. Info: Reiko Callner, 360/943-1029.

PORTLAND

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

SACRAMENTO

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13—60th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Bazaar; noon-9 p.m.; Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd.; free parking and shuttle from W and 7th St. Info: Steve Kawano or Betsy Uda, 916/446-0121.

SARATOGA

Sat., Aug. 19—Daruma Craft Boutique; 9:30-4 p.m.; Saratoga Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave; boutique will feature hand-made arts and crafts, food, children's activities and raffle/silent auction; proceeds benefit the West Valley JACL Senior Clubhouse; sponsored by the West Valley JACL; bento and sushi tickets will be pre-sold until Aug. 9. To order: pam@yo-koo.net. Info: www.darumafestival.org.

Sat., Aug. 26—Meet Delphine Hirasuna, author of "The Art of Gaman"; Chavez Central Library, 605 N. El Dorado St; autographed copies of her book will be available at a reduced price; refreshments will be served; sponsored by the Stockton Public Library, Friends of the Stockton Public Library and the Stockton JACL.



More than 60 booth exhibits including the original doll creations by a master guest artist from Japan (above) and all-day stage performances such as the tsugaru shamisen Hiroshi Matsuda (left) are some of the many events being held at the Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival) in Bellevue, Wash. from Sept. 9-10.

Info: www.enma.org or 425/861-7865

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Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Aug. 9, 11—Performances, "At Home in This World"; 7 p.m.; UCLA's Gloria Kaufman Dance Theater; 18 celebrated performers from Asia and America will present individual and original works of music, dance, theater and shadow puppetry; \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors and students. Ticket info: 310/825-2101.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13—11th Annual Los Angeles Tofu Festival; Sat. 2-10 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.; 237 South San Pedro St; featuring a cooking demo from the Food Network, Iron Chef Morimoto, Reggie Sutherland of Next Food Network Star, Scott Liebfried of Hell's Kitchen and more; also to appear are Tommy Tang, Troy Thompson, Ann Gentry and Candice Kumai; a Sat. concert will feature Blackalicious; the tofu eating contest will allow participants to flavor their tofu before eating; \$8, seniors and kids 5-12 are \$5. Info: www.tofufestival.com or 213/473-3030.

Aug. 12-20—66th Annual Nisei Week Festival; events include: baby pageant, Nikkei Games, car show, Pioneer Luncheon, Coronation Ball, the Grand Parade and more; "Luxury Car Show" on Aug. 12, 11-6 p.m., \$8 pre-sale and \$10 at the door; Grand Parade at 4 p.m.

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WEB DESIGN

The JACL PSW Website Development Committee is now accepting bids to redesign the district's current website, jacpsw.org. Bid proposals must include knowledge of web development, samples of work, vision for the PSW website, project timeline and package cost. Bid deadline is August 31, 2006.

For further information, call (213) 626-4471 or email office@jacpsw.org. Bid proposals can be emailed or mailed to JACL PSW, Attn: Website Development Committee, 244 S. San Pedro St. #406, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Website development funding is made possible by Southern California Edison.

featuring Grand Marshal Noritoshi Kanai of Mutual Trading Company; events held at various locations around Little Tokyo. Info: www.nisei-week.org or 213/687-7193.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 19-20—Teacher Training Workshop; Go For Broke Little Tokyo office; workshop will focus on the segregated fighting forces of WWII through personal experiences of the 100/442 RCT and the MIS; \$25 for two days and provides an optional Continuing Education Unit through CSU Dominguez Hills for an additional \$40; more workshops are scheduled for: San Gabriel Valley, Oct. 7-8; Long Beach, Oct. 21-22; LAUSD specific Manual Arts High School, Oct. 14-15; and LAUSD specific Peary Delta Prof. Development Center, Nov. 5-6. Info: www.GoForBroke.org or Wayne Osako, 310/222-5702.

TORRANCE

Sat., Sept. 16—PSW JACL Annual 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. 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 free morning 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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APA Community Celebrates Passage of VRA



PHOTO COURTESY FLOYD MORI

CELEBRATING: APA leaders attend the July 27 White House signing of the Voting Rights Act (l-r): JACL Director of Public Policy Floyd Mori; JACL intern Greg Stillman; John Yang of the Organization of Chinese Americans; Vincent Chin, AAJC deputy director; Christine Chen of APIA Vote; and Jeanette Moy of APIA Vote.

VRA

(Continued from page 1)

frequently.

The Republican-controlled Congress, eager to improve its standing with minorities ahead of the November elections, pushed the bill through even though key provisions were not set to expire until next year.

"The right of ordinary men and women to determine their own political future lies at the heart of the American experiment," Bush said. He said the Voting Rights Act proposed and signed by then-President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 "broke the segregationist lock on the voting box."

"My administration will vigorously enforce the provisions of this law, and we will defend it in court," Bush said.

The legislation bears the names of three women who were active in the civil rights' movement: Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. Bush said he was signing the bill "in honor of their memory and their contribution to the cause of freedom."

Hamer, a Mississippi sharecropper, was beaten and jailed in 1962

for trying to register to vote. She co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and gave a fiery speech at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. In 1955, Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, sparking a mass boycott by thousands, mainly black women domestic workers who had long filled the buses' back seats. King was a prominent civil rights activist and the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

APA groups along with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have worked vigorously in the last few months to ensure the bill's passage.

"The language provisions of the Voting Rights Act renewal is a huge victory for civil rights," said Gen Fujioka, executive director of the Asian American Law Caucus. "It is now up to our communities to exercise this hard earned right and increase our participation in the democratic process."

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 98-0 and the House 390-33.



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'... there is a great feeling of loss in the Asian Pacific artist community.' — **Tim Dang**, artistic director of East West Players

Mako, Pioneering AA Actor, Dies at 72

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Mako, the Japan-born actor who used his Oscar nomination for the 1966 film "The Sand Pebbles" to push for better roles for Asian American actors, has died. He was 72.

Mako, whose birth name was Makoto Iwamatsu, died July 21 of esophageal cancer at his home in Somis, California, said Tim Dang, artistic director of East West Players, the AA theater company Mako co-founded in 1965.

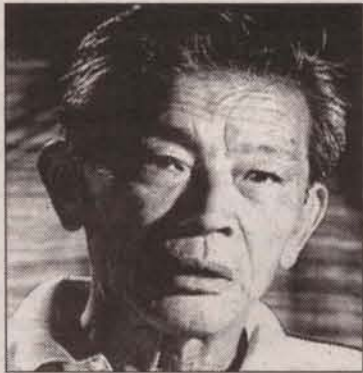
"With Mako's passing, there is a great feeling of loss in the Asian Pacific artist community," Dang said. "We have lost a pioneer who helped pave the way for all of us trying to make a career in the arts and the entertainment industry."

In an acting career that spanned more than four decades, Mako, who was born in Kobe, Japan in 1933, was a familiar face in film and television, sometimes playing roles that stereotyped Asians. His TV roles included appearances on "I Spy," "MASH," and "Walker, Texas Ranger."

In films, he was a Japanese admiral in 2001's "Pearl Harbor," a Singaporean in 1997's "Seven Years in Tibet," and played Akira

the wizard in "Conan the Barbarian" and "Conan the Destroyer" with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

On Broadway, his multiple roles as reciter, shogun, emperor and an American businessman in Stephen Sondheim's 1976 musical "Pacific Overtures" earned him a Tony Award nomination for best actor in a musical.



His portrayal of a Chinese coolie in "The Sand Pebbles," starring Steve McQueen, earned him a best supporting actor Oscar nomination in 1967.

As artistic director of East West Players, Mako staged classics such as Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and Chekhov's "Three Sisters." In 1981, he devoted the entire season to plays pertaining to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II to coincide with the start of a national discussion on internment reparations.

Mako immigrated to New York when he was 15. After serving two years in the U.S. military, he moved to California and studied theater at the Pasadena Playhouse.

He is survived by his wife, Shizuko Hoshi, and their daughters Sala and Mimosa. ■

In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fukumitsu, Kiyoshi, 85, Rowland Heights, July 6; survived by wife, Terri; daughter Lillian (Brice) Hata; 2 gc.; and sister Yukie Kawase.

Heyamoto, Fumiko Fukai, 85, Spokane, Washington, July 8; survived by sons, David (Jerrie) and Douglas (Joanne); 4 gc.; brothers, Hank and Dick (Kay) Fukai; sister, Namiko Hijaya.

Higashi, Harry Hide, 82, Salinas, July 15; WWII Veteran, 442nd RTC; survived by wife, Teru; son, Jason (Lori); daughter, Susan Mallie; 4 gc.; sister, Mary (Shigeru) Tokiwa.

DEATH NOTICE

ROBERT MASANORI HORIUCHI

Robert Masanori Horiuchi (Bob), 90, passed away July 1. He is survived by his wife, Chiyo; brother Harold (Edith); daughter Lynne; son Makoto (Jeannie) and three grandsons, Akira, Izumi, and Korin; and many other loving family members. Bob worked for the State of Colorado Revenue and Highway Departments, and in Afghanistan and Kenya as a financial consultant. He volunteered for many boards, and was a prominent member of the Asian American community in Denver. He held offices in the Mile-Hi JACL chapter and helped with redress. An informal memorial service was held July 9 for close friends and family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Mile-Hi Japanese American Citizens League; c/o Brian Matsumoto, President; 1335 So. Kingston Street; Aurora, CO, 80012.

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

Kanaya, Mitsuye, 90, Monterey, July 15; survived by daughters, Junko (Ted) Adams and Sadayo Kanaya Lurie; 4 gc.; 2 ggc.; brothers, James (Jane) Uyeda, George (Toshiko) Uyeda, and Charles (Sumi) Uyeda.

Sagami, Yahachi, Chicago, Illinois, July 13; WWII Veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by daughters, Donna (David) Handwerk, Marcia (Mark) Morancy, and Lisa; 2 gc.; brothers, Ken, Soya, and Toshio; sister, Hatayo Wallen.

Tanita, Makoto "Mack," 88, Phoenix, Arizona, July 15; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Nobuko; daughters Evelyn (Mark) Diamond, Shirley (Owen) McGeehon, and Susan (Jim) Nomura; son Clyde; 8 gc. ■

DEATH NOTICE

MACK YAMAGUCHI

PASADENA, Calif. — Mack Yamaguchi, 86, passed away June 14. He is survived by his wife Alice, children, Donna Jean (Ken) Inouye, Greg (Susan) Yamaguchi, JoAnn Asakawa, Denise Kimura, Rachel Yamaguchi and eight grandchildren. A memorial service was held July 1 at the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena. Donations in memory of Mack can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena or Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, Inc.

Whereabouts

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

MAS OKADA

Dr. Robert T. Hayashi of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is looking for Mas Okada. Dr. Hayashi is publishing a book and would like to use the poem "Answer the Call" written by Mr. Okada. The poem was published in the Minidoka high school newsletter, Hunt Hi-Lites. With information email Dr. Hayashi at rhayashi@charter.net.

SETSUKO JANE ASACHIKA

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and the Pajaro Valley Historical Assn. are looking for Ms. Asachika. Her father Takeo and mother Fumiye lived in Poston I, block 38-3-D with an uncle George in 21-3-A. After WWII the family lived in the Oxnard area. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is in possession of a family photo album and would like to return it to any family member. Contact Mas Hashimoto, 831/722-6859, hash79@sbcglobal.net with info.



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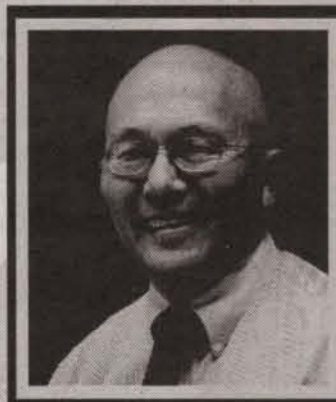
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ZHENG

(Continued from page 1)

rience some social dislocation upon a return to China, but he has the support of his family, including his sister, to help him," said Immigration Judge Anthony S. Murry in a written report of his decision.

After spending two decades behind bars and years fighting deportation, Zheng is at a crossroads. He has 30 days to appeal the judge's decision or face an uncertain future in a country he left long ago. If deported, Zheng could possibly live with an elderly aunt in the countryside of Guangzhou, China.

"As expected, the judge's denial of my petitions to stay in the U.S. was disappointing. However, what's more heartbreaking was knowing that I may not get an opportunity to show the world what I can do for society as a free man," said Zheng.

His lawyer said Zheng has been "down before," but the question is: what is the next step for the now 37-year-old who has spent more than half of his life in prison trying to shed his past self?

Zheng seemed to be pondering this question for a long time.

"Do you believe that you can create your personal legend?" he asked in a letter to the P.C. last October.

This is the first time Zheng has come up against a situation like this — one that involves choice, his supporters say. In the past, he had no hope other than to fight.

A Twisted Personal Legend

"The crimes that I committed so long ago live with me. They don't just linger in my mind. They're etched in my brain like a tattoo. The ink may fade with the passing of



IN HAPPIER TIMES: Eddy Zheng's wife Shelly Smith (second from right) celebrated their unlikely marriage with his sister Lili (left) and his parents Larry and Mary. A year later the judge ordered Eddy's deportation.

time, but the mark is permanent," said Zheng, who was granted parole in 2004.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, any non-citizen — even if he has a valid green card — is subject to deportation if convicted of crimes as minor as shoplifting. Zheng, who immigrated to Oakland on a green card in 1982, made a decision at the age of 16 that continues to define him.

In January 1986, Zheng along with David Weng and Dennis Chan (he calls them "crime partners") entered and robbed the Tam family home at gunpoint, according to court documents. The teens held the family hostage for five hours demanding to know where the safe with all the money was hidden and even threatening to rape Mrs. Tam.

All three were arrested and Zheng pled guilty to 18 felony counts. He was tried as an adult and received a sentence of seven years to life.

"By the time I realized the consequences of my actions and its impact on the APA community it

[was] too late. That's why I committed myself to helping the APA community to stop the cycle of Asians committing crimes against Asians," said Zheng.

A New Life Behind Bars

For the most part, the APA community has not only forgiven Zheng, but also rallied behind him. He has won the support of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Assembly Majority Leader Wilma Chan, Congressman Mike Honda, and Assembly Members Leland Yee and Judy Chu.

In Zheng they see a community leader.

From the confines of the San Quentin prison, he taught himself English, earned his General Education Diploma and became one of the few inmates in California to graduate from college. He also petitioned for Asian American studies in the prison system and has worked with at-risk youth.

In March 2006, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a reso-

lution urging the Department of Homeland Security to allow Zheng to stay in the U.S. by underscoring his achievements and rehabilitation.

Zheng won over his biggest fan in July 2005 when two days prior to his hearing, he married Shelly Smith, a U.S. citizen who volunteered at the prison.

"I'm a lucky man," he wrote in a recent blog entry about their first anniversary.

In the week leading up to their anniversary, it was Shelly who had to break the news to her husband that the government who punished him for 20 years was going to send him away to a country where he would be a target of persecution and extortion, supporters say.

"He's practical about it. I think it's more crushing for people around him witnessing this," said Smith to the P.C. "I think I'm in shock. I'm numb about the whole thing. I can't imagine that he'll actually be deported. I just can't let myself think that."

There has been some attention paid to the timing of their wedding, said Smith. "My response is, 'Well, that's the nature of this relationship.' We can't have a gala wedding in the countryside. The timing would have been different under different circumstances."

But they knew it would take more than being a citizen's spouse to save Zheng.

In his written decision, the immigration judge seemed to make light of the couple's relationship and cited Smith's testified reluctance to go to China if Zheng were removed.

But it is an allegation Smith staunchly denies. "I never said that. What I said was that both of us were focused on him staying here ... I

was just noting the challenges and asking [the judge] to consider them. There's not a bone in my body that feels 'Oh, forget it.'"

Opponents have also said it's hypocritical for the APA community to rally behind a person who perpetrated a crime against an APA family. These are all sentiments echoed in the death penalty debate of Stanley Tookie Williams, a former gang leader of a notorious South Central Los Angeles gang. Williams, who Zheng met two years ago in the death row visiting area, also reformed in jail even authoring a children's book and earning a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. Williams was executed by lethal injection last December.

Although Zheng sees similarities in their level of activism, he does not profess to Williams' guilt or innocence.

"He should've received clemency for the good things he had accomplished since his personal transformation," said Zheng about Williams because in the eyes of justice, the good needs to balance out with the bad for a chance at freedom.

For his part, Zheng is working on a letter to his victims explaining his remorse.

"I would apologize to them for the lifelong pain and suffering that I inflicted on them. I would explain to them how I had no right and no excuse to violate their home and rob them of their security."

"I would share with them how I have changed during my incarceration. I would ask for forgiveness because I want to see them let go of their pain ..." said Zheng. ■

For more information about Eddy Zheng, visit: www.eddyzheng.com

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