Ails Foundation Hopes to Tell Japanese Immigrants’ Story

The Angel Island Immigration Station’s history is often associated with the Chinese community but many Japanese immigrants also passed through here. The nonprofit hopes to tell their story in an upcoming book.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Even at the young age of 16, Hisayo Yoshino knew she wanted more from life than what her hometown of Hiroshima, Japan could offer her. Backing out of an arranged marriage, she convinced her parents to allow her to head to America to wed a farm laborer named Sahei Makimoto.

During the summer of 1912, Hisayo packed up her belongings and boarded a ship headed for San Francisco to begin her new life in the United States.

Watada Controversy Continues to Divide JA Community

As 1st Lt. Ehren Watada headed to his pre-trial hearing Aug. 17 over his refusal to deploy to Iraq this past June, members of the Japanese American community continued to voice diverse opinions about the controversy (see below).

Watada is likely to face a court martial for his actions regardless of the outcome of Watada’s situation, the controversy over the lieutenant’s actions has brought the war in Iraq into sharp focus within the JA community.

— CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM, P.C. Executive Editor

Watada’s passions were children and her job. Above, she shows off her uniform.

23-minute phone conversation relaying vital information that later allowed the FBI to identify the terrorists including purported ring leader.
GROUPS SUPPORT WATADA
(Continued from page 1)

that divided our communities and
threats. Wata is the first commissioned
officer of the Army to publicly refuse to
deploy and is currently stationed at
Fort Lewis, Washington.

Wata supporters believe: his
courage raises core Constitutional
issues about the legality of the Iraq
war, freedom of speech, and the limi-
tation of presidential power.

Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa of Centenary
Methodist Church issued a statement on
behalf of Wata and the National Japanese
American United Methodist Caucus:

"The National Japanese Ameri-
can United Methodist Caucus stands
with Lt. Wata in his public refusal to
support the illegal and immoral Iraq war.

"As the nephew of an American
veteran who was killed in action
in the Korean War, expressed his
disappointment in Wata's actions. "Wata
accepted a commission in the Army of the
United States, and took an oath to obey and
command, but by his actions accomplished nei-
ther one."

"If Wata's choice was to refuse
to obey and go to prison, as he has
previously said in public, then we
respect his right to choose, but to
collude with public and private
publications seeking support, which
denigrate the value of Wata's sacrifice
and a slap in the face to all who
have served bravely. Our 105,000
members stand behind me in saying
we are not supporting Wata's deci-
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"Herzho" Miyamura from Gallup, New Mexico, the only
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Gallup Honors Medal of Honor Winner Hiroshi Miyamura

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

GALLUP, N.M.—Gallup has honored native son and Medal of Honor winner Hiroshi "Hersey" Miyamura with a monument on the city's Veterans Memorial Park.

City, McKinley County and state officials, along with the assistance of the Japanese American War Veterans, organized the Aug. 19 tribute for Miyamura.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, Miyamura, a machine-gunner, was killed at least 10 enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand combat and 50 others with machine-gun fire before he was severely wounded and taken prisoner. He remained a prisoner of war for 28 months.

Beautifully crafted, Miyamura's actions, other soldiers in his company were able to fall back to safety.

In recognition of Miyamura's selflessness and dedication, other soldiers in his company were able to fall back to safety.

Local news outlets ran the story.

One of those the people who have been overwhelming us," he said of the owners of the small stores, "and they sold out and moved to Florida. I was Koreans and I now it's Arabs."

Playing the Race Card

LOWELL, Mass.—St. Julie Asian Center, where for the last two decades Asian immigrants could take English and citizenship classes, recently announced it would close its doors on Sept. 1.

The center, just lost a two-year battle to save St. Julie. To keep the center open, the sisters have relied on donations and grants, held fundraisers and sacrificed their salaries.

HOMETOWN HERO: Miyamura unveils his own tribute (left) and colocated last year, brownwood Shimoguchi of the JAKWV association and his wife (top).

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**BERTY ONG**

(Continued from page 1)

leader Mohammed Atta. Months after Betty's death at age 47, memorial services were held in San Francisco's Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, where Betty had been born and Mayville Bowne pronounced Sept. 11 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been quick to note Betty's memory.

Right away, memorial Betty's being betty's name is a Bakersfield, Calif. charitable founda- tion geared towards preventing childhood obesity, which Cathie heads herself. Over the years, Cathie has helped many families to remain a school or a playground after her sis- ter, Betty, didn't exist.

"Flight attendants were first sol- diers to fight on this war," said Cathie, noting that Betty's death at 47, and her rescue workers are heroes. It is a disheartening that Betty hasn't received the recognition that she deserves.

"Do you know where Betty is?"

Perhaps you heard Betty's story before.

Growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown, Betty was a second gen- eration Chinese-American and the youngest sibling in the Ong family, who enjoyed going to Japanese-american opera and mimicking the perform­ ing gestures. She played sports and was a good student, although awayleys on her skateboard.

Eventually, her love for travel pointed her to the aviation industry. She started at bag- service counter and began to understand the nuances of the current war on terror.

"racial profiling is one way that we may feel that we are doing something to protect ourselves while it is a violation of the civil liberties of people."

But JAs knows all too well racial profiling is not the answer, said Cathie, JACL national president. "It is an activity that makes people feel they are doing something to protect themselves while it is just a violation of the basic principles of our national security. The Japanese American experience in World War II is an example of illegal racial pro­ filing."

"During times of crisis when national security is threatened, fear is a driving force. Japanese Americans were interned in 1942 under the guise of national security, though the pretext was racism based in unwar­ ranted fears," said Bill Yoshio, JACL Midwest director.

"So the experiences of the JA com­ munity do reflect that history and it is important to remember that." Cathie made a call to action for the U.S. government to not stop many people from pushing for racial profiling to stop.

Shortly after the British foiled the terrorist plots recently, Paul Nelson, a Republican congressional candi­ date from northwestern Wisconsin, pushed for racial profiling of all Muslims.

"Racial profiling is one way that we can cut down on the number of terrorist attacks," Nelson said in an interview with WDRB Radio in New Richmond. "It's about being able to check into a correct here and be serious and tough on the war on terrorism."

House Homeland Security Chairman Peter King also pushed for people of "Middle Eastern and South Asian" descent to undergo additional security checks even if they are U.S. citizens.

"If the threat is coming from a particular group, I can understand why we would make a single group the focus for further questioning," said King in a Newserd report.

Republican congressional candidate Matthew Faris said in an interview with Fox News Channel. "I believe they should suspend these liberties for security purposes."

"In the current war on terror, anyone who is a citizen of Muslim and Arab American descent is a suspect for the TSA." Media reports about people taking action onto their own hands are not uncommon with passengers demanding that suspicious-looking Asians be taken off their flights before allowing the plane to take off.

In a recent USA TODAY/Gallup Poll, 39 percent said they felt at least some prejudice against Muslims and the same percentage said they want Muslims to carry specific ID cards even if they are U.S. citizens as a means to thwart terrorist attacks.

Although the JA community joined the rest of America in condemning the 9/11 attacks and all acts of terror­ ist harm, they will not away from the fact that any attempts to imple­ ment racial profiling.

"Probing the basis of ethnicity has proven not only discriminatory and unconstitutional but has not served the national security needs of the United States. As a Japanese American living in America, I believe we should have the same rights as all other Americans," said Cathie.

American Airlines ticket counter.

"Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been proclaiming Sept. 21 "Betty Ong Day." Since then the public has been pro
ANGEL ISLAND
(Continued from page 1)

Immigration Station located in the San Francisco Bay. Her journey would mirror tens of thousands of Japanese immigrants who, like her, pictured bride's likeness like herself, who came to the U.S. in search of a better life.

"It took a lot of courage on my own part to make that decision..." said Janice Muto, 73, Hisayo's daughter. "My mom told me at the beginning it was very difficult. There were no other women [on the farm] and she cried for three weeks."

The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) is hoping to tell the story of Japanese immigrants, like Hisayo's, who passed through the immigration station and is currently outreaching to members of the Japanese American community who may have had relatives processed at the facility.

Although much has been documented about the Chinese community's history here at Angel Island — largely because of their lengthy detentions and the discovery of Chinese calligraphy carved into the barracks' walls — very little has been documented about the Japanese immigrants' story. "Angel Island is the only Pacific Coast immigration center still standing. It's important to highlight Pacific Coast immigration — what we have come through as Chinese, but we want personal stories. We want to tell the story of everyday Americans," said Judy Yung, education director at AIISF.

The non-profit AIISF is working on a book about Pacific immigration at Angel Island from 1910-1940 which is scheduled to be released in 2010 along with the opening of the new immigration museum. The Japanese immigrants' story will be a key part of this new project.

"We're hoping people are more aware of Japanese contributions and the histories to us," said Judy Yung, professor emerita at UC Santa Cruz, who is helping to write the narrative for the upcoming book. "It's going to be hard to find people but it's important that their history be recorded."

Recalling Angel Island
Marvin Uratsu, 81, was a young boy of six when he and his older brother traveled from Kurokumo, Japan, to be reunited with their parents in California in 1931. Arriving on the ship Taiyomaru, Marvin recalls bits and pieces of his two-day stay at Angel Island Immigration Station before his father picked them up.

Although he doesn't recall specifics about his stay, Marvin remembers the all-male barracks and seeing a lot of Asian men. He assumes they were Chinese immigrants who endured lengthy stays at the facility.

"It was kind of a time for expectation for going back to where my parents were," said Marvin. "And everything was so new and different — nothing negative, and contrast to what the Chinese people experienced at Angel Island, our time was relatively simple and carefree."

Ken Ishibashi remembers his grandfather Shinobu Mashiko's tales of entering the U.S. via Angel Island as a young boy in 1919, Shinobu and his younger sister had just arrived in Los Angeles to come live with him from Yamagata in the siblings boarded the Kamui Maru ship and landed at the Angel Island Immigration Station. They ended up staying for a week since the telegram announcing their arrival had not reached their family in time.

"As [my grandfather] was being called over by the father, he was asked many questions about him and the family made up," said Ken, who currently lives in Tokyo. "He told me that they all had a physical examination, and he recalls that they were taken to a barracks where they were rejected and were scheduled to be sent on the first ship back to Japan."

The Japanese Immigration

Many of the Japanese immigrants who passed through Angel Island entered during the facility's early years, mostly during the 1910s, before immigration laws became restrictive. Most found work in farming, railways, factories, miners, and fisheries. Of the 150,000 Japanese immigrants, the majority were picture brides and Kibei, those born in the U.S. but raised in Japan.

Efforts to curtail Japanese immigration resulted in the Gentlemen's Agreement in 1907-08 which restricted Japanese laborers from entering the country. The newlyweds lived in Loomis, Calif., where Sahei worked life. Life was tough for the new bride but she adjusted, eventually having six children. Like many of the JAs in the U.S. at this time, the onset of World War II would bring a second chapter of hardship with families forced to leave everything behind only to be incarcerated in internment camps.

Hisayo and her family were interned at Amache, Colorado during the war. Marvin's family would eventually end up at Amache. His family had a fruit orchard prior to WWII and were part of the lucky few who were able to come back to their property after their incarceration.

"It does irritate me when I think of the injustice of incarceration. That should not have been," said Marvin who noted that his older brother was already with the MIS when the rest of the family was incarcerated. "Japanese immigrants moved two times. They immigrated from Japan and then they were detained by the U.S. government," said Gee. Angel Island officially closed in 1940 and it became a WW2 prisoner of war processing center. For several years after it lay abandoned, forgotten except for by a few. In 1963 Angel Island became a State Park and in 1997 it was given National Historic Landmark status.

Recording Their Stories
Hisayo passed away at the age of 97 leaving behind 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Marvin recently went back to visit Angel Island, his first since his stay in 1931.

"I remember the barracks we were in," said Marvin. Seeing the Chinese calligraphy, something he did not recall from his childhood memories, he noted: "It was not easy to write on the walls but they were so emotionally upset, longing for their freedom. They wanted to learn about the calligraphy." Hisayo and Marvin's stories of immigration and overcoming hardships are just some of the stories from the Java community AIISF hopes to tell in their upcoming project.

"There are so many questions, so much we want to know," said Daphne Kasak, AIISF executive director. "We are trying to capture their stories..."

The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation is hoping to interview members of the Japanese American community who may have themselves or had relatives who came through Angel Island. AIISF hopes to tell in their upcoming project.

For more information, call 1-800-503-9230 or visit www.jacilnsurance.com

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- Tokyo, Amagasaki, Kobe, Akita, Shonai, Kofu, Kure - 1007 PREVIEW

Date: Oct. 29, 2008
Fall Japan Classic - 12 Days - $3450
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Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days - $3795 -
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The National JACL recently announced its 2006 scholarship winners. The following are recipients from the Freshmen division with excerpts from their personal statements. Totaling $30,000, the JACL awarded 27 scholarships totaling $30,000.

FRESHMEN

Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial #1
Katherine C. Soe
Diablo Valley College
Biology/PreMed

The Japanese American experience is characterized by the search for cultural identity, the defense of civil rights, and a commitment to the greater community. Each of these issues is fundamental to understanding race relations in American society. As a child raised in the bosom of two distinct cultures, I believe that multiculturalism reflects the common JA experience. In a culture where prejudices are rampant and intermarriage, the preservation of my JA identity has been a central struggle.

I learned about civil rights while researching a history project on Japanese internment. This historical event is the single most defining moment in the JA experience because it called into question whether we could survive as a community under the most adverse of circumstances. Stepping out of our civil rights, few ethnic groups were willing to defend us; each rallied for its own self-preservation. As a community, cultural identity was our weapon against the government.

As I reflect on U.S. post September 11 policy today, familiar racial prejudices have resurfaced. Fueled by fear and hysteria, and in a reprise of historical hysteria, our government has targeted and detained without charges, individuals of Middle Eastern descent. Internment has taught us how easily we can be robbed of our civil liberties. It is not to question outright the treatment of our fellow citizens. We cannot separate ourselves from the concern of other racial or ethnic groups, because the rights of the few are so often subjugated to the wishes of the majority.

I hope to influence others with my passion for community service to benefit society. My future goals include service to benefit minorities, those in developing countries, and those facing adversity. My goal is to make public outreach a part of my life. I hope to continue my commitment to humanitarian issues, demonstration that as a JA, I can be the voice of society's neediest members.

Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial #2
Jasmine Cho
Floris Chapter
UC Berkeley
Anthropology

The JA experience teaches American society that it must eradicate racial discrimination to become more functional. In a culture where prejudices are rampant and the government in several instances has put due process on hold. The JACL has offered to support minority groups suffering from similar injustices JAIs endured, but the American society has neglected this option. The nation needs to understand that grave mistakes are being repeated. If they study JA history they will see the unwarranted persecution going on today.

The effects of the Redress Movement are already manifest in the American society, but as the JACL fights against past wrongs and present realities, I hope that more people may grow more conscious of inequality sometimes allowed or encouraged by the government and help to fight against it.

The JACLs helped hard and difficult blows, but the community itself during WWII. Having lost so much, they have the right to fight for their future.

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial
Nicholas K. Segui
New England Chapter
Amherst College
Economics

The 442nd Regiment and 100th Battalion of WWII, two groups comprised predominantly of JAs, received little respect, criticism, or support from others while fighting for our nation. America is a just nation. My grandfather and the men of the 442nd served as great role models for America. Now it is our job to learn from their actions and incorporate their strong wills in to our daily lives.

Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial
Genevieve Y. Williams
Stanford University
Chemistry/Chemical Engineering

The JA experience has gradually evolved from the racial prejudice the first immigrants experienced in the late 19th century, reaching a high point during WWII, when JAs were herded into internment camps, and even after the war, when they struggled with the ramifications of racial discrimination. But the most profound experience from the Japanese people is their culture. Today, the Japanese American experience is filled with tradition, respect, and sacrifice. The JA experience teaches American society about the importance of eradicate racial discrimination. The JA experience teaches American society about the importance of eradication. If the Japanese American experience is one that is filled with tradition, respect, and sacrifice. The JA experience teaches American society about the importance of eradication.
ment camps during WWll was not a morally justifiable action on the part of the United States. Often times out of the worst situations arises the greatest display of courage. During their relocation to concentration camps, many JAs possessed an indomitable foundation and a "gambare," or never give up, attitude. They endured through degrading and horrible conditions in order to preserve whatever dignity still remained within them. American society can learn many things from the JA experience. With hardship comes perseverance, and with perseverance comes pride. No dusty camp could ever take away the JAs' sense of pride for America.

The JA experience is one from which much can be learned. When Japanese immigrants emigrated from Japan to America, they brought many traditional Japanese values including the value of education, loyalty, and resilience.

Coming from a JA family, education has always been

CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

Education and civil rights continue to be our mission as we conclude our 77th year. The work of the board of directors and staff goes beyond a normal work week, driven by dedication and passion for the organization's mission; we have much more to do than we are able. JACL's strong and enduring programs, our scholarships strengthen our community by providing financial encouragement to our future leaders. We nurture the bright minds in our community to become involved and contribute to our well-being.

If you have been a past recipient of a JACL scholarship, we hope that you will continue to support JACL's programs by also giving back to help your successors.

We rely on donations to support other national programs including: continued inclusion of the Japanese American experience in school curriculums in both history and constitutional subjects; conducting teacher training sessions; leadership and internship programs; scholarships and educational opportunities; and production of the award-winning Pacific Citizen which was recently honored. Please visit the new Web site at www.pacificcitizen.org for the latest news and resources, and our redesigned website at www.jacl.org.

Please take a moment to make your tax-deductible contribution to help us carry our work into the next century. Thank you in advance for your continued support of JACL.

I think that it is embarrassing that Americans blatantly took away the rights of JAs during WWll, simply because they resembled the enemy. My grandfather told me that as a young boy, he was once chased out of a restaurant by an angry chef carrying a knife simply because he was a "JAP.

One important lesson that Americans should learn is that despite our cultural diversity, we need to unite. While we look different, we should think of ourselves as Americans. If we could think of ourselves as equals, there would not be so much hatred among ourselves during a war.

What America failed to recognize was that all JAs were loyal to America. Once we recognize ourselves as equals, and Americans, it will be less likely for an occurrence like the one in WWll to occur. While I see a need for Americans to treat and see each other as equals, I also believe that we should embrace our cultural differences, rather than fear them.

Having experienced the Japanese culture, I am eager to be exposed to new cultures. If Americans view each other as equals, but unique, we will learn more from each other. Most importantly, we will not have to face an incident like the one that occurred during WWll.

The winners from the undergraduate, graduate, law and arts divisions will appear in the next issue.

JACL MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

I want to help support JACL's mission to protect civil rights, education and promote cultural values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Enclosed is my/our gift of: $100 $200 $500 $1000 Other

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I want to change my contribution to: check / cash / credit card

CARD TYPE: ____________

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Please return this form with your check, credit card, in cash or by mail. This can be charged to: #01183856, San Francisco, CA 94118-6997

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National JACL Credit Union membership requirements: The members or shareholders of this credit union shall be restricted to those persons who at the time of application are members of the National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) or members living under the same household of the immediate families of members of this credit union and organizations of JACL with loans to such organizations not to exceed their shares and/or deposits.
The opposite is true. It is sunny days because in Tokyo who was born in China but moved in America upbringing, however, me sitting silently from a distance, pretentious every time I don my way of speech, my style of clothes and the way I walk. I feel oddly country-state predominantly populated by Chinese people. My very American upbringing, however, sticks out like a sore thumb in my way of speech, my style of clothes and the way I walk. I feel oddly pretentious every time I don my oversized kangaroos during sunny days because in Singapore, people prefer to carry umbrellas.

My friend Touh, a girl from Tokyo who was born in China but moved to Japan when she was 10, told me once that if she were to see me sitting silently from a distance, she would assume that I was just another Japanese girl. But then there is something about the way you walk and carry yourself that is very American,” she said. I wondered what that is, exactly? The permutations of ethnic identity and nationality you find in an international university are nearly endless. In the last several weeks, I have met a Chinese girl who grew up speaking French and English in Tahiti, a Vietnamese boy born in Germany and of course, my friend who was born in China but moved to Japan. Not only have I met minorities born of other countries, I have also met for the first time people born in Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, to name just a few, who have all come to Singapore for their first time to receive their university education.

Clearly, the world is a much bigger place than I thought. As an AA college student who has grown up in Southern California, my entire life, I realize how easy it is to ignore the fact that the minority experience is not only limited to the U.S., but is a universal social phenomena occurring in all parts of the world.

In the end, it’s oddly comforting to know that other people in other countries juggle two separate cultures, languages and modes of thought as we do. Touh and I have become rather close in the last several weeks. We have several parallels in our respective lives. In Japan, she eats Chinese food at home and speaks Chinese with her parents while in America, I eat Japanese food at home and speak Japanese with my parents. We somehow manage to communicate to each other with my mediocre command of Japanese and her so-so command of English.

She said that she would introduce me to her Japanese exchange friends after I told her my desire to hone my Japanese language skills. I find it amazing that it is in Singapore, out of all places, where a Chinese girl can teach an American girl to be more Japanese.

Yumi Sakagawa is currently an art major at UCLA.

**American Holiday Travel**

**2006 TOUR SCHEDULE**

- **HOXIKADO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR**
  - OCT 3-15
  - Offered every year.

- **TOKYO-OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR**
  - OCT 31-NOV 5
  - Small group tour.

- **TAHITI HOLIDAY CRUISE**
  - JANUARY 1, 2007

- **AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR**
  - NOV 1-18

- **NEW YORK CITY DAY TOUR**
  - DEC 3-7

- **SOUTH AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI DAY TOUR**
  - AUG 1-13

- **SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR**
  - APR 25-MAY 1

- **INDIA HOLIDAY TOUR**
  - FEBRUARY

- **OKINAWA-KYUSHU DAY TOUR**
  - OCTOBER

- **PANAMA CANAL HOLIDAY CRUISE**
  - JAN 31-FEB 16

- **NEW YORK CITY GETAWAY TOUR**
  - DEC 3-7

- **WASHINGTON DC HOLIDAY TOUR**
  - JANUARY 1, 2007

**2007 Tour Program Preview**

- **PACIFIC CITIZEN, 1-14, 2006**

**VOICES PACIFIC CITIZEN, Sep 1-14, 2006**

**COMMENTS BY LIL HENRY WATADA: HERO, VILLAIN, OR NONE OF THE ABOVE?**

By ANDY NOUCHI

That Watada’s a disgrace! No, Watada’s courageous! Maybe he’s just misguided. As these typical remarks show, Lt. Ehren Watada’s justly potent of the war has struck a nerve in the community, often mirroring the Japanese American divisions over loyalty and military service during World War II. As one who helped organize the 2000 and 2002 National JACL effort to recognize the plight of Nisei draft resisters and reconcile the community, this is strikingly familiar.

Watada, a 29-year-old from Hawaii, is the first American officer to refuse deployment. He faces a possible court martial and up to seven years in federal prison. The Army has charged him with conspiring to conduct unbecoming an officer and losing his troop movement.

Watada claims that the war is unconstitutional, overriding his military orders to Iraq and justifying his refusal. As alternatives, he’s offered to fight in Afghanistan or to resign from the military.

Just as other Americans, Nikkei have taken part in the vital debate over the Iraq war and Watada’s actions. Is this a just war against world terrorism and for democracy? Or is it a grab by a neo-conservative administration for oil and Middle East political influence? How can the U.S. pull out after sacrificing so much? Why sacrifice more? Can the U.S. defend itself if soldiers don’t follow orders? Should soldiers even obey orders that might be illegal or unconstitutional?

Clearly, the tide against the war in Iraq is turning. According to an Aug 9 CNN poll, Americans oppose the war in Iraq by 56-30 percent margins. The bill of goods that Bush used to “sell” the war to Americans — those ephemeral “weapons of mass destruction” and Iraq ties to Sept. 11 — have proven myths at best.

This anti-war sentiment likely reflects the feelings of JAs and other Asian Americans. What especially strikes home to many people is that Watada is a JA. This raise questions of what we feel about WWII loyalty, patriotism and duty that remain with us down through the generations.

Though the government had at first rejected JAs in the military, many men volunteered to fight against world fascism, to prove their loyalty and make a better future for their families. Many more were drafted. Thousands of Nisei soldiers, those like my late father, served gallantly in the highly decorated 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service.

Over 300 other Nisei men, led by the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, refused to be drafted. They demanded that their families be released from camp before they would join the Army. No shock in the government response to that one — 282 were convicted of draft resistance and locked up in federal pen.

An even larger group of 12,000 JAs — a tenth of the internees — denounced the so-called loyalty oath. They answered “No,” qualified their answers or refused to respond.

The government actively fanned up the divisions created between those it labeled “loyal” and “disloyal.” Many JAs, including the JACL, got swept up in the infighting, severely weakening any united community efforts for justice. The hard feelings and ostracism still haunt the Nisei, the No-Nos, and their families today.

It’s no surprise that the same issues of loyalty and patriotism flared up so heatedly about Watada. It’s scrambled the scalp off an old wound that had never completely healed. You can see it in the letters to Japanese American newspapers.

One of the lessons I’ve learned from the government’s recent efforts is that the “WWII loyalty oath” and the recent reconciliation efforts with the Nisei draft resisters that there is nothing, correct path to loyalty.

When I’ve talked to Nisei veterans and resisters, few would say they were heroes. Many have told me they were just doing what they believed was right — something what was good for their families, the JA community and the country. We should respect them for their different choices — agree or disagree.

Watada: hero, villain, or none of the above? From what I’ve read about this young man, he’s a principled individual with sincere beliefs and deserves our respect. To me, he’s in the same tradition as the Nisei draft resisters and Nisei veterans — stuck in a no-win situation whose fate was to make a tough personal choice of conscience.

Guess my answer is, “None of the above.”

Andy Nouchi is the Florig JACL’s civil rights advisor ex-officio.

On the Web: www.florigjalc.org
Fall Flicks to Keep Your Eyes Peeled On

The crop includes a vengeful kick boxer and a disgraced world leader.

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles
Directed by Zhang Yimou
Starring: Ken Takakura, Shinobu Terajima, Li Jiamin
Sept. 1 in limited release

Zhang Yimou’s film may contribute to the world’s high divorce rate. His lyrical films show us how we want to be loved and inspire real-life feelings of disaffection. Here, the filmmaker plumbs the depths of a father-son relationship and reveals there is no limit to this kind of love.

Gouichi Takata (Ken Takakura) gets a videotape to help him get to know his estranged son, and Takata learns that Kenichi had traveled all the way to Yunnan Province in Southern China to see the famous opera singer Li Jiamin perform the legendary song “Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles.”

Takata then embarks on an odyssey to find Li Jiamin and videotapes his performance for the dying Kenichi. Along the way, he befriends a little boy who helps him rediscover the sense of family he thought he had lost long ago. Though Takata speaks only Japanese to the little boy from a rural Chinese village, they understand each other perfectly.

Zhang said he made this movie just to work with Takata, a Japanese actor who made the leap to Hollywood. In 1999, Takahara appeared in Ridley Scott’s Oscar-nominated “Black Rain” with Michael Douglas and Andy Garcia.

“I started writing this script five years ago. It is a Shakespearean drama, parallels with what many nisei families experienced. If you are looking for enjoyable reading, read about one of the most successful nisei in America.”

By George Katagiri; Portland, OR

Sleeping on Potatoes
A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower
by Carl Nomura

By George Katagiri, Portland, OR

Early in the book, Nomura tells about being born in a boxcar in Montana. Later, he retires as a Corporate Senior Vice-President of Honeywell, Inc. In between these two events are going to college, achieving his goals, and, learning to live along in marriage and the joy of loving and being loved.

His writings reveal insights which many of us miss as we go through life. The best example is his description of surviving the depression years. Readers will find that what was actually a tragedy, ends up as interesting and often humorous experiences. There are many parallels with what many nisei families experienced.

If you are looking for some enjoyable reading, read about one of the most successful nisei in America.”


Check outwww.sleepingonpotatoes.com and www.yuurareport.com

Book available through all bookstores, e.g., Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Kosakura Tours & Travel Presents: Escorted Tours & Cruises for 2006

By George Katagiri, Portland, OR

October

Oct. 5 New England - Fall Foliage
Oct. 6 Autumn Highlights of Japan
Oct. 16 Greek Isles Cruise on the Golden Princess
Nov. 9 Southern Japan - Shikoku & Kyushu
Nov. 17 Tropical Costa Rica
Dec. 1 Egypt & Jordan - Land of the Pharaohs Nile River Cruise

Look Forward 2007:

Jan. 19 South Africa
Feb. 3 Hawaii Island Cruise - Norwegian Cruise Line
March
Mar. 1 Australia & New Zealand
Mar. 29 Spring Japan “Cherry Blossom”
Apr. 20 China - Shanghai, Yangtze Cruise, Xian, Beijing, Guilin, Hong Kong
May 7 Bikkuri Japan #2 “Hidden Surprises of Japan”
May 17 Charleston & Savannah
May 30 Heritage America: Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C.
June 13 Alaska Cruise - Regent Seven Seas Cruise “Majestic”
June 25 Las Vegas - 3 Day Fling!!!

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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

SECRET ASIAN MAN

SEXERICAN MAN DIVIDED BY RACE

EVERY NOW AND THEN, NETWORK TELEVISION COMPANIES GO SO OVER THE TOP THAT THEY PRODUCE SHOWS THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY UNINCREDIBLY...

AWESOME.

THE FALL OF FUJIMORI

The actor, now 43, built his career on breathtaking martial arts scenes and in “Feared” he goes out with a bang. Based on a true story about Hoo Yuanjia, a revered Chinese martial arts master who founded Jing Wu Athletic Association and brought together the many styles of wushu, the film is in every sense of the word — epic.

The Fall of Fujimori
Stardust Pictures
Directed by Ellen Perry
Starring: Alberto Fujimori
Purchase DVD at: www.falloffujimori.com

After fleeing Peru in disgrace, Alberto Fujimori broke the silence about his presidency last year when he granted his first in-depth interview to filmmaker Ellen Perry. The result is a up close look at the burned king.

At the center of Fujimori’s presidency are his controversial tactics in the war on terror: hooded judges rolling from behind one-way mirrors, secret military tribunals, and the alleged use of torture.

Perry, who calls Fujimori’s life story a Shakespearean drama, includes intimate interviews and never seen before footage from the regime to weave a fascinating story about the controversial leader.

Compiled by Lynda Lin

SECRET ASIAN MAN

OH MY GOD! YOU’VE GOTTEN TO BE A THEATRE RAT!

Oh, my god; you’ve gotten to be a theatre rat!

Calender

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 limited to 144 spots; committee is also looking for golf stories from camp, email to Mas Hashimoto at mhashimoto@jcasc-chicago.org, info for chairs, Jason Higashi, 707/837-9932, jhigashi@comcast.net or Jim Craig, 951/452-0499, thyajoyce@bigglobal.net.

Midwest
ALBUQUERQUE
Sun., Oct. 1—Annual Ali Matsu Fall Festival; 10:30-4 p.m.; Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, SW corner of Menaul and 12th NW; $1 admission, free entertainment, raffle prizes; info: call 258/2356 or dona@jcasc-chicago.org.

CHICAGO
Fri., Sept. 29—36th Annual Frankfurter American Service Committee Benefit Dinner Dance and silent auction; reception begins at 5 p.m.; fundraising dinner and dance; 7:30 p.m.; Union League Club of Chicago, 60 W Jackson; featuring entertainment by Bradford Newell and the Bill Underwood Quartet; $150 per person; $110 for JASC members. Tickets and info: 312/775-4097.

EVANSTON, Ill.
Fri., Oct. 6—Third Annual National Asian American Student Convention: Northwestern University, Evanston; NAAIC on 2006 in "Bringing Bridges, Connecting Movements" and seeks to explore the diverse issues that the Asian American communities face. Info: www.naascon.org.

Northern California
OAKLAND
Sun., Oct. 1—Moos Viewing festival
Avoid the Terri Schiavo Mess
Payoff Bills

"Swing for Justice"

NATIONAL JACL GOLF TOURNAMENT
"Swing for Justice"

Come golf the championship course where Tiger Woods won the World Cup Championship!

Harding Park Golf Course
99 Harding Road, San Francisco
Monday, October 2, 2006

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE HAS PASSED!

Golfer Information: $250 per golfer

Name: __________________________
Hcp: __________________________
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New: __________________________
Hcp: __________________________
Phone #: ______________________

Register Now!

Includes: $125 green fee, cart fees, range balls, tournament golf shirt, obento lunch; snacks and one Award Dinner reservation

WANT TO BE A SPONSOR?

Proceeds benefit National JACL programs. Hole sponsorships are appreciated. If you are interested in being a sponsor for the tournament, please contact Ben Suzuki at (925) 212-1137 or e-mail ben.suzuki@jcasc-chicago.org.

For more information, visit the National JACL Website: www.jacl.org and click on the National JACL Golf logo.
National Football League player who is defined as being "not Japanese" as often as he is lauded for an underdog team that was decimated by hurricanes one year ago.

He's again ready for the challenge — it's in his blood.

Nurturing a Real Identity

"I'm not delusional. I'm not a person trying to be someone I'm not. I don't have a single drop of Japanese blood in me," said Scott to his family, whose lineage is also hewed out of his relationship with his father, Nagao Fujita, who is stationed in Mississippi where he is stationed during the preseason.

His identity and sense of self was wrenched out of his relationship with his family, whose lineage is also deeply rooted in strength. Scott's grandfather, Naga Fujita, was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II who was forced for a country that forced his family into an internment camp. In the desert sands of Gila River, Rod was born. Nagao, who was the first English-speaking JA attorney at the time, regaled young Scott and his family into an internment camp. His options weren't limited — he wanted to play Division I football. His options weren't limited — he graduated with a 4.3 grade point average from Rio Mesa High School. He was a walk-on for Cal's football team, but finished off with a scholarship and a degree in political science. He also earned a master's degree in education in one year. Despite his charmed life, his father says things usually don't come easy for Scott — his son just works hard.

The NFL came calling and Scott was drafted out of college in the fifth round to the Kansas City Royals. One year after the hurricanes tore the Gulf Coast apart, Scott along with teammate Reggie Bush expect to restore some hope in the region.

Help change one person at a time, said Scott. "I know where I am, I feel privileged to have dual heritage." — Scott Fujita

Pacific weekly

"I feel privileged to have dual heritage." — Scott Fujita

FAMILY: The Fujitas (top) in a recent family photo and Scott at age nine (left) when his football talent was still burgeoning.

"There's something about the Japanese culture where the first grandson is spoiled rotten, so my brother Jason got everything — he got war swords, you name it," said Scott. From his grandmother he heard about the decimation of his father's birthplace.

"I grew up with a lot of interest in the subject [of internment]," he added.

Growing up, Scott visited Okin festivals and introduced Caucasian friends to Japanese comfort food. Recently he found a sushi restaurant near his home in New Orleans for a taste of home cooking.

"We don't know how old he was when he realized he wasn't Japanese!" said Rod.

And while many young Asian Pacific Americans still struggle with their own identities, Scott wears his on his sleeve.

"I feel privileged to have dual heritage."

Scott plans to impart the same cultural lessons on his future kids.

"My wife [Jaclyn] is blonde too," said Scott, who jokes that they'll have some more explaining to do when they have little Fujitas.

Fifth Round Pick

At five, Scott decided he wanted to be like Michael Jordan, so he asked his dad to teach him how to dribble. At that time, the Fujitas' basketball hoop did not have a rim, so with permission Scott spent hours just practicing to dribble on their neighbor's driveway. Then in high school Scott decided he wanted to learn how to throw a football.

"I knew he had talent. I never realized where he could go with it," said Rod, 65, a retired high school teacher.

Rod enrolled Scott in Pop Warner football where he played the running back position.

Desi Sandlin, a former coach of the Road Runner's Pop Warner team, remembers a scrappy seven-year-old Scott running on the field for the first time.

"He was all skin and bones!" said Sandlin with a laugh. "He was so determined. Everything he did was 100 percent. You know when kids hit for the first time they're kind of shy? When Scott hit we knew it was something special."

Seeing his talent, Sandlin snuck Scott into the linebacker position. Now Sandlin jokes "See, I knew where he had to be."

In high school, Scott decided he wanted to play Division I football. His options weren't limited — he graduated with a 4.3 grade point teacher.

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