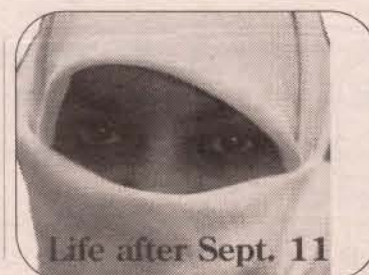




**Flexing the Brain**  
Nat'l JACL awards more scholarships to our future leaders.  
WINNERS' LIST PAGES 6-7



**Making Them Cry**  
UCLA grad Ham Tran tells the boat people's tearjerking story in 'Journey from the Fall.'  
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



**Changed Lives**  
Five years later Muslim Americans are still feeling the sting of discrimination.  
PAGE 3

Since 1929

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



**Wake the Giant**  
Just in time for the November elections, a study calls APAs the 'Sleeping Giant' in California politics.  
PAGE 3

#3065/ Vol. 143, No. 6 ISSN: 0030-8579

SEPT. 15-OCT. 5, 2006

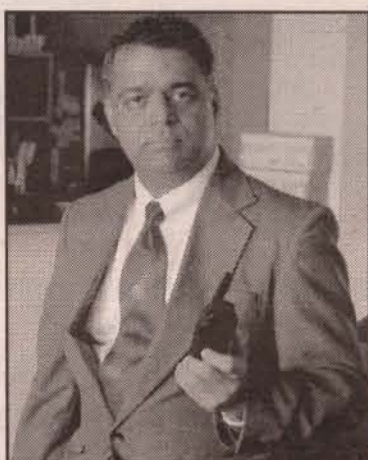
## Calling 911 Doesn't Always Mean Help is On the Way

Many VoIP phone (i.e. Internet phone) users do not realize their 911 service does not work like traditional 911 on landlines. APAs need to be especially aware since this group is the largest among VoIP phone users.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Peter John will never forget Feb. 2, 2005. Two armed robbers had burst into his Houston home, shooting both him and his wife Sosomma in the thigh before fleeing. Now they lay bleeding in the front hallway while their teenage daughter Joyce tried frantically to reach 911 emergency services from an upstairs phone.

But after several attempts and trying different phones in the house,



AP PHOTO/PAT SULLIVAN  
Peter John with his VOIP phone.

Joyce could only get a recorded message after trying to call 911 on their VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone. In desperation, Joyce raced over to a neighbor's home where she was finally able to

See **CALLING 911**/Page 4

## 9/11 REMEMBRANCE

### Personal Belongings of Fallen Sept. 11th Hero are Donated to World Trade Center Tribute Exhibit

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Alongside the picture of a bespectacled young man cradling the head of a wounded Sept. 11, 2001, victim sits the medical bag and belt he used to save lives.

The medical supplies belonged to Zack Zeng, a Bank of New York financial analyst and trained emergency medical technician credited for heroism during the terrorist attacks. Amid the smoke, debris and confusion, Zeng's mission was clear — he was killed while performing emergency first aid. His personal belongings were recently donated to New York's World Trade Center Tribute Center.

Zeng, 29, was also the only Asian Pacific American known to have come to the assistance of others during the Sept. 11th attack.

On that day, Zeng's Bank of New



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER LIU

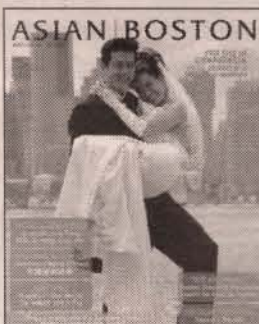
**HONORING A HERO:** Jiao Xin Cen (second from right), mother of fallen Sept. 11th hero Zack Zeng, shares a moment with the media alongside New York City Council Member John C. Liu and WTC Tribute Center Exhibit Developer Meriam Lobel (left).

York building just blocks away was evacuated, but instead of safely waiting, he rushed to Ground Zero to help the injured victims waiting for medical care. He gathered all the

first aid kits he could carry and responded without being asked. Shortly before the towers fell, he was videotaped by WNYW-TV Fox

See **FALLEN HERO**/Page 2

## AsianBoston Magazine Creates Peculiar Buzz



Critics of the Asian-themed magazine have honed in on the difference in approach between *AsianBoston's* debut issue (left) and the second issue.

The Asian-focused magazine is not going to garner any literary or innovative awards but controversy surrounds the publication largely because the publisher is White.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

As the first glossy magazine dedicated to all things Asian in the Boston area, *AsianBoston* magazine is not going to win any literary awards anytime soon. So what's the

big deal?

For months now *AsianBoston* has received backhanded slaps of disapproval from local Asian American groups and negative stories have run in both ethnic and mainstream press.

Perhaps the controversy has to do with the fact that the creator and publisher of *AsianBoston* is not

See **MAGAZINE**/Page 5

## Katrina APA Community One Year Later: Still in Limbo

JACL, APA groups are heading back down to the Gulf Coast for the second legal education clinic. How much has changed?

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

"Nothing is the same," said Jennifer Ryan, a 48-year-old full-time homemaker upon her return to Metairie, Louisiana, an unincorporated suburb of New Orleans that nearly drowned in Katrina's high waters last year. Sunken houses and debris still dot the tree-lined streets like mummified artifacts, but Jennifer still came home. Nothing is the same, but very little has changed.

"It's part of life. It happened to a



PHOTOS COURTESY BPSOS

lot of people."

Last month, Jennifer, who is of Chinese descent, and her family moved back to Metairie after an 11-month stay with relatives in Virginia. Right now, home is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer parked in



**NORMALCY:** A graveyard of beached boats still mars the Gulf Coast, but its APA community is moving on. Above a child gets tutored in school.

front of Jennifer's parents' house. It has nowhere near the square footage of their last place, but the trailer houses Jennifer, her husband Terry and their two teenage daughters Natasha and Amanda.

See **KATRINA**/Page 12

## Racially Segregated Teams on 'Survivor' Spark Controversy, But Have You Seen So Many APAs on TV Before?

The number of APAs quadrupled this season, but critics say this 'social experiment' may go bad.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

They've stabbed each other in the backs, formed unlikely alliances and banished teammates to exile. What's next, fans wondered, and the answer seems to be racial segregation. The show often credited with popularizing reality television is pushing its limits again in its 13th season and despite its fixture in prime time, the show and its makers have not won immunity from the backlash.

For the first part of this upcoming



**TEAM PUKA PUKA:**  
(clockwise) Becky Lee, Brad Virata, Jenny Guzon-Bae, Yul Kwon, and Cao Boi.

season's "Survivor," which premieres Sept. 14, the contestants competing for the \$1 million prize while stranded on the Cook Islands in the South Pacific will be divided into four teams — Asian Pacific American, African American, Hispanic American and Caucasian.

Since its new race based gimmick was revealed late last month, "Survivor" has been slapped with

vehement criticism, the loudest of which has been echoing from the office of New York Councilman John Liu, who called the show, "stupidity at play." And even though the world's largest automaker said its decision to pull its sponsorship was not influenced by the show's controversial new twist, critics think their loud protest did elicit some action. In a statement, Liu urged CBS to cancel the show.

But whatever the challenge, "Survivor" is coming your way with a five-member APA cast — an unprecedented number on the television landscape that usually only affords one or two ethnic tokens.

See **'SURVIVOR'**/Page 4





## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## FALLEN HERO (Continued from page 1)

5 News in a now immortalized moment of hero-  
ism.

"When the Bank of New York sent everyone  
home, Zack, who's also a paramedic, rushed over  
to the World Trade Center with his medical bag,"  
reads a quote from  
Zeng's mom, Jiao Xin  
Cen, near the exhibit. "I  
was searching for him for  
weeks. Finally one of his  
friends called to say he  
had seen Zack on a Fox  
newscast in front of the  
Towers helping people."



Five years after the  
tragedy, Zeng's personal possessions joined many  
others at the tribute center, the first visitors' center  
to open near the World Trade Center site.

Zeng was also honored by the New York City  
Council on Sept. 11, 2004, when members passed  
a bill to posthumously honor Zeng by renaming  
Bayard Street between Mulberry and Baxter  
Streets in the Chinatown area of Manhattan after  
the fallen hero.

The street, now named "Zhe 'Zack' Zeng Way"

borders a park where Zack used to meet his  
friends. It was a mission to let her son's legacy  
live that prompted Cen to go door-to-door in  
Chinatown gathering signatures for a street name  
change petition.

Zeng, who was originally from China's  
Guangdong Province, came to the United States  
in the late 1980s. After graduating from the  
University of Rochester with an MBA in 1998, he  
began working in the Bank of New York, which  
is two blocks from the World Trade Center.

Those who knew Zeng have said they weren't  
surprised that he sacrificed his own life to save  
others.

"He was a completely selfless person — he  
was just someone who would automatically vol-  
unteer his assistance. To me, it was a truly heroic  
display," said Peggy Farrell, Zeng's supervisor on  
the National Emergency Medical Services  
Memorial Web site. ■

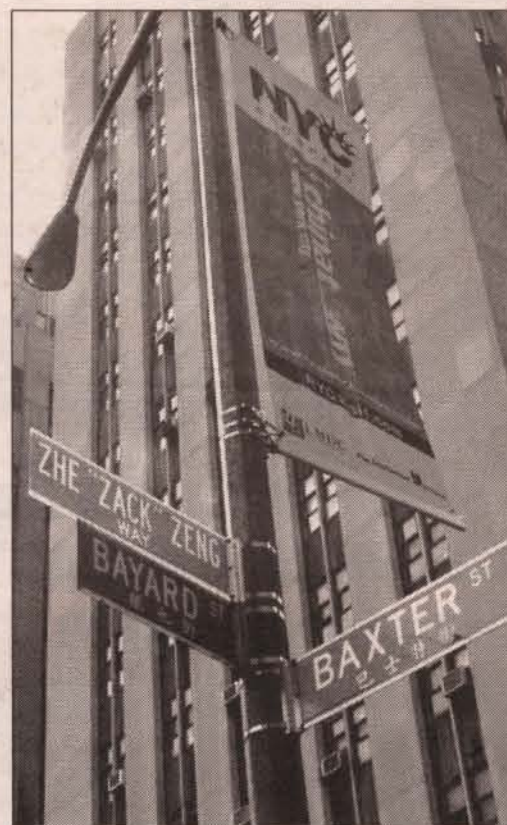
### Zack Zeng Tribute Exhibit

WTC Tribute Center

120 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10006

Along the south side of the WTC site  
next to the firehouse



A street in New York's Chinatown was  
renamed in 2004 in Zack Zeng's memory.

## Letters to the Editor

### Readers Commend *Pacific Citizen* Coverage

I am a Nisei of half Japanese and  
Chinese ancestry who recently  
joined the JACL and just wanted to  
drop a note to say I enjoy your arti-  
cles. Being among the more senior  
APA officers in the U.S. Coast  
Guard, I don't often see lots of pub-  
lished information specific to APA  
issues or achievements other than in  
your newspaper simply because  
there just doesn't seem to be many.

I'm pretty fortunate to be in an  
organization that does a good job of  
valuing a diverse workforce but  
being so small compared to other  
services, we just don't have the  
sheer numbers. Luckily we have  
organizations like yourselves work-  
ing to keep public awareness up.

In any case, it is great to hear

about so many other APA achieve-  
ments in both public and private  
sectors so keep up the great work  
and I look forward to continued  
membership and reading.

*Edward Nobuyoshi Eng*  
via e-mail

I was given a copy of your maga-  
zine by Cathie Ong-Herrera, sister  
of Betty Ong, the stewardess on  
Flight 11.

I wanted to write you a quick note  
commending you on the fine work  
of your publication. I particularly  
liked the piece on Betty Ann Ong  
and the one on Angel Island immi-  
gration.

To be candid, I had never heard of  
your publication prior to this, but I  
think it is first rate. Congratulations

and keep up the great work.

*Mark Arnold*  
Kern County Public Defender

### Reader Relates to Sept. 1-14 P.C. Issue

I am grateful for the Sept. 1-14  
issue of the *Pacific Citizen* so much  
that I write to explain. It was kind of  
an epiphany.

In college I almost wound up with  
a minor in anthropology and when I  
went to Columbia U for graduate  
work I did have it as my minor. So I  
think I'm familiar with things hav-  
ing to do with people's culture. But  
recently I've been struck by how the  
notion of identity vs. racial profiling  
just doesn't make sense. This is  
illustrated by your page 1 article on  
"racial profiling."

I can also relate to your story on  
Scott Fujita since a few years ago I  
met someone with a similar back-  
ground. At a housing rights confer-  
ence at which I was a speaker I went  
to speak to the person in charge. At  
the table was a young Asian lady  
with the name I was looking for —  
Ms. Ginsburg. I said, "You don't  
look like a Ms. Ginsburg." She  
explained she was an orphan in  
Korea who had been adopted by the  
Ginsburg family.

*Takuya Maruyama*  
via email

this case through some other means  
than through a court martial.

*Sam Ozaki*  
Chicago, Illinois  
Co. "E", 442nd RCT

A general court martial is the  
highest of the three tribunals in the  
Table of Organization of the mili-  
tary. It would be my assumption that  
there would be a dishonorable dis-  
charge, voided of all the privileges  
and gratuities awarded a veteran  
upon discharge, and a probable  
prison term of 20 years or so at Fort  
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Imagine a troop of 100,000 U.S.  
soldiers, each making a personal  
evaluation of a command issued by  
an upper echelon and pursuing their  
own decision and action? What a  
helluva Army that would make!

There are NO civil rights  
involved in this issue. It is just a  
matter of an OFFICER NOT obey-  
ing a command. Speaking of civil  
rights, too many people have  
attached it to too many issues at  
their own convenience. Civil rights  
are NOT FOR FREE! Take two  
steps backwards and seriously  
reassess its true essence. From the  
formation of the 13 colonies to this  
point in time, soldiers have fought  
for and died in the name of freedom.

*Harry Nakata*  
Kingsburg, CA

### Readers Continue to Debate 1st Lt. Watada

I stand in support of 1st Lt. Ehren  
Watada with respect to the war in  
Iraq.

If anyone should be on trial, it  
should be Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld  
and even Powell.

They lied to Congress, to the  
American public, to the world about  
Weapons of Mass Destruction and  
other reasons to go forward with a  
preempted war of choice.

This war is so aptly described by  
Thomas Ricks in his book "Fiasco."

I think this administration and the  
military would do well to recognize  
the mood of our country and resolve

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\* "Voices" reflect the active, public discus-  
sion within JACL of a wide range of ideas  
and issues, though they may not reflect the  
viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific  
Citizen*.

\* "Short expressions" on public issues,  
usually one or two paragraphs, should  
include signature, address and daytime  
phone number. Because of space limita-  
tions, letters are subject to abridgement.  
Although we are unable to print all the letters  
we receive, we appreciate the interest and  
views of those who take the time to send us  
their comments.



# National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

## Grocers Sue Wal-Mart, Andrew Young Over Racist Remarks

LOS ANGELES—A group of Korean grocers has filed a libel suit against former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, who said they and other market owners "ripped off" African Americans.

The suit, filed by the California Korean American Grocery Retailer Association, also names Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and seeks at least \$7.5 million in damages. The former Atlanta mayor resigned last month as head of a Wal-Mart advocacy group after criticism over comments he made about "mom-and-pop" stores — which he said were owned by Jews, Koreans and Arabs — overcharged customers in black neighborhoods for poor-quality merchandise.

## Allen's Lead Narrowing After 'Macaca' Gaffe



RICHMOND, Va.—Republican Sen. George Allen has all but lost the lead he held over his opponent six weeks ago, according to an independent statewide poll.

In its first survey since Allen's now-famous insult to a man of Indian descent a month ago, Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. found 46 percent of those interviewed supported Allen and 42 percent backed Democratic Senate candidate Jim Webb.

Allen's real problems began Aug. 11 when, in comments to a rally of mostly white supporters in rural southwest Virginia, Allen twice referred to a Webb campaign aide, S.R. Sidarth, as "Macaca," by definition a genus of monkeys.

## Bishop Museum Reclaims Native Hawaiian Artifacts from Big Island Cave

HONOLULU—The Bishop Museum has reclaimed priceless Hawaiian artifacts from a Big Island cave, prompting the leader of a Native Hawaiian group that buried them six years ago to proclaim whoever removed them will suffer bad luck and "pay spiritually."

The Bishop Museum retrieved the objects with the consent of U.S. District Judge David Ezra after a protracted court battle between Native Hawaiian groups, according to local reports.

An attorney for the group, the Royal Hawaiian Academy of Traditional Arts, said, however, that the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* report published Sept. 8 had "significant errors." The *Star-Bulletin* has said they stand by their story.

The dispute over the 83-piece collection that includes a human-hair wig, containers with human teeth and carved wooden statuettes of family gods has dragged on for years. The two sides failed to agree even after Ezra threw one Native Hawaiian activist in jail for almost a month to force him to tell where the objects were buried. ■

## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

## Inouye Chairs Human Relations Commission



Ken Inouye, immediate past JACL national president, was recently elected chair of the Orange County Human Relations Commission (OCHRC).

Inouye has been a member of the organization since 1993, volunteering more than 300 service hours annually. His top priority is "to educate people to the fact that human relations is a crucial part of the public safety system..."

He is the managing partner of a CPA firm in Laguna Hills, Calif. and a founding member of the Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force.

## Peters is Chosen to Succeed Mineta as Secretary of Transportation



President George W. Bush picked Mary Peters to be the new U.S. transportation secretary, a Cabinet position that was formerly manned by Norman Mineta, who stepped down in July.

Peters spent three years directing the Arizona Department of Transportation, where she worked her way through the ranks during a more than 15-year career there.

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

## Mile-Hi JACler Receives Minoru Yasui Award

Mariagnes Aya Medrud has received the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award (MYCVA), which makes her a nominee for the Jefferson Award, an honor initiated by Jackie Kennedy.

In addition to a plaque, she was given a \$2,500 check, which she passed on to the Mile-Hi JACL to be used for the Minoru Yasui Project — the effort to improve the Minoru Yasui Building at 14th Street and Colfax Avenue in Denver.

Medrud is a board director of the Mile-Hi JACL, where she has taken the lead in the "Living History Committee" and "Minoru Yasui Project." ■

## Life for Muslim Americans Drastically Different After 9/11

By RASHA MADKOUR  
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON—Attorney Alamdar Hamdani used to represent multi-million-dollar corporations. Now Hamdani represents cab drivers and convenience store owners who are called in for questioning by the FBI.

Nohayia Javed was a college student who never thought of herself as different from her classmates. Then Javed was beaten up and had hot coffee thrown in her face.

Many lives changed after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But Muslim Americans say that as a group, the change for them has been dramatic, generally negative and certainly long-lasting. Overnight they became an enemy in their own country.

How this played out for individuals is as varied as the Muslim American community itself. The 6 million people who practice Islam — 3 percent of whom live in Texas — are American-born and immigrants; they're converts and those born to Muslim families; they're Democrats, Republicans and independents; they're neurosurgeons, waiters, CEOs and firefighters.

The backlash has primarily been focused on those with ancestries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Ninety-nine percent of Islam's

adherents are nonviolent, said Ahmed, a Libyan American, but "that doesn't seem to be enough."

Hamdani realized the day of the attacks that there would be a backlash against fellow Muslims. So he joined the American Civil Liberties Union and started representing, pro bono, people who were being detained or questioned by the government.

It's one thing for the general public to look at Muslims with a jaundiced eye, said Hamdani, 34, an American citizen raised by Indian parents. It's something else for the government to do that.

"Just because I worship a god named Allah doesn't mean the 1st, 4th, 5th amendment doesn't apply," Hamdani said.

The FBI does not investigate people based on their religion or ethnicity, a spokesperson said.

Tarek Hussein, a physical therapist who's active in the Houston Muslim community, has unwittingly gotten himself on a no-fly list. This summer after vacationing in his native Egypt, Hussein was told by airport officials in Cairo that his name was flagged and that



*'Just because I worship a god named Allah doesn't mean the 1st, 4th, 5th amendment doesn't apply.'*

— Alamdar Hamdani, a Houston-based lawyer

they needed to call the U.S. Embassy before letting him travel. Then after landing in New York, Hussein found two Homeland Security officers waiting for him in the jetway. His 10-year-old daughter cried as he was led to a room where he estimates 90 percent of the passengers were of Middle Eastern descent.

Hussein, 45, says he's a good citizen, legally here, pays his taxes, and volunteers in the community. These days, he said, Muslims are presumed guilty until proven innocent.

More Muslims now work in politics and the armed services. And, of course, more Muslims are active in civil liberty issues.

It's a lesson minority groups historically have had to learn, said Sahar Wali, a Muslim who works for Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. "If you want to have rights, you have to defend them." ■

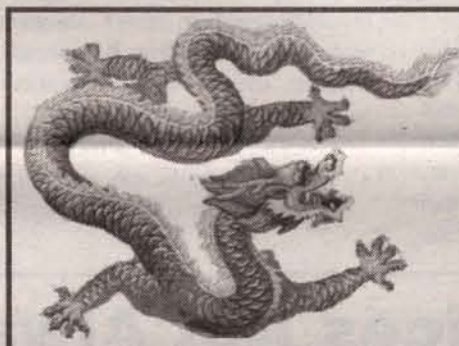
## APAs Called the 'Sleeping Giant' in Calif. Politics

In the 1980s and 1990s, Hispanics were considered the "sleeping giant" in California politics because of their growing numbers. Now Asian Pacific Americans are at a point where Hispanics were about two decades ago, according to an analysis conducted by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) and the UC Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Initiative.

The analysis uses data from the 2005 American Community Survey released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

APAs have significantly increased their potential power at the polls in California, according to the analysis. The number of APAs in California eligible to register to vote climbed by over half a million between 2000 and 2005.

"This growth has contributed to the increasing number of Asian American state and elected officials in California," said Don Nakanishi, director of UCLA's AASC. "The Asian American political infrastructure of voters, donors, politicians and community groups also has undergone remarkable growth and maturation, and will likely have an increasingly significant impact on



*'The AA political infrastructure of voters, donors, politicians and community groups also has undergone remarkable growth and maturation.'*

— Don Nakanishi, director of UCLA's Asian American Studies Center

state and national politics."

Two factors behind the emergence of the new "sleeping giant" are the overall increase in the total APA population and the higher rate of citizenship, researchers said. Along with population growth, APAs experienced an increase in their citizenship rate. This data shows that APAs have become fully integrated into American society through citizenship.

If recent trends continue, there will be over three million APA adults by the end of the current decade, making up about 14 percent of all Californians eligible to register to vote.

"The incredible growth of Asian Americans in California and in the United States brings as much opportunity as it does challenges," said Assemblywoman

Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park. "Asian Americans continue to contribute to the cultural diversity and economic success of this nation, but the growing population also means that public services and elected representatives will need to grow to accommodate the unique needs of our community."

There are also still barriers to fully translating the population numbers into voting power. Previous research and data show that APAs are less likely to register and vote than non-Hispanic whites and African Americans.

"The challenge is to convert the growing numbers of Asian American citizens into voters," said Paul Ong, a professor with UCLA's School of Public Affairs. ■

On the Web: [www.aasc.ucla.edu](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu).

## Bill to Provide Interpreters in Courts Passes Calif. State Legislature

Legislation to provide interpreters in civil courts, which passed the California State Legislature Aug. 31, is now waiting for a signature from the governor.

If signed into law AB 2302, a bill authored by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sponsored by Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE), would provide the right to an interpreter in all civil proceedings including family law, domestic violence, small claims, traffic and probate.

For the seven million Californians who need language assistance, the lack of interpreters in the civil courts system serves as a barrier to justice, the measure's proponents say.

"Fairness must be a fundamental component of our society's judicial system," said Karin Wang, vice president of programs at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "However, when civil courts do not provide interpreters, justice for our clients needing language assistance is put at risk."

In California, Asian Pacific Americans represent 14 percent of the state's population that are linguistically isolated — defined as households where no member 14 years or older speaks English "very well."

The measure's supporters say AB 2302 is needed to help limited English proficient citizens successfully navigate the complex legal system.

With Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's signature, the bill will take effect July 1, 2007. ■



# CBS' Hit Show 'Survivor' Will Divide Teams By Race

(Continued from page 1)

And perhaps even louder than the protest over the racial segregation is the longstanding complaint that there just aren't enough APAs on television.

A new report by the University of California, Los Angeles and the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) released before the "Survivor" race twist was announced, indicated that regular APA characters only account for 2.6 percent of all prime time television and even singled-out CBS as having no APA representation at all.

So now the show's creators are arguing that they are giving us what we want — a "Survivor" that is the most racially diverse in the show's history. An entire team named "Puka Puka" is comprised of a diverse group of APA lawyers, entrepreneurs, a fashion director and a real estate agent. There's no martial artist in sight unless you count 31-year-old Queens, New York native Yul Kwon, who according to the show's Web site, wants to try ultimate fighting.

Host Jeff Probst calls the new season a "social experiment" in a series of video previews, which also show leery contestants expressing concern over the race issue, exalting their culture and one female contestant saying there's a way to connect to everyone, as if the 20 castaways were aliens.

The key, just like in any other season's "Survivor" is to integrate and work across ethnic lines. Yes, initially viewers may root for the contestant based on race, but in the end they will gravitate towards their favorite regardless of skin color,

said the show's creator Mark Burnett.

But in a game that requires human beings to be brought to their basest elements, will the race play backfire?

"I feel a little uncomfortable [about the plot twist], but I think it'll make for very interesting television," said Bruce Kanegai, the contestant from last season's "Survivor" in Panama best known for being the second contestant to leave the show for medical reasons — mainly a blocked urinary tract.

Kanegai, a Sansei who recently retired from teaching art at Simi Valley High School after 34 years, was last season's only APA presence. On the show, the fifth degree black belt in karate famously built a rock garden to give their surroundings a touch of Japanese artistry.

Being the only APA, he said racism was never a problem on the show.

"It's how you carry yourself. My idea was to walk in there as a wise Mr. Miyagi-type guy; be a team player but do more work than anyone else," said the former boy scout.

For this season's cast, he sees both sides to the controversy and agrees that the show somewhat mimics what happens in real life. In his classroom he never assigns seats, but over the years he noticed students usually group together according to race or culture.

"[They] become little tribes ... it's like a natural selection," he said.

"I think because of how the game

*'I feel a little uncomfortable [about the plot twist], but I think it'll make for very interesting television.'*

— Bruce Kanegai, a contestant in 'Survivor' Panama



For this season's 'Survivor' Cook Islands, contestants will be divided by race.

is played, [where] you get week to week results, on the one hand you'll think this is racist and on the other hand you'll say okay this is the Asian American community's chance to shine," added Kanegai.

Current cast members are prohibited from talking to the media until they are voted off or win the competition, but some have already expressed concern about the race issue.

Kwon, who is Korean American, has already voiced concern over the danger of race segregation in "Survivor" previews and various published reports. He told the *Pacific Citizen* he has "strong opinions on the matter."

"It's bad because people may cheer people on their racial side instead of who they really like," said

Kanegai.

APA groups have also been vigilant about this season's show, which many say dangerously straddles the line between shining the spotlight on and stereotyping APAs.

"My initial reaction is that the new 'Survivor' format sounds interesting. It clearly will result in a lot more people of color on one TV show than usual or even ever. But there is also a potential for all sorts of bad outcomes, including the possibility that it will further polarize the races and encourage racist views to emerge not only on the show but also in the popular culture," said Daniel Mayeda of the National Asian American Media Coalition and AAJC.

Since CBS unveiled the plot twist, General Motors Corp.,

Campbell's Soup and Home Depot are just some of the major sponsors who decided to drop their advertisements from the reality series. But don't think "Survivor" officials aren't basking in the heat of their own self-made hype.

In a statement CBS said they "fully recognize the controversial nature of this format, but has full confidence in the producers and their ability to produce the program in a responsible manner. 'Survivor' is a program that is no stranger to controversy and has always answered its critics on the screen."

CBS can bet the APA community will be watching this week.

"I think everything will depend on execution. If it results in people (contestants or viewers) exposing racist views, if contestants use racial slurs that don't go challenged, if it tends to highlight stereotypes ... it could be damaging.

"On the other hand, especially when the different tribes are brought together and forced to work with each other, it could ultimately show that we are not all that different when it comes to matters of basic humanity," said Mayeda.

Once the new season begins, Kanegai will also be monitoring the show with a critical eye and blogging about his opinions for CBS' Web site. And even before he sees the show's premiere, he reveals a slight bias.

"I'm excited. Of course my being Asian, I have favoritism for the Asian team!" said Kanegai. ■

**On the Web:** [www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor13/](http://www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor13/) and [www.brucekanegai.com/](http://www.brucekanegai.com/)

## 911 Services Not Always Guaranteed on VOIP Phones

(Continued from page 1)

reach 911 and help her parents.

Although precious moments had been lost, the Johns survived their ordeal. Others have not been so lucky. Cheryl Waller of Deltona, Florida could not reach 911 on her VoIP phone last March after her three-month-old daughter Julia stopped breathing. She too sought her neighbor's help but by the time she was able to reach emergency personnel her daughter had died.

Tragic stories like these have been echoed across the country and the common link has been the use of VoIP phones that allow users to make phone calls by using an Internet connection. But unbeknownst to many users, 911 services on VoIP phones does not work like traditional 911 on landlines and often does not guarantee a connection to emergency personnel.

"It was a devastating experience. My life was in danger," said Peter, who relayed his experience to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last May. "God protected my life. There is a danger out there. Precious moments we missed just because of technical problems."

Asian Pacific Americans make up the largest group of users of VoIP phones, a service provided by companies such as Vonage, Net2Phone, Lingo, and AT&T CallVantage. Many APAs use the service for overseas business and attractive

phone packages that offer cheap long distance rates to Asia are often scooped up.

In a study conducted by the U.S. Internet Industry Association (USIIA), more than 90 percent of English-speaking AAs use broadband and IP communications such as VoIP, the highest percentage of any other group. The study also found that 80 percent of English-speaking Hispanics use IP and broadband services and 74 percent of White Americans use these services.

Currently there are an estimated 2.9 million VoIP customers across the country.

"The APA community culturally has the BlackBerries, the latest cell phones ... My 73-year-old mom is texting me. So it's understandable that APAs are affected by this," said Lyle Ishida, AAPI program manager for the FCC Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau.

But many APAs are still unaware that if ever they need 911 services using their VoIP phones, help may not always be a call away. That's why Lyle is working with various community groups to try and get the word out to the APA community.

"We do not want anymore repeats of stories like this," he said referring to the tragic stories like those of the



*'It was a devastating experience. My life was in danger. God protected my life. There is a danger out there. Precious moments we missed just because of technical problems.'*

— Peter John, Houston

Johns and Wallers. "We want to fix the problem before it happens. Get the word out there."

Since 911 emergency services came into effect in 1965, people have become accustomed to dialing 9-1-1 and reaching and receiving help. Since VoIP phones look and work like traditional phones, many users today are unaware that their 911 service works differently than traditional 911.

The main difficulty with VoIP phones is that the 10-digit numbers are connected to an IP address not a physical address. Thus, 911 emergency personnel are not able to locate a caller's physical address or call back number as they would with landline users. With VoIP basic 911 service, calls are routed to non-emergency lines at centers with regular office hours so if they are closed, callers are out of luck.

VoIP service providers are currently rolling out "Enhanced 911" or E911 where calls are sent to a 911 network which then connects to a local 911 dispatching center. With E911, emergency dispatchers are

able to see the caller's location and call back numbers. Although most VoIP users have the basic 911 service, not all customers have access to E911 as of yet.

Last May the FCC heard testimony of failed 911 calls by VoIP users and in June issued an order to VoIP service providers to provide full 911 emergency services to their customers by Nov. 28, 2005. Although the FCC backed off of the original deadline, VoIP companies must still provide their customers with E911 and until they do they cannot market services or add new customers.

Currently, a Senate bill looks to force VoIP service providers to charge Universal Service Fees to their customers, something phone and cell phone companies already do. These fees help pay for 911 emergency services.

Stephen Seitz, vice president of 911 regulatory affairs for Vonage, the leading provider of VoIP services with 1.8 million subscribers, says close to 90 percent of their customers now have E911 with Los Angeles being the latest city to get the service.

But he also noted the company has not done any specific outreach to the AA community regarding the issues surrounding 911 service.

"There is no language specific

information out there but we have done outreach according to the FCC order," said Seitz.

Although E911 is being offered by VoIP companies, it is still up to the customer to register their locations and contact numbers in case of an emergency. Since VoIP phones are mobile, each time a location is changed the user must reregister their location so local emergency personnel can receive the correct information.

"We understand that it's an ongoing process and we look forward to getting it working," said Ishida. But he also noted that the registration process for E911 is "too confusing" for many of the Asian customers. "They don't understand the forms."

Currently VoIP companies do not provide translated materials of their terms of service or E911 registration instructions. To compensate, the FCC is working on translated materials in several Asian languages including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Japanese.

In the meantime Ishida hopes community organizations, getting the information out in the ethnic press, and word-of-mouth will help inform the APA community about VoIP services and 911 calls.

"I really think it's incumbent upon us to get the word out. Nothing will beat information," said Ishida. ■

**For more information on VoIP and 911 services, visit [www.VOIP911.gov](http://www.VOIP911.gov).**



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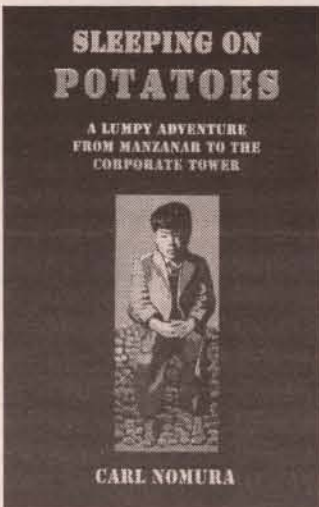
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## Sleeping on Potatoes

A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower

by Carl Nomura



With a dry wit and logical mind, Carl Nomura amuses us with tales of the Great Depression, tells stories of surviving internment as a Japanese-American during WWI, describes the satisfaction and wonder that comes from raising children and unravels the secret of how to get along in marriage. It starts with Carl's humble beginning of birth in a boxcar, continues with his family's dark times, and pushes through to success found in his career. It is humorous, bittersweet, insightful, philosophical and outrageous

Some recognitions: Rebecca Brown Award: Best Memoir of 2004, Amazon readerships' rating: 5-stars, The Virtual Reader's vote: 5-books. Check out [www.sleepingonpotatoes.com](http://www.sleepingonpotatoes.com) and [www.yuricareport.com](http://www.yuricareport.com).

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

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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## Three Nisei Siblings Receive Their Belated Diplomas

Three Nisei siblings can finally be called "alumni" of the Redlands Unified School District after recently being awarded their belated diplomas.

Henry Wada (class of 1945) and James Sakato (class of 1942) received their paper diplomas — which were printed to look exactly like the diplomas issued in the year of their graduation — while Helen Wada (1943) was honored posthumously.

All nine Wada siblings were educated in Redlands Unified School District schools — beginning at the same Lincoln Elementary School and junior high school — except Robert Wada, who attended his three years of junior high in Poston, Arizona. Mary Marumoto, now living in San Diego, Calif., was the first Wada to graduate from Redlands High School in 1932. But wartime hysteria and Executive Order 9066 interrupted their education.

"I have been invited in the past to all the class of '45 reunions by my former classmates and have been



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WADA

**ALUMNUS:** Henry Wada (right) is officially a member of the Redlands High School class of 1945 with his newly awarded diploma. His 91-year-old sister Mary (left) graduated from the same high school in 1932.

attending them without a diploma. Now I can consider myself a bona fide member of the class of '45 at the reunions," said Henry.

The diplomas were awarded under the jurisdiction of California Assembly Bill 781, which allows school districts to issue retroactive

diplomas to Japanese Americans.

Along with the Wadas, a diploma for the class of 1942 was awarded to Los Angeles resident Sakato, who along with his family left Redlands during the mass evacuation while he was just three months shy of graduation. ■

## MAGAZINE

(Continued from page 1)

Asian and admittedly has never visited any parts of Asia or studied Asian culture. Leo Anthony Ballou's desire to create a magazine dedicated to Asians is because he likes Asian people and the various cultures within this ethnic group.

Ballou did not return *Pacific Citizen's* calls by press time but in the latest issue of *AsianBoston*, the Boston-born Irish American explains his interest in the Asian culture.

"*AsianBoston* was fashioned because of my affinity for the Asian community. My interest in the Asian culture goes back many years and runs much deeper than one might suppose. Growing up as a young American in Boston, I was always fascinated by the culture ... the majesty, mystique, and splendor, and this sentiment remains instilled in me to this day."

But for many here in Boston, where Asians make up nine percent of the population according to the 2004 U.S. Census, its statements like this — and the fact that Ballou has no former media experience — that have raised a number of questions about his credibility and the motives behind the Asian-themed freebie magazine.

"It's like me putting out a Mexican publication. It just doesn't make sense," said Anh Nguyen, a development associate with Asian American Civic Association, a non-profit organization in the Greater Boston Area. "He wants to capitalize on us and make money off of us."

The idea of an AA-themed magazine is nothing new. The most successful attempt in recent years was *aMagazine* and the current crop of Asian-focused magazines include *Hyphen*, *Audrey*, and *SAM*. But Ballou believes he's filling an untapped need in Boston. Laid off from work and wanting to start his own business, he noticed there were no AA magazines in Boston and had an "ah-ha" moment.

Of course it hasn't gone unnoticed that publications like *aMagazine* and *Hyphen* were created by and published by AAs with direct ties to the community, something Ballou and *AsianBoston* can-

not list on any resume.

But for some it's not about being White or Asian. The most important factor in creating a successful Asian-themed magazine is whether the publisher has taken the time to identify, research and outreach to the community he or she is targeting.

"I think people are making way too much out of his race and his city of origin. These aren't the things

*'It's like me putting out a Mexican publication. It just doesn't make sense. He wants to capitalize on us and make money off of us.'*

Anh Nguyen  
AA Civic Association

that are preventing him from running an Asian magazine, or a successful one for that matter," said Jeff Yang, a consultant on AA consumer culture and founder of the now-defunct *aMagazine*.

"I'd like to give Mr. Ballou the benefit of the doubt, but if he'd had the best interests of both his business and his readership in mind, he would have done what any other prospective entrepreneur does before a public launch: Outreach to the target audience, identify real needs to be served, focus group varying iterations of the product — and only then release your debut, much less begin talking to the press."

And many like Yang believe Ballou's lack of knowledge and understanding of the AA community in Boston is what has led to much of the controversy surrounding *AsianBoston*. Exhibit one: the February debut of the magazine.

Not only did the first issue of *AsianBoston* feature a scantily clad Asian model, the fashion section included 11-pages of Asian models wearing barely there outfits. A featured article in this issue was "The Essence of the Far-East Asian Women of New England." Oh, and he's also promoting his side business, an Asian modeling agency,

and models featured in *AsianBoston* are for hire.

Critics were relentless and continue to be, accusing Ballou of exploiting Asian women.

"It does seem like he is intrigued with Asian women," said Nguyen who noted that several of her close friends are boycotting the magazine specifically for this reason.

"The fact that Leo Ballou simultaneously launched a 'modeling agency' affiliated with the magazine has led to suggestions that the venture is fueled by Ballou's desire to meet Asian girls — rather a complex and expensive way to get dates, if that's the case," said Yang.

The recent August issue, Ballou's second attempt, is definitely a toned down version. The cover features a smiling Asian couple in wedding attire and the fashion section only runs three-pages. But the overall publication, to put it kindly, is not good.

The articles, some translated in Chinese and Vietnamese, cover a wide range of topics — entertainment, sports, business, and health — but are obviously written by volunteers and many are abruptly short in their scope. The 38-page magazine seems to be doing well in the ad department although some look suspiciously like articles, usually a no-no in many legitimate publications.

But despite the criticisms, Ballou is already working on his third edition scheduled to come out in the fall. He's already poured \$20,000 of his own money into the magazine and is involved in all aspects of the project recruiting advertisers and delivering the free magazines to local area businesses.

Ballou printed 15,000 copies of the August edition but the magazine hasn't started making money yet. He hopes to eventually print *AsianBoston* quarterly and in the future he wants to spread his concept to other cities.

Ballou will have his hands full trying to win over his critics.

Nguyen has had a chance to peruse both issues of *AsianBoston* but so far none of its contents are of interest to her and she and her friends are not likely to pick up any future issues.

"It's not something I would read seriously to find out about the community," she said. ■



# JACL Announces 2006 Scholarship Winners

The National JACL recently announced its 2006 scholarship winners. The following are recipients from the undergraduate, graduate, law and arts division with excerpts from their personal statements. This year JACL awarded 27 scholarships totaling \$57,000.

## GRADUATE

### Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial



**Emily Teruya**  
Berkeley JACL  
Mills College  
Business Administration

My Kibei-Nisei maternal grandmother experienced WWII in Japan. She spent her late teens and early 20s dodging bombs, living in caves and fighting hunger. As I grew older, learning my family history was mandated by teachers, so I listened to my grandma's stories knowing they were true but unwilling to comprehend. In college, I desperately sought books that would tell me similar stories. The harsh black-and-white text opened a wound I never knew I had. It tore away my veil of selfishness in denying the language barrier that stood between my grandma and me. With my mix of experiences, I never thought any particular thing defined me as Japanese American. I hope American society will understand that the JA experience is as much an individual story as a collective one. Everyone has a different story to tell. Each emphasizes the diversity of a seemingly homogenous JA experience.

### Nisaburo Aibara Memorial



**Kenta Nakamura**  
Diablo Valley JACL  
University of California, San Francisco  
Medicine

The JA experience encompasses a rich spectrum of struggle and triumph spanning over 100 years. Well beyond influencing successive generations of immigrants, the Nikkei community challenged and reformed American society. From crystallizing the very ideals of the founding Constitution to defining the parameters for healthier living, Nikkei successes are both diverse and compelling. American society will certainly continue to learn from the JA internment and redress, particularly in the present, post-9/11 era. Such precedence endures as a guide through episodes of instability and uncertainty, pacifying ominous erosions to civil liberties.

### Minoru Yasui Memorial



**Ann Ishimaru**  
Portland JACL  
Harvard University  
Education

There are always gasps from the youngsters in the audience when I tell them, "my father was born in a kind of prison". Not a prison like you might think, I add quickly. It was in the desert of Arizona, surrounded by hundreds of miles of barbed wire. It was a kind of prison called an internment camp.

I believe the internment of JAs during World War II remains a critical piece of American history whose story we must continue to tell.

I believe that American society can learn from the history and continuity of the JA community's civil rights activism.

I believe that American society can learn from the richness and growing diversity of JA history and culture.

I believe that education is the key to the ability of American society to learn from the JA experience.

### Railroad & Mine Workers Memorial



**Kenji Treanor**  
Marin JACL  
University of San Francisco  
Public Administration

American society can learn from redress that forgiveness is powerful and necessary for all people and nations. Unfortunately, the United States has many more apologies to make, as internment is only one instance in a long history of American injustice. But our society must call for those apologies and must help the government take the steps necessary to move forward without denying our moral respon-

sibility for the past. JAs more than any other group in the U.S. can play an active role in this regard. But even if JAs do not lead another charge for reparations, our redress experience has set an example of forgiveness that all Americans can employ to achieve greater success, prosperity and happiness by healing our personal, community, and national wounds.

### Reverend H. John Yamashita Memorial



**Derek Furukawa**  
Las Vegas JACL  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Educational Leadership

Life can present moments of adversity that test the human spirit. These moments are rarely repeated, but the events of Sept. 11 have eerily paralleled events during World War II. Both events imposed adversity on specific groups of American citizens. The JA experience during WWII included a forced evacuation and internment of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent. Today, over five years after Sept. 11, Arab Americans face the same problems of discrimination and racism that the JAs experienced following WWII. We all hope that the events of WWII and Sept. 11 will not repeat again. However, there is a regrettable solace in knowing that education has a way of emerging following times of distress. With education, all people can learn to be equal in both mind and soul and with equality comes human understanding.

## UNDERGRADUATE

### Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial



**Marc Stillman**  
Salt Lake City JACL  
University of Utah  
Political Science

The JA experience is a unique collection of histories, stories, sacrifices, struggles and hardships that provide JAs with an identity filled with strong values, and a rich culture. All of the aspects of the JA experience have added to the diverse and rich identity of American society and our own communities. I have personally learned that the instilling of strong values, the recognition of past injustices, and cultural preservation are very important aspects that make the JA experience unique and remarkable.

### Kenji Kajiwara Memorial



**Jessica Kawamura**  
Berkeley JACL  
Brown University  
Ethnic Studies/Public Policy

For over a century and a half, JAs have made both large and small contributions to American society. From the backbreaking labor of farmers in California at the turn of the century to the work of Rep. Patsy Mink in Congress, JAs have contributed significantly to American society. Yet beyond these individual contributions, the JA experience as a whole has many lessons to teach to our society. Our community's experience teaches American society of the need to combat xenophobia, the value of building interracial coalitions, and the importance of preserving ethnic cultural heritage.

### Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial



**Traci Kuratomi**  
San Fernando Valley JACL  
Smith College  
Undeclared

It only took one day for our history to be forgotten. The casualties of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, included more than just the buildings and innumerable lives lost, but also the judgment and reason of the American people. In the all too familiar panic and fear that ensued, Americans forgot the lesson that they should have learned from the internment camps 60 years ago, that our inalienable rights need to be protected. In the days that followed, individuals lost their freedom as they were thrown in jail without due process, but what is even more shocking was what happened to the American people as a whole. They allowed their Constitutional rights to be violated. Forty-five days after the attacks, the U.S. Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act, which allows the government to trample our rights without probable cause. The Constitutional rights we are provided are only words and theories unless the American citi-

zens protect them when they are attacked. Let us make some good of the internment camps and stand up for our rights because if we don't, who will?

### Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial



**Choketsu Uga**  
Philadelphia JACL  
Princeton University  
Computer Science

When I came to the United States, I met "Japanese Americans." Joining JACL piqued my interest in JAs, whom I had smugly thought I fully understood, and led me to question my premature understanding of them. Flipping through what at first looked like a typical political newsletter, I found in the pages of the *Pacific Citizen* insightful stories that revealed to me a striking quality of this demographic. Articles highlighting the political successes of JA congressmen, the protest against Miss Jones's discriminatory comments, the movement to rename "Jap Road" — all portray JAs as actually a distinctive, crisp vegetable in the American salad bowl. When I meet *Nikkeijin* nowadays, I see not typical Americans, but instead a beautiful legacy of the Japanese ancestors. They are here to not only add to America's rich diversity, but to also deliver the timeless virtues passed down by their forebears. That is why this country has much to learn and gain from their history and presence. And that is why I am proud that today I too am a JA.

### Saburo Kido Memorial



**Abigail Smith**  
Mt. Olympus JACL  
Brigham Young University  
Art History/Italian

Even though there remains much to learn from the historical JAs, I believe that American society can also learn a great deal from JA experiences of today. As one of Japanese descent, living in America, I (and I know of many others who do the same) strive to maintain an involvement in the Japanese culture while also experiencing my own American heritage. I have found that embracing more than one culture exposes me to contrasting perceptions of life. If American society were to follow this example of learning about and embracing many cultures and traditions, I think that we would gain a better understanding of our neighbors and become more accepting of one another.

### Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial



**Karin Hayashida**  
Boise Valley JACL  
Albertson College of Idaho  
Biology/Chemistry

The JA experience encompasses many unique and notable events that are just as much a part of Japan's history as well as America's. The people who made the journey across seas to encounter a new world in America had to endure many hardships along the way. Those people were my great-grandparents and it was their children who had to tolerate racial discrimination and relocation in a country they called home. Perseverance, understanding, and forgiveness can be realized through the JA experience. These values have become imbedded in the lives of following generations of JAs, including me. I feel that the rest of American society could benefit from the JA experience by appreciating the values that have helped us prosper throughout the years of hardship up to today.

### Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial



**Leslie Tamura**  
Fresno JACL  
Wellesley College  
English & Biology

It was through my own community, with Nisei and Sansei role models that I have been able to maintain some sense of JA pride and social responsibility. These community leaders were family members, church leaders, and classmates who understood that being American, that being a part of a country of immigrants, meant remembering that JAs are a distinct community that contributes to the American identity through political, media-social, and community presence. The JA experience teaches America to be more aware and appreciative of the thousands of unique ethnic populations that, through subtle historical and social occurrences, continue to mold and shape the national American experience.



## THE ARTS

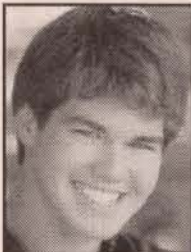
### Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial



**Yukiko Ishiwata**  
New York JACL  
Queens College, City University of  
New York  
Music

After returning from an internment camp, a JA man came under pressure from his entire neighborhood to "be American, or get out of here." Conflicted and a little confused, he stopped using his Japanese name and started calling himself "Jim." Though not a Christian, he started going to church on Sunday. He raised his daughter without teaching her Japanese. By the time his grandson was born, the world had changed. Jim's grandson grew up learning Japanese. What JAs were able to accomplish is exactly what multiculturalism is. As Jim realized after being isolated and treated as an enemy, multiculturalism does not merely come about. In order to have meaningful peace for every person in society, we must give and take; embracing different cultures does not preclude identifying with one's own culture. Along with this interaction between cultures comes an understanding and celebration of other cultures.

### Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka Memorial



**John Ryan**  
New England JACL  
New York University  
Music

An important lesson to learn from the JA experience is that this country must never sacrifice justice in the name of national security. The internment of JAs during WWII is one of the most reprehensible events in the history of this country. Even conservatives acknowledged this fact when President Ronald Reagan approved reparation payments in 1988. Unfortunately, as we enter a post-9/11 era, basic human and civil rights of minorities are again at risk. From detainment camps in Guantanamo Bay to anti-Muslim hate crime at home, America again faces enormous moral challenges in the midst of war. Nevertheless, we must be ever vigilant not to repeat the xenophobic mistakes of the past. The wartime internment of my grandmother's family and thousands of JAs like them was a violation of the principles upon which our

country was founded. American society must learn to denounce expedient but unjust measures against minorities or risk losing the very democracy we seek to protect.

## LAW

### Professor Sho Sato Memorial



**Lynn Harada**  
Chicago JACL  
University of San Francisco  
Law

The JA experience demonstrates how important it is not only to remember the past, but to also learn from it. By having Day of Remembrance events, museum exhibits, and encouraging schools to teach more about the internment in their history classes (as it is often overlooked), the effort is made to make sure that people are educated about the internment and remember it so that it will not happen again. This is even more important in light of present day discrimination that is faced by other ethnic groups and with laws such as the USA PATRIOT Act which impose on an individual's rights. Civil rights organizations such as the JACL are thus so important in that they work to make sure that people learn about and remember the internment, and also work to make sure that other civil rights issues and encroachments in the present day do not go unnoticed. Because of this, the JA experience will not only be remembered, but will be valued for the important lessons it provides for American society.

### Mary Reiko Osaka Memorial



**Laura Biddle**  
Salt Lake City JACL  
California Western  
University  
Law

The internment of JAs reminds us that discrimination and prejudice is possible and often institutionalized, despite our democratic society. The redress movement, more enduring than its eventual outcome and more fundamental than its monetary compensation, brought together a diverse community under one united goal, shar-

ing a collective history, into the present and through the efforts of their children, created a legacy that will forever bear a testament to the suffering and immense strength of JAs. The redress movement demonstrated the ability of a traditionally discriminated minority to unite and to demand reparations and seek justice from their government. ■

On behalf of the national JACL, Scholarship Committee Chair David Kawamoto would like to thank the San Diego and the Berkeley chapters for their significant assistance with the 2006 national scholarship program. Berkeley chapter volunteers were Dr. Mark Fujikawa, Gordon Kono, J.D., Neal Ouye, Lauren Sasaki, Al Satake, Dr. Kelly Shintani, Sharron Sue, Roger Tanaka (chair), CPA and Derrek Tomine, J.D.; San Diego chapter volunteers were Koji Fukumura, J.D., Kenji Funahashi, J.D., Erika Hiramatsu, J.D., Aya Ibarra, Dr. Kenji Ima, Dr. Yuri Kaneda, David Kawamoto (chair), Valerie Oka Pang, Dr. Leland Saito, and Dr. Linton Yee. JACL thanks them for their time and effort in screening the hundreds of applications. Because of the excellent quality of all the applications submitted from throughout national JACL, narrowing the selection to the 27 recipients was a very difficult task. Also, with only limited staff assistance, all of the processing of the applications, follow-up communications with applicants and the verification process with recipients was handled by volunteers. Please join JACL in thanking these volunteers.

## 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.

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• HARRY K. HONDA •

## VERY TRULY YOURS

## Final Convention Glimpses



The 26th Biennial in 1980 at the SFO Plaza Airport Inn was a last-minute venue because of the hotel strike in the city. Among the 700 delegates were JACLers from Japan and Hawaii chapters. President Carter signed S1647 (July 30) to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. To balance a "bare bones" \$819,000 budget, dues were raised from \$16.75 to \$22 (1981) and to \$25.50 (1982). National Director Karl Nobuyuki (1977-80) resigned.

The 27th Biennial in 1982 at LAX Hyatt Airport Hotel, hosted by Gardena Valley, saw the membership drop from a high of 32,545 (1978) to 26,615 (1981). Dues, nonetheless, were increased \$1.25 (1983) and to \$1.75 (1984). Floyd Shimomura, 34 (Sacramento) was the first Sansei elected national president. Redress campaign began nationwide with John Tateishi as director.

The 28th Biennial in 1984 at Pacific Beach Hotel, Honolulu was JACL's first off-the-Mainland parley. Keynoters were Senators Dan Inouye at the Sayonara and Spark Matsunaga at the USS Arizona Memorial. Council adopted its first million-dollar budget (\$1,281,450), supported by a dues increase to \$28.50 (1986), but rejected a rate for senior citizens (age 65).

The 29th Biennial in 1986 at Hyatt Regency, Chicago gave its first posthumous Japanese American of Biennium award to astronaut Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka. The council rejected a Gardena Valley proposal to give chapters one vote for every 300 members at council sessions, an idea previously raised in 1940. Grayce Uyehara succeeded Tateishi as redress campaign director as Grant Ujifusa outlined the strategy to pass the redress bill HR 442. In a two-way race for national president, Harry Kajihara (67) won over Rose Ochi (59).

The 30th Biennial in 1988 at the Univ. of Washington campus, Seattle assured affordable convention housing. JACL leaders flew "red eye" to Washington, D.C. (Aug. 10), to witness President Reagan sign HR 442 — \$20,000 to persons affected by E.O. 9066 plus an apology signed by the president. National Director Ron Wakabayashi (1981-88) resigned.

The 31st Biennial in 1990 at Princess Resort, San Diego had two keynote speakers: UC San Diego professor Peter Irons (opening night) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (Sayonara) by telephone. Council adopted Seattle JACL's resolution to heal "community wounds" and "express regret and recognize patriotism of interned draft resisters" but defeated a Chicago JACL proposal to open JACL membership to "permanent resident Issei aliens." Citizenship mattered as Issei naturalization began in 1953.

The 32nd Biennial in 1992 at Sheraton Tech Center, Denver focused on a wide range of Asian/JACL issues for the '90s: bi-racial children, gays, educational issues, JA curriculum, anti-Asian violence, coalition building, U.S.-Japan relations and celebrations of the JA spirit. Lillian Kimura (New York) became the first woman national JACL president, 59-50, over John J. Saito



AP PHOTO

JACL leaders took a 'red eye' flight in the middle of the 1988 convention in Seattle to witness President Reagan signing HR 442 in Washington, D.C.

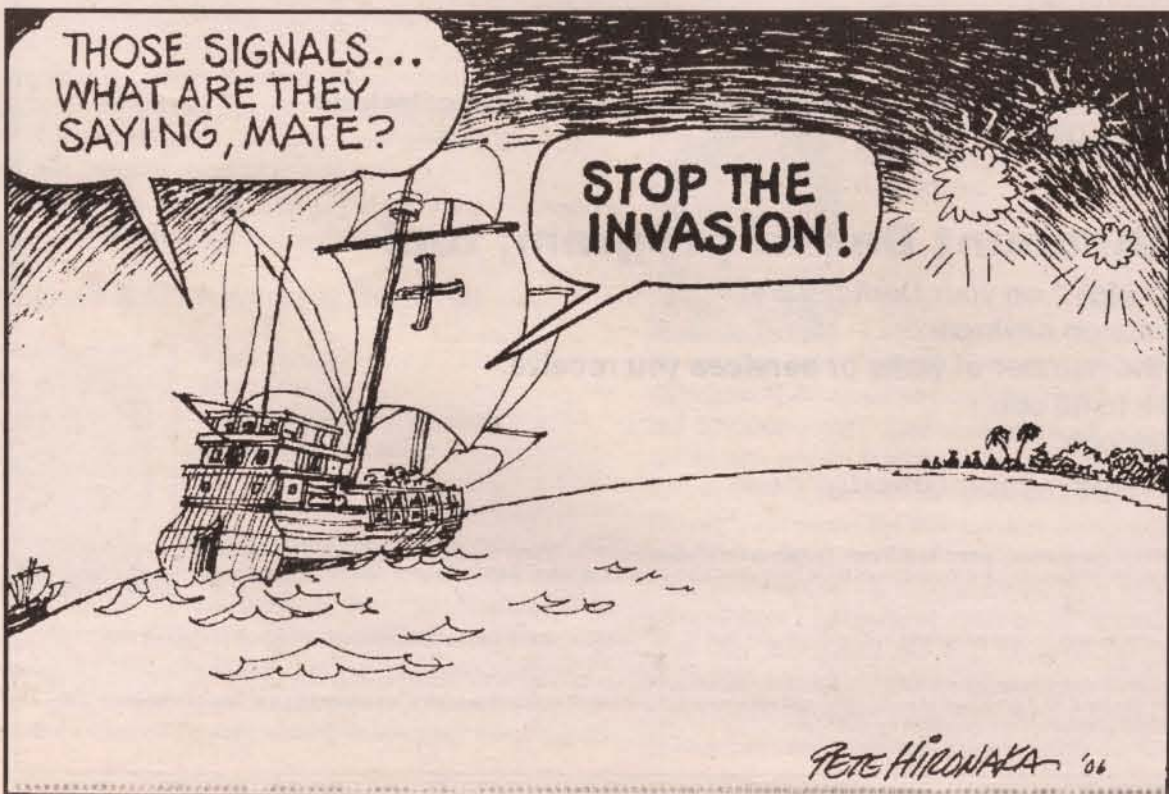
(East L.A.), who had been declared prematurely a winner, 55-54.

The 33rd Biennial in 1994 at Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City featured Frank Emi, Mits Koshiyama (both of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee), Past National JACL Presidents Cressey Nakagawa (1988-92) and Judge Raymond Uno (1970-72) revisiting the "Deborah Lim Report," which was commissioned in 1988 to research the question of draft resisters at Heart Mountain. Cressey concluded: "If Mike Masaoka [1915-91] were here today, he would agree with every one of us that he among any other JACL leaders never expected the kind of camps that confronted everybody removed from the West Coast. [They] had barbed wire and that Minidoka actually electrified barbed wire fences." National Director Dennis Hayashi (1992-93) was succeeded by Randy Senzaki (1993-95).

The 34th Biennial in 1996 at Fairmount Hotel, San Jose took a "snub of sorts" as President Clinton at the same hotel chose to meet and shake hands with JACL board members before continuing on his campaign trail. JACL knew nine months in advance of Clinton's schedule, inviting him to make an appearance. Aiding council action were PowerPoint presentations to resolve resolutions. The budget, \$1,389,943 passed with no dues increase. Herbert Yamanishi was national director (1996-99). Midwest regional director Bill Yoshino often stepped in as interim national director.

The 35th Biennial in 1998 at Sheraton's Society Hill, Philadelphia saw the council adopt a \$2,617,144 budget, recognized Japanese Consul Sugihara's dispensing transit visas in 1940 to Jewish refugees fleeing Poland, and defended ethnic studies destined to be abolished within the University of California system.

It's been enriching attending these conventions plus four recent ones — the 36th in 2000 at Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, with John Tateishi as national director (1999-2006), the 37th in 2002 at Las Vegas, the 38th in 2004 at Waikiki Beach Marriot, Honolulu, and the 39th in 2006 in Arizona. And Dr. Richard Matsuishi reminded us of the 50th Biennial (2028) for the 100th anniversary. ■



## San Jose JACL to Recognize Distinguished Volunteers

The San Jose JACL will be recognizing its community volunteers at its 5th Annual Community Recognition Dinner Sept. 30.

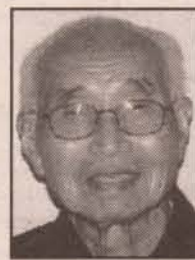
The event, themed "Today's Community Volunteers



HASHIMOTO

Inspiring Tomorrow's" at the San Jose Hyatt, will honor S. Ruth Hashimoto, Ted "Bo" Kimura (posthumously), George Masunaga (posthumously) and Michi

Masunaga, Marian Suhamu, Dave Tatsuno and Alice Tatsuno (both posthumously), Henry Uyeda and Community Youth Services (CYS).



UYEDA

The honorees were selected for their dedication to upholding the mission of the San Jose JACL: education, civil and human rights, community partnerships and social/cultural activities. ■

## 'Today's Community Volunteers Inspiring Tomorrow's' Recognition Dinner

Sat. Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.

San Jose Hyatt

1740 North 1st St., San Jose, CA 95112

Tickets: \$75 or \$750 for a table of 10

For tickets or more info:

San Jose JACL

565 North 5th St., San Jose, CA 95112

408/295-1250

sanjosejaci@sbcglobal.net, www.sanjosejaci.org

There will be live entertainment and a silent auction. All proceeds from this event will allow the San Jose JACL to continue to serve the community.



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# The 'Fall' Gives New Rise to Vietnamese American Filmmaker



His name is Ham, a UCLA grad who made the first ever film about the Vietnam War from the perspective of the Vietnamese. Remember that name, he'll be going places.

By **LYNDA LIN**  
Assistant Editor

Three elements are missing from "Journey from the Fall," a Vietnamese American film about the April 30, 1975, fall of Saigon, South Vietnam's capital: village prostitutes, village traitors and

Oliver Stone.

Absent also are the disillusioned American GIs. In fact, any American presence is gone by the time the film picks up on the tragic end to the Vietnam War and the country's reunification under Communist rule. The film, made by UCLA film school graduate Ham

Tran, is strictly derived from the plight of thousands of "boat people" who had to escape their homeland under the most harrowing circumstances. Think hard labor camps, weeklong confinement in the bowels of a boat and pirates a little more menacing than the Johnny Depp kind.

The premise is simple: make a film about the experience of escaping from Vietnam to America from the Vietnamese perspective.

"How long will we allow Hollywood to tell their versions about the Vietnam war where Vietnamese people are faceless, nameless background objects instead of three-dimensional living, breathing people whose lives are directly torn by war?" said Tran, 32.

Nine out of 10 Vietnamese Americans are either a boat person or knew someone who was one, he added. When Tran arrives at the *Pacific Citizen* building, he is all smiles and sunshine dressed casually in white to match his later model Acura. His levity is in stark contrast to the pet project he wrote and directed with funding help from Vietnamese American community members and entrepreneurs.

It's one of the most expensive independent films about the war, according to the BBC, and it shows. The budget allowed for an on location shoot in Thailand where a camp complete with a guard tower and shanties were recreated so authentically "re-education camp" survivors who had roles in the film were brought to tears. When a land mine detonates onscreen, it explodes Hollywood-style with fire and flying debris. Many of the actors are



AND SCENE: (clockwise) Ham Tran (far left) helps Diem Lien cry on cue for an emotional scene recreating the 1975 fall of Saigon, while the crew of 'Journey from the Fall' films a graphic camp scene.

The merit of the film lies in its realism, the 32-year-old filmmaker has said.

major stars in Vietnam, but we may recognize a familiar face — Kieu Chinh of "The Joy Luck Club" and "Hamburger Hill" (another Vietnam War drama from the American perspective that cast the talented actress as "Mama San").

It's a movie that took 30 years to get right and it's not pretty. Each scene is bathed in earth tones and darkness to evoke the sense of helplessness of losing your country. "Journey" follows the Nguyen family's fight for survival after they are torn apart — patriarch Long (Long Nguyen of Oliver Stone's "Heaven and Earth") is thrown into camp because he worked with the South Vietnamese government and the Americans, while his wife Mai (Diem Lien, a pop star) his mother (Chinh) and young son (Nguyen Thai Huynh) struggle to find a safe passage to America.

"Journey" is a mesmerizing film that wowed at this year's Sundance Film Festival, but to date has no distribution deal. However the filmmaker said they are close to announcing a domestic distribution deal with a possible theatrical release next March.

Many other companies have expressed interest, but have also asked Tran to remake the film in English, with either Lucy Liu or Zhang Ziyi and to add an American character in order to sell the film.

Tran's response: No, no and no. Instead the filmmaker has opted to showcase the film in festivals, most notably the upcoming San Diego Asian Film Festival where Chinh will be honored with a lifetime achievement award.

"In our vision, 'Journey from the

Fall' is to the Vietnamese community as 'Schindler's List' is to the Jewish community," said Tran. It's a tribute, but also a clarion call to the many who don't know about this part of history.

The story is universal for any community that has experienced dislocation and persecution. The Nguyen family's new life in Orange County, Calif. is filled with hardship — there's immigrant tension in school between the Asian Pacific Americans and the Hispanics and awkward transition between survival and consumerism.

"In America, anything missing can be bought at the mall," said one character, in between scenes where prisoners eat insects to live and Chinh collects soda cans from one of Southern California's many street trashcans.

"No American film has ever been made about these struggles and sacrifices, so the question is 'Why not?'" said Tran.

Tran's parents and aunt, who is a boat person, have also seen the movie and raved about the authenticity of the movie.

"The best reward that I can want from the film's release is to open up a dialogue between my parents' generation and youth who were never told by their parents about their incredible ordeal," added Tran.

**See it:** Oct. 7 at the San Diego Asian Film Festival [www.sdaaff.org](http://www.sdaaff.org)  
**On the Web:** [www.journeyfromthefall.com](http://www.journeyfromthefall.com)

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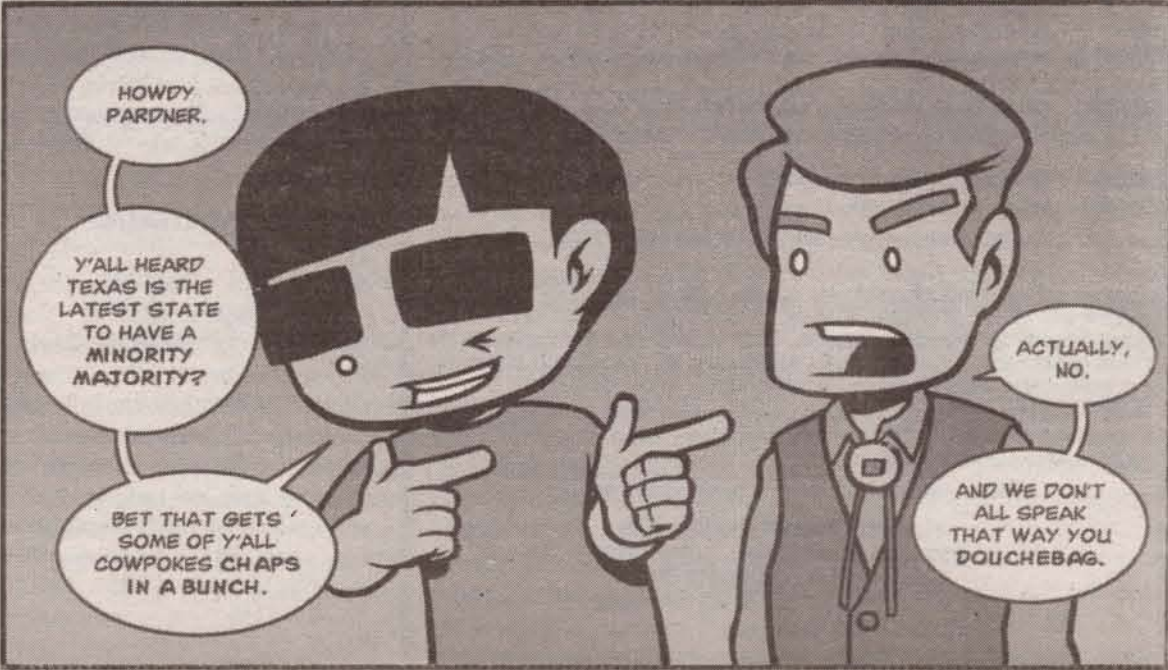


To learn more about the Blue Cross plan and how to become a member, please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-848-4875.



## SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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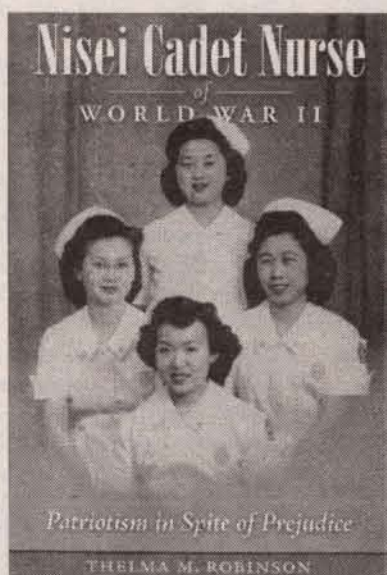
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By Thelma Robinson



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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](mailto:hashi79@earthlink.net). Info: co-chairs, Jason Higashi, 707/837-9932, [jlth@comcast.net](mailto:jlth@comcast.net) or Jim Craig, 916/652-0093, [thayajoyce@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thayajoyce@sbcglobal.net).

**East Coast**

**GAITHERSBURG, Mary.**

**Sun., Oct. 1**—13th Annual Aki Matsuri; 3-6 p.m.; Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Ave; enjoy food, games, music and a raffle; adults/\$5 in advance, \$8 at the event, kids/\$5 (6-11), under 6 are free. Info: JCAW, 202/463-3947 or [akimatsuri2006@hotmail.com](mailto:akimatsuri2006@hotmail.com).

**NEW HOPE, Penn.**

**Sat.-Sun., Sept. 23-24**—Worldclass Japanese Zen Art and Calligraphy Exhibit; 1-4:30 p.m.; Minguren Museum, Nakashima Woodworkers, 1847 Aquetong Rd; including lectures by curator John Stevens, Professor of Far Eastern Religions, Tohoku Fukushi University, Sendai, Japan; free; all works available for purchase. Info and registration: Joe Sperduto, 215/901-9115 or [homeikandojo@aol.com](mailto:homeikandojo@aol.com).

**Midwest**

**ALBUQUERQUE**

**Sun., Oct. 1**—Annual Aki Matsuri Fall Festival; 10:30-4 p.m.; Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, SW corner of Menaul and 12 Street NW; \$1 admission, free entertainment, raffle prizes, taiko drumming. Info: Esther Churchwell, 505/883-5230 or [6kalani4@comcast.net](mailto:6kalani4@comcast.net).

**CHICAGO**

**Fri., Sept. 22**—36th Annual Fuji Festival, Japanese American Service Committee Benefit Dinner Dance and silent auction; reception begins at 5 p.m., dinner and program is at 7:30 p.m.; Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W Jackson; featuring entertainment by Bradford Newquist and the Bill Underwood Quartet; \$150 per person, \$130 for JASC members. Tickets and info: [www.jasc-chicago.org](http://www.jasc-chicago.org) or 773/275-0097.

**EVANSTON, Ill.**

**Nov. 3-5**—Second National Asian American Student Conference; Northwestern University, Evanston; NAAScon 2006 theme is "Building Bridges, Connecting Movements" and seeks to explore the diverse issues that the APA community faces. Info: [www.naascon.org](http://www.naascon.org).

**RICHFIELD, Ohio**

**Sat., Sept. 23**—Community Picnic; 10-6 p.m.; Furnace Run Metro Park, Brushwood Pavilion, 4955 Townsend Rd; enjoy games, food, hiking, fishing, volleyball and taiko; sponsored by the Cleveland Japanese American Foundation.

**Pacific Northwest**

**PORTLAND**

**Sun., Sept. 24**—Presentation, Clarence Mershon, author of "Along the Sandy: Our Nikkei Neighbors"; 1:30 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave; in "Along the Sandy ..." Mershon writes about the lives of JA friends before the war and after from the perspective of a white person who feels deeply about what's right and fair; \$3 donation, free to ONLC members. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458 or [www.oregon](http://www.oregon)



Cal State University, Sacramento hosts 'Dance, Drums and Drama of Japan,' on Oct. 6. Crane Culture Theater, Sakura Minyo Doo Koo Kai and Davis Wakamatsu Taiko Dan will come together to present an evening of entertainment.

[nikkei.org](http://nikkei.org).

**Northern California  
OAKLAND**

**Sun., Oct. 1**—Moon Viewing festival, "Otsukimi"; 5:30-9 p.m.; Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave; event will feature martial arts and koto performances, moon viewing and bento box dinner; RSVP a dinner for \$15 to OFSCA, P.O. Box 13022, Oakland, CA 94661-3022; deadline is Sept. 25. Info: [www.oakland-fukuo-ka.org](http://www.oakland-fukuo-ka.org) or 510/482-5896.

**SACRAMENTO**

**Tues., Sept. 26**—California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Advisory Committee meeting; 914 Capitol Mall, Room 500. Info: Elaine Yamaguchi, 916/651-0383 or [eyamaguchi@library.ca.gov](mailto:eyamaguchi@library.ca.gov).

**Fri., Oct. 6**—Dance, Drums and Drama of Japan; 7 p.m.; C.S.U. Sacramento, Capistrano Hall, 6000 J St; Crane Culture Theater, Sakura Minyo Doo Koo Kai and Davis Wakamatsu Taiko Dan will come together to present an evening of Japanese dance, drums and drama; "Sadako and the 1000 Cranes" will be presented by Crane Culture Theater; \$10/adult or senior, \$5/students and children. Info: Toshiye Kawamura, 916/383-5710 or [toshiye@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:toshiye@saclink.csus.edu).

**SAN FRANCISCO**

**Tues., Sept. 19**—California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Advisory Committee meeting; 4-6 p.m.; SF Main Library, 100 Larkin St, Latino/Hispanic Room A. Info: Elaine Yamaguchi, 916/651-0383 or [eyamaguchi@library.ca.gov](mailto:eyamaguchi@library.ca.gov).

**SAN JOSE**

**Sat., Sept. 30**—Fifth Annual Community Recognition Dinner, "Today's Community Volunteers Inspiring Tomorrow's"; San Jose Hyatt, 1740 North 1st Street, San Jose; 5 p.m.; Tickets are \$75 per person, \$750 for a table of 10; JACL San Jose chapter recognizes honorees that were selected for their dedication to uphold the mission of the San Jose JACL. Info: call 408/295-1250 or e-mail [sanjosejaci@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosejaci@sbcglobal.net).

**STOCKTON**

**Fri., Oct. 6**—Stockton JACL's monthly mixer "The Line: Leaders Involved in the Nikkei Community"; 856 Restaurant & Lounge, 856 W. Ben Holt Dr.; 6-7:30 p.m.; connecting young Asian American professionals in the Central Valley. Info: Chiyo Mayai, 209/478-0800, ext. 201 or email [ckmijai@hotmail.com](mailto:ckmijai@hotmail.com).

**Central California  
FRESNO**

**Sun., Nov. 5**—JACL Health Benefits Trust annual CCDC Chapter Insurance Commissioner's lunch; Radisson Hotel; come and learn about the Trust and how it relates to the JACL and the current status of health care; seating is limited. Info and reservations: 800/400-6633.

**Southern California  
LOS ANGELES**

**Sept. 20-Oct. 1**—"SIDES: The fear is Real"; David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St; opening night features a gala reception with the cast and crew; performances are Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m.; previews are Sat., Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Sept. 17 at 2 p.m.; opening night tickets are \$60; preview performances are \$20, general performances are \$35 for the orchestra and \$30 in the balcony. Info and tickets: East West Players, 213/625-7000 or [www.eastwestplayers.org](http://www.eastwestplayers.org).

**Oct. 7-8**—Teacher Training Workshop; San Gabriel Valley 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: 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](http://www.GoForBroke.org) or Wayne Osako, 310/222-5702.

**Nevada**

**LAS VEGAS**

**Oct. 17-19**—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; Tues. Welcome Mixer 6:30 p.m. in the Ohana Room; Wed. slot tournament and buffet dinner and program; Dr. Glenn Kageyama will talk about the achievements of the researchers who developed an alternate source of latex from the guayule plant. Info and applications: Henry Nakano, 714/871-8179, Sam Ono, 310/327-5568, Cabby Iwasaki, 714/637-1412, Shig Kuwahara, 626/289-7892 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

**Oct. 27-29**—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel, downtown; events include: Fri.: Welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch; Golf tournament has been canceled, but tee times can be booked by contacting Yas Tokita; Room rates at the Plaza Hotel 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. "Early Bird" registration ends Oct. 5. For info on Los Angeles to Las Vegas bus info, contact Miyako Kadogawa, 310/839-1194. Info: [www.mwt.com/jaclsingles](http://www.mwt.com/jaclsingles) or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/790-9547.

**Hawaii**

**HONOLULU**

**Sat., Sept. 30**—JCCH "Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner"; Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Room; 5:30 p.m.; individual seats \$150 each, table sponsorships available; events include silent auction and dinner program honoring Masao Koike, Leslie S. Murakami, Wally Yonamine and more. Info: JCCH 800/945-7633 or email [info@jcch.com](mailto:info@jcch.com).



## In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Fujii, Hitoshi, 87**, Ventura, July 19; survived by sons, Dennis (Jasmine) and Stanley (Margaret); 2 gc.; and sister, Masako Takamiya.

**Fujita, Aiko, 83**, Southold, N.Y., July 14; survived by husband, Neil; sons, Kenji, David and Martin; 6 gc.; and brothers, Ray and Roger Tamaki.

**Fujita, Tokunori, 83**, Anaheim, July 30; survived by wife, Ginko; son, Tom; daughter, Susie (Mike) Taniguchi; 3 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Takaye Fujita and Holly (Fred) Kobayashi.

**Hamachi, Kiyoko, 85**, Montebello, Aug. 2; survived by daughter, Suzie (Haruo) Wada; and 2 gc.

**Hamasaki, Miwa, 82**, Aug. 12; survived by sister, Nagisa Hamasaki.

**Hikida, Mariyo, 89**, Los Angeles, July 24; survived by son, Benjie; daughters, Leah (Masatake) Kawamoto, Marilyn and Cindy Hikida; 5 gc.; 7 ggc.; 4 gggc.; and siblings, Nellie Mitani, Connie Sugino, Marchie Takesuye, Morie Okazaki, Lita (Helen) Okazaki and Tomie (Shig) Katsuda.

**Kagiyama, Atsushi "Angel," 80**, Sacramento, Aug. 6; survived by wife, Terry; daughter, Wendy (Ivan) Kagiyama-Yee; son, Cary; and sisters, Mary (Harry) Inouye and Kiyo Tanaka.

**Kinuya, Jane Hoshie, 86**, July 24; survived by sisters, Lily Endow and Edna (Sam) Kawata; and daughter-in-law, Leslie Kinuya.

**Loa, Jeffrey Sifoa, 32**, Waiānae, Hawaii, Aug. 16; Staff Sgt. killed in Iraq; survived by wife, Mary; father, Duke; brothers, Jason and Monty; sister, Tanya Bishop; and step-brother, Lloyd Mageo.



**Masai, Dan, 70**, Pasadena, July 23; survived by wife, Setsuko; son, Kou; father-in-law, Eiji Suzuki and mother-in-law, Teiko Suzuki.

**Nakata, Kenneth S., 79**, Bainbridge Island, Wash., Aug. 9; WWII and Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Yoshiko; sons, Glen (Gail) and Gene; daughters, Jan, Leslie (Don) Stimson, Karen, Cheryl (Aaron) Paston, and Irene (Curt) Endow; 4 gc.; brother, Gerald; and sister, Yoshie Iwasa.

**Nakaya, Tim, 49**, Aug. 4; survived by son, Tyler; parents, Ben and Chiyo; sister, Anne (Joe) Pansoy; and brothers, Douglas (Sandra), Victor (Lucy) and James.

**Nishimoto, Sunny Isao, 84**, Fresno, Aug. 2; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Dorothy; son, Wally (Kathy); daughters, Mary (Dave) Fedorko and Ruth (Gaylen) Thelander; sister-in-law, Mickey Nishimoto; brother-in-law, Keith Okamoto; and 7 gc.

**Okamura, Paul Takeyoshi, 91**, Pocatello, Idaho, Aug. 14; sur-

vived by wife, Sanaye.

**Omaye, Yoshiye Takesuye, 85**, Thermal (Coachella Valley), Aug. 25; survived by daughter, Eileen; sisters, Kaye Minato, Sally Udo and Mary Ozasa; and brother, Jack Takesuye. Pre-deceased by husband, Tommy.

**Sakada, Kimiye**, Dayton, Ohio, July 1; survived by sons, Dennis (Jan) and Darryl (Annette); daughter, Dawn (Bob Sedlock); 4 gc.; 8 ggc.; brother, Mas (Lily) Yamasaki; and sisters, Mei (George Teranishi) and Lily Sato.

**Sakamoto, Grace Kazuko, 81**, Monterey, Aug. 24; survived by husband, Gengo; daughter, Michelle; sons, Dana, Byron and Wayne; 3 gc.; and 3 ggc.

**Shoji, Samuel, 80**, Seattle, Wash., June 16; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Haruko; sons, Jay (Rebecca) and Brian (Judy); and 5 gc.

**Sano, Sadao, 87**, San Gabriel, July 17; survived by wife, Yoshie; son, Michael (Jennifer); daughter, Irene (Steven) Tanihara; and brother, Minoru (Marian) Sano.

**Southworth, Beverly Marian,**



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**84**, Los Angeles, July 16; survived by daughters, Karen (Craig) Inouye and Diane; and 1 gc.

**Sugiyama, Toku, 84**, Baltimore, Md., May 14; survived by son, George; daughters, Carolyn Wasylczuk and Maona Mendelson; 6 gc.; and 2 ggc.

**Tanaka, Jack Masahiko, 92**, Los Angeles, July 14; survived by sons, Kelly (Barbara), Barry and John (Cynthia); 5 gc.; and 7 gg.

**Tomioka, Mitsutaro, 88**, Gardena, July 21; survived by sons, Mitsumasa and Shigemitsu; and sister, Umeko Okubo.

**Yoritsune Shigeko "Grace," 95**, San Jose, July 4; survived by daughters, Mieke Peterson, Janice, Charlene and Karen Yoritsune; 3 gc.; 3 ggc.; sisters, Setsuko (Haruo)



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### DEATH NOTICE

#### MRS. MARY YANO 11/30/25 - 8/26/06

Mrs. Mary Yano, 80, a retired administrative assistant, fashion designer, and artist, and also a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, died Aug. 26, 2006. Please contact the family for details on the planned memorial service. She is survived by husband, Yukio; daughters, Deborah and Colleen; son, Roger; and three grandchildren.

### DEATH NOTICE

#### AYA M. ENDO

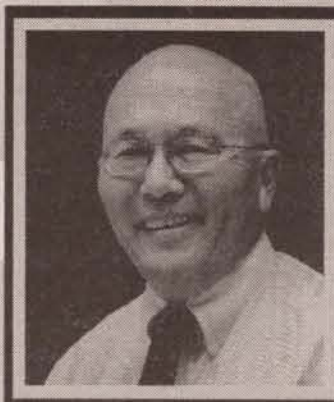
Aya M. Endo passed away on Aug. 31, 2006 after a long illness. She lived for 91 good years. She leaves her husband of 64 years, Minoru Endo of Medford Leas, Medford, New Jersey, her children Keith (Debbie) and Larry (Caron), 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. She was the eldest daughter of Kunisaku and Kane Mineta. She was proud of her siblings Etsu Masaoka who was active in obtaining Japanese American rights, Helen Mineta who was a history teacher at San Jose High School, Albert Mineta who was a surgeon and pathologist, and Norman Mineta, US Congressman, Secretary of Transportation. Aya was educated at the University of California. She was devoted to her family, her garden and flower arrangement. During her long terminal illness she was cared for meticulously by her husband. Her ebullient personality, warmth and friendliness will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers or other, donations may be made to the Japanese American United Church, 255 7th Avenue, N.Y. NY 10001, or Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N 5th Street, San Jose, CA, 95112, or Christ United Presbyterian Church, 1700 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115.

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## KATRINA

(Continued from page 1)

"Plus a dog and a hamster," said Jennifer with a laugh. "At least we have a place to live."

The Ryan family is part of the nearly 300,000 displaced by Katrina who are still unable to go to bed at night in their own homes. Of that, the hobbled Asian Pacific American community is still struggling to get back on its feet with nowhere near the media attention and awareness focused on other ethnic communities in the Gulf Coast. Many have followed family members to different parts of the country and resettled while others wander nomadically between their temporary and former homes.

"One year later, they are still in limbo," said Tram Nguyen of the Boat People SOS, an aid organization that has been on the ground helping APA victims for the last year. Images of thousand of APAs pouring into the local Hong Kong mall immediately after Hurricane Katrina are seared in many community members' minds, and with help from within, the displaced are still trying to find their way.

### We Thought It'd Be Over by Now

"We're still dealing with a fair number of people with emergency needs one year later — we thought it'd be over by now," said Nguyen. They need food. They still need emergency aid. Legal assistance is also needed to argue against benefits denial cases and immigration needs because a lot of the victims' documents have been destroyed.

"Many of the victims feel they

have to hear it from a lawyer," she added.

In response, legal help is coming again. A second Community Education and Legal Clinic for APAs is scheduled Sept. 16-17 in New Orleans. The first one held last April focused primarily on assistance issues. And while that is still a need, this time organizers anticipate more problems with bankruptcy, continued insurance issues and problems of fraud, said Floyd Mori, JACL director of public policy.

"To me it is very sad and greatly disappointing that more has not been accomplished to help these victims," said Mori, who traveled to New Orleans for the last legal clinic and documented the destruction. "I am informed that the issues are now turning to depression and other health problems among the Asian American population. A lot of the hope for better things to come has dissipated and more of an attitude of gloom has entered their lives."

During this trip, Mori will assess health needs to help develop a healthcare strategy.

BPSOS currently has five full-time case managers working in the Gulf Coast to help victims access their benefits. In their Virginia headquarters, case manager Thanh Pham is currently working on 27 cases. For him, success is a relative word that is hard to gauge.

"[My clients] come back and forth to Virginia from Mississippi, New Orleans and Biloxi to search for jobs and apply for trailers," said Pham, 70. When he asks his clients to transfer their case files back home there's still reluctance. Right now, they prefer the nomadic life.

"It's hard to tell if [the recovery

efforts are] successful," he said.

### We Told Them We Were Coming Back

"We try to make it," said Jennifer. "Everything is going up price wise." They rented before the hurricanes and only paid \$650 a month. One year later, they are looking at apartments and houses that are upwards of \$1,300.

"Everything is at an outrageous price."

A year ago, they packed up some of their belongings into their car and each took one suitcase to drive away from home the day before Katrina hit.

"We have two teenage girls ... We told them we were coming back," she said.

They were thinking about driving directly to Virginia where Jennifer's brother was waiting. They stopped in Birmingham after 13 hours and watched the news huddled in a hotel room. They heard the storm was heading for their home and later they heard the levee broke.

"I told my husband, 'We have no choice but to go to Virginia now.'"

Three weeks later, they came back to Louisiana and were greeted with three-feet of mold.

"The place smelled so bad. We had no choice but to go back to Virginia. My husband lost his job. We didn't have a home."

Then one day someone from BPSOS called them. The organization had heard about the Ryan family and wanted to help. Jennifer is Chinese but lived in Cambodia until 1975 before settling in Louisiana. With the help of APA organizations, they received checks from FEMA and



**REBUILDING:** The APA Katrina community is restoring their infrastructure. Above, the skeletal beginning of a Buddhist Temple is erected and fishermen rebuild their boats (right).



The emergency state is not over, groups say.

a church paid their rent in Virginia.

They felt lucky, said Jennifer. But a cloud was casting a shadow over their oldest daughter Natasha, then 17. She was particularly devastated and drifted in her own world in Virginia.

"After she saw what happened [to their home] she threw a fit," said Jennifer. It was Natasha's last year in high school and she had to leave everything behind. When Natasha got accepted to the University of New Orleans, the

family decided it was time to come home.

Jennifer works part time and Terry is working several jobs to make ends meet. In a few weeks, they will be moving into a three-bedroom house rented from a family friend who will only charge them \$1,100 a month.

"I'm not mad it happened. No one can control the weather. We're moving slowly. It takes time," she said. ■

On the Web: [www.bpsos.org](http://www.bpsos.org)

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