Chinese American Has Found a Home at the NAACP

Peter Leung, 57, is the first-ever Asian American chapter president in the national organization, a group better known for serving the African American community.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

Executive Editor

When Peter Leung, 57, first attended a national convention of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) he may have looked like an anomaly to many of the African American attendees — and there were admittedly a lot of shocked double takes — but for the first generation Chinese American he felt right at home.

For the past six years Leung has been an active member of the NAACP and in 2000 became the first Asian American to serve as a local chapter president.

Peter Leung with Henry Lui, president of the Eugene/Springfield NAACP chapter and his wife Arbeella on a recent trip to China.

See PETER LEUNG/Page 6

Minnesota Campaign Staffer's Use of Racial Slur Revives APA Community's Anger

Twenty-four years after Vincent Chin was murdered, Mike Osskopp is caught yelling out "another Jap car!" Is history going to repeat itself?

By LYNDA LIN

Assistant Editor

In front of a camera, Mike Osskopp, the district director for Minnesota Rep. John Kline, pointed to a line of cars, looked directly at the camera and said, "Your buddy is supporting all of these 'Jap' and German cars," That was right after Osskopp was recorded screaming "another Jap car" twice.

Footage of the Sept. 17 incident, which happened outside an event for Kline's opponent Coleen Rowley, was found on its way onto Web sites and local news reports prompting Osskopp to apologize for his outburst two days later.

"I apologize if my words offended any Americans of Japanese descent, including my sister-in-law. I allowed my emotions to get the better of me in my youth, but which is now inappropriate and offensive," said Osskopp.

See RACIAL SLUR/Page 12

IN MEMORIAM

Iva Toguri, Accused of Being Tokyo Rose, Dead at 90

By NATE HERNANDEZ

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO—Iva Toguri D'Aquino, who was once accused of being World War II broadcaster Tokyo Rose, died Sept. 26 in Chicago at age 90, a relative said.

D'Aquino, who spent the years following her release from prison living a quiet life on Chicago's North Side, died of natural causes at about 12:30 p.m. at Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital, said William Oda, a longtime friend and neighbor.

Iva Toguri, Accused of Being Tokyo Rose, Dead at 90

See TOGURI/Page 11

National Board Debates Watada Controversy

After two days of discussions, the national JACL board votes to reaffirm the organization's earlier statement but agrees to continue discussing the issue with the districts.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

Executive Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—It may have gotten ugly at times, but the Watada controversy — whether for the good or bad of the community — continues to be hotly debated amongst Japanese Americans. And the issue landed smack in the middle of the national JACL board meeting this past weekend.

At the center of the debate is 28-year-old Lt. Ehren Watada and his decision this past June to refuse deployment to Iraq. In July, national JACL issued a statement expressing concern over some of the charges facing the Hawaii native — including contempt and conduct unbecoming an officer — but did not take a position on his refusal to deploy.

But now some JACL members, looking at the national civil rights organization to take their statement a further step and show stronger support for Watada, the first Asian American officer to refuse deployment to Iraq.

In a show of solidarity, members of the Berkeley JACL chapter brought their message to the national JACL board Sept. 30.

"We urge the JACL to take a stronger stand in support of Watada. His Constitutional rights have been violated," said Jim Duff, a member.

See WATADA/Page 6

JACL Closes Third Quarter with Another Surplus

Board members strengthen efforts to fill empty staff positions.

By LYNDA LIN

Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Closing out the third quarter JACL currently has a surplus of $138,481, making it the third year in a row the organization's revenues have exceeded its expenditures.

After so many lean years, being in the black is a welcome relief, but for JACL, National President Larry Oda the surpluses raise a red flag.

"We ended up with a surplus, that's not a good thing for a nonprofit. We're not doing something. One of the things we haven't been doing is hiring staff," said Oda to the Pacific Citizen at the Sept. 30-Oct. 1 national board meeting.

Currently, the national board is working to fill the long vacant position for a Jan. 1, 2007, start date.

See JACL H.Q./Page 12

Revenue vs. Expenses — YTD + 2007/2008

- Total Revenues
- Total Expenditures
- Surplus/Deficit

JACL National Competition of Revenues to Expenses (1996 through 2006 budget)

Thanks to membership for keeping the membership flow strong

COURTESY OF MARK KOBAYASHI

The priority is to fill the vacant positions. We have some time with the national director, but the other one that has been hanging out there for the longest time is the executive assistant. It's been funded and there's been no movement on it. Let's throw this one in there too," said Oda.

The executive assistant position — which is included in the 2005-2006 budget

JACCCenters in Washington, D.C.?

Committee report.

Oda wants the committee to study the feasibility of moving headquarters to the East Coast and bring recommendations and alternatives to the board. District council governors have been asked to nominate individuals to make up this committee.

In order for the move to take place, a bylaw amendment passed by the national council is needed. The JACL constitution says the national council must reside in the city designated by the national council as the headquarters. This may also be a factor in the
BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

2006 biennial budget — primarily aids the national director and the bare staff at national headquarters, but has not been finalized.

For the next biennium, Oda wants to be more proactive.

"When you wait until you have the money to do something, that's not what budgeting is. Budgeting is when you make projections of what you are going to be making in your revenues to allocate your spending accordingly. You don't wait until you have the money and then spend it," said Oda citing several occasions in this past when it has happened including the disbursement of the cost of living adjustments (COLA) to the staff only at the end of the year after a surplus was determined.

"Well, you should've done it at the beginning of the year," said Oda.

"In a sense, what you would like to do for any budget is to get zero because that means you hope that you've done everything that you said you were going to do and got in all the resources that you need and applied them exactly plain. When you have a surplus that means something didn't happen or someone didn't get hired or whatever the case may be," said National JACL Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kobayashi.

Looking Forward to the Next Biennium

As of Aug. 31, some larger revenue line items include membership at $756,978, fundraising at $316,241, and grants at $65,238. Some of the larger expenditures are at $496,241, contract services at $190,148 and occupancy costs at $74,774. The Legacy Fund as of Sept. 28 stands at $6.1 million while the Life Trust and the National Endowment Fund are at $470,845 and $420,727, respectively.

Investment Policy Committee Chair Ted Tanaka reminded the board that the function of the Reserve Fund is for emergencies not as a piggy bank.

The next biennial budget reflects the more aggressive stance taken by the board to use more of the budget for programs, said Kobayashi.

At Umlon Banc Investment Services, implementing your financial plan is our mission.

"We deliver every single thing that was promised or proposed consistently. I would never let a project go unfinished," said Tanihado.

2006 Outlook

JACL currently has a surplus, but there's potential for a cash flow problem because of revenue and expenses that haven't been realized. Using 2005 as a barometer, some money from the Reserve Fund may be needed to balance the year, but the probability is low and should be less than $50,000, said Kobayashi at the meeting.

The JACL Reserve Fund as of Sept. 30 stands at approximately $464,000. In prior years, the reserve fund consistently stayed at about $4,000 before the surpluses were transferred on Dec. 21, 2005.

"Generally we're looking pretty good for 2006. We did uncover that there are some assets or liabilities that we need to pay off, but it looks pretty decent," said Kobayashi.

"It lies largely contributed to steady membership numbers and public support. Fundraising is also higher than in 2005. In the New Year, it will cost more to become a life member. To become a life member, an individual pays a one-time lump sum. The new amounts are:

- $5,000
- Life Trust - $3,000
- "The projections were consistently very dreary at the beginning, but we're in with a surplus. I'm always optimistic on the budget because knowing that we do well or we could always do better and we always try to make the budget work," said Tanihado.

JACL MEMBERS

Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster to include postcards in your change of address (USPS Form 3577).

PACIFIC CITIZEN, OCT. 6-19, 2006

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom
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Published by Japanese American Citizens League, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/901-7258. JACL: President; Larry Ota National Director; John Tashima Pacific Citizen Board of Directors: Gil Asakawa, chairman; Roger Ota, EDC; Casey China, MDC; Kathy Ishimoto, CODC; Nelson Nagai, NOWPDC; Sheldon Asakawa, PWDC; Larry Grant, IDC; Shari Yamanaka, PSWDC; Moya Yamazaki, Youth.

NEWSWEEK DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE
Editorials, news and the opinion pieces other than the national JACL policy articles must not necessarily reflect JACL policy or national policy. All artwork used in the Pacific Citizen must be the exclusive endorsement of the JACL or this newspaper. We reserve the right to edit all articles.

PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly except once in December and January by the Japanese American Citizens League, 250 E. First Street, Ste 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012, OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time. ©2006. All rights reserved. Acceptance of a non-member: 1 year—$40, payable in advance. Additional postage rate: Periodical rate $25; First Class for U.S., Canada, Mexico: $30; Airmail to Japan/Europe: $60 (Subject to change without notice) Periodic publications posted at Los Angeles, Calif.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Pacific Citizen, National JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

JACL MEMBERS

Don't Condemn One of Our Own

First Lt. Ehren Watada's objections to military service in Iraq should be examined at this election year. It is not Lt. Watada's decision that should divide the JACL, but President George Bush's lawlessness.

Our troops in Iraq are not serving an American president or the U.S. Constitution. Our troops serve the United Nations. Let's examine the facts before we condemn one of our own.

I believe Lt. Watada has the right to dissent under the First Amendment to the Constitution. He is even wrong today, but in 25 years he may be right.

Carroll Y. Aoyagi-Stom
Executive Editor

Ralph D. Nihei
National Director

Ralph D. Nihei
National Director

Frank Zampetti
Editor At Large

Charles T. Asakura
National Secretary

Ned Tashima
National Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Reader Thanks Watada

I respect and support Lt. Ehren Watada on refusing to go to Iraq in his decision to face court martial and imprisonment for a long time. I believe he is a man of high moral character who would give his life if the cause was right.

Because of the great injustices, suffering and genocide of Asian Americans in general, because of the destruction of cultures, morals, families and communities, and because of the denial that hides the truth, it is inevitable that conscientious men and women speak the truth. First Lt. Ehren Watada is the manifestation of that truth.

At 61 years old and a Vietnam war vet, I truly speak physically and mentally, all of the lies, hypocrisy, politics, selfishness, self-deception, anger and racism. It's time for the truth.

I want to thank 1st Lt. Watada for standing up for the truth and for his moral conviction.

George Kadaame
Marina del Rey, CA

Don't Condemn One of Our Own

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I believe Lt. Watada has the right to dissent under the First Amendment to the Constitution. He is even wrong today, but in 25 years he may be right.

Morgan Chegwin
Denver, CO

Unconditional Support for Watada

All things considered, I fully support Lt. Ehren Watada — UNCONDITIONALLY — as he faces a court martial for his actions in speaking out against the illegal and ill-conceived Iraq war. As an Army officer, we must assume he was indoctrinated in the Uniform Code of Military Justice as part of his training. Accordingly, he had to have been aware of the potential consequences of his actions.

Yet Watada chose the path he did, standing up for moral principles, knowing full well what might happen to him, including a dishonorable discharge, imprisonment, or worse. If that doesn't come under the heading of courage, I would challenge those well-intentioned Japanese American who have branded him a coward to come up with their definition of courage in similar circumstances. The well-documented heroics of JAs in World War II and subsequent military conflicts have nothing to do with Lt. Watada's actions. What lies ahead for Lt. Watada is appealing the predictable court martial decision. Who knows? We could be looking at a test case here which could have major challenges future U.S. governments for their illegal war-making acts. I do realize that congressional action may be required as a pre-condition for appeal, but let's start thinking outside the box.

George Kadaame
Marina del Rey, CA
National Newsbytes
By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

"Survivor" Ends Segregation Game
NEW YORK—After only two episodes, "Survivor" has ended its so-called ethnic experiment. The Asian Pacific American, Canadian, African American and Latino tribes were integrated into two mixed-race gangs on the CBS reality show Sept. 28.

No explanation was given for this quick abandonment of segregation; it seemed to pass by so quickly as to mean nothing. The race-based angle to this season’s show had brought a firestorm of criticism down on the show and CBS Corp. Several major advertisers pulled out.

Radio Station Apologizes for Racist Comments on Asian Men
PHOENIX—101.5 KZON FM management has apologized for racist remarks made on the "Big O and Duques" show.

During a Sept. 14 broadcast, comedian guest Greg Fitzsimmons and hosts Big O and Duques (Oscar Santana and Chad Dukes) took calls from women to prove their theory that Asian men are not desirable.

"Big O and Duques personally addressed the issue on their show," said Marco Carmacho, KZON senior vice president in a statement, "admitting that the segment crossed the line, and expressing regret for the offense it caused to the Asian American community. Also, their guest, comedian Greg Fitzsimmons, will not be invited back to the show in the future."

Celebrity Cruises Removes Ad that Offended Hawaiians
HONOLULU—Celebrity Cruises will no longer use a magazine advertisement that showed King Kamehameha's statue holding a glass of champagne to promote trips to Hawaii, the company said.

The ad, which appeared in the trade publication Travel Weekly, caused outrage among Native Hawaiian groups who were familiar with the photo illustration.

Kamehameha is known for establishing the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1810. The ad also shocked Hawaii tourism leaders, and it underscores the need for more efforts to educate tourism companies about Hawaii’s culture.

APAs in the News
By Pacific Citizen Staff

Akaka Defeats Case in U.S. Senate Race in Hawaii

Akaka, 82, has served in Congress for 30 years and drew on his experience to boost his candidacy. Case, 53, who did not win on any of Hawaii’s islands, had argued that the state needed a younger, more moderate senator.

Niwa Joins Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Administration
Briun Niwa, former staff member at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and the UCLA Asian Studies Center, has been hired for the newly created position of resource center director at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCB). Niwa has served as curator of numerous exhibitions. He co-founded Historyworks LLC, a company that provides project management and consultations for museums.

Igasaki Joins Equal Justice Works
Paul M. Igasaki has joined the Equal Justice Works staff as deputy chief executive officer. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization and overall leadership of staff.

Igasaki, most recently served as executive director of the Rights Working Group, a nationwide coalition of groups and individuals committed to ensuring liberty and justice for all. He also served as vice chair, chair, and commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1994 until 2002 as the result of an appointment by President Bill Clinton.

Voter ID Bill is Another Burden for APA Voters, Critics Say
By Pacific Citizen Staff

The "Federal Election Integrity Act" (HR 4444) is being denounced as another burden on citizens and disenfranchised voters.

The bill passed the House Sept. 20 with a 228-196 vote. If enacted into law, it would require any individual who desires to register and vote in a federal election to provide government-issued identification. Critics argue such a requirement could create a hardship on minority communities, the elderly, students and persons with disabilities. It would also create new opportunities for discrimination at the polls against Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities.

APA groups like JACL and the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) oppose the measure, which they say does not fix election problems.

"HR 4444 places an unconstitutional burden on every American citizen, and does nothing to address the integrity of elections," said Rep. David Wu, D-OR. "We should instead focus our efforts on increasing voter participation by encouraging all Americans to participate in the democratic process." "Opponents of the measure say getting a photo ID, such as drivers' licenses and passports or a birth certificate costs money and time. And even if a photo ID were presented, many eligible voters will be turned away. If an ID card such as a driver's license does not contain the voter's current address, which is true of millions of Americans, he or she is likely to be turned away from the polls.

"The gains made for Asian American voters across the country with the Voting Rights Act victory have been undermined by the new barrier erected to impede their ability to vote with the passage of this bill," said Karen K. Narasaki, AAJC president and executive director.

The years we experienced in Minidoka and Manzanar changed our outlook. Our family lost everything.

Fumiko Hayashida, 94, pictured (left) during evacuation and (below) withu Papi Jay Inouye
FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS: Immigration rights leaders rally in front of the Southern California office of Diane Feinstein before the Senate passes immigration bills.

APA Groups Denounce House-Passed Immigration Provisions

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American groups are pressuring the Senate to reject three immigration bills that they say systematically attack immigrants, the elderly and low-income communities.

HR 6094 the "Community Protection Act of 2006," HR 6095 the "Immigration Law Enforcement Act of 2006" and HR 4830 the "Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2006" passed the House Sept. 21 to increase border security and decrease crime, but opponents say the measures would also have a detrimental impact on the APA community.

If enacted into law, HR 6095 would encourage state and local law enforcement to detain, arrest or transfer to federal custody immigrants who they suspect of violating immigration laws. Opponents argue this provision could open up possible racial profiling of APAs.

Similarly, HR 6094, which would deport or exclude suspected gang members from citizenship, could also lead to racial profiling of APAs. HR 4844 would create criminal penalties of up to 20 years in prison for constructing or financing an unauthorized border tunnel.

In December 2005, a more comprehensive HR 4437 passed the House and sparked intense protests and marches around the country as immigrant communities protested the enforcement-only approaches to immigration reform.

The following September, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-WI, introduced the three provisions, a move that APA groups announced as an attempt to push provisions of HR 4437 through piecemeal legislation and avoid a political manera.

"These harmful and draconian policies will become law unless Asian Americans make our voices heard in Congress," said Traci Hong, director of immigration program for the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Several civil rights groups are condemning the Senate's recent decision to approve legislation establishing military tribunals and new detention centers, set guidelines for aggressively interrogating suspects without violating international prohibitions on prisoner abuse.

The legislation goes back to the House for a vote on the technical changes made by the Senate and onto Bush for his signature.

Civil rights groups including the JACL have been vocal in criticizing the detention legislation that would establish military tribunals to try terrorist suspects and adopt the British system of jailing suspects without charge for up to 28 days.

"This legislation gives the president new unchecked powers to detain, abuse and try people at Guantanamo Bay and other government facilities around the world," said Caroline Fredrickson, director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Washington legislative office.

Citing the innocence experienced by Japanese Americans during World War II, JACL in a letter called the legislation "a maneuver by the administration to side-step the international agreements that struck down military tribunals....

Congress has been under pressure to pass a comprehensive detainee reform plan since the Supreme Court ruled 5-3 in June that the system President George W. Bush created to handle Guantanamo cases violated U.S. law.

Before the Supreme Court's ruling, the president took the position that the international Geneva Conventions of 1949, protecting prisoners of war, didn't cover so-called "enemy combatants" seized in the war on terrorism, enabling the CIA to use aggressive interrogation techniques that are widely considered to equal torture.

"Such treatment is a stark and dangerous reminder of the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II, when they were denied due process and falsely accused of being a threat to the security of the United States."

-- John Tateishi, JACL Executive Director

"This nation's judicial system was established to ensure fair, unbiased proceedings in our courts of law, whether civilian or military, and is a hallmark of the American justice system," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi in the statement.

"Under the administration's current proposal, however, the use of evidence obtained under duress or torture, as well as the use of evidence denied to the accused, would be underwritten in our courts of law. The JACL believes that in the treatment of prisoners, the United States should hold to the same legal and ethical standards as other nations," he added.

An agreement was forged between the White House and lawmakers in Congress that both sides say the compromise would ensure that prisoners would be questioned aggressively without subjecting them to abuse.

Parents of 1st Lt. Watada to Tour Southern California in October

Bob Watada and his wife Rosa will travel from Honolulu to Los Angeles to speak on behalf of their son, 28-year-old 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, who was arrested in West Point on charges of refusal to serve in Vietnam.

If deployed to Iraq the Watadas believe their son will be "illegal and immoral," Rosa Watada was charged with missing a move- ment, contempt toward officials and conduct unbecoming an officer. It is the first military prosecution of an officer who swears allegiance to the Constitution, and has a duty to discharge an oath to obey an unlawful order.

By Pacific Citizen

RCNN and Asian American Vietnam Veterans Organization will co-sponsor a reception with Bob and Rosa Watada at the JACC Garden Room, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles on Oct. 7, from 2-4 p.m. A suitable and timely event that explains how and why he came to his decision will be shown. The Watadas will answer questions about their son's decision, the courage and integrity to stand up by Rev. Phyllis Tyler, 11326 Cervantes 805/486-2884; mcer­ tiz @sbceo.org.

For tax-deductible donations, make check payable to "ECOC" P.O. Box 329591, Honolulu, HI, 96823. For tax-deductible donations, make check payable to "Hawaii People's Fund, "810 N. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI, 96817. Write on the memo line: "1Lt. Watada legal defense".

Military Tribunals

Valley Japanese Community Center, SPV Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Cherryhill Dr., Northridge, CA, 91327; Contact: Phil Shigekuni 818/803- 1581, fax: 818/357-7488; pshigekuni@yahoo.com. $4 p.m., CODEPINK Cocktail Party Fundraiser with Jane Fonda, $100 (optional) RSVP to: pacifikapartment@earthlink.net. 3207/432-4730.

Oct. 7 • 2-4 p.m., Welcome Reception for Bob Watada, JACC Garden Room, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, Contact: RCNN/323/637-2486; nrcrr@esoloco.net.

Oct. 8 • 2-4 p.m., Town Hall with Bob Watada, NAATC Center for the Preservation of Democracy, 111 N. Central Ave, Los Angeles, Contact: 213/408-2231 or Mo 363/371-4502.

Oct. 9 • 3-6 p.m., An Evening of Discussion and Learning hosted by Rev. Phyllis Tyler, 11326 Cervantes 805/486-2884; mcerez@sbceo.org.

Oct. 10 • 7 p.m., Veterans for Peace (Chapter 112) and Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions, E.P. Foster Library, Topping Rm., 651 E. Main St., Ventura. Contact: Michael Cerantes 805/496-2984; moer­ vant@mindspring.com.

Oct. 17 • 7 p.m., An Evening Discussion and Learning hosted by Veterans For Peace (Chapter 54), Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St., NCRR, Contact: Donnis Galvin 805/453­ 6374; galere@esoloco.net.

Oct. 18 • 7-9:45 p.m., CUSSL Asian American and Chicano & Latino Studies at San Diego City College, 7211 Clairemont Dr., San Diego, Contact: Robin 562/943-4051; mcerez@charter.net.

Oct. 19 • 6 p.m., Whittier Area Coalition for Peace and Justice, Mar Zwak Club Room, Room 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, Contact: Robin 962/943-4051; mcerez@charter.net.

Oct. 20 • 6 p.m., Portland Japanese Community Center, 12953 Cherryhill Dr., Northridge, CA, 91327; Contact: Phil Shigekuni 818/803- 1581, fax: 818/357-7488; pshigekuni@yahoo.com. $4 p.m., CODEPINK Cocktail Party Fundraiser with Jane Fonda, $100 (optional) RSVP to: pacifikapartment@earthlink.net. 3207/432-4730.

Oct. 22 • 7-9 p.m., Bob Watada's reception at First Friends Church of Whittier, 13206 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier, Contact: Robin 962/943-4051; mcerez@charter.net.

Oct. 23 • 6 p.m., JACL Executive Director, 12953 Cherryhill Dr., Northridge, CA, 91327; Contact: NCRR and Asian American Japanese Citizens for Peace and Justice, Contact: NCRR 213/630-5466; nrcrr@esoloco.org.

Oct. 29 • 9-10 a.m., Peaceful Resolutions, E.P. Foster Library, Topping Rm., 651 E. Main St., Ventura. Contact: Michael Cerantes 805/496-2984; moer­ vant@mindspring.com.

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PSW District Honors its Selfless Volunteers

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In an organization that was founded by and continues to thrive because of its volunteers, the Pacific Southwest District of JACL honored some of these selfless individuals at the district's 10th annual awards dinner with the theme of "Dedication."

"We are gathering to honor a very dedicated group of individuals," said PSW Governor Alayne Yonemoto, who credited the awardees for helping the district continue to be an active participant in the community. "This dinner is to recognize their work."

Close to 250 individuals and family members gathered at the Torrance Holiday Inn Sept. 16 to honor the following individuals:

Ted Namba of the Arizona chapter recently chaired the successful national JACL convention in Chandler, Ariz. He serves on several boards and commissions including the Governor's Asian American Advisory Council and the City of Phoenix's Pacific Rim Advisory Council. Ted enjoys running marathons in his spare time and improving his golf game. He is married to Michelle and they have two teenage children: Lauren and Bryan. Sisters Kaleigh and Kimberly.

Komatsu of the East Los Angeles chapter are co-authors of the award-winning children's book "In America's Shadow," a book that takes a look at the World War II internment.

Kaleigh, a graduate of the University of Southern California, serves as the chapter's president and has served two terms on the PSW district board. Kaleigh is also a graduate of USC and currently serves as the chapter's treasurer.

Janet Okubo joined the Greater L.A. Singles chapter in 1986 and has served as program chair, recording secretary, treasurer, and has been the chapter's president for the past 10 years.

Janet has helped organize several successful events including the National JACL Singles Convention and the National Scholarship Fundraiser Dances. She recently retired after 33 years of working for the federal government including the Secret Service where she was the Supervisory Support Coordinator.

May Doi of the Gardena chapter has served as the chapter's president and helped organize the national JACL convention of 1982 held in Gardena. She currently serves as the chapter's secretary/treasurer. In addition to numerous awards and commendations, in 1981 she was awarded the National JACL Recognition Award.

May was elected Gardena City Clerk in 1990 and was reelected four times. She retired from this position in 1999 and is currently the City of Gardena's City Clerk Emeritus.

The Greater Pasadena Area chapter's Fred Rakutaki — a graduate of UC Berkeley and a former engineer with the Los Angeles County Public Works Department — has been retired for over 20 years but has spent much of the last 10 years volunteering with JACL and the local community.

Largely because of Fred's enthusiasm and active participation, the Greater Pasadena Area chapter's membership has held steady year after year. As vice president of Pasadeni Nikkei Senmon, he helps organize several events each year such as bus trips to Stateline.

Larry Shimamoto served as the Imperial Valley chapter's president (1993-2002) and has been a member of the chapter's executive board since 2000. In 2009 Larry was the honorary valedictorian for the Imperial Valley ceremony of the California Nisei Project.

Larry has been married to Irene Nishihira since 1958 and they have three daughters and two grandchildren. Larry is renowned for his homemade pies, often donating his cooking creations. One of his pies sold for over $300.

Former elementary school teacher Michiko Yoshimura taught in the Riverside Unified School District for 36 years. In 1996 she was honored with the WHO (We Honor Our Own) award.

A member of the Riverside chapter since 1967, she has served as president for five terms, recording secretary, membership chair, and newsletter editor. She has also served as chair of the scholarship committee for 25 years.

Vernon Yoshioka first joined JACL in 1958 and has been an active member since joining the San Diego board of directors in 1970. He has served on the PSW district board and was a member of the national board as a vice president from 1980-1983.

In 2003 Vernon was elected president of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSS) and currently serves on its board.

Vernon graduated from MIT in 1960 with a degree in aeronautical and astronomical engineering. He worked for General Dynamics for over 30 years.

For Broke National Veterans Association and for the National JACL convention. He has also served as treasurer for the Go For Broke National Veterans Association and for the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

Anne Chilcott has been an active board member of the Ventura County chapter since 2000. She spearheaded the chapter's Web site and established its e-mail address. She has served as the chapter's vice president, membership chair, and newsletter editor of the quarterly newsletter. Anne has also been active with the Culture Day committee for several years, the largest event hosted by the Ventura chapter.

In addition to the PSW district honors, there was a special tribute to Hitomi Ueha, former PSW district governor, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 33. In attendance were her family members including her son Chantell, 16.

GLAS Awards Hana Uno Scholarship

The Greater L.A. Singles JACL recently sponsored a fundraiser scholarship dance in honor of Emily Mayemura, this year's winner of the Hana Uno Scholarship.

The scholarship is given every year to a graduating senior from a single parent home. After her father passed away in 2004 from lymphoma, Mayemura organized a car wash and raised $800 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

She will be attending UC Irvine this fall with a major in English to pursue a career as a teacher.
WATADA

(Continued from page 1)

of the Berkeley JACL Civil Rights Committee.

With letters of support from vari­
ous other Japanese American organizations — includ­
ing a World War II 442nd veteran and famed attorneys who worked on the Korematsu case — the Berkeley chapter pressed the nation­
al JACL to show further support for Watada. They also pointed to a

Watada. They also pointed to an

al JACL to show further support for

Watada. They also pointed to a

American Civil Liberties Union

chair of the Berkeley chapter civil

rights committee, who stressed the

American Civil Liberties Union

chair of the Berkeley chapter civil

rights committee, who stressed the

Japanese American WWII Memorial Alliance — were not present
at the recent meeting.

"It's important to include a larger audience. We want them to be part of the dialogue," said Ron

Kosanouchi, JACL's former president.

"We have heard nothing from the national JACL," said Watada. "They did not support me."

The next national board meeting will be ironically held during the Veterans Day weekend Nov. 11-12 and the Watada controversy will likely be on the agenda once more.

"JACL can be a leader," said Tateishi. "This is an issue that's big enough that it's inevitable. People in the community are demanding we state where we are."
FOOTBALL
Yonamine Honored by 49ers, Unity Award

The San Francisco 49ers recently announced the Joe Perry/Wally Yonamine Unity Award in honor of the team's 60th anniversary season. This honor will be awarded to a 49ers player, a youth football coach, and a local business that through volunteerism establishes close ties in the community.

Yonamine, 77, was the first player of Asian descent to play for a professional football team when he joined the 49ers for one season in 1947. He joined the team right after high school and playing in the semi-pro leagues. He was born and currently lives in Hawaii.

BASEBALL
Former Blue Jay Pitcher Nakamura Saves Record in Japan

SAFFO, Japan—Former Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Michael Nakamura recorded his 399 saves on Sept. 27 to set a new single-season record in Japan's Pacific League.

Nakamura, who played for the Blue Jays in 2004 after a season with the Minnesota Twins, retired the Softbank Hawks in Japan's Pacific League standings.

The previous single-season mark of 38 was set in 2002 by Sebin Liao closer Kyojiro Toyota, who now plays for the Yomiuri Giants of Japan's Central League.

Nakamura was been in Japan and attended the University of South Alabama.

BASEBALL
Hawaii Winter Baseball Back in Action

By JAYMES SONG AP Sports Writer

HONOLULU—With new teams, more players and fresh faces, Hawaii Winter Baseball returned Oct. 1 after a nine-year hiatus. The league that boasts alumni like Seattle Mariners star Ichiro Suzuki and New York Yankees slugger Jason Giambi features 126 prospects from around the world.

Ten professional Japanese teams and 21 of the 30 Major League organizations have sent their farm players to spend two months in paradise, developing their skills and competing against some of baseball's best-up-and-comers.

The 40-game season runs through Nov. 22.

SOFTBALL
Kelly Inouye-Perez to Take Over as UCLA Softball Coach

LOS ANGELES—Assistant softball coach Kelly Inouye-Perez will take over the team as just the third coach in the 45-year history of UCLA softball.

The former coach Sue Enquist is giving up her coaching position on Jan. 1 to become director of the school's athletics external relations office, UCLA announced Sept. 26. She went 887-175-1 during her tenure.

Inouye-Perez was a catcher on UCLA's championship teams in 1989, 1990 and 1992. She has been a Bruins assistant for 13 years.

Her staff for next season will include three-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Fernandez; eighth-year assistant Gina Vecchione; and former UCLA pitcher Anjali Rana.

Inouye-Perez helped lead UCLA to the NCAA title game all four of her active seasons, starting at catcher for the 1989, 1990 and 1992 NCAA title teams. The Bruins fell in the national title game in 1991, when she sat out the season due to injury, and also advanced to the final game in her final collegiate campaign of 1993.

In addition, UCLA captured four Pac-10 Conference titles in her five seasons (1989, 1990, 1991 and 1993). A three-time All-Pac-10 selection (1990, 1992) as well as an All-Women's College World Series honoree in 1992, Inouye-Perez turned her attention to coaching immediately upon the end of her playing career.

Since becoming assistant coach in 1994, the Bruins have added three more NCAA Championships to their record total (1999, 2003, 2004) as well as three more Pac-10 titles (1999, 2002, 2006).

“Kelly Inouye-Perez is prepared and ready to carry on the Bruins Tradition,” said Enquist. “She has surrounded herself with an outstanding group of Bruin Alumnae in Gina Vecchione, Lisa Fernandez and Natacha Warley and they will provide our student-athletes with an excellent experience. Kelly has played at the highest level in a Bruin uniform. She is a champion on and off the field. She has the knowledge, integrity and passion for what it means to be a UCLA softball player. Inouye-Perez helped lead UCLA to the NCAA title game all four of her active seasons, starting at catcher for the 1989 and 1990 and 1992 NCAA title teams. The Bruins fell in the national title game in 1991, when she sat out the season due to injury, and also advanced to the final game in her final collegiate campaign of 1993.”

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the UCLA softball program,” said Inouye-Perez. “I am excited for Coach Enquist’s new opportunities in the Athletic Department and I know she will always have one eye on the program. I look forward to maintaining UCLA softball’s tradition of academic and athletic excellence.”
I hope that all of you had a great summer season of work and play. This summer was a busy time for national JACL. We just concluded our national convention in Chandler, Arizona at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. The Arizona chapter deserves a tremendous amount of thanks for their efforts. They worked and planned for more than two years and it showeed. Chairman Ted Namba and the Arizona chapter crew did a marvelous job of hosting this convention and all who attended took home great memories.

There were some changes in the membership area that came out of national council decisions. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2007, the national portion of your dues will increase by $5 in three areas — individual, couple/family, and youth.

Here is the breakdown:

Current New
Individual $35 $60
Couple/Family $100 $105
Youth/Student $20 $25

The membership dues that you pay to your chapter may not be exactly as the above, because many chapters add small additional amounts to help with local overhead expenses. These are the amounts that the chapter must send to national JACL for your membership.

Also passed at convention were new Thousand Club Life and Century Club by paying on a yearly basis and the dues amount for Century Club Life Trust will increase to $5,000. You can still belong to the regular Thousand Club or the Century Club by paying on a yearly basis and the dues amount did not change. Those yearly dues amounts remain at $100 for Thousand Club and $175 for Century Club.

All other membership categories that were not mentioned remain the same. Please feel free to contact your chapter president, membership chairperson, or us at national headquarters with any questions.

If you would like to renew your membership at any level for 2007 and we receive them before Jan. 1, 2007, we will accept current rate amounts.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support, commitment to our organization, and for helping us realize our motto: “For Better Americans in a Greater America.”

Below is the latest membership scoreboard as of the end of August 2006. It shows the top five chapters in numbers and percentage. Special congratulations to these chapters.


<table>
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<th>LEADING CHAPTERS BY NUMBERS</th>
<th>LEADING CHAPTERS BY PERCENTAGE</th>
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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 1-877-546-4875.
In a one-on-one interview with the Pacific Citizen, Jet Li talks about his retirement (sort of), the lawsuit and APAs.

By LINDA LIN  Assistant Editor

Saying goodbye is hard enough to do, but when Jet Li told the world his latest martial arts film, "Fearless," would be the last time he would swing a fist, fans imploded in disbelief. Could it be? Could this be the last time we see a film hero in our likeness literally kicking butt?

To answer the question, Li pannes, clears his throat and launches into a lyrical explanation of "wushu," the type of martial arts which made him an international film star. In China, wushu is a whole idea of two parts — there's the physical part and the mental part, said Li by phone to the Pacific Citizen. The Chinese word is made up of two characters literally translated into "stop" and "war."

"In movies, there's a lot of 'war' but no 'stopping,'" said Li. "Martial arts has been important in my life journey." Everything he's learned he's put into this movie, "Fearless."

"After this I have nothing to say."

A Different Kind of Martial Arts

And what a way to go! "Fearless," which is already a huge success overseas, grossed over $10 million and landed in the number two spot in its opening weekend. Obviously, fans enjoy seeing Li perform gravity-defying jumps over his opponents without displacing a single hair in his queue.

So Li clarified: this will be his last period film. He's cutting off his queue and trading Old China for modern America in his next film, "Rogue," which he argues has elements of martial arts in it.

"There are cops and the mafia. We still have fighting elements of martial arts in it," said Li. "It blows up your ego and makes you self-centered. It makes you think you are the king of the world. You don't want to listen to good advice."

— Jet Li on the price of fame

Taking on the Master's Family

At a time when China was being looked down upon, Huo gave his country strength. But unlike many other movies in its genre that usually resorts to pitting one ethnicity against another, "Fearless" takes a more unconventional approach — there are no real bad guys.

"The enemy is inside," said Li repeating a line in the movie. But not everyone agrees with Li's portrayal. In March, Huo's relatives filed a lawsuit to remove "Fearless" from theaters in Asia, claiming the biopic paints an untrue and unflattering picture of the legendary fighter.

"The great grandson has a different opinion," Li said about the pending lawsuit. "If you have to introduce every detail, every single thing, then it's a documentary."

"You think I try to insult the master? The master is real. Every human being makes mistakes and learns from them. They [the great grandson's family] really wanted to show a perfect person, a super hero whose every single word is like a masterpiece. I think with art, everyone has a different opinion."

Good Guy, Bad Guy

Li deals with the same dichotomy as one of China's most well-known actors. When he plays a good guy it's great, but when he plays a bad guy like in "Lethal Weapon 4," critics decry him as an insult to his country.

Similarly, in the United States Li is a sticky subject for many Asian Pacific Americans who on the one hand love seeing a strong Asian male character onscreen, but also feel uncomfortable with the stereotypes that go along with it:

"A lot of Asian Americans complain about not having representation, but when there is a good Asian film, they see the pirated version," said Li.

"To really be fearless, you need to enjoy life. Do the best you can and let the rest go," he said. Forget about box office numbers or what fans are complaining about now.

The results of this new Zen-like approach to life is much more emotionally limber Li. Sure, the fight scenes choreographed by "Matrix" guru Yuen Woo-ping are breathtaking, but the strength of this film lies in the emotional range of Li's character.

In the film, Li puckishly plays with his daughter, arm-gently pursuing the prestige of being the number-one fighter in the region and falls into the blackest despair.

"At this point in my life, I am fearless," he said.
Sleeping on Potatoes
A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower
by Carl Nomura

By George Kangas, Portland, OR.
"Early in the book, Notturi tells about being born in a boxcar in Montana. Later, he rises as a Corporate Senior Vice-President of Honeywell, Inc. In between these two events are going to college, achieving his goals, raising children, learning to get along in marriage and the joy of loving and being loved. His writings reveal insights which many of us miss as we go through life. The best essay is this book of surviving the depression years. Readers will find what that was actually a tragedy, ends up as interesting and often humorous experiences. There are many parallels with what we have experienced. If you are looking for some enjoyable reading, read about one of the most successful nisei in America."


Book available through all booksellers, e.g., Amazon and Barnes & Noble.
But doubts about her possible role as Tokyo Rose later surfaced and in 1977 she was pardoned by President Gerald Ford.

Ron Yates, dean of the College of Communications at the University of Illinois, is credited with helping win the pardon.

As a reporter at the Chicago Tribune, Yates found D’Aquino’s accusers so they were pressed to testify.

"Despite being convicted of treason ... and spending nearly a decade in confinement, she always insisted that her loyalty to the United States was never in question," a statement said.

D’Aquino’s attorney and longtime friend Wayne Collins described her as "a great lady."

"I don’t think she had any rancor ... after all she went through," he said. "For 20 years, nobody even considered the possibility of her innocence."

Even though D’Aquino was vindicated, the statement from the family spokesman said, "she was never able to fully escape from the shadow of Tokyo Rose."

"So many Americans have heard the myth of Tokyo Rose for so long that it has become a part of World War II history," it said.

In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujitani, Ralph, 67, Alhambra, Aug. 7; survived by wife, Kimi; daughter, Joy (Nathan) Becker; son, Jimmy; 1 g.; brothers, James, Kenneth and Larry; and sister, Susan Fajtiani.

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

Iino, Sho, 91, Los Angeles, Sept. 7; survived by sons, Thomas (Barbara), Steven and John (Eva); 9 g.; and great-grandchildren.

Ishimoto, Chiyeno, 87, Torrance, Aug. 2; survived by daughters, Jeri (Jim) Insda, Janis (Bruce) Kato and Georgette (Bruce) Stredwick; 4 g.; and brothers, Shigeru, Archie (Ginie) and Mike Antoine.

Isozaki, Keiichi "Rub," 82, Manteria, Sept. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd medic; survived by wife, Dorothy; sons, Brian and Takumi; father, Shigeo Nakamura; and brothers, Toshitoku (Yoshiko) and Hiroshi (Miyuki) Nakamura.

Kobayashi, John Kunitaka, 90, San Pedro, Aug. 10; survived by wife, Frances; sons, Mark (Belia) and Rose (Sharon); 5 g.; brother-in-law, Takashi (Family) Kudo; and sister-in-law, Sue Nakamura.

Kondi, Fumiaki, 84, South Pasadena, Aug. 14; survived by sons, Fumio and Ayano (Elaine); 2 g., sister, Yumiko Hamamoto; brother, Kiyoshi Hamamoto; step-mother, Tochiko Hamamoto; and sister-in-law, Yukie Hamano.

Kobata, Alfred Morinobu, 80, Austin, Tex., Aug. 13; WWII vet­ eran, 442nd; survived by wife, Josephine; daughters, Suzanne Kabota and Christina Kabota Ward; and 2 g.

Nishimaga, Masako, 92, Manhattan Beach, Aug. 10; sur­ vived by sons, Dr. Ronald (Suzanne) and Linden (Rubiko); daughters, Miyoko (Shigato) Shibata, Mani Yamaguchi and Minoru Nishimaga; 11 g.; 1 g.; brother, Toshio (Yasutaro) and sister, Fujie (Takeso) Yamashita.

Noble, Yukiko, 80, Ladera, Aug. 6; survived by step-son, Frank (Berta) Schlick.

Okamoto, Tsumeya, 93, Gardena, Aug. 15; survived by daughter, Alice (Frank) Moriyasu; and 3 g.

Sugawara, Loui Chiaki, 85, Oxnard, Aug. 26; survived by wife, Dorothy S. Sugimoto, two nieces (Jim) Chikasawa; 6 gc.; sister, Yumiko Hamamoto; and grandchildren.

Sugawara, L. ''Rub,'' 82, Manteria, Sept. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd medic; survived by wife, Dorothy; sons, Brian and Takumi; father, Shigeo Nakamura; and brothers, Toshitoku (Yoshiko) and Hiroshi (Miyuki) Nakamura.

Takahashi, Ineichi, 85, Los Angeles, Sept. 5; WWII veteran, 442nd medic; survived by wife, Eiko; daughter, Shigeko (Bruce) Kato and Georgette (Bruce) Stredwick; 4 g.; and brothers, Shigeru, Archie (Ginie) and Mike Antoine.

Yamada, Dr. Henry, 78, Chula Vista, June 29; survived by wife, Fusaye and Harumi Sugawara.

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RACIAL SLUR
(Continued from page 1)

JACL H.Q.
(Continued from page 1)

search for a new national director.

JACL Executive Director John Tateishi said the move to D.C. has been discussed many times before, but talk never followed through with a feasibility study.

"It's something I think we should discuss. It's come up a number of times in the past. Things have changed from the days when we last talked about a D.C. headquarters because there are so many more organizations in the APA community now and of course their directors are in Washington.

"It doesn't necessarily mean, in my view, that we should be in Washington. I think it's something we should think about and consider and if we think that's most beneficial for our efficiency and effectiveness then yeah, we should look into putting the director back there and putting the headquarters in D.C.," said Tateishi.

This committee is part of a larger plan to possibly restructure the JACL offices. Oda also wants to look into establishing a legislative office in Sacramento similar to the existing one in Washington, D.C. currently helmed by Floyd Mori, director of public policy.

The focus of this Sacramento office would be legislative work.

"We have something in Washington, D.C., why not in Sacramento?" said Oda. "Three-quarters of our members live in California, is there a need for that? Is this what the membership wants? Is this what the board thinks is important? If it isn't let's take it off the table and discuss it anymore. If there's a real feel that yes, we need to do this, if national council says yes we need to do this, we do it. If it comes out that we don't really care then we let it die and next time it comes up we say we've discussed this.

Board members charged representatives of California districts and staff to decide whether the Sacramento office is worth looking into.

There are many pros and cons to moving the headquarters to D.C., board members said. APAs are primarily clustered on the West Coast and being among community members allows for direct interaction with the members the JACL serves, but being in D.C. allows for more access to legislative happenings.

Tateishi recognizes that it is a complex issue, especially with the historic building where the headquarters is currently housed.

"What do you do with [the building]? Do we sell it? What about the people who donated the money with the intent that this would be the permanent headquarters for the JACL? It's something that would add to the complexity of the whole issue whether or not we can do this and whether or not it's even feasible," he said, adding Tateishi.

The move to the nation's capital would reshape the JACL.

"It would change the way we saw ourselves if our headquarters were in D.C. because I think we would see ourselves more in terms of the events, the policies, the politics of Washington than the politics of the community.

"There are as many pros and there are cons for a movement in that direction. I'm not wedded to the idea. I just think it's something we should think about and really deliberate and consider it carefully," said Tateishi.

See the video:
www.pacificcitizen.org

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