



Protecting the Vote
With November elections around the corner, APA groups are gearing up to protect voting rights.
NATIONAL PAGE 3



And Cut ...
Wong Fu, the makers of an internet film about yellow fever, debut their first feature length.
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



A Work in Progress
Michelle Wie, who just turned 17, still needs to prove herself as a professional.
SPORTS PAGE 7

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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THE GANG REUNITED: Guy Gabaldon (center) flanked by Lane Nakano (left) and twin Lyle in 1957 on 'This is Your Life' were reunited here after 11 years apart. Their friendship mysteriously fell apart years later.

Photo courtesy
Ralph Edwards Production

A Friendship Like No Other

A group of multiethnic boys torn apart by war lead extraordinary lives dappled with tragedy and mystery.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

A ragtag group of teenage boys who called themselves the Moe Gang used to roam the streets of Boyle Heights, a suburban city a few steps east of downtown Los Angeles known in the pre-World War II days for its diverse ethnic population. So it's befitting that the Moe

Gang, named after a "Three Stooges" character, was comprised of boys with last names like Shizumura, Factor and a boy named Pancho whose last name no one can recall.

This wasn't the type of gang we think of in modern times but a bunch of neighborhood kids up to no good. Back then, teenagers could explore their city's boundaries without fear of predators or danger and the boys would go joyriding on the banks of the Los Angeles River and hitch rides on freight trains from

See MOE GANG/Page 4

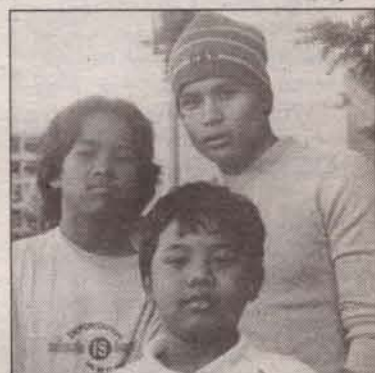
Groups Mobilize to Protect Schools' Voluntary Desegregation Policies

APA groups file amicus briefs in support of two school districts' policies for achieving racial balance. At risk is the future of diversity in schools, the schools' proponents say.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Asian Pacific American groups have filed amicus briefs in the United States Supreme Court to support two school districts' voluntary racial integration policies.

The briefs filed Oct. 10 by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) and over a dozen APA youth advocacy groups contend that two districts in Kentucky and Seattle proactively combat residential segregation by using race and other factors to determine where students should go to



Providence, Rhode Island APA youth will be directly affected by the Supreme Court ruling.

school.

The cases — *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education, et al.*, and *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1* — are scheduled to go before the Supreme Court Dec. 4. A ruling could determine what schools can and cannot do to promote diversity

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Beyond 'The Big Three' Japantowns

Today's J-towns may consist of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Jose but the 'Preserving California's Japantowns' project is uncovering 43 other J-towns that once existed across the state.

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

On any given day patrons of the Sun Café in San Diego's historic Gaslamp District dig into their dishes of scrambled eggs and sausage and the occasional chow mein. Although the menu may have changed, Yuki Kawamoto, 80, can still remember the same Sun Café from the 1920s and 1930s when it was a part of a once-bustling San Diego Japantown.

The Sun Café was owned by the Obayashi family back then and it sat

beside several other Japanese businesses — names like Nippon Shokai, Kawasaki Grocery Store, Miyako Restaurant, Kondo pool hall and Mamiya barbershop — that once lined the area around 5th Avenue and Market Street, but are all gone today.

The Kawamoto family ran and also lived in the Empire Hotel on Fourth Avenue during the 1930s and Yuki fondly recalls the once burgeoning Japantown where he and his four siblings grew up. Although some of the historic buildings like the Sun Café still stand amongst blocks of restaurants, night clubs, and clothing stores, most tourists and residents alike are unfamiliar with the area's Japanese American history.

Today, Yuki gives walking tours of the former J-Town area so its history won't be forgotten.

"Japantown was a thriving and

vibrant community before World War II, encompassing many Japanese owned businesses," said Kawamoto. "I think it's important to preserve this part of San Diego history because it is part of our history and to know why it existed."

"We hope someday that we can ask the city council to put up flags or something designating that area as Old Japan Town or something to let visitors know that we were there once until World War II," said Mich Himaka, 74, whose family once operated the Himaka tofu shop.

San Diego is one of 43 lesser-known California Japantowns that organizers of the "Preserving California's Japantowns" project are determined to document and preserve. Sponsored by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council and funded by

See JAPANTOWNS/Page 6



PHOTOS COURTESY JILL SHIRAKI

Mas Hashimoto stands in front of his family's former Watsonville, Calif. home (top) where they once ran a restaurant, catering and sake brewery in the city's former bustling Japantown.

At right is an historical photo of the Hashimoto family home.



Judge Says ACLU Lawsuit Challenging Patriot Act Can Proceed

By **Associated Press and P.C. Staff**

DETROIT—Nearly three years after hearing arguments in the case, a federal judge has ruled that an American Civil Liberties Union challenge to the constitutionality of the USA Patriot Act may proceed.

The ACLU's clients, including Muslim charities, social services organizations and advocacy groups, have shown they have been harmed by the anti-terrorism law adopted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood said in a 15-page ruling issued in late September. JACL

signed onto the amicus brief shortly after the suit was filed.

The lawsuit was filed in July 2003 on behalf of the Muslim Community Association of Ann Arbor and five other nonprofit groups. The ACLU said its clients had been hurt by the Patriot Act because fear of the law has kept many people from attending religious services and making charitable donations.

It was the first legal challenge to the part of the Patriot Act that lets agents obtain such things as library lists and medical information.

See LAWSUIT/Page 8

Watadas Tour in Support of Their Son

1st Lt. Ehren Watada could face a possible court martial in January for his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq.

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

Bob Watada can still remember the phone call that would change his son Ehren's life forever.

In one breathless moment Ehren, 28, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, announced to his father his life-altering decision to refuse deployment to Iraq because he believes the war is illegal and

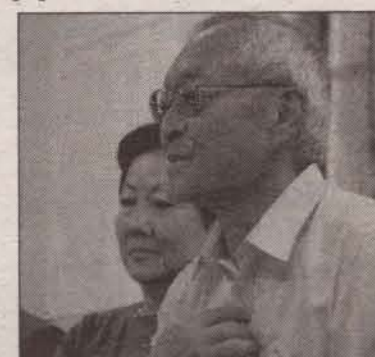


PHOTO: L. LIN

Bob Watada and Rosa Sakanishi address the media.

immoral.

"The moment he made his decision, it was like the weight of the

See WATADAS/Page 12



PACIFIC CITIZEN

250 E. First Street, Ste. 301,
Los Angeles, CA. 90012
Tel: 213/620-1767,
800/966-6157
Fax: 213/620-1768
E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
www.pacificcitizen.org

Executive Editor:
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom
Assistant Editor:
Lynda Lin
Office Manager:
Brian Tanaka
Circulation: Eva Lau-Ting

Publisher: Japanese American
Citizens League (founded 1929)
1765 Sutter Street, San
Francisco, CA 94115, tel:
415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-
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JACL President: Larry Oda
Nat'l Director: John Tateishi
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SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 1)

in K-12 education.

Since 1997, students in the Seattle
Public School District could apply
to attend their school of choice.
Ballard High School is one of several
schools in the district that uses
race as one of the factors to deter-
mine school assignment and to
achieve racial balance. Ballard,
which is located in the more affluent
northern part of the city, is the first
choice for many parents and stu-
dents, so the district relies on a series
of tiebreakers — first giving prefer-
ence to students with siblings already
attending the requested
school, then second, looking at race.

The state's highest court ruled the
district's student assignment policy
does not violate equal protection
rights, but parents of mostly
Caucasian students appealed claim-
ing reverse discrimination.

Rae Hanashiro, a Seattle-based
middle school teacher, said race
may have been a factor in determin-
ing where her then elementary
school age daughters were going to
get their education. The Hanashiros
are one of the few ethnic families in
their predominantly white neighbor-
hood.

"So often, students are segregated
by socio-economic status rather than
race, as are public schools. If a stu-
dent of color is excluded from a
higher achieving school because of
where she lives, then perhaps race
should be used so that she has the
same opportunities that wealthier
students have," said Hanashiro, 49.

"I'm sure that the parents who
filed this lawsuit have their own stu-
dent's best interests at heart, as do all
parents. It does sadden me, though,



At right Phalia Poch (foreground)
graduates from a GED program
in Rhode Island. Proponents say
integration measures by Seattle's
Ballard High School (above)
promote diversity.

that our public schools are not equal,
that we have a number of schools
that are perceived as being better
than others," she added.

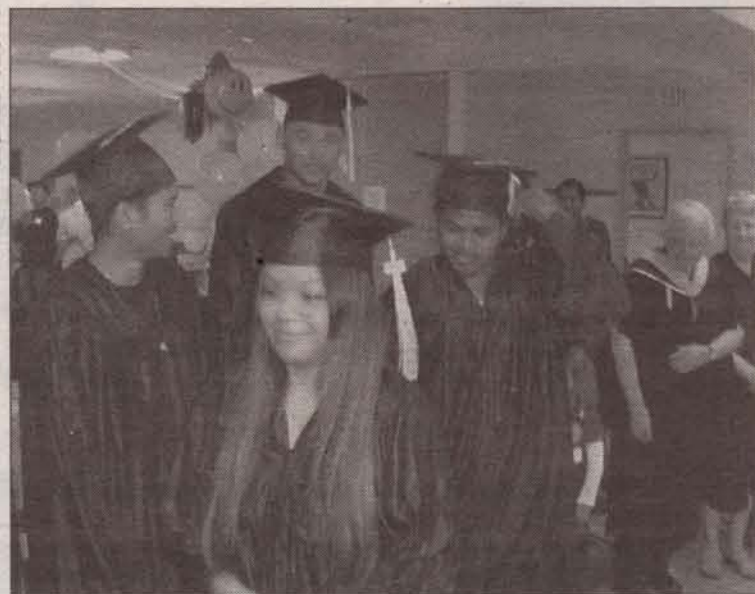
Similarly the Jefferson County
Public School District in Kentucky
came under fire for their enrollment
plan. To ensure schools didn't have
an overwhelming African American
or Caucasian population, the volun-
tary integration plan directs the
African American population at any
school to be between 15-50 percent.

These cases have already ignited
debate within the APA community
over race and public education.

"These schools have chosen to
take a proactive step in creating an
integrated educational environment.
Asian American students, just as all
students, reap the benefit of an inte-
grated education and become better
prepared to enter an increasingly
diverse world," said Aimee Baldillo,
AAJC's director of programs in a
statement.

Proponents of the schools' inte-
gration plans say this isn't just a
black and white issue.

PHOTO: PRYSM



"We're still contending with the
model minority myth," said Kohei
Ishihara, director of the Providence
Youth Student Movement in Rhode
Island (PrYSM), a youth organizing
and community support group for
young Southeast Asians. The non-
profit organization continually
fights for funding that they usually
see go to aid other underserved eth-
nic groups, but every year, PrYSM
struggles to guide young APAs liv-
ing below the poverty line.

"Over half of our youths drop out
of high school," said Ishihara. If the
Supreme Court ruling changes poli-
cies governing diversity, APAs
would be directly affected.

"It's not going to affect those who
are doing well. The main threat is
the underserved Asian Americans,"
said Ishihara.

"To be frank, we felt like we
needed to shut down this idea that
Asians, as a category, are hurt by
policies that address racial inequity,"
said Helen Gym of Philadelphia's
Asian Americans United (AAU),
another amici group. "Claims that

Asians benefit from the elimination
of desegregation laws are in direct
conflict with our experience in
working with Asian children and
families."

In 2005, AAU founded the Folk
Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter
School, which serves a large and
diverse population including many
immigrant children and families
who call Philadelphia their home.

"Philadelphia which is com-
posed of neighborhoods long seg-
regated by class and race, has a
school system which reflects its
neighborhoods. In our experience,
we've found that segregated envi-
ronments are often not welcoming
or, in some cases, safe environ-
ments for our youth. On the other
hand, in systems where cultural
and racial diversity is not just 'tol-
erated' but enforced, Asian
American students benefit, just as
all students do," said Gym.

Many organizations are planning
a march on Washington, D.C. Dec.
4, when oral arguments are sched-
uled to be heard. ■

Letters to the Editor

Don Quixote

Ehren Watada reminds me of Don
Quixote de la Mancha, a misguided
idealist tilting at windmills. Bob
Watada, brings to mind Sancho
Panza, his loyal squire.

Ehren made the mistake of volun-
tarily joining the Army before he
studied the ongoing controversy
about the Iraqi war. So he sought to
correct his error by disobeying
orders to go to Iraq with the Army
unit that he had trained with and led.
He deserted them and left them lead-
erless! This clearly constituted con-
duct unbecoming an officer, and
demonstrated contempt for authori-
ty. No amount of pontificating about
the alleged illegality of the U.S. pres-
ence in Iraq justifies violating his
solemn oath to uphold his military
duties.

Contrary to his orders, Ehren
refused to serve in Iraq but said he
would in Afghanistan. I wonder
what makes him think he's so spe-
cial. Maybe he just needs to grow
up. It seems that he doesn't realize or
care that if he were so privileged,
then all soldiers might have to be
allowed to serve wherever they
wished, regardless of the Army's
needs. And create administrative
nightmares. Imagine the chaos!

Incidentally, I disapprove of the
U.S. entanglement in Iraq, but that is
a completely separate issue. We
were already at war in Iraq when
Ehren (blithely?) joined up.

Florence Dobashi

San Francisco, CA

Accept Our Differences

Is it our culture that makes us
insist that the actions and beliefs of
one Japanese American reflects all
JA actions and beliefs? What hap-
pened to respect for or at the very
least, tolerance, of the next guy's
opinions?

In 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's case, it
appears he came to his very difficult
and lonely decision after a lot of
reading, thinking and soul searching.
It was a very personal decision for
which Watada alone is willing to
face the consequences.

How does Watada's actions reflect
on the wonderfully heroic deeds of
JA vets? That history will never be
erased.

Just because we are JAs, we are
not all of one mind and we must
learn to accept the differences
among us in order to truly grow.

Molly Ozaki
Chicago, IL

Watada and Getting Out the Vote

What would First Lt. Ehren
Watada's supporters do if the coun-
try had a different Commander in
Chief who ended the war in Iraq and
an Asian American officer refused to
leave Iraq because he wanted the
war to continue? Is Lt. Watada's case
about defining the rights of military

personnel or is this case being used
as a vehicle to express a position on
the war in Iraq?

If JACL members would like to
support a position on the war in Iraq,
I suggest they redirect their activities
to getting out the vote in November.
We live in a democracy and we have
the freedom to elect our leaders.

Miyo Tanaka Reff
San Diego, CA

Vietnam Vet Stands With Ehren Watada

I have been silently reading the
various comments about 1st Lt.
Ehren Watada. I can hardly stand it
anymore. Most of the people I know
seem to shrug their shoulders and do
not consider it their problem. Some
are sympathetic but feel "shoganaï."
Then there are those who are vigor-
ously weighing in against this brave
young man. There are several WWII
vets who were members of one of
the groups that served gallantly and
now feel honor bound to speak up.

I am also a vet of the Vietnam era.
I was drafted and served overseas
with the 121st Evac Hospital Unit in
Korea. When I went in it was with
reluctance but I had accepted the
arguments supporting the war. What
a load of crap. By the time I was
honorably discharged I was pretty
bitter. I joined all the demonstrations
against the war I could.

Well the Iraq war is clearly shap-
ing up into a war that we also should
not have gotten into. Our command-

er in chief has blundered in ways that
absolutely shows gross incompe-
tence and extreme poor judgment.

I have great admiration and grati-
tude for the WWII vets and those
who gave the last measure of sacri-
fice but they are completely out of
bounds in coming out against
Watada. I plead with them to show
some compassion and wisdom. This
man did not disobey orders in a com-
bat situation. He is taking a stand
after very thoughtful consideration
of the FACTS of this misbegotten
struggle.

If this courageous act puts pres-
sure on the powers that be to end this
miserable war one day sooner then I
stand with Ehren.

Ron Shintani
Torrance, CA

PACIFIC CITIZEN

250 E. First Street, Ste 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012
phone: 213/620-1767
fax: 213/620-1768
e-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
www.pacificcitizen.org

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

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Bush Approves Two Utah Heritage Areas, Topaz

SALT LAKE CITY—President Bush has signed into law legislation that creates Utah's first two heritage areas and resources including a World War II internment camp.

A heritage area is a region where a group of residents, businesses and governments manage cultural, natural and historic resources to attract tourism and to protect them for the future.

The Mormon Heritage Area will stretch 250 miles from the town of Fairview south to the Arizona border, crossing through Kane, Garfield, Piute, Sevier, Wayne and Sanpete counties.

The Great Basin Heritage Route includes features in Millard County, Utah, and White Pine County, across the border in Nevada, and the Duckworth and Ely Shoshone Indian reservations. It follows the Pony Express and Overland trails and seeks to preserve the historic resources, including forests of thousand-year-old bristlecone pine trees and the Topaz internment camp.



UCLA Welcomes First Academic Chair on World War II Internment Camps



LOS ANGELES—The University of California, Los Angeles celebrated the arrival of the nation's first scholar to hold an academic chair dedicated to studying the Japanese American internment.

Lane Ryo Hirabayashi will hold the Aratani chair, funded by a donation of \$500,000 from George and Sakaye Aratani, at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The Aratanis are among the largest donors to JA educational and cultural causes.

Professors holding the chair must teach at least one course on issues related to the internment program and organize or assist public education programs on the subject.

Radio Ad in Michigan Likens Anti-Affirmative Action Measure to Sept. 11, Katrina

LANSING, Mich.—Opponents of a ballot proposal that would ban some affirmative action programs in Michigan are running a statewide radio ad that warns the measure is as dangerous as the Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina disasters.

"If you could have prevented 9/11 from ever happening, would you have?" an announcer asks in the ad. "If you could have prevented Katrina from ever happening, what would you have done? On November 7th, there's a national disaster headed for Michigan: the elimination of affirmative action."

The proposed constitutional amendment would ban the use of race and gender preferences in university admissions and government hiring. Similar proposals have passed in California and Washington state.

Hmong Veterans Push for Memorial

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Minnesota's Hmong immigrant community is working to build a memorial to the Asian veterans who fought in Laos during the Vietnam War.

With the help of state Democratic lawmaker Cy Thao, a committee of Hmong veterans secured a \$150,000 commitment from the Legislature toward the \$450,000 project this year.

Chū Wu, who is heading the memorial effort, said he envisions a diorama of a downed U.S. pilot being rescued by a Hmong man, woman and child. Rescuing pilots was one of the Hmong fighters' responsibilities, Xang Vang said, along with hit-and-run attacks on the North Vietnamese army, scouting, and protecting U.S. radar stations and other installations.

The memorial project got a setback when the group was denied a \$100,000 grant request through the city of St. Paul's cultural Sales Tax Revitalization program. So the group is turning to the private sector to raise the rest of the \$300,000 it estimates it will need to build the memorial near the Capitol. ■

APA Groups Announce Election Protection

Groups will monitor voter discrimination at the polls.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

For the upcoming November elections, Asian Pacific American groups are stepping up protection and monitoring plans at the polls for APA voters.

APAs are becoming a large part of the electorate in key Southern California areas, according to a new study by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). But APA voters continue to face barriers at the polls and groups are responding to a need for more assistance.

"With the dramatic increase in new citizens and first-time voters, as

well as the introduction of new voting machines under the federal Help America Vote Act, we want to ensure that all eligible Asian American voters are able to participate in the electoral process in November without interference," said Margaret Fung, executive director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF).

Under its Election Protection 2006 plan, more than 500 attorneys, law students, and volunteers will cover 150 poll sites in eight states where Asian language assistance is provided, where APA voter registration has increased, or where APA voters historically have experienced intimidation.

Topaz Accepted for Historical Landmark Designation

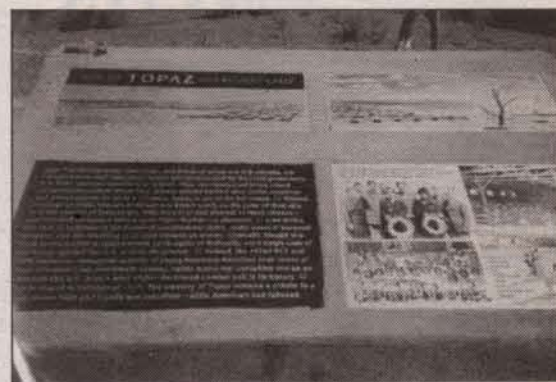
The Landmarks Committee of the National Park Service approved the Topaz internment camp site in Utah for designation as a national historic landmark on Oct. 10.

After hearing testimony from former internees and other representatives of the Japanese American community at its committee meeting in the nation's capital, Ronald James, a member of the committee, spoke about the archeological remains of Topaz being reminiscent of a battlefield because of the historical significance of the camp site during war time. The motion passed unanimously.

Kara Miyagishima of the Park Service's Intermountain Regional Office in Denver made a presentation about Topaz and championed the designation of Topaz as part of the Park Service landmarks.

During WWII, Topaz became home to 8,130 JAs and became the headquarters of the Buddhist Churches of America during the war years. It was also at Topaz that one of nine JAs was shot and killed by an Army guard when an elderly Japanese man, wandering too close to the fence, was shot dead by an armed guard.

By coincidence, Topaz generated the largest number of artists who documented life in the camp by their paintings. Two of the defendants in Supreme Court cases related to the internment, Fred Korematsu and Mitsuye Endo, were imprisoned at



Topaz as well.

Although near the town of Delta, it was decided that the feelings evoked by the isolated, desolate area were movingly provocative.

The committee did not indicate when the final decision would be made on the designation of Topaz as a National Park Service Historical Landmark. ■

New APA Curriculum Guide is Slated for Release

JACL worked for nearly three years to develop a curriculum about APA history. The next step is a 'bottom-up grassroots effort and a top-down political campaign' to get the guide into schools.

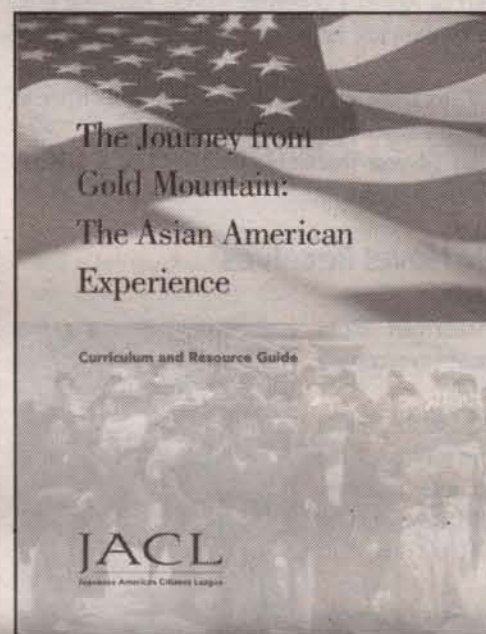
By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL will release an Asian Pacific American curriculum guide this month with a goal to implement the lessons in states with growing APA populations.

"The Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience," a 92-page curriculum and resource guide that covers APA history from the initial waves of immigrant groups to present day political empowerment, is slated for national distribution Oct. 27. Approximately 2,000 copies will go to JACL chapters, teachers, curriculum specialists and educators.

The JACL has worked on this project for two and one-half years with grant money from State Farm in order to include APA history lessons in more schools, especially in the South and the Midwest where Asian populations haven't existed in significant numbers before, said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi.

"I felt it's important that we provide the tools to teachers to be able to talk about their schools' growing diversity with the inclusion of Asian Americans, and to be able to articulate the values of having these new Americans in their communities," said Tateishi. "Up to now, no one has provided this kind of information to educators, so we've been developing



this guide so that teachers can better include their Asian students in lessons on multiculturalism and diversity."

This is the JACL's second curriculum guide. "The Japanese American Experience: A Lesson in American History" was released in the early 1990s and focused on JA history. This new guide casts a wider net from past to present.

A supplemental DVD by filmmaker Dianne Fukami, which will include personal stories and historic accounts of APA immigration, is also currently in the works.

"We wanted to make the guide as current as possible. Thus, we thought it would be critical to add the dimension of the post-Sept. 11th impact because this event has had significant repercussions for America and for Asian Americans," said Bill Yoshino, APA guide program director and JACL Midwest district regional director.

"When Sept. 11th is discussed in

school classrooms, it will be noteworthy for students to know that Japanese Americans went through an experience some 60 years ago that parallels the travails of Arab Americans and Muslims today," Yoshino added.

In addition to a comprehensive summary of each major ethnic group's experience, the APA guide includes a directory of prominent APAs from politicians to fashion designers and even professional wrestler Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

All activities including a high school level interactive discussion on racial stereotypes and an elementary level lesson on diversity in Asian America were developed by teachers.

"This has to be both a bottom-up grassroots effort and a top-down political campaign. We'll need our chapters involved if this has any chance at all, and we need the guides in the hands of teachers because they can help push this from the local levels to their respective state political bodies," said Tateishi.

"My goal with this entire project has always been to reach students at an early age to teach them about the lives and cultures of Asian Americans, and to help them understand that not being white should never be a determination of who or what an American is. The ultimate lesson, of course, is tolerance and diversity, and knowing the values of that diversity help to make us a better nation and certainly a stronger and better democracy," he added. ■

Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and for the first time, Maryland.

The organization will be monitoring:

- Compliance with language assistance required by the Voting Rights Act;
- Properly functioning voting machines; and
- Non-discriminatory implementation of voter identification requirements in all states.

"In recent elections, our election protection volunteers have identified egregiously mistranslated ballots, interpreter shortages that led to Asian American voters being turned away, and poll workers who made



AALDEF will document incidents of voter discrimination at poll sites and via its toll-free hotline and conduct a multilingual exit poll of APA voters in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Michigan,

hostile and racist remarks about Asian American voters," said AALDEF staff attorney Glenn D. Magpantay.

In February 2006, AALDEF sued the New York City Board of Elections for violating the Voting Rights Act's language assistance provisions.

AALDEF's 2004 exit poll — which surveyed nearly 11,000 voters — revealed that more than one-third (38 percent) of APAs surveyed were first-time voters, of which nearly one-half (46 percent) used language assistance in order to vote. ■

To report Election Day problems, call AALDEF's Election Day Hotline toll-free at 800/966-5946 or by e-mail at votingcomplaints@aaldef.org.

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Mineta Joins Mansfield Foundation Board of Directors



Former U.S. Commerce and Transportation Secretary **Norman Mineta** has joined the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation's board of directors.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes the Mansfield's values, ideals and vision for U.S.-Asia relations.

Mineta was appointed U.S. secretary of transportation by President Bush in 2001 and served until July 2006. He had been appointed secretary of commerce in 2000 by President Clinton, making him the first APA to hold a post in a presidential cabinet.

He represented the Silicon Valley area of California in the House of Representatives from 1975-1995 and has served as mayor of San Jose, Calif.

Kwan Named Bankruptcy Judge for Central District

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday named Assistant U.S. Attorney **Robert Kwan** as a bankruptcy judge for the Central District of California.

A former deputy chief of the Tax Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, this was Kwan's fifth time applying for the position.

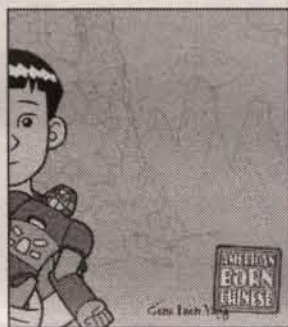
Kwan is set to commence his 14-year renewable term on Jan. 2. He has practiced bankruptcy law for over 20 years.

APA Author's Graphic Novel Receives History Making Honor

Gene Luen Yang's "American Born Chinese," is the first graphic novel to receive a National Book Award nomination.

The graphic novel, nominated in the young people's category, is a loose re-telling of the Monkey King myth. Judges chose, and presumably read, from 1,259 books submitted by publishers. Winners receive \$10,000 and runners-up \$1,000.

The National Book Foundation is a nonprofit organization that sponsors numerous readings and educational programs.



Religious Group to Give Watada an Award



A religious group says it will give U.S. Army war objector 1st Lt. **Ehren Watada** an award for refusing to fight in Iraq with his unit.

The Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii says it wants to bestow its Flame of Hope Award on the Honolulu-born officer at its 2006 Community Awards dinner later this month.

The alliance includes about 150 members from about 20 religious affiliations. Watada's attorney plans to receive the award for Watada since the Army won't allow him to travel to Hawaii for the ceremony.

Bush Names APA as Administration Nominee

President George W. Bush intends to nominate **Curtis S. Chin**, of New York, to be U.S. director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of ambassador.

Chin currently serves as managing director at Burson-Marsteller. Earlier in his career, he served as special assistant to the U.S. secretary of commerce. He also served on the Department of State's Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy.

Chin received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and his master's degree from Yale University.

Nikkei Concerns Announces New Leadership



Susan S. Oki is Nikkei Concerns new chief executive officer, an organization that serves elders.

Oki was most recently president and CEO of Innovative Cookies, Inc., a company she established in 2001 and sold to Seattle Gourmet Foods in 2005. Prior to that, she was the executive director of the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce.

Hamaguchi Heads Up Japantown Task Force



The Japantown Task Force, Inc. announced the appointment of **Robert E. Hamaguchi** as its executive director. Hamaguchi is a retired senior vice president of Bank of America where he served 33 years in real estate banking and corporate real estate. He is past president of the Bay Area Mortgage Association and a former member of the board of directors of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. ■

MOE GANG

(Continued from page 1)

'We did good and bad things, mostly bad. We had a close-knit friendship.'

— **Norman Shizumura**, 81, original Moe Gang member

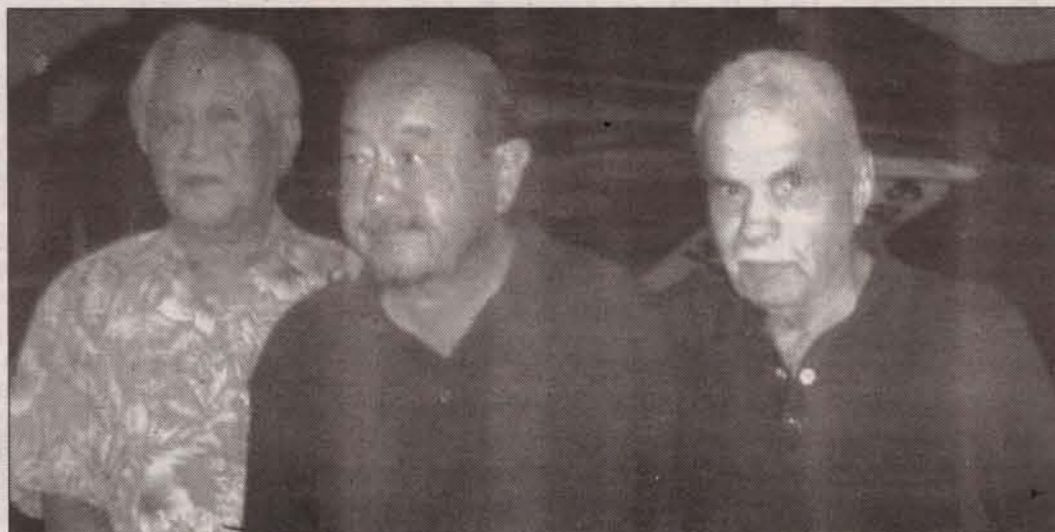


PHOTO COURTESY OHANA GABALDON

THE LAST REUNION: Moe Gang members (l-r) Kakaro Mochinaga, Norman Shizumura and Guy Gabaldon met for the last time July 2006 in Los Angeles. Gabaldon would die a month later.

the Union Pacific yard in East L.A. to Barstow.

Their friendship forged by respect and adventures was torn apart early by the extraordinary circumstances of World War II. And like other stories about that dark chapter in American history, the War shaped the rest of their lives as internees, war heroes, and for some, bitter enemies.

Making and Breaking the Moe Gang

Their stories span over six decades and are punctuated with question marks and secrets taken to the grave. Some lost contact and were never reunited over the years of turmoil and relocations. Many have passed away, but for two surviving members the gang's cast of characters is an easy recall.

They were: Nisei Kakaro Mochinaga, twins Lane and Lyle Nakano, George Une, Katsie Ueda, Johnny Ito and Norman Shizumura; Latinos Guy Gabaldon and Pancho; a Jewish boy named Saul Factor and another kid they called "Frisko."

A stroke left Katsie in a nursing home, leaving Norman and Kakaro the only two original Moe Gang members left to talk about old times.

"We did good and bad things, mostly bad," said Norman, 81, with a chuckle. "We had a close-knit friendship."

Norman was 16 years old when the War broke out. He lived across the street from the Nakano family, but he does not remember saying goodbye to his Moe Gang friends before being swept up behind barbed wire fences in Manzanar along with Kakaro and his family. The Nakano twins went to Heart Mountain in Wyoming where they would famously volunteer to fight with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"The government didn't give us much time," said Norman, who lives in Gardena, Calif.

Almost overnight, the boys' neighborhood fell quiet. The Nisei and their pioneering parents were gone, more than half of the Moe Gang was taken away — and their absence was felt most strongly by those left behind.

"He was devastated," said Ohana Gabaldon about her husband Guy, a scrappy Moe Gang member who developed an affinity for Japanese culture. "He grew up and never saw anything but American kids."

"It was hard for him, after the war broke out, he was left without too many friends," Norman said about

his old friend, who he saw for the last time this summer before Guy, 80, died of a heart attack Aug. 31.

From Boys to Heroes

But war brings out the best and the worst. Many of these boys went into the Armed Services and came out heroes.

Norman and Kakaro were drafted out of camp and served in the Army and in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), respectively. Lane and Lyle gained fame fighting in the 442nd, a role Lane would later recreate on the Hollywood set of the 1951 movie "Go For Broke!" The brothers always had star quality. At Heart Mountain, a young girl named Ruth

'The government didn't give us much time.'

— **Shizumura**, about leaving for Manzanar without saying goodbye to his friends

remembered watching Lane perform.

"He used to sing at the [camp] dances," said Ruth, 81, who coincidentally met and married Kakaro later while working in a Utah cannery.

Guy would go on to join the Marines and become a folk hero on the island of Saipan, where using the little bit of Japanese language he picked up from his Nisei friends, he was reported to have captured 1,500 Japanese enemies. Guy was recommended for the Medal of Honor by his commanding officer, Capt. John Schwabe, but instead received the Silver Star. Along with the release of "Hell to Eternity," a 1960 movie based on his war experience, Guy's medal was upgraded to a Navy Cross.

After the War, the boys grew into civilian life as accountants, entrepreneurs and entertainers, but nothing about their friendship was ever the same again.

"Our friendship terminated after the War," said Norman.

This Is Your Life

Sometimes the mind works like a camera freezing a moment in life with a pristine image of a toothy grin and unbridled happiness.

Images of Guy on a 1957 episode of "This Is Your Life," a popular television show that reunited a contestant with long lost friends, is sadly ironic.

Guy, young and visibly moved, is flanked by Lane and Lyle, who both look dashing dressed in matching dark suits. Up to that point, they had not seen each other in 11 years and with Guy's hand clasped in Lane's, a part of the Moe Gang was reunited.

"This is the most," said Guy, his voice choked with emotions.

The Nakano brothers told stories about their childhood antics — jumping out of second story windows on a dare and teaching Guy Japanese words like *arigato*.

"Beginning from the time that Guy was about 11, he divided his time between spending his life with his family and ours," said Lane to host Ralph Edwards.

"But one thing, Guy always stood by his friends," said Lyle.

This moment, frozen in time, would make the larger picture seem all the more tragic. Guy last saw Lyle in 1976 when he owned a popular Hollywood nightclub called the Imperial Garden. Friends remembered Lyle as a gregarious host, but when he sold the business something changed. Lyle committed suicide, Ohana said, but the reasons remain shrouded in mystery.

Guy's friendship with Lane imploded.

"The last time Guy tried to have contact with Lane Nakano, he was very ill and couldn't come to the phone," said Ohana from her Old Town, Fla. home. "I don't know what happened. I would like to know. I never asked either because obviously people change. Guy never said there was a reason. I don't know why. What happened?"

Kakaro, 83, said he thinks the falling out was the result of a misunderstanding, but he doesn't know the details. Some point out that the friends had philosophical differences. Guy was very conservative, said Ohana, adding, "They had very different views."

With Lane's passing last April, the Moe Gang faces extinction. In July, a month before his death, Guy met with Norman and Kakaro to share stories for the last time.

"That was the best thing that ever happened," said Norman.

So much has happened since their carefree days in Boyle Heights, but for Kakaro, it was a friendship unlike any other he would ever find again.

"He's not the type to make new friends. He keeps old ones," said Ruth over the phone about her husband, who punctuates the silence in the background with a soft proclamation: "I do feel lonely." ■

Learn the Ropes in D.C. with APAICS Summer Internship

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) is now accepting applications for its 2007 undergraduate summer internship program.

Each year, APAICS selects up to 10 undergraduate students for a first-hand learning experience in American politics. Interns work in congressional offices, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations in Washington, D.C.

Through a series of seminars, interns learn about national Asian Pacific Islander American advocacy organizations and network with peers from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), collectively known as the Tri-Caucus.

"As an intern, I had the privilege of participating in meetings regarding an amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize grants for institutions of higher education serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (HR 2616)," said

Heather De Guia, a 2006 APAICS intern for Congressman Mike Honda.

APAICS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational organization based in Washington, D.C. that seeks to build a politically empowered APA community.

Interns will receive a \$2,500 stipend to work from June 4 to July 27, 2007. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in public service and APIA affairs. ■

APAICS Summer Internship

June 4-July 27, 2007

\$2,500 to work in Washington, D.C.

Undergraduates including those graduating in Spring 2007 can apply.

Download applications at: www.apaics.org

For more info: 202/296-9200 or apaics@apaics.org
Deadline: Jan. 31, 2007

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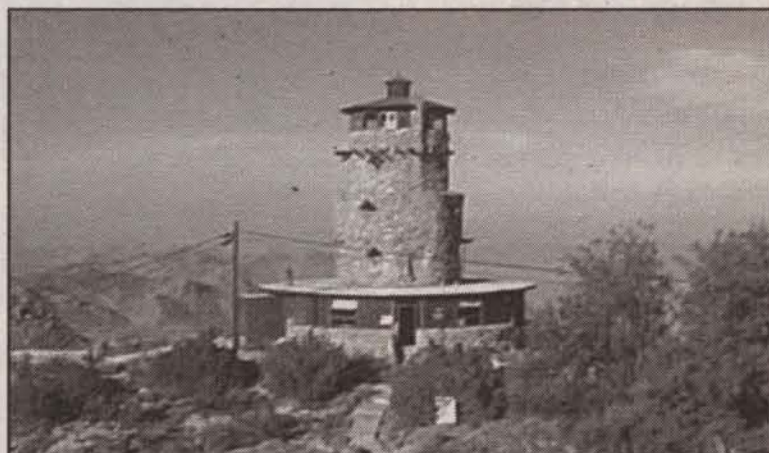
L.A. Bus Tour Focuses on History of Japanese Pioneers

The lives and struggles of Japanese settlers in Imperial Valley before and after World War II will be the subject of a tour Nov. 17-18 now being arranged by a group of retired Nisei ministers and the Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society (JEMS).

The tour will spend two days visiting towns where the Japanese and their families lived and farmed in an area largely known for intensely hot weather.

Traveling by bus, the group will leave Los Angeles on Nov. 17 morning and visit Indio en route. Participants will visit the Imperial Valley Pioneers' Museum to view the Japanese American gallery, an exhibition on the history of Japanese families pioneering and community life.

The tour is being arranged by the Retired Nisei Ministers Association and JEMS. One of the retired ministers, the Rev. Kei Kokubun, will be one of the guides. He is the son of the late Rev. Jingoro Kokubun, who founded the Calxico and El Centro Christian Churches in 1920 and pastored both until the churches were closed by the internment and never reopened.



Part of the JEMS Tour will include a visit to the Desert Tower.

Tour guide Tim Asamen is researching the history of the Japanese in Imperial Valley to preserve the life story of the early Japanese pioneers and their families.

The tour will also include a get-together with local Japanese gallery members whose stories about life past and present in the valley will be shared.

Other places of interest on the tour will include: the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels facility, the Desert Tower, Salton Sea, sand dunes and mud pots, and the towns that made up the valley's sights and communities. ■

Japanese Pioneer Imperial Valley Tour

Nov. 17-18

Bus pick-up and return locations are being arranged according to the areas where tour members live.

Seats are limited. Registration forms and info:

JEMS Office
948 East Second St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213/613-0022

Info@JEMS.org

Early sign-ups are recommended



The Honorable Leon E. Panetta (second from right) with former Angel Island detainees.

Panetta Keynotes Angel Island Foundation's Annual Dinner

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, director of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, California State University, Monterey Bay, keynoted the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) Annual Dinner recently.

While Angel Island was one of the ports of entry for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came to this country searching for the riches and opportunity of California, they confronted what Panetta calls the "Paradox of our democracy."

"Immigrants who came through Angel Island confronted the paradox of our democracy," he said.

"Confronted overcrowded facilities. Confronted humiliating examinations and interrogations. Spent days and months and sometimes years of waiting to determine whether they'd be approved or deported."

"Angel Island and Manzanar are symbols not so much of freedom, opportunity and equality, but of isolation, confinement and discrimination that often took place in this country. In the end, these are symbols of the paradox of our democracy."

"On one hand, this country reaches out for opportunity, great promise to those who come, promise of equality. And yet, at the same time,

it is obvious that we have a history of discrimination that prevails, going back to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. These documents said that all of us are created equal under God. The paradox of these documents is that this country accepted slavery at that time."

Panetta concluded his speech by emphasizing, "We also have an obligation to break the paradox to promise America to help those yearning to breathe free. We are a better nation because of those who followed the torch of liberty. That light and promise must never be broken." ■

Winners Swing for Justice

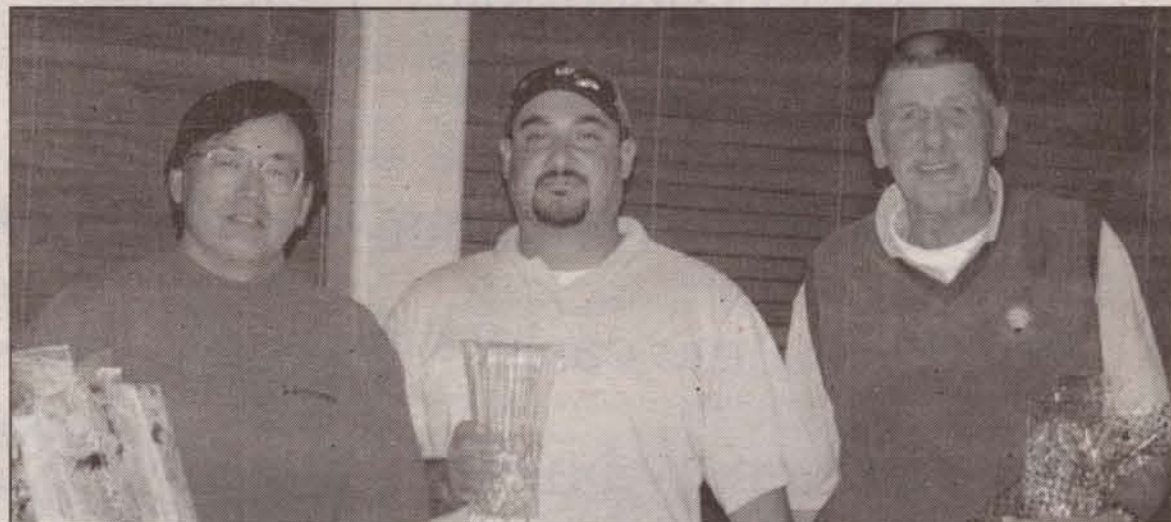


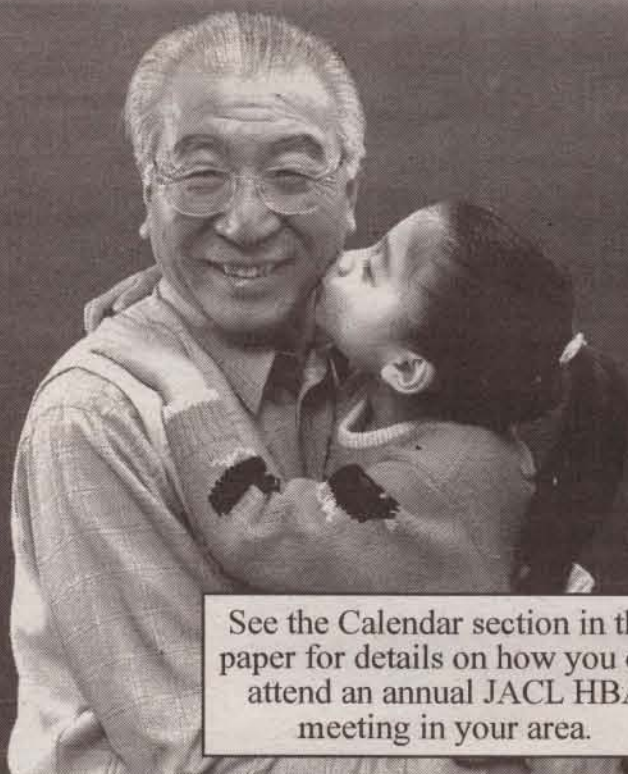
PHOTO COURTESY MAS HASHIMOTO

Nearly 100 golfers from around the country enjoyed the camaraderie and the good spirit associated with the 3rd National JACL Golf Tournament, held Oct. 2 at Harding Park Golf Course, San Francisco. All the golfers were certainly "swinging for justice" as they completed 18 holes of golf. The funds raised will further national JACL's education, community service, anti-hate and civil rights programs.

Winners of the Mike M. Masaoka Flight (l-r) John Ichiuji, Fredo Cervantes and Jim Kosinki show off their prizes.



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www.jaclhealth.org



Japanese American
Citizen's League

JAPANTOWNS

(Continued from page 1)

the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), the project organizers are currently researching these areas and out-reaching to members of the community for help.

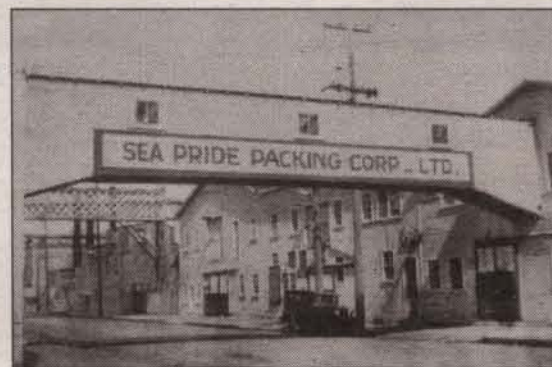
"Japanese Americans were a part of the history of this state, an important part. This project is a way to tell their stories," said Donna Graves, a cultural historian helping to lead the project. "We are looking for physical memories so history won't be lost."

The project's 43 cities includes: Alameda; Bakersfield; Berkeley; Brawley; Cortez; El Centro; Florin; Fowler; Fresno; Gardena; Gilroy; Glendale; Guadalupe; Isleton; Livingston; Lodi; Lompoc; Long Beach; Marysville; Monterey; Mountain View; Oakland; Oxnard; Pasadena; Sebastopol/Petaluma; Riverside; Sacramento; Salinas; San Diego; San Mateo; San Pedro; Santa Ana; Santa Barbara; Santa Maria; Santa Monica; Sawtelle; Stockton; Terminal Island; Vacaville; Venice; Visalia; Walnut Grove; and Watsonville.

"It is amazing," said Jill Shiraki, project manager, who noted that even preservationists and historians they have talked to are surprised to learn there was once a Japantown in their communities. "They don't see it in their histories."

Monterey and Watsonville had a J-Town?

When the Monterey Bay Aquarium was building its Outer Bay Wing, a sign on the office door read "Seapride," a name most passersby would assume fitting but



The JACL Hall (pictured above) in Monterey, Calif. is still a large part of the JACL Monterey chapter's activities.

Tsunetaro Oda's Seapride cannery (left) of the 1920s is now a part of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

for Maki Oda it was a source of unexpected family pride. Her father's fish cannery business from 1926 had been named Seapride Cannery and today part of the Aquarium stands in its place.

Monterey's miles of blue ocean along a rugged coastline of pine forests has made this area famous and is likely what attracted JA families during the early 1900s, a community that was a large part of the city's sardine fishing and cannery industry. Before long Monterey could boast its own burgeoning Japantown with businesses like

Sunrise Grocery, Mas' Barbershop, Higashi Hotel, and Azuma Tei Restaurant. The city also had its own JACL Hall.

"The Buddhist Church used the JACL Hall for their services and I went to Sunday school every Sunday. I had Boy Scouts meetings in the basement," said Larry Oda who recalled older Nikkei telling stories about his grandfather's cannery. "I remember Mr. Torakichi Tabata at Sunrise would always give me a candy bar whenever we went to buy groceries."

During the 1900s Watsonville was

as famous as the three remaining Japantowns today according to longtime area resident Mas Hashimoto, whose father ran a restaurant, catering and sake brewery in the heart of Japantown, a business that doubled as their home right next to the Buddhist Church.

Like many of the early settlements, a large farming industry was the attraction for many of the JA families who owned a number of businesses in the Watsonville Japantown including barbershops, pool halls, a grocery store, manju store, photography shop, and a gas station. There was a baseball field and the Toyo Community Hall too.

The Japantown also had its own warehouse for both whites and non-whites.

"Watsonville's red light district was famous," said Hashimoto. "After the war, many soldiers and sailors from Monterey would come knocking on our door. As a child I would show them the whorehouses which was on the next block away. Bing Crosby and Bob Hope used to joke about it on their radio shows during the week of the Crosby golf tournament."

Not Just San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Jose

For many of these California Japantowns, the onset of WWII and the years of internment would ultimately cause their demise. Forced to leave everything behind after evacuating from the West Coast, many families did not return to their pre-War lives, preferring to resettle in

other areas.

Today, the three remaining big three Japantowns still attract tourists and locals alike, but remnants of these long-forgotten J-towns still exist if you look closely enough.

On any given weeknight, sounds of Tai Chi instruction, a waltz, or taiko drumming can be heard from the historic JACL Hall in Monterey that is still used by community members. On weekends the building is host to Japanese language classes and both Buddhist and Christian services.

Organizers of the "Preserving California's Japantowns" project know that most of what they hope to find will be found in the memories of those Nisei who lived and grew up in these once-thriving communities. For historians like Graves, their knowledge is priceless.

"The only thing non-Nikkei know about Japanese Americans is the internment. They have no physical picture. We want people to stand where Japanese Americans once worked, lived, and farmed. First person narratives," said Graves.

And for these Nisei, they know that often their stories are all that's left of an important part of JA history.

"I think it's important we preserve our history for our own future generations because I don't think anyone else will," said Himaka. "I only hope we can get our Yonsei and Gosei more involved ... to keep it going."

For information or to participate in the "Preserving California's Japantown" project, contact Jill Shiraki at 510/277-2164 or email: pcj@californiajapantowns.org.

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GOLF

A Year Older, a Year Later, Wie Still a Work in Progress

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PALM DESERT, California—Michelle Wie celebrated her 17th birthday Oct. 11. Next up is an anniversary.

One year ago at the Samsung World Championship, the teenager from Hawaii steadied her nerves and ripped a 3-wood down the middle of the fairway to embark on a professional career that was loaded with expectations and perhaps more hype than any player in U.S. LPGA Tour history.

Expectations remain high. The scrutiny is still severe.

And one year later, the trophy case remains bare.

"Every week I go into, I want to win," Wie said at Bighorn Golf Club, where her family has bought a second home. "I'm not going to force it to happen, because it will happen."

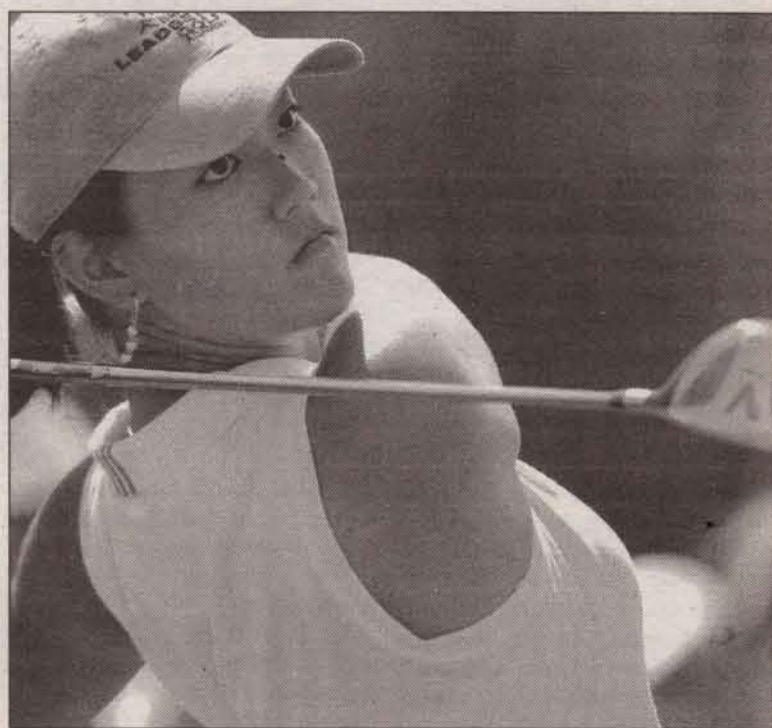
But with each tournament — 14 as a pro, plus a U.S. Open qualifier — the question of "when" slowly is shifting to "if."

Strangely enough, the Samsung World Championship with its 20-player field and no cut is the only U.S. LPGA Tour event where Wie failed to earn a paycheck. She finished in fourth place, 10 shots behind Annika Sorenstam, but an improper drop in the third round that was pointed out a day later led to Wie being disqualified.

Wie has played only seven U.S. LPGA Tour events this year because she is not a tour member, yet she has earned \$718,343 which would put her at No. 14 on the order of merit. Karrie Webb, Sorenstam and Wie are the only players to average more than \$100,000 per start this year.

Despite not winning, Wie came within a whisker of capturing three majors.

She had a 25-foot eagle chip to win the Kraft Nabisco, missing a playoff when she failed to get up-



AP PHOTO

TOUGH YEAR: A year ago, no one showed more promise than Michelle Wie. But as a pro, she has played more like an amateur.

and-down. She was tied for the lead on the 16th hole of the LPGA Championship until her wedge found a greenside bunker leading to bogey. And she was tied at the U.S. Women's Open until making bogey on the 13th hole in the final round, closing with all pars to miss a playoff by two shots.

"I guess I'm taking it patiently," Wie said. "But I feel like being in contention this year, really getting the feel for what it's like to be in contention on the Sunday in a major ... I learned a lot from that. That's the way I'm learning how to win, and I feel like it's going to happen."

What taints her year was competing against the men.

Wie rose to international acclaim as a 14-year-old player when she shot 68 in the Sony Open and missed the cut by one shot. A year later, she shot 70-71 at the John Deere Classic and narrowly made the cut.

But as a professional on the

PGA Tour, she has looked more like an amateur.

An image that captured a troublesome end to her summer came at the John Deere Classic, when she withdrew after nine holes in the second round with heat exhaustion and was shown being loaded into an ambulance on a stretcher.

She tied for 26th at the Women's British Open — her only finish outside the top five on the LPGA — and fired her caddy without anyone from the Wie family breaking the news. And after starting her senior year at Punahou School in Honolulu, Wie took a two-week break to take on the end and finished both times, in the European Masters and the 84 Lumber Classic.

"I have to learn how to schedule better, how much my body can take and when I should play," Wie said. "My first year, I haven't got it down yet. Obviously, I learn from my mistakes." ■

BASEBALL

Oakland Manager Macha to Lead MLB Tour of Japan

TOKYO—Oakland Athletics manager Ken Macha will return to Japan in November to manage a team of MLB players on an exhibition tour.

Macha, who played in Japan for the Chunichi Dragons in the 1980s, was named manager of the MLB team on Oct. 10, MLB Japan said in a statement.

Pitcher Bronson Arroyo of the Cincinnati Reds was named to the



JOHJIMA



IGUCHI

team Oct. 10 along with infielder Lyle Overbay of the Toronto Blue Jays and relief pitcher Mike Myers of the New York Yankees.

Matsuzaka Gets Clearance to Pursue Major League Career

TOKYO—Highly regarded pitcher **Daisuke Matsuzaka** was given permission by the Seibu Lions on Oct. 10 to pursue a career in the major leagues.

Matsuzaka, who has drawn interest from several major league teams including the New York Yankees, finished the 2006 regular season with a career-high 17 wins against five losses.



The 26-year-old right-hander posted a 2.13 earned run average and 200 strikeouts.

Matsuzaka has long been considered one of the brightest prospects in Japanese professional baseball.

Seibu is expected to use the posting system in which major league teams present bids for Japanese players and the highest bidder wins the negotiating rights. Ichiro Suzuki signed with the Seattle Mariners under the same system.

Matsuzaka is still one year away from becoming a free agent.

Previously named players include David Wright and Jose Reyes of the New York Mets, and Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies.

The select MLB team will play five games in Japan from Nov. 3-8 against players from Japanese baseball.

Kenji Johjima of the Seattle Mariners and **Tadahito Iguchi** of the Chicago White Sox are also among the players named to the squad. ■

In his eight-year career in Japan, Matsuzaka has led the Pacific League in wins three times and in strikeouts four times while winning the ERA title twice and the Sawamura Award, Japan's version of the Cy Young Award, once.

Matsuzaka impressed major league scouts when he helped Japan win the inaugural World Baseball Classic title last March and was named MVP of the tournament. ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff

LAWSUIT

(Continued from page 1)

The ACLU contended Section 215 of the Patriot Act, which allows the FBI access to any "tangible things" such as books and documents through an order from a secret court, does not require investigators to show probable cause.

The group wants the judge to declare Section 215 unconstitutional, and block the Justice Department from using that part of the Patriot Act.

"I've been waiting for three years to see how the court would rule on this particular lawsuit because this is, of course, one of the more ominous components of the Patriot Act. Section 215, which is the focus of the JACL's amicus brief, allows the government to exercise unreasonable search and seizures without probable cause, something I believe flies in the face of basic democratic principles," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director.

"The judge's ruling to allow the lawsuit to proceed is an important one because it allows organizations like the ACLU and the JACL to continue to challenge what we believe to be an instrument that has led to the erosion of civil liberties in this country," he continued. "I can't empha-

size enough how important it is that this challenge continue through the courts because this is one of the essential parts of what makes the Patriot Act so repugnant and such a threat to the rights of Americans."

Hood's ruling had been awaited since a Dec. 3, 2003, hearing at which the government argued the lawsuit should be dismissed. Federal officials later argued that amendments approved by Congress in March 2006 had corrected any Constitutional flaws in the Patriot Act. Hood's ruling gave the plaintiffs 30 days to amend their initial complaint in light of those amendments.

Kary Moss, Michigan director of the ACLU, told the *Detroit Free Press* she would consult with her clients before deciding whether to proceed with the lawsuit.

The government had argued the law does not violate the Fourth Amendment because the protections against unreasonable search and seizure do not apply to information or items that have been given to third parties, even if there is an understanding of confidentiality.

Hood acknowledged it took "an extraordinary amount of time" to issue her ruling, adding, "the issues raised on the complaint and in the government's papers are important to us all." ■

Eugene JA Art Memorial Breaks Ground

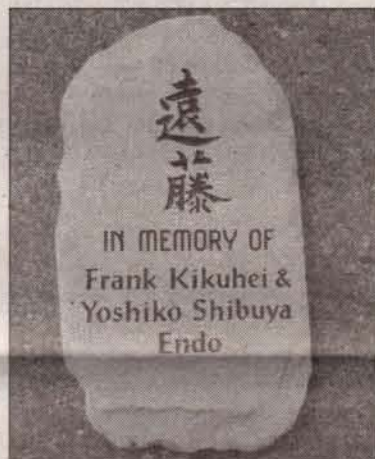
After more than three years, the Eugene Japanese American Art Memorial (EJAAM) committee broke ground in September. The monument commemorates the World War II mass evacuation from the West Coast of 120,000 Japanese American citizens and their Issei parents.

The chosen site is at the corner of the Hult Center, the cultural hub of Eugene, where the monument will be seen by thousands of visitors each year. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 19, 2007, on the 65th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which set the evacuation into motion.

A \$50,000 challenge grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund ignited the fundraising effort, and has now been matched by over \$60,000 in additional funds given by a broad base of community supporters, including local city and county governments and civic organizations.

Private contributions have come from up and down the West Coast and as far away as Colorado, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Alaska, Hawaii, and Japan.

The memorial will be made up of three panels depicting Justice, Perseverance and Honor, as designed by Kenge Kobayashi (a



WWII Tule Lake internee), and a bronze sculpture of a young girl awaiting her "Forced Journey" at a train station, designed and fabricated by David Clemons.

In addition to the panels and sculpture, paver stones engraved with inscriptions, names, and family crests will be placed at the site as part of the memorial.

Essential fundraising continues, and subscriptions are still open for paver stones to be placed at the monument. They come in three sizes at \$300, \$500, and \$1000. ■

To support the memorial contact:
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Arizona On My Mind: \$1,000,000 Prize for Voting



ELECTION METHODS HAVE been in the news with general elections due next month. The state of Arizona, while we were in convention last June, was pondering an initiative promoting voter registration. The carrot: a million dollar prize to a lucky voter. The prize was to come from unclaimed Arizona lottery winnings. Critics argued it was like "buying votes" by offering a prize. Proponents sought a greater number of voters.

As an aside, the primaries last spring in the state of Washington were tight and confusing. The winner for the state governor was declared after two months, despite dead people having voted and more ballots being returned than the number registered in some parts of the state. And King County officials said it would be cheaper in the long run by doing away with polling stations.

Oregon is a pioneer, having axed polling stations in 2000. Among the reasons were the long lines at the polling place, some in line for an hour or two, trying to work through 26 initiatives one year. For the 2004 election, Oregon had the highest voter turnout by mail at 87 percent of registered voters.

California allows permanent absentee voters. The envelope used to return ballots are a different size and color for postal clerks to spot and deliver. Statewide over one-third of the votes cast in 2004 were absentee, 18 percent permanent.

In Colorado, the voters will decide next month whether to switch to mail-only but on a county-option wide basis. One twist here is that in the even-year partisan elections, the mail-only will not be allowed.

Because of federal and state voting rules, such as printing ballots in multiple languages, county finances have been hard hit. One election official says going mail-only would be a savings, not having to rent a polling place or employ temporary staff.

Voter registration was a major JACL chapter effort in the 1930s. Chapters had a list of eligible Nisei

voters. Nisei were told to also fight racial discrimination at the polls. It is recorded that the Brawley chapter "fined" those members who did not vote. One needed to check the next day with the polling place of those who did vote.

Some in California, at one time, didn't register as jurors were selected from this pool; but now anyone with a driver's license, if a citizen, can be summoned.

Tim's speech at the Convention

One speech, I felt, that maps out the coming years for Nikkei and JACL was delivered by Tim Toyama, co-winner of the Japanese American of the Biennium award.

Tim said: "The last couple of days, I've been thinking of what to say ... and to be candid, I've been freaking out. I didn't know what to say. Then three things happened.

"The first thing that happened was during the flight (to Phoenix), I was reading Yuri Kochiyama's book, 'Passing It On.' Yuri was a recipient of this award ten years ago. She writes, 'This book is written for my grandchildren. I would like them to know their great-grandparents, grandparents, uncles and aunts. I would like them to know some Japanese American history so they'll be able to make connections with some important movements that took place in which their parents and relatives participated.'

"The second thing was finding out the theme of this convention, 'Phoenix Rising — leadership for a new generation.' Connections started to happen.

"The third thing was seeing my niece here, Megan, who's an intern at the convention.

"And then the connections really happened: Yuri to me to my niece. There's a thread connecting us all. Part of that thread is who we are. We are the result of our parents' and grandparents' hard work and sacrifice. Another part of the thread is our history, our stories. We need to pass on our stories. I'm proud to be a part of that thread. The next generation is here."

And Megan, a Yonsei, was asked to say a few words. After hearing the stories of her grandparents and friends in the community, she said she was inspired, grateful and eager to follow in their footsteps ... "to dream big and stand up for what I believe is right."

"These lessons have driven me to give everything I do 110 percent, grateful for everything I have, never take anything for granted, and to love and appreciate my family, friends and community. Their stories have fueled my passion for social justice and dream for the future."

Tim's last words: "Encourage them to keep telling their stories. We're listening." ■

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If you didn't see 'Yellow Fever' you've been living under a rock. The guys return with a new feature length romantic comedy.

A Moment with Wong Fu



By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor



To find out what kind of hypnotizing power white men have over Asian Pacific American women, one intrepid APA student (Phillip Wang) sought the counsel of a blue-eyed guru who could seduce with a beckon and a softly uttered, "Dude."

The scene from the aptly titled January 2006 short film "Yellow Fever" generated a lot of buzz and spread through the internet quicker than you could say: Who the heck is Wong Fu?

The men behind the film — Wang, Wesley Chan and Ted Fu — all recent graduates from UC San Diego, seemed to have cornered the internet movie world with their irreverent humor and lip-syncing music videos. Now they've ventured into a new arena: a feature length film about relationships.

"A Moment with You," which was shot for about \$2,000, features a multiethnic cast with — yes, a good-looking white guy (Casey Hoffman), but the mood is more mature and introspective. The idea was born from a lack of "relatable" Hollywood romantic movies.

"[Movies like] 'How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days' or 'Maid in Manhattan,' they're fun to watch, I totally believe that, but I've never had to lose a girl in 10 days," said Wang.

The group who met in class in 2004 is embarking on an international tour for their new film, kicking off in San Diego of course.

Pacific Citizen: How does this collaboration work?

CHAN: It was a story that we developed together. We never wrote anything on our own. It was all us in front of the computer writing together. Every project is different — Phil might edit one project, but we'd be there to let him know what we think.

WANG: We don't have those titles. Since there are only three of us anyways, we can't really get caught up on titles because so much needs to get

done.

PC: Google knocked on your door for a private screening. That must've been exciting.

WANG: Actually, it does sound pretty cool. One of the people in their video department e-mailed us saying every quarter they invite filmmakers to come and showcase their

'It's funny because we would get this one e-mail saying "Wow, it totally breaks down stereotypes." And then we get another e-mail that said, "Wow, you guys just reinforced every stereotype."'

— Phil Wang, about their short film 'Yellow Fever'

work. And so they said we know that 'Yellow Fever' did really well and you guys are on Google video and YouTube a lot. We know you have this movie coming out, if you guys came that would be really cool. About 80 people showed up. It was pretty nerve racking because they have titles and they're Google employees, you know.

PC: Did you work out a deal?

CHAN: They mentioned something about if we wanted to host the movie online, they would help split up the movie and host it. I think we're going to finish this tour first.

PC: When did you realize you've reached a new level beyond music videos for friends?

WANG: It just happened so gradually. Slowly we were getting more and more feedback. It was never like we made something that was 'Oh my god this is amazing ...'

CHAN: 'Yellow Fever' ...

WANG: I guess 'Yellow Fever' was one thing ...

CHAN: Tell her about the bill.

WANG: Oh yeah. Our Web site at the time had a cap on how many people could download and for every gigabyte that you go over it was like \$1. So many people started downloading that we ended up with a bill of \$1,300.

FU: That's why we have donations.

PC: 'Yellow Fever' put you on the map for internet movies, but there was also a backlash. What were the critics saying?

WANG: The critics tended to take things way too seriously. They analyzed it and said that we were trying to break these social barriers, but we were just trying to talk about things that groups talk about. Some people were saying that we were being really racist. It's funny because we would get this one e-mail saying 'Wow, it totally breaks down stereotypes.' And then we get another e-mail that said, 'Wow, you guys just reinforced every stereotype.' (Laughs)

PC: In making a movie about white men dating all the Asian women, some of the criticism was that you are angry Asian



1. Mimi Chao shares a moment with Casey Hoffman. 2. Wong Fu's Wesley Chan (far left) and Ted Fu (right) during a shoot. 3. (l-r) Chao, Austen Chong and Hoffman share their burden. 4. Chao and Chong fall in love in 'A Moment with You.'

men.

ALL THREE: Whoa ...

FU: We're not angry Asian men. I came from South Africa and most of my friends were white. I feel like I'm an international citizen, so race or color doesn't matter.

WANG: I hope not too many people associate us as that because we're really not. I mean I know we live in Alhambra, and we're all Asian, but we don't curse the world for making us Asian. Actually we're really happy!

PC: But mostly, have you been embraced by APAs?

WANG: Yes. One good thing is that we get a lot of e-mails saying what we do inspire them to do their own videos and pursue the arts. That feels really good because they're all saying that there are Asian Americans now that are showing Asian Americans just as people not as kung fu fighters. We're just regular college kids too trying to do some fun stuff. It's been good to hear younger Asian American kids say those things.

PC: What's next for Wong Fu?

WANG: We're also trying to start our new company called Sketchbook Media. That's something we're going to launch within a month.

FU: When people think of Wong Fu now, they think of entertainment. When people think Sketchbook, they'll think production company. We're just branching out.

WANG: That's how Wong Fu is growing up, I guess you can say. ■

ON THE WEB: www.wongfuproductions.com



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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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Calendar

East Coast

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Oct. 28—5th Annual Meet and Greet Potluck Dinner; 6:30 p.m.; 724 Harvard Ave; Swarthmore, PA. RSVP to Martha Fujimoto, 610/544-5449. Info: Scott Nakamura, 610/878-2237 or Cliff Akiyama, 267/235-9426.

Midwest

CLEVELAND

Sat., Nov. 4—37th Annual Holiday Fair; 1-5 p.m.; St. Ignatius High School; enjoy food, crafts, demonstrations, door prizes, raffle and a silent auction; sponsored by the Cleveland JACL. Info: 216/921-2976 or 440/268-9574.

EVANSTON, Ill.

Wed., Nov. 1—Panel discussion, "Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis," sponsored by the Chicago JACL; 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. program; Northwestern University, Swift Hall, Room 107, 2029 Sheridan Rd; panelists: John Tateishi, JACL National Director and Colleen Connell, ACLU of Illinois Executive Director.

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.

ST. PAUL, Minn.

Sun., Nov. 19—Twin Cities JACL Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet and Annual Meeting; Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd.; featuring the film, "Only the Brave" at 3 p.m., director, actor Lane Nishikawa and actor Yuji Okumoto will be on hand; honoring the community's "Greatest Generation"; \$50 for non-members, \$40 adult members, \$35 students and children. Info: Joanne Kumagai, 763/420-6639.

Pacific Northwest

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash.

Through Oct. 31—Exhibition, "Intersections: Contemporary Work by Japanese American Artists; Bainbridge Arts and Crafts, 151 Winslow Way E; exhibit highlights traditional techniques, materials or aesthetics as contemporary artists reinvent, re-imagine or re-discover them; exhibition honors the opening of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Wed., Nov. 29—4th Annual U.C. Berkeley Nikkei Student Union Culture Show, "Visions"; 7 p.m.; U.C. Berkeley, Zellerbach Playhouse; \$10 admission with lower rates for students and advanced group seating. Info: Colleen Oinuma, nsuculturenight@yahoo.com.

MANZANAR

Through Oct. 31—Exhibit, "1942 Luggage From Home to Camp"; Manzanar Historic Site; artist Flo Oy Wong uses actual luggage taken to camp and creates a multimedia exhibition of suitcases representing the WWII internment experiences of six JAs; sponsored by the Manzanar History Association, Japanese American Museum of San Jose and the Arts Council Silicon Valley. Info: 760/878-2727.

SACRAMENTO

Fri., Nov. 3—"HOSHIGAKI - The Art of Japanese Hand-Dried Persimmons"; 7 p.m.; Asian Community Center, 7375 Park City Dr.; Tosh Kuratomi of Otow Orchard will speak about the ancient and slow process that produces a sweet and succulent dried persimmon; presented by the Jan Ken Po Cultural Association; \$5 donation per person. Info and reservations: 916/489-1291.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri., Oct. 27—JCCCNC and JCYC annual Halloween Carnival; 6-8:30 p.m.; JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter St; enjoy

arts, crafts, games, trick or treat parade and a new "Mad Scientist Lab." Info: Ken Maeshiro, 415/567-5505 ext. 239.

Sat., Nov. 4—Discussion, "Japanese American Newspapers: Past, Present and Future"; 4:30 p.m.; Hospitality Room of Japantown's Union Bank, 1675 Post St (in the mall behind Union Bank); featured speakers will be the English Editors of *The Hokubei Mainichi*, J.K. Yamamoto, *Nichi Bei Times*, Kenji Taguma and *NikkeiWest*, Jeffrey Kimoto; sponsored by the Japanese American National Library; free and open to the public.

Sat., Nov. 18—JACL Health Benefits Trust's annual NCWNPDC Chapter Insurance Commissioner's lunch meeting at the Miyako Hotel. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/400-6633.

Central California

FRESNO

Sun., Nov. 5—JACL Health Benefits Trust's annual CCDC Chapter Insurance Commissioner's lunch meeting at the Radisson Hotel Fresno. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/400-6633.

HANFORD

Sun., Oct. 22—Discussion and demonstration, Takeo Tanabe presents his family's bamboo art; 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth Ave. Info: 559/582-4915.

Southern California

ANAHEIM

Sat., Nov. 11—JACL Health Benefits Trust's annual PSW Chapter Insurance Commissioner's lunch meeting at the Radisson Hotel Maingate, Anaheim. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/400-6633.

Sat., Nov. 11—Go For Broke "Evening of Aloha" Gala Dinner; Anaheim Hilton Hotel; Registration and silent auction at 4 p.m., dinner program at 6 p.m.; \$150 general, \$125 veterans and spouses; honoring the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Nisei veterans, featuring Chef Roy Yamaguchi and Chef Hiro Sone. Info: 310/328-0907 or eveningofaloha@goforbroke.org.

LOS ANGELES

Nov. 16-Dec. 3—Performance, "Farewell to Manzanar"; 7 p.m. Nov. 16-18 and Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2 p.m. Nov. 19 and Dec. 3; Democracy Forum in the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, 111 N. Central Ave (adjacent to JANM and MOCA Contemporary); \$15 for adults, \$10 for JANM members, seniors and children 15 and under. Tickets, JANM, 213/625-0414. Info: www.CornerstoneTheater.org or www.janm.org.

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 18-19—Japan Expo 2006; Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall K; featuring Makoto, who is featured in the documentary film, "Geisha Modern"; event will have



Takeo Tanabe prepares his basket titled 'A Gentle Breeze.' This work appears in 'The Tanabe Family: Three Generations of Bamboo Artists' at the Lee Institute of Japanese Art in Hanford, Calif.

shopping, food and demonstrations; admission is \$12 and children under 12 are free. Info: www.JapanExpo.org.

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

WEST COVINA

Sat., Nov. 4—Fall Frolic Dance, San Gabriel Valley JACL Scholarship Fund Raiser; 7-11 p.m.; ESGV Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave; \$10 donation; music by Jim Ikehara.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Oct. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel, downtown; events include: Fri.: Golf at Palm Valley Golf Club at 8 a.m. (\$66, includes cart), Welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch, Golf at Highland Falls Golf Club, noon; Convention fee is \$225. Room rates at the Plaza Hotel are Fri. and Sat. \$149.99/night for single and double occupancy; hosted by the Las Vegas JACL. For info on Los Angeles to Las Vegas bus info, contact Miyako Kadogawa, 310/839-1194. Info: www.mwt.com/jaclingles or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/790-9547.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sat., Nov. 4—From Manzanar to Honouliuli: Reflections by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston; 10:30-12:30 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St., 5th Floor; co-author of "Farewell to Manzanar," Houston will share here experiences on the internment during WWII; books will be available for purchase and signing; admission is free. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633, info@jcch.com or www.jcch.com.
Sun., Nov. 12—"Shichi Go San" ("seven, five, three"); 10-3 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St., 5th Floor; children can dress up in kimono and sandals and have a professional photo taken; \$70 non-member child, \$56 JCCH member child; cost for pictures is extra. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633, info@jcch.com or www.jcch.com. ■

CORRECTION

On page 7 of the Sept. 15-Oct. 5 issue, the Scholarship Committee identified Roger Tanaka incorrectly identified as the chair. The chair is Ron Tanaka and Roger is a committee member.

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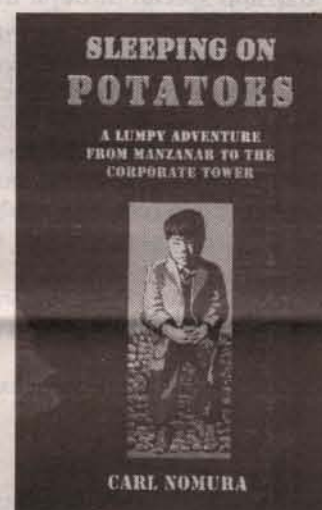
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Sleeping on Potatoes

A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower

by Carl Nomura



It's a memoir beginning with a tyrannical father, growing up during the Great Depression followed by internment. It's about family, the Army, interesting people, animals, fishing, poker and work. Here's some feedback from readers:

"Carl's book might be hazardous to your marriage. At 1:00 A.M., I laughed so hard that I woke up my husband."

"This one's a keeper! A rich, top notch read. Feeds the mind. Tickle the soul. Sets all my bells ringing! The kind of book I want to tell the world about. It is likely to become an old friend." An appraisal by Rebecca Brown.

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 and www.yuricareport.com.

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

Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II: Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice

By Thelma Robinson



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In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Akiyoshi, Kimi, 93, Los Angeles, Sept. 7; survived by husband, George; son, Chris (Keiko); daughter, Susan (David) Sakuda; 6 gc.; and 8 ggc.

Hagimori, Kikue "Kiki," 91, Seattle, Sept. 12; survived by son-in-law, Jerry Yuasa; 2 gc.; and 4 ggc.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$20 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.

Hedani, Frances Haruye, 83, San Francisco, Aug. 14; survived by husband, Tokuji; daughters, Janet (Steven) Yip, Barbara (Leroy) Morishita, son, Dean (Melainie); 6 gc; brothers, Kaz (Fusae) and Tak (Lilly) Takei.

Hiramatsu, Kay Kazumi, 79, Anaheim, Sept. 6; survived by husband, Tom; sons, Steve (Elena) and Kenny (Laura); daughters, Julie (Nolan) Matsumoto and Jayne (Randy) Kameshige; 11 gc.; 1 ggc.; sister, Yasuko Yagami; and brothers, Henry (Kimi) and Chalo (Alice)

Uyekawa.

Iino, Sho, 91, Los Angeles, Sept. 19; survived by sons, Thomas (Barbara), Steven and John (Eva); 9 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Itagaki, Motoko, 68, Los Angeles, Sept. 12; survived by husband, Hideo; daughter, Julia (Robert) Okamuro; sons, Glenn (Joanne) and Steven (Shirl); 6 gc.; and sister-in-law, Haruye Togashi.

Kawaminami, Jim, 84, Sept. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd I Co.; survived by wife, Sakaye; daughters, Janice (Tommy Hirabayashi) Kawaminami, Donna Kumamoto and Lynne; 3 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Miyuki (Jerry) and Tomi Kawaminami.

Kunisaki, James Kenji, 72, Culver City, Sept. 20; survived by sons, Randy (Judy) and Kevin (Sheryl); 2 gc.; and brother, Thomas (Shirley).

Matsuno, George Ichiro, 76, Montebello, Sept. 17; survived by

sisters, Shigeko (Mits) Hazama, Irene Matsuno and Nancy (Eddie) Mino; and brothers, Jiro, Ronald and Gary (Gerry).

Matsuoka, Kiyoko Shimada, 72, Monterey Park, Sept. 14; survived by husband, George; daughter, Hitomi (Michael) Rice; son, Tsutomu (Yuka); 4 gc.; and sisters, Mariko (Yoshizo) Kojima and Shinobu (Sadao) Ida.

Okamoto, George "Joe," 81, Sept. 13; survived by wife, Lillian; daughter, Jan; sons, Geody (Lynn) and Randy; 7 gc.; brothers, Bill, Jack and Richard; and sisters, Tamaye (Raymond) Kobata and Grace (Jimmy) Fujikawa.

Sakata, Michiharu, 66, Montebello, Sept. 20; survived by wife, Kazuko; sons, Brian, Derrick and Steven; brother, Edward (Mitzi); mother-in-law, Taeko Narumi; and brothers-in-law, Shigenobu Narumi.

Seno, Masami Sam, 95, Torrance, Sept. 9; survived by sons, Wayne (Eileen) and Shigemi (Jane); daughters, Carole (Lawrence) Song and Lynne (Bjorn) Benson; 11 gc.; and 6 ggc.

Serikaku, Katsumi "Bucky," 79, Orange, Sept. 20; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Pauline; and brother, Stanley.

Sugiyama, Ronnie, 86, Los Angeles, Sept. 21; survived by daughter, Janet (Henry) Minami; and sister, Kuniye Sugiyama.

Sumida, Dorothy Yayeko, 86, Santa Clara, Aug. 25; survived by daughters, Karen (Bill) Wilt, Janet (Hari) Kojima and Lisa (Thomas) Steele; and 8 gc.

Sumida, John Yutaka, 87, Santa Clara, June 10; MIS veteran; survived by daughters, Karen (Bill) Wilt, Janet (Hari) Kojima and Lisa (Thomas) Steele; 8 gc.; sisters, Helen Mito and Lily Yamashita; and brother Joey.

Takano, Noboru, 58, Northridge, Sept. 19; survived by wife, Ikuko; daughter, Kaoru (Tadayoshi) Saito; stepdaughters, Mayko (Alfred) Martinez and Kuniko (Thomas) Hess; and 4 gc.

Uyeda, Michiko, 80, Irvine, Sept. 17; survived by sons, Brian

(Pat), Alan (Leslie) and Dale; daughter, Shari (Lester) Lim; and 6 gc.

Yoshizaki, Kikuo "Ray," 91, Alhambra; survived by wife, Tayeko; sons, Ted (Toni) and Chester (Carol); 7 gc. and 1 ggc. ■

DEATH NOTICE

DOROTHY YAYEKO SUMIDA

Dorothy Yayeko Sumida, 86, passed away Aug. 25 in San Jose, Calif. She was a long-time resident of Santa Clara and was born in Los Gatos. Dorothy was a co-proprietor of John Sumida, Goldsmiths. She is survived by daughters, Karen (Bill) Wilt, Janet (Hari) Kojima, and Lisa (Thomas) Steele; son, Sean and numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. A celebration of her life will be observed on Sat., Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church on North 5th Street, San Jose.

DEATH NOTICE

MIYEKO YUMIKURA

Born on Aug. 31, 1922, in Sacramento, Calif. she passed away suddenly on Sept. 24 at the age of 84. She is preceded in death by her father and mother, Hisashi and Tomiko Onishi and infant son Steven. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Hank Yumikura, daughter Lynn Matsuda and husband Brooks and brother Masato Onishi and wife Mitzi of Los Angeles. Miye's kind spirit, quiet demeanor and lady like ways will be deeply missed by her family, relatives and friends. A memorial service officiated by Rinban Bob Oshita and Rev. Kazuaki Nakata, was held at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento on Oct. 2 for family and friends.



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Whereabouts

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TOMOKO FUJII

The Calabasas High School reunion committee is looking for Tomoko Fujii, a 1996 graduate of the school. Please contact the reunion committee at 661/259-5999. The 10-year reunion is Sat., Nov. 25.

YAMATO COLONY

The Livingston Yamato Colony Centennial Committee would like to invite early residents of the colony, who have not been contacted. Please write to Yamato Colony Centennial Committee, P.O. Box 35, Cressey, CA 95312. The celebration will be June 16-17, 2007.



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WATADAS

(Continued from page 1)

world had come off his shoulders," said Bob. "He felt good about his decision, even today. Even ten years from now he knows he did the right thing, even if he has to be punished."

That punishment will be determined in a possible court martial with Ehren facing up to eight years in prison for several charges including: missing troop movement, conduct unbecoming an officer, and contempt towards officials.

With his son's future now in the hands of the U.S. Army, Bob and his wife Rosa Sakanishi are currently touring the country hoping to raise awareness and support for Ehren who will likely face a court martial sometime early next year.

The retired couple are in the midst of speaking engagements in Southern California and will soon head to the Midwest and the East Coast before resting for a few days back home in Hawaii. Bob and Rosa's hectic schedule has left little time for anything else but they too believe in what Ehren is fighting for.

"Ehren is doing this as a matter of conscience. We are proud of the position our son has taken," said Bob at an Oct. 5 Los Angeles press conference sponsored by Korean Americans for Peace, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR), and the Asian American Vietnam Veterans Organization.

Bob explained how his son Ehren decided to join the U.S. Army shortly after 9/11 because he felt it was his patriotic duty. But after witnessing the treatment of innocent Iraqi men, women, and children at the hands of

the United States, he began to see the war as immoral and illegal. As an officer, he could not in good conscience lead his men to fight in the Iraq war and believes all U.S. troops need to be brought home immediately.

"Ehren saw the Iraqi people as human beings. He saw how wrong it was to kill human beings for absolutely no reason," said Bob. "That we are not fighting for our country but for oil and that's why he has taken this position."

Bob and Rosa both emphasized that their intentions are not to sway public opinion towards Ehren's beliefs. What they want is for the American people to study the issues surrounding the Iraq war, come to their own conclusions, and take their own actions.

"We want to share Ehren's story. He wants to let everyone know that he's doing this based on his principles," said Rosa, Ehren's stepmother. "He's standing up for each one of us. He's standing up for the U.S. Constitution."

The Watadas have been touched by the support they have received during their speaking tour, particularly in the Nikkei community. During their visit to Northern California several events were standing room only and many people vocally expressed their support.

"It's been very positive. We've had a really good response," said Bob. "We keep going because we see so much support."

But not all members of the Nikkei community have been supportive. Several Japanese American veterans groups — including Japanese American Korean War Veterans and

Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance — have openly criticized Ehren for his actions, calling him a disgrace to the legacy of the heroic World War II JA vets.

Bob has not been blind to the veterans' criticisms directed at his son but wants them to know that Ehren has nothing but respect for the JA vets and their accomplishments.

"Ehren has said he is very proud of the vets. They fought for and died for the Constitution of the United States and he feels he is doing the same thing," said Bob, who noted that Ehren's uncle was killed while fighting in the Korean War.

Today, Ehren has been reassigned to an administrative position at Fort Lewis, Washington and is living off base. He is currently waiting to hear a final decision on his possible court martial.

"Mentally, emotionally he's doing pretty good," said Bob.

It has helped that many of his fellow soldiers have been supportive of his actions and sympathetic of his current plight, especially in light of the military charges he now faces.

"The soldiers support him and many soldiers are thanking him," Bob continued, noting that he too has received a lot of positive e-mails.

As the JA community continues to debate Ehren's decision, Bob and Rosa are making themselves available to answer questions regarding their son's actions in the current war.

"He's taken the most difficult road in opposing the war," said Rosa. "But hopefully his sacrifice will not be in vain." ■

'He's standing up for the U.S. Constitution.'

—Bob Watada about his son Ehren



PHOTOS: P.C. STAFF

TALKING TO THE PUBLIC:
Pictured above Rosa Sakanishi and Bob Watada answer questions at a recent Los Angeles press conference.



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