2006 GENERAL ELECTIONS
APA Leaders Head Back to Congress with One Newly Elected Member
By LYNDA LINAssistant Editor
The Asian Pacific American voting block flexed its muscle at the polls last week, reelecting many of the community’s proven leaders and sending a newly anointed one to Congress to join a Democratic majority.
In Hawaii, former Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono celebrated a history-making win over Republican Bob C. Hoge to become the first person born in Japan to serve in the House of Representatives.
"It makes me so proud that we are part of a country that gives those kinds of opportunities,” said Hirono to KITV Channel 4.
Hirono, who was born in Fukushima, Japan and raised in Honolulu, was favored to pull out a win in an election charged with debate over the current war in Iraq. Throughout her campaign she vocally advocated ending the War, a goal she said she would emphasize in her first term beginning Jan. 3. With Hirono newly elected, there are currently seven APAs in the House and two in the Senate, said William H. "Mo" Marumoto, president-elect. See ELECTIONS/Page 12

MAIZE HIROINO

APA Diabetics Take Life Changing Journeys
Although research indicates diabetes is on the rise amongst APAs, especially Type 2 diabetes, many still know very little about the disease and many more remain undiagnosed.
By CAROLINE KOYAGI-SHOTOM Executive Editor
Shin Kurokawa, a successful anime producer, was used to a career filled with long hours and constant stress so when he became ill over a lengthy period of time, he blamed his symptoms on work-related stress. What else could it be? But when he came down with an unusual case of respiratory infection in his 40 years, Penn State University only had one course titled, "Introduction to Japanese American Studies." The first order of business is to hire new staff, said Larry ada, JACL national director. As a result, work has not been put into some programs because we don’t have the resources. The JACL has had a surplus for the last three years, but the success is bittersweet. The organization works on an annual zero-based budgeting plan, which means by the end of each year the budget should end with a zero balance with most programs and goals outlined in the Program for Action accomplished. Ending with a surplus could mean that more revenue was generated than budgeted or that program goals have not been met because of empty staff position. "So the surplus of a year-end" See JACL BUDGET/Page 2

JACL Projects Year-end Surplus
Board members outline goals for next year. At the top of the list: fill empty staff positions.
By LYNDA LINAssistant Editor
SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL will close out its fourth quarter with another surplus, according to national board members who held a Nov. 10-12 meeting at national headquarters.
Based on a Sept. 30 analysis, the JACL has a $47,752 surplus and is projected to end the year approximately $80,901 under budget. The surplus is attributed to budgeted staff positions that have not been filled as well as steady membership numbers, on target public support and revenues from the recent Phoenix national convention, according to board members. JACL staff and board members spent most of the weekend addressing one question: How are we accomplishing the goals of the budget? The first order of business is to hire new staff, said Larry Oda, JACL national president. "The one thing that has given us a surplus up until now is that we haven’t hired two staff positions (the Pacific Southwest regional director and the administrative assistant for the national director). As a result, work has not been put into some programs because we don’t have the resources.

COMMENTARY
A 1st Amendment Issue
By JOHN TATEISHJACL Executive Director
As you read the Pacific Citizen report of the national board discussion on the Ehren Watada case, you’ll read that I expressed a view that 1st Lt. Watada has a right to express his moral convictions about the war in Iraq and that I urged the board to support a motion to support Lt. Watada’s First Amendment rights.
See TATEISH/Page 8

JACL Nat’l Bd. Rejects Resolution to Increase Support for Watada; Current Statement of Concern Stands
Five months after the Honolulu officer refused to deploy to Iraq, the issue continues to divide the national organization.
By CAROLINE KOYAGI-STON Executive Editor
SAN FRANCISCO—With news that the U.S. Army has decided to go forth with a court martial for 1st Lt. Ehren Watada for refusing to deploy to Iraq, the JACL national board once again took up the contentious issue ironically on Veterans Day, debating a proposed resolution to increase its support for the Honolulu native, but in the end voting to stick to its current statement of concern. With various JACL chapter members present to argue the pros and cons of the divisive issue — including members of the Berkeley and Honolulu chapters who have already gone on record in full support of Watada — the NCWPDP district presented a resolution to support a Sansei officer’s First Amendment right to free speech. But in the end, the Berkeley JACL board quickly voted to defeat the motion 3-7, with 2 abstentions. Thus, its July statement of concern over some of the charges, including conduct unbecoming an officer, will stand.
"The national board action ... was a statement that [it] was satisfied with the current JACL statement, that there was not a need for revision," said Larry Oda, JACL national president. This past board takes it responsibility seriously, and as a group, is sometimes called on to make difficult and unpopular decisions, but it does so in a thoughtful and considered manner through careful and thorough deliberation.
Five months after Watada, 28, announced his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq because he believes the war is illegal and immoral, the JACL — an organization that has one course titled, "Introduction to Japanese American Studies."
the past, but the success is bittersweet. The organization works on an annual zero-based budgeting plan, which means by the end of each year the budget should end with a zero balance with most programs and goals outlined in the Program for Action accomplished. Ending with a surplus could mean that more revenue was generated than budgeted or that program goals have not been met because of empty staff position.

PPP STATE STUDIES: I WANT MY AA STUDIES!
By LYNDA LINAssistant Editor
While Asian American Studies programs have been a mainstay in many public universities for nearly 40 years, Penn State University only has one course titled, "Introduction to Asian American Studies," which was launched this year without any opposition from the national board members who held a Nov. 10-12 meeting at national headquarters.
Based on a Sept. 30 analysis, the JACL has a $47,752 surplus and is projected to end the year approximately $80,901 under budget. The surplus is attributed to budgeted staff positions that have not been filled as well as steady membership numbers, on target public support and revenues from the recent Phoenix national convention, according to board members. JACL staff and board members spent most of the weekend addressing one question: How are we accomplishing the goals of the budget? The first order of business is to hire new staff, said Larry Oda, JACL national president. "The one thing that has given us a surplus up until now is that we haven’t hired two staff positions (the Pacific Southwest regional director and the administrative assistant for the national director). As a result, work has not been put into some programs because we don’t have the resources.

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Penn State Students: I Want My AA Studies!
By LYNDA LINAssistant Editor
MOBILIZE: Penn State students recently circulated a petition to pres­sure university officials for a perma­nent AA studies course.
PHOTO: PAUL GAUDU
COMMENTARY
Future Leadership
By LARRY ODA
JACL Nat’l President
At the Nov. 10-12 national board meeting in San Francisco, the board was asked to clarify the process for the search for JACL Executive Director John Tatsui’s successor. ODA, writing to his past experience in the field, discussed the importance of selecting the right candidate to ensure the success of the JACL.

JACL BUDGET
(Continued from page 1)

next year’s goals

While accountable to the National Executive Director, the Regional Director executes regional and national fund raising initiatives. The Regional Director assists in the organization of National JACL functions, and have an understanding of the JACL's past and recent history.

The Little Landers Historical Society in Tujunga, California, will be placing a plaque at the Los Angeles/El Monte, California, near the 118 Freeway. The plaque will have the names of Japanese Americans who were imprisoned there when WWII started. They were housed in barracks (just like the 10 camps) for us. This will be for the Japanese who were imprisoned there.

The successful and extraordinary convention, a new vision that came from the convention, and a promise of better things to come.

As we wind down the year, we are about to launch our year-end Annual Giving Campaign for a few weeks. You’re going to receive a letter from former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, a long-time JACL member and friend. I hope you take the time to read the letter and find it in your hearts to help us make this year's campaign a success.

It's your generosity and continued support that helps keep the JACL operational. It's your support that helps make this organization so effective at doing the things we do: challenging social injustice, educating the public about the Japanese American and Asian American communities, and ensuring the rights of all Americans.

So let me wish you all a great holiday season and thank you in advance for your generosity in serving the JACL Annual Giving Campaign a resounding success.

Letter to the Editor
Historical Society Looking for JAs Interned at Tujunga During WWII
The Little Landers Historical Society of Tujunga, California, will be placing a plaque at the pressing gold driving concerns near Los Angeles/El Monte, California, near the 118 Freeway. The plaque will have the names of Japanese Americans who were imprisoned there when WWII started. They were housed in barracks (just like the 10 camps) for us. This will be for the Japanese who were imprisoned there.

If you know anyone who was there, please contact Lloyd Hall, 818-951-1041 or Paul Tsuchiya, 818-535-4329. Hall is president of the Little Landers Historical Society of Tujunga, California.
Long Lost Internment Photographs Uncovered

NEW YORK—Close to 800 new internment photographs by photographer Dorothea Lange have been unearthed in the National Archives, where they had lain neglected for a half-century after having been impounded by the government. The pictures can now be seen in the book, "Impounded," which bears the hallmarks of Lange's distinctive documentary style.

Japantown Deal Falls Through

SAN FRANCISCO—A $26 million deal to develop Japantown collapsed in a dispute over land values. The city backed off on Olson Co. the agreed upon amount when city officials discovered that there was less land than originally believed — 5.2 acres instead of 5.8 acres. Olson Co. was chosen over nine other developers to build Japantown, along with First Community Housing of San Jose, which was selected to build affordable housing. A meeting about the future of Japantown is slated for Nov. 30.

Angel Island No. 2 on List of Favorite Bay Area Landmarks

SAN FRANCISCO — The immigration station at Angel Island, the West Coast's version of Ellis Island, narrowly lost an online restoration campaign that allowed visitors to vote on favorite landmarks. Angel Island came in second with 16 percent of the votes for favorite Bay Area landmarks. The winners received $1 million in preservation funds. While the top vote-getter was guaranteed part of the money, it does not automatically get the largest share. Advisers will decide in mid-November how to award the money. Second and third-place finishers could wind up empty-handed. The contest will be repeated next year in a location still to be determined.

Proposal 2 Faces Court Challenge, University of Michigan Opposition

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan's new constitutional amendment banning any form of affirmative action programs is being challenged in court. The new law, which passed in November 2006, virtually ended affirmative action programs by giving advantages to other minority groups.

The complaint, which was filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights on Oct. 25, alleges that the university's admissions procedures are biased because they give advantages to other minority groups. A hearing date on the new suit has not been set.

Princeton Student Files Discrimination Suit Against Princeton

PRINCETON, N.J.—Yale freshman Jian Li has filed a federal civil rights complaint against Princeton for rejecting his admission. He claims Princeton discriminated against him because he is Asian.

Despite racking up the maximum 2400 score on the SAT and 2390 on the ACT, points below the ceiling — on SAT2 subject tests in physics, chemistry and calculus, Li was rejected by three Ivy League universities.

"The complaint, which was filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights on Oct. 25, alleges that the university's admissions Office for Civil Rights on Oct. 25, alleges that the university's admissions procedures are biased because they give advantages to other minority groups at the expense of applicants.

APA Student Files Discrimination Suit Against Princeton

The passage of AB 680, which would require the Department of Education to include the monitoring of language requirements as part of its review of public schools and districts.

The bill, authored by Assembly Member Wilma Chan, would also require every school district to notify school districts of assisted language violations by Aug. 1 of each year.

"The passage of AB 680 will provide a greater role for the state to ensure compliance with translation requirements," said Gen Fujioka, program director at the Asian Law Caucus.

More than one-third of APA's are limited English proficient. By failing to provide translation services, schools are preventing limited English proficient parents from becoming actively involved and engaged in their children's education, crisis says.

The audit assessed compliance with a section of the California Education Code, which requires schools to send translated notices to parents when 15 percent or more of the student population speaks a single primary language other than English at home.

The audit revealed language needs among APA parents are not being met. In California, nearly 43 percent of the state's 6.3 million public school students speak a primary language other than English at home, and almost one-quarter of all students are English learners.

"If this audit were a report card, many schools would be getting D's and F's for translation," said Christina Wong, policy advocate for the Asian Pacific American Legal Advocacy (APALC). "The California State auditor confirms the lack of translated notices for Asian Pacific American parents and highlights the continued advocacy that is needed to ensure schools are complying with their legal and community obligations.

"It is time for our state, school districts and public schools to take action and ensure that parents are not left behind," said Bonnie Tang, staff attorney of Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

"The pictures can now be seen in the book, "Impounded," which bears the hallmarks of Lange's distinctive documentary style."

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APA Diabetics Learn Lessons of Changing Lifestyles and Healthier Habits

(Continued from page 1)

thing he could about the disease. "Obviously, my first reaction was confusion and denial, perhaps mainly because of my lack of understanding. I knew zero about diabetes, so it seemed like a death sentence," he said. "It took me days before I could inject myself with insulin. During the next several weeks of continued denial, I made a decision to read and research online."

"I suppose it took me a good six months before I felt comfortable enough to say that I am diabetic," added Kurokawa. "It took that long before I could tell my parents that I had the illness."

Community Outreach

The third and fifth leading cause of death among Asian Pacific Islanders between the ages of 45 and 64, according to the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP). Although APAs tend to generally have a lower body weight, diabetes is disproportionately high within the APA community compared to Caucasians — it affects about 10 percent of APAs compared to about 5 percent of Caucasians. Over 90 percent of APAs diagnosed have Type 2 diabetes.

"APAs know very little about this disease nor their increased risk. With November designated as American Diabetes Month, APA leaders and physicians are increasing their public awareness campaigns about the disease that has been growing within the APA community in recent years."

"Diabetes is a serious problem among APAs (Asian American and Pacific Islanders). In fact, APAs are at greater risk for diabetes when compared to non-Hispanic whites, possibly due to genetic and socioeconomic factors," said Nina Agbayani, a registered nurse and director of programs for the Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO).

"The awareness on APAs and diabetes is limited, and it is difficult to see the influence from community studies and from AAPCHO's member community health centers, that diabetes is a significant health problem among APAs. However, APAs may not be aware of this problem."

"Dr. George King established the Joslin Diabetes Center's Asian American Diabetes (AADD) in Boston in 2001 and has been working to meet the growing challenges of this disease within the APA community. In one of AADD's outreach programs last week, he diagnosed 10 APAs with diabetes, a diagnosis most were not expecting. They claim they don't know about diabetes, a relatively new entity. They don't know so you're not scared of it but it can be devastating disease," said King. "If you know, then most Asians and Asian Americans seem to have denial. They think they have a little bit of diabetes... but there's no such thing as a little bit of diabetes."

Type 1s and Type 2s

On Aug. 28, Souvilynhanh Knouc, a 23-year-old half Lao-Cambodian living in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, learned she is a Type 2 diabetic. She had lost significant weight over the years but insisted she herself constantly having to urine and decided to make a doctor's appointment. After a simple blood test she got her diagnosis.

"When I first discovered that I was diabetic, I was depressed for about a week or so. I felt like, why do bad things always happen to me? But, after doing research online and talking to my doctor, nutritionist, and a nurse, I felt like everything would be okay. So, I figured I would overcome being of diabetes and accepted it," said Knouc.

"When I told my family that I was diabetic, I think my mother was in denial for a few days. She started buying herbs for me to think that it would somehow cure my diabetes. For my dad, he didn't really know what I was told by the doctor."

Diabetes is a disease in which the body cannot properly use and respond properly (Type 2) to insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas. Insulin is needed to convert sugar, starches and other foods into energy so people with diabetes have higher levels of glucose in their blood.

Studies have shown that the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes is two to three times higher among Pacific Islanders compared to non-Hispanic whites. Type 2 diabetes is also 2.5 times higher among Native Hawaiians compared to whites in Hawaii. Vanesa Wong, 28, of San Francisco, always ate healthy and exercised often so when she became ill seven years ago after getting one of her regular runs, hearing the emergency room doctors tell her she is a Type 1 diabetic, she was in shock. As a development engineer she soon immersed herself in learning everything she could about the disease.

"It was a huge shock to be diagnosed with this disease, since it does not run in my family," she said. "I was always something of a health nut, and I have a very strong immune system. I approached the disease like an engineer — acquiring as much knowledge as possible, fact­­sounding to me like a death sen­­ing a little bit of diabetes."

A Healthier Lifestyle

In addition to that she was told about and a constant urge to urinate, some of the other symptoms associated with diabetes include constant hunger and thirst, blurry vision, weight loss, fatigue, and slow-healing wounds. Although diabetes has a higher risk for developing such conditions as adult blindness, and kidney disease, with early diagnosis and a proper diet and exercise most can live productive lives.

"You have to change your life habits and that can be difficult," said King. "For Asian Americans, it's a healthy diet help immensely."

Kruoch's diagnosis came late so when doctors finally diagnosed him with Type 2 diabetes, he didn't know what he had, shape, especially his eyes. For months after his diagnoses he suffered partial facial vision loss and underwent several operations. Luckily today his eyesight has come back and he is able to continue his work in the area he loves, which is helping others.

"I am far more careful about my diet now than ever before," said Kruoch. "I don't know how everything affects everything else inside the body in a very complex causal chain of events, but medical science only knows so much of that. But that being said great, I wouldn't be surprised that perhaps during my lifetime there will be a one-pill cure for diabetes."

Less than three months since her diagnosis, Kruoch has been trying to eat healthier, regulating her carbohydrate intake, and exercising regularly. She admits it hasn't been easy. "I try to maintain a healthy diet and exercise everyday, but sometimes I may cheat. I didn't actually need to exercise or eat things that I'm suppose to," she said. "I've been learning to meal plan and still feel content with my weight." "It's hard to change my eating habits by altering anything I wanted to eat healthy."

Outreach and Education

Dio Agbayani, a 59-year-old Filipino American living in Hawaii, knew about her family's history of diabetes — both of her parents had it so when a doctor discovered through a simple blood test that she too was a Type 2 diabetic she wasn't surprised. "I was not shocked when I found out," she said. "I figured I would just have to accept it and try to live with it. I was front and center for regular check-ups, I admit, I don't eat wisely, but I try."

For diabetics like Agbayani, they know all too well the importance of outreach and education about diabetes in the APA community. "I'm originally from Philippines (the Filipinos) know little because they are not educated and have a cultural bias contribution to diabetes," said Agbayani. "They need to realize that this is a disease, but it can be treated.

"I didn't know about the high incidence of diabetes in APAs before I worked here. I think, yes, I do to try to educate other APAs about the disease," said Wong. "There are still a lot of misconceptions about diabetes and people don't know how to help correct that where I come." ■


AA STUDIES

(Continued from page 1)

"Every year is like a relay for the students," said Li about the students' struggle for AA Studies. The APA Caucus, a university student organization, has been leading the campaign to pressure school officials to permanently adopt the introduction AA Studies course and to expand AA Studies into a major program.

"People argue that racism is due to ignorance. Well then, commit resources to combat institutionalized racism, not just AA studies," said Li. APA leaders and students have worked hard to create APA studies program and to expand AA Studies into a major program.

"The campaign to pressure school officials for regular check-ups. I admit, I don't eat wisely, but I try."

"In recent years, there has been a demand for Asian American courses, a demand we are trying to meet," said Vicki Fung, the assistant director of science/research communications. "However, with over 500 more students last year and over 300 more this year, we are trying to find more resources."

"The college of the liberal arts administration is working hard to move forward to create an Asian American minor; the challenge, however, is to find faculty who are interested in developing courses beyond Sociology 197A, and this is something they are exploring this year," said Fung.

Some APAs leaders think Penn State should look at the national level and try to do even more for the APA studies programs over the past five years," said Rajini Srinivasan, the director of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. Srinivasan argues that AA Studies promotes any student's intellectual experience.

"For instance, imagine the kind of questions you would ask an Asian student and sophisticated analytical thinking that could develop when students are challenged to think about the interment and position that historical moment against the erosion of civil liberties today," she said. "We can't help but look at the neighboring University of Pennsylvania and how APA program, where AA Studies programs have been a part of a longstanding tradition."
Ogden’s Japantown will be part of Utah’s Day of Remembrance Observance for 2007

By RAYMOND UNO
Special to Pacific Citizen

Much has recently been written about the many Japantowns in the United States. Particularly those in the West. Very little has been written about the Japantown here in Ogden, Utah. An ongoing research project has unearthed a rich and colorful picture of the early Japanese pioneers who were among Utah’s first immigrants, pio­neers of historic 25th Street of Ogden. Over the past few years, there has been discernible docu­menting the history of Ogden’s Japantown for historical and sen­timental reasons.

As we reflected on a project for the Day of Remembrance for Wasiach Front North JACL for 2007, it was suggested we examine the history of Ogden’s Japantown. As a result, the street was eventually lined with restaurants, hotels, beer halls, gambling houses, and of course, the infamous brothels among other attractions resulting in a repu­tation as a racoon, street fighting, roughhouse 25th Street. Concluded within this den of iniqu­ity was the beginning and gradual development of Ogden’s Japantown.

Although not as concentrated as many other Japantowns, inter­spersed within the many other estab­lishments and adjacent streets were many Japanese owned or operated restaurants, beer halls, bathhous­es, merchants and stores, fish market, a taf shop, cleaning shops, a dentist, massage parlors, bus­hoped and other businesses catering to the needs of the local and sur­rounding Japanese communities.

JACL Calls for ‘07 Scholarship Applications

The information brochure and applications for the 2007 JACL scholarships are now available for download on the JACL Web site (www.jacl.org).

Each year, the JACL awards about 30 college scholarships totaling over $50,000 to outstanding students.

In order to qualify, freshman applications must be submitted to the JACL Salt Lake and Mt. Pleasant Chapters by March 1, 2007. Each JACL chapter is asked to screen the applications and forward the outstanding applications to us at JACL, Salt Lake City. There is no limit on the number of applica­tions a chapter can forward for consideration.

All forwarded applications including those in special cate­gories (undergraduate, graduate, law, undergraduate arts and fine arts, financial aid) must be postmarked by April 1, 2007, to be considered for the awards. Applications must be JACL members. Claiming a parent’s member­ship will not fulfill this require­ment. Applicants may submit their membership registration with their application.

JACL will forward these applications to the scholarship commit­tee. The committee will screen and recommend the final recep­tives. The award recipients will be informed by May 1, 2007.

Memorial Event to Remember All Veterans This President’s Day Weekend

Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura, the only Japanese American to receive the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest combat award, will ink his name to build a memorial.

The Korean War hero is expected to sign the book, “Medal of Honor,” which features Miyamura at the All­American Veterans Reunion Feb. 16-18.

With the aging and passing of so many veterans, the VA veterans are coming together once again to unite all veterans in fellowship, and for many perhaps for the last time dur­ing the President’s Day weekend at the New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

Highlights of the event will include a keynote address by Ret. Major General Rodney M. Smith, a tour of 25th Street and other places, a dynamic panel discussion and a banquet with nationally known keynote speaker Irene Hirano, pres­ident and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

The Day of Remembrance event will kick off Feb. 16 with an opening day mixer program featuring Ward Misaka, Ogden’s famous basketball player and first ethnic minority to play for the National Basketball Association, as our keynote speaker.

The three-day event will also feature a tour of 25th Street and other places, a dynamic panel discussion and a banquet with nationally known keynote speaker Irene Hirano, pres­ident and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

The JACL Salt Lake and Mt. Olympus chapters are cospon­sors of this Day of Remembrance event.

Applications for APAICS Fellowship Programs Now Available Online

Due to the overwhelming response from the Asian Pacific American community in the 2006-07 cycle, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) application to apply for their fellowship programs can now be downloaded and completed online.

The two 2007-08 Fellowship Programs are the George Aratani Foundation/Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship and the Heisei Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura Fellowship.

Yumuczi and Gracula are the current APAICS fellows for the George Aratani Foundation/Daniel K. Inouye Fellow and Anheuser-Busch/Frank Horton Fellowship, respectively. Yumuczi has been placed at the office of Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo and Chun is currently working with Congress­woman Niki Tsongas.

This program has proven to be very competitive among the gradu­ate students, said William H. Yamakado, APAICS president and CEO.

APAICS is a national non-profit, non-partisan, educational organiz­ation based in Washington, D.C. that seeks to build a politically empow­ered APA community.

Candidates can request an application by mail or by sending a mes­sage to apeacs@apeacs.org or downloading it at www.apeacs.org The applications must be post­marked by Feb. 28, 2007.

Las Vegas Hosts Singles Convention

From speed meetings to guitar playing, singles and couples enjoy cultural and social activities as well.

Las Vegas Hosts Singles Convention

Las Vegas will be the site for the 11th National JACL Singles Convention held in Las Vegas Oct. 27-29 at the Plaza Hotel.

The festivities kicked off to the drum roll of the Las Vegas JACL’s Kamiraid Taiko and concluded with a dinner dance and a Younara brunch.

Highlights include a keynote by Ret. Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura, Ogden’s famous basketball player and first ethnic minority to play for the National Basketball Association, as our keynote speaker.

JAPANTOWN TODAY—Very little remains today of Ogden’s Japantown. One of the few remaining structures is the Buddhist temple (above) and the annual Oboon festival.

The committee is also currently working on publishing a hardbound book tentatively titled, “Japanese Americans in the Korean War.” The book will feature a list of veterans who served anywhere in the world during the Korean War era to the present.

Some early weeks on the job, as it were, to help with Oboon preparations.
**NATIONAL NEWS**

**WATADA**

(Continued from page 1)

Watada took his oath to the Constitution very seriously and he noted that Watada chose "to live up to those portions of the oath." However, Chip Larouche of the Portland chapter and a veteran of 20 years, noted that he is against any move to change the JACL's current stance. "It would jeopardize that stance ... it will only hurt JACL's statement," said Larouche.

JACL's statement "is not strong enough," said Jim Duff of the Berkeley chapter. "The tendency of the executive branch is to punish those who speak out. The attack on Lt. Watada is just one of those incidents. We need to step up and support Watada."

But others believe JACL's statement of concern over some of the charges without taking any position on the Iraq war is a prudent and well-thought out stance for an organization that has a long history with the WWII veterans. "We commend national JACL for its excellent statement ... the balance it struck is incredible," said Chip Larouche of the Portland chapter and a veteran of 20 years. He noted that he is against any move to change the JACL's current stance. "It would jeopardize that stance ... it will only hurt JACL's statement." Larouche noted that non-military folks who discuss the Watada issue inevitably present an unbalanced argument, especially in terms of the Military Code. "[Watada] took an oath which includes defending the Constitution but also an oath to obey the president and to obey the Uniform Code of Justice. He is not living up to those portions of the oath.""Watada is sticking up for the JACL's statement "is not strong enough," said Jim Duff of the Berkeley chapter. "The tendency of the executive branch is to punish those who speak out. The attack on Lt. Watada is just one of those incidents. We need to step up and support Watada."

But others believe JACL's statement of concern over some of the charges without taking any position on the Iraq war is a prudent and well-thought out stance for an organization that has a long history with the WWII veterans. "We commend national JACL for its excellent statement ... the balance it struck is incredible," said Chip Larouche of the Portland chapter and a veteran of 20 years. He noted that he is against any move to change the JACL's current stance. "It would jeopardize that stance ... it will only hurt JACL's statement." Larouche noted that non-military folks who discuss the Watada issue inevitably present an unbalanced argument, especially in terms of the Military Code. "[Watada] took an oath which includes defending the Constitution but also an oath to obey the president and to obey the Uniform Code of Justice. He is not living up to those portions of the oath."

**VOTING RESULTS**

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<th>Motion to Support Watada's Right to Free Speech:</th>
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<td>Sheldon Arakaki, V.P. of General Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidle Tanakatsubo, V.P. of Public Affairs</td>
<td>absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Kawamoto, V.P. of Planning &amp; Development</td>
<td>absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin Endo, V.P. of Membership</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Kobayashi, Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Shintaku, Youth Chair</td>
<td>abstain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leilani Sakai, Youth Representative</td>
<td>abstain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbi Hanada, CCDC Governor</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiro Nishihikawa, EDC Governor</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvana Watanabe, DGC Governor</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Akiagi, PHW Governor</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alayne Yonemoto, PSW Governor</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Katsuyama, MDC Governor (proxy)</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watada currently works in an administrative position at Fort Lewis, Washington. Prior to making his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq he offered his resignation on two occasions and has offered to serve in other parts of the world including Afghanistan.

The national JACL board first took up the Watada issue at its September board meeting where it was decided that the districts would go back to discuss with its members whether the organization should increase its support for the officer. In the months since then the Midwest, Central California, Pacific Northwest and Intermountain districts all voted to reinforce the current JACL statement of concern and will not increase their support for Watada. The NWCPN district voted to support Watada's right to free speech thus taking the further steps of any of the districts to support the officer. The PSW district recommended that national JACL take a more aggressive posture in two areas: "protecting his right to a hearing in accordance with military law" and "ensuring fair comments" although this motion was not taken up by the national board.

PSW's primary concern was to ensure that Lt. Watada was treated equally as others who had spoken in a similar fashion and that he not receive undue punishment just to be made an example," said Alayne Yonemoto, PSW governor, who noted that her district did not vote on the First Amendment issue.

John Tateishi, JACL executive director, had advised the national board to increase its support for Watada noting that their decision would continue to have ramifications on the organization for years to come. "Personally, I'm disappointed in the board's action on the motion to support Watada's right to free speech. As I stated during the discussion, I honestly think the decision made by the board will define who and what the JACL is for younger generations, just as the decision in 1942 defined the JACL and left a cloud hanging over the organization," he said. "But it's not because of that I urged the board to support Watada's right to express his moral convictions -- it's simply because it's a fundamental right of an American, whether he's in uniform or not."

But in the end only three officers — Alan Nishi, NCWNP governor, Hiro Nishihikawa, EDC governor, and Ron Katsuyama, MDC governor— could be swayed to vote for JACL's increased support for Watada.

"When the motion was made by Alan Nishi, I felt comfortable in supporting Watada's civil rights," said Nishikawa, who noted the EDC has not met officially to discuss the issue yet but that there are a "wide range of responses" from district members.

"I was disappointed that the national board did not pass the motion, which to me was worded quite plainly and straightforward," he said.

---

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National JACL Credit Union membership requirements: The members or shareholders of this credit union shall be restricted to those persons who at the time of application are members of the National Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL) or members living under the same household of the immediate families of members of this credit union and organizations of JACL with loans to such organizations not to exceed their shares and/or deposits.

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**First Lt. Ehren Watada (left) with his father Bob Watada, step-mother Rosa and Ehren's lawyer Eric Saltz in Pt. Lewis.**

AP PHOTO: PETER HALEY
BASEBALL

China's Next Yao Ming Looks to 2007 NBA Draft

BEIJING—Chinese forward Yi Jianlian, a 19-year-old rising star touted by many as the next Yao Ming, has received permission from his club to enter the 2007 NBA draft, according to state media.

Yi, who led the Guangdong Tigers to three straight national championships, was given the backing of his club to enter the 2007 NBA draft, according to state media.

"But now he is different, he is getting stronger mentally and physically. I think next year will be a big chance for him, so for us, it's time to let him go," Guangdong general manager Chen Haisuo was quoted as saying.

"This is a great opportunity and also a test for me," said Yi, whose height and on-court moves have brought comparisons to 7-foot-5 Houston Rockets center Yao. 

"It is too early to predict my future in the NBA, because I am improving all the time," he said.

For now, Yi says his focus is on contesting another national championship and winning gold at next month's Asian Games at Doha, Qatar.

In the absence of Yao or Yi, Yi will lead the team along with former NBA player Wang Zhizhi.

China was runner-up to South Korea last month in Asiam Games at Doha, Qatar.

Wang, the first Chinese to play in the NBA, ended a four-year U.S. stay earlier this year and now plays for the People's Liberation Army team in Beijing.

FIGURE SKATING

Figure Skater Michelle Kwans Named Public Diplomacy Ambassador

By BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON—Michelle Kwan, the American figure skater who owns nine national championships, nine world titles and five Olympic medals, is about to become a nontraditional U.S. diplomat.

Kwan, the American star in South Korea last month at the Winter Olympics, is the most decorated female figure skater in history.

This is the story of Nisei cadet nurses in the Pacific and their contribution during World War II, a story of prejudice, difficulty and compassion.

Nisei Cadet Nurse Corps

From Japanese-American Internment Camps to the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

This is the story of Nisei cadet nurses in the Pacific and their contribution during World War II, a story of prejudice, difficulty and compassion.

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350-49 Yamato Art & Culture Tour of Japan - 12 days - visiting Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Thomson

Apr. 17-30 Yamato From the Alps to Dubrovnik with Celestine Vacations - 13 days visiting Vienna, Budapest, Sofia, Athens, Dubrovnik, Thomson

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Stories by Associated Press and Pacific Citizen Staff.

Baseball

Reyes Powers MLB Stars to Sweep of Japan

By JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan—Jose Reyes hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning to help the Mets top the WBC All-Star, 5-3 victory over Japan.

It was a sweep of the five-game series.

GIUGCHI

JUHOMMA

IGUCHI

It was a sweep of the five-game series.

The last time major leaguers swept a tour of Japan was when the Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig All-Stars went 17-0 in 1935.

"Japan plays with a lot of heart," Manny Ramirez said. "I was impressed a lot by them.

"I feel very relieved today," said the Milwaukee Brewers singled before Reyes homered to right field, giving the Mets a 4-3 win. Reyes was named the series' MVP.

"It is too early to predict my future in the NBA, because I am improving all the time," he said.

For now, Yi says his focus is on contesting another national championship and winning gold at next month's Asian Games at Doha, Qatar.

Wang, the first Chinese to play in the NBA, ended a four-year U.S. stay earlier this year and now plays for the People's Liberation Army team in Beijing.

...and am happy this day has finally come."

I grew up in Fukushu, so it's nice to get a hit in my hometown," Murata said. "Their pitchers throw hard and they can pitch to all corners, so I'm learning a lot by facing them.

I learned to play baseball when I was young, since leaving for the majors.

...and am happy this day has finally come."

I'm not sure which team I will end up playing for," Matsuzaka said. "I know there are several teams that are interested and I'll go with the one that most appropriately evaluates my ability.

Since turning professional in 1999, Matsuzaka has dominated Japan's pro leagues. He consistently throws in the high-90s mph and has superb command of his off-speed pitches.

A first-round draft pick in the 1998 amateur draft, Matsuzaka has led the Pacific League in wins three times and in strikeouts four times as he shakes hands with acting team owner Hidekazu Ota during a press conference in Tokyo.

Matsuzaka was 17-5 with a 2.13 ERA and 200 strikeouts this year. He impressed many major league scouts last March during the World Baseball Classic, where he was named as the MVP. Matsuza then won the title, and the 2004 Olympics.

Matsuzaka also had gained attention because of the "gembait." It's a pitch that a right-hander would use to break to the left, although he has said he's yet to master it.

"We want to lose a game," he said.

"We came here to win and didn't want to lose a game," the Milwaukee Brewers singled before Reyes homered to right field, giving the Mets a 4-3 win. Reyes was named the series' MVP.

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Johimda and Tadahito Iguchi were playing in the Fukushu Dome that day since leaving for the majors.

Japanese star pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, left, of Seibu Lions smiles as he jokes with teammates after winning team owner Hidekazu Ota during a press conference in Tokyo.

The New York Yankees have shown interest in Matsuzaka, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Boston Red Sox and the New York Mets are also thought to be among teams with the best chances of signing the Japanese star.

Matsuzaka has selected agent Scott Boras to represent him in negotiations with major league teams.

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W

HEN TWO MAS-

TERS, associated

with reunions, tours

and pilgrimages, dream about an

"until we meet again" get-

together for Nisei in Northern

and Central California, the low-

key promotion they launched in

June attracted a tremendous

response — beyond what was

expected.

The original hotel site became

inaugurate and pre-registered

interest was overwhelming. The

switch to the Sacramento

Doubletree was like scoring a
touchdown. "We couldn't carry

this off in San Francisco," admitted
one partygoer. "With a $90 regis-
tration covering two dinners." And

attendees made

their own hotel reservations at

$99 single/double occupancy per

night.

Final tally of the first Multi-

Camp Get-Together, for (but not

necessarily) evacuees from

Amache, Poston, Topaz and Tule

Lake, was 430 — 56 percent

women. An eyeball guess fig-

ured most of us were in our 50s,

though Sano and Yosoi stood...

in line for the Sunday night but-

fer mixer.

The oldest attendee present

was finally determined to be Dr.

Masako Kusayanagi Miura, 92, (Matsumoto/Topaz). Stanley

Kanzaki (Topaz) from New York

was declared the one who had

traveled the farthest.

Retired preacher Rev. George

Nishikawa (Tule Lake/Topaz) of

Sacramento expressed the invo-
cation at the Sayonara dinner.

Kiyosato Numeiley (Poston)

and Ruby Matsubara (Tule Lake)

handled the Sunday and Monday

welcome phase, respectively.

Songs from Camp days, American

whaler. "Shina no Yoru,"

was sung by the Music Makers

Henry Befriended by Whitfield, Mizushima and Peter Shima.

Who Discovered America." the Music Makers

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Ron Oda battled a tumor to make an Asian American film that makes you laugh...

A few years ago Ron Oda, a self-proclaimed "serial entrepreneur" with several businesses, including Los Angeles auto shops, dropped everything to make a film. The removal of a benign tumor on his 11th cranial nerve in 2005 changed his perspective on life.

Oda, 39, and his college friend Kris Chin had been talking about making a movie for 15 years, but they were always working on other projects.

"After [the operation], I thought, 'I had a brain tumor; why not?"' joked Oda, a Shin Nici. "It was a real lesson on mortality. I guess it was a blessing."

He spent the next eight months writing and using real life situations as inspiration for "Asian Stories" (Book 3), a dark comedy about a tight-fisted Chinese American (James Kyson Lee) whose fiancee of five years leaves a movie for 15 years, but they were always working on other projects.

Lee's character asks his ex-con best friend (Kishita) to kill him. In the film, heavy issues are wrapped in irreverent humor. In one seminal scene, Kishita interrupts his own thoughts about death methods to rant about his favorite food item being discontinued at Trader Joe's, a retail grocery store. The dialogue is sharp with impeccable comedic timing. "Remember if you're just "cruising with them," said Oda.

Oda grew tired of the APA community's penchant to rehash historical and experimental (read: unwatchable) films.

"Comedy can overcome a lot of things. It gets the stereotypes out," said Oda, adding that many of the APA characters in television and movies are just too serious. Then you have comedic characters like Kishita's, and you're just "cruising with them."

Kishita, a former baseball player for the University of Arizona and the minor leagues, steals every scene with his charisma and onscreen appeal. He is also Oda's cousin.

"I told him if I ever make a movie I would put him in it," said Oda. "Everybody thought we were nuts."

The film, which has won numerous awards while touring film festivals, has also launched several careers. Kishita has just been signed by a major talent agency and Lee can be seen every week on NBC's hit television show "Heroes."

"Just always saw this movie as a launching pad for all those that are great, not because it's Asian," said Oda.

The inspiration for the film came from Chin's friend, who was hit by his bride-to-be. "It was like a comedy. After doing it for two years, we were like, 'Dude, get over it,'" said Oda.

Justin Lin and the Overall Crisply Asians

What's a hit film without some controversy? The internet has been abuzz with negative reviews and criticism of the film's negative portrayal of races. Case in point, a Raiders-chad Latino man spews more "espes" and "holmes" than a "Cheech and Chong" movie.

Asians are overtly politically correct and extremely critical of their own, said Oda. "Comedy is comedy. We wrote the script to pick at everyone."

At his auto shop, workers exchange off color remarks while hovering over revving engines.

"To me that's a daily thing. You never see a Latino and an Asian arguing [in films]. It's always a white guy and black guy," added Oda. "If that's a good movie then we we're doing great."

Now Oda is working on two other scripts and percolating to expand beyond his current comfort authority.

Of Southern California as a business major and schooled himself at a Borders bookstore with "Filmmaking for Dummies."

"One day Kris bought this video camera. We went to a metro rail station — you know how they always shoot stuff in train stations — we edited the footage together, put some music over it and then said. 'I think we're ready for a movie now,'" said Oda with a laugh.

"We just thought what do we have to lose? We're nobodies anyway!"

Cruisin' with the Comedy

In late July 2005, they started their 24-day shoot with a $70,000 budget that inflated well into the red. Their goal was to make an entertaining Asian Pacific American film.

Oda grew tired of the APA community's penchant to rehash historical and experimental (read: unwatchable) films. "Can you guys do something else? We want to provide entertainment that people can enjoy," he said. "Here's something different, not an internment camp movie."

To plot his journey into filmmaking, he relied on the transcending powers of comedy.

"Comedy can overcome a lot of things. It gets the stereotypes out," said Oda, adding that many of the APA characters in television and movies are just too serious. Then you have comedic characters like Kishita's, and you're just "cruising with them."

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SAN FRANCISCO
Colleen Oinuma, nsuculturenight
Thurs., Dec • . 7-“Living History”
Berkeley Nikkei Student Union
Berkeley, Zellerbach Playhouse; $10
admission with lower rates for students
and advanced group seating. Info:
Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open
Grant St.; studio is also open by
inviting the
Wed., Nov. 29-4th Annual UC
Art
“Greatest Generation."; $50 for non­
home.com. .
To learn more about the plan and how to become a
JACL Members
Sleepeing on Potatoes
A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar
to Carl Noruma
With a dry wit and logical mind, Carl Noruma amuses us with
tales of the Great Depression, tells stories of surviving intern­
ment as a Japanese-American
during WWI, describes the sat­isfaction and wonder that comes from raising children and ura­vels
the secret of how to get
along in marriage. It starts with
Carl’s humble beginning of
dreams in a boxcar, continues with
his family’s dark times, and
pushes through to success found
in his career. It is humorous, bit­tersweet, insightful, philosop­
ical and outrageous
Some recognitions: Rebecca Brown Award: Best Memoir of 2004,
Amason readership rating: 5-stars. The Virtual Reader’s vote: 5-books.
Check our www.sleepingonpotatoes.com andwww.yourreport.com
Book available through all bookstores, e.g. Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Aoki, Dodson Yoshio, 55, Bellflower, Oct. 20; Vietnam War veteran; survived by father, Jack; and sister, Margaret (David) Ige.

Fujimoto, Miltono, 98, Los Angeles, Oct. 22; WWII veteran; 442nd RCT; survived by daughters, Kurahashi, Sato, 1:irother-in-law, Fred Kawanami, Susan, Terrie (Sue Ann Wong) and Oct. 31; survived by daughters, Miyoko Yokotake; sisters-in-law, wife, Nobuko; son, Gary; sister, Oct. 23; Harue Hara and Chiyo Ohira; and son, Alan; 2 gc.; and brothers, Shig 20; survived by daughters, Diane Yoshito and Jim; and sister, gc.; and brother, Tom (Terry) Kiriu.

Fujimoto, Mitsusuke, Kamei, Shizuka, Honolulu, Oct. 11; survived by wife, Fumiko; son, Edward; daughters, Rosalind and Edward; husband, Noboru; daughters, Chris and Edward; husband, May Nakagawa. May died in clinical psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Gail.

Ohashi, Theodore "Ted," 95, Oakland, Was a star athlete eight decades ago at Stockton High School and a basketball letterman at Cal from 1931-33. He was inducted into the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990 while serving as a standing swimmer and basketball player. During WWII he was sent to interment camp in Arkansas and went on to have a long career working at the Oakland YMCA. He retired in 1975. He is survived by wife, Kay; daughters, Charlotte, Carol and Patricia; son, Ted; gc.; and ggc.

Okamoto, Naoto, 77, Los Angeles, Oct. 17; survived by wife, Miyoko; daughters, Jeane (Michael Aljamy) Miyamoto and Lynne (Stacey); 4 gc.; brothers, Toshio and Takahiro; and daughter-in-law, Marnie. Miyamoto, Henry Hirofumi, 87, Alhambra, Nov. 1; survived by wife, Ikako; sons, Mike (Shelli), Roy (Lerry) and Kelly (Stacey); daughter, Keiko (Andrew) Suzuki; 5 gc.; sister, Machiko (Tenhiko) Titaru; 5 brothers and 2 sisters.

Okamoto, Ryoko, 48, Sacramento, Oct. 16; Okamoto was a youth counselor at Sacramento social service agencies who reached out to runaways, "throwaways" and other young people on the streets. He spent the last four years in a nursing home after suffering a debilitating stroke in 2000. He was born in 1958 and raised in Sacramento. He graduated from Kennedy High School and attended Sacramento City College before earning a bachelor's degree in psychology from UC Riverside. Okamoto earned his master's degree from CSU Sacramento and a doctorate in clinical psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Gail.

Ozakui, George, 92, Cypress, Oct. 22; survived by daughter, Liadis; sons, Gary and Danny; and sister, Helen Yamashita.

Shibukawa, Yasuji "Yachi," 86, Long Beach, Oct. 25; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Sharon (Brian) O'Rourke; sons, Kit and Rod (Claire); 4 gc.; sisters, Mary and Betty Sugiyama; and brother, John.

Takano, Takeshi, 71, Harbor City, Nov. 3; survived by wife, Ryoko; daughters, Anne and Diane (Robert) Takano-Hall; and sisters, Sanae (Tatsuno) Tomatani and Senyo Takano.

Tatsumo, Yasu, 83, Torrance, Oct. 15; survived by daughter, Mitie. Wakai, George, 82, West Los Angeles, Oct. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by sisters-in-law, Flora Waki and Chiko Porson. Yamano, John Y., 80, San Jose, Oct. 26; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Junko; daughter, Diane (George) Namokata; son, John Shigematsu; 2 gc.; sister, Shiz Shinkin; and brother, Bill.

Yoshikawa, Mary Shizue, 83, Los Angeles, Oct. 17; survived by husband, Shiro; daughter, Shirley; sons, Harry, Dennis (Classic) and Theodore (Diane); and 3 gc.

DEATH NOTICE

ROSALYN KIWATA

Rosalyn Kiwata, 81, passed away Oct. 12 at home. Born May 22, 1932, in Stockton, Calif., she was a Sunday school teacher at the San Francisco Buddhist Church for 30 years and was involved in Berkeley International. Rosalyn is survived by her 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. At her request, private services were held in San Francisco on Oct. 20.

Whereabouts

This section runs on a space available basis at no charge.

JOKUHIRO YAMANISHI

TILL OSUTA

ROY MAYEDA MASUNO

DUDLEY GARNET R. PHILBOS is searching for his old friends from 1943-45. With information please contact him at 5945 Reddam Rd., #311, Charlotte, NC 28212.

MAY NAKAGAWA

Joyce Eckstein (now Fox) of Rossville, Calif, is seeking former co-worker, May Nakagawa. May worked for the Southern California Restaurant Assn. in Los Angeles in 1942. May was a national champi­ on at shorthand and typing.

With information please contact James Arima, 425/849-5279 or sjatma@hotmail.com.
ELECTIONS
(continued from page 1)

dent and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APACIS). Although these are encouraging numbers, APAs are “still way behind” other ethnic groups in terms of Congressional representation.
Recent studies, including one from the University of California, Los Angeles, call APAs the “sleeping giant” because of increasing population and higher citizenship rates. At the recent elections, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) reported high APA voter turnout and according to U.S. Census figures, APAs are the fastest growing minority group in the United States.
This election also saw the largest number of APAs running for local and state offices.

Democrat John Chiang won a convincing victory over former Ventura County Assemblyman Tony Strickland in the race for California state controller. Chiang, a two-term member of the Board of Equalization and an attorney who specialized in tax law, was joined by several other APA leaders in Little Tokyo the eve before the elections to rally voters.

“The sleeping giant is awaken­ning,” said Ted Lieu, California state assembly member.

House Rule
Some well-known APA leaders cruised to victories. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, won an easy victory against Republican Raymond Lemmy Chukwu and incumbent Doris O. Matsui, D-San Francisco. Matsui, in the House after her husband, Robert Matsui, won the open House seat in 1976 representing the 12th district.

Raymond Lemmy Chukwu and incumbent Doris O. Matsui, D-San Francisco. Matsui, in the House after his untimely death in 2005. As we head into the new Congress, I’m looking forward to addressing the many challenges our country is facing right now — challenges shared by many Americans including Asian Americans,” said Matsui to the Pacific Citizen. “In particular, I plan to work to address the soaring costs of health care, to ensure that college education is affordable and continues to be a doorway to oppor­tunity in this country, as well as to work through my seat on the Science Committee to craft a strategic, for­ward-thinking energy policy that sets our nation on the path to energy independence.”

Republican incumbent Bobby Jindal was also reelected to a second term to represent the New Orleans suburbs. He told local reporters that he would decide on whether to run for governor by the end of the year.

In 1990, Akaka was appointed by then Gov. John Waihee to the Senate to serve temporarily after the death of Sen. Spark Matsunaga.

Akaka served in World War II as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers soldier who handpicked Hyde as his successor. He was elected to the Senate to serve temporarily after the death of Sen. Spark Matsunaga.

Akaka, who told the Star Bulletin that ending the U.S. involvement in Iraq should be one of the first priorities when Congress convenes in January, is expected to move up in seniority when his campaign sent an intimidating letter to voters with Spanish names.

Minnesota Rep. John Kline emerged victorious over his challenger Colleen Rowley, but Kline may best be remembered as the boss of Mike Oskopp, an aide who was caught on tape in September yelling “lap cars.”

“Macaca-gate” comes to a close with Virginia Republican George Allen’s concession Nov. 9. While campaigning in August, Allen called a young South Asian volunteer a “macaca.”

Victory and Defeat: Democrat John Chiang (above, foreground) is flanked by Judy Chu (left), who is newly elected to the State Board of Equalization, and State Assembly Member Ted Lieu. Tammy Duckworth (left) concedes defeat in her Illinois dist­ric­t.