SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

INSIDE: Exclusive messages from your National JACL Board

Pacific Citizen

The Year in Pictures
Getting Your Pacific Citizen News Fix

How do you get your news? Do you listen to news radio? Watch your local news shows, or tune in to CNN and MSNBC? Do you read magazines?

Chances are, you're getting less and less of your news from newspapers. It's a scary time for newspapers all over the country.

Thanks to the Internet, a zillion channels on your flat-screen TV, and more daily distractions than there are cell phones in Japan, newspaper readership has been in steady decline, and advertising dollars are dwindling along with the readers.

The industry is in a state of corporate consolidation, and many major newspapers have cut staff to meet their budgets. Many journalists would argue that these cuts are hurting their organizations' ability to cover the news. As an example, many mid-sized newspapers no longer have Washington bureaus to cover national politics, they're leaving that job to the wire services and the large national newspapers.

In fact, by the end of 2007, we might see a major, respected, and long-established newspaper shut down, and it'll come as a shock to the entire country.

News has become a commodity, an ubiquitous information service that you can get most anywhere, and in many ways. You can pick up your local newspaper and find the same news in a newspaper from another city, or on TV, or on the Internet — and usually, you get it sooner everywhere else. News has become generic.

That's the bad news. The good news is that newspapers for niche communities of readers — the kind of news that can't be made generic — still have their loyal readership, and newspapers like the Pacific Citizen will always serve an important need that simply can't be filled anywhere else.

The Pacific Citizen is unique. Where else will you get the latest and important JACL news, and also stay informed on issues about Japanese Americans and Asian Americans that affect all JACL members? Where else can you turn to discuss and stir your own thoughts and opinions about the things that matter to you, but are invisible in your mainstream media?

The P.C. has also joined the online universe, and is updating its site at www.pacificcitizen.org with stories before they can be reported in print, or extra material that wouldn't fit in the newspaper edition. Despite its winter hiatus when the staff worked on the annual Holiday Issue (and wasn't there a terrific issue?), the Web site announced the change in national director from John Tateishi to Larry Iwata, and last fall the site posted an exclusive interview with Ehren Watada, American officer who refused to fight in Iraq. No matter how you feel about the topic, it was a fascinating and thought-provoking read.

And in case you're wondering, in the case of the P.C., there's no bloated newsroom to cut. The incredibly hard-working staff of Executive Editor Caroline Ayagai-Storm, Assistant Editor Lynda Lin, Officer Manager Brian Tanaka and Circulation EVA Tas-Teng produce and make sure you get every issue. That's right — four people (OK, so they're short one reporter position, but we'll talk about that at national board meetings).

That's about as bare-bones an operation as you'll find anywhere.

Caroline even saved the JACL money when she moved the P.C. to its current offices in Little Tokyo. The staff got more room and a better location, for less rent. The fact is, the P.C. is a solid program of the JACL.

Every board meeting, I give a report about the P.C. and announce that it's going to meet its budget (which is set by the board). I report about the feedback the P.C. receives from readers (Ehren Watada is a prime example). I report through your support during the annual P.C. Spring Campaign, the paper got to upgrade some much-needed equipment (I'll write more on the Spring Campaign in a couple of months ...)

This year, I'll report that the P.C. is unraveling a great redesign of its Web site and you can expect more updated news in between the newspaper's twice-monthly publication schedule.

...you can expect more updated news in between the newspaper's twice-monthly publication schedule.

Gill Asakawa

2006 in Pictures
Some images just stick in your mind forever.

Other images capture the mood of an entire year.
1st Lt. Ehren Watada's stance against the Iraq War polarized the community and incited a war of words.
Behind the controversy, a mom and dad fight for their son.

Pictured left: Rona Sakashti and Bob Watada.

More pictures page 9
Happy New Year. The coming year promises to be full of opportunities for JACL, and there are many changes in store. We will have a new national director and I expect that will bring some exciting changes in the way we operate, the ability to renew our memberships online, and the organization needs to be ready for whatever comes our way. One of the first things we hope to accomplish in the first board meeting in 2007 will be to name a new national director. Vice President for General Operations Sheldon Arakaki and the national personnel committee are working hard to present a candidate to be approved by the national board in February. There is currently an interview panel engaged in sitting through the candidates and their qualifications to help the committee to come to a recommendation. The Pacific Southwest district is also recruiting for a regional director and we should soon have an additional person at the PSW office to help Carol Saito support that district. As we move away from a reliance on membership dues and toward diversifying our funding streams, it is important that the board maintain focus on our mission, our ends, otherwise we could distract our resources to unimportant activities. One of the ways in which the national board can prepare itself for the opportunities and changes is to have a firm grasp and understanding of its role. We all have different backgrounds and experiences that have prepared us for the national board and in order to act effectively as a group, the one common attribute that we must have is an understanding of our role in the workings of the board. We are beginning an effort to inform ourselves of a model for board governance. We can no longer rely on what others have done to prepare our leaders. We need to actively engage in leadership development for ourselves and our members, and take responsibility for cultivating our future national board members. Looking to see who we could be targeting for this cultivation, and in reading the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue, one thing strikes me — the strange terminology used by the youth. If we are to appeal and maintain our members, one of the things we must consider is how we reach and communicate with them. When I was witness to the formation of the JACL Web site in the late 1990s, there was a lot of discussion of its usefulness in reaching the majority of our members. Some felt that there were the members who did not, nor should use the Internet, and that it was a tool that should only be used with an actual computer; much less access the World Wide Web. It's unfortunate that we were not more forward thinking to consider that it was the future members for whom we should have designed the Web site. As time has come to pass, in the intervening years since we launched our first website, those members who had no interest in the Internet, have been gently persuaded by their grandchildren or great-grandchildren to have a computer in the house for games and also for communication through the Internet. If we wish to reach a different segment of the population to bolster our membership, we better start learning their habits and terminology. As we go forward into the biennium, and as an acknowledgment of the rapid pace of change in the world, there are some ideas that we need to embrace. No longer is it effective to use 20th century technology to engage 21st century members. No longer is it effective to give an amatter-of-fact answer to professional needs. If we are to succeed in generating new members, new programs, and new funding sources, we must make sure that our message is put in front of people in the most attractive and effective manner. Gone are the days when we can ask volunteers to sustain the administration of our organization. In order for us to be the best in the world we have to permeate the organization with excellence. Image is everything. One of the opportunities that we should take advantage of is the multitude of free services to post our views, photos, and information. We are already moving toward online giving, membership renewals, and other transactions. Soon, when you approach a prospective new member, you will be told that she can use her credit card to join online. The pace of change in the world is accelerating, and keeping pace with change takes effort. The national board is committed to providing that effort. I look forward to the opportunity to share the board to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to keep Mike Masaoka's dream alive, to be better Americans in a greater America.  

Larry Oda

What's in Store for 2007?

INTERIM DIRECTOR

Floyd Mori

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Where is JACL's Future?

INTERIM DIRECTOR

Floyd Mori

The Financial Health of JACL in 2007

NAT'L SEC./TREAS.

Mark Kobashi

PACIFIC CITIZEN, Jan. 19, 2007

NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

Number of Funding Opportunities? Without this access there is no ability to fund effective programs in the future. The scope of civil rights issues has broadened. As other civil rights organizations have done, do we need to look more at economic empowerment — both personal and business? Is the declaration that "health disparities are the new frontline issue facing APAs" something that we need to incorporate into our agenda or positive outreach to the leadership of today? Do we need to look beyond the traditional Japanese American population in order to maintain a viable membership? Where is our growth for the future? Selecting issues that affect our personal lives is important to serve the young families of today. Many of our political leaders have pointed out that DAs are not developing new leadership for our public sector, so how can JACL structure new programs to attract the leadership of tomorrow? What programs do we need to incorporate in order to build a stronger sense of community to attract more young leaders who will want to enter public service? The key to being on the forefront of civil rights advocacy is our ability to communicate. Can we employ more modern means of communication with the public and with our members? We need to be a part of this new wave of electronic communication. Is there a need to restructure staff responsibilities and duties in order to address the demand of a contemporary nonprofit organization? Does the Internet allow for different ways to look at productivity and placement? While deductible is indistinguishable, how do we elevate staff compensation to fully realize personal and institutional objectives? It is clear that staff goes far beyond what is normally expected, but can we continue to exist on dedication alone? The questions above are posed to break some action toward progressive change. This is our window of opportunity to build for the future. While our mission and message remain constant, the JACL institution needs to make proper adjustments to carry that message into the future. If we don't heed the call of the future, we are in danger of going the way of some of our venerable communities that have faced and failed into oblivion. Floyd Mori is the current JACL Washington, D.C. representative and the interim national director.
Ask Yourself: ‘Why am I a JACL Member?’

Happy New Year to everyone! A New Year is always a time for new resolutions, new outlooks, and exciting new possibilities. It’s time to take a look around and assess our lives — where we are and what we are doing.

As an organization, we should approach the New Year in the same way — we should take a new look at our JACL memberships and think about what it means to us to be part of the possibilities. Ask yourself, “Why am I a member of JACL? What do I get from being a member?” What does being a member of JACL, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, mean for you? Are you a JACL member for the tangible benefits such as:

• prescription drug and dental care programs or the discount car rentals?
• the JACL Credit Union for checking accounts, savings accounts, credit cards, home loans, car loans and access online to the Members Financial Network?
• scholarships at the national, district and local levels for all levels of higher education?
• the award-winning Pacific Citizen newspaper?
• access to times of insurance coverage from health to home and auto to long-term care?

So as we start the New Year, enjoy your JACL benefits, but also enjoy the deep satisfaction that your membership helps others. Here are some things that JACL does to make our society and community a better place to live in:

• JACL encourages young people to strive for higher education and to be positive contributors in society by giving out thousands of dollars in scholarships every year.
• JACL helps protect Americans from all types of discrimination and hate crimes.
• JACL promotes Japanese and Japanese American culture and arts for all to see, enjoy and appreciate.
• JACL demands accountability from public figures who make racist comments.
• JACL helps protect all of us by acting as a watchdog over government agencies.
• JACL makes sure that history is not forgotten by preserving Japan town, WWII internment camps and assembly centers.
• JACL gives people once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for leadership training with our national leaders in Washington, D.C.
• JACL continues to highlight the painful lessons of the past and also highlights the wonderful positive contributions made by JAs by providing educational materials for teachers.
• The list goes on and on and on.

One last thought: JACL is a national organization. All of us are probably members of various local organizations, but in JACL — through the aforementioned benefits — your membership dollars reach far beyond your local areas. They are at work in large metropolitan areas like Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Seattle as well as in small rural areas like French Camp, Imperial Valley, Selma, and Snake River. Collectively, your JACL membership helps people all over America in more ways than you can imagine.

“For Better Americans in a Greater America,” is that our motto. That is what your JACL membership allows you to be a part of. Let us continue our work and look ahead to a “Greater America.”

Thank you for being that “Better American.” Thank you for being a JACLer. Stand strongly with these thoughts and have a wonderful 2007.

Sheldon Arakaki

General Operations, the “Unsexy” Yet Vital Office of JACL

T he osogawara season is a time to look back and reflect, but it is also a time to look forward and resolve to build on the foundation of the previous year’s successes. General operations is the “unsexy” side of the organization. General operations is not about producing educational materials about the Japanese American experience, creating membership drive plans or issuing a press release to address a civil wrong.

This office’s most visible responsibility is the convention. Looking back at 2006, the “Phoenix Rising” national convention, led by Ted Namiki, was a financial and event success. National netted $100,000 due to the fundraising prowess of John Tateishi and the financial acumen leadership of Ted Namiki. The audits are another important but not well-known responsibility of this office. Thanks to the hard work of Business Manager Clyde Irani with help from the audit committee and assistance from Legal Counsel Michelle Yoshida, we completed our first audit since 1999 and were declared to be in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles.

This helps the organization by opening an avenue to diversify our funding sources. JACL can now move forward to apply for foundation and government grants. Funding the additional requirements and expenses of conducting an audit after all these years was possible thanks to all of you who responded to the 2005 end-of-year campaign appeal letter from John Tateishi.

Personnel is the third primary area of responsibility. For the first time in a long time, there is an improved living allowance (COLA), and it did in a timely manner. We also hired a part-time bookkeeper.

Looking forward to 2007, planning for the 2008 Salt Lake City convention is well underway and led by local convention committee co-chairs Silvana Watanabe and Richard Yoshida. “This year’s convention under general operations will be formed in the coming months. Continue reading the Pacific Citizen for more information about this July 2008 event at the downtown Salt Lake City Marriott throughout the year. And will you be there? “You bet’cha!”

We are also looking at potential bids for the 2010 and 2012 conventions. Rival bids are still welcome. You still have time to persuade your local chapter executive committee to submit a bid.

The annual meeting and the spring and building on last year’s experience, this should prove much easier and faster to complete.

Personnel will be a very busy area of responsibility in 2007. In addition to implementing the 2.5 percent COLA approved by the national council last year, the organization will hire a national director, an executive assistant, a publicist, Southwest regional director and a membership coordinator. The personnel committee will also be busy with a review of personnel policies, job description updates, and the results of a salary survey.

Other 2007 general operations projects include resolving the status of chapters not in good standing, re-launching the Legacy Fund Grants committee, completing elevator and HVAC maintenance of the national headquarters building and implementing the Raiser’s Edge upgrade, the membership database software used by the JACL. The latter is very important to help support the VP of Membership’s efforts. Once the upgrade is completed, we can explore secure web-based on-line giving and membership renewal for the future since these next steps are not yet funded.

So as you think about how to do more for JACL in 2007 beyond paying your dues, please consider getting involved with operations at your chapter, district or national level.

Look for your district governor to request volunteers with specific skills and backgrounds for various national committees throughout the year. You have the skills, energy and passion we need to move this organization forward whether serving on the Legacy Fund Grants or the nominations committee or as a strategic planning committee.

I look forward to seeing you at your bi- & tri-district conferences in Seattle, Reno and Washington, D.C., and at the youth conference in San Jose. Here’s to working together for a productive and successful 2007!

Sheldon Arakaki

VP of Operations

General Operations, the “Unsexy” Yet Vital Office of JACL

Heldi Tanakatsubo

JACL: Dedicated to Preserving the Rights of all AAs

O ne of the most challenging, exciting, and frustrating things about public affairs is that you never know what tomorrow brings. Who could’ve anticipated in the late 1990s, the 9/11 Commission Report, the Patriot Act, Jose Padilla, or domestic spying will rise before us. But I know we will continue to dedicate ourselves to preserving the rights and well-being of all Asian Americans and others who fall victim to social injustice in the U.S.

One of the most important programs that falls under public affairs is JACL’s Anti-Hate Program. Published twice a year, the JACL Anti-Hate Program Newsletter chronicles the efforts of JACL staff and members as they strive to conquer racism. The goal is to empower both JACL members and the public to respond to incidents of defamation and hate crimes and to create a greater understanding about the values of tolerance and diversity. This outreach is key to the future of our organization as we strive to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice for all Americans.

We will also continue working on the Web site to enhance its capabilities and user-friendly features, while making sure information is more easily found.

I’d also like to thank the JACL staff and the Pacific Citizen for their efforts and dedication. Their tireless work makes the JACL the preeminent organization that it is and ensures we will continue to be a leading AA human and civil rights organization.

I wish you all the best in 2007 — health, happiness, and prosperity. Please contact me with any questions at vppublicaffairs@jacl.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Heldi Tanakatsubo is serving her second term as the JACL vice president of public affairs.
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Carol Kamamoto

Happy New Year

I hope you all are enjoying the happiest of New Years. It has been a busy summer for our entire national JACL board and staff. I feel you should all be confident in your board and staff members because they are going beyond the call of duty to provide excellent serv-

ice to our community.

For the past year, our JACL Scholastic Program, we have new volunteers screening applications and selecting the winners. The Central California District Council has vol-

unteers to help screen applications. The Chicago chapter will begin handling all the other JACL scholastic categories. Graduate, vocational, creative & performing arts, and financial aid. Please join me in thanking CCDC and Chicago for volunteering to assist with the program.

In 2006, the Hanayagi Rokunie Japanese Cultural Freshman Scholarship was established. This new schol-

arship is for a student who excels in any Japanese cultural activity (dance, music, flower arranging, tea or martial arts). The chapters are being asked to please look for can-

didates for this award from their areas. Just have the applicants fill out a freshman application (found at www.jacl.org) and explain their Japanese cultural activi-

ty in that section of the application.

National JACL's Education Program recently com-

pleted our American Educational Curriculum Guide "The Journey from Gold Mountain: The American Asian Experience." This guide will promote fair and ap-

propriate portrayals of Japanese Americans and American Asian. It will also make possible the grant from State Farm Insurance and it will be distributed to the chapters.

Supplemental resource materials were developed in 2006 to enhance our revised JA experience curriculum guide, Doree Groaf/Biggs Media. I'm very pleased with our DVD conveying the story of the internment throu-

ghout the application for this year's conference. We are thankful for the assistance of Dispatch with this project. Copies of the DVD were distributed to the national board and also sent to the districts for distribution. The DVD will now be part of our curriculum guide.

The booklet, "What It Means To Be an American," which resulted from a portion of the National Community Relations and Justice (NCJ) grant, was printed with 1,500 copies to be included with each current curriculum guide and an additional 1,500 copies for the other ways including the NCJ grant themes, guides and supplementary materials at the National Council for the Social Studies Conferences in the United States.

In 2007, the National Education Committee will assist chapters in conducting teacher-training workshops in Monterey, California, and Phoenix. Also the committee will develop a series of presentation packets for chapters on the interview in order to help chapters make present-

ations at schools. The committee, through its district representatives, will also develop a list of speakers. The goal for completion of this project is June 2007.

The chapters will soon receive a revised division of the Handbook in February. We owe a tremendous amount of thanks to you for volunteering your time and commitment in providing these valuable resources to us.

I am pleased to report during this bimonthly National only to provide you with the order in which we will make a national board presentation to all chapters.

The chapters will soon receive the newly revised Project Leader's Handbook in CD format in February.

Emily Teruya was very instrumental in revising this and feel free to contact me.

Here's to a very productive and joyous 2007!
I normally consider a good idea a suggestion that has a goal. A good idea is a goal with a plan. Now, in the Pacific Southwest District, we have a stellar idea. These are goals with a plan AND volunteers.

An outstanding set of youth leaders that are poised to rejuvenate the district. They have taken an idea, built it with a steering committee and will be implementing district-wide in 2007. This New Year’s resolution will focus on strengthening the core of our district, chapters, and board by infusing it with youth leadership.

Several years ago, PSW began participating in the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program, which along with the Young Colors Francis Kingsway Internship program, has brought new youth members to PSW. These youth members decided that they needed to organize themselves and work on programs in PSW.

They first formed a steering committee of active Asian Pacific American youths. From this steering committee, they identified program areas and a structure for the PSW Youth Council. The year before the year, they had organized their “grand opening” event. This first meeting brought people from at least four different generations to discuss the new youth council. During this event, we discussed topics like APA identity, building relationships between the generations, getting young leadership, and of course, we ate good food!

With a strong desire to work on chapter revitalization, the PSW Youth Council holds the most of the inspiration towards improving membership in the district.

I think the most important aspect of this new youth council is that the youth of PSW started it themselves. As young leaders, they saw a need in the district so they approached the PSW board and district council with their plan to fill the gap.

This year will indeed be a very exciting year for PSW. We are actively looking to fill the open regional director staff position. We are also focusing on many projects including: chapter revitalization, further development of the youth council, and developing a template for an APA Health Fair.

I am certainly looking forward to working on these plans, projects, serving on the national board, and assisting with our next regional director. Another exciting project that is currently being rolled out is the renovation of the PSW board and district council with their plans to rejuvenate the district. They have taken an idea, built it with a steering committee and will be implementing district-wide in 2007. This youth council will focus on strengthening the core of our district, chapters, and board by infusing it with youth leadership.

One of my many resolutions is to help to bridge the gap between the various generations of JACL members. I would like to express my great enthusiasm for the coming biennium. Happy New Year! Akemshie Comeado -gezaimashita!

With each New Year comes a new list of resolutions. The other day I heard that over 90 percent of New Year’s resolutions relate to exercising or losing weight. I’m not surprised.

I want to extend my encouragement to everyone to think about making a JACL New Year’s resolution. Whether it be to become more active in your chapter, volunteer at one JACL event, or encourage a friend to join JACL, one resolution can make a big difference in the future of JACL. If each one of us succeeded in just one, or all of our resolutions, just think of the impact this would have on our organization.

One of my many resolutions is to help to bridge the gap between the various generations of JACL members. I may be just one Japanese American Yonsei, but I am one of countless youth that want to get involved. As a youth, I have heard stories about the history of this organization, of the positive impact JACL has had on our community. Past generations have lived and survived through it that the youth of PSW and RWC, and look at this, we can do whatever we can do to keep this organization strong. I want to continue the success of this organization.

In the coming year, as an organization, we have begun to incorporate youth programs into JACL, “adult events” on a large scale. At the 2006 National JACL Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, a silent auction was integrated into the Sayonara Banquet to benefit the youth. This project was a great success that shows how a fantastic outcome can result from a friendly hand offered by the Arizona chapter of JACL.

Looking into the future of JACL, I hope to see helping hands coming from all generations. The youth have the energy and drive, and adults have the knowledge and experiences. What a great combination!

This coming summer, the San Jose chapter of JACL will be hosting the 2007 National JACL Youth Conference. The planning for this event comes from the cooperation of the youth and adults. Everything is head­in a positive direction, it feels as though the result could not be anything but a home run of an event.

This JACL is full of leaders that spread inspiration and guidance. I would not be where I am today without the encouragement of my mentors in JACL. With events like the membership luncheon to be held at the 2007 National JACL Youth Conference, I hope that other youth will take advantage of the opportunity given to them to meet the leaders of today, to create the leaders of tomorrow.

I have often heard the questions, “What can we do for the youth?” And from the other end, “How can I get involved?” If each of us can help JACL, as we can, it would be taking a step in the right direction. It would be nice to hear, “What can we do TOGETHER to make a difference?”
JACL has now passed its 75th year of existence and service under a system of governance that has changed only slightly since its founding in Seattle. It managed to survive the dures of World War II incarceration of 120,000 Nikkei and emerged in the sunlight of Redress and Reparations against great odds. Meanwhile great changes have taken place in American society as reflected in the discontinuance of discriminatory laws against alien land ownership, anti-miscegenation laws, and the adoption of laws which enable all law-abiding persons to become naturalized citizens regardless of their country of origin.

With these changes for good have come the questions about "what's next for the future of JACL?" Nikkei have succeeded exceedingly well in the future time when "Jap" is no longer a pejorative odds. Meanwhile great changes have taken place in continue to intermarry into the larger population.

As the national population now above 300 million, the expectation is that AJAs will succeed generation. The U. S. Census gives one origin.

Of discriminatory laws against alien land ownership, increasingly more Hapa will escape (or be spared) decreasing trend) against its members. Imagine a future JACL with mostly Hapa still maintained indefinitely. Some profound changes in the infrastructure of JACL may be needed to assure its mission of bettering America for all Americans. It will require older, long-standing JACL members are the key to intermarry into the larger population.

How should JACL deal with this demographic reality? Already a good many Hapa can "pass" as white or at least non-AJA. It will be even more so with one-fourth AJAs. With these altered perceptions, increasingly more Hapa will escape (or be spared) from the in-your-face racial discrimination of the past. Imagine a future JACL, with mostly Hapa still dealing with hate crimes and incidents (which are in decreasing trend) against its members. Imagine a future time when "Jap" is no longer a pejorative word, but an antiquated term referring to Nikkei. Living on the East Coast, I've heard the term mostly used (by Jewish men) as an acronym for "Jewish American Princess," which is also not meant as a compliment.

In the present, many Hapa involved with JACL are dealing with issues of identity (ethnic and otherwise) and thus have a "home" here. But as Hapa marry subsequently, their offspring may encounter less and less racial hate issues as well as ethnic identity issues (due to a "dilution effect"). It is likely that at some point in time, the term Hapa itself will become obsolete if not irrelevant in daily life.

So then, how do we in JACL begin to prepare for the future? At the Nov. 11, 2006, national board meeting, Kenji Terezon (president of the Marin County JACL), made a cogent report for refocusing the national board and moving it into policy governance as a means to exert its leadership. In many ways it is complementary to the National Strategic Planning project initiated by the PSW District in the past year.

Under the Carver model of policy governance (aimed at non-profit organizations like JACL), the national board should focus on making policy decisions. It should define and delegate rather than react and ratify (in other words get out of the "fire-fighting" business). The national board should determine "ends" - what good is to be done for whom and at what cost? The national board should set limits for staff not prescribe (or micro-manage).

In the meantime, even as regular membership continues to decline in number, the campaigns to "gift memberships" and recruit Millennium Club members are keeping the overall J_ACL finances in a stable status quo. But this situation cannot be maintained indefinitely. Some profound changes in the infrastructure of JACL may be needed to assure its mission of bettering America for all Americans.

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Happy New Year's Greetings from the Midwest

The Midwest District Council looks forward to our 2007 agenda. It will include work toward the development of a packet of materials to aid JACL members in teachers and students.

We will also support workshops for teachers such as the one offered by past MDC Governor Sharon Ishi-Jordan and co-presenter Greg Marutani. Their engaging and informative presentation examines parallels between the aftermath of Pearl Harbor (including the incarceration of 120,000 Issei) and the abrogation of civil liberties in our post-Sept. 11th era. This national JACL program was offered to schoolteachers, community leaders, and JACL members and friends in three cities (Chicago, Atlanta, and Dayton) in 2006. After illuminating historical events associated with the internment, Shinji-Ishi and Marutani reminded workshop participants of the uncanny and worrisome similarities to recent detentions without formal charges of residents who "look like the enemy." Their success has led to requests for return engagements and for presentations elsewhere.

Work is also underway to develop a program that supports the archiving of interviews and research associated with the internment. Many JACL members and friends have important stories yet to be preserved. This became apparent to me when I met Yukio Hibono on a recent visit to the recent visitor to the Japanese American National Museum. A former member of the field artillery battalion of the Nisei 442nd RCT, he described being among the first to enter Dachau, witnessing many of its Jewish prisoners near death from starvation. As Nisei soldiers are not generally recognized for this particular role, JACL's sponsorship of interviews that document such stories could help ensure a more accurate recording of history.

We must also document the many stories about resistance to injustice experienced by JAs during WWI. At our national council meeting last summer, I met a JACL member who had walked the Portland, Oregon streets with Min Yasui in violation of the curfew imposed upon JAs in March 1942. Listening to him recount their decision to use civil disobedience as a means of restoring

See KATSuYAMA/page 13

Torrential Rain, Snow Storms and One JACL Strategic Plan

"It seems Mother Nature has unleashed her fury on places across the nation in recent weeks. The snow storms in Denver, which closed the airport for several days, was but one of those events. Here in Seattle, we've seen everything you can imagine."

November was the wettest month in our weather history, with 13-plus inches of rain. Many homes were flooded by torrential rain, and to top it off, snow fell on the Pacific Northwest -- an unusual event in the lowlands. Most Seattleites don't know how to drive in the white stuff, so getting around was a bit tricky. The final blow was a windstorm that knocked out power to thousands of people, many for more than a week.

The past year will be remembered for the variety of weather. Early in the year, the annual Day of Remembrance activities both educated and entertained our community. Portland held a wonderful program, "Justice Denied: Remembering 1942," which was organized and carried out by the young people in their chapter. An informative panel of former internees talked about their lives when Executive Order 9066 was issued. In Seattle, several groups shared efforts to present the play "Gold Watch," which was originally presented to a sellout crowd in 1972 in Los Angeles.

The fourth annual Minidoka Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Friends of Minidoka and JACL, brought over 100 people to the site of the former internment camp. Former internees, their children, grandchildren and other interested individuals gathered and learned about that historic time in our country's past. As Minidoka is now a part of the National Park Service, many plans are being made to help tell the story of the events of 1941. Plans to erect an Issei Memorial are under way, which will list the names of all Issei who resided at Minidoka.

Throughout 2006, a group representing chapters across our district, has been meeting monthly to create a strategic plan for the PNW JACL.

See AKAGI/page 13
Heroes, Scandals and Headlines: These photos and their stories captured the heart of the APA community.

"How could I regret making the moral choice?" — 1st Lt. Ehren Watada

APAs across the nation took to the streets in April and May to urge lawmakers for fair immigration reform. At the heart of the protest was HR 4437, a House Bill that would have separated families, opponents said.

2006 was the year of Ehren Watada, the commissioned officer who stirred debate about duty and morality when he decided to refuse deployment to Iraq. His name echoed throughout the APA community inciting support and opposition.

For now, he awaits his court-martial hearing with the full support of father, Bob (above right), and mother, Carolyn Ho (above left).

The rebuilding of Louisiana continued in 2006 after the 2005 hurricanes devastated the region. APA volunteers (left) and the JACL offered much needed help.

The 12-year battle to erase a racist street name in Texas takes a turn for good in February when the town of Fannett announced plans to build a historical marker to honor the pioneering Yasuo and Yoshio Mayumi.
Protest erupted in April over Adidas' special edition shoe, the Designed by graffiti artist Barry McGee, the shoe featured a slant-eyed caricature named Ray Fong. The Portland JACL and other APA groups led a campaign for its removal from sale.

Watching the WWII documentary laced with racial epithets traumatized 9-year-old Kenji Tanaka (inset). He refused to participate in a flight simulator to shoot down 'Japs.'

Officials at South Carolina's Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum denied any racism in their educational program, but after a visit from JACL in June, their museum director agreed to rethink it.

Mike Opp OFFENSE: Minnesota Congressman John Kline’s aide is caught on camera yelling about ‘Jap’ cars.

‘Quick piece of business to take care of — an apology to the Asian community. We did a bit a few weeks back that offended many people.’
— Adam Carolla on his ‘ching chong’ skit that enraged the community.

Hawaii's Mazie Hirono made history with her successful bid for Congress. She is the first person born in Japan to serve in the House of Representatives.

The wounded Iraq War vet lost her bid for her Illinois district, but Tammy Duckworth was appointed director of the state department of veterans' affairs.

Mike Osskopp OFFENSE: Minnesota
Congressman John Kline’s aide is caught on camera yelling about ‘Jap’ cars.

Calif. Republican Tan Nguyen shook up some scandal (and an election loss) when threatening fliers were sent to Orange County voters with Spanish surnames.
Conservation was a high priority this year with the historic passage of H.R. 1492, the camp preservation bill. Local advocates also championed the recognition of lesser known Japantowns like the one in Watsonville, Calif. (leb).

IT WASN'T ALL BUSINESS: Elsie Taniguchi, Puyallup Valley JACL, showed off her true colors at the convention's western-themed welcome mixer.

For a week in July, JACLers gathered in the desert for this biennial tradition.

Ken Inouye, immediate past JACL president, cowboys up to the microphone to welcome attendees.

With more than seven years of service, JACL Executive Director John Tateishi announces his resignation at a national board meeting following the festivities. He cites personal reasons and agrees to stay on during the transition.

Today, Tateishi is recuperating from a torn aorta at his Marin County home.

'I'm very proud of where JACL is today relative to when I stepped into the director's position,' he told the P.C. in July.

I'm very proud of where JACL is today relative to when I stepped into the director's position,' he told the P.C. in July.

...as we name heroes in our history, Mitsuye Endo is among them.'

— Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest Regional Director
In his Olympics debut, Toby Dawson won a bronze medal flying over the hills of Torino. He is a native of Louisiana and his family makes him a part of the community.

Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched a complete game deal with the Boston Red Sox.

New Orleans Saints Scott Fujita isn't biologically JA, but his upbringing and his family makes him a part of the community.

Veteran.relief George Taik, came out and made a come-back scoring goal with Batavia. Scoring mentor Yiil and Gruber and a forlbmoming spot on "Hearts."
Moving and Shaking in Central California

Greetings and happy 2007 from the Central California District Council! This past year was a busy and fruitful year for CCOC. Our goal was clear as we joined forces with the Central California Nikkel Foundation to form the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee (PACMPC). Under the leadership of Dale Ikeda, the PACMPC's objective was to promote a memorial project on the historical site of the Pinedale Assembly Center.

The Pinedale Assembly Center was used during World War II to intern 4,823 Japanese Americans. This community project started in October 2005 and we met at least monthly to plan and strategize our meetings with a local developer and city government officials. Our months of hard work ended Nov. 28, 2006, when the Fresno City Council approved the designation of a Remembrance Plaza to the Local Register of Historic Resources. The developer will also be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the plaza.

In 2007 the PACMPC is planning a Day of Remembrance dinner on Feb. 18 and a groundbreaking ceremony for the Remembrance Plaza on Feb. 19 — the 65th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The keynote speaker will be James Hiranayashi, a former Pinedale intern and professor emeritus in Anthropology and Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. Although the actual construction of the plaza is some months away, the committee hopes to dedicate the California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934 during the groundbreaking ceremony. Our work is not yet done as we need to fundraise to construct a fountain and storyboards to tell the story of the Pinedale Assembly Center plus the other uses of the historical site, which included the Sugar Pine Lumber Company and Camp Pinedale. This has truly been a community effort with support from not only the JA community, but also from the citizens and businesses of Fresno and Pinedale.

This being the year of the boar, our chapters have set some high goals to bring their members and community together and to increase membership participation. The Clovis chapter will have their annual shrimp dinner in the spring; this event is sold out each year! The Fresno chapter will host their 22nd Annual Silicon Run — one of the oldest runs in the valley — in April. They will also sponsor a bus trip to San Francisco to visit the Museum of Craft and Folk Art to view "The Art of Gaman" exhibition in February. The Fresno chapter has also been invited by Cal State Fresno to sponsor a film, "From a Silk Cocoon," with a guest appearance by Dr. Satsuki Ina, writer and producer of the film, in March.

The Livingston-Merced chapter will host their annual Day of Remembrance Film Festival and Dinner on Feb. 17. They will also host their annual charity golf tournament in May.

And finally, Redley, Sanger and Selma will bring communities together with their annual picnics. CCDC is looking forward to planning for its annual scholarship luncheon and installation dinner. This year we will be working with NCWJD on planning our Tri-District conference in Reno, so join us in November for a fun-filled and informative get-together!

Bobbi Hanada is the current Central California district governor.

KATSUYAMA
(Continued from page 8)

civil rights among JAs. I marveled at the courage of these young men at such a hectic time in our history. Recently emerging stories such as those posted by Demsho (https://www.densho.org/learning/pt-c exhaust/5/reading5.asp) are beginning to illuminate the diversity of responses among victims of WWII incarceration. Rather than counting the view of a homogeneous response to the question of loyalty, additional interviews from among the thousands who answered "no" to either Question #72 or #28 on the "loyalty questionnaire" can reveal nuanced thoughts and underlying responses that were once assumed to represent disloyalty. They help us understand the diverse ways in which loyalty is expressed as well as reveal the profound conflicts experienced by individuals and their families.

We must continue to document such diverse responses to injustices, as awareness of these past efforts can encourage an obligation to speak out against current racial or ethnic discrimination. As we begin the New Year, let us all help to fulfill JACL's mission, "To foster American Democracy, promote active participation in civic and national Life, and secure Justice and Equal Opportunities for Americans of Japanese Ancestry, as well as for all People . . . ." ■

Ron Katsuyama is the Midwest District Council Governor.

AKAGI
(Continued from page 8)

We're extremely aware of the drop in membership and the changing demographics across the country. The plan is to call these groups together across the region to ask what JACL should be and what would entice them to join. The strategic plan is now a National JACL program, with PNW leading the way. The results of our study and the business plan that is created from it will be a blueprint for our district to move forward.

2007, the year of the Boar, will bring the Intermountain District and PNW together for the biannual Bi-District Conference. The Puget Sound area chapters will host this year's gathering in the greater Seattle metropolitan area. We invite you to join us over the July 26-29 weekend for some Northwest hospitality. The summers are beautiful here, and it's said that it never rains over the last weekend in July (just ask the planners of the Bellevue Art Show).

PNW is alive and well — a little rain soaked, but we'll dry off — and we'll continue being the baleful-russing strategic planners. We wish a Happy New Year to all! ■

Elaine Akagi is the Pacific Northwest District governor.

Season'sGreetings

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Northwest District governor.
Thank you, John

In a 1980 redress article, John Tateishi wrote: "For thirty-eight years, the camp episode has lain at the heart of the Japanese American experience. It has remained an enigma of pride and regret, fostered in the Japanese American psyche without explicitation, without a true sense of release from the profundity or the totality of the experience."

This article in the San Francisco JACL convention booklet was a rumination, a reflection of his generation's reaction to an experience unlike that of the Issei or the Nisei who understood the cold reality of being uprooted and confined. The article speaks to an emerging recognition by the children of the camps that their youthful exuberance would be tempered and their lives would be shaped by what happened to them beginning in the summer of 1942.

Between the lines, the article is a personal journey of how John came to the issue of redress and why he believed in it so fiercely so as to want to lead the JACL redress campaign following the Salt Lake City convention in 1978. The issue of redress was about pursuing some important goals such as remediating a grave injustice and addressing constitutional breaches. For John, it was that and more. It was also about establishing a legacy to recognize the enduring qualities and sacrifices of the Issei and Nisei for our future generations.

In the years I worked with John on the redress campaign, it was evident to me that he always looked to the human side of the internment and the manner in which that tragedy affected individuals, and ultimately the community. John understood how the trauma of 1942 forced individuals and the community inward.

Tosu Ishiyama, a psychologist, once observed that when the internment was revisited, the camps decades later, their first reaction was to cry because they didn’t do it in 1942. For John, an important and calculated part of the redress campaign was the opportunity that would be provided by the commission hearings where former internees shared their personal stories. He knew that in those stories lay the beginning of awareness and understanding by the American public for the injustice of the internment, and a catharsis for the internees.

John's years as the JACL national director carried the same moral imperatives and passion for social justice as did his work on redress. On the day following Sept. 11th, John issued a cautionary public statement saying, "It is in times of national tragedies such as this that the character and the will of the American public are tested as well as the strength and value of the Constitution." In the weeks and months that followed, the lessons of 1942 shaped John's actions and the policy positions of the JACL to speak against an erosion of civil liberties.

In recent months, this became a source of frustration for John as he advocated his support for the civil liberties of Lt. Ehren Watada, a position that holds great merit for many of us, and a position consistent with John's beliefs as expressed in that 1980 redress article when he said, "... we perhaps too easily accepted that the right of citizenship carried with it the concomitant demand to fight this nation's wars without question, and for this we have on occasion paid a dear price."

Whether in meetings with NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue or Congressman Howard Coble or representatives of companies such as Adidas, AT&T or Jerry Bruckheimer Films, John was quick to respond to defamation or inaccurate portrayals of Japanese and Asian Americans. He used his position to amplify our concerns on affirmative action, federal hate crimes legislation, immigration and on non-existence for the Supreme Court. It's a record that anyone would point to with pride.

It's somehow fitting that John finalized his decision to retire last June as he reflected amidst the legal roundabouts at Gila River, a lifetime and a time apart from his early childhood in the desolation of Manzanar. It's saying a lot, but it's not an exaggeration to say that John helped make our community whole.

Sen. Barack Obama is fond of a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr., "... the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Sen. Obama adds that the arc doesn't bend by itself. Thanks, John, for adding your weight to that arc.

Patty Way
NCWNPDC DIRECTOR

JACL Programs — Serving the Community, Serving You
The staff was invited to write about JACL programs for this New Year's edition of the Pacific Citizen. We have over 20 programs in the budget, all geared toward fulfilling our organizational mission. Two of these programs are "Community Outreach & Support" and "District & Chapter Assistance."
These two programs in particular address (1) our responsibility to the Nikkei, API and broader community and (2) our responsibility to you, the members.
At one point in our history, these two programs were targeted for the chopping block. They weren’t perceived as having value because they didn’t generate revenue for the organization. And that is perhaps what makes these two programs stand out. While other agencies, like those offering childcare or serving the elderly, are able to charge fees for service, much of what the JACL does is done "pro bono" all geared toward fulfilling our organizational mission. And that is perhaps what makes these two programs stand out. While other agencies, like those offering childcare or serving the elderly, are able to charge fees for service, much of what the JACL does is done "pro bono" and for this, we have on occasion paid a dear price.

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NCWNPDC DIRECTOR

Bill Yoshino
Thank You, John

Thank you, John

I have always been moved by the words of the late Senator Daniel Inouye. He said, "This is what our country stands for. Americans, no matter where they come from, no matter what their background, have the right to dream of the American dream. And I think that's what we've always stood for and that's what we should stand up for."

Your membership dollars go to support these successes or hate who receives our support and doesn't feel alone. It is there whenever a shock jock, television personality or politician makes a racist remark thinking they can get away with it, but doesn't.

It is there whenever a new person shows up at a JACL meeting, or emerges as a leader within the organization. It is there when a member "gets" that the business of civil rights is about challenging a status quo that is unfair or unjust, and pushes the JACL to be bold rather than safe.

It is in coalition building and the bonds forged with other APIs and communities of color. It is found in our voices whenever affirmative action is attacked, racial profiling is condoned as sound policy, or one’s sexual orientation or gender identity is deemed unacceptable.

Success is when we help a student better understand and embrace the world around them. Success is when we help a student better understand and embrace the world around them. Success is when we help a student better understand and embrace the world around them. Success is when we help a student better understand and embrace the world around them. Success is when we help a student better understand and embrace the world around them. Success is when we help a student better understand and embrace the world around them.

So, no, you won’t always receive a product to hold, flip through or view, but know that efforts are being made, change is happening, and JACL programs are making a difference.

MDC DIRECTOR
Bill Yoshino
Thank You, John
All the towns are in California except as noted.

Aoki, Dodson Yoshio, 55, Bellflower, Sept. 25; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Asai, Wesley Toshihiko, 69, San Gabriel, Dec. 31; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Ata, Ken, 70, Los Angeles, Dec. 13; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Aquilino, Frank, 78, Las Vegas, Feb. 9; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, June 25; Vietnam War veteran.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, April 23; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, Mar. 2; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, Nov. 20; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, Dec. 23; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, Oct. 22; WWII veteran, 442nd.

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Thank you for your support of the 2006 Annual Giving Campaign

The National JACL thanks everyone who contributed to this important campaign. Your generosity provides resources to our programs including educational awareness of the Japanese American experience in our public schools, opportunities for leadership development, initiatives promoting diversity and tolerance, and advocacy for our rights as citizens.

The following contributors donated $100 or more to the JACL, which was received between December 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006.

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Mr. and Mrs. Yoh Amino, Mr. S. Daniel Date, Mr. Yamadera Deguchi, Mr. Edward A. Endow and Bernice Endow, N. Ken Nakano, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Tsumura, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Tanaka, Dr. and Mrs. Kouichi Tanaka, Dr. and Mrs. George Iwanaga, Mr. John H. Endo, Mr. Jerry Enomoto, Ms. Yoneko Miura, Mr. Robert Endo and Aiko Endo, Teruko Endo and K. Yuji Bessho, Mr. and Mrs. Yosh Amino, Mr. S. Daniel Date, Mr. Yamadera Deguchi, Mr. Edward A. Endow and Bernice Endow, N. Ken Nakano, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Tsumura, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Tanaka, Dr. and Mrs. Kouichi Tanaka, Dr. and Mrs. George Iwanaga, Mr. John H. Endo, Mr. Jerry Enomoto, Ms. Yoneko Miura, Mr. Robert Endo and Aiko Endo, Teruko Endo and K. Yuji Bessho, Mr. and Mrs. Yosh Amino, Mr. S. Daniel Date, Mr. Yamadera Deguchi, Mr. Edward A. Endow and Bernice Endow, N. Ken Nakano, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Tsumura, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Tanaka, Dr. and Mrs. Kouichi Tanaka, Dr. and Mrs. George Iwanaga, Mr. John H. Endo, Mr. Jerry Enomoto, Ms. Yoneko Miura, Mr. Robert Endo and Aiko Endo, Teruko Endo and K. Yuji Bessho.
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