

PACIFIC CITIZEN, JAN. 19-FEB. 1, 2007



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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GII Asakawa

Getting Your Pacific Citizen News Fix

P.C. CHAIR

ow 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 midsized 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 isn't 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

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

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 newsprint edition. Despite its winter hiatus when the staff worked on the annual Holiday Issue (and wasn't that a terrific issue?), the Web site announced the change in national director from John Tateishi to interim director Floyd Mori, and last fall the site posted an exclusive interview with Ehren Watada, the Japanese 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 Aoyagi-Stom, Assistant Editor Lynda Lin, Officer Manager Brian Tanaka and Circulation Eva Lau-Ting 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. recieves from readers (Ehren Watada is a prime example). I report that 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 unveiling a great redesign of its Web site and you can expect more updated news in-between the newspaper's twice-monthly publication schedule.

So, I'm happy to report, the P.C. is not suffering from the woes of the newspaper industry in general, and that it remains a vibrant and trusted source for the news that affects JACL members. You should be proud of the P.C. — I sure am.



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JACL National Headquarters. 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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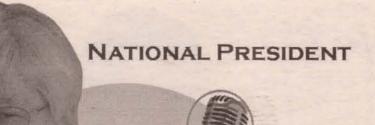
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views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

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NEW YEAR'S ISSUE



Larry Oda What's in Store for 2007?

Happy New Year. The coming year promises to be full of opportunities for JACL, and there are as many changes in store. We will have a new national director, a new Pacific Southwest regional director, 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 sifting through the candidates and their qualifications to help the committee 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 stream, 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 think about generating new 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 would ever have any interest in owning a personal computer, much less access the World Wide Web.

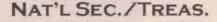
It's unfortunate that we were not more forward thinking to consider that it was the future members for whom we should have designed the Web site. As time has come to pass, in the intervening years since we launched our first website, those members who had no interest in the Internet, have been gently 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 acknowledgement 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 amateur effort to professional needs.

If we are to succeed in generating new members, new programs, and new funding sources, we must make sure 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 on the Web 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 able to tell her 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 working with 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.





Mark Kobayashi The Financial Health of JACL in 2007

t's been my pleasure to serve as your National Secretary/Treasurer for our JACL. Let me also thank you for your participation and your membership in the organization which definitely has contributed to our bottom line.

Keys to the success for our upcoming year is our ability to continue creating exciting programs and providing leadership in our communities toward the goal of attracting membership to the organization. With close to 45 percent of our revenues for the organization coming from membership, your contributions and our ability to attract and retain our membership remains a high priority for the organization.

The upcoming year certainly will be a year of changes for the organization as we embark on finding a national director and search for a regional director for the PSW district. With these changes, we plan to implement cash flow and project completion reviews to verify our quarterly progress in our revenues.

We have successfully completed an audit of our 2005 books which have resulted in a clean bill of health for the organization. This in large part is the result of the dedicated effort of our Business Manager Clyde Izumi. Having audited books not only contribute to our ability to raise funds via grants and fundraising, but even more importantly allows us as an organization to be in compliance with SB 1262, the California legislation requiring organizations with budgets our size to have annual financial audits.

The completed 2005 audit has brought to light the need for our organization to deal with the major liability that we have for paying for the future medical costs for our staff. Currently our liability stands at \$350k, with this continuing to grow every year. It is my belief that we will need to address this squarely as an organization and it is my sincere hope that we can make a dent in this over the remaining biennium as we continue to assess where we stand with regards to our cash flow through this biennium for our budget.

In conclusion, we definitely have many challenges that await us this year but taking an overall view of things, I believe that we as an organization have done a better job of informing our membership of the financial state of the organization via the various reports that we have been able to give to our district governors and our national board in whole.

And as a better informed organization, I sincerely believe that we will be able to address the concerns that come before us with a clear idea of where we are and where we can possibly be in a brighter tomorrow for the JACL. Thanks again for your support and continued work for the JACL.

the board of directors need to be structured to provide more accessibility to a desired and broader base 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 is the new frontline issue facing APAs" something that we need to incorporate into our agenda of issues? 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 JAs are not developing new leadership for our public sector, so how can JACL structure new programs to attract the leaders of tomorrow? What programs do we need to incorporate in order to build a strong stream of young leaders who will want to enter public service?

more modern means of communicating 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 requirements and duties in order to meet the demands of a contemporary nonprofit organization? Does the internet allow for different ways to look at productivity and placement? While dedication is indispensable, 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 provoke 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 corporate institutions that have faded into oblivion.



Floyd Mori Where is JACL's Future?

B has been very interesting but particularly educational from an organizational perspective. It is here where most of the nonprofit universe focuses on its public policy initiatives and activities.

My experiences in D.C. have caused me to contemplate whether JACL needs to make adjustments in structure and organization in order to be a part of today's world of effective advocacy organizations. We seem to focus on maintaining the traditional structure rather than on how we can better complete our mission in the civil rights arena. Have we been too slow in adjusting the manner in which we do business? Will we have a difficult time maintaining a prime place in this next wave of civil rights issues?

Not too many years ago, JACL was the only Asian Pacific American civil rights organization doing work in D.C. Today, there are dozens of APA advocacy organizations here and others scattered throughout the nation. While many do great work, one of the structural elements that puts JACL above the rest is our network of chapters throughout the nation.

Mobilizing for a grassroots campaign to affect policy is made more effective and feasible with the JACL model, as we experienced during the campaign for Redress. Maximizing this great asset while adjusting our structure to meet the public policy challenges of today is at the core of any future for the JACL.

The critical factor that will enable us to maintain a place in the advocacy arena is adequate financing. It is well recognized that JACL must go beyond its traditional membership base to augment funding, so we must realistically ask ourselves: what is the structure of governance that will bring greater access to corporate or government funding?

As in other organizations, does

The key to being on the forefront of civil rights advocacy is our ability to communicate. Can we employ Floyd Mori is the current JACL Washington, D.C. representative and the interim national director.

VP OF OPERATIONS



Sheldon Arakaki General Operations, the 'Unsexy' Yet Vital Office of JACL

The oshogatsu season is a time to look back and you be there? "You bet'cha!" 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 chair Ted Namba, 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 Namba.

The audit is another important but not well-known responsibility of this office. Thanks to the hard work of Business Manager Clyde Izumi 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-ofyear campaign appeal letter from John Tateishi.

Personnel is the third primary area of responsibility. For the second year in a row, we implemented a cost-ofliving allowance (COLA), and did it 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 Reid Tateoka. The national convention committees 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

We are also already 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 audit occurs later this 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 Pacific 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.

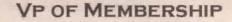
Other 2007 general operations projects include resolving the status of chapters not in good standing, re-launching the Legacy Fund Grants committee, completing elevator and HVAC maintenance of the national headquarters building and implementing the Raiser's Edge upgrade, the membership database software used by the JACL. The latter is very important to help support the V.P. of Membership's efforts. Once the upgrade is complete, 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 levels, but especially at the 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 or the 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!







Edwin Endow

Ask Yourself: 'Why am I a JACL Member?'

appy New Year to everyone! A New Year is always a time for new resolutions, new outlooks, and exciting new possibilities. It is a 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 membership and then look forward to 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:

· discount prescription drug and dental care programs or the discount car rental?

· the National 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?

· over nine types 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 participants 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 activities.

 JACL makes sure that history is not forgotten by preserving Japantowns, 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 and 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," that is 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 strong with those thoughts and have a wonderful 2007.

JACL: Dedicated to Preserving the Rights of all AAs

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 wake of the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia that Hot97 FM and Miss Jones would enact a humiliating and degrading parody of Asians? Or that Adam Corolla would thoughtlessly mock the Asian Excellence Awards? Or even Rosie O'Donnell's recent imitation of Asians on ABC's "The View"?

Who could've anticipated the long-fought victory for Japanese Americans when both Beaumont and Orange County in Texas voted to no longer use "Jap Road" and "Jap Lane," respectively? Who could've anticipated the success of HR 1492, the camp preservation bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate?

As we look forward to 2007, it's difficult to anticipate what events will need JACL's attention, but one topic has been brewing. Put on the backburner by the current administration, immigration is a powder keg. Sadly, many anti-immigration arguments sound nearly identical to those once directed at our Japanese immigrant ancestors. In the early 1900s, the Issei were considered "inassimilable" in custom and language. They were looked upon as a disruption to the established economic order because of their industriousness. Current immigrants come to the United States for the same reasons that our Issei ancestors once did - to create better lives for their families. JACL has committed to the following:

1. To support a path to citizenship for undocumented aliens living in the U.S. against harsh law enforcement proposals that would make these individuals felons and criminals.

2. To support provisions that would reunite families. There is a major backlog of relatives of new citizens who have been waiting years to immigrate to the U.S.

3. To support the "Dream Act," which allows for benefits to students who fall under the status of being undocumented.

To fulfill our legacy, we as JAs and members of the JACL must seize the opportunity to speak out in the current environment. We must draw upon our family and community history of overcoming wartime hysteria, racial profiling, and exclusion to strike down xenophobic legislation and reduce anti-immigrant hostility.

As for other topics that will demand the JACL's attention, I cannot predict the future. It's difficult to anticipate when issues like 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.

Heidi Tanakatasubo is serving her second biennium as the JACL vice president of public affairs.

PACIFIC CITIZEN JAN. 19-FEB. 1, 2007

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NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

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3/30-4/9	Yamato Art & Culture Tour of Japan - 11 days visiting Tokyo, Atami/Hakone/ML Fuji, Takayam Naoshima, including one night at the Benesse House, Takamatsu and Kyoto. Mike Yok
April 17-30	Yamato Tour From the Alps to Dubrovnik with Collette Vacations - 14 days visitin Zagreb, Opatija, Postojna, Lipica, Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik, Korcula, Piltvice, Bied, Salzburg, Sharon S
June 21-28	Yamato London & Paris Tour with Collette Vacations - 8 days, 3 nights London, 3 night Paris, including sightseeing in each city, 2 theater performances in London, Eurostar train from London to Paris, evening Seine River cruise and dinner/cabaret show in Paris. Peggy Mile
July 4-16	Yamato Summer Tour to Japan 14 days visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima. Peggy Mik
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 Sept. 9-14
 Yamato Southwest Spectacular
 - 6 days motorcoach tour from LA to Mesquite (via Las Vegas).

 Cedar Breaks National Monument, Bryce & Zion CAnyons, Grand Canyon (North Rim), cruise on Lake Powell Pink Jeep Tour in Sedona and Laughlin.
 Phillipe Theriault

 Sept. 16-26
 Yamato New England: Islands & Mountains with Collette Vacations - 10 days visiting Hyannis, Cape Cod, Provincetown, Martha's Vineyard, Lincoln (New Hampshire), Cruise Lake Winnipesaukee, Woodstock, Darwers, Salem and Boston.

Happy New Year

It has been a busy biennium 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 service to our community.

For the 2007 JACL Scholarship Program, we have new volunteers screening applications and selecting the winners. The Central California District Council has volunteered to coordinate the freshman scholarships and the Chicago chapter will begin handling all the other JACL scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, 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 Rokumie Japanese Cultural Freshman Scholarship was established. This new scholarship 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 candidates 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 activity in that section of the application.

National JACL's Education Program recently completed our Asian American Educational Curriculum Guide, "The Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience." This guide will promote fair and accurate portrayals of Japanese Americans and Asian Americans. This publication was made possible through a 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. Diane Fukami with Bridge Media produced our DVD conveying the story of the internment through the voices of those who experienced it. We are thankful for the assistance of Densho 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 Conference for Community & Justice (NCCJ) grant, was printed with 1,500 copies to be included with each current curriculum guide and an additional 1,500 copies for use in other ways including promoting our curriculum guides and supplementary materials at the National Council for the Social Studies Conferences in the Midwest and Eastern Districts.

In 2007, the National Education Committee will assist chapters in conducting teacher-training workshops in Monterey, Calif. and Phoenix, Ariz. Also the committee set a goal of producing a presentation packet for chapters on the internment in order to help chapters make presentations 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 the newly revised Chapter President's Handbook in CD format in February. Emily Teruya was very instrumental in revising this and our national board handbook last spring. We owe a tremendous amount of thanks to her for volunteering her time and commitment in providing these valuable resources to us.

I am pleased to report during this biennium National JACL established a partnership with Union Bank of California to advance our organization's planned giving program.

The Washington, D.C. Leadership Program will take place March 2-6, 2007. This year the program will include a practical project that participants will be asked to take back and implement in their local areas. Specific program details will be made available in January.

And finally, I would like to say that it is a real pleasure to be a part of the JACL. Thank you so much for the privilege of serving as a national vice president. If you have any questions about these programs or any issues, please feel free to contact me.

Here's to a very productive and joyous 2007!

NAT'L YOUTH REP



Leilani Savitt

The One Conference You Don't Want to Miss

A appy New Year, everyone! I know you are all anxious to hear what the national youth/student council has been up to. It should be no surprise that this year the council will be organizing the 2007 JACL National Youth/Student Council Conference.

The last conference was held in the summer of 2005 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year, it will be moving to sunny San Jose, Calif. This year's youth conference is tentatively scheduled for the middle of summer at Santa Clara University.

mission for this conference is to educate, engage and empower.

The council plans to educate, engage, and empower all participants at the 2007 conference by continuing the mentorship luncheon, workshop sessions, and the Vision Award Banquet while throwing several new ideas into the mix.

- 10/16-10/25 Yamato Highlights of Italy Tour 10 days visiting Rome, Venice, Florence Pisa, Chianti/Tuscany Region for wine tasting and cooking class, Bologna and Venice. Philippe Theriault
- 10/30-11/13 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan 15 days visiting Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Yonago, Kyoto and Tokyo., Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 8-18 Yamato Tour to Okinawa & Japan 11 days visiting Naha, Manza Beach, Kagoshima, Kurnamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Hiroshima. Lily Nomura
- Dec. 3-7 Yamato New York City Holiday Tour with Collette Vacations -5 days w/ sightseeing include ing Statue of Liberty, Metropolitan Museuum of Art, lunch at Tavern on the Green, Broadway show, Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Plus you will see the Christmas tree lit at Rocketeller Center, the ice rink will be open and the stores will be decored for the holidyas. A very special time to visit this exciting destination. Grace Sakarnoto

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YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU® 250 East First Street, Suite 1112 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3827 (213) 680-0333 OR (800) 334-4982 Email: Yamatogroups@aol.com The San Jose chapter was selected to host the conference after participating in a competitive bid process in September 2006. Planning for the conference has kept the council busier than ever. For those who do not know or need a refresher about how the council is composed, the national youth/student council consists of the national youth chair, the national youth representative and all district youth representatives.

As the current national youth representative, I am excited to be serving with a full council of dedicated individuals. In addition to school, work, jobs and other commitments, all council members have volunteered to serve on different conference committees. The five conference committees — hospitality, events, programming, outreach/publicity and social activities — will all help to put on a successful conference.

Continued communication between the San Jose chapter and the national youth student council will also be a key to establishing a solid foundation for all the conference activities. All the committee members have been keeping in mind this year's conference theme: "Cultivating Leaders by Defining our Roots." We have been finding ways to incorporate the theme into all aspects of the conference. Most notably, the council's You'll have to wait until after the council meets on Jan. 27-28 in San Jose to find out exactly how those new ideas will be used during the conference. The January meeting will also be the first time the council will meet face-to-face with the JACL San Jose chapter members. This meeting will be long and thorough in order to make sure that all the loose ends are tied up and that the committees' members are all on the same page.

The council will also be asking youth members to volunteer to help out on the committees as the conference date gets closer. If you are a youth member or youth who is interested in volunteering at the conference in San Jose this summer, please contact either Kimberly Shintaku (youthchair@jacl.org) or Leilani Savitt (youthrep@jacl.org).

I look forward to seeing all youth members in San Jose this summer as either a volunteer and/or conference participant.

I have served as the Midwest District Council Youth Representative at the past two youth conferences and found each conference to be unique. This year, the conference will be close to the San Jose Japantown, an Obon festival, and the San Jose chapter office. But don't just come for the surroundings, come for the education, engagement and empowerment! This year's youth conference will be the one conference you will not want to miss!

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- July 19 National Parks 10 days \$2295 Denver Mt. Rushmore - Devils Tower - Heart Mt. - Yellowstone -Grand Tetons - Jackson Hole - Salt Lake City.
- Aug. 12 Eastern Canada \$2395 Montreal Quebec Ontario, Niagara Falls & Toronto.

PSWDC GOVERNOR

Alayne Yonemoto **PSW: Young at Heart**

normally consider a good idea a suggestion that has a goal. A great idea is a goal with a plan. Now, in the Pacific Southwest District, we have stellar ideas. These are goals with a plan AND volunteers.

PSW has an outstanding set of young leaders that are poised to rejuvenate the district. They have taken an idea, built it with a steering committee and will be implementing it district-wide in 2007. This year, PSW will focus on strengthening the core of our district, chapters, and board by infusing it with young leadership.

Several years ago, PSW began participating in the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program (www.nikkeiyouth.org). This program, along with the Venice-Culver Francis Kitagawa 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. By the end of 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, cultivating young leadership, and of course, we ate good food!

With a strong desire to work on chapter revitalization, the PSW Youth Council holds 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 projects, serving on the national board, and assisting our next regional director. Another exciting project that is currently being rolled out is the renovation of the PSW Web site.

In this past year, I have had the opportunity to meet many of the PSW chapter presidents. Many of them have shared the same concerns with me. They are concerned that their current boards are weary of serving year after year. They are also concerned that their membership numbers continue to dwindle.

We are hoping that the new youth council will help to attract and retain members to the chapters. We feel that strong partnerships with the area college APA groups will help foster collaborative efforts on events and stronger membership in our youth/student membership categories. The new energy in the district will help us to grow our current leadership, membership, and civil rights programs.

These youth members personally energize me. These young leaders have proven themselves ambitious and responsible. But they are also committed to learning from the more seasoned members in JACL. They are not looking to take over the chapters. They are not looking to restructure the organization. They want to learn from the experienced members of JACL to help build the strength of the membership. I am continually impressed by their leadership skills and ideas.

I know 2007 will be a great year for PSW. We will be building the core, the hearts of our chapters, by energizing them with new membership. PSW will be young at heart and prepared for the challenges that face our organization. Please join me in helping to build the strength of the new PSW Youth Council.

I look forward to working with you in 2007.

NAT'L YOUTH CHAIR

Kimberly Shintaku A World of Difference

would like to express my great enthusiasm for the in Phoenix, Arizona, a silent auction was integrated into coming biennium. Happy New Year! Akemashite _omedeto gozaimasu!

With each New Year comes a new list of resolutions.

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

The other day I heard that over 80 percent of New Year's resolutions relate to exercising or losing weight. I'm not surprised.

I'd like 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 the JA internment camps and Redress. I want to do what I can to keep this organization strong. I want to continue the success of this organization.

Over the past 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

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 the 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 headed in such a positive direction, it feels as though the result could not be anything but a home run of an event.

The 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 mentorship 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 one of us could help JACL in any way possible, we would be taking a step in the right direction. It would be nice to hear, "What can we do TOGETHER to make a difference?"

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EDC GOVERNOR

Hiro Nishikawa

JACL'S Future and Governance

ACL 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 duress 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 American dream and assimilated in ever increasing numbers via interracial marriages with each succeeding generation. The U. S. Census gives one snapshot on this phenomena by noting that of 1.15 million Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA), 350,000 (30 percent) are Hapa. AJAs are now only the seventh most populace in the Asian American population. With overall American population now above 300 million, the expectation is that AJAs will continue 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 onefourth 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 Hiro Nishikawa is the Eastern District governor.

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 Treanor (president of the Marin County JACL), made a cogent report for reframing 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 PNW 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 JACL 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.

It will require older, long-standing JACL members to accept change and relinquish control (purse strings) to younger generations of members who are at the cutting edge of civil rights issues and dealing with AJA culture issues. A sound and meaningful Program for Action will also be helpful to an everwidening circle of immigrants and citizens to enjoy the benefits of a better America. There is much to be done. Let us begin.



One Busy Year for Us

Alan Nishi

NCWNPDC GOVERNOR

he JACL Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District is looking forward to one of its busiest years ever. Already on tap is the NCWNP board planning retreat slated to take place one weekend in January where we will lay out our district goals and budget for the year. This game plan will receive more input and refining from the NCWNP chapters at our February quarterly meeting in San Francisco Japantown, hosted by the SF JACL.

Once again, our district looks forward to sending representatives to the Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference as we do each year. Our screening and selection process will soon get underway under the guidance of John Hayashi.

Our District Council Youth Committee (DCYC) is already making plans to increase youth involvement in the district and the JACL. We have two enthusiastic youth reps serving our district in 2007: Megumi Kaminaga and Jason Shimozaki. And our district membership chair, Emily Teruya, is always coming up with innovative ways to reach out to new members. She conducted some creative membership training sessions at our quarterly meetings last year that proved to be both fun and helpful.

Our district Cultural Committee under Thaya Mune Craig has plans for a theater night; our Education Committee under Greg Marutani will help chapters organize teacher trainings; our Retirement Committee under John Yamada is always ready to address issues for the elderly; and our Civil Rights Committee under Miko Sawamura and April Goral will keep us informed of pressing issues.

The NCWNP district will be a very busy host in 2007, and we'll be rolling out the welcome mat. We will be hosting the National JACL Youth/Student Conference via our San Jose chapter at Santa Clara University, and we will be hosting the Tri-District Conference in Reno that will bring together NCWNP, PSW and CCDC members in one venue.

Our district is also planning a tribute to the veterans with Milo Yoshino taking command. And if that isn't enough to wear us out, NCWNP has been asked by National JACL to organize a tribute to outgoing national director, John Tateishi. And yes, we're even in the midst of "exploring" whether we have enough time and energy to squeeze in another golf tournament.

In the midst of all that, we will continue to stay versed in important issues like the court martial of 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, legislation on immigration, health, LGBT rights, hate crimes, and community preservation.

Helping me manage this busy year will be our able Vice Gov. Kim Nakahara. Keeping track of the books and our finances is our treasured Treasurer Fred Okimoto. Serving as our link to the P.C. editorial board and staff will be our P.C. Rep. Nelson Nagai. And ensuring we all know what's going on will be Dara Tom, the editor of our district newsletter.

The New Year will be a team effort for the NCWNP- board, staff and chapters. We are proud to be the largest district in the JACL, 32 chapters strong, and we're ready to face 2007 head on.

Alan Nishi is the NCWNP District governor.





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IDC GOVERNOR

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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 sharing aspects of Japanese American experiences with school teachers and students.

We will also support workshops for teachers such as the one offered by past MDC Governor Sharon Ishii-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 JAs) 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, Ishii-Jordan and Marutani remind 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 Hibino on a recent visit 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 injustices experienced by JAs during WWII. 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

Are We Excited for 2007? You Betcha!

n behalf of the Intermountain District, we wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year!

There was a time when scheduling out two to three weeks was considered busy. Now going into 2007, we are scheduled out two years (we take this as a blessing).

Continuing over from 2006 and with the major help of Maya Hata Lemmon (who moved to California) and Minidoka Internment National Monument Superintendent Neil King, the IDC continues to protest a proposed 18,000-plus dairy feedlot, which would be located just 1.5 miles upwind of Minidoka. We could use your help ASAP to spread the word and to help protest against the dairy farm. You can reach King at 208/837-4793 or Neil_King@nps. gov.

As all the JACL chapters across the country are getting ready for their local Day of Remembrance events, Utah will be celebrating "Day of Remembrance — Ogden's Japantown." The Union Station in Ogden was the major train station stop for thousands of military soldiers and other folks on Japantown's famous 25th Street. For more information go to www.dayofremembranceutah.com or call former Nat'l JACL President Raymond Uno: 801/355-0284.

We are getting busy with the 2008 national convention which will be held at the Marriott Salt Lake City Hotel. This exciting event is scheduled for July 16–20. Please mark your calendars. Are we excited? YOU BETCHA we're excited to host this honorary event and have everyone come visit our Rocky Mountains!

Lastly, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of a very precious legendary pillar of our JACL community, Alice Fumiyo Kasai, who at the age of 90 still played an active role in the community and our country. When she couldn't come to the community anymore, the community went to her. She was the kind of person who inspired everyone she met.

As JACL 2007 gets busier with Bi-District conferences, the JACL Gala Dinner, and the Youth Conference, I hope you will take a moment to think about attending some of these events.

Japanese Americans have contributed to our great country for over 100 years. In a nutshell, let's continue this tradition. It takes everyone to make the difference.

Elaine Akagi

PNWDC GOVERNOR

Torrential Rain, Snow Storms and One JACL Strategic Plan

t 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 communities. 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 center. 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 underway, 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	AKA	GI/	page	13



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Optometrist & Associates A Professional Corporation 11420 E. South St, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 860-1339	Kaoru Ono		
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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





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).



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.





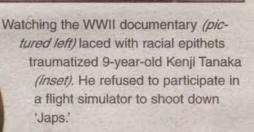
The **rebuilding** of Louisiana continued in 2006 after the **2005 hurricanes** devastated the region.

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 (*pic tured*) and Yoshio Mayumi.

.....................

PACIFIC CITIZEN, JAN. 19-FEB. 1, 2007



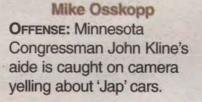


Officials at South Carolina's Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum denied any racism in their educational program, but after a visit from JACL in June, their museum director agreed to rethink it.

Protest erupted in April over Adidas' special edition shoe, the Y1 Huf. Designed by graffiti artist Barry. McGee, the shoe featured a slanty-eyed caricature named 'Ray Fong.' The Portland JACL and other APA groups led a campaign for its removal from sale.









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.

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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.



John Chiang wins the campaign for California's state controller.

'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

VI IZ

Calif. Republican **Tan Nguyen** shook up some scandal (and an election loss) when threatening fliers were sent to Orange County voters with Spanish surnames. Community

Preserving history.

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Celebrating heritage.

NEW YEAR'S ISSUE



JACL Arizona Convention

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.



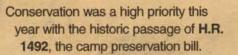
Ken Inouye, immediate past JACL president, cowboys up to the microphone to welcome attendees.

'I think it's time.'

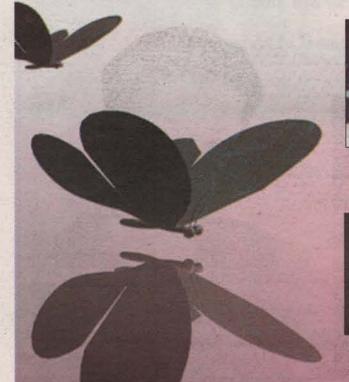
With more than seven years of service, JACL Executive Director John Tateishi announces his resignation at a national board meeting following the festivities. He cites personal reasons and agrees to stay on during the transition.

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.



Local advocates also championed the recognition of lesser known Japantowns like the one in Watsonville, Calif. (left).





Passages



IWAO TAKAMOTO Creator of Scooby Doo



Civil rights leader



MAKO Groundbreaking actor

IVA TOGURI Exonerated from the 'Tokyo Rose' myth



MOMOFUKU ANDO Inventor of instant ramen

¥.

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

- Bill Yoshino, **JACL Midwest** Regional Director

PACIFIC CITIZEN, JAN. 19-FEB. 1, 2007

SPORT

Adrenaline junkies rocked '06 on skis, on base, and on the 30 yard line.

suke Matsuza

ston Red Ser

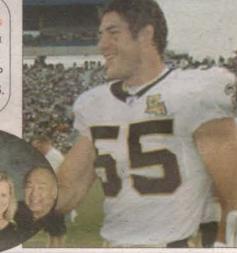


In his Olympics debut, Toby Dawson won a bronze medal flying over the hills of Torino.



Ward won a Superbowl and an MVP award in '06.

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











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program **Savings based on program's Fee Schedule for participating general dentists (fees vary by region) compared to a National Average (Average Savings 34%). Actual savings may vary I understand that if I am not completely satisfied, I may call to cancel within the first 30 days of my membership and receive a full refund of my first month's membership fee. The member activation/enrollment fee is non-refundable except in those states where refund provisions are specified by state law.

together with their annual picnics.

13

CCDC GOVERNOR

Bobbi Hanada Moving and Shaking in Central Cal

G reetings and happy 2007 from the Central California District Council!

This past year was a busy and fruitful year for CCDC. Our goal was clear as we joined forces with the Central California Nikkei 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 from May 7-July 23, 1942. The internees were residents from Sacramento and El Dorado Counties in California, Oregon and Washington.

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 dedicate approximately 7,500 square feet of property for a Remembrance Plaza. 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 Hirabayashi, a former Pinedale internee 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 *Shinzen* 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 hold 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, Reedley, Sanger and Selma will bring communities



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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 hostile time in our history.

Recently emerging stories such as those posted by Densho (http://www.densho.org/learning/spi ce/lesson5/5reading5.asp) are beginning to illuminate the diversity of responses among victims of WWII incarceration. Rather than sustaining the view of a homogeneous response to the question of loyalty, additional interviews from among the thousands who answered "no" to either Question #27 or #28 on the "loyalty questionnaire" can reveal nuanced and principled thoughts 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 Justice Equal secure and 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 focus 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

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Season's Greetings

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 biennial 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 rabble-rousing strategic planners. We wish a Happy New Year to all! ■

Elaine Akagi is the Pacific Northwest District governor.

MDC DIRECTOR



Bill Yoshino

Thank You, John

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, fettered in the Japanese American psyche without expiation, 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 fervently 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 remedying 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.

Toaru Ishiyama, a psychologist, once observed that when internees revisited the camps decades later, their first reaction was to cry because they didn't 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 1st 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 nominees 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 amid the desolate surroundings 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.

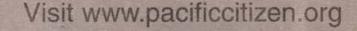
Sen. Barack Obama is fond of a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr., "... the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Sen. Obama adds that the arc doesn't bend by itself. Thanks, John, for adding your weight to that arc.



JACL Programs — Serving the Community, Serving You

The staff was invited to write about JACL pro- or hate who receives our support and doesn't feel alone. et, all geared toward fulfilling our organizational mission away with it, but doesn't.

grams for this New Year's edition of the Pacific - It is there whenever a shock jock, television personality Citizen. We have over 20 programs in the budg- or politician makes a racist remark thinking they can get



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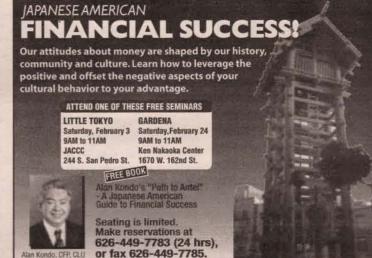
Learn how America's wealthiest families preserve assets while disinheriting the IRS

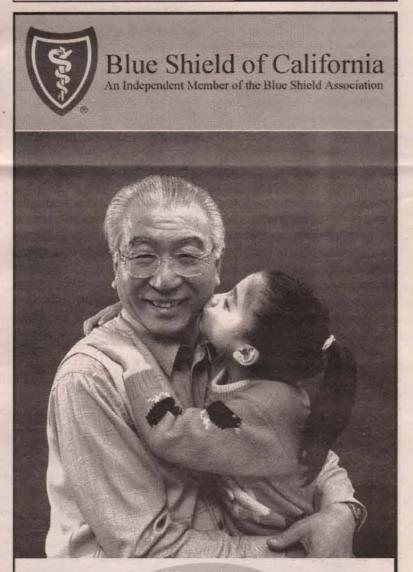
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of civil rights, education and community empowerment. Two of these programs are "Community Outreach & Support" and "District & Chapter Assistance."

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 carried out at no cost to the "consumer"... we do it because it's part of our mission; it's part of our reason for being.

What people often miss and what makes these two programs different is that they don't necessarily produce a "product" that you can hold in your hand or print on glossy paper to show a funder. The success of these programs has to be measured in a much different way, and viewed with much different eyes.

"Success" is there with every victim of discrimination

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 the internment, when a teacher needs a speaker, and when a reporter is doing a story. It is there every time one walks through a Japantown that is still vibrant and vital. Your membership dollars go to support these successes. You foot the bill and allow us to act in service to others. You, the members, make this important work possible.

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.

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In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Aoki, Dodson Yoshio, 55, Bellflower, veteran, MIS. Oct. 20; Vietnam War veteran.

Asai, Woodrow, New York, Dec. 31; New York JACLer; WWII veteran, Army

Bautista, Gary, 54, Las Vegas, Jan. 28; member of Hawaiian musical comedy troupe Society of Seven.

Do, Yen Ngoc, 65, Fountain Valley, Aug. 17; founded the first and largest Vietnamese language newspaper in the United States

Doi, Wesley Toshihiko, 69, San Rafael, Nov. 23; U.S. Army.

Doria, Staff Sgt. Richwell A., Honolulu, Nov. 7; killed in Iraq.

Embrey, Sue Kunitomi, 83, chair emeritus of the Manzanar Committee and is credited with getting Manzanar a national historic site designation.

Fujimoto, Mitsusuke, 88, Los Angeles, Oct. 22; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

Fukai, Mas, 79, Gardena, Mar. 5; former Gardena City Councilman for 28 years; praised by many as a leader on youth issues and issues affecting JAs; joined the U.S. Army while in Gila River internment camp.

Fukai, Yasuo "Ace," 84, Louisville, Colo., Dec. 3; WWII veteran, MIS.

Fukutomi, Eric Sadao, 56, June 21; Vietnam War veteran. Funatake, George, 79, Buena Park;

WWII veteran.

Furuto, Minoru, 84, June 13; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT E Company.

Hara, Saburo, 91, Costa Mesa, Oct. 23; WWII veteran.

Harada, Genzo, 84, Los Angeles, Jan. 30; MIS Korean Conflict veteran.

Harada, Henry Chikashi, 79, Monterey Park, Feb. 22; WWII veteran, MIS.

Hayashi, Hon. Yoshimi, 83, Honolulu, April 23; WWII veteran, MIS; first JA named to the position of U.S. attorney by President Johnson in 1968, named the first chief judge of the state Intermediate Court of Appeals and the only person who had served on the bench at all four levels of state courts.

Hayashi, Masumi, 60, Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 17; renowned photographic artist who focused her work on internment camps and a longtime professor of photography at Cleveland State University.

Higashi, Harry Hide, 82, Salinas, July 15; WWII Veteran, 442nd RTC.

Hirata, Sammie O., 81, Spokane, Wash., Dec. 8; U.S. Army.

Iguchi, Harry, 85, Dec. 16; WWII

Japanese american citizens League

Shopping for

Insurance?

Long-Term Care

lijima, Chris, 57, Honolulu, Dec. 31; Univ. of Hawaii law professor, once toured the country with the Yellow Pearl trio singing about Asian American identity.

Inouye, Margaret, 81, Honolulu, Mar. 13; wife of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye.

Inouye, Susumu, 82, Aug. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

Inouye, Tommy Yoshio, 74, Las Vegas, April 23; Korean War veteran.

Ishimoto, Norman Masao, 78, Los Altos, Feb. 1; U.S. Navy.

Isozaki, Kiyoshi "Rub," 82, Manteca, Sept. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd medic.

Iwanabe, Kunio Ted, Dec. 14; WWII veteran, 442nd Infantry.

Kadomoto, Thomas, 88, Glendale, Ariz., Mar. 28; WWII veteran, MIS.

Kahalewai Jr, Staff Sgt. Henry, 44, Honolulu, Dec. 15; died from injuries sustained in Iraq.

Kai, James, WWII veteran, MIS.

Kawaguchi, Tad, 74, Torrance; Korean Conflict veteran.

Kawahara, Yukio, 90, Timonium, Md., May 26; broadcaster for the Office of War Information during WWII.

Kawaminami, Jim, 84, Sept. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd I Co.

Kawamura, Yukio, M.D., El Cerrito, Jan. 17; WWII veteran, MIS.

Koda, Edward Keiji, Dos Palos, July 3; son of the "Rice King"; after WWII helped the Koda family refocus on rebuilding their rice farming operations and became the first to introduce mochigome (sweet rice).

Kodama, Dr. Richard Yukio, 81, Hacienda Heights, July 24; WWII Veteran, MIS.

Koyama, Spady A., 88, Spokane, Wash., Mar. 18; World War II veteran who also served in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as an Army Colonel. He earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart during WWII.

Kubo, Harry, 84, Parlier, Dec. 8; founded the Nisei Farmers League in 1971 and was a passionate defender of private property rights during battles with the United Farm Workers union. Kubo became familiar to many California voters during the 1876 campaign to defeat Prop. 14, a UFW-backed measure that would have strengthened the union's organizing ability. He is survived by his second wife, Mary; five children and nine grandchildren.

Kubota, Alfred Morinobu, 80,

NECROLOGY

Austin, Tex., Aug. 13; WWII veteran, 442nd

Lin, Sam Chu, 67, Burbank, Mar. 5; pioneering Asian American journalist known for his coverage of Asian communities

Loa, Jeffrey Sifoa, 32, Waianae, Hawaii, Aug. 16; Staff Sgt. killed in Iraq.

Mako, 72, Los Angeles, July 21; pioneering Asian American actor who received an Oscar nomination the 1966 film, "The Sand Pebbles"; co-founded the East West Players; appeared in films "Pearl Harbor," "Seven Years in Tibet," and both "Conan" films with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Mayeda, Hideo, 78, Los Angeles, Mar. 2; U.S. Army.

Mori, Harry H., 81, Lomita, Dec. 22; WWII veteran.

Mui, Chi, 53, San Gabriel, April 27; first Asian American mayor of San Gabriel.

Mukai, Tomeo, 83, Spokane, Wash., Feb. 15; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Murase, Yoshio, 84, Reedley, Nov. 7; WWII veteran, Army.

Nagai, Dick T., 71, Monterey Park, May 16; Air Force veteran.

Nagai, Masaaki, 85, San Mateo, Nov. 24; WWII veteran, MIS.

Nagaki, Joe Hideoyoshi, 87, Payette, Id., Jan. 10; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

Nagashima, Tom Tomoo, 90, Los Angeles, Sept. 17; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Nakata, Kenneth S., 79, Bainbridge Island, Wash., Aug. 9; WWII and Korean War veteran.

Nakata, Tatsuo, 29, Seattle, Nov. 14; former National JACL Youth/Student Chair and the youngest chapter president for the Seattle chapter, Tatsuo passed away after being struck by a car while on his way to work. He was the chief of

> staff for Councilman David Della. Many believed him to be a rising star in the community. Born in Hawaii and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Tatsuo

graduated from Seattle University with a degree in political science and became a member of the JACL in 1999. He is survived by his father Gene; mother, Nannette; brothers, Christian and Joshua and sister, Bernadette Warner.

Nishimoto, Kenji, 65, Sept. 24; Vietnam War veteran.

Nishimoto, Sunny Isao, 84, Fresno, Aug. 2; WWII veteran, MIS; Nishimoto Elementary School in the Madera Unified School District was named after the Nishimoto Family.

Y ou're not alone. Every day, more and more Americans are evaluating their need for long-term care. They hear about it on TV, read articles in magazines, get information off the Internet, receive offers through the mail or even have commissioned sales agents calling them.

With so many places to shop for long-term care coverage, how do you decide what's best for you?

As a JACL member, you don't have to worry That's because you can trust JACL and JACL's Long-Term Care Call Center. It's available to you, your spouse, your parents and your

Nishino, Ken, 90, Hemet, Mar. 31; erved 8 years as mayor of Hemet; WWII veteran, MIS.

Ogata, John Katsumi, 88, Orange, May 15; WWII veteran, Army.

Okazaki, Seiichi Jerry, 86, Whittier, Dec. 16; WWII veteran, MIS.

Omatsu, Paul Toyohiko, 80, Sylmar, Feb. 9; U.S. Army, Counter Intelligence Corps.

Ota, Minoru "Jack," 89, Torrance, June 3; WWII veteran.

Otani, Robert Teruhisa, 92, Loomis, June 2; WWII veteran.

Naruo, Taka, 89, Pleasanton, June 3; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Nitta, Satoshi, 82, May 18; WWII veteran, MIS.

Sagami, Yahachi, Chicago, Illinois, July 13; WWII Veteran, 442nd RCT.

Saiki, Barry Minoru, 86, Stockton, June 17; A Stockton native and past president of the Stockton JACL; U.S. Army

Serikaku, Katsumi "Bucky," 79, Shimakawa, Norman, 82, Stockton,

Feb. 24; WWII veteran. Shimazaki, Frank Junichi, 79, Jan.

15; WWII veteran.

Shimidzu, Arthur Norimasa, 87, Gardena, Sept. 2; WWII veteran, 442nd Company H Infantry Regiment.

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GEORGE "KOW"

Funeral service for the late

MARUKI

George "Kow" Maruki, 83, Florin,

CA born, Nisei resident of Las

Vegas, Nevada who passed away at

Odyssey Health Care, were held on

Thursday, January 4, 10:00 A.M. at

Temple 815 E. First St., Los

Angeles, under the direction of

He is survived by his sons,

Danny Nobuo and Dale Makoto

(Jane) Maruki; grandson, Gregory

Maruki; sisters, Grace Maruki

Wertz and Rosie Maruki (Jack)

Kakuuchi; brothers-in-law, Takeshi

Kitaoka, Nobuo (Grace) Kitaoka;

also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here

The family is requesting that

Phone: (831) 724-4751

(831) 724-4967

flowers please be omitted.

Hongwanji Buddhist

MORTUARY

KUBU IA

DEATH NOTICE

Hompa

Fukui Mortuary.

and in Japan.

Fax:

Shoji, Samuel, 80, Seattle, Wash., June 16; Korean War veteran.

15

Sugino, Junichi, 82, West Los Angeles, Nov. 26; WWII veteran.

Sumida, John Yutaka, 87, Santa Clara, June 10; MIS veteran.

Susuki, Takeo, 86, West Los Angeles, Sept. 14; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Takai, Roy Tetsuo, 87, Pacheco, Feb. 6: U.S. Army, MIS.

Takitani, Sarah Aiko Uno, 92, Honolulu, June 28; co-founded Hawaiian Host Chocolate with her late husband, Mamoru.

Tanaka, Henry T. "Hank," 83, Cleveland, April 26; former National

Sato, Takeo George, 85, Torrance, Oct. 4; WWII veteran, MIS.

Senzaki, Takashi "Tak," 84, Los Angeles, Mar. 28; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Orange, Sept. 20; WWII veteran, Army.



JACL President; longtime leader on the Cleveland chapter and Midwest District boards and a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board; also played a pivotal role dur-

ing the redress movement of the 70s and 80s by providing a personal testimony during the redress hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in Chicago.

Ueha, Hiromi, 33, Irvine, April 10;

former PSW District Governor and

JACL National Youth/Student Chair.

Due to space limitations, this is

MORTUARY

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Gerald Fukui

President

27, 1924 in

Los Angeles,

was interned

in Manzanar

before mov-

Chicago with

her husband,

Reginald.

Fumi is sur-

she

Calif.,

ing

not a complete listing.

707 East Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ph. 213/626-0441

Fax 213/617-2781

FUMIKO NAKANO

SHIKAMI

passed away Jan. 5. Born August

vived by her husband, Reginald; 2

sons, Steve and Marshall; 2 daugh-

ters, Deborah and Barbara; son-in-

law, Dale Ikeda; 2 grandaughters, Megan and Tiffany Ikeda; and

brother Henry Nakano. At the

request of the family, private serv-ices were held in Chicago on Jan.

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Fumiko Nakano Shikami, 82,

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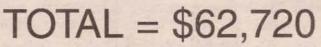
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