

P.C. Top Feature

Excising the Demon of Silence



Ann Jyono never spoke a word of what her priest did to her in the middle of the night — until now. She's not alone.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

For over 20 years, Ann Marie Jyono's secret burned in silence: the Catholic priest who was a fixture in her family's life had sexually molested her for seven years starting when she was only five years old.

It began the first time he spent the night at the Jyono's Lodi, Calif. home in 1971. Father Oliver Francis O'Grady convinced Ann's devoutly Catholic parents to let him tuck in the children. From there, bedtime stories turned into nightmares. Her parents, Sansei Bob and Maria, who is of Irish descent, had no idea a monster was feeding on their innocence — and Ann kept quiet until

'I thought I would probably die with that [secret] in me.'

The secret exploded decades later when the Catholic priest Ann Jyono's parents welcomed into their Lodi, Calif. home was exposed as a sexual predator.

one day she screamed it from the rooftops.

"He was a man of God telling me something bad was going to happen if I told anyone. We were taught to believe him because he was the direct extension to God," said Ann, 40, in a phone interview. "I thought I would probably die with that [secret] in me."

In 1993, Ann testified in the criminal trial against O'Grady brought forth by two young brothers. Yes, there were other victims — about 25 in total. O'Grady was sentenced to 14 years in jail, but was deported to Ireland after serving only seven years. On the Emerald Isle, he roams free — last seen at a children's store in Dublin — so Ann is speaking up again.

A 'Happy' Childhood

The path that led O'Grady to the Jyons is filled with chance. In 1961, 24-year-old Bob was stationed in

See ANN JYONO/Page 6

Hip to be Square

In the world of Rubik's Cube competitions, their names are legendary.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

PASADENA, Calif.— Call them "cubers."

Under the shade of a tree, their hands whirl clicking corresponding colored squares into their places. It's an easy pattern taking Leyan Lo about 15 seconds to unscramble before he slaps the cube on the table. It's not his personal best, but it's enough to beat Tyson Mao who is a

few seconds behind and admittedly a little out of practice.

They chat briefly about their performance then scramble the colors back up and start over. It's not a sport you would see on ESPN, but it's also not their parents' type of Rubik's Cube either. In peak form, they can solve a scrambled cube under 11 seconds — blindfolded. They call it a hobby, but if this were basketball, Leyan, 21, and Tyson, 22, could be Johnson and Bird.

Standing in the courtyard of the California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech), the West Coast home to math geniuses, engineers and physicists, they try to dispel the misconception that a cuber needs to be good at math or someone with no life.

People trickle over and Tyson

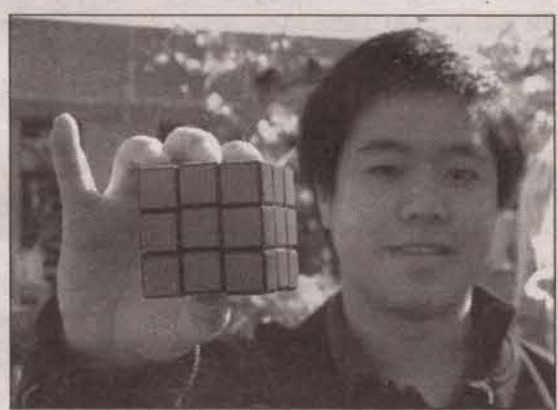


PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

Leyan Lo, 21, can solve a Rubik's Cube faster than you — blindfolded.

slaps hands with a few club members. Yes, Cal Tech has a Rubik's Cube Club that competes in world competitions, and Tyson is the de facto leader.

The Making of a Cuber

The normal version of the Rubik's Cube has nine multicolored squares on each side, which can be arranged into 43 quintillion positions. Most people give the cube a couple of turns before giving it up completely.

See RUBIK'S CUBE/PAGE 4

Grassroots Campaign Fights for a Commemorative Postage Stamp Honoring the Heroic JA WWII Veterans



Could a future stamp honoring the Japanese American World War II veterans look like this? Only the U.S. Postal Service knows.

After their proposals are rejected by the U.S. Postal Service, the group launches a coalition effort with the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo Code Talkers in hopes of a series of commemorative stamps.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Before you lick your next postage stamp onto the electricity bill or a postcard from the latest family vacation, take a look at the variety of commemorative stamp choices you will have this year.

There's the Marvel Super Heroes stamps, the Disney inspired ones, and a special "With Loves and Kisses" stamp just in time for Valentine's Day. For history buffs there's the Settlement of Jamestown stamp and Ella Fitzgerald is featured in the ongoing Black Heritage series stamp collection.

But missing again this year is a stamp honoring the heroic Japanese

See STAMP CAMPAIGN/Page 12

Community Braces for More Heated Debate as Watada Court Martial Begins



1st Lt. Ehren Watada (pictured here at a previous hearing) is set to hear opening arguments at his court martial Feb. 5 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

AP PHOTO

The JA officer faces up to six years in prison for his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq last summer.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

In less than three days, 1st Lt. Ehren Watada will finally come face to face with the stark realities of his decision to refuse to deploy to Iraq last summer as his court martial begins Feb. 5 at Fort Lewis.

Although a personal decision, Watada's actions sparked heated debate within the Japanese American community. Now just days before the start of his court martial — where Watada faces four counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and one count of missing troop movement — the controversy continues to generate impassioned emotions.

See COURT MARTIAL/Page 6

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'Survivor' Role Model

Yul Kwon leads the pack of APA role models on reality TV.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Feedlot Controversy

The Jerome City Council will hear debates about a proposed feedlot near Minidoka.

NATIONAL PAGE 3



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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• FLOYD MORI • WASHINGTON WINDOW

Events and Happenings in JACL



Before I begin this report, I would like to say something about John Tateishi who has very ably served as the JACL executive director for the past seven years. John is feeling a lot better but his illness is very serious and he will not be returning to work. As he continues to recuperate at home, he is taking daily walks to restore some strength in his body. His mind is as keen as ever, and his typical humor remains as noticed through an occasional e-mail. Our thanks for a job well done and best wishes for a complete recovery go out to John and Carol.

The November 2006 elections not only brought change to the dynamics of the House and Senate, but we have seen many adjustments and changes in the APA community here in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Congresswoman Mazie Hirono from Hawaii. She is a veteran politician, having served in the Hawaii State Legislature as well as lieutenant governor. She is a welcome addition to the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) of which Congressman Mike Honda

remains chair.

Honda also was given a coveted seat on the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Xavier Becerra from California, another member of CAPAC and a friend of JACL, was named assistant to Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

One of the great victories for JACL was the swift passage of HR 1492, the Camp Preservation Bill and having the bill signed into law by President Bush in December. It was one of the few pieces of legislation to pass in the waning days of the session for Congress, where many gave it little chance of passage.

The major credit for getting this work done goes to retiring Republican Congressman Bill Thomas of Bakersfield, Calif. When we first discussed the possibility of his carrying the bill, he stated that he would be happy to do it but it would have to be done "his way." His way was using his position as chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee to push the bill through both houses of Congress and eventually getting President Bush to sign the bill. It worked out very well, and

JACL thanks Thomas.

APA staffers on the Hill are a key element in our relationship with members of Congress. Ester Kiaiana, who was chief of staff for former Rep. Ed Case of Hawaii decided to return to Hawaii after a very positive career on the Hill. Mark Keam, who most recently served as Sen. Durbin's Judiciary Committee staffer, will move onto the private sector. Howard Moon, who served as Speaker Pelosi's floor staff, will also move to the private sector.

The APA liaison for Speaker Pelosi will be Carmela Clendening, who has shifted from her position in communications. Carmela replaces Frank Carrillo, who has moved to a committee assignment. Several of us in the APA organizations recently met with Speaker Pelosi's staff to urge the hiring of more APAs in order to maintain the face of APAs on the Hill.

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) has named Michael Lin as its new executive director. Michael, who is a former OCA national president, brings

many years of volunteer service and experience to the OCA staff. Lisa Hasegawa was named chairperson of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA). Lisa is the executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD) and is a veteran in the APA advocacy arena.

Plans are being made for a major JACL event in D.C. "A Salute To Champions," the National JACL Gala Awards Dinner, will be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom on Sept. 12. More details will be forthcoming. If any JACL members are planning a vacation to D.C. around that time, please include this gala into your plans.

Thanks for all the good work you as JACL members are doing in your various chapters. The chapters are the lifeblood of JACL. I would like to encourage each of you to help increase membership in JACL by bringing in new members.

We all have family members and friends who could benefit by being members. There are many people who would join if we told them about JACL. Let's help our organization to remain vital by inviting others to join. ■

Floyd Mori is currently the interim JACL national director.

Letters to the Editor

Watada: Individual Act of Conscience

First Lt. Ehren Watada's court martial is scheduled for February. He is steadfast in facing imprisonment.

Watada is not a coward. He is taking a stand against involvement in a misled and preemptive aggression. Our country violated the United Nations' Charter's Rules of War that attaches to our own Constitution; Preemptive aggression clearly violates the UN Charter and our Constitution. As such, Lt. Watada's officer's oath to defend the Constitution compels him to not participate in something unconscionable or that makes him guilty of war crimes under the Geneva Accords or Nuremberg principles. He is not a conscientious objector.

Watada's attorney encourages the public to write Ft. Lewis' commanding general (Gen. Dubick) and newspapers in support of Watada. Public opinion in support is encouraged. Public meetings should be informational and organizations should not use Watada to advance their own agenda.

This is about Watada's individual act of conscience. Therein lies its authenticity. While his act derives from his conviction that the United States is doing a wrong in the world, his refusal of movement to Iraq is still a matter of personal conscience that came with much mental struggle and his parents' initial shock and disapproval. On this individual and human level we who support him can better identify with and respect his act as a deeply personal and honorable one.

James Tanabe
Honolulu

Reader Commends Nat'l JACL for Stance on Watada

I applaud the decision of the national JACL board not to support 1st Lt. Ehren Watada. This must have been a tough decision to make because it will divide the JACL. This is a problem without a solution of who is right or who is wrong.

Lt. Watada had a chance to oppose President Bush and the war in Iraq simply by not entering the Army after the war had started. Why did he enlist in the Army if he were against the war in Iraq? There is no draft, only a volunteer Armed Forces. Did he really think he would not be deployed?

The charges against the lieutenant are not whether this is a justified war, but his dereliction of duty according to the UCMJ. The lieutenant took his oath upon his enlistment and again when he became an officer to obey all orders. I am sure there are others in the service who feel as Lt. Watada yet they serve and die. Just think of the Armed Forces without the UCMJ.

I oppose this war in Iraq but support all who serve in the Armed Forces.

Lee Sakata
Arizona Chapter
USMC 55-59

Reader Echoes Tateishi's Sentiments on Watada

Thank you, Mr. John Tateishi, for your thoughtful reconsideration and urging that the JACL national board support the motion to support 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's First Amendment rights to speak the truth. This action on your part exemplifies the purpose of the JACL as a civil and human rights organization.

Unfortunately the national board does not support Lt. Watada's courageous action to tell the truth in hopes of ending the illegal and immoral invasion of Iraq. Until the board reverses its decision, I shall donate

my JACL dues to the "Thank You, Lt. Watada" fund and urge other members to do the same.

The JACL loses its honor and credibility as a civil and human rights organization if seven board members can speak so dishonorably for its members.

Edith Kawamoto Frederick
via email

A Greater Courage

I share John Tateishi's disappointment that the national JACL again refused to support Watada's First Amendment right to free speech in uniform and out.

Opposition to the war in Iraq was amply demonstrated in victories of Democrats across the country in our most recent elections and Lt. Watada's courage speaks for many in the military who also oppose this war: recent polls show 72 percent of active duty soldiers in the military oppose the U.S. being in Iraq. This is an astonishing condemnation of the war by those on its front lines.

Unlike WWII, in this war we are the fascists; unlike Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Min Yasui, Lt. Ehren Watada first chose to join the military and be counted among supporters of U.S. policy. But like them he came to understand that he could and should speak out to be a force for truth and he has taken great risk to speak out against this illegal and immoral war.

It is strangely chilling that the JACL has repeated its historical role of shrinking from defending Nikkei who speak out for justice, especially in critical and controversial times. It takes tremendous courage to see through government manipulations and lies, greater courage to articulate personal and social responsibilities exposing them and even greater courage to stand up and defy orders based on them.

Thank you, Lt. Ehren Watada, for showing us this is the time to take a stand against this illegal, immoral and senseless war, a war that is destroying a country, a people and civilization in the Middle East.

Betty Nobue Kano
via email

Dick Miyagawa Remembered

Thank you for the update on Dick Miyagawa (*Pacific Citizen*, Nov. 3-16, 2006). Probably hundreds (maybe thousands) of us who were interned in Santa Anita Assembly Center in 1942 remember how welcome Dick's leadership and musical talent were in that place.

I can still sing "Manuela Boy, My Dear Boy," a Hawaiian ditty that was popularized by Dick Miyagawa in 1942.

Naomi Kashiwabara
San Diego, CA

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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

President Signs Internment Camp Bill

The next hurdle is funding.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The preservation of 10 World War II Japanese American internment camps was sealed with President George W. Bush's Dec. 21 signing of HR 1492, the Camp Preservation Bill.

The new law directs the Secretary of Interior to establish a \$38 million grant program of National Park Service grants to restore and research campsites. The grants would require 50 percent in matching funds.

The National Park Service already operates facilities at two of the 10: Manzanar National Historic Site in California and the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho.

Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., introduced HR 1492 to the House on April 6, 2005. It passed the House unanimously on Dec. 5, 2006.

Asian Pacific American leaders say the new law is an important way to prevent a repeat of such a dark period in the nation's history.

"Preserving those internment sites is a solemn task we all bear," said Democratic Rep. Doris Matsui, who was born in Poston in 1944. "Those who come after us will have a physical reminder of what they will never allow to happen again."

Democratic Rep. Mike Honda, who co-sponsored the bill, is the other member of the House to be interned during WWII. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye volunteered for the Armed Services from Hawaii; the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta and the late Congressman Robert Matsui are also former internees.

"This bill in some ways is more significant than the Redress bill in that it allows for permanent educational opportunities for our nation to understand the value of civil rights and the rights provided by the Constitution," said Floyd Mori, JACL interim national director.

The next challenge will be to find the matching funds needed. ■

Chicago School Revokes Honor to Radio Host Mike North

North is the school's most famous alumnus, but critics argue his racist comments make him a bad role model.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Mike North's hateful words came back to haunt him. The Chicago school he once attended decided Jan. 10 to reject the plan to dedicate their new softball field after the controversial sports radio talk show host.

North dropped out of Senn High School in 1970, but the local school council voted last year to name their new softball field after the WSCR "The Score" 670AM morning host, a decision they later called a "procedural mistake."

The meeting drew protesters and North himself who, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, shouted at detractors at least three times.

Last summer, when Korean Chicago Cubs pitcher Jae Kuk Ryu gave up several home runs during a game against the Atlanta



Sports radio personality Mike North

Braves, North reportedly said on his May 30, 2006, show, "Who was that Chinaman on the mound the other day?"

WSCR management apologized, but Asian Pacific American groups including the JACL demanded more accountability from CBS Radio, the parent company. North eventually made an on-air apology.

"It's true that he read an apology on-air, but do we believe he truly understands the impact of his offensive language? No, we do not," said Bill Yoshino, JACL

Midwest director in a statement. "Do we believe he truly rises to a level of character and behavior to have a public, Chicago Park District ball field dedicated in his name? We do not."

At the school council meeting, community members debated North's credentials as a role model because of his past actions.

When news of the name dedication reached the JACL, Yoshino contacted Mary Ann Smith, alderman of Chicago's 48th Ward.

"I am grateful to the members of the community who made me aware of the racially insensitive remarks Mr. North has expressed on his radio program," said Smith in a Dec. 18 letter to Yoshino. "Had I known about his pattern of behavior, I would have said 'no' to the request that we dedicate the field to him."

Senn school council members deferred the decision to Smith, who revoked the honor to North. ■

Column in Princeton Student Newspaper's Joke Issue Stirs Racism Charges

By ASSOCIATE PRESS

PRINCETON BOROUGH, N.J.—The annual joke issue of Princeton University's student newspaper has left some people accusing its staff of racism.

The *Daily Princetonian* issue published Jan. 17 included a column with a byline that closely resembles the name of Jian Li, an 18-year-old Livingston man who filed a civil rights complaint against the university last summer after he was denied admission, accusing it of bias against Asian students.

Li, who now attends Yale University, said his complaint against Princeton remains under investigation.

"I think the article was extremely distasteful," Li told The Associated Press. "Whoever decided to publish it showed an extreme lapse of judgment."

Under a byline of Lian Ji, the article used broken English and spouted racial stereotypes to bash the school

for his rejection.

"Hi Princeton! Remember me? I so good at math and science. Perfect 2400 SAT score. Ring Bells?" the article begins. "Just in case, let me refresh your memories. I the super smart Asian. Princeton the super dumb college, not accept me."

The article ran with a disclaimer informing readers that it was part of the joke issue, but that did not stop students and alumni of the Ivy League school from accusing those who wrote it of racism.

"Many angry Asian American alums are circulating this article like wildfire. I consider myself an easy-going person, but guys — this article doesn't even try to use humor to hide the underlying hate," Andre Liu, who identified himself as a 1991 graduate, wrote in a letter to the editor. "Real bad call."

An article on the controversy was published in the Jan. 19 editions, as was a note from the *Daily Princetonian*'s managing board that stated its members "sincerely regret

having upset some of our readers," but defended their intentions.

"Using hyperbole and an unbelievable string of stereotypes, we

I think the article was extremely distasteful.

Whoever decided to publish it showed an extreme lapse of judgment.

Jian Li

hoped to lampoon racism by showing it at its most outrageous," the note said. "We embraced racist language in order to strangle it. At its worst, the column was a bad joke; at its best, it provoked serious thought about issues of race, fairness and

diversity."

Chanakya Sethi, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, said he understood why some people were angered by the column and hoped the controversy would spark a dialogue on campus.

"There are honest differences about what is humorous and what is not, and it was a regrettable mistake to think everyone would see the column as we do," Sethi said. "We are sensitive to what (those angered by the column) think, and we want to deal with this situation in as honest and open a manner as possible. We believe something good can come from all this."

Li said he quickly recognized that the article was satire, but said it wasn't an excuse.

"It's so outlandish that it can't be anything but satire," he said. "But I think in any case, this shouldn't have been published."

In a letter to the editor that appeared in the *Daily Princetonian*, Princeton's Asian American Studies

Association said the column was "offensive to Asian American students" and "reflects poorly on Princeton's reputation as a diverse and informed university."

Meanwhile, Janet S. Dickerson, vice president for Campus Life at Princeton, told *The Times of Trenton* that the controversy had become an "opportunity for an educable moment on campus."

"The Prince exercised poor judgment in including offensive material in this year's joke issue," she added. "Its student board has apologized and in doing so, recognized its responsibility to the campus."

At least one student, though, said he was not offended by the article.

"I thought it was sad that people were so offended by it, because it shows that racism still exists," Felix Huang, a senior from Texas whose parents are from Taiwan, told *The Times*. "But I think the column was a joke and I took it for the satire that it was meant to be." ■

Becerra Reintroduces JLA WWII Internment Bill

Rep. Xavier Becerra, with Reps. Daniel Lungren, Mike Honda, and Chris Cannon, reintroduced the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act" Jan. 24.

If signed into law, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act would create a commission to investigate and study the wartime actions taken by the U.S. government with regard to Japanese Latin Americans during World War II and make recommendations to Congress for any appropriate remedies based on their findings.

The 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians report led to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an official apology and financial redress to most of the Japanese Americans who were subjected to wrongdoing and confined in U.S. internment camps during WWII.

"With the 26th anniversary of the Commission on Wartime Relocation

and Internment comes the reminder that another aspect of this unfortunate part of our nation's history has yet to be explored," Rep. Lungren said. "As a member of the original Wartime Relocation Commission, I appreciate this further opportunity to co-sponsor legislation with the purpose of gaining a greater understanding of the wrongs that were committed."

Companion legislation to Rep. Becerra's bill was also introduced Jan. 24 in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. Joining Sen. Inouye on the bill were Sens. Ted Stevens, Lisa Murkowski, Carl Levin, Patrick Leahy, Daniel Akaka, and Robert Bennett.

"The lessons of history," said Inouye, "can be painful. But that pain can also strengthen our nation, and our commitment to its democratic ideals, which include equal justice for all."

"The commission will have an educational purpose as Americans of all ages will be fully informed about this unfortunate episode in our history," Becerra said. ■

Feedlot Controversy Intensifies

Community groups criticize Jerome County Commissioners for refusing to recognize national testimonies. Letters written outside of the one-mile area will not be read.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho—Dairy operators say there is still room for expansion in a county where cows outnumber people 7-1. At contention is an area near the Minidoka Internment National Monument, where a proposed animal feeding operation is drawing major criticism.

Elevated levels of phosphorus, a contaminant linked to dairies, have already been identified in a neighboring county, but Asian Pacific American and community groups like the JACL and the Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE) contend the proposed feedlot would destroy visitors' experience at the historic site.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there will be days when people won't be able to get out of their cars," monu-

ment Superintendent Neil King said to the *Pacific Citizen*.

Permits are required for any agricultural operation that confines large numbers of livestock. If approved by the county commissioners, the Big Sky Farms feedlot will house 18,555 cows 1 1/2 miles upwind of the monument.

A hearing on the proposed feedlot is scheduled for Feb. 6, but commissioners have denied recognition of individuals living outside a one-mile radius from the proposed feedlot — even former Japanese Americans internees who left a legacy in their land. Jerome County ordinance states that only persons who live within a one-mile radius of the proposed feedlot are allowed to testify before the commissioners.

APA groups have already submitted opposition letters to Art Brown, the planning and zoning administrator, but letters from outside the one-mile radius will remain sealed at the hearing. Critics are comparing this move to the denial of due process



Minidoka's front entrance today.

during World War II.

"I guess some things never change," said King.

ICARE is nominating Minidoka for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2007 "11 Most Endangered Places."

Currently Minidoka is under the care of the National Park Service, who is hoping to recreate a block of 12 barrack buildings, a mess hall and a latrine/shower/laundry building to use for educational purposes.

At Minidoka, a rock chimney and remnants of a waiting room still stands at the entrance — invaluable reminders of American history. ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff

City Council Considers Renaming Street for Japantown

SALT LAKE CITY—A short stretch of a downtown street could soon be renamed to honor the cluster of businesses that once made up a Japantown.

The Salt Lake City Council is expected to rename the block of 100 South between 200 and 300 West as "Japantown Street."

Most of Japantown was knocked down in the 1960s to make room for the Salt Palace. The only remnants are a church and the Buddhist Temple.

Rep. Wu Introduces Legislation to Support APA Students

WASHINGTON—Congressman David Wu, D-Ore., introduced legislation that would provide grants to encourage colleges to improve and expand services for APA students.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions bill would help colleges identify and assist low-income and underserved APA students. Similar programs currently only serve other minority populations.

Lawmakers Propose Requirement to Teach about Hmong Following Slaying of Hmong Immigrant

MADISON, Wisconsin—State lawmakers have proposed requiring schools to teach about the Hmong people, saying suspicion of the new immigrants could be eased by an understanding of their past as U.S. allies in the Vietnam War.

The bill, backed by a group of Assembly Democrats, is identical to one proposed in April 2005 that died when lawmakers adjourned last year. Sponsors said racial tensions rekindled by this month's homicide of a Hmong hunter could build support for passage this year.

The slaying of Cha Vang, whose body was found Jan. 6 in a wildlife refuge has heightened tensions between Hmong and whites. A white hunter was charged recently in Vang's death. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Hosokawa to Receive ADL Civil Rights Award



Veteran Colorado journalist **Bill Hosokawa** will receive the Anti-Defamation League's 2007 Civil Rights Award Feb. 6. The award recognizes leadership and achievements in civil and human rights.

Hosokawa, an award-winning journalist, was a reporter and editor for *The Denver Post* for 38 years. He famously documented the JA experiences in internment camps during WWII.

Mile-Hi Honors Community Leaders, Volunteers

The Mile-Hi JACL honored community volunteers and professional individuals at their annual recognition luncheon Jan. 21.

Four distinguished guests were recognized this year: **Yuzo Ota**, consul general of Japan; **Mr. and Mrs. Kenichi Kimiya**, deputy consul general of Japan; **Warner H. Brown, Jr.**, bishop of the Rocky Mountain United Methodist Conference and his wife, **Minnie Brown**; and **Bill Yoshino**, JACL Midwest director.

The 2007 Tom Masamori Memorial Kansha No Hi and Mile-Hi JACL Recognition Award winners are: **George and Jane Kanemoto**, **Jim and Chiyo Kanemoto** (posthumously); **Tsuyako Kaneko**, **Adele Arakawa**, **Leo Goto**, **Bill Hosokawa** and **Terry Sato**.

'Going for Broke' Wins JVC Tokyo Video Festival Honors

The WWII era documentary "Going for Broke: The 442nd Central Postal Directory" won in the Selected Work Award category at the 29th Tokyo Video Festival.

The short-form educational documentary by **George Toshio Johnston** tells the heroic story of the 100th Battalion/442nd RCT.

The award ceremony takes place March 3 in Yokohama, Japan.

Hirahara's Third Mystery Novel Nominated for an Edgar Award



Author **Naomi Hirahara**'s third mystery novel in the Mas Arai series, "Snakeskin Shamisen," was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America's 2007 Edgar Allan Poe Award in the category of Best Paperback Original. This is Hirahara's third book in her series featuring a Kibei Nisei gardener and atomic bomb survivor.

JACL Announces Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship

The 2006-07 recipient of the Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow is **Dana Y. Nakano** of Fountain Valley, Calif.

Nakano, a Yonsei, is currently a graduate student of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. He is working in the Capitol Hill office of Congressman Mike Honda. ■

Questions Linger as APAs Mourn Slain Hmong Hunter

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Maikue Vang's sadness was laced with anger and frustration as a traditional three-day funeral began for her uncle, a Hmong hunter slain in the northern state of Wisconsin last month.

"A lot of people are confused and wondering, 'Why did this happen to him?'" said Vang, who traveled from Fresno, Calif. for the funeral of Cha Vang, 30, a refugee who lived in Green Bay, Wisconsin. "Hmong on the West Coast are wondering, 'What is happening in the Midwest?'"

Vang's death has rekindled racial tensions on Wisconsin hunting lands just two years after a Hmong man shot and killed six white hunters there.

Vang's body was found partially covered by leaves and debris on Jan. 6 in a wildlife refuge near Green Bay. Authorities charged James Nichols, 28, with murder after an autopsy showed Vang had been stabbed several times and shot in the head and torso.

Nichols, who is white, has told



CHA VANG

police that he was acting in self-defense. His public defender, Kent Hoffmann, did not immediately return a message left at his office.

Wisconsin, Minnesota and California are home to the largest populations of Hmong, an ethnic minority that fled Laos after the Vietnam War.

APA groups from across the country are calling on the district attorney to look into this case as a hate crime.

"We would urge the filing of hate crime charges, if appropriate, as provided in the Wisconsin statutes," wrote JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino in a recent letter to the Marinette County District Attorney

Brent DeBord. "A hate crime charge would send a clear message that acts of discrimination based on race will be prosecuted."

In a statement released through the funeral home, Vang's family said, "We do not and will probably never know what happened that afternoon. The only thing that we know for sure is that Cha Vang is murdered and is no longer with us."

Cha Vang's confrontation with Nichols came as the two were squirrel hunting.

According to a criminal complaint, Nichols gave several versions of what happened, saying at one point that Vang told him he was going to kill him. Vang's wife has said her husband spoke no English.

In the November 2004 slaying, which happened in Sawyer County in western Wisconsin, Chai Vang, no relation, shot six hunters after being accused of trespassing during a deer hunt. He said the white hunters shouted racial epithets and shot first, but survivors testified that he opened fire on the group. Chai Vang was sentenced to life in prison. ■

RUBIK'S CUBE

(Continued from page 1)

But Tyson calls it a "focus passion" — an enjoyable activity that helps him track his improvements.

"When I see an avenue towards improvement, I strive for it. I want to solve it faster," said Tyson, who in 2005 broke the world record for solving the Rubik's Cube blindfolded.

Tyson got his first glimpse of the cube at age four when he cupped it in his hands, turned it a few times before turning it back. The memory, he said, is pristine but it's not an epic moment like King Arthur finding Excalibur for the first time. He just forgot about the cube until 2003 when his younger brother Toby brought a cube home from a summer program retreat for talented youths boasting he could solve it. That's when the focusing started.

"[Toby] came home with a Rubik's Cube. My husband and I thought Toby had just wasted our \$3,000 because he should've mastered his Etymology and not the Rubik's Cube," said Gina Mao. "The sound of turning Rubik's Cubes drove me crazy and I would ask them to stop turning once in a while. I did not like the colorful square puzzles all over my house."

The Mao brothers, who were born and raised in the San Francisco area, enjoyed a childhood filled with violin and cello lessons. On weekends, Tyson ran track and Toby, now 18, played baseball with his high school team. Still, they focused on improving their solve time.

At Cal Tech in 2004, Tyson told his friend Leyan he wanted to form a Rubik's Cube Club.

"I thought it was kind of nerdy," said Leyan, then a freshman at Cal Tech, about his initial reaction.

World Cube Domination

The cubers wanted a world forum to compete, so Tyson and a peer co-founded the World Cube Association (WCA), the official governing body of competitive Rubik's Cube events.

At his first competition in 2004, there were only 10 competitors, said Leyan. At the Jan. 13 Cal Tech Winter competition at the San Francisco Exploratorium, over 100 competitors from across the globe whirled their cubes in hopes of

'When I see an avenue towards improvement, I strive for it. I want to solve it faster.' — **Tyson Mao** about the Rubik's Cube



PHOTO COURTESY TYSON MAO

Tyson (right) figures out a puzzle flanked by Toby (left).

breaking a world record and gaining as much recognition as Leyan, Tyson and Toby.

Last January, Leyan set the speedcubing world record at 11.13 seconds and was swarmed with reporters after the competition.

"My parents weren't that enthusiastic about it until I was in the newspaper ...," said Leyan.

Tyson has appeared on "The Today Show," "Anderson Cooper 360" and the second season of "Beauty and the Geek" where he seduced the producers into casting him by — you guessed it — speedcubing. Tyson and Toby were also hired to teach Will Smith the Zen of cubing for the film, "The Pursuit of Happyness."

"The Rubik's Cube has brought me opportunities I would have never dreamed of otherwise," said Tyson.

It's Hard Out Here for a Cuber

The life of a cuber isn't gilded. There aren't large cash prizes or material incentives to set a world record, unless you count the homemade prizes.

"We lack funds to give out awards every time the world record is broken," said Leyan. "Since there is so much interest in the Rubik's Cube these days, a lot of records have been broken. Every single competition we've had we've seen a record broken." When he broke the speedcubing record, Tyson bought him a sandwich — that was his prize.

Extra!

See the video at www.pacificcitizen.org



Small and homemade prizes don't keep the competitors away. The latest person to set the speedcubing world record is Toby — the Kobe Bryant of the cubing titans — who last August, solved his cube in 10.48 seconds at the U.S. Nationals competition. In one of the many videos of Toby on the internet, he slams the cube down on the table and celebrates like a rock star.

"It was the final solve of the competition ... it took me awhile to realize [what I did] and I thought 'Wow, that's fast,'" said Toby.

Like any other sport, competition encourages the competitors to strive for their personal bests, but there is no cutthroat malice, they all say — they all help each other. And when it comes to excellence, they all echo the name of Shotaro "Macky" Makisumi, the 16-year-old Japanese phenom who attends high school in Pasadena and wins all the cubing competitions, except when his mom says he can't go, jokes Leyan.

"I know I can never attain that level of excellence," Leyan said. ■

The World Rubik's Cube Championship 2007 will take place Oct. 5-7 in Budapest, Hungary. The Caltech/Discovery 2007 Spring Competition is slated for May 5 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif.

Political, Community and Business Leaders to Honor Mineta's Life of Public Service

Proceeds from the Feb. 24 gala dinner will help archive Mineta's historic artifacts at the JA National Museum and support the JA Museum in San Jose

Norman Y. Mineta, who rose from a World War II Japanese American internment camp to become one of the most powerful Asian Americans in this country's history, will be honored in his hometown at a dinner Feb. 24 at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel.

At Mineta's request, proceeds will help to archive his collection of historic papers and artifacts, which he donated to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Proceeds also will benefit the Japanese American Museum in San Jose, Calif., where Mineta was born, raised, and began his political career.

Speakers will include San Jose

Mayor Chuck Reed, U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, CalTrans Director Will Kempton, and actor George Takei. Mineta will discuss personal stories from his life and career.

The event will focus on Mineta's extraordinary life, including his early years in internment, his first years in his family's insurance business, his rise to power as a city council member and mayor of San Jose, his years in the U.S. Congress, and his service as Sec. of Commerce under President Bill Clinton and Sec. of Transportation under President George W. Bush.

"Norm's populist nature has helped him understand the needs of all of his constituents, and he continues to show his generous nature by using this tribute to support two museums that help all Americans understand the great contributions of Japanese people to this country. I've had the pleasure to know him as a colleague and as a friend, and he has my highest respect," said Rep. Honda.

Mineta has earned many honors for his work, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the

nation's highest civilian award. Political and business leaders, as well as ordinary citizens, have worked to organize the Feb. 24 event, the only hometown tribute exclusively for Mineta.

That committee includes President Bill Clinton, Vice President and Mrs. Al Gore, Sen. Bob Dole, former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and Sylvia Panetta, Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Congresswomen Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren and Elaine Tauscher, and Rep. Honda.

"I commend Norm Mineta for his many years of service to our country," said Eshoo, an honorary chairwoman for the event.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with a champagne reception. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Corporate sponsorships are available starting at \$10,000. Table sponsorships are available for \$2,500 and \$5,000. Individual tickets are \$225. For more information or to reserve, call 408/417-4644 or e-mail mineta-tribute@yahoo.com. ■



All JA Vets Reunion to Feature Former Hawaii Five-O Star Poncie Ponce

Poncie Ponce, who gained fame as an actor on the hit TV show "Hawaii Five-O" and now entertains with his own band, is set to appear at the All Vets Reunion in honor of the Japanese American veterans of the 442nd and all other JA vets on Feb. 17 at the Japanese American National Museum.

Poncie serves as an honorary member of H Company in the Japanese American Go for Broke, 442nd Regiment Combat Team.

In addition, there will be a memorial service to honor and remember all JA vets at the Japanese American National War

Memorial Court on Feb. 18. Immediate families, relatives, and friends of these veterans are invited to attend.

"Construction is slated for the new memorial monument in the War Memorial Court in memory of those who sacrificed their lives in Iraq and other wars or conflicts after the Vietnam War," said Monument Committee Chairman Thomi Yamamoto.

Featured keynote speaker, retired Maj. Gen. Rodney M. Kobayashi of the U.S. Army, will speak following a luncheon on Feb. 17.

There will also be tours, video presentations by the AJAWIIMA, and a central hospitality room during the reunion. The Japanese American All Wars Exhibit will also open its doors to reunion visitors and the public at the Doizaki

Gallery of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center on Feb. 16.

Opening registration will begin on Feb. 16 at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo. Reunion attendees will be admitted to the Poncie Ponce evening event free of charge. A \$25 reunion registration fee must be mailed to JAKWV for those only attending the Poncie Ponce show.

Registration forms and additional information for the reunion are available. All questions regarding the reunion should be directed to the Reunion Co-Chairman Sam Shimoguchi 310/822-6688, e-mail samkuni@verizon.net; JAKWV President Victor Muraoka 818/368-4113, e-mail v.muraoka@verizon.net or NVCC President Bob Hayamizu at 323/292-3165. ■



MANZANAR

Free Press

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MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA
SAT., FEBRUARY 19,

SO-LONG TULE BOUNDS

Hunt For Blood Donor Widens In Unique Case

Fifty-two-year-old Tokijiro roshi described as an unusual medical case whom many persons unsuccessfully offered their blood, one of them being Project 1000000 Officer Morse Little, according to hospital reports, lay in bed at the Manzanar Hospital while a center-wide search for blood donors continued.

Cook of Mess Hall 8, Hiro of 3-6-1 is suffering from edema of the stomach, it was reported and to perform a delicate operation so as to save his life, prompt blood transfusion is very necessary.

Dr. Little in describing

Manzanar Free Press and Minidoka Irrigator Now Available on Densho Web site

Complete collections of the Manzanar Free Press and Minidoka Irrigator are now available online in the Densho Digital Archive (www.densho.org/archive). Both newspapers feature typed article titles, comprehensive indexing and a printable PDF of each issue.

Densho is currently in the process of digitizing and making available to the public all ten War Relocation Authority (WRA) camp newspapers. Published from 1942-1945 by Japanese Americans incarcerated in WRA camps, these newspapers detailed events inside and outside of camp.

"Making the newspapers available on the web will give students, teachers and researchers unprecedented access to the inside-the-camp perspective," said Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda. "We see these newspapers as a rich source of information about daily camp life, camp

events and individuals."

The remaining papers include: Denson Tribune (Jerome), Gila News-Courier, Granada Pioneer, Heart Mountain Sentinel, Poston Chronicle, Rohwer Outpost, Topaz Times and Tulean Dispatch. This project is generously funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and will be completed in the summer of 2007.

The Manzanar Free Press and Minidoka Irrigator are new additions to Densho's online archive, which contains over 500 hours of videotaped life history interviews and 5,000 historical photographs and documents focusing on JA history. The Densho Web site offers a wealth of primary sources supported by contextual material and curriculum for elementary through college levels. Students, teachers, and the general public may use the resources free of charge for research and education. ■

The Last JA Memorial at JANM



PHOTO COURTESY OF BACON SAKATANI

JA Veterans Break Ground for 'All Other Wars Memorial'

FIRST DIGS: The Japanese American Korean War Veterans, along with the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance and the Japanese American Vietnam War Memorial Committee, broke ground Jan. 24 for what may be the last memorial for Japanese Americans to be built in the Japanese American National War Memorial Court in Los Angeles.

The memorial will list the names of those who were killed in action in service to this country: Those who died aboard the USS Maine, the KIA in Grenada, and five KIAs from the Iraqi War will be memorialized along with KIAs from WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Shoveling the first dirt for the construction are: (l-r) Ken Hayashi (JAVWMC); chairman of the memorial, Thomi Yamamoto; Bob Hayamizu (AJAWIIMA), Yoshio Nishimoto, memorial architect, and President Tohoru Isobe (JAKWV). ■



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ANN JYONO

(Continued from page 1)

England with the Air Force when he met Maria Condon, 19, over coffee. He was a non-practicing Buddhist from Lodi before his family's internment at Tule Lake. She was "100 percent Irish" with strawberry color hair from a small village in Southern Ireland called Churchtown.

Back then, discrimination against interracial marriages was not as prevalent in Europe as it was in the United States, so the couple married in 1964 in a Catholic church in Ireland. For the special occasion, Bob took religious classes and got baptized.

"It never entered my mind that he was Japanese," said Maria.

The newlyweds got along famously and after Maria graduated from nursing school in 1965, they returned to Lodi in 1966 pregnant with a little girl they would name Ann, who would grow up to learn Japanese American culture and history from her "Bachan" Miyoshi and grandfather Matsuo.

During the summers, Ann would live in Ireland with her mom's family.

"I had an exposure of both cultures," said Ann. "My home life was happy. I had great parents. I always felt loved by them. That's totally separate."

His Pious Façade

COURT MARTIAL

(Continued from page 1)

Recent letters to the editor here at the *Pacific Citizen* show the starkly opposing sides within the community.

"Watada is not a coward. He is taking a stand against involvement in a misled and preemptive aggression," writes James Tanabe of Honolulu, a staunch supporter of the 28-year-old officer. "This is about Watada's individual act of conscience ... On this individual and human level we who support him can better identify with and respect his act as a deeply personal and honorable one."

But Lee Sakata of Arizona echoes similar sentiments of those who oppose Watada's decision: "Lieutenant Watada had a chance to oppose President Bush and the war in Iraq simply by not entering the Army after the war had started. Why did he enlist in the Army if he was against the war in Iraq? There is no draft, only a volunteer Armed Forces. Did he really think he would not be deployed?"

Soon after the lieutenant's announcement last June, community members began to ask, what is JACL's position on the Watada matter, the first commissioned officer to refuse deployment?

In response, former JACL Executive Director John Tateishi last July released a statement of concern over some of the charges Watada faces. Still, some in the organization continued to urge a stronger statement of support.

But last November the national JACL board took up the issue for a second and final time, voting to stick to their statement of concern.

"Do I believe the national board's course was the right one? Yes, because of who we are and what we say we are, there was no other course for us. As an educational 501(c)(3), it is not within our mission to involve ourselves in political matters," said Larry Oda, national JACL president. "We all realize that not everyone will be happy with what the board decides and perhaps those that disagree may be more vocal than our supporters."

"At the time the national board

Unhappiness walked into their lives as their community church's newest priest, fresh from Ireland with a heavy lilting accent that sounded like music to Maria's ears.

"I was so homesick when I got here," she said. "I met [O'Grady] at church and I found out he was from Limerick, which was 45 minutes away from my hometown. It was so wonderful to meet someone from home."

They hit it off immediately and soon O'Grady was spending nights and holidays at the Jyono home and even visiting Ireland with the family. Allowing a good Catholic priest into your home was a normal occurrence back then, especially for a man they affectionately called "Ollie."

"He used to help out with the kids. He stayed and gave them baths and stuff. We didn't think anything of it," said Bob.

"I was really proud to have a priest in the family," added Maria.

But the man they trusted so much would later confess in a 2006 documentary "Deliver Us from Evil" that Ann was his first victim in his Central California reign of terror. "Ann Jyono," O'Grady said breath-

made its initial decision and reaffirmation, I felt that they made the correct decision," said Floyd Mori, JACL interim executive director. "There was political danger of losing a battle on a different level by taking a political position that would clearly divide the organization. I also felt that it was important to respect the opinion of a large number of our World War II veterans who are in large part responsible for the credibility that JACL has today."

But some national JACL board members continue to question the national organization's hesitancy in taking a stronger stand on the issue.

"I think that [Watada] is a principled young man who has thought hard about what he is doing," said Hiro Nishikawa, EDC governor, who voted to give stronger support to Watada at the November board meeting. "He is not trying to avoid harm per se, but is against U.S. policies in Iraq. He is aware of his consequences in the pending court martial."

And in fact some individual JACL chapters have given their full support to Watada including the Honolulu, Berkeley, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapters. The NCWNP district also passed a resolution in support of Watada's free speech rights.

Over the past several months many of the JA veterans groups have come out in strong opposition to Watada and his actions, including the Japanese American Korean War Veterans.

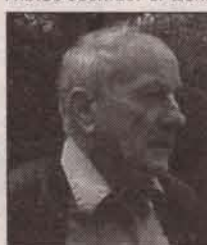
"We have said that this is a military matter and is not a question of the legality of the war. It is not a civil rights issue either," said Bob Wada, a Korean War veteran, who spoke on his behalf and not for any organization. "A serviceman or woman does not have the right to pick and choose his or her assignment and for [Watada] to refuse to go to Iraq with his unit was absolutely wrong."

"We are not interested in continuing this controversy," he added. "The Japanese American veterans have expressed their displeasure with his actions and don't have any new different thoughts ... We will let the court martial decide his fate and accept their decision."

David Masuo, a Vietnam War vet, echoed Wada's sentiments. "Lieutenant Watada was wrong in



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIONS GATES



'I'll meet [O'Grady] in hell.'

Bob Jyono (top, right) with his wife Maria (left) and victim Nancy Sloan (center) expressed his rage about Oliver O'Grady (bottom, left).

lessly onscreen stretching out the vowels of her name. Under a cloak of darkness, he would use God's name to scare young Ann into silence and when she screamed out in pain, he used a pillow to smother her face, said Bob, his voice cracking in pain.

Looking back there were some warning signs: they discovered her sheets wrapped around the mattress handles, and on another occasion, a thin piece of foil hidden inside of her after she complained of pain.

"I always told her if anyone hurt her, I would kill him," said Bob. Little Ann took these words literally and asked a friend what would hap-

pen if her father killed someone. Her friend said she would never see her father again, so Ann embarked on her long journey of silence.

'The abuse of kids thrives in secrecy.'

Asian Pacific Americans make up four percent of the 65 million Catholics in the United States, according to the 2000 Census. Clergy abuse

should be a concern for the APA community because bishops continue to shuffle sexual predators around into minority communities, said David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP).

"There are thousands of silent victims especially APAs and other minority communities where there tends to be less talk and support," said Clohessy. "The abuse of kids thrives in secrecy."

In 1993, O'Grady was charged with 21 counts of lewd and lascivious conduct involving two San Andreas, Calif.-based brothers. He admitted guilt to four counts as part of a plea bargain. In the trial and in

the documentary, there was evidence of cover-ups by several bishops — including now Cardinal Roger Mahony — who O'Grady said knew about his crimes, but just moved him from city to city.

The L.A. Archdiocese did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* request for comment.

"You go through all the guilt. How could we be so fooled by someone? You think you do everything right, but it still happened," said Maria, who was diagnosed with Lupus soon after the horrible revelation and forced to quit her job. Bob underwent open-heart surgery. The human toll that deception and betrayal has taken on one family is not just skin deep.

O'Grady and the bishops involved also stole Bob's faith: "I have no God," he said. "I'll meet [O'Grady] in hell."

But no matter how painful, life goes on.

"My journey is not done yet," said Ann, who currently lives in Orange County, Calif. "I see light now at the end of the tunnel when in the past I lived in darkness. I just don't know where this is going to end." ■

Amy Berg's "Deliver Us from Evil" is nominated for an Academy Award for best feature documentary. The winner will be announced Feb. 25.

On the Web

www.deliverusfromevilthemovie.com
www.oscar.com

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA
2007 TOURS

- Mar. 12** China - \$2595 - Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai. **SOLD OUT**
- Mar. 26** Japan Classic "Cherry Blossom" \$3495 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Hiroshima - Isle of Miyajima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- April 16** New Japan "Off the Beaten Track" 11 days - \$3695 - Fukuoka - Hirado - Amakusa - Kokura - Kushimoto - Nagoya - Shimoda - Lake Kawaguchi - Tokyo.
- April 25** Otherside of Asia - 12 days - All meals - \$3295 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Hanoi & Saigon, Vietnam - Stem Reap & Angkor Wat, Cambodia.
- May 27** Alaska Cruise - "Norwegian Pearl" - From \$1444. Mini-Suite - \$2195. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- June 6** Branson, Memphis & Nashville - 9 days - \$2095.
- June 19** American Heritage - \$2295 - Niagara Falls - Penn Dutch, Washington, D.C. - Williamsburg & More.
- July 2** Summer Japan "Family Tour" \$3095 - Child 11 & Under \$2795 - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- 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.
- Sept. 2** Greece/Turkey Celebrity Cruise - MS Galaxy - \$3695 - Rome - Mykonos - Rhodes - Santorini - Istanbul - Ephesus - Athens - Naples - Rome. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Sept. 26** Autumn in New England - \$1995 - Boston - Maine & New Hampshire.
- Oct. 8** Hokkaido/Tohoku - \$3895 - Sapporo - Sounkyo Gorge - Sahoro - Ainu Village - Hakodate - Aomori - L. Towada - Hachimantai - Matsushima Bay - Sendai - Tokyo.
- Oct. 15** Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" \$3795 - Tokyo - Japan Sea - Sado Island - Kanazawa - Amanohashidate - Kinokuni - Matsue - Izumo Taisha - Mt. Daisen - Kyoto.
- Oct. 29** Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" \$3595 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Isle of Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- Nov. 7** Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - \$3995 - 3 Days Okinawa, Kyushu - Kuratsu - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu, Shikoku - Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Osaka.

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BASEBALL

Contract Issue Hangs over Mariners, Ichiro Suzuki



Ichiro Suzuki has been with the Seattle Mariners for six years and has been an All-Star for each of those seasons. He is also the first player in major league history with 200 hits in each of his first six seasons.

SEATTLE—From now until it's settled, one issue overrides all others for the already issue-overloaded Seattle Mariners: the future of **Ichiro Suzuki**.

And it looks like that issue's going to be around for a while.

Sure, pitching ace Felix Hernandez showed up at Safeco Field on Jan. 24, noticeably slimmed down from last season. Yes, there are three holes in Seattle's rotation that the Mariners are trying to fill with guys mostly unknown outside their own families.

And no one has forgotten team chairman Howard Lincoln's declaration four months ago that general manager Bill Bavasi and manager Mike Hargrove "are on my hot seat" following three consecutive last-place finishes in the AL West.

But whether Suzuki — a six-time All-Star, six-time Gold Glove outfielder and the first player in major league history with 200 hits in each of his first six seasons — stays or leaves after his \$44 million, four-year contract ends in October is the weightiest issue of all.

Still, Bavasi said Seattle isn't dropping everything to get Suzuki settled before spring training begins in three weeks — or even before the season starts on April 2.

"It's a top priority," Bavasi said. "But the timing is not that important. Whatever he and Tony (Attanasio, his agent) are comfortable with. And whatever our ownership is comfortable with."

So the potentially tricky negotia-

tions with the franchise cornerstone could drag through the summer.

"I think it should be an issue," Bavasi said. "But — I don't know if you want to believe me — but (urgency) is not going to be an issue here."

Currently, Suzuki is in Japan, working out and preparing to report to spring training in Peoria, Ariz., on Feb. 19 for his annual physical.

Hargrove said he exchanged "positive" e-mails with Suzuki recently in which the superstar expressed excitement about the coming season.

Hargrove said Suzuki will play regularly in center field this season. Newly signed Jose Guillen, coming off ligament replacement surgery in his throwing arm, will be in Suzuki's former spot of right field.

Meanwhile, Suzuki waits for the Mariners to present a contract offer.

Attanasio did not immediately return a message left at his San Diego office Jan. 24. But last month, he told *The Seattle Times*: "We stand today where we stood weeks ago, months ago. We have told the club that when they are prepared to talk, we would listen."

"I didn't say we would negotiate — I said we would listen."

When Lincoln was last asked publicly about retaining Suzuki, at the end of last season, the CEO said: "Obviously, Ichiro is a very important part of this organization and he's been here a number of years and I think very highly of him. So I guess the only thing I can say is, stay tuned." ■

FIGURESKATING

With Junior Title to Her Name, Nagasu an Unknown No More

SPOKANE, Wash.—Before **Mirai Nagasu** left for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, her coach gave the 13-year-old a little pep talk.

Well, maybe not a pep talk. More like a reality check.

"I said, 'Mirai, don't even think about winning. We're going up against the junior Grand Prix champion and nobody knows you, so just go out and try to make a good impression. If you can finish in the top five, that's great,'" Charlene Wong recalled.

So much for that.

Nagasu pulled off a stunning upset Jan. 23, beating heavily favored **Caroline Zhang** to win the junior title. Zhang, who was unbeaten during the junior Grand Prix series, was second.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," Nagasu said. "I wasn't expecting to be in first. It's really exciting. And cool."

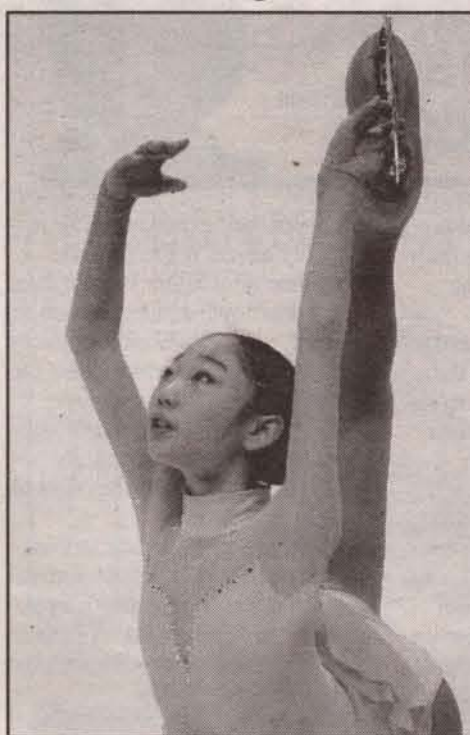
Junior champions don't usually get much — if any — attention. But with **Michelle Kwan** and Sasha Cohen moving on at least temporarily, there's a changing of the guard in figure skating. There are three years until the Vancouver Olympics, and the junior champ could be the 2010 gold medalist.

There's no guarantee, of course. There are plenty of U.S. junior champions who never did anything bigger. But Sarah Hughes won the title in 1998. Four years later, she had an Olympic gold medal around her neck. Kimmie Meissner was the junior champ in 2004. Now she's the reigning world champion.

"It's pretty surprising to have my name said against famous people. It's like," Nagasu said, then paused. "It's cool!"

So is Nagasu's story, which sounds a lot like that of another little girl who came from Southern California. Kwan was barely a teenager too when she burst on the scene in 1994.

Nagasu's parents, Ikuko and Kiyoto, own a sushi restaurant in Arcadia, Calif. She skates for 1 1/2



(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Mirai Nagasu skates in the junior ladies free event at the U.S. figure skating championships Jan. 23 in Spokane, Wash.

hours in the morning, goes to school full-time and then has ballet class. When she's finished, she goes to the family restaurant, does homework and eats dinner. She sleeps in a storage closet that's been cleaned out until the restaurant closes and her parents can take her home.

Asked who her role models in skating are, Nagasu said she likes Japanese phenom **Mao Asada**.

"But mostly," she added, "my idol is my mom. And my dad."

Unlike Zhang, who was drawing comparisons to Kwan after her spectacular Grand Prix series, Nagasu came to nationals as a complete unknown. She didn't even make

nationals last year, failing to get to the final qualifier after finishing fifth in her regional — and that was in the novice division, a step below juniors.

"Last season, I was really disappointed in myself because I didn't make it out of regionals," said Nagasu, who turns 14 in April. "I was one of the people who expected to go. I think it made me overconfident and I didn't practice as hard as I did this year."

"I wanted to meet up to my potential this year, and I think I did."

She was like a breath of fresh air Jan. 23, and the audience couldn't help but get caught up in her performance. She was expressive and energetic, never appearing to tire or labor over an element.

She landed five clean triple jumps, and nobody

came close to matching their quality. While other skaters struggled with their landings or noticeably lost speed, Nagasu landed lightly and kept right on going.

She had gorgeous spirals and spins. She's so flexible, there's got to be some rubber in her bones.

"The work we've done to pull the loose ends together, I think that's what you saw manifest itself tonight," Wong said.

"There's still, obviously, a lot of growth to happen," she added of Nagasu. "She's very talented and very disciplined and very passionate and very dedicated. So it's very exciting." ■

TAIKO

Taiko Aerobics Drums Up All-body Workout for All Fitness Levels



TUCSON, Ariz.—Aerobics instructors constantly reinvent routines to keep people interested.

There's step aerobics. Striptease aerobics. Now taiko drumming aerobics.

At Mo-Sun Dojo in downtown Tucson, they're teaching a class called TaikoFit, in which aerobics students dance and step around a small drum on a stand and bang on it with Japanese drumsticks, called bachi.

On a recent weekday evening, Ofelia Lichtenheld led the class through a series of sidesteps intermixed with banging on the drum.

Most of the women in the class were beginning exercisers and found the class engaging and even a little difficult.

Lulu Rice, 58, broke a sweat.

"It's doable at my weight and my age," she said. "It's fun."

While the class raises heart rates for the very beginners, more regular exercisers should try more traditional taiko drumming for a more intense

workout and a more educational experience.

Rome Hamner, a taiko drummer with local performance group Odaiko Sonora, demonstrated some moves on a traditional taiko drum the next day.

First, they warm up with upper-and lower-body stretches, crunches and push-ups.

The pose — called kamae — they take in front of a drum is a deep, low squat with a strong, engaged core and straight spine. This in itself is a strengthening exercise, and you can feel the intensity after just one minute.

Most positions engage the whole body, and it's easy to imagine how just a half-hour of performing can be an intense workout.

And it's easy to tell just by looking at them — they're buff.

When Karen Falkenstrom and Hamner demonstrate a traditional song, Hamner breathes a bit heavily and Falkenstrom's muscles flex when she strikes with the bachi.

"Taiko is such a great all-body activity. There is an amazing fitness benefit ... and there are fantastic physical benefits regardless of what classes you're participating in," Hamner said. ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff



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• EMILY MURASE •

The Nisei Legacy



How do you thank someone for sacrificing a limb for you? How do you thank an entire generation for enduring institutional racism so that you can have a better life? As the number of living Nisei declines rapidly, this is the challenge that their descendants like me now face.

My Uncle Yoshio died last November at the age of 84 with Aunt Yasuko, his wife of 42 years, by his side. A typical Nisei in many ways, he was a quiet person who kept mostly to himself. He grew up as the son of Issei sharecroppers who toiled among the grape vineyards of the Central California valley. His parents, my grandparents, scraped enough savings together to purchase a small ranch of their own in the small farming community of Reedley.

But then World War II erupted, and my grandparents were sent to the dusty and barren prison camp at Poston, Arizona, along with their three sons: Uncle Yoshio, my dad, and Uncle Charlie (who preceded Yoshio in death). All three served in the U.S. military during the war. The family somehow survived the war years and returned to the ranch, miraculously tended to and returned by a just and kind Menponite family.

After the war, the three brothers devoted themselves to their respective fields: Uncle Yoshio as an illustrator for Rockwell International, my father as an academic, and Uncle Charlie as a farmer on the family ranch. Each had, and my father continues to have, a rich and fulfilling life, despite many setbacks stemming from the wartime experience and racial injustices.

After delivering Uncle Yoshio's eulogy at the Reedley Buddhist Church, I reflected on the hardships he and others of the Nisei generation endured and how it was just not possible for those of us who are Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei, or Nosei to fully appreciate or express our gratitude for these sacrifices. Yet, it is of utmost importance to at least try.

So I came up with a short list of ways in which we can honor the Nisei. I invite you to expand the list and really use it.

1. Ask the Nisei for their stories.

When was the last time you asked your Nisei mom or dad, aunt or uncle, grandpa or grandma, to

talk about their experiences?

Probably never! Try to set aside some time now *before it is too late*. If you don't own a video camera yourself, you probably know someone well enough to borrow one. Or just use a plain old tape recorder to capture these important bits of our collective history.

2. Tell the stories of the Nisei to the next generation.

As people pass on, their stories get lost or forgotten. It is important to share stories with young people, children, and grandchildren so they may have some context for the privileges they enjoy today.

3. Visit a camp or a museum.

I have yet to see, firsthand, what the incarceration camps were like. Fortunately, Manzanar has been designated a National Historic Site by the National Parks Service. Of course, there is the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles which houses important archival information and hosts key exhibits about the Nikkei experience.

4. Read a book about the Nisei.

There are too many books to list here, but there is an important new volume "Lost & Found: Reclaiming the Japanese American Incarceration" (University of Illinois Press, 2006) by Karen Ishizuka, former curator of the Japanese American National Museum, which documents the public education and internee engagement effort that the museum launched when it developed the nationally acclaimed exhibit "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience."

5. Defend the civil and human rights of all people.

Finally, the most important challenge of descendants of the Nisei is to ensure that the racial injustices perpetrated against an entire generation of U.S. citizens never be repeated. While this is indeed a very tall order, there are ways each and every one of us can contribute toward this overall goal.

Now I wonder could I have endured the wartime incarceration? How would I have responded to waiting in horse stables, moving to a camp of barbed wired and armed guard towers, howling winds, and a complete lack of privacy? Would I have been willing to risk life and limb for my country at that

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •
MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Back to the Motherland



I am graduating from college in less than five months. Everyone else around me is applying to med school or grad school, but my gut is telling me to go to Japan.

I mean, seriously, what's a girl with a degree in fine arts to do with herself?

To be honest, I am not too sure what I will end up doing in Japan. Depending on what job options fall through, I may be doing translation and interpretation work at some random company. Or I may join the legions of other directionless college students who temporarily move to the land of the rising sun and tutor English to the many Japanese students, teachers and businesspeople who can't distinguish an 'l' from an 'r.'

The way I see it, it's a win-win situation. I get to postpone finding my true life calling for at least another year. I will be forced through means of survival to really improve my mediocre Japanese language skills. I have a chance to see extended family whom I hardly ever get a chance to see. And finally, I will have more opportunities to entertain notions of acquiring a hot Japanese boyfriend.

Maybe studying abroad in Singapore and traveling through all of Southeast Asia have simply made me antsy. Now that I have eight additional stamps in my passport, I am itching to get further away from my Southern California bubble and throw myself in a different country where I will feel uncomfortable, challenge myself and question myself.

Meeting Japanese exchange students my age and learning more about Japan through their own per-

moment? How easily could I have abandoned my professional aspirations to support the war effort or my family?

We descendants of the Nisei are truly a fortunate lot. For me, it took the loss of a family member to realize it. ■

Emily Murase writes from San Francisco where she lives with her husband Neal Taniguchi and daughters Junko and Izumi. She hopes to visit Manzanar with her family in 2007.

spectives have further fueled my determination to move to Japan and see what happens.

I figure if I don't know this for myself now, my repressed wanderlust will rear its ugly head in the form of a midlife crisis where I walk out on my family, lose my marbles in a business meeting and join some Shinto cult in the boon-docks of Japan.

I have several other Japanese American friends and acquaintances who are thinking of or have already done the same thing. We don't know what the hell we're doing with ourselves, so we are hoping that returning to the motherland will somehow give us the answers, or at least make us ask better questions.

Don't get me wrong; I'm still a little nervous about this decision that I have made for myself. Becoming a worker bee of Japanese society means saying bye-bye to my nose piercing or dyeing my hair any shade lighter than a very dark brown. If I do end up working in

Japan after I graduate, I should start exercising my back muscles so my spine doesn't break from all the sudden influx of bowing I will be doing to my superiors.

Nonetheless, I can't help but imagine my future life in Japan as a ridiculous, twisted hybrid of the movie "Lost in Translation," scenic Japanese postcards, and every other Asian American novel ever written where the American-born protagonist visits her parents' native country for the first time.

I will have an ambiguous, emotionally charged affair with an older, married man. I will come across a hidden family album in the home of my ancestors and discover that I have a long-lost half sister. After being overwhelmed by the alienation of modern society, I will participate in a tea ceremony in full traditional regalia and realize that inner peace is possible even in a big city.

Interspersed between many dramatic happenings, there will be long, scenic shots of me riding the subway in Tokyo late at night, looking contemplative and deep, while some 80's cover band plays some nostalgic rock song in the background.

I can't wait. ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently attending UCLA.



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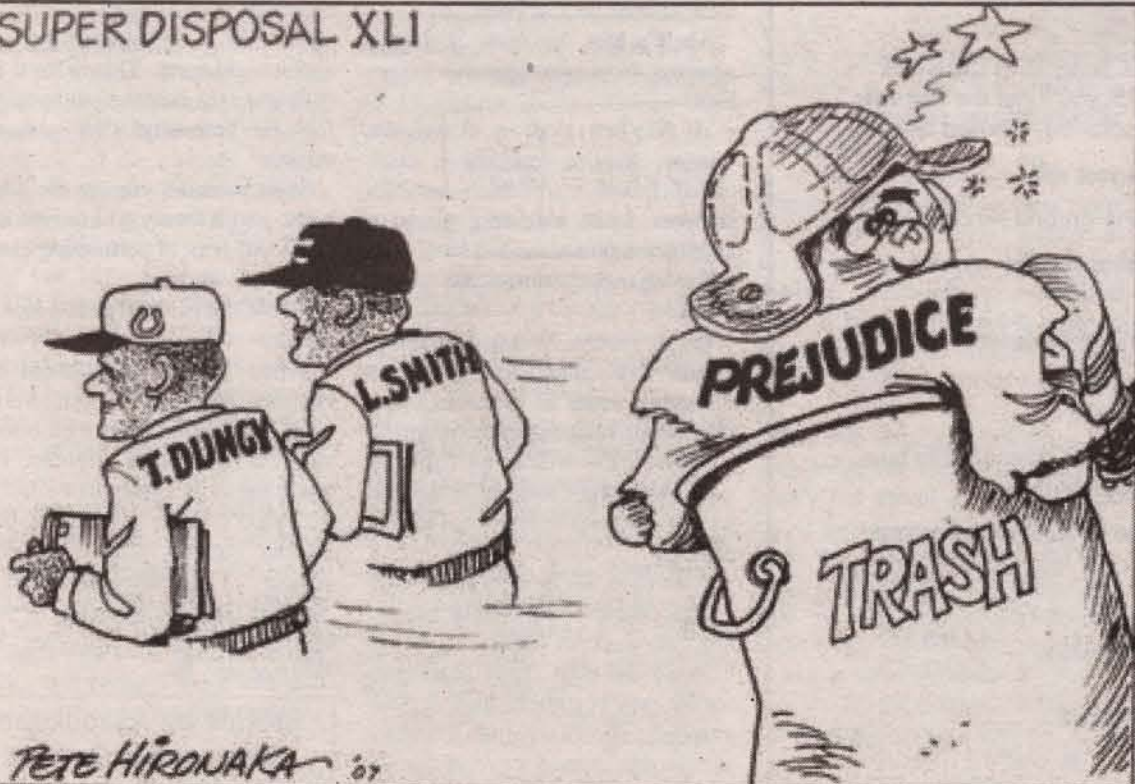
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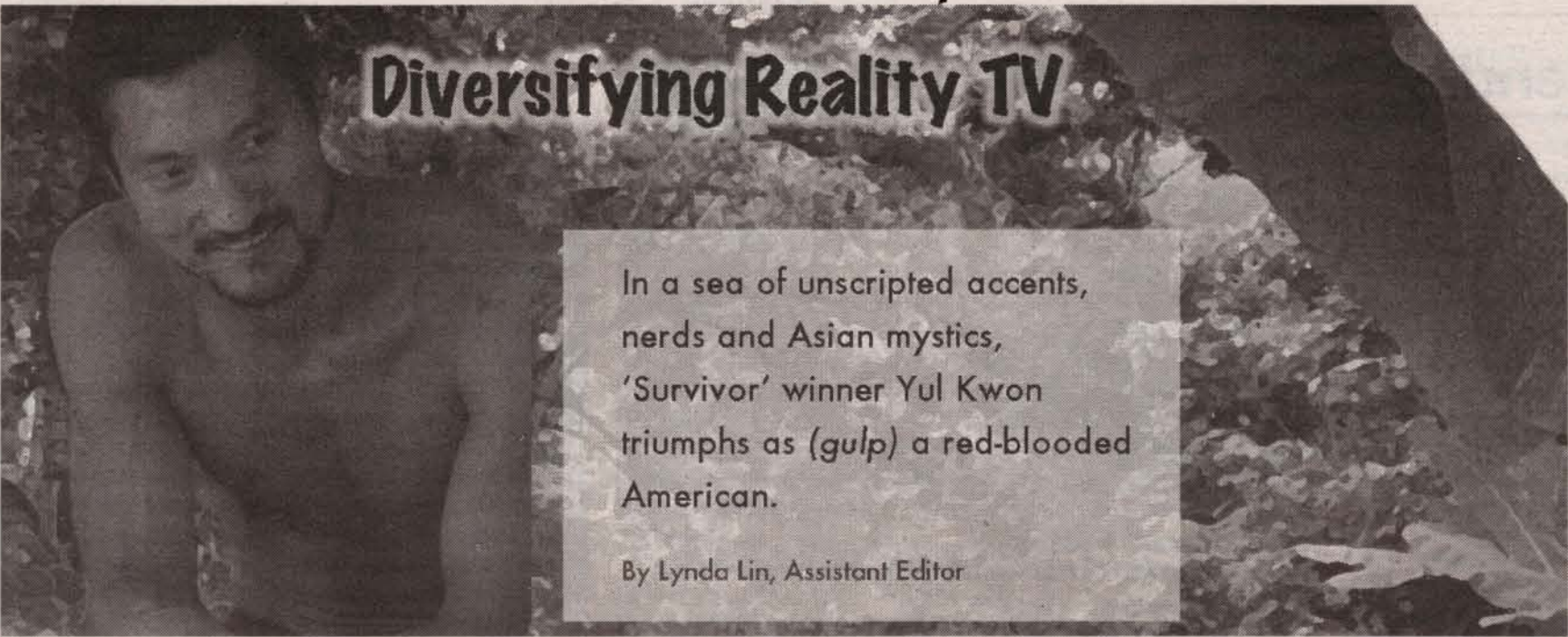


Japanese American
Citizens' League

SUPER DISPOSAL XLI



PETE HIRONAKA '07



Diversifying Reality TV

In a sea of unscripted accents, nerds and Asian mystics, 'Survivor' winner Yul Kwon triumphs as (gulp) a red-blooded American.

By Lynda Lin, Assistant Editor

The numbers of Asian Pacific Americans in primetime reality shows is growing. NBC has two APAs vying to work for Donald Trump on "The Apprentice" and a few APAs are popping up in the crowd of game shows like "1 Versus 100" — if you look carefully. CBS has seven including "Big Brother" host Julie Chen.

Overall, the numbers are still dismal but in the wake of last year's media report about the lack of APA faces in the after-dinner time slot, the growth is a small step in the right direction. And perhaps the unlikely source for this progress is CBS' "Survivor," which catapulted to the APA community's most hated — and most watched — list last season with its race segregation plot twist.

APA bloggers admitted to an addiction to last season's show, which saw a triple amount of APA contestants. Thirty-one year old Yul Kwon's \$1 million win was like icing on the cake.

"I felt a ton of pressure," said Kwon in a phone interview. "How many people go through a reality show and look good?"

In an industry that churns out William Hung and Mr. Miyagi-like prototypes, the answer is: not many.

Quality Over Quantity

Kwon has not had time to enjoy his win. A whirlwind of press interviews, red carpet events and bare-chested photo shoots kept the San Mateo, Calif. resident from cashing the \$1 million check. It famously sat in his back pocket for weeks, but hey, these are the types of problems you would want to have, he said.

"I've come to realize I don't know a lot about this industry. It's like being thrown on another island."

By virtue of watching Kwon's leadership skills on Cook Island, you get the

feeling he's going to be okay. On the show, the Yale Law School graduate led a multicultural alliance to the end without resorting to backstabbing or malicious manipulation. Along the way, he was hyper vigilant about his responsibility to represent his community.

"I didn't want to be part of something that would cause harm to the community," he said.

But not too many other APA reality TV stars choose to bear the same burden. Robert Talon, a Filipino American from Chula Vista, Calif., is the only person so far to win the \$500,000 prize on NBC's game show "Identity." He electrified the audience by successfully matching individuals to their identities just by looking at them. Past identities included an APA who scored 1600 on her SATs and a meek looking APA male virgin clad in an argyle sweater.

Does this sound like stereotyping? No, said Talon, it's entertainment.

"I think we all do it everyday in our lives unintentionally everyday. I don't think it's a show that causes controversy," said Talon, who will use the prize money to help street kids in the Philippines. "I have great pride in being Asian American. I don't know if there is a burden ..."

For "Survivor 13" Jenny Guzon-Bae, the 11th contestant to be voted off, the national show served as a platform to represent her Filipino heritage.

"I had no qualms. In fact, I was honored," she said.

When Kwon met the other men of the APA "Puka" tribe, he saw a stereotypical Mr. Miyagi character and a gay Asian male.

"In my case, they were typecasting too," Kwon said.

He was recruited by "Survivor" producers and encouraged to come



KWONS: (l-r) Dad Yung, sister-in-law Davina, Yul, mom Clara and brother Paul.

to the audition wearing a suit and glasses. When he arrived, he noticed he was the only one dressed that way and realized the producers were looking for an overachieving APA. Yes, it's true. Reality television casts stereotypes.

"I felt a sense of obligation to help get out of these stereotypes."

Kwon, who is Korean American, called the "Survivor" race segregation an "artificial socially irresponsible idea."

"They told me [about the race segregation] the night before and I was really mortified. Originally, when I was recruited for 'Survivor,' I thought it was a great opportunity to represent my community in a positive way. When I found out that they were dividing by race, I was close to quitting. I talked to producer Mark Burnett and [host] Jeff Probst and told them I didn't want to have anything to do with it if they played up caricatures and set back race relations 10 years."

"I was glad for the racial diversity on TV, but they did it in such a way that it could've turned out bad. What if one team dominated?" said Kwon. It almost happened during a mutiny when the Caucasians on Kwon's team defected to join the Caucasian team and began to systematically eliminate the minorities.

And the Shows Go On

Some say defining which APAs

are role model worthy is a slippery slope.

"I believe the APA community is very diverse and I think we ought to strive for showing as much of that diversity as possible," said Daniel Mayeda, a media activist. "The more APAs there are depicted — whether on reality shows or scripted shows — the more freedom we will have to portray less than stellar characters or qualities, and still be okay with that."

Other reality shows like "America's Next Top Model" are casting for the new season, but for the five new APA cast members of "Survivor: Fiji," Kwon has some words of wisdom: play with integrity and don't lose sight of who you are. ■


QUICK FACTS

- Yul Kwon, 31**
- Little Known Fact:** He was named after Kwon Yul, a Korean Army general during the Joseon Dynasty.
- 'Survivor' injuries:** He suffered a broken nose, eye infections and gastrointestinal problems.
- Presidential team:** Kwon, who has experience working with Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn. is headed to Washington, D.C. to meet with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Surprise! Reality TV Casts Stereotypes

When Kwon met the other men of the APA "Puka" tribe, he saw a stereotypical Mr. Miyagi character and a gay Asian male.

"In my case, they were typecasting too," Kwon said.

He was recruited by "Survivor" producers and encouraged to come

SECRET ASIAN MAN™ By Tak



Calendar

Midwest CHICAGO

Sun., Feb. 25—Inaugural JACL Celebration; noon; Colletti's Fine Dining, 5707 N. Central Ave.; \$50 per person. Info: Midwest JACL office, 773/728-7171.

SPRINGDALE, Ohio

Sun., Feb. 18—Cincinnati/Dayton JACL Chapter Installation Dinner; 4 p.m. social hour, 5:30 p.m. dinner; Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen, 11975 Northwest Blvd.; \$29 per person.

Pacific Northwest PORTLAND

Through Feb. 25—Exhibit, "What Remains: Art Quilts and Poetry on Japanese Americans in Internment Camps"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; featuring quilts by Cathy Erickson and poetry by Margaret Chula; exhibit hours: Tues.-Sat. 11-3 and Sun. 12-3; \$3 donation, free to ONLC members. Info: 503/224-1458.

Northern California OAKLAND

Sun., Feb. 11—JASEB Crab Feed; 4 p.m. first seating, 5:30 p.m. second seating; Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., 2nd floor; \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Info: JASEB, 510/848-3560.

Central California FRESNO

Mon., Feb. 19—Pinedale Assembly Center Groundbreaking Ceremony; 10 a.m.; The Mehmet Noyan Company, 685 W. Alluvial Ave.; speakers include Hon. Dale Ikeda, Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez and Landscape Architect Paul Saito. Info: 559/434-1662.

Sat., Feb. 24—Fresno chapter bus trip to San Francisco's Japantown and Museum of Craft and Folk Art; depart 6:30 a.m. and return 11 p.m.; \$20/JACL members, \$25/non-members. Info: 559/222-2986.

Fri., Mar. 16—Film Screening, "From Silk Cocoon"; CSU Fresno Leon Peters Education Center Auditorium; discussion with writer/director Satsuki Ina follows screening. Info: 559/434-1662.

HANFORD

Through Mar. 17—Exhibit, "The Beauty of Sharing: Twelve Collectors' Visions of Japanese Art"; 1-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; The Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth



'The Beauty of Sharing' exhibit at the Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Arts features scrolls, paintings, ceramics as well as carved and woven bamboo. The exhibit runs through Mar. 17.

Ave. Info: 559/582-4915 or www.shermanleeinstitute.org.

LIVINGSTON-MERCED

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 15-17—Nisei Monologues, stories about Japanese American internment; 7 p.m.; Golden Valley High School Auditorium, 2121 E. Childs Ave.; created by the drama department of Golden Valley High School under the direction of Crystal Langley. Info: 209/385-8080.

Southern California LOS ANGELES

Thurs., Feb. 15—Performance, "Swallow Touches the Water"; 3-5 p.m.; Gloria Kaufman Dance Theatre, UCLA; an inter-cultural performance exploration motivated by acknowledging the martial characteristics undercurrent in the Japanese Taiko and Chinese art form, Ba Gua Zhang. Info: 310/825-3951 or www.wac.ucla.edu.

Feb. 16-18, 2007—All Vets Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Little Tokyo; open to all JA veterans from all wars and conflicts; events include tours, all-wars exhibit, video presentations, keynote speech by Maj. Gen. Rodney Kobayashi at the luncheon, entertainment Sat. night by Poncie Ponce, and a memorial service on Sun. Info: Sam Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688, samkuni@verizon.net; Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113, v.muraoka@verizon.net or Bob Hayamizu, 323/292-3165.

Mon., Feb. 19—21st Annual UCLA Nikkei Student Union Cultural Night; 7 p.m.; UCLA Royce Hall; production will focus on the historical aspect of the Japanese American community; the audience will be taken back to the

internment period during WWII and the issues that surround EO 9066.

OXNARD

Sun., Feb. 11—Ventura County JACL Board Installation; 11:30 a.m.; Residence Inn by Marriott at River Ridge, 2101 W. Vineyard Ave.; \$27 per person; guest speaker, Wynne Benti, editor of Spotted Dog Press, Inc. edition of "Born Free and Equal". Info: Anne Chilcott, 805/492-0146 or vcjaci@hotmail.com.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., Feb. 24—Riverside JACL Annual Installation Luncheon; 12:30 p.m.; Riverside Golf Club, 1011 North Orange St.; \$20 per person; special musical performance by Haruo Ishihara. Info: Irene Ogata, 951/485-7212 or iogata@yahoo.com or Dolly Ogata, 951/684-7962.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sat., Feb. 3—Discussion, "1st Lt. Ehren Watada: Dissenter or Deserter?"; 10:30-12 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 5th floor, Manoa Room; as 1st Lt. Watada faces a court martial, this discussion provides an opportunity to learn more about the events leading up to the court martial; part of the JCCH's Japanese American Social Issue Series in Hawaii. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633, info@jcch.com or www.jcch.com.

Nevada

RENO

Sun., Mar. 25—Reno JACL Teriyaki Scholarship Dinner; Washoe County Senior Center. Info: Sheldon Ihara, 747-3886. ■

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

CHICAGO

Sun., Feb. 18—DeVry University, 3300 N. Campbell Ave.; 2 p.m.; featuring author, Dr. Greg Robinson who wrote, "By Order of the President"; book sales and signing will be available at the conclusion of the event; free parking. Info: Midwest JACL office, 773/728-7171.

FRESNO

Sun., Feb. 18—Pardini's Restaurant, 2257 W. Shaw Ave.; 5:30 social, 6:30 p.m. dinner; keynote speaker, James Hirabayashi, Pinedale internee and professor emeritus in Anthropology and Asian American Studies. Info: Ken Yokota, 559/431-4662 or knethy@sbcglobal.net.

HONOLULU

Mon. Feb. 19—University of Hawaii, Architecture Auditorium, 2410 Campus Rd., Room 205; 3:30-5:30 p.m.; program will screen Taylour Chang's documentary film, "Unrecht: An Untold Chapter of Hawaii's Past"; Doris Berg, Joe Pacific and representatives of the Muslim American community will make brief presentations.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Feb. 17—George and Sakaye Aratani Central Hall, JANM, 369 E. First St.; "From 'Military Necessity' to 'National Security' ... Challenging the Use of Power From WWII to Iraq"; panelists will discuss the role of other branches of the federal government and the importance of activism in safeguarding civil liberties for all. Reservations: 213/625-0414.

MERCED

Sat., Feb. 17—Merced College; 2 p.m. film festival in Library Room 1 and 5:30 p.m. dinner at Merced College Cafeteria; film festival is free and open to the public; dinner is \$15; guest speaker is Shizue Seigel author of "In Good Conscience." Info: 209/631-5645.

OGDEN

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 16-18—Utah Day of Remembrance;

Ogden Marriott Hotel, 247 24th St.; event will feature a welcome mixer, panel discussion on 25th St., tour of the historic 25th St. Japantown and a banquet; registration is \$50/person that includes the mixer, bento lunch and banquet; individual prices for each meal are available. Checks may be sent to: Day of Remembrance, National JACL Credit Union, P.O. Box 526178, Salt Lake City, UT 84152 or at www.dayofremembranceUtah.com.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Feb. 24—Merion Meeting, 615 Montgomery Ave.; 2-5 p.m.; program includes the film screening, "Going for Broke," a new documentary about the JAs who served in the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion and the MIS; free; refreshments. Info: Chris Uga, cuga@princeton.edu.

SALINAS

Sun., Feb. 25—Salinas Community Center, Santa Lucia Room; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Feb. 17—JCCNC, 1840 Sutter St.; 2 p.m.; "Carrying the Light for Justice: Day of Remembrance 2007: Continuing to Build Communities"; admission is \$12 in advance and \$18 at the door. Info: 415/921-5007.

STOCKTON

Sat., Feb. 24—Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr.; 10-2 p.m.; featuring Shizue Seigel, author of "In Good Conscience" and workshops such as "How to do an Oral History of a Family Member"; lunch will follow; admission is free.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mon., Feb. 19—Meyer Auditorium, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art, 12th St. and Independence Ave.; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; "Miné: A Name for Herself" is an original one-woman performance salon, written by Mary Curtin and Theresa Larkin featuring the art, opinions and perspective of artist Miné Okubo. Info: 202/633-2690. ■

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In Memoriam - 2006-2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Abe, George, 98, Selma, Dec. 24; founding president of Selma JACL and served as a district gover in 1957-58; survived by wife, Jean; daughters, Arlene (Harry) Nakagawara, Maxine and Christine (Steve) Ostoya; sons, Steve and Jeff; 2 gc.; and sisters, Elaine Matsuyama and Helen Okazaki.

Anderson, Aiko S., 83, Fountain Valley, Jan. 2; survived by husband, William; and sisters, Akiko (Donald) Gillow and Kay Seo.

Bennett, Yuki, 84, Oxnard, Nov. 2; survived by grandsons, Thomas and Gregory; and 1 ggc.

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

Carter, Annett Tachibana, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 2; better known by her stage name, Alice Fumiko Kawahata; survived by sons, Jeoffrey, Kenji and William; daughters-in-law, Jessica and Deborah; and 4 gc.

Drinan, Rev. Robert, 86, Washington, D.C., Jan. 28; Member of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Appointed to the commission by the House of Reps. following his tenure as a congressman from Massachusetts. He was the first Roman Catholic priest elected as a voting member of Congress. Drinan suffered from pneumonia and congestive heart failure during the previous 10 days. Drinan was elected in 1970 after he beat longtime Dem. Rep. Philip Philbin in a primary and again in the November election, when Philbin was a write-in candidate.

Eto, Tom Tamotsu, 91, Campbell, Nov. 23; survived by wife, Mikiko; children, Dr. Ross (Janet), Robin (Stan) Ohara, and Terry (Michelle); 6 gc.; brothers, Wataru and Mitsugu (Sue); and sisters, Hatsuko Imoto, Ruth Yamamoto, and Barbara (Ted) Wada.

Furumoto, Ikuo "Ike," 61, Arcadia, Jan. 3; Vietnam veteran; survived by wife, Regina; daughters, Lisa and Dina; mother, Fusaye; sister, Ikuye (Akira) Tanimoto; and brother-in-law, Kenneth Jr. (Jean) Kawamoto;

Gilbert, Michiko Ruth Sakaki, 81, Los Angeles, Jan. 4; survived by children, Susan Iijima, Chris Iijima and Diana (Robert) Mueller; 8 gc.; 5 ggc.; and daughter-in-law, Betty (Bob) Rankin.

Hara, Kimi, 91, Brooklyn Center, Minn., Jan. 14; helped found the Twin Cities JACL; survived by son, Tom, 2 gc.; and sister, Reiko Sumada.

Hirakawa, Bob Masatoshi, 84, Corona, Dec. 30; survived by son, Jeff (Eva); daughters, Janet Hirakawa and Jocelyn (Douglas) Kersh; brother, Tony (Doris); and sister-in-law, Yuriko Kawamata.

Horito, Mary Shigeko, 82, Jan. 7; survived by husband, Joe; children, Carol (Jud) Robert, Jo Ann (Steve) Prindle and Linda (Max) Jones; 4 gc.; 4 ggc.; sisters, Peggy Tsurudome, Sallie Tanaka, Lucille Morimoto; and brother, George (Chiyo) Masumoto.

Ikeda, Mutsuko, 84, Orange, Jan. 6; survived by sons, Katsumi, Osamu and Masa; and 6 gc.

Imanishi, Tsuneo, 85, Culver City, Jan. 8; survived by wife,

Mitsuye; brother, Masao; brothers-in-law, George (Hiroko) Koda, Noboru (Masako) Koda and Kenji (Shinobu) Koda; and sisters-in-law, Haruye Koda, Sumiye (Ted) Takeuchi, Fujiko (Jack) Oriba and Kazuko (Robert) Yamamoto.

Ito, Grace Kimiko, 87, Los Angeles, Jan. 14; survived by sons, Allan and Don (Wendy) Sasaki and Richard and Bill Ito; daughter, Mary (Russell) Dennison; 3 gc.; and sister, Helen (Tak) Shintaku.

Iwamoto, Yoshio, 72, Dec. 19; survived by sisters, Fumiko (John) Humbert, Kiyoko (Shig) Miyabe and Sumiko Iwamoto.

Iriye, Henry K., 86, Dec. 31; survived by wife, Midori; son, Ken (Joji); daughter, Annie (Steve); 3 gc.; sisters, Grace Omori and Lilian Shinohara; and brother, Tsuginori Iriye.

Kasai, Alice, Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 6; JACL leader in Utah for over



60 years; along with husband Henry, worked to win citizenship rights for Japanese aliens; survived by children, Una (Jack) Nakamura, Kimiyo (Rob) Johnson, Emi (David) Toland, Hershy (Sun Mi), and Lisa; daughter-in-law, Linda; 11 gc.; and 9 ggc.

Kazahaya, Larry Takeshi, 85, Los Angeles, Jan. 5; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Lily; daughter, Dianne; sons, Norio (Jeannie) and Glen (Carol); 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother-in-law, Bunji (Ruth) Hamasaka; and sisters-in-law, Miyo and Toshiko Hamasaka.

Kimura, Tsuyako Judy, 74, Fountain Valley, Jan. 14; survived by husband, Mike; daughter, Joyce; son, Richard; sister-in-law, Yukiko Kimura; and mother, Shizuko Tamura.

Kinjo, Hiroshi "Bob," 73, Jan. 13; survived by sons, Craig (Rachel), Daryl and Bryan; daughter, Kimi (Laurence) Lee; 4 gc.; brothers, Isamu (Suzy), Toshiyuki (Tac) and Masumi (Millie); and sister, Nobuko (Sam) Adachi.

Kito, Roy Waichi, 87, Los Angeles, Jan. 12; second generation to operate Fugetsudo Confectionery in Little Tokyo; survived by sons, Norman (Liisa) and Brian (Tomoko); daughters, Louise (Keith) Tanaka and Kathy (David) Ikeda; 8 gc.; 4 ggc.; and sister, Kimiko Watanabe.

Koyanagi, Tokiyo, 86, Long Beach, Jan. 4; survived by daughters, Judy, Jane (Wesley) Mitamura, Joyce (Rudy) Costa and Carol

(Danny) Kato; son, Ken (Reiko); 7 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Kozawa, Ukio Frank, 84, Los Angeles, Jan. 1; survived by wife, Sumiko; and daughter, Susan.

Kubo, Takashi, Long Beach, Dec. 31; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughter, Patti Yoshizawa; 2 gc.; 4 ggc.; brother-in-law, Shigeru (Yoshie) Ibara; and sisters-in-law, Chieko Amour, Margaret Moriyama and Shizuko Kubo.

Liu, Kimiko L., 84, Los Angeles, Jan. 7; survived by nieces, Marion (Tom) Otani and Joyce Nagafuchi.

Makimoto, George, 84, Loomis, Nov. 26; survived by wife, Mitsue; sons, Bob (Nancy), Bill (Susie) and Tom; daughters, Dee (Norman) Nakamura and Margaret (Paul) MacGowan; 8 gc.; brother, James (Betty); and sisters, Alice Kakehashi and Janice (Carl) Muto.

Matsumoto, Kishiyo, 97, Los Angeles, Jan. 2; survived by sons, Kumao (Amy) and George; daughter, Matsue Moore; 6 gc.; 8 ggc.; brother-in-law, Torao Yokoyama; and sister-in-law, Yaeko Matsumoto.

Matsuoka, Shizue Susie, Torrance, Dec. 27; survived by husband, Akira; daughters, Ruth (Phillip) Tsuji, Mary (Steve) Morikawa and Helen (Allen) Hayashi; son, Michael (Angela); and 5 gc.

Miyamoto, Ken C., 90, Winton, Dec. 26; survived by children, Alan (Joann), Galen (Melba) and Denise (James) McCarville; 4 gc.; 3 brothers; and 1 sister.

Miyamoto, Reiso "Ray," 83, Hawthorne, Jan. 4; survived by wife, Shizuka; daughters, Kathy and Sheri; son, Wesley (Marilyn); 2 gc.; sister, Yemiko Okuda; and sister-in-law, Misato (Tad) Kajikawa.

Mui, Frank Taichiro, 92, Long Beach, Jan. 5; survived by sons, Parker and Ken (Priscilla); daughter, Nancy (John) Conniff; 9 gc.; 7 ggc.; and sister-in-law, Aiko Mui.

Murakami, Jane Noruko, 70, Gardena, Jan. 9; survived by husband, Mark; daughters, Melanie (Timothy Eng) and Lynne (Brian Gin); sisters, Margaret (Joey) Kumagai and Mina (Yoshio) Goto; and brother, Henry (Edith) Horikawa.

Murata, Jane Harue, 87, Dec. 28; survived by son, Norman (Clare); daughter, Faye (Joe) Wigmore; 4 gc.; brother, Charles Miyamoto; sister, Fumie (Jimmy) Aoki; brother-in-law, Harold (Flora) Murata; and sisters-in-law, Masako Miyamoto, Mary Fong and Rose Arase.

Nagai, Tatsumi, 78, Jan. 12; survived by wife, Tomi; son, Hiromasa (Jeanette) and Michael (Linda); daughter, Kumiko (Ashton Johnson) Nagai; 4 gc.; and sisters, Itoye Takayoshi, Toki Takayoshi and Hideko Iboshi.

Narahara, Shinobu, 86, Los

Angeles, Dec. 23; survived by companion, Masaaki Fujita; children, Yoshio and Betty (Jerry) Isono; 6 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister, Misao Sakamoto.

Nishida, Terry, Jan. 2; survived by wife, Sachi; daughters, Peggy (Brian) Takehara, Beverly (Eric) Morisako, Marsha (Paul) Marty, and Suzanne Nishida; 3 gc.; brothers, Fred and Thomas; and sisters, Rosie Watanabe and Agnes Nakamura.

Omachi, Joseph, 96, San Francisco, Nov. 26; Stockton JACLer; survived by children, Dr. Ann (Dr. Gerald) Hom and Dr. Rodney (Dr. Marcia); 5 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Ota, Kenso "Ken," 82, Jan. 7; survived by daughter, Jane (Patrick) Ohara; 3 gc.; and brother, Tom (Carol).

Ota, Martin, 69, Spokane, Wash., Nov. 23; survived by wife, Naomi; sons, Terry and Sean; daughters, Stephanie Hughes and Courtney Bishop; mother, Gloria; brothers, Karl, Geoffrey, Douglas, Curtiss and Bruce; sisters, Christine and Mariye Cina; and 4 gc.

Sakaguchi, Shigeo, 82, Sun Valley, Jan. 4; survived by daughters, Ryoko (Jerry) Newman and Fumie Sakaguchi; 2 gc.; and sister, Yukiko (Mamoru) Sakaguchi.

Sanford, Rosie Chizuko, 75, Berkeley, Nov. 11; survived by husband, Donald; son, Thomas (Eve); brother, Masao (Toshiye); sister, Kay Yokoyama; and sister-in-law, Sachiko Fujikawa.

Shino Michiko H., 86, Long Beach, Jan. 4; survived by brothers, Masao (Amy) and Frank (Reiko) Hitomi.

Sun, Pfc. Ming, 20, Cathedral City, Jan. 9; killed in Ramadi, Iraq.

Suruki, Toshi, 80, Gardena, Jan. 10; survived by daughters, Satomi (Yoshifumi) Ohara, Hitomi (Ted) Kondo, Mutsumi (Steven) Deignan and Atsuko Suruki; 4 gc.; and brothers, Katsuo (Miuko), Katsuichi (Ikuyo), Katsumi (Eiko) and Akio (Fukuko) Nishimura.

Takemoto, Rev. Akeo Arthur, 85, La Mirada, Jan. 7; survived by wife, Kazumi; sons, Akira (Mayako), Kenneth (Mary) and Alan (Oratai); sisters-in-law, Chiyoko and Mary Takemoto; and brothers-in-law, Frank and George (Doris) Sanwo.

Takushi, Edith Kiyoko, 89, Los Angeles, Dec. 30; survived by husband, Ansho; brother, Sukenobu Onaga; and sister, Yuriko Yonamine.

Teraoka, Reiko, 75, Los Angeles,

Jan. 6; survived by husband, Masao; daughters, Sharon and Robin; son, Brian; brother, Hisaki (Kumiko) Morioka; and sisters, Soko (Takafumi) Moriguchi and Yohko Satonaka.

Uchima, Tadayo Yumi Jisen, 83, Redondo Beach, Jan. 3; survived by husband, Ansho; son, Ray (Estela); 1 gc.; and sister, Noriko Penrod.

Wada, William S., 85, Dec. 31; survived by wife, Marge; son, Craig; daughter, Donna; brother, Shingo (Kiyoko); and sister, Chieko (George) Miyata.

Walthall, Kazuko Tachibana, 74, Port Hueneme, Dec. 20; survived by husband, Clarence; son, Bill (Lisa Beauregard); 2 gc.; and sisters, Emiko Takase and Sumiko Ueda.

Yamaka, Virginia Elizabeth, 83, Torrance, Dec. 27; survived by husband, William; daughters, Sharon (Eric) Wakuzawa and Nancy (John Rouen) Morales; sons, Duane (Linda) Pehl and Eddie (Karen) Pehl; sisters, Beatrice Koehn and Marioni Walters; 9 gc.; and 11 ggc.

Yamamoto, Steve Shizuma, 89, Riverside, Dec. 28; Lt. Col. (ret.), WWII veteran; survived by children, Victoria (Dan Cox), Patricia Branscome and Ronald; 3 gc.; and half-sisters, Sumim Tanimura and Kanae Arita.

Yamanaka, Dorothy, 83, Stockton, Jan. 17; French Camp JACLer; survived by daughter, Wendi; and brothers, Dr. Jerry Kaneko and Harry Kaneko.

Yamanaka, Terue, 90, Carlsbad, Dec. 17; survived by daughter, Rene (Jeff) Wustman; 2 gc.; sister, Mirry Fujita; brother-in-law, Jiro (Grace) Yamanaka; and sister-in-law, Masako Miyake.

Yoshida, Byron Kazuo, 71, Torrance, Jan. 15; survived by wife, Suzanne; daughters, Annette (Ernie) Kissinger and Cindy (Doug) Moromisato; 3 gc.; brothers, Charles (Rose), Thomas (Teruko) and Paul (Aileen); sisters, Inez (Jack) Hashimoto, Rose (Sets) Hisatomi, Sandy (Mich) Suekawa, Margie (Darrel) Fiske and Betsy (Yutaka) Kochiyama; sisters-in-law, Mae Yoshida, Florence Kajikawa and Shigeko Yamane; and brothers-in-law, Mako Takahashi and William Yamane.

Yoshihashi, Chiyo, 16; survived by daughter, Jane (Glen) Hirose; and 2 gc.

Yotsuya, Hatsuye, 81, West Los Angeles, Dec. 5; survived by son, Akira (Janice); daughter, Norm Taise; 2 gc.; 2 ggc.; sisters, Fukuko (Noriyoshi) Hamashima and Etsuko (Hiromu) Itani; and brother, Masuyuki (Kimi) Yoshikawa. ■

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DEATH NOTICE

MYRTLE AKIKO MATSUDA

Funeral services for the late Myrtle Akiko Matsuda, 79, Auburn, Wash.-born resident of Long Beach, who passed away Nov. 21, 2006, will be held Sat., Feb. 3, 11 a.m. at Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. 1st St., Los Angeles, under the direction of Fukui Mortuary. She is survived by her beloved husband, Takashi Matsuda; children, Shirley (Jay) Hoban, Robert (Kazuko) Matsuda, Theresa (Michael) Blair, and Pamela (Ross) Pignaz; grandchildren, Jon, Stephen, Matthew, Robert, Thomas, Paul, Kelli, Brece, and Paige; siblings, Mae Tomasello, Howard (Jean) Kumashiro and Alice (Frank) Kajiya; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

DEATH NOTICE

YOJI OZAKI

Yoji Ozaki, 84, has passed away. He was WWII Veteran, 442nd RCT Company L. Beloved husband of Molly (nee Matsunaga). Loving father of Julie (Ken) Modaff and Janis Matsuo. Dear brother of Dr. Kei Ozaki, Lily (Tom) Teraji, Sam (Harue) Ozaki, June (Tom) Nomura and the late May Xicotencatl. Fond grandfather of Matt, Dan and Jamie Modaff and Dana and Tyler Matsuo. In lieu of flowers memorial to the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, 745 Beaver Ln. Glenview, IL 60025 or J.A.S.C. 4427 N Clark St. Chicago, IL 60640 appreciated. Memorial Visitation 9 am until memorial service at 11 am Saturday Feb. 3rd at Lakeview Funeral Home 1458 W Belmont Ave. Chicago, IL 60657. Call 773-472-6300 for info.

DEATH NOTICE

ROSIE TOSHI MATSUURA

Rosie Toshi Matsuura, 85, passed away. Beloved wife of the late George. Loving mother of John (Stephanie) Matsuura. Dear sister of Patricia Matsumoto, and the late Lillian (Kiyo) Norikane, Iris (late Kiyoshi) Tanouye and Mary (Henry) Sakai. Doting grandmother of many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Chicago Botanic Garden, Tribute Gifts, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022 or Evergreen State College Foundation, 2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W. Library 3122, Olympia, WA 98505. A memorial service has been held.

STAMP CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

American World War II veterans — the 442nd Regiment, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service.

For the past five years a group of individuals — many of them wives of JA WWII vets — have been working on a grassroots campaign to urge the United States Postal Service (USPS) and their Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to issue a commemorative stamp in honor of these veterans. But so far only rejection letters have followed.

"Why is our request being rejected when they are recognizing comic book characters and pop icons?" said 38-year-old Sansei Wayne Osako, the group's California campaign organizer.

For Osako, a former schoolteacher, the campaign holds special significance; five of his uncles served in the 442nd and the MIS.

"It's something that's close to my heart," he said. "The history of the JA World War II vets is a key event for Asian Pacific American history. That's why we're really pushing for this."

Chiz Ohira, 79, wife of 442nd veteran Ted Ohira, believes the USPS needs to recognize this group of special men who volunteered out of internment camps even while their family members remained imprisoned.

"This is a unique group of men," she said. "I don't think there will be anything like that again."

A Coalition Effort

A petition letter to get a stamp for the JA WWII veterans now has close to 2,000 signatures. And some politicians have also thrown their support behind the effort, including Sen.

Daniel Inouye. Still, the group's efforts have not swayed the stamp committee.

Last fall Osako learned that two other veterans' groups were also proposing stamps with little success: the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo Code Talkers of WWII. Soon the idea for a coalition effort began to take shape and now all three groups are collaborating to have the USPS issue a series of commemorative stamps to honor these veterans.

"As for combining our efforts, I think it is an excellent idea," said Sylvia Laughter of the Navajo Code Talker Memorial Foundation. "If indeed it is true that the U.S. Postal stamp committee rejected these proposals previously, it makes sense that with our combined efforts will gain greater support overall."

Laughter, a former Arizona state legislator, also introduced a successful Arizona state Senate resolution to garner support for the national stamp campaign. Now the groups hope to introduce similar resolutions in California, New Mexico and Utah.

Nisei Aiko King, 79, has been involved with the JA WWII vets stamp efforts since its beginning and was at first hesitant about a coalition effort. But now she hopes the combined effort will finally show some results.

"Sometimes I think why can't we have our own [stamp]? But if that's

the way we're going to get on then we've got to do it," said King.

"I just think it is so important ... before all the vets are gone."

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

The JA WWII vets stamp proposal is just one of tens of thousands of requests the USPS receives each year. The requests are sent to the Postal Service's CSAC — a group consisting of 15 appointed individuals from a diverse array of backgrounds — who meet four times a year.

The CSAC can either reject the proposal or keep it "under consider-



In addition to the JA WWII veterans, supporters of the Tuskegee Airmen (above) and Navajo Code Talkers (below) hope to have a commemorative stamp soon too.



ation." Each year the committee recommends about 25 commemorative stamp selections to the Postmaster General that are "both interesting and educational."

"The decision is a process," said Roy Betts, spokesperson for USPS, who noted that a Tuskegee Airmen stamp has been put "under consideration" but there are no current plans to issue a stamp. Stamps for the Navajo Code Talkers and the JA WWII vets are not currently being considered.

"This united front is their choice but I cannot comment on the ineffectiveness or the effectiveness of it," said Betts. "I encourage them to continue to take part in the process."

Honoring Our Veterans

The USPS has a record of honoring its veterans with commemorative stamps. Latino veterans were honored with a stamp in 1984 and there was also a "Buffalo Soldiers" stamp honoring African Americans. In the 1990s a 50th anniversary WWII veteran stamp was issued although the stamp featured all Caucasian faces except for one African American man.

So why isn't there a stamp for the JA WWII vets, the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo Code Talkers?

There's no question the three veterans groups have made their mark on military history. The 442nd and 100th Battalion are the most highly decorated unit for its size and length

of service in U.S. military history. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military airmen in history and flew over 200 combat missions without any casualties. And the Navajo Code Talkers used the Navajo language to produce the "unbreakable" code of the Pacific Theater.

Those working on the grassroots stamp campaign believe a series of commemorative stamps for these heroic vets "would be a just way to continue to honor diversity in American military history."

"They deserve it, for what they did and why they did it," said Mildred Ikemoto, 77, wife of 442nd veteran Henry Ikemoto. "These veterans need to have the visibility so our young people ... will know they should be proud of them."

A Long-awaited Honor

Fusako Takahashi, 79, widow of a MIS veteran, had never felt the true impact of the JA WWII veterans' story until she read a speech by Eric Saul, a noted historian and scholar.

"I never realized what they went through," she said. "I feel pretty strongly about it."

Now she is one of the many veterans' wives and widows who are collectively pushing for a commemorative stamp for the JA WWII vets.

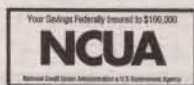
"I think this is really significant. But we can't do this with just a few people. We need a popular effort," said Osako, who urged people to sign their petition to support the stamp campaign.

"We have to get the story out," said Ohira, "before all of our vets are gone." ■

For more information and to sign the petition, go to www.minorityvetstamps.org.

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