N. Y. APA Community Decries News Report of ‘Sickening Surprise’ in Chinese Food

Mouse or chicken meat? The APA community says the CW11's reports are sensationalistic.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

It looked like it had little paws and a tail, but the identity of the piece of mystery food found among a New York patron's order of take-out and her sister Janet on the JA National Monument in Wash., D.C. Regiment for saving their dad during WWII. They finally got their chance.

Executive Editor

New York's CW11 (WPX-TV) first reported on the story, "Sickening Surprise," Jan. 29 during its 10 p.m. broadcast with footage of reporter Chris Glorioso confronting an employee of the New Food King restaurant in Canarsie, a neighborhood in the Eastern portion of the Brooklyn borough. A patron had ordered chicken and broccoli, but was so convinced of her "chicken" was a "mouse" that she checked herself into the hospital and contacted the CW11 News where she appeared on-air to say she would "never eat Chinese food again.

"The news piece was conducted from a prejudiced, biased and unethical standpoint. I see it as an insult to American justice that says everyone is innocent until proven guilty," said Steven Wong, 52, a community activist and president of the Chinese Restaurant Alliance. The APA community was enraged over the story's depiction of Chinese restaurants and the news piece's use of "fried mice" as a word play on "white rice." This isn't the first time the news station has gotten in trouble with the APA community. In November 2001, the CW11 accused a Korean restaurant in Flushing of selling dog, but the story was later unsubstantiated.

The APA restaurant community has continued to suffer racial discrimination because of that 2001 story and this more recent story has prompted many to call for action.

See CHINESE FOOD/Page 4

A Note of Heartfelt Thanks

PHOTO COURTESY OF HARDWICK FAMILY

Susan Hardwick places the note of thanks to the 442nd written by her and her sister Janet on the JA National Monument in Wash., D.C.

The Hardwick sisters always wanted to thank the men of the 442nd Regiment for saving their father, Sgt. Bill Hardwick, during WWII. They finally got their chance.

By CAROLYN OYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

The flapping single piece of white paper stuck onto one of the granite walls of the Japanese American National Monument immediately caught Dr. Raymond Murakami's attention one recent blistering day. "Someone's defacing the monument again," he thought, "Someone's defacing the monument again," and rushed over to take the piece of paper down before the Japanese embassy folks he was escorting on a docent tour of the D.C. monument could see it.

But with a quick glance down at the note, Murakami did not see any racist graffiti but a photo of a smiling man above a handwritten note. It read: "Thank you 442 RCT for rescuing our father, Oct. 30, 1944, 1600 hrs. Our father always said you were the man above a handwritten note.

The letter was signed by Janet Murakami, 79, president of the Century Club who refused to go to Iraq against the war. He faced four years in prison if convicted. However, after discussions with lawyers behind closed doors, the military judge, Lt. Col. John Head, said he did not believe Watada fully understood a document he signed admitting to elements of the charges. He announced his decision after the 28-year-old Watada, under house arrest, had hoped his court-martial would end in some sort of resolution. But the judge's decision to declare a mistrial means the entire case will likely be revisited.

Fort Lewis Judge Declares Mistrial in 1st Lt. Ehren Watada’s Court-Martial

By MELANTHIA MITCHELL
Associated Press Writer

WEST LOS ANGELES, Calif.—A military lieutenant who refused to go to Iraq had hoped his court-martial would end in some sort of resolution. But the judge's decision to declare a mistrial means the entire case will likely be revisited.

On Feb. 7, 1st Lt. Ehren Watada had been set to testify in his own defense against charges of missing troop movement and conduct unbecoming an officer for his statements against the war. He faced four years in prison if convicted. However, after discussions with lawyers behind closed doors, the military judge, Lt. Col. John Head, said he did not believe Watada fully understood a document he signed admitting to elements of the charges.

He announced his decision after the 28-year-old Watada, under house arrest, had hoped his court-martial would end in some sort of resolution. But the judge's decision to declare a mistrial means the entire case will likely be revisited.

Students Foster Love Through Mentorship of Adopted Chinese Children

By LIANN ISHIZUKA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

WEST LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Long tables are cluttered with plain white t-shirts as the overwhelming forms of bright permanent markers fill the air. Marker tops quickly pop off their caps from the nimble hands of elementary school children excited to begin creating imaginative illustrations on the shirt canvas. But this is no ordinary playgroup in a typical classroom. Seated at these long tables are a handful of adopted children from China, with their China Care Brains college buddies at the University of Southern California campus.

Each smiling young face has a different story and background. Each individual UCLA China Care mentor has a personal commitment. And together, both the children and their older buddies share in these experiences.

UCLA's China Care Brains is an umbrella organization of the national China Care Foundation, a group founded seven years ago by then 16-year-old Matt Dalio. Dalio lived in China for a year and wanted to found an organization dedicated to improving the lives of Chinese orphans. The
Even with these obstacles, Kobayashi outlined the keys to success for 2007:

- Strengthen program management tools
- Stick to the budget plan
- Keep focus and work on projects in the budget
- Get revenue sources for items in the budget
- Report variations from the budget.

If we can do the keys to success then we should be able to manage our growth for the coming year and be able to predict bumps in the roads so that we can make corrective actions," he said. "Overall, I'm hopeful that the timely issuance of our 2007Smith program review packages and a rededication to focusing on what was approved as the budget for the national JACL for 2007.

After much debate, the national board also voted to fund a program to upgrade the membership management software and integrating it in an updated JACL Web site, which would include e-commerce. The unprojected budgeted cost of approximately $45,000 will be funded by outside funding. As of Dec. 31, 2006, the Legacy Fund is at $63,561, the National Endowment at $454,444 the Life Endowment is at $387,681 and the Reserve Fund is at $391,685 after $80,000 was withdrawn to deal with cash flow issues.

After their Jan. 27 meeting, the Investment Policy Committee (IPC) made a recommendation to send out a request for proposal (RFP) in search of one investment manager to oversee all the endowment funds, reported Ted Tsukihara, IPC chair. The national board unanimously adopted this motion and the IPC hopes to have a recommendation by the next board meeting.

The Search for Staff Members

Board members are still planning to hire more staff including a new national membership coordinator, a regional director for the Pacific Southwest District, and an administrative assistant for the executive director.

The search for a new JACL executive director is progressing. After a three-hour executive session, the national board approved a candidate for the position vacated by John Tateishi, who suffered a major coro­

Happy to have a recommendation by the next board meeting.

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House Approves Bainbridge Island Internment Memorial

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—The House has approved a long-delayed plan to designate a spot on Bainbridge Island, Wash., where hundreds of Japanese Americans were once forced from their homes on the way to prison camps — as a national historic site.

In March 1942, 227 JAs were forced from their homes under order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and marched to the Eagledale Ferry Dock, on their way to internment camps in Idaho and California.

The men, women and children — two-thirds of them U.S. citizens — were the first of what eventually became more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry imprisoned on the West Coast during World War II.

On Feb. 6 the House unanimously approved a bill to make the former internment camp in Jerome, Idaho, one of two U.S. internment camps that now have national park designation.

Democratic Rep. Jay Inslee, who lives on Bainbridge Island, sponsored the bill, which he has pushed for nearly five years.

"Congress took a strong stand today by making the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial part of our national heritage — let it not happen again," said Inslee, citing the memorial's Japanese name and motto.

"This victory has been a long time coming," Inslee said. "My constituents — survivors, their families and friends — have been waiting for decades."

Inslee's bill was co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, whose district includes the existing monument in Jerome County in southern Idaho.

The measure builds on a measure introduced the fall when Congressman Mike Honda, who is chair of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, said that the right to challenge one's internment is counter to centuries of habeas corpus. "By preserving the Pinedale site eligible for a National Historic Landmark, we ensure justice for all. The Constitution alone does not guarantee perfection. Rather, it is the duty of each generation to strive to form a more perfect union for ourselves and for the sake of our children," said Judge Dale Bredesen, a Fresno JACL member.

Heart Mountain Officially Designated Nat'l Historic Landmark

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

POWELL, Wyo.—The Heart Mountain Relocation Center has officially been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The center between Powell and Cody housed Japanese Americans during World War II. The U.S. Department of the Interior named the site a National Historic Landmark.

JACL Opposes Attorney General’s Challenge of Habeas Corpus

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL is criticizing the recent comments by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that challenged the right to habeas corpus, an inherent privilege of every American under the Constitution.

At a Jan. 17 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Gonzales said that the right to challenge one’s imprisonment in federal court is not protected by the Constitution.

"The Constitution doesn’t say every individual in the United States or citizen is hereby granted or assured the right of habeas corpus. It doesn’t say that. It simply says the right shall not be suspended except in cases of rebellion or invasion," said Gonzales at the hearing.

"Attorney General Gonzales is incorrect in his logic and his opinion is counter to centuries of accepted law regarding habeas corpus. His logic would mean that the Constitution does not guarantee basic rights outlined therein but simply prevents Congress from passing laws that would remove those rights that are not explicitly enumerated as rights," said Floy Mori, interim national JACL director.

The right to habeas corpus was at the core of the WWll incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, a generation of citizens. For JAs, the mass incarceration was executed without any due process and wrongly resulted in the detainment of American citizens without the opportunity to challenge the legality of their detainment.
By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Robertson Says Too Much Plastic Surgery Results in 'Oriental' Eyes

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.—Christian Broadcasting Network's Pat Robertson is drawing criticism for his anti-Asian remark on the Feb. 7 "700 Club" show. Robertson said that people who have received too much plastic surgery "got the eyes like they're Oriental" while he put his fingers up to the side of his face.

This isn't Robertson's first offense. He has called Islam a "Christian heresy" and said that "Jewish people" are "very thrifty" and "extraordinarily good business people."

U.S. Lawmakers Introduce House Resolution Urging Japan to Apologize to WWII 'Comfort Women'

WASHINGTON—U.S. lawmakers have introduced a nonbinding resolution demanding that Japan apologize to thousands of so-called comfort women the Japanese army used as sex slaves during World War II. The resolution, sponsored by Democratic Rep. Mike Honda, Republicans Rep. Christopher Smith and others, calls for Japan's prime minister to "formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility in a clear

National Newsbytes

By National Newsbytes Writer

Secrecy at NASA's Kennedy Space Center

The NASA Kennedy Space Center has become a symbol for secrecy and the secrecy has not been just at the level of NASA, it has been at the level of the government as a whole. The space program has been shrouded in secrecy for decades and the recent decision to continue the program has only added to the growing sense of doubt among the public.

"There is a lot of concern about the safety of the astronauts," said one astronaut at the center. "There are a lot of unanswered questions about the integrity of the program."

The recent decision to continue the program has sparked a backlash from the public. Many have called for an end to the program and a more transparent approach to the space program.

"We need to have a more open and honest approach to the program," said one member of Congress. "This has been a very secretive process and it needs to end."

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

ALDEF to Honor Leaders of Justice

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) will honor Javade Chaudhri, executive vice president and general counsel of Sempra Energy and author and activist Helen Zia with the 2007 Justice in Heresy" and said that "Jewish people" are "very thrifty" and "extraordinarily good business people."

CHINESE FOOD

(Continued from page 1)

faded the fire, said Wong. The fall-out has been felt nationwide. Since the piece aired, Wong said he's heard from restaurant owners from as far as Georgia complaining that people don't want to order chicken with rice anymore. In the report, Glorioco also asked several customers outside the restaurant what the moron in question looked like and all responded that it was a deep-fried mouse, CWll aired a follow-up report Jan. 31. 31 with a biologist from Ameritech Laboratories confirming the piece in question was "likely a mouse or rat."

But relying on simple observation is faulty and renders a false indictment on the restaurant and other Chinese restaurants, said APA leaders, including Councilman John Liu who called the follow-up piece a "smear campaign."

"The reporter here acted as the judge and jury," said Wong. "Those people just pulled the mouse out of the box and tried to say the restaurant was guilty."

Lee is one of 95-plus volunteers selected as panel members. She was selected chair of TAP's ad-hoc committee, which focuses on improving IRS publications and forms, and supporting the IRS multilingual initiative.

Member of Sen. Inouye's Staff to Represent Hawaii

A member of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's Staff to Represent Hawaii during this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival.

"CW11 stand beyond the accuracy of this news report, and believes the story provides no basis for legitimate controversy," said CW11 management in a statement.

Wong (left) confronted CW11 reporter Chris Glorioco during the Feb. 4 protest. Another rally is planned Feb. 26.

CHINESE FOOD

(Continued from page 1)

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JACL Leaders Meet with Director-General of Japanese Consular Affairs

A top official from the Japanese Foreign Ministry met with National JACL President Larry Oda and Floyd Shimomura, chair of JACL's U.S.-Japan Education Committee, in San Francisco recently to discuss a proposed change in Japan's consular policy toward persons of Japanese ancestry living overseas, including Nikkei in the United States.

Yasuaki Tanizaki, director-general of the consular affairs bureau, said that he was proposing the expansion of his Bureau's programs beyond Japanese nationals to include programs for recently returned Japanese Americans. Mineta was also the key Congressional driver of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided redress and an apology to surviving World War II internees.

JACL, APIA Community Pay Tribute to Mineta

Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta has an emotional moment during his speech at the Smithsonian dinner. "Norm has always inspired and motivated all of us to go beyond our own expectations," said JACL Interim Executive Director Floyd Mori at the event. "He has been the mentor to many of us here and he always goes beyond the call of duty and service to develop a personal connection with all whom he touches."

Tri-Valley JACL Installs New Leaders

The Tri-Valley JACL and San Benito County celebrated the installation of their 2007 officers and board members at a recent luncheon held at the San Juan Oaks Golf Course in Hollister, Calif. Over 100 members and friends attended including retired Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Joseph E. Biafore, Jr., who administered the oath of office.

Who's Who in Asian American Communities Committee Accepting Nominations for 2nd Annual Gala

The Who's Who in Asian American Communities (WWAAC) Committee is now accepting nominations of potential honorees for the July 21 second annual WWAAC Gala honoring 50 outstanding Asian Americans in 10 Southeastern states (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia). The WWAAC Committee's mission is to champion the achievements of successful Asians in the community and publicize their achievements in the "Who's Who in Asian American Communities" publication. The second edition will be released at the WWAAC Gala in Atlanta, Georgia. A portion of the proceeds from the gala will be donated to the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APISF), which distributes scholarships to qualified first-year undergraduate college, university, and vocational school students.

For more information about nomination requirements visit the WWAAC section at www.sachiko.com.

Arizona Hosts Teacher Training Workshop

The Arizona JACL along with the Arizona Historical Society Museum and the National JACL Education Committee hosted the 10th Annual Teachers Workshop, "What It Means to be an American" Feb. 3 at the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe.

Seventeen local high school teachers participated in the workshop, which included a panelist who related the Japanese American WWII experience to the post Sept. 11th experience of Arab Americans.
JACL Monterey Chapter Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

The Monterey Peninsula JACL celebrated its 75th anniversary Jan. 26 with over 100 attendees at the Rancho Canada Golf Club in Carmel, Calif.

Organized by 18 charter members, the chapter was formed on Jan. 29, 1932, Fusuako Nakamura (right), an officer and charter mem­ber and the guest of honor, enjoyed the festivities along with Hiroko Nishiguchi (left) and Emmie Suzuki. During the event, the former Monterey Mayor Dan Albert was presented with the Chapter Celebration Award and the 2007 chapter officers were installed.

WATADA

(Continued from page 1)

not intended to admit he had a duty to go to Iraq with his fellow soldiers — one element of the crime of mutiny.

Watada told the judge he understood what he had been told but was not admitting guilt since he believed he still had a defense — that the war was illegal.

"I'm not seeing we have a meeting of the minds here," the judge said. "And if there is not a meeting of the minds, there's not a contract."

Last month, Watada signed a 12-page stipulation of fact in which he acknowledged he did not go to Iraq with his unit, the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, last June. He also acknowledged he violated military orders by criticizing the Iraq war, which he believes to be illegal.

Watada then made several public appearances to denounce the illegal war founded on lies.

"I want children in third-world countries to know that there are people around the world that think about them," said Lac Tran, public­ity coordinator for China Care Bureaus.

Tran said it's all about spreading compassion for those children whose "future is so undecided."
HONOLULU—Aloha Stadium may be torn down and replaced by a $300 million complex alongside the H-1 freeway near Kapolei.

A bill in the Legislature proposes to sell the land under the stadium and spend the proceeds on a new one rather than spend the $215 million it could cost to extend the life of the current one, which has been around for 52 years.

The 50,000-seat stadium has the largest capacity for events in the islands and hosts the annual Pro Bowl and the annual Hawaii All-Star Football Classic. The state also hosts football and soccer events, and other sporting events.

Officials say the stadium is badly in need of repair, with structural problems, extensive rust damage and too few restrooms that can accommodate people with disabilities.

State Comptroller Russ Saito says it's not repaired in the next few years, it may have to be shut down anyway.

But Saito opposes the sale of the Aloha Stadium property, saying a federal provision attached to the state's debt for the land requires that it be used for public recreation and prohibits its sale.

The bill has been advanced for further discussion.

Gov. Linda Lingle has proposed spending $38 million on repairs over two years, after her $25 million proposal was rejected last year.

Lawmakers are mulling over several proposals for dealing with the deteriorating stadium, including retaining the land and partnering with private interests to develop affordable housing at the Aliiolani site. The idea would be to raise enough money for a new stadium while retaining ownership and control over how the land is used.

In addition to land along the H-1 in West Oahu that is already owned by the state, another possible site for a new stadium would be in nearby Kalaeloa.

FOOTBALL

Bill Would Build New Sports Site, Tear Down Aloha Stadium

PACIFIC CITIZEN, FEB. 16-MAR. 1, 2007

Tear Down Aloha Stadium

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GOLF

Tadd Fujikawa, 16, Wins Pearl Open

HONOLULU—A month after becoming the youngest player in 50 years to make a PGA Tour cut, 16-year-old Tadd Fujikawa shot a 4-under 68 on Feb. 11 to win the Hawaii Pearl Open at Oahu's Pearl Country Club.

Fujikawa birdied two of the final three holes to finish the 54-hole tournament at 11-under 205. Hawaii professional Greg Meyer (67) was second.

Meyer, a four-time Pearl Open champion, collected the first-place check of $12,000 because Fujikawa is an amateur. Japanese professionals Azuma Yano and Yoshinobu Tskadui tied for third at 8 under.

Fujikawa, a Mountain High School sophomore, started the day in fourth place after rounds of 69 and 66.

Fujikawa became known in the golf world at the Sony Open last month. After he became the youngest player to make the cut, he shot a 66 in the third round to start the final day in a tie for eighth.

He finished the Sony Open with a 7-under 275-77-68 for third place behind Vijay Singh, one behind defending champion David Toms.

High school sophomore Tadd Fujikawa, 16, asorns a victory at the Pearl Open on Feb. 11.

The Golf Channel dedicated much of its Sony Open coverage to the teenager as he attracted the largest crowds in the tournament.

The cheers could be heard a half-mile away when he saved par with a 25-foot putt on the sixth, made back-to-back birdies around the turn, and finished with a birdie on the 18th for 72.

His high school was inundated with cameras when he returned to class and Gov. Linda Lingle mentioned him in her State of the State speech before lawmakers.

The 5-foot-10 teenager earned his way into the Sony Open by shooting 67 at Waialae during an Aloha PGA qualifier.

Fujikawa qualified for the U.S. Open last summer, the youngest to do that since 1941. He missed the cut with rounds of 81 and 77 and didn’t get much credit for being there because he only beat a field of 10 at the Hawaii sectional.

Wie's Wrist in a Cast from Injury

HONOLULU—Michelle Wie injured her wrist in a fall and is wearing a hard cast that will keep her away from golf for at least a month, a family spokesman said Feb. 10.

Spokesman Jesse Derris said the 17-year-old injured her left wrist last week when she fell while running.

Her doctors expect it will take four to six weeks to heal. Wie’s right wrist was lightly taped from an injury last month at the men's Sony Open, where she missed the cut.

"Michelle’s playing schedule will be altered as needed to allow the injury to fully heal," he said.

We were planning to play in either the SBS Open or the Fields Open this week in Honolulu when the U.S. LPGA Tour season gets under way. But the injury raises questions whether she will recover in time for the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the first U.S. LPGA major of the year that starts on March 29.

Michelle Wie is expected to be out for a month with a wrist injury.

A year ago, Wie was one shot behind when she faced a 25-foot chip from just off the 18th green at the Sony Open.

She hit it 10 feet by, then missed the birdie putt that would have allowed her to join a playoff.

We had at least a share of the lead on the back nine of two other U.S. LPGA majors last year, but faltered badly at the end of the season. She finished out of the top 10 in her final two tour starts and has missed the cut in her last four appearances against the men.

BASEBALL

Matsuzaka Heads Up Pitching Changes

BOSTON—Terry Francona has seen a lot in three years as Red Sox manager, from the team’s first World Series title in 86 years to its worst Series title in 86 years to its worst three years as Red Sox manager, from the team’s first World Series title in 86 years to its worst Series title in its 106-year history.

Now, with spring training a few days away, he faces something completely different — learning some Japanese words.

The signing of Daisuke Matsuzaka gives Boston a potential ace and some communication hurdles. Francona knows that but figures a bigger burden will fall on new pitching coach John Farrell, who must work with Matsuzaka between games, and catcher Jason Varitek, who must chat with him during games.

There’s little need for discussion when Francona goes to the mound.

"When I put on them," Francona said, "he’s coming out."

Francona said he’s told Matsuzaka to be aware of some cultural differences.

But as far as pitching differences, the Red Sox don’t want Matsuzaka to change just because he’s changing countries.

"The most important thing for Dice-K and for us is for him to approach pitching as he did in Japan and for us as not to make changes because he’s in the United States," Farrell said.

Farrell said and Francona will see Matsuzaka in Fort Myers, Fla., where pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to spring training next Friday with the first workout two days later. Matsuzaka is expected at the training complex early this week to work out on his own.

Matsuzaka was the MVP of the World Baseball Classic last March and reached a six-year, $52 million contract agreement with Boston worth the team’s $51.11 million bid, paid to the Seibu Lions, trumped others for the right to negotiate with him.

"This is a very engaging person," he’s a very talented," Farrell said. "Above and beyond his physical abilities, he draws to the stage and the attention. He functions very well in that environment. The calmness and the composed presence he shows is outstanding.

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff
I never asked my grandma about Mountain. Had I not asked them worked at the community entered- kindly purchased goods outside of sunny California to Wyoming's coldest winter. I would've never heard about the funeral services of a WWII veteran, appointed by the governor of Wyoming to serve on the draft board, who died within the walls of camp just after he attended a meeting at the United Services Organization (USO). He received full honors at the funeral services held in Heart Mountain.

Generations of people who can remember their firsthand experiences in camp are dwindling. This year, six members of my family passed away, three of whom went to Heart Mountain. With a quick Google search we can tour museums like the Smithsonian's "A More Perfect Union." Through interning educators, nurses, a judge, a graphic designer, and other individuals, I feel an increasing responsibility to document their experiences.

"In the Fourth Genre," essayist Brett Lott discusses "our responsi­ bility as human beings to answer for and to our lives." Perhaps the government felt this responsibility when Dorotha Lange documented the evacuation of JAs in 1942. Although the government imprisoned the photographers, in the last few years over 800 pictures have been released. Some of them include my grandparents, Henry and Helen Mitarai.

Like the water of trailing off a boat, I continue to explore my family's adventures through photographs, personal accounts, and interviews to follow the migrations of my great-grandparents to their responsibility to my family and the community around me.

Emily Mitarai is a number of the Mt. Olympus JACL. She is currently interning at the JACL in the Washington, D.C. office for a semester.

Emily Mitarai • Learning About Family History Through Questions

SEVERAL STORIES in the recent Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue and the hunter "relaunching" PC's Web site can be the next arena to learn what's happening inside JACL national and chapters. Chapter histories alone do much for these Web sites.

Last November, this survey checked the national JACL's web-page (www.jacl.org) to see how many chapters had Web sites. There are 25. It's been an "80/20" trend one sees on the Internet. 1. Arizona (www.azjcaicl.org) has a bold home page when you sign on. The last sentence could state the next convention will be in Salt Lake City in 2008.

2. Berkeley (www.berkeley jcaicl.org) welcomes with a photo of Cal Taiko, recipients from chapter grant committee, plus eight more links of news, programs, events, gallery, about, resources, contact and join. Online editor: Valerie Yanoshoki.

3. Chicago (www.jcaiclchicago.org) expresses its "mission and vision" statement on its home page. Chapter history, campus, is a feature in its "History," National Collaboration, Local, and Toward the Future. Fetchingly, "links" ends with a job finder and design your own t-shirts.

4. Cleveland (www.nwrpdl. org) is a presentation of the Lakeview Public Library, glamour­ ized by a front page filled with thumbnail pictures of chapter events. One can spend days here with "WRA Photo Collection" that other chapter links do not show.

5. Denver (www.zuleidajacI.org) is truly up-to-date with a welcoming headlining upcoming events and a sidebar of past events. Students of Japanese art will appreciate the links to the Rith and Sherman Lee Institute in Denver.

6. Diablo Valley (www.dvjcaicl.org, hosted by Our Friends at Silicon Connection, serves central and east Contra Costa County. You'll agree their colloquial name (where is Diablo Valley?) is demystified.

7. Florin (www.jcaiclflorin. org) shows its railroading station (is it still there?) on its welcome of five pages. For another company "what's up Dil Se"? it's here. Online editor: Kevin Nobuo Nakano.

8. Hoosier (Budama understand) (www.budama.org) is a "personalized" and created and maintained by Nancy Nakano Conner.


10. Idaho Falls (www. jcaicl.org) is "coming soon" (as of last Feb. 9).

11. Japan (www.jcaiclchunapach­ ter.org) highlights the invitation to its monthly "Hello Cocktails!"

12. Las Vegas (www.jvaicl.org), from its all-blue home page, has 13 sections for reviewing Unions. The work section carrying a page for individual "sponsorship!"

13. New York (www.jcaiclorg), keeps track of elections and shows a number. This survey wasclocked 4/625 Dec. 15 and "44224" Feb. 8. No other chapter Web site has this feature.

14. Philadelphia (home.earth­ link.net/"phila_jacI") leads first with its next chapter function (in this case, the New Year party last month). A five-page chapter history begins with a glimpse of fists activi­ ties from 1937.

15. Portland (www.pdmdjcaicl.org) sports a new welcome page, asking: "Are your civil rights at risk? A dis­ tinguished panel will explore the topic Feb. 17 at Portland State University.

16. San Jose (www.sanjose­ jcaicl.org) uses a timely manner, nor the scholarships, local and national, on its home page. Web site sponsors are national JACL, NCWPNDC, NikkeiWest and design. Among its newsletters are "Hello Cocktailsl" and the bulletin of the chapter. The NCI program is in its sixth year, with 64 interns and 14 JA com­ munity groups in Los Angeles and the Bay Area as past participants.

Applications for the 2007 Nikkei Youth Internship (NCI) are currently being accepted for prospective interns and organizations.

Applicants must be 18 years old by the start of the program, have a strong interest in community work and a desire to develop leadership skills. The deadline is March 16. The 2007 NCI program will run from June 23-Aug. 17 with the goal of providing cultural exposure and development to the next generation of community leaders in Japanese American communities.

Internees will receive an educational stipend of up to $2,000 to spend four days a week at community and/or Japanese American Community projects and one day in cultural training and leadership development activities.

The NCI program is in its sixth year, with 64 interns and 14 JA commu­ nity groups in Los Angeles and the Bay Area as past participants. Funded through grants from the

Seth Seif (seidelseth@co.uk)
The Golden Scribe

Iris Yamashita went from web programmer to Oscar contender with 'Letters from Iwo Jima.'

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

The story just keeps getting better — a web programmer originally from Missouri pens a screenplay about Japan on the eve of World War II, wins an award, and gets summoned to meet with one of Hollywood’s most powerful screenwriters.

In a Warner Brothers office during their second meeting, Iris Yamashita listened in disbelief as Paul Haggis (“Crash” 2004) offered her the opportunity to work on a feature length project later titled “Letters from Iwo Jima,” the Japanese language companion film to Clint Eastwood’s “Flags of Our Fathers.”

It was the first major project for Yamashita, a Shin Nisei, so she waited for a contract before quitting her day job.

In “Letters,” Yamashita’s story about Japanese troops on the Black Sand Island gives a voice to characters usually relegated to stock silent roles. In her world, the warriors of war are also loving fathers and sons.

Then early one morning in January, Yamashita received news that she was nominated for an Academy Award.

“It’s been incredibly amazing. I’m feeling over the moon,” she said in a telephone interview days before attending the Academy’s lunchbox, a tradition to honor all the nominees. Of course the seductive idea of holding a golden Oscar statue isn’t far from her mind, but she knows what’s going to happen if her name is called.

“I’ll probably cry.”

The Writer Within

Yamashita received her first diary at age eight. The blank pages tickled her mind and her first entry was in the first person, but from the point of view of someone from another time period. She minored in writing while earning a master’s degree in engineering at the University of California, Berkeley and started writing novels that never had endings.

“I thought screenplays would be a better medium because there are less pages and more white space so I could actually finish,” said Yamashita.

She took screenplay-writing classes and wrote short stories including “Professor Houshaka’s Books” and a screenplay called “Traveler in Tokyo,” which was inspired by her mother Kayoko’s experience fleeing her burning house in prewar Japan. It is also the screenplay that paved the way to meeting Eastwood.

Writing ‘Letters’

The Battle of Iwo Jima devastated the Japanese forces — only 1,100 survived out of 22,000. To date, about 12,000 soldiers remain unaccounted. In Yamashita’s family, she experienced both sides of war — she had one uncle who fought with the Japanese and another uncle who fought with the Americans in the Korean War — so the writer who speaks conversational Japanese began telling the other side of a WWII story.

“When we started [with ‘Letters’], my agent and I didn’t have a clear idea of what the project was. When we heard ‘companion movie,’ we thought it was something that was going to come out on the DVD, so when Paul Haggis said it was coming out in theater I said, ‘Oh you mean in the U.S.?’” said Yamashita with a laugh.

At that time, the studio didn’t have a director locked down and Yamashita was told they were looking for a Japanese director, but when she heard Eastwood was on board, she thought, “Oh good people might see the film!” The critical acclaim and the Oscar nod were icing on the cake, she said.

Yamashita spent months researching, outlining and writing the stories of the courageous men who lost their lives trying to protect the small island south of Japan. Lt. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi was legendary for strength and valor, but from research Yamashita discovered his softer side in letters he wrote to his family before the war when he spent time in the U.S.

“It was striking to realize the high-est commander was a gentle loving father writing these cute letters to his sons,” she said.

In “Letters,” a baker yearns to see his newborn daughter while a general strips mines to his body and hides among dead bodies to blow up an American tank, but as days go by without a tank, the general decides to live. It was a true story Yamashita came across in her research and “had to put in the film.”

Working on the film has also left a personal resonance on Yamashita.

“It certainly made me think a lot about how ... we’re trying to find better and more efficient ways to kill each other,” she said.

Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future

When Yamashita began writing “Letters,” she was nervous about dishonoring the fallen soldiers and their descendents, but Haggis, who shares writing credit, had advice.

“He said I should really be thinking about writing a good story.”

“Letters” has won many fans including veterans and veteran families who approach Yamashita with touching stories.

Her father Tuyoshi has seen the movie and seems to like it, but expresses it in a traditional Japanese manner.

“He’s not very expressive, but he wanted to see it again,” said Yamashita, who is close to taking a deal with work on another historical screenplay.

The 79th Annual Academy Awards will take place Feb. 25

For more info: http://www.oscar.com/
http://iwojimathomemovie.warner-bros.com

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

By Thelma Robinson

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

This is the story of Nisei cadet nurses — of their experiences in wretched camps, of people who risked public scorn to support Japanese Americans, of prejudicial difficulties in entering nursing schools, and of a government that reversed its policy against a people of Japanese descent.

PaciNIC CITIZEN, FEB. 1, 2007
National WASHINGTON, D.C.
Washington Marriott Marquis: "A Salute to Chaparron Gaia Dinner"; J.W. Marriott Hotel: $200/person, $325/person for 10, honorees will be given awards for their work in championing the goals and efforts of the civil rights movement. Info: 202/212-1200 or dcjcl.org.

East PHILADELPHIA
Sat., Mar. 17—60th Anniversary Graduate Recognition/Installation Luncheon noon-3 p.m.; Magellan's Island Country Club; King of Prussia; guest speaker, Philip Taniguchi. Info: 215/244-7356 or keith@iaclpa.org.

Midwest CHICAGO
Sun., Feb. 25—Inaugural JACL Celebration, 1000 W. Collett's Fine Dining, 5707 N. Central Ave; $50 per person; Info: Midwest JACL office, 773/728-7171.


SPRINGDALE, Ohio
Sat., Feb. 24—Emerald-JACNP Dayton Chapter Installation Dinner: 4 p.m. social hour, 5:30 p.m. dinner; internees and a performance by San Jose Taiko; free. Info: 937/899-4977 or livingshows@gmail.com.

Washington, D.C.
Fri., Mar. 16—Film Screening, "From Sake to Silk": CSU Fresno Liviu Petres Education Center Auditorium; discussion with writer/director Satsuki Inoko follows; screening Info: 559/9454-1662.

HANFORD

LIVINGSTON-MERCED
Thurs-Sat., Mar. 15-17—Noel Monologues: 1:30-5 p.m. Fri., March 16, Golden Valley High School Auditorium, 2121 E. Childs Ave., continued by the department of Golden Valley High School under the direction of Crystal Langley. Info: 209/382-8100.

Northern California SAN FRANCISCO
Sat., Mar. 3—California Civil Liberties Public Education Program informational meetings: 10:30-1:30 p.m.; San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin St.; afternoon session will answer questions regarding the grant application or the CLEP program. Info: 415/655-4714.

Sat., May 19—JACL Honors John Tateishi dinner; 6-10 p.m. San Francisco Conference Center, 255 S. Airport Blvd.; celebrate John Tateishi's 30 years of commitment to the American Asian community and to JACL's executive director and redress director; $75/person, $70/Public of 10; black tie optional. Info: Mike Yoshino, milyoshi@jca.net.

SAN JOSE
Sun., March 24—The Houseboat Tribute Exclusively to Honor Nomiya Y. Mineta, 7 p.m.; San Jose Firestorm Theater, 1747 Buchanan St.; "Moments: A Career Retrospective" will honor Nomiya Mineta for his exemplary leadership by his home town; $25/person. Info: 408/417-4641 or minecredit@yahoo.com.

Central California FRESNO

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.; $200/JACL members, $255/non-members.

Southern California LOS ANGELES

Fri., Feb. 16-18, 2007—ALL-VA Veterans Reunion; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; program will feature a film screening, "Going for Broke," dinner is $15; guest speaker, Joseph Gotanda, and a candle lighting ceremony; admission is $12 in advance and $18 at the door. Info: 202/633-2690.

FRESNO
Sun., Feb. 18—Parishion's Restaurant, 22317 W. Shaver Ave.; 5:30-6:30 p.m.; speaker, keynote speaker, James Hirabayashi, Pinedale internee and professor emeritus in Anthropology and Asian American Studies, Info: Ken Yokota, 559/431-4662 or kennethy@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 Taylor Chang's documentary, "Time of Fear"; discussion with writer/director Satsuki Inoko. Info: 808/688-1941 or president@pdxjacl.org.

SANLUNAS
Fri., Feb. 22—Salinan Senior Community Center, Santa Lucia Room; 1:30-3:30 p.m.; 42nd veteran Lawson Sakai and Vietnam veteran Brian Shiroyama will speak about the 1940s and 1950s. Info: 805/960-6242 or 805/875-9010.

SACRAMENTO
Sat., Feb. 24—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; program includes two films, "WWII to Fear," dinners will be $15 each; guest speaker is Shigeo Siegel author of "In Good Conscience." Info: 209/381-5444.

STOCKTON
Sat., Feb. 24—Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shinzui Dr.; 9:30 p.m., featuring Shigeo Siegel, author of "In Good Conscience," keynotes and workshops such as "How to do an Oral History of a Family Member." Info: 209/935-4418.

WASHINGTOM, D.C.
In Memoriam - 2006-2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Akaboshi, George "Tish," 85, Dec. 15; survived by sons, Bruce, Randy, and Greg; daughter, Tammy; and 10 grandchildren.

Arimura, Michio, 76, Jan. 26; survived by wife, Mutsuko; Jan. 6; survived by husband, Teruo; son, Diane; 1 gc.; and sister, Kai Sekine.

Inouye, Esther Kikuko, 93, Jan. 19; survived by sons, David (Lydia); daughter, Donna (Glenn) Nakahara; 9 gc.; and sister, Lillian Moriozono.

Kabira, Mary Sadako, 84, Tujunga, Jan. 16; survived by, son, Larry; daughter, Janet Tanaka (Kazumi); 4 gc.; brother, John and Roy and Tom Okumura; and sisters, Dorothy Kunitake and Sue Kahanuki.

Kambara, Jinmyo K., Jan. 16; survived by, son, Gary (Anita); 2 gc.; brothers, Ted and Nobe; and sisters, Betty and Martha.

Kawamura, Akiko, 82, San Gabriel, Jan. 29; survived by sons, Leonard and Glenn (Koyoshi); 4 gc.; and brother, Robert (Branche) Kawamura.

Kojima, Shigeru, "Shig," 86, Los Angeles, Jan. 26; survived by, son, Glenn (Solfia); 2 gc.; step-son, Michael (Shirley) and sister, Nancy.

Kurazaki, Natsuko, 89, Monterey Park, Jan. 13; survived by, son, Leslie (Carol); daughters, Nancy (Albert) Okuhara and Martha (James) Iwagawa; 6 gc.; and many more.

Kusumoto, Minnie, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 25; survived by husband, Jack; sons, Ford (Frances), Dan and John; 5 gc.; and brothers, Frank Hayashida; and sister-in-law, Michi Kado.

Matsumoto, Myrike Akiko, 84, Long Beach, Nov. 22; survived by husband, Takashi; daughters, Shirley (Jay) Hoshan, Theresa (Michael) Blair and Pamela (Ross) Hoshan; 4 grandchildren; daughter, Robert (Kazumi); 3 gc.; sisters, Mae Tomacello and Alice (Frank) Kajiyama; and son, Howard (Jean) Kamasaki.

Nakagawa, Carol, 83, Seattle, Wash.; Jan. 30; 42nd RTC; survived by wife, Lillian; sons, Paul (Maureen), Peter (Nancy) and Gary; daughter, Ann; 3 gc.; brothers, Tebo (Midge), Jim (Hisa), Sappo (Joyce), Mitch, Joe (Brenda) and Charles (Dame); sisters, Pauline (Mako) Yukagi, Ida Matsudari and Theresa (Wes) Kome and; sister-in-law, Barbara.

Matsuyama, Masako, 81, Fullerton, Jan. 28; survived by sons, Aaron (Karen), Mark (Nancy) and Stan (Joy) Lyons; 6 gc.; sister, Sachiko (George) Arana; brothers, Yoshihuru (Natsumi), George (Yoshihiko) and Matsuo (Kim); brothers-in-law, Richard Renik and Mitko (Sue) Nagayama; sisters-in-law, Sadaye (Hiroshi) Kasuga and Yasuko Nagayama.

Nakano, Yueno, 90, Santa Monica, Jan. 21; survived by son, Ken (Joonie) and Georgia; daughter, Suzanna (Hand) and daughters, Kayoko and Alice (Jim) Williams.

Nakayama, Keana, 92, Jan. 14, survived by brother, Noboru (Tomiko); and sisters, Katsue (Tajiri), Sachie Nakayama and Kiko Takeo.

Ohtsuki, Tokyo, 58, Monterey Park, Jan. 25; survived by husband, Donald; sisters, Kiyomi (Tajiri), Sachiko Nakayama and Kiko Takeo.

Takayama, Setsuko, 93, Fremont, Dec. 25; survived by husband, Hiroshi; son, Randolph (Jennifer); and daughters, Stacey and Janet (Makita) Williams.

Sato, Mary Mariko, 90, Jan. 22, survived by sons, Randy and Dennis; daughter, Susan; and 10 grandchildren.

Takagi, Setsuko, 78, Torrance, Jan. 25; survived by husband, Atsushi; son, Wayne (Angel); daughter, Jean (Gina) Nakahara; 2 gc.; sister, Satsuko (Susumu) Sato; sisters-in-law, Hideko Takahashi, Misako Kurakaki; brother-in-law, Seichi (Helen) Taniguchi and half-brother, Matokyo Tsuchida.

Tagakis, Frank Hideo, 87, Los Angeles, Jan. 17, survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Kachi and Jane; brothers, Douglas and Larry; sisters, Mary and Martha.

Taguchi, Setsuko, 88, Los Angeles, Jan. 21, survived by stepson, Henry (Miyoko); step-daughter, Alice (James) Alarcon; stepbrother, Dan; step-sister, Mari Takagi; 9 gc.; and brother, Kosei. Takano, Yoneko, 88, Alhambra, Jan. 10; survived by daughter, Fumiko; son, Robert (Marta); sisters, Yoshiko Meguro, Masako (Mae) Oseki and Misako Hirata; brother, Leo Meguro; and brothers-in-law, Tatsuro and Masahide Takano.

Takayama, Osamu, 97, Sacramento, Jan. 29; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Laura (Bill) Cass, Jennifer and Deborah (Paul) Banta and their families.

Umemoto, Fujie, 88, Los Angeles, Jan. 15; survived by wife, John (Kazuko); daughters, Fay; 4 gc.; brother, Saburo (Enko) Inagaki; sisters, Lachi Fujita and Haru (Shigita) Ota; and sister-inlaw, Marie Imahara.

In Memoriam - 2006-2007

US Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Rokuro "Fuzzy" Shimada Passes

U.S. Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Rokuro "Fuzzy" Shimada passed away on Feb. 8 in Greenville, N.C., of heart failure.

Shimada was a leader in the sport of bowling to Japanese Americans. The San Francisco native shared his knowledge as an instructor and promoter throughout California and helped organize the National Japanese Americans Championships where he won 13 titles in 43 years of participation.

Elected into the former ABC Hall of Fame in 1997 in the Pioneer category, Shimada was an accomplished bowler who was barred from American Bowling Congress membership because of the organization's Caucasian-only membership rule that was in effect prior to 1950.

He was the first Asian American to roll a 300 game in organized play, but it was not recognized because of the Caucasian-only rule.

He joined the Professional Bowlers Association in 1959 and competed in occasional PBA events until his mid-70s. He also competed in the short-lived National Bowling League (1961). A memorial service will be held Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th St., San Jose, CA 95112. He is survived by his wife, Bennie, and son, Steve.
NOTE OF THANKS
(Continued from page 1)

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and a former member of the U.S. Army's Occupation Forces. "It was a very emotional thing for me."

He immediately photocopied the letter and passed it around to his fellow vets at a Japanese American Veterans Association meeting later that same week. The note's warm message soon had many of the Nisei men tear up.

"I was very touched that children of Lost Battalion men would visit the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. ... to leave a warm and caring note of thanks for saving their father," said Terry Shima, a 442nd veteran and JAVA executive director. "I am in touch with the children of at least six Lost Battalion men and they all have said, 'if it weren't for the courageous Japanese Americans we would not be here today.'"

A Journey of Two Sisters

Since the Hardwick sisters had left no phone numbers or e-mails on their note of thanks, the JA vets were at first hard pressed to locate them. But soon they realized these were the same two sisters who had recently contacted some of the 442nd vets at a Japanese American veteran's reunion of the 442nd veterans in Honolulu. They hope to be able to finally convey their thanks-you in person.

"We were fulfilling a wish of our dad. It was always his dream to find them," said Janet. "And we were fulfilling a wish of mine. To think them for what they did, so our father could come home."

The Rescue of Sgt. Bill Hardwick

Janet was just two years old when her father set off to fight in the Vosges Mountains during WWII. And like many military men, her father Bill spoke little of his wartime experiences upon his return, except for one particular story.

"My father spoke sparingly of the war but one story he told often was about the 442nd," said Janet. "He always believed the 442nd ... were handpicked. They were the only ones who could save them."

Bill often told his family about being stranded in the Vosges Mountains for a week after several failed rescue attempts; of seeing the men of the 442nd battle their way up the hill to fight off the Germans; and of finally being rescued by the heroic JA soldiers. He also told them about sharing a cigarette with one of those JA soldiers on that desolate mountain, a man whose name he regretted never finding out.

"Our father would tell us how [the 442nd] kept fighting until they reached him ... of how grateful he was to them," said Janet. "He said there was no success until the 442nd came."

Although injured during the battles of WWII, Sgt. Bill Hardwick did come home to his sweetheart Pat with whom he would enjoy a 30-plus year marriage. He would also go on to have a long career in public service, ultimately serving as a state legislator in his hometown of Indiana.

"If it wasn't for the 442nd we would never have known [our dad]," said Janet, who continues to tell her father's stories to her children and grandchildren. "It would have been a travesty if he hadn't come home."

Coming Full Circle

In January 2006, Janet and Susan lost their mother Pat. Shortly after the funeral Janet and Susan were going through their mother's old things when they found some photo albums and her dad's wartime journal. Memories of the 442nd seemed to jump off the pages and it was at that moment the sisters began their journey to locate the JA vets.

"Our mom always talked sentimentally about those guys (the 442nd)," said Susan.

The first 442nd veteran the sisters were able to find was John Hayashi. His name had appeared in a local newspaper article and after some digging, Janet found a photograph and decided to give him a call. It turned out to be the person they were looking for and Hayashi soon put the sisters in touch with other 442nd vets. The Hardwick sisters' efforts to thank the JA soldiers have not only touched the veterans but their children too.

"I am so very touched and heartened by the Hardwick Sisters' sincere efforts to locate 442nd RCT Japanese American soldiers, who participated in rescuing 'The Lost Battalion,' especially since my dad suffered near mortal wounds during that campaign," said Carol Akiyama, daughter of 442nd vet Mickey Mokuo Akiyama. "On behalf of their remarkable father and families, the Hardwick sisters have lovingly expressed words of heartfelt appreciation, for which my dad and I are grateful."

In the summer of 2008 the sisters are planning to attend the final reunion of the 442nd veterans in Honolulu. They hope to be able to finally convey their thanks-you in person.

"It has been a really wonderful experience for both of us," said Susan, adding with a smile, "I think [our dad] probably knows what's going on."