



'Nidoto Nai Yoni'

Bainbridge Island is set to remember the 65th anniversary of the WWII removal of JAs.

COMMUNITY PAGE 5



Another Kariya

Move over Paul Kariya, your brother Martin is on the rise.

SPORTS PAGE 7

'Tre' Romance

Eric Byler's third film explores love and betrayal.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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The Date is Set

1st Lt. Watada's second Court-martial trial is slated for July 16.

NATIONAL PAGE 3

MAR. 16-APR. 5, 2007

The Legendary Nisei Racers

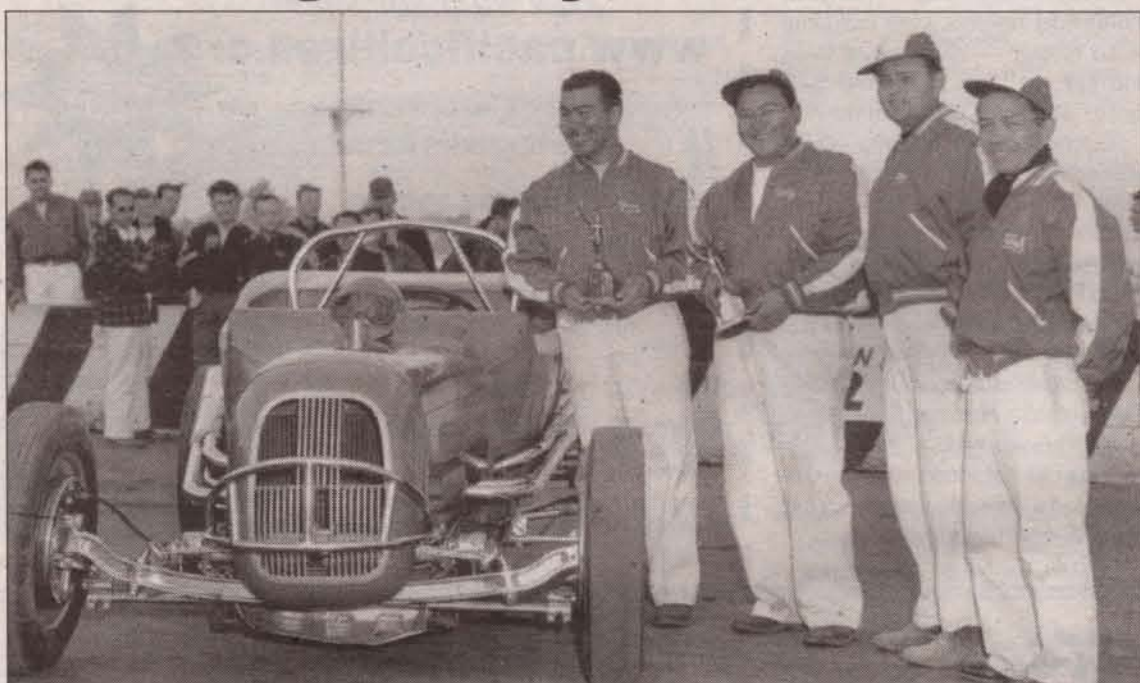


PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLY PARKS NHRA MOTORSPORTS MUSEUM

The Oka brothers display their 'Best Appearing Car' award at Carrell speedway in 1948. Pictured above (l-r) Yam Oka, Harry Oka, Tom McLaughlin, and Chickie Hirashima.

Nisei hot rod racers of the 1920s and 1930s made their mark in a racing world surprisingly free of discrimination.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

California's Murdoc Dry Lake was the place to be for the hot-rodders of the 1920s and 1930s. On the dry, flat lakebeds that stretched for endless miles stripped-

down Fords and Chevys would be pimped for showcasing while adrenaline junky hot rod drivers would compete for the fastest clocked speeds.

Here is where the legends of racing were born, including famed Nisei racers like Yam Oka, Tsuneo "Tunney" Shigekuni, Frank Morimoto, Danny Sakai, and Takeo "Chickie" Hirashima. But like the thick dusts of the lakebeds, the stories of their record setting speed times and their innovatively modified roadsters

See NISEI RACERS/Page 6

A League of Their Own

Scrapes, dislocations and some good old-fashioned competition — a Boston area Asian flag football league takes the recreational sport to another level.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

They've played through intense heat, rain and seven inches of snow. For the members of the Boston Asian Football League (BAFL), the elements don't stand in the way of a good game.



PHOTO: VAL MAUN

Young APAs battle each other on the field in a Boston league.

"It's war out there every weekend," said Binh Nguyen, a commissioner and founder of BAFL, the first Asian Pacific American flag football league created by three young APAs in 2005 who just wanted to play the game.

What started out as informal weekend outings to the park has

See BAFL/Page 6

SPRING CAMPAIGN Keeping the P.C. Competitive

By GIL ASAKAWA
Pacific Citizen Chair

I don't know what the weather is like where you live, but here in Denver, it's almost 70 degrees, and gorgeous. That combined with the new, earlier launch of Daylight Savings Time,



See CAMPAIGN/Page 2

A Newfound Friendship Ends in Tragedy

On a mission to locate the heroic 442nd vets who saved their father during WWII, the Hardwick sisters found a friend in veteran Jim Tazoi. Sadly he died in a tragic car accident less than a week later.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

The three-page handwritten note along with the pamphlet-sized book Susan Hardwick found in her mailbox one recent Saturday morning was the saddest of ironies. The package was from 442nd veteran Jim Tazoi, an 87-year-old Nisei from Utah she had recently befriended. Earlier that same

See FRIENDSHIP/Page 4

Community Groups Work to Place a Mark of History on a Little Known WWII Camp



Tuna Canyon Detention Center's mess hall circa 1933.

During the turbulent war years, the Tuna Canyon Detention Center imprisoned hundreds — mostly Issei men — labeled as 'enemy aliens.'

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

For three years during World War II, a chain link fence topped with barb-wire enclosed the open grounds of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Tujunga, Calif. and separated Issei men from their families.

Sumi Shimatsu was 13 and a half when she stood five feet away from the fence to peer at her father, photographer Tokiji Utsushigawa, on the inside of the Tuna Canyon Detention Center.

See TUNA CANYON DETENTION CENTER/Page 12

Eddy Zheng Returns to the Free World

'Everything is beautiful,' said the community leader who was released from Yuba County Jail into a supervised program.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

After spending 21 years behind bars Eddy Zheng, a convict turned community youth educator, caught his first breath of freedom on Feb. 27 after he was released into a supervised program to await his deportation to China.

"I walked straight out onto the street and into an immigration



PHOTO COURTESY ANMOL CHADHA

rights protest ... it was so sudden. One minute I was in jail and the next I was in the free world," said Zheng, 37, to the Pacific Citizen from his parents' home in Oakland,

See ZHENG/Page 4



JIM TAZOI

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CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

seems to herald the arrival of Spring
 with certainty — and I welcome it!

Springtime is also when the
Pacific Citizen has launched for sev-
 eral years its Spring Campaign,
 which raises funds that go directly to
 the operational budget of the P.C. It's
 the time of the year when you, the
 faithful readers of the P.C., can show
 your support for the award-winning
 newspaper.

I've said it before: The P.C. is per-
 haps THE most familiar link that
 most JACL members have to the
 organization.

Many of you don't attend chapter
 meetings or events; don't go to bi-
 district and tri-district meetings; or
 pack up the family for a week's
 worth of JACLing at the national
 conventions. Believe me, I know —
 it's hard when you have busy lives.

Many of you, on the other hand,
 are deeply involved and are integral
 to the ongoing operations of JACL at
 local and national levels. That's
 great! JACL needs both types of
 members.

Whether you're one type or the
 other, we all believe in the mission of
 JACL, and protecting the civil rights
 of all people in the U.S.

All JACL members are all con-
 nected through the *Pacific Citizen*,
 the newspaper that's been the voice
 of the organization since the start.
 It's the one way we all learn about

what's happening at the national lev-
 els of JACL, and what's happening
 across the country that affects our
 civil rights and the civil rights of oth-
 ers.

Unfortunately, many of the issues
 that affect us simply are not covered
 in the pages of the "mainstream"
 media. That's why the P.C. is so
 important. It brings you the news
 that other sources don't, or can't.

And in the past year, the P.C.'s
 newsprint version has been
 enhanced with the addition of the
 Web site at www.pacificcitizen.org.
 If you haven't visited the site, you
 should.

It's just been redesigned to a sleek,
 clean, professional layout, and the
 small and hard-working staff of the
 P.C. has been updating it with cool,
 multimedia features, even including
 video footage — the kind of thing
 you just can't get in the old-fash-
 ioned "dead tree" version of the P.C.

It's chockfull of the best of the
 print edition (not every story is post-
 ed on the Web site, so the P.C. can
 remain a powerful reward of mem-
 bership), and it's a gateway to other
 Asian Pacific Islander Web sites, and
 of course, to the Web sites of various
 JACL chapters.

You can even submit your Spring
 Campaign donation online using the
 secure form provided. If you'd rather
 do it the old-fashioned way, you can
 download a printable form to fill out
 and snail-mail in with your donation.

Either way, you're showing your
 direct support for the P.C.'s efforts to
 modernize and provide the best of its
 content to users over the Internet.
 Once again this year, the money
 raised during the Spring Campaign
 will go towards the Web site; the
 new design in fact is the result of last
 year's Spring Campaign.

It's an exciting time for online
 media, with many new emerging
 technologies and features becoming
 available seemingly every week. To
 remain competitive, and to make
 sure its Web site can become known
 worldwide as a reliable and credible
 source of news and information
 about the JA and APA communities,
 the P.C. needs your help.

Please show how much you
 appreciate the hard work of the P.C.
 staff — they're maintaining the Web
 site without having added new per-
 sonnel, and they've always met their
 national budget figures — and how
 much you appreciate that the news-
 paper, and now, the Web site are
 your lifeline to the JACL and its
 important work.

Thanks in advance! ■

*Gil Asakawa is the chair of the
 Pacific Citizen's Editorial Board,
 author of "Being Japanese
 American," and writes a blog at
 www.nikkeiview.com. His day job is
 director of content for
 Examiner.com.*

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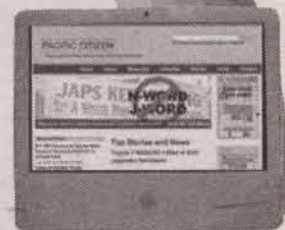
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Letters to the Editor

Reader Chastises AsianWeek's Eng

In the Feb. 23 issue of *AsianWeek*,
 Kenneth Eng wrote, "Why I Hate
 Blacks." Eng lacks life experience
 and possesses little knowledge of
 U.S. history to be allowed a platform
 for his ignorance. His own preju-
 dices have been generalized to
 demean African Americans, to
 whom the Asian American commu-
 nity is indebted.

We, as Asians, have endured
 much the same discrimination for
 decades that black Americans have
 suffered for centuries in this country.
 Their travail is familiar to us, and we
 share their pain. African Americans
 have destroyed many social barriers
 and eliminated discriminatory laws
 which have allowed Asians and
 other minorities to enjoy and prosper.
 Too bad Eng does not under-
 stand the sacrifices and contributions
 of African Americans.

Fred M Ige
 Downey, CA

Watada's Dilemma

While I support 1st Lt. Ehren
 Watada's protest on how the war in
 Iraq was started, I do not feel that
 this justifies his refusal to deploy to
 Iraq. If a fireman finds that a house
 has been set on fire by an arsonist he
 should protest the arson but he is still
 obligated by his profession to help
 put the fire out.

Motives for the current war in Iraq
 are different from those used to start
 the war. Having destroyed the exist-
 ing government, the current goals
 are to hopefully establish a stable
 democratic government.
 Unfortunately, the Islamic insurgents
 want otherwise and the Sunni and
 Shites are adding fuel to the fire in
 their power struggle.

Anti-war protesters try to equate

the situation to Vietnam, but each
 war is different. The way the war
 was started should be protested, but
 protesting the war at this time is only
 helping the insurgents and hindering
 redressing the mistakes made.

Pulling out of Iraq without resolv-
 ing the situation would be like
 throwing the Iraqi people to the
 dogs.

James Inashima
 Woburn, MA

Korean War Vet Supports Watada

I am a Korean War veteran. I was
 sent to Korea during the height of the
 Korean War in August 1950.

I have long agonized over the
 stand taken by 1st Lt. Ehren Watada.
 What if I was in his shoes, what
 would I be doing? Then, I remem-
 bered a lesson on leadership from
 my high school social studies class.
 Abraham Lincoln once said: "To sin
 by silence, when he should protest,
 makes cowards of men." I therefore
 owe Lt. Watada a salute because I
 believe he is practicing what I
 learned years ago.

In the Korean War, the message
 was simple and clear: North Korea
 invaded South Korea. The U.N.,
 including 21 member nations, must
 help South Korea repel the
 Communist North. The objective of
 the U.N. was accomplished in three
 years. Today, the South is prosper-
 ing, and the North is a "basket case."

In the war in Iraq, the message is
 confusing. We need 1) to "liberate"
 Iraq, 2) a "regime change," 3) to find
 weapons of mass destruction, 4) to
 fight those who caused "9/11," 5) to
 "democratize" Iraq, 6) to fight in
 Iraq, so that we don't need to fight at
 home, and 7) to help the Iraqis settle
 their "civil war." Today, after four
 years, over 70 percent of the Iraqis

don't want us there and we're not
 sure what we are doing there.

I read once the book, "The
 Uncertain Trumpet," written by
 General Maxwell Taylor. In it, the
 heroic general wrote that if the lead-
 ership fails in leading, the mission is
 sure to fail. Sadly, President Bush is
 failing in his leadership, and the war
 in Iraq is failing.

If I see Lt. Watada today, I'll salute
 him and sadly say to him: "There by
 the grace of God, go I."

Edgar A. Hamasu
 Via e-mail

Watada Is One of Us

Army veteran Leo H. Hosoda
 (P.C., Feb. 16-Mar. 1) in rebuke of
 1st Lt. Ehren Watada declares that
 the latter displayed lack of "strict
 military discipline" and that it was a
 major basis for the 442nd RCT's
 superior "performance and success."
 It has been my impression and expe-
 rience that it was a minor factor inas-
 much as discipline is second nature
 to a Japanese, national or Nikkei.

During my long journey with the
 442nd I recognized that we respond-

ed to and were reinforced by cultur-
 al memories, especially from a
 medieval past, e.g. code of the samu-
 rai, real or imagined. Such memories
 have been a common experience of
 emigrant lives.

Moreover many of us in the 442nd
 regarded our families in the concen-
 tration camps as hostages, a version
 of Sankin-Kotai. Although the
 brooding was infrequently uttered or
 discussed within the Regiment, it
 was in our hearts and minds.

War is now an anachronism,
 President Bush notwithstanding, a
 failure of diplomacy and misunder-
 stood historical and cultural differ-
 ences. We need more than ever
 before, Lt. Watada. He is one of us.
 Is JACL another anachronism?

Eji Suyama
 Ft. Meade, SD

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 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 limita-
 tions, 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.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff

First National Asian American Theater Festival to Run in June

NEW YORK—The first ever National Asian American Theater Festival is kicking off in the Big Apple June 11-24. The event will feature performances from more than 25 APA performing arts companies and solo artists from across the nation.



The festival will celebrate the important contributions Asian American artists make to the cultural landscape of the nation.

Second Man Pleads Guilty in Attack on Asian Teens

NEW YORK—A second man has pleaded guilty to a hate crime for the racially motivated beatings of two Asian American teens who were attacked last August.

Paul Heavey, a 21-year-old college student, and 19-year-old Kevin Brown were driving early Aug. 12, 2006, when they spotted another car driven by Reynold Liang with three APA friends as passengers.

Cursing and spewing racial insults, they slammed their car into Liang's white Lexus. When Liang pulled over to check his car for damage, Heavey and Brown began pummeling Liang with a metal automobile steering wheel lock.

Heavey pleaded guilty March 9 to two counts of third-degree assault as a hate crime. He faces five years probation and 75 hours of community service.

State House Passes Bill to Increase Unmarried Partner Benefits

HONOLULU—Same-sex partners and family members who live together could receive similar health benefits as married couples under a bill passed March 8 in the state House.

The bill extends state and county health coverage to couples who aren't legally allowed to marry. The measure passed by a 34-6 vote, with 11 representatives absent. It now advances to the state Senate.

The measure was proposed as a replacement for legislation that would have allowed gay couples to enter into civil unions.

Survivors of WWII U.S. Firebombing of Tokyo Sue Japanese

TOKYO—Survivors of the U.S. firebombing of Tokyo during World War II and bereaved family members sued the Japanese government March 9 for \$10.3 million, alleging it did not assist victims in the aftermath.

This is the first group lawsuit of its kind seeking damages from a wartime air raid in Japan, Japanese media said. The raid on March 10, 1945, incinerated wide areas of the capital and killed 100,000 in a single night of fire.

The 112 plaintiffs in the lawsuit allege the government did not provide aid to raid victims and accused Japan of starting the war and inviting the attack by refusing to surrender.

AsianWeek's 'Why I Hate Blacks' Columnist is Fired

SAN FRANCISCO—The writer of the controversial *AsianWeek* column was fired in late February.

AsianWeek Editor-at-Large Ted Fang said at a community meeting that the paper is cutting its ties with 22-year-old Kenneth Eng, whose recent piece "Why I Hate Black People" caused an uproar across the nation.

Eng's controversial column appeared in the Feb. 23 edition of the 27-year-old *AsianWeek*, which considers itself the "voice of the Asian American community." On a March 5 appearance on "The Big Story with John Gibson," Eng said he was not sorry for his column.



State Programs Could be in Jeopardy

LANSING, Mich.—Eight of 45 state programs or statutes reviewed could be in jeopardy or in need of changes because of a new state law banning some public affirmative action practices, according to a report adopted March 7 by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

They are connected to the state's department for Spanish speaking affairs, women and minority business owners, foster care and special needs adoptions, higher education and collective bargaining programs.

Proposal 2, approved by voters in November, bans the use of race and gender preferences in university admissions and government hiring. The law took effect Dec. 23.

Honda Introduces Bill Supporting Korean Victims of Immigration Fraud

Washington, D.C.—Rep. Mike Honda introduced HR 1397, a piece of legislation that would provide relief to a group of Korean victims of immigration fraud.

Many victims and families are still suffering the consequences of an immigration supervisor who accepted \$500,000 in bribes from immigration brokers in exchange for green cards that he later illegally authorized.

The supervisor and four immigration brokers were convicted of participating in this green card scam, which affected 275 Korean immigrants. This bill would prevent this type of injustice. ■

Watada's Second Court-martial Set for July 16

By MELANTHIA MITCHELL
Associated Press

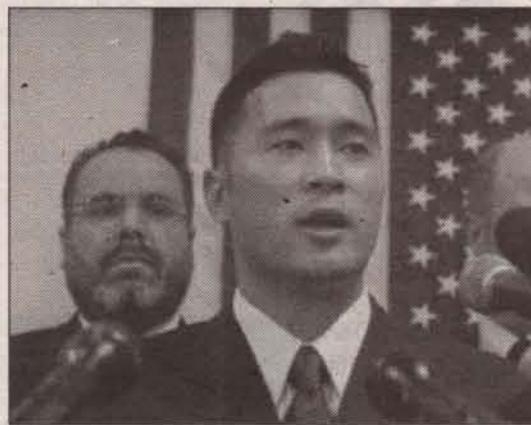
SEATTLE—A second court-martial is scheduled to begin July 16 for an Army lieutenant who refused to go to Iraq with his Fort Lewis-based Stryker brigade and spoke out against the Bush administration.

The first military trial for 1st Lt. Ehren Watada ended in mistrial after three days when the judge said he didn't believe Watada fully understood a pretrial agreement he'd signed and that would have cut his sentence to four years.

On Feb. 23, the Army refiled charges of missing movement and conduct unbecoming an officer — the same charges Watada, 28, had initially faced. If convicted, Watada could be sentenced to six years in prison and be dishonorably discharged.

Pretrial motions have been set for May 20-21, with the court-martial scheduled to begin the week of July 16, according to the office of Eric Seitz, Watada's Honolulu-based lawyer.

Seitz has said he will seek to have the charges dismissed as a violation of the Constitution's protection



against double jeopardy. On Feb. 28, he said he would likely file motions by April.

He said he and Watada still hope to reach some sort of an agreement with the military, but as of yet have had no communication with the Army, other than an e-mail listing the court dates.

"Our understanding is that they want to continue with this and we're happy to oblige," Seitz said.

Prosecutors would not comment on the case, said Fort Lewis spokesman Joseph Piek. However, recently he said that double jeopardy was not a factor in the case because Watada's first trial "had not reached a position of finality."

"As far as I'm aware we are mov-

ules.

The conduct unbecoming an officer charge against Watada accuses him in four instances of making public statements criticizing the Iraq war or President Bush.

Watada has acknowledged making the statements and missing a June deployment with the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which is currently in Baghdad. Just before the mistrial was declared, he had planned to take the witness stand to argue that his motives were to avoid committing war crimes by participating in an illegal war.

Watada is currently assigned to an administrative position at Fort Lewis. ■

Filipino American Veterans Lobby Congresswoman for Benefits



Filipino veterans helped honor Sen. Daniel Inouye at the 2004 JACL Honolulu Convention's Vets Luncheon.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens of Filipino American veterans of World War II are lobbying for legislation entitling them to the same benefits as the American soldiers they fought with side-by-side against the Japanese.

They also asked U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono recently to support legislation that would enable the aging former soldiers to quickly bring their sons and daughters to the United States.

"We're growing old every day and we don't know what will happen tomorrow," said veteran Jose Vizconde Basug, 81, explaining why he and his comrades need help urgently.

The men fought as guerrillas to resist Japanese troops who invaded the Philippines, then a U.S. commonwealth, in 1941.

Hirono vowed to champion their cause, saying she hoped Congress would pass both measures this year.

"You've waited way too long," Hirono told veterans and their wives, about 60 people in total. "I'm really hopeful that this year, you're

going to be able to get some justice."

Filipino American veterans have pushed for decades to obtain immigration rights for their children and the same access to benefits as other World War II veterans.

They've had some victories over the years, gradually winning benefits promised to them long ago. In 1990, Congress passed a bill allowing thousands of veterans in the Philippines to immigrate and become U.S. citizens. Burial rights in national cemeteries came a decade later.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed a bill making Filipino American veterans in the United States eligible for the same federal healthcare other American veterans receive.

But problems have remained, such as immigration laws that conspire to keep the families of Filipino American veterans apart.

To fix that, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka has introduced a bill that would allow children of Filipino veterans to be considered for immigration outside the quota for visas for Filipinos.

Hirono plans to introduce a com-

panion bill to the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Bill in the House.

Akaka first introduced the bill last year and the Senate passed it after attaching the measure to its immigration reform legislation. But the Senate and House couldn't agree on a compromise bill, and the legislation was never enacted.

The benefits bill has also had trouble making it through Congress.

Family-sponsored immigrants from the Philippines have the longest wait times in the world before they're allowed to obtain visas because of the large number of applicants. The average wait for Filipinos to receive a visa is 20 years.

About 200,000 Filipinos served in World War II.

Art A. Caleda, president of the Hawaii chapter of World War II Filipino-American Veterans, said there are about 7,000 Filipino American veterans in the United States, including some 2,000 in Hawai'i, who don't receive the same pension benefits as their American counterparts. There are another 18,000 in the Philippines, he said. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Gary Yamauchi Takes Oath of Office as City of Alhambra's Mayor

Alhambra City Councilperson **Gary Yamauchi** has taken an oath of office as the city's new mayor.

Elected in November 2004, Yamauchi also runs one of the largest independent vending service businesses in Southern California, Tri-Star Vending. The company's success led it to being named "API Business of the Year" of the 49th Assembly District. Through his association with Father Gregory Boyle of Homeboy Industries, his company also won the distinction of Homeboy's first-ever "Employer of the Year" award.



Nguyen is Head of the Calif. State Lottery

Linh Nguyen, 33, of Sacramento, has been appointed chief deputy director for the California State Lottery. He has served as deputy director for business planning for the California State Lottery since 2006.

Nguyen previously served as chief of the Office of Strategic Planning and Oversight at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from 2004-2006.

UCSF Names New Chief of Gynecologic Oncology

John K. Chan, MD, assumed the post of the new chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the UCSF School of Medicine.

As chief of gynecologic oncology, Chan will oversee all of the division's clinical, research and educational activities.

Chan is currently on faculty at Stanford University. Also a clinical and translational scientist, Chan recently has focused his research on ovarian cancer.

Secretary of Labor Chao Honored with the National Legislative Award



The League of United Latin American Citizens recognized Secretary of Labor **Elaine Chao** at its 10th Annual National Legislative Awards Gala.

The Legislative awards were established to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support issues important to the Latino community. Attendees included members of Congress, ambassadors, federal officials and Hispanic leaders to honor the award recipients. ■

ZHENG

(Continued from page 1)

Zheng is waiting for the Chinese government to issue travel documents for his repatriation, which could happen in weeks or years. He was released from the Yuba County Jail into the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Intensive Supervisory Appearance Program, which requires Zheng to wear an ankle monitor, check in with ICE officials regularly and abide by curfews.

These are minor inconveniences in exchange for freedom. On the second day of his release, Zheng used the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system to get to San Francisco; he watched the Chinese New Year parade make its way down the street and he took a walk around Oakland's Lake Merritt.

"Everything is beautiful," said Zheng, who cited his biggest challenge adjusting to life outside of bars is keeping up with the technology. He has a cell phone and is slowly navigating through e-mails and the internet.

Prior to this victory, Zheng had waged a largely unsuccessful series of courtroom battles for his freedom. Zheng, who has a green card, also fought hard to stay in the country that wanted him to leave.

Last July, a U.S. immigration judge ordered Zheng's deportation for a crime he committed while he was in his teens. ICE asked for travel papers from the Chinese embassy, but they had no record of Zheng and needed time to research. By law, the government has 90 days to deport someone. After 90 days, the government can release a person from custody, said Zachary Nightingale, Zheng's attorney.

On Feb. 1, the Department of Homeland Security rejected Zheng's release, so Nightingale proposed a deal: they would withdraw their appeal if Zheng were to be released into a supervisory program to await a response from the Chinese government.



Eddy Zheng takes in the sights and sounds of the city he left behind over two decades ago. (Left) He attends the recent San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade.

PHOTO: ANMOL CHADHA

"We are still appealing the underlying deportation order at the Ninth Circuit — that could continue for at least another year," said Nightingale.

The journey to freedom has been long for Zheng, who immigrated to Oakland on a green card in 1982. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, any non-citizen — even one with a valid green card — is subject to deportation if convicted of crimes as minor as shoplifting.

In January of 1986, when Zheng was only 16 years old, he along with two friends broke into a home, robbed and held the family hostage. He was tried as an adult and pled guilty to 18 felony counts to receive a sentence of seven years to life.

In jail, Zheng started to turn his life around. From his cell, he earned a college degree and petitioned for Asian American studies in the prison system. His work won him the support of Asian Pacific American community leaders including Congressman Mike Honda and civil rights legend Yuri Kochiyama.

In July 2005, Zheng managed to find love. He married Shelly Smith, a U.S. citizen who volunteered at the prison. Smith told the P.C. that she was really happy to hear the news of her husband's release. They don't live together currently because the government has restricted Zheng to the 20-mile area around his parents' home, which is his last known address before going to jail. Smith lives in nearby Marin County and visits regularly.

"We talk every day," said Zheng.

He doesn't know what tomorrow is going to bring, but he is "going

with the flow" and not wasting any time before working with the community.

Zheng has already committed to two speaking engagements at the University of California, Berkeley to talk to young APAs about the importance of grassroots movements and justice.

He's also received job offers, but his dream is to start a nonprofit organization to help APA youth. During his two decades in prison, he saw the number of young APAs in prison skyrocket — he wants to keep them off of the path he has traveled.

Young APAs are still trapped under the model minority myth and rarely receive the support they need, said Zheng, who also wants to help APA prisoners and give them alternatives to violence.

According to Zheng, young APAs equate success and happiness to money and prestige. It's the same mentality that made him commit crimes two decades ago.

But these days, he counts his life as a success.

"I consider myself the richest person in the world. I'm healthy. I am free. I have unconditional love. You can't beat that," said Zheng. ■

A Homecoming Party

Celebrate Zheng's release with community members and supporters.

March 31, 7 p.m.

Space180

180 Capp St.

San Francisco, Calif.

For more information:

www.eddyzheng.com

FRIENDSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

morning Susan had learned of Jim's tragic death in a car accident.

Just one week before Jim's package had arrived, Susan, 61, and her sister Janet Hardwick Brown, 64, had begun a friendship with the World War II veteran. For the past several months, the Hardwick sisters have been trying to locate members of the 442nd to thank them for rescuing their father Sgt. Bill Hardwick, a member of the "Lost Battalion." Jim was one of the dozen vets they have managed to find so far.

"It crushes me. I would have loved to have met him," said Susan from her home in Indiana a few days after learning of Jim's passing. "He sounded so wonderful, his contributions to our family and the great contributions to his community."

After a recent story appeared in the *Pacific Citizen* about the Hardwicks' efforts to locate the 442nd, Jim and his younger brother Taichi Tazoi decided to try to get in touch with Janet and Susan. Taichi, who lives in Anaheim, Calif. began exchanging e-mails with the Hardwick sisters Feb. 25 and would relate all the messages by phone to his older brother.

Jim had even sent an autographed book about his life to the sisters with the hope that they could continue corresponding and eventually meet.

Tragically, Jim was killed March 2 while parking his car at a restaurant to meet his son. His wife Kimiko suffered serious injuries but is currently recovering from the accident.

"He was my best friend ... it really hurt me," said Taichi, 81. "My older brother was so nice, he had class."

In late February, Taichi contacted the Hardwick sisters via e-mail. "Janet was the second person I had ever e-mailed," he said. In one phone call to Jim, Taichi mentioned that Janet and Susan had found an oral interview on the Internet Jim had done a few years back.

"I told my brother, 'Now the sisters know how ugly you are,'" Taichi said with a sad chuckle. We were like that, he said, always joking around with each other.

Unfortunately, Jim never got to meet the Hardwick sisters.

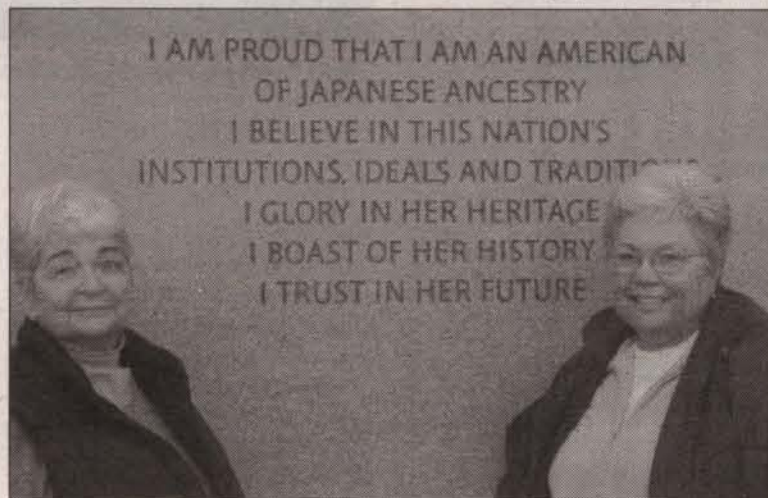
"He wanted to meet them so bad ... the feeling was so mutual too," said Taichi. "Now the meeting will have to be in another place."

Janet, who lives in North Carolina, felt a profound sadness in learning of Jim's death. "We feel [the family's] loss so deeply. We loved Jim dearly even though we only knew him for a short time."

In Jim's last letter to the Hardwick sisters dated Feb. 28 he talks about his experiences fighting in the 442nd and of being on that same mountain where their father Sgt. Hardwick

'It crushes me. I would have loved to have met him.'

— Susan Hardwick (below, right) with sister Janet



was eventually rescued.

"It was like finding a needle in a haystack," Jim writes, and indicates his interest in speaking with the sisters further. "I would love to hear from you and Janet. Maybe a phone call."

Jim had been in the National Guard prior to WWII and decided to volunteer for the famed 442nd Regiment soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On Oct. 27, 1944, Jim set out to the Vosges Mountains along with his fellow Japanese American soldiers to rescue the men of the "Lost Battalion."

On Oct. 29 Jim was shot twice, once in his left chest just above the heart, and would have to be hospital-

ized for eight months. Although the doctors were able to save him they were unable to take out all of the shrapnel that had entered his body.

In an interview with KUED Jim recalled: "I've still got a couple of pieces of shrapnel lodged in my hip and one piece of shrapnel about the size of a quarter and another about the size of a dime ... It's been 60 years now and I think I still carry those two pieces of shrapnel."

For his heroics, Jim was honored with the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Cross of Valor from the Italian government.

"Jim was certainly, absolutely a

hero," said Janet. "He was humble, brave, he almost doesn't believe he has done anything extraordinary, but he did."

After Jim was discharged from the Army, he met and married his longtime sweetheart Kimiko and had three boys.

"We at JACL express our deepest sympathy for the loss of a model husband and father," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "It is the courage that he displayed that allows the Japanese American community to hold their head high and participate as fully as we do in the democratic process. His legacy is a part of all of us and will remain for future generations."

Taichi hopes to keep in touch with the Hardwick sisters, especially because it meant so much to his older brother.

"I'm sure I'll stay in contact," he said.

For Susan and Janet, the short time they spent getting to know Jim has meant a lot.

"Anytime we actually contact someone who helped rescue our father, the feeling is indescribable. How do you say thank you?" said Janet. ■

To read about the Hardwick sisters' efforts to locate the 442nd veterans: <http://www.pacificcitizen.org/content/2007/national/feb16-aoyagi-stom-hardwick.htm>

CASIC Announces Internship Program

The Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE) recently kicked off its 2007 California Asian American Student Internship Coalition (CASIC) Leadership Academy program.

CASIC is a comprehensive leadership program which trains graduating high school seniors and college students to become future leaders through an intensive eight-week leadership program. This program provides a stipend of \$1000 per intern, upon satisfactory completion of the program. The CASIC Leadership Academy runs from June 25 to Aug. 17.

As part of this eight-week academy, CASIC Leadership Academy participants will receive an internship placement in the offices of elected officials throughout Southern California, participate in the Annual Legislative Leadership Conference in Sacramento, actively engage in civic issues and develop leadership skills through collaboration on a group research project focused on APA issues, register new voters and participate in local APA community events. In addition, interns participate in weekly seminars led by political, community, business and media leaders, who serve as guest lecturers.

Serving as chair of the CASIC program is Ben Wong, Regional Public Affairs Manager for the League of California Cities and former Mayor of the City of West Covina.

"The generous ongoing commitment of the Los Angeles Lodge of CACA (Chinese American Citizens Alliance), CAUSE, and other many other community organizations over the years has allowed CASIC to positively influence over 100 past student interns, many of whom are actively involved in their communities," said Wong. "One of the primary goals of CASIC is to train and educate our next generation of leaders, and it's great that we already can see the fruit of the seeds we have planted."

The deadline to submit an application for this summer's program is May 25. College students and graduating high school seniors in good standing are encouraged to apply. The CASIC Leadership Academy application brochure and application can be downloaded online at www.causeusa.org in the programs section.

For more information or to request the brochure and application by phone, contact the CAUSE office at 626/356-9838. ■

65th Anniversary Ceremony of First JAs Sent to WWII Internment Camps and Tour of Bainbridge Memorial Set for March 30

By Pacific Citizen Staff

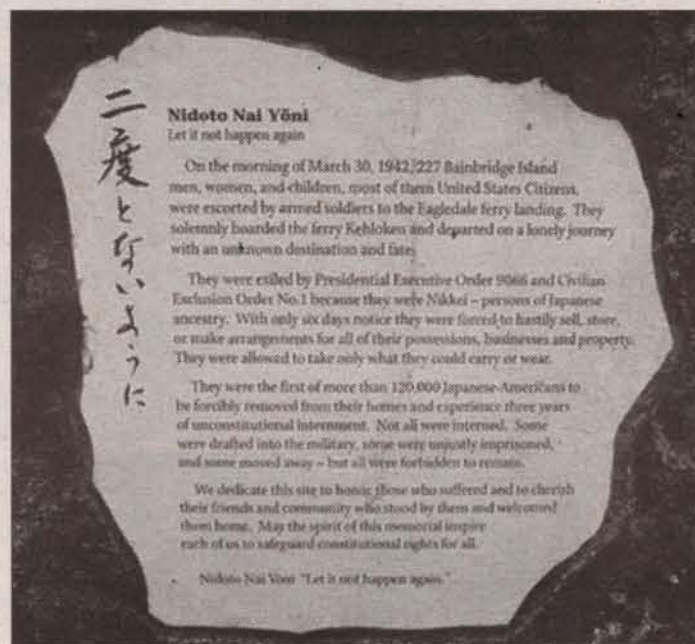
The first Japanese Americans to be forcibly removed from their homes and sent to World War II internment camps came from Bainbridge Island, Washington. In total, 227 JA residents left the island on March 30, 1942.

This year is the 65th anniversary of that fateful day and a special ceremony will take place on March 30 at the site of the former Eagledale ferry landing. In addition there will be a public tour of the first phase of construction for the Bainbridge Island Nikkei Memorial.

In 1942 Bainbridge Island JAs were given six days to gather only what they could carry and were taken by U.S. Army soldiers to the Eagledale ferry landing. From there they boarded the ferry Kehloken and headed to the internment camps where they would be joined by 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Participants for the March 30 65th anniversary ceremony will include former JA Bainbridge Island residents who were interned; former Governors Gary Locke and Mike Lowry; former Secretary of State Ralph Munro; and various community members.

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously



passed the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007 on Feb. 6. The bill — sponsored by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Bainbridge Island — would make the Bainbridge Island "Nidoto Nai Yoni — Let it not happen again" Memorial site a satellite unit of the Minidoka Internment National Monument and part of the National Parks Service.

The measure awaits action by the U.S. Senate and President Bush.

To date, the memorial project has raised more than \$2.4 million — \$1 million for land and \$1.4 million for

development. The first phase of construction was completed this year. The second phase — a 227-foot long stone-and-wood story wall, one foot for each Nikkei who lived on Bainbridge Island at the outbreak of WWII — will begin construction this year.

Future phases include a 5,000 sq. ft. interpretive center and a 150-foot long departure pier, one foot for each Nikkei who returned to Bainbridge Island after WWII.

Parking is extremely limited at the ceremony site. Carpooling is strongly requested. Free bus service



An artist's drawing of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument (above). The monument will feature the "Nidoto Nai Yoni" plaque (left).

directly to the site will be provided by the Bainbridge Island School District. For information, contact Clarence Moriawaki at 206/855-9038 or clarence.moriawaki@mail.house.gov. ■

Information:

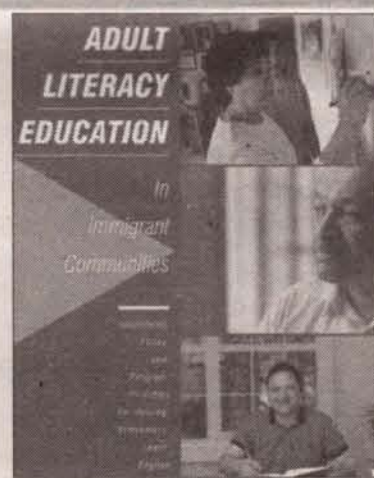
- Ceremony and public tour of memorial — March 30, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the site of the former Eagledale ferry landing
- Open house and Reception — March 30, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., Bainbridge Island City Hall

Asian American Justice Center Releases Groundbreaking Report on Adult Literacy Education in Immigrant Communities

With interest in the pressing need to improve programs for English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOLs) at an all-time high, the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) has released a comprehensive report detailing strategic investments and approaches that can transform this critical educational arena.

"A number of demographic, economic and social factors have converged to dramatically underscore the need for both the private and public sector to increase research and support for the full range of effective ESOL programs," said AAJC President and Executive Director Karen K. Narasaki.

"The inability to speak English fluently is a powerful barrier to attaining jobs that pay a living wage, economic advancement, citizenship and the opportunity to vote. It is imperative that we invest in improv-



ing the quality and quantity of delivery of such programs."

The report, "Adult Literacy Education in Immigrant Communities: Identifying Policy and Program Priorities for Helping Newcomers Learn English," was published with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and

draws heavily on testimony from more than 50 ESOL practitioners and experts from immigrant, adult literacy, education, labor, business, government and faith-based groups.

Irene Lee, senior associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, noted that increased immigration, poorly funded ESOL programs, and a severe lack of understanding of their necessity by lawmakers and the public at large are at the heart of the problem.

"Stronger networks for information sharing are needed to build supportive communities that strengthen families — and effective communications strategies supporting ESOL programs and the development of ESOL programs are a key to implementing this effort," she said. "We also need to develop private sector support for ESOL programs."

Cecilia Muñoz, vice president of

the Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation at the National Council of La Raza, which contributed to the study, noted that four million American citizens stand to benefit from ESOL programs.

"Interestingly, a significant portion of this population consists of native-born Americans — including Puerto Ricans, Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives and Native Americans."

"Adult Literacy Education in Immigrant Communities: Identifying Policy and Program Priorities for Helping Newcomers Learn English" can be downloaded at http://www.advancingequality.org/files/AAJC_Adult_Literacy_Education_report.pdf or printed copies of the report can be ordered by contacting Pang Houa Moua at 202/296-2300 ext. 122 or pmoua@advancingequality.org. ■

Japanese High School in Sweetwater Graduates Final Class

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SWEETWATER, Tenn. — Japan's first accredited high school in the United States graduated its final class and will be closing after years of slipping enrollment attributed to heightened security after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Tennessee Meiji Gakuin High School is a three-year private academy founded in 1989, mainly for children of Japanese industry executives who moved to the U.S.

The boarding school, with an emphasis on English language instruction, was housed at the 144-acre site of a former military academy and is now up for sale.

Twenty-six seniors returned from

Japan this week for the March 9 graduation ceremony after completing their courses in December.

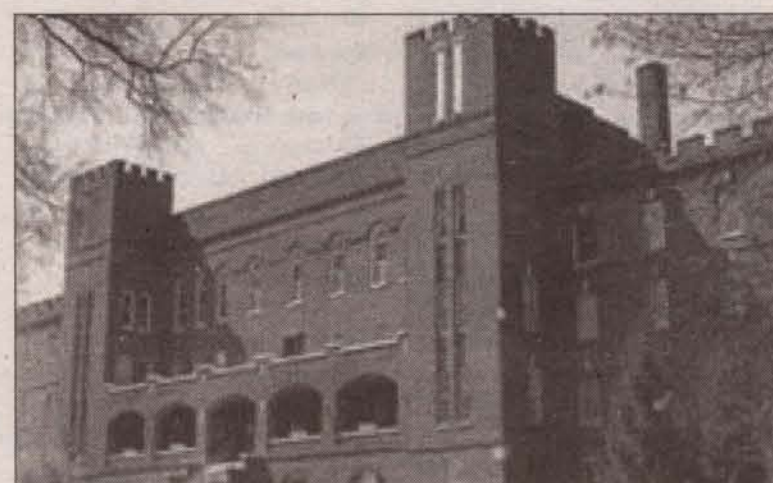
They reflected on how their education in the rural hills about 40 miles southwest of Knoxville.

"The first year was difficult because we were always fighting," Mayu Tezuka, 18, said. "But the last year was (the) happy life."

Sachi Tomimatsu, 18, said the quiet, pastoral setting of the school became so comfortable that she was bothered by the crowds and noise of her native Nagasaki.

"I'm sad because no more Japanese (students) can experience this kind of thing," Sachi said.

Their education at Sweetwater prepared them for "a global way of



life," said Machiko Tezuka, Mayu's mother. "That's a very good experience for them."

The school once had a peak enrollment of 194 students, but

administrators said it dropped after Sept. 11. Visas became harder to obtain and more Japanese parents were reluctant to send their children overseas. The school's board of

directors decided in 2004 to close the school with its final class.

A closing ceremony and gathering for students, parents and staff took place March 10. The school is leaving a monument to the city in thanks for the hospitality of local residents.

The students' spirit "was nurtured here in Sweetwater ... from the local people to the teachers," English teacher Hiromasa Okamura said.

More than 160 Japanese companies, including Nissan Motor Corp., employ about 40,000 Tennesseans. In January the Japanese government announced its plans to move its long-time consulate from New Orleans to cover Japanese interests in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. ■

NISEI RACERS

(Continued from page 1)

have largely been swept away and forgotten, until recently.

From his earliest childhood memories, Tom Shigekuni, 77, of Torrance, Calif. recalls his older brother Tunney always being surrounded by his beloved roadsters and his racing buddies like the renowned Vic Edelbrock, Sr. and Bobby Meeks. As a 10-year-old kid Tom would follow his older brother around their garage as Tunney worked on his cars and modified his engines.

"I was always there watching and listening. I learned a whole lot about engines, about racing. Tunney was always around Vic Edelbrock, Sr. ... they did everything together," he recalled. "I don't know what it was [about racing] but Tunney was always involved with the sport."

Nisei Mas Okumura, 87, idolized the legendary Nisei racers of the 1920s and 1930s and he himself headed to Murdoc Dry Lake shortly after World War II. With his partner Shoji Yamada they would set a number of records in the late-50s with their 1944 Ford V-8 in the gas coupe and sedan class. The Russetta Timing Association clocked their highest speeds at 122 miles per hour.

"When I got out of the service I hopped-up every engine I could get my hands on. I've worked on a Model-T since I was 12. I got my driver's license when I was 14 years old," said Mas with a chuckle from his home in Mar Vista, Calif. "I've always liked mechanical things."

Writer Tom Madigan spent over eight years researching the story of the Nisei racers and recently published his piece in *The Rodder's Journal*. A former editor of *Hot Rod* magazine, Madigan came across their story while researching another book. He was amazed to see so many Japanese names in the racing record books from the 1930s.

"I was very interested in the internment. I tried to visualize losing everything, instantly." For the Nisei

racers, "one day they're on the dry lakes just normal guys racing then the following day they're the enemy," he said.

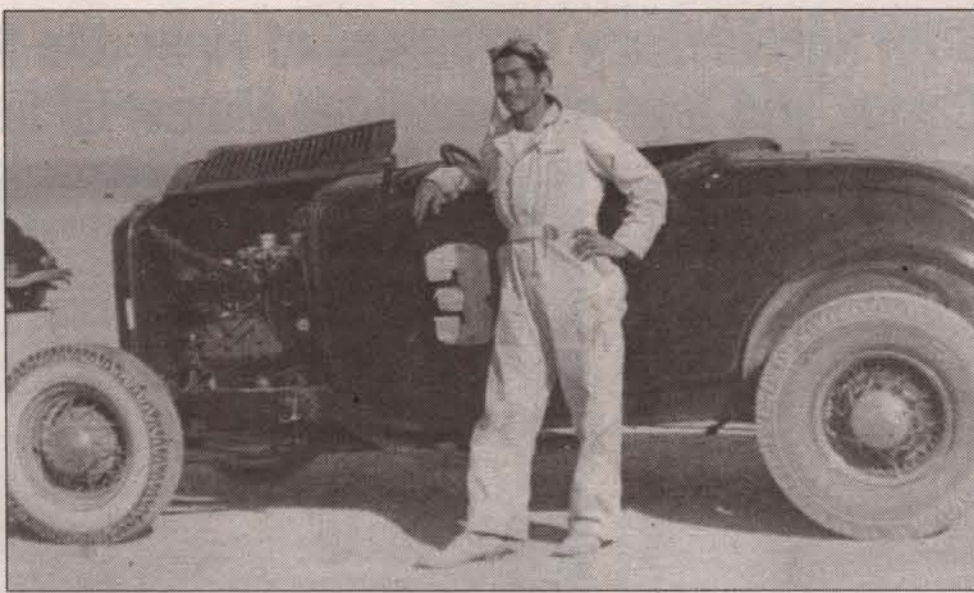
In their day-to-day worlds the Nisei racers faced the anti-Japanese sentiment prevalent in those early days but on the dry lake beds they were treated as equals. Fellow racers didn't care about the color of their skin, only that they had the cars and the speed to compete with the best.

And in an era where people were very conscious of race, many of the JA racers were members of prestigious racing clubs like the Road Runners, the Throttlers, and the Screwdrivers Club.

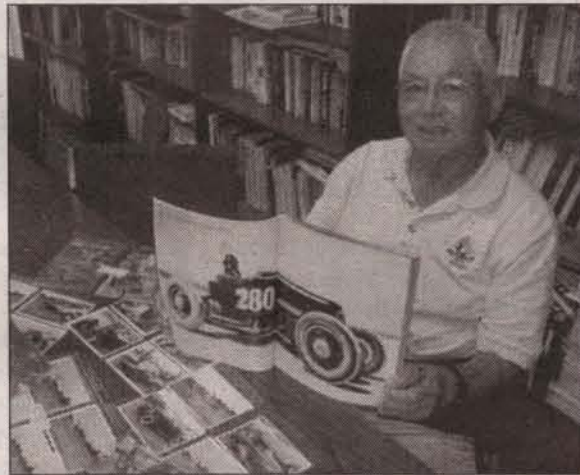
"The Nisei had no problems getting into the best racing clubs," said Tom, whose brother Tunney was a member of the Road Runners. "Bad things were happening but this group of people was supportive of the Nisei. All that mattered was racing. They didn't care what you looked like."

"There was no prejudice on the dry lakes. Everyone raced and everyone was friends. JA racers were just good racers. If you're a racer, you're a racer. At the dry lakes that's all they cared about," said Madigan.

With the world facing the prospect of another World War, the U.S. military took over Murdoc Dry Lake and the racers were banned from racing in the area in November



TOP PHOTO: EDELBROCK MUSEUM



Tsuneo 'Tunney' Shigekuni (above) poses with his Ford V8. Seeing the old photo brought back a lot of memories. "I remember helping him with that car," said his younger brother Tom.

Mas Okumura (left) headed to California's Murdoc Dry Lake shortly after WWII and set a number of racing records.

1941. With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor the following month the JA community would be forever changed.

Tom, Tunney, and their family were rounded up like the other JAs and sent off to WWII internment camps. The Shigekuni family would end up in Amache, Colorado.

Still, the racers did their best to stick together.

Vic Sr. watched helplessly as his good friends were sent off first to the Santa Anita Assembly Center and then Amache. On one of his visits to Santa Anita, Vic offered to take care of and maintain Tunney's precious 1941 Mercury racing engine. When the Shigekuni brothers came home after four years, the engine was still as good as new.

"During the whole evacuation time [Vic] took care of it. He agreed to turn [the engine] every few weeks

or so," said Tom.

Some of the Nisei racers sacrificed their lives and volunteered to serve in the U.S. military during WWII. Nisei racers Yam Oka, Hirashima, and Morimoto were a part of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. military history.

At Morimoto's funeral this past May, his grandson Andy Seshiki spoke about his grandfather's love of cars and racing.

"As a young man in the early 1930s, his passions were fast cars and his girlfriend Yuri. He owned a 1927 Ford Model-T, which he worked on at every opportunity. He modified the engine in order to earn bragging rights for the fastest hot rod on the Murdoc Dry Lake race beds ... Even in his later years, his lifelong love of cars remained strong. At

the age of 87, grandpa purchased a hybrid Honda and joined an electric car club."

After the War many of the same Nisei faces could be seen racing on the dry lakes and the newly popular circular tracks of Southern California. Racers Oka and his brother Harry, Fred Ige and Hirashima simply continued where they had left off.

The Nisei drivers also furthered their racing careers. Hirashima would use his masterful skills as a mechanic to earn his way to an Indy 500 win. In 1960, he was the crew chief for driver Jim Rathmann when he took the coveted prize. Hirashima passed away in 1980 and was inducted into the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame in 1998.

Nisei racer Larry Shinoda became a renowned car designer, helping to create the 1963 Corvette Stingray, the z/28 Camaro and the Boss 302 Mustang. Many today may not know Shinoda by name but they know his cars.

Mas Okumura kept up his interest in racing after serving in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII. As soon as he came home he hopped-up his four-cylinder Ford Model-A and headed to Murdoc Dry Lake, winning a number of first place finishes.

Eventually, Okumura turned his love of cars into a business and opened up his own wheel alignment shop in Santa Monica, Calif. — "Samo Wheel & Brake" — and his son continues to operate it today. Whenever a hot rod is brought in, his son calls him to come and help work on it.

"We were all comrades [on the Dry Lakes]. We were just buddies," said Mas about his racing days. "There was no discrimination during all those years. It was just a bunch of good guys." ■

Tom Madigan's article "The Nisei Racers" is currently in *The Rodder's Journal*, issue number 35. For more information, www.rodder-sjournal.com.

BAFL

(Continued from page 1)

mushroomed into a full-fledged league of about 300 players on 13 teams all vying for their team names to get permanently etched onto the BAFL trophy. Each player on the winning team also receives individual trophies and bragging rights, of course.

This isn't backyard football — the rules are strict, the competition is intense and injuries are guaranteed. In flag football the plays usually stop when a player's flag is yanked off, but in BAFL's world it's a full contact sport where players push and throw each other to the ground. Last season, Nguyen, 32, dislocated his shoulder and Val Maun, another commissioner, got 12 stitches.

"We aren't a bunch of yahoos running around, we're serious ... we have Gatorade stands," said Maun, 27.

Their fourth season started March 11 and promises to be the most competitive especially after one team last season was caught sending a cousin to videotape an opposing team's practices and games.

No one is more intense than the founders: Nguyen, Maun and Kaz Niimi.

"You know the movie 'Remember

the Titans' and how the coach talked the players to tears? It's like that. They'd huddle [and say] 'We've got to win this! No one can tell us we can't win.' It's very spirited," said Naomi Tokko, another BAFL commissioner and Nguyen's girlfriend.

The Beginning of Beantown Football

The idea for an organized league was born out of frustration.

"We would call up everyone to come out and play some tackle football, but because they weren't committed, only four people would show up and we would have to cancel the game," said Maun, a graphic designer and freelance photographer.

Obviously the players needed discipline, so they drafted up strict league rules, including a "death penalty" clause that prohibited teams from forfeiting games without severe penalties. Weight requirements were instated (120-pound minimum) because no one wants to see a 90-pound high school kid scrimmaging with a 230-pound engineer. And since it's an APA league, the rules limit the number of non-Asians on the field to two per team.

"If you don't follow the rules you're not just disrespecting the team, you're disrespecting the

league," said Maun.

To promote the new football league, they made flyers to distribute at universities and boba shops. The reactions they received were always positive.

"We step out there for the love of the game," said Maun.

And yes, the league is co-ed, but there are currently no women signed up to play, even though Nguyen knows some "badass" women who would excel.

"It's too rough for girls," said Tokko. "There's a lot of hitting and falling and scraping of the knees."

But so far, she is the only girl to catch a pass.

"[Nguyen] said, 'Go straight. Go five yards and turn left.' I was like, wait what's five yards? Your left or mine?" said Tokko, who caught the pass on her second try. "It was very nerve wracking. They always threaten to throw me in again."

For the Love of the Community Too

In the Boston area, the APA community is growing rapidly and BAFL's popularity has given the commissioners the opportunity to give back. They are planning on donating \$2,000 from membership dues (\$40 per person per season) to the Asian American Boston Film

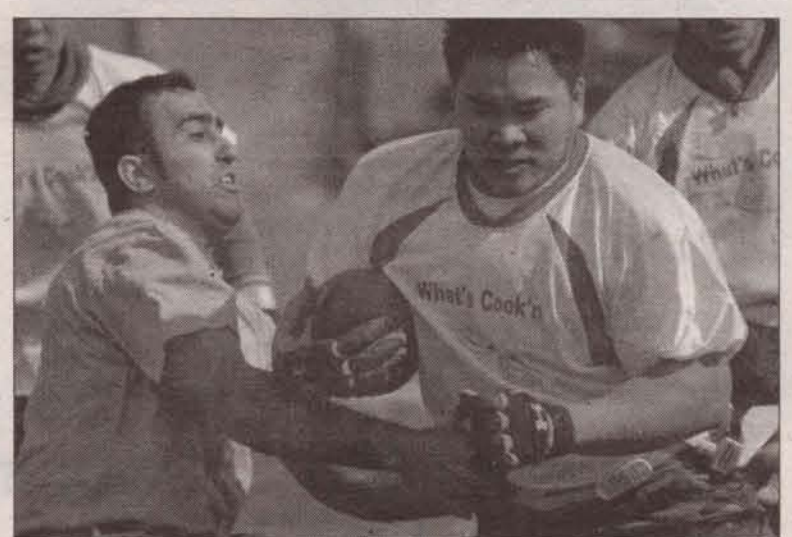


PHOTO: VAL MAUN

Ahmad Polad (left) tries to stop What's Cook'n's Mike Son.

Festival.

"We're making inroads into the community and giving back," said Nguyen. "It's an outlet for players. We have kids who are 17-18 years old, and someone who's 40. We have people from different social economic backgrounds who come here and are forced to play by the rules. It really breaks down barriers."

Since the league inception in 2005, the commissioners have seen the players mature and evolve as well.

"The first year, the teams were filled with rowdy teens. They'd yell

at each other and fight. Now those rowdy teens have matured and have taken leadership positions," added Nguyen.

Many of these teens are from tough neighborhoods and at times have difficulties conforming to rules, but on the football field, their worries melt away.

"The field is their second home," said Nguyen. "Where do these kids go if they get kicked out? They always come back." ■

For more information: www.bostonasianfootball.com

BASEBALL

Dice-K Struggles in Second Exhibition Start

FORT MYERS, Fla.—Welcome to the big leagues, Dice-K.

Boston's \$103 million pitcher with the winning smile allowed homers to two non-roster players, struggled with his control and even threw away a potential double-play grounder against Baltimore on March 11.



Daisuke Matsuzaka left after four innings with the Red Sox trailing the Orioles 4-2 and with his impressive spring training hitting its first bump.

There were no early signs that the Japanese right-hander would struggle against an Orioles lineup that had first-stringers in the first six spots.

He retired the side in order in the first — Brian Roberts on a fly ball to center and Melvin Mora and Jay Gibbons on strikeouts. In the second, he allowed a single off his glove to Ramon Hernandez, who was stranded at first.

Then Jon Knott led off the third with a homer to right-center field. Jason DuBois then hit a two-run shot in the fourth to left-center. After each batter swung, Matsuzaka turned around and stayed expressionless as he watched the ball fly over the fence.

Knott has played in 12 major-

league games, all with San Diego, and led Triple-A Portland with 32 homers last season.

Matsuzaka signed a \$52 million contract after Boston posted the winning \$51 million bid to negotiate with the pitcher, who spent the past eight seasons with the Seibu Lions.

He pitched two scoreless innings in a home game against Boston College on March 2 and three scoreless innings in a road game against Florida March 6.

But on March 11, Matsuzaka threw only nine first-pitch strikes to 18 batters. Of the 11 he faced in the third and fourth innings, only four saw strikes on the first pitch. In all, Matsuzaka threw 63 pitches, 40 for strikes.

He started the fourth by allowing a single to Miguel Tejada. Hernandez then broke his bat as he hit a hard grounder to the mound. Matsuzaka backhanded it then threw toward second. The ball sailed wide to the left of shortstop Julio Lugo, putting runners at first and third. Corey Patterson followed with a sacrifice fly.

With a 1-1 count, DuBois then hit a 90 mph fastball for his homer and a 4-2 lead. After Knott followed with a one-out single, Boston pitching coach John Farrell visited the mound and Matsuzaka retired Adam Stern on a fly ball before Knott was caught trying to steal. ■

HOCKEY

Another Kariya Wins Finnish League's Scoring Title

HELSINKI, Finland—A Canadian hockey player named Kariya won the Finnish league's scoring title for the second time in three years — and once again his name isn't Paul.

Martin Kariya, the NHL star's 25-year-old brother, finished the regular season for the fifth-place Blues of Espoo on March 6 with 18 goals and 43 assists for 61 points in 51 games.

That feat matched 29-year-old sibling **Steve Kariya's** scoring title from 2005. He had 24 goals and 35 assists for 59 points in 55 games. He was third in scoring last year.

"Steve said congratulations to me over the phone," Martin Kariya said.

"Obviously, he's very happy for me and it's something special that we both won this scoring title now. It's not that big a deal for me, but having Steve and myself engraved on that trophy is something to look back on for a long time."

Steve Kariya played briefly for the Vancouver Canucks, but Martin Kariya is still looking for a chance to join his 32-year-old brother Paul in the NHL.

"Paul is such a world class player, and he has proven that at every step he's gone to," Martin Kariya said. "He has had an unbelievable career anyone would just dream of. Steve and I would like the opportunity Paul has, but we're

'Paul is such a world class player, and he has proven that at every step he's gone to.' — **Martin Kariya** about his brother Paul

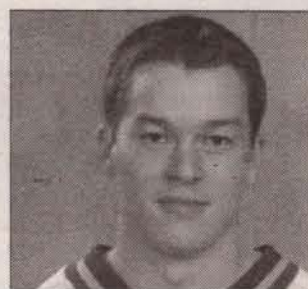


just as happy playing in Europe in these great leagues."

Martin Kariya, a forward found by the Blues in Norway, also was voted the second-best player in the league by sports writers.

Steve Kariya moved to Swedish league team Frolunda this season,

Martin Kariya (top) and Steve Kariya (right) prove talent on the ice runs in the family.



and next season Martin Kariya will move to the Zurich Lions in the more lucrative Swiss league. ■

SPEEDSKATING

Ohno Returns and Wins World Title

MILAN, Italy—Five-time Olympic medalist **Apolo Anton Ohno** returned to international competition March 9 and won the 1,500 meters at the World Short Track Speedskating Championships.

The American won with a time of 2 minutes, 33.793 seconds. Nicola Rodigari of Italy was second in 2:33.841, and Olympic champion Ahn Hyun-soo of South Korea was third at 3:22.818.

Ohno took nearly a yearlong break after winning the 500 and taking two bronzes at the Turin Games in 2006. He started training again only two months ago and won the eighth national title of his career at the U.S. championships in Cleveland last month.

At the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, Ohno won gold in the 1,500. ■



BASEBALL

Kaz Matsui Comfortable at Long Last

TUCSON, Arizona—**Kaz Matsui** is comfortable in a Colorado uniform.

"I wasn't Kaz Matsui in New York. I'm not sure why, but I wasn't the player I really am," the 31-year-old Japanese said through his interpreter.

The fourth-year veteran of U.S. Major League Baseball second baseman never lived up to the hype after signing a \$20.1 million, three-year contract in 2003 with the Mets, who



Matsui is ready for his comeback after Lasik surgery.

traded him to Colorado last summer.

After spending two months in the top-level of the American minor leagues, Matsui hit .345 in 32 games for the Rockies, compiling a .392 on-base percentage and swiping eight bases in nine attempts.

That was enough to convince Colorado to make re-signing the switch-hitter a top priority and make Jamey Carroll a utility man. It also was enough to show Matsui that he could still make it in the top level of American baseball.

So, he didn't even think about returning to Japan or going anywhere else and re-signed with the Rockies for \$1.5 million.

Along with newcomer Willy Taveras in center field, Matsui gives the Rockies something they've long lacked: speed at the top of the order.

"What Kaz brings us is dynamic speed, game-changing speed," general manager Dan O'Dowd said.

Matsui insists he's up to the task. And he thinks he's in the perfect spot, at last.

Matsui played for the Seibu Lions from 1995 until he was signed by the Mets. Colorado manager Clint Hurdle said the glare of the New

York baseball spotlight may not have let Matsui, a former shortstop, find his own place at second base in the American game.

The Mile-High City isn't the pressure-cooker New York is, and the Colorado clubhouse isn't full of big egos and bigger contracts.

"I'm really comfortable now. I like the atmosphere of the city and the team. It really fits me," Matsui said. "I also liked New York: very crowded and exciting and had so many things going on. It's just that I didn't have good results there."

To help him change that in Denver, the Rockies are working with him to polish his glove and footwork at second and to be more consistent at the plate, where he hit .299 against right-handers last season but just .119 against lefties.

He thinks offseason Lasik surgery will help him find that balance.

"It was good last year, but I need to hit more, steal more," he said.

Matsui also spent time over the winter taking English lessons. ■



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Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff

• HARRY HONDA •
VERY TRULY YOURS

Sequel: 'Letters from Iwo Jima'



THE LAST TIME this column mentioned "Iwo Jima," it was connected to an important date in Japanese American history — Feb. 19, 1942, when President Roosevelt signed E.O. 9066, that led to the Evacuation of some 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast to inland concentration camps.

On the same date in 1945, the Marines landed on Iwo Jima, some 650 mile south of Tokyo, that was the costliest Marines Corps campaign in the Pacific. What was expected to be a 14-day offensive for the force of 70,000 Americans against Japan took 36 days and ended with 5,961 killed and 17,372 wounded.

The entire Japanese garrison of 22,000 army and navy troops died in battle except for prisoners of war. The *Daily Variety* review of Clint Eastwood's "Letters from Iwo Jima" says only 216 survived.

At the All Veterans Reunion for Americans of Japanese Heritage last month, my tablemate was Beans Sogioka of Chino Hills, a WWII medic at Fort Lewis General Hospital who worked in the PW ward caring for German, Italian and Japanese prisoners of war. He brought along one of those vest-pocket Army *How to Speak* booklets, this one Italian, but made priceless with signatures in *kanji* of the Japanese PW patients from Iwo Jima.

Added was a hand-written glossary of English-Japanese terms in alphabetical order, starting with "atomic - *genshi*." Beans explained the dozen or so words really helped while chatting with the Japanese. His memorabilia was shown to others around the table: Harry Fukuhara (MIS) from San Jose, Mike Yaguchi (Iraq-Gulf-Afghanistan), Grant Hirabayashi (Merrills Marauders), both from the Washington, D.C. area, and Jimmy Kanaya (442) from Seattle.

And the final scene in the Eastwood film where the wounded Japanese PW, Saigo, lying on a

stretcher with other Americans at the beach and Bean's brown booklet made my day at this luncheon.

This past week, Hy Shishino also at the luncheon, passed a story that unfolded in the *San Jose Mercury News* of a Menlo Park resident, Miyuki Hegg, whose father survived the Battle of Iwo Jima. Brad Kava's warm story tells of the hand-written diary written by Yoshikumi Mashiyama, "a reluctant soldier ... a civil engineer who had three young children when he was drafted in 1941."

The diary tells "a tale strikingly similar to that of the movie's main

a way to find more water." He did this by engineering a system that harnessed the many small geysers to make water drinkable. He was rewarded with 3.6 liters of the kind of sake reserved for officers.

The diary tells how Japanese soldiers survived, hiding in rock-covered holes, avoiding gas and flamethrowers U.S. troops used to smoke them out. Mashiyama's hole was finally found by troops who threw candy and cigarettes, trying to get Japanese soldiers to surrender. Humiliated and expecting to be killed, he was first treated at the aid station, then shipped to a hospital in Hawaii for intestinal problems. He was down to 90 pounds, almost

dead from hunger and thirst.

Months later, he and other Japanese prisoners were taken to the mainland and across the U.S. by train and bus. That he spoke some English

'The entire Japanese garrison of 22,000 army and navy troops died in battle except for prisoners of war. The *Daily Variety* review of Clint Eastwood's "Letters from Iwo Jima" says only 216 survived.'

character, the baker Saigo. In fact, Mashiyama's writings inspired Eastwood's movie."

The reporter adds, "Mashiyama's journal depicts the evolution of a soldier blinded at first by nationalism, who grew — after seeing the horrors of war, and the lives of his American captors — into a passionate believer in democracy and internationalism."

Miyuki remembers that "when he came back, he realized the world is so big, he wanted us to see that there were other views outside Japan. And, since he 'died' once, he threw himself into contributing to his country."

What soldier Mashiyama found was even tougher than what was portrayed in the film. "Iwo Jima seemed like a sauna. If we buried a pot of rice about one foot underground, the rice would cook in about 30 minutes ... We could not last for more than 20 minutes at a time when we tried to dig trenches. Water on the island was provided only by rainfall and the Japanese army commanders offered a reward to anyone who could come up with

helped Mashiyama to meet with Americans troops.

On his 40th birthday, Mashiyama returned to Japan in January, 1946. His family was shocked that he was still alive. He encouraged his daughter to study in America. After attending college, she met her future husband, Warren Hegg, an American in Tokyo, in 1970.

TODAY, Miyuki is director of the San Jose office of the Deloitte accounting firm in charge of tax statements for those working overseas.

Warren, a journalist, met Miyuki at a party while pursuing a doctorate in Asian economic history in Tokyo. He now heads Digital Clubhouse Network, collecting interviews with veterans, many done by students and found at www.digiclub.org/sofs. Miyuki adds that her father's memoirs show, "How important it is to write things down. It's the way to pass who you are to another generation."

Certainly, "Letters from Iwo Jima" comes across as another great war film. ■

Hometown Tribute Honors Mineta; Highway 85 Could Be Renamed in His Honor



More than 1,000 friends, community members, and dignitaries held a hometown tribute for former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta in San Jose recently. Speakers included actor George Takei, Congressman Mike Honda, and Sen. Daniel Inouye. During the ceremony, Sen. Elaine Alquist and Assemblywoman Sally Lieber announced that a resolution had recently been introduced to rename Highway 85 in honor of Mineta.

The San Jose airport is already named after Mineta and after learning of the plans to rename Highway 85 he joked: "If you get a ticket on Highway 85, don't call me!"

Proceeds from the event will go towards archiving Mineta's historic papers and artifacts at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and will also benefit the Japanese American Museum in San Jose. Pictured here (l-r) are: Mineta, Makoto Yamanaka, Takei and Congressman Honda.



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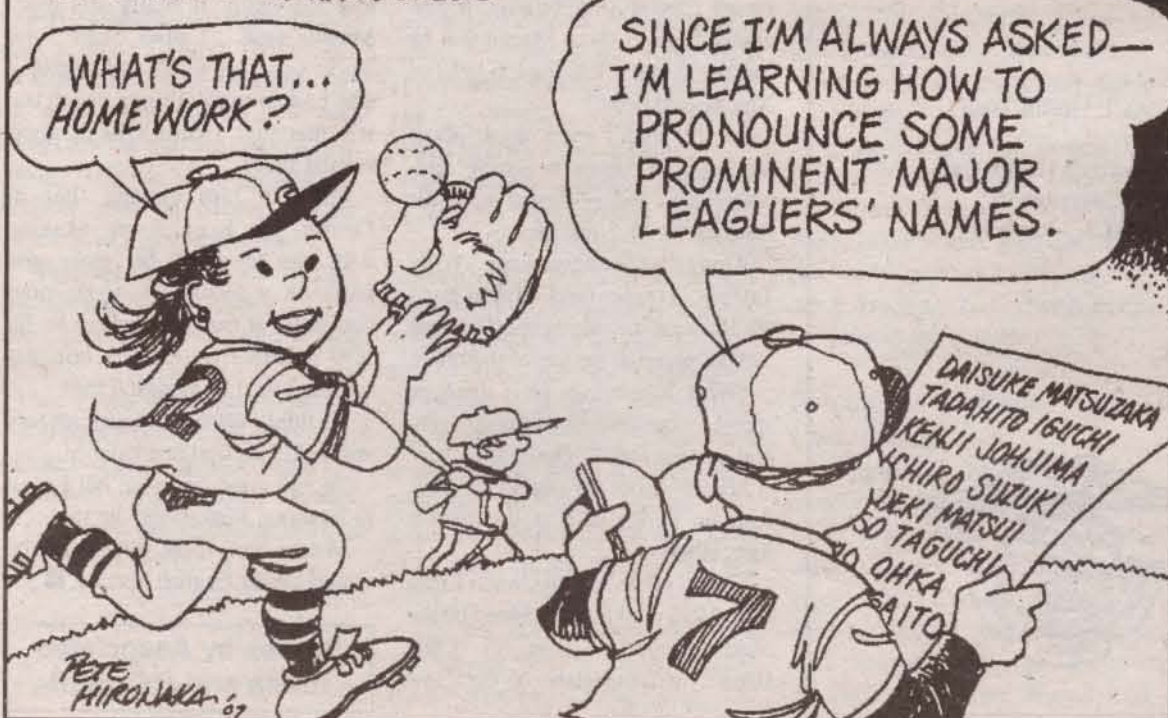
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SPRING TRAINING





FRIENDS AND ENEMIES: Kimberly-Rose Wolter and Daniel Cariaga spar in 'Tre.'

He's 'Tre' Anti-Romantic



Eric Byler picks up where 'Charlotte Sometimes' left off with a darker tale of love and infidelity.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

In Eric Byler's "Tre," it's all about the sensation of touch and the chemical reactions it unleashes. Early on, the question is posed: can you imagine someone you love betraying you with someone else for 10 seconds? So in a drug addled moment lit by a weak beam from a flashlight, Tre (Daniel Cariaga) decides to try — he touches Kakela's (Kimberly-Rose Wolter) hand and counts to 10.

The screen sizzles with currents of energy between Tre and his best friend's fiancée and the dynamics of four friends living under the same roof is forever changed.

"I wanted to capture the surprise, the discovery of attraction that sometimes comes with the sensation of touch," said Byler, 35, by phone from Washington, D.C. where he is currently leading a revolution (more on that later).

In "Tre" truth and lies slide back and forth between intersecting lives like in Byler's 2002 breakout film "Charlotte Sometimes." He calls this one a mini sequel and revisits some similar themes of love and infidelity that made his name so synonymous with controversy (remember the boycott campaign because the Asian American guy in the film didn't get the girl?).

The filmmaker, who identifies as Hapa, is inspired by truth in everyday life. You know, the kind of truth that was "inherited from the sexual revolution — prolonged periods of courtship and emotional train wrecks," he said.

"After 'Charlotte Sometimes,' I was just dying to make movies," said Byler, who has since worked on three projects he couldn't turn down: "Americanease," a PBS pilot called "My Life Disoriented" and "Tre." He also worked on a script for a Showtime miniseries called "Infidelity," which has not yet been made.

He called this period of creativity a "frenzy of kinetic energy" and "the last gasp of my 20s."

"Charlotte Sometimes" was a breakthrough, but there was another story knocking around Byler's mind — a darker version of the idyllic love formed between "Charlotte Sometimes" actors Michael Idemoto and Eugenia Yuan. He had developed a darker character for Idemoto who in the original script went closer to the edge of psychological breakdown, but the actor brought his own sense of dignity to the film that precluded the ending, so Byler threw out the last 15 pages of the script and filmed an impromptu ending.

"I was wise enough to let things develop organically and capture truth rather than fiction," said Byler. "Tre was a part of my psyche."

Tre, on the other hand, is the kind of character armchair psychologists would spend hours trying to peel away the protective layers. He is also the kind of guy you would avoid eye contact with if he were walking towards you. Tattooed and armed with an acidic tongue, he cuts down his victims and then dominates them.

"Tre is a character who always doubted that if they're worthy of love. He's aggressive and manipulative because he has an innate sense of competing for love," said Byler. "He builds up this self-doubt fortress to protect himself but in his heart of hearts, he fears that he is unworthy of love."

When Tre and Kakela touch, the tension explodes and

leads up to a surprise ending that will leave you breathless.

"At some screenings, no matter how intrusive [Tre's] questions got, people would still laugh. Then we knew that it was an audience of anti-romantics," said Byler, who again left the ending for the actor to determine.

Since "Charlotte Sometimes," APA filmmakers approached Byler to say the film influenced them to look deeper than the color of their skin and intergenerational conflicts. Byler calls it the "license to look inwards."

He will be screening "Tre" at the upcoming San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival where it is up for a Best Narrative Film award, but he will also be taking part in a fundraiser for APAs for Progress, a national organization that encourages electoral empowerment.

Byler was spurred into action by the now infamous "Macaca" slur that rolled off the tongue of then Virginia Sen. George Allen during his recent reelection campaign. The filmmaker was in Los Angeles at the time, but he returned to his home to start a grassroots revolution, which will be the subject of his next project — a documentary.

"Representation in the media is good, but representation in politics is better," said Byler. ■

'Tre'



San Francisco
International Asian
American Festival

March 17-18 & March 24

INFO: www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org,
www.trethemovie.com

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an (H)API hour fundraiser for APAs for Progress co-hosted by the Harvard B-School Asian American Alumni Association and special guests the Asian American Journalists Association San Francisco Bay Area

March 17

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\$10 suggested donation at the door

INFO: www.hapihour.org,

www.apaforprogress.org, www.aajasf.org

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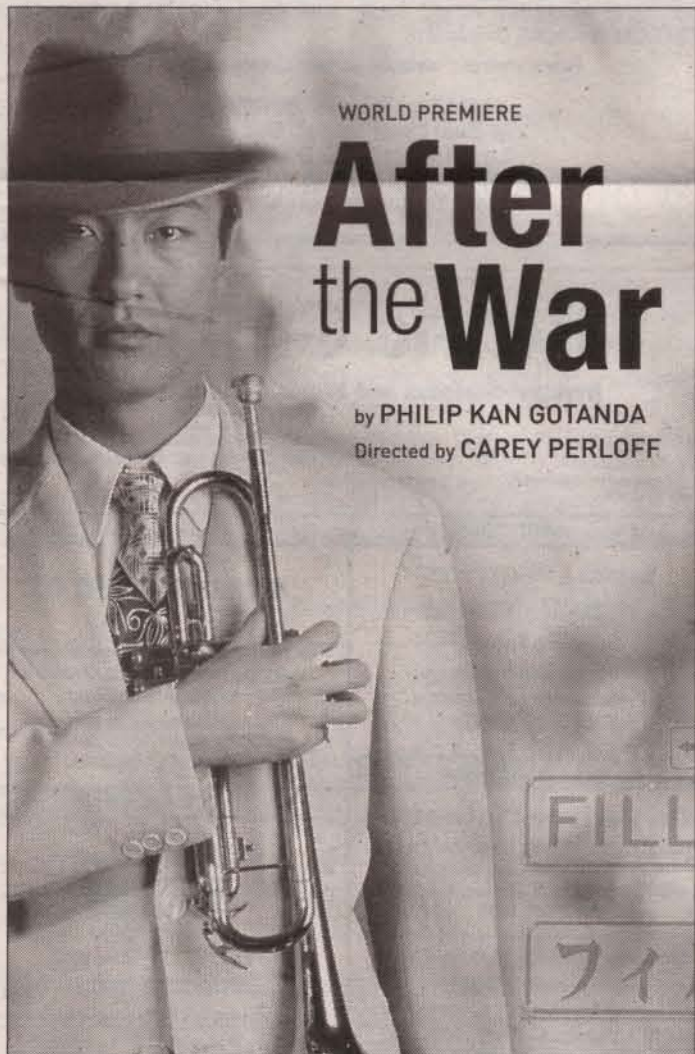
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Calendar

National

SAN JOSE

June 29-July 1—JACL National Youth/Student Conference: "Cultivating Leaders by Defining Our Roots"; Santa Clara University; conference is open to high school and college students from all over the United States; housing will be in the dormitories. Info: www.jacl.org.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wed., Sept. 12—Gala Dinner, "A Salute to Champions Gala Dinner"; J.W. Marriott Hotel; \$200/person, \$2,000/table of 10; honorees will be given awards for their work in championing the goals and efforts of the civil rights community. Info: 202/223-1240 or dc@jacl.org.

East

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Mar. 17—60th Anniversary Graduate Recognition/Installation Luncheon; noon-3 p.m.; Maggiano's Italian Restaurant, 205 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia; guest speaker, Philip Tajitsu Nash, JD, professor of Asian American Studies, University of Maryland; \$35/members, \$40/non-members, \$20/students. Info: Scott Nakamura, 610/878-2237 or Toshi Abe, 609/683-9489.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mar. 31-April 15—National Cherry Blossom Festival; 10-7 p.m. daily; Independence Ave. near 17th St. NW.
Tues., May 15—Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) 13th Annual Gala Dinner; J.W. Marriott Hotel; honoring former Hawaii Governor George Ariyoshi, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and UCLA Asian American Studies Director Don Nakanishi. Info: 202/296-9200 or www.apaics.org.

Midwest

CLEVELAND

Sat., Mar. 24—One-Day Food and Rummage Sale; Cleveland Buddhist Temple, 1573 E. 214th St. Info: 216/692-1509.

Northern California

SACRAMENTO

Sun., April 1—Parkview Presbyterian 95th Anniversary Celebration; 10 a.m.; Parkview Presbyterian Church, 727 T St.; Info: 916/443-4464 or www.parkviewpc.org.

SALINAS

Sat., July 7—Salinas Valley JACL 75th Anniversary Celebration; National Steinbeck Center. Info: Shari Higashi, 831/659-1707 or Lorrie Mikuni, 831/455-0741.

SAN FRANCISCO

Mar. 22-April 22—Play, "After the War" by Philip Kan Gotanda; Tues.-Sat. performances at 8 p.m.; American Conservatory Theater, 415 Geary St.; "After the War" is set in San Francisco as the JAs are returning from the internment camps; tickets start at \$13.50 and are available at 415/749-2228 or www.act-sf.org. Info: www.act-sf.org.

Sat., May 19—JACL Honors John Tateishi dinner; 6-10 p.m.; South San Francisco Conference Center, 255 S. Airport Blvd.; celebrate John Tateishi's 30 years of commitment to the Asian American community and as JACL's executive director and redress director; \$75/person, \$750/table of 10; black tie optional. Info: Milo Yoshino, miloyoshi@aol.com.

June 2-Sept. 9—Exhibition featuring the works of Osamu Tezuka, creator of Astro Boy; Tues.-Sun. 10-5 p.m.; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; exhibition features more than 200 works including original drawings, covers, and poster; exhibition will be the only one in the United States; \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$7/youth 13-17, free for children under 12. Info: 415/581-3500 or www.asianart.org.

Central California

HANFORD

Mar. 27-May 19—Exhibit, Tracing



Ruth Asawa holds a form-within-form sculpture. JANM is hosting an exhibition of her work through May 27.

the Silk Road with Ikuo Hirayama: Legacies of East-West Cultural Exchange; 1-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; The Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth Ave.; the exhibition features 46 of Hirayama's paintings; \$5/adults, \$3/students, members and children under 12 are free. Info: 559/582-4915 or www.shermanleeinstitute.org.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Through May 27—Exhibition, The Sculpture of Ruth Asawa: Countours in the Air; JANM, 369 E. First St.; Sun., Tues., Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11-5 p.m. and Thurs. 11-8 p.m.; exhibition highlights the work of an artist who defied traditional notions of sculpture by using non-traditional materials and hanging her looped-wire works from the ceiling instead of as a freestanding object; \$8/adults, \$5/seniors, \$4/students and children, members and children under 6 are free. Info: 213/625-0414 or www.janm.org.

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Sun., May 20—2nd Annual Pacific Southwest District Golf Tournament; shotgun start at noon; San Juan Hills Golf Course, 32120 San Juan Creek Rd.; \$115/player, \$400/foursome (must register together); entry fee includes range balls, cart, lunch, prizes and dinner; sponsorship opportunities are available. Info: golf@jacpsw.org or www.jacpsw.org.

TORRANCE

Sat., Mar. 24—Meet the Author, Joanne Oppenheim author of "Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II and a Librarian who Made a Difference"; 2 p.m.; Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Community Meeting Room, 3301 Torrance Blvd.; the author will share the personal stories she collected while researching her critically acclaimed book; copies will be available. Info: 310/618-5959 or www.library.torment.com.

Mar. 28, April 25, May 12, May 30—City of Torrance Works in Progress Programs; Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr.; Mar. 28 - Camp Dance, a play by Soji Kashiwagi, 7 p.m.; April 25 - Question 27, Question 28, a play by Chay Yew; May 12 - Citizen Tanouye, a film by Robert Horsting and Craig Yahata, 2 p.m.; May 30 - A Divided Community, a play by Momo Yashima, Frank Chin and the Resisters, 7 p.m.; \$25/adults,

\$23/seniors and students, \$21/subscribers. Tickets: 310/781-7171. Info: www.torrancelive.us.

VENICE

Sun., Mar. 18—Film screening, "Music Man of Manzanar"; 1-3 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr.; the story of Lou Frizzell, a teacher who taught music and drama to students at Manzanar High School; a panel discussion featuring Manzanar high alumni will share their experiences; included on the panel is former State Assemblyman George Nakano. Info: 310/719-2364.

Arizona

GLENDALE

Sun., April 1—JACL Annual Picnic; 10-4 p.m.; Saguaro Ranch Park, 8900 N. 59th Ave.; food, games for the kids, bingo, volleyball and caricature artist Jeff West. Info: Kathy Ikeda, 480/649-1946.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Through June 1—Exhibition, "Navigating Cultural Connections: Hokule'a's Voyage to Japan"; gallery hours: Tues.-Sat., 10-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Community Gallery, First Floor; exhibition explores the historical and cultural connections between Hawai'i and Japan. Info: 808/945-7633 or www.jcch.com.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Sept. 17-19—Manzanar High School Reunion featuring the Clubs of Manzanar; California Hotel; anyone with photos, club rosters or emblems are asked to contact Sam Ono, 310/327-5568. Info: Sus Ioki, 310/202-9199, sioki@comcast.net, Henry Nakano, 714/871-8178 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113, v.muraoka@verizon.net.

RENO

Sun., Mar. 25—Reno JACL Teriyaki Scholarship Dinner; Washoe County Senior Center; noon-3:30 p.m.; \$10/adults, \$5/children; "to go" orders available; entertainment, cultural displays and raffle prizes. Info: Sheldon Ihara, 747-3886.

Brazil

SÃO PAULO

July 18-21—COPANI XIV, PANA Convention; Hotel Blue Tree Convention Ibirapuera; convention highlights include: welcome ceremony, workshops, day trip to Registro City, Japanese Festival and sayonara party. ■

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Grace Sakamoto
- 10/30-11/13** Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days visiting Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Yonago, Kyoto and Tokyo.
Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 8-18** Yamato Tour to Okinawa & Japan - 11 days visiting Naha, Manza Beach, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Hiroshima.
Lily Nomura
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In Memoriam - 2006-2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Abe, Michihiro, 51, Lomita, Feb. 26; survived by wife, Kinuko; brothers, Keisei (Satomi) and Kazuto; and sisters-in-law, Kazue (Kenichi) Inoue and Motoko (Eiji) Takeshita.

Abe, Shizu, 100, Los Angeles, Feb. 19; survived by sons, Kazumi (Keiko) Morinaka and Jimi Abe; daughters, Nancy (George) Murata and Yaeko (Hank) Nakano; 6 gc.; and 8 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.

Adachi, Nobuko, 84, Los Angeles, Feb. 18; survived by husband, Isamu; daughter, Sharon; brothers, Isamu (Suzy) and Masumi (Mildred) Kinjo; and sister-in-law, Tae Kinjo.

Akiyama, Tom Tsutomu, 78, Torrance, Feb. 19; survived by wife, Erika; sons, Thomas, Justin, and Ron (Wendy); daughters, Nicole, Jenny Kan, Kathy (Ken) Sasaki, and Naomi (Sauron) Terrill; many gc.; and sisters, Terry Akiyama and Nancy Murakami.

Boyar, Lee "Sets," 73, Feb. 18; survived by son, Bruce; sisters, Miyo Ujiye and Kaz Nakaba; and brothers, Mas and Nob Yamashita.

Endo, Asako, 88, Santa Monica, Mar. 5; survived by husband, Hiroshi; sons, Alan (Sue) and Wayne; daughters, Marlene (John) Itagaki, Carolyn Endo-Tenorio,

and Sharon (Robin) Nakazaki; 7 gc.; 3 ggc.; and sisters, Miyo Tachiki and Chiyo Kobayashi.

Endo, Kathleen Haruye, 57, Agoura Hills, Feb. 26; survived by husband, Thomas; daughter, Cheryl; son, Keith; mother, Shizuko; sisters, Joyce (Jerry) Endo and Janet (Benson) Chin; and brothers, Kenneth and Jeffrey (Shelley) Endo.

Furuya, Rev. Kensho, 59, Los Angeles, Mar. 8; aikido master and Zen priest; established the Aikido Center of Los Angeles in 1974.

Hamamoto, Toshiko, 94, Feb. 27; survived by son, Kio; daughter, Yumiko; 2 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sister-in-law, Toshiko Terami.

Higashida, Mitsuko, 76, Los Angeles, Mar. 1; survived by son, William Motokazu; 1 gc.; and sisters, Takako (Wataru) Tabuchi and Masako (Yoshiyuki) Takata.

Ikeda, Kazumi Frank, 91, Los Angeles, Feb. 27; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Emiko; son, Steven; brother-in-law, Masashi (Dorothy) Miyamoto; and sisters-in-law, Tsuemi Ikeda and Miriam Miyamoto.

Imada, Hatsuye; survived by daughters, Evelyn (Harry) Sasaki, Jane (Jim) Kishiyama, Carolyn (Tony) Lannon and Beverly (Rick) Paderes; sons, Leonard (Mun-Cha) and Ron (Sharon); 20 gc.; and 25 ggc.

Kato, Mitsuo, 74, Arleta, Feb. 26; survived by wife, Kebo; son, Dale; brother, Takeo (Doris) Kato; and sisters, Sumko Tsuchiya and Toshiko Uyemura.

Koyama, Miya Mihara, 94, Spokane, Wash., Feb. 22; survived by daughters, June Nakata and Joan (Richard) Kiriha; 2 gc.; 5 ggc.; step-sons, David (Penny), Steven (Sudie) and John (Sharon) Koyama; and step-daughter, Linda (Mike) Toda.

Matsuda, Steve Masami, 56, Feb. 22; Vietnam veteran; survived by wife, Kim; and mother, Masako.

Matsuda, Yaeko, 96, Torrance, Feb. 12; survived by sons, Ben (Patsy) and Larry (Florence); daughters, Kathleen DeCardenas, Carolyn (Tom) Drake and Jeanne Yanai; 6 gc.; and 9 ggc.

Matsumiya, Masai "Mike," 84, Los Angeles, Feb. 21; survived by wife, Tomi; sons, Don (Yayoi) and Terry; daughter, Suzanne (James) Allen; 2 gc.; and sisters, Miki (Joe) Uyeda and Eiko (Tomio) Miya.

Matsushita, Shizue, 98, Palo Alto, Nov. 27, 2006; survived by daughters, Haruko (A z u s a) Tsuneyoshi and Sadako (Harry) Hatasaka; 6 gc.; and 7 ggc.



Mikami, Satoshi Mike, 104, Torrance, Mar. 5; survived by wife, Toshie; son, Richard (Ann); daughters, Kiyoko (Buster) Uyejo, Meiko (Mits) Inaba, Carol (Vern) Matsuura, Lynn and Shirley Mikami; 4 gc.; and 7 ggc.

Muraoka, Yoneko, 72, Monterey Park, Mar. 1; survived by husband, Tadashi; son, Sam (Ikue); daughter, Grace (Ron) Goo; 2 gc.; sister, Haruko (Hideo)

Morikawa; brother-in-law, Eiichi Koyama; and sister-in-law, Taneyo Masaoka.

Nakano, Masako, 93, Jan. 25; survived by daughters, Lillian (Jim) Takami and Jean (Dr. Arthur) Tsutsui; 6 gc.; and 7 ggc.

Ninomiya, Setsue, 94, Los Angeles, Mar. 5; survived by daughters, Linda and Sheila.

Nishi, Yoshio, 77, Orange, Feb. 23; survived by wife, Masako; daughters, Helen Templin and Ana Nishi; son, Thomas; and 4 gc.

Ohira, Ted, 82, Mar. 5; Ohira was a member of the 442nd RCT that rescued the Lost Battalion in the Vosges Mountains in 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. After the war he was active in veterans organizations and served on the Go For Broke board of directors. He is survived by wife, Chiz; son, Dr. John (Dr. Pamela Dolin) Mitamura; and 4 gc.

Ozawa, Yutaka, 80, Feb. 20; survived by wife, Sumie; brother, Harry (Tomiko); sisters, Kimiko Nakagawa and Mineko Tsutsumi; and sister-in-law, Hisami Tsuda.

Sasaki, Katherine Tsuneko, 86, Glendale, Feb. 8; survived by husband, Nobuo; and son, Raymond.

Sasaki, Masako, 91, Montebello, Feb. 23; survived by son, Harry (Kathy); daughters, Atsuko (Roy) Noritake, Miko (Hiroshi) Tanaka and Judy (Wayne) Tada; 10 gc.; and 7 ggc.

Sato, Shigeru, 79, Seal Beach, Feb. 23; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Yoshiko; son, Randy; daughters, Denise (John) Hudson, Sharon (Curt) Arakawa and Deann (Alan) Sechrest; and 6

DEATH NOTICE

KATSUJI GEORGE HASHIMOTO

Katsuji George Hashimoto, 76, passed away Feb. 23 in Vista, Calif. Formerly of Guadalupe, Calif. he is survived by brother, Tom, sister-in-law, Betty Hashimoto, nephews, Gary and Alan Handa, Dennis Kono; nieces, Darlene Mathews, Diane Springob, and Retha Handa.

DEATH NOTICE

AIKO NAKAI

Aiko Nakai, nee Kusumoto, 85, of Skokie, Ill., wife of the late Ritoda Nakai; mother of Sally (Jungo) Kobayashi, Gary (Patti), Eddy (Amy), Janet, Robert, Ronald; loving grandmother of Brian (Eureka) Nakai, Hiroaki (Ayako) Kobayashi, David (Annette) Nakai, Ric Kobayashi, Mari (Takumi) Yoshida, Kenneth Nakai, Carolyn Nakai; proud great-grandmother of Caden, Abigail, Esther, Hailee, Bethany Nakai, Hijiri Kobayashi; sister of Kiyoko Ogawa, Toyoko Kase, Saburo Kusumoto, late Takao Kusumoto; Shizu Kono and Jiro Kusumoto; beloved aunt of many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to your favorite charity. A memorial service was held Mar. 12 at Lakeview Funeral Home, 1458 W. Belmont

DEATH NOTICE

TATSUO TANAKA

Family services for the late Tatsuo Tanaka, 79-year-old Decoto, Calif.-born Nisei and resident of Gardena who passed away Feb. 19 at his residence, were held Mar. 3 at Green Hills Memorial Chapel under the direction of Fukui Mortuary. He is survived by his wife, Kozato Kay Tanaka; son, Kenneth (Akane) Tanaka; daughter, Joyce (John) Stevenson; grandchildren, Stephen and Erik Tanaka; sisters, Fusae (Hideo) Eguchi of Japan and May Harue (Stanley) Lau of Hawaii; nephew, Robert Lau, also of Hawaii and other relatives.

gc.

Sugita, Iwao Leroy "Roy," 86, WWII veteran, U.S. Army; survived by wife, Yasuko; daughters, Susan, Karen (Robert) and Linda (Frank) Mariani; 3 gc.; and siblings, Toru (Seiko) Sugita, Frankie (Hiroshi) Fukuda, Chizuko (Richard) deQueiroz.

Tajiri, Charles Shuichi, 84, Los Angeles, Feb. 26; survived by son, Kay; daughter, Susan Sawaye; brother, George; sister, May Imai; and sisters-in-law, Amy Tajiri and Fay Tajiri.

Tanji, Fukuji, 87, Orange County, Feb. 15; survived by son, Frank; daughters, Alice (Dick) Horio and Merry Jitoshio; and 2 gc.

Yamamoto, Shigeto "Fred," 91, Gardena, Feb. 25; survived by sister, Harumi Kato.

Yanamoto, Miwako, 83, Los Angeles, Dec. 16; survived

Yoshimura, Yukiye "Yuki," 82, Feb. 24; survived by husband, Sam; son, Cedric; daughter, Jeanette; brothers-in-law, Roy (Setsuko) Yoshimura and Tom Nakano; sisters-in-law, Mihoko Saito, Kazuko (Harvey) Kitaoka and Amy (Frank) Nishikawa.

Yuge, Kanji Kay, 91, Torrance, Feb. 26; survived by wife, Yukiko; sons, Steven and Kenneth (Dora); 1 gc.; sisters-in-law, Fumiko Yuge and Midori Sakamoto; and brother-in-law, Masakazu Sameshima.

DEATH NOTICE

MIWAKO YANAMOTO

Miwako Yanamoto, 83, of Los Angeles passed away Dec. 16, 2006. She was laid to rest with her parents, Ichizo and Kinko Yanamoto at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in a private interment service Feb. 24. She is survived by family and close friends: James and Karen Hirose Okada, Kenneth and Dorothy Hirose Hamada, Larisa Hamada, Jonathan Hamada; Edward, Eiko, David, Joyce, Christopher, Martha and Tina Matsuoka; Marge Wada; Yosh Hamaguchi; and relatives in Japan. Donations in her memory may be sent to: JANM, 369 E. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, c/o Florence Ochi in memory of Miwako Yanamoto.

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TUNA CANYON DETENTION CENTER

(Continued from page 1)

"We were to speak only English, which was hard for my parents because they only spoke Japanese," said Sumi, now 78. In a moment of frustration, Sumi's mom, Nobu, started speaking her native language and was swiftly silenced with a bayonet pressed against her neck.

"I said English," said the American GI.

"It was very scary, but those were the conditions at that time," said Sumi.

From 1941-43, Tokiji was one of the nearly 3,000 prisoners of various nationalities — most were Issei men — labeled as "enemy aliens" and imprisoned at Tuna Canyon to await trial.

Some prisoners were quickly cleared, returned to their families and shipped off to internment camps, but others were held for years.

Today, the rolling hills of the 18-hole golf course located at 6433 La Tuna Canyon Road speak nothing of the site's dark past and community leaders want to commemorate the history of Tuna Canyon with a permanent monument and California State Historic Landmark status.

Historic landmark designation would not affect the future use of the land, but it would provide a permanent place to remember the site's unique history. Especially now since new owners want to buy the land, tear down the golf course and build condominiums, said Lloyd Hitt, president of the Little Landers Historical Society.

From C.C.C. Camp to Prison

Starting in 1933, the site housed the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) Camp, also named "Tuna Camp." C.C.C. Camps were part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" formed to put men to work restoring and rebuilding the country. But a day after the Pearl Harbor attack, the camp was taken over by the U.S. Department of Justice and turned into a detention center for "alien enemies."

Tuna Canyon was designed as a self-governing facility to hold 200-300 prisoners at a time. There were seven barracks, an infirmary, one mess hall, one administration building and one office building. Although most detainees were Japanese, the camp also housed German, Italian and Japanese-Peruvian prisoners arrested from Southern California.

"I think [historical designation] would be helpful. It's a part of history," said Claire Nakashima, a Nisei who was 18 years old when two FBI officers took her father, Fumajiro Harada, from their Boyle Heights home in February 1942.

By the time the FBI came to their door, Fumajiro was already prepared because other Issei men had already been arrested. Fumajiro owned a farm supply store and a restaurant, but the family thinks it was his involvement in kendo that made him an FBI target.

A month later Claire, her mother Kimino, and younger brother Henry traveled to Tuna Canyon to visit their

father. Most families were not allowed to set foot in the camp, but with inside help, they were able to tour the facilities. It was a clean and well-kept facility, said Claire.

"I think he was showing us to ease our minds," she added.

Claire and her family would eventually go to Manzanar while Fumajiro was transferred to another camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"Most people didn't have a clue to what was really going on. I didn't," said Hitt. "You would expect that of those born after 1945 but even those who lived in town at the time ignored what was going on because of what the government led them to believe. People who were children at the time said that their parents told them not to look when they drove by."

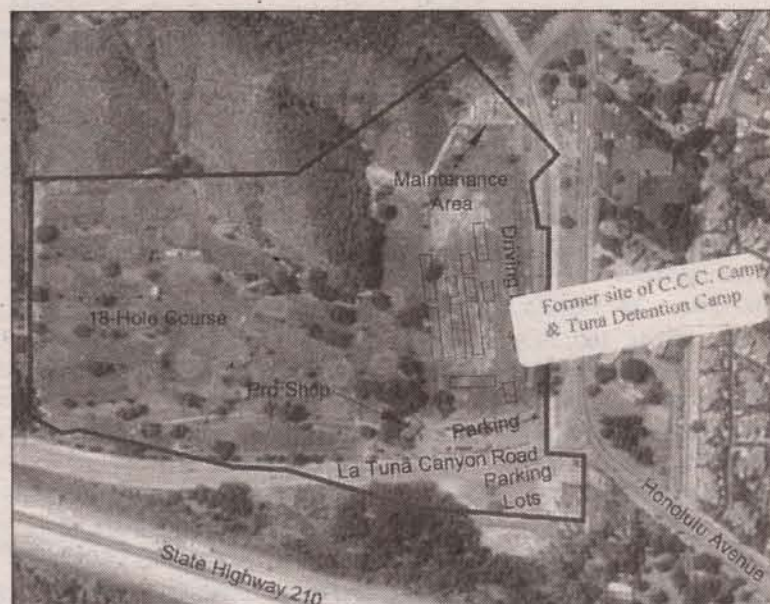
Memorializing a Grave Injustice

The Little Landers Historical Society — led by Hitt and Paul Tsuneishi — along with the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley are spearheading the campaign for historical landmark status and a permanent marker.

"I have told most people that working with state government is slow and before we approach the state government, we want to have as much support from individuals, organizations and the property owner first," said Hitt.

They've already sent out 130 letters to organizations and individuals asking for letters of support, which they will bring to the property owner. They need the owner's approval in order to file an application for historic designation.

They are also working with city



and Los Angeles County officials to negotiate the purchase of the property to keep it as a golf course. The last recorded purchase price was over \$7 million.

"The marker would remind us of our mistakes and at the same time recognize those Japanese, German, and Italians who were arrested because of their ethnicity and little else," said Hitt.

For some, the effects of injustice continue to stay with them.

Takami Sakatani was a young Issei vegetable farmer when war broke out. Days after Pearl Harbor, the FBI tried to arrest Takami, who later turned himself in and was taken to Tuna Canyon. He left behind his business, wife and children.

"I was only 12 years old and did not comprehend the enormity of what was happening," said Bacon Sakatani, a Korean War veteran. "I thought what was happening was normal for non-citizen aliens."

"After all that has been brought out about the war years and the

camp, I think the single most inhumane and unjust action taken against my family was the taking of my father to the Tujunga camp for no apparent reason at all leaving my mother and eldest brother running the farm as best they could. That ruined a lifetime of work until then."

For others, the memories are too important to forget.

After visiting her father at Tuna Canyon, Sumi, who went to Heart Mountain, saw her father for the first time a year and a-half later on Ellis Island after failing to board the S.S. Gripsholm to Japan. The reunited family went to Crystal City, Texas where they were interned together.

At Crystal City, there are two markers explaining the site's history, said Sumi, the same should be done for Tuna Canyon. ■

To write a letter supporting Tuna Canyon Detention Center's historical landmark designation, contact Lloyd Hitt at 818/951-1041 or Lamhitt@cs.com.

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