

Spring Campaign

Help fill the pot at the end of the rainbow to improve the P.C.'s Web site.

COUPON PAGE 2

www.pacificcitizen.org



Fighting Hate

A bill seeks to expand the definition of hate crimes.

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 3

Becoming Iris Chang

Friends and family members of the late author say Olivia Cheng is Iris.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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APR. 6-19, 2007

65th Anniversary

Bainbridge Island commemorates the first evacuation of JAs.

COMMUNITY NEWS PAGE 6

A Pioneering Japanese Colony to be Resurrected

Local JA groups and the American River Conservancy are working together to purchase land where the Wakamatsu Colony — the first Japanese colony to settle in North America — was established.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

In four weeks time during the first Saturday of May, Tom Fujimoto, 81, will get into his car and drive about 40 miles east of his home in Sacramento, taking an annual trip that he hasn't missed since 1970. It's a trip he feels an obligation to make.



Okei-san, a pioneering Japanese colonist, is buried on top of Gold Hill, the site of the former Wakamatsu colony, the first of its kind in the U.S.

"I was kind of curious to learn that a Japanese girl was buried at Gold Hill. It is very historical," said Tom, noting that his friend Henry Takeda first told him about Okei-san in the 1950s. "They were the first Japanese agricultural community to start up there."

He has dedicated himself to taking care of Okei-san's grave for a simple reason.

"Nobody else does it. It needed cleaning up so we volunteered. I haven't missed a clean-up since," said Tom. "I enjoy the comradeship; the same group goes up every year."

Now a group of JAs — including the Sacramento,

See WAKAMATSU COLONY/Page 12

Study Finds Census Bureau Reported JAs to U.S. Security Agencies in WWII

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Government documents show the U.S. Census Bureau provided information to U.S. surveillance agencies — including the Justice Department and Secret Service — to identify Japanese Americans during World War II, despite decades of official denials.

Historians Margo Anderson and William Seltzer discovered documents in the Commerce Department and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library showing for the first time that the Census Bureau provided confidential information like names and addresses of JAs after the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Their study, "Census Confidentiality under the Second War Powers Act (1942-1947)," was released by Anderson and Seltzer at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in New York City on March 30.

"This is another slap in the face to Japanese Americans," said Floyd

Mori, JACL national director. "During World War II, 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens, were forced into American concentration camps. Many others were immediately plucked from their homes by

the FBI and carted off to undisclosed imprisonment facilities.

"Like this recent revelation that our privacy was also violated, internment was also deemed 'legal.' In America, not all 'legal' actions are consistent with the values and freedoms enshrined in our Constitution."

According to the study by Seltzer, a senior research scholar at Fordham University, and Anderson, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Census Bureau complied with a 1943 request by the

See CENSUS/Page 5



Telling the Untold JA Stories

The JA Living Legacy organization strives to go where no other oral historians have gone before in recording the stories of the JA community.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

There may not be a sign on their door yet and asking for them by name on the Cal State Fullerton campus probably won't do you much good. But the closet full of tapes, transcripts, and photos in Susan Uyemura's office belie the treasure trove of historical information that is the Japanese American Living Legacy organization.

Within the more than 100 audiotapes and thousands of pages of tran-



Natalia Yamashiro, president of JA Living Legacy, conducts an oral history at the Japanese American Museum, San Jose with retired Judge Wayne Kanemoto (center) and his son helping with the judge's documents.

scripts lie the untold stories of the JA community: a female Military Intelligence Service (MIS) officer who made her mark during World War II; the unique friendship of two former POWs who were imprisoned together — Italian American Joseph Anello and Medal of Honor winner Hershey Miyamura; and a Japanese

Argentinean family's immigration to the United States.

Through these often-unheard voices, those behind the JA Living Legacy organization — all volunteers — hope to tell and keep on retelling these unique stories from the JA community.

See LIVING LEGACY/Page 5

An Oregon State Bill Seeks to Right a WWII Injustice

Many former JA WWII internees never got a chance to receive their college degrees before being incarcerated. Now they may finally get their diplomas.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Righting an injustice isn't the only reason Oregon State Rep. Brian Clem chose to sponsor and co-write House Bill 2823. He is dedicating the bill to his late father-in-law Hideo Suzuki.

Suzuki was one of thousands of Japanese American Oregonians who were forced into World War II internment camps. Many of them were attending local colleges and universities at the time, never getting the chance to complete their education and receive their college diplomas.

House Bill 2823 aims to right that injustice.

"This issue in general has a personal element for me. I never knew much about the internment until I started



REP. CLEM

See OREGON BILL/Page 5

AA Community Rallies Around 17-Year-Old Teen Beaten on New York MTA Bus

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Members of the New York Asian American community are rallying behind a Filipino American teen who was attacked by a group of youths for looking "Chinese" while riding an MTA bus on her way home from school, all while the bus driver allegedly stood by doing nothing.

Local AA groups are demanding that the New York Police Department look into the beating of Marie Stefanie Martinez, 17, on March 16 as a possible hate crime and are seeking accountability from the MTA, especially since the victim



claims the driver did not come to her aid.

"Ms. Martinez could be your mother, your daughter, your sister, your cousin. If Asians or Asian



Marie Stefanie Martinez, 17, was beaten by a group of teens while riding the MTA bus home from school. Now she is suing.

Americans are being assaulted on the basis of someone's perception that we 'look Chinese' then racism and hatred isn't making the distinction between whether or not some-

one is Filipino American, Hmong American, Chinese American, Vietnamese American," said Jun Zuniga, a Filipino American, who has started an online petition condemning the recent assault on Martinez.

"Our political leaders need to be held accountable when hate crimes against our community occur. We have to help steer public policy."

On March 20 two teens — a 14-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy — were arrested for the beating of Martinez by the NYPD's hate crime task force and taken into custody. The girl is currently being detained

See BEATING/Page 4

PACIFIC CITIZEN
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• FLOYD MORI •

WASHINGTON WINDOW

A Worthwhile Experience: the JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference



This year's session of the
JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership
Conference was held from
March 2-6 in Washington, D.C.

An excellent group of 15 JACL
leaders and future leaders joined
with participants of the Organization
of Chinese Americans (OCA) to
learn more about the workings of
government, current national public
policy issues, and leadership devel-
opment. They should be able to ben-
efit their JACL chapters, districts,
and the larger community through
their involvement in the leadership
conference.

Attending this year were: Cliff
Akiyama, Eric Nakano, Carl Takei,
and Brig Walker from the Eastern
District; Oren Iwanaga, Brian
Moriguchi, Nancy Takayama of the
PSW District; Susan Leedham and
Jeffrey Selby from the PNW
District; Kathy Aoki and Haruka
Roudebush of the NCWNP District;
Marsha Auchard and Dale Ikeda
from the Central California District;
Karl Endo from the Intermountain
District, and Andrew Munemoto
from the Midwest District.

The JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership
Conference is sponsored by State
Farm Insurance and was attended
throughout by Leslie Moe-Kaiser,
JACL's friend and contact at State
Farm. Leslie also presented, with the
help of some of her colleagues, a
workshop on State Farm and Child

Auto Safety.

The JACL will work with State
Farm throughout the nation to bring
greater auto safety to children and
families. The participants of the con-
ference should be able to assist with
this program in their various areas. A
free child car seat safety testing will
take place throughout the country in
May sponsored by State Farm.

The four day conference provides
an opportunity for 30 leaders and

the OCA. John recognized the value
of leaders within the JACL having
an opportunity to visit the nation's
capital to learn about public policy. It
is hoped that all participants will
bring value to their local chapters
and that some participants may
become interested in running for
public office as well.

The panelists as well as the lunch-
eon and dinner speakers are all
experts in their fields. They share a

*'The four day conference provides an opportunity for 30
leaders and prospective leaders within the JACL and OCA to
come together in the nation's capital for an intensive series of
meetings and meals with speakers intended to provide oppor-
tunities to learn about public policy, the development of leader-
ship skills, and to encourage civic participation.'*

prospective leaders within the JACL
and OCA to come together in the
nation's capital for an intensive
series of meetings and meals with
speakers intended to provide oppor-
tunities to learn about public policy,
the development of leadership skills,
and to encourage civic participation.

Originally begun as a separate
JACL event at the suggestion of
John Tateishi who had spent much
time in Washington, D.C. as the
redress director for the JACL, the
conference is now held jointly with

wealth of knowledge and wisdom
with the participants. Two of the
highlights of the conference were
dinner with Former Secretary of
Transportation and Commerce, the
Honorable Norman Mineta, and
newly elected Congresswoman
Mazie Hirono of Hawaii. There was
also an opportunity to hear from and
meet several other members of
Congress such as Reps. Mike
Honda, Xavier Becerra, Madeleine
Bordallo, and Eni Faleomavaega.

The JACL group had a separate

dinner on Saturday evening which
was joined by local Washington,
D.C. JACL chapter board members
as well as representatives of the
Japan Embassy and Japan Business
community.

Although the conference does not
generally provide sightseeing oppor-
tunities, participants were able to
visit the Kennedy Center. Most also
arrived early enough to take advan-
tage of the optional Capitol Tour
which this year was facilitated by
JACL's current Masaoka fellow,
Dana Nakano, who is serving his fel-
lowship in Congressman Mike
Honda's office, and Maya
Yamazaki, a former Masaoka fellow
who is now doing an APAICS fel-
lowship in Congresswoman
Madeleine Bordallo's office.

This is a good time to start think-
ing about next year's JACL/OCA
D.C. Leadership Conference. For
those desiring to become a partici-
pant, you might consider becoming a
member of your chapter board if you
are not already, let your chapter pre-
sident and district governor know you
are interested, and start preparing.

Each district may select two par-
ticipants and also one or two alter-
nates. If a district does not take their
two spots, an alternate from another
district may be selected. The dead-
line for governors to submit their
applicants to the JACL D.C. office
for next year will be January 15,
2008. Local deadlines will have to
be earlier than that.

Participants agree the JACL/OCA
D.C. Leadership Conference is a
worthwhile experience. ■

*Floyd Mori is the JACL national
director.*

SPRING CAMPAIGN

Support the Spring Campaign 2007

By LARRY GRANT
IDC P.C. Rep.

Have you seen it? The newly
redesigned *Pacific Citizen* Web site
has been up for
a couple of
months now.
Thanks in large
part to gener-
ous donations
from JACL
members, the
P.C. staff has
been able to get the Web site up and
running during the past year. Recently
the site was given a complete new look
and feel.

Now anyone can access many of
the *P.C.* stories on the Internet at:
www.pacificcitizen.org. Selected
stories are posted soon after the print
version is published. The site is filled
with color, links to past stories, links
to other web pages of interest, adver-
tising information, answers to fre-
quently asked questions, and even a
link to securely pay for subscriptions
and make donations online.

Last month, the *P.C.* had a story
about two daughters of a man res-
cued by the 442nd RCT who were
trying to contact veterans of the
442nd. They were successful in con-
tacting a number of them, in part due
to the *P.C.* article. The last issue had
the tragic story of how they received
a booklet from one of the vets, Jim
Tazoi, the same day they heard he
had been killed in a tragic automo-
bile accident. A thoughtful and
thought provoking article about the
N-word and J-word also appeared
recently.



If you went to the *P.C.* web page,
you were able to read these stories
soon after the print version was
mailed out. The *P.C.* has a tremen-
dous archive of past issues. Many of
the articles from 2006 are already
available. In the future, the *P.C.*
hopes to digitally archive older
issues of the newspaper.

In a college economics class we
were taught the acronym,
TANSTAAFL: "There ain't no such
thing as a free lunch." The idea is
that even if something seems to be
free, there is a cost that must be paid
by someone.

The *P.C.* is not free. The *P.C.*'s
income is from a variety of sources.
JACL members provide the bulk of
the income through an allocation
from the membership dues. Paid
subscriptions by non-JACL mem-
bers, schools and libraries and adver-
tising provide additional revenues.
Finally, for a number of years, dona-

tions during the Spring Campaign
have provided an important source
of revenue for special projects like
the *P.C.* Web site.

The *P.C.* staff has a great record of
good fiscal management and respon-
sibility. Expenses are constantly
monitored and resources are care-
fully allocated. For example, the move
of the *P.C.*'s office to Little Tokyo
has resulted in a great location and
actually reduced overall occupancy
expenses when compared with the
previous location.

While putting the *P.C.* online has
not been free, the *P.C.* staff has been
able to provide a great online prod-
uct at a much lower cost than would
normally be expected by taking free
internet training classes, securing the
software at reduced prices and care-
fully contracting for web services.

The possibility of making the
entire *P.C.* available online to sub-
scribers who wish to receive it this
way is being looked at as a way to
control printing and postage costs.
The *P.C.* has been understaffed for
some time. Caroline has been able to

supplement the staff by participating
in internship programs. Interns have
been used, particularly in the sum-
mer months to provide much needed
support at very low or no cost to
JACL or the *P.C.*

That brings me to the purpose of
this article. Please donate to the *P.C.*
Spring Campaign! Large donations
are appreciated, but even small
donations will make a large impact.
If everyone makes just a small dona-
tion, great things can happen.

The proceeds from this year's *P.C.*
Spring Campaign will be allocated
to maintain and provide improve-
ments to the *P.C.* Web site. The
donations will ensure that we will
continue to see improvements in the
printed and web version of the *P.C.*
Our donations will be used carefully
to benefit JACL and our members.
Please be generous.

Thank you for your donations. ■

*Larry Grant is the JACL
Intermountain District representa-
tive on the P.C. editorial board.*

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more upgrades for the website.

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The columns are the personal opinion of the
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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discus-
sion within JACL of a wide range of ideas
and issues, though they may not reflect the
viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific
Citizen*.

* "Short expressions" on public issues,
usually one or two paragraphs, should
include signature, address and daytime
phone number. Because of space 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 and Associated Press

Wisconsin Man Pleads Not Guilty to Killing Hmong Hunter



CHA VANG

MARINETTE, Wisconsin—A white man has pleaded not guilty to fatally shooting and stabbing a Hmong hunter in woods in a slaying that has rekindled racial tension in northern Wisconsin.

A judge set James Nichols' trial on first-degree intentional homicide to start Oct. 1. The trial was set for five days.

Nichols, 28, is accused of killing 30-year-old Cha Vang while both were squirrel hunting Jan. 5. Nichols also pleaded not guilty to hiding a corpse and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was charged as a habitual criminal because of his previous conviction for burglary.

Two years ago in northwest Wisconsin, a Hmong deer hunter was sentenced to life in prison for shooting and killing six white hunters in 2004. Some Hmong have speculated that Nichols killed Vang in retaliation.

Bill Seeks to Strike 'Oriental' from the State Statute

PHOENIX—Community leaders are rallying behind Senate Bill 1295, which would replace the use of the word "Oriental" in the state statute with the more acceptable "Asian." The O-word, which is racially offensive, appears in the statute four times.

The measure, a strike-everything amendment, has cleared the Senate and awaits consideration by the House Rules Committee.

Japanese Court Rejects Compensation Suit by Chinese WWII Slaves

TOKYO—A Japanese court rejected demands for compensation of about \$1.56 million by a group of Chinese forced to work as slave laborers at a Japanese mine during World War II.

The Miyazaki District court dismissed the suit March 26 seeking damages from the Japanese government and Mitsubishi Metals Corp., formerly Mitsubishi Metal that operated the mine in Hinokage on the southern island of Kyushu during WWII.

The suit was filed by seven Chinese men who said they were among 250 people, mostly from China's Shandong province, who were forcibly brought to Makimine mine in Hinokage town. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Astronaut Williams' Stint in Space Could be a New Record



Astronaut **Sunita Williams**, who is stuck in space after a hailstorm damaged the fuel tank of the space shuttle Atlantis, is expected to break the U.S. record for continuous time in space.

She flew up to the international space station last December planning to come home in early July after a seven-month stay. Her current crewmate, Michael Lopez-Alegria, will set that record when he returns to earth on April 20 in a Russian Soyuz vehicle with 214 days in space.

Kusuda Named 'Community Change Maker'

Paul Kusuda, a leader of the Coalition for Wisconsin Health, was recently honored as a "Community Change Maker" at the Wisconsin Community Fund's 10th Annual Award ceremony. Kusuda is a member of the Coalition's executive board and a main author of the Wisconsin Health Security Act. Kusuda was also the recipient of the 2006 Dane County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition Award.

Co-star of 'Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle' Lands Guest Teaching Post at U. of Penn

Kal Penn, known for his role as Kumar Patel in the 2004 cult classic "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle," will be a guest instructor at the University of Pennsylvania during the spring 2008 semester.

Penn, 29, will teach two undergraduate courses, tentatively titled, "Images of Asian Americans in the Media" and "Contemporary American Teen Films."

French Camp JACL Announces Scholarship Winners

Two youth members, **Linsey Komure** and **Jeffrey Kuwahara**, were awarded chapter scholarships for their outstanding academic achievement and involvement in the community.

Komure is ranked 17th out of 500 graduating seniors at Franklin High in Stockton and carries a 4.3 GPA. Kuwahara is ranked 10th out of 725 seniors at Tokay High in Lodi and has a 4.2 GPA. ■

Civil Rights Groups Applaud the Reintroduction of Hate Crimes Bill

HR 1592, which was defeated in the Senate last year, seeks to expand the definition of hate crimes and empower enforcement against such crimes.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The reintroduction of a bill which would expand the definition of hate crimes to include sexual orientation or gender identity and provide local law enforcement agencies the resources to combat hate crimes is being supported by many civil rights organizations including the JACL.

HR 1592, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, which was introduced March 20 by Rep. John Conyers, D-MI, is being called an important piece of legislation that needs to be supported by all members of Congress. Over 210 law enforcement, civil rights, civic and religious organizations endorse the bill.

The JACL is calling for a speedy passage.

"Japanese Americans know well the results of deep seeded hate and bigotry," said JACL National President Larry Oda. "Their experience of being imprisoned in internment camps during World War II is an example of the consequences of hatred. It was because of hatred and



the fact that they looked 'different' that an entire community was denied due process."

The federal hate crimes law passed by Congress in 1968 allows federal investigation and prosecution of hate crimes based on race, religion and national origin. HR 1592 seeks to expand the classes of people protected by the law to include sexual orientation, gender, identity or disability.

"Under current law, the Department of Justice is prevented from taking action in many cases where local authorities are unable or unwilling to act ..." said Stephanie Kao, hate crimes initiative program manager for the Organization of Chinese Americans. "This law will make it possible for federal agencies

to help local law enforcement prevent and prosecute hate crimes, ensuring that no more incidents fall between the cracks."

Proponents say the bill is much needed in the Asian Pacific American community, which has many experiences with hate crimes from the murder of Vincent Chin to post Sept. 11th race-related crimes.

"Strong hate crime laws are important for the Asian American community to ensure justice as was not the case with Vincent Chin," said Vincent A. Eng, deputy director of the Asian American Justice Center.

Last year, the bill passed the House, but died in the Senate. Now, HR 1592 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. ■

JACL to Host Dinner to Honor John Tateishi

JACL will honor its immediate former Executive Director John Tateishi in a black-tie optional dinner May 19.

The event, which will take place at the South San Francisco Conference Center, recognizes the civil rights leader for nearly 30 years of commitment to the Asian Pacific American community and his dedication to the fight for civil rights.

Tateishi, who served as national director for seven years, announced his resignation from the JACL last June.

He is credited with guiding the

JACL through dark fiscal times by tightening the budget and taking on many duties himself. He steered the organization into budget surpluses in recent years.

His ties with the JACL run deep. In the 1970s, Tateishi worked as the JACL's national redress director and was instrumental in winning redress for JAs interned during



World War II. ■
For reservation forms, advertisement rates and more information, check out www.dvjacl.org.

John Tateishi Tribute Dinner
May 19
South San Francisco Conference Center
255 S. Airport Blvd.
South San Francisco
7 p.m.
\$75 per seat; \$750 per table of 10
Contact: Milo Yoshino
925/933-7584 or
miloyoshi@aol.com

Bill Would Expand Minidoka Historic Site

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A new bill introduced March 19 seeks to expand the Minidoka National Historic Site to include key areas of the Japanese American World War II experience.

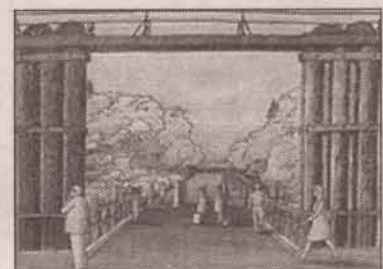
The bill, which was introduced by Idaho Senators Larry Craig and Mike Crapo and Rep. Mike Simpson, would authorize the expansion of the historic site to include Hermann Farm. The farm was originally part of the Minidoka Internment Camp and was part of a program to give land to veterans of World War II upon their return.

The bill also seeks to include an eight-acre site in Bainbridge Island, Washington as part of the historic site. Bainbridge Island, which was the site of the first evacuation of JAs to internment camps, is the future home of the Nidoto Nai Yoni ("Let it Not Happen Again") memorial.

"I've always been an advocate of historic preservation," said Simpson to the *Time-News*. "In order to know who you are, you have to understand



The new bill proposes to expand Minidoka National Historical Site to include Hermann Farm and Bainbridge Island. (Pictured above) The remains of Minidoka's gate house and a rendering of the Bainbridge Island Memorial (right).



your past."

The bill is especially meaningful to the JA community.

"History is taught so that we replicate the good and don't repeat the bad. Interning Japanese Americans was a dark day in American history, but the home-

stead helped develop our land and provide income for those who sacrificed for our freedoms," said JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori. "This monument will help educate Americans about our past, which helps us shape our future." ■

Change in Anti-terror Laws Sought to Aid Hmong

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—A Senate spending bill for the Iraq war includes a provision aimed at easing the impact that anti-terrorism laws have on Hmong refugees.

The provision states that the Hmong and some other groups are not considered terrorists. Under provisions of the USA Patriot Act and the Real ID Act, the Hmong who fought alongside the Americans in the "secret war" against communists in Laos are considered terrorists and are therefore ineligible for asylum or green cards.

The provision was authored by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who said it was needed "to help get our law back in sync with our values."

Co-sponsors include the committee's top Republican, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, as well as Sens. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., Russ Feingold, D-Wis., Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Sam Brownback, R-

Kan. "Hmong refugees, who dedicated their service to America during the Vietnam War, have looked to the U.S. as a place of hope and a sanctuary from persecution," said Coleman. "I have been fighting to change this law ever since I learned about its unintended consequences, and I am pleased that the (Bush) administration and my colleagues now agree that this matter needs to be resolved."

The Hmong began arriving in this country in large numbers during the 1970s, in the aftermath of Vietnam, and there were about 170,000 in the U.S. as of the 2000 U.S. Census, with most settled in California; Minnesota and Wisconsin. A later wave of about 15,000 settled in this country in 2005.

The Hmong have been affected by the anti-terror laws because of their guerrilla activities during the Vietnam War and, later, against the Laotian government.

The Senate will soon take up the Iraq spending bill. ■

'I have been fighting to change this law ever since I learned about its unintended consequences ...'

— Sen. Norm Coleman, R. Minn.

Congressional APA Caucus Backs Law Benefiting Filipino Service



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAFFAA

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—A congressional group representing Americans of Asian and Pacific heritage backed legislation to reverse a six-decades-old law and award veterans' benefits to Filipinos who fought with the U.S. forces in World War II.

Rep. Mike Honda said March 21 that the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, which he heads, considers giving full equity of benefits for an estimated 20,000 surviving veterans a top legislative goal of the caucus.

Both Honda and Rep. Bob Filner, the bill's sponsor, are Democrats from California, where many Filipino immigrants live.

Originally, 250,000 Filipinos were recruited, mostly in 1941 as the United States built forces to counter any Japanese attacks on U.S. interests. The Philippines was a U.S. commonwealth then, and a U.S. naval station on Cavite peninsula across Manila Bay from the capital was attacked hours after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

The recruits were promised they would be treated as U.S. veterans regarding benefits. The Pacific war ended in August 1945.

Honda said he considers the 1946 decision "one of the greatest injustices ever perpetrated by the Congress."

The proposed law would remove the rescission from the 1946 statute

and restore the promised equity, Honda said it would not be retroactive, and families of the veterans who have died would receive no benefits.

Ben de Guzman, with the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity, said the law would affect about 13,000 Filipino veterans still alive in their homeland and about 7,000 surviving veterans in the United States.

"I am so happy that we have a good chance this time around of finally passing this bill," said Manuel Braga, with the Filipino WWII Veterans Federation of San Diego. "I have been working on this issue for a long time, since 1969." ■

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BEATING

(Continued from page 1)

in juvenile detention while the investigation continues. The 17-year-old boy allegedly hit Martinez in the face.

Martinez was riding the MTA B82 bus after finishing school and was heading to her Brooklyn home on March 16 when the beating occurred. According to local media reports, Martinez was confronted by a group of about nine to ten hostile teens who taunted her for looking "Chinese" even though she is of Filipino descent.

Suffering cuts and bruises from the assault, Martinez was finally rescued by a good Samaritan. As she got off the bus, Martinez says the driver told her to "go talk to a priest" likely because she was wearing her Catholic school uniform at the time.

Martinez has now filed a civil lawsuit against the MTA seeking monetary damages and changes to the current MTA policies.

Charles Seaton, a spokesperson for the MTA, said he could not comment on any pending lawsuits but said the incident is "under investigation."

"Marie is devastated. She is afraid to ride the bus and she wants to go back to the Philippines," said Martinez' attorney Rosemarie Arnold, who noted that volunteers are driving the teen to and from school since she no longer feels safe riding the MTA bus.



Marie Martinez's beating happened after she boarded the MTA bus leaving New York's Ocean Avenue and Kings Highway.



Arnold says she has received a letter from the MTA admitting fault in the incident and promising to "investigate the incident." She also noted the police have been "helpful" in investigating the attack on her client.

The beating of Martinez has rallied members of the New York AA community and they are demanding accountability from the MTA and that the NYPD look into the incident as a hate crime.

"We want to let [Marie Martinez] know she's not alone," said Jian Feng Xu, board member of the United Chinese Association of Brooklyn, who noted the group is currently working on a press conference with the student and her attorney. "We want to publicize this to motivate the MTA and the police to

do the right thing. We want to let other people out there know that we won't tolerate this."

So far the "Condemn anti-Asian hate crimes and hold MTA accountable!" petition started by Zuniga has already garnered more than 2,600 signatures of support.

"I want to encourage Asian Americans to report when these bias crimes occur so that American society at large starts to realize that Asians or Asian Americans will not sit idly by and tolerate hate crimes committed against us on the basis of our race and or ethnicity," said Zuniga. ■

To sign the petition: <http://www.petitiononline.com/mtahate1/petition.html>

Organizations Call for Historic Nat'l APA Mobilization to D.C.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American organizations are calling for a national mobilization of APAs to Washington, D.C. in support of humane immigration reform.

The two-day event (April 30-May 1) will include community dialogues, legislative visits, and a rally in reaction to the recent introduction of the first serious legislative immigration proposal in the new Congress by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-IL, and Rep. Jeff Flake, R-AZ.

The APA Mobilization will include groups that have been underrepresented in the immigration reform discussion.

"Refugee populations are largely

impacted by immigration policies and have traditionally been left out of immigration reform debates. A national day of mobilization provides us an opportunity to stand united with all APIA communities to ensure that our voices are included on this very important issue," said Doua Thor, executive director of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

APA organizations are calling for the mobilization across the country to the nation's capital to draw attention to the need for immigration reform.

"Immigration reform has been at the heart of JACL advocacy from its founding in 1929 when anti-Asian immigration laws were passed to keep Asians from coming to this

country," said JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori. "Yet the spirit associated with immigration is at the heart of the American economic system and is an institution essential to the future of this country."

"Comprehensive Immigration Reform must be passed in this Congressional session in order that basic American economic growth and economic justice continue into the future," added Mori.

Immigration is a vital issue for the APA community, which has grappled with this type of injustice in the past. In the Korean American community, one in five is undocumented with many under the age of 18. ■

More information: www.nakasec.org



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LIVING LEGACY

(Continued from page 1)

"We do [interviews with] Sansei, Yonsei, brothers, sisters ... we don't limit our scope at all," said Susan, 42, the group's founder, CEO and oral historian.

Susan was a graduate student studying oral history at Cal State University, Fullerton (CSUF) when a chance encounter led her to fellow CSUF oral historian Natalia Yamashiro. Soon their shared interest in recording the oral stories of the JA community led them to found JA Living Legacy.

"We became interested in JAs being JAs. We became virtually hooked," said Susan.

"Family, immigration, World War II — history has been a part of my family and now I'm very much interested," said Natalia, 29, JA Living Legacy president and oral historian. "We're so passionate about it."

With just a little over a year of existence now under their belt, JA Living Legacy is now officially a 501(c)3 non-profit and many of the group's oral histories are available for teachers, researchers, and community members at CSUF's Center for Oral and Public History.

Identity in an Audiotape

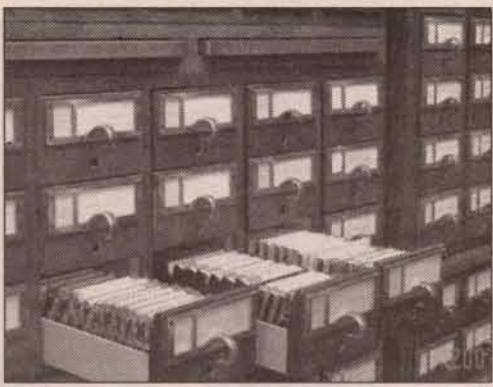
Susan, a Sansei, grew up in Placentia, Calif., a small suburb in Orange County where the only JA families she ran into were related to her. Although her parents had grown up in Hawaii and two of her uncles had been a part of the heroic JA veterans of World War II, she candidly admits to being oblivious about her own community.

"I knew nothing. NiseiWeek was something I had heard about," she said with a chuckle. "I had no connections to my people ... now it has become a real passion."

Susan has interviewed and recorded the stories of most members of her family, including her parents, and her dad continues to recruit his friends in Hawaii whenever she visits the Islands to do more interviews.

Now their stories stand amongst the dozens of rare oral histories that make up JA Living Legacy, stories like those of the JA veterans of the Korean War and Vietnam War, groups that have often taken a backseat to the heroic WWII JA vets.

The organization has also placed a special emphasis on women interviewees including those who served during WWII and those JA women who were left behind in the internment camps as their husbands,



A treasure trove of Living Legacy audio tapes.

fathers, and brothers went off to fight in the War.

"[These women] did a lot of great things for our country and we wanted to get them involved," said Natalia, who emphasized the uniqueness of each story. In documenting each person's life history the length of each interview can range from as short as 45 minutes or can take up to more than eight audiotapes.

For Natalia, documenting the stories of the JA community has taken her to many other parts of the world including South America. Her own family's history began in Bolivia and she herself was born in Argentina.

Fluent in Japanese, Spanish, and English she is using her trilingual skills to ensure the history of the Japanese Latin American community is part of the JA community's documented history.

"I'm part of the community now," said Natalia who immigrated to the U.S. in 1989. "And I need to learn about my community."

Volunteer Spirit

JA Living Legacy has grown exponentially since its humble beginnings and now boasts a board of directors and four staff members. Yet, even today all are volunteers and most expenses are still out of pocket.

And the bills are starting to add up. Although Susan's office at her day job (she's a research technician at CSUF's Institute of Gerontology) doubles as the project's storage facility, expenses for travel, audiotapes, and transcribing are all paid for by the board and staff themselves. Interviews and research are conducted in the evenings and on weekends.

"It's been tough but my husband is extremely supportive," said Susan who also has two kids to look after.

"When I first approached people I told them everything was volunteer and to bring their checkbooks," she added. "We told them we have nothing to offer you in terms of money at this time. And no one has complained. It's been painful but we can

keep going for a while longer."

But realistically both Susan and Natalia know that some type of funding, whether it be grants or donations, needs to be sought in the future as JA Living Legacy continues to grow. Their hope is that they can expand without losing a close connection with the community.

"Our fear is that growing too big too fast you sometimes lose touch with the community," said Susan. "We want to grow but keep that bond with the community."

Innovative Projects

In a little over a year's time JA Living Legacy has taken on a number of projects in addition to the oral histories. In conjunction with the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance they developed an accessible database of those who were killed in action (KIAs). The group is also working on a book project in which all of the stories will be written by JA Korean war vets.

And they continue to take on unique projects.

One of the project's oral historians — Takamichi Go — will soon be heading to Japan to interview some of the MIS soldiers who repatriated to Japan after WWII. The group is also looking at an e-exhibit project for JA Vietnam war vets so they can develop their own online network.

"[JA Living Legacy] is very comprehensive in terms of JA history and culture. It doesn't have one particular focus," said Art Hansen, CSUF professor emeritus and a JA Living Legacy advisor. "Its democratic nature, its comprehensive nature are quite unique."

With a small staff and an even smaller budget, Susan and Natalia use the power of networking to help spread the word about JA Living Legacy, attending several community events and continually meeting with community members.

"It's by word of mouth," said Susan. "We try to go to as many community events as possible. We hand out our business cards and ask, 'Would you like to be interviewed?'"

Natalia also hopes that the younger generations will see what they're doing and get inspired to help document their community's history.

"We want to create awareness. Our hope is that the younger generations will see what we're doing and get involved," she said. ■

You can contact JA Living Legacy at info@jalivinglegacy.org or 714/278-4483. For more information, www.jalivinglegacy.org.

CENSUS

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. Treasury Department for a list of all persons of Japanese ancestry in the Washington, D.C., area as recorded in the 1940 census. This information was collected under a pledge of confidentiality and handed over in only seven days.

For decades now, whether the Census Bureau provided information about JAs during WWII has been highly contested but the controversy got new steam in 2004 when it was reported that the Bureau gave zip-code information about Arab Americans from the 2000 census to the Department of Homeland Security.

"Congress must take steps to ensure that this violation of Japanese Americans' privacy is not repeated with Arab Americans, this is vital in light of the targeted-surveillance and enforcement programs we have seen in the past few years," said Kareem Shora, national executive director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. "This data needs to be collected, and it needs to be protected."

Although the bureau broke no law, since the Second War Powers Act permitted such disclosures, ethical questions linger about these World War II disclosures and about the Census Bureau providing small-area geographical data pertaining to

potentially vulnerable populations to other governmental agencies.

"The issue is how ethical is it to use the Census to target people," said Seltzer in an interview with *USA Today*. Sharing the data was not illegal but "It was ethically questionable."

"As I spent part of my childhood in Amache, an internment camp in southeast Colorado, this confirmation is deeply troubling," said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda. "Wartime hysteria and officially sanctioned racial profiling was pervasive at the time. Releasing such detailed information, while perhaps lawful then under the Second War Powers Act, was deeply undemocratic and contrary to the fundamental American principle of protecting civil liberties."

"The census is a vital tool, but such sensitive information must be protected. If Americans fear that their answers to the census will be shared, it will dampen the ability of our government to provide effective government services," said Caroline Fredrickson, director of the ACLU Washington Legislative office. "Congress must investigate whether similar groups are facing similar actions today." ■

A copy of "Census Confidentiality under the Second War Powers Act (1942-1947)" is available on the Web at: <http://www.uwm.edu/~margo/govstat/integrity.htm>.

OREGON BILL

(Continued from page 1)

dating Carol," said Rep. Clem, D-Salem, a Caucasian who is married to Sansei Carol Suzuki. "I was shocked that it happened in our country."

HR 2823 will grant honorary college or university degrees to former internees who were evacuated from Oregon and forced to leave school under Executive Order 9066 in 1942.

Sponsors of the bill — including Rep. Tina Kotek, D-Portland — aren't sure how many of the former internees are still alive today to request the honorary degrees but the bill allows family members to request the degrees on behalf of deceased relatives. So far about 10 former internees have already contacted Clem's office.

Oregon's House Education Committee approved the bill on March 23. The bill now heads to the House floor.

Clem's father-in-law Hideo was incarcerated at the Tule Lake Relocation Center during WWII. A successful orchardist and businessman, he passed away in 2004. In total about 4,000 JAs living in Oregon were forced into internment

camps during the War.

"He would have been supportive [of the bill]. Like many Nisei, he didn't talk a lot about the internment," said Carol, a member of the Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs, about her late father.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the WWII internment of persons and Japanese ancestry and Clem believes passing HR 2823 would be a fitting tribute to those who suffered through this injustice.

"It makes sense right now," said Clem, who noted that his colleagues have been very supportive of the bill.

"No amount of legislation will ever be able to repair the damage endured by Japanese Americans as a result of internment," said John Kodachi, JAACL Portland chapter president. "But this bill acknowledges the losses — in education, in time and in dignity — that Japanese Americans endured during this chapter in American history"

HR 2823 was scheduled to go before the full House on April 2 and will then proceed to the Senate for debate and a vote. If both the House and Senate approve the bill, organizers will begin the process of contacting former internees and planning a ceremony to present the belated diplomas.

"I have a deep interest in this. It is never too late to make this right," said Carol. ■

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65th Anniversary of Imprisonment of Bainbridge Island's Japanese Americans

By Associated Press

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash.—Fumiko Hayashida leaned heavily on her cane as the beat of taiko drums reverberated along the south shore of Eagle Harbor.

Around her stood former politicians and war veterans who had come to help mark the 65th anniversary of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans living on Bainbridge Island during World War II.

At 96, Hayashida is the oldest Bainbridge survivor of 227 men, women and children who were herded onto the ferry Kehloken and taken to internment camps. They were the first of nearly 120,000 people of Japanese descent on the West Coast to be rounded up after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The gathering on March 31 also celebrated efforts to build a \$5 million memorial "Nidoto Nai Yoni" at the eight-acre site where JAs were taken to board the ferry.

About \$2.6 million has been secured for the project so far, including \$2 million from the state. The memorial already features trails, footbridges, gates and a pavilion.



Fumiko Hayashida, now 96, in a historical WWII evacuation photo.

Later this year, construction is to begin on a 227-foot "story wall," with an interpretive center and 150-foot pier planned in future phases.

"I thought nobody cared," Hayashida said. "I'm very happy. I hope I live to see it done."

The U.S. House in February voted 419-0 in favor of a bill sponsored by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., to give national park status to the site. The measure, expected to be approved by the Senate, would make the memorial a satellite of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho.

Hayashida testified before

Congress in support of the bill.

She and others boarded the ferry from Bainbridge on March 30, 1942, then were taken by train to Manzanar.

"This was the worst violation of constitutional rights in the history of the country," former Gov. Gary Locke said during the dedication. "The message is, don't let it happen again."

At the event Clarence Moriwaki, chairman of the Bainbridge Island Japanese

American Memorial Committee, wore a watch belonging to Hayashida's late son — the first Bainbridge Island baby born at Manzanar. Moriwaki counted off the minutes leading up to the citizens' imprisonment.

"11:12. They've already boarded the ferry."

Many of those rounded up by Army soldiers were from families that had settled on Bainbridge in the late 1800s to work at strawberry farms and lumber mills.

In all, nearly 13,000 Washington state residents were incarcerated without trial. ■

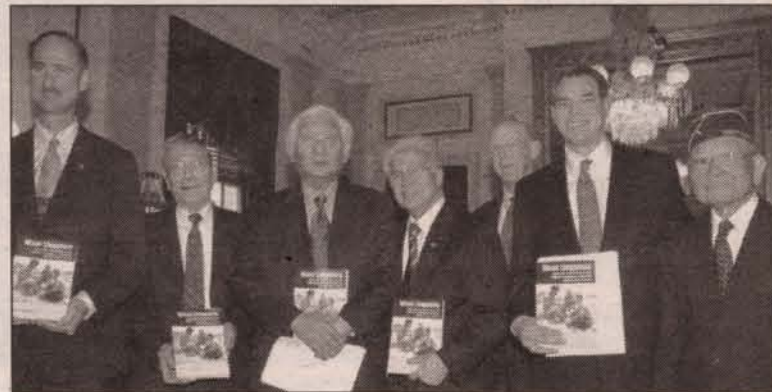


PHOTO: ERIC LACHICA

TRANSLATING HISTORY: (l-r) 'Nisei Linguists' author Dr. James C. McNaughton; Calvin Ninomiya; Bob Nakamoto; Sen. Daniel K. Akaka; Dr. Jeffrey J. Clarke; Brigadier General Bert Mizusawa; and Terry Shima.

Akaka Announces Book on WWII JA Interpreters

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

HONOLULU—U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka is spreading the word about a publication of a book about Japanese Americans who served as military interpreters and translators during World War II.

The Army prepared the 514-page book in response to a request from Akaka and U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, a member of the heroic JA WWII veterans.

The linguists were mostly second generation Americans of Japanese ancestry who interpreted and translated for the military. Many were from Hawaii.

They played critical roles translating enemy documents, interrogating Japanese prisoners of war, intercepting communications, and persuading Japanese militia to surrender.

Akaka said the linguists helped

bring the Pacific war to a quicker end and helped turn bitter foes into strong allies after the war.

"I am delighted this project is finally done," said Akaka in a statement. "For decades after their service, a complete documentation of their exemplary deeds was sorely lacking."

Although Inouye was unable to attend the event, he said in a prepared statement: "'Nisei Linguists' is a testament to the uncommon valor of Japanese American men who stood by their country, even when their country — for a time — did not." ■

'Nisei Linguists' may be ordered from the Government Printing Office online bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. You can also call the GPO at 202/512-1800 or toll-free 866-512-1800.

JACL Extends Deadline for Masaoka Fellowship

The JACL announced recently that the deadline for the Masaoka Fellowship applications to be received in the JACL Washington, D.C. office has been extended to May 1.

The deadline had in previous years been May 1, but it was being changed this year to April 1. The deadline will be April 1 going forward, but this year's applicants will have until May 1 to submit application materials.

The recipient of the fellowship, named for JACL

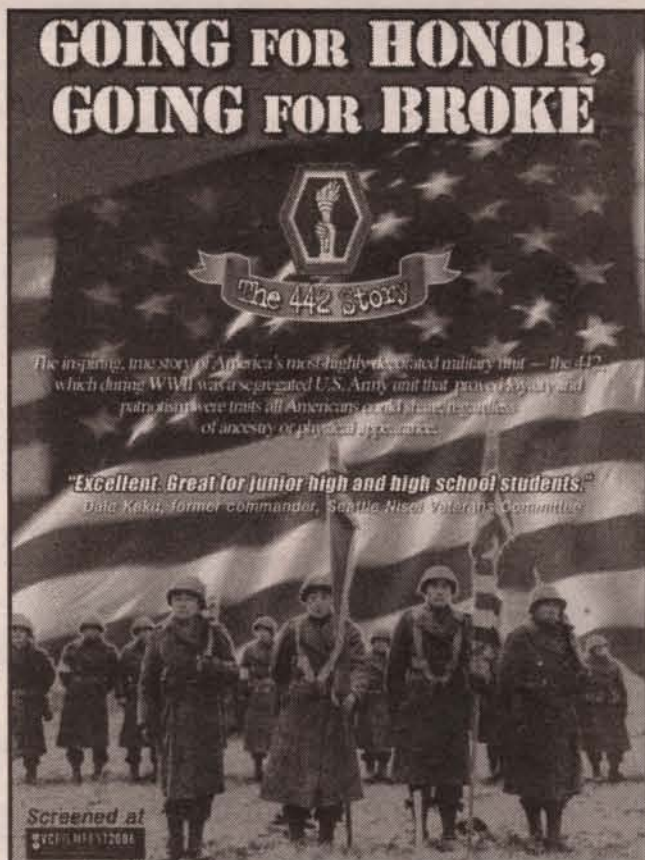
leader Mike M. Masaoka, will spend three to three and one half months working in the office of a member of Congress.

Dana Nakano, the current JACL Masaoka fellow, is currently working in the office of Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif.

Log onto the JACL Web site at www.jacl.org for more information on the Masaoka fellowship or contact the JACL Washington, D.C. office at dc@jacl.org. ■

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Wakamatsu Happy Biding Time as Rangers' Third Base Coach

SURPRISE, Ariz.—Don Wakamatsu attended a public luncheon with several high-ranking Texas Rangers officials the day after he interviewed for the vacant managerial job last fall.

It appeared the popular bench coach might be close to becoming the next manager.

But by the next week, the Rangers had picked longtime Oakland assistant **Ron Washington** and the new manager tabbed former major league manager **Art Howe** as his bench coach.

While still under contract with Texas, Wakamatsu's role became uncertain — until he had dinner with Washington and Howe.

"My big thing with them was, 'Do you want me on your staff? If you want me on the staff, I've got no problem with it, but I want you to feel comfortable that you have an ally in me,'" Wakamatsu said. "They couldn't have welcomed me with more open arms."

Wakamatsu is off the bench after four seasons and is now coaching

third base for the Rangers. He is still the catching instructor and organized spring training for his new boss.

"He's great. He's the one running camp," said Washington, the rookie manager who was an Oakland assistant coach the past 11 seasons.

"It meant a lot to me just to meet him," Washington said. "When we met, we hit it off right away. He had a relationship with these guys. They respect him, and that's the kind of guy I want around here, somebody that those players respect."

As a player, Wakamatsu caught for 12 seasons in seven different organizations from 1985-96, playing only 18 games in the major leagues with the Chicago White Sox in 1991. He coached in the Los Angeles Angels and Arizona organizations before coming to the Rangers.

Instead of feeling slighted about not being the new Texas manager, the 44-year-old Wakamatsu relishes the chance to learn from Washington and Howe.

"I always look at things in a half-full sense. What I mean about that is being around Ron, who came from a great program, I know that can only help me," Wakamatsu said. "I know someday I'm going to get an opportunity to manage." ■



Japanese Star Shows Personal Side

FORT MYERS, Fla.—Dice-K purposely smacked his precious right elbow on the hard wooden dining table. Then he laughed.

Was something lost in translation? It shouldn't be funny when the pitcher the Red Sox invested \$103 million in uses his arm — and possibly risks injury — for anything but firing strikes.

"Oh, that was Pedro throwing Don Zimmer," translator **Masa Hoshino** said of the elbow slam. Matsuzaka's lunchmates howled. The charismatic rookie flashed his charming smile.

He was simply displaying his sense of humor after being asked about Boston's post-season tussles with the New York Yankees. The 2003 game came to mind in which both benches emptied, and one old coach was tossed to the ground by one star pitcher, **Pedro Martinez**.

Matsuzaka is Boston's newest star. The setting for a recent lunch befitted his stature — a fancy country club where golfers putted on the green just beyond the tall windows of the room where Matsuzaka and teammate **Hideki Okajima**, another rookie pitcher from Japan, chatted with 10 American reporters.

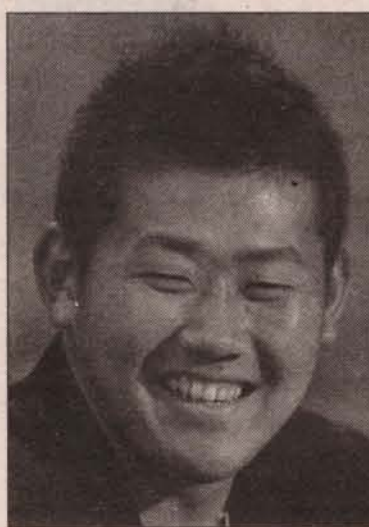
The conversation centered on their personal likes and dislikes more than their assortment of pitches.

Matsuzaka said he watched movies to help him learn English — "Lethal Weapon" with **Mel Gibson**, "Cliffhanger" with **Sylvester Stallone**. In the midst of a string of Japanese words, he spoke two familiar ones: "Meg Ryan."

Despite those actors' linguistic lessons, Matsuzaka's command of the language has improved with the guidance of a teacher he's worked with during spring training.

An avid and accomplished golfer, Matsuzaka watches *The Golf Channel* but not "American Idol."

He also revealed a wide variety of his favorite people — from **Cy Young** to **Manny Ramirez** to



'I'd heard that he was a really nice guy, but I thought, really, is he really that nice, and I had my doubts.'

— **Hideki Okajima**, on teammate **Dice-K** (pictured above)

Angelina Jolie.

"Obviously, she's very pretty," Matsuzaka, 26 and married, said through Hoshino. "but there's an aura about her. She also has strength and poise."

Young and **Nolan Ryan** are two pitchers he admires — "Cy Young, clearly, because he had the most wins in baseball, and **Nolan Ryan** is somebody that I actually looked up to and idolized growing up," Hoshino translated.

Occasionally, he eats out in Fort Myers. But his favorite Japanese restaurant, he said in English to more laughter, is "my home."

That lets him dine uninterrupted by fans. Some have come up to him during meals in Fort Myers and he could be inundated by such intruders in Boston.

"One thing I dislike," Matsuzaka said through Hoshino, "is if I'm in the midst of a meal and people come

up and ask for a photo or an autograph and, at that time, I'm sort of forced to ask them to wait until I'm done eating my meal and, if they're willing to wait, then after that I'll give them an autograph or take pictures."

Okajima, who is five years older, has learned a lot about Matsuzaka recently. They played in different leagues in Japan and never spoke before joining the Red Sox.

"I'd heard that he was a really nice guy, but I thought, really, is he really that nice, and I had my doubts," Okajima said through another translator, **Sachiyo Sekiguchi**. "But when I came over here and I met him for the first time, he was such a good guy and such a character."

Matsuzaka is slightly mysterious, especially about the gyroball, a pitch he may or may not throw. Asked if he enjoys the intrigue, he smiled, closed his eyes tightly, crossed his arms, brushed a finger across an eyebrow and put another finger on his lips as if deep in thought.

After about 30 seconds, he finally spoke through Hoshino: "I'm always excited and interested in learning about new pitches, so if we're talking about somebody else, I think I'd be enjoying it a lot more."

Then a reporter lifted an object and said, "Could he demonstrate the grip with this roll?"

When the laughter subsided, Matsuzaka said through his translator, "There's a way to grip it, but I can't show you. I'm sorry."

Soon, it was time to go. As the 90-minute session ended, both pitchers shook hands with their companions. One reporter had a final question: How's the elbow?

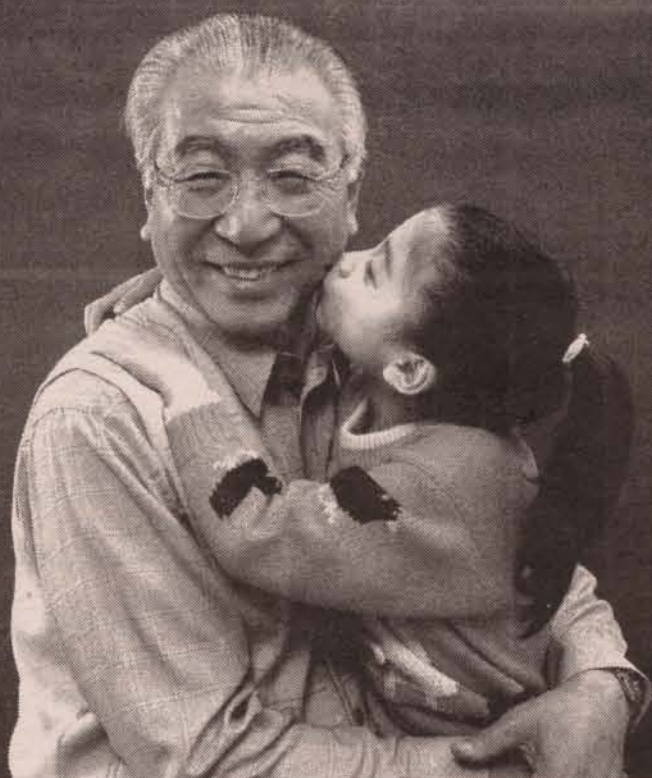
"Big, strong," the smiling Dice-K said.

In English, of course. ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff



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• CHERYL WATAMURA MARTINEZ •
A BROAD VIEW

A View from Abroad — Ehren Watada



Here in Western Europe, many political issues are seen differently than they are in the U.S. For example, right from the beginning, several western European countries — notably Germany and France — were against the U.S. invasion of Iraq. They did not believe there was conclusive evidence that Iraq was harboring instruments of mass destruction.

Perhaps this difference in perspective results from Europe's location and its past history. The Middle East is much closer to Europe than the U.S., and many older people still vividly remember the destruction and chaos World War II brought directly into their countries. Here, waging war isn't entered into lightly.

With this background in mind, the case of 1st Lt. Ehren Watada has sparked significant media interest in Western Europe. Watada was the first commissioned officer to refuse deployment to Iraq. He said he took this action because in his view the war is illegal and he did not want to be a "party to war crimes."

Watada voluntarily joined the armed forces. At the time, he was convinced he was doing the right thing. He wanted to defend his country against the threats from Iraq. However, since then, those threats were shown to be over-exaggerated. Watada said he was no longer able to serve in Iraq under false pretenses. He did not refuse to serve altogether — he simply refused deployment into a war he believed to be illegal.

Many have said that a military man must follow orders. But as Watada noted, following illegal orders would mean that he also would be breaking the law. This has happened in the past, notably the My Lai incident during the Vietnam War. And other cases may be coming up in the near future, as calls to investigate the treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay become louder.

Both incidents cite the merits of "disobedience." In both cases, the reputation and even safety of the entire United States — and its citizens — was and has been put at risk. To be an American today in

Europe is not easy. There is a lot of disillusionment and anger over many U.S. political decisions: Recent reports of CIA kidnappings and torture of "Middle Eastern" looking men from third party countries haven't helped to quell the resentment. Two of those abducted were innocent German nationals, one held and tortured for five years without trial in Guantanamo Bay.

Many say that Watada's actions denigrate the honor of the Japanese Americans who served in World War II. However, as evidence grows, similarities between the two wars have faded. As the majority of Americans now realize, the Iraq conflict was entered into under false pretenses. It is being called a "war of aggression" which was not sanctioned by the UN.

WWII, on the other hand, was a battle for the existence of America and its allies. To say that Watada's actions diminish the honor of past JA veterans ignores the evidence of the vast differences between the two wars.

It seems even the best legal minds are having problems defining this case. Before the trial started, the U.S. military court decided that charges against Watada would be limited to whether or not he refused to follow orders. They have, from the beginning, chosen to ignore the issue of the legality of the war. Ironically, exactly that denial of the bigger issue is what caused the mistrial ruling on the 8th of February.

Amnesty International has been hugely interested in this case. They believe that imprisoning Watada would be a denial of human rights. In light of the view in other parts of the world that this war should never have taken place — and with increasing allegations that President George Bush should himself be charged with war crimes — the outcome of this case will have repercussions around the world. No, Ehren Watada's fight is by no means just an American incident.

When one considers that in German the word "Ehren" means "Honor," Lt. Watada's actions seem somehow fitting from this side of the world. ■

Cheryl Watamura Martinez,
www.texter-koeln.de

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •
MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Nanking Revisited



Back in the 2006 Holiday Issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, I wrote about "The Rape of Nanking." Iris Chang's famous historical account of war crimes committed by the Imperial Japanese Army against the people of China in the city of Nanking during the Sino-Japanese war. It was not only a sense of moral outrage that prompted me to write about this massacre and systematic rape of women that resulted in an estimated death toll of 260,000 people. On a more personal note, I wanted to show how wartime atrocities from the past century still has the power to effect young people of Japanese-descent like myself.

Little did I know that my one small article was a microcosmic representation of a greater international reawakening to carry on the message of the famous Chinese American author who committed suicide in November 2004. "The Rape of Nanking" was published in 1997, in conjunction with the 65th anniversary of the Nanking massacre. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of an event that still sparks intense emotions within the global community, so the collective struggle against historical amnesia continues.

Nearly two months after writing the original article, I was surprised to find that there was not only one, but many film projects in various states of completion all directly dealing with the Nanking massacre. The documentary "Nanking," which was directed by Bill Guttentag and David Sturman, the same directors of the 9/11 documentary "Twin Towers," premiered earlier this year in January at the Sundance Film Festival. The film was conceptualized and financed by AOL Vice-Chairman Ted Leonsis, who had never heard of Iris Chang or the Nanking massacre until he chanced upon an obituary of her death while he was on vacation.

Using primary sources of letters, diaries, interviews and archive footage, the film follows the lives of the handful of American and European expatriates who risked their own lives and safety to protect the Nanking residents from the

Japanese soldiers. It ended up winning the Grand Jury Prize for the Documentary category. There is a chance that the documentary will eventually be released theatrically for general public consumption.

"Nanking" is not the only movie that viewers may be able to watch in light of the 70th anniversary of the Nanking Massacre. Producer Gerald Green and director Simon West ("Lara Croft: Tomb Raider") have already acquired the rights to Chang's book for a \$38 million film project. Writer and producer Kevin Kent is trying to get a film made based on his own novel "Nanking" through negotiations with director Oliver Stone. Stanley Tong, the Hong Kong director of several Jackie Chan movies, award-winning Chinese director Lu Chuan and Hong Kong director Yim Ho are also linked with a production of a film about Nanking.

Nanking's bitter legacy does not only give creative material to filmmakers within the entertainment industry, it is still an ugly memory that refuses to erase itself from the lives of the surviving victims who continue to demand wartime reparations, and in current relationships between Japan and the rest of the world.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's recent flat-out denial that the Japanese military forcibly recruited women into sex slavery during World War II serves as an uncomfortable reminder of convenient historical revisionism that continues to undermine possibilities of amicable international relations between China and Japan.

Meanwhile, back at UCLA, someone had set up a photo gallery in the campus coffee house dedicated to the Nanking massacre. On the walls of the indoor hallway, black and white photographs of beheadings, mutilated corpses, barbed wire and emaciated people stared down at students who stopped to look at the pictures and read the accompanying captions. These captions quoted extensively from Iris Chang's books. One label told students that these photographs were best viewed from a distance, perhaps because of their highly graphic nature.

I stopped to look. Nearly eight months had passed since I first read Iris Chang's book, but the shock of seeing these photographs still hadn't diminished a single bit. ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently attending UCLA.



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- Nov. 7 **Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku** - \$3995 - 3 Days Okinawa, Kyushu - Kuratsu - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu, Shikoku - Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Osaka.
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PHOTO: KEVIN CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY

'[Iris Chang] is a modern day warrior with words.'



I Am Iris Chang

Olivia Cheng knew she was destined to play the role of the late historian and author, but she also convinced the film's producers and Iris' friend and husband.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Call it chance or call it an unwavering passion, Olivia Cheng knew she was meant to play the role of Iris Chang — the late Chinese American historian and author who rattled the world's consciousness about the Nanking Massacre.

The 27-year-old Chinese Canadian print and broadcast journalist woke up one morning and decided to get in touch with Chang's husband, Brett Douglas. He was "ridiculously easy to find," and over the phone, the words just tumbled out of Olivia's mouth.

She is a first generation over-achiever who always turned her school assignments in as video news reports. She reported on hard news for Global — a national television network — and wrote for a daily Edmonton newspaper while dabbling in some hip-hop dancing and acting on the side. But what she really wanted to do was write a screenplay on her idol, Iris, whom she saw for the first time on the September 1998 cover of *Reader's Digest*.

Just like how Iris wanted people to remember the atrocities at Nanking, Olivia wanted to keep the dialogue about Iris' life and work flowing.

Douglas gave Olivia the same suggestion he gave to the countless other ambitious filmmakers, actors and producers who would call every week: go through Iris' personal papers at the Hoover Institution in Stanford University. So Olivia flew to Northern California and spent a week at the research library poring through the author's annals of research, video interviews and personal notes.

"I remember sitting in the library and thinking, 'this is crazy! I can't afford to do this!'" said Olivia to the *Pacific Citizen* from Vancouver where she is currently based.

But she continued working on the idea of the film and won the support of Douglas — she followed him while he vacationed in Canada and conducted interviews by kayak, foot and zip cord. Then, she received the breakdown for a docudrama based on Iris' life that would change her life.

"Why do I have to go for Suchin and May Ling roles when there are characters like Iris Chang?" said Olivia. "She is a modern day warrior with words."

Iris Chang-ing It

Over the phone, Olivia breathlessly traces the path that lead her to Iris, including meeting with Iris' real life close friend Paula Kamen — who told the *P.C.* that Olivia is "enthusiastic, bright and assertive — all traits she shares with Iris."

To win the role, Olivia did what Iris would've done — she didn't take no for an answer.

Filming had already begun in December of 2006, and the film's producers had not yet found an actress to play the lead. Late one night, Andrea Hazard, the production manager, fielded a frantic phone call from Olivia.

"She knew everything about Iris. She was convinced that she was destined to play her and at one point I could tell that she was crying because she was so upset that she wouldn't be considered for the part," said Hazard.

Hazard hung up the phone and walked over to the producers and said, "I think our Iris Chang just called."

February 19, 2003

On-location shooting in China will begin mid-March for "The Woman Who Couldn't Forget: The Iris Chang Story," a film shot in high definition using computer generated imagery (CGI) to transport Olivia, as Iris, into the darkness of the Nanking



Iris Chang was an international celebrated author who took her own life in November 2004.

holocaust.

"I'm following in her footsteps in a very big way," said Olivia.

The film is also expected to plumb the soul of Iris's inner darkness, the bipolar disorder that consumed the historian and lead her to commit suicide in November 2004. The descent does make Olivia a little apprehensive since she too has fought personal demons.

"I just remember that was a hard point in my life," said Olivia who was 23 and working in the high-pressure news world on Feb. 19, 2003, when she collapsed in the parking lot of the Global station.

"It was a day that really forced me to believe what the doctors have suspected — that I was suffering from depression."

Olivia suffered in silence harboring thoughts of being hit by a semi-truck.

"The fear of relapse does cast shadows on my mind," said Olivia, but her experience in the parking lot at work will help her recognize the red flags. And this time, she won't be too scared to ask for help.

"The Woman Who Couldn't Forget: The Iris Chang Story" is slated for release at the end of the year to mark the 70th anniversary of the Nanking Massacre. ■

For more information:
www.irischangthemovie.com,
www.oliviacheng.com

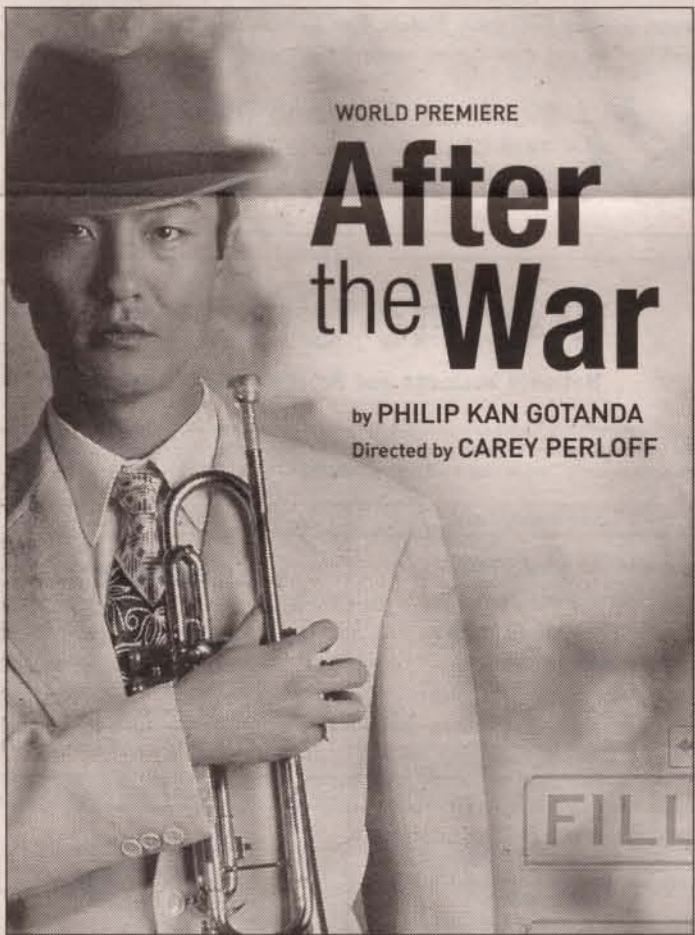
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Calendar

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Through-April 15—National Cherry Blossom Festival; 10-7 p.m. daily; Independence Ave. near 17th St. NW.
Fri., April 20—4th Annual National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Awards Dinner; 7 p.m. dinner, silent auction and reception 5:30 p.m.; JW Marriott; \$150/person with reservations and payment sent to: NJAMF, 1620 Eye Street NW, Suite 925; black tie optional; honoring Sen. Daniel Akaka, Sen. Lindsey Graham and the late Sen. Spark Matsunaga. Info: NJAMF, 202/530-0015 or njamf@starpower.net.

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

CHICAGO

Sun., May 20—50th Chicago JACL Scholarship Luncheon; 11:30 a.m.; Maggiano's Little Italy, 175 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie; \$40/person. Info: Judy Tanaka, chicago@jacl.org.

Northern California

MANZANAR

Sat., April 28—38th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage; noon; Manzanar Historic Site; "One Life ... a Legacy for All" is the theme of this year's pilgrimage and will honor the legacy of Sue Kunitomi Embrey; day's events will feature UCLA's Kyodo Taiko, bagpipe player Dan Sprague and folk singer Ken Koshio as well as the interfaith service and ondo dancing; Manzanar At Dusk program begins at 7 p.m. in the Interpretive Center; buses will depart Little Tokyo at 7 a.m. with reservations made at 323/662-5102; please bring your own lunch and snacks, water will be provided. Info: Manzanar Committee, 310/532-7562 or manzcomm@yahoo.com.

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

Through 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



PHOTO: CRAIG SCHWARTZ

THESPIANS IN TORRANCE, CALIF.: (l-r) Shannon Holt, Emily Kuroda, Tamlyn Tomita and Dian Kobayashi perform in Chay Yew's "Question 27, Question 28."

optional. Info: Milo Yoshino, miloyoshi@aol.com.

SAN JOSE

Sat.-Sun., April 28-29—San Jose Japantown's 30th Annual Nikkei Matsuri; Sat., 7:30 p.m., concert featuring Hiroshima; one show only; \$40/floor, \$30 balcony; Campbell Heritage Theater; tickets can be purchased at Nikkei Traditions, San Jose Japantown (cash and checks only); Sun., 9:30-4 p.m.; San Jose Japantown; festival features taiko, food, arts and crafts, fun for everyone. Info: www.nikkeimatsuri.org.

Central California

HANFORD

Through May 19—Exhibit, Tracing 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

COSTA MESA

Sat., April 28—2007 Community Law School; 10-3 p.m.; Whittier Law School; event consists of seminars throughout the day covering topics such as immigration, family law, business law, employment law and real estate law. Info: Min Chai, 949/788-8900 or www.ockaba.com.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., April 14—2007 JANM Annual Gala Dinner; 5:30 p.m. silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner and program; Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel, 2025 Avenue of the Stars; "U.S.-Japan Relations: Celebrating People to People Connections."; honoring Keidanren, JET Alumni Association, The Nippon Foundation and the Japanese Community Associations. Info: JANM, 213/625-0414.

Sat., May 5—UCLA Nikkei Student Union's 25th Anniversary Celebration; 5 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner; Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel; gala will feature Warren Furutani as the keynote speaker; proceeds benefit the Little Tokyo Recreation Center; \$80/person. Info: www.nikkeibruins.org/25th.html.

Sat., May 12—APALC's Inaugural Asian Pacific American Book Festival; 11-4 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; activities include panel discussions, poetry and children's book readings, spoken word presentations, writing workshops and a publishing seminar. To pre-register for workshops or for more information: apabookfest@apalc.org or www.apalc.org/calendar.htm.

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@jaclpsw.org or www.jaclpsw.org.

TORRANCE

April 25, May 12, May 30—City of Torrance Works in Progress Programs; Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr.; 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.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sun., April 29—Kodomo no Hi: Keiki Fun Fest; 10-3 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Teruya Courtyard and fifth floor; celebrate Children's Day with Hawaii's keiki with games, kimono dressing, cultural activities, entertainment and food; free. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633, info@jcch.com or www.jcch.com.

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.

Brazil

SÃO PAULO

July 18-21—COPANI XIV, PANA Convention; Hotel Blue Tree Convention Ibirapuera; July 18: opening ceremony and welcome dinner; July 19: meetings and workshops, special dinner; July 20: visit to Registro City (first Japanese immigration site), samba lesson; July 21: Japanese festival, karaoke contest, closing ceremony and sayonara dinner; registration \$300, golf tournament \$200; hotel rates: Blue Tree Convention Hotel Ibirapuera, \$82/single, \$94/double or Hotel Nikkey Palace, \$57/single, \$68/double. Info: Arturo Yoshimoto, panausa@usa.net; JACL contact, Lillian Kimura, or lkimura@at.net; overseas registrants, Prof. Ii-sei Watanabe, watanabe@icb.usp.br. ■

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In Memoriam - 2006-2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Beppu, Jay Y., 77, Mar. 6; survived by wife, Fukiko; sons, Stanley and Daniel; daughters, Suzanne, Lisa and Karen Beppu-Powell; and 7 gc.

Dohi, Dorothy Shizuko, 97, Gardena, Mar. 10; survived by son Ronald; daughter, Linda (Aaron) Yoshida; 6 gc.; 7 ggc; brother, Robert Sugimoto; and sisters, Kiyoko Machida and Mieko Sugimoto.

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.

Dono, Masako Martha, 87, Pacoima, Mar. 9; survived by daughter, Dorothy (Hiro) Kajiki; 2 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Hamachi, Masaru, 75, Long Beach, Mar. 10; Army veteran; survived by wife, Eiko; and siblings, Kikuno Hirohara, Teruo and Shigeru.

Harmeling, Sayo Kumasaka, 90, Woodinville, Wash., Jan. 28; survived by husband, Sheldon; sons, Stuart and Gary; daughters, Bea and Noreen Burr; 9 gc.; and 10 ggc.

Higashida, Henry Kunio, 79, Denver, Colo., Mar. 16; survived by sons, Steve and Randall (Jeannie); daughter, Cheryl (Daniel Kim); 1 gc.; brother, James (Rose); and sister-in-law, Helen.

Hirata, Sachiko, 82, Los Angeles, Mar. 14; survived by son, Eiji (Kaori) Nakaya; daughter, Ikue (Ian) McIlraith; and 2 gc.

Hontani, George, 86, and Chiaki, 73, Santa Monica, Mar. 9 and 12; survived by daughter, Judy (Neal) Tomita; and 2 gc.; George also survived by brother, Bob (Chieko); Chiaki also survived by sister, Haruko (Sam) Yamashita.

Iida, Ryoza "Yota," 59, Northridge, Mar. 10; survived by wife, Chico; and son, Byron (Christina).

Imada, Eugene Hideo, West Los Angeles, Mar. 6; survived by wife, Mary; children, Leonard (Gwen), Richard (Joyce), Bessie (Gary) Teraoka and Bill; 5 gc.; brother, Ben (Mariko); sister-in-law, Aiko Imada; and brother-in-law, Dr. Tom (Akiko) Maeda.

Inouye, Tosako, 84, Los Angeles, Mar. 16; survived by son, Katsue (Hatsumi); daughters, Mari (Stanley) Shirai and Keiko (Daniel) Matsuoka; 8 gc.; sisters, Takayo Nakase and Tsuneyo (Masahisa) Yamamoto; and brother, Minoru (Eiko) Maeda.

Itahara, Minoru "Mike," 91, West Covina, Mar. 18; survived by sons, Ken (Rene) and Rick (Bonnie) Itahara; daughter, Kathy (Jeff) Mitsui; 6 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Kashitani, Hideo, 81, Mar. 11; survived by wife, Joan; daughter-in-law, June; 4 gc.; 3 ggc.; and sister, Miyoko Kaminishi.

Koyama, Junko, 66, Torrance, Mar. 9; survived by husband, Tamotsu; son, Daniel; daughter, Denise; mother, Yuki Masukawa; and sister, Kay (Tom) Nakawatase.

Mibu, Osami Sam, 78, Gardena, Mar. 13; survived by wife, Reiko; son, Scott (Stephanie); 2 gc.; and sisters, Sajiko Oda and Kay Arima.

Miyagi, Sumiko, 50, Mar. 9; survived by husband, Ted; and children, Takayasu, Shuhei, Yoshikuni, Yuka and Mika.

Miyake, Kenneth M., 78, Culver City, Mar. 2; survived by wife, Hazel; sons, Bruce (Carol), Randall (Masayo) and Shawn (Marijane); daughter, Liane (Jonathan) Brown; and 6 gc.

Mori, Bob A., 79, Los Angeles, Mar. 12; Korean Conflict veteran; survived by wife, Kay; sons, Mark (Gail) and Bruce (Reyna); daughter, Marilyn (Greg) Somerville; 5 gc.; brother, Sus (Kumi); sisters, Misayo Kumakura, Yo Hanaoka, and Misuko Sugimura; brother-in-law, Bill (Helen) Hayakawa; and sisters-in-law, Michi Mori, Ida (Yosh) Kunitzugu and Mary Sato.

Muraki, Hama, 103, Los Angeles, Mar. 3; survived by son, Koichi; daughters, Tomi (Harvey) Kunishima and Teruko (Steve) Ogawa; 6 gc.; and 8 ggc.

Nakata, Edward Masahiko, 75, Rancho Palos Verdes, Mar. 19; survived by wife, Evelyn; son, Glen (Tina); daughter, Darlene (Jacques) Gautreaux; and 2 gc.

Ninokawa, Frank Takeo, 96, Monterey Park, Mar. 11; survived by wife, Kaneko; son, Cary (Cindy); daughters, Jeanne (Tommy) Tanaka and Arlene (Henry) Ito; 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sister, Shigeo (Tosh) Morita.

Nishihara, Joe A., 85, Merced, Jan. 12; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Cara; daughters, Cindy and Sharon; sister, Jeanette (George) Okazaki; and brothers, Harry (Margaret) and Jack (Takako).

Nomura, Robert Glen, 49, San Jose, Mar. 2; survived by wife, Marsi; son, Matthew; parents, Shoso and Florence; sisters, Ann, Nancy and Lynn O'Connell; and brother, Tim.

Oshiro, Raymond Eisuke, 93, Gardena, Mar. 17; survived by sons, Ronald (Eleanor), Dennis, Wayne (Andrea) and Gordon; daughters, Betty (Warren) Chibana, Patsy Mondoy and Nancy Sumida; 9 gc.; 2 ggc; brother, Eizen (Kimiko); and sisters, Kameko Urasaki and Tsuruko (Masataro) Nagata.

Ryono, Kei, 78, Long Beach, Mar. 19; survived by husband, Teruo; sons, David (Valerie) and Daniel; 2 gc.; brother, Koshi Ono; sisters, Minako Yoshimoto and Mari Oshio; and sisters-in-law, Kayo Ono and Kimiyo (George) Matsuoka.

Sakimoto, Amy, 89, Nashville, Tenn., Mar. 18; survived by sons, Alan and Philip; and 2 gc.

Sano, Akira, 70, Washington, D.C., Feb. 24; survived by daughters, Holly (Mark) Cody and Penny (Kevin) Peirce; 2 gc.; mother, Chiyoko Sano; brothers, Masaru and Hiroshi (Christa); and sisters, Fujiko (Bert) Yamasaki and Emi (Frank) Hino.

Sukimoto, Toshiko, 87, Los Angeles, Mar. 3; survived by sons, Kenneth and Roy (Carol); daughter, June; and 2 gc.

Tajiri, Taneharu "Taney," 87, West Los Angeles, Mar. 13; survived by son, Osamu (Grace); 2 gc.; brother, Akira (Naomi); and

sisters, Yoshino Hasegawa, Haruno Tsuruoka and Kikuno (Mineo) Okamoto.

Tanaka, Midori N., 86, Gardena, Mar. 13; survived by husband, Jeff; sons, Garry (Sue), Ronnie (Janice) and Kenneth; daughter, Charlene Tanaka; 7 gc.; 6 ggc.; and brother, Hiroshi (Jane) Meifu.

Toyota, Kameo, 89, Fresno, Mar. 22; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, I Company; survived by wife, Mary; sister, Teruko Kanai; and brother, Yoshio.

Uno, Rev. Ernest N., 81, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 19; WWII veteran, 442nd/MIS; survived by wife, Grace; sons, Joseph and Thomas; daughter, Barbara Olmos; sisters, Kay Kaneko and Mei Matsuzaki; and 5 gc. ■

Whereabouts

This section runs on a space available basis at no charge.

MARY HAYASHIDA

Katherine Klatt (nee Faulk) is searching for Mary Hayashida. Mary attended Sumner High School in Washington and was sent to the Puyallup Assembly Center, Area B.1.97. With information please contact Katherine at Mill Ridge Village, 607 28th Ave., Milton, WA 98354 or 253/927-3349.

DEATH NOTICE

FRED FUKUMI NABETA

SAN DIEGO—Fred Fukumi Nabeta, 81, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away at his El Cajon home Mar. 14, 2007. A Kibei Nisei, Fred was born in Venice, Calif. in 1925, the second of eight children. His family moved to Koya, Fukuoka Prefecture in 1933. He returned to California at age 15 just before the U.S. entered the war. Fred was interned at Poston Camp I where he was elected its youngest Block Manager. He met and married Ritsu Uyeno in 1946 and they raised five children during 60 years of marriage. He farmed in both the Watsonville and San Diego areas before becoming a retail clerk in 1962. Fred retired as a UFCW produce manager in 1990. He is survived by wife Ritsu; children Joyce (Bill) Teague, Fredrick Nabeta, Janice (Ken) Schell, Nancy (Daniel) Martinez, Jeanne (Craig) Inouye, and seven grandchildren, all residing in the San Diego area; sisters Rose (Charles) Yoshida of Torrance and Kimiko Masuda of Japan; and brothers Tetsuo, Kazumi, Takao and Kiyoji Nabeta all of Japan. Memorial services were held Mar. 31 at Greenwood Memorial Park. Gratitude to long-time friends who enriched his life. No koden. Donations are suggested in Fred's memory to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego Elevator Fund.

DEATH NOTICE

JOHN JUN WADA

BERKELEY—John Jun Wada, 83, passed away Mar. 18. A native of Alameda and a 61-year resident of Berkeley. After internment in Topaz, Utah, Mr. Wada served in the U.S. Army during WWII in Europe as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne. He also worked as a civilian with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Mr. Wada was a sheet-metal worker for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Research Division, and retired in 1983 after twenty years of service. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Yae; daughters, Kathryn (Peter) Jan of El Cerrito, Lynn (Stephen) Matsumoto of Moraga; son-in-law, Ralph Iwasa of El Cerrito; sister, Miyoshi Nakano of Berkeley; grandchildren, Diana Jan, Karen Iwasa, Joy Iwasa, Lauren Matsumoto and Bryan Matsumoto, all from the Bay Area, and Michael Jan of Aiea, Hawaii; great-grandchildren, Jason Coelho of Benicia, and Kiana and Leilani Jan, both of Aiea, Hawaii. Preceded in death by sister, Miki Sano; brother, Charlie Wada; daughter, Diane Iwasa; and granddaughter, Tracy Jan. Private family services have been held at Sunset View Cemetery, El Cerrito with interment, Sunset Mausoleum, Kensinton.

DEATH NOTICE

YORI SASAKI

Yori Sasaki and her husband Mas were married 53 years and lived in Wilmette, Ill. the past 48 years. She was born Mar. 30, 1915 and passed away peacefully from cancer on Mar. 10, 2007 while visiting their only child's family in Laguna Beach, Calif. Yori grew up helping care for her five brothers and sisters, but always knew how to have fun. She danced, dined, skied, cooked, worked, traveled and socialized her way through a great life. Her friends seemed to include all she came in contact with and probably due to her gift to see the good in most all people. The on-going and ever present mutual love with her immediate family (husband Mas, son Steve, daughter-in-law Shelley and grandsons Alex and Kevin), families of her sibling (Shig, Aiko, Jeanne, Lois, and Bob), and families of her in-laws was enough to fill several typical lifetimes. This, however, supplemented by her great and seemingly infinite friendships made her life rich beyond our comprehension. She was interned in Minidoka, Idaho as a young adult during WWII, but survived, free of any apparent bitterness. She had many jobs, but perhaps her favorite was a 30-year position as a bookkeeper and cashier at the New Trier High School lunch room, until she was 90 years old! She was living testament that "the generation gap" is overstated and she would often exclaim that kids today are "Great". She became a "hero" to many including her son, for her active and enthusiastic lifestyle, that lasted throughout her 91 years. The word we came to hear most about Yori - "Amazing!" A small private service will be held at Yori's request. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Christ Church Capital Campaign Fund; 6047 North Rockwell; Chicago, IL 60659 would be greatly appreciated.

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WAKAMATSU COLONY

(Continued from page 1)

Placer, and Florin JACL chapters — are working with the American River Conservancy (ARC) to preserve the site of Okei-san's gravesite and restore the surrounding area that was once the pioneering Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony.

The ARC recently signed a purchase option agreement for the market price value of \$4.6 million for the 303-acre Gold Hill Ranch that is currently owned by the pioneering Veerkamp family, the same family who befriended the Wakamatsu colonists in the late 1800s.

"Here is an opportunity to interpret multiple phases of our culture and history and how they all interacted with each other," said Alan Ehrgott, ARC executive director.

"To me, this is a fascinating story."

The First Japanese Colony

In the late 1860s residents of Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan were forced to leave their homeland due to an ongoing civil war between the ruling emperor and the various samurai lords. They were led by John Henry Schnell, a Dutchman married to a Japanese woman, who purchased 160 acres of California land to establish an agricultural settlement.

Schnell, along with the 21 other Japanese colonists, established a tea

and silk farm colony at Gold Hill. At first they experienced much success but several factors would lead to the colony's ultimate demise a few years later. Soon after their arrival, vandalism from some local miners, a drought that soon followed, and little monetary support from Japan led to the colony's collapse.

Although very little is known about what eventually happened to the Japanese colonists, Okei-san's gravesite with the marker — "In Memory of Okei, Died 1871, Age 19 Years, a Japanese Girl" — still sits on top of Gold Hill. It is rumored that Okei-san would often go to this area to watch the setting sun and look towards her homeland.

Local documents indicate that fellow colonist Matsunosuke Sakurai died in 1901 and is buried in the Vineyard Cemetery at Coloma, a few miles from Gold Hill, although a headstone does not exist today.

"Growing up I had heard of the Wakamatsu colony and especially Okei-san," said Yonsei Fred Kochi, 60, who is working with the ARC to help raise funds to purchase the site of the former colony.

Raised in Sacramento and currently residing in Sunnyvale, Calif., Fred's parents and grandparents would share stories of the pioneering colonists, stories likely passed down

from his great-grandmother who immigrated to the area just 10 years after Okei-san.

Last February while visiting his own grandmother's gravesite, he decided to visit Okei-san's grave.

"I had always wanted to find my way to Okei-san's gravesite," he said. "There is so much history behind here. Preserving this area is one of the things that must be done."

Gold Hill Today

Okei-san's gravesite, a large keaki tree, and the Ranch House where the colonists used to reside are all that remain of the Wakamatsu colony today; they are located on private property beside the Gold Trail School. The 303-acre Gold Hill Ranch is now largely open pastureland and no one lives on the land any longer.

Over the years, local JA and Japanese groups have worked to preserve the former colony. In 1969, on the centennial of the Japanese colonists first arrival in the United States, a commemorative marker was dedicated at the site. Today this area has been established as California Historical Landmark No. 815.

The ARC and local JA groups hope to purchase the land and build a tourist friendly landmark including

a restored tea and silk farm which would be open to the public. The site will feature the historic introduction of silk making, tea production, papermaking, and bamboo crafts imported by the Japanese colonists to California.

Phil Veerkamp, 63, of Diamond Springs, a descendant of Francis and Louisa Veerkamp who first befriended the Japanese colonists — along with his siblings Gary and Evelyn — are glad to see the property will be preserved and the story of Okei-san and the Wakamatsu colony will continue to be told.

"My mother's gone, we have this huge asset, and we thought, how do we handle this responsibly?" said Phil who had lived and worked on the site of the former Japanese colony from 1970 until 1991. "None of us wanted the property developed and turned into hobby farms. The prospect of selling to a developer was not appealing.

"We were aware of the historical context of the land," he said. "It's an underappreciated story."

A Lasting Legacy

Those involved with the Gold Hill — Wakamatsu Project fundraising efforts hope that once monies are raised to purchase the land, more people will begin to learn about

these pioneering Japanese colonists and their contributions to American history.

"We want to make it a real historic site. It really is a pilgrimage," said Fred, who has developed a close friendship with Phil and the Veerkamp family. "Many Nisei and Sansei are not familiar with this but we would not be here if it weren't for them. They are the pioneers."

"We are happy, absolutely. It's private property and access is very limited. If the ARC buys it the gates will be opened and everyone will have access to it," said Tom.

Tom, who will soon turn 82, hopes younger JAs will take an interest in the area's history. Today, the youngest persons to attend their annual cleaning trips to Okei-san's grave are in their 50s and 60s.

"There is no interest, the help is not coming. But one of these days I won't be able to make it. We need the younger people to go up there," he said. ■

For information about the Gold Hill — Wakamatsu Project, call 530/621-1224 or e-mail: wakamatsu@arconservancy.org. You can also access www.arconservancy.org. Donations can be mailed to: American River Conservancy, P.O. Box 562, Coloma, CA. 95613.

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