**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 Fillmore, 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.

He is going to clean Okei-san's gravestone.

For the past 36 years Tom and a dedicated group of Japanese Americans have traveled to Gold Hill Ranch near Coloma, Calif. to take care of and clean the gravestone of Okei Ito, better known as Okei-san, a pioneering Japanese colonist who immigrated to the United States in 1869 and passed away in 1871 at the young age of 19.

Although Okei-san's story had long been lost until after World War I, details have slowly emerged about her life. We now know she was a part of a group of 22 colonists who made the long journey from their home in Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan in the late 1860s to become the first Japanese colonists to settle in North America and California.

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 Takada 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

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**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 oral histories, transcripts, and photos in the unique friendship of two 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 telling these unique stories from the JA community.

See LIVING LEGACY/Page 5

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**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 World 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 cut 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

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**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 Oregon State Rep. Brian Clem chose to sponsor and co-write House Bill 2832. He is dedicating the bill to his late father-in-law Hideo Suzuki.

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

House Bill 2832 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

See OREGON BILL/Page 5

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**AA Community Rallyes 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. 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 Stefania 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 one is Filipino American, Hmong American, Chinese American, Vietnamese American," said Jan 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
To avoid interruptions in receiving Form 3575 (personal or internal reference use), please send information to the nearest JACL chapter, districts, and the larger community through their involvement in the leadership conference.

Ten years after the 3575 campaign, the JACL is holding its first leadership conference. This year's leadership conference will be held on March 1-3 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 policy issues, and leadership development. They should be able to benefit from 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 Iwamaga, Brian Morishige, Nancy Takayama of the PWN District; Bob Gomathi, Jeffery Selvin from the PNW District; Kathy Aoki and Haruki Rouboshashi of the NCWNP District; Marsha Ashlund and Dale Boda from the Central California District; Kuf Endo from the Intermountain District, and Ken Minoto 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 provided the help of some of her colleagues, on workshop State on Child Auto Safety. The JACL will work with State Farm throughout the nation to bring greater awareness to safety and families. The participants of the conference should be able to assist with this program in their various areas. A free check at group 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 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 opportunities to learn about public policy, the development of leadership skills, and to encourage civic participation.

SIPP-RIN CANPAIGN

Support the Spring Campaign 2007

By LARRY GRANT

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 tremendous archive of past issues. Many of the articles in the print version 2006 are already available. In the April issue, we hope to digitally archive older issues of the newspaper.

In a college journalism 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's a cost that must be paid by someone. The idea is not new. 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 members, schools and libraries and advertising provide additional revenues. Finally, for a number of years, donations 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 responsibility. Expenses are constantly monitored and resources are carefully 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 been free, the P.C. staff has been able to provide a great online product at a much lower cost than would normally be expected by taking free internet training classes, securing the software at reduced prices and carefully contracting for web services. The possibility of making the entire P.C. online available to subscribers 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 undersubscribed for some time. Caroline has been able to

supplement the staff by participating in internship programs. Interns have been used, particularly in the summer, to take on additional tasks and provide 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 are very important. If everyone makes just a small donation, great things can happen.

The proceeds from this year's Spring Campaign will be used to maintain and provide improvements to the P.C. Web site. The donations will also continue to see improvements in the printed and web version of the P.C. Our donations will be used carefully and will support the work of our members. Please be generous. Thank you for your donations.

Larry Grant is the JACL Intermountain District representative on the P.C., editorial board.
By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Wisconsin Man Pleads Not Guilty to Killing Hmong Hunter

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

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

Nicholls, 28, is accused of killing 30-year-old Chu Wang while both were squirrel hunting Jan. 5. Nicholls 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 Nicholls killed Wang 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 Rejection of Compensation Suit by Chinese WWII Slaves

TOKYO—A Japanese court rejected demands for compensation of about $15,566 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 WWll.

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 November planning to come home in early July after a seven-month stay. Her current crewmate, Michael López-Alegría, 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

Karl 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, Jason Kamuran and Jeffrey Kowahara, were awarded chapter scholarships for their outstanding academic achievement and involvement in the community.

Kamuran is ranked 17th out of 500 graduating seniors at Franklin High in Stockton and carries a 4.3-GPA. Kowahara 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 of the bill.

"Japanese Americans know well the results of deep seeded hate and bigotry," said JACL National Director Marty Oishi. "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

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
Contact: Milo Yoshino
925/933-7584 or miloyoshi@iacl.com

Bill Would Expand Minidoka Historic Site

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 internment camp.

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 is currently 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 was the site of the first evacuation of JAs to internment camps, in the future home of the Nidoto Nai Yoni "Let it Steal and Preserve" and a remembrance of the Bainbridge Island Memorial (right).

The new bill proposes to expand Minidoka National Historic 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.

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 L. 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 fought alongside the Americans in the "secret war" against communist forces 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 ensure that the law is not breaking down in sync with our values." Co-sponsors include the committee's top Republican, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, as well as Sen. 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 take up the Iraq spending bill.

Congressional APA Caucus Backs Law Benefiting Filipino Service

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—A congressional effort to represent Asian American and Pacific heritage backed legislation to reverse a 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, is considering giving full equity of benefits for an estimated 20,000 surviving forces in World War II and of Asian and Pacific American descent.

"I have been fighting to change this law ever since I learned about its unintended consequences..." - Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn.

"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," said Arnold. 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/mtahatepetition.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 APA's in 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-Ill., and Rep. Jeff Flake, R-AZ.

The APA Mobilization will include groups that have been under-represented in the immigration reform discussions.

"Refugee populations are largely impacted by immigration policies and have traditionally been left out of immigration reform debates. A national day of mobilization provides such an opportunity to stand united with all APA communities to ensure that our voices are included on this very important issue," said Dona DOE, 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-immigration laws were passed to keep Asians from coming to this country," said JACL Executive Director Frank Fong. "The spirit associated with immigration is at the heart of the American economic system and is an essential ingredient 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 MRI.

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.makao.org

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 bus 822 just after finishing school. She was heading to her Brooklyn house 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 charges to the current MTA policies.

Charles Seuten, 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 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 APA 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
"We do [interviews with] Sasei, Yonei, brothers, sisters... we don't...limit people's ages. We...the group's founder, CEO and oral historian," said Natalia, 29, JA Living Legacy president and oral historian. "We're so passionate about it." Natalia and Susan know how important it is to keep the history of the JA community alive. They do this by interviewing and recording the stories of the JA community's past and current residents.

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 isn’t set up to handle the funding for the project, she has established a nonprofit organization to manage the project’s finances and ensure the project is sustainable.

With a small staff and an even smaller budget, Susan and Natalia have used 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 word of mouth," said Susan. "We try to go to as many community events as possible, talk about the project, hand out our business cards and ask, 'Would you like to be interviewed?'" Natalia and Susan have seen the project gain momentum as more people become aware of it.

You can contact JA Living Legacy at info@jalivinglegacy.org or 714/278-4453. For more information, visit www.jalivinglegacy.org.

CENSUS

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. Treasury Department for a list of all potential 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 Natalia, whether the Census Bureau provided information about JAs during WWII has been a controversial issue but the case was never heard by the court.

"We're so passionate about it." 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 already become the largest collection of projects in addition to the oral histories. In conjunction with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the WWII Memorial Alliance they developed an accessible database of those who were killed in action (KIA’s). The group is also working on a book project in which all of the stories are written by Japanese Americans.

And they continue to take on unique new projects.

"One of the project’s oral historians is a Sansei, and she is starting a book project in which all of the stories are written by Japanese Americans who were born in the 1940s. We’re very excited about this," said Natalia.

"We do [interviews with] Sansei, young adults and those who served in the military," said Susan. "Some of the JA veterans are very interested in telling their stories and were eager to participate."

"And they continue to take on unique new projects."

It’s a little over a year since the group was founded, but they have come a long way. They have interviewed and recorded the histories of the JA community’s past and present residents. They have used the power of networking to help spread the word about JA Living Legacy, attending several community events and continually meeting with community members. They have established a nonprofit organization to manage the project’s finances and ensure the project’s sustainability. They have used their trilingual skills to ensure the history of the JA community is preserved for future generations. They have interviewed and recorded the stories of the JA community’s past and present residents. They have used the power of networking to help spread the word about JA Living Legacy, attending several community events and continually meeting with community members. They have established a nonprofit organization to manage the project’s finances and ensure the project’s sustainability. They have used their trilingual skills to ensure the history of the JA community is preserved for future generations. They have interviewed and recorded the stories of the JA community’s past and present residents. They have used the power of networking to help spread the word about JA Living Legacy, attending several community events and continually meeting with community members. They have established a nonprofit organization to manage the project’s finances and ensure the project’s sustainability. They have used their trilingual skills to ensure the history of the JA community is preserved for future generations. They have interviewed and recorded the stories of the JA community’s past and present residents. They have used the power of networking to help spread the word about JA Living Legacy, attending several community events and continually meeting with community members. They have established a nonprofit organization to manage the project’s finances and ensure the project’s sustainability. They have used their trilingual skills to ensure the history of the JA community is preserved for future generations.

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CENSUS

(Continued from page 1)

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For Natalia, whether the Census Bureau provided information about JAs during WWII has been a controversial issue but the case was never heard by the court.

"We're so passionate about it." said Susan. "We want to keep going for a while longer."

But realistically both Susan and Natalia know that even if they are granted, whether it be grants or donations, needs to be sought to be successful for the future of JA Living Legacy continues to grow. Their hope is that they can continue to grow and make a closing connection with the community, understanding too big too fast you sometimes lose touch with the community," said Susan. "We want to keep going but bond that with the community."

"Innovative Projects"

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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 police-
cians and war veterans who had come to help mark the 65th anniver-
sary 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 taken by train to Manzanar.

The gathering on March 31 also celebrated efforts to build a $5 million memorial “Nidoto Nai Yoni” at Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Committee.

Many of thephthalmic trauma victims who were herded onto the ferry were Bainbridge survivors of 227 men, women and children who were herded onto the ferry Kehloken and taken to board the ferry.

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 memori-
al 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 viola-
tion of constitutional rights in the history of the country,” for-
ner Gov. Gary Locke said during the dedication. “The message is, don’t let it happen again.”

At the event Clarence Mortiwaki, 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. Mortiwaki 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 on strawberry farms and lumber mills.

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

The 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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They played critical roles trans-
slating enemy documents, interro-
gating Japanese prisoners of war, intercepting communications, and persuading Japanese militia to surren-
der.

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 sec-

SECOND GENERATION AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY W WII INTERPRETERS

They played critical roles trans-
slating enemy documents, interro-
gating Japanese prisoners of war, intercepting communications, and persuading Japanese militia to sur-
nder.

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 pre-
pared 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."}


Winner: Selected Work Award, 2007 Tokyo Video Festival

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"All I can say is — wow! It brought tears to my eyes."

"Thanks for honoring the brave men of the 442nd."

Endorsed by the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance
Texas Rangers officials the day after he interviewed for the vacant managerial job last fall.

Washington and 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 New York 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 his only 18 games in the major leagues. "He's great. He's the one running the show," translator Masa Hoshino said of the elbow slam. Matsuzaka's laugh filled the room. "Oh, that was Pedro throwing strikes." Wakamatsu said the Red Sox invested $103 million in uses his arm — and possibly rules injury — for anything but firing strikes.

"He's great. He's the one running camp," said Washington. "The setting for a recent lunch meeting table. Then he laughed. "Big, strong," the smiling Dice-K Matsuzaka said. "Lethal Weapon" with Mel Gibson, "Catcher &" with Sylvester Stallone. In the midst of a string of Japanese words, he spoke to two familiar names: "Cy Young, Nolan Ryan are two pitchers he admires — "Cly 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.

After about 30 seconds, he finally 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. "That lets him display his charm," said 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 pride." Young and Nolan Ryan are two pitchers he admires — "Cly 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.

Eventually, he eats out in Fort Myers. But his favorite Japanese restaurant, he said in English to more laughter, "is my home." The minute session ended, both pitchers shook hands with their companions. One reporter had a final question: How's the elbow?"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)

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Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff
ABROAD VIEW

A View from Abroad
Ehren Watada

In Western Europe, many political issues are seen differently than they are in the U.S. For example, right at the beginning, several Western European countries — notably Germany and France — were against the U.S.-led 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 Lt. Ehren Watada has sparked significant media interest in Western Europe. Watada was the first commissioned officer to refuse to deploy 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.

Watada voluntarily joined the armed forces. At the time, he was convinced that he had no right to do anything else. He wanted to defend his country against the threats from Iraq. However, since then, these threats have been over-exaggerated. Watada said he 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 was an illegal war.

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 massacre and Vietnam War. And other cases may be coming up in the near future, as calls to investigate the treatment of innocent civilians 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, its citizens — and was and has been 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 kidnapings 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 representation.

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 Japanese 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 issues of the legality of the war. Ironically, exactly that denial of the biggest issue is what caused the mass trial ruling on the 5th of February.

Amnesty International has been hugely interested in this case. They believe that imprisoning Watada was a war crime illegal under international law. In light of 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 trial will have repercussions around the world. No, Ehren Watada's fight is by no means an isolated incident of American military injustice.

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-koch.de

Nanking Revisited

Back in the 2006 Holiday Season 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 300,000 people. On a more personal note, I wanted to show how wartime atrocities from the past century still have 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 50th anniversary of the Nanking massacre. This year marks the 70th anniversary of this event, but still sparks intense emotions within the global community, so the struggle continues against historical amnesia continues. Nearly two months after writing the original article, I was surprised to find that there were 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 Suhrman, the same directors of the 9111 documentary "Twin Towers," premiered on June 29, 2007. Iris Chang's book. One label told students that these photographs were better viewed from a distance, perhaps because of their highly graphic nature.

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 the killings, mutilated corpses, barbed wire and emaciated people stared down at students who stopped to look at the pictures and the accompanying captions. These captions quoted extensively from Iris Chang's book. The label told students that these photographs were better 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. It was the shock of seeing these photographs still hadn't diminished a single bit.

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Yumi Sakagawa is currently attend­

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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 destined 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 on the evening news while he vacationed in Canada and thought, 'this is crazy!' said Olivia. "She is a modern day warrior with words."

Iris Chang-ing It

Over the phone, Olivia breathlessly traces the path that led her to Iris, including meeting with Iris' real life close friend Paula Karpen — 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 yet not found an actress to play the lead. Late one night, Andru Hazard, the production manager, fielded a frantic phone call from Olivia.

"She knew everything about Iris," Olivia said, "I could tell that she was crying with words." Hazard hung up the phone and said Hazard. "I think she has a very big way," said Olivia.

"I'm just remembering 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. "I'm following in her footsteps in a very big way," said Olivia. The film is also expected to plumb the soul of Iris' 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.

"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 over the author's annals of research, video interviews and personal notes.

"I'm an ambitious undertaking — it's inspired me to get to the bottom of the research library to make sure that Olivia is 'enthusiastic, bright and assertive — all traits she shares with 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.

As Olivia 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 Massacre.

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For more information: www.irischangthemovie.com, www.oliviacheng.com
Photograph: Craig Schwartz

THESPISANS IN TORRANCE, CAIF.: (l-r) Shannon Holt, Emily Kuroda, Tamlyn Tomita and Dian Kobayashi perform in Cherry Yaw’s Question 27, Question 28.

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

Hamachi, Masaru, 75, Long Beach, Mar. 10; survived by wife, Eiko; and siblings, Kiiko Hirohara, Teruo and Pacoima, Mar. 9; survived by Robert Sugimoto; and sisters, Carrie and Kaye (Gary) Teraoka and Keiko (Yosh) Kunitsugu and Mary Sato.

Iida, Ryozo “Yota,” 59, Northridge, Mar. 10; survived by wife, Byon (Christina).

Imada, Eugene Hideo, West Los Angeles, Mar. 6; survived by wife, Dora; and 6 gc.

Matsuzaki, Henry Kunio, 79, Denver, Colo., Mar. 16; survived by wife, Navaj; and 5 gc.

Nishihara, Joe A., 85, Merced, Mar. 2; survived by son, Thomas; and 6 gc.

Shigeru, Toshio, 91, West Covina, Mar. 18; survived by sons, Ken (Renee) and Rick (Bonnie) Ishihara, daughter, Kathy (Jeff) Mizuno; and 1 ggc.

Koyama, Juno, 76, Torrance, Mar. 9; survived by wife, Joanne; and 3 gc.

Kurita, Tetsuro, 69, Gardena, Mar. 13; survived by wife, Reiko; and 2 gc.

Michi, Sumi Sam 78, Gardena, Mar. 1; survived by wife, Reiko; and 1 ggc.

Miyagi, Sumiko, 50, Mar. 9; survived by husband, Ted; and 10 gc.

Nakae, Edward Masahiro, 75, Rancho Palos Verdes, Mar. 19; survived by wife, Evelyn; and 1 ggc.

Nakawatase, Joe A., 85, Merced, Mar. 2; survived by wife, Kaneko; and Cary (Christina); and 5 gc.

Sano, Akira, 70, Washington, D.C., Feb. 24; survived by daughters, Polly (Mark) and Penny; and 2 gc.

Tajiri, Taneharu “Taney,” 87, West Los Angeles, Mar. 13; survived by wife, Akiko; and 2 ggc.

Torrance and Kimiko Masuda of Los Angeles, Emi Kuwahara of Venice, Calif., and Kenneth and Rika Nabeta of Berkeley; and grandchildren, Diana Coelho (Mari); daughters, Kathryn and Jeannette (Gary) Okazaki; and brothers, Harry and James (Rose); and sister-in-law, Helen.

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Japanese colonists, established a Japanese woman, who purchased multiple phases of our culture Schnell, a Dutchman married to a emperor and the various samurai ing civil war between the ruling colonists in the late 1800s.

"There 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 Matsumonake 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 Yoritsu Fred Kochi, 60, who is working with the ARC to 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 pasture-land 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.

Phl 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 responsibility?” 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 won’t 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-project@arconservancy.org. You can also access www.arconservancy.org. Donations can be mailed to: American River Conservancy, P.O. Box 562, Coloma, CA 95613.