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Coupon Page 2

Anti-Asian Flyer  
Eggrolls Etc. in Arizona  
continues to stand by its  
racist menu even as APA  
groups protest.  
NATIONAL PAGE 3

Saving Grace  
Grace Lee's second film  
'American Zombie' is a  
scream.  
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9

Dice-K Who?  
Okajima makes an  
unexpected impact  
as Boston Red  
Sox reliever.  
SPORTS PAGE 7

AMERICAN ZOMBIE

Since 1929

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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MAY 18-31, 2007

## MEMORIAL DAY

### JA Soldiers Making a Difference in Iraq and Abroad

As the nation thanks its veterans this Memorial Day, these soldiers are proud to be serving their country.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Lt. Col. George Ishikata has 23 years of U.S. Army experience under his belt. For the past few years he's been training and preparing his battalion soldiers to fight in various parts of the world including Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. But lately he felt like something was missing: he wanted to experience first-hand what his soldiers were going through.

So he asked to be deployed to Iraq. For the past four months Ishikata has been stationed in Baghdad overseeing the translation of captured documents and media to assist the commanders in locating insurgents.

"As a leader, I felt it was important for me to have this experience so that I could understand my soldiers better, and so they could feel comfortable that I had gone through the same hardships as them," said Ishikata, a 44-year-old Sansei from San Francisco.

"I'd liken it to any sport participant ... you prepare to play in the big game. If you have a successful career and never get to the big game,

part of you always wishes you had."

Ishikata's life now consists of seven-day work-weeks that often last 16 hours a day. Some days there are briefings with his higher-ups, on other days there's the occasional visit with a team in a remote area.

"But the day is basically work and eat, not much else,"

See MEMORIAL DAY/Page 6



PHOTO: LANCE CPL. WARREN PEACE



Cpl. Mitsuo Satoh (above, middle) translates for soldiers in Japan. Lt. Col. George Ishikata (left) is currently serving in Iraq.

### Shock Jocks Dropped Over Asian Slurs

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

NEW YORK—One month after the firing of radio host Don Imus for broadcasting sexist and racist gibes, a pair of suspended New York shock jocks have been permanently pulled from the air by CBS Radio for a prank phone call rife with offensive Asian stereotypes.

"The Dog House with JV and Elvis," hosted by Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay, "will no longer be broadcast," CBS Radio spokeswoman Karen Mateo said May 12. CBS Radio dismissed broadcasting hall of famer Imus in April for his defamation of the Rutgers women's basketball team.

The cancellation of the show, nearly three weeks after the show hosts were suspended, was another indication of the increased scrutiny on radio hosts and the heightened management sensitivity to complaints in the wake of the Imus firing.

"This is a victory not only for the Asian American community, but for all communities who find themselves constant targets of racist and sexist programming," said Jeanette

See SHOCK JOCKS/Page 12

### Creating a Pan Asian Culture Through Classical Dance

Ken Kanesaka chased his dreams of breaking into kabuki. He did it. Now he's back in L.A. with dreams of bridging cultures.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.— Nearly eight years after becoming the first American to break into the cloistered world of kabuki in Japan, Ken Kanesaka is back on native soil.

"I can help bridge the gap between Japan and America or even Japan and the rest of the world."



Onstage in Osaka with full makeup and flowing costume, he's known as Nakamura Gankyo, but on his college campus he easily blends in with the young California t-shirt crowd.

After all, even a professional kabuki artist needs his diploma.

"My father wants

me to finish my degree because I only have one or two quarters left," said the 26-year-old Huntington Beach, Calif. native. In 1998 during his sophomore year at the University of California at Los Angeles Ken studied abroad in Tokyo and spontaneously moved to Osaka to attend kabuki training school where he graduated at the top of his class.

"Also when I go abroad for lectures, people always tend to ask me

See CLASSICAL DANCE/Page 5

### Blazing a Trail on Two Wheels

This Sansei's idea of a vacation is retracing the footsteps of runaway slaves. On the inaugural ride through the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route, she catches up with the P.C.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

Colleen Shino is riding through history — literally.

Perched on her bicycle, she travels about 50 miles a day through America's winding roads and swamplands on the first-ever ride on the "route to freedom," a new bicycle path that retraces the approximately 2,100 mile journey slaves took before and during the Civil War to inhale



Colleen Shino at the start of her journey in Mobile, Alabama.

See BLAZING A TRAIL/Page 12

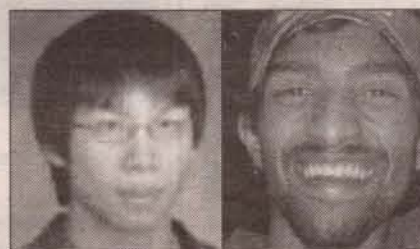
### Are AA Males Unwilling Targets of Virginia Tech Fallout?

Just weeks after Seung-Hui Cho shot 32 in a deadly rampage, media reports show an increasing number of high school and college age AA males being targeted for hate incidents and school suspensions.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

If you're an Asian American male of high school or college age you might be feeling a bit uneasy these days. And with good reason.

In the past few weeks there's been a slew of media reports involving young AA males, and they haven't been flattering portrayals. One was the victim of an alleged hate beating at Auburn University. One was sent



Lee (left) and Meepegama were taken out of school for alleged violent and aggressive behavior.

to a psychiatric hospital for posting a violent image on his Web site. And an Illinois high school student was charged with two misdemeanor counts for writing a violent essay.

Although some of the stories involve some questionable behavior on the part of these young men, many in the AA community

See FALLOUT/Page 6

### Our Father's Club

At its peak, the Terminal Islander Club was an active social organization of former friends and neighbors. Today, their very existence threatens to fade into the background of history.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

The Terminal Islander picnics usually open with the pounding of the taiko drums, relay races with screeching grandchildren running towards the finish line and the echoes of karaoke performances. At

the annual event, it's much of the same for old-timers who slap each other on the backs and make comments on graying hairs and fading memories.

The annual picnic has been going strong since 1971. In the beginning there were about 1,000 members of the exclusive Terminal Islander club, a contingency of mostly Nisei bound by a shared history and geography. Most members were born or have lived on Terminal Island, once a booming Japanese fishing village, but now an industrial wasteland in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metro area.



There are only about 300 Terminal Islanders left, said Yukio Tatsumi, club president for the last 22 years. But the traditions go on. This June 10, Terminal Islanders will reunite again for their picnic in George

PICNIC TIME: Terminal Island was populated by JA fishermen (below). In 1971, the tradition of the picnic (left) began.



Bellis Park in Buena Park, Calif. Every year Yukio, 87, looks out into the crowd and sees fewer faces he grew up with.

"It's not a good feeling but that's

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To avoid interruptions in receiving  
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## COMMENTARY

# A Memorable Experience: JA Leadership Delegation to Japan

By LARRY ODA  
JACL Nat'l President

Recently a diverse group of  
Japanese Americans chosen by vari-  
ous consulate generals of Japan  
throughout the United States left on  
a week-long journey of discovery to  
Japan.

I had the  
honor and privi-  
lege of being  
nominated  
amongst the 12  
delegates for  
this Japanese  
American  
Leadership

Delegation by Consul General  
Makoto Yamanaka of the San  
Francisco Consulate.

The trip was sponsored by the  
Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
(MOFA), and the Japan Foundation  
Center for Global Partnership  
(CGP). The Japanese American  
National Museum (JANM) provided  
administration and organization for  
the trip.

The purpose of the week-long  
visit was to give JA leaders an  
opportunity to become acquainted  
with Japan and to meet and  
exchange information with Japanese  
leaders in government, business, and  
cultural sectors. The trip was also an  
opportunity to give Japanese leaders  
a greater understanding about multi-

cultural America through the experi-  
ences of a diverse group of JAs.

Part of the delegation included:  
Brian Matsumoto, president,  
Resources International, Aurora,  
Colorado; Brennon Morioka, deputy  
director Hawaii State Department of  
Transportation; Albert Muratsuchi,  
deputy attorney general, California  
Department of Justice; Miko  
Sawamura, chief, Breast and  
Cervical Cancer Treatment Program,  
California Department of Health  
Services; and educator Sandra  
Tanamachi, Freeport, Texas.

I was honored to have been part of  
this delegation. My fellow delegates  
were very influential leaders not  
only locally, but regionally and  
nationally. Within the delegation  
there were varying degrees of  
knowledge of Japan, four of our  
members had never been to Japan  
and a like number had gone to  
school in Japan or had lived there.

The delegation spent eight nights  
in Japan, five in Tokyo, one in Kyoto  
and two in Hiroshima. We visited  
with high ranking government offi-  
cials, elected representatives,  
Japanese business leaders, JAs doing  
business in Japan, as well as with  
educators and citizens.

In Tokyo, as the seat of govern-  
ment, we visited many high ranking  
officials at the MOFA offices, the  
Speaker of the House at his resi-  
dence, the prime minister's official



residence, the U.S. Embassy, and  
were privileged to have an audience  
with Her Imperial Highness,  
Princess Takamado, at her residence.

In Kyoto the visit was more of a  
cultural orientation nature. We saw  
Kinkaku-ji (the Golden Pavilion),  
attended a lecture and performance  
of Kyogen at the home of a 13th  
generation Kyogen Master, and  
toured Kyoto by bus and on foot.

In Hiroshima, we made a courtesy  
call to the city offices and were  
received by the vice mayor and his  
staff before visiting the Hiroshima  
Peace Memorial Museum. At the  
Peace Museum, after a short tour we  
were fortunate to have a private  
audience with Miyoko Matsubara,  
an atomic bomb survivor.

In the afternoon, the CGP organ-  
ized a symposium where three of our  
members, Harold Taniguchi, Sandra  
Tanamachi, and Donna Shimoda  
Hollingshead discussed "Japanese  
Americans at a Crossroad,

Connecting Past, Present and  
Future."

This was the most significant jour-  
ney of my life. I am extremely grate-  
ful to Consul General Yamanaka, the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the  
Japan Foundation Center for Global  
Partnership and the Japanese  
American National Museum for the  
opportunity.

I saw and learned so much and  
had access to people and places that  
are only seen in pictures. The experi-  
ence of hearing the actual words of a  
Hibakusha, and interacting with  
Princess Takamado will be part of  
my fondest of memories.

Beyond that, I have developed a  
deep abiding respect and friendships  
with my fellow delegates, and the  
individuals we met in Japan. I will  
be forever grateful for the opportuni-  
ty to take part in this wonderful pro-  
gram and feel a profound sense of  
indebtedness that I can only begin to  
repay. ■

## SPRING CAMPAIGN

# Helping *Pacific Citizen* Reach Its Potential

By NELSON NAGAI

I never thought I would ever think this and maybe  
this thought has also crossed your mind — "I am  
proud that articles like 'Why I Hate Blacks' will never  
be printed in the *Pacific Citizen*."



I cannot imagine why anyone  
would want to publish an article  
advocating hate, but it does hap-  
pen as witnessed recently in  
*AsianWeek*. Unlike other pur-  
ported Asian American newspa-  
pers, it does not happen in the  
P.C. The P.C. has a staff that sup-  
ports civil rights and is sensitive  
to the concerns of other commu-  
nities. We often take P.C.'s support of civil rights for  
granted.

It is gratifying that the P.C. does not embarrass the  
JACL and our leaders are not seen on national televi-  
sion apologizing for the P.C. In this regard, the P.C.  
deserves our continued support. The Spring  
Campaign is one way we can continue to support the  
P.C. and enable it to expand its style of journalism.

For what it costs to subscribe to other printed  
media, we can donate that amount to the P.C. so the  
staff can buy up-to-date equipment and hire more  
staff. The new and expanded P.C. Web site is an  
example of what Spring  
Campaign donations can  
accomplish. There is more that  
can be done but it takes more  
people and more money.

The Spring Campaign has  
become necessary because of  
the unique way the P.C. is fund-  
ed. The P.C.'s budget is part of  
the overall JACL budget which  
is passed every two years. This  
means that funding is locked in  
for two years. There is no con-  
tingency for unforeseen emer-  
gencies or even rising costs like  
postage.

Since the JACL's overall  
financial status mandates that  
JACL programs operate with  
bare bones budgets, the P.C. has

been given little money to update equipment or hire  
staff. In recent years, the P.C., like JACL, has finished  
the year in the black by being understaffed.

The Spring Campaign is also necessary because  
P.C. budget constraints relegate it to a twice-monthly  
periodical. This makes the P.C. less appealing to  
advertisers who prefer weekly and daily periodicals to  
promote their businesses. The P.C. does have loyal  
advertisers who advertise because their target con-  
sumers are Japanese American or because they  
engage in "good will" advertising to show they are  
supportive of JAs. The P.C. does generate advertising  
revenue, but not enough to do all the things the staff  
could do.

The P.C. reports the news, and it does so in a  
responsible manner. Its goal is to become the premier  
AA news periodical. I used to think that a humble  
paper should have lofty goals, even though they may  
not be entirely reachable.

It is very Asian in thinking.

Given the rising popularity of the ethnic press in  
America and the direction that other AA newspapers  
are following, the P.C.'s goal is not so farfetched. We  
should all try to help the P.C. reach its potential. ■

*Nelson Nagai is the Northern California-Western  
Nevada-Pacific district's representative on the Pacific  
Citizen editorial board.*

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## Letters to the Editor

### Habeas Corpus and Watada

Thank you to John Tateishi for  
urging us to be outraged and alarmed  
at U.S. Attorney General Alberto  
Gonzalez's outrageous statement  
that there could be exceptions to  
habeas corpus. This basic right in our  
Constitution to go before a judge to  
ask for due process must be protect-  
ed from the serious challenge by the  
Bush administration.

We as members must urge our  
board to not only stand up for habeas  
corpus, but to loudly support 1st Lt.  
Ehren Watada, to maintain the  
integrity of the JACL as the civil  
rights advocate that won the redress  
for all who suffered imprisonment in  
the WWII internment camps  
because no one questioned it enough  
to stop it.

Listen, fellow JACL members, to  
the words of your dedicated past  
national director who has dedicated  
himself to uphold the rights of us all.  
Only we in great numbers can ques-  
tion and stop these threats to our  
rights.

*Edith Kawamoto Frederick*  
Via e-mail

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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

## GQ Editor Draws Fire for Use of Racial Slur



NEW YORK—GQ editor Jim Nelson is being criticized for the racist and sexist phrase "Asian whores" he used in his letter to readers.

In the May issue of the men's magazine, Nelson uses the phrase "Asian whores" twice in reference to a DVD that preaches the power of positive thinking. Nelson wrote: "visualize what you want (an Alfa Romeo? Leather pants? An Asian whore?), think positively, and the universe will ... make it happen for you."

Nelson responded to the allegations by saying that he was simply trying to poke fun at Western attitudes.

## Radio Host is Fired for On-Air Remarks

VICTORVILLE, Calif.—Radio talk show host Barb Stanton was fired May 7 from KIXW-AM for making on-air racist remarks.



On April 25, Stanton called Dominic Ng, president of East West Bank, a "foreigner" and encouraged her listeners to sever ties with Desert Community Bank for merging with East West Bank.

Stanton's weekday noon to 3 p.m. radio show on KIXW-AM Talk Radio 960 will be replaced by a nationally syndicated talk show hosted by Jerry Doyle.

## Possible Hate Crime at School Targets Asians

SCOTTS VALLEY, Calif.—White supremacists are suspected of causing a bomb scare at Scotts Valley High School and tagging the walls of the school with anti-Asian remarks.

The high school was shut down April 30 by a bomb scare that may have been the work of a white supremacist group calling itself the Scotts Valley Aryans Club, investigators said.

A suspicious device, which was not an explosive, was found tied to a tree near the principal's office just after 6 a.m. April 30. The graffiti, which targeted "Asians" and "Mexicans," is being investigated as a possible hate crime.

The Anti-Defamation League has offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for graffiti and the planting of the device. The JACL Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter sent a letter of concern to the district superintendent.

## Jury Convicts Engineer of Conspiring to Steal U.S. Military Secrets for China

SANTA ANA, Calif.—After a six-week trial, a federal jury convicted a Chinese-born engineer of conspiring to export U.S. defense technology to China, including data on an electronic propulsion system that could make submarines virtually undetectable.

The government accused Chi Mak, a naturalized U.S. citizen, of taking thousands of pages of documents from his defense contractor employer, Power Paragon of Anaheim, and giving them to his brother, who passed them along to Chinese authorities over a number of years.

Mak was arrested in 2005 after being found with three encrypted CDs in his luggage that contained documents on a submarine propulsion system, a solid-state power switch for ships and a Power Point presentation on the future of power electronics.

Mak faces up to 45 years in prison when he is sentenced Sept. 10.

## Four Charged with Bringing Women from China for Prostitution

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Federal authorities charged four people with bringing women from China to the Kansas City area for prostitution after a series of raids at businesses billed as massage parlors.

Authorities say they rescued 15 women from 12 businesses in Johnson County, Kan., mostly at strip malls. Those charged were Ling Xu, 45, Zhong Yan Liu, 35, Cheng Tang, 21, all Chinese citizens living in Overland Park, Kan., and Hongmei Madole, 31, a native of China married to a U.S. citizen and living in Olathe, Kan.

They were charged with transporting people across state lines and national borders for the purpose of prostitution.

The women are not facing charges, FBI spokesman Jeff Lanza said. ■

## APA Groups Object to Arizona Restaurant's Use of 'Chinaman'

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON, Arizona—Six Asian Pacific American groups have asked a restaurant to stop advertising what they say are racial slurs against Chinese people.

And so far, those groups say Eggrolls Etc. has yet to respond to mailed and hand-delivered letters objecting to the business's fliers and menu.

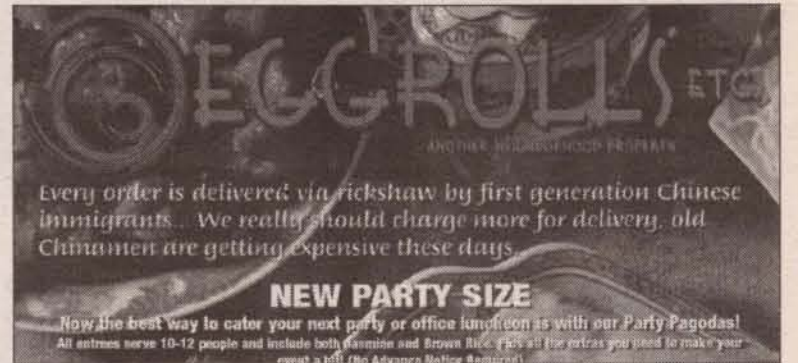
The fliers read: "Every order is delivered via rickshaw by first generation Chinese immigrants ... We really should charge more for delivery, old Chinamen are getting expensive these days."

Jason Wong, president of the Tucson Chinese Association, said the word "Chinaman" has historically been used as an offensive term to deride Chinese people and culture.

He said an attempt at humor cannot be used as a defense. "When you employ humor, you start to desensitize and start to legitimize racist language," he said.

Wong said the takeout and delivery business also mocks the language patterns of first-generation Chinese.

Under the heading "Fried Rice," the menus read: "Don't say Fried Rice, it's not funny ... there's no 'R' sound in Chinese, that's just cruel really ... I know your (sic) saying it ..."



Eggrolls Etc., a Chinese restaurant in Arizona, refuses to change its anti-Asian flyer which uses the offensive term "Chinaman" even though several APA groups, including JACL, are protesting its continued use.

Stop it Stop it Stop it! That's it. NO RICE FOR YOU!!!!

Eggrolls Etc. owner Mike Reynolds did not return repeated phone calls and e-mail requests for comment.

The restaurant addresses the potential controversy of its humor in its menu.

"All offensive accounts, misrepresentations or misspellings contained herein were intentional," according to the menu. "Should you be compelled to voice your repulsion regarding our sense of humor (or your lack thereof) we graciously implore you to write the newspaper, write your Congressman or start a picket line."

Wong said he hand-carried his

first letter to Eggrolls Etc. on Feb. 12. Marie Hanna, president of the Pan Asian Community Alliance, said her group sent a letter to Reynolds on April 12 and received no response.

"I think it's his attitude that offends me most," Hanna said. She said Reynolds thinks he can ignore the Asian community because it's a minority.

"We may be a minority here in Tucson," reads her letter, "but we are still 19,000 strong."

The Tucson Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the JACL, the Young Women's Christian Association of Tucson have all sent letters asking Eggrolls Etc. to change its fliers and menu. ■

## Application Resubmitted for S. Idaho Feedlot Near Minidoka Monument

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEROME, Idaho—A permit application has been resubmitted for an animal feedlot that would sit about 1 1/2 miles away from the Minidoka Internment National Monument in southern Idaho's Jerome County.

The application by Big Sky Farms LLP came just ahead of a May 7 vote by county commissioners on a possible 182-day moratorium on confined-animal feeding operations. Commissioners voted 2 to 1 to draft a resolution for the moratorium and it will likely be signed this week.

Once the moratorium is signed, it would still not affect the latest application submitted on May 3 because it was filed ahead of the moratorium.

"Big Sky is just rushing to judgment here, you see," Commissioner Diana Obenauer, who has been pushing for a moratorium since January, told *The Times-News*.

The latest application proposes 13,188 animals, down from the original request of 18,555. Nearby residents and backers of the Minidoka Internment National Monument have opposed the feedlot because of possible odors.

"But reducing (the number of ani-



mals) would reduce the impacts the people in the area would be complaining about," said Robert E. Williams, an attorney representing Big Sky Farms and Eden businessman Don McFarland, who wants to build the feedlot.

Dean Dimond, who lives next to the property that's proposed as a feedlot, said that if it's approved, he expects McFarland to expand to the original number of animals from the first application.

"This whole thing — has anything been honest about it?" he said.

"There's no way he can place that many cows out there and not have a negative impact on our lives."

Officials are also concerned it could reduce visitors to the former internment camp.

Designated as a national monument in 2001, the Minidoka site was originally a 33,000-acre prison compound operated by the War Relocation Authority at the Jerome County farming community of Hunt. It operated from 1942 through 1945 and held as many as 9,397 U.S. citizens of Japanese descent. ■

## U.S. House Passes Hate Crimes Prevention Legislation

After several years of lobbying by civil rights groups, including the JACL, HR 1592 allows more resources for law enforcement to investigate hate crimes.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The U.S. House voted to expand federal hate crime legislation that will make it easier for federal law enforcement to take part in or assist local prosecutions involving bias-motivated attacks, acting just hours after the White House threatened a veto.

HR 1592 — the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes

Prevention Act (LLEHCPA) — passed 237-180 and would also expand categories to include violent attacks against gays and people targeted because of gender. Similar legislation is also moving through the Senate, setting the stage for a possible veto showdown with President George W. Bush.

"Hate has no place in our society," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director, who noted that Asian Americans have long been victims of hate crimes. "Hate that leads to violence against specific classes of people requires strong enforcement, and this bill will not only enhance prosecution of such crimes but will send the message that violent intoler-

ance will be punished to the full extent."

The House vote came after fierce lobbying from opposite sides by civil rights groups, including the JACL, who have been pushing for years for added protections against hate crimes, and social conservatives, who say the bill threatens the right to express moral opposition to homosexuality and singles out groups of citizens for special protection.

The JACL now plans to turn its attention to the Senate where a similar bill will be debated shortly.

"Hate crimes are unique in that they are motivated by hostility toward an entire community, and are

oftentimes rooted in a wider public sentiment of discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance," said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda. "The passage of this Act is a step in the right direction in promoting tolerance in our integrated society."

The House bill would extend the hate crimes category to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability and give federal authorities greater room to participate in hate crime investigations. It would approve \$10 million over the next two years to help local law enforcement officials cover the cost of hate crime prosecutions. Federal investigators could also step in if local authorities were unwilling or

unable to act.

The Judiciary Committee cited FBI figures that there have been more than 113,000 hate crimes since 1991, including 7,163 in 1995. It said racially motivated bias accounted for 55 percent of those incidents, religious bias for 17 percent, sexual orientation bias for 14 percent and ethnicity bias for 14 percent.

"The passage of the bill in the House is an important step towards creating communities free of the terror hate crimes create," said Aimee Baldillo, director of programs at the Asian American Justice Center. "We hope Congress continues to work together across party lines in supporting such positive legislation." ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### JACL Credit Union Wins Utah Chamber Award



NAGATA

The National JACL Credit Union was recently awarded the Utah Asian Chamber of Commerce Business Award. The award recognizes the successes of Asian businesses in Utah. JACL Credit Union President **Terrell T. Nagata** accepted the award on behalf of the business that is celebrating its 64th year of excellence.

### Azuma Honored with First Annual Lotus Award

**Julie Azuma** was recently honored by the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans with the first annual Lotus Award for her dedication to the APA community.

Azuma, 63, started her own business in 1994 when her daughter Miranda was diagnosed with autism. She started a business providing learning products for children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

### APAs Snag Jane Addams Children's Book Awards



TAI



KADOHATA

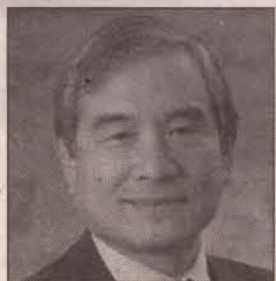
Several APA writers and illustrators are winners of this year's Jane Addams Children's Book awards.

"A Place Where Sunflowers Grow," written by **Amy-Lee Tai** and illustrated by **Felicia Hoshino** is the winner in the Books for Younger Children category. **Cynthia**

**Kadohata's** "Weedflower" is the winner in the Books for Older Children category.

Since 1953, the Jane Addams Award recognizes books that promote peace, justice, and world community. This year's winner will be presented with their awards Oct. 19 in New York City.

### Sato Awarded Oregon's IT Executive of the Year



**Dennis Sato**, chief information officer for Salem Hospital Regional Health Services, was recently recognized by the Society of Information Management as its IT Executive of the Year for the State of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Sato was honored for implementing a hospital-wide clinical-information system for Salem Hospital and his commitment to APA community as a member of the state

Commission of Asian Affairs.

Sato is a longtime JACL member and former president of the Marin JACL.

### Oto Appointed to California EPA

**Pamela Oto** has been appointed special assistant for the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Oto served as a deputy legislative affairs secretary for the Office of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Gov. Gray Davis. She has also served in various capacities in the state senate and the assembly including positions as committee assistant to the Senate Agricultural and Water Committee and the Assembly Local Government Committee.

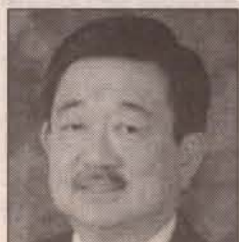
### Hirahara's Third Mystery Novel Wins Edgar



"Snakeskin Shamesin," third in the series of **Naomi Hirahara's** novels set in Southern California that features gardener Mas Arai, won the Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America at a banquet April 26 in New York.

The Edgar Award honors the best in mystery non-fiction, television and film.

### So Cal APAs Recognized as Local Heroes



Three APA leaders were honored with the Local Hero of the Year Award for their contributions to the arts and social services. **Martin V. Lee**, **Yvonne Wong Nishio**, **Debra H. Suh**, **Kenneth K. Inouye** (left) and **Mitsuye M. Yamada** were honored May 10 with the award sponsored by Union Bank of Calif. ■



*'People's lives are on hold waiting for visas.'*

— **Jayashree Bidari**,  
immigration lawyer and chairwoman of the Ohio chapter of the South Asian Bar Association

## Asian Immigrants Say Visa Backlogs Hurting Families

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND—Asians, Ohio's largest immigrant population in recent years, say visa backlogs are keeping families split up and that the problem isn't getting enough attention in the national immigration debate.

"They're worried a new law will not consider people like them," said Margaret Wong, an immigration lawyer with many Asian clients. "They're worried it will only cover Latinos and not Asians."

Marcela Gallardo was 52 in 1995, a newly sworn-in American citizen, when she applied to have her children join her from the Philippines. Twelve years later, she's still waiting for visas for them.

"It's very hard," said Gallardo, who has been filling out forms, paying filing fees and praying. "I want to be with my kids, too. I'm getting old now, and I need them here."

As a naturalized U.S. citizen, Gallardo is entitled to bring over her children. But her family must wait in

line for visas that are especially scarce for the Philippines, India and China.

While Mexicans can walk across the border into America, Ohio immigrants arrive increasingly from India, China and the Pacific Rim.

"For the Asian community, there's just no way your sibling from Manila is going to illegally immigrate here," said Rob Paral, a research fellow with the American Immigration Law Foundation. "The only way is legal immigration. And there's just a long line for those folks."

Gurcharan Singh and his wife came legally from India in 1997, nearly 15 years after they had applied for immigrant visas. The couple brought their youngest son, but left behind their eldest son. He had turned 21 while the family awaited its visas, so he could not accompany his parents. Rather, he had to petition to immigrate as an adult child.

The wait for such a visa is more than 10 years.

Singh, a college-educated factory worker, sat beside his wife in a small apartment bedecked with icons of their Sikh faith.

"We want my son to come here so the whole family is together," he said, as his wife began to cry.

The United States accepts a limited number of immigrants each year. The quotas are designed to spread the coveted visas around the globe.

People from India, China, Mexico and the Philippines face the longest waits because demand there is so high.

"People's lives are on hold waiting for visas," said Jayashree Bidari, an immigration lawyer and chairwoman of the Ohio chapter of the South Asian Bar Association.

Her group wants immigration regulation to support family reunification. It is pushing for visa quotas to be raised and made flexible to lessen the long waits.

"I suffer. I cry," she said. "Because how many more years do I have to be with them here?" ■

## APAs Rally for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

They came from all over the country, from Los Angeles to New York City. More than 500 Asian Pacific Americans, determined to let their voices heard, rallied on Capitol Hill May 1, waving signs bearing their demands to "Keep Families Together" and "Protect Immigrant Families" and chanting "Legalization, Now!"

Spurred on by civil rights advocates, religious leaders and community activists, the participants of the historic APA national mobilization vowed to visit congressional offices and keep up the pressure through next year's presidential elections.

"Among the stereotypes about us as Asian Pacific Americans is that we are supposed to be quiet," said Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., during the rally. "But we are not going to be quiet when families are going to be

separated. We will be loud and say 'No' to anti-immigrant, anti-family and anti-worker legislation."

Honda, chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, was introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Illinois,

*'We will be loud and say "No" to anti-immigrant, anti-family and anti-worker legislation.'*

— **Mike Honda**

who co-sponsored with Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act, or STRIVE Act.

In his remarks, Gutierrez noted that APAs face the longest family immigration backlogs in the world, often waiting decades to reunite with

loved ones. "That's too long a wait," he said. The STRIVE Act would reduce to six years the current 23-year backlog.

Other speakers echoed the same theme — just and humane immigration reform. The various organizations included: the JACL, NAACP, National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Asian American Justice Center, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Organization of Chinese Americans, South Asian Resource Action Center, and NaFFAA.

The JACL Sonoma chapter took part in a May Day march in Santa Rosa, Calif. The chapter recently voted to lend their support to the Committee for Immigrant Rights, a group that works to educate immigrants of their various rights here in the U.S. ■

## JACL's 'A Salute to Champions' Gala Dinner in D.C. Set for Sept. 12

**Sen. Daniel K. Inouye will be honored and actor George Takei will narrate the inaugural event.**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL's inaugural gala dinner event in Washington, D.C. — "A Salute to Champions" — has been scheduled for Sept. 12 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. This will be the first time the national civil rights organization will hold a gala dinner in the nation's capitol.

Part of the proceeds raised from the gala event will go towards the establishment of a Public Policy Fellowship in the name of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.

Monies raised will also go towards funding the organization's various programs.

The gala awards dinner will honor several individuals and institutions who have championed the causes of JACL and the greater Asian Pacific American community. One of those awardees will be Sen. Inouye. George Takei, a renowned actor who appeared in the original "Star Trek" series and is currently a regular on NBC's "Heroes," will be on the dinner program as a narrator.

JACL has long been a membership-based organization, but with changing demographics, and new immigrant populations the organization hopes to develop new sources of funding and increase its presence

in D.C. with this gala dinner.

In addition to the gala dinner event, the JACL hopes to organize additional events, including a proposed reunion on Sept. 13 for those JACLers coming from out of town. Additional information will be announced shortly. ■

### 'A Salute to Champions' JACL Gala Awards Dinner

**Date:** Sept. 12, dinner 7 p.m.  
**Location:** J.W. Marriott Hotel, Grand Ballroom, Washington, D.C.  
**Cost:** \$200 per person, \$2,000 Table of Ten  
**Info.:** 202/223-1240, dc@jacl.org



## Unique Wartime Stories Chronicled Online

The heroic stories of the 442nd RCT are highlighted

### Experiencing War

Asian Pacific American  
Going for Broke

Stories from the Veterans History Project

Asian Pacific Americans have made lasting contributions to America's wartime efforts. These eight stories are from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq, with special emphasis on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the "Go for Broke" unit. Many of these men put their lives on the line for their country while their families were confined to internment camps back in the States.

 <p><b>Grant Hirabayashi</b> ARMY World War II</p> <p>Oral interview, photographs and official records</p>	 <p><b>Norman Isari</b> ARMY World War II</p> <p>Oral interview, photographs and official records</p>	 <p><b>Carolyn Tani</b> ARMY Vietnam</p> <p>Oral interview</p>	 <p><b>Warren Tsuneshi</b> ARMY World War II</p> <p>Oral interview, photographs and official records</p>	 <p><b>Yewichi Kuwiyama</b> ARMY World War II</p> <p>Oral interview, photographs and official records</p>	 <p><b>Jimmie Kanaya</b> ARMY World War II, Vietnam</p> <p>Oral interview</p>
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In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, eight fully digitized collections of APA veterans have been added to the Library of Congress "Experiencing War" Web series.

The new series includes stories from World War II with a special emphasis on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"We're honored to have oral histories from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in our collection," said Bob Patrick, director of the Veterans History Project. "Many of these veterans put their lives on the line for their country while their families were confined to internment camps back in the States. We hope this series will build awareness and appreciation for their contributions and also encourage more veterans from every ethnic background to share their experiences."

Featured narratives include the story of Jimmie Kanaya who, at 20, eagerly enlisted in the military in 1941 — months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After helping his parents relocate from their Oregon home to an Idaho internment camp, Kanaya took his skills as a medic to the 442nd RCT. He aggressively looked out for his men and negotiated a halt to the fighting to bring in casualties from the battlefield. Captured by German troops, he escaped three times and at war's end was the only non-Caucasian in his prisoner of war camp. Kanaya continued to serve his country during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

The collection also recounts the experience of Gordon Nakagawa, who became a naval aviator in 1958 when the American military's main concern was Cold War strategy. Ten years later, Nakagawa flew bombing missions over Vietnam in a new A-6 Intruder. On a subsequent tour of duty in Vietnam, Nakagawa's plane was brought down, and he became a "guest" of the North Vietnamese at the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

Also chronicled is the experience of Matthew Braiotta. Born in Korea and raised on Long Island by adoptive parents, Braiotta joined the Army in 1999 right out of high school. His intention was to pick a military specialty in the combat arms. As part of an armored cavalry unit, he served in Bosnia and then shipped out to Iraq in March 2003. Eight months later, he was badly wounded by a roadside explosive device. Now out of the Army, Braiotta credits his military experience with giving his life purpose and direction.

More than a dozen sets of individual collections — comprising interviews, letters, photographs and written memoirs — have been featured on the Veterans History Project Web site.

To date, more than 45,000 individuals have contributed their recollections to the Veterans History Project. As part of the continuing effort by the Library to make its collections accessible online, almost 4,000 of those stories can be accessed via the Web. ■

LEARN MORE: [www.loc.gov/warstories](http://www.loc.gov/warstories)

## CLASSICAL DANCE

(Continued from page 1)

where did you graduate from? What is your degree? And when you say, 'well, it's still pending at UCLA' ... people don't take you as seriously."

So after requesting a leave of absence from Japan's Grand Kabuki Chikamatsu-za, Ken reentered the world of academia — as a political science major.

"Yeah, I wanted to become a lawyer," laughed Ken about his former ambition.

In June, he's scheduled to don a less opulent type of costume — a graduation cap and gown. But in the meantime, this Japanese American (2.5 generation) is working on ambitious plans to build cultural bridges from Japan to the rest of the world. He plans to start from his own U.S. classical dance studios.

### You don't use audiotapes?

"I feel really old!" he exclaimed.

A few years away from American culture has made Ken feel lost amidst all the new technology — don't even talk about iPods, he can't get over CDs.

"In my kind of work, you're talking about a theater in existence for over 400 years and it's rarely, rarely open to the outside world," said Ken. "We still use tape for our practices!"

He's been slowly trying to ease back into American culture and slip into a few pair of jeans here and there.

"Over there you're supposed to be quiet, humble and not question authority and when you come back here especially in the academic world you're always talking and asking questions."

"But on the brighter side, it's really nice to try to interact with other students and to really get back into the academic atmosphere. One thing I really noticed was that everyone was just so friendly. In class people just start talking to you. It's kind of different from Japan where you have to be reserved and quiet," he said.

At the hilltop home he shares with his family, Ken is the portrait of perfect etiquette. He addresses people as "Mr." or "Ms." and utters an almost uncomfortable number of "pleases," but for a moment, the pristine demeanor parts for a very American eye roll especially when you get him started about the sad nature of Japanese classical dance in America.



"There are so many people who claim that they teach Japanese classical dance, but it's not."

Ken wants to teach the dance style he learned as a child (left).

PHOTO: KARI KANESAKA

Extra

See Ken perform at  
[www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)



In fact, he almost twitches in disgust.

"There are so many people who claim that they teach Japanese classical dance, but it's not. You're just adorned in kimono and have some white make-up on your face and running around the stage, but that's not the point behind it," he said. "I was really, really troubled with the idea of 'It's America. It's alright.' [Teachers] feel like they don't have to teach the fundamentals because they are so far removed and so far away."

Japanese classical dance isn't just a recreation it's an art. To know the art, you have to live and breathe the culture it's derived from, so Ken is heading up his own dance studios in various locations across California and Seattle.

"I really believe that in order for our culture to survive, we really need to emphasize it to our younger generations. I can help bridge the gap between Japan and America or even Japan and the rest of the world. I really, really want to start giving back to the community and to ensure the culture continues to grow over time," he said.

### A real Japanese dancer

On May 5th, Children's Day in Japan, Ken celebrated the grand opening of his Beverly Hills dance studio with a performance he choreographed himself. Over 60 invited guests watched him glide across his dance studio floor.

The date for the grand opening was strategic — May is also Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

"I'm not just Japanese. I'm Japanese American," said Ken, who has also taken over classes formerly taught by his Little Tokyo classical dance teacher Madame Bando Mitsuhiro.

He gives each student the options of more modern *shinbuto* or classi-

cal *koten*, but it's all about learning the etiquette. The way you greet people, the way you bow, the way you present your hands your eyes your posture are imperative to understanding the art of dance.

"Ken has a deep appreciation for the importance of cultural heritage and legacy, but he is not limited by it," said Josephine Louie, co-founder and former artistic director of the UCLA Chinese Cultural Dance Club where she met Ken and immediately saw the spark of excitement in his eyes when he talked about dance.

With Louie, Ken is working on a dance project that fuses together Chinese and Japanese classical dance to show how both cultures have influenced each other. The story centers on two historical figures: The Chinese concubine, Yang Kwei-fei (or Yukihi in Japanese) and the Japanese Ono No Komachi, who was known for her beauty and poems.

"Ken understands that the cultural art form is a living thing that needs to evolve and grow with the generations, and with each augmented skill and refined interpretation the art form itself and the generations to follow will benefit from it," said Louie.

In the future, Ken wants to create a pan Asian dance troupe with influences from all over Asia.

"We are all directly linked somehow and one way to show it is through dance," he said. ■

RELATED STORY ON THE WEB: Read 'Conquering the Floating World,' the P.C.'s first article on Ken Kanesaka at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

For more information on Ken's dance studios: [www.kyonokai.com](http://www.kyonokai.com)

## Rep. Honda Calls for Investigation of Post-WWII Brothels for U.S. Troops in Japan

By ERICA WERNER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—Democratic Rep. Mike Honda said May 3 he wants a closer look at reports that American authorities allowed the operation of an official brothel system for GIs occupying Japan in the aftermath of World War II.

Honda, sponsor of a resolution urging Japan to apologize formally for coercing thousands of Asian women into sexual slavery as the

the military of the imperial government, the imperial military's policy, in capturing, coercing and kidnapping girls and women for the purpose of sexual slavery."

An Associated Press review of historical documents and records shows that American authorities permitted an official brothel system to operate despite internal reports that

women were being coerced into prostitution.

Tens of thousands of women were employed to provide cheap sex

to American troops until the spring of 1946, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur shut down the system, documents show.

Supporters of Honda's nonbinding resolution want an apology similar to the one the U.S. government gave to Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II. That apology was approved by the Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. ■

Imperial Japanese during the war, said he has asked the Congressional Research Service to look into allegations of brothels set up for American soldiers after Japan's 1945 surrender. Honda rejected comparisons between the actions of the Japanese during the war and the U.S. occupation forces. He said the Japanese comfort women system was set up and sanctioned by the Japanese government and armed forces.

"It's different," he said. "This is

## Man Strives to Sustain Chinese Cemetery in Lovelock

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOVELOCK, Nev.—Chinese immigrants helped build Nevada's railroads in the last half of the 1800s, but were little appreciated during their lives, and that disdain often followed them into the grave.

At the time, they were considered second-class citizens, even in death. Their graveyards were outside the boundaries of the cities' official cemeteries.

The resting places often were ignored, particularly after most of the immigrants and their descendants had departed by the 1930s.

Lovelock was no exception, but Larry De Leeuw is working to change that.

De Leeuw is spearheading an effort to preserve the city's Chinese cemetery and locate descendants of those buried there.

The city scheduled a Chinese Memorial Day event at the cemetery

April 7. Known as Ching Ming — which translates to clear and bright — it is a day for Chinese families to visit ancestors' graves.

It was a happy communion with family members to show respect to their ancestors.

"This is the third year we've done it," said De Leeuw, a Lovelock business owner and history buff.

"Last year, we had about 20 people, including the mayor and sheriff and some other local dignitaries," he said. "We didn't have any Chinese there."

Lovelock's Chinatown was established in the 1880s, said Gene Hattori, director of Anthropology at the Nevada State Museum.

The remnants of Lovelock's Chinatown remained until the 1970s when they were razed to make way for Interstate 80 through town.

When De Leeuw moved to Lovelock several years ago, the Chinese cemetery was in disrepair.



THE OTHER CITY: Lovelock, NV

He is working with the city's cemetery board for construction of a fence around the cemetery and other improvements.

His biggest challenge, he said, is trying to find exactly who is buried there.

"None of the graves are marked," he said. "We have no plot plan."

What De Leeuw does have are death certificates from Pershing and Humboldt counties that tell him the names and dates of death of Chinese residents. He is hoping the Chinese Memorial Day event will help raise awareness. ■



## MEMORIAL DAY

(Continued from page 1)

he said.

### The Ongoing Debate

With the Iraq War now in its fourth year, the issue is an ongoing debate amongst Americans. Congress is even trying to set a troop withdrawal timetable but President George W. Bush has already balked at this idea.

Although much has been made about the animosity amongst Iraqis towards the American soldiers, Ishikata believes their presence is making a difference.

"The people all want what we want ... a better life for their kids, a little more money in the bank, creature comforts to make life better. And in general, life goes on as though things are normal," he said.

"But no one I know of questions us being here. If we weren't, things would be very bad. Regardless of whether we should have invaded or not, if there was justification or not, those are issues for a Monday morning quarterback. We're here, we have this situation, and leaving arbitrarily is not the answer."

Alex, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, is getting ready for his third deployment to Iraq. Due to his intelligence work, the 20-year-old Sansei asked that only his first name be used.

Like Ishikata, Alex believes he and his fellow marines are making a difference in Iraq. With a small four-man fire team, Alex and his squad's duties include patrolling the cities to reveal the location of violent insurgents.

"Our main goal in Iraq is not to pillage and plunder, it is to win over the hearts and minds of the Iraqi population." But he admitted, "It is becoming harder and harder day by day because as the firefights continue, more Iraqi insurgents are dying. It is our mission to only use deadly force when necessary."

### The Watada Question

When it comes to discussions of the Iraqi War in the JA community, one name is likely to come up more than others: Ehren Watada. The first lieutenant's second court martial for refusing to deploy to Iraq last June is scheduled for July.

"I don't think Watada was right in what he did," Ishikata said. "I under-

stand he believes that the Iraqi War is an illegal action. But when he accepted a commission in the military, he swore an oath to protect and defend our Constitution.

"That's a pretty sacred oath, and for him, as an officer, he had an equal responsibility to the soldiers who serve under him ... In my opinion, he abandoned his responsibility to his soldiers by refusing to deploy with them. That's just not acceptable."

The same sentiments have been expressed by many of the veterans organizations representing the WWII JA soldiers.

### Why We Serve

Growing up as a teen in Long Island, New York, U.S. Marine Cpl. Mitsuo Satoh, 23, was like any other average American teen. But at home with his Shin Issei parents, he spoke Japanese and was immersed in the Japanese culture.

For the past four years, Cpl. Satoh has been stationed at Camp Courtney in Okinawa, Japan. His bilingual skills as an intelligence analyst have not only allowed him to serve his country, it's allowed him to experience his ancestral roots.

"I've had a great opportunity in the last four years as a U.S. Marine serving in Okinawa. I have the ability to protect the freedoms and security of both Japanese and American people," he said.

"For me, serving in the military is the best way I can show my appreciation for both countries. Although I'm an American, I will never forget where my roots come from."

As America prepares to honor its veterans this Memorial Day, these soldiers continue to serve honorably, much like their predecessors.

"For me, I serve to give back and help the country that has given my family so much," said Alex. "I feel a great honor in serving my country, especially in the Marine Corps. We all have great honor, being in the Corps, not many people can earn that title."

"I enjoy all of [America's] privileges, so it's only right I should do my share of service to it ... I vote, because I feel I have a responsibility to let my voice be heard, and my military service is much the same," said Ishikata. "In appreciation to a nation that has done so much for so many — not without error, but generally with good intentions." ■

## TERMINAL ISLAND

(Continued from page 1)

life," said Yukio who was born on Terminal Island in 1920.

Today, the tight-knit group that survived internment and dislocation faces its biggest challenge — finding new leadership.

Min Tonai calls it the "intimidation of taking over for older Nisei." Others call it a dislocation of personal history. With virtually all of the Terminal Island Issei gone, a rapidly aging Nisei population and largely disinterested younger generations, the club is going through some growing pains.

"Poor Yuki has been looking for a successor for years," said Tonai, 78.

Club officials face the challenge of identifying potential new leaders who know the unique history of the Japanese fishing village, but are enthusiastic enough to keep annual traditions going and club members tightly stitched together.

In the early 1900s, Terminal Island was a thriving community built around fishing and settled by Japanese immigrants. By 1906, pioneering Issei and their families dominated 99 percent of a section of the island called Fish Harbor.

Because of the area's physical isolation, it was truly a place where everyone knew your name.

"Everyone knew each other on Terminal Island," said Yukio whose father, Kobei Tatsumi, was an executive of L.A. Seafood, one of the only Japanese canneries during the time.

Back then, fish was king and Issei men would spend three weeks at sea, one week at home mending their nets while Issei women worked at the canneries. They left their American children home alone because it was safe. The doors were never locked on Terminal Island.

Fishermen who worked for the canneries were provided housing — barracks for about \$6 a month.

"I remember tagging along with my dad to collect rent," said Yukio.

For the most part, Fish Harbor residents never had to leave the island. All the essentials were located just steps away. A local Japanese theater played the latest samurai movies and an ice cream parlor offered a respite from hot summer days.

Tonai lived across the bay in San Pedro, but he would go to Terminal Island often as a young boy to visit



Cannery housing on Terminal Island before WWII.

his uncle, Sanzo Oka, and attend Japanese and kendo classes. He was a Terminal Island regular, so he learned to speak the pidgin dialect, a mixture of Japanese and English that was unique to island residents.

But the small fishing village's legacy is mostly wrapped up in its demise. After the attack on Pearl Harbor it took just 48 hours for the U.S. government to displace all of Fish Harbor's residents.

"They had to leave in 48 hours. Where could they go on such short notice?" said Tonai.

"The bitterness caused them to draw together more."

Fish Harbor residents were trapped between worlds. They were mistreated by the government and also ostracized by the general Japanese community because of their pidgin dialect, a derivative of Wakayama-ken language.

"On top of that they were fisherman who spoke coarsely," added Tonai.

So the group of friends and neighbors banded together. In 1971, six or seven organizers formed the Terminal Islanders. During its heyday, the club hosted two major events a year: the New Year Eve's party and the picnic in addition to group tours and other activities.

But because of the natural attrition of members, group reunions and activities have been pared down. Over the years, the activities at the picnics have evolved — more English is spoken and *nihonbuyo* (Japanese classical dance) performances have been incorporated to entertain participants, but some say the club is facing an imminent demise.

"It's a dying organization," said Harriet Shioji, a Sansei whose father-in-law Tatsuo Shioji was a

Terminal Islander. "The Nisei are dying off and they're the ones who formed this close-knit community. They've kept in touch with each other and made these reunions happen ... Because we're the third generation, we are tied to the organization just because of our parents."

"No Sansei were born there," said Dana Shioji, Tatsuo's son. "It's nice that you have these memories, but I wasn't there."

Before his passing, Tatsuo was the unofficial photographer for the Terminal Islander picnics. He took a lot of pictures and arranged them into albums and brought them to every reunion.

"He would point at the pictures and laugh with his buddies. Of course in later years, he would point to this person and say, 'He passed away. She passed away too,'" said Harriet.

Every year, she looks forward to the picnic. Both Dana and Harriet are planning on going to the picnic this year — for the kids.

Even for the club president, it's difficult to get younger generations committed to the club. Yukio and wife Chiye, who met as classmates on Terminal Island, have tried to get their grandchildren involved and although they have attended picnics in the past they live too far away to make it a regular event on their calendars.

Right now, the Terminal Islanders are looking to pass the torch.

"We need someone young, at least someone in their 60s," said Tonai. ■

### Terminal Islanders Picnic

Sunday, June 10; 11 a.m.  
George Bellis Park - West Shelter  
7171 8th St, Buena Park, Calif.  
Information: Yukio Tatsumi  
562/435-6141

## FALLOUT

(Continued from page 1)

believe they all have one thing in common: fallout from the tragic Virginia Tech shootings committed by lone gunman Seung-Hui Cho.

"I do think that there is a pattern of stereotyping in the media," said Jason Eng, president of the Asian Pacific American Coalition at Northwestern University. "Whether that stereotyping for this particular incident is intentional, I can't really say. I'm very sure that there are many students who are writing pieces of work that contain violence, but the media has specifically chosen to target Asian Americans."

In the tragic aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings, 33 were shot dead, including the perpetrator. Although the horrific events of April 16 were the result of one person's actions, media reports have emphasized Cho's Korean American heritage, something that has come to stigmatize the entire AA community.

And young AA males are suffering the harshest repercussions.

### Hate Incidents and Suspensions

At Auburn University in Alabama, an AA student was attacked by a group of four white males who

allegedly told the victim he was being attacked because he is Korean. The student's name has not been released to protect his identity and the police are currently investigating the April 20 beating as a possible hate crime.

Just a day after the Virginia Tech shootings, State University of New York at Cobleskill student Tharindu Meepegama made the mistake of posting a picture of himself with a shotgun on the social networking site Facebook. He was immediately sent to a psychiatric facility and received a five-day suspension.

In Illinois, Cary-Grove High School honors student Allen Lee, 18, was banned from classes after a teacher alerted school officials of his April 23 essay filled with violent images. Although he wrote the assignment after being told to "Be creative; there will be no judgment and no censorship," he was charged with two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct.

"I believe the case of Allen Lee ... would have been handled very differently were he not Asian American," said Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest director. "This points to a knee-jerk reaction where people and institutions look at convenient factors such as race to act out their anger or fear."

Lee is now back in school after hiring an attorney and will be allowed to graduate with his class. Prosecutors are now looking into whether the misdemeanor charges will be dropped.

### Young, Male, and Asian

Being a young AA male these days hasn't been easy. It's left many weary of their surroundings and more mindful of their behavior so unnecessary alarms won't be raised.

Illinois State University student Keith Meyer, a Korean American, remembers the odd stares he received on the day Cho went on his rampage.

"It was almost like they wanted me to say something or even look for an apology for what my fellow Korean has done," he said. "Although I am sorry and wish this incident never took place, I don't feel responsible, as a Korean or a person ... My heart and prayers will go to the families of the victims but I will not apologize for a mentally disturbed youth's action even if we share the same race."

"I did feel that there was an overall air of wariness following the whole tragedy, because I think that many individuals in the United States would never have suspected an Asian American student to have

done that," said Eng.

But the stories involving young AA males keep on coming.

### Video Games and Expulsion

In Fort Bend County, Texas an AA Clements High School senior has been suspended for creating a violent video game that included detailed maps of his high school. Police also discovered five swords and a hammer in the student's bedroom during a search of his home, prompting them to label him a "Level 3 terrorist threat."

Although the video game was created a couple of months before his suspension, the school was contacted by a parent just days after the Virginia Tech shootings. The student has been suspended and will not be allowed to graduate with his classmates. So far no police charges have been filed.

"Given the current climate in America over violence in schools, it was pretty dumbass for this kid to design a shoot 'em up game based on the layout of his own damn school," wrote Angry Asian Man blogger Phil Yu.

"This business with the computer game and the swords, coupled with the fact that this kid is Chinese American ... I have a feeling more than a few of the folks in charge

added all that up and just couldn't shake that unmistakably Asian face of Seung Hui Cho from their minds, and they got spooked."

More recently a Thai doctoral candidate has been expelled from Illinois State University because of complaints that he exhibited aggressive, anti-social behavior towards professors and students, including asking whether he had the right to purchase a gun.

The student whose name has been withheld has been in the U.S. since 2003 but is now being detained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He will likely be sent back to Thailand later this month.

"This tragedy happened because of the actions of an individual and not because [Cho] happened to be an Asian American, however, I fear that we have not heard the end of the arguments that will attribute this horror to aspects of culture," said Yoshino.

"A person's race is not at fault, it is the individual, the shooter being Korean did not make him pull that trigger any more than if he were not Korean," said Meyer. "It is always far easier to point the finger at others rather than finding the real reason but I think too many lives have been lost to sit around and play pass the blame." ■



## SOCCER

## 6-4 Japanese Forward Giving Minn. Thunder the Boom they Need

ST. PAUL—Thunder General Manager Djorn Buchholz recalls seeing **Keisuke Ota's** resume and application for the soccer club's try-out combine in February. Buchholz said he found Ota's details — a 6-foot-4 forward who had played several years as the tallest player in the Japan League — to be "a little intriguing," though he also knew better than to get too excited.

"We invited him to the combine," Buchholz said, "but a lot of times you invite out-of-country people and you never know if they're going to show up."

Thunder coach Amos Magee remembers finding out a few days ahead of time that Ota was planning to come to the combine but admits he didn't look at the player's application very closely.

Then Ota — paying his own way to fly from Japan — arrived in the Twin Cities and stepped onto the field. Skepticism and indifference from the GM and coach changed into excitement in a hurry.

"Amos called me and said, 'You have to come watch this guy,'" Buchholz said. "We talked to him after the first day and tried to get a feel for what he was doing here."

Ota, who speaks very little English, explained he always has wanted a chance to test his skills outside of Japan. He also had tryouts scheduled with Virginia Beach (a franchise which has since folded) and Seattle, but ultimately Ota chose the Thunder.

Ota is similar to the other Japanese

import in the sports world this year, only on a much smaller scale. Boston Red Sox pitcher **Daisuke Matsuzaka** has had every move scrutinized after signing a six-year, \$52 million deal with Boston that also included a bidding rights fee that boosted it to a \$103 million deal.

Ota is one of the highest-paid players on the Thunder — which still means he is making less than \$4,000 a month on a six-month contract.

The language barrier, while navigable, on the field, does make for interesting moments off it. Alfredo Esteves — a Thunder defender and native of Portugal — is Ota's roommate and unofficial spokesman. Esteves explained that he doesn't speak Japanese, but he said he does already know quite a bit about his new teammate, who arrived here to stay on April 18. Esteves has been showing Ota around the Twin Cities and helping him get acclimated.

"He's trying to pick up some basic words," Esteves said. "Me and my teammates are trying to help him, too."

More important, though, is Ota's potential on the field. The Thunder has made a conscious effort to get bigger and taller after being among the smallest teams in the USL First Division in recent years. Ota gives the Thunder a true target player at forward for the first time since Gerard Lagos — the son of former coach Buzz Lagos — was patrolling the pitch several years ago.

"He's so soccer intelligent," Magee said. "Even though he doesn't understand (language-wise) all the concepts we're telling him, he still seems to know what to do. He'll play a big role for us this year." ■

## BASEBALL

## Okajima: Hardly a Dicey Deal for the Red Sox

BOSTON—**Hideki Okajima** didn't come with a nine-figure price tag or the international intrigue of baseball's posting process. His signing wasn't broadcast live on two continents. And while reporters tracked the private jet bringing **Daisuke Matsuzaka** to town, Okajima came in under the media radar.

The left-handed reliever was the second-most coveted Japanese pitcher signed by the Boston Red Sox in the offseason, largely written off as a baby sitter who could ease Matsuzaka's transition to the major leagues.

He's making things easier for Dice-K, all right, and in just the way the Red Sox had hoped: by mopping up for Matsuzaka and the rest of the Red Sox starters with inning after scoreless inning and helping Boston take an early lead in the AL East.

"He comes with a pedigree of pitching in big markets and pitching in big stages," said Craig Shipley, who handles international scouting for the Red Sox. "This had nothing to do with Daisuke. I don't think teams are in the habit of signing this player to help that player's adjustment."

Okajima was picked as the top AL rookie in April with a streak of scoreless outings that was at 14 recently. After he earned his first major league save against the New York Yankees, the *Boston Herald* joked that the Dice-K deal was an elaborate smoke screen to land the pitcher the Red Sox really wanted.



AP/ELISE AMENDOLA

Boston Red Sox pitchers **Daisuke Matsuzaka** (right) and **Hideki Okajima**, laugh during warm-ups in the outfield at Fenway Park.

"Obviously, I couldn't anticipate how well he's going to do here," Yankees outfielder **Hideki Matsui** said. "I'm not surprised with the results he's had so far, knowing him and knowing what kind of pitcher he is."

Matsui, who played with Okajima in Japan, is one of the few major leaguers who knew what to expect. Red Sox manager Terry Francona acknowledges he needed some time to figure out what to do with his new lefty.

"When you're just looking at him ... he doesn't throw real hard. His fastball is kind of straight. Fundamentally, he does things you wouldn't teach to a young pitcher," Francona said.

The 31-year-old Okajima made a similar first impression on opposing

batters, allowing three homers in 11 spring training appearances. When the regular-season started, it was more of the same: He gave up a homer on the first pitch he threw in the major leagues, to Kansas City's John Buck.

Okajima hasn't allowed another run since.

"We were saying he was setting people up in spring training because he didn't show all of his pitches," infielder Alex Cora said.

That's not far from the truth.

"Through my experience, I learned spring training and the pre-season games are not as significant as the regular season," Okajima said. "I prepare myself to be 100 percent for the regular season."

Then there's his pitching motion.

It starts out the conventional way, but as he swings his left arm over the top he jerks his head down so that he is looking not at the batter but at the ground, off toward third base.

Okajima said his coaches tried to fix his delivery early in his career, when he struggled with his control. But the Red Sox looked at a 12-year veteran who could get batters out and decided to leave him alone.

"The coaches told me my pitching form is my forte, it's something that makes me unique," he said. "In this industry, results are everything, as long as you have good results coming out." ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff

## BASKETBALL

## NBA All-Star Plans Fitness Center in Homeland

SAN RAMON, California—**Yao Ming** plans to open a fitness center in mainland China.

The health club chain 24 Hour Fitness Worldwide announced the partnership with the National Basketball Association All-Star on May 9.

The California Fitness - Yao Ming Sport Club will open in August.

"California Fitness/24 Hour Fitness is the best at what they do — helping people improve their lives through health and fitness," Yao

said. "Especially in the larger cities in China, people's lifestyles are changing and it's having an impact on their health."

"In order to achieve my personal goals, I spend a lot of time getting stronger through exercise. I want to lead by example and encourage people to live better by incorporating fitness into their daily lives."

As part of the multiyear joint venture, Yao will be an equity partner. He will appear in advertising and make promotional appearances. ■



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- Sept. 16-26 Yamato New England: Islands & Mountains with Collette Vacations** - 10 days visiting Hyannis, Cape Cod, Provincetown, Martha's Vineyard, Lincoln (New Hampshire), Cruise Lake Winnepesaukee, Woodstock, Danvers, Salem and Boston. **Sharon Seto**
- Oct. 3-10 Yamato Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta** - 8 days visiting Roswell UFO Museum, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands National Monument, Albuquerque Balloon Festival mass ascension, cable car to Sandia Peak, Taos, Durango (Colorado) to board the Narrow Gauge Railway to Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park and Gallup. **Philippe Theriault**
- Oct. 15-25 Yamato Italian Treasures with Globus** - 11 days visiting Rome, Pisa, Lucca, San Gimignano, Siena, Florence, Verona, Venice, Ravenna, Assisi and Orvieto. **Grace Sakamoto**
- Oct. 30-Nov. 13 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** - 15 days visiting Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Yonago, Kyoto and Tokyo. **WAITLIST BASIS** **Peggy Mikuni**
- Nov. 8-18 Yamato Tour to Okinawa & Japan** - 11 days visiting Naha, Manza Beach, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Hiroshima. **Lilly Nomura**
- Dec. 3-7 Yamato New York City Holiday Tour with Collette Vacations** - 5 days w/ sightseeing including Statue of Liberty, Metropolitan Museum of Art, lunch at Tavern on the Green, Broadway show, Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Plus you will see the Christmas tree lit at Rockefeller Center, the ice rink will be open and the stores will be decorated for the holidays. A very special time to visit this exciting destination. **Grace Sakamoto**

## PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2008

- Feb. Yamato Egypt Tour/Cruise**
- 4/6-4/12 Yamato D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour** - 7 days visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington, D.C., Mt. Vernon and the U.S. Naval Academy. **Lilly Nomura**

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• HARRY HONDA •  
VERY TRULY YOURS

## Pete's Editorial Cartoons Began Here 50 Years Ago



IT WAS 50 years ago that editorial cartoonist Pete Hironaka submitted his first drawing titled, "Forgotten in Our Rush?" for this page (May 26, 1957). Genesis to this cartoon is told in his book, "Report from Round-Eye Country: a Collection of Sketches, both Verbal and Visual, by a Transplanted American!" (1981).

"Some time in 1952," Pete recounts, "I got a call from a Mrs. Yuri Yoshihara. She had seen my name in the (Dayton Daily) News, and knowing that it was a Japanese surname [and] I was tempted to tell her I was Polish because we were getting some Polish literature in our mail. She extended an invitation to Jean and me to her home. There was a small group of Japanese Americans in Dayton that had organized the JACL chapter. Yuri and her husband, Hideo, were having a group over for a short meeting and a social get-together. (Hideo was chapter president in 1953.)

"We found it be an assemblage of congenial people. Jean and I joined the JACL. (For the record, Dayton JACL was founded in 1949. Ex-Florin Nisei leader Mas Yamasaki, now of Houston, was elected president.)

"Shortly thereafter, we started receiving the Pacific Citizen, the official weekly JACL newspaper published in Los Angeles. I looked forward to reading it every week for we were isolated from Niseidom here in the Midwest. I still read the P.C. quite regularly, always scanning for names of old friends back on the West Coast and others scattered to various regions of these United States.

"When I received the June 3rd edition of the P.C. back in 1955, I leafed through the paper deliberately as per usual. I came to Washington Newsletter column by Mike Masaoka, JACL Washington representative ... He lamented the fact that after 10 short years, the remembrance of the supreme sacrifices of the Nisei GIs was steadily declining every succeeding year, especially on Memorial Day.

"As I read [Masaoka's] column, I kept thinking that there should have been an editorial cartoon to accompany Mike's conscience-piercing message. I cut the article out and put it in my desk drawer.

"Early in May of 1957, I came across the column [that I had clipped] and read it again. I decided to draw up a cartoon (as mentioned above) and send it to the P.C. editor. Shortly thereafter, I got an enthusiastic letter from Harry Honda. He said he was going to use the cartoon and wondered if I would consider becoming a regular contributor to the P.C.

"I had sent the cartoon as a one-shot deal. So his query came as a surprise and a challenge. I thought about it for a few days. I knew it was going to be tough. Living way

out here in Ohio, we were far from the activities of the Japanese American community. I decided to give it a try.

"That was 24 years ago (this writing occurs in 1981). I have sent Harry a cartoon for every issue of the Pacific Citizen since the decision was made."

\*\*\*

There followed a brief interlude several years ago when there were no Hironaka cartoons, but we're happy now to see him back on this page every issue.

Many readers will relish his selection of over 150 cartoons in his 207-page book. Another Memorial Day piece ("Lest we forget who paved the way") shows a faint scene of a "Nisei who made the supreme sacrifice" on a steamroller paving the highway for "Our life today" family following in their roadster.

\*\*\*

It was May 8, 1969, when Pete's family was ready for supper and he was finishing a cartoon. Then came what sounded like a gust of wind, heavy rain, hail and suddenly it was "ominously dark outside."

Pete's home was in the path of a tornado: "indescribable — everything happened within a matter of seconds." He vividly writes of the destruction. The tornado swept his two-car garage off its foundation and dumped it halfway into his neighbor's yard. Shingles in front on Pete's home were peeled off, windows shattered, debris inside from ceiling and walls; yet Pete inked his cartoon, "Time for Bulldozing," and met his deadline. But the cartoon, sketched during this traumatic week-end, addressed repeal of the Detention Act of 1950, some remember as "Repeal of Title II" of the Internal Security Act.

Spearheaded by a few members from Bay Area chapters, Berkeley, Contra Costa and Alameda, JACL lobbied to have Title II repealed in 1968. President Nixon signed the repeal bill in 1971.

\*\*\*

NOW, A LITTLE BIT about Hironaka-san. Pete hails from Salinas; his family was interned at Poston II. After finishing camp high school in '45, he enrolled at Miami University, Ohio, drew sketches for the campus publication, enlisted in the Army for two years with the Signal Corps in Japan and with the GI Bill, he graduated in fine arts and continued in "post-graduate" work at the Dayton Daily News for 15 years. Hired by a local ad agency as their art director for seven years, he quit to open his own studio "and has no regrets." ■

• JOHN TATEISHI •  
FOR THE RECORD



## Setting the Record Straight

I've made a statement in the past (more than once) both here and in speeches that has irked a lot of people (sometimes immensely) and has drawn quiet praise from others; and that is this:

If not for the JACL, redress would never have happened.

A bold statement perhaps, maybe even an arrogant one. But it's true. Had the JACL not gotten involved with redress, the Japanese American community would very likely still be waiting to see a bill get out of the Congress.

Before going any further, let me also say that without the Big Four, as we referred to them (Dan Inouye and Spark Matsunaga in the Senate, Norm Mineta and Bob Matsui in the House), we never would have seen a redress bill emerge. Clearly, they were the most critical piece in the whole picture once the legislative battle began, and we all owe them our thanks for their personal commitments in shepherding the two JACL-sponsored redress bills through the Congress.

But there was a critical moment early in the campaign, and that came when the JACL decided to seek legislation to establish a federal commission to investigate the circumstances that led to the WWII exclusion and internment policies.

It was a tough decision for us, for not one of us who were involved in that decision wanted it. But we recognized the political realities of D.C. and knew no other course would get us to the end we sought.

And let me say for the record, we were not forced into that decision, as many seem to believe. Dan Inouye said to me, "You're the ones who went through the internment, this is your decision. Tell me what bill you want to introduce and we'll do the best we can to get it passed." It was our decision alone to seek the commission.

But it was an unpopular decision that got an immediate and ugly reaction. As I've said before, we took a huge beating for that decision and were harshly criticized and excoriated for taking that step.

But there's an important point to remember. Hardly anyone agreed with our decision. Not the community by a long shot. Not even most of the JACL members.

The course we chose was so unpopular that no other group helped push for passage of the commission bill.

It was clear to me that only the most devoted and

loyal old guard JACLers helped support the legislative effort across the country. Many in the community and in the JACL stood by and hoped we would fail so they could see "real" redress legislation introduced.

In fact, two other bills were introduced, one sponsored by a group in Seattle, and one by the NCRJ in Los Angeles. Both bills were a challenge to us as direct appropriations bills, but neither stood a chance in hell of passing and only became distractions because they offered those congressmen only lukewarm on redress an out by saying they were supporting one of the other appropriations bills. As a result, we lost crucial votes but we still prevailed.

The commission bill passed and a blue-ribbon panel was established and ultimately played a critical role in paving the way for a redress bill. The commission's work gained national publicity each time it held public hearings (and it held nine) and again when it issued its report in December 1983, and yet again when it issued its recommendations six months later in June 1984.

The work of the commission helped raise the issue of the internment in the American conscience. There's no doubt about that fact. And for the first time, the internment became part of American history, and the commission's 400-page report articulating racism as a root cause for the government's policy became part of the nation's official record.

Without that report, without the enormous publicity generated by the hearings and the report, without the awareness across the country, without the recommendations that urged monetary compensation and an apology, we never would have had a chance with any legislation.

So why bring all this up again? Because those who've written the history of redress seem to forget the significant and critical role the JACL played, not just at the beginning of the campaign but throughout it.

And also just to set the record straight. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past national JACL director and also served as the JACL's redress chairman. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.



## Monterey Chapter Hosts Teacher Training Workshop



Sandy Lydon — author of "The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region" and historian emeritus from Cabrillo College — was one of the keynote speakers at a JACL Monterey chapter sponsored teacher training workshop on the "Japanese American Experience in American History" recently.

Also speaking at the event was Mas Hashimoto, a Poston internee and retired teacher from Watsonville. Greg Marutani, a member of the National JACL Education Committee, presented an overview of the JACL Curriculum Guide and other useful resources.

More than 80 participants, largely educators and counselors, attended the workshop that included a look at the historical events leading up to the internment and the experiences of JAs during and after their incarceration. ■



*'I make films  
I'm interested  
in seeing.'*

— Grace Lee,  
the filmmaker



Suzy Nakamura is undead.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRACE LEE

## The 'Girliest' Zombie Flick Ever

After making a film about her ubiquitous name, Grace Lee sinks her teeth into a fictional documentary about Zombies in L.A.

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor

They have a problem with rotting flesh and body odor, but they still have feelings. In Grace Lee's "American Zombie," the undead wield political power, hold full-time jobs and go to therapy. These aren't your parents' zombies, so haters please step back.

They're Zombie-Americans, perhaps one of the most marginalized minority groups in history. Some were scattered in the audience of the sold-out screening at the recent VC Film Festival in Los Angeles where Lee climbed onstage and asked if they were any zombies out there. A few hoots sounded out.

"They're shy," said the filmmaker.

If you're wondering why her name sounds familiar, you've either known a Grace Lee or you've seen the 2005 documentary "The Grace Lee Project" where Grace Lee, the filmmaker, tracks down and profiles Asian Pacific American women with the same name.

So how does this Grace Lee go from a film about APA women to one about zombies?

The seed was planted the way most horror movies start out — in the dead of the night when Lee's friend Rebecca Sonnenshine (who co-wrote the script) said she was being persecuted in her sleep.

"If you meet her, she looks like a schoolteacher — very mild mannered," said Lee. "She said, 'I can't sleep. I have insomnia.' Every time she went to sleep she would dream of something trying to kill her or bite her. She told me about this little girl zombie who would chase her. I said, 'Well maybe you're part zombie.'"

### The Makings of a Filmmaker

Maybe there's a zombie in all of us. If Lee were one, she said she would be like Judy (Suzy Nakamura), one of the film's undead who frantically chronicles her life in colorful scrapbooks including one dedicated to her trips to the supermarket. Underneath her putrid flesh, Judy grapples with her own shame of being, well, a walking corpse.

"We knew we wanted an Asian zombie. She's just so funny the stuff she says like, 'I'm definitely going to marry a human,'" said Lee.

Lee didn't always know she wanted to become a filmmaker, but she's always been a storyteller. In high school, the Missouri native worked on the school newspaper and was working towards a journalism degree at the University of Missouri, but then switched her major to history.

After college, Lee's parents decided to move to Korea and she decided to go along to reconnect with her roots. It was there that she discovered the visual medium. She started making "Camp Arirang," a documentary about U.S. military prostitution in South Korea. It was then that Grace Lee the filmmaker found her calling.

She came back to the U.S. to enroll in the Master's program at the University of California, Los Angeles Film School and started a project about women who share her same name.

Suddenly Lee became a household name and not just because there are currently 188 Grace Lees listed in the phone book (so far). The film struck a chord with APAs who wanted to see and hear more from the filmmaker. She recently accepted an award for "The Grace Lee Project" and found herself fielding a question about last month's tragedy at Virginia Tech where a Korean American gunman killed 32 people before turning the gun on himself. She shirks from the idea of speaking for an entire community.

"I'm just as much a spokesperson as anyone else."

### Redefining the Zombie

"This is the girliest zombie movie ever," said Lee, who currently heads her own film production company in Los Angeles. "You really feel for them ... or do you?"

The four main zombies in the film have personalities big enough to rally anyone into their corners as they struggle for social acceptance. But hovering above the witticism, scrapbooks and quirks is the dangerous potential for it to go completely wrong — and it does.

To research, Lee watched classical zombie movies and read up on zombie lore, but for the most part they had to create their own zombie world, complete with fictional zombie-related non-profits like the Zombie Advocacy Group and the Center for the Study of the Living Deceased.

Fans have flocked to the "American Zombie" MySpace to leave messages of support and camaraderie, but some real-life zombie culture purists have balked at the idea of redefining their beloved living dead.

"I love zombie flicks, but I have mixed feelings after watching the trailer. Zombies should be the mindless dead not activists. They are no longer your family, friends or loved ones, they are the living impaired and they will eat you," wrote Trinitucyclops, a Salt Lake City-based indie band.

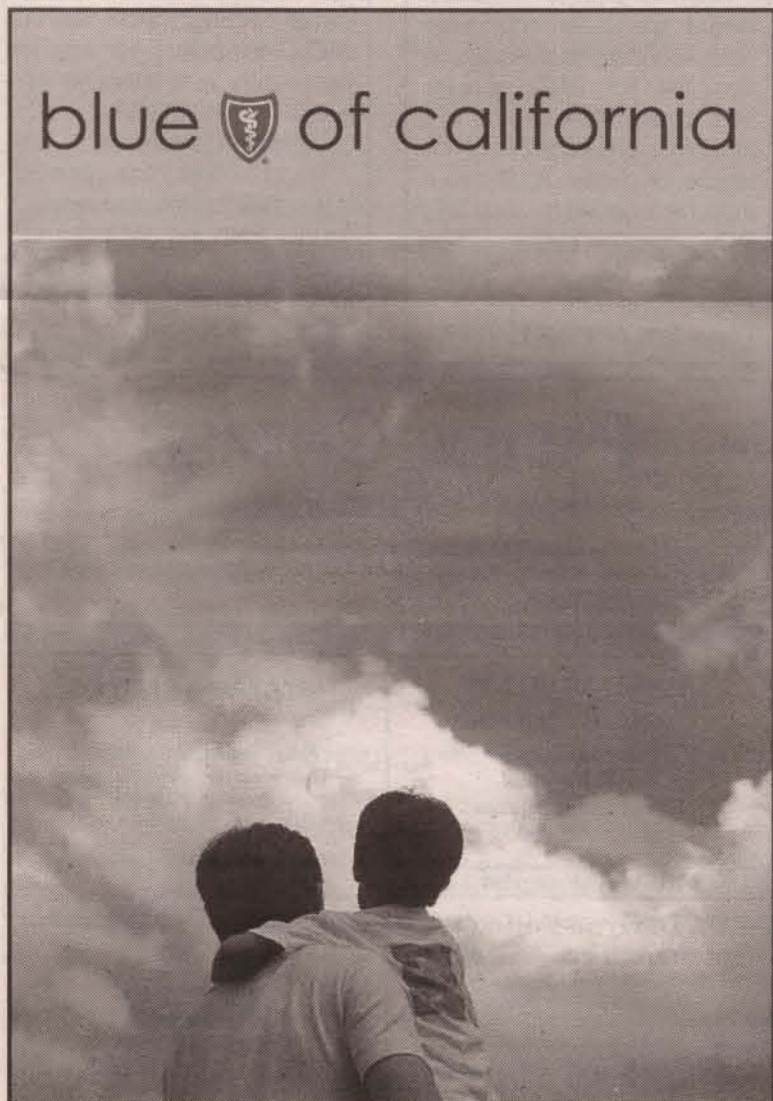
For the most part, Lee isn't interested in serious blood and gore.

"I'm not a big fan of horror films. I'm more into psychological horror and personal horror," she said. ■

To purchase "The Grace Lee Project": <http://www.wmm.com>

For more information:  
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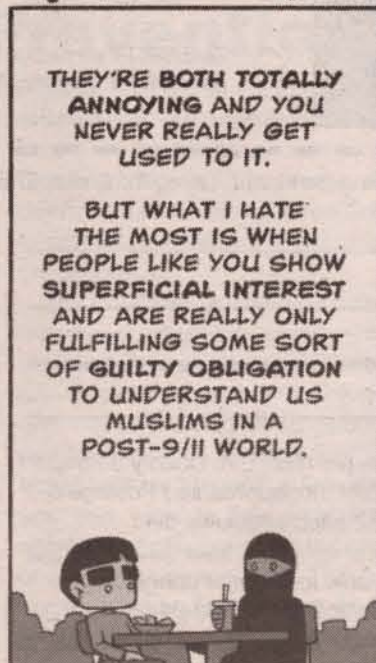
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# Calendar

## National

### SAN JOSE

**June 29-July 1**—JACL National Youth/Student Conference: "Cultivating Leaders by Defining Our Roots"; Santa Clara University; early registration fees: \$125/JACL members, \$150/non-members (must be postmarked by June 1); after June 1: \$175 and \$200 (postmarked by June 15); registration includes meals, two nights lodging; non-member registration also includes a JACL youth/students membership; conference is open to high school and college students from all over the United States; housing will be in the dormitories. Info: [www.jaclyouth.org](http://www.jaclyouth.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; proceeds will help fund a Sen. Daniel Inouye Fellowship. Info: 202/223-1240 or [dc@jacj.org](mailto:dc@jacj.org).

## East

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Sat., June 30**—Washington, D.C. JACL Picnic; 12:30 p.m.; Wheaton Regional Park, Shelter G, Shorfield Rd., Wheaton, Md. Info: Clyde Nishimura, 703/867-9397.

## 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@jacj.org](mailto:chicago@jacj.org).

**Thurs., July 12**—16th Annual Chicago JACL Golf Tournament; 9:30 a.m.; Pinecrest, Algonquin Road, Huntley, Ill.; \$80 fee includes cart, prizes, lunch and soft drinks; open to the first 40 registrants. Info: 773/728-7170.

### CLEVELAND

**Sat., May 26**—Cleveland JACL Reunion 2007; noon-4 p.m.; North Olmsted Party Center, 29271 Lorain

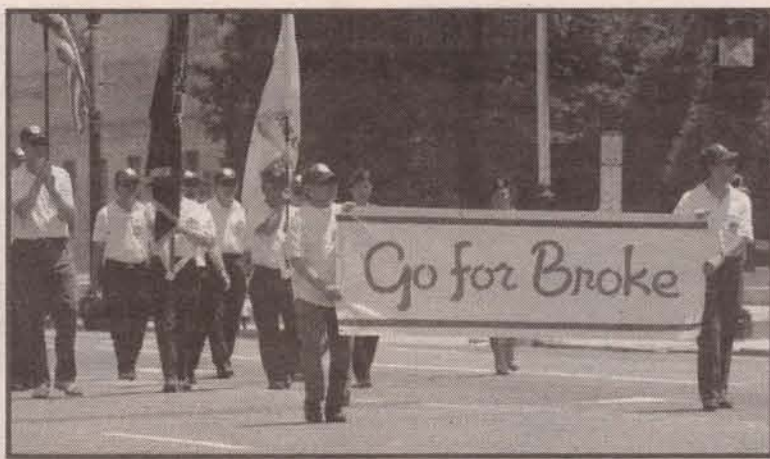


PHOTO: C. NISHIMURA

The JAVA-JACL National Memorial Day Parade will march down Constitution Ave. in Washington, D.C. May 28.

Rd.; \$15/person, \$5/children under 10; RSVP by May 18 to: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416 or Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976.

## Intermountain

### MINIDOKA, Idaho

**Fri.-Sun., June 22-24**—5th Annual Minidoka Pilgrimage; 3-day event includes a site visit, BBQ dinner and commemorative ceremony; buses will leave Seattle to Twin Falls, Idaho at 6 a.m.; Registration (deadline June 1): Seattle package (bus ride), \$200, seniors \$150; Twin Falls package (own transportation), \$85, seniors \$75; blocks of rooms have been reserved at Best American Suites, 800/822-8946 or Red Lion Hotel, 800/733-5466; mention Minidoka Pilgrimage, rates good through May 22. Info:

[minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net) or [www.minidoka.org](http://www.minidoka.org).

## Northern California

### 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 BRUNO

**Sat., June 2**—Journey to Tanforan; 10 a.m.; The Shops at Tanforan, 1150 El Camino Real; program will feature guest speakers and the first reunion luncheon. Info: JCCCNC, 415/567-5505.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., May 19**—JACL Honors John Tateishi dinner; 6-10 p.m.; **NEW VENUE:** The Westin San Francisco

Airport, 1 Old Bayshore, Millbrae; celebrate John Tateishi's 30 years of commitment to the Asian American community and the JACL; \$75/person, \$750/table of 10; black tie optional. Info: Milo Yoshino, [miloyoshi@aol.com](mailto:miloyoshi@aol.com).

## STOCKTON

**Sun., May 27**—Japanese American Community Picnic; 10 a.m.; Micke Grove Park; races, game and door prizes; no RSVP required. Info: Teddy and May Saiki, 209/465-8107 or Aeko Yoshikawa, 209/952-5578.

**Sun., June 10**—Stockton JACL Scholarship Luncheon; 1-3 p.m.; Dave Wong's Restaurant, 2828 W. March Ln.; \$15/person. RSVP by June 3 to Joyce Tsutsumi, 209/478-2968 or Chieko Nomura, 209/474-6309.

## Southern California

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., June 16**—Go For Broke Monument 8th Anniversary Tribute; 10-11 a.m.; Go For Broke Monument, Little Tokyo; author James McNaughton is the keynote speaker. Info: 310/328-0907 or [stephanie@goforbroke.org](mailto:stephanie@goforbroke.org).

**Thurs., July 19**—LEAP's 25th Anniversary Gala; reception 6 p.m., dinner 7-9 p.m.; Los Angeles Hilton, Universal City, 555 Universal Hollywood Dr.; program will honor AAPI leaders and LEAP's 25-year history. Info and tickets: [www.leap.org](http://www.leap.org).

## RIVERSIDE

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award application now available. Applications are available from the S.F. JACL chapter. This award offers \$1,000 to a non-profit organization of the recipient's choice. Applications must be received by June 2 to: P.O. Box 22425, San Francisco, CA 94122. Applications are available at Paper Tree or 415/641-1697.

**Sun., May 20**—Riverside JACL Scholarship Potluck Dinner; 5 p.m.; First Christian Church, 4055 Jurupa Ave.

## 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@jacjpsw.org](mailto:golf@jacjpsw.org) or [www.jacjpsw.org](http://www.jacjpsw.org).

## Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Sat., June 16**—Las Vegas JACL Friendship Picnic; 11-5 p.m.; Floyd Lamb Park. Info: Marie or Jack, 702/658-8806. ■

## ANNOUNCEMENT

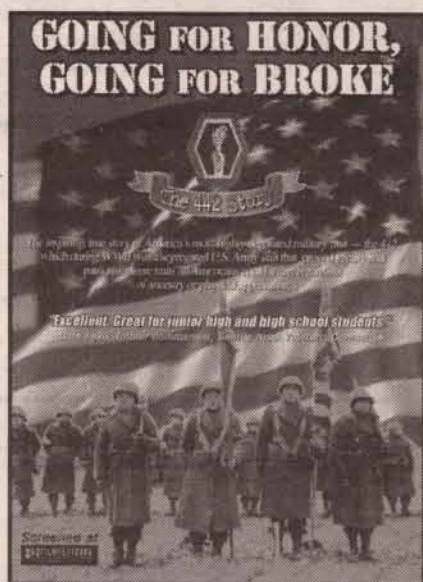
If you are a member of JACL between the ages of 21 and 35, the JACL Young Professionals Group would like you to join them in sharing ideas and promoting JACL.

Getting younger members to join JACL is necessary and vital to JACL's future. The JACL Young Professionals are trying to help the JACL gain more younger members into the organization in order to survive and thrive in the coming years.

This group was formed by some young professional JACL members from around the country who attended the 2006 JACL/OCA DC Leadership Conference.

To get further information or to join their listserv and receive e-mails from the JACL Young Professionals, please contact Eric Nakano at [eric-nakano@mac.com](mailto:eric-nakano@mac.com).

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## In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Aihara, Luis K., 87**, Montebello, April 25; survived by wife, Yaeko; sons, Douglas (Chris), Dwight (Rhonda) and Dean (Chana); daughter, Wendy (Tad Oshita) Aihara-Oshita; brothers, Sam (Fumi) and Henry (Ann); sister, Daisy Yamamoto; and 11 gc.

**Awaya, Robert Shigemaru, 82**, Los Angeles, April 7; survived by wife, Yoshiye; sons, Henry and Edward (Fay); 4 gc.; brother, Muneto (Setsuko) Kato; sister, Tokuko Fujikawa; brother-in-law, James (Yoko) Awaya; and sisters-in-law, Helen Yamamura, Kyoko (Hitoshi) Chiba, Kazuko (Hiromi) Uyeda and Kinko Awaya.

*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.*

**Fujii, Gladys H., 81**, April 23; survived by daughter, Gwendolyn Shigeoka; son, Robin (Kathleen); 3 gc.; and sister, Jane (Alan) Beldin.

**Furogawa, Yasuo, 88**, Rowland Heights, April 5; survived by son, Susumu (Naomi); daughter, Doreen Saito; and 3 gc.

**Furutani, Joe, 81**, April 14; survived by wife, Mihoko; son, Craig; and brother, George.

**Hashimoto, Suehiko, 98**, Arleta, April 15; survived by wife, Sao; and sons, Hikowo (Etsuko)

and Masaru.

**Heyl, Sachiko, 73**, Culver City, April 9; survived by husband, Clyde; sons, John (Patti) and Steven (Teru); daughter, Mary; and 5 gc.

**Iguchi, Shinobu "Shin," 85**, Monterey Park, April 22; survived by wife, Chiye; son, Rodney; daughters, Vicki Hamada, Gale Iguchi and Wendy (Gary) Williams; 3 gc.; brother-in-law, Tak (Grace) Murase; and sister-in-law, Grace Iguchi.

**Ikuta, Rev. Kanshu, 82**, Gardena, April 19; survived by wife, Hiroko; son, Yoichi (Misa); daughter, Keiko, Tomoko (Steve) Sakurai and Nobuko (Dave) Mau; 7 gc.; and sister-in-law, Masako Kasai.

**Iriye, Dorothy Yoshiko, 93**, Los Angeles, April 7; survived by daughter-in-law, Penny; 1 gc.; brother, Jim Suzuki; and sisters-in-law, May Suzuki and Shirley Iriye.

**Ishimoto, Sady Sadae, 84**, Palo Alto, April 5; survived by son, Bruce; 2 gc.; sister, Masae; and brother, Woodie.

**Iwamoto, George, 84**, Garden Grove, April 16; survived by sisters, Mary Oshima, Chiyo Inouye, Reiko Mibu and June Kajiwaru.

**Kanegawa, Shuzo Bobby, 74**, April 26; survived by wife, Kikuye; daughter, Debbie; sons, Eric (Grace) and Lenard (Yumi); 2 gc.; sisters, Kiyomi (George)

Kobayashi and Sandi (Robert) Ikemoto; and sister-in-law, Mary Kanegawa.

**Kawamoto, Hiromu Carl, 86**, Los Angeles, April 17; survived by wife, Jessie; sons, Kieran (Rosa), Wynsor (Toni) and Montgomery (Heidi); 4 gc.; brother, Mitsuru (Nobuko); step-brother, Sho (Ikuko) Kawamoto; and sister, Shigeko Oshita.

**Kido, Fred Mamoru, 83**, Seattle, Wash.; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, A Co.; survived by sons, Clarke and Scott; daughter, Susan; brothers, George and Roy; sister, Helen; and 1 gc.

**Kitagawa, Bobby Akiyuki, 73**, Hawthorne, April 14; survived by brothers, Kaz (Eleanor), Mas (Patsy), Howard (Celeste) and Stalley (Pam); and sisters, Takako (Takao) Nishiura and Gladys Kitagawa.

**Kiyohara, Seichi, 85**, Los Angeles, April 16; survived by wife, Tatsuko; and son, Ko.

**Matsubara, Kimiko, 95**, Los Angeles, April 10; survived by daughter, Kats (Allan) Takii; 5 gc.; and 5 gc.

**Matsuhara, Kiyoshi, 64**, April 10; survived by sisters, Emiko (Shingo) Sakamoto, Michiko (Jimmy) Matsunami and Toshie (Yoshio) Setoguchi.

**Nakagawa, Atsuko, 66**, April 21; survived by husband, Edward; and sisters, Toshiko Plunkett and Shingo Tanaka.

**Nakamura, George Yonekuni, 86**, Salt Lake City, April 18; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Mary; son, Malcolm; daughter, LuAnne; sisters, Lily Uyetake

and Ida Hiromura; brothers, William, Harry, and Peter.

**Nakano, Ruth Y., 91**, April 16; survived by grandchildren, Robyn and Ryan Yoshihiro.

**Nakatani, Satoru, 92**, April 10; survived by sons, Masaru and Hiroshi; daughter, Aileen (Kazuo) Yoshikawa; and 2 gc.

**Okada, Haruko, 96**, Huntington Beach, April 16; survived by sons, Dr. Tsuyoshi (Violet), Dr. Masahito (Nannette) and Isamu (Katsumi); daughter, Mary Jane (Dr. Marlin) Sakata; 14 gc.; and 22 gc.

**Okada, Yoshito, 79**, Los Angeles, Mar. 31; survived by sons, Anson (Ena) and Dr. Geoffrey (Stella); 2 gc.; brothers, Wally (Grace), Kengo, Harold (June), Elvis (Kaz) and James (Karen); sisters, Amy and Michi Okada and Nancy (Richard) Palmer; and sister-in-law, Ellen Okada.

**Okayama, Isayo, 89**, Gardena, April 14; survived by sons, Randall (Lois) and Kent; daughter, Susan; 2 gc.; brothers, Mark and Shoji (Patsy) Akisada; and sister, Grace Yokonuma.

**Saito, Charles Makoto**, Gardena, April 23; survived by wife, Julie Shindo; sons, Glenn, Dennis and Steven; 1 gc.; brothers, Harold and Richard (Lily); and sisters, Jane Arakawa and Katherine Saito.

**Sato, Tadao Ted, 90**, South Pasadena, April 23; survived by wife, Haruko; daughters, Jean (Koki) Ito, Carolyn (Ted) Matsuda

### DEATH NOTICE

#### LILY YURIKO KOJIMA

Passed away Mar. 30 with her family by her side. Survived by husband, James; sons, Ron and David (Tina); daughter, Judy (Gary) Tsuji; 3 gc.; brothers, Richard (Louise), Ken (Donna), Mori (Carol), Aki and Tak (Carol) Jio; and sister, Atsuko Kiyomura. A private service was held in San Jose.

and Emily Sato-Williams; 6 gc.; 4 gc.; and brother, Sukeo.

**Tamura, Thomas Ichiro, 69**, April 23; survived by wife, Toshiko; daughter, Eileen (Andy) Motozaki; son, Steve; 1 gc.; sister, Marian (Kozo) Minatogawa; and brother-in-law, Shunichi (Atsuko) Fujita.

**Tanaka, Nobuichi, 83**, Mar. 21; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, L Co. Medic; survived by wife, Itsuko; sons, Richard (Geri) and Ken (Chris); daughters, Frances (Tom) Yaguchi and Susan (Warren) Wong; 10 gc.; and brother, Robert (Toyo); and sisters, Kimi and Sumi Ishida.

**Tayama, Jimmy H., 81**, Torrance, April 5; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Midori; daughters, Jeanne (Gregg) Taniguchi and Julie (Howard) Zola; son, Thomas; and 4 gc.

**Tsukano, Michiyasu "Mike," 58**, Walnut, April 12; survived by wife, Emi; daughters, Stephanie (Allan) Baynosa, Miriam (Gabriel) Luna and Megan Tsukano; 2 gc.; parents, Kiyokata and Keiko; sisters, Samiko (Kaoru) Matsuda and Yumiko (Marc) Ishida; brother, Tetsuro (Etsuko).

**Watanabe, Chiye, 91**, Sacramento, April 27; survived by son, Glenn (Nancy); and sister-in-law, Fumi Tatsuno.

**Yoshimoto, Shigeru F., 83**, Albuquerque, N. Mex., April 10; survived by wife, Yo; son, Craig (Nancy); daughter, Midge (Warren) Arthur; and brothers, Fred (Marie) and Hank (Lily). ■

### DEATH NOTICE

#### CHIYE WATANABE

Passed away April 27 in Sacramento, Calif. She is survived by her son, Glenn (Nancy); sister-in-law, Fumi Tatsuno; nephews, Rod, Sheridan and Dean Tatsuno; and nieces, Arlene (Gene) Damron, Valerie (Carl) Sermon, Melanie (Ron) Chochran; Gwen Tatsuno, Jessie (Rob) Roth and Marice (Steve) Shiozaki.



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# BLAZING A TRAIL

(Continued from page 1)

their first breath of freedom.

Shino, 52, is one of 19 riders on the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route (UGRR) starting from Mobile, Alabama — once an entry point for slave ships — to the Canadian end point of Owen Sound, “the Underground Railroad’s most northerly safe haven.”

More than halfway into the seven-week journey (April 15-May 30), Shino has biked through the black gum forests of Tombigbee River Valley and the Kentucky coast lined with blooming goldenrods and irises. Looking out into the calm waters of the Ohio River, history came alive, said the Sansei from Salt Lake City, Utah. The Ohio River’s gaping mouth was a symbol of hope for many freedom seekers.

“[The runaway slaves] had to do this in the cover of night. They had

to wait until the river froze to cross over,” said Colleen by phone to the *Pacific Citizen*.

Comparatively, her passage has been less dramatic and aided by modern amenities like a cell phone and a folding “origami bike,” but the travel method is decidedly low tech and reliant on the power of Colleen’s quad muscles.

“I’m beat!” she exclaimed. “It’s pretty fun though. It’s hard, but I’m getting faster.”

## Riding for History and Justice

Colleen has always had a kinetic spirit. New Zealand, Australia, Japan and China — she has explored them all from her bicycle seat. Then she settled into life as a registered nurse and focused on work, but the constant nagging of her family medical history (her mom Lily Shino has diabetes) encouraged her to take the UGRR challenge. She was research-

ing options for her upcoming vacation when she came across the Adventure Cycling Web site detailing the historic journey.

“I haven’t done this in 15 years and I was just sitting at home on my couch and getting fatter, so I decided to get off my butt and do something,” said Colleen.

She started training by biking to visit friends and gradually increased the distance. But as the start date drew closer, she flirted with the idea of quitting — but it was too late to get a refund, so she began peddling. Of course her family had a different idea of what a “vacation” should be.

“I thought ‘you must be crazy!’” Ralph Shino, her father, said with a laugh.

“She likes the feel of physical exercise. To her that’s very invigorating,” said Lily.

Perhaps the urge to get out and do something runs in the family. Lily and Ralph, both 84 and Mt.

Olympus JACL members, try to exercise for over an hour a day. Lily has also done her own share of work in calling attention to social justice — in the 1950s Lily worked in the JACL Washington, D.C. office helping to lay the groundwork for important social change.

“Mike Masaoka was my boss. We worked on anti-discrimination issues together and he would go lobby on the Capitol,” said Lily.

## The Traveling Tent Show

“Anything Colleen does, she goes all out,” said Lily.

They had just received a postcard from Colleen with a picture of Kentucky’s bluegrass. “We’ll be heading out to Indiana,” she wrote and logged her mileage at 900 miles.



# SHOCK JOCKS

(Continued from page 1)

Wang, an executive with the Organization of Chinese Americans.

Various Asian Pacific American organizations had recently met with 92.3 Free FM and CBS Radio representatives to raise their objections over the use of negative stereotypes including: OCA, JACL, Asian American Advertising Federation, Falloutcentral.com, Korean American League for Civic Action, and the Anti-Defamation League.

In addition, a petition demanding the firing of Vandergrift and Lay had garnered hundreds of signatures and various advertisers had started to pull their ads including Anheuser-Busch.

Mateo declined any further comment on the “JV and Elvis” show, which had aired on WFN-FM

immediately after the shock jock pairing of Opie and Anthony.

Gregg “Opie” Hughes and Anthony Cumia returned to the station’s airwaves May 14 after issuing their own apology for a segment on their satellite radio program where they laughed as a homeless man fantasized about raping Condoleezza Rice and Laura Bush.

Vandergrift and Lay made their comments one day after Imus’ April 4 meltdown on his nationally syndicated program. The pair broadcast a call to a Chinese restaurant; the caller, in an exaggerated accent, placed an order for “shrimp fried lice,” claimed he was a student of kung fu, and compared menu items to employees’ body parts.

The initial airing of the call went unnoticed, but a re-airing of the segment after Imus’s firing prompted an

outrage from AA groups. Vandergrift and Lay were initially suspended without pay, but AAs quickly demanded the same penalty applied to the much higher-profile Imus.

Mateo would not comment on the status of the DJs’ contracts or whether they were still on the CBS payroll. Imus plans a \$120 million breach of contract suit against CBS Radio.

As word spread about the fate of JV and Elvis, more than 100 people turned out for a Union Square rally to offer support for those two, Imus and other radio personalities under fire.

“It’s not about whether you like what you heard or not,” said Debbie Wolf, president of People Against Censorship. “I find censorship to be far more offensive than anything that was said.” ■

The UGRR was created after three years of research and planning by Adventure Cycling Association, the largest bicycling organization in North America. The trip requires riders to be self-contained, so Colleen carries all her essentials in a small trailer filled with clothes and group food.

For seven weeks, it’s a routine: they all take turns cooking for the group, they wake up at 4:30 a.m. and hit the road by 8 a.m. Armed with maps, the riders all go at their own pace. Sometimes they have to go grocery shopping or if they are really lucky, they can stop off for a real breakfast or lunch to avoid the oppressive Southern heat.

The last few days they have been riding with a “cool mist of the rain,” said Colleen. In the upcoming few weeks, the riders will be logging less

mileage and participating in special events like a visit to a slave jail in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Along the way, the riders have been treated like celebrities. In Alabama, local residents took pictures and brought hamburgers to their campsite.

“The public interest about the route has made the journey like a traveling tent show,” said Colleen, who admits to being one of the slower cyclists.

But she’s also one of the younger riders that include a 77-year-old physician.

Among seeing family and friends at the ride’s end, Colleen is looking forward to a catharsis of sorts — a long hot shower. ■

For more information: [www.advcycling.org/ugrr/](http://www.advcycling.org/ugrr/)

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