



No Change

Senators turn their backs on comprehensive immigration reform.

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 5



Youth Conference

Young APAs and future community leaders gather at Santa Clara University.

PHOTO SPREAD PAGE 6

Pensive 'Rebel'

Dustin Nguyen's post television career blossoms into film roles and activism.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Since 1929

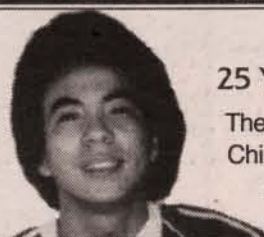
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25 Years Later

The brutal killing of Vincent Chin still resonates.

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 3

Seattle JA Community Hopes to Find Common Ground with Day Labor Center

Their new neighbor touched off a debate on safety and anti-immigration sentiment. Now they are meeting to discuss their differences.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Over the years, Fumiko Groves has seen her Central District neighborhood transform. What was once a peaceful Japanese American enclave became a hotbed of violence and high crime starting in the 1960s. If the streets of the Seattle neighborhood could talk, it would tell stories of arson fires, assaults and home invasions.

A lot of JAs moved out, but

Groves and her family stayed because her father felt the violence would eventually end.

"It was really dicey," said Groves, a Nisei, who still lives in a condominium in the Central District. "I don't think we walked anywhere. It was always safer to drive."

In recent years, the beleaguered neighborhood has won a respite from its high crime reputation. Residents now stroll past Buddhist temples, elderly care facilities and other various JA organizations that are remnants of what was once the heart of the Seattle JA community.

"Lately, it's been peaceful and quiet," said Groves, who is a panelist on a series of ongoing community meetings with a day labor center that



KEN MOCHIZUKU/INTERNATIONAL EXAMINER



NEW HOME: Casa Latina will move into the vacant building on 17th Ave. and Jackson St. (above). Their neighbor will be the Japanese Congregational Church (left).

plans to move into an area four blocks away from her condo. She fears the peace would be broken with her potential new neighbor.

"We're afraid for the security and safety [of the neighborhood]," said Groves, who along with some business owners and community members have voiced opposition over the arrival of Casa Latina, a non-

profit organization that provides Latino immigrants with employment opportunities and other social services.

Now both sides are engaged in community meetings in hopes of finding common ground. But along the way, the JA community has been locked in heated debates that have spilled onto the pages of local newspapers.

"Some people see it as another example of the city coming down on this powerless group again by forcing this program into their neighborhood. Other people see it as an example of their own history — to be in the same position of being reviled by society," said Hilary

See CASA LATINA/Page 5

Tiger to Roar Overseas in World Football Competition



'I approached each game at Princeton with the utmost seriousness and worked to always play at my peak level, but I do feel some added pride and responsibility to do well while bearing the USA name.'

Q & A with Yonsei Brigham Walker, the only Princetonian and APA on the U.S. team.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

It was a purely pragmatic decision made in elementary school: let sports pay the bills for his higher education. So young Brigham Walker shot pucks and scored goals before ultimately settling on football in the eighth grade. Even back

then, his athleticism was evident.

"Brig was very fast," said Brad and Debbie Walker about their son. "I nicknamed him the 'Asian Flew' but it never stuck!"

His natural talent, intelligence and hard work eventually lead Brigham to Princeton University where he fought back from a lower back injury to help his team last season win their first Ivy League championship in over a decade.

Now 22 and with a bachelor's degree in molecular biology, Brigham is poised for international stardom as one of the 45 members of the American team to compete in the

See FOOTBALL/Page 7

Former Internees Raise their Voices in Protest Over a Proposed Feedlot Near the Historic Minidoka Site

Although Minidoka was recently selected as one of 'America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places', a proposed 13,000 heifer feedlot a mile upwind from the site is still being considered by Jerome County, Idaho.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Flipping through the pages of his weathered copy of the "Minidoka Interlude" yearbook of 1942-1943, Jeff Itami, 67, sees some familiar faces amongst the dozens of families representing Block 41 — in black and white are the images of himself at age three alongside his father and pregnant mother during their forced World War II incarceration.



Jeff's mother Fujiye had been pregnant with twin boys at the time and on Jan. 25, 1944, she gave birth to sons Ted and Kenneth. But the camp doctor was ill prepared for twins and sadly Kenneth passed away the next day, his short life beginning and ending at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho.

"My family, we

See MINIDOKA/Page 12

U.S. Lawmakers Endorse Resolution Seeking Japan's Apology for Wartime Sex Slavery

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

A U.S. congressional panel endorsed overwhelmingly a resolution urging Japan to apologize formally for coercing thousands of women to work as sex slaves for its World War II military.

The June 26 approval of HR 121 by the Foreign Affairs Committee allowed the measure to be considered by the full House of Representatives. A large crowd of

supporters applauded and cheered after the lawmakers' vote.

Japan "has actively promoted historical amnesia; the facts are plain," the committee's chairman, Rep. Tom Lantos, a California Democrat, said. This resolution "seeks admission of the horrible truth, in order that this horror may never be perpetrated again."

Supporters of the resolution want an apology similar to the one the U.S. government gave to Japanese

Americans forced into internment camps during WWII.

Despite the decision, a Japanese government spokesperson said Japan's relations with the United States are "unshakable."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhiro Shiozaki also suggested there would be no further apology from Tokyo on the wartime brothels.

"The alliance between the U.S. and Japan is irreplaceable. There is

See APOLOGY/Page 2

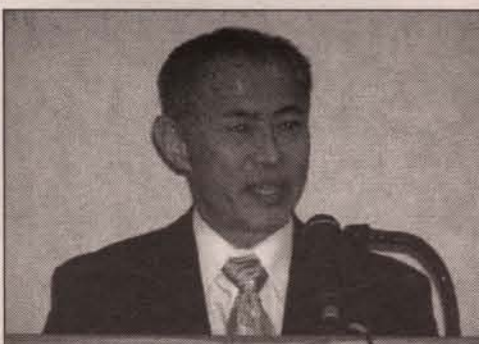
JACL Youth Honor Attorney Dale Minami with Vision Award

The award, which was given at the biennial JACL National Youth Conference, recognizes APAs who are positive role models.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—He's perhaps best known as the Sansei leader who vindicated a Nisei icon who simply refused to be interned during World War II. These days,

'These awards are good ways to consider where you fit in the whole flow of history.'



people run into Dale Minami and say they've read about him in their introduction to Asian American Studies class.

"It makes you feel really old, but I'm really honored and humbled at the same time," said Minami to the *Pacific Citizen*.

The National JACL Youth Council honored Minami for his leadership with a Vision Award at

their Youth Conference June 29-July 1. The biennial conference drew approximately 150 young participants to the Santa Clara University campus for interactive workshops and inspiration.

The San Francisco-based lawyer puts the Vision Award, which was established in 1994 to recognize Asian Pacific American role models, in a different category from his many other awards including an American Bar Association Thurgood Marshall

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT Our Work Must Go On

By FLOYD MORI
JACL Nat'l Director

The JACL has been in existence for nearly 80 years and has served us well, with the help of many of our Nisei leaders at its helm. We owe them a lot. There are many Nisei who are still serving as chapter board members and chapter presidents. We have been fortunate to have these leaders but it is now essential that we build up membership among the younger generations.



Edwin Endow, national JACL vice president of membership, has been trying to build up our membership. He has come up with various ideas for the chapters but he needs all of our help. Every member is

important to the JACL and increased membership numbers are vital.

During the 2006 national JACL convention in Arizona, Mark Kobayashi, national JACL secretary/treasurer, reported that approximately 37 percent of our membership are in the 70 years-plus age range; 16 percent are between age 60 to 70; 18 percent are between 50 to 60 years. The 41 to 49 years range is at 14 percent with 31 to 40 being at 9 percent. The 19 to 30 age group is 6 percent of the JACL membership.

This puts the percentage of JACL members below age 50 at roughly only 30 percent of our organization.

Although these figures may be a little off, they indicate a definite problem for the JACL. It is imperative that our current members work to recruit new members, particularly in the younger age groups. There are many people who have never heard of the JACL who could become valuable members.

The JACL chapters provide an

opportunity for social, educational, and cultural interaction, and families can especially benefit from JACL chapter involvement. National JACL continues to work on issues important to all of us. Discrimination and prejudice will always be with us in some form. The work of the JACL must go on.

Recently a group called the JACL Young Professionals was formed to encourage people between the ages of 21 and 35 to join the JACL. This group offers the opportunity to interact (mostly via e-mail and alerts) with others in their age group to network about important issues. Anyone interested should e-mail Eric Nakano at eric.nakano@mac.com for more details.

Every JACL member needs to help with membership. We all have family members and friends who could benefit from joining JACL. Many people just need to be asked. There are gift memberships and student/youth memberships are reasonably priced. Chapters also need to retain our scholarship recipients,

who often do not remain members.

National JACL will be hosting the "Salute to Champions" gala dinner in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 12 to help gain more visibility for JACL in the nation's capital. The event will honor Sen. Daniel Inouye among others and the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta is the honorary chairman. The dinner will be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in downtown D.C. and more details will be posted on the JACL website.

The 2008 national JACL convention will be held in Salt Lake City next July. The Nisei leaders and older members used the conventions as a time for reunions, and many still attend as boosters. There will be a number of outstanding events throughout the convention and all members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you all for giving freely of your time and resources to benefit the JACL. We are fortunate to have many younger and older excellent leaders, but we must also plan for the future and ensure the continued development of our leaders. ■

APOLOGY

(Continued from page 1)

no change at all to the fact that the Japan-U.S. relation will continue to be unshakable," Shiozaki said.

More than 140 lawmakers from both political parties have agreed to co-sponsor the nonbinding resolution, which was sponsored by Rep. Mike Honda. The resolution urges Japan to "formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner" for the suffering of so-called "comfort women" during the 1930s and 1940s.

The passage of HR 121 was due in part to a June 14 ad in the *Washington Post* by a group of Japanese leaders who claimed that many of the women worked in brothels by choice or were taken by crooked brokers or local police.

The resolution has received support from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who said in a statement that she looked forward to the full House "passing this resolution and sending a strong message that we will not forget the horrors endured by the comfort women." Japanese officials say their country's prime ministers have apologized repeatedly — including during Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Washington in April.

Historians say up to 200,000 women were forced to have sex with Japanese soldiers during the war.

Some U.S. lawmakers questioned the resolution.

"I wonder how many times we expect a government to apologize for the sins of an imperial government of the past," Republican Rep. Tom Tancredo said. "Asking the Japanese government to take historical responsibility for atrocities of the defunct imperial-era government is somewhat counterproductive and unfair to the people of Japan."

Critics, however, contend that Japan, despite the apologies, never has assumed responsibility fully for the treatment of the women.

People across Asia and the U.S., including conservative supporters of Japan in Congress, were infuriated at Abe's suggestion in March that no proof existed that the military had coerced women into brothels.

Japan acknowledged in the 1990s that its military set up and ran brothels for its troops. It has rejected most compensation claims, saying they were settled by postwar treaties.

The Asian Women's Fund, created in 1995 by the Japanese government but run independently and financed by private donations, has provided a way for Japan to compensate former sex slaves without offering official government compensation. Many comfort women have rejected the money.

"Today's Japan is a world leader and a valued ally to the United States. An unambiguous apology from the Japanese government for its wartime atrocities is vital for historical record, emotional healing and the education of future generations," said Rep. David Wu. ■

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for the Hard Work

Thank you for the wonderful article summarizing the May 19 "JACL Honors John Tateishi" (P.C., June 1-14 issue) dinner and program.

We would like to add an important piece to the story — a thank you to the volunteers who generously helped organize the NCWNP-sponsored event. In particular, thank you to Kathy Aoki, Jim and Thaya Craig, April Goral, Dana Goto, Les Hata, Nikki Hikari, Megumi Kaminaga, David and Carol Kawamoto, Lisa Kobayashi, Floyd Mori, Kim Nakahara, Kenta Nakamura, Tom Nishikawa, Diana Okamoto, Haruka Roudebush, Sharon Uyeda, Patty Wada, Reiko Yoshino, and Jeff Yoshioka.

A special thank you goes to our fabulous emcee Michelle Yoshida and her husband Raymond Schmitter, who graciously donated the wine for the dinner.

We truly appreciate the dedication of all the volunteers who helped us honor John.

We also thank AT&T for being the dinner's corporate sponsor.

Finally, we are deeply indebted to our Diablo Valley chapter, which allowed us to tackle this project.

Emily Teruya and

Milo G. Yoshino
"JACL Honors John Tateishi"
Committee Co-Chairs

Re: 'Telling the Whole Story'

I am writing on behalf of the German American Internee Coalition to thank you and your staff for the lengthy article, "Telling the Whole Story of World War II Internment" in your June 1 edition.

Even prior to the incorporation of our nonprofit group, we have worked as individuals with other internee groups, including various local JACL chapters. Our goal was/is to have the Alien Enemy Control Program and our experiences as German Americans and Latin Americans become part of the national dialogue on WWII internment.

The formation of the Enemy Alien Files Consortium and the EAF exhibit that is now available has done much to make our cause more public. But we still find that there are members of the Japanese American community, as well as the community at large, that simply do not know or no longer remember that other ethnic groups suffered similarly because of U.S. policies regarding "enemies" in a time of war.

The article on efforts to get historical designation for Tuna Canyon and this current article help us get our message out. We are grateful.

Heidi Gurcke Donald
Vice President of the Board
German American Internee
Coalition

Thank You P.C. Spring Campaign Donors!

Total donations: \$11,105

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✳ "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion 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 limitations, 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 P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Committee Passes Bill Restoring Benefits to Filipino Veterans

HONOLULU—The U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee approved legislation making WWII Filipino veterans eligible for Veterans Affairs benefits and health care services.

Some 200,000 Filipinos fought in WWII with the U.S. military, which controlled the Philippines as a colony at the time. But Washington denied the veterans the benefits they were entitled to after the war was over.

The measure written by Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, would restore the benefits. It now moves to the Senate floor as part of the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007.

There are over 50,000 WWII Filipino veterans alive today. Some 10,000 are said to live in the United States.

Japan Renames Iwo Jima as Iwo To



TOKYO—Japan has changed the name of the Pacific Island of Iwo Jima, site of the famous WWII battle, to its original name of Iwo To after residents there were prodded into action by two recent Clint Eastwood movies.

The new name in Japanese looks and means the same as Iwo Jima — or Sulfur Island — but sounds

different, according to the Japanese Geographical Survey Institute.

An official map with the new name will be released Sept. 1.

Official English Language Laws Taking Effect

TOPEKA, Kan.—The state's official language is now English, for whatever that's worth — and for some, that's not much.

Aside from declaring the official language, the law also says no state or local government agency is required to provide documents or hold meetings in any language except English. But it also says nothing prevents them from offering documents in another language or using interpreters at meetings.

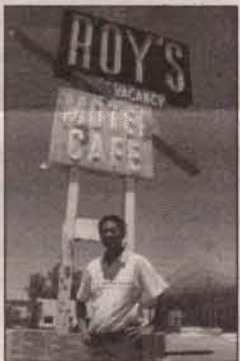
The official English law is among 147 that took effect on July 1. An additional 47 laws took effect before that, and eight more won't kick in until later.

Preserving a Piece of Route 66

AMBOY, Calif.—The California Route 66 Preservation Foundation and the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District are partnering with entrepreneur Albert Okura to restore one of America's most endangered historic places.

They are partnering to save Roy's Motel, café and gas station, one of the most important properties on Route 66, because of its remote desert location.

Okura is the owner of Roy's.



Report: Japanese Minister Apologizes for Remarks on WWII Atomic Bombing by U.S.

TOKYO—Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma apologized for saying the U.S. atomic bombings of Japan during WWII "couldn't be helped," a news report said.

Kyuma said he was sorry for his remarks during a July 2 press conference in Nagasaki.

The defense minister said the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were inevitable. His comments drew sharp criticism from survivors, and opposition lawmakers called for his dismissal.

In response, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he has no plans to seek an apology from the U.S. over its WWII atomic bombings of Japan.

More than 210,000 people were killed, and thousands of survivors still suffer radiation-linked illnesses such as liver cancer and leukemia because of the Aug. 6, 1945, bombings. ■

APA Community Groups Remember Vincent Chin

His death started a movement. Some say more needs to be done to combat hate crimes.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Twenty five years after his murder, his name still galvanizes the Asian Pacific American community. APA organizations commemorated the life and death of Vincent Chin whose June 19, 1982, murder served as a rallying cry for APA activism.

To discuss the impact of the murder, the Detroit chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) led a June 23 conference at the Chinese Community Center in Madison Heights, Mich. and visited Chin's gravesite remembrance at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

"Vincent Chin's murder and the soft treatment his attackers received galvanized the Asian Pacific American community to unprecedented action and awareness about hate crimes against APAs," said Ginny Gong, OCA national president.

On June 19, 1982, Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese American

man, was brutally beaten to death in Detroit, Michigan. Although the crime was racially motivated, it was not recognized as a hate crime and Chin's assailants were sentenced to only three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine.



"While today is indeed a day to remember and honor the life and death of Vincent Chin, it is also a reminder that hate crimes are not a memory in a regrettable past," said Rep. Mike Honda.

The years after Chin's death have also been filled with anti-Asian hate crimes.

"The death of Vincent Chin and the injuries and death suffered by the countless other victims of hate crimes serve as a heavy reminder for this nation to combat hate and continue in its quest for freedom and justice for all Americans," added Honda.

With recent high-profile attacks on APAs in New York, Michigan and Wisconsin, the Asian Pacific Americans for

Progress (APAP) is organizing a series of events throughout the nation around the anniversary of Vincent's murder. Each event will include a special screening of the Academy Award nominated documentary, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?" and panels with local community leaders. ■

APAP Townhall Meetings on Hate Crimes

PORTLAND, ORE.

July 7, Time TBD

Location TBD

Co-sponsored by Thymos

RALEIGH/DURHAM

July 14, 2 p.m.

Korman Communities Theater
300 Seaforth Drive, Durham,
NC 27713

SAN DIEGO

July 21, Time TBD

San Diego Chinese Historical
Museum
404 3rd Ave
San Diego, CA 92101

For more information:
www.apaforprogress.org

Supreme Court Rules Against Schools' Voluntary Integration Policies

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The Supreme Court's June 28 ruling in favor of a parent who sued over the use of race in two public schools limits the options available to school districts in adopting voluntary school integration plans, Asian Pacific American groups say.

In a 5-4 ruling, the court ruled that the use of race in schools in Louisville and Seattle is unconstitutional.

In Seattle, Washington and Louisville, Kentucky, locally elected school boards voluntarily adopted measures to promote racial integration in their public school systems. Under these plans, the cities considered a student's race as one factor among others in kindergarten to 12th-grade school assignments.

Last fall, a coalition of APA organizations nationwide filed an *amicus* brief in support of the school districts.

"Our current school assignment process has failed to provide our children with a racially diverse learning environment and, as a result, access to a quality education," said Christina Wong, director of community initiatives for the

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA).

The amici groups argued that the consideration of race as a factor of school assignments is important because:

- Asian immigrant parents value racially integrated schools because they will prepare their children to succeed in a diverse society; and
- Racially segregated schools impede the social and educational development of students of all backgrounds, including linguistically isolated APAs.

According to the 2000 Census, 27 percent of APAs are "linguistically isolated" nationwide. In other APA communities, the percentage is significantly higher.

The court held that although fixing the effects of past discrimination is a legitimate reason to consider race, Seattle's schools were never segregated by law or subject to court-ordered desegregation. The majority also took issue with Seattle's "crude" definition of diversity, in which students were classified only as white or nonwhite.

"Public schools are for all of us. If this nation is going to move beyond race, we have to stop using race as

part of important decisions," said Kathleen Brose, a Seattle mother who sued seven years ago after her daughter was denied attendance to the highly regarded Ballard High School.

In Seattle, incoming freshmen can choose which of the city's 10 high schools they wish to attend. If too many students apply to one school, the district uses tiebreakers to decide who gets in. The first is whether the student already has a sibling at the school.

It's the second tiebreaker — race — that was at issue, even though the district stopped using it in 2002 during litigation in the case.

"This is a very lame excuse to tell a school system that they don't have to use race as an arbiter to help kids achieve and get a fair deal. In a world that still has the vestiges of racism, that's a ridiculous rationale," said Warlene Gary, CEO of the National Parent Teacher Association.

"We are disappointed," said Superintendent Raj Manhas. But, he added, "We take heart from the court's affirmation of the broader goal ... to offer racially and ethnically diverse student bodies. ■

Topaz, Heart Mountain Relocation Centers Celebrate Nat'l Historic Landmark Status

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

In separate ceremonies, the Heart Mountain and Topaz Relocation Centers of World War II recently celebrated their status as National Historic Landmarks.

During an emotional pilgrimage to Topaz last weekend, a plaque marking the site as a National Historic Landmark was dedicated June 30.

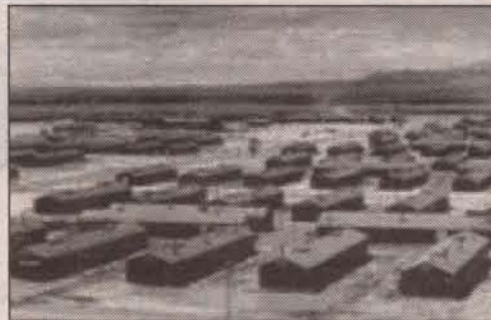
The Conservation Fund, JACL and the National Park Service have worked with the Topaz Museum to protect historic lands at the site of the Topaz Relocation Center, near Delta Utah. Last month the Topaz Museum acquired 13 acres of land at the site — representing the largest remaining unprotected tract of land

at the site.

Over the past several years, the Topaz Museum has acquired roughly 627 acres of the property. In the last two years, The Conservation Fund, Topaz Museum and other partners have protected two parcels totaling more than 100 acres of historic land.

These parcels were the largest remaining pieces of land at the original 640-acre campsite, which housed more than 8,000 Japanese Americans, mostly from the San Francisco area. The desert camp eventually contained more than 600 buildings, including rows of housing blocks, schools, gardens and a hospital.

Heart Mountain, between Cody and Powell, was home to some



TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER

10,700 JAs during WWII, when more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from California, Oregon and Washington.

Those interned at the camp created their own scout troops, community newspaper and camp government. More than 900 men from the camp

were released to join the U.S. military, and 20 were killed in action.

Former congressman and former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, who was interned at the camp as a child, was honored at the ceremony June 23 that was hosted by the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation.

At the ceremony, the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation unveiled plans for a \$5.5 million Interpretive Learning Center to be built on original camp site land purchased by the Foundation and included in the 123 acre area covered by the National Historic

Landmark designation.

Fewer than four percent of the properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are National Historic Landmarks. To date, five relocation camps have been designated as National Historic Landmarks: Manzanar Relocation Center in California, Rowher Relocation Camp Cemetery in Arkansas, Granada Relocation Center in Colorado, Tule Lake Relocation Center in California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming.

In addition, the National Park Service manages the Manzanar National Historic Site and Minidoka Internment National Monument as units of the National Park System. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Kanegai Inducted into Military Intelligence Hall of Fame



KANEGAI

Akune and M. Sgt. Roy H. Matsumoto.

The Military Intelligence Corp bestowed its highest honor to six Army veterans including the late Maj. Yoshio "George" Kanegai at the 20th annual Hall of Fame Ceremony June 28.

Other JA honorees were Col. Harry K. Fukuhara, Lt. Col. Richard M. Sakakida, Chief Warrant Officer Arthur S. Komori, Mr. Hisashi Masuda, Col. John F. Aiso, Lt. Col. Gero Iwai, Maj. Kan Tagami, Sgt. 1st Class Harry M.

NJAMF Elects New Chairman of the Board

Dr. Craig Uchida was elected chairman of the board for the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Uchida has been a board member since 2000 and has been a member of the NJAMF Executive Committee for the past year. He is also the president of the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter and the president of the Justice and Security Strategies, Inc.

Judge Takasugi Honored with Public Service Award



Federal Judge Robert M. Takasugi was recently awarded with the UCLA Alumni Association 2007 Public Service Award in a ceremony held on the Westwood campus. The award recognized his over 30 year commitment and service to the courts.

Takasugi was the first Japanese American appointed to the federal bench.

AAJA To Honor APA Journalists



CHU LIN

The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) will honor journalist Sam Chu Lin posthumously with a lifetime achievement award at its Aug. 4 gala scholarship and awards banquet in Miami.

The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated courage and commitment to the principles of journalism over the course of a life's work, as well as dedication to issues important to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Former Honolulu Star Bulletin owner Chinn Ho will also be honored.

San Diego JACL Scholarship Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary



The San Diego JACL recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Tetsuden Kashima Memorial Scholarship by honoring this year's top high school scholars. Kashima was one of two recipients of \$50 when the chapter began its scholarship program.

This year, the chapter awarded two Tetsuyo Kashima Memorial Scholarships to Ashley Takahashi and Shawn Teeter.

Pictured above: (seated, l-r) Scholarship recipients Amanda Segawa, Christine Emerson, Teeter, Takahashi, Lauren Kodama, and Caitlin Baker. (Standing, l-r) Linda Kato, Carol Kawamoto, Patty Nakamura, Miyo Reff, Robert Ito, Larry Oda, Christina Pierson, David Kawamoto, Roy Muraoka, Tom Yanagihara, and Dr. Yuri Kaneda.

Puyallup Awards \$1,500 Scholarship to Sasaki

The Puyallup Valley JACL recently awarded its scholarship to Byron Sasaki, a senior at Emerald Ridge High School. Sasaki has been named one of 20 outstanding seniors. He plans to attend Oregon State University this fall.

Salt Lake, Mt. Olympus Award Scholarships



The Salt Lake and Mt. Olympus JACL recently honored five outstanding scholarship recipients.

The Salt Lake JACL scholarship winners were Sydney

Shiba and Jillian Teru Paun. The Mt. Olympus JACL scholarship winners were Laney Kawaguchi, Reiko Turner, Kamauri Yeh.

Pictured above: (l-r) Yeh, Paun, Turner, Shiba and Kawaguchi. ■

JACL Takes Part in Rally Demanding Restoration of Fundamental Freedoms

The JACL took a stand with fellow advocates June 26 as thousands from across the country gathered on Capitol Hill to demand that Congress restore freedoms outlined in the constitution.

The Day of Action to Restore Law and Justice participants delivered over 250,000 petition signatures to the Hill urging members to return to the rule of law by restoring *habeas corpus* and due process, ending torture in secret prisons and passing the Restoring the Constitution Act of 2007.

The JACL along with The American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International USA, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and over 50 other organizations led more than 3,000 people in a rally and lobbying efforts to Congress.

"*Habeas corpus* is a basic right guaranteed to us by the Constitution," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Without it, we are in danger of losing liberties which make our nation unique in the



world."

"What we did in eliminating *habeas corpus* ... that was an action driven by fear," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT, one of many legislators who spoke at the rally. "There was ... a thought that by locking up tens of thousands of loyal Japanese Americans, we'd make ourselves safer. We didn't make ourselves safer (by doing that); we put a stain on America's reputation in the world. Let's not do it again."

Habeas corpus is a legal principle which gives prisoners the right to be brought before a court so the court can determine whether a prisoner is

being held legally or should be released.

The Military Commissions Act of 2006, signed into law on Oct. 17, 2006, suspends the writ of *habeas corpus* for any non-citizen named by the President of the United States as an "illegal enemy combatant."

"A strong message must be sent to our lawmakers. Due process and *habeas corpus* are fundamentally American principles. We will be laboring with our fellow coalition members to ensure that justice and the rule of law prevails. We must restore respect for the Constitution," said Mori. ■

JACL Supports Muslim H.S. Student

The 13-year-old was told to remove her *hijab* or religious scarf by a lunchroom supervisor.

The JACL has issued its support of a young Muslim student who is seeking a public apology from the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District.

The Seaside High School student was confronted by a lunchroom supervisor on June 19, who reportedly shouted and demanded that the 13-year-old remove her *hijab*, or Islamic head scarf. The student broke down in tears as she explained to the supervisor that she wore her *hijab* for religious reasons.

Despite the demands of the supervisor, the student refused to remove her scarf. The incident took place in the school's lunchroom, with over 100 students witnessing the incident.

"The JACL is shocked and appalled at the treatment the young Seaside High School student received at the hands of a summer school supervisor," stated National JACL President Larry Oda in a letter to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marilyn Shepherd. "We live in a diverse community, and it is truly unfortunate that such ignorance exists in a school district employee who is entrusted with the care of our children."

It was reported that Principal Sydney Renwick has agreed to offer diversity training and said the girl received a personal apology. However, there was no commitment that school officials would apologize publicly, a gesture the student's family feel is warranted given the public humiliation suffered by their daughter.

"The family is asking for an

acknowledgement and apology at a gathering of those students who were subjected to the inappropriate behavior, and I hope that you take the request seriously," added Oda. "The verbal abuse of a student by a school employee is unacceptable and should be dealt with in the most direct and persuasive manner."

Oda noted that a public apology would help in educating others, especially the many students who experienced the actions of an authority figure on school grounds. "Such an apology would reinforce the position of the school district that it does not tolerate hostile behavior by anyone," said Oda.

"Having been targeted by racial prejudice, our members are sensitive to the plight of others, and work to protect the rights of those who are victimized by intolerance. Please do the right thing and apologize." ■



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CASA LATINA

(Continued from page 1)

Stern, executive director of Casa Latina.

Working Out Differences

Casa Latina knew there would be opposition. They were vehemently opposed in another location in the Rainier Valley area. So in 2006, when they identified the 2,900-square-foot office building on 17th Avenue and Jackson Street, they contacted community leaders, talked with their groups and mailed out informational post cards.

"We got a lot of support. Over half decided to write us letters of support," said Stern. "We were very excited to move in."

They planned a \$3.5 million renovation and received \$250,000 from the city council.

But then an oppositional petition and angry accusations poured in from residents, business owners and community members who said they were not properly informed of Casa Latina's intended move.

Casa Latina's current day labor center in Belltown has historically been the place to pick up day laborers for the past 60 years. In the mornings, day laborers crowd the streets and linger in the surrounding areas.

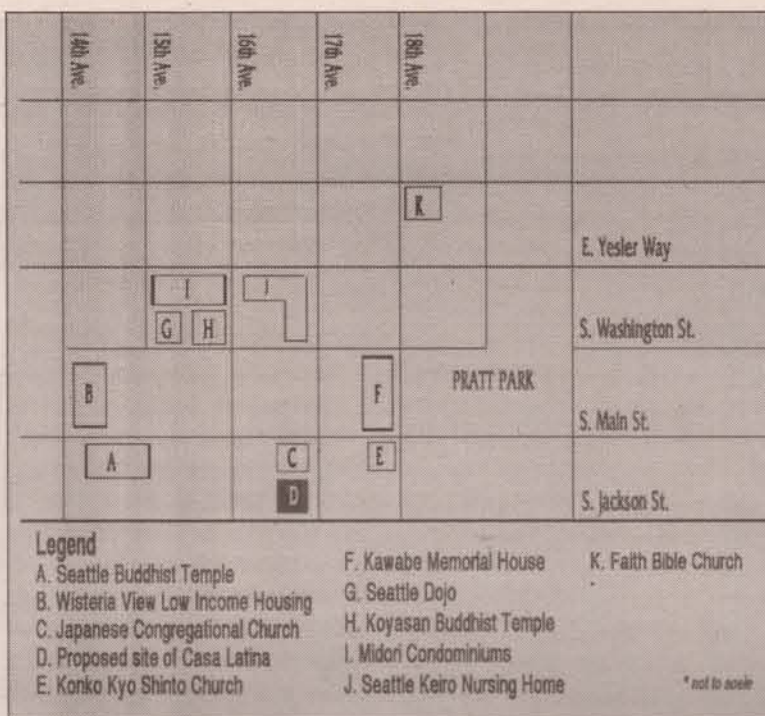
The loitering problem is indigenous to the Belltown area and not Casa Latina, said Stern. Once they move to their new location the problem will not follow. They also have plans to prevent it from happening in the Central District.

But some community members are not convinced.

"I'll be very surprised if there isn't a loitering problem," said Dale Kaku, who attends a Buddhist temple in the area.

Kaku, a Nisei, asked city officials if loitering persists in the new location, would the city get involved or cut program funding? "We have to deal with it," he said. He doesn't oppose Casa Latina's program, but he thinks it should be located away from residential areas.

"The Japanese community happens to be right in the neighborhood, you can't blame them for being concerned," said Tsuguo "Ike" Ikeda.



Different Opinions, Not Division

But above the din came accusations of anti-immigrant sentiment. Terse letters were exchanged in the pages of several local Asian Pacific American newspapers. Each side urged the other to see their points of view.

One columnist compared the Mexican immigrant experience to the plight of the Issei.

"It's turned into something completely different. I didn't expect this," said Groves, who maintains that the issue is safety. She feels disappointed that those who raised the anti-immigrant issue didn't present their opinions to the concerned residents and community members before turning to the media.

But Kip Tokuda, a Sansei, who held public office representing the Central District, said he heard anti-immigrant comments at a meeting he attended at the Japanese Congregational Church. The comments didn't sit well with him.

"If there were any one group of people to understand [discrimination] it's the Japanese American community," said Tokuda, who has personal ties to the future home of Casa Latina. His father once used the building for one of his drug stores.

Is there a divide in the JA community? No, but there are differing opinions, he said.

"The Japanese community, just like any other community, has differing opinions and I think anyone who says they speak for the entire community is ignorant," said Tokuda.

But fairness is fairness, he said about his concern over what he calls Casa Latina's initial lack of community process. "It needs to cut both ways."

Casa Latina and representatives from the community have been meeting to air out concerns. The second of six meetings on June 24 was a good start, said Ikeda, who worked in social services for over 30 years and encourages understanding and tolerance by visiting the current Casa Latina office.

"I think everyone looks at us in the context of their own experiences," said Stern. "It depends if they think their experiences are parallel to the Latino immigrant experience or separate from it."

The problem is perhaps much larger than Casa Latina and its surrounding community. Lately, news headlines and immigration reform legislation — which died in the Senate early June 28 — have made the immigrant community a scapegoat, said Junior Medina, office coordinator of the Pomona Day Labor Center in the outskirts of Los Angeles.

The center was established in 1998 because the city of Pomona passed an ordinance barring day laborers from congregating on the streets in an area that historically has been known as a day laborer pick-up site.

A group of professors and advocates decided to start an employment center not far from the original pick-up site to give laborers a safe place to find work. Despite its industrial location near a freeway and a home improvement warehouse, they also faced opposition from neighbors.

"They might have [had] misconceptions that day laborers use drugs and get drunk," said Medina. "That was one of the reasons why we decided to be in the Pomona Christmas Parade — to get the word out."

His advice to Casa Latina is to get more involved with the community.

"Be visible. Let the community know [day laborers] are out there looking for work not to rob and steal," said Medina. "The bottom line is they are here to work to feed their families." ■

The next meetings between Casa Latina and Central District representatives are slated for July 16 and Aug. 6.

For more information: www.casa-latina.org

After Immigration Bill Dies in the Senate, APA Groups are Calling on the House for Action

By P.C. and Associated Press

Asian Pacific American groups are expressing disappointment over the Senate's failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation June 28.

Although flawed with provisions that failed to address family unification, worker protection, due process and legalization, APA leaders, including JACL, say immigration reform is desperately needed. SB 1639 would have been the starting point.

"The legislation left much to be desired with respect to preserving a robust family immigration system and protecting due process rights in our immigration system," said Rep. Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). "However, many of us in the House of Representatives were ready to roll up our sleeves, work hard to remedy those provisions, and craft an acceptable bill. We have been denied a great and important opportunity to honor both the contributions of immigrants to our country and the promise of America."

The Senate drove a stake through the comprehensive immigration reform legislation by failing to pass a cloture motion to limit debate and clear the way for final passage of the legislation, which critics assailed as offering amnesty to illegal immigrants in the United States. The vote was 46 to 53 in favor of limiting the debate.

Some senators in both parties said the issue is so volatile that Congress

is unlikely to revisit it later this year or next year, when the presidential election will increasingly dominate American politics.

The Senate's inaction affects many APAs who are working to keep their families together and pursue the American dream.

Last year a similar immigration effort collapsed in Congress, and the House of Representatives has not bothered with an immigration bill this year, awaiting Senate action.

Voting to allow the bill to proceed by ending debate were 33 Democrats, 12 Republicans and independent Joe Lieberman. Voting to block the bill by not limiting debate were 37 Republicans, 15 Democrats and independent Bernard Sanders. One senator did not vote.

The bill would have toughened border security and instituted a new system for weeding out illegal immigrants from workplaces. It would have created a new guest worker program and allowed millions of illegal immigrants to obtain legal status if they briefly returned home.

Some are now calling on the House for action on immigration reform.

"This is the moment to create historic change. Congress must decisively step up to the plate and truly deliver because immigration reform is the key to America's prosperity, security and future," said Eun Sook Lee, executive director of the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium. ■

'Salute To Our Veterans' to be Held Aboard USS Hornet



The JACL NCWNP district will honor Japanese American veterans at a "Salute To Our Veterans" event on Aug. 12 aboard the USS Hornet Museum in Alameda, Calif.

A short program will honor the men and women who served during World War II or the Korean Conflict, including the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (100th/442nd), Army Nurse Corps, and the Merchant Marine.

Admission includes tours of the MIS and 100th/442nd permanent exhibit, docent-led tours of the USS Hornet, a silent auction, and a bento lunch. Visitors will also be able to view two screenings of Lane Nishikawa's "Only the Brave," a film about the 100th/442nd who, against overwhelming odds, rescued members of the Texas 141st Regiment known as the "Lost Battalion."

The 'Salute To Our Veterans' event is limited to the first 300 regis-

trants and everyone will need to register. Admission for WWII and Korean veterans is free. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children age 12 and under.

To register, include the number of adults, children, and veterans in your party, and your e-mail address to confirm your registration. Send the information along with a check made payable to NCWNP JACL to Milo Yoshino at 71 Aleman Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2427.

The USS Hornet is located at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda Point in Alameda. Parking is free and handicap accessible. ■

'Salute To Our Veterans'

Aug. 12, 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

USS Hornet Museum, Alameda, CA

Information:

www.dvjacl.org/news.html

For questions: Milo Yoshino, 925/933-7584 or

miloyoshi@aol.com

Emily Teruya, 510/530-7127 or chibi500@hotmail.com

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

By Thelma Robinson

Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II

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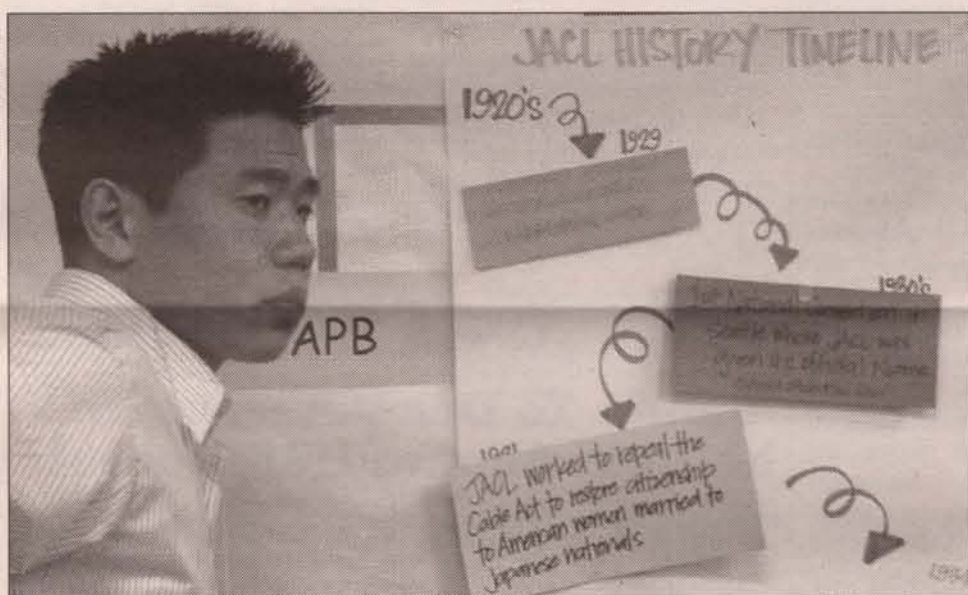
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2007

YOUTH
CONFERENCE

Cultivating Leaders by Defining Roots



Peter Yamamura conducts a workshop on JACL history.



Blake Honda prepares the *mochi* during the *mochitsuki* class.



MENTORS & MENTOREES: (l-r) P.C. Youth Representative Naomi Oren, actress Nikki Hikari, Rainey Tadehara, Kevin Onishi, 'Farewell to Manazar' author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, Kiyomi MacDonald, Hillary Nakano, Oak Grove School District Board of Trustee Jeremy Nishihara (standing) Andy Munemoto and Katie Furukawa.

'I didn't have a strong background in Japanese American culture ... I'm here to change that.'

— **Greg Kawabata**, 17, of the Eden Township JACL



Gil Asakawa (right), *Pacific Citizen* editorial board chairperson and author of 'Being Japanese American,' shares a laugh with youth members.



JACL 201: (l-r) NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada, Haruka Roubush and MDC Regional Director Bill Yoshino talk JACL with Amanda Wake.

FOOTBALL

(Continued from page 1)

Third International Federation of American Football (IFAF) World Championship of American Football July 7-15 in Kawasaki, Japan.

The Princeton Tiger's outside linebacker, who also finished out his college football career last season, was nominated for the IFAF World Championship by his head coach. He underwent a rigorous selection process to become the only Princetonian and the only Asian Pacific American player on the roster to represent the United States.

"One thing about Brig is that he is very hard working and relentless in his pursuit of a goal," said his parents.

Pacific Citizen: Describe your first experience with football. Was it prophetic of the successful football career you would have?

Brigham Walker: I wouldn't say that I've had any prophetic experiences with football, but my earliest 'major' experience came my senior year of high school. My team won the league championship in a whirlwind game with four changes of leads in the last four minutes. I caught two key passes in the wettest and most attended game of our season, including a touchdown and a fourth-down Hail Mary. As the game ended and the crowd rushed the field, my emotions went on overload. Experiencing this euphoria was the first time that I comprehended how all the hard work, dedication, and teamwork could converge into one great feeling.

PC: It seems you've always been a natural athlete. Why football over soccer or any other sport you participated in?

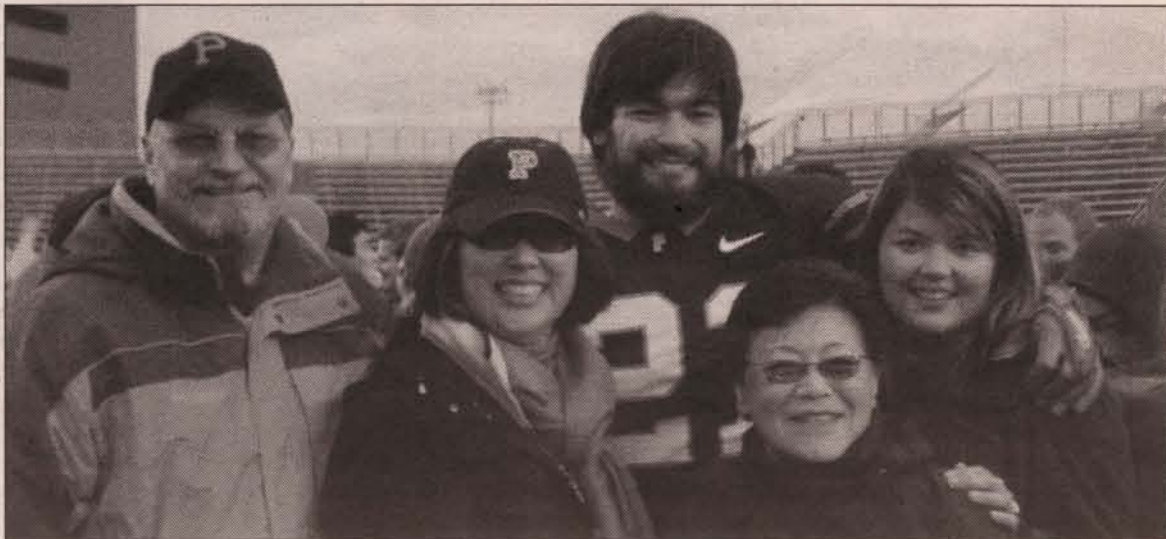
BW: At some point in elementary school I decided that I wanted to earn a full-ride college scholarship. Playing sports appeared to be the best route to pursue that goal. I started playing football in the eighth grade and realized that it is one of the few sports that major recruiting occurred with high school teams. So it initially was a fairly arbitrary decision out of convenience, but through experiencing the game I came to intrinsically love and respect it.

PC: Did your parents always encourage your athletic endeavors as much as your academics?

BW: My parents offered my sister and me an incredible amount of support in both academic and athletic avenues. I think that it was all part of them trying to raise us with a broad range of great experiences. And between coaching our teams and ensuring that we were on top of our schoolwork, they tried their best to give us a well-rounded, 'total' education.

PC: Talk about your decision to pass up playing for Oregon State, a Pac-10 school, to go to Princeton. Was it a difficult decision?

'Obachan (Grandma) mostly cried tears of joy for me, acknowledging that the road wasn't easy.'



FAMILY PRIDE: (l-r) Brad, Debbie, Brigham, Obachan and sister Mackenzie Walker.

BW: It was such a difficult decision for me. After choosing football as the sport that I wanted to focus on, playing at the highest level and getting my education paid for was a high priority. However, going to Princeton also felt like a once in a lifetime opportunity. By playing there, I figured that the practical worse case scenario would be that I'd graduate from an Ivy League institution.

Two weeks after signing day, Dennis Erickson, the then head coach of the OSU Beavers (the school that I was most likely to play for) left to coach in the National Football League leaving the team's fate up in the air. I also ended up having back surgery after my freshman year, which wasn't 'good,' but reinforced my faith that I'd made the right decision.

PC: Your career stats continually improved through the years at Princeton. What would you say was the defining moment of your college football career?

BW: The defining moment of my college football career probably was hearing our football alumni president give a speech at my junior fall camp about what we players were actually playing for. We weren't playing just for the love of the game, or even just for the team, but for all those who enabled us to suit up in the first place. That includes the alumni, fans, and importantly, the coaches. It was the time that I felt like I was playing for their livelihoods more than for my own love of the game.

PC: You helped to lead Princeton to its Ivy League championship last season. Your parents and grandmother were there at the game. How much did it mean to you to have them there?

BW: Yes, my parents, sister and grandmother were at the title-clinching game. It certainly meant a lot to share that experience with them, especially since we're a West

Coast family and it's difficult for them to all come to a game in the Northeast. Winning a championship was the only real athletic goal that I had had coming to Princeton and to end on such a positive note with family to celebrate with was simply incredible.

Obachan (Grandma) mostly cried tears of joy for me, acknowledging that the road wasn't easy.

PC: Is there more pressure to compete at the IFAF world championship than at a regular Princeton game? How will you prepare for the game mentally and physically?

BW: It's different. Having no prior in-person experience with the coaches or players, I feel a bit like an incoming college freshman, which is something different from how I felt entering my senior season. I approached each game at Princeton with the utmost seriousness and worked to always play at my peak level, but I do feel some added pride and responsibility to do well while bearing the USA name.

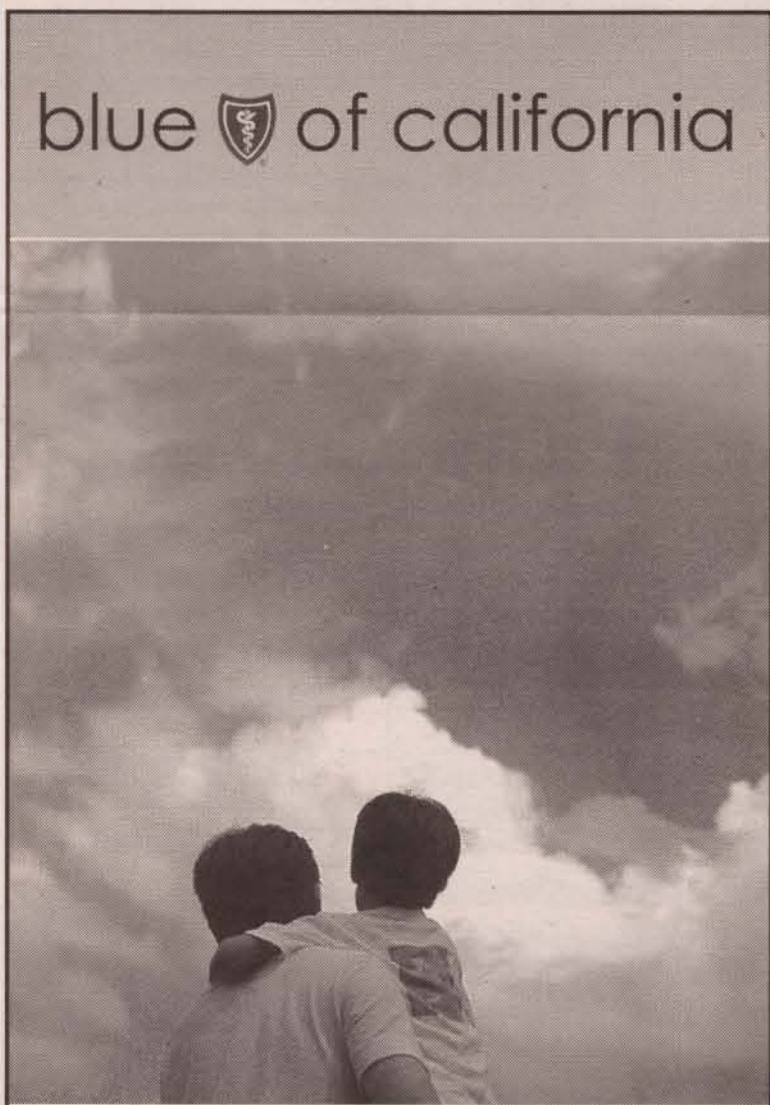
PC: This competition will take you to Japan. Have you been there before?

BW: I've never been there. My sister and I had actually planned on going to Japan this summer for a number of years as she also graduated this spring from high school. USA Football has been kind enough to let me stay an extra 10 days. During that time, my family and I will travel to Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka, Hiroshima, and my great-grandparents homeland of Yamaguchi-Ken. At some point, I'd also love to climb Mt. Fuji.

PC: You've recently graduated with a degree in molecular biology. What are your plans for the future? Is football involved?

BW: Football is not involved with my future plans. I'm looking to leverage my molecular biology background in some capacity in the health field. ■

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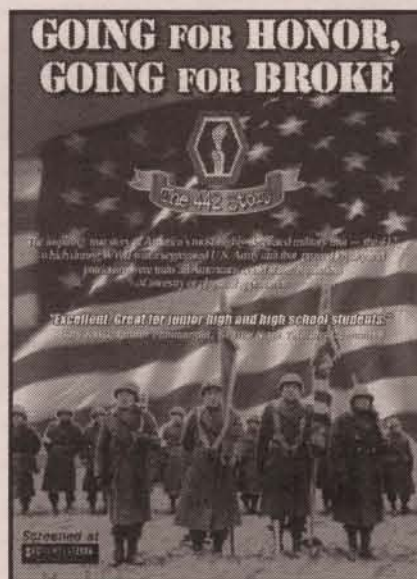
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• YUMI SAKUGAWA •

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

The Bright Future of JA Youth



Just this past June, I finally graduated from UCLA. At the Asian Pacific Islander graduation ceremony, one commencement speaker, a UCLA alum actively involved with worker rights, spoke of the legacy that is bestowed upon us young APIs who have come this far due to the hard work of our parents and community.

While she acknowledged the students who have already received their letters of acceptance from medical school, law

school and business school, she encouraged the undecided seniors in the crowd to follow the less financially certain path of getting involved in the community. That is, political activist work. Non-profit organizations. Community outreach.

I wonder if working part-time at a Japanese-owned restaurant can count as community outreach.

Two days after graduation, I signed my soul to a certain, unnamed sushi restaurant in West L.A. I have officially joined the ranks of struggling actors,

artists, and recent college graduates with useless degrees who work in the seedy underbelly of the food service industry to financially get by, postpone their impending quarter-life crisis, or all of the above.

I swear to God, this is a temporary thing.

My Asian American Studies professors would still be proud, though. I have come to realize that being a part-time waitress at a sushi restaurant allows me to continue my ongoing exploration of my JA identity even though my undergrad days are long over.

Thanks to my nine years of slacking off at a Saturday language school, I have built the confidence to communicate in broken mother tongue with my fellow Japanese co-workers and kiss up to the Japanese patrons who give me a cold, soul-shriveling look when their tea runs out. I now know that Santa Monica College has a lot of hip, young, Japanese people who moved from Japan when they graduated from high school and ended up working part-time at sushi restaurants.

My manager, who was born in Japan but moved to America over a decade ago to study hotel management in college, occasionally drops tidbits of advice that further

expands my growing knowledge of what it means to be an individual of Japanese descent in America.

Such as: Japanese people like their tea to be really hot. Non-Japanese people just want their tea to taste Asian. Real Japanese people eat their miso soup with their chopsticks. Non-Japanese people need a freaky soup spoon. Japanese people eat their sushi with soy sauce, wasabi and ginger. Non-Japanese people eat their sushi with soy sauce, wasabi and ginger, but may also

need a compartmentalized, small side dish with individual spicy sauces of various flavors to jazz up their sushi palette.

These are some of the valuable things that we learn outside of the classroom.

Three weeks into my job, though, I realize that while I feel fortunate to work in an environment where I have to talk *nihongo* to people other than my parents and eat free sashimi five days a

week, serving platters of sushi probably is not my lifelong calling.

I would like to think that during my four years of education at UCLA, I was a good Asian American girl. I got involved with campus ethnic organizations, participated in a community internship in Little Tokyo, and took a lot of Asian American Studies classes.

I made a lot of socially conscious, Black Lava T-shirt-wearing AA friends who volunteered at the VC Film Fest, rallied for Korean immigrant rights and organized collegiate conferences for Taiwanese Americans.

Now that I am floating adrift in the real world, I question why I did get involved with all those activities in college in the first place, and whether or not I will even continue to do so now.

I hope I do. I'm just not sure how — at least not yet.

Whatever means I end up deciding upon, I am almost certain that it wouldn't involve coming home every night smelling of soy sauce and tempura batter. ■

Yumi Sakugawa recently graduated from UCLA.

COMMENTARY

A Patriot and Hero

As 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's second court martial approaches, this reader encourages the JA community to support his position.

By CHIZU IYAMA

A second court martial trial for Army 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, the first and only commissioned officer to publicly refuse deployment to Iraq is scheduled for July 16. He is charged with missing troop movement and criticizing the Iraq war. He is being persecuted because he is challenging the morality and legality of the war.

The first trial ended in a mistrial, when the military judge, Lt. Col. John Head, ruled that Watada had not fully understood a pretrial agreement he had signed that would have cut his sentence to four years. Watada's attorney at the time, Eric Seitz, countered that the judge had no grounds for declaring a mistrial: "When it's not going well for you, you can't just call a mistrial and start all over again." Watada's lawyer filed a motion with the Army's Court of Appeals based on the double jeopardy argument.

Lt. Watada's decision to refuse to go to Iraq came after methodical research into the history of that country as well as into the facts of the war. He concluded that "as someone who has sworn an oath to protect our Constitution, our values and our principles, to protect the welfare and safety of the American people I cannot be a part of this war."

Today, election results and polls show us there is a growing number of Americans who are against the war in Iraq. There are over 3,500 American soldiers killed, thousands wounded. And a great number of Iraqi people killed, wounded, homeless, and refugees. This war has been a disaster. And the president talks of an occupation which can last for years.

The past few weeks, the Japanese American community in the San Francisco area has paid tribute to the bravery of the veterans of the 442nd and the MIS. We have noted the forbearance and courage of the people who were interned in camps during World War II as we relived those



days in Tanforan and Topaz. We recalled the hectic and chaotic period of the "loyalty oaths." And we remembered the division of opinions of that period.

We now consider Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Min Yasui as heroes, for their stand in 1942 to refuse to follow governmental restrictions and orders to detention. They considered it racist, and challenged their constitutionality.

There were some in the Nikkei community who denounced them or were unsupportive of their actions. Most were unaware of their significance. The three men were jailed.

And in the camps, in February 1943, the loyalty oath, questions 27 and 28 brought more turmoil. There were some men who volunteered for the U.S. Army whose families were told they were foolish or wrong. Today, everyone praises our JA soldiers for their heroism. We know their tremendous sacrifices bought us a place in American society and helped immeasurably in the passage of our Redress bill in 1988.

And when the draft was instituted in 1944, there were some like the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee who resisted the draft on principle. Refusal to report for physicals or induction until their citizenship rights were restored. Many served jail sentences. Again, there were Nikkei who criticized them. Only recently has their stand been acknowledged and appreciated.

Which brings us back to 1st Lt. Ehren Watada. At a huge personal sacrifice and risk, he challenges our country in legal and moral terms. Pre-emptive war was repudiated at Nuremberg. The Geneva Conventions, ratified by the U.S. Senate, protects soldiers from being forced to commit heinous acts. And the U.S. Constitution includes treaties as part of the laws of our land.

We believe that 1st Lt. Ehren Watada is a patriot and a hero. We hope that Nikkei see that his is a courageous act. Support 1st Lt. Ehren Watada! ■

Chizu Iiyama resides in El Cerrito, Calif. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Pacific Citizen.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

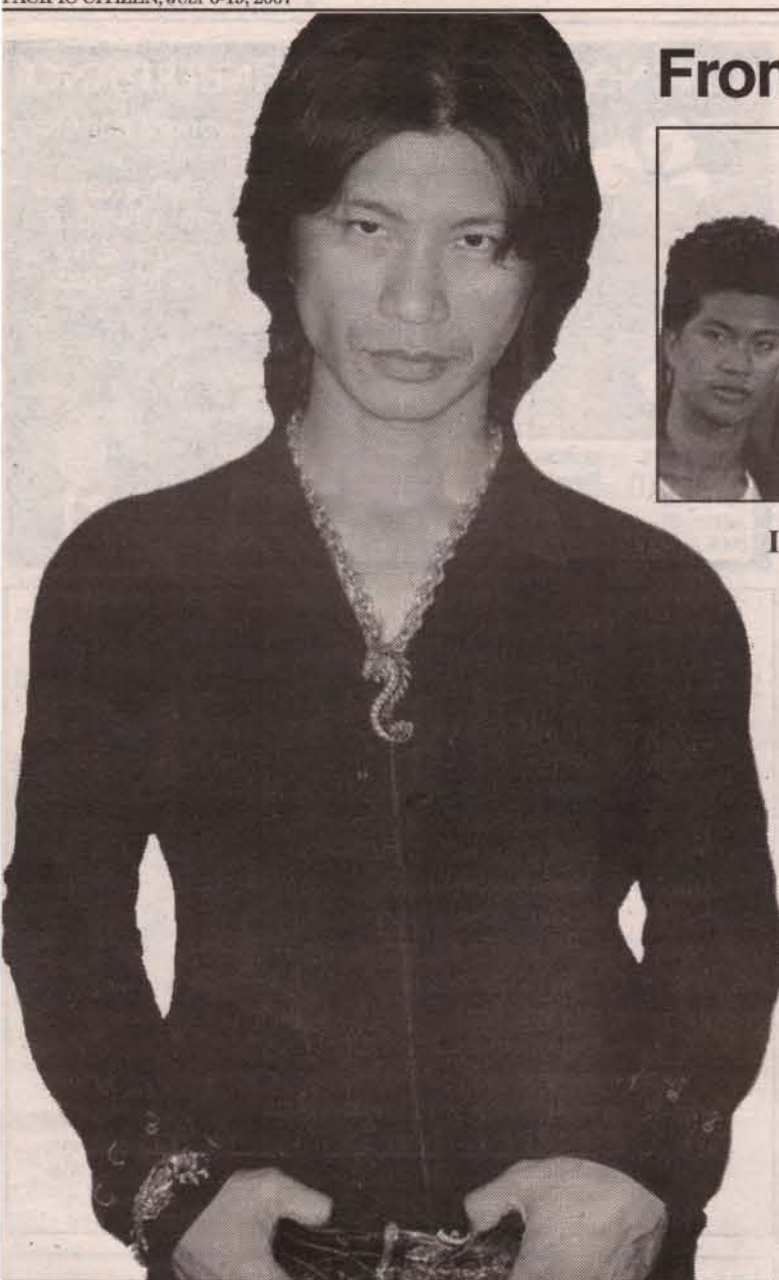
National business and Professional Directory

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From 'Jump Street' to 'Finishing the Game'



Is Dustin Nguyen (*gulp*) experiencing a comeback?

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

It seems like only yesterday that Dustin Nguyen fought crime with his gravity defying hair on "21 Jump Street."

Has it really been 16 years?

"Ah, the Duran Duran hair!" said Nguyen with a laugh from his Los Angeles, Calif. home.

Now 45, Nguyen's career biographies are often accompanied with adjectives like "veteran" and "seasoned." Yet he's still most recognized for his four-year stint as Harry Aoki, an undercover police officer who infiltrated the hearts of teenage girls all over the world alongside co-star Johnny Depp.

And it seems Nguyen's fans are renewable resources — younger generations of viewers are getting introduced to his television characters on "21 Jump Street" and "V.I.P." through DVDs and international syndication.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm on candid camera. People come up to me and I think, 'you still remember?' It's flattering but strange."

Overcoming Tragedy

He calls his relationship with wife Angela Rockwood-Nguyen a "movie cliché." There he was an actor in his prime, training at a local gym and across the room was a woman with a martial arts background who was training just as hard. They were introduced by a mutual friend and the attraction was undeniable.

"It was one of those things that sort of happened," he said. "I wasn't particularly looking to settle down, but there she was."

Rockwood-Nguyen auditioned and won a role on "V.I.P." and they started planning a dream wedding in 2001. But if this were truly a movie, some foreshadowing would've given them clues about what was about to happen.

On Sept. 4, 2001 — months before their wedding — Rockwood-Nguyen was on her way home from San Francisco with two friends when the car flipped five times and

snapped her neck. At their Los Angeles home, the hollow sound of the phone ringing in the middle of the night delivered the bad news — she was a quadriplegic.

"It was quite surreal. I got in the car and drove up there in three hours. I was in a state of panic. In a split second your life changes," Nguyen said.

They never had their wedding. It took a back seat. But the tragedy has become their platform for activism. They're both spokespersons for the Christopher Reeves Foundation and proponents of the stem cell research bill, which recently suffered another defeat with another veto from President George W. Bush.

"We're surrounded by people who would benefit from [stem cell research]. It's frustrating. Decisions are being made with little knowledge of the subject matter. I don't think the president is very educated about this particular field and the public is being misguided," he said.

The couple is also passionate about bringing awareness to the Asian Pacific American communities through their work with the Paralysis Resource Center's Minority Communities Outreach Campaign.

"I think Asian culture as a whole perceives paralysis as a source of shame. They tend to keep it internal. It's a grave mistake. I'm not sure you should run around flaunting your own pain, but suffering in silence and solitude is not the answer.

"Part of our job is to break through taboos," he said.

Becoming a 'Rebel'

Creativity has blossomed for Nguyen in the past year. Coming off a critical success of playing a heroin addict in "Little Fish," Nguyen returned to his birth country of Vietnam for the first time since escaping the war torn country to film "The Rebel."

The action-packed feature length film set in 1920s Vietnam during French Colonialism was shot entirely in Vietnam on the northern border under the constant scrutiny of the local media.

"It changed my life in a lot of ways. You couldn't ask for a better way to



(Top, l-r) Dustin and Johnny Depp in '21 Jump Street,' with Cate Blanchett in 'Little Fish' and as Troy Poon in 'Finishing the Game.'

(Above) Dustin with his wife Angela.

return to a country. I wouldn't have had the access that I did if I had traveled alone," he said.

"The Rebel" premiered last month in Vietnam and is a runaway hit. It's also been sweeping up awards in the American film festival circuit.

Nguyen also stars as Troy Poon — the real actor who turns his nose up at playing Bruce Lee's body double for a more dignified career selling vacuum cleaners — in Justin Lin's "Finishing the Game," which has recently been picked up for theatrical release.

He is also currently filming a horror flick called "A Gauntlet" and penning a complex follow-up film in the similar genre of "The Rebel."

"It will be a dark character fable that explores the role of a man in society," said Nguyen.

But the million-dollar question is: will there be a "21 Jump Street" reunion?

"I doubt it!" he laughed. He ran into Depp two years ago at the Toronto Film Festival where they swapped family pictures and talked about old times. "We laughed about [a reunion]. It's not going to happen, at least not with us." ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.therebelmovie.com,
www.myspace.com/finishingthegame,
www.myspace.com/dustintrnguyen,
www.myspace.com/angelarockwood-nguyen,
www.paralysis.org

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- Preview of 2008
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- Mar. 3 Italian Vistas - 13 Days - "All of Italy" - \$3395.
- Mar. 17 China - 11 Days - \$2695 - Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai
- Mar. 31 Japan Classic "Cherry Blossoms" 11 Days - \$3595 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Maiko - Okayama - Takahashi - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- Apr. 14 New Japan "Off the Beaten Track" 11 Days - \$3795 - Fukuoka - Hirado - Amakusa - Kokura - Kushimoto - Nagoya - Lake Kawaguchi - Mt. Fuji - Shimoda - Tokyo.
- May 6 New Zealand & Australia - 15 Days - \$4295 - Queenstown - Christchurch - Melbourne - Sydney - Cairns - Reef.
- June 15 Alaska "Inside Passage Cruise" 7 Days - From \$1593 - Minisuite \$2373 - Vancouver - Ketchikan - Juneau - Sawyer Glacier - Skagway & Vancouver - NCL.
- June 30 Summer Japan Classic "Family Tour" 10 Days - \$3195 - Child \$2895 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Maiko - Okayama - Takahashi - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
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SECRET ASIAN MAN™ By Tak

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IT HAS BEEN 25 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF VINCENT CHIN. CHIN WAS BEATEN TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT BY TWO MEN WHO MISTAKENLY THOUGHT HE WAS JAPANESE AND DECIDED TO TAKE OUT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON HIM AFTER LOSING THEIR JOBS AT AN AMERICAN AUTO PLANT. IN THE END, THE TWO MEN WERE FOUND GUILTY, FINED \$3000, AND SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS OF PROBATION.



REMEMBER VINCENT CHIN

ONE WOULD EXPECT A LOT OF PROGRESS FROM THOSE DAYS, BUT VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST ASIANS PERSIST AND, DISTURBINGLY, SEEM TO BE ON THE RISE. EVERY DAY ONE CAN FIND REPORTS OF INTIMIDATION, VANDALISM, VIOLENCE AND EVEN MURDER PERPETRATED AGAINST PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR ASIAN HERITAGE. SADLY, THE CASE OF VINCENT CHIN IS NOT A REMARKABLE ONE BUT STANDS AS A REMINDER OF THE SENSELESSNESS OF HATE CRIMES THAT CONTINUE TO PLAGUE US TODAY.

SORRY, NO PUNCH LINE.

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Calendar

National

TUKWILA, Wash.

July 26-29—"Changing Faces - Transforming Communities" PNW-IDC JACL Bi-District Conference; registration \$160 if received by July 12, \$50/youth 25 and under; events include a welcome mixer, recognition luncheon, workshops, networking luncheon and awards dinner; Best Western River's Edge, 15901 W. Valley Hwy., 800/544-9863; mention JACL Bi-District Conference to receive the room rate of \$99 plus tax. Info: Elaine Akagi, pnwgov@jaci.org.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Aug. 9-12—"Partnerships, Perspectives, and Policy" EDC/MDC JACL Bi-District Conference; registration is \$160; events include a welcome reception, workshops and banquet; Washington Hilton Hotel, 1935 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202/483-3000; mention JACL Bi-District Conference for \$163/single bed, \$183/two beds. Info: 773/728-7170.

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@jaci.org.

East

MEDFORD, Mass.

Sun., July 15—Performance, "Jokes and Juggling in July: Rakugo ad Daikagura Artists from Japan"; 3 p.m.; Tufts University, Barnum Hall, Room 8, 163 Packard Ave.; hear humorous Japanese stories and see amazing feats of traditional Japanese juggling. For reservations, 617/973-9772 x122.

NEW YORK

Wed., July 25—Film screening, "Officer Tsukamoto"; 8:30 p.m.; Asia Society, 725 Park Ave.; film is about Ron Tsukamoto, one of the first Asian-American police officers in the country who was shot and killed in Berkeley, Calif.; tickets are \$10 or \$8 for Cinevision/students/seniors. Info: www.offerttsukamoto.com.

PHILADELPHIA

Through-Sept. 9—Exhibition, Dragons & Fairies: Exploring Vietnam Through Folktales; Please Touch Museum, The Children's Museum of Philadelphia; exhibit provides a wealth of hands-on, interactive learning about the daily experiences and culture of the Vietnamese people. Info: www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

Midwest

CHICAGO

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.

CINCINNATI

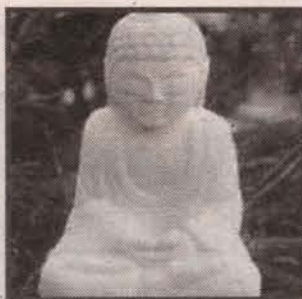
Sun., Aug. 19—Annual JACL Potluck Dinner; 4 p.m.; Hyde Park Bethlehem Church, 3799 Hyde Park Ave.; bring a covered dish to serve 8 persons; featuring sumi-e artist Setsuko LeCroix and the Sakura Ladies Chorus.

CLEVELAND

Sat., July 14—Obon Festival; 7:30 p.m.; Cleveland Buddhist Temple, corner of Euclid Ave. and East 214th St.; also featuring a taiko performance by JACL's Icho Daiko/Mame Daiko. Info: 216/692-1509.

Sun., July 29—2007 JACL and CJAF Graduation Celebration and Scholarship Luncheon; 12:30 p.m.; Shinano Restaurant, 5222 Wilson Mills Rd., Richmond Heights; \$18/person, \$15/students; RSVP by July 25. RSVP: Keith Asamoto, 216/921-2976, kasamoto.jaci@yahoo.com or Aiko Ebihara, 440/775-4435, raebihara@aol.com.

Sun. Aug. 26—2007 Community Picnic; 10-6 p.m.; Brushwood Shelter,



'I Bow to You' features Buddhist sculptures by Thomas Matsuda. Catch a glimpse of some of his recent work as well as a sculpting demonstration this month in Palo Alto and San Francisco.

Furnace Run, Summit County Metro Park; enjoy food, games, taiko and relaxation.

EDINA, Minn.

Sun., July 22—Twin Cities JACL Summer Picnic; noon-4 p.m.; Rosland Park, 4300 W. 66th St.; enjoy food, children's games, bingo and fun. RSVP by July 20 to Lisa Shakerin with number of attendees and ages of children, 763/537-6829 or mincks01@aol.com; bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio

Sun., July 29—JACL Annual Summer Picnic; 2-6 p.m.; Wilson Park; enjoy food, music and games for kids and adults; JACL will provide water, lemonade, watermelon, hamburgers, veggieburgers, hot dogs and paper goods; bring a covered dish, salad or dessert; Info: Jane Katusyama, 937/470-4867.

Pacific Northwest

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 18—Olympia Bon Odori; 7-9 p.m., food booth opens at 5 p.m.; obon takes place at Water St. and Legion St.; obon practice is Aug. 17 at the Olympia Community Center, 222 Columbia St. NW. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562.

PORTLAND

Through-Aug. 12—Exhibition, The Art of Jimmy Mirikitani; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; a poignant exploration of the lasting impacts of war and discrimination and the healing power of creativity; \$3 donation, free to members of ONLC. Info: www.oregonnikkei.org.

Northern California

MANZANAR

Through Aug. 5—Manzanar Art Show by Artists-in-Residence; Manzanar National Historic Site; Jamie and Melissa Poulsen spent last summer painting and writing poetry inspired by Manzanar and those works are now on display at the Interpretive Center; Interpretive Center is open 9-5:30 p.m. Info: 760/878-2194, ext. 2710 or www.nps.gov/manz.

PALO ALTO

July 20-22—Exhibition, "I Bow to You" featuring Buddhist Sculptures by Thomas Matsuda; Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 2751 Louis Rd.; 10-5 p.m.; July 20, 7-9 p.m. opening reception; July 21, 11-noon, slide presentation of contemporary work, 1-4:30 p.m. "Creating Jizos in Clay" workshop; July 22, 10 a.m. service followed by a Buddhist sculpture carving demonstration. Info: 650/856-0123

SAN FRANCISCO

July 24-31, Aug. 2-5—Exhibition, "I Bow to You" featuring Buddhist Sculptures by Thomas Matsuda; Dentoh Gallery (July 24-31), 1737 Post St., #365; hours: Sun.-Thurs. 10-6 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 10-7 p.m.; San Francisco Zen Center (Aug. 2-5), 300 Page St.; hours vary; exhibition features recent Buddhist sculptures. Info: Dentoh Gallery, 415/359-9570, San Francisco Zen Center, 415/863-3136.

Through Sept. 9—Exhibition featuring the works of Osamu Tezuka, creator of Astro Boy; Tues.-Sun. 10-5 p.m.; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; exhibition features more than 200

works including original drawings, covers, and poster; exhibition will be the only one in the United States; \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$7/youth 13-17, free for children under 12. Info: 415/581-3500 or www.asianart.org.

SARATOGA

Sat., Aug. 18—West Valley JACL's 30 Annual Daruma Festival; 9:30-4 p.m.; Saratoga Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave.; featuring arts and crafts, food, raffle prizes, children's activities and more; free and open to the public. Info: www.daruma-festival.org or 408/253-0458.

Central California

HANFORD

Through July 31—Exhibit, The Exploration of Unseen Worlds: Imagination as Reality in Japanese Art; 1-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; The Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, 15770 Tenth Ave.; \$5/adults, \$3/students, members and children under 12 are free. Info: 559/582-4915 or www.shermanleeinstitute.org.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

July 12, 26, Aug. 2, 9—JANM's 1st and Central Summer Concert Series; National Museum Plaza, 369 E. 1st St.; July 12 Southern California Ukulele Showcase featuring Daniel Ho, Herb Ohta Jr. and more; July 26 San Jose Taiko; Aug. 2 Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca; Aug. 9 To Alice with Love: Celebrating the Music of Alice Coltrane. Info: www.janm.org.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sat., July 21—Book Launch, "First Among Nisei: The Life and Writings of Masaji Marumoto"; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, First Floor, Teruya Courtyard; the book tells Marumoto's life story that encompasses many key events of 20th century Hawaii history. Info: 808/945-7633 or www.jcch.com.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

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

Brazil

SÃO PAULO

July 18-21—COPANI XIV, PANA Convention; Hotel Blue Tree Convention Ibirapuera; registration \$300, golf tournament \$200; hotel rates: Blue Tree Convention Hotel Ibirapuera, \$82/single, \$94/double or Hotel Nikkey Palace, \$57/single, \$68/double. Info: Arturo Yoshimoto, panausa@usa.net; JACL contact, Lillian Kimura, lckimura@att.net; overseas registrants, Prof. Ii-sei Watanabe, watanabe@icb.usp.br.

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NEW DATE
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Masai Mara Reserve. Guaranteed to see many wildlife.
SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 10-16
NEW DATES
San Francisco, Napa Valley, Wine Train, Sacramento, Sierra Nevada Rail
Reno, Lake Tahoe, Dinner Cruise on Lake Tahoe.
OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 11-24
Naha, Beach Resort, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Kirishima Onsen, Miyazaki
Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.
SOUTH AMERICA PATAGONIA HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 9-26
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In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujimura, Kiyoko, 83, Cleveland, Ohio; survived by husband, Shigeru; daughters, Lynn (David) Sosalla, Elaine (Anthony) Fujimura and Sandy (Bobby) Ferreri; 3 gc.; sisters, Fhi (Sho) Wakagawa and To (Tad) Kuga; and brother, Mas (Sachi) Sakoi.

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.

Furuyama, William M. "Bill," 87, Blue Island, Ill., May 31; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, K Co.; survived by sister, Helen (George) Yoshida; and brother, Charles (Mary).

Kadani, Gary T., 91, San Francisco, May 14; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Terry; daughter, Susan (Mike) Kiyoi; son, Stan (Barbara Noguchi); 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sisters, Peggy Katai and Alice Shiroma.

Kagawa, William, 88, Webster, Tex., June 7; survived by sisters, Nina Kagawa, Martha Griffith and Ginger Watanabe.

Kanno, Stanley T., 85, S. Euclid, Ohio, April 21; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Mae; daughters, Kathleen Federico and Trudy (David) Christopher; sons, Stanley (Gloria), Dr. Ivan, and Kenneth; 6 gc.; and 6 ggc.

Kohatsu, George, 78, Poway, April 1; survived by wife, Gladys; son, Paul (Cindy); daughters, Karen (Stanford) Yee, Stephanie, Lauren (Dean) Chang and Claire (Eric) Kohatsu Bauman; 11 gc.; brother, Takeshi (Margie); and sisters, Mitzi and Aiko Kohatsu.

Koide, Henry Shigeo, 87, San Diego, June 12; survived by wife, Grace; sons, Mark, Jon and Brian (Melissa); daughter, Lisa (Mark) Halverson; brothers, Hiroshi

(Teruko), Minoru (Amy) and Frank (Janet); sister, Tami (Frank) Kinoshita; and 4 gc.

Kono, Lillian, May 28; survived by husband, Nobuo; son, Grant; daughter, Marlene; and sisters, Reiko Uyeda and Kiyoko Matsubara.

Morioka, Fred, 93, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 20; survived by wife, Toki; son, Gordon; 1 gc.; and sister, May Okamoto.

Murakami, Takeshi Denny, 66, San Jose, June 6; survived by wife, Carla; daughter, Nichole; and brothers, Bob (Sally), Ray (Reiko) and George (Judy).

Nakanishi, Hideo, 76, May 29; survived by sons, Eric (Alison) and Everett; 5 gc.; brothers, George, Matsuo and Shigeo; and sisters, Yuki and Sue.

Nitta, Miye, 84, Los Angeles, May 15; survived by brothers, Keiichi (May) and Reiji.

Suda, George M., 91, Fresno, Mar. 21; survived by wife, Sumi; daughters, Diane and Arlene; son, Steven; and 2 gc.

Sugimoto, Dan Shigeru, 93, Culver City, Mar. 16; survived by wife, Anna; sons, Brian, Norman (Rebecca) and Craig; daughter, Lynne (Stanley) Ogi; 5 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Tadano, William Katsuo, 63, Phoenix, Ariz., May 5; survived by wife, Margie; children, Chris and Corrie; and 3 gc.

Yamada, Constance "Connie" Miyoko, 85, Lodi, June 24; survived by sons, Gerald (Nancy) and Kenny (Millie); daughter, Linda (Scott) Davis; 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sisters, Grace (Kern) Kono and Doris (Bill) Taketa. ■



JACL YOUTH (Continued from page 1)

Award and an ACLU Civil Liberties Award.

"These awards are good ways to consider where you fit in the whole flow of history. This is another generation who is going to write their own history," said Minami, who added that the Facebook and iPhone-loving generation is a little bit of a mystery. But they share common ground in their commitment to social justice.

It's this commonality that bridges the generations.

The Gardena, Calif.-native was always busy playing sports growing up, but his socially progressive parents instilled lessons of civil rights and equality. His father helped form the JACL Gardena chapter.

Minami grew up in a time when the civil rights movement was right outside his doorstep. On television, the black and white images of men getting water hoses turned on them were stark contrasts to his ideas of equality.

During the August 1965 Watts Riots, Minami saw Los Angeles burn down. He couldn't understand the rage, so he began to study. He counts Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Muhammad Ali as some of his personal heroes. At the same time, he was attending the

University of Southern California, which at the time was a "microcosm of the country" with its white, upper-class student population. The combination of the influence of USC and the civil rights movement made him realize there was a disconnect between his ideals and reality.

"That just offended me," said Minami.

Later, he made the connection to the injustice suffered by hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II. His parents didn't talk about their internment experience much, but the underlying pain was palpable.

A lot of his deep love for equality lies in the notion that we could be better. We should do better, so when a Nisei named Fred Korematsu walked into Minami's life, he decided to take a risk.

It would be the case to define his legal career.

During WWII, Korematsu famously refused to relinquish his freedom to spend time behind barbed wire just because of his ethnicity, so he filed suit against the government for violating his civil rights. The courts ruled against him until 1983 when with Minami's leadership, the conviction was overturned.

It's Minami's stamp in history and his continued commitment to the APA community that persuaded the youth council to honor him with a



LEADER: (left, l-r) JACL Youth Council Rep. Leilani Savitt, Dale Minami and Youth Chair Kimberly Shintaku.

MINAMI FAMILY: (top, l-r) Dale, wife Ai Mori, Neil, Roland, June, Bobbie Lanie and May.

Vision Award.

"It's very impressive to not only hold onto your roots, but to do what you can to make a difference," said Kimberly Shintaku, chair of the national youth council.

JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori has known Minami for over 30 years now and has seen the lawyer's passion for bettering the community. Most of the young conference participants may not know Minami's legacy too well, but they will be inspired, said Mori.

"I hope they understand you have some kind of obligation to give back to the community. Dale has done that his entire career. He's been willing to volunteer his time. I hope that's what people understand. He's successful, but yet he has time to give back," Mori added.

Being in the presence of so many young APAs interested in leadership was gratifying, said Minami.

"Taking those risks and publicly standing up for JAs and APAs I was able to communicate publicly a sense of morals by having a sense of principles. Young people recognize that," said Minami. ■

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MINIDOKA

(Continued from page 1)

bled there," said Itami from his home in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to his younger brother, his grandfather Kyutaro Itami also passed away at Minidoka in 1944 from what he describes as "a broken heart."

Itami often visits the site — now known as the Minidoka Internment National Monument — where so many of his family memories reside. And that's why his emotions start to boil when he thinks about a proposed 13,188 heifer feedlot just a mile and a half away from the Minidoka site.

"It's disrespectful to all of the families who were interned. It's like putting a feedlot beside Dachau," he said.

This is the second time Big Sky Farms LLP owned by Don McFarland has submitted a permit application for a proposed feedlot in Jerome County, Idaho. Although the original proposal of 18,555 animals was reduced, many former internees say the stench of manure and airborne pollutants would have an adverse effect on the historic site.

The National Trust recently placed the Minidoka site on its annual list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" fearing a feedlot would have negative ramifications for the camp that once held 13,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and was given national monument status in 2001.

A commission hearing on the proposed feedlot has yet to be scheduled, but former internees and various Asian American organizations have been raising their voices in one loud protest.

"It is akin to building a pig farm at the base of Mount Rushmore or a garbage dump at the entrance of Yosemite," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

The Stench of Manure

Anyone who has ever driven along Interstate 5 between Los Angeles and San Francisco knows that the closer you get to the city of Coalinga, the faster you better roll up your car windows.

The stench of tens of thousands of cows from the infamous Coalinga feedlot can be overwhelming.

The putrid air recently welcomed Roy Ebihara, 73, as he made his way along the famed route. The former Topaz internee could not imagine having such a stench nearby the historic Minidoka site.

"I thought, is this what it's going to smell like?" said the Oberlin, Ohio resident, feeling a surge of anger rise in him. "We have to all get together to protest this. We're not going to get slapped in the face again."

Ebihara is just one of the many former internees who have written letters of protest asking the Jerome County Commissioners to reject the Big Sky Farms proposed feedlot.

But so far only residents within a one-mile radius of the proposed feedlot will be able to submit prior written arguments on the issue. Former internees may attend the meeting in person and submit their concerns on one single 8 1/2" by 11" paper at that time.

The three Jerome County Commissioners — Charles Howell, Joseph Davidson, and Dana Obenauer — did not return *Pacific Citizen's* phone calls and e-mails.

Local residents are also raising concerns about the feedlot including

Alma Hasse, executive director of the Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE) and a small family farmer. She spearheaded the effort to have Minidoka listed as an endangered historic site.

"It's not good to have this facility beside a monument of national significance. How can people reflect on the significance of the site when their first reaction is to gag?" she said.

"Japanese Americans and those adversely affected by what happened deserve their right to speak on the impact."

An Annual Pilgrimage

Dr. Frank Kitamoto of Bainbridge Island, Washington recently attended the annual pilgrimage to Minidoka, a place that he once called home when he was just three years old.

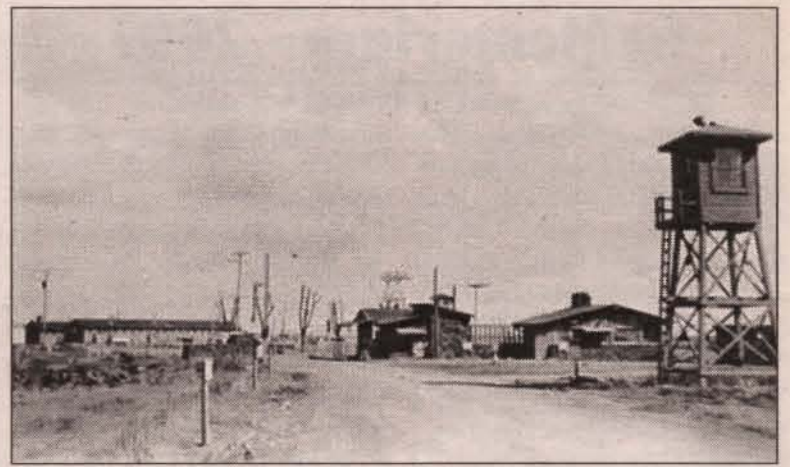
Like many of the former Minidoka internees, thoughts about the proposed feedlot nearby the historic site were on everyone's minds, even for some locals who came out for the annual program.

"It's a tricky situation," said Kitamoto, who noted that the former internees respect the local area farmers and want to work with the community. "I'm not against feedlots but it's not an ideal situation to have it so near to Minidoka."

"Odor carries a long way. This is a place to meditate, to honor the souls that have been there," he said. "I just hope they can find another location for it."

Pocatello, Idaho resident Micki Kawakami respects the history of the Minidoka site but believes the larger issue surrounding the proposed feedlot should be the environmental and health impacts on the local community.

"I am hopeful that feedlot owners



The entrance to Minidoka during WWII.

will address the concerns of their neighbors and come to realize that greener and more environment-sensitive practices must be implemented for the good of their industry, the betterment of their product, and the improvement of our rapidly declining environment," she said.

Will JAs Be Heard?

Jerome County Commissioners were to meet on July 2 to discuss a possible date for a hearing on the proposed feedlot near the Minidoka site. But as of press time no hearing date had been announced.

The Minidoka site operated from 1942 to 1945 and its significance was recognized in 1979 when part of the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For the past five years the National Park Service has been working on a General Management Plan that calls for the development of interpretive and educational programming at the Minidoka site.

Minidoka is among the 10 WWII internment camps that would benefit from a \$38 million grant program that was signed into law recently by

President George W. Bush to protect all of the former sites, although funds have yet to be appropriated for the program.

But all of this may still not stop the proposed Big Sky Farms feedlot.

"It is awful to think that there is a possibility of a very undesirable development so near a national monument that is so relevant in today's issues surrounding constitutional rights," said Mori.

Former internees and local residents plan to continue pressing the issue with the County Commissioners, hopeful that their voices may too be heard in the ongoing feedlot debate.

"This shows no concern to the tragic events that occurred at Minidoka. [The County Commissioners'] overriding concern is commercial," said Itami.

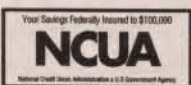
"I'm going to do what I can in my power to stop this," said Hasse. "This is not the place to do this." ■

To contact the Jerome County Commissioners: <http://www.jerome-county.org/contentDetail.aspx?CityContentID=556>

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