The tradition of celebrating the end of WWII still happens every year. Proponents say the holiday has nothing to do with the Japanese and everything to do with remembering history.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Since 1945, the city of Seymour, Indiana has celebrated the second weekend of August with a parade. Bands march, multi-hued antique cars roll slowly by with waving drivers — it's all the standard customs of a good old-fashion holiday celebration for American veterans who sacrificed for their country.

It's the city's 62nd year hosting this parade, said Toby Milroy, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 125, to the Pacific Citizen days before the Aug. 12 festivities. The veterans' group has traditionally organized the annual event for the city of 20,000 that proudly itself in its small town feel. This was Milroy's first year at the helm of parade planning. Some of the highlights in this year’s parade were a float that depicted the famous American flag raising on the island of Iwo Jima and a horse drawn horse.

What begins as a day to celebrate the defeat of Japan and the end of World War II, it's turned into the city of Seymour’s official salute to all American war heroes.

"It’s to honor our soldiers and celebrate all veterans from all wars," said Milroy about the parade. Despite broadening its scope beyond honoring WWII heroes, the event celebrates all American war heroes.

AN HONOR TO ALL VETERANS:

By BARBARA AYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Yamato Cemetery: Continuity of a Community

Built out of necessity in the early 1910s for the Japanese community in Salinas, Calif., the cemetery represents a vital link between the early pioneers and today's American community.

The names on the heavy granite headstones are all Japanese — "Naguchi," "Tanimura," "Onitsuka," "Yuki" — just some of the dozens of families buried at the Yamato Cemetery, families whose generations span two and three generations in Salinas, Calif. Within this two-acre plot of land, stories of bygone eras, struggles and triumphs can be heard inside its fenced walls and among its blossoming cherry trees. Here, one finds a vital link between the old and new Japanese American community.

Gary Taniguchi, 58, recalls often taking a mural class at the Asian American Cultural Center Faces an Uncertain Future

Gary Taniguchi, 58, a former president of the Buddhist Churches of America, "Most Japanese are buried in American cemeteries or Japanese sections in American cemeteries."

"It's fairiy awful," said Gayle Isa (right) about the Asian Arts Initiative's temporary home.

The arts organization was forced to move in June.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Sylvia Wright first came to the Asian Arts Initiative (AAI) in Philadelphia the summer after the eighth grade. One of her friends invited her there to work on art projects and attend a dramatic performance where the actors pulled her onstage. She was instantly hooked.

Since then, Wright, 15, has taken a mural arts class at the community arts center. She has also appeared in several Asian Pacific American plays in roles that stretch across the racial spectrum.

"It's like home," said the Philadelphia native who aspires for a career in graphic design. "There's no type of prejudice. No 'hey, you look this way. You suck.'"

But in June, Wright had to help pack up her "home" and move to a new temporary location. They needed to make room for a bigger and better...
Letters to the Editor

"A Meaningless (Column)"

I wonder how JACL National President Larry Oda would feel if President Reagan had not signed legislation that had the U.S. government formally apologize to Americans of Japanese ancestry for their treatment during World War II. How would JACL members feel? Would apologies by congresspersons have been enough? By a president, but without the affect of legislation.

WWII MIS Veteran Grant Ichikawa saw both sides of the historic day. On Aug. 14, 1945, Ichikawa was in the Philippines when news of Japan surrender reached his ears like triumphant music.

And Japan had not surrendered and in the invasion of Japan proper took place. I may not have had the opportunity to enjoy the life I did have after World War II," said Ichikawa.

He celebrated along with the rest of America on that day and three months later witnessed the other side of victory as part of U.S. inspection team that visited the devastated cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in November 1945.

Sixty-two years after the original VJ Day, a few cities like Seymour and Seattle still hold onto the tradition of celebrating the historic day despite the modern day debate on its political correctness. To many, VJ Day is an important symbol of the absolute end of war atrocities. But to critics, the day and its parades are the last vestiges of a commemorative day.

A State Holiday

In Rhode Island, there is no Victory in Europe (VE) Day holiday in May, but VJ Day is an official state holiday. On the second Monday, we have had good experiences as well as bad. Unfortunately, there will always be those who are ignorant, mean, and incompetent. If it difficult to eliminate racial discrimination.

Injustice remains. A young Japanese American woman was pushed to the ground and her purse was stolen by teenage thugs. A young boy of mixed race was called a Chinese monkey and ridiculed by other children. A man of Asian descent was assaulted as he approached his car in a parking lot. People of some prominence say that the intolerance of JACL is justified. Businesses are even doing racist things occasion.

Recently, my wife and I arrived at the Chicago/Midway Airport for a connection when we found that we had been put on another aim which does not give assigned seats. Our boarding passes were in the last group so we expected middle seats far apart from each other. Upon boarding the plane, we were surprised when a window and an aisle seat were available at the exit row.

I asked my wife if she wanted to sit in the inner seat and I would take the aisle seat in the next row.

A flight attendant who had gray hair like mine was standing across the aisle. She said disponingly, "Do you speak English? You have to speak English to sit in an exit row, don't you?"

I am not so sure that she had given us the opportunity to speak before asking us to speak.

I generally request and receive permission to speak English to sit in an exit row, but if she tuned me out, then I may not have had the opportunity to enjoy the life I did have after World War II," said Ichikawa.

National JACL Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

At least 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your post master to include periodic address changes in your change of address (USPS Form 3677).
**NATIONAL NEWS**

**National Newsbytes**

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

**Big Sky Feedlot Hearing Postponed**

JEROME, ID.—The public hearing for a controversial feedlot near the Minidoka National Monument has been postponed indefinitely after commissioners decided the county's planning and zoning administrator may not input in the county's livestock permit process. The National Park Service also ing will be rescheduled at a later date.

The proposed feedlot has angered some residents, who say they have little input in the county's livestock permit process. The National Park Service also opposes the proposed feedlot because it is near Minidoka.

**Asian Supremacist Gets A Year of Mental Health Treatment**

NEW YORK—Kenneth Eng, a former AsianWeek columnist and self-described Asian supremacist who enraged many community members with his "Why I Hate Blacks" column, has been sentenced to a year of mental health treatment for waging a hammer at a neighbor's face and threatening to harm people.

Eng, 24, of Bayside, New York, pleaded guilty in Queens County Court Aug. 9 to an indictment charging him with attempted assault and harassment. Queens County Judge Dorothy Chin-Branding entered Eng to attend a 12-month outpatient mental health program. If Eng fails to comply with the program's requirements and fails to take his medication, or if he violates his neighbors' orders of protection, he can be re-sentenced to up to four years in prison.

**Japanese Cabinet Ministers to Avoid Visiting War Shrine on WWII Anniversary**

The board ruled Aug. 6 to postpone the hearing to grant the public and Big Sky feedlot owners time to prepare for the public hearing for a controversial feedlot near the Minidoka National Monument.

The proposed feedlot has angered some residents, who say they have little input in the county's livestock permit process. The National Park Service also opposes the proposed feedlot because it is near Minidoka.

**One Arrested, One Sought in Death of Fijian Immigrant in U.S.**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, California—Sheriff's deputies in California arrested one man and were searching for a second following the death of an immigrant from Fiji that authorities have labeled a hate crime.

Alessandrino Schembri, 22, was arrested at his home Aug. 6 on suspicion of intimidating and interfering with a victim's rights. His lawyer and the county's public defender's department said a second man, Andre Vusk, 29, had fled to Russia. They said they were working with the FBI to find and extradite him to face charges of involuntary manslaughter and intimidating and interfering with a vic-

**Oda to Direct Utah's Asian Affairs**

Linda K. Oda, emeritus professor at Weber State University, has been named Utah's first director of Asian Affairs.

She will be replacing Edith Mikio, who left after four years to become a teacher. The position is part of the Office of Ethnic Affairs under the Utah Department of Community and Culture.

Oda is vice governor of the JACL Intermountain District Council and is a past coordinator for the Utah Partnership with the Japanese American National Museum.

**JACL Declares 'Chuck and Larry' Film for Degradation of APAs**

Comedian Rob Schneider's use of yellowface in the recently released feature film, "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry," has struck alarm and deep disappointment within the Asian Pacific American community, including the JACL, in which Schneider's characterization displays a blatant disrespect for APAs.

"In a time when the use of racial mockery should be a distant memo-

**Japan Observes 62nd Anniversary of Atomic Bomb Attack**

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YAMATO CEMETERY
(Continued from page 1)

The Isamoto family plot is just two plots over from the Tanimuras, part of the 38 Japanese families and dozens of individuals buried within its grounds. Douglas and his mother often visit the site to honor three generations of the Isamoto family including his grandparents, father, and sister.

“The Yamato Cemetery is really a shining example of the commitment and purpose of the early Issei pioneers,” said Sandy Lydon, noted historian and author of “The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region: A Brief History.” “I believe that we are in death as we are in life — cemeteries are a mirror in which to view our history.”

The Early Pioneers
In 1898 there were as many as 200 Japanese living in the Salinas Valley. At the time, loved ones were buried at the County Hospital in nearby Monterey, but they were unable to afford to maintain the site. With guidance from the Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia's APA youths became an "accidental art center" by taking over the Gilbert Building, an eight-story convention center ballroom on the East side of town. It has since been renovated to become a "community art center." With the help of multiple art organizations and multiple artists, the building has been transformed into a "community art center." With the help of the Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia's APA youths became an "accidental art center" by taking over the Gilbert Building, an eight-story convention center ballroom on the East side of town. It has since been renovated to become a "community art center." With the help of multiple art organizations and multiple artists, the building has been transformed into a "community art center."

NYAMATO
CEMETERY
(Continued from page 1)

Salinas was no exception. Most of the local JA families, including the Tanimuras and Isamotos, ended up in Yokohama. With the departure of the JA community, no one was left to care for the Yamato Cemetery. Instead, Henry Struve, who was the Yamato Cemetery’s first caretaker, was given the task of overseeing the cemetery for the site until their return.

But with the onset of War came an exodus of people within the Japanese community. In Salinas the feelings were especially negative after several members of the National Guard were captured and killed by the Japanese Army.

“Salinas took out their grief and frustration on the Japanese living in the valley. And, on the cemetery,” said Lydon. “The Yamato Cemetery became a place of significance for wartime anti-Japanese sentiment, and it was heavily vandalized.”

The anti-Japanese sentiment in Salinas made it difficult for many JAs to return after the War. Henry’s parents, Frank and Seiko, were both buried here at the Yamato Cemetery. For the past 20 years he has served on the executive committee and today he regularly visits the site.

A Community Link
A few years ago, a Japanese woman asked to have her Caucasian friend buried in the Yamato Cemetery. Today, he is the only non-Japanese to be interred at the site. The cemetery is still located on the property of Abbott St. and Merrill St., on the outskirts of the city. Its location on the south side of Salinas makes it less than ideal, but the Issei pioneers who purchased the land had little available options.

“I believe that you can tell a lot about a community by analyzing the locations of Chinese and Japanese cemeteries — in this case, the majority community’s feelings are reflected in the distance they were out of town,” said Lydon. Gary’s five uncles on his father’s side plan to eventually be buried in the Tanimura family plot at the Yamato Cemetery. By that time the family plot will be filled, but Gary thinks that one day he too may join his family.

“Tn would be nice to be buried in town,” he said. “The Yamato Cemetery is one of the few places in the Salinas Valley that represents the continuity of the community — connecting the newer, reconstituted postwar community with the original Issei pioneers.”

“Everyone should visit the cemetery and be introduced to the Issei pioneers — and those who followed. In the late afternoon, when the persistent wind blows up the Salinas Valley, you can listen you can hear the voices of those Issei pioneers. Everyone needs to learn how to hear them.”

ARTS CENTER
(Continued from page 1)

Pennsylvania Convention Center, she was told. Ironically, the temporary location is located near an alley as well.

"It feels weird walking down an alleyway to knock on a door like it's our kind of secret society. People are probably thinking what is that child doing?” said Wright with a laugh.

Functioning in Limbo
For almost 30 years, the non-profit AAI has nurtured young artists at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and a few blocks down the street, in an "accidental art center" with multiple art organizations and artists working in the same space, said Gayle Isa, AAI executive director. But the building is also in the path of a million-dollar expansion project. When that completed, the space will serve as a home for the arts.

"The rooms are hot, but the kids are so passionate about their art they hardly notice the heat,” said Soumyanath Ly, an assistant teaching instructor.

A Refuge for Kids
For many young APAs, visual literacy is not engrained in their cultures, said Eliseo Silva, a second-grade teacher in Monterey County. To protect you and your family from even the common accidents and illnesses the JACL Health Trust provides Blue Cross of California health insurance coverage. Blue Cross of California has been providing health coverage to Californians for over 60 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

To learn more about the plan and how to become a member please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-848-4875.

See ARTS CENTER/Page 5

PHOTO: ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE

With guidance from the Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia's APA youths learn to express themselves through painting and other art forms.

Since 1947
The JACL Health Trust
Has offered Health Care Coverage to JACL Members

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“Changing Faces, Transforming Communities”

By SHELDON ARAKAKI

From start to finish the PWND bi-district conference started on message during the long July weekend conference with its theme “Changing Faces, Transforming Communities.” Although the bi-district formally kicked off with an evening mixer of obon dance lessons, I personally felt the conference kicked off an hour earlier a few miles north at the Nihonmachi Terrace in the International District.

There some people, including national JACL board and local JACL members, came together with Asian Pacific American community leaders and friends to celebrate what would have been Tatsuo Nakata’s 90th birthday on July 26 and to launch the Tatsuo Nakata Legacy Fund. The thoughts expressed during this celebration set the tone for the weekend for me.

Taken away too early from us last fall, Tatsuo’s life embodied the theme of the weekend conference. The bi-district opening keynote speaker, State Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, said it well when she shared that there were elements of Tatsuo’s life that are distinctive to his generation. He embraced his bi-racial identity and adopted multicultural values.

He was much more open to developing relationships with those of other backgrounds and he chose to place his time and talent where his voice mattered, where he could provide a vehicle for his generation. And at 25 years, Tatsuo was the youngest Seattle JACL chapter president.

There is no disagreement about the changing demographics of the Japanese American community and its impact on JACL. You saw the changing face of our community through the attendees in the “Identity and Diversity” workshop and heard the personal stories told by the two mealtime emcees, KCQP Fox news co-anchor Lara Yamuna and Seattle chapter board member Nate Caminos, and the Saturday keynote NW Colors magazine editor and Nikkei Business Morning’s Nishina Ishikawa. All three are bi-racial and all spoke of embracing their bi-racial identity and the challenges of doing so.

More than one person commented during the weekend that our existence depends on our relevance to current and future generations and our ability to adapt to meeting the needs of our current and potential future members. National Director Floyd Mori once again spoke about the need to reach out to a younger and more diverse generation of Asian Americans. The strategic plan focus group workshop began the process to address these comments. The PWND strategic planning shifted into the market research phase with this bi-district. Attendees convened to comment on the market research methodologies presented and to provide input on survey participants and questions. The goal is to identify the interests and needs of the existing and potential members as well as key donors and funders.

We are looking forward to the final report by early next year and will present the findings at the 2009 national convention in Utah. Change is here with the Yosni and Gosei cohort of aging American Asian artists being pushed and the generation Filipino American artists getting pushed out in the name of economic development, angry residents argued in a petition to preserve the state to help the community find a new space.

Describe any Asian American clubs or groups throughout the city of Philadelphia where American talent can rehearse and perform on a regular basis,” wrote Charles Ramirez.

Looking into the Future

The renovations on AAI's permanent space is slated to end in September, but Isa is afraid of getting kicked out of the temporary location before the new one is done. "That's the bigger issue of gentrification. There are good and positive things about it," said Silva, who pointed out that Philadelphia's Chinatown has been bideted by a highway leaving the northern part of the ethnic enclave undeveloped.

For AAI, AAI's new site signifies a new future. "I see it more of a changing landscape - planting the seeds on the other side." While most AAI staff members remain optimistic about their new location, others see the convention center expansion as a potential threat.

The two-block convention center casts a shadow on nearby Chinatown.

"They built it with its back facing Chinatown," said John Chin, executive director of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Center (PCDC). Without proper marketing, the convention center has not helped Chinatown businesses. The PCDC is not happy with the design of the expansion either saying it would create a parking nightmare.

"All ethnic enclaves are gateways for new immigrants. They provide temporary housing, instant employment and affordability. Any new change like this would change the character of the community," said Chin.

For now, AAI is still trying to navigate out of the path of destruction. They have negotiated a long-term lease and an option to purchase the building in Chinatown for $2.5 million, so fundraising is also a priority.

The organization has received funding support from the city and state, said Isa. But AAI is eligible for additional funding from the Pennsylvania state budget, which is legislatively controlled. That means the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the governor are in charge of giving the AAI their much-needed funds.

"There is bereavement," Isa said. "We’re hoping it's going to be a win-win situation in the long run."

To donate to the Asian Arts Initiative go to:

http://www.asianartsinitiative.org

For more information or general questions, contact Brian Tanaka at (800) 966-6157, busmgr@pacificcitizen.org or visit www.pacificcitizen.org.

Photocopy This Section (Continued from page 4)
2007 PNW-IDC Bi-District Conference

‘Changing Faces - Transforming Communities’

PHOTOS BY RICH IWASAKI

Seattle JACL chapter president Kyle Funakoshi presents a gift to Recognition Luncheon emcee Lara Yamada.

Carol Kawamoto, v.p. of planning and development, discusses the CD, “This is Your JACL,” for chapter presidents.

JACL Youth Representatives Chris Batalon (left) and Peter Yamamura report on the youth conference.

Seattle JACL member Shea Aoki visits during the 2007 JACL IDC & PNWDC Bi-District Conference.

Youth representatives Chris Batalon (left) and Peter Yamamura (right) meet with Thu-Huong Nguyen (back left) and national board member Sheldon Arakaki during the 2007 JACL IDC & PNWDC Bi-District Conference.

Attendees listen during a workshop session.

Hugh Burleson talks with fellow member Bob Mizukami.

Puyallup JACL chapter president Elsie Taniguchi (right) presents the Don Kazama Recognition Award to Seattle JACL member Arlene Oki at the Recognition Luncheon.

The PNW district’s Strategic Plan Focus Group workshop participants meet at the bi-district conference.
GRACE OHASHI

(Continued from page 1)

competition. "We went to see Jesus Christ... If I could see it more, I would have [been] more cool." Then it becomes all too clear— the nationally ranked judo athlete is nearly blind. She's always had vision problems since she was a baby, but starting in May her eyesight started deteriorating more and more each day. One morning she woke up and her world was a fuzzy cloud.

"Right now in my left eye, I can't see nothing," she said.

A Black Belt in One Week

Grace has come too far to let a little setback like vision impairment hold her back. She came to the U.S.— her mother's country— six months ago to be a champion. She is ranked third nationally among her sighted competitors.

At the Pan American Games Grace forced Melissa Rodriguez, the 2006 Pan Am silver medalist, into a system during competitions to help adapt for a visually impaired athlete. Her reaction drips with competitiveness: "When I was fighting, I almost threw her." Grace transferred to another school in Japan that had a stronger emphasis on judo and practiced up to five hours daily while maintaining perfect grades.

Grace is the middle daughter of Michiko Ohashi, who met and fell in love at a sushi store in Fukushima. In junior high school, the Ohashi family moved to the Tochigi Prefecture, where her teacher, Makoto Takaku noticed the Ohashi family moved to the Olympic Training Center in Japan, she didn't go to an eye doctor for tests, poking and prodding. "I want to know what is going on. I can see red colors because it's bright. One time she fell from a flight of stairs and broke her arm. Another time, she was crossing a street without a traffic light and almost got hit by oncoming traffic.

"You'd see her squinting," said Eddie Liddie, a lot of times they don't pan out. "Grace was a little more persistent. She wrote again and again. And she had good questions."

Seeing Shadows

In six months, Grace has adjusted to American life while training at the Olympic Training Center in the Colorado Springs and majoring in social work at Pikes Peak Community College. She has her own MySpace page where she lists Disney movies and all books except for schoolbooks as some of her interests. She also wants to help orphans, but only after winning an Olympic Gold Medal, of course.

In the sport of judo, matches are won by knocking your opponent over, holding your opponent on his/her back for 25 seconds or administering some variations of choke holds and arm locks until your opponent begs for mercy.

So Grace gave judo a try. At 15, she earned a black belt by winning five matches— in a week. When she told Takaku about her achievement, he marveled that it was perhaps the fastest black belt achievement in Japan's history. "That's when I was thinking maybe I'm good at judo."

She transferred to another school in Japan that had a stronger emphasis on judo and practiced up to five hours daily while maintaining perfect grades.

All the while, she yearned to move to the U.S. to learn English and chase her Olympic dreams. She e-mailed Eddie Liddie of USA Judo expressing her wishes to compete on his team.

"We get a lot of those e-mails," said Liddie, adding a lot of times they don't pan out. "Grace was a little more persistent. She wrote again and again. And she had good questions."

For Grace, the worst part is the unknown — the reason for her vision loss remains a mystery. "In Japan, she didn't go to an eye doctor enough. Now, she has to go regularly for tests, poking and prodding."

"I want to know what is going on. Maybe it can help me get my eyesight back," she said. "Right now, I can see red colors because it's bright. I can see shadows."

One time she fell from a flight of stairs and broke her arm. Another time, she was crossing a street without a traffic light and almost got hit by oncoming traffic.

"You'd see her squinting," said Liddie. "It's progressively gotten worse. I've seen her walk into a water cooler. We don't allow her to do anything without one of the athletes by her side."

But Grace isn't relying on other people's help. On the mat, she's adapted to her impairment.

"First, I hear the breath and I figure where the person is. Then I grab and don't let go," she said. "After I started competing I forgot about my eyes."

Liddie and Grace have worked out a system during competitions to help Grace dominate her opponent— he shoots out visual cues. If she's backing up against the line and about to cross over and get penalized, he yells out her location. He yells out the time on the clock and the numbers on the scoreboard.

="I become her eyes," he said.

But the question remains: will Grace be able to realize her dream of competing in the Olympics? "She's moving along the right path," said Liddie. "If I had 20 athletes like her I would be lucky."

For more information: www.usajudo.org.

GRACE OHASHI

Eighteen-year-old judo athlete

GRACE OHASHI

Her Adaptation for a Visually

Impaired Athlete

... At the 18-year-old's biggest fans are her family members (left, l-r): mom Pat Ann, Michiko Stephanie, Kanoko Paula, Grace, and father Tomio.

FAIR HOUSING...
Across Borders

I just read a funny story in the newspaper here today. It seems that a piggy squirrel in Finland has taken to stealing German chocolate from a store. Apparently the squirrel goes into the store at least twice a day to savor its favorite treat. It only steals one particular German chocolate, a foil-wrapped chocolate egg whose hollow body holds a surprise, usually a small toy. These chocolate eggs are called “Kinder Surprises” (Kinder = Children here in Germany), where they are very popular among the young and old alike. The hidden treats are normally miniature toys, which many adults have taken to collecting.

The owner of the store, which is in the town of Jyvaskyla, says that the squirrel is not attracted to any other food. He heads straight for the eggs, removes the foil, eats the chocolate and then leaves the store with the toy. Can it be that he is also a “Kinder Surprise” collector? Or perhaps a German squirrel that happens to like German chocolate from a store.

I must admit, I wonder if we all have a “Kinder Surprise” inside us. Sometimes we waste time and energy on trivial things but it’s nice to know that there is something special hidden inside of us.

---

Participate in a Survey of Korean, Vietnam Wars JA Airmen

The Japanese American Veterans Association is currently collecting names, contact information and biographical data for a survey on those Japanese Americans who served in the cockpits of military aircrafts in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The DC-based group wants to ascertain the number and the reactions of JAs who served in the cockpit, an area where there were only 492 for a long time.

Weckerling knew the Army needed to report at the Presidio of San Francisco for a long time.

The morning after Dec. 7, 1941, Weckerling hired five more instructors: San Francisco newspaper reporter Satoshi “Bud” Nagase, Meiji University graduate Tadao Yamada and UCLA graduate Toshio Tsukahara, “all U.S. born-citizens … committed to prepare our islanders to serve in the war against Japan.”

McNaughton adds. The course of study would run six months. The school trained approximately 1200 students during and 3,000 more after WWII.

The two Hikus in the first class of 60 were born and raised in Japan. Capt. David Swift, 45, was a customs inspector in San Francisco and a reserve Military Intelligence officer as was Capt. John Burden, 41, who spoke with a Tokyo accent, practicing medicine in Maui. Both received orders to report at the Presidio of San Francisco to refresh their Japanese.

The first Nisei to ship out from Japan, to the 102nd Infantry at Guadalcanal.

MIS Nisei Linguists

The story goes on to explain that the Army would close the school, in an area which was off-limits to JAs in World War II.

During WWII, there were only three JAs who served in airplanes on combat missions, all as gunners but none in the cockpit. Ben Kuroki, experienced in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The D.C.-based group wants to ascertain the number and the reactions of JAs who served in the cockpit, an area where there were only 492 for a long time.

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“Men, you’ve heard the bad news. I sincerely sympathize with you boys on your peculiar predicament. I was in the same spot when World War II broke out, as I happen to be of German descent … Now the time has come to prove your loyalty and that each and everyone’s utmost.”

As Nisei students wondered if the Army would close the school, Weckerling knew the Army needed to report at the Presidio of San Francisco to refresh their Japanese.

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You can reach Cheryl Watamura Martinez at; Cheryl@texter-weln.de.

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Your Face, My Face, Blackface, Yellowface

From Rooney to Schneider: how far have we come?

By LYNDAA LIN
Assistant Editor

The question is simple: can we call it "yellowface" if the actor beneath the makeup and the pulled back eyes is, in fact, Asian?

Before you answer, consider this: in his last film aside the legendary Pat Morita donned a salt and pepper bowl-cut wig and thick rimmed glasses to play an egotistical Chinese newspaper editor in "American Fusion." In fact, Morita's character in the charming film looks a lot like the new reviled preacher character in "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry." played by Rob Schneider.

And yes, Schneider is Asian Pacific American. So when, if ever, is it acceptable for an actor to put on makeup and a thick accent to entertain? And yes, Schneider is Asian Pacific American. So when, if ever, is it acceptable for an actor to put on makeup and a thick accent to entertain?

Yellow Fever

"Here in the 21st century, I think Schneider's performance could only work if he somehow subverted the caricature ... turned it on its head," said David Mills, a screenwriter from Glendale, Calif., who went to see "Chuck and Larry" and then took his book to rage about Schneider's 'Japanese caricature that turns back Hollywood's clock 50 years.'

We can blame old Hollywood for making many APAs feel invisible by his­torically casting Caucasian actors in Asian roles. It's a deeply psychological portrayal that turns back Hollywood's clock 50 years.

"In fact, Schneider couldn't afford the time to address the APA community who accused him of being a 'yellowface.'" said filmmaker Eric Byler, who directed the internet is "challenging racism in Hollywood through research, fiction, and film." We can blame old Hollywood for making many APAs feel invisible by historically casting Caucasian actors in Asian roles.

Asian Enough?

And while APA groups like the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) and the JACL have vehemently condemned Schneider for his monocular character, the internet is alive with qualifying comments about Schneider's ethnicity.

"He was portraying a stereotype in a comedy. He was poking fun at his own people. I thought it was funny. No big deal," one fan wrote on Schneider's IMDB.com profile page.

People wondered, if Schneider is half Filipino or one-fourth? He made a passing reference to his ethnicity on his IMDB profile page.

"I didn't think it was funny," said J.U. But a group of APA girls in front of him seemed to enjoy the portrayal.

"They laughed ... I don't know if that says anything, but what about in states where there aren't many Asians?"

Secret Asian Man

But it is 2007, right? The overt racism of yellow make­up is supposed to be a relic of the past. That's why APAs get so angry when they see a reenactment in the occa­sional cartoon or used as a tasteless gimmick for bad Chinese fast food.

But has mainstream Hollywood progressed since the days of Mickey Rooney's black tooth, slanty-eyed caricature in "Breakfast at Tiffany's?"

"This month, Americans can go see 'Chuck and Larry' or 'Rush Hour 3,'" said James Lu, a 22-year-old moviegoer who was going to see "Rescue Dawn" at an Arcadia, Calif., theater Aug. 5. Earlier, Lu had watched Schneider's performance as the Asian minister in "Chuck and Larry." "I didn't think it was funny," said J.U.

But Schneider couldn't afford the time to address the APA community who accused him of being a 'yellowface.'"

A Personal Note to Rob

But in the name of research, the Pacific Citizen took one for the team. We bought a ticket to see "Chuck and Larry" and invited Schneider to respond to the criticism levied against him by the APA community for not only his Asian minister character, but other unsettling aspects he has played in the past (remember his wild-eyed native character named Ula in "50 First Dates?"

We even tempered our invitation with acknowledge­ment that he was the first APA to break: into "Saturday Night Live." But despite numerous attempts to reach him through his management company and his entourage, Schneider couldn't afford the time to address the APA community who accused him of bringing back yellowface.

"Rob is currently on location for a film," wrote Shara Koplowitz, Schneider's publicist, in an e-mail to the PC. "He went on to say that she would ask him again in a month.

"It's safe to say that if Schneider were to call the PC office next month with his side of the story, we will not be taking any notes. After all, we have to think about our own 'face' even if Schneider doesn't care about his."

Better films to see:

www atravest.com,
www.americaneathemovice.com,
Better blogs to read about race:

www.undercoverblackman.blogspot.com,
www.reappropriate.com

But if you must: www.robschneider.com

SECRET ASIAN MAN™ By Tak

WHAT'S IT LIKE HAVING A KOREAN NAME AND AN AMERICAN NAME?

IT'S KIND OF LIKE HAVING A HOME PHONE AND A WORK PHONE. I JUST ANSWER EACH DIFFERENTLY.
Luncheon, carnival, car show, anirne include coronation and dinner, sumo Japanese Festival; Little Tokyo; evynts LOS ANGELES tournament, grand parade, Tofu The Place to Be; $l00/person. Info: Ensemble's production "Nihonmachi: 213/626-4471.


Moonviewing Celebration; 6:30-8:30 SW Kingston Dr.; write a few lines of Farmers of the HOod River Area"; Aug. 26 NW 2nd Ave.; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., 10-6 p.m., Sun. 11-5 p.m.; featuring exhibits, performances, demonstrations and Food. 425/981-7862 or www.sema.org.


Wed.-Fri., Sept. 26-28—Annual Moonviewing Celebration: 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Portland Japanese Garden, 611 SW Kingston Dr.; write a few lines of poetry, make rice and soy and toast the rising moon; $25/members, $35/non­members and reservations are required. RSVP: 503/242-2000, www.japanesegarden.com/events/moonviewingreservations or events@japanesegarden.com.

ALBUQUERQUE Fri., Aug. 31—The Art of Taiiko with Kenny Endo; 7-9 p.m.; San Pedro High School, 532 Osuna Rd. NE; tickets $20, taiiko performances with Okawa Sensei and wine and tea served. Info: 505/753-6274.

Saturday, Sept. 1 and 2 at New Mexico eets. $20; taiko performances with Fri., Aug. Kenny Endo; 7-9 p.m.; Sandia Prep viewing#reservations or www.japanesegarden.com/events/moo required. RSVP: 503/542-0280, rising moon; $25/members, $35/non­

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Southern California LONG BEACH Sun., Sept. 16—PAS District JACL's Dinner Show; Long Beach Marriott, reception begins at 5 p.m.; this year's dinner will feature the Grateful Crane Ensemble's production "Nihonmachi: The Place to Be"; $100/person. Info: 213/362-4471.

Long Beach Mon., Aug. 16-28—67th Annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival; Little Tokyo, events include coronation and dinner, sumo tournament, grand parade, Tofu Festival, cultural exhibits, Pioneer Lantern, carnival, car show, anime festival, uode and more; this year's grand parade will feature Japan's Grand Nebuta Float and the Japanese American World War Veterains. Info: www.niseifestival.org or 213/366-7199.


Mon., Sept. 30—Aki Matsuri Boutique; 9:30-3:30 p.m.; Venice Community Center, 12448 Bradlock Dr; featuring clothing, jewelry; handmade goods, food and more; vendors accept cash or, check only. Info: Jean, 310/390-6914 or Elko, 310/826-1875.

VENTURA Sat., Aug. 25—Ventura County JACL Paciﬁc Club Party, 11-3 p.m.; Marina Beach Park; please bring a main dish; salad or dessert to share; drinks and paper goods will be provided; RSVP by Aug. 18 to Betty Wajiki, 805/783-7203.

Hawaii

HONOLULU Fri-Sat., Sept. 7-8—Shippou Workshop; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCC) Fri.-1 p.m.; Sat. 9-12 p.m.; participants will learn the art of shippou and how to make their own ornamental pieces; $25/members, $25 Non-members; registration due Aug. 24. Info: 808/9457633, www.jcchi.com or info@jcchi.com.

* Mongolian名称 Nihonmachi: "The Place to Be"—Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner presented by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; 6 p.m.; Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom; event will honor educators in the community as well as a corporate honoree. $150/person. Info: JCC, 808/945-3633 or info@jcchi.com.

LOS ANGELES Sat., Sept. 17—Manzanar High School Reunion featuring the Clubs of Manzanar: California Hotel; highlight will be a slide show of the photos of the clubs and sports teams; Alisa Lynch, a ranger from Manzanar, will present an electronic field trip of Manzanar: Info: Sandi, 300/327-5568, Sus loki, 310/202-9199, sioko@comcast.net, Henry Nakano, 714/871-8178 or Victor Muroaka, 818/568-4113, v.muroaka@vera.net.


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TATSUO YOSHIDA, Researcher KEI YOSHIDA, Instructor/Editor NINA YOSHIDA, Translator
V-J Day
(Continued from page 2)

of August, businesses are closed and residents enjoy a long weekend.

Rhode Island is the only state in the U.S. that formerly recognizes V-J Day as a state holiday. On paper, it’s officially called “Victory Day,” but local businesses have always incorrectly referred to the holiday as V-J Day to advertise sales and promotional events, said Sen. Rhoda Perry.

“I hate the fact that the state that I have served for almost 20 years now has such a discriminatory holiday,” said Perry, who proposed two bills in her first and second term to change the name of the holiday to “Peace Day” or a variation on that. Both attempts failed because of extreme opposition from local veterans’ groups and unions who didn’t want the holiday changed or eradicated.

“The people here who are related to the veterans’ organization who are proud that Rhode Island is the only state that celebrates V-J Day,” Perry added.

Before Perry, Reps. Elizabeth Brown University. “My guess is that the American population has grown in the state. It is a day off, said Jessica Kawamura, a WWII veteran. One WWII veteran agrees. ‘To me as a JA, it is still significant that Rhode Island continues the practice out of habit and tradition rather than dictate for the Japanese.’ Twenty years have past since Perry last pushed the state’s General Assembly to change the holiday’s name. She tells the P.C. that perhaps it is time for her to try again; especially since the Asian Pacific American population has grown in Rhode Island.

“I think it would be wonderfully sensitive and progressive if Rhode Island could change the name of the holiday,” Perry added. One WWII veteran agrees. ‘To me, celebrating V-J Day every July 1 is much more appropriate if Americans celebrated neither,’ said Kawamura who also pointed out that American Holiday. Perry added: ‘I hate the fact that state that I have served for almost 20 years now has such a discriminatory holiday.’”

Sen. Rhoda E. Perry, about her state of Rhode Island’s V-J Day holiday.

not a lot of fanfare goes into the holiday. Some veteran’s groups gather in small ceremonies, but no parades wound through the streets of Rhode Island, said Lima. ‘I can’t help but think that it’s not much of a big deal, at least for young people?’ said Carl Takei, a Yokomori from the New England JACL who lived in Providence to attend Brown University. “My guess is that most Rhode Islanders who aren’t part of the World War II generation just see it as a day off work. And I never felt uncomfortable or unfamiliar about being a JA in Rhode Island.”

Despite the lack of activities, Rhode Islanders do know why there is a day off, said Jessica Kawamura, a Berkeley JACL member who recently graduated from Brown University. Plus, the holiday has the endorsement of the government, she added.

‘To me as a JA, it is still significant that Rhode Island celebrates V-J Day and not V-E Day. Perhaps it would be more appropriate if Americans celebrated neither’ said Kawamura who also pointed out that Rhode Island has a large and influential Italian American community, but a very small JA population. “I think that influences the practices in the state; however, my impression is that Rhode Island continues the practice out of habit and tradition rather than dictate for the Japanese.”

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Sen. Rhoda E. Perry, about her state of Rhode Island’s V-J Day holiday.

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OBITUARIES/NATIONAL

In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns in California except as noted.

Cloyd, John T., 74, Hamilton, Ohio, Aug. 4; survived by wife, Kimiko; daughter, Beth Stapleton; sons, Anthony and Terry; 3 gcs.; 2 gcs.

Fujii, Lawrence M., 84, Los Angeles, July 5; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Emiko; sons, William and Michael.

This compilation appears on a separate basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family, are posted at the rate of $10 per column inch. Text is rewritten as necessary.

(Milo and Robert) Judy) Kiyairima; gcs.; brothers, Tom, Robert (Clarice), Victor (Linda); 3 gcs.; son, Nobu (Ted) Watanabe; and sister-in-law, Terry Minobe.

Kaneu, Akino, 92, May 21; survived by brothers, Elsie (George) Agacoo, Marilyn (Ronald) Izumita and Marjory (Ronald) Nakamura; son, Dr. Thomas; 9 gcs.; 6 gcs.; sister, Shiratori, and 2 nieces; a brother and a niece.

Tashima, Masayuki "Murphy" Tashima, 85, died peacefully in July 24, in Wahon Hills, Ohio. Many spent many years as Supervisor of the Data Processing Unit at Guy’s Drugs and after retirement, was the popular host at Shujiro Restaurant. He served in World War II and graduated from Ohio State University. He was an active member of CACP and the JACL. He was passionate about golf, his golf club and his wonderful Tomi Andow and her family. Memorial services are pending. Family may be contacted through Gail Tashima Downes, 235 S. Mountain Trail, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Mikita, Aiko, 72, Monterey Park, May 20; survived by son, Paul; daughters, Barbara

Death Notice

Matsuyuki (Milo) and Robert Judy) Kiyairima; gcs.; brothers, Tom, Robert (Clarice), Victor (Linda); 3 gcs.; son, Nobu (Ted) Watanabe; and sister-in-law, Terry Minobe.

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