



Fighting hate radio in Cincinnati — PAGE 4

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



A Survivor's Tale

Solly Ganor survived the Holocaust because of a Japanese diplomat and a JA 522nd soldier.

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 3

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SEPT. 7-20, 2007

Is China the Japan of the 1980s?

Xenophobia and 'Made in the U.S.A.'? This all sounds dangerously familiar.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

A poisonous Dora the Explorer. A lead-laden SpongeBob SquarePants address book. Even Thomas the Train's friendly face turned sinister. Almost overnight, these beloved children's characters changed into nightmarish predators with tainted exteriors and ubiquitous "Made in China" labels.

This was the summer of product recalls and it seemed no one was safe — not you, your kids or your pets.

Like most Americans, Stefania Pomponi Butler couldn't ignore the unsettling news about dangerous China-made products. The Silicon Valley, Calif. mother of two did not have any of the recalled toys in her home, but she decided to toss out the kids' China-made plastic dishware and replace it with glass items made in a different country.

In April, after a China-made wheat gluten identified in pet food caused the deaths of at least a dozen U.S. pet cats and dogs, Butler tossed out a bag of frozen edamame from China.



DANGEROUS: News of the toy recalls, including Thomas the Train (above), has set the mood for anti-Chinese sentiment.

"Yes, I have to admit we bought into the hysteria a bit," she said. "I now won't buy any foods prepared and packaged in China."

Butler isn't alone. Eighty-two percent of Americans polled by Zogby International in August said they are concerned about purchasing goods from China and over 60 percent of American consumers said they would swear off Chinese goods.

The country known as the land of the sleeping dragon has long been criticized for its political and human rights related issues, but the barrage of news about tainted products has created a more malicious kind of backlash — and

See CHINA-BASHING/Page 11

Buying Japantowns is a Booming Business



3D Investments now owns key landmarks in two out of three of the last U.S. Japantowns.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Los Angeles' Little Tokyo didn't see it coming. In the afterglow of Nisei Week festivities, community members were blindsided by news of the sale of two of its key landmarks to 3D Investments.

Yes. The same 3D Investments that snatched up two hotels last year in San Francisco's Japantown, now owns Little Tokyo's New Otani Hotel and Weller Court. The sale, which closed Aug. 17, was shrouded in secrecy and set tongues wagging about the intent of the private Beverly Hills, Calif.-based real estate developer.

A sale of any business in Little Tokyo is noteworthy for the tight-knit community, but in the last two years 3D has staked claim of two of the last three historic Japantowns in the United States.

Is 3D in the Japantown business?

In the immediate aftermath of the sale going public, both 3D and the seller, East West Development Corp., remained secretive about the details. The sale price has not been disclosed and the new owners have remained tight-lipped about their intentions. Even local elected officials were left in the dark.

"Right now, I don't even know what their phone number is yet," said Los Angeles Councilwoman Jan Perry about 3D's difficult to find contact information. She wants to talk to them because they are moving into her district. "I think the developers need to be respectful of the community's concern."

East West Development is bound by a confidentiality agreement, said its president Takashi Ito exclusively to the *Pacific Citizen*.

"They didn't want the closing of the deal to be delayed because of community uproar," Ito said about 3D.

Taking Action

East West was not planning to sell the New Otani or Weller Court, said Ito. The company has spent a lot of money renovating the landmarks in the last few years.

3D contacted East West and made them an offer they could not refuse.

The private Beverly Hills company is making plans to meet with community leaders gradually and plans to make an announcement later this month, said Ito.

"They are not going to change any concept. They value Japanese culture. They are not a company interested in

See LITTLE TOKYO/Page 12

National JACL Board Strengthens Support for Watada

After much debate within the organization, the board issues a statement calling for a fair and impartial trial and reinforces Watada's right to be protected from double jeopardy.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—For two and a half hours over a lunch of curry Floyd Mori, JACL's national director, got a chance to hear about 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's upcoming court martial and why he's against

the current Iraq War — in person.

It was the first time Mori had met the 29-year-old Japanese American with the notorious distinction of being the first Army officer to refuse deployment to Iraq.

"I respect the process he went through, the conclusion he came to — a personal, moral decision that took courage to do so," said Mori. "He is a forthright, intelligent, sound person of integrity."

Mori's impressions of Watada set the tone for the Aug. 18 national JACL board meeting where board members were once again asked to increase their support for the first lieutenant, this time focusing on the issue of double jeopardy, a fifth amendment right.

With Watada's second court martial on charges of missing troop movement and conduct unbecoming an officer set for October, community activists and civil rights attorneys spoke out in support of the resolution brought to the table by the NCWNP



National JACL board members discuss the Ehren Watada resolution on Aug. 18.

district.

"Look to the heart of the resolution," urged Andy Noguchi, NCWNP civil rights co-chair.

After a lengthy debate, which included two time extensions, a

See WATADA/Page 2

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Clay Suffers Injury

Decathlete Bryan Clay withdraws from the World Championships

SPORTS PAGE 10



Joy's World

Q&A with 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon' filmmaker Joy Dietrich

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



EDC-MDC Bi-District

'Partnerships, Perspective, and Policy'

FULL COVERAGE PAGE 6-7

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As Court Martial Nears, Nat'l JACL Increases Support for Watada

(Continued from page 1)

slightly watered down version of the resolution was eventually passed — almost unanimously.

With a vote of 13 to 1 the national JACL board agreed to increase their support for Watada, calling for a fair and impartial trial including the right to have a trial presided over by an impartial judge and the right to be protected from double jeopardy.

"In my mind I am satisfied their appeal for double jeopardy is within JACL's purview," said Mori. "Double jeopardy goes to the issue of a fair trial."

Community Debate

In June of 2006 Watada announced his life changing decision to refuse deployment to Iraq because he believes the war is not only immoral but illegal. Since then the JA community has been vehemently divided into two camps: those who staunchly support his constitutional rights and those who believe Watada's oath as a soldier requires him to obey direct orders from his superiors.

The same division continues to permeate the JACL.

Elaine Akagi, PNW district governor, was the lone dissenting vote on the national board. She cast her vote because her district — which includes Fort Lewis where Watada currently serves in an administrative position — told her to vote down any resolution calling for increased support for the officer.

"We have a lot of former military people living in the PNW, since Fort Lewis and Bremerton are here in Washington. The message I get from them is that Watada was wrong to not deploy when ordered to, and as an officer of the U.S. Army, had a duty to go," she said. "They feel he must face the consequences of his decision, and that the Army's form of trial will be fair and just."

The original resolution — which included stronger wording and a call for JACL to write letters to the courts — did not sit well with some of the national board members.

"There are several things that trouble me about this resolution," said Kristine Minami, EDC governor and an attorney. "This is military law. It is inappropriate to try to sway a judge's decision in any way. JACL was not there."

But in the end, a diluted version of the original resolution seemed to satisfy the majority of the national board.

A Civil Rights Issue

"[The JACL's] role to me as a Japanese American is to be a voice ... for civil rights. To stand up for what's right."

As a member of the renowned *coram nobis* legal team, Karen Kai brought a lot of credibility to the national board debate on the Watada resolution. She reminded them that when she and her fellow attorneys

"Today we are at a crossroads. What kind of organization are we going to be? We need to take a stand, a firm and dedicated stand."

— Mas Hashimoto, Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter



JACL National Director Floyd Mori (right) recently met with 1st Lt. Ehren Watada in Seattle.

asked for the national JACL board's support in the 80s they did not know all of the legal issues but they did what was right.

She asked the current national board to do the same. "This statement calls for justice for Lieutenant Watada."

Last July in response to the community's call for JACL to take a position on the Watada controversy, then national director John Tateishi issued a statement of concern over some of the charges he currently faces.

Ever since the statement was issued, some JACL chapters and members have pushed for a stronger show of support for Watada including the Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter. It was this chapter that urged the NCWNP district to bring the resolution to the national board's attention.

"Today we are at a crossroads. What kind of organization are we going to be?" said Mas Hashimoto, of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter. "We need to take a stand, a firm and dedicated stand."

Alan Nishi, NCWNP governor, echoed the same sentiments: "We should take a more solid stance than we have in the past."

Double Jeopardy

On Oct. 9 Watada is scheduled to head back to court for a second trial. At his original court martial the judge declared a mistrial. If convicted of all charges, Watada faces up to seven years in jail.

Watada's attorneys are currently arguing that a second court martial constitutes double jeopardy, a fifth amendment right that protects individuals from being charged with the same crime twice.

"Double jeopardy is an important constitutional right to protect all citizens from oppression. This is the issue presented here," said Robert Rusky, who with Kai was a part of the *coram nobis* legal team.

The JACL national board has already begun to disseminate their decision to strengthen support for Watada and the resolution also calls on the organization to help educate other groups on the controversial issue.

"Our belief ... is this will define JACL's continued effectiveness for future generations," said Paul Kaneko, a board member of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter. ■

National JACL Resolution on Watada (adopted Aug. 18, 2007):

"The National JACL Board believes that all American citizens have the right to a fair and impartial trial, which includes the right to have a trial presided over by an impartial judge and to be protected from double jeopardy.

"The National JACL Board shall generate a strong public statement supporting 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's right to a fair trial. It shall engage in activities including, but not limited to, disseminating this statement through letters of support to the appropriate officials as necessary and directing our National Director to educate other organizations on this civil rights issues to raise awareness."



Letters to the Editor

Courage and Heroism

This is in response to the two articles supporting 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's act as an act of courage and encouraging the public's support for his efforts as reported in the Aug. 17 - Sept. 6 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

If we are to support the action taken by 1st Lt. Watada, I'm concerned about the effect such an act would have upon the members of the National Guard who are currently serving in harms way in Iraq and Afghanistan and in the recruitment of replacements for the National Guard.

A few weeks ago there was an

article in the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper about a member of the California National Guard who was ordered to report for deployment to Iraq for the second time. The night before he was to report for duty, he told his father that he did not want to go but he felt he had to honor his commitment. Ten days later, his father and family were advised that he was killed in action! Now this, to me, is an act of courage and heroism.

Leo H. Hosoda

WWII and Korean War Veteran
Roseville, CA

JACL May See a Budget Deficit by the End of the Year

A push for members is needed to help curb the projected shortfall. 'It's all in our hands right now,' board members say.

BY LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Despite a third quarter budget surplus, JACL board members cautioned of a projected \$18,000 deficit by the end of the year.

The culprit is membership.

As of June 2007, JACL's membership is down by more than 1,100. If the current trend continues, membership can be down up to 10 percent by year's end, said JACL Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kobayashi at the Aug. 18 national board meeting.

"Membership makes up the major part of our revenue flow and when we see the kind of decline we are seeing, this is cause for concern," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

As of June 30, the JACL has a \$59,607 surplus, but the organization is heading into a time of year when traditionally membership revenues do not cover expenses, said JACL National President Larry Oda.

Facing a possible financial pinch, board member said an end of the year deficit is not yet written in stone. The JACL can still finish in the black if members push for new membership recruits and renewals, and if the JACL's upcoming Washington, D.C. gala dinner is a success.

"Things can change," said Kobayashi at the meeting. "It's all in our hands right now."

Anemic Membership Numbers

Membership, the lifeblood of the organization, is plummeting and board members are working aggressively to curb the drop. Currently, the membership coordinator staff position at the JACL is still vacant. National JACL is interviewing candidates while a part-time contractor handles some of the work.

"My major concern going forward for the organization is getting control of our falling membership numbers," said Kobayashi, who added that the organization's membership is down by more than 1,100 members.

See MEETING/Page 13

A Name Change for the JACL?

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Forget Japanese American Citizens League. How about the Asian American Citizens League or just the acronym JACL?

National board members are talking about a possible name change for the 78-year-old organization in order to be more inclusive to the Asian Pacific American community.

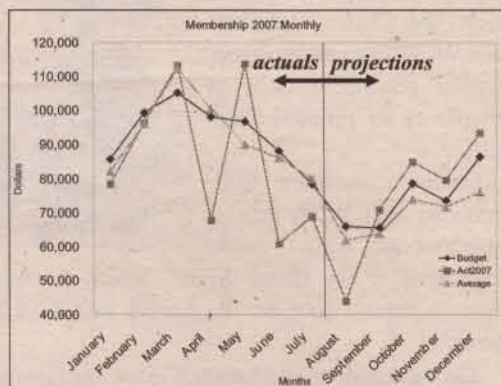
"I am a strong proponent of becoming more inclusive rather than exclusive. This means reaching out to newer immigrant communities who are now facing the same issues the JACL faced when we were a new immigrant community," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "At the same time, JACL has an highly respected

history and we must not relinquish that advantage we have as a result of the hard work of our Nisei."

Mori's suggested keeping the JACL name and including a progressive tagline that appeals to the entire APA community.

In the last few years, other civil rights organizations have been revamping their image with name changes. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is now simply known as the NAACP and the Organization of Chinese Americans is just the OCA. In 2005, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium overhauled its name completely to become the Asian American Justice Center.

See NAME CHANGE/Page 5



GRAPH: MARK KOBAYASHI

Holocaust Survivor's Life Touched by the Japanese

Solly Ganor and his family were part of the 6,000 Jews during WWII who received visas from diplomat Chiune Sugihara, 'Japan's Schindler.' He credits 522nd soldier Clarence Matsumura with rescuing him from the Nazis.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor, 80, often jokes that he must have been a Japanese in a previous life. That may explain why a Japanese diplomat and a Japanese American soldier came to his rescue during the most trying moments of his life.

Solly was an 11-year-old boy in Kaunas, Lithuania when he first met Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara at his aunt's shop. Little did he know then that the man with the "kind eyes" who gave him money for Hanukkah would go on to save the lives of thousands of his fellow Jews from the Nazis.

Five years after that fateful meeting, Solly was among the thousands of Jews on a death march from Dauchau near the end of World War II. Having gone days without food or water, the prisoners collapsed onto a bank of snow; many froze to death. But as the Germans began to retreat, the American soldiers arrived including a Japanese American soldier of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. Soon Solly was looking into the eyes of Clarence Matsumura, his rescuer.

"My destiny is connected with the Japanese people," said Solly who spoke with the *Pacific Citizen* from his summer home in La Jolla, Calif.

Solly's unique story has been a part of a number of exhibits in recent years and is documented in his book, "Light One Candle." For the past two decades he has dedicated his life to telling his story of survival, a story in which Chiune and Clarence are always featured prominently.

"I promised my friends that if I survived I would tell the world what happened to us," said Solly. "When you write things down it gives you some sort of catharsis. It isn't easy to do. You go through the emotional upheaval all over again."

"Many of the survivors don't want to talk about it. It's a shame. We have a lot of stories that are important for the world to know."

Courage to Speak

Solly was just 16 years old when he was plucked out of the snow by the 522nd soldiers and given a new lease on life. Soon after he regained his strength, Solly joined the U.S. Army as an interpreter, helping to prosecute Nazi collaborators. When Israel was declared a State he joined the Israeli Defense Forces and fought in the War of Independence. Later he joined the Israeli Merchant Marine, rising to the rank of captain.

In 1963 he met and married his longtime wife Pola and they had two kids: Daniel and Leora. By the mid-70s he had relocated his family to La Jolla, Calif. where he ran a textile factory. In the mid-80s he was once again back in Israel.

During these 50 years, he never once spoke of the horrors he had witnessed as a survivor of the Holocaust, not even to his family.

But everything changed in 1992. Solly had seen an ad

in the local newspaper announcing the visit of JA WWII soldiers who had rescued Jews at Dachau. Solly called the listed number and arranged to meet with the soldiers; among them was his hero Clarence.

Although their dinner meeting was set for 6 p.m. Solly could not muster the courage to enter the hotel. He kept driving around the block for three hours until he was finally able to gather his nerves.

"It was very emotional. They looked at each other and hugged. They started crying," said historian Eric Saul who helped arrange the reunion. "It was like opening up the flood gates. It was a real fulfillment for both of them," he said, noting that Clarence had always wanted to meet the people he had helped liberate.

"I credit Clarence with saving my life," said Solly. He can still taste the Hershey chocolate bar Clarence fed him after digging him out of the snow, the hot broth that



Clarence Matsumura and Solly Ganor (top two, right) remained life long friends after reuniting in Israel.

(Right) Solly and Yukiko Sugihara have spoken at many events honoring Chiune Sugihara.



warmed his frozen soul. "He brought me back to life."

After their reunion the two remained the best of friends until Clarence's death in 1996. In the exhibit "Unlikely Liberators" by Saul, Clarence spoke of rescuing the Jewish prisoners in 1945:

"They asked who we were, and I told them we were Americans. I told them, 'You're free, you're liberated. The war is over' ... They were obviously starving to death. We tried to feed them, and they couldn't take the food. Some of them died in my arms, unable to swallow the food that we had given them. I cried. I still feel guilty to this day."

"Solly's story is tremendously important," said Lani Silver, founder of the Holocaust Oral History Project who has worked alongside Saul to tell the story of the 522nd soldiers. "The 522nd never got the credit they deserved. They are heroes. They saved Solly Ganor and hundreds of other people."

My Hero

Solly's reunion with Clarence could only be equaled by the rediscovery of the Sugihara family. He got his chance in 1994.

Chiune had passed away in 1986 but at the Sugihara Memorial Park dedication in the city of Yaotsu, Japan, Solly was asked by Chiune's wife Yukiko to attend the event as a guest of honor. Since then the two have remained close, touring the country on speaking engagements.

In Yukiko's

See SOLLY GANOR/Page 13

Florida Family Split by Immigration Mistake Reunited

After more than six months of separation, Akiko Campbell and her sons Leo and Micah are back home with her husband in the United States.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

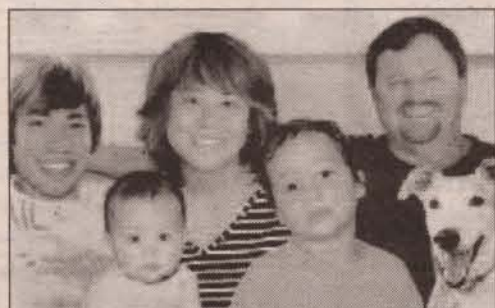
BRADENTON, Fla.—A Florida man said Aug. 28 that he never lost faith that his Japanese-born wife and two young children would be allowed to come home again, after the family successfully tangled with the U.S. immigration bureaucracy.

Akiko Campbell and sons Leo, 5, and Micah, 2, had been stuck in Japan since a January visit because of the immigration dispute that got international media attention and underscored how mistakes in the complicated visa process can sometimes have life-changing consequences for foreign relatives of American citizens.

The family is back together in Bradenton now, thanks to a rare hardship waiver granted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They flew back Aug. 24 and were treated by their neighbors to a limousine ride home from the Tampa airport.

"Being home, it was like I've been here the whole time but have just been through an eight-month nightmare," said Akiko Campbell, 41, who acknowledged that she thought she would never be allowed to return to the U.S.

'Being home, it was like I've been here the whole time but have just been through an eight-month nightmare.' — Akiko Campbell



Keith Campbell, 47, an American who met his wife while working in Asia, said he thinks the media attention, his Web site dedicated to the plight and numerous letters written to lawmakers from friends and supporters helped persuade U.S. immigration officials to issue the waiver.

"I knew it was a long shot in practical terms," said Keith. "I'm a realist. But I have faith. I just felt like it was all going to work out."

Federal immigration officials said Akiko committed fraud when she entered the United States in 1998 with a fiancée visa, even though she had already gotten married to Keith. The Campbells contend they were following directions from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Akiko was denied permanent residency after that, despite years of working with lawyers and filing numerous appeals. Meanwhile, she made her home in the United States for nine years and gave birth to her two sons here.

They thought the problem was

finally solved when they got a letter instructing Akiko to fly back to Tokyo and pick up a new visa there. But when she arrived in January, she learned the visa would not be issued and, because the U.S. officials said fraud was involved, she would not be allowed to re-enter the United States for 10 years.

She got another call several weeks ago from the embassy informing her the hardship waiver had been granted. Now back in the United States, she can apply for permanent residency.

Advocates for families separated by unforgiving immigration policies say what happened to the Campbells is more common than people think. A group called American Families United was formed last year to raise awareness of the problems and lobby Congress.

"We're ecstatic that she's back," said Randall Emery, co-founder of the group. "That's what we're working for. We're continuing the effort to reform the laws so that this is the rule rather than the exception."

Citing privacy laws, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spokesman Chris Bentley declined to comment specifically on the Campbells' case. Hardship waivers are "not the normal turn of events," he said, but are considered on a case-by-case basis. ■

APA Groups Call for Fair Coverage of Political Campaign Donation Stories

Focusing on race unfairly forms generalizations of all Asian-Pacific Americans.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Asian Pacific American groups are calling for media outlets to reevaluate their ongoing coverage of political campaign donations by APAs.

"Asian Pacific Americans have always been civically engaged, and the involvement of all Americans in the political process is critical. We hope that recent reports of individual malfeasance will not delegitimize the role of APAs in the democratic process, who have voted and held positions of political power responsibly for decades," said Ginny Gong, national president of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

The media scrutiny came after news broke of Norman Hsu, a top Democratic fundraiser and fugitive.

Hsu appeared in San Mateo County Superior Court Aug. 31 dressed in a suit and tie and accom-

panied by a lawyer and publicist. He pleaded no contest in 1991 to a felony count of grand theft, admitting he'd defrauded investors of \$1 million in a bogus investment scam. He was facing up to three years in prison when he skipped town before his 1992 sentencing date, Deputy Attorney General Ronald Smetana said outside court.

Judge H. James Ellis ordered Hsu handcuffed and jailed until he could post \$2 million bail, which he did after spending about five hours behind bars. The judge declined Hsu's request to immediately reduce the bail by half, instead scheduling a Sept. 5 hearing to consider the request.

The California businessman who remade himself in New York as a benefactor of Democratic causes and candidates including presidential contenders Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"While any attempt to unlawfully direct campaign contributions should be investigated and prosecuted, the ethnic heritage of those under scrutiny should not come into play.

We are concerned that this type of scrutiny can lead to unfair generalizations about the APA community," said Michael Lin, OCA executive director.

"I was surprised like everybody else who knew him," Clinton said during an appearance at the New York State Fair in Syracuse, N.Y. "I think he's done the right thing turning himself in, and the process will go forward from here."

Hsu has said he thought the criminal charges had been taken care of when he completed his bankruptcy proceedings in the early 1990s.

"I have not sought to evade any of my obligations and certainly not the law," Hsu said in a prepared statement.

"An accumulation of stories focusing only on allegations involving donors of Asian descent creates an incomplete picture of Asian American civic involvement by neglecting to report on the overwhelmingly positive impact by Asian Americans in the political process," said Vida Benavides, chair of APIAVote. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

JACL Joins in Protest of Radio Station

SYCAMORE TWP, Ohio—The Cincinnati JACL joined a coalition effort to stop Clear Channel radio station WLW from using stereotypical characterizations of Hispanics to promote their station.

Coalition members were outraged after WLW aired a promotional spot called "Speaking to An Illegal Alien," which featured translations of various Spanish phrases such as, "Be careful with those hedge clippers around the garden."

The radio station's hate speech is not just focused on the Hispanic population — when a Japanese fishery training boat was hit and sunk off of Pearl Harbor by a U.S. submarine a few years ago, radio hosts referred to the victims as "Japanese monkeys."



Slayings of 2 APA Store Owners Stirs Community to Action



TINH PHAN

RICHMOND, Va.—Asian-owned businesses are robbery targets because there is a perception that Asians carry a lot of cash, said Tinh Phan, a business owner who has set up a series of crime-prevention seminars in response to the slayings of two APA storeowners last month.

There are 2,700 Asian-owned businesses in the Richmond area, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 count.

Last month, there were fatal shootings of two Asian store owners within a week's time: Lin Zi Ping, as he locked up his Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant in eastern Henrico on July 11, and Farooq Anwar, a native of Pakistan, during an apparent robbery of his Fast & Friendly Convenience Store in Chesterfield on July 18.

Japanese Court Rejects Compensation Demand by Chinese WWII Slaves

TOKYO—A Japanese court rejected a lawsuit filed by dozens of Chinese seeking compensation for being forced into slave labor during World War II.

Maebashi District Court in Gunma prefecture turned down the plaintiffs' demands for \$4.04 million in damages and an apology from the Japanese government, Kajima Corp. and Aoyama Kanzai Co.

Presiding Judge Keiko Kobayashi also ordered the plaintiffs to cover court costs, he said.

The plaintiffs, who included 20 former Chinese laborers along with surviving relatives of others, plan to appeal the ruling.

Civil Rights Panel Takes up Akaka Bill



HONOLULU—The Hawaiian advisory panel to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission is taking up the Akaka Bill.

The panel is considering taking a new position on the Native Hawaiian recognition legislation now pending in the U.S. Senate. Until now, the Hawaii group has been a staunch supporter of the bill. But the U.S. commission, which opposes the bill, has disregarded that position.

Members are taking testimony on both sides of the issue in their first hearing on the issue.

Turban Screening Measures Questioned

WASHINGTON—A new airport screening policy for turbans and other headwear has the country's Sikhs concerned they are being unfairly targeted. The federal policy change went into effect Aug. 4, subjecting travelers to secondary screening at security checkpoints if they are wearing head coverings, such as cowboy hats, berets or turbans.

The screenings could include a pat-down search of the head covering if the screener finds it necessary.

The New York-based Sikh Coalition believes the new policy singles out Sikhs and others who wear religious head coverings. Since 2001, federal policy has required screeners to search turbans only if they do not clear a metal detector. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Yee, Yamada Inducted Into Silver Circle

Two APA journalists have been inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle. **Linda Yee** is a general assignment reporter for KPIX in San Francisco. **Gayle Yamada** is an award-winning executive producer.

The prestigious Silver Circle recognizes individuals who have been actively engaged in television broadcasting for 25 years or more, at least half of those years in the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter Area.

JACL Welcomes New National JACL Board Members



Members from the Midwest and Eastern District Councils elected **Dr. Ronald Katsuyama** and former JACL Washington D.C. Representative **Kristine Minami**, respectively, as their governors. They will serve two-year terms.

JACL to be Honored with Spirit Award

The Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno will be presenting the JACL with a "Spirit of Abraham Award" for its defense of Muslim Americans' civil rights in the aftermath of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

The Sept. 7th event will take place at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno. JACL chapters are encouraged to attend.

Mineta Joins ITNAmerica as Adviser



Former Transportation Secretary **Norman Mineta** has signed on as an adviser to a nonprofit program aimed at providing rides to the nation's aging population.

Seniors who use the service become dues-paying members of the Independent Transportation Network and can call for rides in a regular car, not a van or bus.

Mineta, who's joining ITNAmerica's Council of Advisers, was the only Democrat in Bush's cabinet and was the longest-serving transportation secretary. He left the post in July 2006.

Assistant Attorney General Kim Resigns Amidst Controversy



Wan J. Kim, the assistant attorney general for civil rights since November, resigned at the end of August.

Kim was closely questioned by congressional Democrats about the administration's policy decisions and allegations by former career officials of improper hiring within the division, mostly under his predecessor.

Officials said Kim is going into private law practice.

JCCH to Recognize Hawaiian Educators

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i is honoring four esteemed educators in Hawai'i's community and a corporate honoree at its Sept. 29 "Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner" at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Honorees will include **Jane O. Komeiji**, **Richard H. Kosaki, PhD**, **Margaret Y. Oda, EdD**, **Dennis M. Ogawa, PhD** and corporate honoree **Island Insurance Companies Ltd.** at its gala event. **The Makiki Japanese Language School** will also receive special recognition at this year's event.

JANM DVD Earns 2007 Silver Telly Award



The "Life Interrupted: Reunion and Remembrance in Arkansas" DVD, created by the **Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center** of the **Japanese American National Museum**, earned a 2007 Silver Telly Award in the outstanding non-broadcast video production category, the highest honor presented by a judging panel of accomplished industry professionals.

The Watase Media Arts Center has been awarded several Bronze Telly Awards previously, but this is its first Silver Telly Award.

The DVD was produced by **Kaleigh Komatsu**. ■

JACL Honors Veterans Aboard USS Hornet

Eighty-five Nisei veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict were honored Aug. 12 aboard the USS Hornet, one of the most decorated ships in naval history.

Sponsored by the NCWNP district, the sold-out "Salute to Our Veterans" event paid tribute to the men and women who served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), 100th/442nd, Cadet Nurse Corp, Merchant Marine, and the Korean Conflict.

MIS veteran **Fred Kitajima**, 100th/442nd veteran **Lawson Sakai**, and USS Hornet Events Manager **Marcus Dorsey** spoke at the event. Event Co-Chair **Milo Yoshino** spoke about the Merchant Marine in which his father served. Emcee and event co-chair **Emily Teruya** spoke on behalf of the Cadet Nurse Corp and the Korean Conflict veterans.

"All Japanese Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the World War II and Korean Conflict veterans for their sacrifices to bring home the point that patriotism is not a matter of race or ethnicity," wrote JACL National President **Larry Oda**. "Every one of us who received the letter of apology and a token redress from the United States government knows that without their patriotism, the dark history of the internment would have been hidden and

'It is a day to thank each of you for serving the Constitution, our nation and the principles of democracy and peace.'

Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director



Attendees wait in line for the Nisei Veterans' Exhibit.

ignored."

Two screenings of **Lane Nishikawa's** film "Only the Brave" were screened at the event, a film about the men of the 100th/442nd who, against overwhelming odds, rescued members of the Texas "Lost Battalion." Also included were docent-led tours of the USS Hornet, self-guided tours of the Nisei Veterans' permanent exhibit, and a silent auction.

"It is a day for us to pause, remember, learn and honor all the brave men and women who served our country during World War II and

the Korean Conflict," said NCWNP Regional Director **Patty Wada**. "Some of you have joined us today, some are being honored from afar, and others we cherish in memory. It is a day to thank each of you for serving the Constitution, our nation and the principles of democracy and peace."

Each veteran was presented with the book "Patriotism, Perseverance, Posterity: The Story of the National Japanese American Memorial," a book dedicated to the loyalty and courage of Japanese Americans during WWII. ■

NAME CHANGE

(Continued from page 3)

Considering demographic changes in the APA and JA communities, should the JACL follow suit?

"It is important to think of this new direction if we are serious about the future of the JACL," said **Mori**. "We are fast becoming more Pan Asian and I believe, from the discussions I have with young people, that they see themselves as APAs as well as Japanese Americans."

The time to think about this change is now, **Mori** added. "The changing demographics of the Japanese American community today dictates that we must think of the future now."

"I'm more of a traditionalist concerning our name," said JACL National President **Larry Oda**, who also likes the JACL logo, but agrees that a transition can be made.

A name change for the JACL requires a bylaw amendment to be passed by the national council at the Salt Lake City National Convention in 2008. ■

What Do You Think?

Should the JACL change its name to be more inclusive to the Asian Pacific American community? E-mail your responses to pc@pacificcitizen.org.

JACL Urges Thorough Investigation in Killing of APA Fisherman

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American groups are concerned with a pattern of violence targeting APA fishermen in Chicago's Lake Michigan area.

The Sept. 1 drowning of a Vietnamese man who was shoved into the water at Montrose Harbor was the third incident since late July in which APA fishermen were targeted in the area, according to Chicago police.

Du Doan, 62, was fishing alone off the harbor's sidewalk at 5:30 a.m. when the attack occurred.

"Our concern is heightened because this does not appear to be an isolated incident and perpetrators are still at-large," said the JACL in a statement.

"Five individuals dressed in black gothic clothing walked past him, and one of the individuals breaks away from this group ... and gives him a shove in the back and knocks him into the water," law enforcement officials told the *Chicago Tribune*.

Doan, who couldn't swim, quickly drowned.

Police said the circumstances of **Doan's** attack matched closely with two other incidents, one from late July and another that occurred earlier the same day.

'Our concern is heightened because this does not appear to be an isolated incident and perpetrators are still at-large.'

— JACL

Another fisherman of Asian descent was confronted by the same group, described as four males and

one female, police said.

Police are looking for a white, four-door Dodge Neon they believe the suspects were driving, and are asking anyone with information to contact police.

The suspects were described as: a white male, about 5-foot-6, brown hair in a "buzz cut," wearing a dark jacket; a white male, about 6-foot-1, slim, large ears, wearing a white T-shirt and a jacket; white male, 18 to 19 years old; black male, bald, wearing a red shirt; white female, 18 to 19 years old.

JACL urges the Chicago Police Department to spare no resources in pursuing those responsible for the vicious crime. ■

EDC-MDC Bi-District: 'Partnerships, Policy, and Perspectives'

Citizen journalists and young JACLers headed to Washington, D.C. for the Aug. 9-12 event.

Hapa JACL: Part Inspiration, Part Socialization

By BRIGHAM WALKER

Before I dive into the conference itself, a bit of background on my exposure to the JACL is necessary. My first JACL experience was at the 2004 convention in Hawaii. Despite the opportune vacation setting, the emphasis was clearly business rather than social. In contrast, my first bi-district in Chicago 2005 allowed me to enjoy getting to know other members as friends rather than simply as colleagues.



This JACL duality — inspiring activism and encouraging socializing — is more balanced at bi-districts where we have more time to hang out. As MDC Youth Co-Rep. Lisa Hanasono says: "It is always a joy to reunite with old friends and meet new folks who are dedicated to the mission of our organization."

In this vein of duality, we went straight to business (after reuniting at the opening mixer, of course).

The first workshop, "Safe and Free: Security and Civil Liberties in Post 9-11," set the pace for a motivating weekend. This presentation was largely focused on the ineffective particulars of current anti-terrorist methods, emphasizing American torture methods during interrogations at CIA black sites.

More than simply an informative workshop, this presentation impressed me because the presenter was only in his mid-20s. Here is a young man calmly and competently answering a range of difficult impromptu questions,

from citing England's history with the IRA and Blitzkrieg as a way to compare public hysterias to homeland attacks, to clearly defining what the ACLU supports in other contentious matters.

I even was able to find inspiration outside the formal workshops from an EDC youth member, Mari Oye of the New England chapter. She is a distinguished Presidential Scholar who managed to meet President Bush and hand him a letter that in part read:

"We urge you to do all in your power to stop violations of the human rights of detainees, to cease illegal renditions and to apply the Geneva Convention to all detainees, including those designated enemy combatants."

From Mari and her father, I learned that when she handed him the letter, she added, "For me personally, the issue of detainee rights also had a lot of importance, because my grandparents had been interned during World War II for being Japanese American."

That kind of poise, articulated very plainly segued nicely into our panel discussion "Six Years after 9-11: The Arab American Experience" involving anecdotes from the Arab American Institute Foundation and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

In all, the business was complemented by informal conversations and socializing, making this a success that delivered on its alliteration "Partnerships, Policy, and Perspectives" (with a little party mixed in). ■

Brigham Walker recently graduated from Princeton University and is a member of the New York JACL chapter.



YOUTH MOVEMENT: (from left) Brigham Walker, Lisa Hanasono, Leilani Savitt and Brandon Mita before the conference banquet.



(L-r): Brandon Mita, Paul Uyehara, Craig Uchida and Brigham Walker.

Partnerships, Perspective, and Policy

By LISA HANASONO

The meaningful friendships and relationships amongst JACL members strengthen the organization's social fabric. Leilani Savitt, the JACL national youth/student representative, explained: "My favorite part of the bi-district meeting was catching up with old friends and meeting new faces. It is really neat to see how much the MDC and EDC have grown over the past biennium."



From the opening reception to a special banquet, JACL members had ample opportunities to strengthen old friendships and cultivate new partnerships. In addition to reinforcing relationships within JACL, attendees networked with people from other organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League and the Organization of Chinese Americans.

Despite the JACL's unifying goals to maintain civil rights and promote cultural preservation, there are many diverse perspectives within the organization. Through the employment of special workshops and panel presentations, the bi-district conference served as a site for members to engage in a dialogue about topics such as immigration, civil liberties, and the challenges that face JACL youth members.

One workshop looked at the experiences and perspectives of Arab Americans in a post Sept. 11th society. Ron Katsuyama, MDC governor, said: "The views expressed by leaders of Arab American organizations were particularly interesting, insofar as some of their post 9-11 emo-

tional reactions seem so similar to those that I imagine were experienced by Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor."

Another workshop featured the perspectives of JACL youth members Brandon Mita, Brigham Walker, Savitt, and myself. The group identified several key challenges that face JACL youth members today and discussed some possible strategies to future success.

EDC member Clyde Nishimura encouraged conference attendees to "think nationally and act locally." Conference attendees discussed many of JACL's prominent educational programs and anti-hate projects. JACL has an outstanding collection of educational materials that need to be dispersed to local school teachers and colleges. JACL has also developed an anti-hate workshop for university students and local communities.

Other hot topics were also discussed, including the organization's stance on 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's trial and the proposal to establish an annual JACL national convention.

Through a variety of workshops, caucuses, receptions, and panel presentations, conference attendees were able to build partnerships, discuss diverse perspectives, and address policy issues.

The Bi-District conference "was a great opportunity to talk about mutual interests, especially constitutional rights and civil liberties, immigration, and the future of JACL," said JACL member Craig Uchida. ■

Lisa Hanasono currently attends Purdue University as a graduate student and is the MDC youth co-representative. She is also the MDC representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.



'The meaningful friendships and relationships amongst JACL members strengthen the organization's social fabric.'

— Leilani Savitt (right) with Hanasono



LEADERS: (l-r) Hiro Nishikawa, Irene Mori, Floyd Mori, Leilani Savitt and Sumie Nishikawa.

2007 EDC-MDC Bi-district Conference



FRIENDS AND LEADERS: (l-r) Heidi Tanakatsubo, Reiko Yoshino, Andrea Butler, Larry Schectman, famous presidential letter writer Mari Oye and Kenneth Oye.



A LITTLE WORK, A LITTLE PLAY: (l-r) Jane and Ron Katsuyama, EDC Governor Kristine Minami, Lillian Kimura and Etsu Masaoka.

'This JACL duality — inspiring activism and encouraging socializing — is more balanced at bi-districts where we have more time to hang out.'

— Brigham Walker



(l-r) Nat'l JACL President Larry Oda, Laura Paige, Sherri Fujihira, Ron Katsuyama, Kristine Minami and Brigham Walker.



(Top, l-r) Alley Watada and David Kawamoto. (Bottom, l-r) Yoshimi Watada, Elaine Akagi and Carol Kawamoto.

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •
MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

An Extended Visit



Two summers ago, I was vacationing in Okinawa, visiting my father's side of the family for the first time in 12 years. I was 20 years old, just finished summer school, and looking forward to exploiting the fact that the Japanese drinking age is a year earlier than the one in America.

Eight summers ago, I was vacationing in mainland Japan, visiting my mother's side of the family for the first time in three years. I was 14 years old, just finished middle school, and both dreading and anticipating the fact that I would be starting high school at the end of the summer.

I can count the number of times I've visited each of those places on one hand. Each visit is a frozen snapshot from a specific junction in my life.

Every visit, which lasted three weeks at the most, became a quantum leap in time from the previous visit. A toddler of a

cousin suddenly became a college-bound high school student. Childhood playmates from bygone years were now working adults, all serious business. Conversely, relatives back home always marveled at how much taller I've grown, how much more *adult* I've become. My Americanized Japanese and lack of knowledge of certain Japanese customs were endearing little quirks that came with being the sporadic relative visiting from afar.

Every visit, I eagerly soaked in the feeling of being in a family — not in the nuclear family unit sense of the word — but an entire sprawling family tree where aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and extended relatives all lived within driving distance of each other and all gathered each festival, holiday and event to eat big meals and share all the mundane and significant updates of each other's lives.

Yet — just when I was getting accustomed to the living, breathing rhythm of being reincorporated into the family — our brief stay eventually came to an end and I wouldn't see them again for another long period of

time. In-between, my parents, brother and I modestly celebrated our four-person Thanksgivings, Christmases and New Year's all under a single roof.

My former bedroom in my parents' house, now a de facto storage space, is littered with long forgotten souvenirs accumulated from those sporadic trips back to the homeland: Mt. Fuji key chains, little wooden figurines, and tiny enveloped charms intended to ward off fatal accidents.

All I have left of those trips are these forgotten souvenirs and brief, intensely vivid memories that spring up in the mind's eye in the most unexpected moments: the sickly, suffocating smell of incense; swimming in the emerald-sapphire Okinawan ocean; fire-



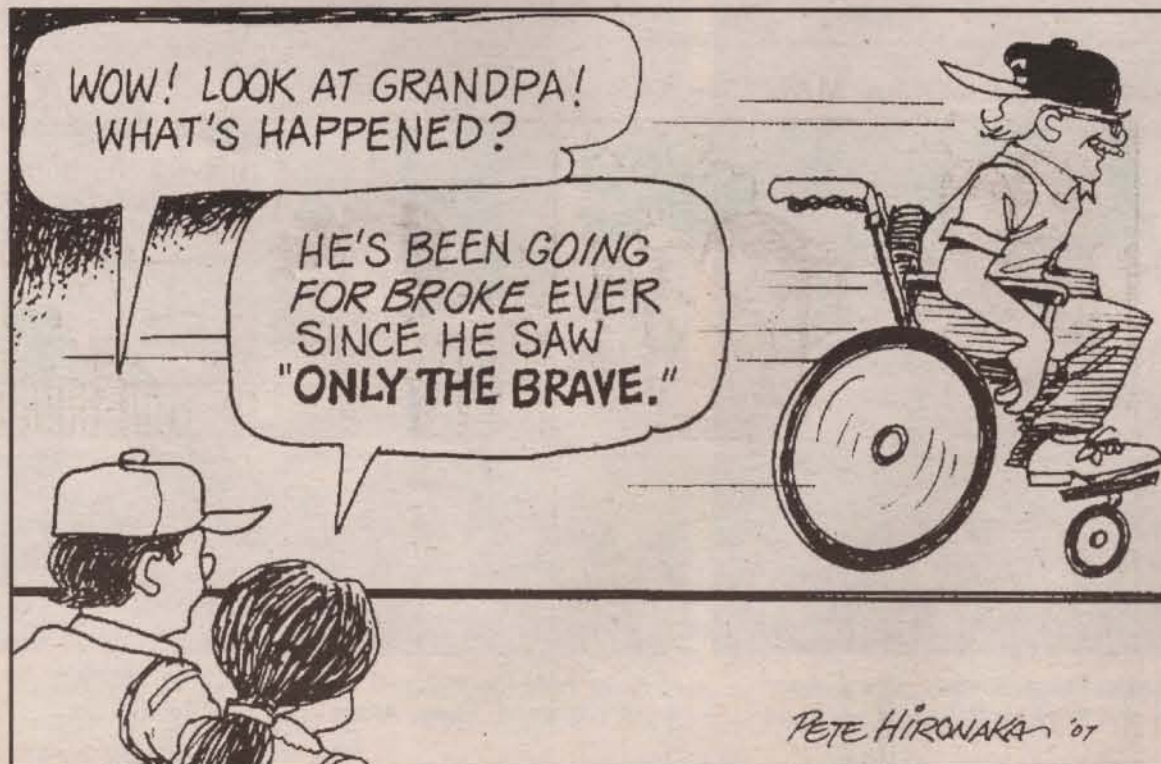
works exploding in the sky to commemorate the festival of the dead. Less than two weeks from now, I will be in the prefecture of Chiba, in a small town called Kimitsu-shi, which is a two-hour train ride from Tokyo. I will be there for an entire year teaching English. Not only that, through pure happenstance, I will be able to commute to my job from my relatives' house, where my maternal grandparents, my aunt and uncle and my cousin live, all of them whom I haven't seen in eight years.

A year-long stay is drastically different from a three-week visit. As I learned from my five-month time abroad in Singapore, the luster of being in another country wears off in a month's time. Strangers become lifelong friends. New rhythms and patterns of living emerge and persist as day-to-day habits. Everything that was once foreign becomes mundane and taken for granted.

Maybe this is what I've been looking forward to all along. For once in my life, to no longer be a sporadic visitor from abroad, but just another family member living under one roof. ■

Yumi Sakugawa recently graduated from UCLA and is heading to Japan to teach English.

'Every visit, which lasted three weeks at the most, became a quantum leap in time'



PETE HIROKAWA '07

• JOHN TATEISHI •
FOR THE RECORD

The Watada Issue, Once Again



An issue that, regretfully, will never be resolved within the ranks of the JACL is the issue of 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, whether his actions are those of a man of courage and conscience, or one of a soldier guilty of disobeying orders. He has become a *cause celebre* and a lightning rod for those who support or condemn him for his actions.

As the JACL's national director, I crafted the language of the organization's public statement, one which reflected the conflicting views of the board. The only board

members who initiated conversations with me at that time

(July 2006) were Larry Oda, newly elected national president, with whom I had numerous conversations on this topic, and Ron Katsuyama,

MDC governor, in a long and very intense exchange of ideas. Theirs were thoughtful but differing views which were reflected in the statement I ultimately issued.

It was a statement that toed the line, stating that the JACL would be silent on the issue of Watada's refusal to deploy with his unit to Iraq, but raised questions about the two other charges filed against him, noting:

"We agree with those who argue that soldiers must obey orders as part of the discipline of the military. On the other hand, one cannot ignore the lessons of Nuremberg and the personal and moral responsibility of soldiers to question orders that raise grave moral questions. No individual should ever be silenced in this regard."

Ultimately, it was a statement that expressed my view of the issue; or rather, it expressed what I felt was a fair and balanced view that would reasonably articulate the JACL's position on the issue.

This was the statement that the national board officially adopted at its meeting in August 2006.

During the next two months, I researched the issue, talked to attorneys on both sides of the argument, read endlessly on military law and articles relevant to this type of case, and thought about it at length. I was bothered by the position I had written because it did not consider the one factor that I thought we should consider, the First Amendment issue. More than that even, it did not consider the moral implications of Watada's position and what he

stood for.

Consequently, it was I who brought this issue before the national board again at its November 2006 meeting, this time asking the board to consider this as a civil rights issue, as a First Amendment issue, and as a moral issue. My position would have taken the organization beyond just the civil rights and legal positions because it ventured into the moral implications of the war.

In the final analysis, I believe that what Watada did was what every soldier should do, and that is to

question the morality of orders when they should be questioned. It was in recalling Nuremberg in the original statement that I raised this issue, the excuse Nazi soldiers used in the systematic extermination of over six million Jews during WWII: "I was only following orders." That cannot stand the test of reason, as the Nuremberg courts decided, not in any verisimilitude of truth, not in any profundity of moral righteousness, and certainly not when we send troops to a war without honor. One need only recall the horror of My Lai to know that a soldier who truly believes orders questionable in their morality must challenge them.

If they are not, then who are we as defenders of morality and democracy, and what are we as a nation?

I know that just raising this issue is a bloodletting and I regret that. I respect the opinions of the veterans who disagree with my point of view, especially those who faced death in battle and shed tears for those they left behind. For many of them, Watada's action is a personal affront, and I understand that.

This issue will never rest easily in our community or in the JACL because there's no easy resolution. There's no right or wrong answer, and maybe we'll have to agree to disagree.

So why bring the issue up again? Because the national board faced this issue at its August meeting. Also because this is something we have to deal with, despite its controversy. It's a military issue, yes, but it's also a civil rights issue. We cannot ignore the lessons of Nuremberg and the injunctions of its moral imperative. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

Q&A with Joy Dietrich: Filmmaker on the Verge

The women in "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" teeter on the tiny border of greatness and madness with no promise of a happy ending.



DIETRICH

It's reality, says Dietrich, who wrote, directed and produced the film. In the end, not everything is neatly wrapped in shiny paper and topped with a bow.

All three of the film's women struggle in their own gilded cages. Especially Jenny Mason (Kim Jiang), the film's Korean born adoptee who was born at an airport as a 45-pound, 45-inch baby bounced into the arms of her white Midwestern family.

For her first critically acclaimed feature film, Dietrich chose to put a little of herself onscreen.

"I was born in South Korea, lived in an orphanage for almost four years somewhere in Seoul, then got adopted by white American parents living in Texas at five years of age."

But Dietrich mostly wanted to make a film about often ignored subjects. "Enter the world of young Asian American women," the film's tagline almost dares you. Are you ready? — *Lynda Lin*

Pacific Citizen: How much of this "autobiographically inspired" film parallels and intersects with your life?

Joy Dietrich: I know there's going to be a lot of questions about whether the film is autobiographical and my answer is the film's a work of fiction. There are certain elements in the film that are inspired by my own experience, such as the feeling of alienation, the disconnection I felt growing up in a white family and in a small town in the U.S.

I am a Korean adoptee and I do have a white brother, but he's also adopted like me. Apart from those similarities, the film is not my personal story. Unlike the film, my brother and I were never close. We never really knew each other because of the battle raging between him and my adoptive parents. It was a very dysfunctional family.

PC: You were once a journalist, but defected to the film world. Why?

JD: I didn't feel passionate about journalism though I really liked it. Also to be a reporter, you have to have a certain personality — an aggressive one, which I can't sometimes maintain. I'm more introverted and insular than people think.

However, I developed a passion for films. I was an avid film buff, especially the art house films from the U.S. and abroad. I lived for two years in Paris working as a journalist over there and I would go to the cinema two to three times a week. I suddenly thought I should try filmmaking and moved to New York to do just that. However, I still have to rely on my work as a journalist. I currently work as a research editor at the *New York Times*.

PC: Almost every frame of "TYR" is art in motion. My favorite scene is Bea's first bathtub scene after she's had this simmering confrontation with her parents. It's beautifully harrowing. Do you have a background in visual art?

JD: I started as an art major at the beginning of college, but then I had some family troubles and found out I had to pay for college by myself and got scared. I tried to think of all the things I could do as a career. I thought being an artist would be hard and I would not make a living doing it. I knew I liked to travel and I liked politics and studying cultures, so I switched majors to international relations. I thought I could be a diplomat. Even though I went into another field, I always kept my creative side going.

PC: Three of the leading ladies are all profoundly troubled (a favorite theme of yours). One has a breakdown and the others have breakdowns.

JD: I think that reflects reality. Not everyone's going to make it out at the end and most of the time people barely hang on. It's a tough world out there.

PC: Is this a chick flick? A cautionary tale?

JD: I don't know. I would say it's a drama about young women searching for connection and a place to call home.

PC: Andrew Wyatt's "Christina's World" is a haunting metaphor for the plight of these women. Why did you choose it to come to life in the film?

JD: I remember always wondering what Christina looked like. Her home was so near, but crippled it was going to be a challenge for her to make it



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JED FILMS



Dietrich throws open the door on APA women harboring a dirty little secret called depression. (counterclockwise) Jenny, Bea and Sandy battle against their own personal plight.

home up on that hill. It's like Jenny, it's like Bea, it's like Sandy. All three girls searching for a place, for a connection, a comfort zone, for home that is so near but so far away. Also, because I wanted to make a film about Asian American young women, I thought I would choose the most iconic American painting and have the woman who turns her head around to be an Asian woman.

PC: You're taking the film through the festival circuit any news on a theatrical release?

JD: Working on it. It's tough out there. "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" has won two great prizes: the Special Jury Prize for Best Director at CineVegas and the Best Narrative Film Award at Urbanworld Vibe Film Festival in New York. Even so, with no known stars, and an Asian American cast and the fact it's a difficult drama make it hard to convince distributors to take the risk of taking the film theatrical. Usually in the independent film world, the common thing is you lose money when you go theatrical. But I haven't lost hope!

PC: What's the next film project bumping around your head?

JD: I've got a lot of ideas and am working on developing one with a producer. Top secret! ■



See Tie a Yellow Ribbon'

San Diego Asian Film Festival
Oct. 11-18

Info: www.sdaaff.org/festival/2007

Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival,
Germany
Oct. 10-21

Info: www.mannheim-filmfestival.com

Delray Beach Film Festival
Delray Beach, Florida
December 2007

For more information: www.yellowribbonmovie.com,
www.myspace.com/yellowribbonmovie

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DECATHALON

Defending World Champ Injures Quads, Quits

OSAKA, Japan—Bryan Clay applied ice to his injured quadriceps muscle, got a quick massage and even turned to acupuncture.

Nothing helped ease the pain. So the reigning decathlon champion withdrew from the competition at the world track and field championships. He tweaked his right leg while competing in the high jump, the fourth of five events on Aug. 31.

"It was just too painful," said Clay, who had 3,558 points. "It was going so well, too."

Clay still can't figure out what exactly happened. He hurt his right quadriceps as he went to plant his foot for his second attempt at 6 feet, 6 3/4 inches in the high jump. He heard a pop and slumped under the bar, falling onto the mat. He limped off the track and didn't return.

"I think my heel may have slipped," he said. "At least I think that's what happened. I really don't know."

After the injury, Clay tried to get ready for the last event of the first night — the 400 meters. A massage didn't alleviate the knot, neither did

the acupuncture. After running to test the leg, then conferring with doctors, he decided it was best to pull out.

"I wanted to keep going," said Clay, the 2004 Olympic silver medalist. "But it just got tighter and tighter. Maybe I could've run the 400. But I would've run it in 52 seconds, and it would've been pointless."

It was almost like a home meet for Clay. His mother is Japanese, and he painted the distinctive red circle of the rising sun on a white background on both shoulders. The Osaka crowd quickly warmed up to him.

"They were cheering for me. That's why this is disappointing," he said. "Anytime you're in the top part of the pack and having a decent day, it's never an easy decision to pull out. I couldn't do anything about it."

Clay had hoped to find a way to get through the first day, but then he thought about the looming hurdles.

"That would've been tough. I would've struggled," he said. "It was better calling it quits."

He might do that with the season,

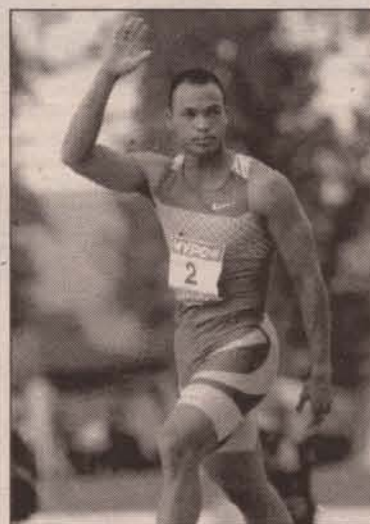


PHOTO: BRYANCLAY.COM

"It was just too painful," said Bryan Clay about his Aug. 31 injuries.

too, a difficult decision less than 12 months from the Beijing Olympics.

Clay has had an injury-plagued season, pulling out of the U.S. championships in June with nagging soreness in his left knee. ■

BASKETBALL

No. 6 Pick Yi Jianlian Finally Signs with Milwaukee Bucks

MILWAUKEE—Yi Jianlian is finally going to play for the Milwaukee Bucks.

Yi, the Chinese star who was picked sixth overall in the NBA draft in June, signed a standard rookie scale contract with the Bucks in Hong Kong on Aug. 29.

A contingent of Bucks officials that included owner and U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl met with Yi's family and Chen Haitao, owner of Yi's Chinese professional team, over the last day to finalize the deal.

"We had a very successful trip here," Kohl said from Hong Kong. "We came with the hope, but not the certainty that we would, in fact, be able to sign a contract with Yi."

The Bucks could not say when the power forward would be in the U.S. or meet with American media, but Kohl expects him to be in Milwaukee at the start of training camp on Oct. 1, or shortly afterward.

On draft night, Yi said he was surprised he was picked for the Bucks, but thought he'd play for them.

After the interview, he said nothing more while he was in the U.S., leading to speculation that he would never show up.

"Certainly Mr. Yi and his representatives want him in Milwaukee as soon as possible," general manager Larry Harris said.

His agent, Dan Fegan, had pushed for Yi to be drafted or traded to a city with a large Asian influence — or at least a larger city.

With the Olympics in Beijing next summer, Chinese officials wanted assurances that Yi, who played on China's 2004 Olympic team and



Questions remain about Yi.

2006 world championship team, would get significant playing time against the NBA's best players in an effort to sharpen his skills for those games.

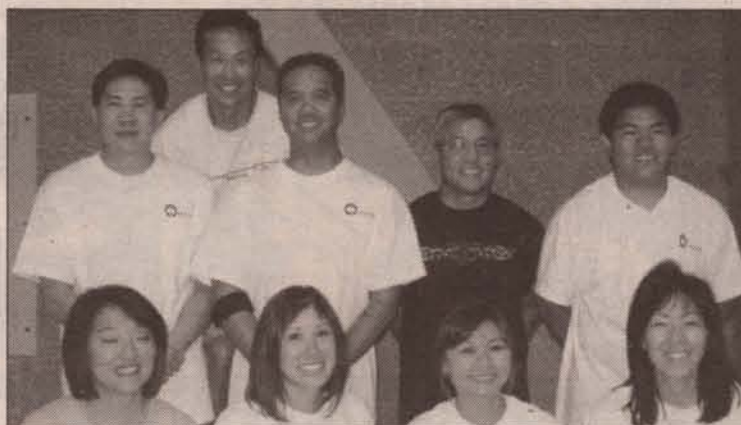
There's no guarantee Yi will make

the same impact as Yao Ming, his national teammate selected by the Houston Rockets with the first pick in 2002.

Last season, Yi posted career-high averages with 24.9 points, 11.5 rebounds and 1.8 blocks in 30.7 minutes for the Tigers of the Chinese Basketball Association.

But there are questions about his defense, strength and age, and while he flashed some skills with Team China in the Summer League in Las Vegas, he also showed he had a lot to learn, being pushed around by first and second-year players instead of the NBA's elite. ■

JACL Credit Union Holds Volleyball Tourney



The winners of the Credit Union's 6th annual tournament in Salt Lake City were the Ohana's: (pictured above, top l-r) Jeff Watanabe, Steve Chan, John Briones, Marcus Miya, Thomas Mori; (bottom, l-r) Cheryl Nakano, Faye Mitsunaga, Gloria Briones, and Julie Mori. Winner of the Competition Division was the Jumbo Shrimp team which included: Soni Hirasuna, Landon Kawabata, Stacy Nisogi, Tho Dinh, Danelle Eto, and Jeff Hirasuna. ■

TENNIS

Michael Chang to Open Tennis Academy in Shenzhen

HONG KONG—Michael Chang, the youngest male player to win a Grand Slam tennis title, will open an academy in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, media reported recently.

The announcement of Chang's plan came as China is counting down for the Beijing Olympic next August.

Chang said he aimed to nurture young Chinese players in a bid to bring the level of Chinese tennis up to the international standard, the official news agency Xinhua quoted him as saying in a press conference recently.

"I have a wish, which is to contribute my experience accumulated from playing in world tournaments to the development of ten-



nis in China," Chang was quoted saying. "I believe I have the ability to do that."

He planned to open his academy in Shenzhen's Mission Hills Country Club, where there are 51 tennis courts.

Chang, who retired in 2002, has worked with Peng Shuai, one of the country's tennis hopes in next year's Beijing Olympics, since March.

After winning the French Open — his only career major — in 1989 at age 17 years and three months, Chang rose to a career-high No. 2 ranking in 1996.


He finished seven seasons inside the top 10 and won 34 tour titles, also reaching Grand Slam finals at Roland Garros in 1995 and at the Australian Open and U.S. Opens in '96.

He is very popular in China, where he is better known by his Mandarin name Zhang Depei. ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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CHINA BASHING

(Continued from page 1)

the epicenter is on the internet.

Over a dozen Web sites are dedicated to boycotting not only Chinese goods, but relations with China itself, including Boycott-China.com, a bare site which hawks items like "Boycott China" license plate frames. For some Asian Pacific Americans, the growing anti-Chinese sentiment is eerily reminiscent of another era in American history involving another vilified Asian country and the blood of a man named Vincent Chin.

Remember 'Japan Bashing'?

At Madeintheusa.com, individuals and businesses can register as "patriots" and unite in their commitment to buy American-made products. Registered patriots can also leave inspirational messages on the site's "Patriot's Page" where Amelia of Sacramento, Calif. warned:

"If you don't buy American today, your kids will be speaking Mandarin tomorrow."

"Buy American cars!" Adam of Chesterfield, Mich. wrote in a message right next to Amelia's. "Just because Toyota has a few plants in

the U.S. now doesn't make it 'made in USA.'"

America's negative attitude towards Japanese-made products — which spiked in the 1980s because of the floundering American automotive industry — hasn't gone out of style with shoulder pads and Aqua Net hairspray. In fact, history has showed us it's contagious.

The scapegoating of Asians inevitably occurs when America experiences economic insecurity, said Scott Kurashige, an Asian/Pacific Islanders American Studies assistant professor at the University of Michigan.

"Within the U.S. there is insecurity with rising competition coming from Europe and Asia. Because Asia appears as a racial 'other,' they are easily scapegoated for American economic woes," he said.

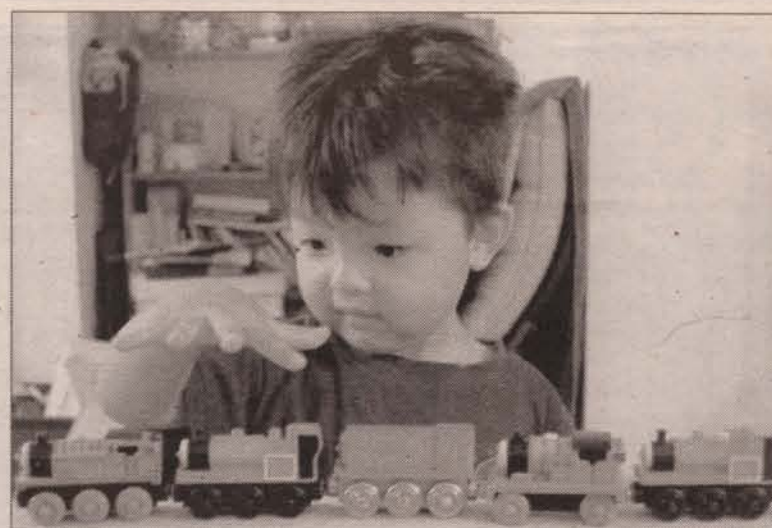
Kurashige, who is also a Detroit JACL board member, has lived in "Motor City" since 2001. America's automotive industry's "Big Three" — General Motors, the Ford Motor Company and DaimlerChrysler — have also been Detroit mainstays, but with increased global competition, many Americans famously blamed Japan's dominance of the automotive industry for snatching away industrial jobs and eroding the American dream.

Then, just like now, patriotic — and often xenophobic — campaigns were mounted to encourage consumers to "buy American" and seek out the "Made in the U.S.A." labels. Lawmakers symbolically smashed Japanese products and Japanese cars were vandalized in the darkness of night because of growing anti-Japanese sentiment.

In 1982, sentiment turned into murder when 27-year-old Highland Park, Mich. resident Vincent Chin was violently beaten to death with a baseball bat by two recently laid-off white autoworkers who assumed Chin was Japanese and therefore the reason for their lost jobs. The murder became emblematic of the APA struggle at that time, and the incidents leading up to it sound jarringly similar to what is happening today.

"The reports on Chinese made product recalls, outside of being unfair, reflect a history of distrust that Americans have had against Chinese as barbaric and uncivilized people who would do anything for a buck," said Lien Murakami, a 29-year-old mother of two from Oakland, Calif. The recalls have not changed her spending habits because her young children have countless other perfectly safe China-made products in their toy chest. A few product recalls shouldn't be a reflection on the entire country, Murakami argued.

Still, she's scared of where U.S. attitude is heading with China.



CHILD'S PLAY: Austin Tanaka, 3, plays with his train. Thomas and friends, Polly Pocket, Elmo collectibles and Birthday Dora are among some of the recent recalled China-made products.

"In that era [1980s], we had Vincent Chin. Let us hope that history does not repeat itself," she said.

'China Free' Labels Today

The U.S. and Asia have always been partners in a violent Apache dance of attraction and repugnance. On the one hand, American consumers want what Asia has to offer — Anime, Japanese inspired horror films, electronics and of course cheaply priced goods. But consumer demand is quickly followed by repulsion.

Today, concern over Asia being a cause for the demise of the American manufacturing industry is still prevalent, said Kurashige.

A day after toy giant Mattel recalled 19 million toys that either contained lead paint or magnets that could be deadly if swallowed, Shau Zavon opened up her local Cincinnati newspaper and read disturbing letters to the editors and opinion pieces about China.

"When you read something like that ... you feel a little uneasy," said Zavon, the 1st vice chair and a co-founder of the Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce. "I understand their concern, but we're all affected."

The negative publicity has been a popular subject at their chamber meetings where members say it feels like an outright attack on China. Don't get them wrong — they recognize that China needs to improve the safety and quality standards of its products, but blame shouldn't be dealt to just China, Zavon argued.

"We need to develop a global standard for product safety, not just focus on China," said Zavon, who also pointed out that products from other parts of the world also need to be scrutinized.

Murakami also noticed the hypocrisy. When products made in the U.S. are recalled there are no calls to boycott American-made products or even the products of the

companies involved.

"Even if we kept the argument to products made in foreign countries, we can note that there have been issues with toys and food from Mexico as well as European countries and yet in those cases, individual companies were held responsible rather than the countries themselves," she said.

In fact, China and Hong Kong accounted for 60 percent of product recalls in the U.S. last year, according to Edward Kang, a spokesperson for the U.S. Consumer Protection Safety Commission. The percent has been on the rise in the past few years because American companies are increasingly attracted to China.

"With tremendous growth comes lack of oversight just like what happened in this country in the 19th century," said Kurashige about the American industrial revolution.

Some American businesses are taking proactive steps to inform consumers about the safety of their products. Food for Health International, an Orem, Utah-based organic vitamin company has begun placing "China Free" labels on its product as a "safety designator," said Geoffrey Power, their marketing director.

"The labeling is in part meant to alert consumers that not all products from China are safe. Seemingly everything we touch daily is labeled 'Made in China.' This statement is meant as an alert — hopefully prompting investigation about what we ingest and how safe it is," said Power. "Our product sits in a store where 'fat-free' 'gluten-free' 'carb-free' are designators — this is meant as a similar alert."

With the Christmas buying season a few months away, two U.S. senators have also launched an offensive specifically against toys manufactured in China. Democratic Sens. Dick Durbin and Amy Klobuchar have asked the Consumer Product

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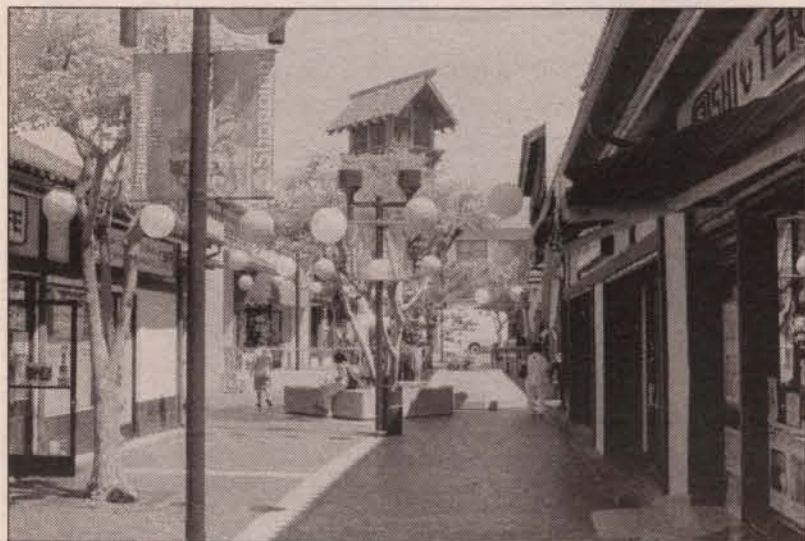
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LITTLE TOKYO

(Continued from page 1)

just making money," he added.

Ito points to 3D's track record. Right now, they are handling over 140 projects and they've kept all their projects longer than 10 years, he said.

One of 3D's holdings famously includes San Francisco Japantown's two hotels plus two-thirds of the Japantown mall. Last year's sale of the key landmarks in the 100-year-old area created turmoil and a "Save Japantown" movement that required 3D to maintain a Japanese theme and to not sell the mall for 15 years.

A year after the Japantown sale, 3D and Joie de Vivre Hospitality, the San Francisco-based hotel operator, has revamped the 125-room Best Western Miyako Hotel with J-Pop and anime themed décor. Renamed Hotel Tomo, the rooms burst with vibrant wall paintings of Japanese art and Harajuku inspired photography.

The hotel's new owner must understand the difference between Japanese culture and Japanese American culture, critics say.

"Both cultures are important to the holistic JA community. However, a community cannot simply be a collection of Japanese restaurants and anime shops. It must also include historical residents, community based organizations, community events and gatherings," said Craig Ishii, JACL Pacific Southwest regional director who stayed at Hotel Tomo for the recent JACL board meeting.

In Los Angeles, where questions continue to linger weeks after the sales were finalized, community leaders are demanding answers.

A special task force was constituted to investigate and address the recent sales after an Aug. 29 informal meeting, said Chris Aihara, executive director of the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Little Tokyo.

Representatives from 3D met with Aihara for lunch Sept. 4 to discuss concerns and plans for the future.

The new owner's said they are looking to maintain the quality of the hotel and shopping center, but they don't have any specific plans yet, said Aihara, who gave them a copy of the Little Tokyo Planning and Design Guidelines and discussed the importance of the district's history.

"They said the success of Little Tokyo is to their best interest," said Aihara.

The fact that 3D has now bought property in two of the last three Japantowns raises red flags, she added.

"I think that's one of the things that we would like to talk about. I know the sale in San Francisco was not easy and not without controversy," she said. "We would like to work in unity in the community to establish stronger objectives and set a precedence for future development."

Little Tokyo's First Street has national historic designation, but not the community overall, added Aihara. "I think the next step is we need to push for area protection."

But Little Tokyo isn't the same place the Nisei called home — it's changing and the sale of its key landmarks may be signifying a new future out of the hands of JA community groups.

"Even though the name is Little Tokyo ... a lot of the businesses have now been sold to non-Japanese companies," said Ito.

Little Tokyo's Changing Face

"We have already seen signs," said Tom Kamei, a former structural engineer who helped build and design about 20 buildings in Little Tokyo. These days, the Kibei Nisei from Pasadena walks the streets of the community he helped to redevelop and sees corporate names like Subway and Pinkberry.

"I guess it was only a matter of time."

Little Tokyo has always been in flux. Before Weller Court's retail shops and restaurants, the now pedestrian-only Astronaut E. S. Onizuka Street was named Weller

'We have already seen signs ... I guess it was only a matter of time.'

— Tom Kamei, about the changes in Little Tokyo

In July, American Commercial Equities bought the Japanese Village Plaza, a 29-year-old outdoor mall, for an undisclosed amount.

Street, according to Kamei, past president of the Little Tokyo Community Council and a board member of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

It was also the hub of Japanese American community activity with a three-story brick building that housed a number of community and cultural organizations. At the corner of Weller and East 1st Streets a very popular restaurant once served authentic sushi for the first time in Los Angeles. But it all had to be sacrificed for the new hotel and retail shopping mall that stands today.

The 21-story, 434-room New Otani Hotel opened in 1977 despite community protest. In Weller Court, Kamei put a little of himself in the design of the structure. Now, the blind sale has embittered the community that originally sacrificed its space for the landmarks.

"I feel very bad about this," said Kamei. "I put my heart and soul into it and to see it taken away from us is terrible."

During a recent weekend Ondo Festival, talk centered around the sale. Amidst the dancing and festivities, people passed around newspaper articles and expressed amazement and irritation that the sale had gone on without any input from the community.

The New Otani and Weller Court are important landmarks and backdrops for community celebrations and events, said Perry.

With all the ownership changes, the community has been grappling with an unsettling feeling. In July, American Commercial Equities bought the Japanese Village Plaza, a 29-year-old outdoor mall, for an undisclosed amount. The new owner announced upgrade plans for the plaza, but longtime tenants worry about rent increases or worse — getting pushed out.

American Commercial has met with community leaders a few times, but more follow up is needed, said Aihara.

Almost overnight, luxury loft and

See LITTLE TOKYO/Page 15

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- Oct. 15 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - \$3795 - Tokyo - Japan Sea - Sado Island - Kanazawa - Amanohashidate - Kinokuni - Matsue - Izumo Taisha - Mt. Daisen - Kyoto.
- Oct. 29 Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" \$3595 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Isle of Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
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SOLLY GANOR**(Continued from page 3)**

book, "Visas for Life," she includes the passage: "Chiune Sugihara's decision to issue visas may have been influenced by an eleven-year-old boy named Solly Ganor."

It is something Solly humbly acknowledges as he helps spread the story of the Japanese consul who saved 6,000 Jews during WWII.

"He was the only lighthouse in a sea of darkness at the time," he said, recalling his days in Lithuania playing with the Sugiharas two young boys as Yukiko brought them sweet desserts and tea.

Although Solly's family was one of the first to receive the precious visas from Sugihara, the Russian occupation of their country at the time had rendered their Lithuanian passports invalid. They could not escape the Nazis and the family found themselves in the Kovno ghetto. Later Solly and his father were sent to a satellite camp of Dauchau, Lager X. Solly's sister and mother were sent to the Stutthof concentration camp. His mother passed away at that camp of typhoid fever.

Although Solly's family did not directly benefit from the visas, Solly treasures the kindness of a man willing to help his fellow Jews during a time when many turned their backs.

Sugihara "enabled the next generation to flourish. We were like people saved from death," he said.

Today, more than 40,000 "Sugihara survivors" continue to spread the story of Chiune Sugihara, a man who defied direct government orders to do the right thing.

"Sugihara followed his heart. He always did in many aspects of his life," said Anne Akabori, chair of the Visas for Life Foundation. "He always believed human life was God's most precious gift."

Spreading the Word

From his home in Herzlia, Israel Solly spends his days writing articles about his Holocaust experiences and running his own Web site.

Solly's personal experiences have also served to form a close bond between the Japanese and Jewish communities. At many of his speaking engagements the rooms are filled with members from both communities.

"There are a lot of similarities between the two communities — the World War II internment, the ghettoization of Jews," said Saul. "For both groups they became canaries in a mine, a warning bell that this shouldn't happen again."

"It's a fantastic story. It gives everyone hope that we can learn to do the right thing," said Silver.

At 80, Solly shows no signs of slowing down. Later this year he will attend an event at New York's Carnegie Hall and will also travel to Toronto, Canada.

"I'm spreading the word," said

MEETING**(Continued from page 3)**

In April, membership dipped significantly because membership renewal mailings went out late, Kobayashi reported to the national board.

"It appears that the switch to the new version of Raiser's Edge [fundraising software] database may have caused some problems in our membership process. Going forward, I believe these issues will be ironed out and it will be key for everyone to get behind developing and increasing membership," he added.

Edwin Endow, JACL vice president of membership, has answered the call to action. He announced at the meeting that he is launching a one-month push for new and returning members "to get it back in September."

Solly. "It's important to keep doing this. We should tell everybody about such a cataclysmic event ... a warning of what happens when you allow dictators to take over your lives. It's an important message that goes through to our younger generation."

Solly Ganor's Web site: www.ron-greene.com/solly.html
Visas for Life Foundation:
www.visasforlife.org

A Robust Present, An Eye on the Future

At present, JACL is doing well, according to June financial reports. Fundraising goals are slightly ahead of schedule and the May 19 tribute dinner for John Tateishi, immediate past JACL national director, brought in approximately \$11,000.

With Mori's leadership, the organization is also beginning to develop new revenue sources.

"We are developing new corporate partners who are anxious to partner with the JACL and we will for the first time have a major foundation who will be funding some of our new activities," said Mori. "This renewed interest in the JACL comes from the fact that we are moving in new directions and are filling staff positions that will help us complete our organizational objectives."

JACL's investment funds are also all in the positive.

As of June 30, the Legacy Fund is at \$6.6 million, the National Endowment sits at \$465,878, the Life Trust is at \$509,120 and the Reserve Fund is at \$402,003.

A Strong Finish

Board members emphasized that the organization's continued financial health will be based on membership and the Sept. 12 inaugural JACL gala dinner.

"A Salute to Champions Gala Dinner" will honor community leaders and groups like Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and State Farm Insurance. The event also has lofty fundraising goals — revenue from the gala dinner is hoped to reach \$200,000 with an allocation of \$55,000 to go towards helping the budget's bottom-line. Proceeds from the fundraising event will help fund a Sen. Daniel K. Inouye fellowship.

Overall, board members agree that the first half of the biennium has been productive for the JACL — many national staff positions have been filled, the organization successfully completed an audit and membership software has been upgraded.

But with the help of JACL members, the organization needs to close the year strongly. ■

For more information about the JACL Gala Dinner, go to www.jacl.org.

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American Holiday Travel

2007 Tour Program

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

Buenos Aires, Trelew, Ushuaia, Calafate, Torres del Paine, Punta Arenas,
Puerto Montt, Lake Crossing, Bariloche, Santiago. Meet local Ninkels. Extension to Peru.

2008 Tour Preview

PANAMA CANAL/CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE JAN 11-22

St. Lauderdale, Bahamas, Curacao, Aruba, Panama Canal, Costa Rica.
HOLLAND AMERICA Volendam Ship.

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR FEB 3-11

• See 5 Snow/Ice Festivals, Sapporo, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Asahikawa,
Otaru, Shiraoi, Noboribetsu. Ride icebreaker ship "Aurora."

BRANSON/MEMPHIS/NASHVILLE HOLIDAY TOUR MAR 26-APR 3

St. Louis, Branson, Little Rock/Tunica, Memphis, Nashville. Shoji Tabuchi Show,
Elvis Presley's Graceland, Clinton Presidential Library/Museum, Grand Ole Opry Show.

JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR MAR 26-APR 7

Fukuoka, Hagii, Iwakuni Kintaiishi, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu,
Shodo Island, Okayama, Himeji Castle, Kyoto. Cherry blossom season.

NEW YORK/LAKE COUNTRY HOLIDAY TOUR MAY 10-17

New York City, Corning, Finger Lake, Cooperstown, Lake George, Kingston,
Hudson Valley, West Point Military Academy, FDR National Historic Site.

SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR JUNE 12-23

100th Year Anniversary Celebration of Japanese Immigration to Brazil in Sao Paulo,
Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires. OPTION: Peru-Lima, Machu Picchu.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUNE 29-JULY 8

Tokyo, Lake Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto.

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE JULY 20-27

Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City.
HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.

CANADIAN ROCKIES TRAIN HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 7-14

Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria City. Rocky Mountaineer Train.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE SEPT 11-24

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Calendar

National

Wed., Sept. 12—Gala Dinner, "A Salute to Champions Gala Dinner"; J.W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; honorees include Sen. Daniel Inouye, Ambassador Ryozo Kato, Sen. Larry Craig, Karen Narasaki and State Farm Insurance Company; \$200/person, \$2,000/table of 10; proceeds will help fund a Sen. Daniel Inouye Fellowship; Info: 202/223-1240 or gala@jacl.org.

Midwest

DENVER
Sat., Sept. 22—Mile-Hi JACL and Denver OCA Potluck Dinner, Social and Program; Tamai Towers Penthouse, 1255 19th St.; please bring a homemade ethnic dish; featuring a demonstration of Japanese and Chinese dishes and Keiko Kawahara of Guarantee Bank will speak on protecting yourself from fraud scams.
Sat., Sept. 29—Japanese Association of Colorado 100th Anniversary Celebration; 6-7 p.m. social hour, 7-10 p.m. banquet and program; Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, Colo.; keynote speaker, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb; \$25.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND
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, taste miso soup and toast the rising moon; \$25/members, \$35/non-members and reservations are required. RSVP: 503/542-0280, www.japanesegarden.com/events/moonviewing#reservations or events@japanesegarden.com.

Intermountain

ALBUQUERQUE
Sun., Sept. 30—Aki Matsuri 2007 "Shodo: Way of the Brush, Where Writing Becomes Art"; 10-6 p.m.; National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St., SW; \$3 fundraising/admission fee; Info: Esther Churchwell, 6kalani4@comcast.net or 505/883-5320.

Northern California

SACRAMENTO
Fri., Sept. 21—Shigin Presentation; 7 p.m.; Asian Community Center, 7375 Park City Dr.; shigin is an ancient form of chanting poetry; registration begin at 6:30 p.m.; \$5/donation. Info and reservations, 916/422-9893 or jkpca21@yahoo.com.
SAN FRANCISCO
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 15-16—International Taiko Festival 2007; Sat. 2 and 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St.; \$42 (senior and student discounts available). Box office, 415/978-2787 or ybca.org. Info: 415/928-2456 or sftaiko.com.
Thurs., Sept. 27—American Friends Service Committee's 65th Anniversary dinner, "Across Generations: 65 Years



SING! Asian Pacific Americans on Broadway visits Los Angeles' Aratani/Japan America Theater Sept. 16. The performance features new songs and classic hits from Broadway shows.

of Compassion, Community & Justice.
SAN JOSE

Sat., Oct. 27—6th Annual San Jose JACL Community Recognition Dinner; Holiday Inn San Jose; \$75/person; dinner will also feature a silent auction and benefit drawing. Info: Jeff Yoshioka, 408/363-8191 or jyoshioka@msn.com.

Central California

FRESNO
Sat., Oct. 13—Fresno Gumyo Taiko's 20th Anniversary Concert; 7 p.m.; Fresno High Auditorium; featuring a special performance by Las Vegas Kaminari Taiko; \$10. Tickets can be purchased from any Fresno Gumyo Taiko member, Fresno Buddhist Church, Kubo Orthodontic Group of Sophie Nagao at 559/896-6283.

Southern California

LONG BEACH
Sun., Sept. 16—PSW 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 or sponsorship opportunities: 213/626-4471 or psw@jacl.org.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Sept. 15—Workshop, "Finding the Next Chapter President"; 9-4 p.m.; JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; a broad range of topics from how to recruit new chapter presidents, clinical pearls of being chapter president and Chapter Presidency 101; deadline to sign up is Sept. 11. Info or to register: PSW

JACL, 213/626-4471 or psw@jacl.org.

Sun., Sept. 16—Performance, Asian Americans on Broadway; 3 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St.; featuring some of the top Asian American artists on Broadway performing new songs and classics from hit Broadway musicals. Info: www.jaccc.org.

Sun., Sept. 30—Aki Matsuri Boutique; 9:30-3:30 p.m.; Venice Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr.; featuring clothing, jewelry; handmade gifts, food and much more; vendors accept cash or check only. Info: Jean, 310/390-6914.

Hawaii

HONOLULU
Sat., Sept. 29—"Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner presented by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; 5 p.m.; Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom; \$150/person. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633 or info@jccch.com.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS
Oct. 2-4—Jerome Reunion, "The Last Round-Up"; California Hotel and Casino; buffet luncheon, \$25/person, RSVP by Aug. 20 to: Jerome Reunion Committee, 519 W. 157th St., Gardena, CA 90248; Nisei Charter Bus Lines is available from Gardena and Long Beach. Info: George Nakayama, 310/323-4789, Masato "Milt" Fukuda, 310/327-3923 or Margie (Nakamura) Tanaka, 562/402-3326.

CHINA BASHING

(Continued from page 11)

Safety Commission to launch a "detain and test" program for toys made in China.

"A family going inside a toy store shouldn't have to play Chinese roulette to try to guess what toys are safe for their kids," Durbin said at an Aug. 27 news conference at the Bernice E. Lavin Children's Care Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Who Do We Blame?

"When I heard that Elmo and Dora toys were tainted I felt more anger towards the money-grubbing American companies than the Chinese manufacturers," said Pomponi Butler. "It just really became clear that they don't have our kids' best interests at heart, they just want to make money."

Although product safety is a problem both countries need to tackle, the recent recalls would most likely not affect trade relations between the U.S. and China, said Stephen Norton, a spokesperson for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in Washington, D.C.

"Do we need to make sure toys are safe? Yes. Do we terminate trade with your fourth or fifth largest trading partner because some products are potentially unsafe? No," said Norton.

The U.S. trade deficit with China

from January to June 2007 is \$117.5 billion, a 15.3 percent increase from the same time last year, said Norton. People tend to blame international trade for economic issues, he added.

Norton remembers members of Congress smashing Japanese-made goods in the 1980s and books warning of a Japanese takeover. But then Japan went into a 12-year recession. Before people get terrified that China is going to take over, remember that the American economy is doing remarkably well, added Norton.

"Blaming China and blaming Asians is a form of stereotyping and racism, but it also evades the serious responsibilities we have about the meaning of work and ways to make a living in postindustrial society," said Kurashige. "We decry outsourcing to China and other countries, but at the same time we go shopping at places like Wal-Mart that are peddling to China. At what point do we stop seeing ourselves as victims?"

It's a wake up call, he added. "Stereotyping China gets us nowhere. We need to think about these decisions we make as consumers. Everyone needs to make healthy choices rather than go after the cheapest product." ■

For more information on product recalls: www.cpsc.gov

Old 'Made in the USA' commercial: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=xm3IXeAYEVg>

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By Thelma Robinson



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Seating is limited. Make reservations at 626-449-7783 (24 Hrs), or fax 626-449-7785.

LITTLE TOKYO

(Continued from page 12)

condominium complexes have changed the skyline and face of Little Tokyo. Next to the Hikari, a multi-level apartment building on the corner of Second and Alameda Streets, sushi restaurants stand like sentinels from Little Tokyo's past. Starting at \$1,650, Angelenos can live in Hikari's one-bedroom studio and overlook Honda Plaza, an old Little Tokyo mainstay.

"Little Tokyo is in danger," said Ishii. "I see Little Tokyo in danger of further losing the sense of community that it used to have."

Japanese Enclaves of the Future

It didn't take long for Little Tokyo's news to get to San Jose Japantown. At an Aug. 28 community meeting, talk was focused on 3D's purchases in San Francisco and now Los Angeles.

After all, San Jose's Japantown is the last enclave uncharted by 3D.

"People have been wary about it. What kind of company is it?" said Kathy Sakamoto, executive director of the San Jose Japantown Business Association.

Rumors have been swirling about 3D seeking to buy other properties near San Francisco's Japantown. But San Jose is not worried.

"Everything here is owned by organizations or people, not big companies. If 3D were to come here, it would take a lot to buy a block because they have to talk to so many people," said Sakamoto.

In Los Angeles, however, the tension is palpable.

"Even right now I don't know why [Kajima] sold it," said Shigeki Matsuda, owner of Orochon Ramen, a popular restaurant on the third floor of Weller Court. "They may change everything. They may put in American shops. I don't know anything. Of course I'm concerned."

Matsuda is in an especially vulnerable position — his restaurant's five-year lease is up at the end of the month. He has another five-year option, but he doesn't know who to talk to.

On a hot weekend as the lunch hour crowd begins to stream into his restaurant, Matsuda says if he opens up another restaurant, he would scout out locations in other Japanese enclaves in West Los Angeles' Sawtelle District or Torrance. But he wants to maintain a presence in Little Tokyo.

"This is where my customers are," he said.

For many, Little Tokyo is more than just eight blocks of city space. Kamei was born on Terminal Island, a former Japanese community located between Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors. Now his hometown has turned into an industrial wasteland.

"I've been in and around this area working and being part of different community organizations since 1950," said Kamei about Little Tokyo. "I feel that this is my hometown. The place where I was born is gone. This is my hometown. It's very dear to me. It's shocking to see what's happening." ■

In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Abe, Tomiko Sugi, 90, Livonia, Mich., June 19; survived by daughter, Caryn (Dennis) Haupt; 1 gc.; brother, Chihiro and Charles Sugi; sister, Fumiko Kobayashi; and sister-in-law, Miyo Abe.

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.

Higano, Dr. Norio, 86, Westborough, Mass., June 16; survived by wife, Dorothy; daughters, Dr. Celestia Higano (Dr. Jack Singer) and Priscilla (Jon) Rohrer; son, Dr. Stuart (Karen); 7 gc.; and sister, Dr. Aiko Higano Kodama.

Hino, Alice Morihito, Jan. 18; survived by son, Mark; daughter, Alison; and sister, Nancy Cowan.

Hiroshima, Rosalie Fumiko, 84, Buena Park, July 7; survived by daughters, Grace Allison and June (Gregg) Walsh; sons, Richard (Sandy) and Norman; 4 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Roy Kunisawa; sisters, Carolyn Fujishige, Barbara (George Sr.) Shimono, Nancy (Hiro) Sakioka, Linda (Kenji) Miyai, Sharon Kunisawa and Janett Komatsu; and sister-in-law, Lily Kunizawa.

Kato, James Kazuo, 93, Gardena, July 10; survived by wife,

Pioneering Journalist 'Jookie' Ku Dies at 97

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Ah Jook "Jookie" Ku, the first Asian American reporter for the Associated Press and the first AA female writer for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, passed away on Aug. 6. She was 97.



One of 15 children, Ku was born in Kailua, Hawaii on April 24, 1910. After winning a scholarship to the Mid-Pacific Institute, in 1933 she earned an education degree from the University of Hawaii. Two years later she attended the prestigious University of

Mary; sons, Richard (Eileen) and Bob (Kathleen); daughters, Kaisy and Violet (William) Dresser; and 5 gc.

Machida, Dr. Roy C., 82, Los Angeles, Aug. 16; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by wife, Fumy; daughters, Sharon (Dan) Okada, Kiyo (Douglas) Woodruff, Debra and Linda (Geoff) Grundy; 5 gc.; and sister, Mary (Machida) Okada.

Sugimoto, Sarah, 94, Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 18; survived by daughters, Mary, Dolores (Daryl) Schmidt and Grace (Martin) Roffe; son, Dean; 7 gc.; 2 ggc.; sisters, Sue Maeda and Kimi Kaneshige; brother, Tom (Miya) Nakao; brother-in-law, Yutaka Semba; and sister-in-

Missouri School of Journalism.

During the 1940s she headed to China covering the government of President Chiang Kai-Shek. After returning to Hawaii she worked in the public relations field and retired in 1975 after working as a public information specialist with the state Department of Education.

For more than 25 years Ku was involved with the Honolulu Community Media Council, continuing her dedication to the principles of fair and honest journalism.

In 2002, the Council presented Ku with the Fletcher Knebel Award for outstanding contributions in journalism.

She is survived by sister Yuk Jun "Junnie" Joseph of Honolulu. ■

law, Mitzi Nakao.

Uno, Shigeko, 92, Bellevue, Wash., Aug. 10; 1st woman president of the Seattle JACL and remained active until her death; survived by daughters, Naomi Sakamoto, Sheila Tsuji, Geraldine Tanaka and Deborah Uno; son, Glenn, 17 gc.; 31 ggc. and two brothers in Japan.

Yada, Henry, 82, Carlsbad, July 8; survived by wife, Itsuko; sons, Michael, James, Frank and Sonny; daughter, Penny Inada; 6 gc.; brothers, George and Shinzo; and sister, Yoshiko Honda. ■

DEATH NOTICE

KATHRYN SANAE IGE-GUILLEN

Kathryn Sanae Ige-Guillen, 53, passed away at her home in Poway. Born Feb. 13, 1954 in Honolulu, Hawaii, she moved to Los Angeles in 1957 and then to San Diego in 2001. Kathryn graduated from Long Beach State University and worked for the Los Angeles City, Department of Water and Power for 17 years. She was the first female electrician hired in her division. She was an avid snow skier, tireless volunteer worker, meticulous planner of holiday parties for family and friend and enjoyed vacationing in Hawaii. She is survived by her husband, Samuel; daughter, Kalani; parents, Saburo and Alice Ige; and brothers, Fred and Rodney Ige. A memorial service was held Aug. 26 at the Pasadena Buddhist Church.

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COMMENTARY

Capitalizing on a Dream

By BRANDON MITA

I wonder how many school children, when asked by their grade school teachers what they want to be when they grow up, stand up with both hands waving frantically in the air and shout, "I want to be a not-for-profit civil rights attorney!"

This is not to say that I boldly stood before a classroom and pronounced my undying aspirations to remain at a non-profit pay grade for the majority of my career. Instead, for the longest time, I followed trends without understanding and said I wanted to be an astronaut, a professional basketball player or a video game tester.

It was not until my undergraduate years at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) that I began to solidify my moral compass. I knew I wanted a career that worked towards the many notions of equality that, to this day, are severely lacking for people of color; be it affordable housing, access to quality healthcare or the education we receive in our classrooms.

As many of my friends who have recently graduated will openly say, the hardest part of it all is when we

need to start looking for jobs. In fact, many of my friends who stood on the picket lines with me for the creation of an Asian American Studies program at UIC, eventually sold themselves out for a cushy corporate job. I can't blame them for looking for any type of income to offset the costs of their high-priced education. I won't hide the fact that I was one of the few lucky ones.

When Bill Yoshino called me and asked if I would be interested in a one-year national JACL fellowship at the Midwest office, I kept my cool on the phone, but was actually jumping up and down in jubilation in the crowded hallway. Looking back at that exact moment, the kids walking by me must have thought I was a raving lunatic.

Now I look back at the year I spent with JACL and see it as a crossroads of my future. From the many things I worked on, I have come to understand the complex nature of the oldest and largest APA civil rights organization in the U.S. As a quasi-member of the national JACL staff, I assisted with the research and formation of national JACL policy, addressed issues of hate crimes and hate incidents, assisted in presenting

workshops on college campuses and tried to involve myself with the JACL National Youth/Student Council as much as I possibly could.

In reflection, what I was doing could not be considered real work because of the amount of fun I had. From the two years I spent on the Chicago chapter board before signing on the dotted line for national JACL, I was already hooked on volunteering. Frankly, the fellowship stipend I received for the work each month was just a huge bonus.

More than the great contacts I made, and more than overcoming my fear of public speaking, the one thing that this fellowship gave me that I will truly cherish is the family I now feel I have with the national JACL program staff. Having a star-studded array of people, which include Bill Yoshino, John Tateishi, Karen Yoshitomi, Patty Wada and Floyd Mori, gave me the confidence to struggle with the issues day-in and day-out as well as voice my opinion when I felt that something needed to be addressed.

'Now I look back at the year I spent with JACL and see it as a crossroads of my future.'

— Brandon Mita, former JACL fellow



I cannot find too many instances where a person in a fellowship position can have the ability to be heard and have his/her opinions taken seriously. This position allowed for such open dialogue and it has done nothing but boost my belief in myself to move forward. I will miss the work and the staff dearly, but I hope that one day I will be able to rejoin their ranks and help JACL reach its goals for the future. I thank Bill Yoshino and the Ford Fund for its generosity in giving me the opportunity to work for the JACL.

This fall, I will be starting a new

journey as a law student at Howard University and in large part, my reasons for going to one of the most prestigious historical black colleges stems from my time at JACL. I hope to leave Howard with a well-rounded perspective on how I may be able to combat the many forms of oppression, racism and injustice that are still ongoing within and towards communities of color.

Lastly, having worked for the majority of my year empowering students to become more involved within various communities and with JACL, I want to encourage more of my Japanese American brothers and sisters to take advantage of the amazing opportunities JACL has to offer.

My Facebook networks have grown tremendously and my United Mileage Plus bonus miles have racked me a couple of free trips back and forth from my future home in Washington, D.C. to my old neighborhood in Chicago. So, if you are interested in the fellowship and are looking for more detailed information, contact the JACL. ■

Brandon Mita recently served as the JACL Ford fellow. For more info on the fellowship contact: Midwest@jacu.org.

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