**Fujiyama Siblings Dedicate Themselves to Helping Honduran Orphans**

Shin and Cosmo Fujiyama saw a need in this impoverished country and founded Students Helping Honduras. So far they have raised close to $500,000, founded a school, and are currently building 75 houses. All this and they are recent college grads.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Within the city limits of El Progreso, Honduras, neon colored lights from the local nightclubs and the famous yellow arches of McDonald’s can sometimes mask the abject poverty of its residents. But just a few miles away in the squatter village of Siete de Abril, makeshift tin and cardboard homes and the bulging bellies of malnourished children show poverty in stark reality.

In this dilapidated community, siblings Shin, 24, and Cosmo Fujiyama, 22, have decided to make a difference. And so far they’ve done more than anyone could have expected.

As founders of Students Helping Honduras (SHH), the Fujiyamas have

**Young APA Swimmer Conquers the English Channel**

Kianna Lee overcame seasickness, seaweed attacks and fear to win a world record and a new perspective.

By LYNDAY LIN
Assistant Editor

Kianna Lee never used to consider herself to be very tough. The 12-year-old is terrified of the dark. She refuses to watch scary movies and fears getting shots at the doctor’s office. But in the water, Kianna is a fierce competitor with a world record. The world’s first woman to swim across the English Channel in one sitting, Kianna set her sights on the world record in 2004.

In August, Kianna, along with her Colorado Open Water Swimmers (COWS) teammates became the youngest relay team in history to complete the 23.5-mile swim across the English Channel.

On a gloomy Aug. 9 morning, Kianna slipped into the bone chilling 64-degree water for her journey from Dover, England to Cap Griz Nez, France — without a wetsuit. In order for the record to stick, wetsuits are prohibited, so Kianna swam in a

**Diaries Give a Glimpse of the Role of Religion Behind Barbwire**

Through war, peace and incarceration, Rev. Daisho Tana wrote his innermost feelings in paperbound diaries. Now they are getting translated into English.

By LYNDAY LIN
Assistant Editor

Today, this ‘American Buddhist’ both as an ideal and as a reality, is on the verge of flourishing. It is a true honor to be able to give myself fully to this new American Buddhism at such a crucial time. — Rev. Daisho Tana, Jan. 28, 1942.

It was a dramatic time for the Buddhist priest living in Lompoc, Calif. War had broken out and suspicion of Japanese Americans was at a high. But in a time of crisis, Daisho found a purpose.

From the Pearl Harbor attack to the images of nine stone-faced students walking amidst armed police officers, the national guards and an angry crowd. Amidst Racial Tension, JAs Found Acceptance

Fifty years after the Little Rock Central High School integration crisis, former JA students reflect on their ‘normal’ high school experiences.

By LYNDAY LIN
Assistant Editor

Kaz Oishi’s high school memories are crowded with recollections of long bus rides through rural Arkansas and triumphant moments like winning a four-year scholarship on a local television show in the 11th grade. His descriptions of his upbringing in the outskirts of the city of Litttle Rock paint a picture of an average American working class life — not a footnote in American history.

But Kaz is almost inextricably linked to history, mainly because he was there. After his junior year, Kaz’s small high school in the city of Scott was closed down because of low enrollment. The next year, Kaz was bussed to Little Rock Central High School; the same year the all-white school was famously forced to integrate.

“That was an interesting year,” said Kaz, 67, who now lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1957, LIttle Rock Central was the epicenter of the civil rights movement when nine black students were denied entrance despite the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling ordering the integration of public schools. The images are indelibly ingrained in history books and the minds of many who lived through that period of racial tension — nine stone-faced students walking amidst armed police officers, the national guards and an angry crowd.

Back then it wasn’t just the so-called “Little Rock Nine;” there were also three Japanese Americans — brothers Kaz and Tosh Oishi and Frank Nakamura — who were navigating the halls of Little Rock Central during a time of tumult.

See LITTLE ROCK H.S./Page 3
Letters to the Editor

An Insult to JA Veterans

I am afraid the national JACL has opened up a can of worms with their recent resolution to increase support for 1st Lt. Ehren Watada and I fear that this controversial decision will divide the JA community even worse than the apology to the Resisters. There are some points I want to make here:

1. When a person joins the military, a new set of military laws and regulations take effect.

2. Lt. Watada wants to compare himself to the “resisters of conscience” from World War II. We flatly disagree with that assertion. Watada’s act was an act of military disobedience, not civil disobedience. About the only thing Watada has in common with the “resisters of conscience” is that they both made their decisions voluntarily.

3. Watada and his supporters want to claim the war in Iraq is unconstitutional. Though there is much opposition to the war in Iraq and the continued troop deployment there, no court or the U.S. Congress has declared it unconstitutional.

4. For Lt. Watada to try to assert the “Nuremberg defense” as part of his defense in refusing to deploy to Iraq is ludicrous to me. Yes, a soldier does have the right to refuse to follow an order which they consider to be illegal, however, deployment to Iraq in itself is not an illegal order.

5. The assertion that this second court-martial is double jeopardy baffles me. Someone just watching “Law & Order” or “CourtTV” knows that only if a court trial has gone the full process to an acquittal, does double jeopardy become involved.

I considered the relationship between the national JACL and the Nisei veterans prior to the resolution supporting Lt. Watada to have been an uneasy one, but now, I can’t predict what the long-term fallout or damage will be from this. I know today, I can’t join an organization which so brazenly makes decisions which they know will not only divide the community, but also continue to disenfranchise the proud veterans who gave so much for us to be where we are today.

LOREN ISHI
Commander, Sacramento Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8985

A Name Change for JACL?

I think that unilaterally changing the name of JACL to Asian American Citizens League is a terrible idea.

Consider these facts: The JACL membership is mainly JAs. There are Chinese American, Vietnamese American, Filipinos, Asian American, and other APA organizations. Although the mission of all of these organizations stress looking after the welfare of all APAs, in actuality they are primarily interested in the welfare of their own racial group.

Has anybody thought of what the name change would involve? It would mean a complete reorganization of our JACL. It would mean taking care of all the different Asian nation groups that have people living in the U.S. Do you think JACL has the funds and the expertise to take care of the problems, the achievements of all these Asian groups? It would mean expanding the Pacific Citizen to cover all Asian matters.

Do you feel that we can handle this unilaterally? Do you think that the different groups will join our coalition when we change our name? What will happen to their organizations that exist presently?

What about our national board? Our staff, districts, chapters will have to be reorganized; our constitution will have to be rewritten.

I would recommend keeping the JACL as it is and suggest forming a working coalition of all the existing APA organizations — an umbrella organization to work for the good of all APAs.

Ed Mitoma
South Bay JACL

COMMENTARY

‘One is Silver and the Other is Gold’

By EDWIN ENDOW
Nat’l V.P. of Membership

“Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold.”

Most of you have heard these words. Many of you have probably sung this jingle around a campfire. I remember the truth of the words striking me 45 years ago the same as they do today. It’s true that jingles are timeless.

For the past three years, I have been encouraging you to get one new member for JACL. Many of you have done just that and have done a wonderful job. During the month of September we are embarking on another membership campaign — one to get back our lapsed members.

We will be sending out notices to former JACL members from 2005 to present asking them to rejoin. During the second half of September, each chapter will also contact their lapsed members by telephone to personally ask them to rejoin.

If you would like to help out, please contact your chapter president. Most of the time all it takes is a short phone call to do the job because it shows that someone cares enough to personally ask.

These new memberships have re-energized my commitment to recruiting new members. Dr. John and Angelina Fujii of the Stockton chapter recently signed up their two-year-old daughter Elise for a life membership! And just recently, I had the pleasure of accepting a gift membership from our former National President Ken Inouye for his granddaughter Anelia who just turned three months old. I think that she is currently the youngest member of the JACL. Her proud parents are JACLers Nicole Inouye and Eric Kawaguchi of the SELANOCO chapter.

It encourages me that folks feel so strongly about the mission and purpose of JACL to introduce their children and grandchildren to its traditions. I hope this message does the same for you. There are still many mountains of injustice, ignorance, prejudice, and hate that have to be moved. The bigger and stronger the JACL, the better we can move those mountains.

So as you think about whom to recruit for JACL, remember that jingle. A lapsed member or a new member, they are both important and count the same. As the membership motto goes, “EVERY ONE COUNTS” — “One is silver and the other is gold.”

Edwin Endow can be reached at vpmember-ship@jacl.org.
"There were a few students that were very vocal and demonstrative against the black students being there."

— Frank Nakamura, who attended Little Rock Central

THERE AND NOW: Kaz Oishi (pictures left) in his 1958 yearbook photo and in June 2007 (above) at his daughter’s wedding. L-R: Kaz, his wife Ann, daughter Meeko Mitsuko Karen Oishi, son-in-law Dan Blaugrund and Kevin Takashi Oishi.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL H.S.

(Continued from page 1)

‘Overall, high school was a positive experience.’

“...I always wondered how they felt,” said Elizabeth Eckford about her JA classmates. Eckford, now 66, was one of the “Little Rock Nine” immortalized in photos on Sept. 4, 1957, clutching a notebook and calmly walking away from an angry crowd. She never had any classes with Kaz, Tosh or Frank, but she remembered them.

“They were always together,” she said. In the crush of bodies in the hallways there was always space around them and when kids gathered in the auditorium, she noticed there were always empty seats next to them.

There were only a handful of JA families living in Arkansas between 1957-59, according to Sonda Gordy, an associate professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas. But the state had historically been inhospitable to Illinoris outside of housing thousands of JAs in the Jerome and Rohwer internment camps.

“You have to realize that in World War II, Japanese Americans were far from welcome to our state — and since Homer Adkins was a former governor during the war, it was integrated. He didn’t personal­ly experience or witness any racial problems at least none that were directed at him.

Back then, you were either black or white, you were white. If you weren’t black, then you were accepted as white, said Kaz, who also admitted at sometimes feeling trapped “some­where in no man’s land.”

On the day the “Little Rock Nine” was supposed to attend Little Rock Central, Kaz remembers seeing the national guards and later the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division sur­round the building.

“Inside the school, the teachers kept control really well,” said Kaz. Frank did not feel intimidated or threatened by the troops at all.

“It was merely a novel experience seeing the troops at my school though, of course, I understood that they were there to control the crowd of parents who were protesting the desegregation. My view of the student reaction to the black students is that they, on the whole, received [the “Little Rock Nine”] peacefully and some even reached out to them in friendship. There were a few students that were very vocal and demonstrative against the black students being there,” said Frank.

From 1958-59, Gov. Orval Faubus closed all high schools in Little Rock to avoid further integra­tion, forcing many students includ­ing Frank and Tosh to transfer to yet another school.

A suspect has been charged with first-degree murder for the drowning death of a Vietnamese fisherman. Officials call the act ‘random.’

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Chicago police have not yet classified the Sept. 1 drowning death of a Vietnamese fisherman as a hate crime, but Asian Pacific American groups say he was targeted because of his race.

Du Doan, 62, was fishing by himself from a sidewalk at Montrose Harbor when he was shoved into the lake. Duon, who could not swim, quickly drowned.

John D. Haley, 51, was charged with first-degree murder and aggra­vated battery, but police officials say it was not a hate crime.

"It just appeared to be kind of a random act," said Police Lt. Anthony Riccio.

But APA groups argue that there is a preponderance of evidence of a hate crime. Haley was involved in a similar incident on July 31 when he pushed another alleged APA in the water at Montrose Harbor.

Officials said there was a “strong possibility” racism was a motive because Doan, another man who was confronted by the same group earlier that morning and a man who was pushed into the water weeks earlier all were Asian or had Asian features.

"There appears to be a pattern of targeting based on race where Asian American victims were selected from among other fishermen popu­lating the harbor," said JACL Justice Center, was honored as one of the nation’s leading voices advocat­ing for the rights and interests of Asian Americans. The JACL high­lighted her rise from the blue-collar suburbs of Seattle to her position today on the vanguard of civil rights. In her acceptance speech, she thanked the JACL for giving her one of her first jobs in Washington, D.C. as the JACL’s Washington Representative.

The JACL also honored Ambassadors Kato, Inouye’s motiv­ative to the United States, for his contribution to expanding the role of Japanese Americans in U.S.-Japan bilateral relations. JACL National President Larry Oda thanked him for his work as a world diplomat and protector of Japanese heritage in the United States. Although Kato him­self was called away to Japan, he provided a short video statement. His speech drew applause from the crowd when he mentioned it was his birthday that day, and that he thought the award was a great birthday pres­ent.

The final award for the night was Sen. Inouye, honored for his efforts as a leader, dedicated public servant and champion for the Asian American Pacific American community.

Inouye’s slideshow presentation detailed his life growing up in Hawaii, his military service and how he launched his career in public serv­ice after Hawaii attained statehood. Baby pictures of Inouye drew gasps and giggles from the guests, and the senator was given a standing ovation as he made his way to the stage.

Although unable to attend the event, Sen. Craig was recognized for his accomplishments regarding the national historic site at Minidoka. As one of the 10 war relocation centers established by Executive Order 9066, Craig recognized the importance of preserving the site for gene­rations to come and helped to write and co-sponsor legislation for its protection.

“This event really puts JACL back on the map. People went away feel­ing good about themselves and about the JACL,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. “This is a credit to all who helped with the evening and supported a great cause. Our committee and program participants went way beyond the call of duty and deserve a very special thank you.”

Meilee Wong is the current Norman Y. Mineta Fellow. She can be reached at jacl.minetafellow@gmail.com.

APA Groups: Chicago Drowning Death is a Hate Crime
KIANNA LEE (Continued from page 1)

simple bathing suit and cap in two one-hour shifts with a five-hour wait in between.

The COWS completed the swim in nine hours and 58 minutes — much faster than their original goal of 15-18 hours.

"When you jump in the water, it's a shocking feeling ... your body kind of freezes up," Kianna said from the warmth of her home in Aurora, Colo. weeks after their record-breaking relay.

In the water, Kianna battled crashing waves, seaweed attacks and the constant threat of jellyfish. While waiting for her turn to swim, she tried to beat back waves of nausea. Yes, there were some critical moments when Kianna briefly toyed with the idea of giving up, but she had something to prove to herself.

When the team reached the finish, the tears began to flow.

"I started crying on the boat," said Kianna.

Swimming With Her Eyes Closed

Before Kianna started training for the English Channel, most of her swimming was relegated to pools. But swimming, it seemed, was in her blood. Her grandmother, Glenna Lee, taught water aerobics for 16 years and young Kianna was a fixture at the classes.

"That's how I like to think she became such a strong swimmer," said Glenna, about her granddaughter who started competitive swimming in the summer of 2004.

Last August, Kianna and her parents, Roger and Karen, attended a neighborhood meeting about putting together a team of 12-year-olds to swim across the English Channel with her.

"Any family members had misgivings?" asked Roger.

"But soon, her eyes flew open. "I think the mental part was much more difficult," she said.

Kianna had to overcome, said Oerman. It was a huge developmental year for all the relay members. For Kianna it was pure desire that motivated her.

"We're such a strong group of kids," said Karen. "I've always been confident in [Kianna's] physical abilities."

Other family members had misgivings.

"When I was first approached about this idea, I thought, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" said Karen. Like any mom, Karen worried about every possible risk. In her mind, she saw symptoms of hypothermia and dangerous predators lurking below the surface of the water, so she tried everything to get Kianna to change her mind. She bought Kianna a book about the swimmers who failed to navigate the English Channel's choppy waters. She hoped Kianna would lose interest when one of her friends dropped out. She even asked Kianna's pediatrician to give her any type of medical excuse to keep her daughter out of the race.

"Nothing worked. When it all came down to it, Kianna needed to do it. "She's a wimp in so many ways," said Karen with a laugh. "But she is strong in so many other ways." To prepare for the journey, Kianna trained for two hours a day at least four times a week. They started training in wetsuits, but even that had to go. In April at the first open water practice at Pelican Lakes, Kianna noticed her teammates were doing really well and became nervous. At first, Kianna was swimming with her eyes squeezed shut in fear of what she might see. At night, she would lie in bed and wonder what would happen to her in the dark open water. But soon, her eyes flew open.

"I think the mental part was much more difficult," she said.

Kianna had to overcome, said Oerman. "It was a huge developmental year for all the relay members. For Kianna it was pure desire that motivated her."

The training hit a snag in the early morning hours of April 22 when the phone rang at Kianna's house and delivered the tragic news that Kevin Nash, the father of teammate Sara Nash, had died during surgery. "Kevin was inspirational in the beginning and I think [his death] drove them a little bit more," said Roger.

As a warm-up to the English Channel, Kianna and her teammates swam around Alcatraz Island without wetsuits in June. The water was about 55 degrees, and Glenna stuck her big toe briefly in the water to test the conditions.

"Oh my, I got a foot cramp," Glenna exclaimed.

From England to France

On Aug. 9 in England, Kianna was sick to her stomach even before she dived into the water for the first leg of her swim. Kianna and the COWS were on one boat with Roger while the rest of her family was on another boat cheering her on.

In the water, the crashing waves made her more seasick. Then the seaweed came.

"I was not mentally prepared for that. I would hit this pack of seaweed and start freaking out and crying. Then hit another one," said Kianna.

In the water, each young swimmer would get tossed around in four-to-six feet waves. But they fought on. While waiting five hours for the second leg of her swim, Kianna grew sicker.

"I threw up four times," she said.

But when it came to her turn again, Kianna with the help of her teammates, slipped back into the water. Every time she struggled, her teammates would scream, "We're almost there!"

"I don't think any of us knew about her determination," said Glenna, who watched her granddaughter's relay on video and cried while she watched an ash-faced Kianna get helped into her bathing suit and gingerly lowered in the water. "What gives you that type of determination? She's my little hero."

Since returning from England, the COWS have enjoyed their new celebrity status. They've appeared on almost every local news channel and rubbed elbows with local politicians. But even today, it's difficult for the Lees to comprehend that they have a world record title in the family. Especially for Kianna, who has returned to her relatively normal teenage schedule.

She wants to continue open water swimming — maybe give Alcatraz another whirl.

"I have a new perspective of myself," she said. •

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Archaeologist Set to Tour Tunnels Under Chinatown

FRESNO, Calif.—Archaeologist hired by the city to document Chinatown's underground network of interconnected basements will soon be able to take a look at the tunnels themselves, city officials said.

Some city officials and Chinatown shopkeepers have long known that basements beneath Fresno's historic Chinatown, built from the 1880s through the early 1900s, were interconnected.

Now the archaeologists are going to get a private tour of the basements to help piece together their understanding of the area. The date is not yet available.

Any artifacts found during the study that could help shed light on Chinatown's history will be displayed in a future Chinatown museum.

Lawmaker Charged with Perjury Rejects Plea Deal

SAN FRANCISCO—A rookie San Francisco lawmaker charged with lying about where he lived so he could run for office rejected a plea offer that would have required him to resign, according to his defense lawyer.

Prosecutors and Supervisor Ed Jew's lawyer refused to disclose any other details of the proposed deal that would have canceled Jew's criminal trial scheduled to begin on Sept. 28.

Jew faces nine felony counts of perjury and election fraud stemming from allegations that he was not living in San Francisco when he submitted his candidacy papers last summer. The city attorney also is seeking permission from the state attorney general to remove Jew from office.

Park Opens Over Portion of Big Dig in Boston's Chinatown

BOSTON—Residents in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood are celebrating the opening of a new park over a portion of the underground Big Dig highway.

Chinatown was one of a several downtown neighborhoods that bore the brunt of decades of planning and construction that went into the $14.79 billion highway project.

The underground highway replaced the city's old elevated Central Artery and opened up room for construction of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway.

When finished, the Greenway will feature a series of interconnected parks through the heart of the city.

Rep. Wu Works to Pass Bill to Help Low-Income APA Students

WASHINGTON, D.C.—With Congressman David Wu's support, Congress passed the conference report of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, a student financial aid bill that would expand higher education opportunities for low-income APA students.

H.R. 2669 would provide grants to institutions of higher education to improve and expand services for low-income APA students. Current law only allows the U.S. Department of Education to provide similar financial assistance to colleges and universities that serve African American, Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian students.

H.R. 2669 will soon be considered by the full U.S. House.

Attorney to Circulate Petition to End Affirmative Action

OKLAHOMA CITY—A former Republican legislative candidate has filed notice with the Secretary of State's Office of his intent to circulate an initiative petition that a critic says would eliminate affirmative action programs.

Oklahoma City attorney Devin Resides, who ran unsuccessfully for a state House of Representatives seat in 2006, said the proposal "will abolish all preferences based on the way a person looks."

Under state law, the petitioner has 90 days to gather the 138,970 signatures needed to qualify for a statewide vote.

Resides said the measure is an "anti-preference initiative."
By Pacific Citizen Staff

Democratic Fundraiser Norman Hsu’s Bail Is Set at $5 Million

A Colorado judge set bail at $5 million in cash for Norman Hsu, a Democratic fundraiser who had sent a suicide note to a New York City-based legal organization while he was wanted in a grand theft case.

Hsu, wanted in California on a 1991 grand theft case, appeared by video hookup at a hearing, one week after skipping a court date in San Francisco and showing up in Grand Junction on an Amtrak train so sick he had to be hospitalized.

Authorities haven’t disclosed the nature of his illness, but he was released from a hospital and booked into the Mesa County jail.

His next court date was scheduled for Sept. 19.

Shiraki Named the New White House APA Liaison

Matt Shiraki is the new White House Asian Pacific American Liaison. As liaison, Shiraki will be responsible for communicating the president’s policies and priorities to the APA community and bringing the needs and concerns of the community to senior White House staff. He will also represent the White House at community events.

Shiraki most recently served in the Office of Strategic Initiatives. He has also worked in the White House Offices of Presidential Correspondence and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Wada Receives Sept. 11th Teacher Award

Keiko Wada of Shizuoka, Japan is the only foreign recipient of the inaugural Tribute Center September 11th Teacher Award given Sept. 10 at the Tribute WTC Visitor Center in New York.

The award recognizes teachers who make an outstanding effort to discuss the events of 9/11 with their students and create projects that help the students understand their relationship to these events.

Wada, a Kumon instructor, is being recognized for encouraging students to handmake and send thousands of origami cranes to the Tribute WTC Visitor Center as a wish for healing and peace.

Mineta Becomes Honorary Board Chair

Former U.S. Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta is chairing the Association of Asian American Investment Managers’ honorary board, which includes Dr. Tsu-in Hsu, founder and CEO of H&K Asia Pacific; Guy Kawasaki, managing director of Garage Technology Ventures; and Ambassador Linda Tsoa Yang, chair of the Asian Corporate Governance Association.

The organization, an alliance of successful APA leaders, serves as a conduit between APA investment managers and institutional pension funds.

Lee Receives Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship

Steven Lee was named the winner of the Pamela Chu Memorial Scholarship from the Korean-American Scholarship Foundation, a nonprofit fundraising organization.

Chu was a victim of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The scholarship will cover a portion of Lee’s tuition at the University of Georgia, where he is enrolled this fall as a first-year law student.

Japan’s Yosuke Retains Air Guitar World Championship

Yosuke Ochi, kept his title as world champion of the air guitar at a Sept. 5-8 competition in Finland.

The 35-year-old Ochi received the highest score among 20 finalists for the Air Guitar World Championships.

Judges base their decision on how well contestants mimic playing guitar, as well as an undefined quality called “airness.”

DIARIES (Continued from page 1)

Observations in Japan in paper-bound diaries totaling up to 1,600 pages.

Through his writings, we get a glimpse of the role of religion — perceived as Nisei — in camp life, said Dr. Duncan Williams, a University of California, Berkeley professor of Japanese Buddhist who is translating Daisho’s diary into English.

“Before the war, Buddhist temples were the center of community functions. In camp, many people turned to religion to help support communal life,” said Williams, a Shin Issei who came to the U.S. to study at 17. He is now known as the Buddhist ambassador. He saw that Japan had something to offer religiously as well as culturally.

He was also a Japanese language schoolteacher and principal who had a strong sense that Buddhist teachings were very important tools for universal outreach to the non-Japanese. He also understood that Buddhism is culturally shaped — Buddhism in America has to change.

On Feb. 3, 1942, he wrote: “I went shopping today. While I was looking through the paper, someone came up to me and said, ‘Hi Sensei, it must be tough for you these days, but please continue guiding us till the end.’”

“‘He’ll tell you things — his opinions of other priests — and other gossipy things. But he also really said what he thought in a personal and direct tone,’” added Williams, who strove to keep the same tone in his translations.

Daisho was in his 40s when he came to the U.S. as part of what is now known as the Buddhist Churches of America to serve at California temples including Berkeley.

“[Daisho] was a part of the prefab generation Issei. He was very well educated,” said Williams. “He had a mission of spreading the dharma, and thought of himself as a cultural ambassador. He saw that Japan had something to offer religiously as well as culturally.”

He was also a Japanese language schoolteacher and principal who had a strong sense that Buddhist teachings were very important tools for universal outreach to the non-Japanese. He also understood that Buddhism is culturally shaped — Buddhism in America has to change.

Gradually, the Buddhist monks changed, their titles to “ministers” and temples became known as “churches” in order to fit into the American landscape.

But even before most JAs were rounded up into internment camps, the FBI targeted Shinto and Buddhist priests.

“‘To be Buddhist, you were con-
built an education center, bettered the lives of the children in the Copprome Orphanage, installed a water system, and are now building 75 much-needed homes. All this and they just recently graduated from college.

"The children at the orphanages in Honduras had very little to live off of. They were sharing toothbrushes and shoes. They were sleeping on the floor because the facilities were so overcrowded. I knew I had to do something," said Shin, a University of Mary Washington (UMW) alumi.

In the past few years Shin and Cosmo — both fluent in Japanese, Spanish, and English — have become permanent fixtures in Siete de Abril. Their accomplishments can be seen in every orphan’s smiling face and in the residents’ enthusiastic greetings. There’s even a "Shin Fujiyama School of Hope," a name chosen by the local residents.

"Copprome Orphanage was... where my heart was illuminated," said Cosmo, a recent graduate of the College of William and Mary. "Surrounded by 20-plits children for 24/7, for two weeks, my life was charged with an energy and desire to be the change I wanted to see for these children."

For Carmen and the Orphans

When Shin speaks about helping the people of Honduras, he often tells the story of a young girl named Carmen. He met the young girl, now 20, on his ninth trip to Siete de Abril, a refugee community whose name translates to "April 7," the date this village was formed after Hurricane Mitch hit in 1998.

Carmen lives here selling fruit to help her parents feed the family, which includes her two younger brothers. Her home is a cardboard shack and each day she wears the same blue tank top with the word "Clifford" on it. Yet, everyday her face is emblazoned with a smile.

Shin first traveled to Honduras in 2004 with the UMW group Campus Christian Community. Since then he has made a number of trips helping to build new roofs for the town’s families and provide food and clothing for the orphans. But when this particular trip came to an end, Carmen’s tears remained with Shin even as he headed back home to Falls Church, Virginia.

It made him even more determined to return and do more for Carmen and the people of Siete de Abril.

"[Carmen] told me she had one dream, that one day her family and all of her friends in the village would have real homes. She hugged me and started crying. That made me cry and I hugged her really tight and promised her that I’ll do whatever it takes to make that dream come true," said Shin.

So far he has kept that promise. By the summer of 2005, Shin had returned to Siete de Abril and this time he was joined by his younger sister. Cosmo had just finished an internship at a women’s rights institute in neighboring Nicaragua and decided to visit Shin in Honduras.

The squatted conditions of the refugee community had the same effect on Cosmo. Soon after that trip the siblings had come up with the idea for Students Helping Honduras.

"Shin and I knew that our work was not done after we left the country. Our promises to return and to find long-term solutions would not go unanswered," said Cosmo. "We knew at this point that the toughest battle was ahead — to find a long term, sustainable method to assist in the areas of greatest need."

Raising Money, Building Hope

Although Shin and Cosmo had determination in abundance, they needed money. They asked their fellow students for help, held bake sales and car washes, and organized two successful walkathons. SHH soon became a multi-campus effort joining together the University of Maryland Washington, College of William and Mary, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Georgetown University.

Before long the non-profit had raised close to $500,000.

In the past few years, hundreds of volunteers have headed to Honduras helping to build new roofs and schools, a public bathroom, and a dormitory. Through their efforts they have helped to feed, clothe, and educate the often forgotten children of the Copprome Orphanage.

"I think they’ve (people of Siete de Abril) responded pretty well. Unlike big organizations like USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development] or the UN, we spend a lot of time with the people that we help and get to know them at a personal level," said Shin.

Shin and Cosmo recently graduated from college — Shin with a degree in International Affairs and Cosmo's Studies degree for Cosmo. Shin has been working on the International Development major, but Cosmo is working toward a Women’s Studies degree for Cosmo. Shin has aspirations to become a pediatrician and Cosmo is headed for a career in law. But they’ve decided to put their education on hold for now, instead dedicating the next few years to SHH.

This most recent trip to Honduras is Shin's 12th visit, a few less for Cosmo. Although they’ve seen a lot of their ideas come to fruition, they feel there's still a lot more work to do.

The Fujiyamas are now working to develop an English and tutoring center at Copprome Orphanage and a village rebuilding project at Siete de Abril — not only building homes but building a community center, bringing a water purification system, and expanding their school. They will also welcome 150 student volunteers over the winter break.

"Our biggest responsibility is to provide emotional support and provide as much support and love as we can," said Cosmo.

All in the Family

On this particular morning Shin and Cosmo started their workday at 7 a.m. and by mid-morning they were meeting with the mayor of El Progreso to work on building permits for the 75 new homes they will build. Lunch was spent brainstorming with fellow non-profit groups in the area. They often head to the Copprome Orphanage in the after-noon, playing a game of soccer with the orphans or organizing field trips. Frequently their days end at 11 p.m.

Although their days are long and often tedious, with the support of their family — which includes two more siblings — they are determined to plow ahead.

"They love it. My mom, dad, brother, and cousin have all visited Honduras to see us and to see the kids," said Shin.

In the Fujiyama family, volunteering and bettering mankind seems to be a family affair. Parents Yuchi and Ayako Fujiyama have traveled to Honduras to see first hand the difference their children are making. Last Christmas they visited the orphans of Copprome.

"If they see people who need help, they think how they can help," said Yuchi. "Everyday they are struggling in Honduras, so nothing is easy. They are learning how to right things."

Younger brother Gaku, a student at Virginia Tech, has headed twice to Honduras to help his siblings. He is now president of the school’s SHH chapter.

"I have never seen anyone that is as devoted to their own organization as much as Shin and Cosmo," said Gaku. "They have both pushed aside their ordinary lives in order to do what they are doing right now with SHH."

We love sharing our story and getting as many people, young people in particular, to believe that we can make a difference," said Cosmo, "but that it is an active choice.

To start or join a SHH chapter at your university, or donate: www.StudentsHelpingHonduras.org
This year, JAC awarded 28 scholarships totaling $55,000.

**FRESHMEN**

**Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial**

*Jaclyn D’Arcy*

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter
Princeton University (Biochem major)

Around the same time I was in Japanese school, I became passionate about dance. Being on an award-wining dance competition team, I traveled across the country competing in regional and national dance competitions. I am the only Asian American on my team. I am proud of my Asian appearance. I represent AAs in the dance world, and hope to inspire other Asians to join competition dance. Moreover, I plan to pursue a PhD in sports medicine, specializing in prevention treatments for dancers and other athletes so they do not get injured in the future.

**Mr. & Mrs. Takahashi Moriuchi**

*Mari Oye*

New England Chapter
Yale University (English major)

My heritage is easier to honor than to define. I am used to spelling out M-A-R-I for strangers, then explaining that my name is Japanese and I am Japanese American. I am the makizushi and apple pie I eat at Thanksgiving dinner, the New England snowflakes I catch on my tongue, and the stories I have heard from my grandparents. My grandmother was interned at Poston and my grandfather in Gila, Arizona.

**Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial**

*Kenneth Kato*

New York Chapter
Yale University

... as president of my school’s Asian Culture Club, where I have tried not only to foster appreciation of Asian culture but also to bring an Asian perspective to far ranging discussions on current domestic and world affairs. I hope in the future to continue to bridge the two communities that were so formative in my identity. I can truly say that my fascination with the interplay between East and West, and my realization that they are inextricably connect­ed, was sparked by the atomic breadth ray of this terrible yet wonderful creature (Godzilla), and that whatever perspective I may have on events on the world stage has been achieved by standing on the shoulders of this giant.

**Kenji Morimoto**

Chino Chapter
Brown University (East Asian Studies major)

Over the years of personally infused Japanese American history, I have become the unofficial family archivist, weaving together and synthesizing these stories, facts anecdotes, and pictures, to document the history of my family, my ancestral cultural, hoping to understand how this has shaped who I am. I have come to appreciate the JA legacy my grandparents and great-grandparents have given me and have embraced my ancestral language, a language neither of my parents knew. Wanting to share this, I have given many presenta­tions in history classes about the JA internment during World War II and arrange speakers to talk about their internment experiences.

**Masao & Sumako Itano Memorial**

*John Kawamura*

Berkeley JACL
Brown University

For the past four years, I have sat on the board of directors of the Berkeley JACL acting as the high school youth representative. During this time I have learned an incredible amount about the JACL and how it functions. Of all my experience with the JACL, the most rewarding has been my internship at the 2004 national convention in Hawaii. As an intern, I worked behind the scenes at the convention to make sure that everything worked as planned. By attending the delegation meetings, I saw how dozens of chapters could come together to make nationwide decisions. It was amazing to see hundreds of people rallied behind the cause. By being immersed within the JACL community for the entire week, I learned more about the JACL than I had the past year.

**Gongoro Nakamura Memorial**

*Elizabeth Uno*

Florin Chapter
UCLA

I can best honor my Japanese American heritage by ensuring that another group of people will never again be treated as the internees were in camp. By sharing my knowledge and spreading awareness, I can inspire my peers to learn about history and its relevance in today’s society. As a citizen of the USA, I have the power to make sure another mistake as dire as the internment of the JAs during World War II does not happen again.

**Shigeki “Shake” Ushio Memorial**

*Steven Heleker*

Snake River Valley Chapter
Boise State University

All throughout my life I have wanted to do something where I would have a voice. Recently I have realized that my dream is to become a filmmaker, something that would allow me to show the world the way I see things, my perspective on life. Every film that I create will have a strong Japanese and Asian influence in much the same as every painting is a reflection of its painter. I feel that it is my responsibility as both an aspiring filmmaker and a citizen of the United States of America to honor my Asian heritage by telling the rich history that Asian Americans have and their contributions to U.S. history and culture through their overcoming of adversity through hard work and integrity.

**Mas & Maju Uyesugi Memorial**

*Wendi Sekimura*

Berkeley Chapter
Brown University

As the Japanese American author Yoshiko Uchida observed, it is as though she is bound to Japan by a “long invisible thread.” As a fourth generation JA, I also feel the tug of that same thread. This tug draws me on a continual journey through which I learn more about the numerous facets of my identity. My passion is examining the duality of my cultural identity by exploring my multiple cultures: Japanese and American. Prior to high school, I had participated in a number of cultural activities: Japanese summer school, private Japanese language lessons, trips to Japan, and an Asian American summer camp. However, being JA has also taught me about racism and diversity and the need for tolerance and acceptance. Although my cultural identity plays a large role in my life, it’s not the only thing that defines me: my experience, values, and surroundings are equally influential.

**Mitsuyuki Yonemura Memorial**

*Sondra Morishima*

Florin Chapter
New York University

In my life I hope to be active in the community and politics and give a voice not only to the people of the United States but also to women and Asian Americans. Through my actions and words, I hope to show that a person’s capacity and potential has very little to do with how he or she looks. I do not want others to fall into the trap of labeling me as a one-dimensional character and thus underestimating me or those I represent. By eliminating stereotypes I hope not only to honor my heritage but also help Asians as a whole, and give back to the community.
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial

Annie Noguchi
Florin Chapter
UC Berkeley

I honor my Asian American heritage by ensuring that it is not forgotten. I share my heritage with others through cultural activities — as the lead dancer of the Han Eum Korean Dance and Drum Troupe, as a taiko student at Koyasan Temple, and as a Japanese Minyo dance student with Sakura Minyo Doo Koō Kai. Last December, I helped to coordinate a JACL Youth trip to San Francisco for a mochi workshop, Japanese American camp art exhibit, and Japantown shopping. For years, I've shared my heritage by writing a monthly column for the San Francisco-based Nichi Bei Times newspaper. Since age twelve, I've highlighted the importance of cultural events and issues affecting Asian American youth today.

GRADUATE

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Rachel Endo
Omaha JACL
University of Illinois (AA Studies and Multicultural Education)

I believe that the only hope for changing attitudes or transforming structures is through a combination of activism and education. Since a large portion of contemporary and historical educational research either excludes Asian Americans in discussion on multicultural education, or portrays incomplete, incorrect, or outright offensive information about AA children and families, I find teaching moments rewarding because I am directly able to address some of these glaring errors and omissions. If I can even reach out to a few people, I am satisfied knowing that they will more than likely change their practices based on what they learned from me. However, I still have a long way to go, as I wish to reach out to more people through the power of my teaching.

Nisaburo Aibara Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Yohko Murakami
San Francisco JACL
Stanford University (Medicine)

My experiences have led me to believe the best way for me to honor my Asian heritage as an American citizen is by practicing medicine in the United States and to continue to serve as a bridge between Japan and the U.S. through humanitarism and leadership. I am drawn to medicine because of its humanitarism and interdisciplinary nature; the combination of intellectual, curiosity and philanthropy the field represents is limitless, and knows no cultural, racial, or ethnic boundaries. Service is about sympathy and giving; humanitarism is about empathy and empowerment. I want to be a humanitarian.

Minoru Yasui Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Leslie Tamura
Fresno JACL
Northwestern University (Journalism)

While it is the responsibility of every individual to contribute to the social discussion of cultural identity and preservation, my current involvement with the APA community has motivated me to continue the dialogue through my developing skills as a journalist. With so many stereotypes surrounding the “Asian American,” more individuals need to realize that the APA community has influenced and helped mold the American identity, and this is only possible by further involvement and conversations about the dynamic APA community.

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Ryan Chin
Seattle JACL
Seattle University (Business Administration)

During my brief life, I have made it a priority to focus on issues of social justice. Pursuing social justice is my way of honoring my values as an Asian American — it allows me to help others receive the same opportunities and freedoms that I’ve received in a manner that is admirable, ethical, and beneficial to others. I’ve come to realize that this is a perpetual war for social justice that every society struggles with. As a war, there are many battles that will be lost, as well as won, along the way. Furthermore, focus must not be distraught by setbacks, as persistence will lead to progress and victory may take years upon years to reach.

Reverend H. John Yamashita Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Elli Nagai-Rothe
Berkeley Chapter

I believe I can best honor my Asian heritage by fostering equity and standing up against social and civil injustice, to be a change-maker committed to peace through meaningful dialogue. The dramatic increase of racial profiling and xenophobia in the United States post 9/11 is eerily reminiscent of the culture of fear that fueled mass displacement of thousands of Japanese American citizens from their homes into internment camps during WWII. The JA community proved their loyalty and maintained their dignity in spite of this blatant exploitation of civil rights. Despite such grave injustice committed against him and his family, my great uncle George went to fight in the 442nd Regiment and received a Purple Heart medal for his service — an act that continually inspires me and influences my perception of social justice.

DENTISTRY

Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Dentistry Scholarship

Congratulations . . .

d. . . to all the scholarship recipients AND applicants. Your accomplishments are considerable and admirable. Your successful efforts reflect well on you, your families and your community. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.

CAROL KAWAMOTO, National JACL President for Planning & Development

DAVID KAWAMOTO, National JACL Scholarship Committee Chair

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL congratulates Jaclyn D’Arcy on her exceptional accomplishments.

Congratulations

Leslie!

We are so proud of you.

Love,

Mom, Dad,
Kenny & Bradley
Peter Shigeki Frandsen  
Mt. Olympus JACL  
Columbia University (Dentistry)

Now, this personal statement is not a forum to discuss the places in the world that I have traveled, but rather a travelogue of thoughts and lessons that I have taken from a broad exposure to the world, locally and globally. I believe it is the responsibility of those that have the ability to look after and assist those that do not. To me, this is the definition of community and the hallmark of citizenship. Thus if we as Japanese Americans are to influence those communities, locally and globally, that we reside within, we must first garner as much information and experience that we can. Yet, this is not the end, but rather the vehicle to stimulate change with our acquired understanding and knowledge. This will make better citizens and more solid communities in all the places in which we participate. As JAs, we have a distinct advantage to access this information and these experiences because of our unique ancestry that established the solid framework upon which we must build and propagate our ideals.

**UNDERGRADUATE**

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Stevie Hatakeyama  
Sonoma JACL  
Sonoma State University (Nursing)

Education includes the education of both myself and of others. By learning all that I can about Asian past experiences in America, I honor the people who lived in a trying time in history. More specifically, it is especially important to me that I learn about the past of my direct ancestors. I realize that it is their struggles and triumphs that have paved the way for my successful college student life. Learning about my heritage gives me a heightened self-awareness and an increased sense of self. In return, I thank them by educating others about JA history. This is not done in an overt and preachy fashion. Instead, it is done through answering the inquiry of the people who surround me. If a lesson comes up in history class or a topic arises in conversation related to the JA experience, I am happy to throw in some fun facts. On a larger scale, I am perfecting my teaching skills by completing training to become a classroom speaker. This way, I will be able to reach more people and spark interest in the historical topic by giving a personal touch to the history lesson.

Keni Kajiwara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Greg Koike Stillman  
Salt Lake City JACL  
University of Utah (Medicine)

It is this characteristic of commitment that younger generations should focus on. Being able to commit to something means you are able to internalize goals and see an idea through to the very end. I don’t suggest that in order to honor our Asian heritage everyone should be committed to cultural preservation, or JACL involvement, or civil rights advocacy. I do suggest that honor will be given to our Asian heritage if commitment is displayed in whatever aspect of life the individual is pursuing. This can be commitment to family, commitment to your career, commitment to your education, or commitment to one’s religion. I honor my heritage by striving for a more dedicated service, in aspects of my life, which my grandparents had in theirs. I believe in this because through commitment comes strength and with strength I will be able to face the challenge of daily life and ensure success.

Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Karin Hayashida  
Boise Valley JACL  
Albertson College of Idaho (Biology/Chemistry)

As an American citizen, I am a person of mixed cultures. The United States is known as the so-called “melting pot” not just for races, but for cultures as well. I am a Japanese American citizen, and while I have grown up with the American culture I still honor my Japanese heritage. There are many forms of honor, but the most important to me is my concept of family, and values. By building a family network based on the values I have learned from my parents and grandparents I am honoring my Asian heritage.

Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Yukiko Ishiwata  
New York JACL  
Queens College, City University of New York (Music)

With a newfound self-confidence, I now have formed a free Japanese language tutoring service on the Queens College campus with my colleagues. This service is the first time in Queens College history. My fellow musicians and I gave a recital of Japanese songs. Though my contributions to society may be minimal, I know that I can make a great impact with my subtlety. This is my way of honoring my Asian heritage.

Saburo Kido Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Jennifer Nishizaki  
Florin JACL  
UC Berkeley (Education)

Everyday, 1,000 WWII veterans are dying, many without getting the opportunity to pass on their stories to their children and grandchildren. I think it is our responsibility as citizens of the U.S. to honor our unique JA history and heritage by keeping these stories alive. There needs to be a fairer and more comprehensive coverage of the JA experience in history classes. Films like “The War” will help to spread the word in classrooms and households across America, but it is also up to us to ensure that these stories, these heroes, don’t fade into oblivion. That is why my children, my friends, my family will all know the story of my grandpa and my family. For the rest of my life, I will carry these stories with me, remembering, and passing on the history to everyone I meet.

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Chris Batalon  
Seattle JACL  
University of Washington

Honoring one’s Asian heritage can be difficult in the society we live in today. I feel the two most responsive ways to do so are: 1) staying connected with your culture and keeping it always in your family...
Traditions, and 2) doing community work to promote identity and ethnic heritage, because up and coming generations are going to be so jumbled as to where to fit in and we need leaders to help them see the bigger picture.

Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship
Laurel Uemaka
West Valley JACL
California State University, Chico (Child Development and Liberal Studies)
I will honor my heritage in the future by passing on what I know to my future children. They will learn firsthand what it means to be Japanese American. The key to honoring a heritage is to keep that heritage alive for future generations to be a part of. This can only be done with an appreciation of one’s culture’s past by creating a bond between the older and younger generations with an appreciation of our elders.

Portland JACL
Lewis and Clark or Willamette University (Law)
My parents and grandparents also charged me — albeit indirectly, of course — with learning to be humble and at the same time, being proud of our Japanese background. I hope I have well served the JA and APA communities, but feel there is more I need to accomplish. Perhaps the thread that has led me to this point began in 1942 and with injustice. However, as I continue to follow the path, I do so now with dedication, a sense of hope, and an eagerness to learn and grow as a member of a new community, the community of law. With continued support from the JACL, I am confident I will be able to further my education, achieve my dream and continue to give back to our communities.

Professor Sho Sato Memorial Law Scholarship
Brandon Mita
Chicago JACL
Howard University (Law)
As an aspiring civil rights attorney and advocate for social justice, I hope that in the future, I remember my roots and the struggle past generations have gone through to get us where we are today. I hope that I will honor my Asian heritage by seeing myself as a person of color in a pluralistic American society. It is my wish to be like Yuri Kochiyama, Grace Lee Boggs, and Philip Vera Cruz who stand beside Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and Cesar Chavez to usher in a new day for America’s youth. This is because I am honored to be a citizen of the greatest country in the world where we are free to express ourselves and free to pursue our greatest happiness without fear of retribution or consequence. I can honor my Asian heritage by embracing myself as an Asian American.

Mary Reiko Osaka Memorial Law Scholarship
Miya Saika Chen
Berkeley JACL
American University (Law)
I will honor my heritage in the future by passing on what I know to my future children. They will learn firsthand what it means to be Japanese American. The key to honoring a heritage is to keep that heritage alive for future generations to be a part of. This can only be done with an appreciation of one’s culture’s past by creating a bond between the older and younger generations with an appreciation of our elders.

Congratulations, Miya!
We’re so very proud of you for pursuing a law degree to further your commitment to social justice.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Kori

Congratulations, Karin!
Love,
Dad, Mom, and Kristin

Congratulations, Kenji!
Love,
Dad, Mom, and Emiko

In each arena, it is critical to have attorneys who advocate for the most vulnerable, and for communities to be empowered to assert their fundamental rights. I am inspired and committed to working on both purposes, and view it as a powerful strategy to achieve social justice and empower the Asian and Pacific Islander American community, as well as other marginalized communities. The convergence of my experiences and my values pushes me to develop my skills in order to strongly serve and empower the APIA community. I have witnessed firsthand how lawyers positively change people’s lives and society as a whole, and I am deeply moved to be a part of this effort.

Abe & Esther Hagitawa Memorial Student Aid Award
Lily Anne Yumi Welty
Ventura County JACL
UC Santa Barbara (History)
The Japanese American experience highlights community, perseverance, historical memory and education as pillars of success in the United States. It is the effectiveness and efficiency of our community in these areas that provide an example to American society. To best honor my Asian heritage is to continue this tradition and set an example in my community, both the Asian American community and my local community.

On behalf of the national JACL Scholarship Committee Chair David Kawamoto would like to thank the Chicago chapter and the Central California District Council for their significant assistance with the 2007 national scholarship program. Chicago chapter volunteers were Ron Yoshino (chair), Pat Harada, Joyce Morimoto, Lisa Sakai, Pat Yasawa-Rubin, Ellie Olin, and George Wong. Central California District Council volunteers were Bobbi Hanada (chair), Ralph Kameko, and Bob Taniguchi. JACL thanks them for their time and effort in screening the hundreds of applications.

Because of the excellent quality of all the applications submitted from throughout the national JACL, narrowing the selection to the 28 recipients was a very difficult task. Also, with only limited staff assistance, all of the processing of the applications, follow up communications with applicants and the verification process with recipients were handled by volunteers.

FLORIN JACL congratulates 2007 National JACL Scholarship Recipients . . .
Sondra Morishima
Jennifer Nishizaki
Annie Noguchi
Elizabeth Uno
Thank you to Florin Chapter’s Scholarship Chairperson Ruth Seo and her Committee for their dedication.
www.florinjacl.com
O
ne "personal" beat this former P.C. editor has enjoyed were the PANA conventions since the first one in Mexico City in 1981. Chuck Kubokawa (Sequoya JACL), who headed JACL's international relations committee, invited one Nisei from Toronto (George Imai) and two from Mexico City (Carlos Kasuga and Enrique Shibayama) to relate their respective lives in the community.

Though the national JACL's travel program was officially discontinued, there were 80 in that first JACL contingent to PANA. Afterwards, some of us visited Tecomixco, an abandoned hacienda halfway from Mexico City to Acapulco that served as a WWll internment place for Japanese who were told by the Mexican government to move 100 km inland away from the U.S. border.

Swapping personal WWll experiences with Japanese in other countries began at a PANA convention. They still remain as currency in the Nikkei world.

The ‘Fever’ from the South
Whatever interest about Japanese in Latin America was mostly academic. Among JACLers, they read a 22-week series in the Pacific Citizen in the 1950s by Univ. of Utah professor of anthropology Dr. Elmer Smith on Japanese in Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Peru. Photographs by Toge Bajihara of New York accompanied the entire series in the 1973 P.C. Holiday Issue.

An ever-present topic at PANA conventions has been "Nikkei identity" and it was fully explored at the 14th COPANI (Convención Panamericana Nikkei) in July at Sao Paulo with delegates from the Yokohama-based Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad (Kaigai Nikkeijin Kyokai).

In homogeneous Japan, the term "Nikkei" once reserved to mean "emigrant," has changed to include fellow or foreign-born Nisei who came to live and work in Japan from the 1980s, according to keynote speaker Prof. Koitaro Horisaka of Sophia University, Tokyo, on the convention theme, "Contributions of Nikkei to the Progress of Their Societies."

In America, the term Nikkei is inclusive of all persons of Japanese ancestry, even “children of international marriages and or corporate Japanese employees who have gone abroad and decided to stay,” as Horisaka would identify.

And Counting the Hapa Nikkei
In Mexico, the question was “how can Nisei transfer their heritage to the younger generation?” There are 25,000 Japanese in Mexico, according to their 110th anniversary celebration report last year of Japanese immigration. And by adding Nikkei of mixed marriages where Spanish is the first language, the number is around 70,000, many of whom live in the state of Chiapas where the first Japanese landed in 1896.

In Argentina, the first Japanese group came from Okinawa in 1908 through Bolivia. Others from Peru conquered the snow-covered Andes, walking down to Mendoza in the 1910s. Delegaciones returning now from Japan are able to promote cultural connections with government, contribute to schools and the care of elders.

In Bolivia, Nikkei are “well-regarded” as a class addressing community problems in health and education. Their identity has been maintained through language schools and promotion of cultural heritage since the 1950s in Santa Cruz, where PANA held its convention in 2003. The first Japanese came in 1899 to work in the rubber plantations in the tropic north.

The lone Kaigai Nikkeijin Kai delegate from Jakarta, Heru S. Eto noted NIKKEI FROM NORTH and South America gathered with Japanese from the 1980s, according to keynote speaker Prof. Kotaro Horisaka of Sophia University, Tokyo, on the convention theme, "Contributions of Nikkei to the Progress of Their Societies".

HOth anniversary celebration report last year of Japanese immigration. And by

I live in the city of Cologne, Germany. About 50 kilometers north of us is the city of Duesseldorf.

Although it isn’t really very far away, to a Cologne resident, it is another world, filled with residents we regard as “snobby” and “arrogant.” If you can imagine, they even have a different name for beer! Of course, Duesseldorfer think of us as “low class” and “nude,” although I can’t imagine why. All this rivalry goes back some centuries, I’ve heard, to the times when Romans inhabited Cologne, made it the great city that it is today, and initiated the jealous feelings Duesseldorf has for Cologne.

You wouldn’t think that Germany could be home to great Japanese food, which is even better than what I’ve had in San Francisco. But it is. The reason is because Dusseldorf hosts Europe’s third largest Japanese expatriate population. London is home to the most Japanese living outside of their home country, with Paris coming in a close second.

How did this happen? After World War II, the Japanese were interested in possibilities of working with German industrial companies. The location on the Rhine River was also ideal for transportation routes.

Today, all sorts of Japanese industries have settled in Dusseldorf, including those in the Japanese banking, insurance, and shipping areas. Additionally, service companies have cropped up to serve those business people and their families. Therefore there are lots of really great Japanese restaurants and shops in an area known as Little Tokyo on the Rhine.

The Japanese area is packed into a densely crowded area around Immermann Street, home to several grocery stores, gift shops, bookstores, clothing stores, a Nikko Hotel and many restaurants. On any Saturday morning the streets are filled with Japanese families doing their weekly shopping.

I prefer one of the larger grocery stores because of their premium choice of Japanese delicacies. Unfortunately, since I am probably the only “Japanese” who can’t read the labels, the storeowners haven’t gotten around to changing the labels to English. And with food terms, my German is sometimes a bit lacking. So I try to identify the pictures on the labels and hope when I get home and open up the can or package, I am chewing on something I recognize. This has not always been the case.

As it turns out, there are several different types of nori for wrapping rice. Some have not been so tasty. But not to be daunted, I continue on a trial-and-error basis to try my luck. This particular store also has a very inviting selection of fresh slabs of sushi and pre-cooked teriyaki chicken. They even have fresh iku and nako, which are my favorites.

The only big problem for me is standing at the counter trying to order something. When it’s my turn, I am asked something in Japanese, no doubt along the lines of “What can I help you with?” But being unsure, I first say in German that I am very sorry but I don’t speak Japanese. This is always greeted with an astonished reaction, which must be akin to, “You sure look Japanese, are you mentally deficient or pretending not to understand us?” In any case, with lots of finger pointing, because most of the clerks don’t speak German, I manage to get my order in.

After all that shopping, I am usually famished and run over to my favorite restaurant, Na Ni Wa. This is an “inexpensive” Japanese restaurant, specializing in noodles. By inexpensive, I mean a bowl of udon costs about 12 dollars. And tea isn’t free. Still, In Germany that is cheap for a Japanese meal. This restaurant is so popular, that it is rare when a line hasn’t formed outside the door. But the wait is worth it, and you know it’s a great place by the many Japanese who are also waiting in line.

Oh, now I’ve rambled on so much about Little Tokyo, to Japan that I didn’t have time to mention the EKO House of Japanese Culture, across the Rhine in the suburb of Niederkassel. It has a real Japanese Buddhist temple, a serene Japanese garden and an original teahouse. But on the other hand, I have to tempt you with something for a future article, so I’ll stop here with the thought of steaming udon urging me to soon make another trip to Duesseldorf.

You can reach Cheryl Watamura Martinez at: Cheryl@texter-koeln.de

Pete Hirouaka 2007

Hey... Guess what? There's talk of name change for JACL!!!
Almost Famous

Television comedian-shmedian, Bobby Lee wants to it all, now.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Bobby Lee is sick to his stomach. His brother warned him about this West Los Angeles late-night sushi place that advertises itself to be a party every night.

"Now there is a party in my stomach," he groaned.

But it's nothing a Red Bull and cigarettes can't cure. The 33-year-old Korean American comedian takes long drags in between thoughts and waxes rhapsodic about that, huh?"

"I feel like it's been a long time. I hate the smell. You know how when you haven't been someplace in a long time, you walk in and there's a familiar smell? Like at your parents' house ... or in Korean houses, you have the smell of kim chi and dad's feet."

**The Seven-Year Itch**

Bobby has come a long way in seven seasons. He struggled in the first few seasons, mostly because the self-described "full-blown drug addict in high school" relapsed when he first joined the cast.

"When I first got to 'MADtv,' I literally could not get on. It was a really painful time. Now I can take a dump on someone's dressing room floor and say 'how about that, huh?'

"I fought for it," Bobby continued. He's been sober for four years now.

Sketch comedy shows aren't traditionally a fertile breeding ground for minorities, especially Asian Pacific Americans. Steve Park made it onto the cast of 'In Living Color,' but only lasted for a season. Comparatively, Bobby is not only a veteran, but also a demigod.

From Bobby's twisted mind came some of the most memorable APA characters in television history: Tank, an overcompensating APA racer who tries to pick up chicks with his soup-upped Daewoo, and bumbling translator Bae Sung (whose tagline "Uh-oh! Hot Dog!" drives Bobby mad).

But seven years of parodying television personalities like Connie Chung and political despots like Kim Jong-Il may be losing its luster. Bobby will start the new season without four returning cast mates, including longtime collaborator, Ike Barinholtz.

"I gotta get out of there," said Bobby.

**Looking for the Next Level**

It's not that he's biting the hand that feeds him — Bobby is excited for season 13. He promises to bring more "24 with Bobby Lee" and "Blind Kung Fu Master" sketches and looks forward to working with his friend and new cast member, Johnny Sanchez.

He also plans to feature more of his real-life parents, who last season flew from Phoenix to Los Angeles to share camera time with their son.

"My dad is a functioning alcoholic. He needs to be buzzed to perform, so we have to have him drink in the alley," joked Bobby. "They're just really naturally funny people. I had problems with them growing up, but as an adult, I find them amusing."

But his excitement for the new season is tempered with frustration.

"They cut the budget by 40 percent. It's not going to be the same show. But maybe it'll be better and more raw because we're fighting for our lives," said Bobby. He pauses for a long drag of his cigarette.

"Obviously, I want this show to last. It's like home to me. I want it to flourish."

Nonetheless, he's currently writing a pilot for Comedy Central, which is set to shoot during the filming of "MADtv."

The show will be a cross between "The Sarah Silverman Show" and Bobby's own wild life ("I get beat and stuff in the show because I always do. This punk beat me up three times last week"). The Comedy Central show will also tackle social issues like the differences between Blacks and Koreans.

"Hasn't 'Rush Hour' helped us at all?" he deadpanned.

"As an Asian American guy, I feel like we still don't have a voice on television. We're getting on shows like Daniel Due Kim [in 'Lost'] but he speaks Korean most of the time ..."

"I feel like two years from now sketch comedy will be more open to Indians and Asians and other people. I'm proof that the U.S. is a melting pot."

**Humble Beginnings**

The San Diego, Calif. native didn't always fit in and wasn't always funny. For a time in his 20s, Bobby was in a band called "Laxton's Superb," a type of apple.

"It was the worst band ever. I had long hair down to my ass. I literally thought I was going to be a rock star. I could barely play the piano."

He started waiting tables and stalking two white girls.

"Those were the dark years. All I did was read poetry and Kierkegaard and think about suicide," he said laughing. "I have like 28 first cousins and I'm the only one that didn't graduate from college. I never got good grades. I always wanted to party."

One day, he walked by the La Fonda Comedy Store and saw a sign. It said "Dishwasher Wanted," so Bobby answered. At the Comedy Store, manager Fred Burns told Bobby he was funny and should try standup.

**His 'Movie Career'**

"I don't have one," said Bobby about his big screen career.

"Let's talk about the failure of 'Kickin It Old Skool.' Did you see it?"

No, we didn't. But neither did many Americans. The Jamie Kennedy comedy about some misfit breakdancers — including Bobby as Aki Terasaki failed miserably at the box office.

"I put all my eggs in that movie," he said glumly.

Bobby also auditioned for the role of Harold, as in "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle," but he lost to John Cho, who according to Bobby, lobbed the filmmakers to cast him as Kenneth Park, the squeaky clean Ivy League student role that was originally being offered to "some Canadian kid."

He has a cameo in Judd Apatow's forthcoming "Pineapple Express" ("I have like five lines.") and has completed shooting "Killer Pad," where he plays a transvestite real estate agent.

"It's never going to see the light of day."

So what does Bobby have to do to catch another break?

"I'm still an underground comedian," he said. "Everything is a question mark."

For more information:
www.madtv.com,
www.myspace.com/iambobbylee

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After Daisho’s death in 1972, the family wanted to have the diaries translated into English. By chance, Akira met Williams in Cambridge Mass., when Williams was going to graduate school at Harvard University.

“Duncan expressed an interest in my father’s diaries so I loaned him copies of them,” said Akira. “It turns out after many years after a chance meeting, that Duncan’s interest in the translations are finally coming to fruition and is finally becoming a reality.”

He has edited the diaries and translated them. He clearly gives a glimpse to the role of faith as a diarist during a time of war, said Akira.

Williams hopes to finish translating the diaries in 2008 for publication, but the project does not have a publisher yet. Translating Daisho’s diaries into English is only one of his many projects that examine the role of faith in the time of settlement and war. His books, “Issei Buddhism” and “Camp Dharma,” are both slated to come out in 2008.

The role of religion is huge in this time of Japan. Williams, who also pointed out that up to the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, 70 percent of JAs in the mainland were Buddhist. During the War, the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT were not allowed to have Buddhist chaplains even though a majority of the men in the troops were Buddhist.

“Life has moved on for all of Little Rock Central’s JAs. Tosh recently became a grandfather and Frank keeps busy working for Boeing after serving in the U.S. Air Force. In New Mexico, Kaoru enjoys a full life with his family and his work as an engineer with the Sandia National Laboratories.

"You have to work for everything you get. Life goes on," said Richard.

"I always say that it is amazing that between 1945 and 1957 to 58, the Japanese Americans acceptance by white Arkansans came quite quickly when acceptance of African Americans in the South is still a battle in some segments of society — to this day," said Gordy.


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DIARIES
(Continued from page 5)

sidered anti-American or not pro-American," said Williams. Many JAs burned their pictures and literature from Japan and converted to Christianity in hopes of escaping persecution.

But by March 1942, Daisho was living behind barbed wire separated from his wife and children. He was interned primarily at a Northern Santa Fe, New Mexico camp run by the Department of Justice. In incarceration, his entries remain optimistic.

"Considering the life he lead prior to, during and after World War II, it is incredible that his pride and honor remained intact," said Akira Tana, Daisho’s youngest son. “His faith is what probably helped him survive.”

Found in Translation
Thirty years ago, Tomoe, Daisho’s wife who was an accomplished tanka poet, transcribed the original entries and had them published in Japan.

“I recall her daily routine of early morning exercise and time spent transcribing before her day even started,” said Akira, a San Francisco-based jazz musician. “My mother would oftentimes share her joy in transcribing as she felt she was reliving the days with her husband together, though they were physically separated during that time.”

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For more information about Sondra Gordy’s forthcoming book about the closure of Little Rock schools from 1958-59: www.thelostyear.com/project.htm

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LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL H.S. (Continued from page 3)

"It’s all so ironic”
Aside from Frank, Kaz and Tosh, there was Richard Yada, who was a few years younger than the other JA boys.

The integration. But one year after the closure of Little Rock schools from 1958-59: www.thelostyear.com/project.htm

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In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Akita, Richard M., 67, San Diego, Aug. 28; Vietnam War veteran; survived by wife, Janet; son, Michael; daughter, Andrea; step-son, Marc; daughter-in-law, Diana; and 1 gc.

Aoki, Melko “Mae,” 86, Watsonville, Aug. 22; survived by son, Lester (Michelle); and 3 gc.

Funo, Tomie, 82, Los Angeles, July 19; survived by daughters, Janice and Debbie; brother, Takashi (Hisaye) Okamoto; sisters, Kiyomi Fukushima and Chizuko (John) Yakura; and brothers-in-law, Mas (Fumi) and Jack (Sam) Funo.

Hamada, Teruo, 96, Watsonville, Aug. 9; survived by wife, Tomiye; son, Dr. James; daughters, Ann (Ed) Maruyama and Eileen; 9 gc.; and 13 ggc.

Kamiya, Yoshio, 80, Gardena, July 28; survived by wife, Yumi; daughter, Lianne; sons, Ronald (Kathy) and Randell (Christine); 4 gc.; and sister, Mary Kamiya.

Kobata, Tamaye, 88, Palmdale, July 12; survived by sons, Steve (Elizabeth), Michael and Stacey (Jeanne); daughters, Susan (Nick) Seldon and Doris; gc. and ggc.; brothers, Jack, Bill and Richard Okamoto; and sister, Grace Fujikawa.

Komatsu, Thomas, 88, Chatsworth, Aug. 28; survived by wife, Flora; son, Ronald; daughters, Sharay (Armando) Jaimez and Carla (Craig) Sasaki; 5 gc.; and 1 gge.

Nakamura, Gary H., 57, June 27; Vietnam War veteran; survived by wife, Jeanette; brother, Kenny; son, David; daughter, Emily; step-children, Kristine, Curtis, Chris and Carolyn; and 9 gc.

Odo, Katherine, 76, La Palma, July 11; survived by husband, Leaves; sisters, Jeanette Yoshinobu, Patricia Shinseki; and brother, Howard Yoshinobu.

Ogawa, Haruo, 85, June 13; WWII veteran, U.S. Army; survived by son, Patrick (Margaret Speck); sister, Chiidori Reynolds; step-sons, Douglas and Rodney Correa; and 3 gc.

Okamoto, Dora Tsuyako, 83, Torrance, July 16; survived by son, David; daughter, Elaine (Chuck) Miwa; 2 gc.; brother, William (Reiko) Fujimoto; and sister, Kaye Takeda.

Okazaki, Masayuki “Mas,” 88, Aug. 15; MIS; survived by wife, Jean; daughters, Kathleen (Roy Williams) Okazaki and Debbie (Pat Knight); and 3 gc.

Oura, George, 85, Murrieta, July 14; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by son, Gary; daughter, Janice (Bradley) Carr; and sister, Sue Shimosaka.

Shimizu, Hatsue, 80, Torrance, July 10; survived by brothers, Tsugio (Noriko), George (Kiyoko) and Dennis (Emiko) Nakafuji; sister, Betty (Harvey) Itakura; and sisters-in-law, Ellen and Geraldine Nakafuji.

Tsuchiya, Junso Carl, survived by brothers, Harold, Jack and Herbert.

Tsujikawa, George S., 75, July 11; survived by partner, Ruth Wood; son, Jason; daughter, Kris; gc.; brother, Ben; and sisters, Grace Boyd and Ida Zdrow.

Umeki, Miyoshi, 78, Licking, Mo., Aug. 28; won an Oscar as the doomed wife of an American serviceman in “Sayonara” and later starred in the Broadway musical “Flower Drum Song”; survived by a son and two grandchildren.
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