



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 CAROLNE 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

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Shin Fujiyama, 24, spent the majority of his college years helping the children of the Copprome Orphanage.

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 LYNDA 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 title.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN LEE

Kianna Lee, 12, started competitive swimming 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

See KIANNA LEE/Page 4

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 LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Today, this 'American Buddhism' 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 his days in a Santa Fe, New Mexico internment camp, Daisho continued to pen his innermost thoughts and

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Amidst Racial Tension, JAs Found Acceptance



Arkansas' Little Rock Central High School 1957 integration crisis (top) was witnessed firsthand by Tosh Oishi (far right, in 1958) and brother Kaz Oishi.



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

By LYNDA 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 Little 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.

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Bobby's World

The 'MADtv' star talks about comedy and career.

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NPS Hosts Workshops

The National Park Service will host JA confinement site workshops seeking public comment.

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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 at today.

LOREN ISHII

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

Lt. Watada and a Possible Name Change



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

Thank you to the JACL national board for standing up for civil liberties by supporting 1st Lt. Ehren Watada! His unwavering courage to think and question our immoral war deserves all our support.

In reference to Leo H. Hosada's letter about a California National Guard member's honoring his commitment, that member lives on in our hearts as a person of integrity and intelligence for questioning the

war. Striving for a peaceful world requires creative strategies using our intellect rather than our give-up-your-thinking-and-follow-orders demands of war mentality.

We have lost yet another potential leader for resolving conflict through peaceful means.

Regarding "A Name Change for the JACL?", the JACL grew out of the targeting of JAs by their own fellow citizens. Expanding the inclusiveness of the JACL to protect fellow humans can only be a positive action.

EDITH KAWAMOTO FREDERICK
Salinas, Calif.

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, Filipino 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 organization 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

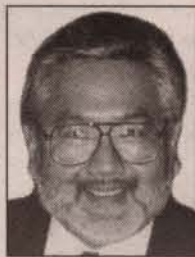
'One is Silver and the Other is Gold'

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 the 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.

Two 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 Elyse 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 Amelia who just turned three months old. I think that she is currently the youngest mem-

ber 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 vpmembership@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



THEN AND NOW: Kaz Oishi (pictured 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 seeing 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 Sondra Gordy, an associate professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas. But the state had historically been inhospitable to minorities 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 Klu Klux Klan member when he served as Arkansas' governor during World War II, he encouraged rigid segregation for the Japanese Americans," said Gordy.

During WWII, JAs were not allowed to serve as laborers outside the two camps, forbidden to buy land, go to public schools, or even state colleges.

"Very few families remained in Arkansas after they had the opportunity to leave our state," added Gordy.

But for the Oishi family, leaving Arkansas after their internment at Gila River, Arizona, wasn't an option. They needed work and joined the Yada and Nakamura families as farmers on the Scott property of Mrs. Alexander Brown.

"The presence of these people

who were neither white or black created fear that their attendance in schools, colleges, even out in the fields would open the door for blacks to follow the JAs," said Gordy.

But when it came time to decide whether the JA kids would go to the white or black schools, Brown stepped up and said the JAs would go to the white schools.

Overall, high school was a positive experience, said Tosh, who was a junior at Little Rock Central when 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 you were white. If you weren't black, then you were accepted as white, said Kaz, who also admitted to 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.

JACL Hosts Inaugural Awards Gala

By MEILEE WONG
Special to the Pacific Citizen

It was a night of splash, sparkle and Mr. Sulu.

Guests from across the United States arrived in grand fashion for the Inaugural National JACL Gala Awards Dinner, "A Salute to Champions," which was held at the JW Marriott in downtown Washington, D.C. on Sept. 12.

Hosted by actor George Takei, most famous for his role as Mr. Sulu on the original series "Star Trek," the event drew about 310 guests who filled the elegant ballroom nearly to capacity. Violin virtuoso Tamaki Kawakubo provided entertainment for the evening performing three short pieces by Gershwin and Tchaikovsky on her Stradivarius.

Former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta joined the event as the honorary chairman, and introduced JACL officials and VIP attendees with his usual charm.

The awardees for the night, named "Champions" by the JACL for their leadership in the APIA community, included State Farm Insurance, Karen Narasaki of the Asian American Justice Center, Ambassador Ryoza Kato, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and Sen. Larry Craig.

Takei described State Farm's activities within the APIA community, including programming by the JACL, OCA, South East Asian Resource Center and Asian American Justice Center. JACL recognized State Farm's "deep commitment and active involvement in the APIA community, and for being champions of physical and financial safety at the grassroots level." State Farm's Vance Yoshikawa, vice president for agency, accepted the award on the company's behalf.

Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American



A JACL GALA: (top row, l-r): Debee Yamamoto, Floyd Mori, Tamaki Kawakubo, and George Takei; (Second row, l-r): Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Karen Narasaki, Vance Yoshikawa and Larry Oda.

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 Ambassador Kato, Japan's representative 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 awardee for the night was Sen. Inouye, honored for his efforts as a leader, dedicated public servant and champion for the Asian 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

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. Doan, who could not swim, quickly drowned.

John J. Haley, 31 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

Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino in a Sept. 10 letter to the Chicago Police Department.

Chicago area APA groups held a Sept. 8 vigil at Montrose Harbor on the city's lakefront for a Vietnamese immigrant while a private funeral service was held on the city's far Northwest Side for Doan. After a musical performance, there was a silent prayer for the family of the victim.

Prosecutors use hate crimes law to upgrade a misdemeanor to a Class 4 felony if the offender acted because of race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability.

"Hate crimes cause communities to feel fearful, vulnerable and isolated. The affected community must know if it has been the target of a hate crime because it has an impact on its members," said Yoshino. ■

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.

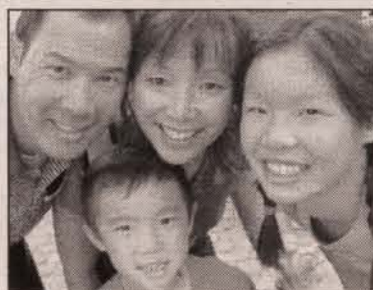
Last August, Kianna and her parents, Roger and Karen, attended a neighborhood meeting about putting together a team of 12-year-olds to conquer the English Channel and break the world record. Voni Oerman, a world-class swimmer who swam the English Channel herself in 2002, would coach the team. Kianna decided right then she was going to do it, and Roger was right behind her.

"I guess I was being the overzealous dad or something," said Roger. "But 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 inter-



Kianna Lee swam two legs of the 23.5-mile journey across the English Channel with her teammates following in a boat closeby (top). Her biggest cheerleaders are her parents Roger and Karen (left) and brother Ryan.

est 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 fear 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 dove 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 later watched her granddaughter's relay on video and cried while she watched an ashen-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.

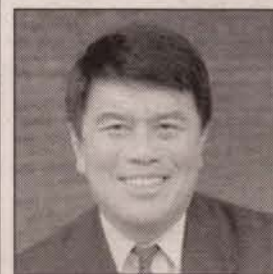
When finished, the Greenway will feature a series of interconnected parks through the heart of the city.

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." ■

APAs in the News

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. Ta-lin Hsu**, founder and CEO of H&Q Asia Pacific; **Guy Kawasaki**, managing director of Garage Technology Ventures; and **Ambassador Linda Tsao 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." ■

NPS Hosts JA Confinement Site Workshops, Seeks Public Comment

The National Park Service will be hosting a series of workshops to discuss how to implement the Japanese American confinement sites legislation (Public Law 109-441) that was passed this past December.

The goal of the workshops is to develop criteria for the grant program and to hear from various community members. Meetings will be held throughout the country in September and October. In addition to attending the various meetings, written comments are also being welcomed.

On Dec. 21, 2006, President George W. Bush signed into law a bill that authorizes up to \$38 million for the preservation and interpretation of confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The law directs the NPS to administer this grant program, once funds are available.

Through a series of public listening sessions, the NPS is seeking comments to help develop criteria for the grant program. The NPS hopes to hear concerns and ideas, and discuss guidelines for the new grant program, the eligibility requirements, and criteria that will be used to fund projects.

The NPS first became involved in the identification, recognition and preservation of these confinement sites in the mid-1980s to determine

which sites would be suitable as a national park unit. In 1992, Congress directed the agency to conduct a thematic survey of sites associated with the confinement of JAs during World War II.

The resulting publication of "Confinement and Ethnicity" and the completion of the thematic National Historic Landmarks study "Japanese Americans in World War II" provided a list of properties and a framework for evaluating related sites.

Grassroots support for the preservation of these properties and for

their recognition as sites of national significance led to the establishment of Manzanar National Historic Site — the first internment camp to become a unit of the NPS in 1992 — followed by the establishment of Minidoka Internment National Monument in 2001.

Groups committed to the preservation and interpretation of these sites also successfully pursued National Historic Landmark designation for Tule Lake, Topaz, Heart Mountain, Amache, Manzanar and Rohwer internment camps with assistance from the NPS. ■

Scheduled Public Listening Sessions

- Seattle, Washington – Sept. 27
- Bainbridge Island, Washington – Sept. 27
- Portland, Oregon – Sept. 28
- Sacramento, California – Oct. 8
- San Jose, California – Oct. 9
- San Francisco, California – Oct. 9
- Gardena, California – Oct. 11
- Los Angeles, California – Oct. 11
- San Diego, California – Oct. 12
- Honolulu, Hawaii – TBA
- Denver, Colorado – TBA
- Salt Lake City, Utah – TBA
- Phoenix, Arizona – TBA
- Little Rock, Arkansas – TBA
- Dumas, Arkansas – TBA
- Chicago, Illinois – TBA
- Washington, D.C. – TBA

Contact Information

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Contact: Tom Leatherman
Phone: 510/817-2701
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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
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MIDWEST REGION
(Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio)
Contact: Rachel Franklin-Weekley
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DIARIES

(Continued from page 1)

observations in Japanese in paper-bound diaries totaling up to 1,600 pages.

Through his writings, we get a glimpse of the role of religion — particularly Buddhism — in camp life, said Dr. Duncan Williams, a University of California, Berkeley professor of Japanese Buddhism 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 also an ordained Buddhist priest in the Soto Zen tradition.

Historians have generally ignored the importance of religion in internment camps, but it was extremely important to internees. It linked them back to Japan, said Williams.

"We have this thing where we say '120,000 JAs were put into camps, two-thirds of who were American citizens.' Those American citizens were children ... but the voices of mom and dad, and grandma and grandpa have not been recognized."

"Popular accounts of camp life

don't give the full extent of people age 30 and up, who built everything up only to lose everything," he said.

The Man Behind the Words

Daisho was born in the Meiji Period and wrote in the more grammatically difficult type of formal Japanese. Because his diaries were so long and complicated, scholars have not been using them as a reference for JA history.

"The grammar is not modern Japanese grammar," said Williams, but its level of difficulty helped keep Nisei informants from reading his innermost thoughts. In an honest, descriptive and reflective writing style, Daisho describes the fear gripping the community and the reactions of JA groups, including the JACL.

Like in any diary, Daisho also includes details about daily life.

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 gossip 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 prewar 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, 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-

See DIARIES/page 13

FUJIYAMAS

(Continued from page 1)

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) alumni.

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 50-plus 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 10, 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



Students Helping Honduras volunteers (pictured above with locals) are working to build new homes in Siete de Abril.



Gaku Fujiyama (pictured right) recently visited his sister Cosmo at the Copprome Orphanage.

and started crying. That made me cry and I hugged her really tight and promised to 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 squalid 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 Mary 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, a school, 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 an American Studies and 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-

noons, 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 Yuichiro and Aoi 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 Yuichiro. "Everyday they are strug-

gling 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 to donate: www.StudentsHelpingHonduras.org



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TOURS & CRUISES FOR 2007

- Oct. 3-10 Yamato Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Tour** - 8 days visiting Roswell, UFO Museum, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands National Monument, Albuquerque Balloon Festival mass ascension, cable car to Sandia Peak, Taos, Durango (Colorado) to board the Narrow Gauge Railway to Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park and Gallup. **Philippe Theriault**
- Oct. 12-17 Yamato/IDC Northern California Sampler** - 6 days roundtrip from San Francisco, visiting San Luis Obispo, San Simeon/Hearst Castle, Monterey, Napa Valley including lunch aboard the Napa Valley Wine Train, plus visits to 3 wineries and the Marin Cheese Factory in Petaluma. Additional nights in San Francisco can be arranged after the tour. **Peggy Mikuni**
- Oct. 30-Nov. 13 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** - 15 days visiting Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Yonago, Kyoto and Tokyo. **WAITLIST BASIS** **Peggy Mikuni**
- Nov. 8-18 Yamato Tour to Okinawa & Japan** - 11 days visiting Naha, Manza Beach, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Hiroshima. **Lilly Nomura**

PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2008

- Feb. 21-26 Yamato Egypt Sampler Tour** - 6 days, including 2 nights in Cairo and 2 nights in Giza, including highlights of Cairo and the Great Pyramids of Giza. Deluxe accommodations. **Grace Sakamoto**
- Feb. 23-Mar. 3 Yamato Nile Cruise** - 9 days or as a 7-day extension to the Egypt Sampler, highlights 4 night Cruise of the Nile on board the luxurious 5-star The Oberoi Philae. **Grace Sakamoto**
- April Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan** **Peggy Mikuni**
- April 1-7 Yamato Cherry Blossom Tour** - 7 days visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington, D.C., Mt. Vernon and the U.S. Naval Academy. **Lilly Nomura**
- May 1-10 Yamato Mackinac Island with Collette Vacations** - 10 days visiting Southfield, Frankenmuth, Holland, featuring the Tulip Festival, Grand Rapids and Mackinac, then to Green Bay, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois. **Lilly Nomura**
- May 5-10 Yamato Exclusive Southern Cities Tour** - 6 days visiting New Orleans where you will visit Oak Alley Plantation and to Avery Island, home to Tabasco Sauce; Camp Shelby/Hattiesburg where the 442nd/100th military troops trained; Vicksburg to visit the National Military Park, site of a Civil War Battle and Memphis to visit Elvis Presley's Graceland. **Lilly Nomura**
- June 5-17 Yamato Spectacular Scandinavia with Collette Vacations** - 13 days visiting Stockholm, Sweden, Oslo, Lillehammer, Loen, Stalheim and Bergen, Norway and Copenhagen, Denmark. **Sharon Seto**
- July Yamato Tour to Hokkaido** **Peggy Mikuni**
- Sept. 11-21 Yamato Colors of Canada & New England, aboard Holland America's new ms Eurodam** - 10 days sailing from Quebec to Saguenay, St. Lawrence River, Charlottetown/Prince Edward Island, Sydney and Halifax/Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor/Maine, Boston, Newport/Rhode Island and New York. **Sharon Seto**
- October Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** **Peggy Mikuni**
- November Yamato Tour to China** **Peggy Mikuni**
- Nov. 2-8 Yamato Southern Charm with Collette Vacations** - 7 days visiting Charleston and Beaufort, South Carolina, Savannah, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island, Georgia and St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida.

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NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The National JACL recently announced its 2007 scholarship winners. The following are recipients from the freshman, graduate, undergraduate, law, creative and performing arts, and financial aid divisions with excerpts from their personal statements. This year, JACL 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-winning dance competition team, I traveled across the country competing in regional and national dance competitions. ... I am the only Asian American on my team. 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. As my *bachan* has always told me, everything that I do is a reflection on my Japanese heritage. I hope to honor my Japanese American heritage by becoming a role model in dance and sports medicine.

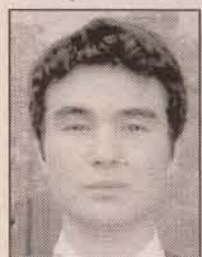
Mr. & Mrs. Takahashi Moriuchi



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 breath 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.

Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial



Kenji Morimoto
Chicago 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 of 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 & Majiu 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.

2007 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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 Koo 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 ways 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)



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.



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

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 humanitarianism and leadership. I am drawn to medicine because of its humanitarian 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; humanitarianism is about empathy and empowerment. I want to be a humanitarian.

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 . . .

. . . 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 Vice President for Planning & Development

DAVID KAWAMOTO, National JACL Scholarship Committee Chair



Jaclyn with her pet "Daisy" in *Liberty Lost... Lessons in Loyalty* reenactment, April 27, 2002.

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*

2007 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



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 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.

Kenji 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 the same dedication, 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 their 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 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

Congratulations

Wendy!

Love Mom, Dad, Doug

and the rest of us!



Congratulations
Greg!



You'll make a great Chief of Staff

Love,
Davd, Mom, Wendy, Marc & Grandma

CONGRATULATIONS TO
**BRANDON MITA &
KENJI MORIMOTO**
FROM THE
Chicago Chapter
www.jaclchicago.org

Congratulations

Laurel!

We are so proud of you!



Love,
Mamma,
Papa, Emi
- Grandma
and Grandpa

2007 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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 Uenaka
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.

PERFORMING ARTS

Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka Memorial Performing Arts Scholarship



Yukari Watanabe
New York JACL
Manhattan School of Music (Music)

By taking advantage of our great ability, I am trying to blend the Japanese music sense into American/Western music in my case it is Jazz. Creating a great Jazz with the Japanese musical sense will be a great

way to honor my heritage.

LAW

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship

Michelle Sugahiro

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)

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.



STUDENT AID

Abe & Esther Hagiwara 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 Yuzawa-Rubin, Ellie Olin, and George Wong. Central California District Council volunteers were Bobbi Hanada (chair), Ralph Kumano, 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.florinjac.com

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

• HARRY HONDA •

VERY TRULY YOURS

Sizing up PANA After 25 Years: The 'North-South Fever'



ONE "personal" beat this former *P.C.* editor has enjoyed were the PANA conventions since the first one in Mexico City in 1981. Chuck Kubokawa (Sequoia 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 Texmico, an abandoned hacienda halfway from Mexico City to Acapulco that served as a WWII internment place for Japanese who were told by the Mexican government to move 100 km inland away from the U.S. border.

Swapping personal WWII 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 Fujihira 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 São Paulo with delegates from the Yokohama-based Association of Nikkei and Japanese Aboard (Kaigai Nikkeijin Kyokai).

In homogeneous Japan, the term "Nikkei" once reserved to mean "émigrant," has changed to include *dekasegi* or foreign-born Nisei who came to live and work in Japan 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"

In America, the term Nikkei is inclusive of all persons of Japanese ancestry, even "children of international marriages and of 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 Brazil. Others from Peru conquered the snow-covered Andes, walking down to Mendoza in the 1910s. *Dekasegi* 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 there are 300 different ethnic communities in Indonesia today. Promoting education awareness of Japanese language is a real problem, but working with a college in Tokushima, Japan, has been worthwhile in this effort.

In the State of São Paulo

NIKKEI FROM NORTH and South America gathered with Japanese from Japan in mid-July in São Paulo, Brazil—where 1.8 million Nikkei live in the state of the same name (about the size, I estimate, of the state of Wisconsin—around 400 and 450 miles at the most distant points) and 80 percent of them in metropolitan São Paulo of 14 million.

So, how many Nikkei live in Wisconsin today? About 5,000? And the last U.S. Census tallied 800,000 Nikkei (Hapa included) in the nation. ■

• CHERYL WATAMURA MARTINEZ •

A BROAD VIEW

Little Tokyo in Germany



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, Duesseldorfers think of us as "low class" and "rude," 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 Duesseldorf 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 Duesseldorf, 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.

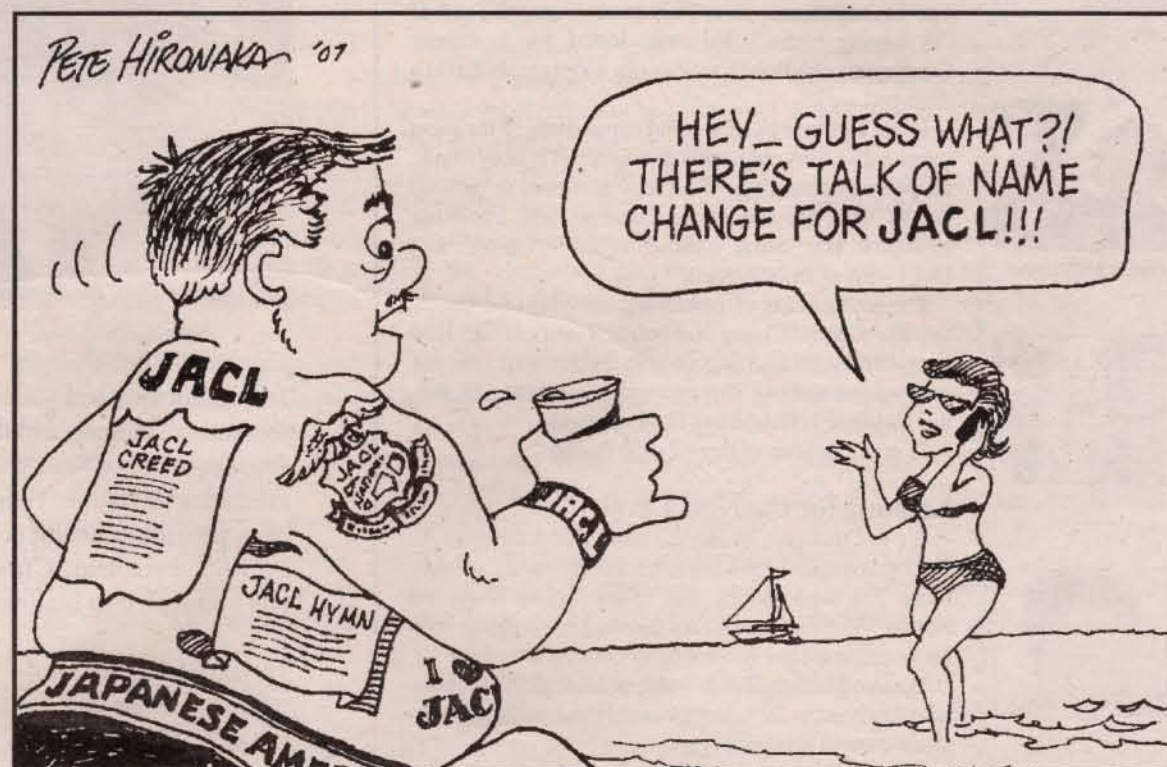
As it turns out, there are several different types of *nori* for wrapping rice. Some have not been so tasty. But not to be daunted, I continue on a trial-and-error basis to try my luck. This particular store also has a very inviting selection of fresh slabs of sushi and pre-cooked teriyaki chicken. They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

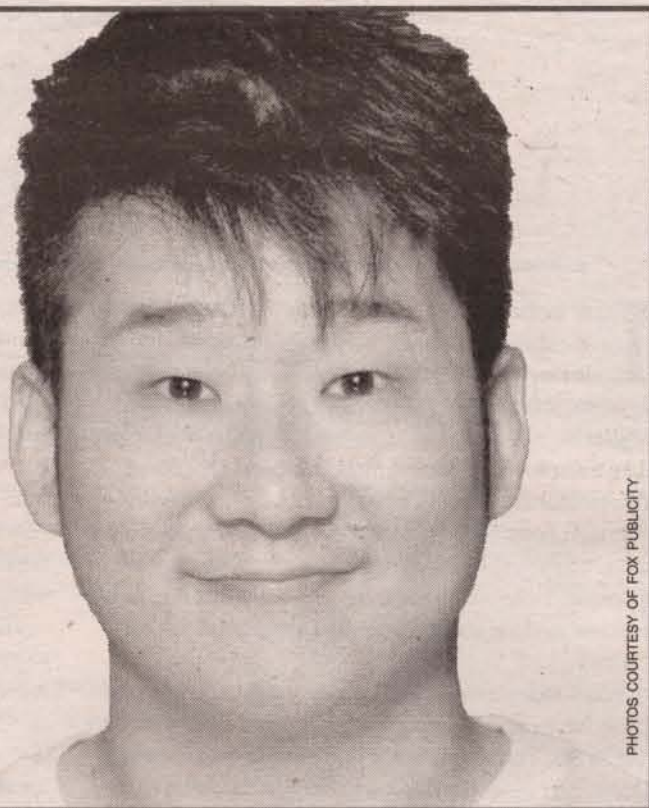
You can reach Cheryl Watamura Martinez at: Cheryl@texter-koeln.de



Almost Famous

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

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOX PUBLICITY

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 philosophical about his career.

This is Bobby's seventh year on Fox's Saturday night comedy sketch show, "MADtv," making him the second longest running cast member behind Michael McDonald. The cast begins shooting in a few weeks and Bobby has mixed feelings.

"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."

Bobby's Lee's Many Faces

Seven years on 'MADtv' has spawned many identities.



AS CONNIE CHUNG



PARODYING 'HEROES'



BLIND KUNG FU MASTER



AS KIM JONG IL

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 souped-up 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 Dae 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."

'They cut the budget by 40 percent. It's not going to be the same show.'

— Bobby Lee, about budget cuts at 'MADtv'

Jolla 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, lobbied 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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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."

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 taken out more mundane entries, but they clearly give a glimpse into a man of faith incarcerated 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 JA history, said 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.



Rev. Daisho Tana is pictured here in his late 50s.

For Williams, translating the diary entries has brought him closer to the man behind the words.

"He had optimism even in the most dire of situations," Williams said. "He did his best to live every day in a righteous way." ■

For more information on Daisho Tana's diaries or other books by Dr. Duncan Williams, contact him directly at: duncanw@berkeley.edu.

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 was a "non-event" for Richard. The year before he was supposed to attend, the doors of Little Rock Central were closed to all students, so Richard was bussed to a high school in North Little Rock.

"We talked about it during lunch and between classes," said Yada about the integration. But one year later, the controversial historic moment faded back into people's memories.

In his hometown, Yada said he felt more like part of the majority.

"I was pretty well accepted in the junior high school."

He can only remember one incident, where some classmates taunted him with some racial name-calling, but his peers stepped up to his

defense.

Richard was only three-years-old when he left his desolate birthplace — Rohwer. As children, camp wasn't such a bad place. He remembers kids felt it was a great place because they played together.

"As one looks back on it, you get angry," said Richard, the only one of the original group of JAs who continues to live in Little Rock where he is a certified public accountant with Smith Barney. "They took my parents, made them sell everything, and sent them to a concentration camp where I was born."

"Then the U.S. tried to kill my grandparents, who were living in Hiroshima at the time with an atomic bomb," he continued. The U.S. successfully killed a cousin, who was found with her skin peeling off lying on the side of the road.

Then during the Vietnam War, Richard joined the Air Force and flew B-52s for the U.S.

"It's all so ironic," he said.

He's working on an article about his life in Conway, Arkansas for a September art exhibit. He titled it, "The Day America Stood Still."

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, Kaz 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. ■

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

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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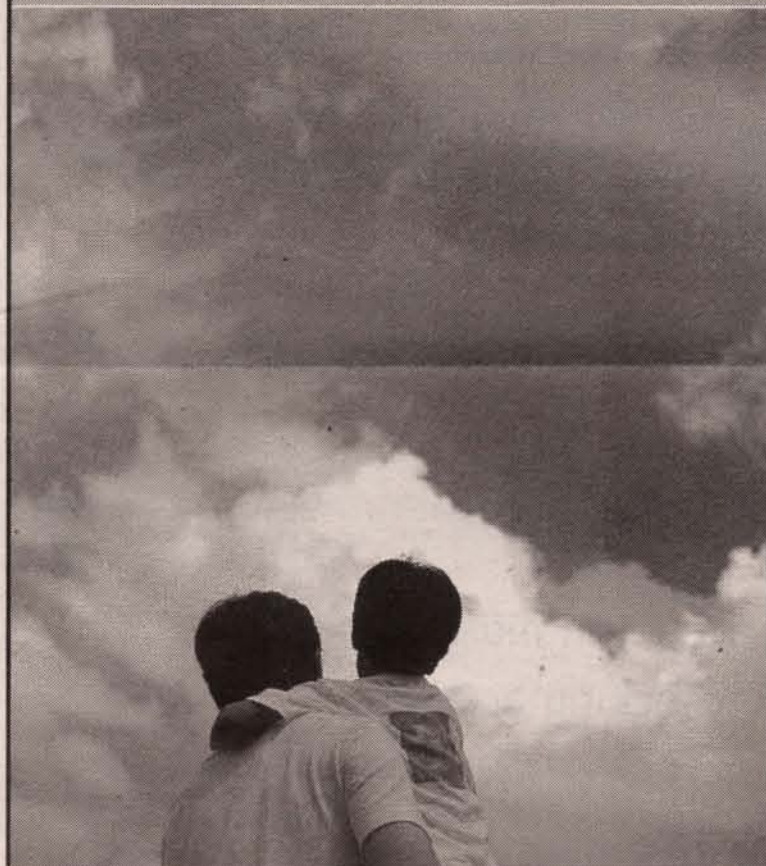
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Calendar

National

RENO, Nevada

Nov. 2-4—"Making a Difference in Our Communities" the NCWNP-CC-PSW JACL Tri-District Conference; Circus-Circus Hotel and Casino; registration fee \$100, youth group \$50 (early registration deadline is Sept. 30); hotel rooms are \$89.99/night with a deadline of Oct. 13; events include an award luncheon, workshops, bowling, mixers, etc. Info: Thaya Mune Craig, 916/652-0093 or thaya@vfr.net.

Midwest

DENVER

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

Through Jan. 6—Exhibit, "Window on a Community: Nikkei Farmers of the Hood River Area"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. noon-3 p.m.; \$3/general admission, free to ONLC members. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458.

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.

POCATELLO, Idaho

Oct. 5-6—1st Annual Idaho State Kite Festival; 10:30 a.m.; Idaho State's PSUB Wood River Room or Bartz Field; events include workshops on kite making and two special kite flies honoring veterans and breast cancer survivors. Info: www.myspace.com/iskf or Micki at kawamart@yahoo.com.

Northern California

MARYSVILLE

Sat., Oct. 20—Marysville Buddhist Church Centennial Celebration; 9:30 a.m.; Marysville Buddhist Church, 125 B St.; Bishop Socho Koshin Ogui will officiate the ceremonies.; other events scheduled are an affirmation service, 100th anniversary service, group photos, and a banquet; participants for the affirmation service need to fill out an application and submit \$25 affirmation fee; banquet will be held at The Refuge Restaurant, 1501 Butte House Rd., Yuba City. To sign up for the affirmation service or banquet, contact Clark Tokunaga, 530/673-0828.

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Oct. 20—Asian Legal Services Outreach, Inc.'s annual Beat the Heat Luau; 6-9 p.m.; Sacramento Buddhist Church Social Hall, 2401 Riverside Blvd.; \$20/students and seniors, \$30/adults, \$40 at the door. Info:



Bunraku: The National Puppet Theatre of Japan is coming to the Aratani/Japan America Theatre from Oct. 18-20. Tickets are on sale now.

916/454-1892.

SAN FRANCISCO

Thurs., Sept. 27—American Friends Service Committee's 65th Anniversary dinner, "Across Generations: 65 Years of Compassion, Community & Justice. **SAN JOSE**

Sat., Oct. 6—Spirit of Japantown Festival; 9-5 p.m.; San Jose Japantown; featuring arts, crafts, demonstrations and more. Info: Jeanne Katsuro, 4408/569-1415, jeannekats@aol.com or Kathy Sakamoto, 408/298-4303, sanjosejatown@sbc-global.net.

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

HANFORD

Sun., Oct. 14—Performance, "Yaji Kita"; 3 p.m.; Fox Theater, 326 N. Irwin St.; puppetry will be performed by Nishikawa Koryu V, headmaster of the Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo puppetry troupe and narrated by Tsuruga Wakasanojo XI; tickets: \$12/Clark Center members, \$18/non-members and can be purchased through the Clark Center at 559/582-4915 or tickets.com.

Southern California

CAMARILLO

Sun., Oct. 14—17th Annual Japanese Culture Day hosted by Ventura County JACL; 1-4 p.m.; Camarillo Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley St.; featuring demonstrations craft booths, food and more; \$7/adults, \$5/kids 5-17 years, seniors 62 and older and students with I.D., \$15/family (2 adults and 2 kids). Info: 805/677-4517, vcjacl@hotmail.com or www.vcjacl.org.

LOS ANGELES

Sun., Sept. 23—Presentation, "From Barbed Wire to Barbed Hooks: Work in Progress"; 2 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; filmmaker Cory Shiozaki will share stories of how some internees at Manzanar were able to slip out of Manzanar and fish for trout in the

dors accept cash or check only. Info: Jean, 310/390-6914.

Oct. 18-20—Bunraku: The National Puppet Theatre of Japan; Aratani/Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St.; performance includes the classics Tsubosaka Kannon Reigenki and Date Musume Koi no Higanoko; tickets, 213/680-3700. Info: Jessica Kikuchi, 213/628-2725, jkikuchi@jaccc.org or www.jaccc.org.

VENICE

Oct. 6-28—Play, "Innocent When You Dream," a play by Ken Narasaki; Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave.; about a JA war veteran who finds himself returning to a lost memory while his third generation children struggle to interpret his wishes and unravel his past.; \$20/tickets and can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com or 800/838-3006. Info: Sharon Omi, 310/592-1160 or www.myspace.com/innocentatelectric.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sat., Sept. 29—"Celebration of Leadership and Achievement

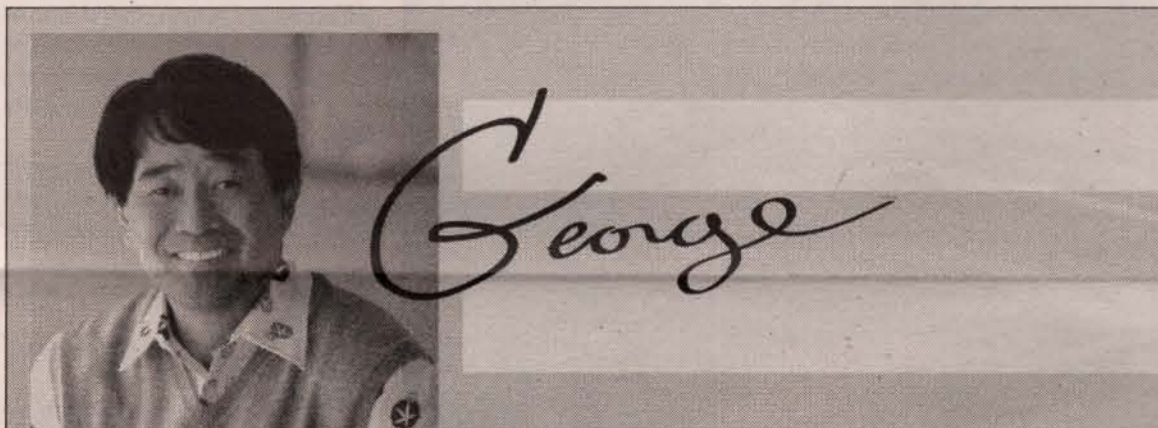
Dinner presented by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; 5 p.m.; Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom; \$150/person. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633 or info@jcch.com.

Sat., Oct. 13—Genealogy Workshop: Finding Your Roots; 7:30-3 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St.; \$50/members, \$60/non-members, includes a manual, lunch and refreshments; registration recommended by Oct. 1. Info: www.jcch.com, info@jcch.com or 808/945-7633.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Oct. 2-4—Jerome Reunion, "The Last Round-Up"; California Hotel and Casino; buffet luncheon, \$25/person; 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. **Nov. 6-7**—All-Minidoka Reunion; Golden Nugget Hotel. Info: Tak Todo, 206/362-8195 or tjtodo@aol.com. ■



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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, Meiko "Mae," 86, Watsonville, Aug. 22; survived by son, Lester (Michelle); and 3 gc.

Eguchi, Hiroshi Harry, 84, June 28; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by sons, Mike and Mark; daughter, Marcia (Don) Smiley; 2 gc.; and daughter-in-law, Linda

DEATH NOTICE**JIM SHIGERU OKUDA**

Jim Shigeru Okuda, 86, passed away Sept. 14, at Kindred Hospital in Westminster. He is survived by his wife, Shizuko Okuda; sons, Donald (Liesel) Okuda and Stanley Okuda from Sacramento; daughter, Nancy (Chrys) Ishida; sister, Erma Unyeo; grandchildren, Rhett and Chelzea Tipones, Nathan and Michael Ishida; sister-in-law, Elsa Okuda, also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 10:30 A.M. at Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 2000 N. Fairview St., Santa Ana. Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, Directors (213) 749-1449.

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.

Funio, 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 (Sumi) Funio.

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, Yemi; daughter, Luanne; sons, Ronald (Kathy) and Randell (Christine); 4 gc.; and sister, Mary Kamiya.

Kobata, Tamaye, 88, Palmdale,

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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, Sharyn (Armando) Jaimes and Carla (Craig) Sasaki; 5 gc.; and 1 ggc.

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

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

Ogawa, Haruo, 85, June 13; WWII veteran, U.S. Army; survived by son, Patrick (Margaret Speck); sister, Chidori 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 "Fleazy,"

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; 3 gc.; brother, Ben; and sisters, Grace Boyd and Ida Zadow.

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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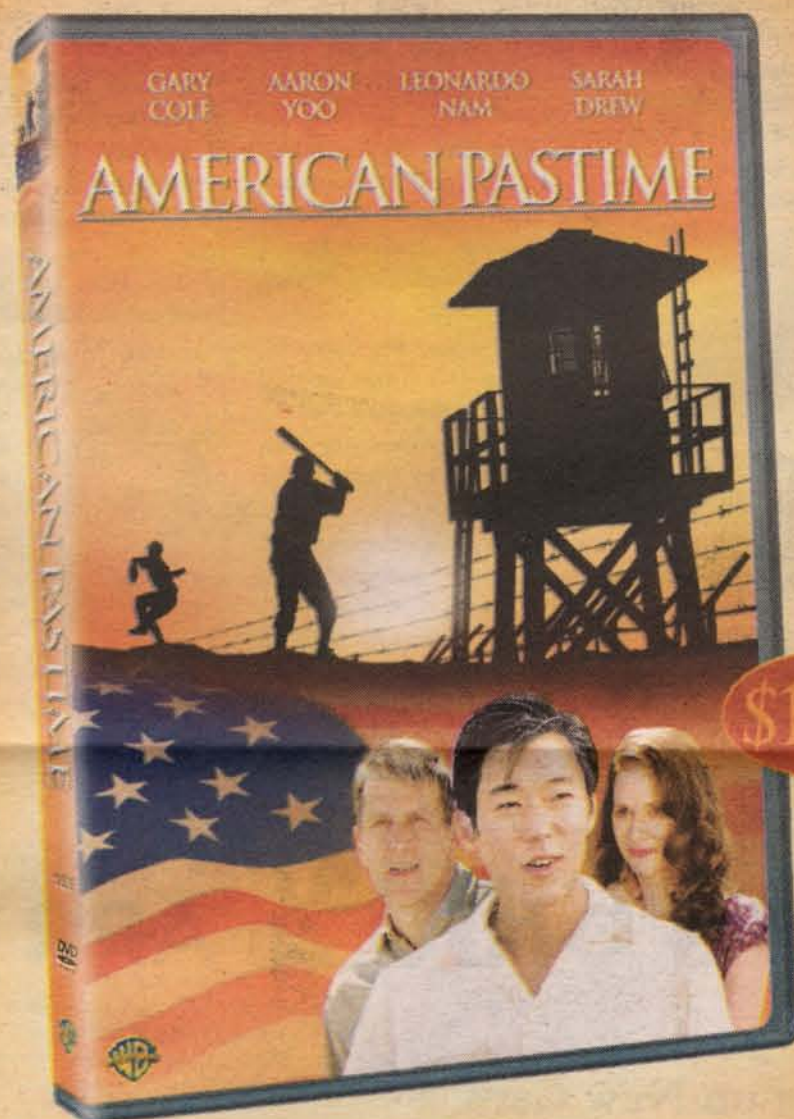


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