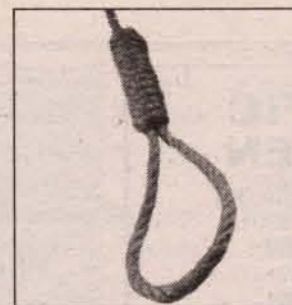




Historic Locke celebrates a new park. —PAGE 6

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



A Symbol of Hate

New York considers a ban on the display of nooses. JACL decries the recent increase in noose incidents.

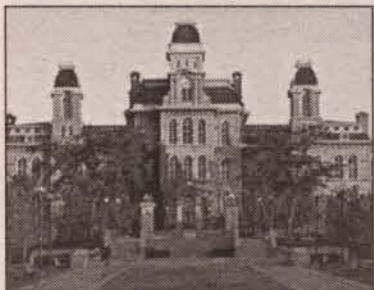
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Nov. 2-15, 2007

Students' Fight for Asian American Studies an Uphill One



APAs are the largest minority at Syracuse University, but the college still lacks a program.

By ELAINE LOW
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Ellee Kim, a senior at Syracuse University, grew up in a neighborhood full of "Jewish people and Caucasians." While Kim is able to converse fluently in Korean and English, the 21-year old Korean American "always felt that there was something lagging" in her sense of cultural and socio-political awareness, and eagerly hoped to fill that void in college.

"In high school, you never learn enough about [Asian American topics]. I figured in college you could learn more," said the Long Island native. But once she got to Syracuse, she soon learned there were no Asian studies or Asian American studies programs. So last month, she went to the arts and sciences college in a quest for answers.

Kim is not the first to ask why, at a college where AAs constitute the largest minority (6.8 percent of the

See AA STUDIES/Page 16

She's the Woman in Charge of All the Men



In the Department of Corrections, Hisami Yoshida is one of the few. But you can call her superintendent.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Hisami Yoshida is no stranger to leadership positions. She is a mother who has raised two daughters and is a

former student activist who naturally became a leader of the local Asian Pacific American community in Olympia, Washington.

In September, she also earned a title that puts her in charge of over 400 male inmates as superintendent of Cedar Creek Corrections Center, a minimum-security prison. The new title makes Hisami, a Shin Nisei, not only the first APA woman to head up a prison in the state of Washington, but also one of the few APA female prison superintendents in the United States.

The immensity of the role isn't lost on her.

"Being in such a position of power is empowering especially for an Asian American woman," said Hisami by phone from her Cedar Creek office. "We tend to get seen stereotypically as being in a weaker position."

Her journey to the top did not happen overnight. Hisami started with the Department of Corrections (DOC) 17 years ago as a counselor and had

See HISAMI YOSHIDA/Page 12

This Veterans Day, Watada Issue Still a Lightning Rod for Controversy

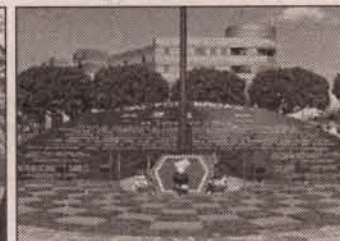


As the JA community celebrates the accomplishments of its long heralded veterans, where does 1st Lt. Ehren Watada fit in?

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

On Nov. 11 as the clock strikes the 11th hour, heads across the nation will bow in a moment of silence in honor of our military men and women.

Sadly, for many these days, Veterans Day means little more than



The Go for Broke monument (above) symbolizes the heroic JA vets. Watada supporters (left) hold a vigil in Little Tokyo.

a day off from work. But for the Japanese American community, generations of families will take the time to visit a memorial or stand alongside a parade route — all to honor their heroes.

Amidst all the fanfare, one has to wonder, where exactly does 1st Lt. Ehren Watada fit in? It's a question many are wary of answering.

Celebrated as a hero by those who oppose the current Iraq War, yet vilified by those who feel his actions have left a black mark on the legacy of the heroic JA veterans, Watada's

See VETERANS DAY/Page 11

With a Pending Lawsuit, a Broken Peace for JA Buddhists

Little Tokyo's Jodo Shu Betsuin's mostly Nisei members are waging an unlikely battle against its Japanese parent body. The fight is being likened to a Catholic church suing the Vatican.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Sumako Iwahashi's Little Tokyo home is just a few steps from the Buddhist temple she had been actively involved in for over 40 years, but the distance in her heart is gaping.

The name splashed across the Buddhist temple with its traditional Japanese garden located at 442 East Third Street reads: Jodo Shu North America Buddhist Missions (JNABM), but Iwahashi doesn't feel

welcomed anymore. Not since she and her Jodo Shu Betsuin members were expelled from the Jodo Shu organization and the Los Angeles temple in 2003 amidst allegations of slander, subversion and even physical assault.

The tension between the mostly Nisei Betsuin congregation and its Japanese religious umbrella organization had been mounting for years, but in October 2003 the temple's peace was broken.

"Betsuin has been granted the



NOW AND THEN: Jodo Shu Betsuin bishops (above) perform service in 2001 at the former temple location. After the Betsuin's exile, their location is stark (left).

privilege of acting as a Jodo Shu temple affiliated with JNABM only so long as both parties so agree. JNABM can no longer agree to Betsuin's affiliation with JNABM," read an Oct. 17, 2003, letter

addressed to believers and supporters of Jodo Shu.

Since then Iwahashi, a Betsuin board member, has struggled with reality. She along with other expelled Betsuin members have been attending services in the basement of a Little Tokyo community center with makeshift altars and incense sticks that cannot be burned because of fire codes.

"I'm sad. We loved our temple. We worked so hard and now we have no place to go. I'm 89 and I have nowhere to go," said Iwahashi tearfully. "Why did they have to do this to us?"

A 'David Versus Goliath' Lawsuit

"For the first 10 years while this problem was brewing, [Betsuin]

See JODO SHU/Page 13

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Hula Men

Lisette Flanary's film focuses on manly men who can move their hips.

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A Tokyo Star

Mami Yamaguchi brings her soccer skills to the Florida State Seminoles.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Letters to the Editor

Watada and Sugihara: Logic is the Same



SUGIHARA

I was really interested in two articles in the Sept. 7-20 issue. They were the 1st Lt. Ehren Watada resolution and the Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor articles.

First, I was happy to hear the position of the JACL with Watada, but there is a lack of correlation with the Solly Ganor article. Both Watada and Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese ambassador who gave visas to hundreds of Jews during WWII, violated their rules of conduct but this was never brought up in the Solly Ganor article. Germany was Japan's partner in the war.

What Sugihara did was great, but was clearly a violation of his duties.

In my simple mind, I believe the logic of Watada was the same. He was willing to go to Afghanistan, and it was not to avoid war but to not follow the "Bush" logic. He was also willing to stand trial for his actions.

I believe the thinking between the two was similar. The JACL involvement is policy, "double jeopardy," not innocence or guilt.

Chiune Sugihara's act was far more illegal than Watada's. The emphasis on the double jeopardy bothers me. I believe his actions were taken for his beliefs and that is important.

SHINOBU TOGASAKI

Via e-mail

'JACL for Asian Americans'

Given the declining numbers of Japanese Americans in the U.S. and resulting falling membership numbers of the JACL, I strongly support the changing of the name of the Japanese American Citizens League to the following: "JACL for Asian Americans"

This would preserve the critically important traditional, historic roots of the JACL, as well as broaden the name of our organization to include its modern, broadened interest in supporting the civil rights of other Asian Americans.

CECI HIRAMOTO GALEOTA, ESQ.

Via e-mail

Preserving Constitutional Rights

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong." (Voltaire, 1694-1778).

The Nisei veterans of World War II fought to preserve the Constitutional rights that the National Japanese American Citizens League is demanding for 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, and we are grateful.

MAS HASHIMOTO

Watsonville, CA

COMMENTARY

A Courageous Decision: Commissioners Reject Feedlot Near Minidoka Monument

By KAREN YOSHITOMI

When I arrived at the Jerome County Courthouse in Idaho, I was taken by surprise by the number of people who were lined-up to attend a public hearing on a proposed feedlot.

The Commissioners had scheduled two days of hearings to receive public comment on an application by Big Sky Farms to develop a 13,000-heifer feedlot less than two miles from the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

As I scanned the crowd, I wondered how many of these people were opposed to the feedlot. By the time I made my way toward the front of the line, I had my answer. Nearly all of the people were waiting to testify in opposition to the feedlot.

John Lothspeich, the attorney representing Big Sky, argued that the standards and criteria for compliance with county ordinances should be the focal issue in considering the application. Local residents, preservationists, environmental advocates and the National Park Service agreed that compliance with the county ordinances was essential. However, the opposition also argued that the potential impact on residents and visitors to the area should also be taken into consideration.

An operation of the size proposed by Big Sky would create significant challenges in terms of waste management, ground water contamination and airborne pathogens, not to mention the odor. Located downwind from the proposed operation, visitors to Minidoka would be assaulted not only by the smell but also the intrusion upon the sanctity of the site.

When it was my turn to testify, I decided to deviate from my prepared statement. I felt it

was important to point out that the county ordinance set forth "minimum standards" and that more restrictive standards should be applied as well. Certainly the proximity of Minidoka with its historic significance provides a compelling argument for greater scrutiny and careful consideration.

I offered testimony as a representative of the JACL on behalf of those who were unable to attend the hearing and as a descendant of former internees. I also brought along a copy of a photograph of my mother's family which was taken in the late 1930s. It represents one of the few family keepsakes which pre-date 1942. Other family mementos I explained were either given away or left behind when my family was forced to leave the West Coast region after the outbreak of World War II.

Five presidents: Gerald Ford, who on Feb. 19, 1976, signed a proclamation, "The American Promise"; Jimmy Carter, who on July 31, 1980, signed into law the creation of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; Ronald Reagan, with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 on Aug. 10; George Bush with the Redress letter of apology in October 1990; and Bill Clinton, with the establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument by proclamation on Jan. 17, 2001, all formally recognized the injustice of the wartime incarceration and the importance of educating future generations.

Minidoka offers a unique and important opportunity to educate thousands. Its existence preserves an important part of our nation's history, while the livestock operation would benefit a relatively few individuals while threatening the health and environment for hundreds.

After my testimony, I had the opportunity to meet and talk with a number of local residents. Alma Hasse, representing a local environmental protection group, Xenia Williams, the Dimond, Herrmann and Stewart families, each did their part to provide the backbone to the opposition. All were impressive in their level of passion and commitment.

Despite such strong opposition, I left the hearing and Idaho with the belief that the commissioners would ultimately vote in favor of approving the application. The application process had dragged on for over eight months and by most accounts, favored the approval of the application. At the end of the two-day hearings, the commissioners set Oct. 9 as the date their decision would be announced.

On Oct. 10 I received word from a number of different sources which was quite unexpected — the commissioners had voted to deny the application, 2-1. I heard that concern for the impact to Minidoka was cited by one of the commissioners, Diana Obenauer, as one of the reasons why she voted against the application.

Though the applicant may exercise their right to appeal the decision, for now the protection of Minidoka and the health and welfare of the people in the surrounding community has prevailed. With their decision, the commissioners deserve an acknowledgement for demonstrating leadership, accountability and having the courage to do the right thing. ■

Karen Yoshitomi is the JACL Pacific Northwest regional director. She writes from Seattle.



*I offered testimony
as a representative
of the JACL on
behalf of those who
were unable to
attend the hearing
and as a descendant
of former internees.*

DREAM Act, Affecting Children of Illegals, Fails Senate Test

APA groups, including JACL, had lobbied for passage of the bill.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—Legislation to give some children of illegal immigrants a path toward legality failed a crucial Senate vote Oct. 24, probably dooming any chance of major changes to the immigration system this year.

Supporters needed 60 votes to advance the proposal, but the tally was 52-44. The measure would have allowed illegal immigrants who plan to attend college or join the military, and who came to the United States with their families before they turned 16, to move toward legality.

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act — DREAM Act for short — was a popular part of a broad immigration plan that would have legalized as many as 12 million unlawful immigrants and fortified the border.

That larger bill failed in the Senate in June. But proponents of the DREAM Act wanted to see if it would pass on its own.

"What crime did these children commit?" added Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the Senate's No. 2 Democrat. "They committed the crime of obeying their parents and following their parents to this country. Do you think there was a vote in the household about their future? I don't think so."

But Republican opponents of the bill said the plan was the first step to amnesty, which they said the Senate rejected in June.

"I do not believe we should reward illegal behavior," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said.

"This would be the wrong direction," added Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. "This would be to signal that once again we're focused on rewarding illegality rather than taking the steps necessary to create a lawful system."

A number of APA groups, including JACL, had lobbied for the passage of the DREAM Act.

JACL "is asking that you make your voice heard in support of immigrant students. ... We need your help now more than ever to remind our elected officials that we should give talented youth a chance to contribute to this country!" the organization wrote in an action alert.

"I have met with DREAM Act students in my district, who are academic stars, contribute so much to the civic life at our schools and our communities, and have a rich understanding of American principles of social justice. It is a shame that the Senate has voted to give up on this talent and diversity," said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda.

The White House opposes the legislation, but did not threaten to veto it.

While sympathetic to children brought into the country illegally by their parents, the White House said in a statement the bill falls short by "creating a special path to citizenship that is unavailable to other prospective immigrants — including young people whose parents respected the nation's immigration laws." ■

A Daughter's Testimony Could Result in Family's Deportation

Tam Tran testified on Capitol Hill in support of the DREAM Act. Now her family fears being sent back to Vietnam, a country they had fled for fear of prosecution.

By Pacific Citizen Staff



Tam Tran (far right) testified in support of the DREAM Act. Now her family faces deportation to Vietnam.

Tam Tran, 24, thought she was doing the right thing when she agreed to tell her immigration story before a House immigration subcommittee in support of the DREAM Act, legislation that would allow children of illegal immigrants to receive a higher education.

But after her story appeared in *USA Today*, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials detained Tam's parents and brother on suspicion of violating a years old deportation order. Tam, a UCLA graduate, was not home at the time.

Tam's family was taken into custody and are currently under house arrest, facing possible deportation to Vietnam.

"I am deeply concerned about the recent detainment of Tam Tran's family. It sends a disturbing message to others who are advocating on behalf of immigrant communities or who otherwise participate in our democracy by speaking out," said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda.

A few days after Tam was quoted in an Oct. 8 *USA Today* story, ICE officials showed up at her Garden Grove, Calif. home taking family members into custody overnight.

The next day, after Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, and chair of the immigration subcommittee intervened, the family was released from custody. They are now under house arrest with their legal status in limbo.

Tam was born in Germany to Vietnamese refugees who had fled their country in fear of prosecution. At the age of six, Tran and her family moved to California to join family members.

Although her family had applied for asylum in the U.S., their request was denied. The family had voluntarily agreed to be deported to Germany but German officials denied them travel documents. (Although Tam was born in Germany, Germany does not automatically give citizenship to those born in the country.)

With Germany's denial, the U.S. gave the Trans "withholding of removal" status, allowing them to report to immigration each year to have their work permits renewed. The Trans have complied with this provision.

"The arrest of Tan Tram and her family raise troubling issues of witness intimidation. It is now startling to hear a spokesman for the government suggest that the victim of a re-education camp in Vietnam might be forcibly returned to the arms of that Communist government," said Lofgren.

So far there has been no decision on whether the Trans will be allowed to remain in the U.S. ICE officials have been quoted in newspapers saying that they are currently trying to determine if the Trans can return to Germany. ■

N.Y.: Display of Noose Could be a Felony

Epidemic of hate symbols must not be taken lightly, says JACL.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

ALBANY, N.Y.—Following a rash of cases involving nooses, the state legislature Oct. 22 moved toward making it a felony to display the symbol of lynchings in the Old South in a threatening manner.

"We won't tolerate this," said Sen. Dean G. Skelos, a Long Island Republican who sponsored the measure that passed Oct. 22 in the Senate. "There is no place for racism and intimidation in America."

The bill also covers etching, drawing or painting the symbol. He said that, as in the case of Nazi symbols and burning crosses, an intent to threaten or harass would be part of an anti-noose law.

The Senate vote came as New York City police said a black high school teacher in Brooklyn had been targeted with a letter containing racial slurs and a string tied into a noose.

Nooses were also found last month on a black professor's door at Teachers College at Columbia University, outside a post office near ground zero in lower Manhattan and in locations on Long Island. There have been no arrests.

It was also in the so-called Jena Six case in Louisiana, where six black teenagers are accused of beating a white student. The incident happened after nooses were hung from a tree on a high school campus there.

The JACL is deeply disturbed by the number of noose-hanging incidents and hate symbols that have surfaced across the country recently and is concerned that these shocking displays of hate will lead to violent behavior.

"The hangman's noose and the swastika, just like the slur 'Jap,' have historically been symbols of hate, and they will not be tolerated, whether as a prank or threat" said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. ■



APA Groups: Articles on Clinton's Chinatown Donors are Biased

The *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Post* articles about dubious donations unfairly generalize an entire ethnic community, critics say.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American groups are calling the recent media scrutiny of New York Chinatown donors to Hillary Clinton's campaign biased and irresponsible.

Recent articles by the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Post* have examined contributions Clinton received from Chinatown donors including dishwashers and cooks, who were characterized as low-income but able to donate up to \$1,000 to Clinton's presidential campaign. The *Times* also reported that some donors falsified their addresses.

The published reports, which came in the wake of the arrest of Norman Hsu, a fugitive and fundraiser for the Democratic Party, unfairly attributes individual cases to an entire ethnic community, critics argued.

"Many Chinese Americans from

Chinatown, Flushing and Brooklyn are prominent and long time donors to many educational, non-profit and political causes," said Jeanette Moy, APIAVote vice chair. "As a born and raised New Yorker, I am personally and professionally alarmed by the broad mischaracterization on the emergent political involvement of the AAPI community."

The Oct. 20 *Post* article, "Hill's Cash Eyed as Chinese-Laundered," followed up on the *Times*' examination of one-third of the 150 Clinton donors whose addresses could not be found.

"Hillary Clinton's campaign has been raising huge piles of money in Chinatown, but some of it has come from donors who can't be located or who were improperly repaid for their contributions," said the *Post* article.

APA groups said these articles, which also focused on some of the donors' immigration status, are another example of ethnic profiling. Suggesting that legal permanent residents who donate to campaigns should be suspect because they have not yet earned their right to vote is misleading and is irresponsible reporting, said the group.

"Immigrants who have permanent resident status have the right to exercise their right to participate in the political process by legally donating to campaigns," said Vida Benavides, chair of APIAVote.

After the Washington, D.C.-based group released its statement decrying the articles, the *Washington Post* revealed that members of APIAVote had discussed the planned press release with campaign members of Barack Obama, John Edwards and the Clinton camp because they wanted to urge them to avoid repeating the donor scandal involving APAs and Bill Clinton.

"This story has already spawned a barrage of racist reactions in the blogosphere and the airwaves and is sending chilling shockwaves through immigrant communities that are making commendable efforts to integrate into American life," said Rep. Mike Honda about the *Times* article.

"While I sincerely hope the reporting is airtight, the story lacked responsible sensitivity and, at times, even strained to turn the commonplace into the mysterious," Honda added. ■

House Passes Native Hawaiian Bill

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus applauds the bill's passage.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—Native Hawaiians should regain some of the self-governance powers lost when the islands' queen was overthrown more than a century ago, the House decided Oct. 24.

The White House threatened a veto, saying the legislation that passed by a 261-153 vote would divide Americans "along suspect lines of race and ethnicity."

The bill would give the 400,000 people nationwide of Native Hawaiian ancestry the right to form a governing entity that could negotiate with the state and federal governments over such issues as control of natural resources, lands and assets. The interior secretary would have to approve that governing body.

Native Hawaiians, who long have sought the bill, insist they deserve many of the self-autonomy rights provided to American Indians and Native Alaskans.

The legislation is backed by Hawaii's Republican governor, Linda Lingle, its Legislature and the state's all-Democratic congressional delegation, including Native Hawaiian Sen. Daniel Akaka.

The vote on the proposal was the first in the House since the chief sponsor, Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, won passage in 2000. Last year Akaka fell four votes short of the 60 needed to advance the bill to a final vote in the Senate.

To win over critics, the legislation spells out that the Native Hawaiian government could not take private land or set up gambling operations similar to those allowed to Indians.

The bill would not affect military facilities in the state and Native Hawaiians would not gain new eligibility for programs and services available to Indians.

Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus applauded the passage of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act.

This "is a step towards resolving the injustice put upon the indigenous people of Hawaii for over a century," said Rep. Mike Honda, chair of CAPAC. "As CAPAC continues our commitment in ensuring fundamental fairness for Native Hawaiians, we call upon the Senate and the President to ensure safe passage of this important piece of legislation."

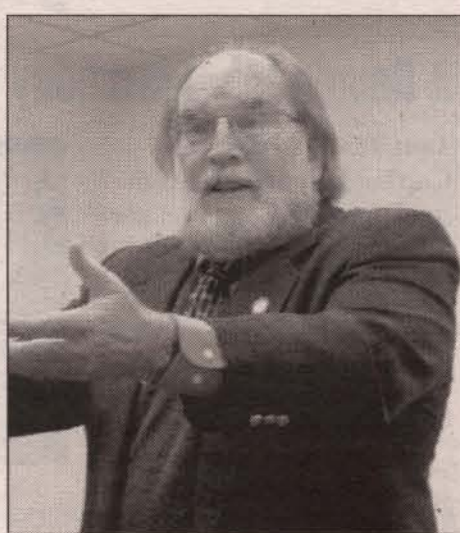
Rep. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii said the measure would begin to "provide a measure of justice" to Native Hawaiians who "have an inherent sovereignty based on their status as indigenous people."

Abercrombie said Native Hawaiians have ceded some 1.8 million acres since Queen Lili'uokalani was driven from the throne in 1893. "This creates the opportunity for Native Hawaiians to take responsibility for their own actions with regard to the control and administration of their own assets," he said.

But the White House said the bill "raises significant constitutional concerns that arise anytime legislation seeks to separate American citizens into race-related classifications rather than according to their own merits and essential qualities."

Republican opponents of the legislation also said it could open the door for Native Hawaiians to declare territorial independence from the United States.

The rights of Native Hawaiians have been an issue since the 1893 coup.



'This creates the opportunity for Native Hawaiians to take responsibility for their own actions ...'

— Rep. Neil Abercrombie (top) about the bill he sponsored.

The bill goes to the Senate where Sens. Daniel Akaka (center) and Daniel Inouye are supporters.



In 1959, when Hawaii became a state, the federal government pledged to use lands and assets to the benefit of Native Hawaiians. In 1993, on the 100th anniversary of the coup, Congress approved a resolution apologizing for the illegal overthrow and acknowledging that Native Hawaiians never directly relinquished their claims to sovereignty over their lands.

The legislation still needs to be considered by the Senate, where it is backed by two of the chamber's most senior members — Hawaii's Akaka and Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Akaka said in a statement that the House vote "provides great momentum in our effort to extend federal recognition to Hawaii's indigenous people." ■

EEOC Forms Federal Group to Examine APA Work Issues

The group will examine if APAs fail to report workplace discrimination.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently announced the formation of an Asian American and Pacific Islander Work Group to study how APAs are treated and promoted in the federal sector.

The group will put together a report by next year that examines discrimination allegations against APAs and explore how APAs are treated when it comes to promotions.

"Our work will begin with testing

perceptions and gathering the realities Asian Pacific Americans face in the federal workplace," said Naomi C. Earp, EEOC chair.

According to EEOC data, of the 2.6 million employees in the federal sector, 5.9 percent are APAs.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, APA representation in the federal workplace is satisfactory, but relatively few APAs make it into the highest rank of government — 146 out of 6,346 career members, according to the *Washington Post*.

Recent Gallup polls found that 31 percent of APAs reported that they had been discriminated against in the

workplace, but the EEOC records show that only 2 percent of APAs file discrimination complaints in the public or private sector.

"This work is extremely important," said Gazal Modhera, chair of the work group. "I can't wait to get moving on this important initiative, and I am so pleased to have the opportunity to guide this extraordinary group."

The EEOC monitors federal agency compliance with equal employment opportunity laws and procedures. ■

For more information on the EEOC: www.eeoc.gov.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Soldier Sues Army for Conscientious Objector Status

SAN DIEGO—A Fort Irwin soldier is suing the Army for discharge as a conscientious objector.

Army Spc. Calvin Chee Keong Lee, 26, claimed his Buddhist-Taoist beliefs prevent him from being involved in killing.

According to the suit filed in a Los Angeles federal court, Lee applied for release earlier this year after finding out that his unit would be deployed to Iraq. The Department of the Army denied the application in August, finding that Lee had not presented convincing evidence that his religious beliefs warranted conscientious objector status.

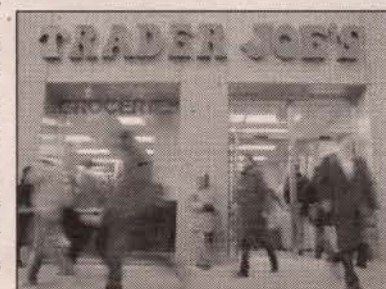
Lee, a Malaysian citizen, joined the Army in 2004 after attending a job fair in San Francisco where a recruiter allegedly told him he could stay at Fort Irwin and repair trucks instead of being deployed into combat. His tour of duty was extended under the military's stop-loss policy in December.

Trader Joe's Phases Out Food Imported from China

MONROVIA, Calif.—Trader Joe's said it would phase out foods imported from China amid concerns that standards on "organic" products from the country aren't as stringent as they should be.

Alison Mochizuki, spokeswoman for the Monrovia, Calif.-based grocer, e-mailed a statement saying the grocer will phase out single-ingredient products from mainland China by Jan. 1.

The change apparently does not affect products containing multiple ingredients, of which some may be from China.



Man Charged with Hate Crime Killing of Satender Singh Appears in Court

SACRAMENTO—The killing of Satender Singh last summer has been classified as a hate crime.

Aleksandr Shevchenko, 21, who had earlier pleaded not guilty to a felony count of intimidating and interfering with a person's rights — a hate crime — was scheduled to return to court Nov. 13 to hear motions. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 27.

Members of the Satender Justice Coalition said they plan to meet later this month with the FBI, which is leading the effort to find Andrey Vusik, who allegedly threw the fatal punch that July evening at Lake Natoma.

Vusik allegedly punched Singh on July 1 after a confrontation between the Fijian man's group and Vusik's relatives and friends, including Shevchenko. Singh, who fell backward and struck his head, died four days later.



UC Berkeley Dedicates East Asian Studies Library

BERKELEY, Calif.—A treasure trove of East Asian scholarship will be moving from storage to center stage with the opening of a new library at the University of California, Berkeley.

The \$46.4 million library will house one of the world's largest collections of East Asian books, scrolls, woodprints, maps and other artifacts outside Asia. For UC Berkeley, it will unify a huge collection that's been scattered in basements and storage rooms around campus for more than 100 years, and serve as a hub for the university's top-ranked East Asian studies programs.



Group to Sue ABC for 'Desperate Housewives' Slur

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Northern California chapter of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations is planning to file a \$500 million lawsuit against ABC for a slur against Filipino medical professionals, aired in the premiere episode of the fourth season of "Desperate Housewives."

In that episode, Teri Hatcher's character questioned her gynecologist by making sure his medical degree didn't come "from some med school in the Philippines." ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Amemiya is Honored by Iowa Asian Alliance

Former World War II internee **Grace Amemiya** is one of six recipients of the Iowa Asian Alliance's annual AdmirAsian Achievement awards.

Amemiya was chosen for the award category of outstanding volunteer, for speaking of her experiences to schools and community groups as a means to inspire others.

Amemiya was a nursing student in California when she was taken to Gila River. After her release from the camp, she became a nurse and worked for the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

Portrait Unveiling of Pioneering APA Congressman

A portrait of the late **Congressman Dalip Singh Saund**, the first APA to serve in Congress, will be unveiled in a Nov. 7 ceremony in the Capitol.

Saund, a South Asian immigrant, rose against racism to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1956 from the 29th District of California. His career as an elected official ended in 1962.



Yu Selected One of Nat'l Book Foundation's '5 Under 35'

Charles Yu will be recognized by the National Book Foundation at the "5 Under 35" celebration in Manhattan on Nov. 12.

Yu — who wrote "Third Class Superhero" — was selected for the award by a former National Book Award winner.

Yu lives in Los Angeles, where he practices law fulltime and writes between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m.

Uno is APALA's New Commissioner to Port of Oakland

Victor Uno, a founding member of the National Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), was recently nominated by the mayor of Oakland to serve as a commissioner with the Port of Oakland.

The Oakland City Council unanimously approved Uno's selection.

Prior to this position, Uno served as the training director for the electrical apprenticeship program, as well as the president of Local 595. He is currently a 2nd vice president with the Alameda County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

APALA is the first and only APA national organization of union members.

Satow Honored at Sacramento Luncheon



The Sacramento Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8985 recently honored **Sus Satow**. In attendance was Lawson Sakai, who presented Satow with a JAVA challenge coin along with a proclamation read by Donald Wakida.

Satow is a decorated 442nd H Company veteran who participated in the Ken Burns documentary, "The War."

JAVA, 442nd Veterans to be Honored

The **Japanese American Veterans Association** will be recognized by the **Go For Broke National Education Center** of Glendale, Calif. at its Nov. 10 Aloha Dinner.

JAVA President **Robert Nakamoto** will receive the award on behalf of the organization. On the same day in Washington, D.C., the National Veterans Center will present the Audie Murphy Award to the **442nd RCT** at its annual dinner. 442nd veterans **George Joe Sakato**, Medal of Honor recipient **Kelly Kuwayama** will accept the award.

Tsukiyama Heads Hawaii's Office of Information Practices

Gov. Linda Lingle has named **Paul T. Tsukiyama** as director of the Office of Information Practices, the state agency that oversees the implementation and administration of Hawai'i's open record laws. His appointment is effective Nov. 9.

Tsukiyama currently heads the labor and personnel section of the city and county of Honolulu's Department of the Corporation Counsel. He also served on the Hawai'i State Judiciary's Committee. ■

Son of Indian Immigrants Bobby Jindal Becomes Louisiana's First Non-White Governor Since 1870s

Although elated that a fellow Indian American has won the governorship, some have expressed concerns over his conservative stances.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana—U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, the Oxford-educated son of Indian immigrants who came to the U.S. decades ago to pursue the American dream, easily defeated 11 opponents to become Louisiana's first non-white governor since the 1870s.

Jindal, a 36-year-old Republican, will be the youngest state governor in the U.S. He had 53 percent with 625,036 votes with about 92 percent of the vote tallied. It was more than enough to win the Oct. 20 election outright and avoid a Nov. 17 runoff.

"My mom and dad came to this country in pursuit of the American dream. And guess what happened. They found the American dream to be alive and well right here in Louisiana," he said to cheers and applause at his victory party.

His nearest competitors: Democrat Walter Boasso had 208,690 votes or 18 percent; Independent John Georges with 167,477 votes or 14 percent; and Democrat Foster Campbell with 151,101 or 13 percent. Eight candidates divided the rest.

The Oxford-educated Jindal had lost the governor's race four years ago to Gov. Kathleen Blanco. He won a congressional seat in conser-



vative suburban New Orleans a year later but was widely believed to have his eye on the governor's mansion.

Blanco, a Democrat, opted not to run for re-election months ago after she was widely blamed for the state's slow response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Jindal, who takes office in January, pledged to fight corruption and rid the state of those "feeding at the public trough," revisiting a campaign theme.

"They can either go quietly or they can go loudly, but either way, they will go," he said, adding that he would call the state Legislature into special session to address ethics reform.

Jindal's victory marks a rare trip to statewide office for a minority in the South — in a state that 16 years ago famously saw a former leader of the white supremacist group the Ku Klux Klan, David Duke, in a runoff for governor. Duke lost that race.

But some in the Indian American community, although elated that a fellow member was able to win the seat of Governor, were still wary of Jindal's conservative views that

include a stance against abortion rights and opposition to hate crimes laws.

"Some people supported Jindal, hoping it would make a big statement that an Indian American can become the governor of a Dixie state as a candidate from a his-

torically white-only party," said Toby Chaudhuri, a spokesman for the Indian American Leadership Initiative. "But Bobby is a conservative Republican, and most Indian American's aren't, so there are a lot of mixed feelings about him."

"As a born-again Roman Catholic, Jindal may have cornered the Mother Theresa vote, but Mahatma Gandhi certainly would've opposed him on principle," he said.

The last nonwhite governor of Louisiana was P.B.S. Pinchback, a black Republican who served for just over a month from Dec. 1872 to Jan. 1873. That was during the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era when many white voters were disenfranchised because of their support for the failed rebellion by secessionist southern states.

"On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I extend my warm congratulations to Governor-elect Bobby Jindal," said U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, chair of CAPAC. "His success in the political sphere is truly an inspiring American story." ■

Unprecedented Coalition of Over 60 AA Organizations File Legal Brief Supporting Equal Marriage Rights

JACL, the first national AA organization to support same sex rights, adds their support to the legal brief.

A team of Asian American attorneys and advocates in Los Angeles and San Francisco announced recently that a coalition of over 60 local, state, and national AA organizations have filed a legal brief in support of equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples.

The amicus brief was filed in the consolidated California *Marriage Cases*, currently pending before the California Supreme Court. The California *Marriage Cases* are historic lawsuits urging the California courts to end the exclusion of loving and committed same-sex couples from marriage.

"By filing this brief, Asian American organizations are joining together in an unprecedented show of unity and support for equal mar-

riage rights within the Asian American community," said Karin Wang, vice president-programs at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "Together, we want to send a strong message to the California Supreme Court that Asian Americans support a just and fair California for all members of our community."

The same-sex couples and their supporters are asking the Court to hold that the state's current law denying lesbian and gay persons the freedom to marry violates the Constitution's guarantee of equality.

The amicus brief filed by the coalition of AA organizations seeks to support basic fairness for same-sex couples and their families, drawing from the AA community's own past struggle with marriage discrimination in the state of California.

"In 1994, the JACL became the first non-gay national civil rights organization after the American

Civil Liberties Union to support marriage equality for same-sex couples. Current California laws deny same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry. As Japanese Americans, we recognize the detrimental effect that exclusionary laws have on communities," said Debee Yamamoto, JACL's director of public policy.

The amicus brief was supported by many of the nation's largest and most prominent AA civil rights advocates, lawyers associations, social service organizations, and community groups. Together these organizations reflect the broad diversity of the AA community, including Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, South Asian, and Southeast Asian organizations.

To download the brief and related documents online, go to any of the following websites: CAA (www.caasf.org), APALC (www.apalc.org) or Lambda Legal (www.lambdalegal.org). ■

COMMENTARY

Witnessing the Watada Court Martial

By REV. DR. BARBARA A. BELLUS

Editor's Note: The following commentary is a first-person account of 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's February court-martial in Fort Lewis, Washington that ended in a mistrial. The first lieutenant faces a possible second court-martial in November.

On the first day of the court-martial trial on Feb. 5, the jury of seven career Army Officers was selected with no objections. The next day the prosecution presented its witnesses. The multiple counts of "Conduct Unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman" against 1st Lt. Ehren Watada constituted the bulk of the testimony and examination.

The first prosecution witness was Watada's immediate commanding officer, the second was a retired Professor of Military Ethics from West Point, and the third was the resource officer to whom Watada went for counsel.

Their testimony demonstrated that Watada had strictly abided by protocol and had been direct and honest with his chain of command, and he had not been taken seriously by his superior officers as he sought proper recourse. All three witnesses also agreed that they would expect an officer to disobey a command which went against his conscience.

Presentation of the Defense was scheduled for Feb. 7 but it never happened. No defense witness ever testified.

Scheduled to testify were: Watada in his own defense, and his commanding officer from his tour of duty in Korea. No defense testimony ever occurred, and there was no request for, or consent to, a mistrial by the defendant.

Instead, the day was filled with legal wrangling, during which the presiding Military Judge John M. Head disagreed with attorneys for the defense and the prosecution as to what the Stipulation of Fact, which the judge had previously approved, really meant.

Counsel for both sides agreed that the Stipulation had never been understood to be a "confessional stipulation." Judge Head wanted to treat the Stipulation of Fact as, in effect, a guilty plea, yet all the parties were clear that this was not their understanding, nor their intent.

Rather than explore other options, the Judge repeatedly said that he would entertain a motion for a mistrial, and gave repeated and lengthening recesses until it was clear that was the only motion he

would entertain. The Judge did not explore other options, but moved immediately to set dates for a new trial.

Watada completed his required term of military service in December, 2006 and his retention in the Army, in which he continues to do administrative work at Fort Lewis, is enforced only to continue to bring him to trial. After several continuances, the new court-martial date was set for Oct. 9.

Issuance of Stay and Extension by Civil Court

All recourse through the military review process had been exhausted by Lt. Watada and his attorneys when U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin H. Settle ruled Oct. 5 to stay the upcoming trial.

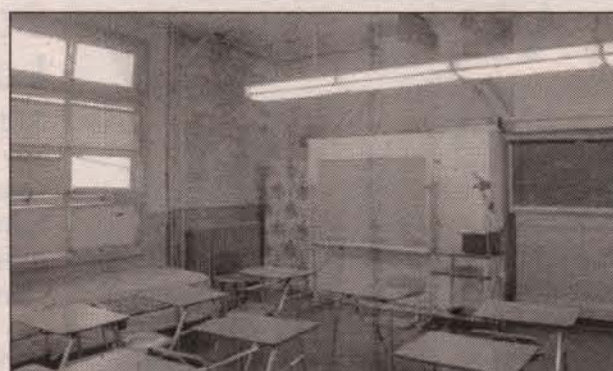
Judge Settle granted the petitioner's habeas corpus petition for an emergency stay of the second court-martial scheduled for Oct. 9. He agreed with the petitioner that "the convening of this trial would violate the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment." The action reflects that Constitutional protections must be regarded, by all courts.

Military service is not void of retention of some civil rights, though qualified, and military justice is not bereft of constitutional protection. Whether you agree or disagree with Lt. Watada's decision and action, he does have a right to due process. As the national JACL resolution of Aug. 18 states: "All American citizens have the right to a fair and impartial trial."

As I write this we are one week into an extension of the stay, which Judge Settle issued Oct. 19. The stay is in force until at least Nov. 9 "in order to allow the Court adequate time to review the considerable portions of the record submitted in this matter and provide sufficient time to weigh the substantial issues raised."

I don't know what will happen, or when. I earnestly pray for the presence of civil discourse in and concerning this case, through each of us being respectful of one another. ■

Rev. Barbara Bellus is a member of the Philadelphia JACL chapter. A United Methodist Minister now residing at a Quaker Retreat Center, she was pastor at Min Yasui's home church in Hood River, Oregon when he passed in 1986.



Current City College students attend classes spread out over a dozen dilapidated classrooms in Chinatown.

Trustees Finally Approve S.F. Chinatown Campus

By Pacific Citizen Staff

After 30 years of waiting and hoping, community activists, educators, and students are cheering the approval of a City College of San Francisco two-building campus in Chinatown.

It took members of the San Francisco Board of Trustees more than seven hours of debating on Oct. 19, but in the end the board voted 6 to 1 to approve the two-building design and unanimously voted to exempt the project from current city zoning laws.

"Last night, the voices of the hard working people, who prioritized education first, prevailed over a powerful interest group. It just goes to show that with hard work and determination we can achieve anything," said Phil Ting.

The owners of a nearby Hilton Hotel and a neighborhood homeowner's association had opposed the project citing increased traffic congestion and shadows the new campus building would create over a nearby park.

The new City College Chinatown campus will consist of one 14-story, 215-foot structure on the corner of Kearny and Washington Streets, a size that exceeds the current maximum limit of 65-feet. The second four-story building will be located at Columbus Ave. and Washington Street behind the Colombo Building.

The new Chinatown campus will include 42 classrooms and laboratories, a community auditorium, and will serve over 6,500 students. The project is scheduled to open in 2010.

Currently, City College students in the area are spread out over a dozen sites in Chinatown with many of the

buildings dilapidated and far from ideal. The new campus will also offer English and citizenship classes for the area's large immigrant population.

Although community activists and educators cheered the Board of Trustees' long awaited approval, the nearby Hilton Hotel and the homeowner's association pointed to an environmental impact report citing concerns about traffic congestion in the area. They also believe the height of the 14-story structure will cast shadows across Portsmouth Square, a popular neighborhood park.

Although the owners of the Hilton Hotel, which stands at 310-feet, had said they support the campus but not the size of the building, they have hinted that they may sue the college to put a halt to the project.

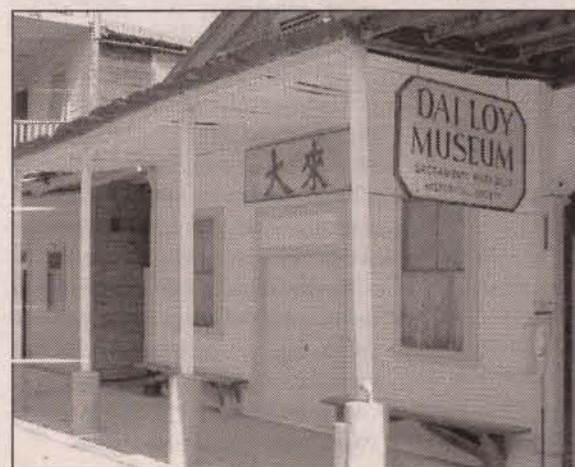
"We are deeply disappointed with the decision," said Michael Yaki, an attorney for Hilton, in a SFGate.com article. "We will be reviewing all of our options and deciding what steps, if any, we are going to take to protect the interests of the neighborhood, our allies and ourselves."

Although many of the Chinatown campus supporters cheered the board's approval, they note that more battles may still be ahead.

"A lawsuit could cause a delay in the construction of the project, thereby potentially forcing City College to face escalating construction costs," the Friends of Educational Opportunities in Chinatown wrote in a recent press release.

"Community members must remain vigilant and protest and fight any lawsuit against the Chinatown project." ■

Historic Town of Locke Celebrates New Park and Monument



By Pacific Citizen Staff

The small town of Locke, Calif. recently celebrated the unveiling of the Locke Community Park and Monument. Historic Locke is the only town in the United States built by the Chinese for the Chinese community.

With a number of elected officials and representatives in attendance, over 500 people attended the celebration organized by the Locke Foundation. The park and monument, constructed on a vacant lot on Main Street, will serve as a memorial to the industrious Chinese pioneers of California

and to the current and former Chinese residents of Locke.

The town of Locke was added to the Registry of National Historical Places on Aug. 2, 1970. The Locke Community Park has been an ongoing project for the past three years and the recent park and monument dedication marks the completion of Phase II of the project.

Dr. Leland Yee, California State Senator, was the keynote speaker at the event and he also presented a California Senate Resolution to the Locke Foundation. Scott Nakaji, California State Parks and Recreation and Locke Foundation board of

director, announced that the Locke Boarding House Visitors' Center will open this December.

The Locke Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, tax-deductible organization that seeks to educate the public about the historic town of Locke, preserve and enhance Locke, and conduct activities that will benefit Locke. Donations can be made to: Locke Foundation, P.O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, California 95690. ■

For more information, contact: Dean Okimoto, Locke Foundation executive director, at: 916/601-1895.

DOR Organizers Seek Art Submissions to Mark 20th Anniversary of Redress

In preparation for the 2008 Day of Remembrance, set for Feb. 16, 2008, at the Japanese American National Museum, the organizers of the event are seeking art submissions to commemorate the event which is themed, "From the Commission Hearings to the Civil Liberties Act and Beyond ... The Power of Grassroots Activism: Unleashing Community Voices."

The 2008 DOR is being organized by Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR), the JACL Pacific Southwest District and the National Museum. The event marks the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, which led to the forced removal and false imprisonment of thousands of JAs during WWII.

In the late 1970s and the 1980s, organizations including the JACL and NCRR, petitioned Congress to pass a law that provided for an official apology and token reparations to those individuals whose rights were violated by the government. After years of work by community organizations, individuals and elected officials, the campaign culminated in President Ronald Reagan signing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided redress for eligible individuals.

One of the keys to gaining redress was convincing first- and second-generation JAs to testify before the government-sanctioned Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CRWIC) hearings.

The commission later issued a report based on those first-person accounts that recommended an official apology and reparations to those



affected individuals.

The organizers of the 2008 DOR event are seeking individuals who would like to express the theme of grassroots activism through their art. One selection would be used as the cover for the printed program as well as in the advertising and a possible poster. All submissions are eligible for display at the 2008 DOR at the National Museum.

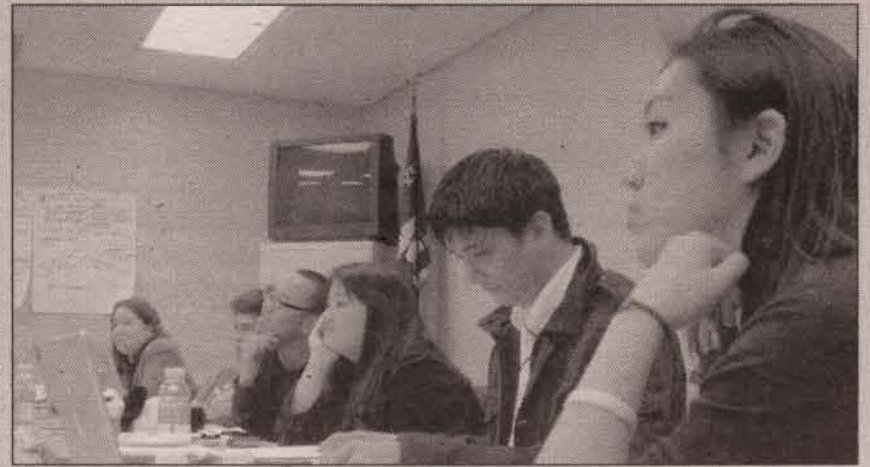
The organizers are seeking two-dimensional submissions, no larger than 18 inches by 30 inches (poster size). The submissions could be in an electronic form, or the actual work. Submissions must be received by Dec. 3 by 6:30 p.m. to the offices of the JACL PSW at 244 S. San Pedro, Ste. 406, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or e-mail info@jacp-sw.org.

Anyone interested in participating in the art opportunity for the 2008 DOR can go to the NCRR web site at www.ncrr-la.org or to www.jacp-sw.org or they can call Kay Ochi at 213/595-7507 or Craig Ishii at 213/626-4471. ■

'We want continuous and visible involvement of our youth.'

— Floyd Mori, JACL national director

The Youth/Student Council met for their biannual retreat at the Midwest Regional Office Oct. 13.



JACL Youth Hold Biannual Retreat

In a marathon day-long session, members of the JACL National Youth/Student Council met for their biannual retreat at the Midwest Regional Office in Chicago on Oct. 13. The council spent much of the morning hammering out plans — including the silent auction, oratorical contest and Vision Award — for the 2008 national convention to be held in Salt Lake City.

The Youth Council also discussed potential for creating a new youth director position, revisited last year's JACL youth conference and participated in several closed-session workshops. National Director Floyd Mori and V.P. of General Operations Sheldon Arakaki joined the retreat as well.

Mori presented his vision for the future of youth involvement in JACL, stating that he was "hoping and expecting" the youth to push for a new JACL. He also announced that staff has been given directives to be more youth-focused, and that JACL was aggressively pursuing new funding to help the youth membership continue to grow.

"We want continuous and visible involvement of our youth," Mori said. "Speaking out, being there, creating opportunities for media. The new JACL is a different JACL." — Meilee Wong, JACL Mineta Fellow ■

JACL Seeks Applicants for Inouye Fellowship

The JACL is currently seeking applications for its Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship, a new fellowship focusing on public policy advocacy as well as healthcare programs and issues of importance to the national APA community.

Named after the current U.S. senator from Hawaii, the fellowship will be located in the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Some of the key responsibilities of the fellow will include: monitoring key legislative initiatives pertaining to healthcare, civil rights and social justice of importance to the JACL mission; assisting in the planning

and execution of various events sponsored by the organization; and interacting with other APA national organizations.

Applicants should have a minimum four-year degree from an accredited college or university, and excellent writing, analytical, organizational and computer skills. Applicants must also be members of JACL and familiar with APA issues.

Applicants should submit a resume, writing sample, and two references. The term of the fellowship will be for a time period of four to ten months and will begin in January 2008. ■

Quick Facts

- \$1,500-\$2,500 per month, depending on qualifications.

- Application must be received by the JACL Washington, D.C. office by Dec. 1.

- Mail applications to: JACL, 1828 L St. NW, Ste. 802, Wash., D.C., 20036, fax: 202/296-8082.

- For more information, contact Floyd Mori at dc@jacp.org

Author of Japanese-Language Book on WWII Nisei Draft Resistance in Exclusive Bay Area Appearance



'American Nikkei Nisei Draft Resistance'

Date: Nov. 3, 2:30 p.m.

Place: Union Bank of California Hospitality Room in San Francisco Japantown's Miyako Mall (Post at Buchanan street).

Information: Japanese American National Library at 415/567-5006.

Professor Yukio Morita of Kanazawa University in Japan will visit the San Francisco Bay Area to discuss his groundbreaking new Japanese-language book, "America Nikkei Nisei no Choei Kiki (American Nikkei Nisei Draft Resistance)," on Nov. 3.

Books will be available.

The first original Japanese language work on the subject, Morita documents the little-known story of young Nisei men who refused to fight for their country while being imprisoned in barbed-wire concentration camps during World War II. They said they would gladly serve if their families were released from the camps and their civil rights were restored, yet the JACL and others branded the resisters as "agitators" and "trouble-makers."

Prosecuted by the government as criminals and ostracized as traitors by Japanese American leaders and veterans, these principled protesters served prison terms and were written out of the popular history of Japanese America for the next 50 years.

Joining Morita in a presentation organized by the *Nichi Bei Times* and the Japanese American National Library will be Nisei draft resisters Mits Koshiyama, who resisted from the Heart Mountain concentration camp, and Ken Yoshida, who resisted from the Topaz (Central Utah) concentration camp. The presentation will be moderated by *Nichi Bei Times* English Edition Editor Kenji G. Taguma, and Japanese/English translation will be provided.

The 638-page book, published by Sairyu-sha Publishing Co. in Tokyo, is the first original Japanese language book solely dedicated to Nisei draft resistance. Morita started interviewing Nisei resisters in America about five years ago, and has done extensive archival research in American institutions.

The book includes results of interviews with Nisei such as Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee leader Frank Emi, Heart Mountain concentration camp resisters Mits Koshiyama and George Nozawa, Minidoka concentration camp resister Jim Akutsu, Poston resisters, and

the "Tucsonians" — resisters who were sentenced to the same federal labor camp as Gordon Hirabayashi. This latter group included Noboru Taguma, Joe Norikane and Susumu Yenokida of the Granada (Amache) concentration camp, and Ken Yoshida from the Topaz (Central Utah) camp.

The book also includes a chapter on Nisei journalist James Omura, a lone editorial voice in support of resistance whose ostracism was so severe, he led a life of self-imposed exile after the war.

A 1965 Fulbright Scholar, Morita earned a master's degree in history from both Kyoto University and Ohio State University, and currently teaches part-time at Kanazawa University. He previously taught in both the literature and journalism departments at Kanazawa Gakuin University, and prior to that taught American history at the Aichi Prefectural University in Nagoya.

The program is co-sponsored by the Japanese American National Library, the *Nichi Bei Times* and the *Hokubei Mainichi*. ■

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

It's Raining Mochi



I did not expect that I would be spending my Sunday afternoon being pummeled by airborne, plastic-wrapped mochi cakes. But this is exactly what happened when my uncle invited me to a local mochi throwing ceremony in commemoration of a new building that was just erected within walking distance of my family's house.

As he gave me a plastic grocery bag and advised me to wear shoes, somehow I was under the impression that we would be throwing mochi at the house, in the same way that Japanese people threw soy beans out the window to ward off evil demons.

I didn't bother delving deeper into the illogic of my assumptions — after all, it seems counterproductive for people to have to scrape chunks of mochi off a newly built structure — but once I arrived, I was informed that no, we weren't doing the throwing of mochi, but the catching and dodging of mochi that rained from the height of the three-story house at deadly speeds.

Before I moved to Japan recently, all I knew about mochi was that they made fabulous afternoon snacks and every New Year's Day when my mother made mochi soup, she always reminded me of the 80-something-year-old lady who died alone from eating mochi, and those who swallowed them too quickly risked killing themselves from mochi asphyxiation.

When they aren't accidentally killing the elderly, mochi is an edible ornament of the divine. Mochi cakes are offered to Shinto priests at ceremonies in name of the entire community that the Shinto shrine represents. And apparently, mochi cakes are also thrown from the top of newly erected buildings as a Shinto tradition to bring good luck to them.

By the time I arrived, an army of Japanese housewives was already

'... every New Year's Day when my mother made mochi soup, she always reminded me of the 80-something-year-old lady who died alone from eating mochi ...'

lined up on the street with their aprons and plastic grocery bags. They had been around since 3:30 p.m., and it was already almost five. While the construction workers nailed together the remaining wooden bars of the building, the neighborhood women gossiped and shared news.

I felt like I was witnessing something that I thought no

longer existed in this day and age — the social phenomena of neighboring families who actually knew each other quite well and not only that, actually cared when a new building was erected in their neighborhood.

Finally, a tiny, makeshift Shinto altar was put together on the top of the building. A small cluster of people bowed and prayed before the altar that the new building will keep their occupants safe. It was all necessary formalities before the real fun started. Every time someone shifted at the top of the building, a small child from down below screamed, "It's coming! It's coming! It's coming!"

And then, finally, the mochi throwing began.

It wasn't just mochi that rained from the skies. The people on top also threw coins and little store-brought snacks. Everyone down below — regardless of age, occupation or social status — was suddenly democratized by the basic primal need to hunt and gather for free food and free money.

Forget about letting the little ones win, or being polite to the elderly. Old people grabbed the plastic-wrapped snacks from little kid and vice versa, and before any feelings could get hurt, another volley of mochi and coins and snacks fell from the sky, and there was no time to ruminate over the fairness of whose hands touched what first.

I was only able to grab a measly three rice cakes. My grandmother was able to nab six. My aunt, eight.

"The secret," she later told me, "was that while everyone else was busy looking up, I kept my head down towards the ground."

If I ever attend another mochi-throwing ceremony, I will be sure to do so. That, and wear a helmet. ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently teaching English in Japan.

• JOHN TATEISHI •

FOR THE RECORD

Judge Mukasey, a White House Candidate



First there was John Ashcroft. His policy views were disturbing enough that the citizens of Missouri voted for a corpse rather than elect him to the U.S. Senate. Nevertheless, he was appointed to the seat by the state's governor, and in his terms in the Senate, voted against every civil rights bill that came before that August body.

It was under Ashcroft as Attorney General that many of the orders that limited civil liberties were implemented, that FOIA was essentially suspended, and the USA Patriot Act was established, the law that was the springboard for many of the Bush administration's attacks on the civil liberties of Americans.

And then there was Alberto Gonzales, who, as Bush's White House Counsel, not only crafted the document that redefined the concept of torture in an attempt to make its use more palatable but also justified its use by American operatives. He also rationalized the practice of extraordinary rendition, which runs counter to every sense of what's morally right in the American sensibility.

It was Gonzales who developed the legal reasoning for the administration's secret domestic spying program and justified the program's need in the war on terror. And it was Gonzales who also justified the policy of indefinite detention of individuals suspected of having ties with terrorists, regardless of a lack of evidence as part of the administration's war on terror.

And now there is Michael Mukasey, a retired federal district court judge from Manhattan, the third of President Bush's nominees for U.S. Attorney General. After the initial Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings, committee members from both sides of the aisle were wont to praise Judge Mukasey and predicted an easy confirmation. That is, until they began to dig up some information of the nominee in the midst of the hearings.

But better late than never, right? Perhaps.

The case of Osama Awadallah is of particular interest because it raises questions about Judge Mukasey's judicial temperament and his view on the controversial issue of the material-witness law. Designed primarily to detain material witnesses in criminal cases, the law was widely used following 9/11 to detain men of Arab ancestry shortly after the attack on the World Trade Center.

Awadallah, a student at San Diego State at the time, was arrested in October 2001 in California and whisked away to New York, where he appeared before Judge Mukasey. Of special note in the hearing of Awadallah are the exchanges between Mukasey and the defense attorney, revealing a harsh and sometimes callous Mukasey who seemed unconcerned with reason and summarily brushed aside Awadallah's attorney's arguments for the release of his client.

Judge Mukasey ignored those arguments and allowed the indefinite detention of Awadallah and other Arab men as material witnesses, even though there were no connections or evidence that justified their detention. Awadallah was eventually tried (five years later) and found innocent by a jury of the charges against him.

After jousting with some of the Democrats during his confirmation hearing, Mukasey made a remarkable statement regarding the limits of the powers of the president. Asked whether the president is required to obey federal laws, the nominee hedged his bet and stated that it would depend on whether "what goes outside the statute nevertheless lies within the authority of the president to defend the country."

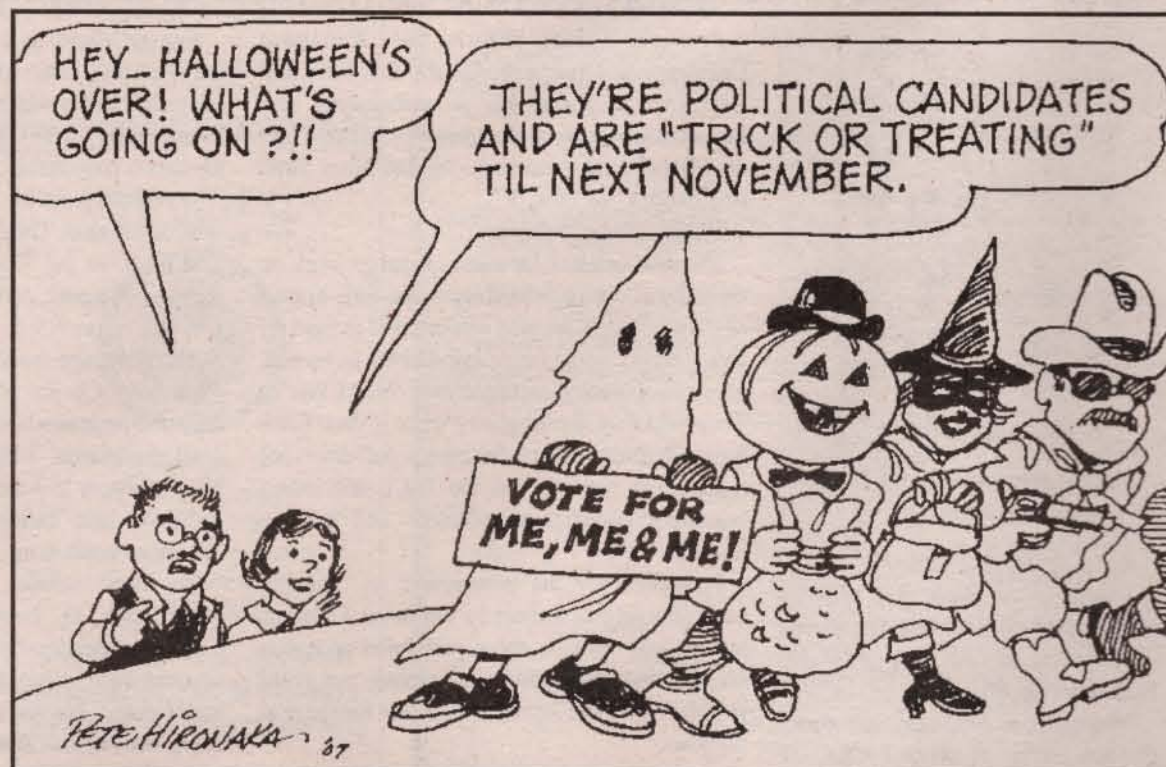
The president has the authority and power to stand above the law? Since when? When does the president not have to obey the laws of the land?

It's disturbing that a nominee to become the nation's highest law enforcement officer sees exceptions to a basic principle that no one is above the law, even the president. If one were to read cynically into Mukasey's response, one would say that he's taking sides with the administration, which has laid unprecedented claims to executive authority and has chipped away at obstacles that have stood in the way.

But of course Mukasey is parroting exactly what the administration's position is on this most important question. After all, he's their candidate. And it's perhaps too much to expect the Democrats to block his confirmation because that would take the kind of gumption that is sadly lacking these days in the Congress.

And that's where the president does in fact trump the Congress and those pesky statutes that get in the way. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.





Dare to Hula, Leave Your Shame at Home

These men weep, kiss and cry. But they'll dance their way into your hearts.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

The dancers in "Na Kamalei: The Men of Hula" sway their hips in movements as fluid as the ocean, but make no mistake about it — these are men's men.

They're beer guzzling firemen, fathers and surfers who just happen to have a burning penchant to celebrate their Hawaiian heritage by donning flower leis and dancing in harmony. If you have a problem with that, talk to Robert Cazimero, the seemingly mild-mannered master hula teacher, whose laid-back attitude can suddenly explode into rage while he's coaching his male dancers to the Super Bowl of hula competitions.

"I'm doing this for your self-f—ing esteem!" he shouts when his men fall out of line.

With all of these elements (sinewy arms, explosive personalities and the pure drama of yes, a hula competition) filmmaker Lisette Marie Flanary catches cinematic gold with this heartwarming documentary that captures all

of the emotions that go hand in hand with hula.

And boy, are there tears.

There are probably more scenes of these men's men unabashedly hugging, kissing and crying in this film than in the entire discourse of American film. But what's so wrong with that?

"To be a good hula dancer you have to be in touch with your emotions. It's powerful," said Flanary, who has traveled the country to different film festivals and has met countless women who want their husbands to dance hula after watching the documentary.

"It's okay to see women hug and show affection towards each other, but where do we have images of from men? It's refreshing to see."



FLANARY

HA: Hula's Anonymous

For Flanary, 34, it's not so much an addiction as an obsession. She thinks about hula 24 hours a day. If she's not dancing, she's thinking about it or filming it.

And the New York University film school graduate has cornered the market on hula documentaries.

"Na Kamalei" is the second in a "Star Wars" like trilogy. Her first feature film, "American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawai'i," won rave reviews and airtime on PBS with its examination of hula on the mainland. Her third installment will chronicle the huge popularity of hula in Japan.

"My friends here in New York always joke, 'Oh, you're making another hula movie?'" she laughed.

Flanary, a Hawaiian native who is of Japanese, Irish and Cherokee descent, also heads up a hula dance group in the Big Apple. Yes, New York. In 2006, she graduated as an 'olapa (dancer) under master hula teacher Patrick Makuakane in San Francisco and decided to head her own weekly hula dance class in a modern dance studio space where they don't get strange looks when they dance to the rhythm of their *ipu*.

"Hula is not just a dance class; it's really a way of life."

She came to realize that with "Na Kamalei" — it's not something you do once a week. These are your hula brothers and sisters. Some people get that and some people don't.

More than a filmmaker, Flanary considers herself a storyteller whether through writing, film or dance. In this film, she wanted to dispel stereotypes of coconut bras and the "hoochie coochie" hula girl image that peppered the dreams of many colonizing minds.

The documentary made for \$280,000 screened at last year's Hawaiian International Film Festival on a huge

massive screen on the beach with the sun setting in the background and Cazimero crooning live.

"There were leis everywhere. My parents were like, 'This is fun!'"

But it wasn't always that glamorous for Flanary. She recently found time to marry her longtime love, filmmaker Phil Bertelson, after putting off the wedding because of hula.

"Yeah, it was hula, 'Na Kamalei' and oh yeah let's plan the wedding!" she joked.

Teaching Old Dogs

Flanary met Cazimero for the first time at a 2003 film festival in New York when she pitched the idea of a documentary.

"He totally wasn't into the idea of a documentary at first. I think it was the Hawaiian humility. Why would you want to do a documentary on me? He wasn't 100 percent ready." But with the help of her co-producer and Cazimero student Keo Woolford, she finally convinced the hula teacher how important it was to document his group's 30th anniversary of existence and its return to competitive form.

Of course after 30 years, the "forms" aren't exactly the same.

Cazimero's men, 18 to 55, are a dizzying lineup of the tanned and taut mixed with the sagging and gray. It's the quintessential sports story — the rag tag underdog team reenters the arena after the competition itself has changed. Today's men's hula teams are dominated with young, chiseled bodies that contort into impossible mid-air acrobatics. Cazimero's old dogs, in contrast, rage against the dying of the light.

"Sometimes as a documentary filmmaker you get this feeling that people are on their best behavior. But Robert was always like this is who I am. There was never any kind of mask."

It wasn't about them winning. It was about them celebrating being around for so long, Flanary added. ■

Catch 'Na Kamalei'

On the big screen: Hana Film Festival

On DVD: By the holidays at www.lehuafilms.com

On television: on PBS in May 2008 through Independent Lens (check local listings)

If all else fails, you can bring a screening of 'Na Kamalei' (or many other APA films) to a theater near you through Asian CineVision's brand new traveling film festival. More info: www.asiancinevision.org/nationaltour.html

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Tokyo to Tallahassee: Yamaguchi Playing Big Role for Seminoles

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Mami Yamaguchi came to Florida State a couple years ago from her native Tokyo, barely equipped to handle the American college environment.

Her English was poor. She didn't understand the culture. Most everyone she knew was 7,000 miles away.

"I miss home," Yamaguchi said. "But I'm glad to be here."

The Seminoles are clearly glad she's here, too.

Yamaguchi came to Florida State to play soccer, and the junior has now become the star of the Seminoles' show as well as one of the top threats in the country. She's tied for the Division I lead with 17 goals, ranks among the nation's best in points-per-game and has her eyes set on making a third straight trip to the Women's College Cup, soccer's version of the Final Four.

Here's maybe the best illustration of her impact: At a football-dominated school like Florida State, everyone knows Mami.

"From when I was 15, I wanted to come to the United States and I wanted to play soccer in college," Yamaguchi said. "So I looked at the Web sites or books or whatever, and found Florida State. I like warm weather. And facilities here, it's amazing."

So is her story.

Yamaguchi has been part of the Japanese national program for years, and still gets summoned every now and then to return home for various competitions. She knew the lore of some of the best Division I programs, like North Carolina, Santa Clara and UCLA, all of which she considered.

In April 2004, she was at a U-19 tournament in Carson, Calif. and caught the eye of Mark Krikorian, who was coaching the United States' team in that event, which the Japanese won, thanks largely to Yamaguchi.

Hired by Florida State a year later, Krikorian scanned the recruiting list and saw Yamaguchi's name.

Naturally, his interest was piqued.

"I immediately got on the phone with the Japanese coach and said, 'Hey, what's the deal?' And he says, 'You'll love her,'" Krikorian said. "It was very easy for me to go forward."

It was also very smart.

Florida State has the highest-scoring offense in the nation this season, mainly because of Yamaguchi — a slender 5-foot-5 forward who isn't the strongest or fastest on the field, but may be among the most technically sound players in college soccer.

"She is as good of a player as there is in this country," Krikorian said.

Or any country, for that matter.

She scored six goals in an Asian championship game against Malaysia and was a longtime member of one of Japan's top club teams. Once she headed to the U.S., everything changed.

Her soccer skills aside, this was not an easy transition. When Yamaguchi first arrived at Florida State, she'd merely stand around her teammates, smiling and nodding in lieu of verbal communication.

Most of her conversations were held by scrawling a few words on paper, because she read the language easier than she spoke it.

"She couldn't say anything," said midfielder Kirsten van de Ven, who's one of Yamaguchi's roommates and who played for the Dutch team against Yamaguchi in that April 2004 international tournament.

"Just a Japanese girl, smiling all the time. I'd try to talk with her and would have to write down what I had to say. But she's improving every day."

Yamaguchi can easily hold conversations in English now, does fine academically and even has a bit of a cult following: A pair of videos of her doing various ball tricks have been viewed on YouTube about 7,000 times in the past five months.

She's on pace to shatter Florida State's records for goals and points in a season, already has three hat tricks, another school record, and she's doing all this while attracting constant double- or triple-teams when the ball comes into the attacking zone.

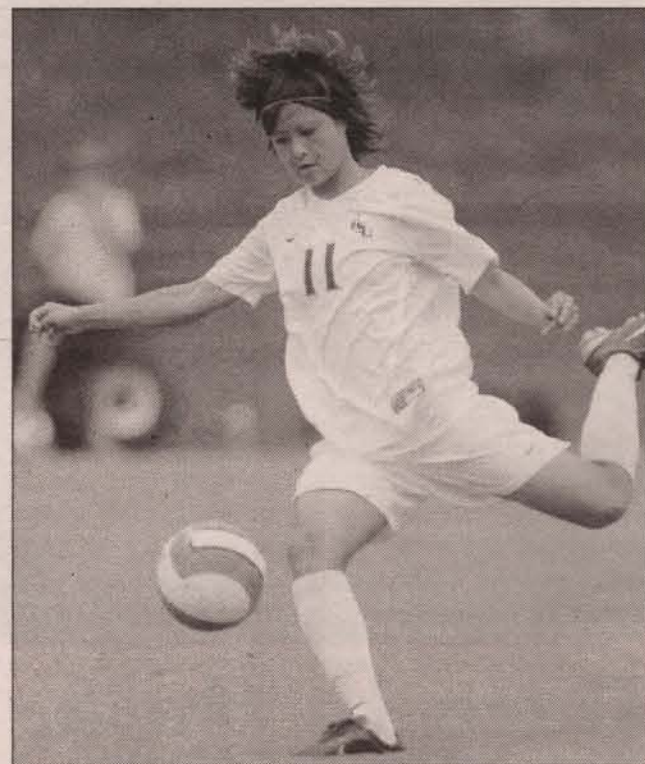
"She certainly draws her share of attention," Krikorian said. "But she's not a lone soldier out there. She's not a one-person operation."

Nor does she want to be. Yamaguchi also has a team-best seven assists.

Yamaguchi doesn't know what her future will hold. She hasn't ruled out staying in the U.S. when her time at Florida State ends, although she has plenty of time to figure out her plans.

For now, it's simple. She wants a national championship, even though her nation is half a world away.

"This is why I came here," Yamaguchi said. "We have everything we need to win." ■



Florida State's Mami Yamaguchi lines up a kick in a soccer game against Miami. (AP PHOTO/STEVE CANNON)

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VETERANS DAY

(Continued from page 1)

place in history is still being written.

For this 29-year-old Sansei, a personal decision to refuse deployment to Iraq because he believes the war is immoral and illegal, continues to divide the JA community.

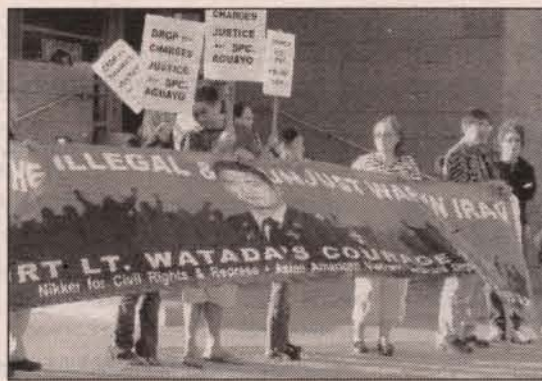
"In the minds of most JAs, Lt. Watada probably doesn't have a place among the Nisei vets honored on Veterans Day," said John Tateishi, former JACL national director. "I think it's a measure of just how widely he's created a breach in the JA community between those who believe his course of action is dishonorable for a JA and those who

believe he stands on a credible principle."

But, he noted: "What one individual does out of a deep moral belief or a belief in an issue has no bearing on the achievements of the Nisei vets. Nothing can tarnish that, and it's incomprehensible to me that JAs even equate or compare the two."

As of press time, a federal judge was weighing whether to move forward with Watada's second court-martial. His first trial in February was declared a mistrial and Watada's attorneys are objecting to retrying their client, arguing double jeopardy.

Whatever the decision, the outcome will likely play a large role in determining Watada's ultimate lega-



cy in the JA community.

Celebrating Our Veterans

Each year, members of the Japanese American Veterans Association take part in Veterans Day celebrations at Arlington Cemetery, proudly displaying the flags of the heroic JA WWII vets — the 442nd Regiment, 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service.

Their legacy is a popular one, a story of overcoming prejudice to prove their patriotism and loyalty to their country.

Many of the WWII veterans feel it is this legacy that Watada is trampling on.

"What does Lt. Watada hope to achieve in his refusal to obey his military orders to lead and accompany his unit to Iraq after he voluntarily joined the Army and took an oath to serve his country?" wrote MIS veteran Leo Hosoda in a letter to the *Pacific Citizen*.

"The 'True Heroes' are the members of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team. ... This unit's extraordinary performance completely reversed the public opinion regarding us Americans of Japanese ancestry."

Although Hosoda's sentiments have been echoed by a number of WWII JA veterans, JAVA president Robert Nakamoto believes Watada's actions have not tainted their legacy.

"No, we believe that the Watada issue does not in any way taint the JA veterans' legacy. Japanese Americans served in the U.S. military during World War II to prove that Japanese Americans were loyal and patriotic. They achieved this goal with their valor, lives, and blood.

"This legacy has been the foundation that have benefited all of us. We are not aware of any Japanese American who refused to serve in the U.S. military during World War II because he or she believed that the war against Germany or Japan was immoral or illegal."

The story of the JA veterans is memorialized at the Go For Broke monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Here, JA veterans volunteer their time explaining the monument and telling their WWII stories to tourists and residents alike.

"I know that many of the Nisei WWII veterans understandably have mixed reactions to Lt. Watada's

decision not to deploy. Lt. Watada has made his decision, and must live with the consequences of that decision under military law," said Wayne Osako, who is currently leading a campaign to honor the Nisei WWII vets with a commemorative stamp.

He believes Veterans Day is a day for our heroic vets, especially our Nisei veterans.

"As a Sansei, I feel that we in the younger generations reap the benefits our Nisei elders' sacrifices to provide a good way of life for us, and we need to remember what they have done, especially on Veterans Day."

Watada's Supporters

For every anti-Watada stance there seems to be an equally strong voice of support.

Just a few blocks down from the Go For Broke Monument, supporters of the first lieutenant have held regular vigils calling for the dismissal of all charges — including missing troop movement and conduct unbecoming an officer — against Watada. He could face up to seven years in prison.

Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCR) and the Asian American Vietnam Veterans Organization (AAVVO) are among Watada's strongest supporters.

"We in NCR are proud of Lt. Watada's courage and principled stand. He continues the legacy in our community of people who have stood up against seemingly insurmountable odds to take a stand against injustice," said June Hibino.

"His actions are in the same vein as those who fought against the injustice of the concentration camps during World War II, those who fought for civil rights during the 1960s and those who fought against a similar war of aggression — the Vietnam War."

They note that supporting Watada does not diminish their pride for the accomplishments of the JA veterans.

"No one can take away from the Nisei vets who fought and sacrificed during World War II," said Hibino. "They fought both for democracy in the world and in the hopes their families in concentration camps would be granted their full civil rights. Likewise, Watada has taken a brave stand, fighting to uphold the Constitution and international law."

"We support 1st Lieutenant Ehren Watada's refusal to obey orders to

deploy to Iraq, based on the war being illegal and immoral," said AAVO in a prepared statement. "To take such a stand on principle against the U.S. military and U.S. government, and to face the consequences of that stand takes tremendous courage."

A Legacy Still Undetermined

In August the national JACL board voted to strengthen its support for Watada, calling for a fair and impartial trial and reinforcing his right to be protected from double jeopardy.

Although some local JACL chapters have been vocal Watada supporters — including the Berkeley, Hawaii, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapters — the membership response to the national board's decision has been largely divisive.

Some have compared the board's decision to its controversial apology to the WWII Resisters of Conscience a few years back, threatening to revoke their membership. Others have exalted JACL's actions calling board members courageous in their stance.

This Veterans Day, Watada will not be welcomed by some but others see his story as a worthy part of the JA veterans legacy. It's an issue that will likely continue to be debated, with no likelihood for consensus.

"I believe that we all should put our differences aside and do our best to honor and remember what our Japanese American veterans have done through their service to our Nation, especially this Veterans Day," said Osako.

"Do I believe there's any way to reconcile the breach Watada's actions have caused among JAs? Perhaps in another generation there'll be more perspective and less emotion involved, and maybe then the community can reconcile the differences," said Tateishi. ■

Nat'l Veterans Day Celebrations

• JAVA will take part in the National Veterans Day Program at Arlington Cemetery in the morning of Nov. 11.

• In the afternoon JAVA will host its 7th Annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor recipient, of Denver, Colorado will be the keynote speaker.

For more information: www.javadc.org.

Watada Vigils and Petition:

• NCR and AAVVO have organized weekly vigils at the corner of Alameda and First Streets in Little Tokyo from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The next vigil will be Nov. 5.

• NCR's and AAVO's online petition that can be accessed at: <http://justiceforwatada.2mpower.net>

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Japanese American
Citizens League

HISAMI YOSHIDA

(Continued from page 1)

been in several associate positions at both male and female prisons prior to taking the lead at Cedar Creek.

So do men or women tend to respect her authority more?

"Eventually they both do," said Hisami.

Not a Stereotypical Anything

"It usually takes people some time to get used to especially being female and being Asian American," said Hisami about her leadership role. "I don't see that happening as much at work with white men or black men."

As a little girl growing up in a Central California town near Lompoc, Hisami was not dreaming of a career in corrections. Not many girls aspire to become head of a prison, but they should, she said.

Hisami, who came to the U.S. from Tokyo when she was five, had eclectic role models growing up. Isadora Duncan danced on a pedestal next to Mahatma Gandhi, who was "enthralled" for a young adult in the 1960s involved in civil rights and the anti-war movement.

She moved to Washington in 1971 to study multicultural arts at Evergreen State College in Olympia. As a student, she noticed a need for English as a Second Language classes and started the movement. She along with the university's Third World Coalition also discovered that only about 1 percent of minority students were using counseling services on campus, so Hisami decided to do something about that too.

Her foray into the field of correc-

tions happened by chance. She saw a sign — literally. Hisami had been working several contract jobs out of college and craved something steadier, so she took some administrative jobs with the state.

"I was bored, so bored."

Until one day Hisami saw a sign advertising a job opportunity with the Department of Corrections counseling inmates — she thought it was time for a career change.

Boh Taylor, Hisami's youngest daughter, remembers the day her mother said she got the DOC job. At first, criminal justice just didn't seem like a career that her family thought Hisami would be interested in.

"She was my mom! You see a different side of her," said Taylor, 34. But the more she learned about the system, the more it made sense.

"It's her passion."

But it didn't stop her family from worrying at first.

"I was curious what a prison counselor to be," said her husband Richard Sinclair. They met in 1974 through a mutual friend when Hisami was a devoted mother to Boh and her older daughter, Burgandy Kahout, now 37.

"I think when I first met her, she was baking pies," said Sinclair. Back then, he never imagined the avid cook and gardener he fell in love with would be the superintendent of a men's prison, but then again he's not surprised.

"She is not a stereotypical anything."

Growing with Cedar Creek

Hisami's job is hardly a normal nine-to-five slog. She's had a few minor brushes with danger over the years, but nothing she rushes home

to tell her family about. In fact, she doesn't talk about her work with her family mostly because it involves a language all of its own.

"It becomes arcane, almost cultish!" she said.

She had to learn what a "shank" (a homemade knife) and "the hole" (solitary confinement) meant. And a "snitch jacket," isn't the latest fashion statement.

Hisami was the associate superintendent of a much larger men's prison at McNeil Island, when the position at Cedar Creek opened up. And compared to many other correctional facilities, Cedar Creek is an environmental haven.

The Littlerock minimum security working facility is situated inside a 38-acre forest that inmates help protect. When a fire is sparked, trained inmates suit up and help put the fire out.

"I don't think people understand that firefighting is not funded very well. When your house catches on fire, local firefighters come put it out," said Hisami, who added that funding is limited for forest firefighters.

Cedar Creek inmates also plant trees, build swing sets, bridges and fences. Cedar Creek has its own worm farm for composting and beehives, which they use to make hand lotion and lip balm. In the future, Hisami wants to develop a program



Western Washington Prison Administrator Dick Morgan (left) says Hisami Yoshida (right) was a perfect fit for the superintendent job.

to sell the products for a nominal fee and donate the proceeds to charity.

"Our population is 410 and every person is working and or going to school. Twenty five percent or more are doing both."

And Cedar Creek is growing under Hisami's guidance. A \$3.8 million expansion project is slated for completion at the end of 2008.

"Hisami has played key roles in a lot of different aspects of the department," said Dick Morgan, prison administrator for Western Washington. "Cedar Creek plays an important role in our overall re-entry initiative and we're in the process of increasing its capacity. Hisami's experiences, skills and knowledge were a natural fit for the future of Cedar Creek."

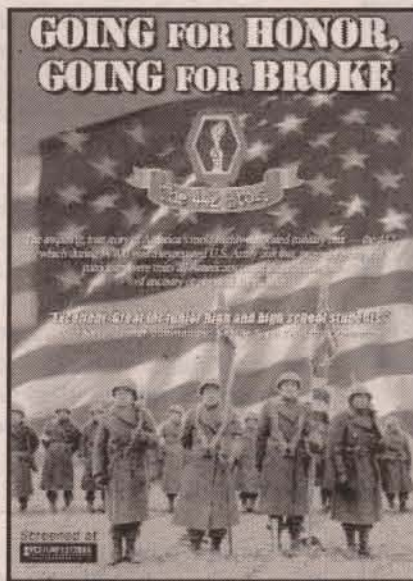
Community Leader

Growing up as a minority in the 1950s "with all of the anti-Japanese movies," Hisami knows what it is like to be ostracized — on the playground she was always chosen to be the enemy.

"It was strange being the person who was always being killed!" she said with a laugh. She does not want to repeat the same kind of abuse on the inmates. "Sometimes you do it unconsciously, and you catch yourself, but I try as much as possible not to abuse my power. That's what attracted me to this business: how do you as a system have control over human beings without stepping over the line?"

See HISAMI YOSHIDA/Page 16

GOING FOR HONOR, GOING FOR BROKE: THE 442 STORY



The short-form educational documentary by George Toshio Johnston (*Rafu Shimpo* columnist and former *Pacific Citizen* editor)

Winner: Selected Work Award,
2007 Tokyo Video Festival
Screened at 2006 VC Filmfest

Those who have seen *Going for Honor, Going for Broke* say:
"Excellent. Great for junior high and high school students."

"The DVD is as great as the 100th Infantry Battalion
and the 442nd Infantry Regiment."

Bonus Material: This DVD contains a version of the "Echoes of Silence" database compiled by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance.
Running time: 16 mins.

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JODO SHU

(Continued from page 1)

members did not speak up and it got out of hand," said Bill Iguchi, a Sansei from Mesa, Arizona, whose family has been involved with the Jodo Shu temple since the 1950s.

Now Betsuin members have voiced their discontent loudly by suing JNABM for dissolution of partnership and keeping the Betsuin's personal property.

The lawsuit, which was filed at the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2004, won its first battle Sept. 25 with the Los Angeles 2nd District Court of Appeals ruling in favor of the Betsuin. The decision, which overturned a May 2006 Superior Court summary judgment, paves the way for a trial between the small Buddhist Japanese American congregation and the head administrative arm of the Jodo Shu religion worldwide.

The legal battle has been compared to a clash between David and Goliath and a Catholic church taking on the Vatican.

"It was a difficult choice," said the Betsuin's attorney James Ebert about the congregation's decision to sue. "But they were left with no choice."

In addition to the monetary loss associated with the dissolution of their partnership, the Betsuin says JNABM has kept the congregation's personal property including computers, Buddhist statues and an altar.

The partnership between the Betsuin and JNABM began harmoniously in the 1980s when both parties joined forces to raise funds to buy the land on Third Street and build a temple.

Prior to the partnership, the Betsuin was an independent temple with its own facilities near the University of Southern California. There, generations of JAs have gathered since 1936 to practice Jodo Shu — a branch of Pure Land Buddhism — under the leadership of Bishop Reikai Nozaki, who founded the Betsuin at its original Jefferson Boulevard location.

By agreeing to help buy and build the new temple on Third Street, the Betsuin entered into a business relationship with JNABM. The Betsuin agreed to share in the cost of construction and pay for one-third of all operating expenses of the new temple while the JNABM would retain the title of the property and the temple. The Betsuin sold its old temple to help raise funds and when construction was complete, the congregation moved in.

Now Betsuin members want back what they say is rightfully theirs.

"We were robbed. We did so much for the temple and just like that they took it away," said Harney Ishii.

But the JNABM said they allowed the Betsuin's trustees three days to remove personal items from the temple after the Oct. 31, 2003, disaffiliation.

"The trustees then demanded that JNABM also give them all the religious items donated over the years to the temple and to the Jodo Shu religion. This is Betsuin's main remaining claim today," said Jennie L. La Prade, the attorney representing JNABM. "For example, the trustees demanded that JNABM permit them to remove from the temple the altar, religious statuettes, and the Buddha, among other religious items. JNABM refused because those



JNABM will mark the 70th anniversary of its founding with services Nov. 11 — the same day Betsuin members will meet at the JACCC.

items belong to the temple and the current congregation who continue to worship at the temple and support the Jodo Shu religion.

"Further, the trustees are not entitled to the property donated to the Jodo Shu religion. Betsuin has been expelled from the Jodo Shu religion, is no longer a Jodo Shu temple, can no longer conduct Jodo Shu religious services, and is not recognized by the religious leadership of Jodo Shu."

Allegations and an Altercation

Satoru Kawai calls it a cultural misunderstanding between officials from the Jodo Shu Japanese headquarters and the Betsuin's trustees.

Satoru headed the Betsuin as bishop from 1979 to his retirement in 2001. Now he and his son, Kent Kawai, hold services once a month for exiled Betsuin members.

"In Japan, it's a sort of a different process. Authority is never questioned there," said Kent, who was

elected onto the Betsuin board in 2002. "The ministers in Japan are trying to manage from the other side of the Pacific Ocean."

Some Betsuin congregation members have gone further to accuse the JNABM of conspiring to take control of the entire temple for its monetary value.

During Satoru's tenure as bishop, the Jodo Shu Religious Corporation (JRC) assigned ministers from Japan to the Los Angeles temple. Congregation members say the trouble started with the arrival in the late 1990s of Ministers Kodo Tanaka and Masanori Ishihara.

"We had 14-15 visiting ministers before [Tanaka and Ishihara]. Before this, we had no trouble," said Iwahashi.

La Prade said the Betsuin trustees inappropriately tried to control the ministers and their religious activities. But the growing hostility came to a head in 2001, when Tanaka accused some trustees of assault.

"I thought it was nothing," said Ishii about the incident that he was named in. According to Ishii, the trustees met Tanaka and Ishihara at the temple to help plan an event. Ishii asked for a copy of the paper the ministers were handing out; he was allegedly told he didn't need one because he did not read Japanese.

"I said, 'okay it's your show' and flicked the paper out of [Tanaka's] hands and walked out of the room," said Ishii, who added that the alleged altercation happened when he was out of the room. But Tanaka and Ishihara demanded a written and oral apology from various Betsuin members.

Because the ministers notified Japan, JNABM officials asked Satoru to resign, retire or be fired, said Ishii. In turn, Ishii filed a defamation lawsuit against Tanaka. The case was settled out of court with Ishii receiving an undisclosed amount.

"This thing was making me sick. I'm an old man and I can't stand this pressure," said Ishii, 82.

After the defamation lawsuit was resolved, JNABM made many attempts to work with the Betsuin trustees, but the problems persisted, said La Prade. The trustees asked for Tanaka and Ishihara to be sent back

to Japan and for Satoru to be reinstated as bishop.

"Accordingly, JNABM and JRC felt they had no choice but to disaffiliate Betsuin from the Jodo Shu religion," she added.

Byproducts of the Conflict

After Iwahashi was barred from the temple, she wrote a letter to Jodo Shu members in Japan.

"I said you can kick us out of the temple, but you cannot kick Jodo Shu out of our hearts."

Since the legal battle began three years ago, services have continued at the temple with Tanaka as the acting bishop. JNABM will also be commemorating its 70th anniversary Nov. 11 with special services — the same day Betsuin members are holding their monthly services in the basement of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

No trial date has been set, but the protracted battle has had heartbreaking circumstances.

The ashes of Iwahashi's husband are located at the temple's *nokotsudo* or chapel along with a tablet inscribed with her ancestor's name. She has only been able to visit her husband's ashes once. She was later told she needed an appointment.

"It came to this ridiculous situation where if Betsuin members wanted to visit their relatives, they would have to call me and I would have to call [JNABM's lawyer] to set up an appointment," said Ebert.

But the JNABM contends that no one has been barred from visiting loved ones and that many former Betsuin members have stayed with the temple.

"Typically, when a family ceases to worship at a temple, the family removes the ashes and places them elsewhere," said La Prade. "Accordingly, since the trustees have separated from the temple, JNABM requested that each of the trustees retrieve from the temple their family ashes and tablets. Much to JNABM's surprise, the trustees have refused to retrieve their family ashes and tablets, choosing instead to lodge unfounded complaints about lack of access."

For Ishii, whose wife's ashes are also located at the temple, the reason is simple — he paid for the spot. Why should he have to move it?

But for others, the reason to continue the fight is far more ephemeral.

"The older folks want to see the sunlight when they leave this earth," said Ruth Nakamura, a Sansei Betsuin member from Mission Hills, Calif.

"The property inside that temple represents everything that [the Nisei] worked hard to get back after everything was taken from them during World War II. To have this happen ... it's like a slap in the face," said Kent. ■

For more information on Jodo Shu International: www.jodo.org.



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Calendar

National

SALT LAKE CITY

July 16-20—2008 JACL National Convention. Info: www.utjacl.org.

East

FAIRFAX STATION, Virginia

Sat., Dec. 8—Washington, D.C. JACL Mochitsuki; 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lake Haven Ln. Info: Clyde Nishimura, c.nishimura@verizon.net

TOWSON, Mass.

Through Dec. 8—Exhibit, "Art of Vietnam: 20th Century"; Asian Arts Gallery, Towson University; gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat. 1-4 p.m.; featuring works from five Vietnamese artists.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sun., Nov. 11—Forum, "Opening Doors: Women in Art, 1972-2007"; 1:30-4:30 p.m.; American University, Katzen Arts Center, corner of Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenues; panelists will discuss the difference the feminist revolution has made to the lives and achievements of women artists, art historians and to the art world during the past three decades.

Midwest

CLEVELAND

Sat., Nov. 3—38th Annual JACL Holiday Fair; 1-5 p.m.; St. Ignatius High School.

DENVER

Sat., Nov. 3—Japanese Craft Workshop with Kimiko Side; 9-4 p.m.; Japan Association office, 1215 19th St., Suite A; \$10 charge includes all materials and instructions. RSVP: JASC at jascolorado@att.net or 303/592-5364.

Sat., Nov. 3—Meet Congressman Mike Honda; 9-11 a.m.; Denver Buddhist Temple, 1947 Lawrence St.; first in a series of visits from national leaders that is designed to get the local community involved in the upcoming elections.

Sat., Nov. 17—Performance, "Camp Dance" by the Grateful Crane Ensemble; 2 p.m.; Teikyo Loretto Heights Theater, 3001 S. Federal Blvd.; \$5 admission. Tickets: Tom Migaki, 303/986-3267.

MEDICINE LAKE, Minn.

Sun., Nov. 18—Twin Cities JACL's 61st Anniversary Chrysanthemum Banquet; 3 p.m.; The Chateau, 10715 S. Shore Dr.; featuring comedian, magician and TV host, Bob Kubota; \$30/members, \$35/non-members, \$20/children under 12; RSVP deadline, Nov. 3. Info and reservations: Joanne Kumagai, 763/420-6639.

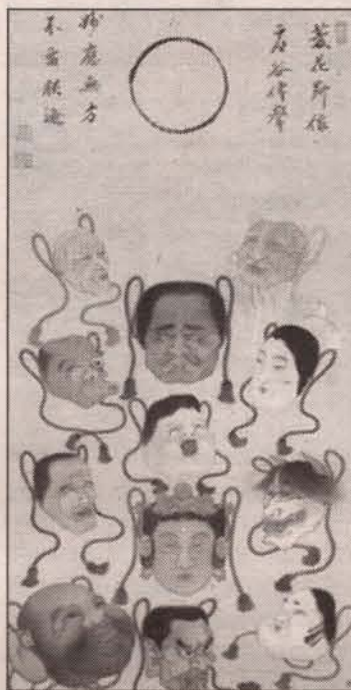
SANTA FE

Thurs., Nov. 15—Time Shards Music Series featuring pianist Aki Takahashi; 7 p.m.; St. Francis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts; Takahashi will perform Morton Feldman's works. Info: 505/946-1017.

Pacific Northwest

AUBURN, Wash.

Through Jan. 28—Exhibit, "Courage Untold: The Story of the Japanese American Military Intelligence Service 1941-1952"; White River Valley Museum, 918 H St. SE, Les



The Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture's current exhibit, "Dances and Masks: The Art of the Noh Theater," features masks and textiles with paintings and prints that depict the elements of performance. The gallery is open Tues. through Sat., 1-5 p.m.

Grove Park Campus; Wed.-Sun. noon-4 p.m.; exhibit features photographs, artifacts and oral histories; special events: Nov. 10, 4-5 p.m., a presentation by author Ken Mochizuki; Dec. 8, 1 p.m., showing of "Uncommon Courage: Patriotism and Civil Liberties," a film about the soldiers of the MIS; \$2/adults and \$1/children.

PORTLAND

Mon., Nov. 12—Portland Japanese Garden Free Admission Day; 10-4 p.m.; free admission granted by donating two non-perishable food items for the Oregon Food Bank; tours will take place and a special kimono exhibit will also be featured.

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.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Through Nov. 25—Play, "after the quake"; Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St.; adapted from Haruki Murakami's book of the same name; tickets begin at \$27. Info and tickets: 510/647-2949, 888-4-BRT-TIX or berkeleyrep.org.

SACRAMENTO

Fri., Nov. 9—Presentation, Sumo or Less?; 7 p.m.; Asian Community Center, 7375 Park City Dr.; program includes a lecture and video presentation by Andrew Freund; reservations required as seating is limited to 80 people; \$5/person donation. Info and RSVP: 916/422-8783 or jkpca21@yahoo.com.

SAN FRANCISCO

Through Jan. 6—Exhibition, "Stylized Sculpture: Contemporary Japanese Fashion from the Kyoto Costume Institute"; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; exhibition spotlights the sculptural essence of contemporary Japanese fashion through works by Rei Kawakubo, Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto. Info: 415/581-3500 or www.asianart.org.

Central California

HANFORD

Through Dec. 1—Exhibit, "Dances and Masks: The Art of the Noh Theater"; The Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, 15770 Tenth Ave.; featuring masks, robes, prints and paintings from the Noh Theater. Info: 559/582-4915 or www.ccjac.org.

Southern California

ANAHEIM

Sat., Nov. 10—Go For Broke National Education Center's Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner; 4 p.m. registration and silent auction, 6 p.m. dinner and program; Anaheim Hilton Hotel, 777 Convention Way; \$150/person. Info: Stephanie Nagami, 310/222-5706 or eveningofaloha@goforbroke.org.

BURBANK

Through Nov. 11—"Louder, Faster, Funnier!" by the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors; GTC-Burbank, 1111-B W. Olive Ave.; performances are Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sun.; \$15/person, \$13/seniors and students with I.D. Info or RSVP: 818/754-4500, 18mightymountainwarriors@gmail.com or 18mmw.com.

GARDEN GROVE

Sat., Dec. 15—SELANOCO JACL Mochitsuki; 8-3 p.m.; Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 13711 Fairview St.; annual chapter fundraiser helps to send students to the Presidential Classroom in Washington, D.C.; mochi available for \$3.50/lb, contact Jun Fukushima, 562/865-5039 or BJ Watanabe, 714/779-4140 or bjwatanabe@aol.com to order; deadline for orders is Dec. 10 and mochi must be picked up by 3 p.m. on Dec. 15.

IMPERIAL

Through Nov. 16—William Tokeshi Art Exhibition; Pioneers' Museum, 373 E. Aten Rd.; an opening reception with members of the Tokeshi family will be held Oct. 27 from 6-8 p.m. Info: Tim Asamen, 760/344-2627 or timasamen@yahoo.com.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Nov. 3—Opening Reception, "Giant Robot Biennale: 50 Issues"; 6-10 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; featuring the works of 10 artists previously featured in the magazine or earlier Giant Robot exhibitions; free. Info: Clement Hanami, 310/415-0513, Eric Nakamura, eric@giantrobot.com or www.janm.org.

Nov. 7-Dec. 2—Performance, "Dawn's Light: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi"; David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St.; performances are Wed.-Sat. at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sun.; tickets are \$60 for opening night, other performances: \$35/orchestra, \$30/balcony. Info and tickets: 213/625-7000 or www.east-westplayers.org.

Sat., Nov. 10—Film screening, "Cages"; 2 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St.; film is about a single mother who comes face-to-face with her estranged father; starring Mako in his final feature film appearance; \$5/general, \$3/students, seniors and veterans; Tickets: 213/680-3700 or at the East West Players office (cash only). Info: cagesmovie.com.

SAN DIEGO

Sun., Nov. 11—San Diego JACL Tea Tasting; 2 p.m.; John Yato Studio, 7847 Dunbrood Rd., Suite D; featuring a selection of teas from Infusions of Tea and a tea ceremony demonstration by Erika Hiramatsu; RSVP by Nov. 5 to 619/230-0314; \$10/person payable to San Diego JACL.

WEST COVINA

Sat., Nov. 3—San Gabriel Valley JACL's annual "Fall Frolic Benefit Dance"; 7-11 p.m.; East San Gabriel

Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; music by Jim Ikehara; \$10 donation with proceeds directed to the chapter's scholarship fund. Table reservations: Toshi Ito, 909/861-9676.

Arizona

GLENDALE

Sun., Nov. 4—Arizona JACL Military Tribute Luncheon; 1 p.m.; Glendale Civic Center; keynote speaker, Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs; \$30. Info: Masako Takiguchi, 602/956-3150 or Ted Namba, 623/572-9913.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Sun., Nov. 11—Shichi Go San; 9:30-2:30 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St.; children can dress up in kimono and sandals and have their picture taken; \$56/JCCH members, \$70/non-members, pictures are separate cost. Info: 808/945-7633, info@jcch.com or www.jcch.com.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Nov. 6-7—All Minidoka Reunion; Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, 129 Fremont St. Info: Tak Todo, 206/362-8195. ■



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In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Arita, Satoru, 88, Waialua, Hawaii, Oct. 2; survived by wife, Doris; sons, Glenn (Carleen) and David (Christine); and 6 gc.

Doi, Chiyoko, 99, Gardena, Sept. 25; survived by son, Joseph (Jayne); 2 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Kajioka, Henry M., 85, N. Highlands; survived by wife, Tomo; 1 gc.; and sister, Nao Kawamura.

Kiyama, Norio, 92, Gardena, Sept. 26; survived by daughters, Akemi (Edward) Matsumoto, Masumi Kawakubo and Hiroko (Senichi) Sumi; 7 gc.; and 9 gg.

Koito, Noboru, 99, Pearl City, Hawaii, Aug. 9; survived by sons, Galen and Stephen; daughter, Priscilla Miyahira; 6 gc.; 3 ggc.; brother, Isamu; sisters, Hinai Nakazawa and Akiko Tanaka.

Kushino, Norman T., D.D.S., 74, Golden Valley, Minn., Oct. 16; survived by wife, Catherine; daughters, Patrice (Jeff) Erickson, Elise (Kal) Kouatli, and Theresa (Patrick) Tompkins; 7 gc.; brother, Richard (Frances); and sister-in-law, Colleen.

Minamide, Akira, 83, Los Angeles, Oct. 6; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Takako; daugh-

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.

ters, Christine (Alan) Shimizu and Shelby (Mark) Young; son, John (Joan) Minamide; brothers, Ben (Mae) and Tatsuo (Kazue) Nakatani; sister, Helen (Lita) Okazaki; sister-in-law, Mary Minamide; and many grandchildren.

Motokane, Ed Yoshiaki, 81, Pacific Palisades, Oct. 4; survived by wife, Helen; daughters, Carolyn (Glenn) Kawafuchi, Elaine (Joe) Warhula and Ann (Ric Buckton) Motokane; son, Edward (Helen); 4 gc.; and brother, Jim (Jeanne).

Nagatani, Ray, 88, Hanford, Sept. 29; WWII veteran; survived by sons, Mike, Tony and David; 9 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brother, John.

Nakadaira, Masaru, 86, Calipatria, Sept. 25; survived by wife, Rose; sons, Robert (Rita) and Richard (Rosemarie); daughter, Julie (Kevin) Yorita; 5 gc.; brother, Hiromu; sisters, Ayako Kido, Toshiye (Roy) Maeda, Yoshiko

(Benny) Tsujimoto and Linda Sasaki; and sister-in-law, Bernice Nakadaira.

Nakamura, Kats, 85, Sept. 26; survived by daughter, Tracy; son-in-law, David; and 1 gc.

Nakazawa, Mitzi, 84, Tolleson, Ariz.; survived by son, Tony; daughters, Patsy, Phyllis and Jan; 8 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Shogo Yamaguchi; and sister, Toshiko Adachi.

Nishimura, Masami, 79, Monterey Park, Sept. 21; survived by son, Dean (Freya); 3 gc.; sisters, Hanae Akiyama and Fujie Kinoshita; and brothers, Masaru (Ruby), Akio (Lani), Tomeki (Diane) and Toshio (Cheryl) Nishimura.

Nozawa, Tsuye Suzie, 90, Gardena, Sept. 22; survived by son, Michael; and daughter, Irene (Yoshihiro) Watanabe.

Okamoto, Tatsuko, 90, Los Angeles, Sept. 27; survived by son, Toyohiko (Akiko); 1 gc.; sisters, Setsuko Kurimoto and Dorothy (Robert) Takasugi; and sister-in-law, Kiyo Okamoto.

Okazaki, Teruko, 101, Los Angeles, Sept. 16; survived by sons, Hiroshi (Shizuko), Mitsuru (Noriko), Jack (Elsie) and Akira (Jeanette); daughter, Toshiko Saito; 8 gc.; and 5 ggc.

Oshiro, Toshio, 77, Aiea,

Hawaii, Oct. 3; survived by wife, Doris; son, Gerald; brothers, Choyu, David and Joe; and sister, Fujie Isagawa.

Senmaru, Mitsuko, 80, Sept. 20; survived by husband, Takashi; and son, Tony.

Shigezawa, Jeffrey, 85, Honolulu, Sept. 23; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Emmie; daughter, Christine (Bill) McDaniel; son, Gordon (Ruth); and 2 gc.

Shimono Kazushige, 81, Culver City, Oct. 6; survived by wife, Mary; son, Hiro; daughter, Susie (Jack) Bone; and 4 gc.

Shishido, Tohoru, 84, Irvine, Sept. 22; survived by wife, Mae; son, Wayne; daughter-in-law, Norma; 1 gc.; brother, Mamoru; sisters, Aiko Endow, Mihoko Goto, and Sets Ahn; brothers-in-law, Yoshio Izumi and Joe Takayama; and sisters-in-law, Anna Shishido, Ruth Oda and Alyce Shinmoto.

Sugamura, Masaichi Tom, 78, Los Angeles, Korean Conflict veteran; survived by wife, Teruyo; sons, Mark (Gail) and David; daughters, Lori (Richard) Terada and Lynn (Fred) Kimotsuki; 4 gc.; and sisters, Mary Sugamura and Fumi Handa.

Taguchi, Harrison Nobuyoshi, 75, Glendora, Sept. 10; survived by wife, Sumiko; son, Gary; daughter, Sharon (Mike) Kojima; brother, Samuel; and sisters, Rose Desha and Doris Elliot.

Takagi, David Mitsuo, 69,

Cataumet, Mass., Oct. 6; survived by wife, Barbara; daughters, Jennifer and Mary; mother, Sachiye; sister, Miye Takagi; and brothers, Keiji and Robert.

Takahashi, Rosie Fukiko, 90, Los Angeles, Oct. 13; survived by brother, Albert Takahashi; and sister, Florence Griffen and Margaret Zumwinkle.

Takeoka, Haru, 87, Oct. 3; survived by brothers, Kaz (Frances) and Bob Matsuda; and sister-in-law, Michi Matsuda.

Toda, Ryo Sam, 79, Irvine, Oct. 2; survived by son, Craig; daughter, Pamela; and 3 sisters.

Toguchi, Kiyoko, 95, Los Angeles, Oct. 1; survived by daughter, Ayako Uyemura; sons, Theodore (Gladys), Edward (Karen) and George; 7 gc.; and 4 ggc.

Uyemura, Tamio, 82, South Pasadena, Sept. 30; survived by son, Dr. Koichi (Dr. Linda); daughters, Noriko (Masao) Shibuya and Yoko (Kelvin) Nishikawa; 6 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Etsuko (Bill) Fukawa and Masae (Noburo) Takemoto.

Wakida, John M., 65, Gardena, Sept. 24; survived by mother, Rose; brother, Donald (Gerry); and sister, Roslyn Lara.

Yamamoto, Jack Y., 95, Santa Maria, Oct. 1; survived by brothers, Tom (Kay), Frank Shikuma and Sam; and brother-in-law, Isamu Minami. ■

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AA STUDIES

(Continued from page 1)

undergraduate population), there is an African American studies program and an LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) studies program but nothing geared toward the more than 800 AA students at Syracuse.

"On campus, I see a great need for other people to see the struggle my parents and my ancestors went through," said Kim. "A lot of people see Asian [culture] only as pop culture. They think Asia is a fun place but they don't really understand it. It's really frustrating."

But when Kim took her case to the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Susan Wadley, she didn't feel any less frustrated.

"[Wadley] didn't seem too supportive," she said, describing the dean as "intimidating and discouraging" when it came to pursuing any sort of AAS programming. Kim is not alone in her sentiment.

In May 2006, a year and a half before Kim went to find answers at the College of Arts and Sciences, a group of about a dozen students set about organizing a campaign to bring a program resembling AA studies to Syracuse. The group, then headed by student Jonathan Han, aimed to eliminate the discontinuity of the previous student effort.

There had been a disjointed though ongoing campaign for AAS programming since the late 1990s, after the infamous "Denny's incident" in which six AA students and one Caucasian student were attacked in a Denny's parking lot in Syracuse, NY after being turned away from service at the restaurant. So Han and his fellow students tried to drive through an AAS program, talking to numerous faculty, students, and Multicultural Student Affairs personnel, and brought their case to the college.

But Han, now an alumnus working in the campus' ministry who also continues to write for the college newspaper, said that despite the group having presented a proposal, student petition, and supporting statements signed by faculty willing to teach courses, Dean Wadley "was not receptive" to the students' efforts, even though they had presented a proposal for "Transnational Asian Studies," a diluted version of what students wanted, which merged both Asian and AA studies in an attempt to satisfy both parties.

He blames the rejection, in part, on the "paradox of being Asian American."

"People think 'Are they a minority or not?' It's always been black or white," said Han. "It blows my mind that [the administration] doesn't see the need for Asian American studies.

We say we want to be a cutting edge school but we don't walk the walk."

Dean Wadley says she has been "more than willing to talk to [students]," and that their effort in the spring of 2006 was "not a serious campaign. [...] They came to see me once and then I never heard another word from them in over 15 months." Students should have further consulted her and been more well-organized, she said, adding that in any case, the school does not currently have sufficient staff and faculty to carry such a program.

"Should we have Asian American studies? Certainly. But we don't have the faculty for it," said Wadley. "I can't do anything for it if I have no staff or faculty."

Han disagrees, pointing out that several faculty members had shown willingness to be involved in and teach possible AAS courses at Syracuse, and that the student effort was very well-organized and well-researched.

And there lies the grand discrepancy. The fight for programming, the attempt to show a need for Asian and AA Studies in colleges like Syracuse, denigrates at some point into a he said-she said dispute that only further serves to undermine any progress. And students like Kim and Han end up never being able to take a course in AA literature or race relations throughout their college

careers.

One of the students from the May 2006 campaign, Carina Lui, is now a sixth-year dual degree candidate in her last few semesters at the university and has still never had the opportunity to take an AAS course. More people, she said, are beginning to notice the empty spot in ethnic programming.

"I've talked to many people in the past six years I've been here," said Lui. "They also think there's a void that needs to be filled."

But until that void is filled, students will have to keep on plugging

away. Han writes the occasional column lamenting the lack of AAS programming at Syracuse, hoping that his words will stir the AA student populace to action. For now, with many of his original group now either graduating seniors or alumni, hope is all he has left, but it is good enough.

"When you start giving up hope, that's it," said Han. "There's always hope. The last thing we can give up is hope." ■

Elaine Low is currently a JACL fellow in the Midwest regional office.

HISAMI YOSHIDA

(Continued from page 12)

"It's also the ability to model this job for younger Asian women and to let them know that it is rewarding work. It's the kind of work where you can make a difference in someone's life and by extension, you can make a difference in their families and in the community."

It's important work, especially since more APAs are coming into the prison system on both sides of the law. On the inside, APA inmates face unique challenges, especially with language barriers. In America, we use prisons as a legally sanctioned apartheid — a way of punishing people of color through our criminal justice system, she said.

"We have to start that national conversation: is that really our intent?"

Outside of Cedar Creek, Hisami is also a former PNW district governor and current president of the Olympia JACL.

For Hisami, it is all about creating a sense of community and working to turn people's lives around.

"By extension you eliminate the potential for harm in the community.... That's a tremendous cause."

And Hisami has shown that the cause can be lead by a woman.

"Absolutely. I think we're better at it." ■

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