

PACIFIC CITIZEN

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

EXCLUSIVE
Your national JACL
board members
outline their vision
for '08!



INSIDE:
2007 IN PICTURES



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[GIL ASAKAWA]

P.C.: A Reliable Source for APA, JACL News

I love the *Pacific Citizen*, and I consider it a valuable part of my life's media menu. In these times when news media have become ubiquitous, it's important to appreciate the sources that cover the topics that are important to me.

I can find national and international news anywhere and everywhere on the Internet, and I can find news about my town with just a few clicks to every local newspaper and TV station's site. But I can't find a lot of news sources about the issues I really care about — the issues that affect Asian Pacific Americans, and my Japanese American community.

That's where the *P.C.* comes in.

Both with the newsprint edition and its evolving Web site, the *P.C.* has become an accurate, diverse and reliable conduit for news that is so often ignored by the mainstream media that leaves people like us invisible.

In the articles and issues presented by the *P.C.*, we are not invisible.

The *P.C.* covers stories that the JACL is involved with, and gives voice to many APA artists and performers that catch our eye but seldom get coverage in the pages of *People* magazine or the *Washington Post*.

The *P.C.* accomplishes this despite being short on staff. But now, with the steady upswing in usage on the Web site, PacificCitizen.org, it's become clear that the staff needs help.

You may not be a big Internet user and surf for news online. But be assured, the Net is the future of news media, especially for young people, those who are so critically important to JACL's future. Having a strong Internet presence isn't just a luxury — it's a requirement.

The *P.C.* Web site is currently maintained by Brian Tanaka, the office manager — who also handles the computers, advertising and helps with sports coverage. Executive Editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom and Assistant Editor Lynda Lin have also been trained to upload stories to the Web site.

We're asking for a new position this year, for a reporter who also has the skills to help out with PacificCitizen.org. This will make the *P.C.* a cutting-edge news organization, one that

*'JACL is a righteous,
inclusive organization,
and the P.C. is likewise
inclusive in its coverage.'*

JACL members can be even more proud of.

I've been honored to serve as the chair of the *P.C.*'s editorial board — a position mandated by the JACL constitution — for four years. I've worked as a journalist for three decades, and have been involved with online media since 1996. I can tell you without hesitation that the *P.C.* is a very special publication, whether you're reading it in newsprint or on a computer screen.

I have nothing but the greatest professional respect for its staff, who toil at their jobs out of passion for the mission of JACL, and passion for journalism.

I know there are readers who wish the *P.C.* could be more like their chapter newsletters

and have more news about JACL. I understand your concern, but would urge you to read the *P.C.* closely: JACL is everywhere within its pages.

Every major event of the organization, from conventions to bi-districts, is covered. Every issue that JACL sends out an alert about finds its way into the *P.C.* — sometimes before JACL takes a stance on an issue. And, like the national organization, those issues are diverse, covering not just the JA community but APA, and civil rights far beyond "our" people. JACL is a righteous, inclusive organization, and the *P.C.* is likewise inclusive in its coverage.

If you have comments about the *P.C.*, don't be afraid to share them. Pass along comments and concerns to your chapter presidents, to your district governors, and most important, to your district's *P.C.* board representative. The *P.C.* board stays in contact throughout the year via e-mail, and we meet once a year in person, to discuss the *P.C.* and advise Caroline and her staff.

I believe very strongly that the *P.C.* is on the right path as a news organization, with its print edition and Web site. It reflects JACL's mission and supports JACL's activities as the leading APA civil rights organization.

I hope the *P.C.* is as indispensable a part of your media menu as it is mine, and that you'll continue to support its efforts and help it evolve and grow as it helps JACL.

Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu — Happy New Year! ■

Gil Asakawa is the current chair of the P.C. editorial board.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



In 2007, **Ehren Watada's** name became a rallying cry, a catalyst for debate and a symbol of diversity within the APA communities. The man in the center of the controversy (pictured left, in brown) continued to draw support and criticism for his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq. In 2007, Watada is still a mesmerizing camera subject.

**MORE '07 PHOTOS
SEE PAGES 9-11**

PHOTO: THANKYOUULT.ORG



[FLOYD MORI]

A Broader Scope for the JACL

When it was organized in 1929, the JACL's founding mission was focused on protecting the civil rights of Japanese Americans. JACL was the first Asian Pacific American organization of its kind. Today, JACL remains the nation's oldest and largest APA civil rights organization.

Today, the JACL is committed to protecting the civil rights of all segments of society, with particular emphasis on APAs. The JACL remains at the forefront in the constant battle to ensure the continuation of civil rights for all Americans.

The Leadership Council on Civil Rights (LCCR), a major coalition, was established in 1950 by giants of the civil rights movement to promote

the passage and implementation of civil rights laws. The LCCR has coordinated the national legislative campaign on behalf of every major civil rights law since 1957. The LCCR includes over 180 national organizations working together to resolve the ongoing civil and human rights problems. Its executive council is made up of executive directors from 25 organizations — including the JACL.

In addition, the JACL is a member of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), which is a key APA coalition founded in 1996. This coalition of 21 APA organizations was formed to fill the need for a national coalition of advocacy organizations within the APA communities. The group formulates strategy and constantly meets with members of Congress on civil rights issues.

The JACL is regarded as a leader within these groups and is greatly involved in all

issues, which are of concern to the coalitions and the JACL membership. The current NCAPA chair is Lisa Hasegawa, executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development — and a member of the JACL Washington, D.C. chapter.

In addition to working on policy issues like redress for Japanese Latin Americans, Filipino veterans benefits, camp preservation, Hawaiian sovereignty, the Nisei veterans commemorative stamp campaign, the JACL is a strong voice in advocating the restoration of habeas corpus, immigration reform, hate crimes prevention and many other national issues.

Unlike the Redress era when our interest was one piece of legislation, the JACL has been working on many general civil rights issues.

One of the major issues that the JACL now faces is declining membership. It is very important that the JACL get more members in order to survive. There is a current push to encourage former JACL scholarship recipients, college students, young adults and lapsed members to rejoin the JACL.

There are also many people out there who could be interested in joining, but have not heard of the JACL. Years ago, Ruth Hashimoto and I encouraged every member to recruit a new member. Now JACL Vice President of Membership Edwin Endow is pushing the same idea today. It would greatly help the JACL to grow. Let's all help.

Floyd Mori is the current JACL national director.

Today, the JACL is committed to protecting the civil rights of all segments of society ...



[LARRY ODA]

Keeping Pace with Change

Happy New Year! The national board has been busy on your behalf in 2007. I am pleased to report that many accomplishments have been made to further the goals of the organization. During the past 12 months JACL has:

- Hired several new staff members including: Floyd Mori, national director; Debee Yamamoto, D.C. representative/director of public policy; Craig Ishii, PSW regional director; Lotchana Sourivang, membership coordinator; Susan Tamai, executive assistant; and Mei Kuang, bookkeeper;
- Hired a new manager for our investments, Highmark;
- Hired a consultant to redesign the JACL Web site, Tim Benbow;
- Upgraded the Raiser's Edge membership management software;
- Completed an audit of our finances;
- Appointed a new interim investment policy committee chairperson, Jeffrey Hattori;
- Distributed a new chapter president's hand book;
- Revised the national board member's hand book;
- Instituted a program review procedure;
- Instituted online giving;
- Instituted a redesigned *Pacific Citizen* Web site;
- Distributed legacy funds;
- Instituted cost of living adjustments for employees; and
- Completed our first gala fundraising dinner.

In the latter part of the biennium, there are some initiatives that we must complete before the convention starts to take up the bulk of our time.

We have been successful in diversifying our funding sources and we owe much of the credit to Floyd Mori. The Pacific Northwest District's strategic planning effort is in its initial stages after appointing a consultant. The national board contributed to the effort in hopes that the results could be broadened to encompass the national organization.

We have also been working to revitalize the U.S.-Japan relations committee to build programs that benefit both our nations. Floyd Shimomura, a former JACL national president, is leading that effort.

As we begin to prepare for convention, there are many topics that need to be addressed. At the last convention, the board was asked to report to the national council on a few issues,

the most notable being the annual convention proposal. The national council has discussed this at the last two conventions without coming to a decision.

There are many reasons favoring the change and just as many opposing. The most compelling reason for change is the ability to react to issues that require national council action in a timely manner. An annual convention would also put our corporate funders on a more regular, annual schedule.

Perhaps the most important reason for not changing may be cost for chapters to send their delegates to an annual convention. A committee of representatives from all the districts is working to develop the recommendation for a national council vote at the convention.

The board will be discussing other bylaw amendments for consideration by national council. Do we need to change our name to the Asian American Citizens League to coincide with our desire to be more inclusive? Or should we consider making the official name of our organization JACL, instead of Japanese American Citizens League? This strategic move has been made by some of our sister organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is now simply the NAACP.

Vice President for General Operations Sheldon Arakaki will be asking the national constitution and bylaws committee to thoroughly review our constitution for consistency and with an eye to simplify the document. Our constitution has served us for over 75 years but we need to make sure that we don't perpetuate practices that are no longer in the best interests of our community. There are many minor language adjustments that need addressing like changing the national director title to "executive director."

With 2008 marking the 20th anniversary of Redress, Vice President of Public Affairs Heidi Tanakatsubo-Srivareerat is planning events to acknowledge the effort of the JACL in winning Redress. Other organizations will be celebrating this very important anniversary, but many will not recognize or acknowledge the JACL's significant contributions to the effort. Without Edison Uno spearheading a resolution to pursue redress at the 1978 national convention in Salt Lake City, without the nationwide network of JACL members and without the leadership of JACL there would be no redress.

JACL is already a solid organization, but together I believe that we can make it stronger. The pace of change in the world is accelerating and keeping pace with change takes effort. The national board is committed to providing that effort.

I look forward to working with the board in 2008 to take advantage of opportunities to keep Mike Masaoka's dream alive — for us to be better Americans in a greater America.

Larry Oda is the current JACL national president.

From the author of *Leilani's Hibiscus* and *Lucky Come Hawaii*.

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Saturday, Feb 2
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244 S. San Pedro St.

Seating is limited. Make reservations at:
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ALAN KONDO, CFP, CLU



[SHELDON ARAKAKI]

Kick Off Awards Season With Your Critical Picks

One highlight of any JACL convention is the awards and recognitions given to celebrate our collective and individual achievements. The 2008 national convention may be six months away, but deadlines for the various awards and recognitions are coming soon.

National headquarters will send the awards and recognitions forms to chapter presidents in the coming weeks, but now is the time to start thinking about selecting potential nominees. Here is a summary of the various awards and recognitions.

George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award

The Venice-Culver chapter established the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award at the 20th Biennial National Convention in 1968. This award is given in honor of George Inagaki, a past national JACL president, for his many years of unremitting efforts and outstanding dedication to the national organization.

As the title indicates, this is a chapter award, and the promotion of better citizenship is the purpose of this recognition. "Better citizenship" is defined as chapter participation in activities that may be social, civic, educational, environmental or legislative that result in the betterment of society as a whole.

Each district should have at least one chapter it is most proud of for the achievements in the past biennium. I would like to see at least seven chapters apply for this award.

The Venice-Culver chapter raises and administers the fund for this award and has delegated the selection of the recipient to

the national JACL Awards and Recognition Committee.

Edison Uno Memorial Civil Rights Award

Edison Uno was a strong advocate of human and civil rights and was one of the first within the JACL to call for the government to redress Japanese Americans for the wartime incarceration. We honor his legacy by recognizing our sister organizations and their leaders for outstanding activities and leadership in the field of civil rights with this award.

Each district council is encouraged to nominate one candidate. Staff will choose the award recipient.

Ruby Yoshino Schaar Playwright Award

The New York chapter established the Ruby Yoshino Schaar Biennium Playwright Award in 1984 to encourage playwrights to tell the story of the Japanese American or Japanese Canadian experience in North America.

Yoshino Schaar was a vocal artist, a teacher and an advocate for social justice. She used her vocal talent to promote a positive JA image.

A panel of theater arts professionals will choose this award recipient.

JACLER of the Biennium

The JACLER of the Biennium is presented in memory of Randolph M. Sakada, a former national JACL president (1950-1952). To honor his ded-

icated service, this award recognizes a JACL member who has contributed the most to the strength and growth of the national organization during the immediate past biennium.

The national JACL Awards and Recognition Committee will make the recommendation for the award, with the final approval by the national board. The national board is not precluded from nominating and selecting a candidate of its own choosing.

Japanese American of the Biennium

We recognize and honor JAs whose outstanding achievements in different fields of endeavor have received regional, national and/or international recognition and whose contributions have added to the sum of human knowledge and/or enhanced the quality of life in our society.

This is the highest public award of the national JACL. This award has been presented at every biennial national convention since 1950.

This honor is given to at least one, and up to three individuals. The winners shall be nominated and selected from six categories: arts/literature/communication; business/industry/technology; education/humanities; political/public; affairs/law; medicine/science and sports.

All of the above information can also be found in much greater detail in the 2007 chapter presidents' handbook, which was distributed last summer. If you are a chapter president and did not receive the CD, please contact national headquarters.

Sheldon Arakaki is the current JACL vice president of general operations.



[MARK KOBAYASHI]

Keys to JACL's Success in Our Upcoming Years

It has been my pleasure to serve as your national secretary/treasurer for our JACL over the last three and a half years. Let me also thank you for your participation and your membership in the organization, which definitely has contributed to our bottom line.

The keys to success for our upcoming years is our ability to continue creating exciting programs and providing leadership in our communities toward the goal of attracting membership to the JACL. With close to 45 percent of our revenues for the organization coming from membership dues, your contributions and our ability to attract and retain our membership remains a high priority for the organization especially in light of our ongoing membership decline.

I'm happy to say that we are currently fully staffed to the levels dictated by our 2007-08 budget, but with this we will need to double our efforts to raise the revenues that we projected in our budget as well as work diligently to increase our membership.

It is imperative that we continue to monitor our budget by continuing to monitor cash flow and project completion reviews to verify our quarter-

ly progress.

We have successfully completed an audit of our 2006 books, which has resulted in a clean bill of health for the organization. This in large part is the result of the dedicated effort of our business manager, Clyde Izumi.

Having audited books allows us to be in compliance with Senate Bill

'Currently, our liability stands at over \$350,000 — and it continues to grow.'

1262, the California legislation that requires organizations our size to have annual financial audits. But even more importantly, it enhances our ability to raise money via foundation grants and fundraising because it proves that we are responsible stewards of the organization.

The completed 2005 and 2006 audit has brought to light the need for our organization to deal with the major liability that we have of paying for the future medical costs for our staff. Currently, our liability stands at over \$350,000 — and it

continues to grow every year.

It is my belief that we will need to address this squarely as an organization and it is my sincere hope that we can make a dent in reducing this liability over the remaining biennium as we continue to assess where we stand in regards to our cash flow through this biennium for our budget.

We definitely have many challenges that await us this year but taking an overall view of things, I believe that the national board has done a better job of informing our membership of the financial state of the organization via the various reports that we have been able to give to you through your district governors, the national board and coverage in the *Pacific Citizen*.

As a better informed organization, I sincerely believe that we will be able to address the concerns that come before us with a clear idea of where we are and where we can possibly be in a brighter tomorrow for the JACL.

Thanks again for your support and continued work for the JACL.

Mark Kobayashi is the current national JACL secretary/treasurer.

American Holiday Travel

2008 Tour Schedule

PANAMA CANAL HOLIDAY CRUISE	JAN 11-22
Ft. Lauderdale, Bahamas, Curacao, Aruba, Panama Canal, Costa Rica. HOLLAND AMERICA Volendam Ship.	
HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR	FEB 3-11
Sapporo, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Asahikawa, Otaru, Shiraoi, Noboribetsu. See 5 Snow/Ice Festivals. Ride icebreaker ship "Aurora."	
BRANSON/MEMPHIS/NASHVILLE HOLIDAY TOUR	MAR 26-APR 3
St. Louis, Branson, Little Rock/Tunica, Memphis, Nashville. Shoji Tabuchi Show, Elvis Presley's Graceland, Clinton Presidential Library/Museum, Grand Ole Opry Show.	
JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR	MAR 26-APR 6
Fukuoka, Hagii, Iwakuni Kintaihashi, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Okayama, Himeji Castle, Kyoto. Cherry Blossom season.	
NEW YORK/LAKE COUNTRY HOLIDAY TOUR	MAY 10-17
New York City, Corning, Finger Lake, Cooperstown, Lake George, Kingston, Hudson Valley, West Point Military Academy, FDR National Historic Site.	
AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR	MAY 15-27
Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Black Forest, Innsbruck, Zermatt, Matterhorn, Lucerne.	
SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR	JUNE 12-23
Attend Centennial Celebration Program of Japanese Immigration to Brazil in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires. OPTION: Peru-Lima, Machu Picchu.	
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUNE 29-JULY 8
Tokyo, Lake Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.	
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE	JULY 20-27
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City. HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.	
CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 7-14
Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria City. Rocky Mountaineer Train.	
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE	SEPT 11-24
Rome, Florence/Pisa, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Majorca, Tunisia, Palermo, Naples. HOLLAND AMERICA Noordam Ship.	
HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 5-17
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Morioka, Matsushima, Kinugawa Onsen, Nikko, Tokyo.	
CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE	OCT 13-24
Ft. Lauderdale, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Tortola, Half Moon Cay. HOLLAND AMERICA Maasdam Ship.	
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV 8-23
Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound.	

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[EDWIN ENDOW]

Come Together as Part of a Whole

As another year ends and a new year begins, I am reminded of a valuable lesson that I learned as a little boy in Sunday school. It has been helpful in many aspects of my life, and now also in the JACL. It is part of the reason that I feel members are so important to the JACL. I'd like to share it with you (slightly condensed and paraphrased):

"For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts ... So then, the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' Nor can the head say to the feet, 'Well, I don't need you!' Each part has its place, but all are part of the same body."

This is how I see JACL — we are one body or one organization made up of many parts, people, chapters and districts. Each person, chapter, and district has strengths or talents and each contributes to the whole body.

We are all different, but we each contribute to the JACL in

our own way to accomplish the work of the whole organization. We are each part of the whole body. Because we each have unique abilities, interests and personalities, we can each contribute or participate in our own way. It is the diversity of each contribution that makes this organization great — and it is the strength of each part that builds up the organization.

So each member in JACL can contribute in a way that best fits him or her. You may have someone who is good with numbers — he may be your treasurer. Someone who is a good cook can help with your spaghetti or teriyaki chicken dinner. Someone who likes to take pictures might be your historian. You may have someone who doesn't want a "job," but is willing to contribute financially.

We do not ask every member to be the president of his chapter or even an officer. Furthermore, one person cannot be all the parts. But with the diversity of our membership and communities, the possibilities are endless.

As we say goodbye to another year, we reflect

on and appreciate past contributions of various members who have passed on, but also members who continue to contribute year after year. Let us use these as examples to grow and become a better organization.

My message to you as we begin this new year is a challenge to evaluate where your talents fit into the whole body of the organization.

Also, search your membership and communities. Look for talent that will build your chapter. Look for people who are already members and use their talents. Look for people in your communities who can be a part of your chapter and contribute their special talents, and *ask them to join*.

As a chapter, discuss ways that you can be a part of the whole body that contributes to your community, to the district and to the national organization. Continue to network at your district meetings and be sure to participate as a chapter at the upcoming national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah this year.

Come together as part of the whole body.

I thank each one of you for being a part of JACL. I wish you and your families health and happiness this coming year. And I wish each chapter many accomplishments and successful events in 2008.

Edwin Endow is the current national JACL vice president of membership.



KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2008 TOURS

- Mar. 3** Italian Vistas - 13 Days - "All of Italy" - \$3395. **SOLD OUT**
- Mar. 17** China - 11 Days - \$2695 - Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai - **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Mar. 31** Japan Classic "Cherry Blossoms" 11 Days - \$3595 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Maiko - Okayama - Takahashi - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- Apr. 14** New Japan "Off the Beaten Track" 11 Days - \$3795 - Fukuoka - Hirado - Amakusa - Kokura - Kushimoto - Nagoya - Lake Kawaguchi - Mt. Fuji - Shimoda - Tokyo.
- May 6** New Zealand & Australia - 15 Days - \$4295 - Queenstown - Christchurch - Melbourne - Sydney - Cairns - Reef.
- June 15** Alaska "Inside Passage Cruise" 7 Days - **WINDOW CABIN NOW \$1494 BALCON CABIN NOW \$1744 - NCL** - Vancouver - Ketchikan - Juneau - Sawyer Glacier - Skagway & Vancouver ******HURRY SELLING FAST******
- June 30** Summer Japan Classic "Family Tour" 10 Days - \$3195 Child \$2895 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Maiko - Okayama - Takahashi - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- July 19** Normandy to Paris River Cruise - 8 Days - From \$3653
- Aug 6** Great Pacific Northwest - 8 days - \$2195 - Seattle - Victoria - Butchart Garden - Vancouver - Whistler Mt. Train.
- Sept. 3** Scandinavia & Russia Cruise - 15 Days - London - Copenhagen - Tallinn - St. Petersburg - Helsinki - Stockholm - Oslo - London - NCL.
- Sept. 27** NYC - Boston - Nova Scotia - Canada - Prince Edward Isl. Cruise - 12 Days - From \$1976 - NCL. New York - Boston - Halifax - Quebec - Prince Edward - Sydney - New York.
- Oct. 13** Hokkaido & Tohoku "Fall Foliage" 11 days - \$3895 - Sapporo - Sounkyo Gorge - Sahoro - Ainu Village - Lake Toya - Hokodate - Aomori - Lake Towada - Hachimantai - Matsushima - Sendai - Tokyo.
- Oct. 20** Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" 11 days - \$3795 - Tokyo - Sado Island - Kanazawa - Amanohashidate - Kinosaki - Matsue - Izumo - Mt. Daizen - Osaka.
- Nov. 3** Fall Japan Classic "Intro to Japan" 11 days - \$3695 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Okayama - Takahashi - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- Nov. 12** Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku - 11 days - \$3995 - 3 days in Okinawa - Kyushu - Fukuoka - Karatsu - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu - Shikoku - Cape Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Osaka.

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[CAROL KAWAMOTO]

Looking Forward, Reflecting Back

I am pleased to report that the programs under my direction have operated under budget and have met their goals. Of course, with JACL's financial challenges such accomplishments are only possible with the extra effort put forth by our wonderful staff and volunteers.

The national JACL scholarship program continues to grow. During this last year, we have added two new scholarships. David Kawamoto continued his significant volunteer efforts for this program, working diligently with several donors in formalizing these new educational grants. We should also express our appreciation to the Central California District Council and the Chicago chapter for continuing on for another year as evaluators of our scholarship applications.

The JACL's new scholarships are the Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship and the Deni and June Uejima Memorial Scholarship. Both of these new scholarships were the result of bequests to the

JACL from the estates of these JACLers. Grace Andow was a long-time member of the Cleveland chapter. Deni Uejima was an active member of the San Gabriel Valley chapter, a delegate for the PSW district and a past member of the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board.

As I look forward to a prosperous 2008, I reflect back on 2007. In particular, I consider how JACL annually suffers the loss of many of our Nisei leaders. Grace Andow and Deni Uejima were among our organization's losses in 2007. Regrettably, I never had the pleasure of meeting Grace. However, I did have the privilege of knowing and working with Deni. He was very committed to the goals of the JACL and he worked hard towards those goals during his life.

I am so pleased that Deni and Grace have now perpetuated their commitment to the JACL with their bequests to the scholarship fund. This is the type of planned giving that will ensure JACL's legacy continues into the future. Planned giving can be a beneficial planning tool for your personal estate.

*'I'm always
impressed with
the accomplish-
ments of the JACL
at all levels of our
organization.'*

In the coming year, national JACL will provide members like you with information on our planned giving program's pooled income fund. I hope you will look into this program and strongly consider making JACL a beneficiary of your estate.

Emily Teruya, of the Berkeley chapter, deserves accolades for her considerable efforts in providing the JACL chapters with a newly revised chapter president's handbook in CD format. We've already received much positive feedback on the quality and usefulness of this product.

The Washington, D.C. leadership program continues to be the cornerstone of our organization's leadership development. Along with many other district and national officers of the JACL, I am proud to be a graduate of this fine program. This program showed me how well respected JACL is among our nation's legislators and how skilled our organization is at being a positive political force for our community. This year's leadership program is scheduled for Feb. 29-March 4. Any member interested in participating should inquire through their district council.

In January, the JACL education committee will be meeting in San Francisco to review our present education programs — especially our educational resources, Web site, and teacher training workshops. 2008 is the 20th anniversary of Redress and one of our goals will be to develop an "enhanced" Redress module for the teacher training workshops.

This summer I will be completing my second biennial term as your vice president for planning and development, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all JACLers for their consistent support. I'm always impressed with the accomplishments of the JACL at all levels of our organization. You, the volunteers are the driving force behind our chapter, district and national programs. Great people working together can make great things happen.

Thank you all so much for the privilege of serving as a national JACL board member and please continue to support all things JACL.

Carol Kawamoto is the current national JACL vice president for planning and development.



[HEIDI TANAKATSUBO]

The 20th Anniversary of Redress: Commemorating JACL's Living Legacy

When President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act in 1988, I was 11 years old. It was only a few weeks before I started junior high and I was much more interested in what I was going to wear for the first day of school and whether or not I would fit in. The names Sen. Daniel Inouye, Sen. Spark Matsunaga, and Congressman Norman Mineta, among others, were unfamiliar to me, and it would be at least a decade before I understood their significance.

I had no idea what the passage of Redress meant to our community and the efforts and dedication — over the course of a decade — it had taken to achieve this landmark event.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil

Liberties Act. Redress itself represents the culmination of a small but dedicated community undeterred by hard work, a true grassroots effort

'In preparation for this landmark anniversary, I've only scratched the surface of the Redress story.'

that challenged the laws of the United States and extracted a long-overdue apology for Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

JACL's efforts spearheaded the

Redress movement in the late 1970s. And, in fact, our national convention in Salt Lake City this year marks the 30th anniversary of when the JACL national council voted to pursue Redress in earnest. Hundreds, maybe thousands, played a part in getting the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 passed. And now, 20 years later, the JACL would like to take the opportunity to commemorate the passage of Redress and acknowledge all those who made it possible.

Through 2008, JACL will commemorate the 20th anniversary of Redress in the following ways:

- Acknowledgement at the 2008 National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City;
- Redress timeline from inception to signing;

• Begin collecting oral histories from Redress campaign participants;

• Enhanced Teacher Training Workshops with a Redress module;

• Recognition at the Gala Dinner on Sept. 25, one week after the 211th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution;

• Media campaign: press releases and *Pacific Citizen* articles; and

• Various events held in the JACL districts.

As JACL members, I ask you personally for your help in this endeavor. Redress did not happen through the efforts of just one person and we need all the members of our organization and our community to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of our victory against a grave Constitutional wrong. We need your attendance at the convention in Salt Lake City and our Redress-related activities along with participation in your chapter and district activities to commemorate this occasion.

In preparation for this landmark anniversary, I've only scratched the

surface of the Redress story. During my research, I've cried not only for the violations committed against our community, but for the unspeakable courage it took to bring this injustice to light.

As a Sansei, I know it goes against the grain of our community to speak out, to make a fuss, to insist that we are given respect even after the fact. And I know how difficult it must have been to pursue the dream of the Civil Liberties Act by a generation who had been taught to be silent in the face of adversity. Yet they persevered and left a legacy — and I promise to ensure their efforts were not in vain.

Please contact me if you have stories or photos to share, or if you would like to be interviewed for our Redress series in the *Pacific Citizen*.

I wish you and your families all the best in 2008.

Heidi Tanakatsubo is the national JACL vice president of public affairs. She can be reached at: tanakatsubo@gmail.com.



[KIMBERLY SHINTAKU]

I'm Yonsei. What Does History Have to Do With Me?

Late 1800s — The first wave of Japanese came to the United States.

1929 — The JACL was established.

Feb. 19, 1942 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 to send Japanese Americans to internment camps.

Feb. 1, 1943 — The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was activated.

Dec. 27, 1969 — The first annual pilgrimage to Manzanar took place.

Aug. 10, 1988 — President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act which provided monetary compensation and a formal apology to the victims of the WWII internment.

Sept. 11, 2001 — The U.S. is attacked with four hijacked jetliners.

Now, do I dare ask: what does history have to do with me?

Over the past few years, I have taken the initiative to find out more about my family history. The more I learn, the more I encourage my friends and colleagues to do the same.

I have told others about my family's history. My dad's family came to America just before the turn of the century, settling in Kingsburg, Calif. His family was sent to Poston Camp II, where my father was born. They moved to Texas after they were released from camp, where they farmed until they moved to Fresno's Chinatown some seven years later.

My mom's family was also in California, moving here in the early 1900s. After being sent to the Gila River internment camp, her family moved to the East Coast for a few years before deciding to finally move back to Fresno, Calif.

This is only the tip of the iceberg of my family history. Although I am not fortunate enough to have my grandparents around to ask them what they remember about their childhoods, what it was like to be evacuated from their homes or how they felt after they were released from the internment camps, I would encourage everyone to do what they can to ask questions.

The Nisei and Sansei won't be around forever to tell

their stories. Oral histories have been created from the Japanese American experience, but what has been recorded about your own family history?

Now that we know how to learn more about our past, what about our future?

JACL has tons of opportunities for young people to develop into young leaders. Not only do district and chapter programs help educate the younger generations, but national JACL also provides programs to instill leadership skills in our leaders of tomorrow.

Now you ask: what can *you* do for our JACL youth?

At the 2006 national convention hosted by the Arizona chapter, the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) worked with the host chapter to solicit items to be displayed for a silent auction held at the Sayonara Banquet. Because of the significant support of our JACL members, we were able to raise a significant amount of funding to go towards JACL youth activities and to support our youth.

Once again, we will be holding a silent auction at the upcoming national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information on how to donate to support our youth, please refer to the JACL Web site at www.jacl.org.

The NY/SC is also accepting bid forms for the 2009 JACL National Youth Conference to be held in ... (insert your chapter name). This is an opportunity for chapters and districts to recruit and encourage young people in your area to get involved in an event hosted by your local chapter and the NY/SC. I hope that you and your chapter will consider supporting our JACL youth by hosting the next youth conference.

The dates I listed at the beginning of the article are just a few that I found to be significant in JA history, but I ask you to fill in the blanks with your own family history. Also, I hope you consider helping to create history by supporting our JACL youth today in order to build our leaders of tomorrow.

Kimberly Shintaku is the current chair of the JACL national youth council.



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- Mar. 31-Apr. 14 Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan** - 15 days visiting Tokyo, Sendai, Niigata, Takayama, Kanazawa, Amashashidate, Hiroshima, Kyoto. **Peggy Mikuni**
- April 1-7 Yamato Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour** - 7 days visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington, D.C., Mt. Vernon and the U.S. Naval Academy. **Lilly Nomura**
- May 1-10 Yamato Mackinac Island with Collette Vacations** - 10 days visiting Southfield, Frankenmuth, Holland, featuring the Tulip Festival, Grand Rapids and Mackinac, then to Green Bay, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois. **Sharon Seto**
- May 5-10 Yamato Exclusive Southern Cities Tour** - 6 days visiting New Orleans where you will visit Oak Alley Plantation and to Avery Island, home to Tabasco Sauce; Camp Shelby/Hattiesburg where the 442nd/100th military troops trained; Vicksburg to visit the National Military Park, site of a Civil War Battle and Memphis to visit Elvis Presley's Graceland. **Lilly Nomura**
- June 5-17 Yamato Spectacular Scandinavia with Collette Vacations** - 13 days visiting Stockholm, Sweden, Oslo, Lillehammer, Loen, Stalheim and Bergen, Norway and Copenhagen, Denmark. **Sharon Seto**
- July 4-15 Yamato Exclusive Japan Summer Tour** - 12 days/10 nights visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. **Peggy Mikuni**
- July 15-26 Yamato Tour to Hokkaido** - 12 days visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Obihiro, Lake Toya and Hakodate. **Peggy Mikuni**
- Aug. 18-28 Yamato European Panorama Tour** - 8 days visiting Rome, London and Paris for 3 nights each city. **Philippe Theriault**
- Sept. 11-21 Yamato Colors of Canada & New England, aboard Holland America's new ms Eurodam** - 10 days sailing from Quebec to Saguenay, St. Lawrence River, Charlottetown/Prince Edward Island, Sydney and Halifax/Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor/Maine, Boston, Newport/Rhode Island and New York. **Sharon Seto**
- Sept. 11-25 Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations** - 15 days visiting Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, and Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Queenstown, Milford Sound and Mt. Cook, New Zealand. **Philippe Theriault**
- Oct. 5-10 Yamato National Parks & Canyons of the American Southwest** - A motorcoach tour from Los Angeles visiting St. George, Utah, Bryce Canyon National Park, North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and Zion National Park. **Philippe Theriault**
- Oct. 18-Nov. 1 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** 15 days visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Saga, Fukuoka, Miyazaki, Beppu and Hiroshima. **Peggy Mikuni**
- Nov. 2-8 Yamato Southern Charm with Collette Vacations** - 7 days visiting Charleston and Beaufort, South Carolina, Savannah, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island, Georgia and St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida. **Sharon Seto**
- Nov. 3-12 Yamato Miyamoto Musashi/Samurai Tour** - 10 days visiting Nagoya, Takayama, Kyoto and Kumamoto. **Lilly Nomura**

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[LEILANI SAVITT]

Continue to Support JACL Youths in '08

I want to take this time to wish everyone a very happy New Year. Hopefully, you are all having a great start to 2008!

2007 was a very busy year for the JACL youth. The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) organized and staffed the 2007 JACL National Youth Conference, which was held at the end of June in Santa Clara, Calif. The conference had an excellent turnout with over 100 young people in attendance and over 150 total conference participants.

Some other accomplishments for the NY/SC were: adopting an advocacy plan, forming committees to address goals and objectives for 2008 and awarding travel grants to help subsidize travel costs to national youth events. The NY/SC hopes to continue its success in the new year.

In 2008, one of the NY/SC's focuses will be event planning for the upcoming national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The NY/SC will be conducting an oratorical competition, a luncheon and mixer as well as several other youth oriented workshops at the convention. The

Salt Lake City JACL youth will be coordinating activities for youth participants.

I encourage youth members who want to get more involved in JACL — and have a great time doing it — to go to the convention and represent their chapters as voting delegates. If you attend, in addition to participating in all the youth activities, you will also learn the formal processes for conducting JACL business, meet the candidates running for national offices, and most importantly speak up on issues that are important to you. I hope to see all of our JACL youth there!

If you are not a youth but are wondering how you can help out the youth this year, below are a handful of opportunities that you and your chapter can partake in to continue supporting the youth in the new year:

2008 JACL Nat'l Convention

Now is the time to find and sponsor youth in your chapter to attend the 2008 national convention as a chapter delegate. Involving youth in the voting process will help them to

make a difference in JACL and allow them to participate firsthand in the national council's decision-making process.

2008 NY/SC Silent Auction

The 2008 NY/SC Silent Auction will be held at the Sayonara Banquet at the national convention in Salt Lake City. This silent auction is the fundraising event of the biennium for JACL youth. The 2006 Silent Auction was a great success due to the many members who donated and bade on items.

Again, the council is asking all of you to please donate items for the silent auction and bid on items at this year's national convention. All proceeds from the silent auction will go towards strengthening JACL's youth programs. The deadline and submission information for donating items is available on the JACL Web site.

2008 JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition

It's time to find a youth in your district with a voice. The 2008 JACL

See SAVITT/Page 15



[BOBBI HANADA]

Happy 2008!

The Central California District Council continues to be involved with the building of the "Remembrance Plaza" honoring the site of the Pinedale Assembly Center.

We invite you to be part of the Day of Remembrance Dinner for the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project on Feb. 17. We will be honoring the 20th anniversary of Redress along with presenting Distinguished Awards to former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, Justice James A. Ardaiz and Professor James A. Hirabayashi.

Additionally, JACL National Director Floyd Mori will be our keynote speaker for the event. We will also be showing the feature film "American Pastime" before the dinner hosted by Kerry Nakagawa, executive director of the Nisei Baseball Research Project. We invite all former Pinedale Assembly Center internees to be our guests at this dinner.

CCDC will also have its annual Memorial Day ceremony honoring our fallen soldiers. This is an event that brings the whole Japanese American community together — and the participation grows larger each year.

Our district council will also come together again to honor our

high school students and continuing college students at our annual scholarship luncheon in May.

2008 Chapter News

The Clovis JACL will again host its annual shrimp dinner to raise funds for their scholarships in the Spring.

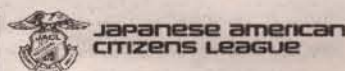
The Fresno JACL will host its 23rd Annual *Shinzen Run* at the end of April.

The Livingston-Merced JACL will have their community Day of Remembrance Film Festival and Dinner on Feb. 23. The chapter will also host its annual charity golf tournament in May.

The Reedley, Sanger, and Selma JACL will bring their communities together with their annual community picnics.

In July, CCDC is looking forward to attending the biennial JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City. We are also looking forward to renewing old friendships and meeting new friends. See you there!

Bobbi Hanada is the current Central California District governor. If you have any information on former Pinedale internees, please contact Bobbi directly at 559/434-1662 or bhanada@aol.com.



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- May 8-13 Branson - Music Capital of the USA
- May 27- June 10 Japan: Bikkuri III "Hidden Surprises of Japan"
- June 12-24 National Parks & Canyons of Western USA
- July 2-15 Moscow to St. Petersburg - "Waterways of the Czars"
- July 14-24 Summer Highlights of Japan
- July 26- Aug. 8 Alaska Cruise & Land Tour - Celebrity Millennium
- July 29 - Aug. 4 Canadian Rockies - a Tauck Tour
- Sept. 1-12 Greek Isles & Eastern Mediterranean - Celebrity Galaxy
- Sept. 18-30 Spectacular Hokkaido
- Oct. 3-16 Korea Sparkling Highlights & Drama/Movie Tour
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[BRIAN MORISHITA]

Looking Forward and Addressing 'Hot Button' Issues

Tom Brokaw referred to those who fought for America and supported America during World War II as the "greatest generation." I prefer to take that distinction a bit further by saying that the Nisei were the "greatest generation." Within the spirit of this wonderful legacy and those who subsequently followed, it is my honor and pleasure to serve as the 2008-09 Intermountain District Council governor.

The IDC has a storied history dating back to the WWII years. Included in this history are the contributions to help sustain JACL as a strong voice for persons of Japanese ancestry during a time of immense difficulties and hardships. With the temporary relocation of the national JACL headquarters to Salt Lake City, much of JACL's operational viability was shouldered by the IDC. Fast forward to the present, I see the IDC confronted with a different set of issues not as daunting but nevertheless problematic, challenging and even scintillating.

As the IDC governor, I look forward to serving with my fellow district officers who are: 1st Vice Gov. Jaclyn Hori of Wasatch Front; 2nd Vice Gov. Karl Endo of Pocatello-Blackfoot; Secretary Jodi Tokita of Idaho Falls; Treasurer Marion Hori of Wasatch Front; Ex-Officio Silvana Watanabe of Mt. Olympus; Youth Representative Greg Stillman of Salt Lake City; and *Pacific Citizen* Representative Jeff Itami of Salt Lake City.

Certainly one of the "hot button" issues among members of the JACL is the reexamination of the scope and purpose of the organization. Within this topic is the possibility of renaming the Japanese American Citizens League to something else that is regarded as more reflective of the organization's emerging constituency. While further discussion of this topic is beyond the intent of this article, I look forward to engaging in future discussions with other JACL members along these lines.

At a more localized level of JACL, the importance of strong and healthy chapters cannot be over emphasized. What can be done to

help sustain those chapters that are active and engaged as well as reenergize the chapters that may be stuck in organizational malaise or program relevancy issues resonates with me.

One of my primary goals as governor is for the IDC to shift its focus to strengthening the chapters. With the assistance of the IDC board members and chapter presidents, I plan to focus on discussions and

'Certainly one of the "hot button" issues among members of the JACL is the reexamination of the scope and purpose of the organization.'

activities that will emphasize the sharing and exchange of what works and what doesn't at the chapter level. This would involve leveraging the synergy generated from facilitated discussions and collaboration among the chapters.

During the last IDC meeting, I and other attendees listened to Janet Komoto of the Snake River JACL describe how they hosted a very successful Nisei recognition event. Basically, she shared a blueprint for the planning and execution of an activity that included high participation and visibility within the community. Watching the intense interest and questions her report generated reaffirmed the value of information and success sharing among the chapters!

In addition to these types of discussions, I believe it is important to try to integrate some type of chapter

president training into our district meeting agenda. My sense is that at least occasionally, individuals are thrust into the position of chapter president without the benefit of being mentored or trained for the position. Since the key enabler for healthy chapters starts with its officers, I hope this training of chapter presidents will trickle down to their respective chapter board members.

With the forthcoming July 16-20 national JACL biennial convention in Salt Lake City, I hope to lend assistance where needed to the convention planning committee. This event will certainly bring excitement to our district with the host Utah chapters offering an experientially rich and productive convention. Having managed some conferences on a professional level, I understand the creative and emotional demands required of the planning committee to pull off a great event. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I hope that sometime during future JACL events, I might run into those individuals whom I served with on the national youth council (many years ago) and others who were active in the youth program during that time.

At the last IDC/PNWDC Bi-District Conference, Elaine Akagi showed me a couple of photos taken at the 1966 national JACL convention in San Diego that evoked a host of memories. It would be great to see some former youth members who were such ardent supporters of the junior program involved at the adult level.

Brian Morishita is the current IDC district governor.



[ALAN NISHI]

A Busy Year Ahead for the NCWNP District

On behalf of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council, I would like to wish everyone a happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2007 is now behind us and 2008 has already arrived.

2007 has proven to be one of the busiest of years for our district. I would like to take this opportunity to recap some of the district highlights of the year.

The first major event of the year was the May 19 tribute dinner in San Francisco for John Tateishi, immediate past JACL national director. The event not only honored our outgoing national director, but also helped raise over \$10,000 for the JACL. I would like to thank Milo Yoshino of the Diablo Valley chapter for not only chairing this event but for keeping a strict eye on the financial aspect of the event, which ensured the success of the dinner.

Each year for Memorial Day, our district in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has sponsored a Veteran's Memorial Day ceremony held annually at the Golden Gate Military Cemetery in Coloma. This year our newest board member, military veteran Gordy Kono, took charge of our involvement in the program. He was one of the main speakers at the ceremony.

In late June, our district — via the San Jose JACL — hosted the biennial national JACL youth conference held on the Santa Clara University campus. I had the opportunity to attend this event and was impressed with the number of youths participating in the conference as well as the conference programming. I would like to congratulate the San

Jose chapter and their president Gail Sueki as well as our district youth representatives Megumi Kaminaga and Jason Shimozaki for a job well done in hosting this year's conference.

In August, the NCWNP district held the "Salute to Our Veterans" luncheon onboard the USS Hornet docked in the Alameda Naval shipyard. This event was very well attended. I for one was fascinated with the unique venue of the event. I would like to recognize the event chair, Milo Yoshino and district board member Emily

Teruya, whose invaluable assistance made this event possible.

To top off the year, our district was the host of the 2007 biennial tri-district conference in Reno, Nev. The tri-district organizing committee lead by Thaya Mune Craig, past governor and board member, worked hard to ensure the success of this year's conference, which was both a productive and memorable experience for those in attendance.

As you can see, 2007 was indeed a busy one for the NCWNP district. Our district board will be hard at work planning our district agenda for 2008 at our annual board retreat in early January. 2008 is already looking to be another busy one for our district.

Alan Nishi is the current NCWNP district governor.

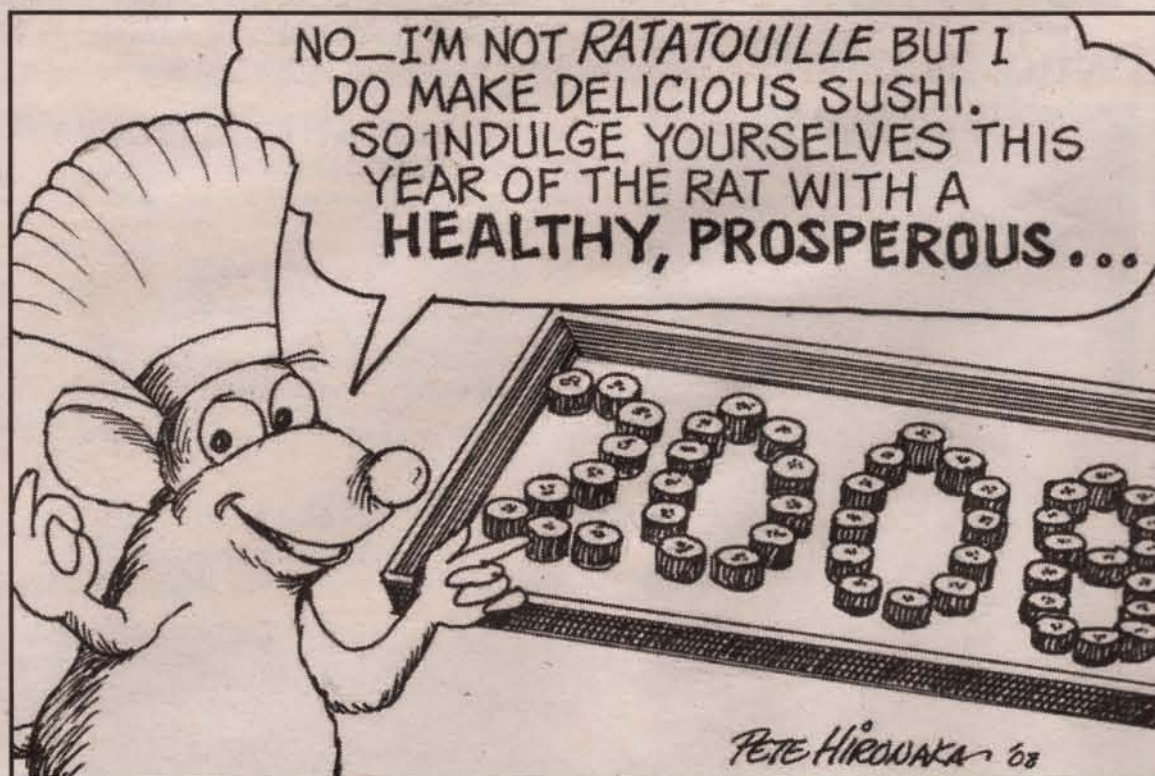
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2007

A LOOK BACK AT THIS YEAR'S TRAGEDIES, TRIUMPHS AND HEADLINE GRABBERS IN THE APA COMMUNITY



'It was not our fault. We shouldn't be punished because of one person's actions.'

— **Bridgette Kim**, then Virginia Tech freshman, told the *P.C.* she was nervous about returning to class after a gunman killed 32.



MOURNING: The April 16 massacre at Virginia Tech was voted as the top news story of 2007 by the Associated Press. It's no wonder — the mass shooting was the worst in modern U.S. history.

In the aftermath, the ethnicity of gunman **Seung-Hui Cho** (right) became a focal point in media reports and spurred cases of racial profiling on campuses across the nation.



'He is a forthright, intelligent, sound person of integrity.'

— JACL National Director **Floyd Mori** (below, right) about 1st Lt. **Ehron Watada**, who he met for the first time in '07.



SUPPORT: While the Watada debate continued to be a contentious issue in '07, the JACL national board members (above) voted in August to increase support for the first lieutenant.

In November, Watada proponents (left) saw victory with a federal judge issuing a temporary injunction on Watada's second court-martial. The Army said its intentions are to prevent the injunction from becoming permanent.

HEADLINE NEWS

'Minidoka offers a unique and important opportunity to educate thousands.'
— Karen Yoshitomi (below), PNW regional director, who testified in Jerome County.



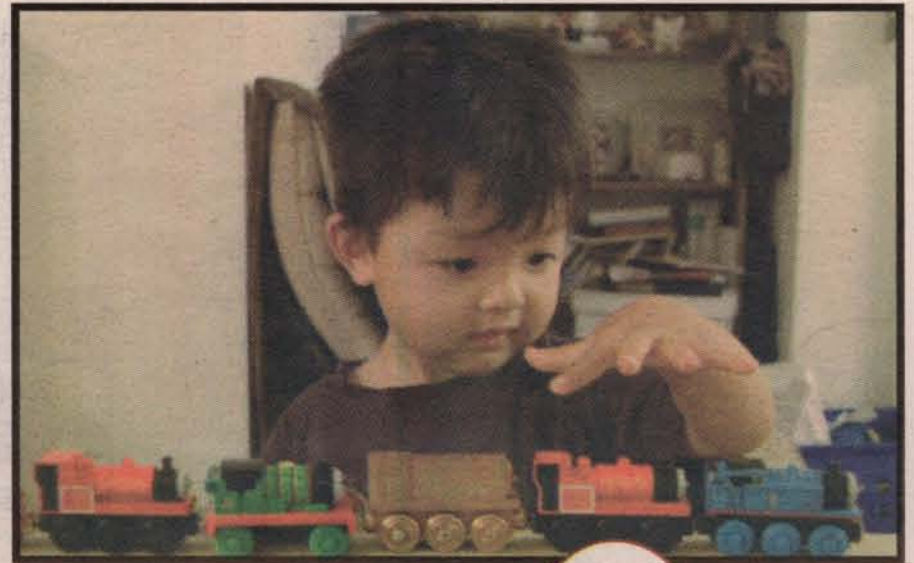
APAs successfully opposed a proposed 13,000-heifer feedlot to be situated less than two miles from the Minidoka national monument, where former internees still gather for camp reunions. In October, the Jerome County Commissioners voted 2-1 to reject the feedlot.



Japanese American WWII soldiers



NISEI STAMP: The idea of a Nisei veterans stamp has been in the works for years, but a grassroots campaign (volunteers, left) picked up steam in 2007 with the support of lawmakers and the JACL. The Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee is reviewing the proposal. The stamp could be issued in 2010.



TOXIC TOYS: An endless series of lead paint related recalls (such as *Thomas the Train* above with Austin Tanaka), including toy giant **Mattel**, evoked fear in American consumers and widespread distrust of all products made in China. Ugly rhetoric reminiscent of the 1980s anti-Japanese era began to make a comeback.



DEMANDING JUSTICE: Former WWII Korean sex slaves (above) won a symbolic victory in July. The U.S. House of Representatives — lead by Rep. Mike Honda (left) — adopted a non-binding resolution demanding Japan's formal apology for the so-called comfort women. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the resolution 'regrettable.'

FAMILIES FIRST: With Congress locked in debate about a comprehensive immigration reform bill, APA groups took to the streets (right) to support reform. Amidst the national debate, Japan native Akiko Campbell (below, center) waged a personal battle to keep her U.S. born children and husband together. The bill failed in the Senate.



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

We mourn the loss of these leaders in 2007



BILL HOSOKAWA, 92

He was a renowned journalist, author and diplomat who captured the JA experience from camp to redress to the present day.



DON HO, 76

The legendary 'Tiny Bubbles' Hawaiian crooner who entertained tourists for decades died of heart failure.



VIOLET KAZUE DE CRISTOFORO, 90

The Haiku poet turned life in Japanese internment camps into beautiful words. Her groundbreaking anthology, "May Sky," was published in 1999.



HARRY LEE, 75

Louisiana's 'Chinese Cowboy,' who was sheriff of Jefferson Parish since 1980, died of leukemia.



TOM KITAYAMA, 83

He was Union City, Calif.'s first mayor, and the first Japanese American to hold office in the state.



ROSE TANI, 90

The mother of astronaut Daniel Tani was killed when a train struck her car. Rose's husband, Henry, headed the San Francisco JACL in 1942.



COMMUNITY



In May, JACL thanked former national director **John Tateishi** for his dedication to the organization with a tribute dinner.



GALA: Leaders, lawmakers and dignitaries made the Sept. 12 inaugural JACL gala dinner a success. (Top, standing, l-r): **Debee Yamamoto, Floyd Mori, Tamaki Kawakubo** and **George Takei**. (Seated, l-r): **Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Karen Narasaki, Vance Yoshikawa** and **Larry Oda**.



Young JACLers moved to the beat of their own cultural drums at the summer JACL Youth Conference.

(L-r) **Grace Kimoto** and **Bob Taniguchi** with **Bobbi Hanada** show off their awards at the Tri-District Conference.

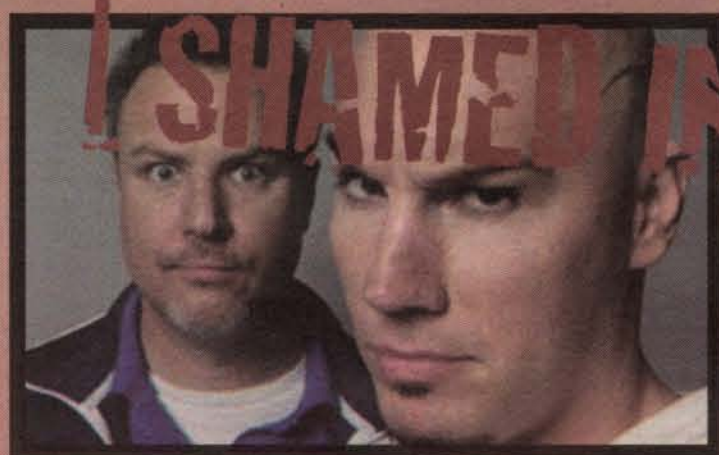


PHOTO: TOM NISHIKAWA

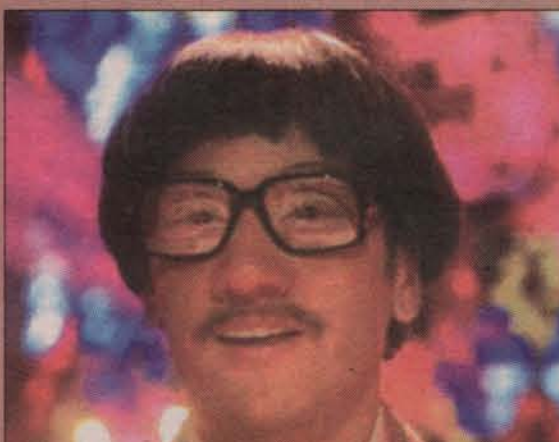


Hugh Burleson (center) accepts his award from **Elaine Akagi** (left) and **Larry Oda** at the Bi-District Conference.

PHOTO: RICH IWASAKI



Shock jocks **Jeff Vandergriff** (above, left) and **Dan Lay** of New York's 92.3 Free FM prank called a Chinese restaurant. They weren't laughing when they were fired. Their fans are still miffed — they still leave colorful comments on the *PC*'s YouTube page: www.youtube.com/pacificcitizen.



Rob Schneider (below) brought back yellowface in 'I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry.'

AsianWeek

Why I Hate Blacks

Kenneth Eng
COD OF THE UNIVERSE

Here is a list of reasons why we should discriminate against blacks, starting from the most obvious down to the most obvious:

• Blacks are easy to coerce. This is proven by the fact that so many of them, including Reverend Al Sharpton, tend to be Christians.

Yet, at the same time, they spend much of their time whining about how much they hate "the whites that oppressed them."

Correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't Christianity the religion that...



It was a big year for **Kenneth Eng**. He enraged almost every ethnic community with his racist column, embarrassed *AsianWeek* and threatened a neighbor with a hammer.



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[KRISTINE MINAMI]

Defining a Community Not by Race but a Shared Sense of Community

As a half Japanese, half Croatian American who has long been interested in her Japanese heritage, I am frequently challenged by various people's ideas of what makes a person part of the Japanese American community.

From my earliest childhood memories at school, I recall being defined by how I was different with the "what are you?" question, which is

both an expression of genuine interest and recognition of difference.

And the same is true in the Asian American community where I continue to be defined by how I am different. In unfamiliar crowds, there is always that awkward introductory period as people try to figure me out. I am usually the not really Asian-looking Nikkei in the crowd where small talk almost inevitably includes

the question: Are you a quarter?

Here again — despite the asker's best intentions — it feels like a denial of my heritage, especially when that question is followed by incredulity that I am half.

"You don't look it."

I never know how to respond to that, but it does feel like the asker is questioning my belonging and challenging my ethnicity. Why do we do that?

Which leads me to ponder the question that JACL and other like organizations face: who is the JA community? Of course in the early days, many Nikkei joined the JACL for a sense of community and shared cultural values. JACL gatherings were the place to make *mochi* and eat *umeboshi* at picnics and celebrate *Obon*. Racial identity equaled cultural heritage; they were one in the same.

Now, it's difficult to find a Nikkei family in America without a hybrid branch or two or more. Many of our JACL leaders are not only biracial, but many have no Japanese blood at

all, especially at the district and chapter levels. So are they part of the JA community? Of course they are.

Although the internment experience, which was premised on race, defined the JA community in the United States 60 years ago, those who went through it and remember it are fewer and fewer. So is our community's legacy defined by internment? How can it be when most Nikkei now were not alive then? What about the Shin Nisei and

use racial identity as a threshold issue for inclusion and legitimacy, but instead focus on a sense of affiliation and self-identification.

Many Nikkei are not active in the JA community (accepting the premise that organizations such as JACL and others are a measure of involvement), and many non-Nikkei are. I am hopeful that we will not continue to define our community by how people are different — what percentage they are not Nikkei — but by what we share: a sense of values and cultural interests.

Our community is who we accept as part of it, regardless of racial identity.

I am sure that anyone reading this thinks they would never reject someone as part of the JA community because they do not have 100 percent Japanese blood. But I ask you to take a moment to really examine your own cultural biases.

Would you vote for a president of JACL whose face is not Asian? How about a person whose last name is not Japanese? Could that person represent and be the face of the JA community?

I think you know my answer.

Kristine Minami is the current EDC governor. She was also the former JACL Washington, D.C. director for public affairs from 1999-2005.

'Our community is who we accept as part of it, regardless of racial identity.'

those from Hawai'i?

Internment is important to remember and learn from and honor. No doubt. But it is also important to move past it as the watershed experience of our community. We need to evolve our definition of community. Unlike 60 years ago, where the community was defined primarily by race, I believe that the JA community today is defined by a shared sense of values and cultural interests.

I hope that as the Nikkei community evolves, we will not continue to

[RON KATSUYAMA]

Advancing the JACL Mission



Greetings from the Midwest!

The Midwest District Council looks forward to many opportunities in 2008 to advance the mission of JACL. 2008 will include the 20th anniversary of Redress, and many of our chapters will participate on or about Feb. 19 in commemorating the Day of Remembrance. This provides unique opportunities to describe the parallels between the Japanese American internment and the loss of civil liberties in the aftermath of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

This year also marks the beginning of several new initiatives that promise to increase the engagement of JACL youth.

Asian Americans throughout Ohio, for example, have developed an Asian American Health Coalition, similar to ones that exist in Chicago, Minneapolis, and elsewhere. They received a \$600,000 "capacity building" grant from the Kellogg Foundation, so members of regional JACL chapters will have opportunities to participate in advocacy toward improving the health and well-being of their Asian communities.

This will also provide service and fellowship opportunities for high school and college age youth as they

learn about health disparities, conduct needs assessment surveys and participate in educational programs. Through these activities, they will engage in service learning, gain knowledge about their local Asian communities, enhance their leadership skills and further develop their own identities.

'...the MDC will support these workshops that permit JACL to become a pacesetter in youth leadership training.'

Bill Yoshino, the Midwest district regional director, has recently extended the "Diversity and Tolerance" (anti-hate and bigotry) program to include campus leadership workshops for students and staff. With its contacts in organizations such as the Midwest Asian American Students Union and local colleges and universities, the MDC will support these workshops that permit JACL to become a pacesetter in youth leadership training. Along these lines, we also look forward to

JACL's new 2008 Washington, D.C. college age leadership conference.

The Asian Pacific American (APA) Curriculum Guide has also been completed, and the MDC will be participating in local and regional teachers' conferences to ensure its distribution and use in a manner that augments the JA curriculum guide.

The MDC also looks forward to the completion and training use of a packet of educational materials so that more JACL members will become empowered in sharing JA history and aspects of their personal experiences with schoolteachers and students. Finally, the MDC is poised to launch a program that enables the archiving of new interviews and research associated with the internment. Our purpose is to document the experiences of many of our JACL members and friends whose stories have yet to be preserved.

We look forward to seeing our friends, meeting new members, and renewing acquaintances at the upcoming convention in Salt Lake City.

Have a wonderful Year of the *Nezumi* (rat)!

Ron Katsuyama is the current MDC governor.

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[ALAYNE YONEMOTO]

Celebrating Achievements and Revitalization in PSW

Happy New Year! The Pacific Southwest District is starting the year with wind in our sails and we are all packed and ready for an adventure!

Regional Director Craig Ishii has been working very hard these last six months to help the district. His presence in the office is already evident in our community work and corporate relationships. With Craig now filling this staff position, JACL is back on the map in our district. Our journey has just begun!

PSW celebrated many successful events in 2007 like the Day of Remembrance in February that we co-hosted with the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR). We also hosted our third annual PSW Golf Tournament in May. In 2007, we changed the format of our annual awards dinner and were treated to a performance by the Grateful Crane Ensemble titled, "Nihonmachi: The Place to Be."

The district also hosted new events. In May, JACL participated in the first annual Nikkei Community Day, hosted by Ties that Bind. PSW organized the health forum portion of the event, which included a speaker series that focused on important health topics.

In September, the PSW Civil Rights Caucus in conjunction with Campaign For Justice, JANM, NCRR, Go For Broke National Education Center, UCLA's Nikkei Student Union and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project hosted an educational forum about the experiences and current events of Japanese Latin Americans. At the forum, Congressman Xavier Becerra spoke on the current legislative efforts to support JLAs.

The PSW Civil Rights Caucus is continuing the revitalization

of the civil rights efforts from within PSW. They meet monthly and have already set their goals for 2008. They are looking for people to join their cause.

The rejuvenation did not stop there. Last September, the Las Vegas, Arizona and San Diego chapters worked together to develop "How to Grow a Chapter President," a workshop that helps chapters groom their up-and-coming leaders. The event was so successful that PSW is forming a committee to continue with training and assistance.

We could not have accomplished any of these tasks without the help of the PSW executive board. I want to thank my board members — especially Kerry Kaneichi, our vice governor — for their tireless efforts throughout the year.

We are also very fortunate to have district staff members — Craig Ishii, Michelle Hirose (summer intern), Sen Sugano (intern) and Carol Saito — who all cannot be thanked enough for their

support of JACL.

As this adventure continues in 2008, I am already looking forward to the items that we are currently planning. We have started an inside-out approach to help strengthen our district. The executive board has been working to restructure our committee and board system to be more effective. We are trying to distribute our volunteer resources as efficiently as possible. At the same time, we are focusing on areas that need attention, including: chapter support, coalition building, leadership development and fundraising.

With the help of Sen and Craig, PSW has worked on a series of leadership development programs that target college-age youth. There is one final program in the Spring that will culmi-

'It's never too late to join any of our committees. If you are interested in volunteering, we'd love to have your help.'

nate the series. We hope this program will continue to grow in 2008 with a more broad scope and range within the district.

This year, we are looking forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of Redress as JACL begins to outline a series of events that will commemorate the events leading up to and including redress. We continue to support same-sex marriage legislation. And many of our members are gathering support for the establishment of a Nisei World War II veterans' stamp.

Our 2008 calendar is getting packed with important events including: Day of Remembrance on Feb. 16 and Nikkei Community Day. Our golf tournament and awards dinner committees have started meeting as well to plan the annual event. It's never too late to join any of our committees. If you are interested in volunteering, we'd love to have your help.

I'm at the end of my article and haven't written about what I plan on doing for 2008. But, that's the easy part. I am very fortunate. I am inspired by the PSW executive board, district council and priceless staff. One of my major goals for 2008 is to simply provide the support and organization that my district needs to fulfill the goals we've set out so far. What an adventure!

Alayne Yonemoto is the current PSW district governor.



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[ELAINE AKAGI]

PNW Forges a Strategic Plan for the Future of JACL

Greetings from the rainy, but green Pacific Northwest. In the last month of 2007, the weather has been in the news with much flooding and devastation. However, it seems the year ended on a sunnier note. That is good news for many in the flood zone.

2007 put into play the Pacific Northwest District Council's Strategic Plan. In this project, we hope to find the needs of today's Nikkei and how JACL can fulfill those needs. Through 2006, the district planned and raised funds to carry out the project. This year, a consultant was hired to develop a questionnaire and tabulate the returns. Although the project is now close to the end, the results won't be known until later this year. What will we do with the results? A business plan will be developed and we hope to give the chapters in our district a direction for the future.

National JACL will be looking closely at the outcomes of the PNW project. The PNW is a small microcosm of the national organization. Here in the PNW, we have large

metropolitan areas, rural areas, elder Nikkei, Sansei, Yonsei, out-marriages, and Hapa children. As the one cultural Asian group with the largest amount of out-marriage, the Nikkei have changed greatly since

'... we hope to leave our mark as the strategic planners of the organization.'

the organization was created.

Our membership is dropping and the question is: how do we meet the needs of our constituents? This has been the concern of the leaders of this organization for the past decade. The demographics of our membership, and potential members, have changed more than for any other ethnic group.

Almost 50 years ago when I first became involved with the JACL, the membership was strong and the youth movement was going great.

When I was a member of the Junior JACL, the membership consisted of mostly Sansei, with few mixed race members.

Today, as I meet members of the National Youth Student Council, the faces are different. This is the result of our changing demographics. Unfortunately, I seldom see the faces from my Junior JACL days. Had those Junior JACLers stayed active, our membership would not be facing the difficulties we currently do. Yes, some members from that group are still active at the local level. I find familiar names and faces in *Pacific Citizen* articles.

Membership peaked in the 1970s and 1980s, when the prime focus of JACL was Redress. Now members are asking: what's next?

Now 20 years later, the focus of JACL is protecting the civil rights of all people. Is this what our non-members want? Obviously, we're not meeting the wants of the Nikkei who haven't joined. This is one of the reasons the PNW is working on the Strategic Plan.

Years ago, the mantra among

JACLers was to pass the reins of the organization onto the next generation. If JACL remains on the same path as it has for the past 75 years, then there may not be a JACL for the next generation. Granted, the organization has changed over the years, but it has not kept up with the times.

Youth of today are not anything like the youth of the past. Their world is constantly changing, so much so that it is expected that by the time a college freshman enters college and takes his first class, technology will have changed so much that what he/she has learned will be outdated. This puts JACL in a position that it must accept changes to appeal to future JACL members.

The PNW Strategic Plan hopes that this will be the first big step for the future of the entire organization.

What the research (survey and focus groups) will find — we hope — will give us a plan to use in making the organization more appealing to the Nikkei community.

The JACL of the future should include a more diverse membership, not only those of Japanese ancestry, but of all our Asian brothers and sisters. It's already visible on the boards of many of our chapters — this is the movement of our future.

Here in the PNW, we've been known as the "rabble rousers" of the organization. Now, we hope to leave our mark as the strategic planners of the organization.

May 2008 be a year of change and forward progress for us all.

Elaine Akagi is the current PNW governor.

SAVITT

(Continued from page 7)

Minoru Yasui Oratorical Contest will be held during the 2008 national convention. Let's work together to make sure each district is represented at the national convention competition and that all the district competitions are contested. The youth council is asking you to seek out youth to compete in this biennial event. The 2008 topic and guidelines should be available and distributed

to chapter presidents in mid January.

There is no better way to show youth that they really matter than encouraging them to participate in the above activities. I thank everyone who supported the youth in 2007.

As 2008 unfolds, I challenge you to keep up the momentum of giving back to our youth and helping to ensure a future for our organization.

Happy New Year!

Leilani Savitt is the current JACL national youth representative.



Happy New Year!

May nothing but good fortune arrive.



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In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Aiso, Daniel, 87, July 25; WWII veteran.

Akita, Richard M., 67, San Diego, Aug. 28; Vietnam War veteran.

Akiyama, Roy, 88, Spokane, Wash., Oct. 4; WWII veteran, U.S. Army.

Carter, Annett Tachibana, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 2; better known by her stage name, Alice Fumiko Kawahata.

Chinn, Ruth, 92, Seattle, Oct. 21; along with husband Robert, founded the first Asian-owned bank in the U.S.

Drinan, Rev. Robert, 86, Washington, D.C., Jan. 28; Member of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Eguchi, Hiroshi Harry, 84, June 28; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Emoto, John Hajime, 84, May 8; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Endo, John Kazuo, 83, Torrance, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd.

Fujii, Lawrence M., 84, Los Angeles, July 5; WWII veteran.

Furukawa, Fred Y., 83, Yakima, Wash., Sept. 16; WWII veteran, 442nd, Korean War veteran, 24th Infantry.

Furumoto, Ikuo "Ike," 61, Arcadia, Jan. 3; Vietnam veteran.

Furuya, Rev. Kensho, 59, Los Angeles, Mar. 8; Aikido master and Zen priest; established the Aikido Center of Los Angeles in 1974.

Furuyama, William M. "Bill," 87, Blue Island, Ill., May 31; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, K Co.

Hara, Kimi, 91, Brooklyn Center, Minn., Jan. 14; helped found the Twin Cities JACL.

Hamachi, Masaru, 75, Long Beach,

Mar. 10; Army veteran.

Higgins, Capt. Martin Joseph, 90, Feb. 26; part of the 141st Regiment of the 36th (Texas) Division which was rescued by the 442nd RCT that included the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Horii, George Fusao, 86, Torrance, Aug. 5; WWII veteran.

Ikedai, Kazumi Frank, 91, Los Angeles, Feb. 27; WWII veteran.

Inagi, George, 83, Monterey Park, Apr. 5; WWII veteran.

Kadani, Gary T., 91, San Francisco, May 14; WWII veteran, MIS.

Kaizawa, Stanley Yoshinori, 85, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 14; WWII veteran, MIS.

Kanno, Stanley T., 85, S. Euclid, Ohio, April 21; WWII veteran, 442nd.



KASAI

Kasai, Alice, Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 6; JACL leader in Utah for over 60 years; along with husband Henry, worked to win citizenship rights for Japanese aliens.

Kawanishi, Toshiyuki "Tosh," 85, Bainbridge Island, Wash., Aug. 4; WWII veteran.

Kazahaya, Larry Takeshi, 85, Los Angeles, Jan. 5; WWII veteran, MIS.

Kito, Roy Waichi, 87, Los Angeles, Jan. 12; second generation to operate Fugetsudo Confectionery in Little Tokyo.

Kobayashi, John Masaaki, 86, Mar. 29; WWII veteran.

Ku, Ah Jook "Jookie," 97, Honolulu, Aug. 6; first AA reporter for the Associated Press and first AA female writer for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

Lo, Pheng, 59, Stockton, Dec. 19; longtime leader in California's Hmong community. Helped Southeast Asian immigrants find jobs and maintain their culture while adjusting to life in the San Joaquin Valley.

Machida, Dr. Roy C., 82, Los Angeles, Aug. 16; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

Maruyama, Kazuo "Kay," 88, Spokane, Wash., Sept. 28; WWII veteran.

Matsuda, Steve Masami, 56, Feb. 22; Vietnam veteran.

Matsudaira, John, 84, Seattle, Wash., Jan. 30. WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

Minamide, Akira, 83, Los Angeles, Oct. 6; WWII veteran.

Mori, Bob A., 79, Los Angeles, Mar. 12; Korean Conflict veteran.

Mukumoto, Hisashi J., 87, San Jose, April 3. WWII Veteran, 442nd, Co. C;

Nagasaka, Wright, 81, Boise, April 12; WWII Veteran, 442nd.

Nagatani, Ray, 88, Hanford, Sept. 29; WWII veteran.

Nakamura, Gary H., 57, June 27; Vietnam War veteran.

Nakamura, George Yonekuni, 86, Salt Lake City, Apr. 18; WWII veteran, MIS.

Nakayama, Tosiwa, 75, Honolulu, Mar. 29; Micronesia's first president.

Nishihara, Joe A., 85, Merced, Jan. 12; WWII veteran.

Nishihara, Tomoso "Tom," 78, Ontario, Ore., Apr. 24; Korean War veteran.

Nishimura, Thomas Tomu, 83, Hilo, May 17; WWII veteran.

Nishiyama, Sen, 95, Tokyo, July 2; 'Apollo 11' interpreter, Japan JACler.

Ogawa, Haruo, 85, June 13; WWII veteran, U.S. Army.

Ohira, Ted, 82, Mar. 5; WWII veter-



NISHIYAMA

Ono, Esther, Hashimoto, Grace (Jim) Taniguchi, Alice Sawamura and Frances Sawamura.

Ono, Iwao, 76, Las Vegas, Oct. 17; Korean and Vietnam War veteran.

Oura, George, 85, Murrieta, July 14; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

Owada, John M., 80, Salt Lake City, Nov. 14; WWII and Korean War veteran.

Sanematsu, Dr. Henry Saburo, 80, Newport Beach, Feb. 16; WWII veteran.

Santiago, Chiori, 54, Berkeley, Apr. 21, writer who covered Bay Area visual arts, performance and music.

Sasaki, Toshio, 60, Nagakute, Japan, Mar. 10; sculptor who did "The First Symphony of the Sea" at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island.

Shigezawa, Jeffrey, 85, Honolulu, Sept. 23; WWII veteran.

Shimada, Rokuro "Fuzzy," 85, Greenville, NC, Feb. 8; U.S. Bowling Congress Hall of Famer.

Shiozaki, Benjamin "Ben," 81, Los Angeles, June 8; WWII veteran, MIS.

Sugai, Henry, 84, Los Angeles; WWII veteran.

Sugamura, Masaichi Tom, 78, Los Angeles, Korean Conflict veteran.

Sun, Pfc. Ming, 20, Cathedral City, Jan. 9; killed in Ramadi, Iraq.

Takahashi, Gene, 79, Westport, Conn., May 15; Korean War Veteran and New York JACler.

Takatsuka, August Augie M., 86, June 21; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Tadano, William Katsuo, 63, Phoenix, Ariz., May 5; U.S. Army veteran.

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Takatsuka, August Augie M., 86, June 21; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Tadano, William Katsuo, 63, Phoenix, Ariz., May 5; U.S. Army veteran.

Tanaka, Hiroshi G., 85, Henderson, Nev., Apr. 8; WWII Veteran, 442nd RCT, Co. G.

Tanaka, Nobuichi, 83, Mar. 21; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, L Co. Medic.

Tashima, Masayuki "Murphy," 85, Walton Hills, Ohio, July 24; World War II veteran and JACler.

Tatsuda, Charlie, 91, Minneapolis, Minn., Apr. 1; WWII veteran, MIS;

Tayama, Jimmy H., 81, Torrance, Apr. 5; WWII veteran.

Tazoi, Jim, 87, Garland, Utah, Mar. 2; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Tom, Richard, 86, Aina Haina, Hawaii, Feb. 20; first AA to win an Olympic medal.

Tibbets, Paul, 92, Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 1; piloted the Enola Gay that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Tome, Richard Yeikichi, 86, Honolulu, Hawaii, Oct. 5; WWII veteran, 442nd.

Toyota, Kameo, 89, Fresno, Mar. 22; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT, I Company.

Umeki, Miyoshi, 78, Licking, Mo., Aug. 28; won an Oscar for "Sayonara" and later starred in the Broadway musical "Flower Drum Song."

Uno, Rev. Ernest N., 81, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 19; WWII veteran, 442nd/MIS.

Uno, Shigeko, 92, Bellevue, Wash., Aug. 10; 1st woman president of the Seattle JACL.

Wada, John Jun, 83, Berkeley, Mar. 18; WWII veteran, Army.

Watanabe, George, 81, Harbor City, Apr. 26; WWII veteran.

Watanabe, James Michio, 83, Spokane, Wash., July 8; WWII veteran, Army, Spokane JACler.

Yada, Edward K., 84, Newport, Ore., Aug. 7; WWII veteran, MIS.

Yagi, Junior Kazuaki, 75, Sandy, Utah, Nov. 14; Korean War veteran and longtime coach of the Brigham City American Legion baseball team; survived by wife, Selma; sons, Randy (Stacey), Rick and Stephen; daughters, Susan (Scott) Booth and Kari Jo (Dewey) Reagan; 10 gc.; brother, Milton (Reiko) and sisters, Rose (Buster) Mayeda, Shigeko (Bill) Mizuno and Helen Yagi.

Yamaki, Ken, 83, June 10; WWII veteran, 442nd, H Co.

Yasutake, Michael Shigeto, 91, Apr. 29; WWII veteran, MIS.

Yoshikai, Tom T., 82, Salem, Ore., Aug. 7; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT.

DEATH NOTICE

HAYATO KIHARA

Hayato Kihara, a research biochemist retired from the Lanterman Development Center in Pomona, died in Ventura on Dec. 26. He was 85.



Born in 1922 of Japanese immigrant parents in San Leandro, Dr. Kihara was raised in West Oakland and educated in the Oakland public schools. In the spring of 1942, his very promising studies at UC Berkeley were interrupted abruptly when the family was interned at a government relocation camp in Topaz, Utah - despite the fact that his older brother Shigeya, a founding faculty member of the Defense Language Institute, was then teaching Japanese at Crissy Field in San Francisco to servicemen headed for the war in the Pacific.

Towards the end of the war, Dr. Kihara was released from internment to finish college at the Univ. of Texas. He then served his country in Japan and Korea - first with the Military Intelligence Service, later as a civilian employee of the Occupation Authority. Returning to the States, he completed his doctoral training in biochemistry at the Univ. of Wisconsin and then went on to do postdoctoral work at the Univ. of Texas and UC Berkeley. In 1950 he married Doris Yonegaki, the American-born daughter of a Japanese diplomat whom he had met in Japan after the war.

Following a stint as research biochemist at Sonoma State Hospital, Dr. Kihara was invited in 1963 to establish the research laboratory at Pacific State Hospital (now the Lanterman Center) in Pomona, and served there until his retirement in 1987. His team studied genetic disorders resulting in developmental neurological disabilities, especially metachromatic leukodystrophy (LMD), and the possibilities for curing those disorders. In 1973 the laboratory was absorbed into the Neuropsychiatric Institute at UCLA, but remained an off-campus research facility.

Dr. Kihara and his family resided for more than forty years in the Los Angeles area, where he was active in Japanese American veterans' and community affairs. In retirement he was an avid reader and an enthusiastic fisherman, gardener, bridge player and Lakers fan, in addition to serving for many years as a volunteer tutor, and teacher of ESL and citizenship classes. Preceded in death by a sister and two brothers as well as by his beloved wife Doris, who passed away in 1996, he is survived by a sister, Hanaye Kaneshige of Maui, Hawai'i, by daughters Betty Ehrle of Oxnard and Elaine Kihara of Santa Cruz, and by granddaughter Lisa Button of Claremont.

Services will be held at the Fukui Mortuary, 707 E. Temple St. in Los Angeles, at 12:30 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 19. The family requests that no flowers be sent. Contributions may be made to the National Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, or the Japanese American Citizens' League.

DEATH NOTICE

IRA SHIMASAKI

Born Isao Shimasaki on Nov. 13, 1916, in Lindsay, Calif., Ira passed away Dec. 10, 2007 at the age of 97 in Torrance, Calif.

On Dec. 7, 1941, 25-year-old Ira was flying through the skies of Central California working on his solo hours to complete his private pilot's license. After Pearl Harbor, he was never able to finish the program.

In the spring of 1942, Ira and his family were forced to leave their home under Executive Order 9066. They were sent to the Fresno Assembly Center and then relocated to the internment camp in Jerome, Ark.

In April 1943, Ira left the camp finding work at a nursery in Monroe, Mich. As he wrote his granddaughter Dana, "It was cold and hard work digging up plants all day. On the plus side, that is where I met your grandma Gladys whom I consider one of the nicest persons on this Earth. When I married her it was the best thing that ever happened to me." Ira and Gladys married in March of 1944.

In September 1944, Ira was drafted into the Army. He did his basic training in Tyler, Tex. and was sent to Ft. Meade in Maryland before he was sent overseas to Germany in the winter of 1945 as an MPh.

Upon returning to the U.S. in 1946, Ira lived and worked in Bethesda, Mary., as foreman of an automobile body shop specializing in Pontiacs and Rolls Royces. This is where he and Gladys raised their children—Don, Sandi and Susan.

For 30 years, from 1948 until he relocated to Southern California in 1979, Ira was the Permanent Chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League Arlington Cemetery Committee, organizing and presenting yearly services on behalf of all Nisei soldiers and especially those buried in Arlington Cemetery, including members of the 442nd RCT. Ira worked closely with Mike Masaoka and others in JACL to conduct the only non-governmental, non-veteran group memorial services permitted to be held on the grounds at Arlington Cemetery. He also served many years as the Eastern District Governor.

In 1979, Ira and Gladys move to North Hollywood, Calif. where they owned and operated a gift store in Burbank for five years. They then moved to Torrance, where they owned and operated a children's clothing store for six years.

Ira is survived by six of his brothers and sisters, Atsuko Kusuda, Fred, Sam, Rinko Enosaki, Walt and Joe; his children Don, Sandi (Bill) Kitzes, and Susan (Don) Liebson; and grandchildren Justin, Dana, Kevin, Brian and Jason. Ira's beloved wife Gladys (Onoye) passed away seven years ago and his brother Tom passed away in 1989.

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