



Stockton's Issei flier Isaku Nishioka — PAGE 3

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



## Stamp Campaign

The states of Hawaii and California show support for a Nisei WWII vets commemorative stamp.

NATIONAL PAGE 4

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## Endow Resigns from Nat'l Board Citing Personal Reasons

The national JACL recently announced the resignation of Vice President of Membership Edwin Endow from the national board. Endow tendered his resignation due to personal reasons.



Endow was first elected as the vice president of membership in 2004 during the National JACL Convention in Honolulu. He was re-elected to the position in 2006 at the Phoenix national convention. This was his fourth year serving in the position.

Endow was instrumental in finding additional member benefits, which ultimately helped the JACL and its members. In order to have members of the JACL do their part in increasing membership, one of his admonitions has been: "Every member get a member."

"Edwin brought a unique energy and perspective to JACL. He worked diligently to encourage new members to join the JACL and was always looking for new benefits to offer to our members," said National JACL President Larry Oda. "He contributed immensely to our meetings and will be missed on the national board. We are grateful for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors."

See **ENDOW RESIGNS/Page 11**

**PACIFIC CITIZEN**  
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## How Did Asian Pacific Americans Become an Afterthought in the Presidential Elections?

Yes, we were snubbed in Nevada. But what happens on Super Tuesday and in the November elections can determine the community's (in)visibility.

By **LYNDA LIN**  
Assistant Editor

A few days before the Nevada presidential caucus, Ben Nakagawa had to unplug his phone to watch his Washington Huskies basketball game on television. The race to the White House was red hot in his state, but he just needed a moment to watch his team play.



Besides, he already knew which candidate he was going to support on caucus day. It's the people in the Asian Pacific American community who choose to remain constantly unplugged that concerns him.

"One of my issues is greater Asian

recognition," said Nakagawa, civil rights chair of the Las Vegas JACL.

The 72-year-old Nisei is originally from Seattle where he was active in politics. Now, Nakagawa is the Democratic caucus chairperson for his Northwest Las Vegas precinct,

which has 11 delegates. He also plans to nominate himself to be a county and state delegate.

Over the years, Nakagawa has noticed that APA engagement in politics is anemic at best. As a member of Nevada Rep. Shelley Berkley's Asian Advisory Committee, Nakagawa once attended a meeting where 50 APAs were invited, but only 12 showed up.

"That's tragic," he sighed. "We have to get more Asians out. Politicians don't care if you say we have 200,000 registered. They care about what percentage of Asians vote."

In January, Nevada was also the

See **ELECTIONS/Page 11**

## Group Hopes to Make Little Tokyo a Preserve America Neighborhood

The ethnic community is now only partially protected by historic landmark status. APA leaders say all of Little Tokyo needs to be recognized.

By **LYNDA LIN**  
Assistant Editor

In glitzy Los Angeles, Calif., most tourist maps highlight the same cluster of amusement parks and the same stretch of starry sidewalk as worthy places to soak up local culture, but Little Tokyo's Bill Watanabe believes tourists are hungry for more substance.

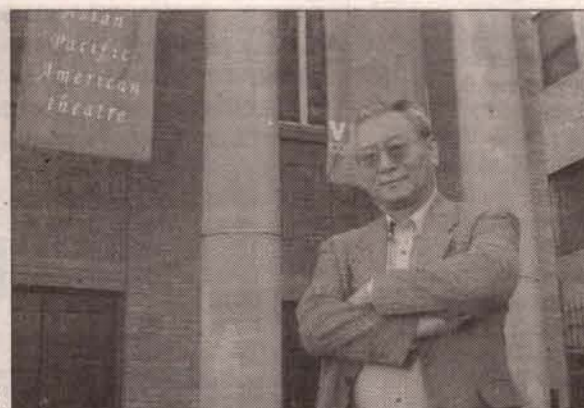
Over the years, Watanabe, the executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), has seen cultural and historic tourism grow. Now, he wants to put Little Tokyo on the map as a premier place to visit for food, entertainment and history.

"People don't want to see just Disneyland and Universal Studios, they want to visit historic sites too," said Watanabe, who is spearheading the effort to designate Little Tokyo

as a Preserve America community.

The Preserve America designation — a White House initiative in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and other federal departments — would give Little Tokyo a listing on the Preserve America Web site, a road sign and perhaps most

See **LITTLE TOKYO/Page 13**



ON THE DOORSTEP OF HISTORY:

Bill Watanabe, standing at the site of the old Union Church, says historic designation for all of Little Tokyo is crucial to preservation efforts.

PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

## Son of 100th Battalion Soldier Pays Tribute to His Father's Legacy

Tim Kano recently formed a 100th Battalion Unit within the California Historical Group, using living history and reenactments to honor the Japanese American WWII soldiers.

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**  
Executive Editor

In the documentary film "Beyond Barbed Wire," rare color footage of Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Battalion taking part in various obstacle training exercises can be seen. Part of the footage includes a

close-up of a JA soldier crawling under a raised log. Although his face is partially obscured, the nametag on his helmet is clear: H. Kano.

The soldier is Henry Kano, the late father of Tim Kano, 49.

"What a rare treat it was to not only find this footage and obtain a copy of it but to also have it in color," said Tim, noting the shock he felt when he first recognized his father in the film. Later he had a friend enhance the historical images.

"In the enlarged pictures I could also clearly see the scar across [my father's] nose that was very distinctive. Later I would

See **100TH BATTALION/Page 12**

### INDEX

Letters.....	2
National.....	3-5
Community.....	6-7
Calendar.....	14
Obits.....	15



### APA Live Theater

Rick Shiomi started a thriving APA theater company in the Midwest.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



### Golden Mirai

Mirai Nagasu wins gold at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

SPORTS PAGE 10



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[ FLOYD MORI ]

## Expanding Our Membership Base

The JACL has long been a membership driven and membership based organization and for many years did not solicit outside funding. The costs of running the national organization were covered by membership dues. But as the stalwart early leaders of the JACL began to age and pass on, the JACL's membership numbers have declined. This declining membership has become a big problem, making it necessary over the years to raise membership dues because of rising costs and limited funds.

We are grateful to all those who have remained supportive of the JACL over the years and have maintained their membership as well as to the newer members who have joined in more recent years.

Corporate partners and sponsors have come on board to help the JACL with funding to run our various programs. These corporations have made significant contributions and the JACL appreciates their willingness to partner with us in helping to further the causes of the organization.

The JACL must maintain and also increase our membership numbers. In the past, JACL membership has been around 35,000. But because of assimilation and other interests, not enough of the children and grandchildren of the early JACL leaders and members have joined the organization. And not enough new members were recruited.

Although the JACL remains the largest Asian American civil rights organization, our members now number fewer than 20,000. A larger membership base will help enable the JACL's grassroots efforts to be more effective.

Although Americans of Japanese ancestry have the highest out marriage rates of any other ethnic group and there is some danger of losing the Japanese heritage in the United States, many in this younger demographic have a rekindled interest in their cultural heritage.

The JACL should be reaching out to this younger generation and inviting them to join the JACL. To this end, national JACL (largely under the direction of Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino) is working on a Youth Leadership and Empowerment program which reaches out to college students. Youth, college, and young professional age members are the future of the JACL.

In January I, along with National

See MORI/page 16

## COMMENTARY



[ EHREN WATADA ]

## Is the Iraq War Illegal?

Milo Yoshino of the Diablo Valley JACL chapter posed a thoughtful question in regards to whether this "war is still illegal given that the United Nations has passed multiple resolutions ... [and] after the government has asked for assistance." (*Pacific Citizen*, Nov. 16-Dec. 13, 2007, page 7)

Is the war illegal? Before answering this question, it is essential to divide up this conflict into: 1) the invasion and toppling of the former regime, and 2) the subsequent occupation of Iraq by American troops.

There can be no doubt that according to the UN Charter which forbids preventative wars and regime change, the invasion of Iraq was unlawful on its face. Is outlawing pre-emption fair? Absolutely — there is nothing that prohibits a nation from having a very strong defense. Moreover, nothing in the Charter prohibits a nation from retaliating after being attacked (which we were not as stated unequivocally and after-the-fact by the Bush Administration).

Ultimately, this law was established to protect the weak from the powerful, which left unaccountable, can invent any rationale for an invasion and occupation like Hitler did with Poland.

Next, is the occupation illegal? That would depend on who you ask. For supporters of continued involvement, the answer is no — American troops are protecting us against international terrorism and the Iraqis have requested our help; we have a legal mandate granted by the same institution that we ignored and de-legitimized by invading in the first place.

On the other hand, if you ask the Iraqis themselves (who make up the vast majority of the anti-American insurgency and not Al Qaeda) — as a democratic people, they may have an entirely different answer.

Although the U.S. has a mandate, it has continually violated the terms in which it must occupy and protect the people according to international laws. Numerous prominent NGOs in the country, including Iraqi lawmakers, have cited the American military's repeated violations of these laws and appealed to the UN to repeal this mandate.

Not only have these actions contributed to the overall instability but as an August 2007 poll conducted by the BBC, ABC, and NHK found, 79 percent of Iraqis opposed "the

See WATADA/page 16



## Letters to the Editor

### Reader Appreciates Coverage on Watada

I am writing to acknowledge the exceptional depth and detail with which the *Pacific Citizen* has covered 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's court martial proceedings.

Regardless of whether or not one supports Lt. Watada's decision "to refuse to fight this illegal war," his case inarguably represents history in the making, and it is encouraging to see that this important issue, while being largely overlooked by most of the mainstream press, has not been ignored by your newspaper.

Thank you for such fine reporting.

DON INO  
San Francisco

### Re: Nakashima Farm

I was reading the article about the Nakashima Farm and I found it interesting (*Pacific Citizen*, Nov. 16-Dec. 13, 2007). However I believe what the Japanese American Citizens League should do is to pressure the state of Washington to buy back the Nakashima Farm and return it to its rightful owners — the Nakashima family. Whatever the Nakashima family wants to do with the property should be their decision and their decision only.

RICHARD HARNIK  
Via e-mail

### Stay on Watada's Constitutional Issue

First Lt. Ehren Watada refused to obey orders to deploy to the Iraq War, believing it illegal. President Bush created Watada's problem by waging a preemptive war against Iraq, clearly illegal to many constitutional experts. It is a breach of the U.S. Constitution, Article 2, Section 6, that incorporates the Geneva Convention Rules of War and the UN Charter Rules of engagement: aggression against another country without being attacked or about to be is illegal.

Watada made his decision of conscience on carefully researched grounds. He is not naïve about the Military Court's position. Watada has met the requirements of speaking his views outside of military property, off duty and not in uniform, and has refrained from coarse or obtuse language.

Watada's critics fail to consistently challenge him on his issue. They say he is wrong because he volunteered and the Army has every right to send him wherever his services are needed, but they do not qualify with "even if the war were illegal." The critics are in a different ballpark without addressing the issue — the war's legality vs. its illegality — Watada's defense.

Watada is exercising his full rights as a U.S. citizen and soldier, something we Americans of Japanese ancestry didn't enjoy during WWII. Our older brothers' service and sacrifice for their country while suspected as disloyal and while their families were incarcerated in concentration camps won full rights for those that followed, did they not?

JAMES TANABE  
Veteran, MIS Post War Japan, Honolulu

# When Human Flight was a Dream, Stockton's Issei Flier Soared

Isaku Nishioka's success on a self-built airplane was fleeting and ultimately tragic, but his legacy lives on through his family.

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor

Chisato Watanabe had always heard stories about her adventurous Uncle Isaku, but she was never too impressed — she just thought they were old family tales.

"I took it for granted," the 84-year-old Stockton, Calif. native said about her youthful disregard. "We used to hear about how our uncle built airplanes, but we never thought it was great."

Now, Chisato is proud to talk about her extraordinary uncle, Isaku Nishioka, who soared through the Stockton skies during the nascent of modern aviation history as possibly the first ever Issei flier.

"[It] turns out he was ahead of his time."

In 1918 — 15 years after the Wright brothers successfully flew their first fully documented, heavier than air flight — Isaku took to the

skies in a self-built Curtiss model plane to earn his pilot license. But at 28, Isaku's dream of flying free was cut short when he fatally crashed during his aviation test.

He was on the last leg of the test, which required Isaku to perform a series of figure-eight loops, before he made a dangerous short turn and plummeted 350 feet to his death, according to the *Stockton Record*.

Isaku's death snagged headlines in the local newspaper as Stockton's first aviation fatality. The accompanying photo showed a ghostly heap of twisted wooden debris surrounded by inquisitive spectators.

Decades later at the height of World War II anti-Japanese sentiment, young Henry Nishioka came across one of these newspaper articles while preparing for their evacuation to Rohwer internment camp in Arkansas. Up

until then, the details of his uncle's life and untimely death had been shrouded in mystery.

Their mom, Haruyo, had told her five children many stories about their "oddball" father and uncle pounding material together in the garage with dreams of flying, but the stories were always incomplete. Their father Jiroku was the mechanic for the airplane.

Jiroku and Isaku were sons of wealthy Japanese farmers from the Saga Prefecture who immigrated to the United States on student visas in the early 1900s. They graduated high school in Japan and were sponsored by the San Francisco Buddhist Church to learn English in the U.S. Somewhere along the way, the brothers became interested in airplanes.

The Nishioka brothers moved to Stockton in 1914 to run a mercantile business, according to the *Record*. Jiroku, a businessman, met and married Haruyo, a licensed midwife. But Isaku remained a bachelor focusing all his attention on building a plane. They worked with some other young men in a garage on a grassy field near the original site of the Stockton Buddhist Church.

They must have read how-to books to build their plane, said Chisato with a laugh.

On the fateful day of the aviation test, Isaku allegedly ignored warnings to never make a sharp turn or "cut a corner" in his plane. The engine stopped as a result.

Haruyo told her children that Isaku wanted to take his self-built plane back to Japan to start aviation there.

After Isaku's death, Jiroku and Haruyo journeyed back to Japan, but returned to Stockton after they lost a daughter — part of a twin — to pneumonia. Jiroku never attempted to build another plane.

"My father was a quiet man, so he never really talked about his brother or the accident," said Chisato.

In most old family photos, the brothers stand side-by-side, so she assumes they were very



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHISATO WATANABE

**PILOT:** In the early 1900s Isaku Nishioka (pictured, above) built a Curtiss model plane in his adopted home of Stockton, California. Isaku was only 28 when he crashed during an aviation test.

*"When I think about it, it's amazing. He went from a farmer's boy to a pilot."*

— Chisato Watanabe, Isaku Nishioka's niece

close. A collection of the Nishioka family photos, which chronicles the brothers' dream project, is currently on display at the Stockton Buddhist Church.

The church, a cornerstone for the Stockton Japanese American community, celebrated its centennial in 2006. For the occasion, church officials asked its members to bring historical photos and artifacts to display in an exhibit about the JA impact on the community. That was when Chisato told her childhood friend Dorothy Okura about her Uncle Isaku.

"I thought that was great about him flying," said Dorothy, social services chair of the Stockton Buddhist Church. "He's famous, but not too many people know enough about him. You don't find too many Japanese doing something like that especially during that time — and younger people should know about that."

Chisato worked with Dorothy and Mas Ishihara on the photo exhibit. In many of the photos, Isaku is seen seated in the open driver's seat of the plane and standing proudly in front of it with his aviation goggles perched on his head.

"When I think about it, it's amazing. He went from a farmer's boy to a pilot," said Chisato, who is a Stockton JACL member. "Something like this was unusual in a little city like Stockton."

Flying also runs in the family. In high school, Henry, 82, belonged to the flying club and then he flew with the Army during WWII. After the war, he got a license, but stopped flying because it became too expensive.

"Flying came natural to me," said Henry.

Now whenever a niece or nephew needs to write a report about their family history, the number one topic is Uncle Isaku and his airplane.

"We're really proud of it," said Chisato. ■

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www.stocktonbuddhisttemple.org

# Judge Calls for New Trial Because of Jurors' Racial Name-Calling

Jurors allegedly called a Japanese American attorney 'Mr. Kamikaze' among other names.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash.—A superior court judge has ordered a new trial in a medical malpractice case where a Japanese American attorney was allegedly called racist names during jury deliberations.

Attorney Mark D. Kamitomo made a motion for a new trial in December after two jurors sought him out after the trial and told him there was racial bias in the jury deliberations.

The Spokane County jury ruled against Kamitomo's client, clearing a doctor accused

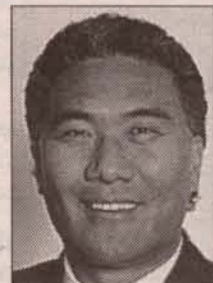
of negligence in a cancer diagnosis.

Jurors Jack Marchant and Mark Costigan said five of the other jurors — three women and two men — called Kamitomo names including "Mr. Kamikaze," "Mr. Miyashi," and "Mr. Miyagi."

Costigan provided an affidavit on what he observed in the jury room.

"We have uncontested affidavits that these remarks were made. It's an expression of prejudice to Mr. Kamitomo's ethnicity," said Judge Robert D. Austin in the *Seattle Times*.

The trial verdict was read on Dec. 7, the 66th



KAMITOMO

anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing. According to Marchant and Costigan, one juror said the comments about Kamitomo were "almost appropriate" because of the anniversary.

Brian T. Rekofke, an attorney for Dr. Nathan P. Stine, the Spokane physician who was the defendant in the medical malpractice case, accused Kamitomo of "playing the race card here."

"I've never experienced this here or elsewhere. I'm not someone who cries race when I lose," Kamitomo said.

Rekofke had seven affidavits from seven other jurors that contradicted the claims of racial bias.

Juror Brenda Canfield said she referred to Kamitomo as "Mr. Miyashi" as a "memory

device" to recall what he'd said in court. Another juror David Smith admitted to calling Kamitomo "Mr. Kamikaze," but denied any racial bias.

Kamitomo, 51, grew up in southern Alberta and graduated from Gonzaga Law School in 1989. His father, Doug Kamitomo, was eight when his family was taken from their Vancouver, B.C. home and relocated to a Canadian internment camp during World War II.

"In a million years, I never thought a jury would have subtle biases towards me and would take that out on my client," said Kamitomo.

When the new trial is set, Austin said he would have to talk to jurors about Kamitomo's ethnicity during jury selection. ■



Volunteers (left) of the Nisei World War II Veterans Commemorative Stamp Campaign are encouraged by the recent support of Hawaii and California for a possible commemorative stamp.

## Hawaii and California State Legislatures Pass Resolutions in Support of Nisei WWII Veterans Stamp

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The states of Hawaii and California recently passed resolutions in support of a commemorative U.S. postal stamp in honor of the Nisei World War II veterans.

With the Jan. 18 vote in the Hawaii State Legislature, Hawaii became the first state to support the national, grassroots campaign to honor the heroic Nisei veterans.

"Today many of our Nisei veterans are in their 80s and 90s, many have passed away like my father and uncle, and many died while defending our country," said Hawaii State Rep. John Mizuno. "Therefore, I'm really glad we're honoring their shining example of patriotic sacrifice in our nation's history."

The California State Assembly passed a similar resolution with a unanimous vote of 73 to 0 on Jan. 22. The resolution urges the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to approve the application for a Nisei vets stamp.

"This resolution is very important to those heroes who truly changed American history," said Assemblymember Mike Eng, author of the resolution. "We need to let

America know their stories and their sacrifices before too many pass away."

A similar resolution was before the California State Senate on Jan. 31.

Over 20,000 Japanese Americans enlisted in the U.S. Army during WWII despite being sent to internment camps and facing prejudice after the attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

*'This resolution is very important to those heroes who truly changed American history ...'*

Assemblymember Mike Eng

Among their many battles, Nisei soldiers in Europe fought at Monte Cassino and Anzio and freed and aided Holocaust victims from the Dachau concentration camp. The most famous unit, the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, also known as the "Go For Broke" regi-

ment, became one of the most decorated and acclaimed units in American history.

"We believe they deserve their rightful place in history," said Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona. "You question why they even did what they did. I believe it was purely out of honor and commitment to our country."

The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet Jan. 24 and 25 to decide on the various stamp proposal applications for 2010-2011, including the Nisei vets stamp. The committee's decisions will not be announced before the unveiling of the new stamps in the fall of 2009.

The Nisei WWII Veterans Commemorative Stamp Campaign is a nationwide, grassroots coalition led by the wives, family, and friends of the Nisei vets. Although the idea for a vets stamp came about several years ago, the campaign has picked up momentum during the last year gaining national support, including the JACL. ■

For more information on the Nisei vets stamp campaign: [www.niseistamp.org](http://www.niseistamp.org).

## Nominations Committee Seeking Candidates for Nat'l JACL Offices

The National JACL Nominations Committee is currently seeking JACL members who are interested in running for national JACL offices. Elections will be held at the XL Biennium National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City from July 16 to 20.

Candidates have until April 15 to file their candidacy. Those persons who file after this date must go through a late filing process.

The elective offices are as follows: president, vice president of general operations, vice president for public affairs, vice president for planning and development, vice president for One Thousand Club, membership and services, secretary/treasurer and youth/student chairperson and representative of the National

Youth/Student Council.

The nomination and election guideline and the candidate application form for national JACL office have been revised by the National Nominations Committee and have been distributed to the national JACL board and each district council governor for further distribution to their chapters.

Interested members can get the application and the guideline by logging onto the national JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)). The committee representatives for each district council will also be available for further information or to answer any questions.

Steve Okamoto, chair of the Nominations Committee, encourages all JACL members to consider

and run for the national offices from all district councils and all chapters to have a more varied nation-wide representation. ■

For more information about the nominations process, contact Okamoto at: 650/281-7674, [steveokamoto1@yahoo.com](mailto:steveokamoto1@yahoo.com) or Stanley N. Kanzaki at: 212/222-3025 (phone and fax), [stanzakro-nin@aol.com](mailto:stanzakro-nin@aol.com).

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# National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

## Comcast to Pull the Plug on AZN Television

PHILADELPHIA—Comcast Corp., the nation's largest cable operator, said it is pulling the plug on AZN Television, its Asian Pacific American channel.



The Philadelphia-based company said the channel will go off the air after April 9. However, AZN's popular Asian Excellence Awards show will move to Comcast's E! Entertainment Television network.

Comcast said it had difficulty attracting advertisers for the channel. AZN's reach was also a lower-than-expected 13.9 million viewers and wasn't growing.

AZN is the second demise of an APA media outlet in less than six months. Last October, KQED in San Francisco discontinued its nationally syndicated public radio program, "Pacific Time."

## Senator Proposes Putting Affirmative Action Ban on Ballot

LINCOLN, Neb.—Supporters of a drive to end affirmative action in the state have two chances to get a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

A state lawmaker has introduced a measure that prohibits schools and other government groups from using race, gender and other factors in their hiring and admission decisions.

It mirrors a petition initiative being circulated in Nebraska, which is one of five states being targeted by the Ward Connerly California group, Super Tuesday for Equal Rights. Connerly, a former University of California regent, was a key force behind that state's successful ballot measure banning considering of race and gender in public hiring, contracting and school admissions in 1996. Since then, similar proposals have passed in Washington and Michigan.

A group wanting to amend the state constitution must gather about 114,000 signatures — 10 percent of the state's registered voters — by July 4 to get the issue on the November ballot.

## 'Count Me In!' Campaign is Successful, UC to Track More Asian Ethnic Groups

OAKLAND, Calif.—The University of California system will become the first public higher education institution in the state to collect data on an expanded list of Asian ethnic groups, from Tongan and Fijian to Hmong and Cambodian.

Future undergraduate applications will include 23 Asian American and Pacific Islander categories, nearly three times the eight currently recorded.

Last year, thousands of APA UC students rallied behind the "Count Me In!" campaign to push for the new applications and a dismantling of the "Asian American" umbrella category.

## Feds Say Louisiana Man's Nooses Targeted Jena Six Marchers

ALEXANDRIA, La.—A man who allegedly drove his pickup truck with a pair of nooses hanging from the back bumper past a group of black civil rights marchers, was indicted on federal hate crime and conspiracy charges.

Jeremiah Munsen, 18, was arrested in September when Alexandria police allegedly found hangman's nooses dangling from the rear of his pickup truck after he drove past a crowd of people who had attended a civil rights march in Jena, La. earlier in the day.

Last year civil rights groups, including the JACL, denounced the resurgence of nooses as symbols of hate after six black students from Jena were charged with beating a white student who allegedly hung nooses from a school tree.

## Akaka Requests More Funds for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

HONOLULU—Sen. Daniel Akaka and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are calling for \$2 million in additional funding for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Akaka says many of the servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will be suffering post-traumatic stress disorder, increasing demand on the center.

In a letter to the secretary of veterans affairs requesting the additional funding, the Hawaii Democrat notes that the center's budget has dropped from a 2005 high of just over \$10 million. ■

# APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

## Tateishi Wins UC Merced's Spendlove Award



(L-r) Sherrie Spendlove, John Tateishi and Chancellor Sung-Mo 'Steve' Kang.

Immediate former JACL National Director **John Tateishi** is the winner of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance.

A committee that included Spendlove's family members selected Tateishi for the \$10,000 award. Tateishi will spend one year "in residence" at UC Merced working on projects that further the goals of the prize, including lectures, publications and exhibitions.

Tateishi has been involved with the APA community for nearly 30 years, gaining national prominence in 1978 when he launched a national campaign to seek redress for Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

## LAPD Appoints First APA Deputy Chief



An APA officer will serve as a deputy chief in the Los Angeles Police Department for the first time in department history.

**Cmdr. Terry Hara**, currently in charge of the LAPD's Employee Relations division, is being promoted to deputy chief and will be the commanding officer of the West Bureau.

Hara joined the department in February 1980 and was the first Japanese American to achieve the rank of commander in the LAPD.

The personnel changes will take place in March.

## Young JA's Short Film Featured at Sundance Film Festival



Yonsei documentary filmmaker **Tadashi Nakamura's** short film "Pilgrimage" was one of only 83 short films to screen at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival.

The film tells the story of how JAs have transformed Manzanar into a symbol of solidarity and empowerment. Nakamura's father, veteran filmmaker Robert A. Nakamura, was incarcerated at Manzanar.

"Pilgrimage" features never before seen archival footage of the first pilgrimage to Manzanar in 1969.

## 17-Year-Old Murakami Wins College Baseball Scholarship

**Matthew Murakami**, a senior at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, Virginia was recently awarded with a baseball scholarship from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Murakami, 17, will attend the university after he graduates. Last year, he played second base on a team that won 28 of 32 games and won the league championship in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference.

## Azuma Recognized for Dedication to Helping Children with Autism



**Julie Azuma**, founder and president of Different Roads to Learning, Inc., has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for her dedication to helping children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Different Roads to Learning, Inc. offers over 300 products online and in catalog that helps parents support their children with autism.

## Two APA Educators Win the Tien Education Leadership Awards

Two educators have won the second annual Chang-Lin Tien Education Leadership Awards. **Norman C. Tien**, dean of the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, and **Frank H. Wu**, dean of the Wayne State University Law School, will each receive an unrestricted grant of \$10,000.



TIEN



WU

The awards program honors the legacy of Chang-Lin Tien, the first APA to head a major American research university. The Tien Awards program recognizes the accomplishments of rising APA leaders in higher education.

## California's APA Leaders Appointed to Key Office Positions

Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently appointed three APAs to key state office positions.

**Phyllis Cheng** has been appointed the director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The DFEH protects the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, and from the perpetration of acts of hate violence.

**Patricia Fong Kushida** and **Bonaparte Liu** have both been appointed to the Student Aid Commission. Kushida currently serves as president and CEO of the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce and Liu has served as managing director for a private equity company since 2002.

## The 442nd RCT Receives Prestigious Audie Murphy Award



(L-r) Joe Ichiuji, Kelly Kuwayama, Jim Roberts, George Sakato and Terry Shima.

The American Veterans Center recently presented its prestigious Audie Murphy Award to the **442nd Regimental Combat Team**.

Veterans **George Joe Sakato**, **Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama**, **Joe Ichiuji** and **Terry Shima** accepted the award on the combat team's behalf in Washington, D.C.

The award is presented for distinguished service during World War II. Murphy was the most decorated soldier in WWII.

## '08 DOR to Feature Student Performances from Collegiate Nikkei Organizations

The Los Angeles 2008 Day of Remembrance (DOR), to be held Feb. 16, will highlight the grassroots activities that collegiate students conduct on their campuses to commemorate and educate the public about the World War II concentration camps, redress and the Japanese American community.

The 2008 DOR titled, "From the Commission Hearings to the Civil Liberties Act and Beyond ... The Power of Grassroots Activism: Unleashing Community Voices," is being organized by Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR), the JACL PSW District and the Japanese American National Museum. The event is held on the anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 and commemorates the incarceration of JAs during WWII.

This year's DOR will focus on the grassroots activism that was instrumental in rallying the public voice to win redress. The program will also link the importance of grassroots activism in

the past to the grassroots organizing done by college students today.

The collegiate students featured in the program will represent Nikkei student organizations from the University of Southern California, UC San Diego and UC Riverside.

"NSU brings DOR to the campus because this is an important part of the JA cultural history — we want people to remember the injustice that was inflicted upon JAs during WWII because of wartime hysteria and we want to make sure that history doesn't repeat itself," said Stacy Iwata, president of the UCSD Nikkei Student Union.

In the program, collegiate students will also provide a short personal perspective on why the events and achievements of the past affect them as young JAs.

"We gain an understanding of the Japanese American community's past," said Penny Ishizuka, president of Nikkei USC.

"Although this understanding is hard to achieve completely because we did not go through the internment experience ourselves, we might be able to better sympathize with the plight of the internees through doing DOR, and this will start efforts to have discussions about the past and ensure that the future is brighter in the JA community." ■

### Los Angeles DOR Program

**Date and Time:** Feb. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** Japanese American National Museum  
**Information:** e-mail Craig Ishii at psw@jacl.org, or call 213/626-4471

For a listing of national DOR events, please see the Calendar section on page 14.

## JANM Sets Redress Series to Mark 20th Anniversary of Civil Liberties Act of 1988

The Japanese American National Museum has organized a series of special events, public programs and collaborations this year to help mark the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which provided an official government apology and redress for thousands of Japanese Americans unlawfully forced from their homes during World War II.

Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988, the Civil Liberties Act was the culmination of years of work by various community organizations and individuals working with elected officials to get the U.S. government to acknowledge its error in forcing JAs off the West Coast and parts of Hawai'i. In the process, over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were unlawfully incarcerated by the government, the great majority within 10 major domestic concentration camps.

Anchoring the events to mark the anniversary are the National Museum's Annual Gala Dinner, "Fulfilling the Promise of America: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988," which is set for April 19 and its national conference, "Whose America? Who's American?"



President Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law on Aug. 10, 1988.

AP PHOTO

Diversity, Civil Liberties and Social Justice," set for Denver, Colorado, on July 3-6 which culminates the education project, Enduring Communities: The Japanese American Experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah.

The dinner will recognize some of the individuals and organizations that were key to gaining redress, while the conference will examine the history, issues and implications of redress for America today.

"There are many important lessons that can be drawn from the successful redress campaign," said Irene Hirano, president and CEO of the National Museum. "One of them is that redress only became a reality because so many organizations and

individuals, both community-based and non-Nikkei, contributed their support, often at crucial moments.

"Our National Museum, since its founding, has always believed that more can be achieved through collaboration and developing partnerships. The history of Japanese Americans shows that cooperation is a major characteristic that helped them build our communities, and it remains a Museum core value for fulfilling our mission."

For more information on the Redress Remembered public programs, the annual gala dinner and the national conference, go to [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org), or call 213/625-0414. ■

## Nat'l JACL Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The annual program awards about 30 scholarships totaling over \$50,000.

The national JACL recently announced that it is now accepting applications for its popular scholarship program.

Each year national JACL awards approximately 30 scholarships to deserving students totaling more than \$50,000.

The information brochure and application forms are available for download on the national JACL Web site ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)).

The Freshman applications must be submitted to the applicant's chapter by March 1. Each JACL chapter should screen the applications and forward the "outstanding" applications to: JACL Freshman Scholarship Program, 265 E. Moody Avenue, Fresno, CA 93720. There is no limit to the number of applications a chapter can forward for consideration but the forwarded applications must be postmarked by April 1 to be considered for the awards.

The applications for the other scholarship categories (Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative & Performing Arts, and Financial Aid) are to be sent by the applicant to: JACL Scholarship Program, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640. The applications for these other categories must be postmarked by April 1 to be considered for the awards.

It is a requirement of the National JACL Scholarship Program that the applicant be a Student or Individual member of the JACL. Membership of a parent or grandparent will not fulfill this requirement. Applicants may submit their membership registration with their application.

JACL chapters are encouraged to inform their communities of these valuable scholarship opportunities, an ideal way to boost membership and stimulate interest in the organization.

Any questions may be directed to National JACL Scholarship Committee Chair David Kawamoto at 619/557-5796, or [dhkawamoto@aol.com](mailto:dhkawamoto@aol.com). ■



## NJAMF to Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Redress Bill at '08 Awards Dinner

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Redress Bill at its Fifth Annual Awards Dinner on April 4. Honorees were selected based on their contributions to honor the sacrifices of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 offered an apology and financial compensation for tens of thousands of JAs.

"The 2008 awards will be noteworthy in recognizing the importance of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to the nation and the Japanese American community in admitting the wrongfulness of imprisoning 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II," said Craig D. Uchida, NJAMF chairman of the board.

The three awards recipients are:

- Congressman Barney Frank, who will be recognized with the Chairman's Award for breaking the Redress Bill out of committee in 1988.
- Joan (Jodie) Bernstein, who will receive the Constitutional Rights Award, for her role as chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.
- Major General Anthony Taguba (USA-RET), who will receive the Patriotism Award for his long and distinguished military career marked by high achievement, including overseas assignments in South Korea, Germany, and Kuwait.

Immediate former U.S. Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta and Former Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki have been invited to help present the awards in the nation's capital.

In 2000, NJAMF built and dedicated the "National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II," which is located in a triangular park in Washington, D.C. The National Park Service currently manages the federal memorial.

Proceeds from the awards dinner will be used in part to fund NJAMF's public awareness and education programs. ■

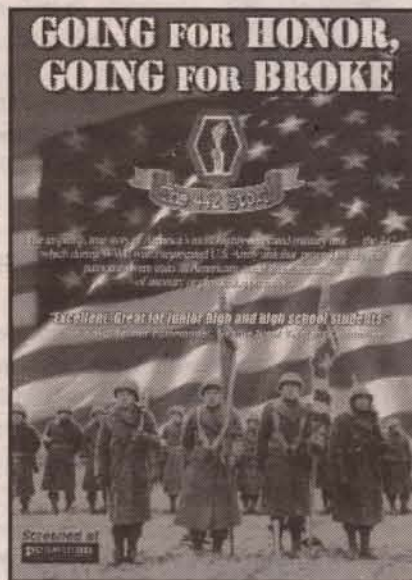
### NJAMF Memorial Foundation Dinner:

April 4, Washington Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

For more info: NJAMF President and Executive Director Gerald Yamada at 202/530-0015 or [njamf@starpower.net](mailto:njamf@starpower.net).

[www.njamf.com](http://www.njamf.com)

## GOING FOR HONOR, GOING FOR BROKE: THE 442 STORY



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

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

Those who have seen *Going for Honor, Going for Broke* say:

"Excellent. Great for junior high and high school students."

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

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

Running time: 16 mins.

Please send me "Going for Honor, Going for Broke: The 442 Story" on DVD

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## JA Organizations to Launch Program to Help Students Learn More About JA WWII History

Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools and three Japanese American organizations have teamed up to launch a pilot program to help high school students understand the JA wartime experience.



PHOTO: WILLIAM MILLS

MCPS officials recently met with representatives of JA organizations.

The project is a collaboration of the MCPS, the Go For Broke National Education Center, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and the Japanese American Veterans Association.

The one-day teacher training and orientation workshop, scheduled on Feb. 2 in Rockville, Maryland, will be the first of its kind for teachers on the East Coast. Teachers from other local area schools will also be invited to the workshop. In addition to examining the World War II JA internment experience, the program will focus on the 100th Battalion-442nd Regimental Combat Team and other segregated military units.

The program offers printed materials, curriculum guides, videos and WWII veterans as guest speakers.

Created in 1998 by Go For Broke in collaboration with curriculum specialists Esther Taira and Mark Elinson, the program received its initial funding from the California Arts Council in support of the State of California social studies curriculum standard and later obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of

Education.

More than 1,500 teachers have completed the program to date, reaching an estimated 60,000 students each year.

"The Japanese American experience in World War II is a story of how adversity can be overcome in a constructive manner and is an important lesson to convey to students," said Dr. Frieda Lacey, MCPS deputy superintendent.

In conjunction with the program, Lacey plans to involve her newly acquired MCPS partners as advisors in the writing of the JA experience in MCPS textbooks.

"JAVA speakers wish to convey a message of Nisei loyalty, patriotism and the greatness of America, a nation that can admit the mistake of incarcerating Japanese Americans, offer a presidential apology, make corrections and move on as a stronger nation," said Terry Shima, acting chair of JAVA's education committee. ■

## Sacramento to Present Diplomas to Veterans and Former Internees Who Were Unable to Complete Education

Sacramento County Office of Education will award the diplomas in May.

Sacramento County residents whose high school education was interrupted during World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War due to military service and or internment have an opportunity to receive belated high school diplomas.

The Sacramento County Board of Education's "Operation Recognition" ceremony presenting high school diplomas to qualifying veterans and internees will take place in May. Individuals may request diplomas on behalf of themselves or qualifying family members, including persons now deceased.

An individual who left high school to serve in the U.S. military during the period of Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946 (WWII), the period of June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War), or the period of Feb. 28, 1961-May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War) may apply to receive a high school diploma. To be eligible for a diploma, the WWII, Korean War or Vietnam War veteran must show proof of military service and honorable discharge.

Those Japanese American citizens who left high school for reason of internment in a WWII relocation camp must show proof of having been interned in a relocation camp during the period of Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946.

An additional requirement for all recipients is that the recipient must have been attending high school at the time of enlistment into military service or internment in a WWII relocation center.

Operation Recognition was adopted unanimously by the Sacramento County Board of Education at its Oct. 16, 2001, meeting. Sacramento County residents are eligible to participate in SCOE's Operation Recognition program.

Similar programs have been implemented or are being planned in other regions of California, as well as in the states of Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Those interested in receiving an Operation Recognition diploma application may download the form



Operation Recognition was adopted by the Sacramento County Board of Education.

online ([www.scoe.net/or](http://www.scoe.net/or)), call Cathy Sapunor, 916/228-2416, or visit the Sacramento County Office of Education weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Sacramento County Office of Education is located at 10474 Mather Boulevard near Mather Field.

Applications for the May ceremony must be submitted by April 30. ■

**Operation Recognition:**  
**Who:** Veterans of WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War; Former WWII Internees  
**When:** Ceremony in May 2008  
**Application Forms:**  
[www.scoe.net/or](http://www.scoe.net/or), or call Cathy Sapunor, 916/228-2416  
**Application Due Date:** April 30

## Nikkei Community Internship Announces 2008 Program

The California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJALCL) recently announced its 2008 Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program. Now in its seventh year, 77 interns and more than 15 Japanese American community groups in Los Angeles and the Bay Area have participated in the NCI program.

Applications for NCI 2008 are now available for prospective interns and organizations.

The participation of young people is one of the keys to sustaining the rich culture and traditions of JA heritage. The goal of NCI is to provide cultural exposure and develop the next generation of community leaders by: giving young people greater exposure to opportunities and needs in the JA community; and promoting interaction and networking between existing Nikkei organizations and institutions.

NCI connects interns with mentors in the JA community, who inspire and pique their interest in the work of community organizations. NCI also provides a fun learning experience that creates energy and a desire to participate in the JA community and other communities to which they belong.

The program runs from June 22

through Aug. 15. Interns spend four days a week working on Nikkei community projects, and one day in cultural training and leadership development activities.

Interns will receive an educational scholarship of up to \$2,000. Applicants must be age 18 by the start of the program, have a strong interest in community work and a desire to develop leadership skills. Applications are due March 7.

NCI is funded through grants from the Union Bank of California Foundation, as well as many other generous donations from various community sponsors. The program is coordinated by the Little Tokyo Service Center in Los Angeles and the Japanese Community Youth Council in San Francisco. ■

### Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) Program:

June 22 through Aug. 15  
**Stipend:** \$2,000

**Applications:**  
[www.nikkeiyouth.org](http://www.nikkeiyouth.org)

**Application Due Date:**  
 March 7

**Information:**  
 Geoffrey Tsudama at LTSC,  
 213/473-1687 or  
[gtsudama@ltsc.org](mailto:gtsudama@ltsc.org).



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NCUA



[ YUMI SAKUGAWA ]

## MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

## Teaching 101

I was a terrible Japanese language school student when I was growing up. I hated giving up my Saturdays and as an expression of protest, I never bothered trying. As the apathetic student who never did homework or studied for tests, I was the thorn in all my Japanese teachers' shoes.

Maybe it was by karmic retribution that, years later, I would become an English language teacher in Japan, trying to convince Japanese kids to take English seriously. Just as how my Japanese teachers in America were fighting an uphill battle with students like me, so I was asking of my Japanese students an impossible task: to take the time to think, speak and write English once a week in spite of their already ridiculously busy lives.

I only had four days of official training and one week of observation to learn how to be a good English-language teacher before all these Herculean tasks were dumped onto my lap. I had to learn how to coax three-year-olds to pay attention for more than three seconds. I had to learn how to teach squirmy five-year-olds how to read — and not be bored by the process. I had to keep grim-faced middle school students from falling asleep. I had to trick working mothers, grandmothers, and people my age into respecting my authority. That, and I had to get all of them to speak English as fluently as possible.

I was terrible my first three months here.

My biggest hurdle was that I just wasn't used to being a teacher. I still saw myself as the college student who spent more time honing procrastination tactics than actual studying. I sympathized too much with my students when they didn't do their homework or dozed off in class. "Well, gee," I would think to myself, "If I were 14, I would probably hate coming here and resent the world too."

First, I was the wannabe cool teacher who tried too hard to be liked. When that didn't work, I played the stodgy disciplinarian, the joyless teacher who suspected every student of initiating a minor mutiny against my own fake authority. I kept oscillating between extremes. I over-planned or under-planned my lessons. I was either too self-conscious or not self-aware enough. Short of coming to class with a

hangover, I probably went through every incompetent teacher alter ego possible.

I was teaching badly because all my initial reasons for coming here to teach had been purely selfish. I needed time, money and a job. I wanted to see what it was like to live in Japan. Even worse, I regarded my job with the ironic, self-deprecating amusement that teaching English in Japan was one of the many clichés that a humanities major faced after college, along

with undefined life goals and vaguely halfhearted notions of applying to law school.

Everything changed when I finally began to seriously reflect on what it really meant to be a teacher. Lessons became less unbearable, more dynamic. One by one, my students began opening up to me. I still

remember how victorious I felt when my stone-faced middle schoolers finally started laughing in class. I am beginning to understand the particular teaching euphoria that comes with conducting a good lesson, and it is wonderfully addictive.

It makes sense to me now, why so many teaching programs exist for the college graduate: Learning how to become a better teacher is essentially learning how to become a better human being. It forces to ask of you, every minute of your job, if you are trying hard enough to maintain that sacred connection of trust and respect that is possible between two human beings. Are you listening carefully enough? Are you being empathetic enough? Are you paying attention to and respecting your students' needs?

Empathy and good listening skills are something this world always needs more of.

It is February now, and I imagine that there are many JA college students reading this column right now and who are like me a year ago, completely clueless as to what to do right after graduation. While my eight-month exile from college hardly makes me an expert on real world issues, I strongly encourage all of you to consider teaching, whether it be in Japan or elsewhere. You will become a better person for it. ■

*Yumi Sakugawa, a recent graduate of UCLA, is currently teaching English in Japan.*



[ JOHN TATEISHI ]

## FOR THE RECORD

## Celebrating a Landmark Achievement

The year 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act, the statute that provided redress to Japanese Americans for the World War II internment and the culmination of one of the most remarkable grassroots campaigns in the political history of the United States.

It was a difficult campaign that lasted 10 years, cost the JACL over \$1 million, created a breach in the heart of the organization, and left the JACL floundering without purpose or direction for a decade after the campaign ended. The passage of the Civil Liberties Act was an achievement that could not have happened without the JACL's leadership and perseverance, and the organization should be proud of its role as we look back 20 years to that campaign.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary year, we would do well to remember the ultimate goal and purpose of the redress campaign. Our determination in fighting for redress had a noble goal, which was to ensure that no group would ever fall victim to the type of injustice we experienced during WWII. History has shown that injustices that have gone unacknowledged and uncorrected have a way of repeating themselves.

While it's true that we fought for redress to vindicate the honor of JAs, we had no way of knowing that our loftier goal of preserving the foundations of democratic principles for the future would prove prescient. Who could have imagined 20 years ago that an occurrence greater than the horrors of Pearl Harbor lay in the making?

Sept. 11th, like that day of December 1941, is a day that will forever live in infamy. Like the attack at Pearl Harbor, the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center was quick and precise and left an indelible mark on the memory of the nation and of the world.

It was not unreasonable to expect that the government's response would equal the volatility of the moment. On Dec. 7th, the nation learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor by radio reports and saw the damage through photos in the next day's newspapers. On Sept.

11th, millions watched in horror as the Twin Towers collapsed upon themselves, taking the lives of thousands into the ash heap that remained. The images were provocative and unforgiving.

The government's response was a kind of numbed silence, with the usual clichéd responses from individual members of the administration and the Congress talking about terrorists and the threats to democracy. And like the opening volley of the war in the Pacific, it wasn't until the passing of a few weeks that we began to see in what direction the government was headed. In 1942, it was the internment, and in 2001, it was a chipping away at civil liberties.

Except for the immediate roundup of approximately 2,000 Arab and Muslim men, there was otherwise no movement to detain or confine the communities suspected of being a threat after 9/11, not that this wasn't something that was being discussed. There were plenty in the Congress who voiced the opinion that Arabs and Muslims residing in this country could not be trusted. All the classic reasons voiced in 1942 for an internment policy were being echoed by some in Washington after 9/11.

The one stark reminder of the need for wisdom was the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and its companion government report, "Personal Justice Denied." As we lobbied our national leaders and cautioned them against actions similar to the follies of the internment, both the report and the Act were fundamental truths that argued against repeating history.

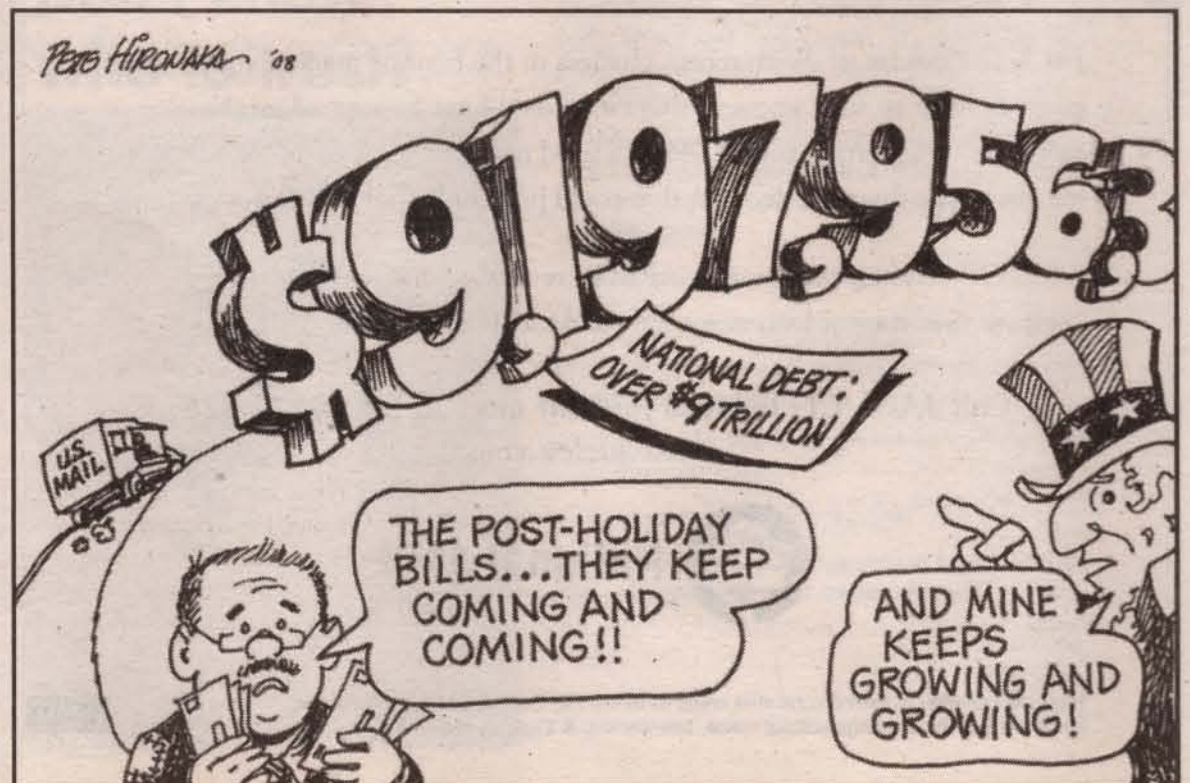
Their importance cannot be stated enough.

So as we commemorate this year and that landmark legislation 20 years ago, let us not forget that the ultimate meaning of the Civil Liberties Act was to ensure that we would not allow the Constitution to be rendered meaningless as it was in 1942, and that our actions and efforts 20 years past were meant for the future.

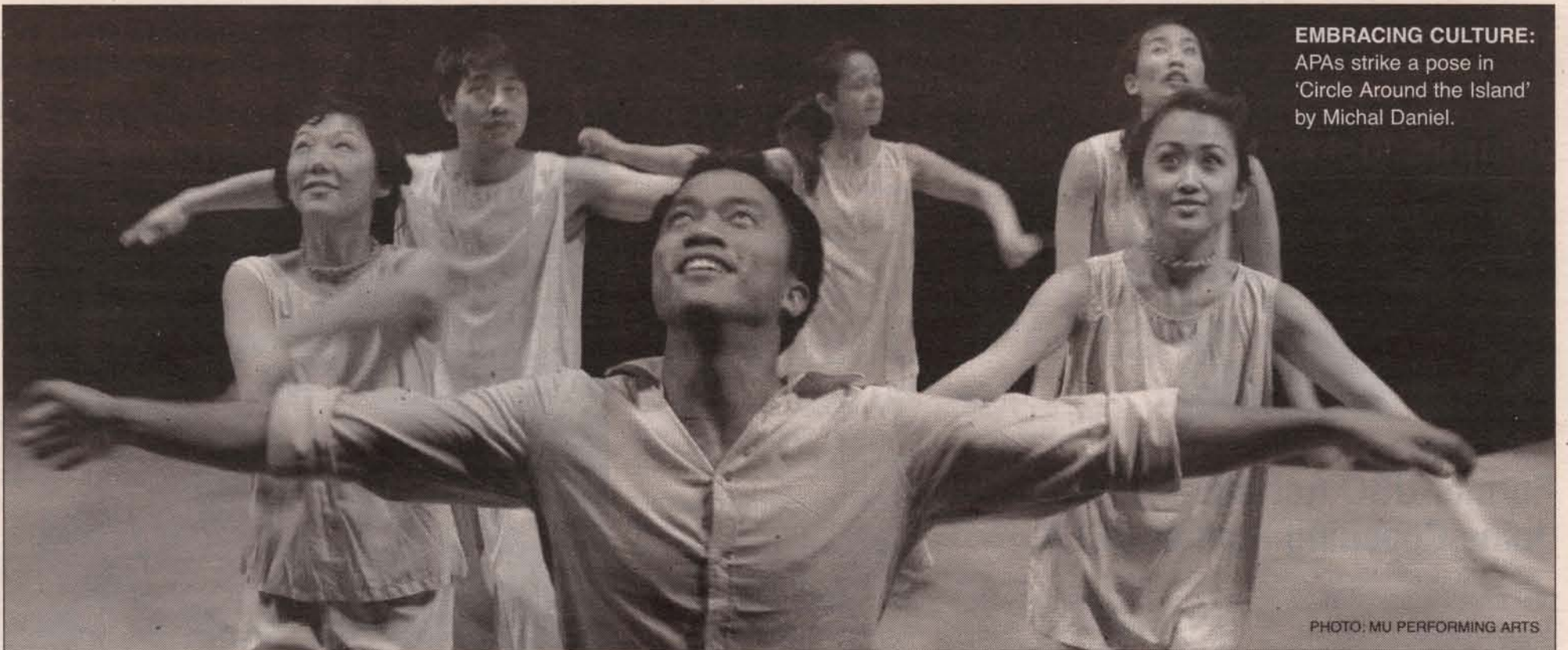
And that's something about which we can be very proud and truly celebrate. ■

*John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director*

'... our actions and efforts 20 years past were meant for the future.'







**EMBRACING CULTURE:**  
APAs strike a pose in  
'Circle Around the Island'  
by Michal Daniel.

PHOTO: MU PERFORMING ARTS

# Growing APA Theater in the Midwest

**Rick Shiomi helms the fourth largest APA theater company in the U.S. in a state where ice fishing is a favorite pastime.**

By **LYNDA LIN**  
Assistant Editor

While plumbing the icy Minnesota waters for a catch, a couple reels in a surreal surprise — a giant Walleye fish carrying a young Korean girl, who grows up with dissonant questions about her own identity.

Where did she come from? How does she fit in within the social framework of *Minnesota*?

It's this same feeling of disconnect that Rick Shiomi felt when he settled in the North Star state a decade ago.

Shiomi, a Sansei playwright originally from Canada, penned "Walleye Girl" a decade ago to help fertilize the Midwest's barren theater landscape with an Asian Pacific American perspective. Now with the revival of "Walleye Girl," Shiomi finds the view has improved.

His Mu Performing Arts is now the fourth largest APA theater company in the United States.

"We're really feeding the entire theater scene here in the Twin Cities," said Shiomi, the company's artistic director.

"Walleye Girl," which recently opened to positive reviews at the Ordway Center's 300-plus seat McKnight Theatre, is an adaptation of the Japanese classical fable of "Peach Boy," the story of an older couple who finds their adoptive son in the center of the giant fruit. What would happen if the story took place in Minnesota where many Korean adoptees live?

"Seeing yourself onstage is an important part of theater," said Shiomi. "It's important to have audience members say there lies my experience up there rendered in artistic form."

Shiomi broke into the world of theater as a playwright alongside other APA theater luminaries like Philip Kan Gotanda and David Henry Hwang. After penning a series of successful plays like "Yellow Fever," Shiomi visited the Twin Cities in the early 1990s to speak about APA theater at a local university. During

his stay, he met his future wife and eventually settled in the Twin Cities.

"When I came to Minnesota, there was an initial sense of what am I going to do here?" said Shiomi about the bleak APA theater scene. "At that time, it was hard to imagine an Asian American theater company here. It was kind of a dream in a sense."

There were a number of artistic groups that specialized in Chinese and Japanese traditional dance, but they were really insular with no desire to break out broader with a mainstream audience, he said.

By that time, Shiomi knew his love of theater stretched far beyond penning words. He loved the earthy feeling of painting the backdrops and designing the sets, so in 1992 when a graduate student approached Shiomi with the idea to start an APA theater group, he jumped onboard.

"Mu," (pronounced MOO) is the Korean pronunciation of the Chinese character for the shaman warrior who connects heaven and earth through the tree of life. In its infancy, Shiomi struggled to find APA talent, but with steady growth over the years, the company had to change its name from Theater Mu to Mu Performing Arts to encompass its popular taiko group.

These days, Mu presents four shows a year ranging from Shakespeare to comedy blending Asian and Western cultures and mixing it up with a powerful taiko performance.

This year, after "Walleye Girl," Mu is hosting its spring show starting in May and the National Asian American Theater Conference — a gathering of over 20 ethnic theater companies — in June.

"Sometimes it's hard to sit and look back through the whole thing. In the last 15-16 years, you realize how gradually the pool of actors, playwrights, directors and staff members has grown.

"Fifteen years later, I feel like we have a promising young group of actors. Most are under 35, trained at university theater programs with enough experience to be on any stage in North America," said Shiomi.

He attributes Mu Performing Arts' success to their ability to capture the attention of Minnesota's largest APA population — recent immigrants.



SHIOMI

Even with Mu's exponential growth, Shiomi is still dedicated to outreach and developing new talent. He's dealing with a uniquely Midwest "brain drain" of artists and actors eventually wanting to break into the "big time" in New York and Los Angeles instead of staying in Minnesota.

He's hoping future playwrights follow his lead and dig deep roots in the place that offered the most opportunity.

For now even as a powerful theater company, Shiomi offers an opportunity found nowhere else — training no matter your experience.

"I'm interested in those people," he said.

In other words, if you call Shiomi with interest in theater even if your only experience is a high school play, chances are he will call you back — a golden opportunity in Minnesota, Los Angeles or anywhere in the world. ■

**For more information:**

[www.muperformingarts.org](http://www.muperformingarts.org)  
[www.myspace.com/muperformingarts](http://www.myspace.com/muperformingarts)

**Video: One of Mu Performing Arts' acting workshops:**  
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=ES-VjJs4qEA>

*.....*  
*'Fifteen years later, I feel like we have a promising young group of actors ... with enough experience to be on any stage in North America.'*  
*.....*

## The Making of a Pacific Citizen

a memoir by Hugh Burluson (Lake Washington JACL chapter)



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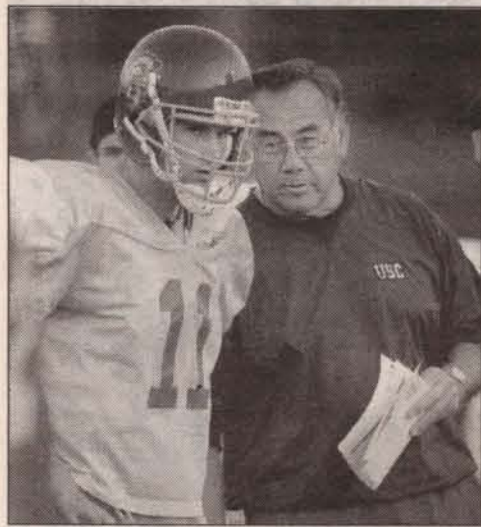
- How a *haoli* GI in Japan got on the receiving end of Oriental Exclusion, but kept pushing until he could take his Japanese bride to the USA,

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Norm Chow (right) has groomed Heisman winners Matt Leinart (left), Carson Palmer and Ty Detmer. He returns to the college ranks after serving as the offensive coordinator for the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

AP PHOTO

## FOOTBALL

### Former USC Assistant Norm Chow Joins Coaching Staff at UCLA

LOS ANGELES—Norm Chow, who tutored a pair of Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks at Southern California, is returning as offensive coordinator at crosstown rival UCLA.

Chow, fired recently by the Tennessee Titans, joins the staff of coach Rick Neuheisel, the former Bruins quarterback who took the job in December.

"I've always admired his work," Neuheisel said. "You don't have to look far into the stats to see this guy can diagram and call plays. If anybody in college football has done better, I'm not aware of it."

"I think UCLA deserves the best."

The 61-year-old Chow said he enjoyed working at USC, where one of his sons graduated and another is still in school.

"It's a unique place and obviously Pete (Carroll) has done a great job. We'll still have that same respect — except for Saturday afternoon," Chow said during a recent conference call.

Neuheisel, noting that he attended law school at USC, added, "Our goal is to get to where they are, among the elite in the country."

Before coming to USC and working with Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart, Chow groomed Heisman winner Ty Detmer at BYU. His coaching resume includes six quarterbacks who were first-round picks in the NFL: Palmer, Leinart, Philip Rivers, Jim McMahon, Steve Young and Marc Wilson.

UCLA quarterback Ben Olson was considered one of the top prospects in the nation when he came out of high school, but he has yet to live up to his billing with the Bruins.

"I remember Pete saying he was one of the best in the country," Chow said, recalling when he was on the Trojans' staff and Olson was in high school in Thousand Oaks, Calif. "I did get a chance one summer to see him at a camp and he looked awfully good."

"I'm looking forward to not only working with him, but the other quarterbacks as well. I remember (Patrick) Cowan from recruiting as well."

Olson, who was 13 when he first met Chow at a football camp, said he was "thrilled to death" that he's com-

See NORM CHOW/page 12

## TENNIS

### French Open Champion Michael Chang Elected to Tennis Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, R.I.—French Open winner Michael Chang was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, and IMG creator Mark McCormack and Tennis Week magazine founder Eugene Scott were selected posthumously, it was announced Jan. 23.

The induction ceremony is scheduled for July 12 at the International Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum.



Chang was only 17 when he won the 1989 French Open — the youngest male player to win a Grand Slam title. He was the first U.S. champion at the clay-court Grand Slam since Tony Trabert in 1955.

Chang's run to the French Open title included a memorable five-set upset of No. 1 Ivan Lendl in the fourth round, when a cramping Chang resorted to underhand serves. He defeated Stefan Edberg in the final.

Chang reached No. 2 in the rankings in 1996, finished runner-up three times at Grand Slam tournaments and won 34 singles titles. ■

## FIGURE SKATING

### Nagasu Becomes Second Youngest to Win U.S. Women's Title at Age 14

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Mirai Nagasu became the second youngest winner of the women's title in U.S. Championships figure skating history Jan. 26.

The 14-year-old, who stands just 4' 11" is too young to qualify for March's world championships, as skaters must be 15 by the previous July.

Rachael Flatt, who finished second, missed the cutoff by three weeks and will have to sit the worlds out, too.

Ashley Wagner finished third and is eligible for worlds. She and Bebe Liang were selected for the world team along with Kimmie Meissner, whose stunning decline continued with a seventh-place finish.

"I'm not necessarily disappointed about not being able to go to worlds," said Nagasu, who will go to the junior world championships. "I definitely don't think I'm ready for anything that high yet."

Nagasu won the junior title as an unknown last year — she'd never even made it as far as the final qualifier before.

She skated with a breeziness that enchanted the audience and the judges. Only Tara Lipinski in 1997



Mirai Nagasu carries flowers, her medal, and a flag, after winning the ladies figure skating championship at the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in St. Paul, Minn.

AP PHOTO/TOM OLMSCHIED

was younger when she won the title, and the Olympic gold medalist only has Nagasu beaten by about a month.

Skating to "Coppelia," the story of a doll that comes to life, Nagasu fell on her opening jump, a double axel, but quickly regrouped.

"The fall on the double axel was

like a kick in the butt," she said. "After that, I was like, 'Attack!'"

She landed six triple jumps, three in combination, and showed great stamina by picking up speed as the program went along. ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff



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**ELECTIONS**

(Continued from page 1)

backdrop for controversy when APAs were excluded from a live national Democratic presidential debate on minority issues. The snub enraged APA leaders and resurrected age-old concerns about invisibility and recognition, but it also raised another question: Is the APA community doing enough to assert itself in the political arena?

**APA Amnesia**

"Yes, the Asian American community representing 200,000 prominent members of Nevada were ignored," said Dr. S.E. Elia, a member of the Asian American Group of Las Vegas.

The Jan. 19 Nevada caucus was touted as the first stop for the presidential candidates to win the West, but it was also the first stop for APA voters to make an electoral impact. Nevada's APA population ranks sixth in the nation, according to APIAVote, a national APA organization.

But Nevada's Jan. 15 MSNBC "Black and Brown" debate, which was co-sponsored by African American and Latino groups, initially did not have any APA participation or representation. When APA groups complained, a recognition rally was organized — like a post-script — with local leaders including Rep. Berkley.

In contrast, MSNBC reached out early to 100 Black Men of America, Inc. to get involved in the minority issues debate. This was the first presidential debate the organization cosponsored, said Telain Ware, their marketing consultant. All of the

sponsoring organizations were asked to submit questions for the candidates, so 100 Black Men submitted five questions collected from their membership on issues including education, health disparities and economic development for minority ventures. Only one of their questions made it on air.

"We would've liked to have more of our issues addressed," said Ware.

Comparatively, no APA-specific questions were addressed. And to add insult to injury, APA community leaders, complaining about the poor sound quality in their assigned seats in the last rows of the Cashman Theatre, eventually walked out of the debate, according to Elia.

Critics were quick to blame the Nevada Democratic Party and MSNBC, who did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment. But the social amnesia when it comes to APAs is not just isolated to this one Nevada incident — the Iowa Black and Brown Presidential Forum has been a tradition for six years.

The exclusion of APA issues in the presidential debates concerns Jenn Fang, author of Reappropriate.com.

"Wow, Hillary Clinton included 'Asian Americans' in her 'those most impacted by high home foreclosures' response. We exist!" quipped Fang in her live blog session of the MSNBC minority issues debate.

"I think the [Asian Pacific Islander American] community should strongly work towards organizing a debate specifically geared towards the Asian American community, or to work closely with the Black and Brown Presidential Forums to include Asian American



**MOBILIZATION:** APAs gathered at the Nevada office of presidential candidate Barack Obama during caucus day to encourage APAs to vote.

PHOTO: BESSIE CHU

issues," said Fang to the P.C.

She admits, however, that an APA centered debate is still many years away from becoming a reality.

"Unfortunately, there is still a misperception in American politics that Asians vote rarely and vote White. Before politicians will truly take our issues seriously, we must demonstrate our political strength," she added.

In an election year where the bipartisan message seems to be change, what can APAs do to cure this selective amnesia?

**'We're not doing enough.'**

Many APA community leaders continue to stress the importance of voting registration and grassroots campaigns to get out the vote — after all, politics is like a game of numbers used to strategically bend the ears of your politicians to your causes.

In Las Vegas, the JACL chapter sent reminders out to their members to flex their votes on caucus day.

But determining a "flagship" APA

issue in the diverse communities seems to also be a nebulous feat. Some APA groups have pushed immigration into the forefront of debate while others underscore the importance of affirmative action and employment discrimination.

For Delwayne Arakaki, the president of the Las Vegas JACL, his issues in determining the next president are not necessarily APA specific. They are "what's on everyone's minds" — the economy, homeland security and the war in Iraq.

Arakaki, who is retired from the military and currently working as a government contractor, was registered as an Independent, but changed his party affiliation to Republican last year for this election.

Some APA leaders point out that while there are many APA groups that are committed to voter registration and voting drives, what's lacking are APA organizations and news sources that are willing to endorse candidates and take stances on specific election issues — which are prevalent in other ethnic communi-

ties. It's a problem that Nakagawa believes is still culturally influenced. "In the Asian community, we don't talk about politics as a family, in the church or among peers so how does it start?"

Others say the APA community is not doing enough to inject APA issues into the national presidential dialogue.

"We're not doing enough," said Don T. Nakanishi, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles and director of the Asian American Studies Center. He pointed out that APA lawmakers in Washington, D.C. who have endorsed the leading presidential candidates need to better advise the candidates on the communities' extensive issues of concern.

"[Los Angeles] Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is the chair for Clinton's national campaign and he's also one of the most prominent Latino politicians. He went to Iowa. He went to New Hampshire and he's here in California," said Nakanishi. "He was asked [by reporters] why we are doing this and he said it was for the potential benefits that it might bring to Los Angeles."

"Do you see an Asian American doing the same?"

"We'll see," added Nakanishi. "When we really get to the November general elections, we'll see how Asian American issues are still in play and in what way they are." ■

**On the Web**  
[www.reappropriate.com](http://www.reappropriate.com)  
[www.lvjacl.org](http://www.lvjacl.org)  
[www.asianamericangrouplv.com](http://www.asianamericangrouplv.com)

**P.C. Readers: TalkBack**

On Feb. 5 or 'Super Tuesday,' over 20 states are scheduled to hold primary or caucus elections. What APA specific issue will help you determine who to vote for?

E-mail your responses to [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

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**ENDOW RESIGNS**  
 (Continued from page 1)

"Edwin has shown great dedication and commitment to the JACL. He has given many years of service as well as financial support to the JACL," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We appreciate his initiative and hard work in enhancing membership features for the JACL and in encouraging increased membership in the organization."

Endow lives in Stockton, California, where he and his family serve as leaders in the Stockton JACL chapter. He has long been a strong supporter of the JACL and is a charter member of JACL's Millenium Club. He consistently supports the JACL and has been on the Wall of Fame for the *Pacific Citizen* as a top donor to the JACL newspaper.

Oda will be appointing a successor to Endow by or at the next national board meeting which will be held Feb. 9 in Los Angeles, California. ■

## 100TH BATTALION

(Continued from page 1)

go through the footage frame by frame and I was also able to see him in groups of soldiers running through the obstacle course."

For the past several years Tim has spent much of his spare time collecting the stories, momentos, and artifacts from his father's life as an American soldier, including the historical footage of the 100th Battalion. He's also found a rather unique way to pay tribute to his late father.

As a member of the California Historical Group (CHG) — a non-profit that uses live reenactments to honor the WWII soldiers — Tim has created a unit depicting the battles and experiences of the famed 100th Battalion, a unit in which his father proudly served.

After the death of Henry this past September, these tributes have become an important way to honor his father's life.

"The reason for doing the 100th Battalion was to honor my father," said Tim. Reenactments are "an effort to understand what happened to my father and why he became the person he was."

"After all I created this to help carry on the memory in a very visual way for future generations and hopefully to get them involved in a hands on method. It's not about reenacting any longer. It's about 'living history.'"

### A History Buff in the Making

As a child, Tim had just about every toy soldier Army play set available at the time and he would spend hours recreating battles and war scenes. This may have been the first sign of Tim's lifelong interest in WWII history.

In later years, Tim — a chief financial officer living in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. — would sit for hours reading WWII books at the library and he eventually got into



Henry Kano (above) is featured in historical footage of the 100th.

Tim shares a laugh with his late parents Henry and Jean (left).

building models and table top war gaming. Reenactments — where "you sleep in the field, wear the clothes, engage the enemy in fire-fights and get in 'character'" — are a culmination of his interest in WWII history.

Although Tim, like his brothers, had wanted to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces, Henry was adamant that none of his five children would ever see war firsthand.

"My father was staunchly patriotic, but did not want any of us to have to go through what he did. As a consequence, since I couldn't join the Armed Forces I became a military historian of WWII mostly."

Although Henry rarely spoke about his wartime experiences with his family, he would often reminisce about his days as a soldier when he got together with his war buddies. Young Tim would make sure he was in earshot of these gatherings, often going unnoticed by the group of men. And it was during these moments that he learned about many of his father's WWII experiences.

"It was quite unusual and they would talk a lot, reminisce and there was a bit of crying involved on occasion. Group therapy I suppose you would call it today."

Over the years, Tim has documented his father's wartime stories, writing various essays and posting photos on his Web site (<http://kanowarrior.tripod.com/actionfiguresatwar/id7.html>). Henry's stories included the time he was fishing in a stream in Italy when sudden-

ly there was machine gun fire and his buddy was shot dead. There was also the JA soldier who left the hospital before he had fully recovered so he could rejoin the fighting alongside his buddies. He died soon after.

"I vividly recall the tears coming down [my father's] cheeks as he recalled this soldier being driven away, lying on a stretcher on a jeep, never to be seen again alive," said Tim. "It makes me cry just to recall seeing the emotions on my father's face as he would tell me this, his eyes tearing up."

### CHG's 100th Battalion Unit

Henry's wartime stories stay with Tim as he participates in WWII reenactments with the California Historical Group, an organization he has been involved with since the early 1980s. The memories Henry passed down are especially poignant now that Tim has started the 100th Battalion Unit within the CHG.

The 100th, along with the 133rd, make up the 36th Infantry Division Unit with the CHG. So far there are more than 20 members with Asian American members making up about one-third of the unit. The group hopes to expand its numbers so the story of the 100th Battalion can eventually be told through living history, parades and shows, in addition to reenactments.

Tim is hopeful that his efforts to keep the story of the 100th Battalion alive will encourage the children and grandchildren of other JA WWII vets to start archiving and recording

the vets' stories before they are lost.

"40,000 stories and we will probably be lucky if 400 are remembered," he said. "If what little is not documented now it will be lost forever. We have a duty to our generations to come to make sure they are not."

Although Henry was a reluctant hero, his passing on Sept. 22, 2007, at the

age of 93, is not the end of his story. Tim wants to ensure his legacy lives on not only for his own two daughters and grandchildren but for all those who have yet to hear about the legacy of the 100th Battalion.

"The 442nd veterans are being lost to history. My grandson who is three now will never know what his great grandfather was like although my father delighted in his visits. I need something to pass onto him or his children someday or all will be forgotten," said Tim.

"I worry about that sometimes. I feel my father led an incredible life ... What he did touched the lives of an entire culture. I can only hope for a fraction of what he did in my own lifetime. His life really meant something for generations to come." ■

For information on the 100th Battalion Unit of the California Historical Group: [www.442ndrct.com](http://www.442ndrct.com).

trio a partnership, a startup company and "the sky's the limit."

Karl Dorrell was fired as the Bruins' coach Dec. 3 after they went 6-6. Walker served as interim coach in a 17-16 Las Vegas Bowl loss to BYU.

Chow was the Titans' offensive coordinator for three years and credited with helping Vince Young make the transition to the pro game. The Titans finished 10-6 and made the playoffs for the first time since 2003, losing 17-6 to San Diego in an AFC wild-card game.

But Tennessee ranked 21st in the league in total offense and became the first team with only nine touchdown passes to reach the playoffs in a 16-game season.

Chow, a native of Honolulu who played guard at Utah in the 1960s, served under Carroll at USC for four seasons, including two national championship years. Prior to that, he worked with Rivers at North Carolina State following 27 years on the BYU staff.

He said one big benefit of coming to UCLA is rejoining his family after his stint in Nashville.

"Instead of coming back to an empty hotel room, I'll come home to my family," he said.

Chow laughed and added, "I've been home for a week and I think I'm driving my wife crazy."

Terms of his contract with UCLA will not be announced until they are finalized. ■

## NORM CHOW


(Continued from page 10)

ing to UCLA and added, "I'm going to find out where he is so I can go and deliver some flowers to him."

Both Chow and UCLA defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker, friends for more than two decades, were candidates for the Bruins' head coaching job that went to Neuheisel. Now they're on his staff.

Asked about the pair being considered for the head coaching post, Neuheisel said, "I think it speaks volumes about the two guys. DeWayne and I have forged a relationship of mutual respect, and he got involved with talking to Norm."

Neuheisel said he considers the

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Japanese American  
Citizens League

**LITTLE TOKYO**  
(Continued from page 1)

importantly, eligibility for special federal grants to support historic preservation.

In 2008, nearly \$7.5 million is available for Preserve America grants. Watanabe is hoping to use the grant money to better market Little Tokyo. He sees opportunities to improve foot traffic and revitalize cultural tourism.

Today, only a part of Little Tokyo is recognized as a National Historic Landmark. In 1995, the north side of First Street, which includes 13 buildings starting from the old Japanese Union Church (now the East West Players theater) to the old site of the Nishi Hongwanji temple, is registered as a National Historic Landmark. Two plaques located at each end of the street indicate where landmark status begins and ends.

The Preserve America historic designation would encompass the entire neighborhood. Community leaders say it's an important move because Little Tokyo's rich history stretches far beyond its current four city blocks.

The 123-year-old neighborhood is the birthplace of the California sushi

roll and the place where Japanese American families returning home after World War II internment were served hot meals at the Far East Café and allowed to pay later — whenever they could. It's also home to Fugetsu-Do, where the fortune cookie was invented and three generations of the Kito family sold fresh *manju*.

The confectionary store has been a Little Tokyo mainstay since 1903 where current Fugetsu-Do owner Brian Kito still follows the "old-timer" business tradition of standing in front of his store to greet his customers and make sure everything is okay on the street.

"My father used to do the same thing!" said Kito with a laugh. "We look at Little Tokyo from the outside in."

With over 100 years in the community, Kito still hears personal stories from new customers who talk about their grandparents' affinity for the store.

Little Tokyo's history is not just limited to what is documented in books, he said. "It's from the experiences through the eyes of people like me."

Personal histories like these are what community leaders say are in

danger of being lost forever.

At its peak, Little Tokyo was home to about 30,000 JAs. Over the years, the neighborhood and its people have endured much hardship from internment to riots and present-day redevelopment threats.

The danger of a community disappearing completely is prevalent, said Watanabe, who cites Los Angeles' Little Italy as an example. Little Italy was once a vibrant part of city life, but has now been completely replaced with another ethnic community — Chinatown.

"There's a plaque there, but no one or building or thing is there to talk about the legacy of the community," he said. "History was wiped out and forgotten."

Watanabe grew up in a San Fernando Valley suburb Northwest of Los Angeles with Japanese-speaking parents who would come to Little Tokyo to shop and dine.

When the first rumblings about historic preservation began over 10 years ago, Watanabe didn't see the point.

"I thought new was good. Why keep dirty, old buildings?"



**PRESERVED:** The north side of First Street is a National Historic Landmark.

He has since come 180 degrees.

"Mainstream America assumes JAs just got here," said Watanabe, who pointed out that many are surprised that Little Tokyo is over 100 years old.

The Preserve America neighborhood designation is especially important in light of the 2006 sale of Little Tokyo's New Otani Hotel and Weller Court to 3D Investments, a private Beverly Hills, Calif.-based real estate developer. In 2006, 3D also purchased two hotels in San Francisco's Japantown galvanizing the local JA community to demand

accountability for preservation.

Many community members are willing to put up an initial fight, but the passion does not sustain, said Kito.

"As generations go on, people forget about the hardship that Little Tokyo has endured, so they don't appreciate it as much until it's being threatened. When it's being threatened, it's being threatened for a reason ... because it's vulnerable," said Kito, who is sponsoring a March 30 showing of Soji Kashiwagi's musical play "Nihonmachi: The Place to Be" for the Little Tokyo community.

The Preserve America community status won't protect Little Tokyo from future development, but it's a step in the right direction to send a clear message that there is history and heritage to maintain, said Watanabe.

LTSC has completed the Preserve America application on behalf of the Little Tokyo Community Council, who will submit it for the March deadline. The application is waiting for signatures from Councilwoman Jan Perry and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Perry's office is drafting a letter of support for inclusion in the application, according to her spokesperson.

Currently, there are 15 Preserve America communities in California, but no APA ethnic communities. If Little Tokyo wins this distinction, it may be among the first — Los Angeles' Chinatown is also applying for the historic community designation.

"The community is changing, but we can't disregard the importance of a place like Little Tokyo," said Craig Ishii, JACL Pacific Southwest regional director. "It's hard to see the historical roots amongst the new condos and apartments but this physical community was the heart of the Japanese American community for decades. Historic recognition of the community is simply another way of keeping that history and that heart alive." ■

**American Holiday Travel**  
2008 Tour Schedule

- 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, Hagi, 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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- 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** - ALMOST SOLD OUT
- Sept. 27 NYC - Boston - Nova Scotia - Canada - Prince Edward Isl. Cruise** - 12 Days - From \$1976 - SPACE LIMITED -NCL.
- Oct. 13 Hokkaido & Tohoku "Fall Foliage Time"** 11 Days \$3895 Sapporo-Sounkyo Gorge-Sahoro-Ainu Village-Lake Toya - Hakodate-Aomori-Lake Towada-Hachimantai-Matsushima-Sendai-Tokyo.
- Oct. 20 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan"** 11 Days-\$3795-Tokyo-Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Daizen-Osaka.
- Nov. 3 Fall Japan Classic "Intro to Japan"** 11 Days-\$3695-Tokyo-Takayama-Nara-Kobe-Okayama-Takahashi-Hiroshima-Miyajima-Shodo-Kyoto.
- Nov. 11 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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# Calendar

## National

### SALT LAKE CITY

**July 16-20**—2008 JACL National Convention; Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown, 75 South West Temple. Info: [www.utjacl.org](http://www.utjacl.org).

## East

### NEW YORK

**Feb. 20-21, 23-24**—Premiere, "Passing Poston: An American Story"; 7 p.m.; Pioneer Theater, 155 E. Third St.; documentary tells the story of four former internees. Info: [www.passing-poston.com](http://www.passing-poston.com).

### TOWSON, Mass.

**Feb. 9-Mar. 28**—Exhibition, "Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands"; Asian Arts Gallery, Center for the Arts, Towson University; exhibition focuses on ancient bronzes from Asian grasslands that were home to ancient cultures; Mon.-Fri. 11-4 p.m., Sat. 1-4 p.m.; Curator's Talk, Feb. 9, 2 p.m. Opening Reception, Feb. 9, 3 p.m. Info: 410/704-2807 or [www.towson.edu/asianarts](http://www.towson.edu/asianarts).

## Midwest

### CENTERVILLE, Ohio

**Sun., Feb. 17**—Cincinnati-Dayton JACL Joint Installation Dinner; 4 p.m.; China Cottage, 6290 Far Hills Ave.; guest speaker, John Tateishi; \$30/person. RSVP by Feb. 3.

### CONWAY, Ark.

**Through Feb. 21**—Exhibition, "Return of the Yellow Peril: A Survey of the Work of Roger Shimomura (1969-2007)"; gallery hours, Mon.-Fri. 10-5 p.m., Thurs. 10-7 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.; Baum Gallery at the University of Central Arkansas; exhibit features



The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center's exhibit, 'Passing the Fan,' highlights the teachers of traditional Japanese dance.

63 works by Shimomura.

### DENVER

**Sat., Feb. 16**—Tribute, "Remembering Bill Hosokawa"; 2 p.m.; Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver, 2344 East Iliff Ave.

**Sat., Feb. 23**—Mile Hi JACL-OCA Annual Chinese New Year Banquet; 6 p.m.; Palace Restaurant, 6265 E. Evans; \$39/person. RSVP: Richard Hamai, 303/839-9637.

**July 3-6**—Conference, "Whose America? Who's American? Diversity, Civil Liberties and Social Justice"; commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the conference will examine the connections between the WWII JA experience and the historical and contemporary issue surrounding democracy and civil rights. Info:

[www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

### HOUSTON

**Sun., Feb. 24**—Lunar New Year Houston; 3-7 p.m.; Viet HOA Center at Beltway Plaza, 8300 W. Sam Houston Pkwy. South; celebrate the Year of the Rat with Lion and Dragon dances; free. Info: Glenda Joe, 713/861-8270.

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

**Through April 27**—Exhibit, "Passing the Fan"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center; exhibit features Oregon's master teachers of traditional Japanese dance; \$3 admission, free to ONLC members. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458.

## Northern California

### OAKLAND

**Sun., Feb. 3**—Berkeley JACL Installation; 11-1 p.m.; Fenton, 4226

## 2008 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

### ELK GROVE

**Sat., Feb. 23**—Northern California Time of Remembrance "From Enemy Aliens to Kokomo Joe: World War II Internment Stories"; 1-3 p.m.; Mary Tsukamoto Elementary School, 8737 Brittany Park Dr.; John Christgau, a lecturer and author of novels will give a presentation on the incarceration of Japanese Americans, Italian Americans, German Americans and Latin Americans. Info: 916/427-2841, 916/447-0231, 209/478-2499 or [www.johnchristgau.com](http://www.johnchristgau.com). Sponsored by the Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL.

### FRESNO

**Sun., Feb. 17**—Pardini's Restaurant, 2257 W. Shaw Ave.; 3 p.m. showing of "American Pastime" with commentary from Kerry Nakagawa, 5:30 reception, 6:30 dinner and program; presentation of Distinguished American Awards will be presented to Norman Mineta, Prof. James Hirabayashi and Justice James Ardaiz; JACL National Director Floyd Mori is the keynote speaker; \$50/person; RSVP by Feb. 9. Info: 559/431-4662 or [knethy@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:knethy@sbcbglobal.net).

### HONOLULU

**Sun., Mar. 2**—"Never Again: E.O. 9066 to Honouliuli"; 1-3:30 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; program will showcase the history and latest developments on the preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp; featuring Jeff Burton, Frank Hays, Gail Honda and Eric Yamamoto. Sponsored by JCCH, Honolulu JACL, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii and American Friends Service Committee Hawaii. Info: [www.jcch.com](http://www.jcch.com) or 808/945-7633.

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., Feb. 16**—"From the Commission Hearings to the Civil Liberties Act and Beyond ... Unleashing Community Voices: The Power of Grassroots Activism"; JANM, 369 E. First St.; 2 p.m. The program will look at how grassroots activism helped to make redress a reality

and how young people are applying the lessons from the redress campaign to current issues. In collaboration with NCRR, JACL PSW and JANM.

### MERCED

**Sat., Feb. 23**—Livingston-Merced JACL Day of Remembrance and 2008 Film Festival; UC Merced, 5200 North Lake Rd.; 2 p.m. screening of "American Pastime," Kerry Nakagawa will speak following the showing; 4:30-5 p.m. a panel of local Cortez Wildcats and Livingston Dodgers will share their experiences and memories of playing baseball in Camp Amache; 6 p.m. Day of Remembrance Banquet.

### NEW YORK

**Sat., Feb. 23**—Day of Remembrance 2008; 1-4 p.m.; Japanese American United Church; featuring the story of Seabrook, N.J. and the role it played to help JAs adjust to life outside of internment camps; former residents will share their experiences; candlelight ceremony and potluck dinner will follow; suggested donation, \$10.

### PHILADELPHIA

**Sun., Mar. 2**—Day of Remembrance 2008; Merion Friends Meeting, 615 Montgomery Ave., Merion; 2-4 p.m.; program includes the screening of "9066 - 911," and a discussion "Hate Crimes, Victim or Witness" led by Cliff Akiyama; free. Info: Cliff Akiyama, 267/235-9426.

### SAN JOSE

**Sun., Feb. 17**—28th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance, "20 Years After Redress: Civil Liberties and War"; 5:30 p.m.; San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th St.; featured speakers, Banafsheh Akhlaghi and Carolyn Kameya; also featuring a performance by San Jose Taiko and the traditional candlelight procession through Japantown. Info: [www.sjnoc.org](http://www.sjnoc.org) or 408/505-1186.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Sat., Feb. 23**—Day of Remembrance 2008; Meyer Auditorium in the Freer Gallery of Art; performers will read and perform, "Innocent When You Dream" a play by Ken Narasaki.

Piedmont Ave. Info: Al Satake, 925/254-9589.

**Sun., Feb. 10**—JASEB crab Feed and Drawing; 4 p.m. first seating, 5:30 p.m. second seating; Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., 2nd Floor; \$30/each, 2 for \$55 or \$35 at the door. Info: JASEB, 510/848-3560.

## Southern California

### GARDEN GROVE

**Tue., Feb. 5**—California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) Grant Application Workshop; 1-3 p.m.; Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave. Info: [www.library.ca.gov/grants/cclpep](http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/cclpep).

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., Feb. 2**—Discussion, "Neglected Legacies: Japanese American Women and Redress"; 2 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; the Reconsidering Roots panel will feature three authors of biographies of Nisei women; Sharon Yamato (Michi Weglyn), Joy Morimoto (Sox Kitashima) and Diana Bahr (Sue Embrey) will be on hand. Info: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

### RIVERSIDE

**Sat., Feb. 23**—Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon; noon; Riverside Golf Club, 1011 N. Orange St.; \$20/person; program includes the screening of "Riverside Stories of Internment and Return." Info: Irene Ogata, [iogata@yahoo.com](mailto:iogata@yahoo.com) or Dolly Ogata, 951/684-7962.

### WEST COVINA

**Sun., Feb. 10**—Yoshie Sato and Friends Variety Show; 2 p.m.; ESGVJCC gymnasium; entertainment includes singers, dancers, magic and more; benefits the Center's Social Hall campaign; \$30/donation. Info: Pearl Omiya, 626/960-2566 or [info@esgvjcc.org](mailto:info@esgvjcc.org) or Yoshie Sato, 323/254-4185.

## Arizona

### TEMPE

**Sat., Feb. 9**—Examining the Japanese American Experience from the Baseball Diamond; 8-4 p.m.; Arizona Historical Society Museum, 1300 N. College Ave.; \$37.60/person; fee includes JACL curriculum and resource guide, Diamonds in the Rough: Baseball and Japanese American Internment curriculum guide, continental breakfast and bento lunch; workshop features Kerry Yo Nakagawa, founder and director of the Nisei Baseball Research Project, breakout sessions, lesson plans and classroom resources and a panel with former Gila River internees and Islamic Community representatives. Register at [acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevalID=146923](http://acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevalID=146923).

## Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Oct. 14-16**—2008 Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; reunion is open to anyone who was in Junior High or High School in Manzanar between 1942 and 1945; relatives and friends are also invited; events include a mixer, slot tournament, photos and memory books; Manzanar rangers will participate with displays and presentations. Info: Cherry Uyeda, 818/981-2629, Grace Deguchi, 310/968-1666, Michi Osaki, 323/463-5143, Venice area: Kats Marumoto, 310/836-3565, Gardena: Jun Okimoto, 310/372-7133, Maryknoll: Seigo Yoshinaga, 626/576-1196, and San Fernando Valley: Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

## Hawaii

### HONOLULU

**Sat.-Sun., Feb. 16-17**—Toshiko Takaezu: Public Sale of Works; 10-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St.; Takaezu will present a selection of more than 200 prized works for sale; free. Info: JCCH, 808/945-7633 or [www.jcch.com](http://www.jcch.com).

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# In Memoriam - 2007-2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.



Frank Baba (middle, back) was a key figure in establishing modern broadcasting in post-World War II Japan. Here he visits President John F. Kennedy and Mr. Maeda of NHK in the Oval Office.

**Baba, Frank Shozo, 93**, Los Angeles, Jan. 16; worked in the Office of War Information during WWII; awarded the Kun Santo, the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Emperor of Japan; survived by wife, Fumiye; son, Spencer; daughters, Carolyn Sillman and Susan Yamamoto; 4 g.c.; brothers, George and Takashi; and sister, Hiroko.

**Egusa, Michie, 84**, French Camp, Jan. 5; survived by husband, Morey; sons, Bob (Jeanne) and Jay; 2 g.c.; and sisters, Taye Takeda,

Masaye Matsumoto and Karen Sakamoto.

**Fujito, Nancy T., 86**, Weiser, Idaho, Dec. 24, 2007; survived by daughter-in-law, Linda Fujito; and brothers, Tadashi and Mas (Yuki) Miyamoto.

**Hirano, Mike Kiyoshi, 87**, Stockton, Dec. 16, 2007; survived by daughter, Sophia (Scott) Kallmann; and sons, James (Ayako) and Patrick.

**Hoashi, Roy S., 71**, Weiser, Idaho, Jan. 7; survived by mother,

Fumiko; brother, George and Ike (Debra); and sister, Charlotte Hirata.

**Itow, Hiroshi, 89**, San Jose, Dec. 29, 2007; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Karen Diddens, Laurie and Joanne Itow; sons, Gary and Gordon; 8 g.c.; and 4 ggc.

**Kamimoto, Yoshiko Tamura, 89**, San Juan Bautista, Nov. 8, 2007; survived by sons, David, Norman (Barbara Landolt) and Howard; 2 g.c.; and sister, Kimiko (Joe) Yamaguma.

**Kataoka, Charles M., 84**, Eagle, Idaho, Dec. 26, 2007; survived by son Richard (Gail); daughter, Joyce (Dana) McCarter; 3 g.c.; and sisters, Ruth Nishioka, Maxine Sawada and Shirley Kong.

**Matsui, Richard G. "Dick," 93**, Camarillo, Oct. 30, 2007; survived by son, Glenn (Nancy); daughters, May (Ron) Kato and Jeanne; 6 g.c.; 2 ggc.; brother, George (Virginia); brothers-in-law, Manabu (Namiye) Okada and Shigeru (Amy) Okada; and sisters-in-law, Masako Matsui and Blanche Okada.

**Mita, Kay, 84**, Spokane, Wash., Nov. 27, 2007; survived by wife, Shizuko; and son, Floyd.

**Nakahira, Shigeru "Shig," 87**, Madison, Wisc., Dec. 22, 2007; WWII veteran, 442nd; awarded the purple heart; Wisconsin JACLer; survived by sisters, Shizue Reynolds and Masaye Hara.

**Nakashima, Tomiyo, 83**, Lake

Forest, Jan. 6; survived by husband, Jimmie; son, Scott; daughter, Kristine; and sister, Yuriyo Tsuchiyama and Tsutayo Harada.

**Owada, John M., 80**, Salt Lake City, Nov. 14, 2007; survived by mother, Kiku Kanzaki; brothers, Ed and Saburo Sam Owada, Toru Saito, Walter and Ben, Hajime and Hikaru Kanzaki; and sisters, May Takashima and Haruko (Niles) Bruce.

**Sasaki, Frank T., 81**, Laguna Woods, Dec. 31, 2007; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Fusaye; daughters, Ellen (Wallace Raven) Sasaki and Laura (Harvey Arkin) Sasaki; son, David (Kelly); 2 g.c.; and brother, Eddie (Katherine).

**Takahashi, Toshie, 91**, Ontario, Ore., Jan. 7; survived by son, David (Beverly); 2 g.c.; 1 ggc.; sister, Rose Michigami; and brother-in-law, Hideo Takahashi.

**Tani, Mamoru, 88**, Fresno, Jan. 10; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Helen; daughters, Sharon (Michael) McCabe, Marsha (Paul) Auchard, Kathryn (Doug) Miller and Ellen (David) Shelby; sons,

Robin (Kathy) and Jon; and 2 g.c.

**Tsukamaki, Frank Itaru, 86**, Ontario, Ore., Jan. 9; survived by daughter, Janet (Jack) Shimatsu; sons, Ron (Gay), Don and Bruce (Janice); 4 g.c.; and sister, Mary Miyamoto.

**Yamaguchi, Dr. James, 58**, Jan. 3; survived by wife, Joyce; parents, Bud and Alice; sisters, Susan (Eugene) Wada and Nancy (Wesley) Yee; and brother, George (Mae).

**Yamashita, Masao, 92**, Caldwell, Idaho, Jan. 9; survived by wife, Rina; son, Ted; and daughters, Carol and Nancy. ■

**Whereabouts**  
This section runs on a space available basis at no charge.

**ROY ITO**  
The class of 1947 from Porterville High School in Central California is searching for their missing classmate. Mr. Ito attended the school during the 1946-47 academic year. With information please contact Renee Renouf Hall at reneerenouf@yahoo.com.

**DEATH NOTICE**  
**MORRIS SHOZO ABE**  
A funeral service for the late Morris Shozo Abe, 90, Seattle, Wash.-born Nisei resident of Camarillo, Calif., Counter Intelligence Corp. veteran of WWII, passed away Jan. 11, were held Jan. 19 at Fukui Mortuary in Los Angeles with Rev. Mark Nakagawa officiating.

Abe is survived by his loving wife, Cherry; a brother, Dr. Harry F. Abe, M.D. of New York; sisters-in-law, Esther Abe, Masako (George) Smith, and Sumire (Terry) Fujinaga; son, Ronald (Lola) Kimura and daughter, Barbara Kimura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in Japan.

**DEATH NOTICE**  
**HIROSHI "HOOTCH" OKUMURA**  
Hiroshi "Hootch" Okumura, 94, of Houston, Tex., passed away Dec.



16, 2007 after a brief illness. He was a long-time participant of J A N B A National Bowling Tournaments. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Chiyo "Cherry"; daughter, Elyn Okumura; and son-in-law, Reo Kataoka, Jr. Their son, Ray, predeceased his father in 1989 at the age of 45 in a boating mishap off of Galveston Bay. He was Manager of Architecture for Reliant Energy, formally Houston Lighting & Power. Hootch's wishes were to have his ashes tossed at his favorite fishing area in Wyoming and along Interstate-45 going to Colorado. He was a "Life gift" donor and Life member of JACL.

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**DEATH NOTICE**  
**MARIKO KOIDE**  
Mariko S. Koide passed away on Jan. 19, 2008 in El Cerrito, Calif. after a nearly year-long battle with cancer. She was born on Dec. 13, 1931, in Huntington Beach, Calif. She earned a BS in Mathematics from UC Berkeley in 1954, and married Jimmy Hiroshi Koide that same year. Mariko worked for many years as a computer programmer and systems analyst. Following retirement, she found her true passion for service as a volunteer for HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program). Mariko loved reading, writing, traveling, classical music, and spending time with her grandchildren. Mariko is survived by her loving husband, Jimmy Koide, four children (Wayne, Roger, Karen, and Teri), five grandchildren (Donald, Timothy, and Emma Koide, and Hana and Maia Culbreath), a sister (Suzushiro Nagata) and a brother (Joh Sekiguchi). In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to LAS/HICAP (<https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=13765>), or to the Alta Bates Summit Foundation (<http://www.absfdn.com/>). A memorial service celebrating the life of Mariko will be held on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at Christian Layman Church (Grand Avenue Seventh Day Adventist Church), 278 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610.

**DEATH NOTICE**

**RUTH N. TANBARA**  
Ruth N. Tanbara of St. Paul, formerly of Berkeley, CA, and Portland, Ore., died Jan. 4, 2008, at Afton, Minn., at age 100. Preceded in death by husband Earl K. Tanbara,

and brothers Paul Nomura and Howard Nomura. Ruth is survived by sister Elsie Shiozaki and brother-in-law Jack Shiozaki of Chicago; nieces, Judith Murakami, St. Paul; Joyce Brodt, Glenview, Ill.; June Wilke, Chicago, Ill.; Marilyn Olmstad, Blue Grass, Iowa; nephews, Philip Nomura, Minneapolis; Tom Kurihara, Arlington, Vir.; Erik J. Shiozaki, Lafayette, Calif.; sister-in-law, Emi Nomura, St. Paul, and many grand nieces and nephews. There will be no visitation. Interment at Lakewood Cemetery. Memorial Service is planned at Unity Unitarian Church, 732 Holly St, at Grotto St, St. Paul, Minn., on Sat., Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. No flowers. Memorials preferred to Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League (Earl K. Tanbara Scholarship Fund), Unity Unitarian Church, YWCA of Saint Paul, Japan America Society of Minnesota, and St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee. Ruth served on these boards or was an active member.



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**DEATH NOTICE**

**GEORGE YONEO SAITO**  
1912-2008  
Beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather passed away peacefully at Alta Bates Hospital (Berkeley) on Jan. 15, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Makimoto.  
A longtime Oakland resident, George was born in Elk Grove, Calif. and grew up in the Sacramento valley. He worked on many farms where he became known for his ability to repair anything and everything. He enjoyed fixing things but also liked to invent, create and build.  
George loved traveling to Sweden to visit with his daughter and son-in-law. His hobbies included photography, carpentry, fishing and telling fishing stories. He will be remembered as a friendly, caring man who had a wit and sense of humor second to none.  
George is survived by his children, Richard, Jeannette and Milton; daughters-in law, Dianne and Mary; son-in-law, Yngve; grandchildren, Denise, Marc and Michael; granddaughters-in-law, Kimberly and Brooke; great grandchildren, Jennifer, Melissa, Jacob, Atticus and Genevieve.  
A celebration of George's life will be held on Sat., Feb. 23rd. For information please call a family member.  
The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his memory to:  
Japanese American Services of the East Bay (JASEB)  
2126 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California 94704



**WATADA**

(Continued from page 2)

presence of coalition forces in Iraq," while 72 percent felt that "the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq" was "making security in our country" worse.

But is the occupation legal today? Members of the Administration might like to think so because it provides cover for privatizing the country's oil reserves (evident in the proposed oil law that was written by an oil executive working in the White House) and pleases ideologues who believe in American military domination of the Middle East.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki might like to think so because he requires American troops to prop up his weak and corrupt executive branch. The Iraqi legislative body or the elected representatives of the people might disagree however.

In 2006, Maliki requested the renewal of the UN Mandate without consulting with and gaining the approval of two-thirds of the parliament as required by the Iraqi Constitution. Outraged, a majority of Shiite and Sunni lawmakers joined together this past June and passed a binding resolution to affirm this constitutional provision.

Thereafter however, this resolution was not only ignored by Maliki, the Bush Administration, and mainstream American media, but by UN

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon — even after a letter signed by a majority of Iraqi parliamentarians was sent to convince him otherwise.

If Iraq's Ministers of Parliament are ever given their day in assembly, it is certain that a majority will vote for a timetable for withdrawal as a precondition to any renewal as they did in a non-binding resolution this past May. If they are denied a voice, it can be rest assured that with the majority of Iraq's elected officials cut out of the deliberative process and by extension a majority of the people, Iraqis will see no hope in political resolution to their problems — only armed ones. This almost ensures an endless cycle of violence and in turn, continued rhetoric for why we

**'But is the occupation legal today? Members of the Administration might like to think so ...'**

can never leave. I may not know much, but one thing is certain. Japanese American men and women did not sacrifice their lives and freedoms throughout history, so that today's leaders could invade and occupy another country, then strip the people of their democratic rights when it didn't suit their interests. To believe otherwise, is to bring dishonor upon their memory.

*First lieutenant Ehren Watada writes from Fort Lewis, Wash. Late last year a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in Watada's second court martial for refusing to deploy to Iraq. Watada believes the Iraq War is not only illegal but immoral.*

**MORI**

(Continued from page 2)

JACL President Larry Oda and EDC Gov. Kristine Minami, met with a core group of people in the Miami, Florida area who are interested in starting a new JACL chapter. Dennis Murasaki of the Southeast JACL chapter started the groundwork to establish this new chapter several years ago. Jose K. Fuentes, another JA also very active in the community, has been working with Dennis and national JACL officers and staff to begin this new JACL chapter in Florida.

This chapter will comprise many ethnicities, which is how I envision the JACL of the future. It is time for us to reach out to include and invite more of our non-JA and even non-Asian friends who may be interested in the same issues as other members

of the JACL to join our ranks.

Local chapters provide the opportunity to socialize and build relationships with like-minded people as well as help to support the national organization. The JACL welcomes the new Florida chapter and any other new chapters and members who are interested in joining the JACL.

As a side note, I would like to express my personal gratitude and the appreciation of the JACL to Edwin Endow, who has been serving diligently as vice president of membership

on the JACL national board for nearly four years. Edwin has found it necessary to resign from the board due to health reasons. Thank you, Edwin, for the dedicated service to the JACL which you and your family have given. ■

**JACL Works for You**

The following is a list of some of the programs national JACL is currently working on:

- Education • Hate Crimes • Civil Liberties
- Habeas Corpus • Camp Preservation • Immigration
- Health Disparities • Legislation • Membership
- Fundraising • Coalition Building
- Filipino Veterans Benefits • Hawaiian Sovereignty
- Japanese Latin Americans
- Nisei Vets Commemorative Stamp Campaign
- Youth Leadership and Empowerment
- 20th Anniversary of Redress
- District and Chapter Involvement
- Wash., D.C. Leadership Conference (Feb. 29-Mar. 4)
- National JACL Convention (July 16-21 in Salt Lake City)
- JACL Gala Dinner - Honoring Champions of Redress (Sept. 25 in D.C.)

**Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE) Presents 1st Annual Outstanding Woman of the Year Award**

Asian Sisters Participating In Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE) presents the first annual Outstanding Woman of the Year Award, recognizing young Asian Pacific American women who are leaders and role models in their communities.

The winner will be awarded at the 2008 ASPIRE Asian American Women in Leadership (AAWIL) Conference on April 26 at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. This year's keynote speakers include SuChin Pak, correspondent, MTV News and Kyung Yoon, vice chairman,

Heidrick & Struggles.

ASPIRE's Outstanding Woman of the Year Award will celebrate a female high school or college student of APA descent who is a proven leader with the initiative and determination to make a change in her community. ASPIRE is looking for young APA women who are role models for their community and is committed to ASPIRE's mission of empowerment.

To submit a nomination, visit ASPIRE's Web site. All entries must be received by March 1.

"We're very excited to create this award for young Asian American

women across the nation who are making a difference in their communities," said Grace Niwa, chair, ASPIRE.

The grand prize winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to Boston to attend the AAWIL Conference where she will receive the award from ASPIRE's high-profile keynote speaker, the opportunity to spend a day with an APA female mentor from ASPIRE's network and a profile in *Audrey Magazine*. ■

For more information [www.girlsaspire.org](http://www.girlsaspire.org)

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- June 12-24 National Parks & Canyons of Western USA
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- July 26- Aug. 8 Alaska Cruise & Land Tour - Celebrity Millennium
- Aug. 10-23 Moscow to St. Petersburg - "Waterways of the Czars"
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- Sept. 18-30 Spectacular Hokkaido
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