



APAs mourn police shooting victim Cho — PAGE 4

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Celebrating Redress

National JACL series on Redress continues with a feature on Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest director.

NATIONAL PAGE 3

#3096/ Vol. 146, No. 4 ISSN: 0030-8579

www.pacificcitizen.org

MAR. 7-20, 2008

As Groups are Poised to Expand Anti-Affirmative Action Measures, Where Do APAs Stand?

In November, voters in five states may decide on the future of the controversial program.

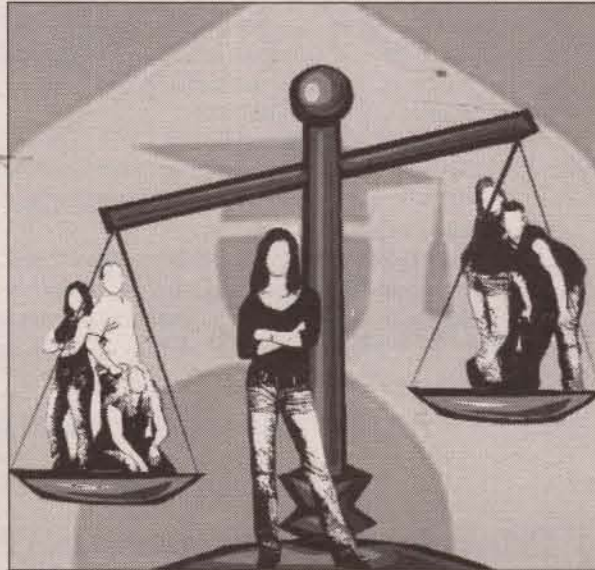
By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Jeremiah Tsang calls himself an athlete and a scholar. At his Maryland high school, Tsang's high academic achievements in the top two percent of his class coupled with some state track championships enticed all of his choice colleges to accept him with open arms — some even with promises of a full ride.

Tsang, 20, settled at the University of Maryland, College Park as an electrical engineer major. But along the way, he noticed a troubling trend — some African American and

Latino classmates with comparatively inferior qualifications were getting more scholarship money to go to the same college.

Outraged, Tsang did what most students do these days to unite under a common cause — he started a Facebook.com group called "Asians Against Affirmative Action." The group, which has attracted over 950 members from all over the United States, refers to a 2005 admission preference study of three prestigious private universities to support its statement that this type of diversity promotion does not advance equality. In this case, it actually hurts over-represented Asian Pacific American



students, according to the study.

"Diversity is good, but at what cost?" said Tsang, who is second generation Chinese American. "Promotion of diversity is a noble thing, but the ideal is not being carried out correctly."

It's a sentiment that is echoed by a group, led by former University of California regent Ward Connerly, hoping to capitalize on its successful anti-affirmative action campaigns in California, Washington and Michigan to end similar programs in five additional states come November.

Hanging in the balance are the academic futures of many underrepresented minority students.

See APAS STAND?/Page 11

Idaho Falls Business Owners, JACL Come Together to Fight Hate

Law officials say the bomb threats were just random prank calls.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

The anonymous calls started in early February, continued for almost three days and ended in a bomb threat. The callers used thick, stereotypical Asian accents to terrorize the owners of an Idaho Falls, Idaho coffee shop with six phone calls that were eventually tracked by the police.

They also left two recorded messages that ranged from disparaging to hostile.

"Herroo?" said the caller in one message. "I like dog ... I bomb your restaurant."

Police traced the calls to two ado-

lescent boys in northeast Idaho near the Montana border, said Gordon Venable, the owner of the Dancing Dogs coffee shop targeted in the phone calls. Because the perpetrators are minors, their identities have not been released.

Venable, 56, does not know why they chose his business — a coffee shop and gallery space for local

artists he owns with his wife Denise Glore located off of Highway 20 en route to Yellowstone National Park. He and his wife are not of Asian descent nor do they employ any Asian Pacific American workers.

What Venable does know is the difference between right and wrong, and that these boys messed with the

See HATE CRIME/Page 6

Scholarships Offer Financial Relief, Insight Into Community Leaders' Legacies

JACL's two new memorial scholarships can help more students cope with rising college costs.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

In life, Deni Uejima knew about pain — both the physical kind associated with his struggle with chronic bone infection and the emotional effects of his childhood internment at Gila River during World War II. But the former high school math teacher spent a lifetime educating those around him that strong minds could overcome weak bodies.

Even after his death last June at 73, his life's lesson is continuing to reach



Stevie Hatakeyama, 22, said her scholarship win last year made student life more bearable.

See SCHOLARSHIPS/Page 12

Legacy of Leadership
2008 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City

18 WEEKS
July 16-20
Coverage see Page 7

Anti-Asian Column Becomes Rallying Cry for Colorado's AA Student Community



University of Colorado at Boulder students take part in a peace rally to protest an anti-Asian column recently published in the school's newspaper.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE NGUYEN/ASIANPRESS.COM

A peace rally and a list of demands for the chancellor are just some of the actions taken by AA students protesting a racist column in the U. of Colorado at Boulder's student publication.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Chris Choe, 21, should be studying for his midterm exams right about now but instead he's busy helping organize a peace rally and preparing a list of demands for the chancellor — all this in response to the frenzy created by an anti-Asian column that has gripped the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) campus the past several days.

"If it's war the Asians want ... It's war they'll get" — an Opinion piece by student editor Max Karson calling for Asians to be rounded up, "hog tied" and made to perform demeaning acts — was published in CU's online student publication, the *Campus Press*, on Feb. 18.

The reaction from CU's Asian American students and from AAs across Colorado has been one of uniform anger and frustration. Dissatisfied with the school's response thus far, the students have now formed an organized coalition to press for further action including demanding the resig-

See ANTI-ASIAN COLUMN/Page 13

PACIFIC CITIZEN
250 E. FIRST ST., STE. 301, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

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Dancing Queen

Kristi Yamaguchi is trading her skates for dance shoes and reality TV.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Big Boy Choi

South Korean Seung Hoon Choi is a walk on for Univ. of Nebraska.

SPORTS PAGE 10



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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

Editorials, news and the opinions
expressed by columnists other than the
national JACL president or national
director do not necessarily reflect JACL
policy. Events and products advertised
in the *Pacific Citizen* do not carry the
implicit endorsement of the JACL or
this publication. We reserve the right to
edit articles.

PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-8579) is
published semi-monthly except once in
December and January by the Japanese
American Citizens League, 250 E. First
Street, Ste. 301, Los Angeles, CA. 90012
OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5
p.m. Pacific Time. ©2008.

Annual subscription rates: NON-
MEMBERS: 1 year—\$40, payable in
advance. Additional foreign postage per
year (1st class) — Canada and Mexico
\$55, Japan and overseas \$60 (Subject
to change without notice.) Postage paid
at Los Angeles, Calif.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to: *Pacific Citizen*, c/o JACL National
Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San
Francisco, CA 94115.

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Letters to the Editor

Another Reason for Decline in Membership

On the front page of your Feb. 15-Mar. 6 issue you have a dire report on the membership decline in the JACL and a projection suggesting that if the trend continues, your organization will probably disappear. You then wonder how this can occur.

Someone in your office should correlate the dates of this sharp decline with the series of reports written on the court martial of Ehren Watada (even up to the last issue), where the JACL officials and the newspaper editors have come out and actively supported this guy for shirking his duties, using the questionable excuse of saying that the Iraq war is illegal, thus he is not going.

To the thousands of Nisei veterans and their relatives, Watada is a coward who is scheming to get out of his obligations and the impression is that JACL is in bed with him. This is really irritating. Watada is an embarrassment, not a hero!

The consensus is the JACL should keep out of this controversy. It is a legal battle between the Watada family and the U.S. Army. Let it run its course with a minimum of neutral coverage by your paper. It maybe too late, but this could do wonders in restoring our faith in the JACL. I may decide not to cancel my membership.

KUNITAKAYAMA

Via e-mail

25th Anniversary of D.C. Leadership Program

At the recent national JACL board meeting, I was pleased to meet JACL's new Membership Coordinator Tim Koide. Tim is a graduate of JACL's Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference. My wife Carol and I are also proud graduates of this program. With numerous graduates serving the JACL in various capacities, it is easy to see why the D.C. Leadership Program is considered our organization's premier program.

When I attended the program in 1989 all of the JA legislatures in D.C. made time to meet with our group. It was truly impressive. The experience really opened my eyes as to the esteem with which JACL is held and how these key contacts enable the JACL to move critical legislative issues for our community.

Erstwhile JACL National Director John Tateishi was instrumental in starting the program. John worked with then JACL D.C. Rep. Ron Ikejiri to establish and coordinate the first leadership program.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the D.C. Leadership Program. You are likely familiar with numerous graduates of the program and know firsthand of their strong commitment to the JACL. Through 2007, 273 JACLers have participated in the program. I'm confident that this year's class will continue the strong commitment to the JACL.

DAVID KAWAMOTO

San Diego, CA

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT Be Informed

By Floyd Mori



There have been some complaints that the JACL membership is not kept informed of the issues, events, projects, and concerns the national JACL staff is currently working on.

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper, as the official publication of the JACL, reports on these items and other matters of interest for the membership. Those who are critical may not read the P.C. and may not be reading this. If you want to be informed, you can be informed.

While the semi-monthly issues of the P.C., which are mailed to members, remain the main source of information for those who want to keep abreast of happenings within the organization, other means are also available. The P.C. reports extensively on all national board meet-

ings, national JACL conventions, tri- and bi-district conferences, youth conferences, scholarships, and all major events and issues of the JACL as well as some chapter events. The P.C. regularly prints articles by the national board and staff, including JACL fellows and interns. National JACL press releases are also sent to the P.C. and other newspapers.

Besides the printed word, there is also the P.C. Web site (www.pacificcitizen.org) where some of the main articles and other information can be found.

The national JACL Web site is a good source of information for members and the general public. The Web site has been in the process of being updated so all information may not be available. Press releases and information on events of the organization are included as well as historical and background information on the JACL, along with membership, scholarship, leadership, organization, and other information.

Anyone interested in joining the JACL can learn more about the organization by visiting the JACL Web site. Plans are in the works to

442nd Vet Continues to Support Watada



Now that mankind has advanced metaphysics and physics of war to the reality of total universal destruction, the warriors' creed must also change.

First Lieutenant Ehren Watada's challenge of the legal and moral issues of the Iraq War does not subvert his pledge to defend his country — even against his government.

The Nisei powerful in silence, confronted with the World War II draft resisters issue in 1943, finally endorsed reconciliation — in this decade. Many Nikkei apparently consider the Watada defiance as an ethnic embarrassment and by few as cowardly and disloyal.

As a 442nd veteran with visceral experience of war, I support him, his insight, and courage.

EJI SUYAMA

Ft. Meade, SD

A Debt of Gratitude to Ted Tsukahara

The JACL Investment Policy Committee (IPC) was born of an urgent need to stabilize the JACL's ongoing investments, a critical role in JACL's ability to continue its mission. JACL owes a great debt to those who have served on the IPC.

Ted Tsukahara was an IPC original committee member and a pioneering Asian American on Wall Street specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Ted, who earned a PhD in economics from Claremont, came to the table armed with extensive knowledge on the influence of economic factors in the investment sector and significant experience as a volunteer of non-profit organizations since the 1960s.

As the most recent chair of the IPC, he patiently educated each new JACL national board member in the intricacies of the financial markets and worked diligently to bring the best investment managers to manage JACL's various portfolios.

Recently, he oversaw the selection of a new fund manager. As always, he acted in the best interest of the JACL and thus he decided the group needed new leadership to keep the "new blood" coming in. Ted values a broad diversity of leadership and the development of new leaders.

"JACL is indebted to Ted for leading us through some very precarious times," said National President Larry Oda. "Without his strength, commitment, and understanding of our investment policy, JACL could have started on a downward spiral of diminishing our portfolios and I, for one, am very grateful for his dedication and service to JACL as the chairperson of the IPC."

Through his work, Ted has provided a great service to JACL. Through his actions, he provided vital leadership and has set an example for many others to follow.

JACL INVESTMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

provide online membership sign ups and renewals. Members who have not been using the Web site may want to check it out at www.JACL.org.

Those who wish to keep better informed on current issues are able to join the JACL action alerts group to receive e-mails from national JACL. These alerts are sent out to make interested persons aware of what the JACL is currently doing. Joining the action alerts group can be accomplished by going to the JACL Web site and clicking on "join action alerts group".

National JACL recently created a blog under my direction with the leadership of the JACL Mineta fellow, Meilee Wong. The address is www.jaclblog.wordpress.com. This is a new means of communication for the JACL.

The national JACL continues to work for you. There are many ways to be informed of what the JACL is doing on your behalf. Please read the P.C. and use the other sources to be informed of what is happening within your JACL. ■

Still No Suspects Two Months After Beating of WSU Korean American Student

Kyle Descher's beating is one of several recent incidents prompting WSU, Pullman officials to want to crack down on College Hill fights.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash.—Almost two months after the beating of Washington State University senior Kyle Descher that resulted in a broken jaw, not a single witness has stepped forward even though the beating took place in a crowded bar.

Many believe Descher, a Korean American, is the victim of a hate crime although Pullman police are currently investigating the incident as an assault.

Descher was among the students celebrating the basketball victory over Oregon when he and his roommate headed to Adams Mall on Jan. 14. On his way in two white men and a black man

allegedly said "f—ing Asian" to him. Descher asked what the men said to him and they repeated the derogatory comment. He brushed it off and instead headed to Mike's where a few minutes later he was allegedly beaten by the same men.

The incident has prompted Descher's supporters to raise a \$6,000 reward and also prompted a rally against hate crimes on the WSU campus.

Descher said he thinks the incident was an isolated one.

"Hate crime, I mean that's what some people have labeled it. I think it could be that, I don't know," he said in an interview with *The Daily Evergreen*. "This thing's kind of taken on a life of its own."

The attack on Descher happened about three months after another student had his jaw broken in an ongoing dispute between members of two College Hill fraternities.

Police and WSU officials are now asking

the City Council to beef up disorderly conduct laws to put a damper on fights and assaults on College Hill.

Police statistics show that reports of fist fights, brawls and other public confrontations in the neighborhoods just off campus climbed 41 percent since 2000, and the number of disorderly conduct complaints which can include "assaultive behavior" has more than doubled.

Pullman police Chief Ted Weatherly is asking the City Council to make fighting a civil infraction with a \$250 fine, even if the people involved choose not to file a complaint.

Meanwhile, university officials are considering a "university district" in the College Hill area. That would establish some shared govern-

'... if this type of thing really can maybe just raise awareness or bring some ideas to the forefront to spare just one more person this pain an agony, then it's totally worth it.'

— Kyle Descher

nance between the city and WSU in the neighborhood closest to the school, which is notorious for drunken parties, litter and vandalism.

"I am not talking about just a few loud parties," President Elson Floyd wrote recently. "Too often, police reports from College Hill talk of assaults and other criminal behavior."

In mid-February Descher was finally able to return to his classes and he recently had his jaw unwired.

Although at first uncomfortable with the attention his incident has been receiving, since he does not think Pullman has a serious problem with racism, Descher says he supports what others are doing if it is done right.

"After talking to my parents about it a bit, I have so many mixed feelings because if this type of thing really can maybe just raise awareness or bring some ideas to the forefront to spare just one more person this pain an agony, then it's totally worth it," he said to *The Daily Evergreen*. ■

Bill Contesting One-Mile CAFO Testimony Rule Heads to Idaho Senate

The bill was largely inspired by a proposed 13,000-heifer feedlot near the historic Minidoka Internment National Monument.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

BOISE, Idaho—A bill that would expand the pool of those who may testify at public advanced out of an Idaho State Senate committee on Feb. 21.

The measure would give any adversely affected property owner the right to speak at a hearing on a proposed confined animal feeding operation. Current law grants that right only to property owners within a one-mile radius of a proposed feedlot, though counties can expand that area if they choose.

The bill was largely inspired last year by a 13,000-dairy cow feedlot that was proposed for a Jerome County site about 1 1/2 miles from the Minidoka Internment National Monument, a World War II-era prison camp for Japanese Americans that has been preserved.

Supporters of the bill say the restriction is the only example in Idaho law where people's right to speak before public officials is limited by a geographic boundary.

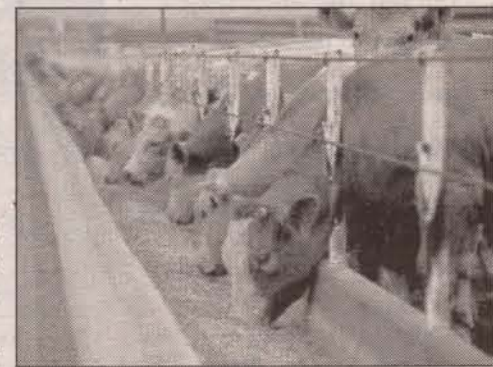
Senate Minority Leader Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum, told lawmakers on the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee it's clear that concerns about feedlots extend well beyond a mile.

"This provision in my view has no place in an open, democratic process and serves nobody but a narrow special interest," he said.

The same measure passed the Senate 30-4 last year but never received a hearing in the House.

In October, county commissioners voted 2-1 against the proposed Big Sky feedlot near Minidoka. The developers are now appealing the decision in court.

Dean Diamond, a neighbor of the proposed feedlot in Jerome County, told lawmakers on Feb. 21 that county officials had used the state law to limit testimony from people outside the one-mile boundary. For example, Diamond was allowed to testify, while his parents — who live on a farm just over a mile away —



were not.

"I think a person should be able to do what he wants on his property, but the moment he affects me I should at least have a say," Diamond said. "If it's that controversial of an issue, these people need to be heard."

Opponents of the bill noted that the law allows counties to disregard the one-mile boundary and accept comments from a wider audience. They said the question of who speaks at hearings should remain a local decision.

Sen. Jeff Siddoway, R-Terreton, one of the opponents in the Senate last year, raised that concern again on Feb. 21.

"If the Jerome County commissioners decide they're only going to take testimony from people within a one-mile radius, I would assume the Jerome County commissioners would have the authority to make that determination," he said.

The committee voted to send the bill to the Senate floor. Siddoway was the only dissenting vote.

Stennett told the Associated Press after the hearing that he's optimistic the bill will at least get a hearing from the House this year.

"We hope to put a little bit more effort and emphasis on that this year," he said.

Not even the dairy industry spoke against the measure on Feb. 21. Bob Naerebout, a lobbyist with the Idaho Dairymen's Association, said his group wasn't opposed to the proposal. He said, though, that it might be time to have the state regulate feedlots, which could help prevent debates over local control and complications from a patchwork of county ordinances. ■



JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino reflects on his role during the historic Redress movement.

By ELAINE LOW
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Just a few months after a Redress proposal was unveiled at the 1978 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, Bill Yoshino signed on as the organization's Midwest regional director based out of Chicago. Set down right in the middle of the fray, Yoshino immediately became part of what was one of the biggest

'We Owe Them a Great Deal of Gratitude'

undertakings in JACL history: seeking redress for the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who had been unjustly interned during World War II.

"When I first came to JACL, I only knew about Redress in a sketchy way," remembers Yoshino. "I didn't know the issue historically, but I knew what had transpired was wrong and a remedy was needed. The prospect of being included in a national campaign was something that was very important and exciting."

But in the months and years that followed, Yoshino quickly became one of the movement's key members, working closely with John Tateishi, who was then Redress

chair and is the immediate past JACL national director.

"John and I worked well together," he says. The two of them — along with dozens of other individuals and advocacy groups who contributed to the movement over the next 10 years — helped pave the way towards pushing for a federal commission that would investigate the incarceration and internment of Japanese Americans some 35 years earlier.

"There was a strong feeling that



BILL YOSHINO

there was a need to educate the public," says Yoshino. "A lot of people didn't know about [internment] or were confused about it, so we needed to educate members of Congress and the public about the tragedy."

Between 1980 and 1981, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians held hearings around the country, ultimately gathering over 750 testimonies and concluding that the government had failed in its duty to its citizens.

From there the media campaign began, and Yoshino and others lobbied mainstream news outlets to cover Redress, appealing to the story's human interest element, particularly to the patriotism of the 442nd Nisei vets during the War. But with coverage came controversy, and he recalls "quite a bit of negative feedback against the campaign."

"There was a racial aspect to it, and that drew out a certain level of intolerance from people," he says. "But it was critical to get the story out there." Keeping a daily scorecard (218 "yes" votes were needed from the House), Yoshino admits that the work was often difficult.

"It was a tough haul. At some

See YOSHINO/Page 11

Senators Ponder Bill to Award Benefits to Filipino WWII Veterans

Obama announces support for the bill and encourages colleagues to pass S. 1315.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

HONOLULU—U.S. Senators have yet to decide the fate of a bill to give benefits to Filipino World War II veterans, but were encouraged to pass the legislation by fellow Senator Barack Obama.

The U.S. Democratic presidential candidate gave his support to S. 1315, a bill that would award pension benefits to Filipinos who fought under the U.S. flag during WWII when their country was a U.S. colony.

In a statement issued Feb. 25 on his Web site, Obama said: "Approximately 250,000 Filipino troops joined American forces to fight in World War II, but too many of these heroes are still being denied benefits."

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee already has passed a broad bill that includes the benefit measure. The full Senate has yet to vote on the legislation.

The committee's ranking Republican, Sen. Richard Burr from North Carolina, opposes the Filipino veterans measure. He told senators last month that the government should instead spend its resources on veterans returning from Iraq and



Filipino vets chat with Sen. Daniel Inouye at the Hawaii JACL national convention in 2004.

Afghanistan.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, a Hawaii Democrat and chairman of the veteran affairs committee, backs the Filipino veterans bill. Akaka is also a U.S. veteran of WWII.

The veterans joined units under U.S. command at a time when U.S. law mandated that all Philippine citizens owe allegiance to the United States. The law also stipulated U.S. control over Philippine national defense and foreign affairs.

After the war, however, Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, stripping Filipino veterans of their status as U.S. veterans. The move denied Filipinos the same benefits available to other veterans of U.S. military service.

Filipino American veterans, most now in their 80s, have campaigned for decades to win the benefits they

were promised. They have had some victories, including when Congress passed a bill allowing thousands to immigrate and become U.S. citizens. Burial rights in national cemeteries came a decade later.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed a

bill making Filipino American veterans in the United States eligible for the same federal health care other American veterans receive.

The latest measure seeks to give pension benefits to Filipino veterans living in the Philippines.

Several national Filipino groups have campaigned in an effort to see the Filipino Veterans Equity Act pass, including the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE). The national JACL has encouraged its chapters to support the current efforts. ■

PSWD Announces 'Project: Community!'

The Pacific Southwest District of JACL and the Rising Stars program sponsored by the Nikkei Federation recently announced the launch of the first annual "Project: Community!" program.

The purpose of "Project: Community!" is to develop and empower the youth's voice in Little Tokyo. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants will gain an understanding of identity as well as the importance of preservation of the Japanese American community.

Each session will gather facilitators and speakers from various parts of the community to conduct interactive workshops focused on specific topics ranging from identity, to the power of place, to grassroots organizing on a youth level.

The program will gather 15 high school students every Tuesday evening from June 24-Aug. 12. Parents will also be encouraged to attend a parents' session that will enable them to explain the various topics of the program to their kids.

The JACL recognizes the importance of the youth as the future of the community and the district carries out a variety of youth initiatives.

Applications for the program are available and will be accepted until April 1. Applications and information can be found at www.jaclpsw.org. For questions or further information, contact the JACL PSW district office at 213/626-4471 or e-mail psw@jacl.org. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Mourners Gather in Candlelight Vigil for Gunned Down Artist

LOS ANGELES—Almost 150 mourners gathered on the University California, Los Angeles campus Feb. 28 for a candlelight vigil in memory of an alumnus shot by police.

On New Year's Eve, officers responding to reports of vandalism at a La Habra liquor store, shot and killed Michael Cho, a 25-year-old artist, in a parking lot where he allegedly threatened officers with a tire iron.

Community leaders criticized police officers for being too quick on the trigger when responding to a vandalism call.

The Orange County district attorney's office is investigating the shooting. Cho's family has hired high-profile attorney Mark Geragos to represent them in a possible lawsuit against police.



Gay Marriage Case Reaches Last Stop On Long Legal Odyssey

SAN FRANCISCO—Following a string of defeats, same-sex marriage supporters are hoping for the legal equivalent of a home field advantage when the state's high court hears long-awaited challenges to California's marriage laws.

The California Supreme Court has set aside three hours for arguments on the conjoined lawsuits brought by the city of San Francisco, 15 gay and lesbian couples and a pair of gay advocacy groups.

The San Francisco-based court was the first in the nation to legalize interracial marriage in 1948. The JACL has been on the forefront of championing equal rights for same-sex couples.

Two groups already are gathering signatures to put an initiative on the November ballot that would extend the current same-sex marriage ban to the state Constitution.

Vietnamese American Group Sues Over District Name

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The proposed name of a Vietnamese retail area has divided the local community and even resulted in a lawsuit accusing the San Jose City Council of breaking the state's open-meeting law.

Since the city council voted last November to name the area west of Highway 101 the "Saigon Business District," hundreds of angry residents have demanded it be changed to "Little Saigon." One man went on a hunger strike in protest.

Older residents generally support the former government of anti-communist South Vietnam and the name Little Saigon. Younger residents like Saigon Business District.

Former Internees Will Finally Get Their Degrees at UW

SEATTLE—The University of Washington Board of Regents has approved awarding honorary baccalaureate degrees to Japanese American students incarcerated in World War II internment camps.

More than 400 undergraduates were uprooted from their studies during WWII. The UW so far knows of about 90 former students still living, from the 440 or so who left the university without finishing their degrees.

An honorary ceremony is planned for May.

Congress Calls Upon CNN, MSNBC to Cover APA Community

WASHINGTON—Several members of Congress have sent letters to the heads of CNN and MSNBC to highlight the lack of coverage of APA issues during the 2008 presidential campaigns.

The letters sent to CNN President Jonathan Klein and MSNBC's Phil Griffin ask for, among other things, meetings with executives to ensure improved APA community coverage and the designation of company representatives to ensure APA coverage.

The letter, signed by Reps. Mike Honda, Doris Matsui and others, came in the wake of a heavily criticized Feb. 8 segment on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," which many, including JACL, said negatively portrayed APAs as racist and ignorant.

The February 8 segment, headlined "Asian American Vote" featured interviews of APAs who mostly spoke in broken English. ■

Committee Approves Illinois State Resolution Supporting Nisei Veterans Stamp

The full House of Representatives is expected to vote on the resolution this week.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The state of Illinois is one step closer to supporting a national effort urging the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the Nisei veterans of World War II.

The State Government Administration Committee of the Illinois House of Representatives unanimously approved HR 850 by a vote of 13 to 0 on Feb. 28. The full House of Representatives is expected to vote on the resolution this week.

Republican minority leader Rep. Constance Howard sponsored the bill and noted the Nisei veterans are "a profile in courage" and that "there is no adequate way to say thank you."

Similar resolutions supporting a Nisei veterans commemorative stamp have already passed in the states of Hawaii and California.

A proposed resolution in the state of Washington will have to wait until 2009 because it did not make it out of committee in time for this year's session of the legislature. The bill is sponsored by State Sen. Brian Weinstein.

Many Nisei volunteered to fight for the United States during World War II even though their families were incarcerated in internment camps. To this day the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team is the most decorated unit in American military history for its size and length of service. The members of the Military Intelligence Service are credited with helping to bring a faster end to WWII.

Part of the text of HR 850 reads: "The incredible acts of sacrifice and valor exhibited by these men are worthy of the greatest respect and admiration and must not be forgotten by subsequent generations."

Members of the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee met in late January, but their decision on the various proposals have not yet been announced. Members of the national campaign fighting for a Nisei Stamp would like to see the stamp included for publication in 2010, the earliest possible date. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Seattle Arts Center Reinstates Director Who Made Racially Charged Remarks



CAWALING

The artistic director at Seattle's Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, who was placed on administrative leave for reportedly making racially offensive comments to her Asian Pacific American colleagues, has recently been reinstated.

In October, a report by an independent consultant suggested that Jacqueline Moscou made racially offensive and intimidating comments to managing director **Manuel Cawaling**.

Cawaling, who is Filipino American, was hired as the center's first education director in 2003. Moscou reportedly told Cawaling that "Asians got their civil rights on the backs of African Americans."

National JACL Board Sees Changes



GRANT

Former IDC District Governor **Larry Grant** was recently confirmed by the national board as JACL's vice president of membership. Grant, who was appointed by the president, replaces **Edwin Endow**, who resigned from his second term for personal reasons. Grant will serve the remainder of Endow's term until the national convention in Salt Lake City in July.

The new IDC district governor is **Brian Morishita** of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Morishita has been actively involved with JACL since he was on the National JACL Youth Council. He replaces **Silvana Watanabe**

from the Mount Olympus chapter.

Elaine Akagi was reelected as PNW district governor and serves as the governors' caucus chair.

Judge Uno Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Retired Judge Raymond Uno will be the first recipient of the Utah Asian Chamber of Commerce's (UACC) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Uno, who was born in Ogden, was interned for more than three years at Heart Mountain. He began his career as a referee in the juvenile courts, where he was the first minority to hold this position. He went on to become the first minority deputy county attorney. In 1985, Uno was the first minority to be elected to the Utah District Court.

The award will be presented March 15 during the UACC Gala.

Yoneda Enters Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame

T. Ted Yoneda, a Stockton baseball player and longtime softball coach, was recently inducted into the Greater San Joaquin Amateur Softball Association's Hall of Fame.

Yoneda ran track and played baseball for the Lincoln Wreckers. While attending the College of the Pacific, he played baseball with legendary professional football player Dick Bass of the Los Angeles Rams.

Yoneda coached girls' softball for over 30 years beginning in the 1970s. He returned to St. Mary's High School this year as an assistant coach.

JANM Names New CEO



KIKUMURA YANO

Dr. Akemi Kikumura Yano has been named the Japanese American National Museum's new chief executive officer.

Kikumura Yano joined the Los Angeles museum in 1987 and has worked as a curator, development officer and most recently as senior vice president. She succeeds **Irene Hirano**, who recently announced her resignation after 21 years of service.

Kikumura Yano, who is an award-winning author, also served as director of research and international relations and vice president of programs for the museum. ■

Workshop Brings WWII JA Experience Into Classrooms



TEACHING TEACHERS: Participants of the teacher training workshop (left) at Maryland's Blair High School learned about WWII history, particularly the Nisei military experience.

Educators from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. recently became the first in their region to take part in teacher training workshops focused on the World War II Japanese American experience.

The East Coast participants join more than 1,500 educational professionals who have completed the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) program that began 10 years ago and in 1998 became part of the California State Curriculum Social Studies Standard.

Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and GFBNEC partnered with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and Japanese American Veterans Association, both based in D.C., to present the inaugural workshop.

In opening the workshop, Maria

L. Tremontozzi, acting social studies supervisor of MCPS, stressed the importance of teaching minority issues.

"Our goal is to convey the value lessons embodied by the Nisei who served the Nation honorably in the face of discrimination," said GFBNEC President and Chief Executive Officer Christine Sato-Yamazaki.

Education specialists Esther Taira and Mark Elinson facilitated the workshop, examining events that led up to the attack on Pearl Harbor and the mass evacuation of 120,000 JAs. They also discussed the formation of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team as a segregated unit in WWII and explained the contributions of the Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service.

Augmenting the discussion was Gerald Yamada, president and

executive director of NJAMF, who invited teachers to bring their classes to the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Capitol Building. JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima announced that related publications are available and that veterans and former internees can be made available to speak at local schools.

"The workshop gave the opportunity for teachers to personally interview Japanese Americans who lived these extraordinary events and time with dignity. I think all participants will return to our classrooms both reinvigorated and with a greater sense of purpose in conveying meaningful instruction," said Eliot Frankeberger, history teacher at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. ■

Indian Tribe, Former Internees Attend Premiere of 'Passing Poston'

Members of the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) and former World War II Poston internees gathered in Parker, Ariz. on Feb. 13 for the world premier of "Passing Poston."

The documentary focuses on the stories of four former Poston internees: Ruth Okimoto, Kiyo Sato, Mary Higashi and Leon Uyeda. Through emotional testimonials they discuss the difficulties in reconciling this period of their lives.

The film "Passing Poston" is co-produced by Joe Fox and James Nubile, both award winning veteran journalists. For information on "Passing Poston," contact Fly on the Wall Productions at 212/929-0663 or jfox@flywall.com. ■



(L-r) Mariah Charles, Ruth Okimoto, Kiyo Sato, Joe Fox, Mary Higashi, James Nubile, Leon Uyeda and Taylia Carter.

Idaho Governor's Office Hosts 7th DOR Signing Ceremony



Gov. C.L. Butch Otter's senior staff member Bob Wells (left) and veteran Jeff Sugai.

For the seventh year in a row the office of the Governor of Idaho held a signing ceremony proclaiming Feb. 19th as a Day of Remembrance. The office of Gov. C.L. Butch Otter held the signing ceremony in Boise Feb. 18. Although the governor was unable to attend, he was represented by senior staff member Bob Wells.

Approximately 40 people attended the ceremony including former internees, veterans, educators, students and JACL members. Representatives from the National Park Service and the Friends of Minidoka were also in attendance. A luncheon and Q & A session were hosted by the Boise Valley JACL immediately following the ceremony. ■

HATE CRIME

(Continued from page 1)

wrong people. Both he and Glore are lawyers with backgrounds in civil rights and law enforcement. So in addition to calling the police, he also reached out to the JACL.

A few days before the phone calls started, Idaho Falls JACL President Gail Ochi dropped by Dancing Dogs for coffee to include in a gift to the visiting counsel general of Japan.

Ochi chatted with Venable, who agreed to support their upcoming bento box fundraiser by displaying a poster in his shop.

"He has a Buddhist background," said Ochi, 54, a Shin Nisei.

Venable was also involved with the Tri-Cities Taiko group in Pocatello where he met Sherry Randolph, a past president of the Idaho Falls JACL. Randolph had already read an article about the incident in their local newspaper, which omitted information about the bomb threats' racial overtones.

"So when Gordon called me, I was shocked when he told me the details of how these juveniles were using heavy Asian accents to make these threats ..." said Randolph, a Sansei who was born and raised in Idaho Falls.

"Gordon proceeded to tell me that he was asked what he thought the punishment should be and he strongly felt that a public apology needed to be made to the Asian American community for the slanderous way these juveniles acted," said Randolph. "He then asked me if I knew any one person or organization that he could contact to further discuss this incident. I knew this was something that the JACL would be able to get involved in."

Venable attended the Idaho Falls JACL February meeting where he told his story.

"The JACL was shocked," said Ochi. "We were thrilled that he was willing to come forward and identify harassment."

Venable wants to proceed with pressing charges — even as a hate crime — but admits that there is not enough information at this time. So he's pushing for family home studies and a more culturally sensitive investigation.

But police officials say this case is a far cry from a hate crime. Det. Karl Noah of the Bonneville County sheriff's office simply called it phone harassment. Although the case is still



FIGHTING HATE: Idaho Falls JACLers (left) supported the owners of the Dancing Dogs (top).

being investigated, he does not know why the juveniles used the mock Asian accent, but said the calls were random prank calls.

"Random prank? ... [There is] too little data to offer an opinion regarding random prank potential," said Venable, who also pointed out that the persistent and increasingly violent nature of the calls is unusual to be just pranks.

Many involved say it's important to pursue the case because of the Gem State's history with racial prejudice.

Idaho was home to a large population of Japanese Americans before World War II. Most of the Issei who settled in the area were farmers who even started their own Japanese school. During WWII, relative peace gave way to racism and imprisonment behind barbed wire at the Minidoka Relocation Center, located on unused federal land in Jerome County.

JAs during WWII were confronted with devastating harassment, said Ochi. "We are still sensitive to this issue."

If this case is not addressed immediately — with an apology to the APA community and to Venable — young people like the two involved will never realize they are doing wrong, she added.

Ochi also pointed out the state's reputation as the former headquarters for the Aryan Nations, a white-supremacist group located near Hayden Lake. In the past Gail, who was born in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and moved to Idaho Falls in 1999, was advised not to even exit the highway in that area.

In 2000, the Aryan Nations lost their compound after they were successfully sued and bankrupted for violently attacking a family. Today, the former Aryan compound is a peace park with exhibits on tolerance.

"We have some good things going for our community these days," said Ochi.

Ethnic heritage festivals and other cultural events have helped transform the state's image and reflect the area's growing diversity.

But hate, like anywhere else in the United States, continues to simmer below the surface.

"Yes, these types of incidents do occur and many of them go unnoticed or unreported," said Randolph about the bomb threats. "Gordon himself felt that the authorities handling this situation in the jurisdiction where his business is located didn't understand that this was a hate crime."

Since this was a bomb threat, it's much more serious than just calling someone a denigrating name, said John Ochi, vice president of the Idaho Falls JACL. "We as a society need to say something if someone makes a threat like this. Otherwise, what keeps them from taking it a step further next time?" ■

On the Web:
www.dancingdogs.biz

COMMENTARY

Education Matters in JACL CC District

By BOB TANIGUCHI



JACL's teacher training workshops and curriculum guides are two of the most effective tools to educate the American public about the Japanese American experience. The Livingston-Merced chapter has taken these tools to make a big impact on our area schools.

A few years back a teacher training workshop was presented by Greg Marutani and the late Dr. Izumi Taniguchi, a retired economics professor from Fresno State, and CCDC's representative on the National Education Committee. About 30 high school teachers gathered near Livingston, Calif. for a one day workshop.

One of the secrets to the workshop's success was convincing the local school district to actively participate. The Hon. John Kirihaara and Grace Kimoto managed to persuade the Merced Union H.S. District curriculum director to send teachers, pay for substitutes, and offer credit.

The workshop's afternoon session included a presentation by five Nisei talking about life before, during, and after Camp. The participants learned that some of the Nisei, although graduates of UC Berkeley and Stanford, had to return to farming because nobody hired JAs just prior to and immediately after the War. The teachers were also stunned to learn that several Nisei said they volunteered for military service while in Camp.

Since that workshop, the demand to have Nisei Camp internees visit the classroom and tell of their experiences has been remarkable. Demand grew to the point that a Speaker's Bureau headed by Sherman Kishi and Kimoto was formed and more Nisei were recruited. To date, over 120 classroom visitations have been made.

Recently a group called Japanese Americans of Merced County was formed and through a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) Grant, they have collected photographs, artifacts and local histories of the JA experience in Merced County. Their work resulted in a permanent exhibition in the Merced County Courthouse Museum and the publication of a book on the subject. They also sponsor a film festival to observe Feb. 19th, the Day of Remembrance.

The keys for this string of educational successes were the teacher training workshop, the curriculum guide, and the enthusiasm that followed. Our chapter took advantage of the momentum and we continue to deliver the information to our schools.

This kind of success can be duplicated in your chapter. ■

For more details, contact CCDC's National Education Committee member Bob Taniguchi at taniguchi.r@mccd.edu.

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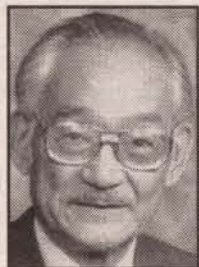
Easter Sunday Masses: 8:30 AM (Japanese) & 10 AM (English)

Start Planning for the Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL district council governors, chapter presidents and youth councils should begin promoting the Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition to attract participants for the upcoming national competition.

The road to the national competition begins at the district level where each district council holds a competition to select the individual who will represent their



district in the July 18 competition to be held this year at the JACL national convention in Salt Lake City. The oratorical competition is a highlight of the national convention where finalists from every JACL district council compete in front of an audience of convention delegates and attendees. The winner will be announced at the Sayonara Banquet during the convention.

Districts should host their competitions in the spring. The deadline to submit the names of the winners of the district competitions is May 15.

The oratorical competition is named in memory of Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist. Prior to the internment, Yasui tested the con-

stitutionality of the curfew orders imposed against Japanese Americans. Though the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the curfew, Yasui was resolved in his pursuit of social justice for all Americans.

During the 1980s, Yasui chaired and served as an articulate voice for JACL's successful campaign for Redress.

The oratorical competition was established to encourage and reinforce verbal communication skills among young JACL members. Finalists will be given roundtrip airfare to Salt Lake City, two nights lodging at the convention and attendance at the Sayonara Banquet. ■

JACL to Hold 40th Biennial Convention in Salt Lake City

The Utah chapters of the JACL — Mount Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front — will host the national organization's 40th biennial convention celebrating "Legacy of Leadership" July 16-20 at the Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown.

Convention Co-Chairs Silvana Watanabe and Reid Tateoka encourage JACL members and friends to attend the convention that will include activities for people of all ages and families. Tour packages are available for attendees to see the sights in Salt Lake City and the surrounding areas.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Heidi Tanakatsubo-Srivareerat, national JACL vice president of public affairs, has been working on a special Redress-themed plenary session. Other events are planned to highlight JACL's Campaign for Redress.

Among the workshops are "Asians & the Media: Trends, Public Portrayal and Concerns," "Preserving Family Histories," "Live Healthy: Living Longer, Staying Well and Being Aware of Health Issues that Affect Asian Americans," and "Money Matters: Save, Invest and Manage Your Money Better."

Workshops for youth include "Are You the Next Apple.com?" "Awareness Now!: An Introduction to Significant API Youth Issues," and "Who Said JACL Can't be for High Schoolers?"

Special activities for attendees are "Nihon Machi," 1000 Club Wing

Ding Reception and a golf tournament. There will also be displays about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

Activities for children include art block prints, origami and rock painting, story telling, and a judo demonstration by Sami Tadehara from ISU. For older youth, there will be a youth mixer as well as the Vision Award Luncheon where youth participants can meet the convention delegates and the Vision Awardee.

The Minoru Yasui Oratorical Contest will feature finalists from each of the seven districts to compete in a speech competition. This year's theme for the competition will address the issue of the growing ethnic and generational diversity within the community.

JACL will also be holding a job fair targeting young professionals within the JACL with recruiters from corporations and federal government agencies.

Sponsorship opportunities for the convention and advertising in the convention program booklet are available. A special business card rate of \$50 is offered for both businesses and non-profit organizations. For more information about advertising rates, contact Kathy Aoki, advertisement chair for convention, by e-mailing kathyaok@aol.com.

To participate as an exhibitor, contact Debee Yamamoto at policy@jacl.org. For more information about the convention, visit utjacl.org and www.jacl.org. ■

2008 JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition Guideline

When: July 18

Where: The JACL national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah

Topic: The current generation of Japanese American youth faces issues of growing ethnic and generational diversity within the community. As a youth member of the JACL, how will you approach this challenge of increasing diversity to meet the needs of the changing community?

Eligibility

All contestants must be high school students 16 years or older or fulltime undergraduate college students and JACL members during the district council and national competitions (family membership does not qualify).

Contestants must be able to compete in-person at the district council where they hold JACL membership and approved by their district council.

Rules

Speeches must be 3-5 minutes in length, composed by the contestant and memorized. An outline on index cards is permitted. The same speech may be used for both the district and national competitions. Visual aids are not allowed.

No more than 150 words may be a direct quote from any speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing of another source is prohibited.

Judging

JACL district councils will select the judges for the district competitions. National JACL will select the judges for the final competition. The speaking order should be decided 30 minutes before the competition.

Contestants should be judged on their delivery and presentation, analysis and logic, and their adherence to the topic.

For more information: JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino, 773/728-7170 or jaclmro@aol.com. ■



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- 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. 12** Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku 11 Days-\$3995-3 Days in Okinawa-Kyushu-Fukuoka-Karatsu-Nagasaki-Kumamoto-Beppu-Shikoku-Cape Ashizuri-Kochi-Takamatsu-Osaka.

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CONVENTION PACKAGE REGISTRATION
(Includes individual events listed below)

	Before 6/30	After 6/30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package	\$225	\$250	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package	\$150	\$175	\$ _____

(Youth Package are for Youth/Students who are 25 years of age or younger or currently enrolled in a college, trade school or university. Youth package includes all of the events in the Reg. package.)

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (all included in package registration)

<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Mixer	\$50	\$60	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (2)*	\$25	\$35	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon	\$50	\$60	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet	\$100	\$110	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon	\$50	\$60	\$ _____

* For a listing of all Workshops go to www.utjacl.org.

OPTIONAL EVENTS (not included in package registration)

<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament	\$65	\$70	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Nihonmachi Show	\$25	\$30	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth 18 and under	\$10	\$15	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club Wing Ding	\$25	\$30	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club + Nihonmachi	\$40	\$45	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> JACL Credit Union Luncheon	\$20	\$25	\$ _____
Youth 5 - 18 years	\$10	\$15	\$ _____
Non-members	\$25	\$30	\$ _____

Convention Package	\$ _____
Individual Events	\$ _____
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[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD

Empty Promises ... Once Again

Not long after George W. Bush plunged America into its war against Iraq, the president promised immigrants who signed up for military service in Iraq that their applications for American citizenship would be fast-tracked to honor their sacrifices and contributions to America's war.

After several years of frustration and waiting, these immigrants, some of whom served two or three tours of duty in Iraq, still await the fulfillment of this American promise.

Sound familiar? This has echoes of the promise made to Filipinos during World War II. Over 150,000 Filipino men answered the call in 1941 and joined as scouts with the United States Armed Forces against the Japanese. By some estimates, as many as 400,000 Filipinos served during WWII, many wounded or killed, many taken prisoner and forced on the infamous Bataan Death March. If American soldiers faced brutality at the hands of the Japanese, it was far worse for the Filipinos who fought for this country.

As part of their enlistment, Filipino soldiers were promised they would receive compensation and veterans' benefits like any soldier who served in the military during WWII. Unlike the current immigrants fighting for the U.S. in Iraq, Filipinos did not even have immigrant status since they were residents of a U.S. territory. So they had even less reason to fight for the U.S. during WWII.

'America is full of unfulfilled promises to those who have sacrificed on behalf this country.'

That was over 60 years ago, and nothing, absolutely nothing, has been done by this government. The Filipino Veterans Equity Act, in a number of different incarnations over the past 12 years, has languished in congressional committees without any action or hope of survival.

And once again, this congressional session's Equity Act has little hope of success, even with Democrats in control of both houses of Congress.

No one gives a damn, not really. It's that simple. And that tragic.

America is full of unfulfilled promises to those who have sacrificed on behalf this country. If they were willing to die 60 years ago for the promise of veterans' benefits, if they're willing to die for this country today in an insane war for the right of citizenship, they deserve no less than the fulfillment of those promises.

What kind of nation are we to ask hundreds of thousands to sacrifice their lives and then to reject them, to forget them and cast them aside? I always thought we were a more moral and better nation than that. But we've proven over and over that we aren't, and the latest proof of that is what we're now doing to our immigrant soldiers in Iraq.

The majority of Filipinos who fought for this country in the Pacific are gone, but we still have an obligation to provide the benefits and rights to those still alive, some 18,000 Filipino veterans.

Or is the Congress going to play a waiting game until they're all dead and gone? To do so, which seems the case, would be to slither into the lowest depths of political cynicism. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Root Finding

Some time ago, an older teacher and I were both discussing our respective reasons for choosing to work in Japan. He brought up the idea of finding one's roots, and how everyone has an idealized perception of what that is supposed to entail. He then asked me if my personal quest to find my own roots was the experience that I was expecting.

I forget what answer I gave him, but it made me wonder afterwards: what exactly was I expecting anyway?

Finding your roots: This is one of the big clichés of Asian American folklore. The means for doing so are varied, but the basic template is something like this: you go to college. You sign up for that Asian language class instead of taking Spanish like everyone else. You start joining student-run ethnic organizations and if you are really fired up, you write a cultural night script where your protagonist walks around onstage with his head in his hands while bemoaning, "Am I Asian or am I American?"

Eventually, it all culminates into you (or your financially generous immigrant parent) finally buying that international plane ticket so that you can experience, with your own eyes and ears and heart, the exact geographical source from which your DNA has sprung.

Finding your roots. This is a phrase that is thrown around so much that sometimes I wonder if it has begun to lose its meaning. Or rather, if it has been repeated so much people don't question anymore what it really means.

I certainly didn't. It was a big, vague term that was wonderfully alluring. Surely, in the immediate time following my college graduation, this root finding business trumped job security, career planning and financial independence. Stumbling upon a job opening in the exact obscure city where my maternal grandparents lived was not sheer dumb luck, but further proof that destiny wanted me to go to Japan.

Getting reacquainted with blood relatives I haven't seen in eight years was a terrifying and exhilarating experience. I still remember the choked up feeling in my throat when my grandmother and aunt picked me up from the train station and I sat in the back of the car, not exactly sure what to say in this momentous event of my life history. I imagined, in the

cheesy flourish of my own mental cinematography, a black and white film reel of my mother in her 20s riding a bike, eventually merging with the present Technicolor footage of my own 20-something-year-old self huffing and puffing past the exact same road of rice fields and sunflowers that lead to my grandmother's house. I woke up every day in a house bustling with activity, savoring the wonderful, surreal feeling of being connected to a larger network of kin that extended beyond my own mother and father.

Fast forward to right now. It has been nearly six months since I've moved here. Sharing a house with five other family members and having no privacy is starting to awaken the sullen teenager in me, and this alarms me. Though I cannot deny the luxury of home-cooked meals and having to pay for no rent, I find myself fantasizing about an imaginary living room where I lounge on an Ikea sofa all by myself until 3 a.m. with music blasting on the speakers. For all my talk about wanting to find my roots and connect with my family, now more than anything I wanted to move out and find a place of my own.

Finding your roots is important. So is finding that inner voice that first begins as a whisper, and finally starts screaming in your ear every day, "Grow up, grow up, grow up, for the love of God, GROW UP!"

It might be the little five-year-old students I have every Thursday. I'm terrified that they are depending on people like me to grow up and act responsible. It might be how the rest of my family wakes up every day, without fail, at 6 a.m. and like precise clockwork, begin the operations of growing their rice fields. If you want to get things done, there is no time for whining or daydreaming.

I loved finding my roots. But wander-lusting travelers like me can only keep their face in the dirt for so long before they are finally forced to start looking up — and more importantly, looking forward. ■

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

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- Aug. 25- Sept. 5 Alaska Cruise & Land Tour - Island Princess
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Let's Dance!

Can Kristi Yamaguchi follow in the golden footsteps of 'Dancing With the Stars' champion Apolo Anton Ohno?

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

She already has an Olympic gold medal and a name that's synonymous with athletic grace and excellence, but now Kristi Yamaguchi is eyeing a new trophy in the shape of a disco ball.

In the dancing world — at least in the reality TV version — the sparkly globe is as coveted as the Vince Lombardi trophy. And Kristi is hoping to waltz, jive and mambo her way to victory on this new season of "Dancing With the Stars."

Yes, it's true, the hall of famer is trading her ice skates for dance shoes and what her four-year-old daughter Keara Kiyomi calls "pretty, princessy dresses."

But it's not all glamour right now. With competition weeks away, Kristi is balancing an intense schedule filled with promotional events and fox trot lessons with her dance partner Mark Ballas.

"It's a bigger learning curve than I thought," said Kristi, 36.

She spent a week just learning fundamental dance steps and noticed stark differences between shimmying on the dance floor and the ice.

"You're very free in skating ... you can glide across the ice and just move your arms to the music," said Kristi, who has ballet training and world champion experience putting on a show in front of judges, but right now ballroom dancing is proving itself to be a technical nightmare.

"In ballroom dancing, it's your arms, your legs, your feet ... there's even a difference between stepping with your toe or heel first," she groaned, paused and then groaned again when reminded that the popular dance show attracts about 30 million viewers a week.

"It's a little scary. The expectations are high."

A Family of Fans

Kristi and her family are fans of "Dancing with the Stars," an ABC reality show where celebrities are paired with professional dancers and judged in competitions. Each couple's fate is determined by viewers' votes. In the show's second season, the Bay Area native rooted for a retired San Francisco 49ers' wide receiver who surprised everyone with his footwork.

"We saw what Jerry Rice was doing and we were like wow!" said Kristi.

'She can shake it pretty good ... But the real dancer is her husband Bret. He busts out a pretty mean moonwalk.'

- Lori Yamaguchi,
about her sister

Then in the fourth season, Kristi watched Apolo Anton Ohno cha-cha his way to a victorious end.

During hockey season, the Olympic gold medalist lives outside of the spotlight in Raleigh, North Carolina with her professional hockey player husband Bret Hedican and their daughters Keara and Emma Yoshiko, two.

She and Bret had always wanted to learn ballroom dancing, but between being parents, striving to win a second Stanley Cup championship and running a successful children's charity foundation, who had time to take dance lessons? When the show's producers extended an invitation, Kristi happily accepted.

"To have professionals, the best in the world, teaching you is amazing," she said. "Watching it in the past and being a fan, it looked like they were always having fun."

Lori Yamaguchi was ecstatic when she found out

her younger sister was going to compete on the dance show.

"She can shake it pretty good," said Lori, about Kristi's dance talent. "But the real dancer is her husband Bret. He busts out a pretty mean moonwalk."

She's a Contender

Kristi, who is one of 12 celebrities and athletes vying for a win, is an early favorite to take the disco ball.

She hasn't had the chance to size up the competition yet, but she has an idea who could be the most formidable — herself. The middle child of Jim and Carole Yamaguchi, who are JACL Thousand Club members, had to overcome many obstacles on her way to becoming one of the most recognized athletes of all time.

"Kristi was not the most athletic at figure skating and her jumps became consistent only

because her coach taught and trained her the best technique for her body," said Carole. "Most importantly, Kristi has a great work ethic. Knowing things don't come that naturally for her, she has taught herself to train and work hard to become the best she can be."

In the 1992 Albertville, France Winter Olympics, Kristi broke the 16-year American dry spell by winning gold (the last American figure skater to win was Dorothy Hamill in 1976). Can Kristi also break the "Dancing with the Stars" male-dominated winning streak? The only other female celebrity to win was season one's Kelly Monaco.

"Yes, I am very nervous, but I get really nervous whenever Kristi performs," said Carole. "I think I get nervous because I know how hard and long she has prepared for something and I just always hope that she won't be disappointed with herself."

"But I know Kristi is loving every moment of 'Dancing with the Stars.'"

A week into rehearsals and Kristi is already discovering new muscles that have never been worked before.

"There's a big difference between looking thin and being fit!" she laughed. "Hopefully, that will come as we progress."

"I know the feeling of being right there and having to turn it on when I have to, so when that spotlight hits it's like boom."

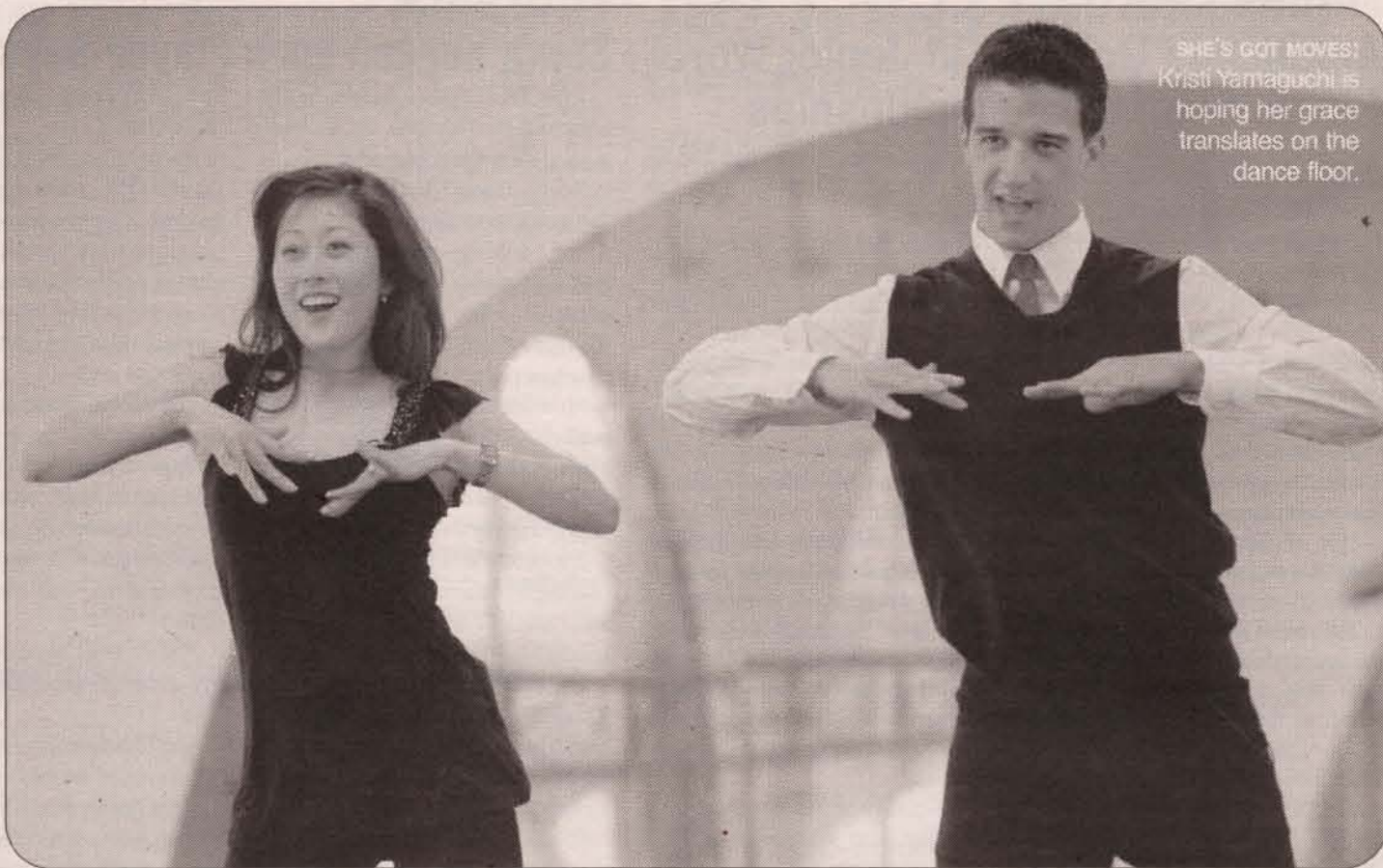
She's been told the first round of the competition, which premieres March 17, is easier because there is more time to rehearse. She and Mark recently rehearsed for over an hour and only choreographed the first 10 seconds of a routine.

"You can imagine."

But her friends and her family members remain sure of their contender.

"She's a competitor and I think this contest will bring out the best in her," said Brett Yamaguchi about his older sister. ■

SHE'S GOT MOVES!
Kristi Yamaguchi is hoping her grace translates on the dance floor.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABC



Kristi is not the only athlete. Her husband, NHL Carolina Hurricanes' Bret Hedican, celebrated his Stanley Cup win in 2006 with his family (left).

Watch and Vote!

'Dancing With the Stars' Season 6
Premieres March 17 on ABC
8 p.m. EST

The first results show, on March 25, will feature a double elimination, a first in the show's history.

For more information on Kristi
www.kristiyamaguchi.com
www.alwaysdream.org

FIGURE SKATING

Americans Go 1-2-3 at Junior World Figure Skating Championships

SOFIA, Bulgaria—It was an all-American finish at the junior world figure skating championships.

Rachael Flatt won the title and led a U.S. sweep in the women's competition March 1. **Caroline Zhang**, who'd won the title last year, was a close second while new U.S. senior champion **Mirai Nagasu** took the bronze medal.

It's the second straight year U.S. women have swept the medals at the junior worlds.

"We all skated very well," Flatt said. "It was a great competition, and I'm really excited to be here."

The rest of the field might not say the same thing. Nagasu and Flatt were first and second and Zhang fourth in the senior competition at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January, but none made the age cutoff for senior worlds. Skaters had to be 15 by last July 1 to be eligible; Flatt missed it by 20 days, while Nagasu and Zhang don't turn 15 until this spring.

So back they went to the junior worlds, and it turned into a rout. Flatt's score of 172.19 points was almost 30 points ahead of the fourth-place finisher, Finland's Jenni

Vahamaa. Nagasu, who had 162.89, was almost 20 points up on Vahamaa.

"I think that I could have skated a little better. I'm excited for all of us to medal," said Zhang, who finished just 0.35 points behind Flatt.

Zhang's layback spin was as dazzling as usual, earning applause from the crowd and a level four — the highest — from the judges. Her only flaw was on a triple loop, which was underrotated.

Nagasu, the leader after the short program, had won every competition she'd been in this season but she didn't have her usual consistency. She had trouble with her first triple lutz and couldn't do the second jump in what was supposed to be a combination, and stumbled on another triple lutz.

She also was downgraded on a triple flip, and lost her blade on a spin.

"I think this was a good way to end my season, because I learned something," Nagasu said. "In the long program, I think I let my nerves take control of me instead of me taking control of them, which disappoints me a little bit." ■

FOOTBALL

South Korean-born Player Says He'll Walk On at Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb.—Maybe he didn't know English then, but he knew a good time when he saw it.

Seung Hoon Choi's first view of the game came from the window of a car, driving past a field cluttered with teenagers in shoulder pads.

"It looked really cool, guys wearing helmets and hitting each other," Choi says.

It looked like a game he should be playing. He was no lightweight, after all. "Kind of a roly-poly fat kid," recalls Matt Farup.

Choi came from Seoul, South Korea. He was a shy type who could barely handle the weights in the Lincoln Christian High School weight room.

"Now he's kind of a celebrity around here," says Farup, Christian's football coach. "A big, lovable kid."

Now he's 6-foot-2 and over 320 pounds, still a project on the football field, but one Nebraska coaches would like to try to mold into something special as an offensive lineman.

They asked him to walk on, and Choi said yes. To the best anyone knows, he will be the first Korean to be part of the Husker football program.

"The strongest kid I've ever coached by far," Farup says.

You don't see many like Choi in

any class of high school football, let alone Class C-1.

He says he can bench press 400 pounds. His coach says he's being modest. It's more like 450.

During Choi's junior year, former Husker defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove walked into the school and spotted him immediately. How could you not?

"That's a good-looking kid," Cosgrove said.

This year, NU receivers coach/recruiting coordinator Ted Gilmore showed up, and then offensive line coach Barney Cotton. The invitation to walk on came soon after.

And to think he didn't start playing football until his sophomore year.

The first time Choi tried to put on a helmet, he couldn't find one that fit. Eventually, Farup had to take the biggest helmet the school had, strip out the padding and put in the lightest pads he could find.

"Why are you always taking your helmet off?" Farup would ask.

"It hurts," Choi would answer.

Fair enough.

Then there was the language barrier. When Farup stuck Choi on the offensive line, he kept the instructions simple:

If the play call has an even number, we're going right. Odd, we're going left. If the play has a number in the 80s, we're pass blocking.

The English started to come. The shyness started to leave.

Choi came to Lincoln for high school because he had an uncle who was a researcher at the university. The academic standards back home are intense and the chances to go to a university are limited. Here was opportunity.

Coming from a Christian family, Lincoln Christian became the high school of choice. Each year during school, he's lived with a different host family.

OK, there is still some shyness. Farup's wife teaches a first-grade class. The coach likes to have a player go into the class on a game day and read to the kids.

Choi didn't want to do it. Farup kept working on him.

Finally, the big guy gave in. He read and the kids loved him.

He is hard to anger, though it came out one game when an opposing player kept cheap-shotting him. It went on and on and on and finally Choi snapped back: "You better watch it."

Part of Farup was pleased to see this side: Finally, a little aggression.

"In C-1 football, I think he held back kind of," Farup says. "He didn't go against too many people who were physically his equal. So I'm kind of excited to see what happens when he does."

At Nebraska, finding a helmet his size doesn't figure to be a problem. ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff

American Holiday Travel

2008 Tour Schedule

BRANSON/MEMPHIS/NASHVILLE HOLIDAY TOURMAR 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 TOURMAR 26-APR 6

Fukuoka, Hagi, Iwakuni Kintai-bashi, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Okayama, Himeji Castle, Kyoto. Cherry Blossom season.

NEW YORK/LAKE COUNTRY HOLIDAY TOURMAY 10-17

New York City, Corning, Finger Lake, Cooperstown, Lake George, Kingston, Hudson Valley, West Point Military Academy, FDR National Historic Site.

SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOURJUNE 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 TOURJUNE 29-JULY 8

Tokyo, Lake Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISEJULY 20-27

Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City, HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.

CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOURAUG 7-14

Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria City. Rocky Mountaineer Train.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISESEPT 11-24

Rome, Florence/Pisa, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Majorca, Tunisia, Palermo, Naples. HOLLAND AMERICA Noordam Ship.

HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUROCT 5-17

Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Morioka, Matsushima, Kinugawa Onsen, Nikko, Tokyo.

CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY CRUISEOCT 13-24

Flt. Lauderdale, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Tortola, Half Moon Cay, HOLLAND AMERICA Maasdam Ship.

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOURNOV 8-23

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APAS STAND?

(Continued from page 1)

A Broader Crusade

Anti-affirmative action groups have launched a coordinated five state campaign to dismantle preferential treatment based on race or gender in public contracting, employment and education. The campaign — dubbed Super Tuesday for Equality — aims to get anti-affirmative action initiatives on the November ballots in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Each state requires a varying num-

ber of signatures in order to put the initiative before voters, but the controversial campaign is already off to a shaky start with affirmative action proponents vowing to challenge each measure every step of the way.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court recently certified an anti-affirmative action initiative for placement on the November ballot. But critics of the measure are accusing the petition-gatherers of lying to voters about what they're signing and circulating false information including pages of signatures with the same handwriting.

Affirmative action proponents say

they will challenge the measure once the Oklahoma secretary of state posts the notice of approval.

"We are very confident that we will be able to eliminate a sufficient number [of signatures] to knock the initiative off the ballot," said Donna Stern, of By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), a national coalition aimed at defending affirmative action.

In Nebraska, the anti-affirmative action campaign recently failed to get the initiative placed on the ballot by a vote of the state legislature.

Sen. Mark Christensen withdrew a proposed constitutional amendment (LR233CA) prohibiting pref-

erential treatment because some lawmakers said they would not support his other bills if the anti-affirmative action measure was not withdrawn. Backers of the ban on affirmative action will now have to circulate petitions to get the initiative on the Nebraska ballot.

"The fact that politicians do not want the people to have a chance to debate and vote on this important issue is extremely troublesome," said Jennifer Gratz of the American Civil Rights Institute (ACRI), a national civil rights organization established by Connerly.

Similar anti-affirmative action groups in Colorado, Arizona and Missouri are currently still circulating petitions for deadlines later this year.

"There are good 'affirmative action' programs that are intended to alleviate discrimination. However, any program that employs preferences for one 'group' based on race or gender automatically discriminates against someone else," said Gratz.

An APA Issue On Both Sides

'Our nation cannot move forward if every race and ethnicity fights each other for shrinking crumbs ...'

— Donna Stern, BAMN



Connerly has successfully championed similar measures in three states including California's controversial 1996 passing of Proposition 209 dismantling affirmative action. Since then, studies have shown that APAs have been major beneficiaries of Proposition 209.

APA admission has increased steadily at University of California campuses in Berkeley, Los Angeles and San Diego, according to a 2008 University of Florida study, which expanded on the 2005 Princeton University study that APA students generally don't benefit from affirmative action at so-called elite colleges.

The facts have raised dissenting opinions in the APA community, with many saying affirmative action programs have both benefited and adversely affected them.

See APAS STAND?/page 14

YOSHINO

(Continued from page 3)

point, despite the work of chapters trying to influence legislation, it became [dependent] on certain dedications of Congress members, like [Reps.] Spark Matsunaga and Norman Mineta. The inside efforts really paid off," he says.

And all of their efforts — the JACL, JA members of Congress, other civil rights groups like the ADL and American Jewish Committee, along with everyone else — did pay off. The actual legislation went through Congress in 1983, 1985 and 1987, and after much painstaking work and a decade of involvement, the bill

began to move, eventually being signed as the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

"When I look back, it was one of those events where a vulnerable group of people was tragically victimized, and a small dedicated community was convinced of the rightness of the story that they had," says Yoshino. "It was inspirational, and gives us cause to hope that this country does act on its principles and that the principles of democracy are meaningful."

He also sees the Redress movement as a way of paying tribute to previous generations of JAs.

"I think many of the Nisei were intent on finding a way to redeem all of the negative perceptions that

the internment may have left on the reputations of their Issei parents, because of all this country tried to do to exclude them," he says.

"In spite of all that, [the Issei] raised a generation that believed in the values of this country nonetheless. The same holds true for people like John and myself," says Yoshino. "The Nisei came up during a time when it was difficult, when there was still so much intolerance, and we owe them a great deal of gratitude. That's the reason I was in the Redress effort, and I'm sure it had something to do with John's involvement." ■

Elaine Low is currently serving as the JACL Ford Fund Fellow.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

(Continued from page 1)

young leaders in a way that is quintessential Deni. The former Azusa, Calif. resident gave \$20,000 to the JACL to establish the Deni Y. and June N. Uejima Memorial Scholarship.

Both Deni and his wife June, who passed away nearly a decade ago, were very committed to JACL and the Japanese American community, said Annette Mickelson, their niece and trustee.

"A scholarship makes sense because Deni was an educator and both he and June were highly intelligent individuals who made the most of the educational opportunities they received," said Ed Ezaki, Deni's cousin.

Since JACL started its national scholarship program in 1946, donors have helped to establish over 30 memorial scholarships to fund the educational endeavors of future young community leaders. In more recent years, about one new scholarship has been established a year.

But recently, JACL received donations to establish two new scholarships including one from Deni and another from the late Grace Andow, a former Cleveland chapter member and legal secretary, whose dedication to the community influenced her to invest in the future even after her passing in April 2006 at 84.

And it turns out our future leaders need all the help they can get.

Young, Smart and Financially Strapped

The average cost at four-year public colleges rose 6.6 percent in 2007-2008, according to the nonprofit College Board's annual survey of college costs. The increasing cost of higher education has forced students to borrow more, work harder and seek alternative methods to finance their education.

Many young JACLers like Stevie Hatakeyama, a fourth year undergraduate nursing major at Sonoma State University, rely heavily on scholarship money to help ends meet.

"I used to work around 24-plus hours a week at my old job and found it absolutely draining when coupled with trying to be a successful full-time student," said Hatakeyama, 22, of Visalia, Calif. Last year, she won the JACL's Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship for \$5,000. For Hatakeyama, a Yonsei, every dollar counts until her graduation in December.

"I have been able to live!" she said. "Scholarship money along with a new job has helped me be able to work 15 hours a week, have less stress, more focus on my scholastics and not feel as guilty about not being able to handle more work."

At the University of Utah, fourth year undergraduate Greg Stillman, 22, calls the in-state tuition a bargain in comparison to other large U.S. universities, but daily school related expenses are a drain.

"Textbooks are ridiculously

expensive, especially in the sciences where books can run \$250 a piece for just one semester," said the Yonsei Salt Lake City JACL chapter member, who is majoring in chemistry and economics.

Stillman was the 2007 winner of the Kenji Kajiwaru \$5,000 memorial scholarship, a perfect fit he said because of the scholarship's emphasis on higher education.

Although the financial assistance was a welcomed relief, both young scholars said the symbolic support from former community leaders was just as important.

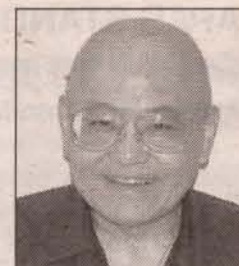
"It is a signal of support that what I am doing with my life right now — being in school and striving for success in school — is supported by the organization," said Stillman.

Enduring Legacies

"Grace was interested and proud of her heritage," said her brother Roy Andow. "I think she would tell future generations in order to succeed in life, you must be honest, energetic and show concern for your fellow man."

Grace was a longtime member of the Cleveland JACL before her passing in 2006. The former wedding planner turned legal secretary died in Los Angeles, Calif. from cardiopulmonary arrest, complications from pneumonia and sepsis.

"I feel that she was quite independent in her views and lifestyle as a single woman of Japanese descent in her generation," said Jan Toyota about her Nisei aunt, who never mar-



JACL LEGACIES: The Andow family with Grace (back row, second from right) and Deni Uejima (top).

ried, enjoyed traveling and loved her orchids.

Grace made a testamentary bequest of \$50,000 to the JACL for the establishment of a law scholarship in her memory. Based on the donor's request, \$5,000 will be awarded starting this year until the fund including any accumulated earnings is depleted, said David Kawamoto, national JACL scholarship committee chair.

"She gave her enthusiasm, ability and volunteered almost all of her spare time to the organization," said Roy.

Deni also had the same passion for the JACL. Once his donation earns enough, JACLers will be able to apply for his memorial scholarship.

"I think that JACL was part of Deni's way of doing his part as a patriot, to ensure that civil liberties would be respected for others," said Ed, whose father was a

442nd veteran.

From a young age, Deni suffered from osteomyelitis, an infection of the bone. In the 1960s, he met and married June, who was disabled. They never had children, but they were devoted to each other, said Mickelson.

"My experience is that suffering hardship either makes people bitter or compassionate and Deni was the latter," said Ezaki, who added that if Deni were alive, he would tell the future winner of his scholarship to buy books — not an iPod.

"Deni had a great sense of humor and he knew kids pretty well." ■

For more information on JACL scholarships: www.jacl.org.

COMING SOON! Don't miss the P.C.'s September scholarship issue announcing the 2008 winners!

New JACL Internship is Named After Redress Icons



HIROSHI AND GRAYCE UYEYHARA

A new JACL internship opportunity, named after two prominent community leaders, will be unveiled at the upcoming national convention in Salt Lake City.

The Grayce and Hiroshi Ueyehara Legislative Internship Program, which was authorized by the national board in 1998 but never imple-

mented, is a 10-week summer internship program at the JACL Washington, D.C. office with an annual stipend of up to \$3,000.

The current national board unanimously voted to implement the internship at the Feb. 9 board meeting in Los Angeles, Calif. The motion made by EDC District Gov. Kristine Minami to create an endowed program, many say, is an overdue honor for the longtime Philadelphia JACLers and community leaders.

"I think my parents are pleased about the internship," said Paul Ueyehara, their son and a Philadelphia chapter board member. "It's not about fame, it's not about money. It's all about seeking justice, believing in it, and making a personal contribution. Their dedication exemplifies the simple truth that individual efforts can make a difference, especially when part of an organized group with clear, strategic leadership."

Grayce and her husband Hiroshi established the Philadelphia JACL in 1947. Hiroshi became the chapter's official delegate to the JACL national convention.

During the Redress Campaign, Grayce became the East Coast coordinator, splitting her time between their Westtown, Pennsylvania home and Washington, D.C. In the mid-1980s, she also served as executive director of the JACL Legislative Education Committee. Hiroshi and Grayce have both chaired major programs at the district and national levels.

Committee members appointed by the president and approved by the national board will manage the new internship program.

"I am really convinced that our internships and fellowships are the best way for young people to get a vision of the workings and potential that JACL and public service has to offer," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

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ANTI-ASIAN COLUMN

(Continued from page 1)

nations of Editor in Chief Cassie Hewlings and staff faculty advisor Amy Herdy.

"Why leave the people in power who did this? They say they want diversity but they have the same people in the positions," said Choe, president of CU's Korean American Students at Boulder.

"This is not the first time a racial incident has happened on campus. On the outside they say diversity, diversity ... but no changes are made here. What about our physical safety?"

Chancellor G.P. "Bud" Peterson and *Campus Press* editors issued apologies shortly after the uproar, describing Karson's Opinion piece as satire gone horribly wrong. The Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications Paul Voakes has also promised diversity training for the staff, workshops on opinion writing, and the establishment of a Student Diversity Advisory Board.

But critics argue the school's response so far has focused on the journalistic mistakes made rather than the damage Karson's inflammatory comments (Asian students "hate us all. And I say it's time we started hating them back.") and the negative stereotypes inflicted on the AA community.

"This is not an issue where you can say diversity training and workshops will fix it. This is not an issue you can just bandage and hope it goes away," said Timothy Ung, president of CU's Asian Unity. "I do not feel the Asian community is satisfied with the steps taken and I also feel that they should not be."

Critics are also quick to question the timing of Karson's piece. It was published a day before the National Day of Remembrance — the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, an order that sent tens of thousands of Japanese Americans to World War II internment camps — and on the eve of the school's Diversity Summit.

A peace rally at CU "to end racism and discrimination on campus" drew close to 200 people Feb. 27. Later that day the AA students presented a list of demands to the chancellor at a public meeting. The group has also started an online petition and are using social Web sites like Facebook to form groups (i.e. "Plan of Action in Response to Max Karson's Hate Speech") to spread their message.

As a result of the face-to-face meeting, Chancellor Peterson promised to look into changing the way the *Campus Press* is currently operated and overseen. The school will also investigate whether any of the students' civil rights were violated.

In the Feb. 28 issue of *Campus Press*, the publication announced the

suspension of duties for the entire Opinions section staff, including Karson. They have now been given new assignments.

But concerned AA students are still pressing for the resignations of those responsible for allowing Karson's column to be published and they are considering economic sanctions against the school. They want *Campus Press* advertisers to pull their ads and donors to withhold any funding for the school.

"Where is our money going? We are paying fees here," said Choe. "This affects us all; it's not just about the Asian American community. There's a broader picture here."

Although the school remains mum on Editor Hewlings' future at *Campus Press*, her critics note that in addition to targeting Asians at the paper, Latinos have also been the butt of Opinion pieces — two groups that each make up about six percent of the CU student population.

"No hablo ingles ... Try speaking English, this is the United States" was published as an Opinion piece on Feb. 17. Writer Lauren E. Geary espouses a number of offensive stereotypes of Latinos throughout the article, calling for the official language of the U.S. to be English.

Although Hewlings, 22, refused the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment, she explains her decision to publish Karson's piece in the *Campus Press*: "I felt it had a fair

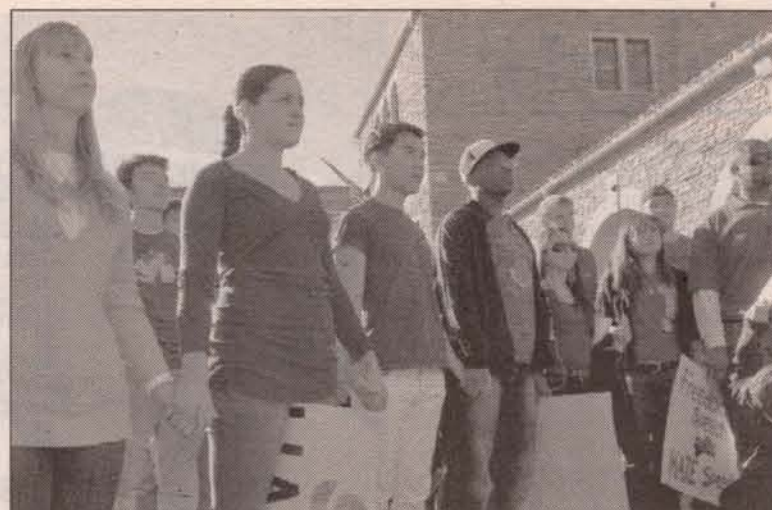


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE NGUYEN/ASIAXPRESS.COM

A diverse group of students took part in a peace rally to protest an anti-Asian column in a recent issue of the *Campus Press*.

shot to encourage dialogue, and I thought it had a fair shot to upset some people. I was really hoping the article would be thought provoking and didn't want it to be hurtful at all."

In an interview with the *Rocky Mountain News*, Hewlings said she does not plan to resign her position.

Karson has largely shied away from the media attention created by his column and he refused *P.C.'s* requests for comment. But he is no stranger to controversy; his previous columns have dealt with his fear of Blacks and why women can't enjoy sex. In 2007 he was arrested and suspended after making public comments that seemed to sympathize with the Virginia Tech shooter; no charges were filed.

In writing "If it's war the Asians want ..." Karson seems to have been aware of the controversy it would create. To get his Opinion published, he knew he had to present a counter argument and asked his friend Felix Im to pen a satirical piece. Im's "A few words on the Asiaphilic plague" was eventually published alongside Karson's piece.

"Karson is a rabble-rouser who thrives on controversy and political incorrectness. He loves the attention, and I'm both appalled and amused at

how readily it's served to him by all those Internet debaters and banterers who, as far as I'm concerned, have all become his conceptual slaves," said Im.

Karson's inflammatory column is still posted on the *Campus Press* site although the comments portion has now been disabled. Angry readers are instead being encouraged to submit letters to the editor.

More than two weeks after Karson's piece was published, the wave of criticism has yet to subside. AA students on the CU campus are already gearing up for an "In Solidarity" campaign May 9 to demonstrate the community's unity against the school and *Campus Press*.

"Every day a student steps foot into the University Center, flags fly with 'diversity' written on them. Then, a paper that claims to be the voice of the campus publishes an article which threatens a whole community at CU," said Ung. "What is the message the *Campus Press* is trying to send? It is time someone is held accountable for their actions." ■

For more information:
www.thecampuspress.com
 Online petition: www.PetitionOnline.com/MaxKarson/petition.html

Editor's Note: The following letter from Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest director, was sent to Campus Press Editor in Chief Cassie Hewlings in response to the recent controversy over Max Karson's anti-Asian Opinion piece:

"The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is deeply disturbed by student columnist Max Karson's February 18, 2008 column, 'If it's war the Asians want ... it's war they'll get.' More recently, you characterize Mr. Karson's column as 'satire ... a commentary on racism.' In candor, it is difficult to find the humor and commentary in what appears to be nothing more than an attention-seeking stunt carelessly laced with hate speech.

"If satire was the intent, it fell abysmally short in its display of judgment and sensitivity. Satire is a difficult literary form, and even the best writer occasionally finds his or her readers misguidedly accepting ironic or sarcastic statements as hard fact. Yet while satire often provides the reader with insightful social commentary or thought-provoking questions, Mr. Karson's column is hardly tongue-in-cheek. It is just offensive.

"We see little reason for the column to have been published, particularly when there is no underlying message. Instead, the column runs the risk of reinforcing stereotypes and plays dangerously with myths about Asian Americans." ■



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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; registration is now open. Info: www.utjaci.org.

East

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Mar. 29—Philadelphia JACL Installation Luncheon; noon-3 p.m.; Maggiano's Little Italy, 205 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia; speaker, Delphine Hirasuna; \$35/members, \$40/non-members. Info: Toshi Abe, 609/683-9489 or toshiabe1@mac.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tue., May 20—APAICS Gala Dinner; 7-10 p.m.; JW Marriott Hotel; honoring Sen. Daniel Akaka, former U.S. Rep. Patricia Saiki, APALC Executive Director Stewart Kwoh; entertainment by Hiroshima.

Midwest

CLEVELAND

Sun., April 20—Cleveland JACL Reunion 2008; noon-4 p.m.; North Olmsted Party Center, 29271 Lorain Rd.; celebrating the 61st anniversary of the chapter, 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and honoring all JA veterans, community members that testified at the redress hearings and contributors to JACL; \$16/person, \$8/children under 10. RSVP by April 12 to Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416 or Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Fri.-Sat., Mar. 14-15—Portland Taiko's Spring Concert, "From the Village"; Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 and 8 p.m.; Wingstad Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway; \$24.50/adults, \$18.50/seniors 62+ and students. Tickets: 503/790-2787 or www.portlandtaiko.org.

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.

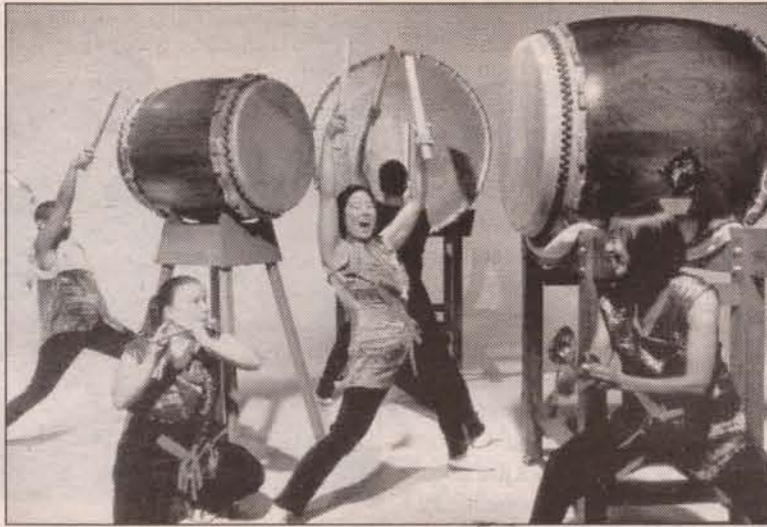
SEATTLE

Sat., Mar. 22—63rd Annual Nisei Veterans Committee Installation Banquet; 11:30-3 p.m.; Rainier Golf and Country Club, 11133 Des Moines Memorial Dr.; \$30 before Mar. 14, \$40 after.

Northern California

TULE LAKE

July 3-6—2008 Tule Lake Pilgrimage; four-day program includes: bus tour of former campsite, cultural performances in Klamath Falls, Ore., speeches from survivors of Tule Lake, discussion groups and a memorial service; \$395/person, \$325/seniors and students; free for former Tule Lake internees who are 80 or older and children under 6 (registration includes bus transportation, housing, and all meals and activities; buses will depart from San Francisco, Berkeley, San Jose, Sacramento, Seattle, Portland and Eugene on July



Portland Taiko's spring concert, "From the Village," was inspired by the group's trip to Sado Island to study with the Kodo group, Hanayui.

3 and return July 6. Info and to download registration forms, www.tulelake.org.

Southern California

SAN DIEGO

Sun., Mar. 9—UC San Diego's Nikkei Student Union's Culture Show, "Living for Retribution"; 6 p.m.; Price Center Ballroom at UC San Diego; the play is a murder mystery but also a story about personal growth of two brothers; program also features guest performances by Asayake Taiko, hip-hop dance troupe Ascension and a vocal solo by Rina Nakano; free. Info: www.ucsdnsu.com, Alan Choi, alchoi@ucsd.edu, Connie Yiu, cyyiu@ucsd.edu or Stacy Iwata, siwata@ucsd.edu.

THOUSAND OAKS

Sat., May 3—3rd Annual PSW District Golf Tournament; 11 a.m.; Los Robles Golf Course; 229 Moorpark Blvd.; \$115/golfer, \$400/foursome (must register at the same time); fee includes lunch, tee prizes, awards, shirt, dinner and voucher for a free round of golf; sponsorship opportunities are available. Info: PSW office, 213/626-4471, www.jaclpsw.org or golf@jaclpsw.org.

Arizona

CHANDLER

Sun., Mar. 30—Arizona JACL

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Senior Pastor: Cory Ishida

APAS STAND?

(Continued from page 11)

"I have mixed feelings on the issue," said Kie Riedel, 20, a mathematical economics major at Colorado College. The Yonsei Mile-Hi JACL chapter member chose to attend the liberal arts school over four other larger universities, including Dartmouth, because of its smaller size.

Riedel was the valedictorian of her high school class and graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, but she did not get into all of the schools of her choice.

She feels affirmative action is very beneficial to her college as a whole because of the diversity it brings to the campus.

"At the same time, however, as an Asian American I feel like the Asian community can be negatively affected by affirmative action. Asians are overrepresented in most situations and thus, do not qualify for many affirmative action policies.

"In fact, when I was applying to college my adviser told me not to mark the 'Asian' box and only the 'White' box if I applied to any schools in California because it would be much more difficult for me to be accepted as an Asian," added Riedel, who is Hapa.

But many say there is an intrinsic problem with one holistic "Asian" box.

While some APAs are not underrepresented in higher education, other APAs, particularly those who

are of Southeast Asian descent and newer immigrants, are underrepresented and benefit from affirmative action programs.

"Clearly, Asian Americans have had a mixed experience with affirmative action," said Al Muratsuchi, JACL's former PSW regional director who lead the organization's fight against Proposition 209.

In May 1996, the national board adopted a resolution to reaffirm its longstanding commitment to affirmative action as an important tool in fighting for equal opportunity and racial gender inclusiveness.

"All things considered, I believe Asian Americans do have an interest in supporting the basic principle underlying affirmative action, which is to promote diversity and inclusion at all levels of society," said Muratsuchi, the current vice president of the school board in Torrance, Calif.

In light of new anti-affirmative action efforts, the JACL, which has always been a strong supporter of affirmative action, will continue to strengthen its position, said National Director Floyd Mori.

It's about unity, said Stern.

"Our nation cannot move forward if every race and ethnicity fights each other for shrinking crumbs of opportunity, rather than uniting to expand opportunity for all," she added. ■

On the Web:

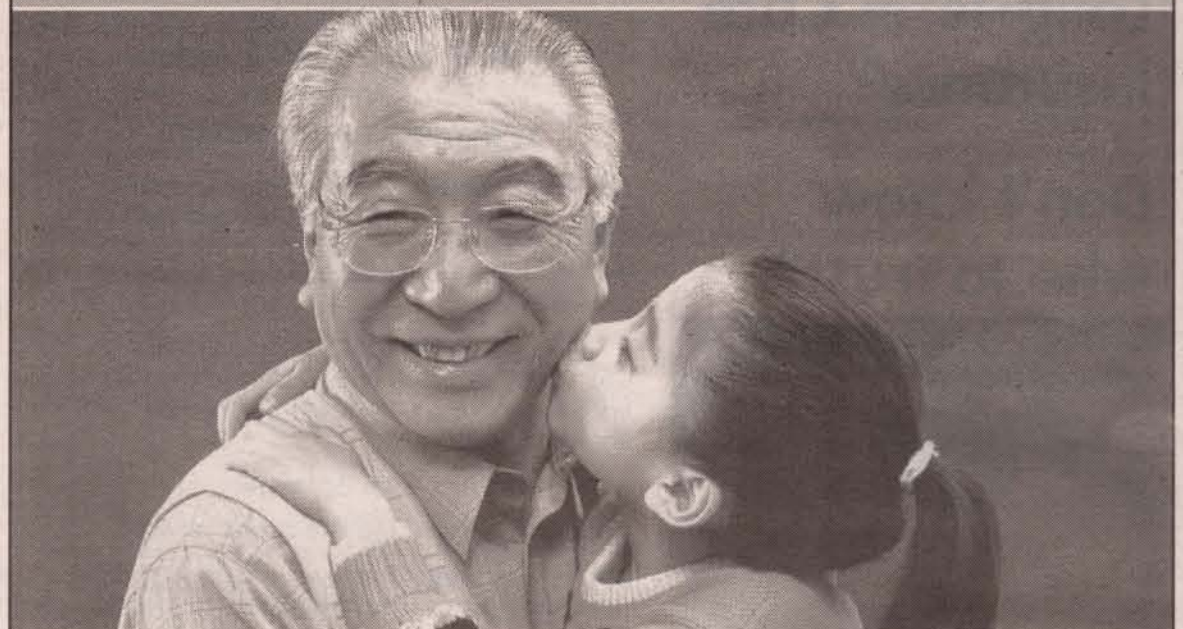
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In Memoriam - 2007-2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Higa, Col. Miyoshi, Aus (Ret.), 82, Monterey Park, Jan. 22; survived by wife, Elsie; sons, Eric (Sandy) and Guy; daughter, Corrine Higa; 3 gc.; sisters, Florence Hattori and Sadako Sumida; and brother, Kiyoshi Higa.

Ibushi, Michael Makoto, 52, Laguna Hills, Jan. 16; survived by mother, Shizuko; daughter, Leila Thompson; 2 gc.; and sister, Linda (Jon) Shimazaki.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcomed. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$20 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.

Ige, Henry "Hank" Zenyu, 79, Honolulu, Jan. 27; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Shizuko; daughters, Etsuko Nakamura, Janet, Jane and Julie Murakami; 6 gc.; 8 ggc.; sisters, Lily Choo, Alice Apduhan and Nancy Sogawa.

Ito, Akira, 84, Oceanside, Jan. 22; survived by wife, Kiyoko; daughters, Eileen and Marilyn; sons, Robert (Linda) and Glenn; 8 gc.; and 11 ggc.

Kanda, Dr. John, 82, Dec. 16; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Grace; daughter, Phyllis; and sisters, Betty (Hod) Otani and Michi (Tom) Nishimura.

Kano, Midori Yasumi, 84, Jan. 29; survived by sons, Donald and Gerald; and 1 gc.

Kawaguchi, Mitsuko, 87, Monterey Park, Jan. 21; survived by

son, Gary (Suzette); daughters, Mirei (Dr. Takumi) Kagawa and Mayumi (Dr. Wilson) Morhsita; 4 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Yaeko Kihara, Mizue Kawaguchi and kat-suko (Bill) Shimamoto.



Kawashima, Isamu "Sam," 87, Monterey, Jan. 27; ret. U.S. Army; survived by daughter, Carolyn; son, Alan; and brother, Kim.

Matsumoto, Suzanne Marie, 34, Lodi, Jan. 22; survived by parents, Tetsuo and Jeannie; and brother, Tim.

Minato, Paul, 85, Dec. 29; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Yoshiko; daughter, Paula (Sam) Sugiyama; sons, Bob and Bill; 3 gc.; brother, Howard (Sumi); and sisters, Margaret Gojio and Eva Chikusa.

Nakanishi, Kimi V., 91, Seattle, Jan. 10; survived by daughter, Helen Kawaguchi, Dorothy (Norman) Cheu, Joy Huckle and Lois Nakanishi; 9 gc.; 3 ggc.; brother, Eugene (Linda) Matsusaka; and sisters, Emi Hirai, Kay Hayashi, Virginia (Paul) Hirai, and Kazu (Kunihiko) Eto.

Nishiguchi, Ralph K., 81, Nov. 29, Las Vegas; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Myrtle; sons, Dennis (Jody Newton) and Alan; daughter, Crissey (Gary) Nishimura; 1 gc.; and sister, Ruby Sato.

Shimokubo, Tsugiyu, Scottsdale, Ariz., Feb. 23; survived by daughter, Janice; son, Ray; 1 gc.; brothers,

Johnnie Carr, a Leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dies at 97

JACL offers condolences, mourns loss of civil rights icon.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff



MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Johnnie Carr, who joined childhood friend Rosa Parks in the historic Montgomery bus boycott and kept a busy schedule of civil rights activism up to her final days, has died. She was 97.

Carr died Feb. 22, said Baptist Health hospital spokeswoman Melody Ragland. She had been hospitalized after a stroke Feb. 11.

Carr succeeded the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association in 1967, a post she held at her death. It was this association that led the boycott of city buses in the Alabama capital in 1955 after Parks was arrested for

refusing to give up her seat to whites on a crowded bus.

A year later the U.S. Supreme Court struck down racial segregation on public transportation.

"Johnnie Carr is one of the three major icons of the Civil Rights Movement: Dr. King, Rosa Parks and Johnnie Carr," said Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. "I think ultimately, when the final history books are written, she'll be one of the few people remembered for that terrific movement."

"She was a pioneer in the civil rights movement," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "The JACL appreciates her tireless efforts in furthering civil rights during difficult times during the 1950s up to the present time."

"Johnnie Carr worked diligently to insure civil rights for African Americans and ultimately for all Americans," said Larry Oda, JACL national president. "The JACL appreciates the work she has done and expresses sadness at her passing." ■

Hawaiian Music Icon Aunty Genoa Leilani Keawe Dies at 89

By ASSOCIATED PRESS



HONOLULU—Aunty Genoa Leilani Keawe, one of the most enduring and beloved voices in Hawaiian music, died Feb. 25. She was 89.

Family members say the icon of traditional music in the islands died in her sleep at home in Papakolea.

Her son, Eric K. Keawe of Keawe Records, says she had suffered health problems over the last decade but always managed to bounce back into the limelight.

Known widely as Aunty Genoa, she recorded more than 20 albums, dating back to vinyl 78 rpm and 33 1/3 rpm albums, and about 150 singles.

Born Genoa Leilani Adolpho, Keawe married Edward P. Keawe-Aiko. They had 12 children.

She began her professional career in 1939, singing for bandstand shows in Kailua and at the Officers Club before World War II with George Hookano and his band.

She received many music awards and took traditional Hawaiian music across Asia, Canada, Switzerland, Brazil and many U.S. cities. She performed on a trip to Russia when she was in her 80s. ■

Masuto (Nancy) and Mort (Marianne) Fujii; and sister-in-law, Grace Fujii.

Watanabe, Brian, 56, Waipahu, Haw., Jan. 17; Vietnam

veteran; survived by wife, Jeannie; son, Michael (Alice Park) Chin; mother, Ruth; brothers, Theodore (Mae), Clyde (Harriet), Dean (Gwen) and Wade (Pao); sis-

ter, Pamela (Alan) Nakamura; and sister-in-law, Muriel Watanabe.

Yamasaki, Yoneko, Torrance, Jan. 17; survived by sister, Fumi (Mike) Kurata.

Yasui, Masako, 93, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; survived by son, Fred (Mae); 5 gc.; sisters, Matsue (Shinsaku) Kohguchi and Yukie (Hiromasa) Takano; and sister-in-law, Yoko (John) Kawamura. ■

DEATH NOTICE

ALBERT YOSHITAKA NAKAI

Albert Yoshitaka Nakai, one of the Bay Area's pioneering flower growers and an active member of the local Japanese American community, passed away Sat., Feb. 9, at home in Redwood City, Calif. He was 90 years old and had recently participated in a twin celebration marking his birthday and the 60th anniversary of his marriage to his wife, Sally.

Albert was born on Oct. 5, 1917, in Rock Springs, Wyo., where his parents, both Japanese immigrants, worked with the railroads. The family later moved to California and eventually settled in Hollister, where they operated a farm. When World War II broke out, Albert and other members of his family were incarcerated at the Poston Arizona internment camp.

When WWII ended, Albert rejoined the rest of his family in Santa Clara. In 1947, he married his wife, the former Sally Fusako Miyana, of Salinas. For 47 years, the couple operated a commercial flower nursery in East Palo Alto. They were among the early Japanese Americans who helped to pioneer the flower growing business that flourished in the Bay Area after the war.

During this time, Albert was active with the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, the Sequoia Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Akebono Bonsai Club and numerous community efforts in East Palo Alto, where they lived until they retired to Atherton and later Redwood City.

In his retirement years Albert loved to travel and documented his trips to Canada, Europe, Alaska, and Hawaii on videotapes. At Little House in Menlo Park Albert found a new hobby, lapidary.

At his retirement home he became an informal caretaker of the rose garden at Woodside Terrace where he also tended to his Bonsai plants. Friends and family will remember him watering and pruning the plants and roses with love and care.

In addition to his wife, survivors include sister Kikue Nakai Matsuba; brothers Philip Itsuso Nakai and Roy Takao Nakai; daughters Amy Nakai Funabiki and June Nakai Sakamoto; grandchildren Marge Funabiki Inami and Steven Sakamoto; and a great-grandchild, Elizabeth Hoshiko Funabiki Inami.

A memorial service was held on Feb. 24 at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. Donations may be made to the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, Akebono Bonsai Club or your favorite charity.

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DEATH NOTICE

MARGARET H. KAWAICHI

Margaret Himeko Kawaichi, died peacefully on Jan. 11 at the age of 93. Known most widely as the Nisei Week Queen of 1938, Margaret Nishikawa met and married her husband, Dr. George Kawaichi in Los Angeles, Calif. After the end of WWII, George, a Major in the U.S. Army medical corps, moved the family to Wichita, Kansas. Margaret was a leader in the Methodist Church, an officer in the PTA, a Cub Scout den mother, and enjoyed singing and community activities. She was a lifelong baseball and basketball fan.

Margaret is survived by three children, Karyl Kawaichi, Byron Kawaichi and Ken Kawaichi; four grandchildren, Rebecca Kawaichi, Benjamin Kawaichi, K.C. Kawaichi and Kathryn Schultz, as well as three great-grandchildren, Jelani Kawaichi, Trey Schultz and Ken Christopher Kawaichi, Jr.

The family extends its sincere gratitude to the staff and volunteers at Chaparral House in Berkeley for the care and friendship extended to Margaret during her stay there.

A private family memorial will be scheduled. In lieu of flowers or memorial gifts, the family asks that donations be made in Margaret's name to the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc., 1684 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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DEATH NOTICE

MICHIKO SEKI TADANO

GLENDAL, Ariz.—Michiko Seki Tadano, 95, went to her Lord on Jan. 28, 2008. She was married to Tadashi Tadano. Michiko enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening, traveling and fishing. Her keen mind and sense of humor stayed to the end. She is survived by her children, Ben (Margaret), Will (Margie), Ken (Pat), Terry (Lori), Alan (Elizabeth), Betty (Jack) Takesuye, Arlene Tadano and Marsha (Merri) Long.

ONLY THE BRAVE Hawaii Tour

Benefit Screenings Sponsored by KYOCERA

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— Nikkan San (The Japanese Daily Sun)

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— Asian Sun News

MISSION FROM BUDDHA PRODUCTIONS presents A LANE NISHIKAWA film "ONLY THE BRAVE" LANE NISHIKAWA JASON SCOTT LEE MARK DACASCOS YUJI OKUMOTO TAMLYN TOMITA JEFF FAHEY PAT NORIYUKI MORITA GUY ECKER Composers DAN KURAMOTO KIMO CORNWELL Costume Designer LARRY VELASCO Production Designer ALAN E. MURAKA Editor CHISAKO YOKOYAMA Director of Photography MICHAEL WOJCIECHOWSKI Producers ERIC HAYASHI JAY KOIWA Producer KAREN CRISWELL Written, Produced and Directed by LANE NISHIKAWA © 2008 MISSION FROM BUDDHA PRODUCTIONS, LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED www.OnlyTheBraveMovie.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

One Screening Only — 6:30 PM

THE PALACE THEATER

38 Haili Street, HILO

\$7 General Admission

\$6 Seniors and Students

For tickets: 808-934-7010

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

One Screening Only — 7:00 PM

HAWAII THEATRE

1130 Bethel Street, HONOLULU

\$8 JCCH Members

\$10 Non-Members

For box office: 808-528-0506

or go to www.hawaiiitheatre.com**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008**

Two Screenings — 2:00 PM and 6:30 PM

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68 N. Market Street, WAILUKU

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Go to www.OnlyTheBraveMovie.com to order DVDs of **ONLY THE BRAVE**, or send check or money order payable to **Mission From Buddha Productions** to:

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Contact Mission From Buddha Productions at (858)565-2021 if ordering 10 or more or to book a benefit screening at your local JACL chapter.

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