



Protestors and supporters greet Olympic torch—PG 3

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



## Redress Celebration

JACL marks the 20th anniversary of Redress with an ongoing series highlighting the key players of the campaign

NATIONAL PAGE 3

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## A Hometown Honor for Sadao Munemori?

A Los Angeles freeway interchange is already named after the Medal of Honor recipient. Now groups hope the WWII hero's hometown of Glendale, Calif. will consider naming an overpass in his honor.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Janet Nakakihawa, 73, was just a child when she last saw her uncle Sadao Munemori, a decorated World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient. One clear memory she still holds onto is of her uncle helping her make Japanese paper doll clothes. It would be her last contact with him before his untimely death in 1945.

"He really was a very special person. Now that I'm old and remember reading letters he wrote to his mother while he was overseas, he was such a caring person," said the La Palma, Calif. resident.

Munemori's legacy will always be a part of his family history but today, Nakakihawa is the only living descendant who ever had a chance to meet him. Now a group of individuals and organizations hope to help keep his story alive by naming an overpass in his hometown of Glendale, Calif. in his honor.

"Given the climate at the time, the mood against Japanese Americans,

See MUNEMORI/Page 16

## Remembering Her Parents' Fight to Do What was Right



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARY WOODWARD COLLECTION

Mary Woodward's new book about her parents' defense of JAs during WWII needs help with funding to complete its publication.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

Mary Woodward has always been a history buff. She majored in it in college and taught the subject for a few years afterwards. But she also knows her family is an intricate part of American history, especially in

her native Bainbridge Island, Washington.

"I have the Woodward name, which is revered on Bainbridge Island," said Mary, 62, about her parents Walt and Milly Woodward, one of the few newspaper publishers during World War II that took an editorial stance against the internment of Japanese Americans.

Mary was not born yet when her parents worked all night on Dec. 7, 1941 — after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor — on a special edition of their *Bainbridge Island Review* to

See WOODWARD/Page 11



Walt and Milly's (left) work on the *Bainbridge Island Review* inspired Mary (top) to write a book.

## Illinois Votes to Support Nisei WWII Vets Stamp

Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, provides testimony in support of the House resolution.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

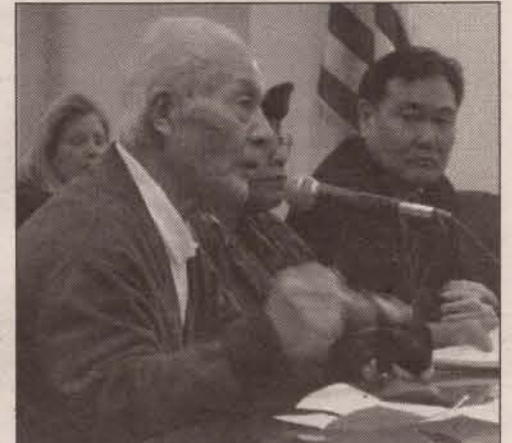
The grassroots campaign for a Nisei World War II veterans commemorative stamp just got another boost of support, this time from the state of Illinois.

The Illinois House of Representatives adopted HR 850 on April 9, a resolution urging the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the Nisei veterans. The resolution was spearheaded by Rep. Constance Howard.

"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," reads part of the resolution text.

The Japanese American soldiers of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team are the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The men of the Military Intelligence Service are credited with helping to shorten the length of WWII

See VETS STAMP/Page 10



STAMP TESTIMONY: (L-r) 442nd Vet Sam Ozaki, Rep. Howard, and Bill Yoshino.

## NAT'L DIR.'S REPORT Membership Goal: 50,000?

By FLOYD MORI

Does it sound like we harp too much on membership? It is extremely important for the survival of JACL that we maintain and increase membership. Tim Koide, who was previously an intern in the Washington, D.C. JACL office, has been hired as the JACL membership coordinator. Larry Grant from the Wasatch Front North chapter has taken over the position of vice president of membership to replace Edwin Endow, who had to step

See 50,000/Page 12

## With the Calif. Supreme Court's Decision, Marriage Equality May Become a Reality

Back then it was race. Now it's sexual orientation.

Supporters of same-sex marriage hope history will repeat itself 60 years after the court ruled against anti-miscegenation laws.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

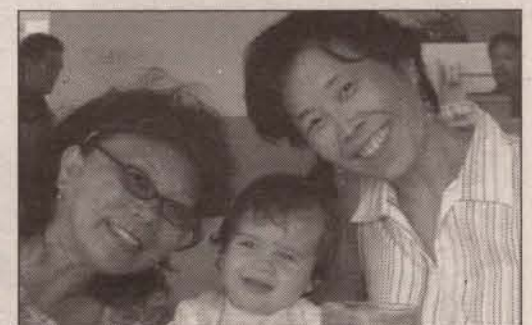
Domestic partnership is becoming more complex for Jill and Pauline Guillermo-Togawa. Aside from the daily struggle to balance responsibilities as working spouses and parents,

they have to deal with a fickle government and changing laws.

"It's funny you call it a struggle," said Pauline. "It really is a struggle."

They met almost a decade ago as friends, but then romance lead to marriage and kids. Jill and Pauline are registered as domestic partners under California family code section 297, which give them almost all of the rights of other married couples. Almost.

This year, the Bay Area couple received a letter from the state telling them to file their taxes jointly. That's great, but the Internal Revenue Service still does not recognize



FAMILY: The Guillermo-Togawas want legal recognition for Carmel's (center) sake.

same-sex couples.

They're used to the red tape.

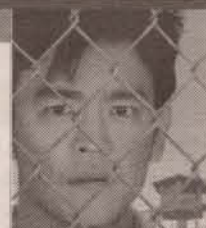
But in February 2004, Jill and Pauline got a glimpse of the good life. They along with thousands of other same-sex couples lined up in front of San Francisco City Hall in the rain to legally marry. For the first

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### No More White Castle

John Cho returns to the big screen in the 'Harold of Kumar' sequel.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



### Darvish Mania

The half Japanese, half Iranian 21-year-old phenom is creating a buzz in both Japan and the U.S.

SPORTS PAGE 10

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# Letters to the Editor

## 66 Years After E.O. 9066, Where Do We Stand?

Though we were only children living at the Tule Lake Concentration Camp, because of Executive Order 9066, the internment experience remains the most formative event in our lives.

The internment had a severe impact and changed the nature of Japanese Americans forever. It changed the way Nikkei viewed America; it changed the way every Nikkei views justice or injustice.

After Camp everyone wanted to get on with the pressing job of rebuilding their lives and the future. There was little time, energy, or resources for recording the history of E.O. 9066.

With the recent passing of Bill Hosokawa, we no longer have a Nisei journalist to report the activities of the concentration camps. Soon there will be no survivors or perpetrators left. The next generation will read about E.O. 9066 in books, and hear distant stories. It is essential the true story be preserved, that everyone understand the Nikkei were not simply another group who experienced some hardships in the course of a terrible war.

The great challenge confronting our next generation of Nikkei leaders is to define a new common core of civil rights values capable of embracing a diversifying array of Nikkei attitudes and conditions created by lack of information about the true experiences of the Nisei generation from E.O. 9066.

**TAKASUMI KOJIMA**  
Berkeley, CA

## The Trans-Pacific Endos

In regards to the article on the three generations of Endos in the *Pacific Citizen* Holiday Issue (page 33), readers may also enjoy learning that Endos of Japan made unusual contributions to public safety in the Pacific Northwest.

I learned of these Endos in 1999 on a tsunami research trip to rural Wakayama Prefecture, Japan. There, I spent a night in Miho, an ancient village on a sand spit that commands pine-framed views of Mount Fuji. One morning in late January 1700, a train of rogue waves entered a pine grove beside the village. The waves puzzled the village headman, who recognized them as a tsunami but felt no earthquake beforehand. The headman wrote about this orphan tsunami so that those who came after him would know of the hazard.

Three centuries later, scientists would find natural records of the parent earthquake in muddy bays and red-cedar ghost forests of the Northwest coast. The Miho headman's account helped pinpoint the earthquake's date (Jan. 26, 1700) and its approximate size (magnitude 9).

Endos of modern Miho contributed to this detective story in two ways. First, several generations of Endo hoteliers saved the headman's writings from oblivion by curating their brush-stroked pages and mak-

ing them available to local historians. Second, one of these historians made the headman's writings public by publishing reproductions accompanied by transcriptions in modern Japanese with commentaries.

During the course of my stay, the innkeeper's daughter, Mayumi Endo, asked me if I knew any Endos in the U.S., for many had left Miho in Meiji (Issei) time to seek their fortunes. I later found that one can pick up their story in Kazuo Ito's now out-of-print "Issei," which describes many ending up in Salt Lake City.

For the full text of the headman's account, along with period maps of Miho and a photo of one of the Miho Endos, download the Miho chapter of "The Orphan Tsunami of 1700" at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/pp1707/>.

**DAVID K. YAMAGUCHI**  
Seattle

## Appreciating P.C.'s Coverage of Inland Northwest

Thanks for covering the beating here in Pullman, WA, of Korean American student Kyle Descher (*Pacific Citizen*, March 7 – 20). We in the inland Northwest live 300 miles from Seattle, but we may as well be centuries behind in racial awareness.

The *Daily Evergreen*, the student newspaper from whose coverage you quote, has Kyle claiming that Pullman has no "serious problem" with racism. But he might have a different opinion, after attending a Feb. 15 forum in which several people of color noted other recent incidents of racist behavior.

Three years ago a Korean American woman was subjected to repeated racial and sexual taunting by two white basketball players. The university exonerated the athletes, accusing them only of "juvenile pranks," while the Korean American student was demonized for being irresponsible. Most seriously, the College Republicans staged a hateful anti-immigrant rally, and racial slurs were shouted at our students, threats were made against me and a faculty colleague, and my department chair and his young daughter were stalked.

In none of these cases, and many others like them, did city or school authorities support us or punish the offenders. Understandably, then, we are always delighted by the support of our friends and allies on the "west side."

Relatively few AAs live in this region, partly because of its history of anti-Asian violence. Still, somehow we attract an impressive group of AA students from Seattle, and even a handful from the Pacific Islands and Hawai'i. Given our scarceness, we appreciate your coverage of the region.

**JOHN STREAMAS**  
Assistant Professor, Comparative Ethnic Studies  
Washington State University

## SPRING CAMPAIGN

# A News Source for the Future

By **GIL ASAKAWA**  
*P.C. Editorial Bd. Chair*

As the *Pacific Citizen's* editorial board chair, I love talking to people about the *P.C.* and its evolution into a world-class news organization, covering issues that are important to JACL, and also serving as the only national newspaper that covers news about Asian Pacific Americans.

And whenever I tell people about the *P.C.*, I tell them how they accomplish their heroic achievements with a staff of only three full-time and one part-time employees.

It's true, I respond to their disbelief. This national newspaper is published twice a



month, never missing a deadline and always meeting the budget of national JACL, with only an executive editor, an assistant editor, a business manager and a circulation manager.

Notice that there is no reporter working for the *P.C.*

There had been a reporter on the *P.C.* staff, but since the last reporter left several years ago, the position has not been filled. At first the position was left on the budget, but national JACL's finances were tight, and the *P.C.* staff held off for the good of the organization. At the last convention, the position was simply removed from the budget so the *P.C.* couldn't even consider hiring a reporter.

Every issue, the articles are written by executive editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom and assistant editor Lynda Lin.

The *P.C.* has added a reporter position to the 2010 budget for approval at the Salt Lake City

convention, but they're not asking for permission to hire just any reporter. They're hoping to be able to hire an *online* reporter.

That's because since the *P.C.* lost its reporter position three years ago, one big change has occurred: the popular Web site, [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org), was launched. Like the print edition of the *P.C.*, it's managed with very little resources.

Business manager Brian Tanaka mainly handles the Web site, aside from all his other duties managing the *P.C.'s* budget, office needs, office networking, advertising and even helping out with the sports coverage. Caroline and Lynda are being trained to pitch in and post articles when needed. I wouldn't be surprised if part-time circulation manager Eva Lau-Ting is trained at some point to help out on the Web site too.

The newspaper gets in the mail on time every issue. But the Web site waits to get updated a week after the print edition is pub-

See ASAKAWA/Page 12



## Dalai Lama Calls on China to Cease Suppression, Withdraw Troops

By MANUEL VALDES  
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE—The Dalai Lama said April 13 that Tibet cannot make any more concessions to China and renewed his calls for the government to cease suppression in his former homeland and withdraw troops.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader denied Chinese claims that he has called for Tibet to be split from China and that he is behind recent turmoil, saying instead that he is committed to pursuing Tibet's right to autonomy.

"The whole world knows that the Dalai Lama is not seeking independence, nor separation," he said at a news conference.

The Dalai Lama, visiting Seattle for the five-day Seeds of Compassion conference, told journalists April 13 that there have been some talks between representatives of his government-in-exile and Chinese officials.

The talks date back to 2002 and some progress was made, but by July 2007 the discussions had deteriorated, he said. He did not elaborate.

Recent protests in Tibet against five decades of Chinese rule have been the largest and most sustained in almost 20 years and have fueled protests that have disrupted the global torch relay for this summer's Olympic Games in Beijing.

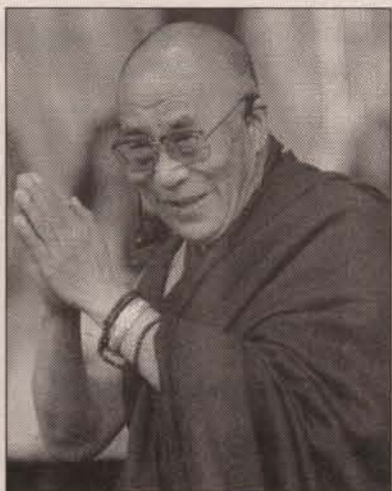
"Our struggle is with a few in the leadership of the People's Republic of China and not with the Chinese people," the Dalai Lama said in a statement released after the press conference. "If the present situation in Tibet continues, I am very much concerned that the Chinese government will unleash more force and increase the suppression of Tibetan people."

He said that if the Chinese stop such suppression and withdraw armed police and troops, he would advise all Tibetans to stop their protests. He did not expect his message to reach Tibet, however, because of China's expulsion of foreign journalists.

Meanwhile, China has detained nine Buddhist monks and accused them of planting a homemade bomb last month in a government office building in eastern Tibet, an official said April 13.

The alleged bombing builds on Beijing's claims that the recent protests were part of a violent campaign by the Dalai Lama and his supporters to overthrow Chinese rule in Tibet and sabotage the Beijing Olympics in August.

Scholars say China's accusations help the government justify its crackdown and demonize the opposition while driving a wedge between the government-in-exile and groups like the Tibetan Youth Congress that have challenged the Dalai Lama's policy of nonviolence. ■



## For Many Chinese Americans, Olympic Protests are Becoming Noticeably Anti-Chinese

The Olympic torch has faced protests along every stage of its worldwide route. But some feel the pro-Tibetan cries are creating increasing anti-Chinese sentiment.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

From London to Paris and now San Francisco, the Olympic torch has faced a throng of protestors looking to demonstrate against China's recent crackdown on Tibet and its ongoing economic relations with the oppressive regimes of Sudan and Myanmar.

The upcoming summer Beijing Olympics have provided the perfect venue to cast a spotlight on China's human rights record and members of the mainstream media are more than happy to oblige. But the blatant criticism has left many Chinese Americans feeling the sting of anti-Chinese sentiment.

"I think activists can certainly use the Beijing Olympics as a rallying point to draw attention to what's really going on in China," writes Phil Yu on his popular Angry Asian Man blog. "But ultimately, I think boycotting or withdrawing support of the Olympics will only serve to further isolate and define China as 'the enemy,' which really doesn't do anyone any good in the long run."

"In any case, you can definitely expect this controversy to intensify as the games draw nearer."

The city of San Francisco hosted the Olympic torch on April 9, the only American city on the tour chosen because of its large Chinese American community. Pro-Tibetan



Pro-China and Pro-Tibetan demonstrators line the streets of London as the Olympic torch passes through April 6.

protestors furled banners on the Golden Gate Bridge and thousands lined the torch route, a route that was ultimately changed to allay security concerns.

But along the same route were Chinese Americans who came out to support the Olympic torch not because of political reasons but to show support for a country that has seen dramatic transformation in recent years.

"Many Chinese Americans feel a great sense of pride that San Francisco has been chosen for the torch relay," said David Lee, head of the Chinese American Voters Education Committee, in an interview with SFGate.com. "And for those of us in the community who have long been anticipating the torch as a (symbol of) China's emergence as a superpower, the protests are an unwanted distraction."

"There are folks who are coming to support the torch relay from across the U.S. and around the world," said community activist Henry Der in the same article. "Chinese Americans are taking great pride that Chinese folks are going to pull off the Olympics — that huge event. That's why there is an ethnic pride, and it is not nationalism."

Noted human rights activist and author Helen Zia was one of the torchbearers in San Francisco recently and she wrote an op-ed piece for New America Media outlining the reasons she decided to take part in the torch relay.

"Unfortunately the calls to boycott the Olympics and to label everything about China 'evil' can only isolate China and the United States from each other. China is not a monolith and blanket condemnations of China and its people are as simplistic as blaming all Americans for the U.S. human rights violations at Abu Grahb and Guantanamo."

"Attitudes like these hark back to the Cold War days, when the U.S. and China were completely shut off from each other."

The Olympic games are an opportunity to engage with the world, said Zia. "The worst outcome would be for China to be pushed back into isolation, instead of engaged."

As the next cities host the Olympic torch, including Buenos Aires, Mumbai, and Bangkok, Chinese Americans are bracing for continued protests. By the end of the relay the torch will have traveled 85,000 miles before it will be unveiled at the Aug. 8-24 Beijing Olympics. ■

## A New Day



By CRAIG ISHII  
PSW Regional Director

By 1980, the movement for Japanese American redress and reparations was already in full swing. It was the year the community celebrated its first accomplishment with the passage of the bill to create the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) signed by President Carter. The CWRIC was comprised of a nine-member panel appointed by the President and Congress. Its purpose: to examine the government's actions in 1942.

In 1980 Dr. Mary Sakaguchi Oda was a doctor working in the San Fernando Valley and a mother. Connected with some of the major Redress players in the Valley such as

Phil Shigekuni, she soon became aware that the CWRIC was looking for former internees willing to give testimony about their experiences.

She had earned her degree at UCLA in 1941 and attended school at Berkeley Medical School, but her education was interrupted by the war and the internment. In camp she served as a doctor's assistant and finished her degree at the Philadelphia Woman's Medical College after the war.

Initially, Dr. Oda wasn't too interested in giving her testimony. "Everyone who was an adult at that time [and had experienced the internment] had a lot of anger inside," she said. Painful memories of camp had kept her from telling the story to even her own family.

However, Shigekuni was persua-

sive. He pleaded that someone needed to testify so the government and the community could record what happened during World War II. Finally, after some thought, Dr. Oda decided she would testify and explain the pain and suffering the internment had brought to her family.

It took her three nights to write her speech, but she noted that after giving her testimony, it was the most therapeutic moment of her life.

In her testimony Dr. Oda explained how first she lost her father and brother after coming to Manzanar and how her brother was a dentist at the time and had ambitions to return to medical school. She told the commission about how her sister developed asthma from the dust at camp and passed away from an asthma attack only six months after leaving camp. And she talked about how her younger sister didn't realize they were going to a POW camp and



DR. MARY SAKAGUCHI ODA

wore a riding outfit with classy boots.

"We hadn't done anything wrong, it was folks in Japan so why should we get punished?" she said. "We were given no rights and were treated as if we were the enemy."

In the end, being able to tell the government how she felt and how it affected her family didn't make up for the pain that it had caused, said Dr. Oda. But it at least forced the government to recognize internment as illegal and immoral so in the

future it would never happen again.

Dr. Oda believes the period we live in is truly a new day. Reflecting back on her years prior to camp she notes that even some of her school professors would claim she was doing well, but still urged her to consider changing her profession because of racial prejudice at the time.

In 1983, the CWRIC recommended an apology by Congress and the President and monetary compensation of \$20,000 to each surviving victim of the internment. This recommendation was largely due to the many testimonies like Dr. Oda's. But more importantly, it was because of their courage that the day had changed and that America had begun to recognize its wrongs. ■

*This is one in a series of 'Redress, 20 Years Later,' articles written by JACL board, staff members, and fellows to mark the 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act.*



## APA Students at U. Penn Win Battle to Save their Asian American Studies

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Protest turned into a celebration rally April 1 at the University of Pennsylvania where students, faculty and community leaders marked a victory in the effort to save their Asian American Studies program.

"Their message had been heard," said Hiro Nishikawa, a former JACL EDC district governor, about the university's decision to settle budget disputes with the Asian American Studies (ASAM) department.

Nishikawa attended the rally where APA students celebrated their victory and hoisted signs proclaiming, "I am ASAM."

In March, the university's decision to decrease ASAM's budget was met with outrage and protest. The program, which was established in 1996, had already suffered from a 25 percent budget cut last year. Administrators who wanted to work off of the reduced budget for the next academic year were criticized for trying to push through a backdoor funding cut.

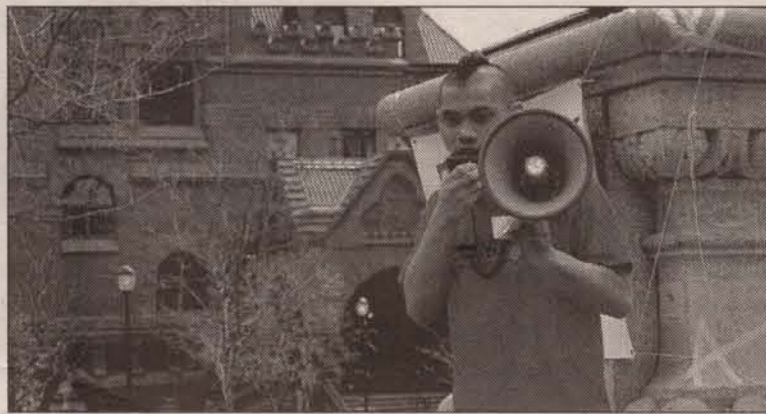
ASAM is already operating with no full-time staff members, according to a report in the university's newspaper.

News of the budget cut reportedly prompted the ASAM program director Grace Kao to threaten to quit. Student leaders organized an online petition and a campus rally.

The outpouring of support forced university officials to restore funding

"This is a huge victory for Asian American Studies at Penn. Our program is now guaranteed to flourish for at least three years."

**Benjamin Alisuag** (pictured below)  
member of the Asian Pacific Student Coalition  
PHOTO COURTESY OF BENJAMIN ALISUAG



to the proposed 2008-09 budget and to add additional measures to develop the program for the next three years.

"This is a huge victory for Asian American Studies at Penn," said Benjamin Alisuag, a member of the university's Asian Pacific Student Coalition, who was leading the effort. "Our program is now guaranteed to flourish for at least three years."

Details of the agreement have not yet been released.

"It has been very gratifying to see the expressions of enthusiasm for the program in recent days from students, alumni and faculty," said Kao.

The University of Pennsylvania is a private Ivy League university with a 2008 budget of \$5.18 billion, according to its Web site. The uni-

versity's ASAM department, despite limited funding resources grabbed headlines last year when it successfully recruited actor Kal Penn to teach a course on Asian Americans in the media.

Program supporters say ASAM is needed now more than ever, especially since a recent issue of *The Punch Bowl*, the university's quarterly student humor magazine, was accused of stereotyping APAs with articles like, "Where Asians Don't Belong."

"Asian American Studies should not be viewed as a supplement to a college curriculum, but as part of the foundation for all universities," said Alisuag. ■

**On the Web**  
<http://asam.sas.upenn.edu>

## APA Group Blasts CNN Commentator for Racist Remark

**Jack Cafferty of 'The Situation Room' called Chinese people 'goons and thugs.'**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A Santa Clara, Calif. Asian Pacific American group is demanding an apology from the Cable News Network (CNN) and a "Situation Room" commentator for reportedly making an anti-Chinese statement during its coverage of the Olympic torch controversy.

"We are truly stunned and shocked by a recent racist and hatred remark by your news commentator Jack Cafferty," said the Legal Immigrant Association in its online petition.

On the April 9 "The Situation Room" show, Cafferty is alleged to have called the Chinese a "bunch of goons and thugs." His comment was recorded and uploaded to YouTube.com.

"We believe his remark clearly exposed his hatred and bigotry against Chinese people as a whole.

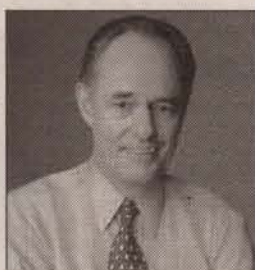
Without doubt, many people feel hurt, especially the Chinese people, by this shameless assault, read the online petition. At press time, it has collected over 23,000 signatures."

The recent torch relay through the streets of San Francisco ignited controversy between some Chinese American groups and Tibetan activists, who tried to disrupt the global torch relay for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Some Chinese Americans said that protests fanned anti-China sentiment.

"The calls to boycott the Olympics and to label everything about China as evil can only serve to isolate China and the United States from each other," said Helen Zia, in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about her decision to run with the torch.

Protest over what people are calling China's human rights violations is fine, wrote Phil Yu on his popular Angry Asian Man blog. "What I



CAFFERTY

don't appreciate is outright fear-mongering, scapegoating and name-calling ..."

The Cafferty controversy comes just two months after another heavily criticized CNN report on Asian

American voters. A Feb. 8 segment on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," attributed Sen. Hillary Clinton's popularity among APAs to the community's hesitancy to vote for an African American president. Critics called the report insulting and inaccurate.

The Legal Immigrant Association, which was founded in 2007 by a group of Silicon Valley engineers, is a non-profit organization dedicated to securing the rights of immigrant professionals. ■

**Read the petition:** [www.petitiononline.com/mod\\_perl/signed.cgi?cnnc](http://www.petitiononline.com/mod_perl/signed.cgi?cnnc) aff

**See the video:**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2j2bvOq3fLA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2j2bvOq3fLA)

## National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

### NCAPA Pushes for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Chicago, IL—The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), during an April 15 news conference, called on the presidential candidates and elected officials to address immigration needs.

Data must be collected and presented for specific APA communities, said NCAPA about the fastest growing racial group in the country. Real progress in civil rights, economic justice, education, and health are all tightly linked to progress in immigration reform.

Participants in the news conference included JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino and other local APA organizations.

NCAPA is a nonpartisan coalition of 25 national APA organizations.

### After Apology, 'Chinese Laundry' Ad Offers Much of the Same

PROVIDENCE, RI—The Asian fusion restaurant that sparked controversy last month with its ad featuring a headless and nude female body tattooed with Chinese characters has unveiled a similar ad campaign — this time with the outline of the same body.

After being heavily criticized by APA leaders for the racist ad, "Chinese Laundry" owner John Elkhay promised to pull the ads. The modified ad was spotted in the current issue of *Providence Monthly*.

APA leaders are decrying the ad even in its new form.



### New Effort by ACLU to Collect Racial Profiling Complaints

ST. PAUL—Minnesota's American Civil Liberties Union says it will start collecting complaints about racial profiling on its Web site.

The ACLU says it's launching the program because of heightened awareness of immigrants in Minnesota. The organization has taken complaints from people for a long time, but executive director Chuck Samuelson says the Web site will make the collection more systematic.

Samuelson says the ACLU will use the information in legislative testimony, lawsuits and in comments to media.

### San Francisco, Los Angeles J-Towns Become 'Preserve America' Communities



LITTLE TOKYO

WASHINGTON—San Francisco's Japantown was recently honored with one of the nation's newest Preserve America community designations.

Paul Osaki, executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California will receive a certificate of designation signed by First Lady Laura Bush.

Along with San Francisco's Japantown, Little Tokyo in Los

Angeles was also awarded.

In 2007, \$4.9 million was awarded to 72 projects. In 2008, \$10 million is available.

### Conviction is Made in Vicious Attack on Chinese Food Deliveryman

QUEENS, NY—A man who is accused of luring a Chinese food deliveryman to a housing development and then stabbing him, has been convicted of attempted murder.

David Moore, 23, of Manhattan was arrested after TV stations aired security video from the October 2006 crime scene at the Ravenswood Houses in Astoria. He was convicted of second-degree attempted murder, first-degree assault and fourth-degree weapon possession.

The video shows Moore leaving the building with a knife in his hand. Jian Lin Huang, 39, was left at the scene.

The prosecutor said Moore jumped out from a stairway, grabbed the victim around the neck, and stabbed him in the chest, torso and arm. Moore faces up to 25 years in prison. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Hara Becomes LAPD's Highest-Ranking Officer



**Terry S. Hara** became the highest-ranking APA in Los Angeles Police Department history when he was recently promoted from commander to deputy chief.

In his new West Bureau operations section, Hara oversees an area stretching from Hollywood to Venice.

Hara was first introduced to law enforcement as a Long Beach police explorer scout. He then joined the LAPD in February 1980, later becoming the

first APA to hold the rank of captain.

He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

### A Stamp in Honor of a JACLER

A 59-cent stamp with the picture of author **James A. Michener** (1907-1997), a JACL life member, was announced in February by the U.S. Postal Service to fulfill first class mail over one ounce. It will be in effect May 12, according to **Harry K. Honda**, a stamp collector and former editor of the *Pacific Citizen*.

### YouTube Founder, Yamaguchi to be Honored at Asian Excellence Awards



This year's Asian Excellence Awards will honor YouTube.com founder **Steve Chen** with the Pioneer Award and figure skating legend **Kristi Yamaguchi** with the special Inspiration Award.

Chen is the co-founder and chief technology officer of the popular video sharing Web site. In 2006, at the age of 28, Chen was named one of the "50 People Who Matter Now" by *Business 2.0* magazine.

Yamaguchi is the 1992 Olympic Champion in women's singles and has also won two World Figure Skating Championships. She is currently a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars."

The awards show, which will take place April 23 and air on E! Entertainment Television on May 1, is being hosted by **Carrie Ann Inaba** of "Dancing with the Stars" and **Bobby Lee** of "MADtv."

### APA Woman Wins Bellevue City Council Seat

**Patsy Bonincontri**, a former planning commissioner, was recently appointed to the Bellevue City Council.

Bonincontri, who is of Chinese descent, is only the second minority to serve on Bellevue's City Council, according to the *Northwest Asian Weekly*.

Bonincontri was chosen from a pool of 21 applicants. She fills the seat left by former Councilwoman **Connie Marshall**, who resigned in January. Bonincontri will serve out Marshall's term, which ends in January 2009.

### APA Journalists Win Pulitzers

Two APAs have recently been honored with Pulitzer Prizes. Filipino American **Jose Antonio Vargas**, 27, won for his reporting on the Virginia Tech shooting spree. The *Washington Post* reporter is the youngest and only the fifth Filipino to win a Pulitzer.

Cartoonist **Michael Ramirez** of *Investor's Business Daily* won for what the judges called his "provocative cartoons." Ramirez's mother is Japanese.

### Ho to Become Next Solicitor General of Texas



**James C. Ho**, a lawyer who has served in all three branches of the federal government, is slated to become the next solicitor general of Texas. He is expected to be appointed after the current solicitor general leaves office, becoming the highest-ranking APA official in Texas.

Ho, of the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, has served as chief counsel to Sen. John Cornyn and in the Department of Justice. He was recognized as

one of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's "Best Lawyers Under 40" in 2006. ■

## Anti-communist Protests Divide SoCal's Little Saigon

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WESTMINSTER, Calif.—There seem to be few boundaries when it comes to displaying the South Vietnamese flag in the Little Saigon neighborhood: the red-and-yellow banner flutters from rooftops and store windows, adorns T-shirts and ball caps and is even painted on cars.

But when the flag adorns a plastic pedicure basin, it is another story.

Hundreds of noisy protesters have picketed outside the Vietnamese-language newspaper *Nguoi Viet* in the Southern California city for more than two months, ever since it published a picture of a bright yellow foot-washing basin lined with the flag's three red stripes.

The photo has proved an emotional flashpoint for hardline anti-communists in Little Saigon, home to thousands of refugees who fled their homeland in the late 1970s after communist forces took over and wiped out the South Vietnamese government.

*Nguoi Viet*, which has previously been accused of pro-communist leanings, is now being condemned as a communist front. Dozens of protesters, who camp outside its offices daily with bullhorns, recently began circulating decade-old photos that appear to show the paper's former owner meeting with communist officials.

The newspaper, the largest and oldest Vietnamese daily in the United States, has retaliated with a lawsuit and allegations of bomb threats, death threats, stalking and harassment. The publisher, Anh Do, has also publicly accused the protesters of being themselves backed by communist money.

The outcry is the latest in a surge of passionate — and sometimes vio-



Protest organizer Ky Ngo gestures during a protest outside Vietnamese-language newspaper *Nguoi Viet* Daily April 2 in Westminster, Calif.

AP PHOTO/NICK UT

lent — demonstrations by anti-communist protesters here. In recent months, activists have targeted newspapers, concerts and the University of Southern California. The demonstrations have divided Little Saigon and drawn unwanted attention to a thriving immigrant enclave that is the largest community of Vietnamese outside Vietnam.

Some see the escalating protests as a backlash against warming relations between Vietnam and the U.S., including last summer's visit to Little Saigon by Vietnamese president Nguyen Minh Triet. Triet was the first Vietnamese head of state to visit the U.S. since the end of the Vietnam War.

Le Vu, publisher of the *Viet Weekly*, said the debate over Triet's visit and Vietnam's growing international role has exposed rifts within the expat community between hardliners and the more moderate. The protests are part of resolving that tension, he said.

"It puts the community here in a difficult situation," said Vu, whose own paper has been picketed for months because of perceived leftist leanings. "Some of these issues, these people have tried to hide under the rug for the last 30 years. Now, they have to settle all these differ-

ences."

That problem is compounded by an emotional gap between older Vietnamese, who lost everything to communist forces in the 1970s and passionately oppose the current government, and a younger generation of Vietnamese Americans who don't feel as strongly about Vietnam.

"Holding the Vietnamese flag and shouting profanity, I don't know if it's even politics anymore. We're young people, we're second-generation and we just don't understand," said Michelle Nguyen, who organized a concert that was picketed because it included songs by a Vietnamese singer suspected of communist sympathies.

Ky Ngo fled Vietnam one week before the fall of Saigon. He later learned that his elderly mother had died in a re-education camp where upper-class or educated people were sent to "learn" communist ways. He says he is not overreacting.

"The most valuable things in my life — my mother and my flag — I lost it," said Ngo, who spent \$800 to paint his 1992 Toyota Camry in the colors of the South Vietnamese flag. "What else do I have left in my life? I have nothing." ■

## U.S. Seeks No Bail for Man Accused in Virginia Tech-style Plot

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

MIAMI—Federal prosecutors want a South Florida man arrested with an arsenal of weapons held without bail until trial on charges that he made threats on the Internet about staging a Virginia Tech-style massacre.

U.S. Magistrate Judge John O'Sullivan delayed a bail hearing for **Calin Chi Wong**, 20, who was charged with a federal crime for allegedly making the threats on an Internet chat room after he said he had been ripped off in an online gun purchase.

Wong's attorney had asked for the delay so more evidence could be gathered. A new date has not been set.

An FBI affidavit says that Wong, of Homestead, on March 25 made several posts to a firearms chat room

called AR15.com referring to last year's killings of 32 people at Virginia Tech by **Seung-Hui Cho**, who also killed himself.

"As we all know around a year ago this guy named Cho shot up Virginia Tech because no one believed him," Wong purportedly wrote. "I'm soon to the point to reenact the whole thing."

Wong's attorney, David Rothman, said at a hearing April 7 he hoped "cooler heads would prevail" and that Wong would be released on bail. He declined comment after the hearing, as did Wong's mother.

Arraignment on the Internet threat charge was set for April 21. No evidence has surfaced that Wong ever took steps toward committing a violent act.

Wong was first arrested on threats charges by Homestead police after a

search of the home he shares with his parents uncovered 12 firearms — including four AK-47 assault rifles and a high-powered sniper rifle — along with 7,000 rounds of ammunition and 132 ammunition magazines, according to the FBI.

After posting \$7,500 bail on the state charges, Wong was taken into custody on April 4 on a similar criminal complaint by federal authorities.

The FBI affidavit said that Wong admitted to making the chat room statements and that he had made "at least 20" similar threatening comments on the Internet over the past year.

Wong's brother said that he was stockpiling the weapons as an investment in case a Democrat is elected president and would seek to ban them in the future, thereby raising guns' value. ■



## JANM's Annual Dinner, 'Fulfilling the Promise of America' Set for April 19

Inouye, Mineta, Minami, Tateishi, and Nishio among guests of honor.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, civil rights attorney Dale Minami, former JACL national director John Tateishi and National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) founder Alan Nishio are among the guests set for the Japanese American National Museum's Annual Gala Dinner, "Fulfilling the Promise of America: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988", set for April 19 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel.

Other special guests are William Hohri, founder of the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR); Aiko Herzog-Yoshinaga, whose research helped to reopen the three coram nobis cases in the 1980s and who worked as a senior research associate for the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC); Peggy Nagae, lead counsel for Minoru Yasui's coram nobis suit; and Rod Kawakami, a lead counsel for Gordon Hirabayashi's coram nobis case.

Minami was the lead counsel for Fred Korematsu's coram nobis case, and these lawsuits, along with the work of the community organizations and elected officials, were key components in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which

provided an official government apology and reparations to thousands of eligible Japanese Americans who were unconstitutionally forced to leave their homes and businesses by the U.S. government during World War II.

The successful redress campaign is the most important Japanese American story in the post-World War II era, said Akemi Kikumura Yano, National Museum CEO. It encouraged families to share their own experiences from the war, it educated the general public on the civil rights violations perpetrated by their own government and it got diverse groups within our own community to work together for a common goal with other concerned Americans.

Actor George Takei, chairman emeritus of the board of trustees for the National Museum, and Professor Mitch Maki, one of the foremost experts on JA Redress, will co-emcee the gala dinner. Using historic footage and photographs, including video of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President Reagan, along with the voices of many of the key participants, both live and recorded, the evening's program will provide a sense of the challenges and the accomplishment in turning the dream of redress into the law of the land.

For more information on the 2008 Annual Gala Dinner, call the National Museum at 213/625-0414.

## JACL Seeks Applicants for Ford Fellowship Position

The JACL is looking for an emerging community leader for the Ford Fellowship at the JACL Midwest office in Chicago. This fellowship offers future leaders in the Asian American community an opportunity to take part in JACL programs in social justice, education and youth leadership.

The program fellow will work on a full-time basis for a period of one year beginning on Aug. 1 in the JACL Midwest office under the direct supervision of the JACL Midwest director. The program fellow will be assigned tasks and responsibilities to carry out the JACL Anti-Hate and Education Programs.

"I look back at the year I spent with JACL and see it as a crossroads of my future," said Brandon Mita, the 2006-07 Ford Fellow.

The fellow's tasks and responsibilities may include: monitor, document and respond to anti-Asian sentiment and hate crimes; develop and implement Anti-hate workshops and leadership/empowerment workshops on college campuses; and assist with the development and production of JACL tolerance and hate crime materials.

Additional responsibilities may include: assist with the development of JACL education program materials; take part in local Asian American coalition activities; and provide administrative and program assistance to the Chicago JACL under the direction of the JACL Midwest director including the publication of the chapter newsletter and maintenance of the chapter Web site.

The fellowship is for one full year and includes a monthly stipend. Submit a cover letter, resume and writing sample by June 1. For more information, contact the JACL Midwest Office at 773/728-7170 or Midwest@jacl.org.

"This gave me the opportunity to really delve into the issues affecting the Asian American community today," said Elaine Low, 2007-08 Ford Fellow.

## 39th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 26

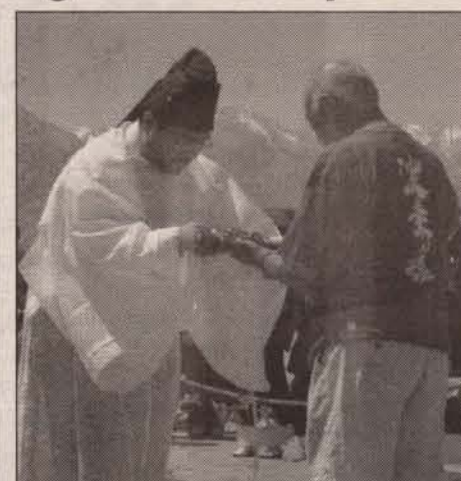
"Continuing The Legacy" is the theme for the 39th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which will be held April 26 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley.

Each year, hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former internees attend the pilgrimage. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an official government apology and reparations to tens of thousands of Japanese Americans imprisoned without due process in ten concentration camps. Manzanar was the first of these camps to be established.

"This is an opportunity for the public to hear and see first-hand, how executive decisions and public hysteria can undermine the basic liberties we take for granted," said Kerry Cababa, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee. "When people come to the pilgrimage, they are hit with the reality that this really happened and if we don't remain vigilant, it will happen again."

The afternoon program begins at noon at the Manzanar cemetery site, with a performance by UCLA Kyodo Taiko. Featured speakers are Dr. Arthur A. Hansen, professor of history, California State University, Fullerton and co-author of "Manzanar Martyr"; Bruce Kaji, a former Manzanar internee; and Mickie Okamoto, president of the Nikkei Student Union at UCLA.

In addition to the daytime program, the popular Manzanar At Dusk (MAD) program is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a



This year's annual Manzanar pilgrimage to the Manzanar National Historic Site (left) will once again feature an interfaith ceremony.

screening of "Music Man of Manzanar," a short documentary film by Brian Maeda. The filmmaker, along with original members of the "Jive Bombers" will be in attendance for a brief question and answer period following the screening.

MAD participants will then have the opportunity to interact with former internees in attendance to hear their personal stories and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles.

Two air-conditioned buses will depart from in front of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo at 7 a.m. on April 26. One bus will leave Manzanar at 4:00 p.m., arriving in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m. The other bus will leave Manzanar at 7:30 p.m., arriving in Los Angeles at midnight.

Both buses will also take participants to the Interpretive Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Those wishing to participate in the Manzanar At Dusk program should make reservations on the bus leaving Manzanar at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations are now being accepted from members of the general public on a first-come, first-served basis by sending e-mail to manzcomm@yahoo.com or by calling 323/662-5102. The non-refundable fare is \$40 per seat if reserved before April 21 or \$50 after that date.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drink and snacks as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Water will be provided at the site.

For more information about the pilgrimage events, contact the Manzanar Committee at 310/532-7562 or 310/908-7508, check their Web site at [www.manzanarcommittee.org](http://www.manzanarcommittee.org) or send e-mail to [info@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:info@manzanarcommittee.org).



### National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

Oakland, Calif.	Greater Los Angeles	Seattle, Wash.
<b>KITAZAWA SEED CO.</b> SINCE 1917 The Asian Vegetable Seed Source for Gardeners, Retailers, Growers Request a Catalog P.O. Box 13220 Oakland, CA 94661-3220 ph: 510/595-1188 fx: 510/595-1860 <a href="mailto:kitaseed@pacbell.net">kitaseed@pacbell.net</a> <a href="http://kitazawaseed.com">kitazawaseed.com</a>	<b>Cambridge Dental Care</b> <b>Scott Nishizaka D.D.S.</b> Family Dentistry & Orthodontics 900 E. Katella, Suite A Orange, CA 92867 • (714) 538-2811 <a href="http://www.cambridgedentalcare.com">www.cambridgedentalcare.com</a>	<b>UWAJIMAYA</b> ...Always in good taste. 
<b>Greater Los Angeles</b> <b>Dr. Darlyne Fujimoto,</b> <b>Optometrist &amp; Associates</b> A Professional Corporation 11420 E. South St, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 860-1339	<b>Paul Jay Fukushima</b> ATTORNEY AT LAW Wills & Trusts Probate & Conservatorships <a href="mailto:paul@fukushimalaw.com">paul@fukushimalaw.com</a> 12749 Norwalk Blvd. Suite 111 Norwalk, CA 90650 (562) 864-2575	<b>For the Best of Everything Asian</b> Fresh Produce, Meat, Seafood and Groceries A vast selection of Gift Ware  Seattle, WA • (206) 624-6248 Bellevue, WA • (425) 747-9012 Beaverton, OR • (503) 643-4512
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## 'Nihonmachi: The Place to Be' to be Performed at JACL National Convention

By KATHY AOKI

Special to the Pacific Citizen

Attendees of JACL's 40th biennial national convention will have a chance to see a performance of "Nihonmachi: The Place to Be" on July 18, 7 p.m., at the Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The show is produced by the Los Angeles-based group Grateful Crane Ensemble, Inc., who performed their heart warming show "Camp Dance: The Music & The Memories" two years ago at the JACL national convention in Arizona.

The two-act musical written by Sansei playwright Soji Kashiwagi tells the story of fictional manju-maker Alan Iwata, a Sansei, who is closing down the family business after 99 years in Nihonmachi. But, before this happens, Iwata encounters the spirit of his Nisei father who takes him back on a journey through Nihonmachi and explores how life was from the Great Depression to the Redress Movement of the 1980s.

The audience will get a chance to hear American and Japanese tunes from that era and also songs from the popular Japanese singer and actress Misora Hibari.

"Nihonmachi: The Place to Be" made its world premiere during San Francisco Japantown's 100th anniversary celebration in August 2006. Since "Nihonmachi's" premiere, it has been performed throughout California and with its performance in San Jose, Calif. in May in all three remaining



PHOTO: EMILY KURODA

In the play, Kurt Kuniyoshi (left) plays Masao Iwata, a Nisei ghost who returns to give his Sansei son played by Ping Wu (right) some pointers on how to make the perfect manju.

Japantowns in the U.S.

Darrell Kunitomi directs the show with musical direction by Scott Nagatani. The cast is Kerry K. Camahan, Loryce Hashimoto, Yoko Ibuki, Keiko Kawashima, Darrell Kunitomi, Kurt Kuniyoshi, Takuji Kuramoto, Merv Maruyama and Helen H. Ota.

Kashiwagi said the differences between "Nihonmachi" and "Camp Dance" is the current show is more of a play and covers 100 years traveling through Japantown from before, during and after World War II. "Camp Dance" focused on the music and dances that Japanese Americans experienced while they were interned behind barbed wire.

A grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) helped Grateful Crane

Ensemble (GCE) make this show possible. Established in July 2001, GCE is a non-profit theatre company whose mission is to create and present educational and entertaining bilingual programs that tell stories of sacrifices made by first and second generation JAs throughout history and show appreciation for such sacrifices.

Ticket prices are: by June 30 — "Nihonmachi Show" \$25, Youth 18 and under \$10 and 1000 Club Wing Ding and Show \$40; from July 1 — "Nihonmachi Show" \$30, Youth 18 and under \$15 and 1000 Club Wing Ding and Show \$40.

For more information about the JACL national convention, visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) or [www.utjacl.org](http://www.utjacl.org).

## JACL Chapters Encouraged to Apply for Legacy Grants

The funds will be awarded at the 40th Biennial JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, an event that will highlight the 20th anniversary of Redress.

By REIKO CALLNER

Special to the Pacific Citizen

JACL chapters are invited to submit applications for Legacy Grant Funds, funds that will be awarded at the 40th Biennial National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City, July 16-20. The convention theme of "Legacy of Leadership" will highlight the accomplishments and history of JACL in the pursuit of justice and equality. The event will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Chapters are encouraged to participate in the celebration of the anniversary of Redress by submitting applications for Legacy Fund Grants. The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL national council on June 20, 1990, at the national convention in San Diego. The fundraising goal was \$10,000,000. Approximately \$4,800,000 was donated to the fund, much of it from hard-won redress awards donated by former internees who wished to further the legacy of patriotism, civil rights, and community.

Sixty-six years ago, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were ordered interned by our federal government, in an act that was later acknowledged by our government to be not only unjust, but one of the worst betrayals of our American

Constitution.

Patriotic, law-abiding adults and children were ordered to leave their homes and friends to report to assembly centers where they were housed, generally in horse stalls at race tracks and county fairgrounds, before being sent to some of the most arid and barren locations in our country. They left behind the property they had worked for and earned, but not their patriotism, nor their sense of why it is valuable to be American.

At a time when civil liberties are being challenged, the JACL's legacy is more relevant than ever. Just under \$23,000 is currently available for distribution in Legacy Grant Funds. Each grant is capped at \$3000, with the understanding that the grants are an aide to

innovation in the realization of the goals of the National JACL's Plan for Action.

The application forms have been carefully devised to encourage innovative planning and to ensure follow-through. Included is a requirement of progress reporting on an ongoing basis to ensure follow-through and so the grantees' efforts can be properly publicized and celebrated.

Applications are available from each chapter president, from national JACL headquarters, and by e-mailing: [jaclpnwro@email.msn.com](mailto:jaclpnwro@email.msn.com). The final application deadline is June 12. ■

### Legacy Fund Grants:

Application Deadline: June 12  
Contact: [jaclpnwro@email.msn.com](mailto:jaclpnwro@email.msn.com) or national headquarters for applications



JACL  
LEGACY FUND

*Legacy of Leadership*  
2008 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print) Last First MI  
Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name for your badge) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Category ☐ Delegate ☐ Booster ☐ Millennium Club  
☐ Alternate ☐ 1000 Club ☐ National Board/Staff  
☐ Youth ☐ 1000 Club Life ☐ Masaoka Fellow  
☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: MWT Tours & Events**  
**or to pay by credit card**  
Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express  
Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Registrations will not be processed without payment (check or credit card). This form is strictly for registration only and NOT for hotel accommodations. You must call the Marriott Downtown. Submit additional forms for additional registrants.

### Registration Fees

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	\$ _____
<small>(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.)</small>			

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](http://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	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth 5 - 18 years	\$10	\$15	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-members	\$25	\$30	\$ _____

Convention Package	\$ _____
Individual Events	\$ _____
Special Events	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Mail Check and this form together to:

2008 JACL Convention, c/o MWT Tours & Events  
2984 E. Russell Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89120

## First Ever Presidential Town Hall Meeting Will Address APA Issues

Do you have a question to ask the presidential candidates? With the help of APIAVote, you may have a chance to ask it next month.

Over 2,000 Asian Pacific American community leaders, elected officials and voters are expected to make history at the first National Presidential Town Meeting on May 17 at the University of California, Irvine.

APIAVote is working with each candidate's campaign official to schedule an appearance.

At the meeting, time will be allocated for the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates to address APA issues. Prior to this event, the presidential candidates

from both parties have never addressed the APA community on a national level.

A national briefing will also take place before the meeting focusing on the APA electorate and the national public policy platform.

APIAVote is also hoping to stream video of the meeting online. ■

### Presidential Town Hall

Be a part of history and find out where the candidates stand on APA issues.

May 17, 4 p.m.

Bren Events Center at University of California, Irvine

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[ HARRY HONDA ]

VERY TRULY YOURS

## Where Past National JACL Conventions Have Been

A TOPIC THAT has been aired in the past is on the table for consideration at the forthcoming national JACL convention in Salt Lake City: annual conventions. It might be of interest to ponder a problem raised 60 years ago by the late Tom Hayashi, New York delegate at Salt Lake City-1948, who called for a system to equalize expenses to send two chapter delegates to a national convention.

The council adopted the concept, referred it to the national board for study and approval at the next convention. The board proposed a JACL Convention Travel Pool — each chapter would pay a flat sum with distribution apportioned by the distance traveled.

For the first time West Coast chapters faced what East and Midwest chapters still face. Those chapters came west three times in a row: San Francisco-1952, Los Angeles-1954, San Francisco-1956, but not as far to Salt Lake City-1958, and then Sacramento-1960.

After Sacramento came Seattle-1962, conveniently combined with the World's Fair, and drew 400 delegates. Detroit-1964, perhaps the smallest membership-wise to host a national convention, registered 500 delegates. By now payoffs, so slight to West Coast chapters going east, doomed the travel pool plan.

JACL conventions continued to favor the West Coast: San Diego-1966, San Jose-1968 with 900 delegates present and where Mayor Norman Mineta was declared Nisei of the Biennium to the surprise of old-timers who had favored then Rotary Club International president (in Tokyo) George Togasaki, a 1919 pre-JACL co-founder in San Francisco.

Chicago-1970 at the Palmer House was national JACL convention's darkest hour in history. As Jr. JACL and JACL convened together for the first time, on July 16 Evelyn Okubo, 18, of Stockton Jr. JACL was slain in her hotel room on the sixth floor by an apparent rapist. Her 17-year-old roommate, who got her throat slashed, survived. This case has never been solved by Chicago police.

Convention venues found us in Washington, D.C.-1972; Portland-1974; Sacramento-1976; and Salt Lake City-1978 to observe JACL's 50th anniversary. Keynoter Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, who knew about JACL's Redress campaign, told the press the next day that the national council's resolution asking for \$25,000 per evacuee was "ridiculous" and that JACL "had no right to ask the U.S. government for reparations."

Delegates from the Japan and Hawaii chapters attended their first convention at San Francisco-1980. The "red-eye" flight to Washington was special to witness President Carter sign the JACL bill to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Citizens.

After Gardena-1982, JACL held its first off-mainland convention: Honolulu-1984. Then Chicago-1986 and Seattle-1988 for another "red-eye" flight to Washington to witness President Reagan sign HR 442, JACL's Redress bill.

At San Diego-1990, JACL adopted its first million-dollar budget with "no dues increase." At Denver-1992, Lillian Kimura was elected the first woman national president. Over 800 registered at Salt Lake City-1994 with a record high 100 of 113 chapters present and voting. A \$2 dues increase was attached to the new budget but passage required cuts in programs.

San Jose-1996 was a meltdown of sorts for delegates when President Clinton, staying at the same hotel, didn't come up to say hello, but chose to meet privately with JACL board members downstairs. The budget rose past \$1,370,000. That kept rising at Philadelphia-1998, surpassing \$2,600,000.

Monterey Peninsula-2000 adopted a thorny resolution, "Nisei Resisters of Conscience," 64-32. NCWNP Gov. John Hayashi summarized it best: "I feel the JACL is apologizing for (us) not upholding civil and human rights of the Nisei resisters their right to choose — not the person's decision."

Another apology was offered as an emergency resolution at Las Vegas-2002 to recognize "for the first time" the contributions, sacrifices and loyalty of the Nisei men and women who, despite kin and family in U.S.-style concentration camps, fought for Uncle Sam in WWII, that 830 paid the supreme sacrifice, 9,500 wounded in action, etc. But such an accounting was not deemed an "emergency," so no vote was taken.

The last two: Honolulu-2004, Gila River, Arizona-2006.

With such travel on a biennial basis, and doubled if annual, chapters might amend the proxy rule (Bylaw Art. 5, §4) limited at three back to five. At one time, there was no limit. It's a way where chapters can share travel expenses if annual conventions are warranted. Perhaps with odd-year parleys in California, the others can be open for bids. ■

## COMMENTARY

## Connecting the Generations of JACL

By PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN

It's 2008. It's an election year.



One of my favorite things about America is that every citizen has a right to an opinion and the inherent right to express that opinion. I love election years because it seems like this right is exercised more often and vehemently than other years.

I personally have passionate family members in both parties, so I've acquired some expertise in speaking my mind among hostile and like-minded individuals. Let's be honest, sometimes it hasn't been pretty. But at the end of the day, the national conversation is always lively and important.

This year it has been exceptionally rewarding to watch campaigns enlist a younger generation of voters. There is something uniquely inspiring when young people stand up and speak out.

Nonetheless, a headline in the *Pacific Citizen* recently announced, "JACL's Membership Decline is Worse Than Worst-Case Scenario" (Feb. 15- Mar. 6, 2008).

This worries me.

In a year when record numbers of "Generation NeXt" are active and involved, we as an organization are "mired in a dismal membership trend." Why isn't JACL sopping up all these NeXters?

In the last few years as I've sat through endless hours of dental school, one thing that I've heard *ad nauseum* is the importance of establishing a diagnosis before designing a treatment plan. Without a clear diagnosis, you can never render proper treatment.

JACL needs a definitive diagnosis.

Like any illness, it is uncomfortable to address and many of us do not want to acknowledge what is happening. However like in dentistry, it's easier to fluoride treat a tooth than perform a root canal — both for the dentist and the patient.

We as an organization need to act soon to identify our illness. This is not a conversation limited to board members and district leaders; rather this should be a national conversation of the lay members of the JACL to secure our future as a vibrant organization.

I do not claim to have the skills to definitively diagnose JACL, but I am a Gen NeXter. When I talk to my Japanese American peers and look at the direction of the JACL, I can't help but see a distinct disconnect.

JACL has a solid history of defending and securing the rights of JAs as well as blazing the trail for other Asian American groups. We should never forget this

history. Yet as we move forward, we need to find new avenues to band generations together.

Hate crimes are real and still exist in our post-civil rights era, but the fight against hate crimes is not sufficient enough to bring us together like it has in the past. Scouring the nation for slight offenses and giving it air will not unite the NeXters. It just won't.

As we collectively watched Barack Obama eloquently address the nation on race, we must acknowledge that racial tension still exists. While it is important to understand why tensions exist and how to cope with them, our primary focus should be scripting the plan to move into the future: as a truly post-racial nation.

We are a generation of access and connectivity. So how do we forge the solid links of our history with the weightless wireless connections of the present and future?

Whether it was letters across the ocean during World War II or video chatting across the air — people need to connect. We need to facilitate connection and connectivity.

These days, many Gen NeXters don't have a clear picture of their career path even after four years of college and sometimes even after a master's program. Who can we turn to for advice? This is a very real need that is not being met by the JACL.

We Gen NeXters know how to get connected, but there is no network to hook up to right now. We have successful JACLers in every area of the country, in just about every industry, and yet we NeXters have no access.

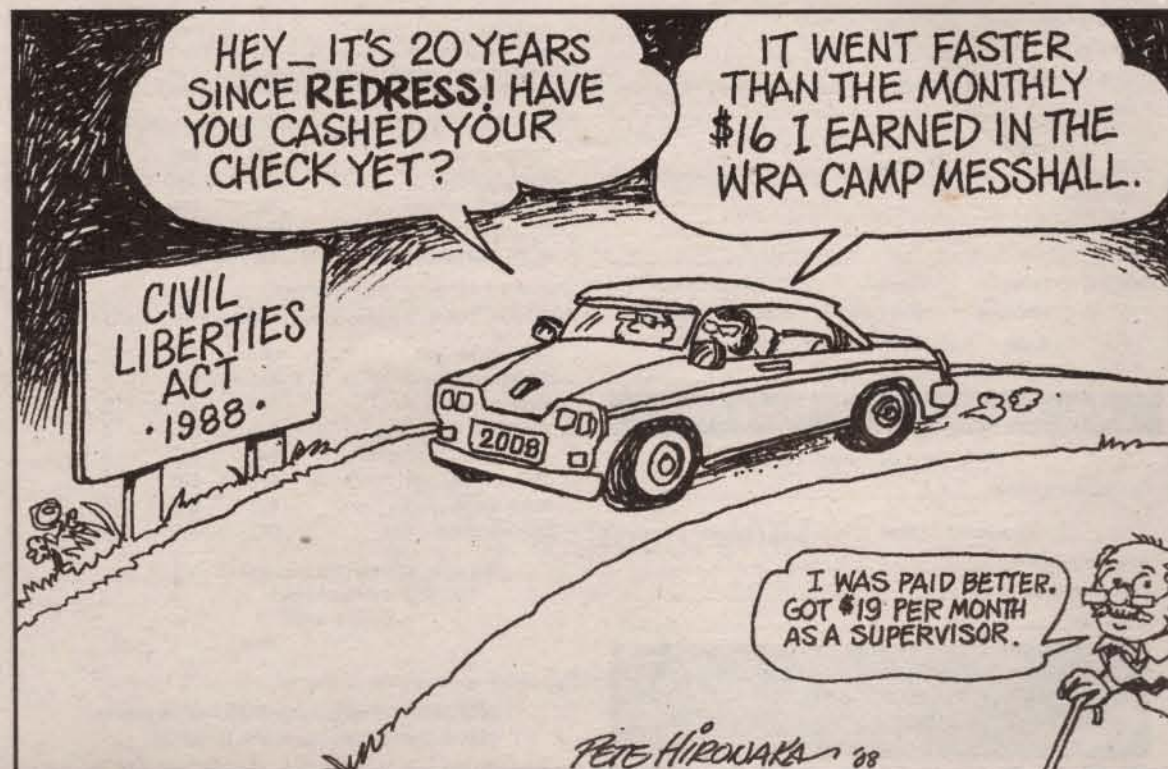
Just imagine how vibrant our community would be if we were all connected. Let's say I'm about to graduate from college and want to study marine biology in Seattle. It would be great if I could log onto a JACL social networking site, look up some people who fit that description, send off an e-mail and establish a mentor/apprentice relationship.

If valuable information like this were a couple of clicks away, I would definitely use that resource — often.

While I can't claim universal experience, people in my age group are looking to buy homes, begin new careers and start new families. First, we will turn to our families for help, but just imagine how strong JACL would be if it were the second line of defense.

Just build the network and we'll log on. I promise.

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is currently attending the College of Dental Medicine at Columbia University. He is also a Mt. Olympus JACL member.





THEY'RE BACK: John Cho (right) catches air with Kal Penn in 'Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay.'



PHOTO: JAMIE TRUEBLOOD/NEW LINE CINEMA

# Going to 'Gitmo' With John Cho

In the 'Harold and Kumar' sequel, Cho battles racial stereotypes, toilet humor and a one-eyed toddler ... don't ask.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

Let's keep it real, John Cho is sort of a big deal now.

In 2004, when he was promoting a little known movie about two young Asian Pacific Americans in a drug addled adventure to find White Castle, the Korean American actor chatted exclusively with the *Pacific Citizen*.

We talked race. We talked politics. We talked about his love of his mom's homemade oxtail soup.

Four years, a cult hit and one *People Magazine*'s "Sexiest Men Alive" title later, the *P.C.* finds itself crammed into a hot Beverly Hills, Calif. hotel room with other, well, more familiar names — you've heard of *TV Guide* and *Us Weekly*, right?

And you know what? It's a good thing. Especially when mundane conversation among journalists, both APA and otherwise, drifts toward Cho's charm and good looks as a leading man.

In Hollywood where APAs are still fighting for visibility, Cho's star status is a big deal. It's a sentiment the 35-year-old star of "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay" later echoes when he enters the room dressed metrosexual chic in a skinny tie, white shirt and black blazer.

Has Hollywood gotten the message that APA men can be viable movie leads?

"I don't know if that's a message that is gotten in one fell swoop," said Cho. "The metaphor is probably more akin to chipping away at a wall and hopefully we took a big swing at the wall — a good hard swing and did some damage to it."

## Asian American 101

In a time when another major film (cough, "21," cough) is being accused of "whitewashing" real life APA characters, the *P.C.*'s reality of being pushed up in the corner with one face cheek against the wall was totally worth it.

The questions for Cho meander from "Escape from Guantanamo Bay" to his reprisal of George Takei's Sulu in the upcoming JJ Abrams "Star Trek" movie, but we always seem to settle back onto the topic of race and ethnicity.

"There are more Asian Americans on television. But also, the quality of stuff is not where it should be," he said. "I don't care if every one-line nurse, doctor, receptionist [or] salesman role is filled with Asian Americans. It doesn't have the impact that a series regular has or a series regular that speaks English."

"You know, a normal person."

For a while it feels like an Asian American Studies class, especially when Cho drops a line about the burden of representation.

"The thing that most I felt like was a burden from playing Harold is worrying about what Asians think."

He has always been a visible member of the APA community. Before his schedule became

impossibly tied up, Cho could often be found at community and charity events — sometimes crooning sweet nothings on karaoke machines — so it's understandable he feels a sense of responsibility.

"It's something I always fret over whenever I take a role and I try to say no to things that I feel that are not going to be good for Asians. But even then, comedy is particularly tough because you want to be able to make fun of race, and you don't want to exclude yourself from the equation either ...

"So you want to make yourself vulnerable, but are you crossing the line? You're always doing this little dance, so I worry."

Playing the titular Harold Lee character in the sequel still offers some room to subvert overarching stereotypes. In one scene after thwarting what seemed like a Harold and Kumar (Kal Penn) attempt to hijack a plane, the head of Homeland Security exclaims that North Korea and Al-Quaida are working together.

## Creating His Own Path

"I feel like there's an implicit mandate when making a sequel that you have to ramp up everything," said Cho.

*'I feel like there's an implicit mandate when making a sequel that you have to ramp up everything.'*



**NOTHING IS SACRED:**  
Cho (right) hangs with one weed-loving and Dick Cheney fearing U.S. president (played by actor James Adomian).

PHOTO: JAMIE TRUEBLOOD/NEW LINE CINEMA

And boy, did the filmmaker up the ante with this one. "Escape from Guantanamo Bay" is not for the meek — there are more racial jokes, toilet humor and nudity (including one scene with a giant bag of weed that will leave you feeling a little dirty).

"I've learned that you can't do something if you're not passionate about [it] because I'll do a really bad job if I'm advised to take something for a reason that I don't believe in," he said.

In the beginning of his acting career, there was a fair share of parking valet roles and silent walk-ons. But then he scored a small but pivotal scene in the "American Pie" movie as the "M.I.L.F." (is translating this acronym really necessary anymore?) guy.

But along the way, he cut his teeth in independent films like the breakout hit "Better Luck Tomorrow."

"You create your own path," he said about his career choices.

This fall, Cho will appear on the big screen in another indie hit, "West 32nd" directed by Michael Kang.

In the meantime, even before "Escape from Guantanamo Bay" opens in theaters nationwide, Cho is already addressing questions about a possible third Harold and Kumar adventure.

But after battling a raccoon in the first one and impersonating a Klu Klux Klan member in the sequel, what other boundaries can be pushed?

"I've been asked about doing another sequel and I have no idea what we would do at this point other than go backwards and make a, you know, children's movie." ■

'Harold and Kumar: Escape from Guantanamo Bay' opens in theaters nationwide on April 25.

**Check out the trailer:**  
[www.haroldandkumar.com](http://www.haroldandkumar.com)  
[www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)



## BASEBALL

## Japan's Ace: Yu Darvish Makes His Mark On and Off the Field

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSAKA, Japan—Yu Darvish appears calm and composed about being Japan's Olympic pitching ace, about being a father, and even about the expectations he will become yet another export to Major League Baseball.

The 21-year-old pitcher, son of an Iranian father and Japanese mother, exhibits a quiet, self-assured confidence when asked about his rapid climb to being one of the best pitchers in Japan, as though he expected it all along.

"Even before I threw my first pitch as a pro, I had confidence that I could do it," Darvish said in a recent interview. "When I reached the pro leagues, I thought they weren't as difficult as what I imagined."

Darvish will talk about his 97-mph fastball, his three week-old son or his Iranian background. But one thing he'd rather not discuss is any future plans to play in the United States.

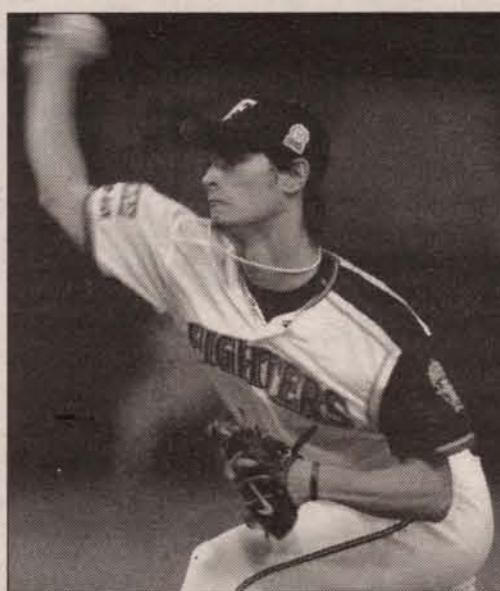
For now, Darvish is focused on winning another title for the Nippon Ham Fighters and, hopefully, a gold medal for Japan at the Beijing Olympics.

He doesn't even watch Major League Baseball on TV. "They're only on satellite so I don't see them, I just watch Japanese games."

But given the ongoing exodus of Japanese stars to the majors, it's hard to imagine Darvish not going over even before his requisite nine years of service needed to become a free agent. Japanese teams, looking for a quick infusion of cash, can use the posting system to sell the negotiating rights to top players.

The Seibu Lions got a negotiating fee of \$51.1 million from the Boston Red Sox for **Daisuke Matsuzaka** and many in Japanese baseball see Darvish easily surpassing that figure.

"He's one of the best pitchers I've ever faced," said former major leaguer Greg LaRocca, who plays for the Orix Buffaloes. He's definitely the top here in Japan. He's got everything — good control, a live fastball



Japan's Nippon ham Fighters' starter Yu Darvish throws the ball against Taiwan's La New Bears in the first inning of the Asia Series baseball tournament at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

AP PHOTO

and a slider he can throw on both sides of the plate."

LaRocca, who played for the San Diego Padres and Cleveland Indians, says Darvish would have no trouble making an impact in the majors.

"He'd be fine over there," said LaRocca. "If he can stay healthy he's got a long career ahead of him."

In Beijing, Darvish likely will get the chance to become Japan's ace. As required by Japanese law, he dropped his Iranian citizenship in order to play for Japan.

And like fatherhood or winning a big game in the Japan Series, Darvish is taking the chance to pitch for Japan in stride.

"If I'm chosen, I don't think what I have to do is much different than

what I do now for the Fighters," said Darvish. "I want to do the best I can without worrying too much that I'm representing Japan."

Kansas City Royals manager Trey Hillman, who watched Darvish develop in his first three years with the Fighters, has said the young right-hander has the potential to be the best pitcher in the world.

Others in Japanese baseball are equally impressed.

"He's something special," said Marty Kuehnert, an executive with the Rakuten Eagles. "He saws off more bats in one game than most pitchers do in a week."

Darvish, now in his fourth season as a pro, is off to another strong start this year, winning two of his first three games and not giving up a run

in his first 25 innings pitched for the Nippon Ham Fighters.

In 2007, Darvish went 15-5 with a 1.82 earned-run average, 12 complete games and a Pacific League-leading 215 strikeouts. For his efforts, he won the Sawamura Award, Japan's version of the Cy Young Award.

Darvish, who stands 6-foot-5 and has model good looks, is more than just a baseball player in Japan. He's a celebrity.

He appears in TV commercials for everything from soft drinks to watches. He created quite a stir last summer when he appeared semi-nude in a women's fashion magazine.

But it's not all fun and games. On the serious side, Darvish has set up a charity for providing drinking water for people in need. The Yu Darvish Water Fund offers the construction of wells in developing countries.

Darvish contributes to the fund by donating \$1,000 for every win during the regular season.

Darvish's father Farsad met his wife Ikuyo while studying in the United States. The couple moved to Japan in 1982 and Yu, the first of two sons, was born four years later in Osaka.

Farsad initially tried to get his son involved in soccer, but the lure of Japan's most popular sport was too much for Yu, who pitched a no-hitter at the Koshien National High School Baseball Championship in 2004. ■



The state of Illinois now joins California and Hawaii in supporting a Nisei WWII veterans stamp.

## VETS STAMP

(Continued from page 1)

by two years.

"The Japanese American veterans from World War II, the Nisei veterans, left a towering legacy," said Bill Yoshino, in testimony given on the House floor. "The exploits of the Nisei veterans were transformational. They reshaped public attitudes about an entire group of people, and in so doing, they made our country more tolerant."

The state of Illinois now joins California and Hawaii in support of a commemorative stamp for the Nisei vets. Over 60 cities and counties across the country have also joined the efforts.

The city of Alhambra, Calif. was the latest city to join in the grassroots efforts, passing a resolution of support on Feb. 25.

The County of Hawaii passed Resolution 503-08 on Feb. 21 urging support of a Nisei vets stamp and recognizing that "the AJA soldiers are a shining example of patriotic sacrifice in our Nation's history, who served with outstanding valor

despite war hysteria and overt racism."

Despite the numerous resolutions of support, the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee has yet to approve the Nisei vets stamp proposal.

At the stamp committee's January meeting the proposal was rejected because of the Postal Service's long-standing policy that they do not recognize individual units or groups in the military.

But because of the huge number of supporters for a Nisei vets stamp the decision was made to form a sub-committee and review the existing policy, announced Terrence McCaffrey, manager of the Postal Service's Stamp Development Department.

There is no timetable for the review but once it is completed the vets stamp proposal will be presented to the committee for discussion.

Members of the grassroots campaign pushing for a Nisei veterans stamp plan to continue pressing the Stamp Advisory Committee until the commemorative stamp is approved. ■



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## WOODWARD

(Continued from page 1)

warn readers the next day against "blind, wild hysterical hatred" towards their JA neighbors. But she still feels the effects of her parents' actions.

There are physical reminders including her parents' many humanitarian and civil rights awards, and more ephemeral moments etched in her memory — in a bookstore she once saw a man tear up with emotion when she mentioned her name.

Now Mary is putting her famous name in her new book, "In Defense of Our Neighbors: The Walt and Milly Woodward Story," to tell her parents' story in the larger context of American history. She wants to honor her parents' legacy, but mostly she wants people to never forget about the WWII atrocities committed on the small island in the middle of Puget Sound.

"The strides we've made in informing the American people about the internment have been tremendous," she said. "But many people still don't know about it."

## Behind the Newsprint

For years, community members encouraged Mary to write a book about her parents. After all, she could tell their life story from a perspective no one else had. The idea blossomed into action a few years ago when a group of Bainbridge Islanders decided to take on a daunting task — raise \$190,000 to fund the creation of the book. To date, they've raised about \$160,000

through donations and grants.

In this last stretch, they need help to complete the publication of the book.

If they can raise an additional \$20,000, an anonymous supporter has promised to match the donations dollar for dollar, said Dr. Frank Kitamoto, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American community (BIJAC).

The 150-page book, filled with the Woodward's personal family photos, is complete and scheduled to go through its final edits this month. It's scheduled to be released in the fall by Fenwick Publishing. In it, Mary offers an intimate look at the couple behind the *Review* and charts the evolution of the island's JA community from its agricultural beginnings to the heartbreaking WWII evacuation and eventual resettlement.

Bainbridge Island's JAs were the first to be rounded up and evacuated to internment camps under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

To write the book, Mary spent three years pouring through archives and personal family records. Research was not easy, especially since major fires in 1948 and 1968 ravaged the *Review* office and archives.

It also didn't help that Walt and Milly were reluctant to think of themselves as heroes.

"It was nothing they preached about," said Mary, their youngest of three daughters. "My mom always liked to say, 'Well, anyone else in our position would have done the same.'"

But virtually no one else did.

In the early 1940s when the young couple first bought the *Review*, it was a weekly with a circulation of about 1,000. Walt left his job as a *Seattle Times* court reporter to run his own Bainbridge Island newspaper with his wife and first daughter, Carolyn Jane, by his side.

"They did everything together. There was no division of labor," said Mary, who acknowledged that most historical accounts have focused just on Walt.

But like the saying goes, behind every great man is a great woman. At the University of Washington, Milly majored in Oriental Studies and learned to speak Japanese fluently. She was also a fiercely intelligent woman who was in charge of the newspaper's finances.

Economically and emotionally, the couple was inextricably tied to the newspaper. Before Bainbridge Island became a destination for the wealthy, it was a small, tight-knit community. The *Review* office was no exception; people would often drop by to visit during coffee breaks, said Mary.

"We all worked there," she said about her older siblings Carolyn and Mildred. "We all got our hands dirty."

## Dateline: Manzanar, Calif.

While many other newspapers fanned anti-Japanese sentiment, the *Review* was the only newspaper to stand by JAs for the entire duration of the war, said Kitamoto. The couple even hired young JA internment camp correspondents to keep



**WALT THE NEWS MAN:** "He was a true patriot," said Tony Koura, a former camp correspondent about his editor (left), who died in 2001.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARY WOODWARD COLLECTION

Bainbridge Islanders updated on what was happening to their friends and neighbors.

Before the war, Paul Ohtaki worked at the *Review* cleaning the office while he was still attending Bainbridge High School. But with E.O. 9066, his job titled changed.

"I was never a journalist," said Paul, 84, an MIS veteran and JACL Thousand Club member.

For his first assignment, he was told to write about the journey to Manzanar. Walt arranged for a U.S. soldier to pick up the article and send it through the *Associated Press* wires. Paul and his family arrived at the desolate camp in Central California on April 1. His article made it into the April 2 issue.

"Each week, I would send articles about what happened to the Bainbridge group."

His articles were mostly about births, deaths and marriages. Once Paul ran out of ideas and sent Walt a copy of the *Manzanar Free Press*, which was not well received.

"Dear Lazybones," Walt wrote in a scolding letter. "Come, come my good man, I find the 'Manzanar Free Press' to be fine reading but where in the hell has my Manzanar correspondent gone?"

"He didn't want the people on the island to forget us," said Paul, who created a scrapbook titled "It Was the Right Thing to Do!" filled with his newspaper clippings and personal correspondences with Walt and Milly.

Other camp correspondents included Sada Omoto, Tony Koura and Sa Nakata.

"At the time, I was 16. I didn't realize the importance. As I grew older, I began to recognize the importance of what Woodward did during and after the war," said Tony, 81, also an MIS veteran.

The *Review's* position on the internment prompted businesses to pull their ads and readers to cancel their subscriptions, said Mary. Her parents also feared physical violence, but they still "did what they thought was right."

"Because Walt and Milly stuck their necks out, other people who supported us were able to come forward," said Frank.

## Preserving a Legacy

Walt and Milly's bravery won them many awards including

JACL's first Edison Uno "Dove of Peace Award" in 1986. Walt was also the inspiration for David Guterson's novel, "Snow Falling On Cedars," which was adapted for the big screen in 1999.

Their story has been told many times, but never so intimately.

"It's very well written and from the heart," said Tony about "In Defense of Our Neighbors."

It's important to remember the legacy of the JA internment especially since the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks have reproduced a lot of old WWII sentiment, said Mary. Last August, the FBI launched an investigation of two unidentified South Asian male ferry riders because they were taking photos.

"How is that different from what happened during WWII?" said Mary.

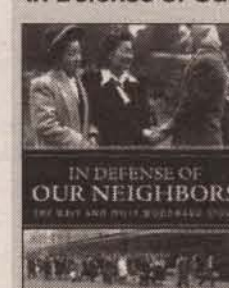
For the last 10 years, BIJAC has been working with other community and city groups to build a JA memorial. Plans for the *Nidoto Nai Yoni* ("Let It Not Happen Again") memorial include a "story wall" engraved with the names of all 272 Bainbridge Island evacuees. Construction was slated to begin this spring, but funding problems have postponed the project.

A request for state appropriations failed to pass, but help could soon come from the federal government. The Senate on April 10 approved a massive public land bill to expand the boundaries of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include *Nidoto Nai Yoni*.

Mary can't wait. Too many JAs have passed away already, so she plans to donate most of the proceeds from her book sales towards the memorial.

"I want that wall built." ■

## 'In Defense of Our Neighbors'



Send your tax-deductible donations payable to 'BIJAC' to: Woodward Book Fund Bainbridge Island

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## JACL Applauds Passage of Minidoka Bill

In a vote of 91 to 4, the U.S. Senate on April 10 passed a long anticipated lands bill package that will expand preservation of internment-related historical sites.

This lands bill package (S. 2739) includes a bill expanding the boundaries of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho to include and give protected status to the eight-acre Nidoto Nai Yoni ('Let It Not Happen Again') Memorial on Bainbridge Island, Wash.

"This is a monumental win for not only the Japanese American community, but the nation as a whole," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Japanese Americans of Bainbridge Island were the first of approximately 120,000 to be forcibly removed from their homes to be relocated to internment camps during World War II. Many of the 227 JAs from Bainbridge Island were ultimately sent to Minidoka.

In addition to the JA community and the National Park Service, The Conservation Fund played an integral role in helping elevate the message of preserving land for the sake of preserving America's legacy.

"Our members feel strongly about cultural and historic preservation," said Debee Yamamoto, JACL public policy director. "It's been through collaboration with The Conservation Fund and active participation from our members that our Senate leaders were able to understand the importance of this piece of the lands bill package."

The broader package of bills will now go to the House of Representatives. It is expected to pass quickly and will then be sent to President Bush for final approval. The president has not indicated whether or not he will sign the legislation. ■

## ASAKAWA

(Continued from page 2)

lished. It's a manual process, and it has to be squeezed in amongst the staff's other tasks.

That's unfortunately the reverse of most news operations, where the articles are posted online first. The new generation of news consumers expects to find the latest news on the Web as it happens. And that new generation is what JACL needs so much to attract for its future.

It's been exciting for me to see the P.C. go online, because I work in the Internet side of the newspaper industry, and I have seen how the Web has already become the main source of breaking news and information for many people. The Internet is where many people now turn when something newsworthy happens, the way we used to turn on the radio, or flip the TV to CNN.

That's why the P.C. is adding the position of online reporter to the biennial budget. And, because national JACL's finances are still precarious, the P.C. is asking for

your help to make it possible to hire this online reporter in 2008. This person would be able to write for the newspaper but also be comfortable with technology and be able to post articles directly to the Web site, and offer much-needed help publishing the content from the newspaper online.

In previous P.C. Spring Campaigns, you have helped to fund upgraded equipment for the staff, like better computers and a digital camera. You've also helped in the past two Spring Campaigns by raising enough money to allow the Web site to be launched, and then professionally redesigned.

Your generosity is needed this year to bring the P.C.'s staffing back up to where it was years ago, and to add some skills that will make the P.C. better, and more cutting-edge.

Make this the most successful Spring Campaign yet, and help the P.C. replace the reporter they've needed for several years, with a reporter who can help make the P.C. JACL's news source for the future. ■

## 50,000

(Continued from page 1)

down. Tim and Larry are anxious to help increase membership, but for a membership program to work, current members need to encourage friends and relatives to join the JACL.

Among bound volumes containing old issues of the *Pacific Citizen*, a front page article on Feb. 27, 1959, had the headline: "Wakamatsu Calls for 50,000 in JACL Ranks." Shig Wakamatsu, then national JACL president, stated the goal of a national membership of 50,000 while speaking at the Detroit chapter's installation banquet.

Wakamatsu's challenge was for chapters to join such chapters as Cincinnati and Dayton which had succeeded in getting practically 100 percent of their potential membership. He recalled the Cincinnati JACL installation in January of that year when Judge Benjamin Schwartz, a man who understood minority organization programs, asked the JACL group: "Why shouldn't the JACL, with its purposes and aims, be roaring for 50,000 members out of a total national population of 135,000 persons of Japanese ancestry?"

"Here we are in 1959," Wakamatsu continued in his speech, "trying to get along with 17-18,000 dues-paying members and hoping to reach the all-time membership record of 20,000 members, which

was established on the eve of evacuation in 1942. Right then and there, I accepted his challenge. The logical and realistic approach to the whole question of a larger membership is to really cut loose, set a high goal, and keep it up there. Otherwise, we would never come close. We should not be afraid of repeated failures if we work steadily at the goal."

To illustrate how the membership key turns, Wakamatsu pointed to another front page story in the P.C. which concerned the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, an organization which attacked the formation of the American Loyalty League, predecessor to the JACL. The group was instrumental in passing the Oriental Exclusion Act of 1924 and was largely credited with pushing for and achieving the mass evacuation of Japanese Americans and their Issei parents during World War II. Their grand president of 1941-42, Edward Schnarr, had been invited by Ken Matsumoto to speak at the 1959 Oakland JACL chapter installation.

With the Nisei audience apprehensive, Schnarr began his remarks. "Time heals many wounds. Time shows many mistakes." Schnarr repeated emphatically, "Our organization made a mistake." Wakamatsu commended Ken Matsumoto for inviting Schnarr to speak so that the JACL could know his feelings years later. Wakamatsu also said it was the same for membership. People can change their minds and should be

invited to join the JACL many times if necessary.

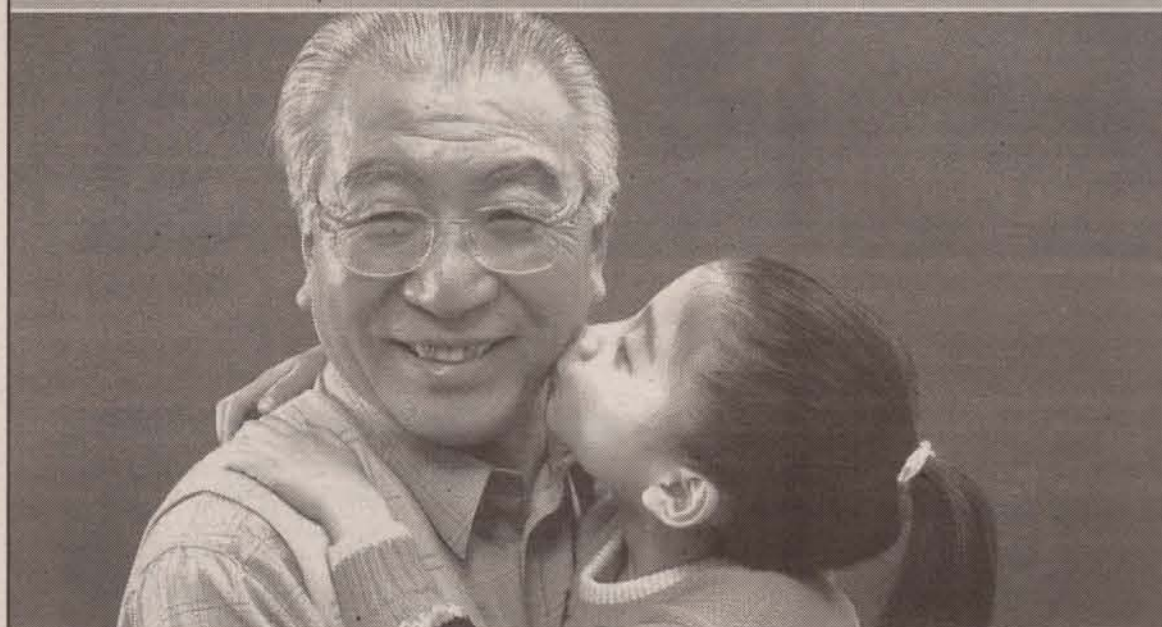
In speaking about the fact that the JACL was fighting racial prejudice in 1959, Wakamatsu concluded: "We cannot shrink away ... Our membership doors should remain actively open ... In this effort to build a stronger JACL, we need the loyal support of every dedicated member with the full knowledge that what we build into JACL today will remain for the benefit of our children, community, and nation."

Those words are still true today. Racial prejudice to some degree will always be around, but the JACL is embarking on a broader range of programs that will fill the needs of younger generations. The JACL also appeals to other Asian Americans who look to the JACL as trail blazers in problems which they face today, and we want to welcome these other groups into the JACL. In building a greater membership in the JACL now, we will be benefiting future generations.

Achieving a membership of 50,000 members was and is a lofty goal, but it should be attainable by reaching out to others. Some similar organizations have surpassed that figure. The JACL would benefit with many more members, and the organization can benefit them. The membership in JACL has been as high as around 30,000, but it has decreased from that point. It would be great for the JACL to have 50,000 members. ■



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## MARRIAGE

(Continued from page 1)

time in their life together, Jill and Pauline were able to breeze past bureaucracy with their marriage certificate.

It was magical — like they just waved their certificate to hyphenate their last names. They did the same to apply for new social security cards with no problem. But when they tried to get new driver's licenses, the San Francisco Department of Motor Vehicles denied the legality of their marriage.

"It surprised me how much I cared," said Jill, a Yonsei. "The act of being recognized was much more meaningful than I thought it was going to be."

Six months after Jill and Pauline exchanged vows, the California Supreme Court nullified approximately 4,000 same-sex marriages because they were performed in defiance of state law. Since then, cases challenging the constitutionality of the state's marriage statutes have made its way through the courts stopping again at the supreme court on March 4-6 for oral arguments.

The court's ruling on marriage

equality, which is expected in May, is being called one of its most important decisions this year. The ruling could make California only the second state to offer same-sex couples like Jill and Pauline equal standing with heterosexual couples under the law.

### Waiting to Hear their Fate

California is a fitting backdrop for the historic case known as *In re Marriage Cases*, S147999.

The legal history of marriage rights has changed in the Golden State before. In 1948 the California Supreme Court ruled in *Perez v. Sharp* that the state's anti-miscegenation law was unconstitutional.

That decision set the stage for *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967 when the nation's highest court struck down similar anti-miscegenation laws in more than a dozen states.

Back then, marriage rights were denied based on race. Today, it's sexual orientation. Proponents of same-sex marriages hope that, 60 years later, the current California Supreme Court justices will see parallels

between the cases.

Marriage equality is especially significant for Asian Pacific Americans because of the community's painful experiences with anti-miscegenation laws, said Karin Wang, vice president of programs at Los Angeles' Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

In the 2000 Census, over 38,000 APAs identified themselves as living with a same-sex partner, according to a 2006 study by the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. California is also home to the largest number of same-sex APA partners.

But these numbers are likely lower than in real life because of the Census Bureau's record of undercounting APAs, said Wang.

Being gay and APA is like being a minority within a minority.

In California, the marriage equality struggle is often brushed aside because of the state's domestic partnership statute, which can provide same-sex couples with almost all of the rights of married couples, but does not provide any federal rights or benefits.

"If the court follows the law and reads the constitution, you cannot pretend that domestic partner is the same as marriage. It is not equal," said J Craig Fong, a Los Angeles attorney and gay rights advocate.

For couples like Jill and Pauline it's been an emotional roller coaster. They try not to obsess over the news because they've gotten their hopes up before. The California legislature passed bills to allow same-sex marriage in 2005 and 2007. Both times, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the legislations. But the arrival of their daughter, Carmel, has made it more important to be recognized as a married couple.

"It's for her happiness and her well-being," said Jill, about their two-year-old daughter.

"Officially, we're waiting for the other shoe to drop," said Pauline, who is Filipino American. "I view it as a matter of civil rights. My civil rights are being threatened."

### JACL Stuck Its Neck Out

Today many APAs who identify as lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) can turn to countless support organizations like API Equality. But there was a time when APA groups did not consider same-sex marriage rights a priority, said Fong.

When others didn't want to talk about it, JACL made history. At the 1994 Salt Lake City convention, JACL became the first "non-gay organization" — after the American Civil Liberties Union — to support same-sex marriage. The board decision prompted the resignation of then JACL legal counsel Allen Kato and stirred heated debate within the membership.

Many JACLers didn't see the relationship between gay rights and civil



rights, said Fong, who was with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund at the time. He was invited to speak at the JACL convention on the controversial issue.

"Rarely have I received a chillier response," said Fong. Some JACLers booed him.

But when Norman Mineta appealed to the national council on the importance of supporting equal marriage rights, minds began to change. And when the resolution passed, tears of joy flowed.

"That was huge," said Fong. "To have this organization say, 'okay, we're with you' was a huge moment."

Since that historic decision, many other APA organizations have come out in support of same-sex marriages, but how far has the movement come since the 1990s?

In November 1994 API Lambda, JACL's LGBT chapter, was created for JA LGBTs who wanted to be a part of the organization like their parents and grandparents. At its peak, the chapter had over 20 members, but it's now a shadow of its former self. Today there are less than a handful of members left on the chapter roster.

"I wish API Lambda were more active," said Norris Nagao, a professor at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, Calif. He joined the chapter years ago, but has never received a call, letter or e-mail about chapter activities. He's never met any other chapter members.

It may seem odd to others why he continues to be a part of an inactive chapter, said Nagao, but the main reason why he joined was because of the JACL's position on same-sex marriage. His family has no ties to JACL. In fact, when he mentioned that he joined, they asked, *why?*

"I felt like the JACL stuck out its neck when it didn't have to," and he was proud of that.

API Lambda was only active for about a year mostly because the members realized it was no big deal to be a part of another chapter, said Fong, one of the its founding members. The chapter is no longer needed but important to have, he added.

But Nagao disagrees.

A few years ago, he received terrible news: API Lambda was going to

be eliminated. He was asked to join another chapter — perhaps the more active San Diego chapter?

No way, said the Sansei. Up until his 30s, he lived a double life by pretending to be "normal." Once he identified as gay, he felt like the local APA community stopped seeing him as Asian.

"It's all a part of identity politics," said Nagao. JACL and API Lambda are some of the places where facets of his identity intersect.

After all the interest and goodwill in the 1990s, the mainstream LGBT community has been deficit in out-reaching to communities of color, said Fong.

### The Tenuous Future

Many same-sex marriage proponents say now is the time to come together again.

"JACL members have in the past been the victims of marriage discrimination. Fairness and equality under the law will always be an objective of JACL advocacy efforts even in times of great controversy," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

In May, the California Supreme Court could rule that the current law, which states that a marriage can only be between a man and a woman, is unconstitutional and declare that same-sex couples could marry. Or the court could rule that the law is constitutional and that California will only allow heterosexual marriages.

As Californians await the ruling, some anti-gay marriage groups have already launched a counter attack. Protect Marriage says it has collected 881,000 of the 1.1 million signatures needed to put an anti-same-sex initiative on the November ballot. The deadline for turning in the petitions to county registrars is April 21.

If voters approve the amendment, it would nullify a pro-gay marriage ruling from the California Supreme Court.

"It's a historical time for us. Many of us in the community, both the APA and LGBT are holding our breath at this moment," said Pauline. ■

### On the Web

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- July 6-10 Yamato Tour in Conjunction with the Japanese American Museum Conference** - Post Conference Tour - 5 days beginning from Denver to Sheridan, Little Big Horn, Devils Tower, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore National, Crazy Horse Monument and Badlands National Park. Lilly Nomura
- July 4-15 Yamato Exclusive Japan Summer Tour** - 12 days/10 nights visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. Peggy Mikuni
- July 15-26 Yamato Exclusive Tour to Hokkaido** - 12 days/10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Obihiro, Lake Toya and Hakodate. Peggy Mikuni
- Aug. 18-28 Yamato European Panorama Tour** - 8 days visiting Rome, London and Paris for 3 nights each city. Philippe Theriault
- Sept. 11-21 Yamato Colors of Canada & New England, aboard Holland America's new ms Eurodam** - 10 days sailing from Quebec to Saguenay, St. Lawrence River, Charlottetown/Prince Edward Island, Sydney and Halifax/Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor/Maine, Boston, Newport/Rhode Island and New York. Sharon Seto
- Sept. 11-25 Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations** - 15 days visiting Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, and Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Queenstown, Milford Sound and Mt. Cook, New Zealand.
- Sept. 13-23 Yamato Sea Princess Cruise** - 11 days/cruise only from New York to Newport, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; Bar Harbor, Maine; St. John, New Brunswick; Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Quebec City, Quebec. Peggy Mikuni
- Oct. 5-10 Yamato Exclusive National Parks & Canyons of the American Southwest** - A motorcoach tour from Los Angeles visiting St. George, Utah, Bryce Canyon National Park, North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and Zion Canyon National Park. Philippe Theriault
- Oct. 18-Nov. 2 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** 16 days visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Saga, Fukuoka, Miyazaki, Beppu and Hiroshima. Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 2-8 Yamato Southern Charm with Collette Vacations** - 7 days visiting Charleston and Beaufort, South Carolina, Savannah, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island, Georgia and St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida. Sharon Seto
- Nov. 3-12 Yamato Miyamoto Musashi & Samurai Tour** - 10 days visiting Nagoya, Takayama, Kyoto and Kumamoto. Lilly Nomura

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# Calendar

## National

### SALT LAKE CITY

**July 16-20**—2008 JACL National Convention; Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown, 75 South West Temple; \$225/regular, \$150/youth; early bird registration through June 30 (registration now open); events include, welcome mixer, youth luncheon, awards luncheon, sayonara banquet, workshop, optional tours and a golf tournament. Info: [www.utjac.org](http://www.utjac.org) or [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

## East

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Tue., May 20**—APAICS Gala Dinner; 7-10 p.m.; JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; honoring Sen. Daniel Akaka, former U.S. Rep. Patricia Saiki, APALC Executive Director Stewart Kwoh; entertainment by Hiroshima. Info: [www.apaics.org](http://www.apaics.org) or 202/296-9200.

### TOWSON, Mass.

**Sat., May 3**—Tracings: Modern Dance by Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co.; 8 p.m.; Asian Arts and Culture Center at Towson University.

## Midwest

### AMACHE, Colo.

**Sat., May 17**—Amache Pilgrimage; 6 a.m. bus departs from Simpson Methodist Church, 7 a.m. bus departs Tri-State/Buddhist Temple; \$25/bus fee. RSVP: Rose Shibao, 303/426-7874, Youko Yamasaki, 303/429-4129 or Hiroko Hung, 303/979-4127.

### ARVADA, Colo.

**Fri., May 16**—Lecture, discussion and book signing with Adam Schrager, author of *The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story*; 6:30 p.m.; Simpson United Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff St.

### CHICAGO

**Sat., April 19**—Performance, Good Asian Drivers; 6 p.m.; Savor the Flavor Cafe, 2545 N. Sheffield; come see slam poet Kit Yan and folk rocker Melissa Li; hosted by the JACL Professionals Advocacy League. Info: Elaine Low, 773/728-7171 or [jacl.fellow@gmail.com](mailto:jacl.fellow@gmail.com).

### COLORADO SPRINGS

**Sat., May 3**—Japan America Society of Southern Colorado's Children's Day Festival; 10-12:30 p.m.; Colorado College's Gates Common Room in Palmer Hall; featuring craft activities and cultural

demonstrations; registration is recommended. Info: [www.jassc.org](http://www.jassc.org).

### DAYTON

**Tue., April 22**—4th Annual Asian American Council Dinner; 4 p.m.; Berry Room, Nutter Center, Wright State University; Angela Oh, keynote speaker. Info: Mia Honaker, 937-775-2798.

### DENVER

**Sat., May 17**—17th Annual Asian Pacific Heritage Month Festival; 11:30-3 p.m.; 1700 Lincoln St.; enjoy cultural entertainment and food from various Asian Pacific countries. Info: Peggy Yujiri, [pyujiri@msn.com](mailto:pyujiri@msn.com) or Lily Shen, 720/256-8888 or [lilyshen@comcast.net](mailto:lilyshen@comcast.net).

**May 26**—Community Memorial Day Service; 11 a.m.; Fairmount Cemetery, Nisei War Memorial, 430 S. Quebec St.; 12:45 p.m. potluck lunch at Tamai Towers Penthouse. Info: Brian Matsumoto, 303/916-9998 or [matsi22000@yahoo.com](mailto:matsi22000@yahoo.com).

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

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

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

**Sun., May 4**—Annual Japanese American High School Graduation Banquet; 5 p.m.; Multnomah Athletic Club; \$30/person; Jane Komeji, speaker. Info: Karen Fahey, 503/636-4306 or Julie Hirai, 503/349-8338.

**Sun., May 18**—Rededication Ceremony of the Japanese American Veteran's Monument; Beaverton Memorial Park, SW Washington Ave. at 7th St.; Peggy Nagae, Linda Tamura and Homer Yasui, speakers. Info: 503/698-4656.

## Northern California

### BERKELEY

**Sat., May 6**—Berkeley JACL Scholarship Awards Luncheon; noon; Berkeley Doubletree Hotel,



The 31st Annual San Jose Nikkei Matsuri is scheduled for May 4. The event features exhibits, food and cultural displays.

200 Marina Blvd.; \$28/person, \$18/students 18 or younger; guest speaker, Gene Nakamura, former Berkeley High School girls basketball coach.

### EL CERRITO

**Sat., June 14**—Sakura Kai Festival; 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Fairmont School Auditorium (next to El Cerrito Library); featuring performances, silent auction, crafts and food. For tickets: [ecsakurakai@hotmail.com](mailto:ecsakurakai@hotmail.com).

### MANZANAR

**Sat., April 26**—39th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, "Manzanar ... The Legacy Continues"; program starts at noon, Manzanar at Dusk starts at 4 p.m.; speakers include Dr. Art Hansen, Bruce Kaji and Mickie Okamoto; program features an interfaith service, ondo and performances by the UCLA Kyodo Taiko and Grateful Crane; Manzanar at Dusk will feature the film, "The Music Man of Manzanar"; buses will be departing from the Little Tokyo area, save gas, take the bus. Info: 323/662-5102 or [www.manzanar-committee.org](http://www.manzanar-committee.org).

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sun., May 18**—Kimochi, Inc. Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of Kimochi Home; 2-4:30 p.m.; Hotel Kabuki, Imperial Ballroom; program features performances, light refreshments and a raffle drawing; RSVP by May 8 to 415/931-2294.

### SAN JOSE

**Sun., May 4**—31st Annual San Jose Japantown Nikkei Matsuri; 9:30-4 p.m.; San Jose Japantown; featuring food, cultural exhibits, entertainment, Nihonmachi Run, Health Fair and a farmer's market. Info: [www.nikkeimatsuri.org](http://www.nikkeimatsuri.org) or Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900.

## Southern California

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., April 19**—(NEW DATE) Community Rally, "JTown Voiced!! Rally for Our Community"; noon Little Tokyo Tour of Memories, 1 p.m. community rally; 244 S. San Pedro St.; come support and join the community vision for Little Tokyo.

**May 14-June 8**—Performance, "Pippin"; David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St.; director Tim Dang brings anime and hip-hop into this production; previews May 8-11, \$25/any seat; opening night, \$75/any seat; general tickets, \$50/orchestra, \$45/balcony. For tickets or info: [www.eastwestplayers.org](http://www.eastwestplayers.org) or 213/625-7000.

**Sat.-Sun., May 17-18**—Little Tokyo Fun Fest; JACCC Plaza; Sat. features an Asian Pacific Arts and Crafts Faire, 10th Annual San Tai San basketball tournament and Nikkei Community Day; Sun. features live entertainment, food, Chibi-K fun run and the Cultural Discovery Workshop. Info: [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).

### OXNARD

**Sat., May 10**—Annual Ventura County JACL Cemetery Cleanup; 8:30-noon; corner of Pleasant Valley Rd. and Etting Rd.; bring shovels, hoes, gloves, rakes and small wheelbarrows; chapter will provide light refreshments. Info: Ken Nakano, 818/991-0876.

### 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](http://www.jaclpsw.org) or [golf@jaclpsw.org](mailto:golf@jaclpsw.org).

## Arizona

### GLENDALE

**Sun., April 27**—Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship and Gold Saguaro Tribute Awards Luncheon; 1 p.m.; Glendale Civic Center; speaker, Joanne Oppenheim, author of "Dear Miss Breed." Info: Michele Namba, [m.namba@cox.net](mailto:m.namba@cox.net) or 623/572-9913.

## Hawaii

### HONOLULU

**Sat., July 12**—Honolulu JACL Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Manoa Grand Ballroom; honoring Bob Bratt, Jane Kurahara and Betsy Young. Info: Shawn Benton, 808/523-8464 or [slmbenton@gmail.com](mailto:slmbenton@gmail.com).

## Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Sat., May 10**—Las Vegas JACL Picnic; 11-4 p.m.; Floyd Lamb Park. Info: Marie or Jack Hollingsworth, 702/658-8806. ■

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## JOB OPENING

### Online Reporter

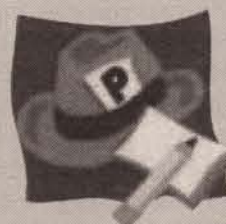
The *Pacific Citizen* Newspaper, a national publication of the JACL, is currently seeking a part-time online reporter for its office in downtown Los Angeles.

The focus of this position is writing news stories and features for the P.C. Web site. Other duties include general editing and production duties, rewriting, research, and taking photos. Assignments may include some evenings and weekends.

A minimum of two years experience is required and individuals with knowledge in MAC, Quark X-Press and Dreamweaver are preferred. Knowledge of and experience with the Japanese American and Asian American communities is also preferred.

Applicants must have their own vehicle.

Please send a cover letter, resume and a writing sample to: Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, Executive Editor, 250 E. First Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: [editor@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:editor@pacificcitizen.org).



## Calling All Interns!

Wanted: summer intern for the *Pacific Citizen*.  
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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper, the national publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, is currently looking for someone to work at its Los Angeles office, including some evenings and weekends.

Various duties include reporting, researching, rewriting of press releases and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community and the JACL a plus.

College or grad students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.

**The application deadline is June 2.**

If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: [editor@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:editor@pacificcitizen.org), attention: Caroline Aoyagi-Stom. ■



## In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Choriki, Hideto, 80**, Waipahu, Haw., Mar. 20; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Dorothy; sons, Kyle and Glenn; daughters, Carolyn Zukeran and Gail Sumida; 8 gc.; and sisters, Mildred Oba, Mabel Nishimura and Jeanette Yoshimura.

**Ezaki, Floyd Yogi, 87**, Fullerton, Mar. 17; survived by wife, Namiko; sons, Ramsey (Janice) and Marvin (Lynn); and 4 gc.

**Fujikawa, Dean M., 57**, Duarte, Mar. 29; survived by wife, Sharlene; and brother-in-law, Mabo (Caroline) Mayeda.

**Hasegawa, Miyoko, 82**, Montebello, Mar. 22; survived by husband, Tetsuo; daughter, Carole Wright; son, Wayne (Jammie); 4 gc.; sister, Eiko Doerr; and brother, Ken (Taeko) Kamitomi.

**Hikima, Yukiko, 68**, Harbor City, Mar. 24; survived by husband, Hiroshi; sons, Mark (Chieko) and Henry (Abigail); 2 gc.; sister, Chieko Sonoyama; brothers, Akiharu (Yoko), Masaharu (Seiko) and Tadaharu (Yumi) Yoshimura; and sister-in-law, Yoshiko Nakanishi.

**Ishii, Sachiko, 82**, Placentia, Mar.

*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.*

27; survived by husband, William; son, Steve (Joanne); 2 gc.; brother, Harry (Yayeko) Furuya; and sisters, Kay Fujita, Mary Masuda, Mitsue Furuya and Seiko Foster.

**Kobara, Ken, 78**, Arroyo Grande, Mar. 28; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Mari; sons, Gary (Tomi) and Bruce (Linda); daughters, Elaine (Gary Mulholland) and Ada (Rob) Grace; 9 gc.; and sister, Iso Fuchiwaki.

**Kosugi, Shuzo, 84**, Feb. 5; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Sara; son, Alan Michaels; daughter, Jeanette (Davis) Heylen; 4 gc.; and sisters, Chiyeko Abe and Mamoye Asaba.

**Kuramoto, Lily Yuriko, 85**, Pasadena, Mar. 26; survived by husband, Mitsugi; daughters, Darlene (Dennis) Shigio and Laurie (Clayton) Hamasaki; 4 gc.; and brothers, George (Eiko), Tom (Aki),

## Hank Nakada, 442nd Bronze Star Hero, Dies at 85

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Henry "Hank" Nakada, a World War II 442nd veteran who received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart with three oakleaf clusters, died March 13 from complications of pneumonia. He was 85.



Nakada was living in Homer, Alaska where he worked as a commercial fisherman for several years. But he was born in Los Angeles, Calif. as the fifth of 12 children to Ginzo and Kagi Ikehara Nakada. He graduated from Covina High School and headed by

steamship to Seward, Alaska in 1940 to work.

With World War II, Nakada was drafted and became the top of his class in mechanics school at Fort Sheridan near Chicago. He then joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Camp Shelby, Mississippi and served primarily as a scout for the 1st Platoon of I Company in Italy and France.

His father, Mike Nakada, and all the Nakada sons joined the military.

After years in the military, Nakada married Mitsu Hasegawa in Philadelphia in 1946. He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Temple University. He was a professor of biochemistry at the University of California, Santa Barbara until his retirement in 1977. Nakada and his wife moved to Alaska soon after-

wards.

Director Jesse Kobayashi is currently work on a movie, "Little Iron Men," about Nakada and other 442nd veterans.

Nakada was preceded in death by his wife, Mitsue, and his siblings Saburo, Hannah, Minoru, Aiko and George.

He is survived by his brothers Yoshio, Yoshinao, James, John, and Steve; his sister Grace; his sons Robert and Mike of Homer and Chris of South Point, Hawaii; his grandchildren Jesse, Simone, Genji, Heidi, Mark and Tela and his great-grandchildren Raiden and Aiden.

A celebration of Nakada's life is scheduled for April 27 at the Homer Elks Lodge, according to the *Homer News*. ■

Joe (Mary) and Bill (Ruby) Sumida.

**Kurata, George, 78**, Feb. 11; survived by wife, Bonnie; sons, Ken and Kraig; daughter, Kristi; and sister, Anna.

**Kyomen, Keiso, 81**, Buena Park, Mar. 31; survived by wife, Yoshie; daughter, Helen and Sharon (Shane White); and son, Kent (Jennifer).

**Matsushita, Wakao, 88**, Seattle, Feb. 23; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by sons, Stan and Mike; daughter, Sharon; 1 gc.; and brother, Mits (Yasuko).

**Michigami, Masashi "Mike," 85**, Portland, Ore., Mar. 20; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Rose; sons, Michael (Sharon) and Wayne; daughter, Donna (Jim) Foster; 4 gc.; and 1 ggc.

**Momii, Rikito Rick, 89**, Los Angeles, Mar. 15; survived by wife, Yasu; sons, Rick (Patti) and Randy (Staci); daughter, Judy Hoy; 2 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Molly Momii, Fumiko Momii and Etsuko Momii.

**Moriyama, Leonard Masao, 84**, Gardena, Mar. 24; survived by wife, Doris; daughters, Lorna (Darrell)

Sakata and Kris (Jim) Nomura; 4 gc.; brothers, Sadao (Elaine), Toshio and Charles (Helen) Moriyama; and sister, Hisae (Ralph) Tanimoto.

**Naganuma, Tony, 89**, Feb. 13; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by sisters, Hannah (Lew) Achen, Nancy Sonoda, Rose (Frank) Baum, Dorothy Rutherford and Judy (Geoff) Ota; and brothers, Ed Zumoto and Jim (Tomi) Zumoto.

**Nagase, Setsuko, 78**, Monterey Park, Mar. 23; survived by daughters, Isabelle (Bill) Sato and Natalie (James) Nishimura; 3 gc.; brother, Toshihiro; and sister, Kimiko.

**Ninomiya, David K., Richmond, Mar. 8**; survived by wife, Janet; sisters, Alice, Martha, Flora and Ann (Ben) Koda; mother-in-law, Michiko Horio; and brother-in-law, James Horio.

**Sako, Henry Kazutaka, 62**, Torrance, Mar. 20; survived by wife, Patricia; daughter, Deana Schafer; brother, Kenneth (Deborah); and sister, Karen (Alden) Tadokoro.

**Shiota, Melvin Yorio, 62**, Mar. 30; survived by sisters, Barbara Lim

and Sandra (Takaaki) Kurosaki; and brother, Wayne (Jean).

**Sodetani, Misao, 89**, Torrance, Mar. 22; survived by daughters, Patricia Togashi and Cynthia (Kent) Iwai; and 3 gc.

**Suyenaga, Thelma Tomiko, 86**, Los Angeles, Mar. 28; survived by son, Leland (Lorie); daughter, Helene (Paul) Kaya; 5 gc.; and brothers, Robert (Yuriko) and Dr. Tom (Chieko) Fujii.

**Takara, Judy Naoko, 56**, Mar. 18; survived by brother, Steven (Janice) Sakuma; and sister, Sachiko (Stanley) Kakita.

**Tanda, Grace, 88**, April 12; survived by husband, Charles; daughter, Carol; 2 gc.; and 7 ggc.

**Yamamoto, Taka, 88**, Los Angeles, Mar. 25; survived by son, Robert (Yuki); and 2 gc.

**Yamashita, Kaname, 86**, Mar. 18; survived by wife, Yoshiko; daughters, Linda (Bob) Matsuba, Patty (Eric) Chikasuye and Robin (Lon) Handa; and 4 gc. ■

### DEATH NOTICE

#### KENJI "KAIR" FUJII

A lively gentleman peacefully passed away on Feb. 19, 2008, after living a full life of 89 years. Kenji Fujii was born in Ashland, California on Mar. 27, 1918. He was an inventive and resourceful grower of carnations and foliage plants in Hayward, California.



His father Rutaro Fujii began a carnation nursery in Oakland, California in 1910. In 1912 he married Katsu Yokobori. The Fujii's moved to Hayward, California in 1920 to grow carnations at the corner of Soto Road and Orchard Avenue. Kenji and his five sisters; Mary, Sally, Kimiko, Sumiko and Hanako worked in the nursery until the spring of

1942 when they and other families of Japanese descent were evacuated from the West Coast.

After internment in Topaz, Utah, the family returned to Hayward and back to the nursery they were forced to leave. Kenji was a progressive flower grower who was able to assist his sisters with their college educations. His sister Kimiko Fujii completed college and joined him in the business.

In 1949, Kenji married Allyce Hirabayashi and had two sons. Allyce also worked with Kenji in the nursery. She later became a florist and opened Fujii's Florist. Kenji's enthusiasm for the cut flower industry led to his election as president of the American Carnation Society. He was also active in the Northern California Flower Growers Association and the California Flower Market.

Many people have come to know Kenji through his work in the Japanese American Citizens League. He was very active in founding the local (San Lorenzo, CA) Eden Township chapter of the JACL and prompted many people to join and support the chapter as well as the National JACL 1000 Club.

Both he and his wife Allyce worked with other members to found the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in Union City, California. He continued to volunteer for church activities until his health prevented him from doing so.

Allyce was diagnosed with cancer in 1984. Kenji devoted all his energy to Allyce's well being until she died at home in 1986.

After Allyce's passing, Kenji became active in the Hayward Historical Society, the local Lions Chapter and traveled to countries which he longed to visit. Skydiving and bungee jumping were his two ways of tempting fate and "staying young".

Kenji is survived by his sons, Walter Fujii (Sharon Hemling) and Victor Fujii (Kathy Morimoto) with granddaughters, Sarah, Allyson and Laurel.

His sister with whom he worked, Kimiko Kitayama resides in Union City. He has one other surviving sister, Sumiko Biderman of McLean, Virginia.

The family is very grateful to the staff of the Umenoki Gardens Senior Home 32965 Alvarado Niles Road; Union City, CA 94587. The attention provided to him made his final days ones of tender care and comfort. Contributions to the Umenoki Gardens Senior Home or your favorite charitable organization are encouraged.

### DEATH NOTICE

#### VIRGINIA FUMIKO TOMITA March 27, 1918 - March 28, 2008

Virginia Fumiko Tomita (nee Kashino), beloved wife, mother and grandmother, died in Oakland, Calif. on Mar. 28, 2008, the day after her 90th birthday. She is preceded in death by her husband Masaru Chester, her son Clark John, her siblings Kenzo, Paul Shoichi, Sugako Yorita, Taiji, Shiro, and parents Hatsune Oda Kashino and Bujinosuke Kashino. She is survived by her daughter Tomita-Kashino Shimamoto, son-in-law Mark, granddaughter Tae, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and second cousins in the USA and Japan.

Virginia was raised in Seattle, Wash., graduated from Garfield High School, attended business college, and met and married her husband. After WWII incarceration in Minidoka Camp, Idaho, they settled in Chicago, Ill., with a new baby. Virginia was an active member of the PTA; she entered the workforce when the children were ready for high school. She was a dedicated office administrator at IIT Research until her retirement. She and her husband enjoyed world travel and ballroom dancing during the 41 years they lived in Chicago. They were active members of the Japanese American Citizens League. Virginia moved to Oakland after she was widowed. She resided in Oakland for 24 years, attended Santa Clara Avenue Methodist Church, enjoyed traveling, and volunteered at American Lung Association when she was healthy. Her bright smile, laughing eyes, and gentle demeanor will be missed.

Her family and friends will celebrate her life in Seattle, Wash. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, The Cure for Breast Cancer, American Lung, or Families with Children from China.

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## MUNEMORI

(Continued from page 1)

the fact that he served his country and gave up his life ... it's fitting his hometown would honor him," said Robert Horsting, 52, a Glendale resident. "I think this brings justice full circle."

Horsting is now spearheading a voter petition effort to encourage the Glendale City Council to approve the naming of the Fairmont Overpass Project bridge in honor of Munemori. No similar tribute exists in Glendale today.

"I think it's great. It helps the so called legacy, to keep the public aware of what the 100th and 442nd was," said Stanley Izumigawa, 83, who fought alongside Munemori in the 100th Battalion. "All the guys who have Medals of Honor should have something in their hometown or a public facility named after them."

## A Hometown Hero

"He was Glendale's hometown boy," said Nakakihawa.

Born Aug. 17, 1922, in the city of Glendale, Munemori attended Fletcher Drive Elementary School and Lincoln High School. At the age of 19 he enlisted in the U.S. Army, just one month before the Pearl Harbor bombings.

"He was a very outgoing fellow," said Izumigawa of Maui, who quickly became buddies with Munemori during WWII and still affectionately refers to him by his nickname "Spud." "Most katonks weren't all that friendly but he really got along with the Hawaii boys."

While Munemori was fighting for his country in Europe, his family back in Glendale was sent to Manzanar, Calif., one of 10 desolate internment camps for Americans of Japanese ancestry. When he was on leave during WWII, Munemori would often visit his family in the camps. After the war, the family never returned to Glendale.

Jerene Wachtel, 56, wasn't born yet when her uncle passed away but she recalls her mother Yaeko Yokoyama often telling stories about her heroic brother Sadao while she was growing up.

"He worried about his mother and he sent money home to her," said the Connecticut resident. "Once, he saved his money and bought them all perfume, but the package didn't arrive until he had died. My mother still had it."

Wachtel thinks it's an honor that her uncle's hometown may name an overpass in his memory.

"I think it's an honor to even be thought of this many years later, to remember and honor a local I think is very touching and very humbling," she said. "It's nice to know the town's people don't forget the

sacrifices that were made."

## An Interchange and an Overpass

The green and white freeway sign at the 105/405 interchange on the westside of Los Angeles is a fitting tribute to Munemori and it reads: "Sadao S. Munemori Memorial Interchange, Medal of Honor - World War II."

Horsting — who first learned of the MOH recipient's story as a volunteer with the Go For Broke Hanashi Oral History Program more than six years ago — is determined that Munemori's hometown of Glendale gives him a similar honor.

This past November, he went before the Glendale City Council to present his idea for naming the Fairmont Overpass in memory of Munemori. The overpass currently has a numeric designation.

"It seemed to get a good response," said Horsting, although no formal decision was made by the five city council members. He believes a voter petition is the best route to take now.

Horsting also went before the city's Citizenship and Patriotic Committee but they voted down his proposal 10-0. Although their decision is non-binding, the committee noted that the 105/405 interchange is already named after Munemori and that another MOH recipient and former Glendale resident, Major General Keith Lincoln Ware, should be honored instead.

"It's been over 60 years since [Munemori] got the Medal of Honor. This is a long time coming," said Carl Miyagishima, 67, commander of the Sadao Munemori American Legion Post 321. "I feel it's appropriate and it's deserving."

Miyagishima feels a sense of duty to keep Munemori's story alive, especially for future generations. He believes the overpass, which is being built to connect two parts of the city to facilitate the flow of traffic, is a fitting honor for the MOH recipient.

"The circumstances he went to service and got the medal ... if you know these stories, it makes it extremely meaningful," he said. "A bridge connecting two parts of the city, the bridging of two cultures, it's a wonderful thing."

## 63 Years Later

This past April 5 was the 63rd anniversary of Munemori's passing and Izumigawa's voice cracks with emotion when he recalls that fateful day in 1945.

"I'll never forget that day," he said.

According to Munemori's MOH citation he had been fighting with the 100th Battalion in Seravezza, Italy when he threw his body over a live grenade, sacrificing his own life to save the lives of two of his colleagues.

Izumigawa prefers to remember all the good times he had with his buddy "Spud."

Like the time they stumbled across boxes of Christmas candy in the Army supply room thinking it was a weird sight for the month of April. After getting permission, they filled a knapsack with the goodies and set out to find some local children. At first they could only find a couple of kids but soon they were being swarmed.

"We tried to get the kids to line up, but no way," he chuckled. "It was like a small riot. He and I looked at each other and we dumped all the candy onto the street and we took off. The kids all scrambled for the candy. Walking back neither of us said anything. We were thinking,

wow, we didn't realize how deprived these kids were.

"It was the last thing I did together with Spud."

Horsting hopes when people see the Fairmont Overpass named in honor of Munemori, the MOH recipient's story will be retold enthusiastically.



The Sadao S. Munemori Memorial Interchange (above) connects the 105 and 405 freeways and is named in honor of the MOH recipient (left).

"How fitting to name the overpass in honor of Pfc. Munemori, a patriot that we veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team hold in high esteem and who the city of Glendale rightfully can be proud of," writes William Y. Thompson, president of the 442nd Veterans Club, one several APA organizations supporting the current efforts.

"Sadao Munemori's actions clearly show his commitment and love to the United States as well as the city of Glendale — isn't it time to return the favor and honor him?" writes Sedora Tantraphol of the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. ■

Letters of support may be sent to: Stephen Zurn, Director of Public Works, City of Glendale, CA, 633 E Broadway # 209, Glendale, CA 91206 or e-mail: szurn@ci.glendale.ca.us.

For more information on efforts to name the Fairmont Overpass in honor of Sadao Munemori, contact Robert Horsting at: natto41@sbc-global.net.

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