A Hometown Honor for Sadao Munemori?

A Los Angeles freeway interchange is already overpass in his honor. 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 honor him. 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.

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.

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

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Mary Woodward has always been a history buff. She majored in it in college and because she used to teach 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.

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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 antimiscegenation laws.

By LYNDA LIN
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 led to marriage and kids. Jill and Pauline are registered as domestic partners under California family code section 297, which gives 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 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 time.
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 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 go 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 reading 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 Mihō, 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 pummeled 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 beds and red-cedar ghost forests of the Northwest coast. The Mihō headman’s account helped pinpoint the earthquake’s date (June 26, 1700) and its approximate size (magnitude 9).

Endos of modern Mihō 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 making 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 commentary.

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 Mihō in Meiji (issei) time to seek their fortunes. I later found that one can pick up their story in Kazuo Itō’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 Mihō and a photo of one of the Mihō Endos, download the Mihō chapter of “The Orphan Tsunami of 1707” 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 attackers, 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 racist chants 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 AAAs 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 scarce resources, 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 moved 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-Strom 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.pacifict­­citizen.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 of 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 published.

See ASAKAWA/Page 12
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 flurry 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 protestors fueled 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."
National Newsbytes

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 body.

After being heavily criticized by APA leaders for the racist ad, “Chinese Laundry” owner John Elkhuys 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

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 Deliverman

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 website. 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 “MADE.”

APA Woman Wins Bellevue City Council Seat

Patty 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 protestors have picketed outside the Vietnamese-language newspaperNguoi 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 protestors, 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 protestors of being those themselves backed by communist money.

The outcry is the latest in a surge of anti-communist 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 of 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 differences.”

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 up 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 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 Calvin 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 killing 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 re enact 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.

A manslaughter on the Internet 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, Nishio among guests of honor.


Other special guests are William Hohri, founder of the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR); Aiko Herzig-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 Nagao, 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 Michi Mineta, 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 coalitions; 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 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 orders and internment 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 Nichihi 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 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.

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

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 or send e-mail to info@manzanarcommittee.org.

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is $15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger ads are charged at $30 per line. The PACIFIC CITIZEN has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.
'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 Japantowns in the U.S.

Darrell Kunitomi directs the show with musical direction by Scott Nagatani. The cast is Kerry K. Carnahan, Loryce Hashimoto, Yoko Ikuki, Keiko Kawashima, Darrell Kunitomi, Kurt Kuniyoshi, Takumi 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 from 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 (CCLEP) 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 or 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 the family affair 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-earned 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 grantee's efforts can be properly publicized and celebrated.

Applications are available from each chapter president, from national JACL headquarters, and by e-mailing: jacinsnron@jpac.org. The final application deadline is June 12.

Legacy Fund Grants:
Application Deadline: June 12
Contact: jacinsnron@jpac.org or national headquarters for applications

First Ever Presidential Town Hall Meeting Will Address APA Issues

Do you have a question to ask the presidential candidates? With the help of APIA Vote, 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.

APIA Vote 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.

APIA Vote 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
For more information on tickets: www.apiavote.org
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 keynote 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.


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 resistors 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, but such an accounting was not deemed an “emergency,” so no vote was taken.


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 NeXter” are active and involved, we as an organization are “mired in a dismal membership trend.” Why isn’t JACL snapping 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 nauseam 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, a谁 needs 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 bond generations together.

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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 bond generations together.
In the ‘Harold and Kumar’ sequel, Cho battles racial stereotypes, toilet humor and an one-eyed toddler … don’t ask.

By LYNDA LIN
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 IV for visibility, Cho’s star status is a big deal. It’s a deal now.

Oxtail soup.

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.

As an APA, 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 crowning 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.

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,” he said. “I’ll do a really bad job if I’m advised to take something for a reason that I don’t believe it 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 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
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.

Darvish, the 21-year-old pitcher, son of an Iranian father and Japanese mother, exhibited 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 league pitcher 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 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 the chance to become a free agent.

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 Kuenehart, 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 seminude 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.

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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 files.

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 Millie 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 faned 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 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 "Was the Right Thing to Do." filled with his newspaper clippings and personal correspondences with Walt and Milly.

Other camp correspondents included Sada Oromo, Tony Koua 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 produced 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?" asked Mary.

For the last 10 years, BJAC 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 the 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."
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 277 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. 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 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 17,180 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 1995 Oakland JACL chapter installation.


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 their way through the courts stopping at the supreme court on March 4 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 the same legal rights as marriage. In 2004, 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 marriage 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 APAs 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, who moved to California in 2006.

“She’s our pride and joy,” said Jill, about 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, who moved to California in 2006.

JACL Stuck Its Neck Out
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 APAs 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 in 1992 — 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 boomed 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 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 Northwestern 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 marriages. His family has 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 Santee, 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 he draws his identity intersect.

After all the interest and goodwill in the 1990s, the mainstream LGBT community has deflected in outreach to communities of color, said Fong.

THE TENOUS 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 legalizes marriage only between a man and a woman, is unconstitutional and declare 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 marriage 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.
**National**

**SALT LAKE CITY**

July 16-20—2009 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, suiyomara banquet, workshop, optional tours and a golf tournament. Info: www.utjacl.org or 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 Inouye; $25/bub fee. RSVP: Rose Shibao, 303/283-7059 or 503/324-8474 or Lily Shen, 720/256-8888 or lilyshen@comcast.net.

**TOWSON, Mass.**

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

**Midwest**

**AMACHI, Colo.**

Sat., May 17—Amachi Pilgrimage; 6 a.m. bus depart from Simpson Methodist Church, 7 a.m. bus depart from Tri-State/Buddhist Temple; $25/bub fee. RSVP: Rose Shibao, 303/426-7874, Youko Yamasaki, 303/429-4112 or Hiroku Hung, 303/447-1926.

**ARVADA, Colo.**

Fri., May 16—Lecture, discussion and book signing with Adam Schragger, author of The Principled Politicians: The Ralph Alck 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 Cafee, 2545 N. Sheffield; Featuring Dana Tai Soon Burgess.

**COLORADO SPRINGS**

Sat., May 15—Japanese 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.

**Pacific Northwest**

**PORTLAND**

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


**Northern California**

**MENLO PARK**

Sat., May 2—Japanese American Community Library; 1-4 p.m.; Japanese American Community Library, 100 S. San Mateo Dr.; $10. Info: 650/322-1763 or spectra@jacl.org.

**SACRAMENTO**

Sat., May 16—Sakura Kai Festival; 1-3:30 p.m.; Fairmont Hotel Auditorium; featuring performances, silent auction, crafts and food. For tickets: eskucharra@yahoo.com.

**MANZANAR**

Sun., May 30—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 interactive faith 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.manzanarcommittee.org.

**SAN FRANCISCO**

Sun., May 15—Kimochi, Inc. Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of Kimochi Home; 2-4:30 p.m.; Hotel Kabuki, Imperial Ballroom; program features performances, light refreshments and aaffle drawing. RSVP by May 8 at 415.931.-2294.

**SAN JOSE**

Sun., May 4—Asian Drivers; 6 p.m.; Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); featuring performances, food, crafts, silent auction and entertainment. Info: www.sapaci.org.

**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 Aiso St.; director Tim Dang brings anime and hip-hop into this production; previews May 8-11, $25/any seat; opening night, $75/seating row; general tickets, $50/orchestra, $45/balcony. For tickets or info: www.eastwestplayers.org or 213/625-7000.

Sat., Sun., May 17-18—Little Tokyo Fun Fest; JACC Plaza; Sat.: features an Asian Pacific Arts and Crafts Fair, 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.jacc.org.

**OXNARD**

Sat., May 10—Annual Ventura County JACL Cemetery Cleanup; 8:30 a.m.; corner of Pleasant Valley Drive and S. Buenaventura Road; come support and join the Cultural Discovery Workshop. Info: Brian Matsumoto, 303/916-5822.

**THOUSAND OAKS**

Sun., May 3—3rd Annual PSW District Golf Tournament; 11 a.m.; Los Robles Golf Course; 229 Moorpark Blvd.; $115/golfer, $40/tournament (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, 213/626-4417 or golf@jaclpsw.org.

**Arizona**

**GLENDALE**

Sun., April 27—Sara Hutchinson’s Chardy Scholarship and Gold Sagoon Tribute Awards Luncheon; 1 p.m.; Glendale Civic Center; speaker, Joanne Oppenheim, author of “Dear Miss Breed.” Info: Michele Namba, m.namba@cox.net or 623/572-3913.

**Hawaii**

**HONOLULU**

Sat., July 12—Honolulu JACL Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii’s Manoa Grand Ballroom; honoring Bob Brut, Jane Kariyama and Betsy Young. Info: Shawn Benton, 808/523-8464 or slben­ton@gmail.com.

**Nevada**

**LAS VEGAS**

Sat., May 10—Las Vegas JACL Picnic; 11-4 p.m.; Floyd Lamb Park. Info: Marie or Jack Hollingsworth, 702/638-8806.

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In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Choriki, Hideko, 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.

Esaki, Akira, Mar. 17; survived by wife, Namiko; sons, Ramsey (Janice) and Marvin (Lynn); and gc. 4.

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

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

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

Ishi, Sachiko, 82, Placentia, Mar. 26; survived by wife, Harue; son, Henry (Choriki, Hideto; daughters, Elaine (Gary Yokobori). The Fujii's moved to Hayward, Calif., as the fifth of 12 children to Ginzo and Kagi Ichihara Nakada. He graduated from Covina High School and headed to the nursery they were forced to leave. Kenji was a progressive flower grower and a Purple Heart veteran, 442nd; survived by brother, Steven (Janice) Sakuma; and sister, Sachiko (Stanley) Kakita.

Kenji, Yoneko, 81, Buena Park, Mar. 31; survived by wife, Yohie; daughter, Helen and Sharon (Shane White); and son, Kent (Jennifer).

Matsushita, Wakao, 88, Seattle, Wash. He is preceded in death by his wife, Masako (Tomichi) Kaya; gc. 5; and sister, Sachiko (Ralph) Taninoto.

Nakada, Henry, 88, Los Angeles, Calif. 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.

Nakada, Hank, 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 Ichihara Nakada. He graduated from Covina High School and headed by Joe (Mary) and Bill (Ruby) Sumida.

Kurata, George, 78, Feb. 11; survived by wife, Yuki; sons, Ken and Knig; and daughter, Kristi; and sister, Anna.

Kuson, Keiko, 81, Buena Park, Mar. 31; survived by wife, Yohie; daughter, Helen and Sharon (Shane White); and son, Kent (Jennifer).

Matsushita, Wakao, 88, Seattle, Wash. He is preceded in death by his wife, Masako (Tomichi) Kaya; gc. 5; and sister, Sachiko (Ralph) Taninoto.

Nakada, Henry, 88, Los Angeles, Calif. 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.

Sakura and Kris (Jim) Nomura; 4 gc.; brothers, Sadao (Elaine) Yoshio and Charles (Helen) Moriyama; and sister, Hisea (Ralph) Taninoto.

Nakanuma, Tony, 89, Feb. 13; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by sisters, Hannah (Lew) Achen, Nancy Sonoda, Rose (Frank) Baum, Dorothy Rutherford and Judy (Roy) Orc; brother, Ed Zumoto and Jim (Tom) Zumoto.

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

Ninomiya, David K., Richmond, Va. He is survived by wife, Janet; sisters, Alice, Martha, Floria 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, Hiroko; daughter, Sachi; brother, Kenneth (Deborah); and sister, Karen (Alden) Tadkoro.

Shiota, Molvin Yorio, 62, Mar. 30; survived by sisters, Barbara Lim and Sandra (Takaaki) Kurosaki; and brother, Wayne (Jean).

Sotobori, Hisako, 88 March 26; survived by daughters, Patricia Togashi and Cynthia (Kent) Iwai; and gc. 3.

Suyehara, Thelma Tomiko, 86, Los Angeles, Mar. 25; survived by son, Leland (Lorie); daughter, Hilda (Paul) Kaye; gc. 5; and brothers, Robert (Yuriko) and Dr. Tom (Chieko) Fujii.

Takeura, Judy Nao, 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; gc. 2; and gc. 7.

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

Yamashita, Kaname, 86, Apr. 18; survived by wife, Yoshiko; daughters, Linda (Bob) Matsuba, Patty (Eric) Chikayose and Robin (Lan) Handa; and gc. 4.

Virginia Fumiko Tomita
March 27, 1918 - March 28, 2008

Virginia Fumiko Tomita (nee Kishino), 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 Chark John, her sisters Kenzo, Paul Shoichi, Sugano Kikaka, her parents Hatsune Oda Kishino and Bujirouzke Kashino. She is survived by her daughter Tomita-Kishino 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 and attended business college, 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 obtained a certificate in the fields of music and piano and taught piano to children. She was a dedicated office administrator at JIT Research until her retirement. She and her husband enjoyed world travel and ballroom dancing during the 41 years they lived in Chicago. The Nakados were active members of the 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 Care for Breast Cancer, American Lung, or Families with Children from China.
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.

“I was a very outgoing fellow,” said Izumigawa of Maui, who quickly became buds with Munemori during WWII and still affectionately refers to him by his nickname “Spud.” “Most katons 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.”

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

“It 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.

Letters of support may be sent to: Stephen Zin, Director of Public Works, City of Glendale, CA 91206 or e-mail: szin@ci.glen­dale.ca.us.

For more information on efforts to name the Fairmont Overpass in honor of Sadao Munemori, contact Robert Horsting at: nats51@scribe­global.net.

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