



Arizona ponders bill to ban Ethnic Studies—PAGE 3

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Redress Series

JACL looks back at 20 years since the historic passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

NATIONAL PAGE 3

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MAY 2-15, 2008

Tuleans and Their Descendants Hope Bill to Preserve Segregation Site Gets Needed Attention

HR 2506 has been in committee since June 2007. A letter writing campaign and assurances of support from the bill's sponsor may help push the legislation forward.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

When Carl Takei, 28, was in elementary school one of the questions he dreaded most was: "What did you do for your summer vacation?"

His answer was often the same. He and his family spent their summers visiting one of the 10 World War II internment camps.

"At the time it was embarrassing but looking back, I'm glad I had those experiences growing up," said the Yonsei.

In the early 1990s, Carl and his



PHOTO: DON TATEISHI, CAL TRANS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NJAHS

The historic stockade (above) still stands today at the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, Calif.

At left are inmates who were housed in the stockade during WWII.

family would drive to the desolate locations that once housed tens of thousands of Japanese Americans. With no signs or people to guide their journeys, they often found it difficult to locate the actual sites. In areas known as Manzanar, Rohwer, Jerome and Tule Lake, swirling dust and long stretches of grass were often all that remained of the camps.

Today, with the help of federal legislation, camps like Manzanar and Minidoka are now a part of the National Park Service with funds for interpretive centers and staff to guide visitors through the history of the internment camps.

It's something the descendants of Tule Lake internees desperately want for the historic Segregation Center.

"It's been great to see at

See TULE LAKE/Page 12

Nat'l Bd. Asks for More Cuts in Proposed 2009-10 Budget

The original budget contained aggressive revenue goals to buck the negative membership trend. Board members are slated to take up budget talks again in a May 16 conference call.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Calling the proposed 2009-10 budget too risky, national board members at its April 19 meeting voted to send it back for additional cuts and revisions.

The next biennial budget, which was balanced by JACL staff members in March and approved by budget committee, included aggressive membership goals that some board members called imprudent.

The original proposed 2009-10 budget included:

- A \$5 dues increase in the "regular/individual" and "couple/family" categories.
- A major drive to add 1,176 and 1,907 paid members in 2009 and 2010, respectively.
- A golf tournament fundraiser, with no host identified, to raise \$20,000 and \$10,000 in 2009 and 2010, respectively.
- Increased staffing in 2010 including a PSW youth director and an online reporter and part-time production assistant for the *Pacific Citizen*.

At the meeting, several board members expressed concern over the scope of the membership goals. EDC District Gov. Kristine Minami said the campaign's success is based on a membership drive that has historically been unsuccessful, and called for an exploration of other options to increase revenue.

JACL National Director Floyd

See BUDGET/Page 13

Senate Passes Bill Boosting Filipino Vets Benefits

The Veterans Benefit Enhancement Act will provide pensions for Filipinos who fought for the U.S. during WWII.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—The Senate approved legislation April 24 that would increase veterans' benefits and establish pensions for Filipinos who served alongside Americans in World War II.

The 96-1 vote sends the bill to the

House, despite objections from some Republicans and President Bush. Bush has not said he would veto the bill, but the White House and some Republicans wanted to strip out the pension for Filipino veterans because they said the money was better spent on soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supporters of the controversial provision said it would overturn a 60-year-old law to give 18,000 Filipino veterans of World War II who live abroad a roughly \$300-a-month pension.

The White House and Republican opponents of S. 1315, the Veterans Benefit Enhancement Act, point out that such a pension would be added to one already given to these veterans by their own government.

"This legislation would correct an injustice" said Sen. Daniel Akaka,

See FILIPINO VETS/Page 11

This Year, APA Heritage Month May Be Overshadowed By Olympic Controversies

While students continue to celebrate, what happens to APA identity when the 'home country' is the target of criticism?

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Every April, the University of Virginia buzzes with Asian Pacific American activities. Judo performances take over the lawn and cultural festivals give way to Vietnamese noodle slurping during "PhoFest."

It's all for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which is nationally recognized in May but celebrated on most college campuses in April. This year Grace Jin Park, 20, wanted to



CULTURE: Alpha Kappa Delta Phi members Jamie Kwak (left) and Nuri Cha dish out sushi during a heritage event.

do something different with her sisters at alpha Kappa Delta Phi (aKDPH), a national APA interest sorority. They had already rolled sushi to feed hundreds of hungry students, so for another event spotlighting APA women, Park invited the co-founder of a non-profit organization that helps build schools in Tibet to speak to her peers.

The April 15 event came on the

See APA HERITAGE/Page 10

Legacy of Leadership
2008 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City

10 WEEKS
July 16-20

Coverage see Page 7

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Former Kamikazes

Risa Morimoto's new documentary follows these infamous warriors.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Racist Cubs T-Shirt

The Cubs pull a vendor's offensive T-shirt after complaints poured in.

NATIONAL PAGE 3

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



250 E. First Street, Ste. 301,
Los Angeles, CA. 90012
Tel: 213/620-1767,
800/966-6157
Fax: 213/620-1768
E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
www.pacificcitizen.org

Executive Editor:

Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom

Assistant Editor:

Lynda Lin

Office Manager:

Brian Tanaka

Circulation: Eva Lau-Ting

Publisher: Japanese American
Citizens League (founded 1929) 1765
Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA
94115, tel: 415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-
4671, www.jacl.org

JACL President: Larry Oda

Nat'l Director: Floyd Mori

Pacific Citizen Board of Directors:

Gil Asakawa, chairperson; Margie
Yamamoto, EDC; Lisa Hanasono,
MDC; Kathy Ishimoto, CCDC; Judith
Aono, NCWNPDC; Justine Kondo,
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COMMENTARY

A New Leadership Paradigm

By BRIAN MORISHITA
IDC Governor

Having just attended my second national board meeting on April 19, I still found myself trying to navigate through the broad landscape of JACL issues. My unfamiliarity with some of them had temporarily placed me in a role of listener/student during most of the first two meetings. I look forward to transitioning into a more active role at future board meetings as I become more knowledgeable and conversant with the agenda items.



Although this board meeting was long, it was hardly boring. Anyone concerned with the health and direction of the JACL would have found this meeting to be quite stimulating. But equally noteworthy was the participation of the board meeting attendees. Despite some of the issues being difficult and emotionally charged, I saw disagreement expressed in a spirited but respectful way. Opposing views were articulated in a manner that was both knowledgeable and dignified. To me this speaks loudly about the quality of individuals serving as your national board members as well as the others in attendance.

During a sidebar discussion that I had with Ron Katsuyama, MDC governor, I floated by him (as a reality check) a leadership development idea that I would like to propose here.

It seems that the leadership development paradigm that we use in the JACL focuses primarily on (1) the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference and (2) youth leadership development. While I fully agree with the value and necessity of both leadership venues, I believe our leadership development model must expand to another dimension to help the JACL survive.

The third dimension to this model needs to be the ongoing leadership development of our present and future JACL leaders. Borrowing from our corporate brethren, officers at all levels of the JACL could greatly benefit from management/leadership development and training. This could further equip them with a variety of organizational skills ultimately translating into the effective planning and execution of their respective responsibilities.

Although a major difference between the JACL and corporate entities is that we are an organization of volunteers, certain principles of good leadership still apply. Regardless if an organization is profit based, non-

See MORISHITA/Page 11

SPRING CAMPAIGN

**Five Reasons to Support
the P.C. Spring Campaign**

By TED NAMBA
PSWD P.C. Board Rep.

How many of you grab the sports section when you first read the morning newspaper? How many of you choose to pass on reading a traditional newspaper and get your news online? How many of you pass on the newspaper and computer and catch the news on television?



There are so many choices on how we get our news, yet the *Pacific Citizen* is something that so many of us choose to read. I'm always amazed at how many people tell me that they read the *P.C.* "cover to cover" each time it arrives in the mail. Now, I realize it's usually only a 16-page publication but this still tells me that JACL and API community members look forward to receiving information about our community — and the *P.C.* is the top resource to learn what's going on.

Speaking of choices, there are a myriad of great organizations that we may choose to support. We can choose to give to one's faith, favorite politicians, charities, non-profit organizations, etc. This note is to encourage you to move the *P.C.* up on your list of who you may consider supporting.

Here are some reasons to donate to this year's annual *P.C.* Spring Campaign:

- 1.) The *P.C.* is the BEST resource for getting current information on API issues and news.
- 2.) What is the BEST resource for all 113 JACL chapters to hear what's going on at national JACL board meetings, conventions, district meetings and chapters thousands of miles from your home ... the *P.C.*!
- 3.) Many of our young Yonsei, Gosei, Hapa and non-JA members get their information about JACL from the *P.C.* Web site!
- 4.) Which national API publication has TWO award-winning writers ... the *P.C.*!
- 5.) Which national JACL department has come in under budget for the past three consecutive bienniums ... the *P.C.*!

Now item 5 is a delicate topic because the *P.C.* is still grossly understaffed, but somehow manages to meet budget. One reason the *P.C.* has been able to achieve its budgetary goals these past few years is due to

See NAMBA/Page 11



Letters to the Editor

'Pilgrimage' Filmmaker Makes Coach Proud



world a little better place.
He makes all Culver High graduates proud!

I recently read your article on Tad Nakamura ('From Community Son to Sundance,' *Pacific Citizen*, Feb. 15-Mar. 6). As his former high school football coach at Culver City High School, I can tell you Tad was an intense, tough and outstanding player for the Centaurs.

More importantly, I am so proud of him and his accomplishments. I am proud of the great pride he takes in his heritage and his efforts to make the

DAVE SCHRAGER
Lieutenant, Culver City Police
Culver High Assistant Football Coach
1981-1998

The Principled Politician

Thank you for publishing Ed Suguro's letter to the editor about former Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr. Mr. Suguro points out what he feels are "mixed messages" as it relates to Gov. Carr's positions toward those of Japanese descent after Pearl Harbor that I hope to clarify.

He's completely accurate in his quotations where Gov. Carr referred to some of the evacuees as "unwelcome guests" and how he did not issue "an invitation to anybody," to come to Colorado, but unfortunately he's taken these out of context. Gov. Carr did say publicly that

if it was Colorado's duty to intern non-citizens to help win the war, he was prepared to do so.

However, on the topic of the Nisei, Gov. Carr's position is crystal clear. Even as he's being physically threatened and facing possible impeachment for his stance, he never wavers.

"If the principles of the Constitution are not preserved for every man," Carr said, "than we shall not have it to protect any man."

In case that could be misinterpreted, he would follow up by saying, "The Constitution starts out by saying, 'We the people of the United States.' It doesn't say, we the people who are descendants of the English or the Scandinavians or the French. It says, 'We the people of the United States.'"

Gov. Carr was willing to walk away from a possible run for the presidency to stand up for what he believed in. "Principles," Ralph Carr was fond of saying, "are as true as truth and will last as long as God's creation."

Because of that, you've likely never heard much about him. He lost his career standing against ignorance and bigotry. He did not defend Issei and thus, in the eyes of many, his reputation remains stained. However, when it came to protecting the constitutional rights of West Coast Nisei, there are no mixed messages in his position.

He was the only elected official standing up for them, while everybody else sat down.

ADAM SCHRAGER
KUSA-TV, Denver, CO Political Reporter
Author, 'The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story'



Team officials recently announced that it had put a stop to the sale of the unlicensed Fukudome T-shirt (left).

JACL Calls for Accountability from the Chicago Cubs Over Racist T-shirt

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A T-shirt is not just a T-shirt if it carries a racist message, said Asian Pacific American groups about a Chicago Cubs shirt that mocks outfielder Kosuke Fukudome's Japanese heritage.

The shirt, which depicts a slanty-eyed bear cub wearing oversized Harry Caray-style glasses exclaiming "Horry Kow!", is the hottest-selling item at a souvenir stand outside of Wrigley Field. Fukudome's name and team number are emblazoned on the back.

Even though the merchandise is unlicensed and unaffiliated with the official Cubs franchise, the JACL called on the baseball team to take an official stance against the T-shirt and ban its sale.

"As Chicagoans and baseball fans alike, we would hope that everyone who attends a Cubs game is treated with respect and not subjected to such derogatory images and stereotypes as depicted in these shirts," said JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino in a statement.

Cubs officials investigated the vendor and discovered the unlicensed product used the trademarked Cubs logo. Team representatives said they have put a stop to the sale of the shirt.

Mark Kolbusz, the souvenir stand owner, told the *Chicago Sun-Times* that only one in 10 customers complained about the T-shirt being offensive.

Count Fukudome himself as one who was offended.

Fukudome, who was recently shown the T-shirt said through an interpreter, "I don't know what the creator of the shirt meant this to be, but they should make it right ... Maybe the creator created it because he thought it was funny, or maybe he made it to condescend the race. I don't know."

Caray, who was the Cubs' longtime announcer, liked to use the catchphrase, "Holy cow!" while calling the games.

"What a way to welcome the franchise's first Japanese player. That's racist!," wrote Phil Yu on his blog Angryasianman.com.

This isn't the first time the Cubs have come under fire for condoning racial stereotypes. In January, the team launched an ad campaign featuring an in-motion Fukudome surrounded by the red and white rays of the Rising Sun flag, a wartime image long considered offensive to APAs and older veterans. Accompanying the image is the phrase: "I don't need an interpreter. My bat does the talking."

APAs expressed outrage about the Cubs' choice to use the Rising Sun flag, an image many consider offensive for its historical connotations. ■

Arizona Bill Would Bar Teachings Counter to Democracy

Ethnic Studies programs, including Asian American Studies, would be threatened under the bill.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

PHOENIX—A legislative panel has approved a proposal that would bar Arizona public schools from teaching anything counter to democracy or Western civilization and prohibit college students from forming groups based wholly or partly on the race of their members.

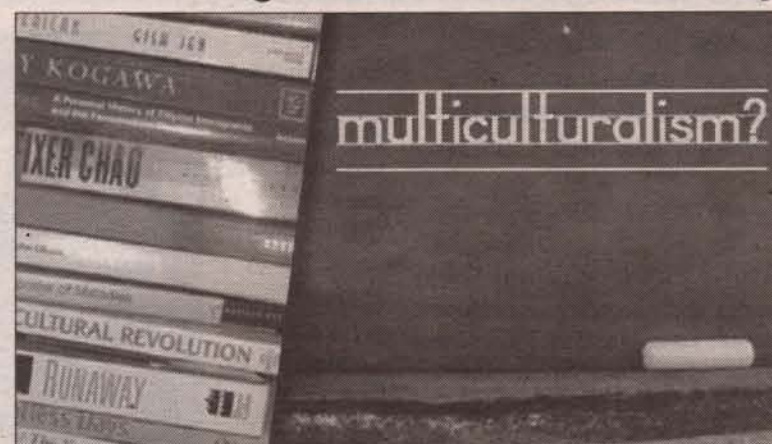
Under the proposal, groups such as the Asian/Asian Pacific American Students' Coalition and Black Business Students Association at Arizona State University and the Native Americans United at Northern Arizona University would be forbidden from operating on campus.

The bill would also attempt to defund and remove all Ethnic Studies programs from Arizona colleges and universities including AA Studies, Native Studies, and African American Studies.

The House Appropriations Committee approved the new proposal on a 9-6 vote April 16.

"I can only hope that the hard work that so many people have put in towards adding Asian American Studies, African American Studies, Native American Studies, and so many other educational programs to understand the many ethnic backgrounds that make up America, that they cannot be removed instantly," said Kimberly Shintaku, JACL national youth chair.

"The youth should not be sheltered from the opportunities that they gain from understanding diversity. We must understand the diversity in the community in which we live. We must embrace our differences and learn about both our own and others' backgrounds."



The brainchild of Rep. Russell Pearce, SB 1108 appeared as an amendment to a Senate bill that originally would have made minor changes to the state's Homeland Security advisory councils.

The Mesa Republican said he is targeting schools that use taxpayer dollars to indoctrinate students in what he characterized as anti-American or seditious thinking.

The measure is partially a response to controversy surrounding an ethnic-studies program called "Raza Studies" in the Tucson Unified School District, which critics have said is unpatriotic and teaches revolution.

The measure states, "A primary purpose of public education is to inculcate values of American citizenship. Public tax dollars used in public schools should not be used to denigrate American values and the teachings of Western civilization."

The bill provides the state superintendent of public instruction with the authority to withhold a portion of state funding from schools that violate the provision.

"This bill basically says, 'You're here. Adopt American values,'" said Rep. John Kavanagh, a Fountain Hills Republican and member of the Appropriations Committee. "If you want a different culture, then fine, go back to that culture."

Ted Namba, a member of the

Arizona JACL chapter and part of the Governor's Asian American Advisory Council is dismayed by the tone of SB 1108.

"SB 1108 is detrimental to the API community because it discourages cultural awareness and diversity," he said.

"At Arizona State University, the Asian/Asian Pacific American Student Coalition is the umbrella organization for approximately 15 Asian clubs on campus. This student organization encourages the sharing of various Asian cultures, creates an environment where students can identify with each other's backgrounds, and has developed many student leaders that have gone to become leaders in our local community."

Namba notes that in a recent AA Advisory Council meeting with Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano she promised she would not sign SB 1108 and doubted that the bill would ever reach her desk.

Democratic committee members complained that the measure is overly vague, failing to define what constitutes teachings that "disparage or overtly encourage dissent from the values of democracy and Western civilization."

Democratic Rep. Pete Rios said the result would likely be a chilling effect on public instruction regarding diversity and other cultures. ■



Every Role is Significant

By DEBEE YAMAMOTO
JACL Director of Public Policy

While this year may mark the 20th anniversary since the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, prompting many to think of the struggle primarily in the 80s leading up to the day President Reagan signed legislation apologizing for the internment on behalf of the U.S. government, Carole Hayashino considers the journey to Redress to have begun in 1968.

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. There was a heightened energy surrounding the issue of civil rights around the nation. Carole, former JACL associate director, was a student attending San Francisco State University which was embroiled in student strikes revolving primarily around two issues: that the university establish a Black Studies program and demanding the end of the Vietnam war.

The strikes ended the following year with the formation of the College of Ethnic Studies offering a curriculum designed to



HAYASHINO

foster a comprehensive understanding of America through the vantage point of communities of color.

It was within this context that Carole met Edison Uno, who was a lecturer with the College of Ethnic Studies in the late 60s. It was he who first suggested to JACL that they embark on a legislative campaign to seek redress for the 120,000 Japanese Americans who suffered unjustly through the forced removal and displacement from their homes to internment camps.

Edison Uno's mission to bring JACL's story to the public was inspiring to the then student. She remembers him saying: "History must be told by those who lived it." "He was really one of the first to encourage internees to talk about those painful experiences," she recalled.

Carole grew up in the JACL. Through her involvement with the organization, she learned the value of community and was exposed to great leadership. She also began to understand her role in the Asian Pacific American community. The combination of her upbringing and her exposure to inspirational leaders such as Edison Uno struck her on the path to being an effective advocate within the community. So it should come as no sur-

prise to learn when she had the opportunity to work on an ambitious project such as seeking redress for JAs interned during WWII, she eagerly joined the cause.

"I don't consider myself a key player in the Redress effort, maybe a supporting player," said Carole, who began working for the JACL with John Tateishi in support of the Redress effort. "I feel I was part of a bigger community movement. The JACL would not have been able to do this alone. We worked with the broader community; we worked well with other organizations and with churches. We had allies in the 80s that we did not have in the 40s. We also had a great chapter network to rely on and an effective grassroots movement."

"The lesson for our community as we look back should be this: we could not do it alone. We should never compare ourselves today to what we were then. There are other human rights and civil rights issues within the APA community that can and should be addressed today. That is the challenge for the JACL today. We must look forward to see how we can continue to work in coalition with other organizations to address these concerns." ■

Today, Carole is vice president for university advancement at CSU Sacramento. She continues to remain an active advocate within the JACL and the broader APA community.

Fallout Continues from CNN Commentator's Remarks About China

Amidst protest in Los Angeles and Atlanta, a second suit is filed against the network and Jack Cafferty.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—A primary school teacher and a beautician have filed a lawsuit seeking \$1.3 billion in compensation against CNN over remarks they say insulted the Chinese people.

The case against the Atlanta-based cable channel, its parent company Turner Broadcasting and Jack Cafferty, the offending commentator, comes after 14 lawyers launched a similar suit in Beijing alleging that Cafferty's remarks earlier this month violated the dignity and reputation of the Chinese people.

Cafferty made the comments during an appearance on "The Situation Room" that aired April 9.

Speaking about the U.S. trade deficit with China, Cafferty said: "We continue to import their junk with the lead paint on them and the poisoned pet food and export, you know, jobs to places where you can pay workers a dollar a month to turn out the stuff that we're buying from Wal-Mart."

"So I think our relationship with China has certainly changed," he continued. "I think they're basically the same bunch of goons and thugs they've been for the last 50 years."

Liang Shubing, the beautician, and Li Lilan, a Beijing-based elementary school instructor, claimed

Cafferty's words insulted all Chinese people and "intentionally caused mental harm" to the plaintiffs, according to a Hong Kong newspaper.

On April 19, Chinese Americans rallied outside CNN's Hollywood office to demand Cafferty's firing.

"We understand free speech," Lake Wang, 39, told the *Los Angeles Times*. "But what if Cafferty said this about other racial groups? I think he would be fired. I think he's jealous of China."

A crowd estimated by police at 2,000 to 5,000 gathered, chanting and holding signs that read "Fire Cafferty" and "CNN: Chinese Negative News." The crowd was peaceful, and no arrests were made, police Sgt. David Torres said.

Another two dozen people holding Chinese flags also demonstrated outside CNN's corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

In a statement, CNN stressed that the remarks were aimed at the Chinese government, not its people. The network said it apologized to anyone who thought otherwise.



Chinese Americans and others rally outside CNN's Hollywood office to demand the firing of commentator Jack Cafferty.

AP PHOTO/REED SAXON

China on April 17 snubbed CNN's apology. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said the CNN statement lacked sincerity and instead "turned its attack on the Chinese government to try to sow division between the Chinese government and the people."

China has been under scrutiny as it prepares to host the Olympics in August. Criticism of its human rights record and unrest in Tibet have received widespread coverage, leading Chinese leaders to accuse Western media of smearing the country.

A wave of verbal assaults on foreign media has raised concerns about media controls at the Olympics. CNN has been singled out by the Chinese government, and activists have phoned and e-mailed death threats to Western reporters. ■

APA Students Want Asian Am Studies Included in Univ. of Maryland's Strategic Plan

The document determines the future of the popular program.

University of Maryland students are demanding Asian American Studies be included in the new strategic plan used to map the future of the university.

The current draft of the strategic plan, which outlines an ambitious path for the university over the next decade, does not clearly outline the current state of diversity or recommend any specific plans to improve minority recruitment and retention, according to proponents of the university's AA Studies.

In fact, the plan does nothing to address the needs of Maryland's growing APA student population.

"Without inclusion in the strategic plan, you don't exist," said Pi Delta Psi President Scottie Siu in a statement.

"The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide a framework for helping our university become more

competitive with our peer institutions, and we share that goal. But our school cannot rise in academic excellence unless the curriculum includes strong programs and departments dedicated to the study of race, gender, sexual orientation and other issues of diversity and identity," wrote Siu and Lee Fang in an April 22 *Diamondback* guest column.

"Michigan, Berkeley and many other top public universities have established well respected Asian American studies programs and view them as critical elements that help to develop diversity of opinion. If we are to emulate the success of these institutions, we cannot exclude Asian American studies from our future development."

According to proponents, the university's existing AA Studies program, which has been offering courses since 1991, is popular — especially on a campus where APAs make up almost 14 percent of the undergraduate student body.

With fiscal shortfalls hovering on the horizon in Maryland, many students fear AA Studies may face elimination or severe cutbacks.

Though the plan mentions diversity as a "value" and "strength" of the university, supporters of AA Studies want diversity to be further emphasized.

The strategic planning steering committee includes the university's vice presidents, several deans, members of the university senate and chair of the board of regents, members of the board of trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Several APA groups launched a letter writing campaign demanding the provost add provisions to ensure that AA Studies be protected and promoted into a major.

The community feedback session is now closed and the final draft of the document is being prepared. ■

For more information:

www.sp07.umd.edu,
www.aast.umd.edu

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Hmong Sportsmen Group in U.S. Aims to Help Ease Racial Tension

WAUSAU, Wisconsin—A Hmong hunting and fishing club is forming to help ease racial tensions, some 15 months after a white hunter killed a Hmong hunter in the woods of northeast Wisconsin.

The Hmong Sportsmen Club in Green Bay will teach Hmong hunters and anglers about the Wisconsin outdoors and provide an opportunity for them to share their culture and outdoor traditions with others, its organizer said.

It is the first Hmong outdoors group formally organized in Wisconsin, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

The group is starting with about seven members and will meet May 7 to elect officers, Thao said. He hopes membership will grow to more than 20.

Two fatal confrontations between Hmong and white hunters in Wisconsin left seven hunters dead, sent two to prison and heightened racial tensions.

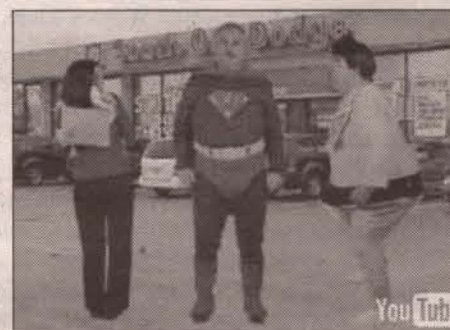
JACL Meets with FOX Chicago Officials Over Racist Commercial

MATTESON, Illinois—A car dealership commercial featuring "Superdon," beating up "Import Man" has landed the business and the local television station in hot water for what APA groups are calling racist and stereotypical portrayal of APAs.

The South Oak Dodge commercial, which aired on FOX Chicago, shows "Superdon" dressed in a Superman costume beating up his import enemy, who is dressed in a sumo wrestler costume and speaking with a stereotypical Asian accent.

"Buy American," says Superdon.

Members of the JACL Midwest district have met with FOX Chicago representatives who have promised to pull the ad. The JACL and other APA groups plan to meet with FOX Chicago's staff soon to continue the dialog on media portrayals of APAs.



YouTube

APA Groups Dismayed By U.S. Supreme Court's Decision to Uphold Voter I.D. Law

LOS ANGELES—The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court on behalf of 25 APA groups, detailing the problems of restrictive voter I.D. laws, especially for racial and language minority voters.

APA groups were disappointed with the U.S. Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in two consolidated cases, which rejected a constitutional challenge to the Indiana law requiring voters to show government-issued photo identification before they can vote.

An AALDEF exit poll of almost 11,000 APA voters in 23 cities in eight states in the 2004 elections showed that voter I.D. laws place additional burdens on the right to vote.

Man Gets 20 Years in Attack on Chinese Food Deliveryman

NEW YORK—The Manhattan thug who stabbed a Chinese deliveryman to within inches of his life will spend the next 20 years in prison for the crime, the Queens district attorney said.

David Moore, 23, was sentenced after being convicted of attempted murder, assault and weapons possession for attacking Jian Lin Huang in October 2006.

Huang, 39, was stabbed four times as he tried to make a food delivery at the Ravenswood Houses in Astoria.

Golf Announcer Apologizes for Using the Word 'Chinaman'

ST. LOUIS—Announcer Bobby Clampett has apologized for referring to Wen-Chong Liang as "the Chinaman" during a Masters tournament.

According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Clampett was taken off the broadcast after the comment. Clampett, working the Internet broadcast of Amen Corner at Augusta National Golf Club, made the comment after Liang missed the cut.

Liang, who missed the cut by six strokes after shooting rounds of 76 and 78, was playing in his first Masters on a special foreign invitation. Clampett also works golf telecasts during the PGA Tour season for CBS. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Inouye Next in Line for Powerful Chairmanship



Sen. Daniel Inouye is quashing speculation he may soon take over the Senate Appropriations Committee. The important chairmanship is currently held by 90-year-old Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd of Virginia, who has been ailing.

Inouye says it's demeaning to Byrd to speculate on who might replace him.

The 83-year-old Hawaii Democrat is next in line for the post, which oversees spending bills.

Inouye says if problems arise in dealing with committee business, all senators step forward to help.

Inouye has been rising in Senate seniority since he first joined the body 45 years ago.

JACCC's Chris Aihara Receives Honor for Cultural Preservation



Calif. Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez recently named **Chris Aihara** as a "2008 Women of Distinction Honoree" for the 46th Assembly District. She was recognized for her work to promote Japanese American culture and her efforts to preserve the cultural and historic neighborhood of Little Tokyo.

Aihara is the executive director of Los Angeles' Japanese

American Cultural & Community Center and the chair of the Little Tokyo Community Council.

Pictured (L-r) are: Aihara and Speaker Fabian Nunez.

Kimochi Names Spirit Award Recipients

Kimochi Inc. will honor their home program assistant **Dorcas Hautea** and long-time volunteers **Keiko Akashi**, **Yasuko Fujita**, **Mary Ishisaki**, **Annie Spivack** and **Japan Airlines** with Spirit Awards at Kimochi Home's 25th Anniversary Celebration May 18.

The honors will be given in a ceremony in the Imperial Ballroom of Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post St. in San Francisco's Japantown.

John Sasaki, a reporter and anchor for KTVU-TV, will be the emcee of the event, featuring senior performances and light refreshments.

Raffle prizes include two roundtrip tickets to Japan donated by Japan Airlines.

Tillakaratne Wins Outstanding Woman of the Year Award

Mihiri Tillakaratne is the grand prizewinner of the 1st Annual Asian Sisters Participating In Reaching Excellence Outstanding Woman of the Year Award.

The award celebrates APA female high school or college students who are proven leaders in their community. Tillakaratne was awarded the award at the April 26 Asian American Women in Leadership at Harvard University. This year's keynote speakers included MTV's **SuChin Pak**.

Tillakaratne is the founder and executive director of Empower a Village, a nonprofit organization that works to uplift the lives of villagers in rural Sri Lanka with breast cancer awareness workshops, mobile eye clinics and English and computer literacy programs.

She will be also be profiled in a future issue of *Audrey Magazine*.

Cal State Professor Wins Wang Family Award

Stuart Sumida, a Cal State San Bernardino biology professor, is a winner of the 2008 California State University Wang Family Excellence Award.

The prestigious award, which is accompanied by \$20,000, is designed to celebrate outstanding CSU professors.

This is the 10th and final year for the awards established in 1998, when then-Trustee **Stanley T. Wang** provided \$1 million to reward outstanding faculty and administrators throughout the Cal State University system. ■

USC Refuses to Take Down Communist Vietnam Flag

Local Vietnamese American activists vow to protest if the university doesn't take the flag down or put up the flag of former South Vietnam.

Despite pressure from Vietnamese American students and community activists, University of Southern California officials have said they will not take down the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's flag in front of one of its main buildings.

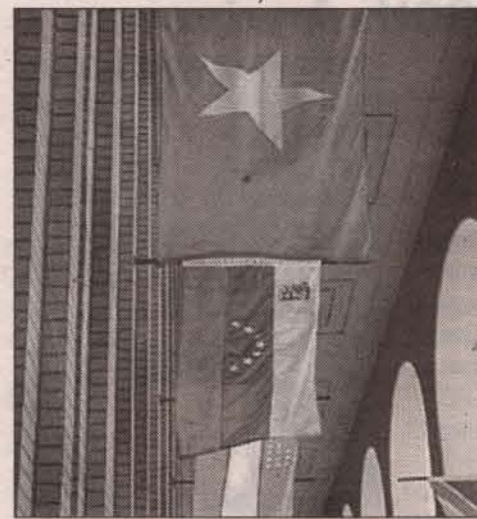
"The university displays the flags of nations from which our international students come to attend USC," James Grant, a university spokesperson said to the *Orange County Register*. "These flags represent nations recognized by the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State."

Some of USC's Vietnamese American students are now demanding the university either display both the Freedom and Heritage flag and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam flag or remove all of the flags from the building.

In March, representatives from the Vietnamese Student Association asked the university to take down the flag flying at the university's Von KleinSmid Center because it represents communist Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Student Association said the communist red flag with a yellow star in the center does not represent the over 1,000 Vietnamese American students attending the school.

"For us — the USC international students who were born and educated in the united Vietnam — the Vietnamese flag is the official national symbol representing over



80 million Vietnamese people who are living in Vietnam to the USC community and the world," said Vu Nguyen in a letter to the *Daily*

Trojan.

Vietnamese Americans say the flag issue is significant to the largely refugee community. Most fled Vietnam by boat after the communist takeover in 1975. Local activists say they will organize protests if the university fails to take down the communist flag or add the red and yellow flag.

In 2006, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order recognizing the Freedom and Heritage Flag as the official symbol

of the California Vietnamese American community — not the Socialist Republic of Vietnam flag. ■

Florin JACL, Muslim Americans Journey to Manzanar

For its third annual Manzanar pilgrimage, Florin JACL collaborated with the Muslim American community to again organize the unique three-day event.

The April 25-27 event was sponsored by the Florin JACL and the Council on American Islamic Relations of Sacramento Valley.

During World War II, one-fourth of the residents in the Florin, Calif. community were sent to Manzanar. Attendees of the recent event were able to walk in the footsteps of those unjustly imprisoned residents.

One of the highlights of the pilgrimage included a "Manzanar After Dark" evening program, a student-run cultural program that allowed young attendees to talk to former internees, hear about current issues, and enjoy various performances.

Over 50 passengers departed from the Buddhist Church of Florin, the same church where hundreds of local JAs gathered in 1942 to learn that they would be imprisoned following Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The large Young Buddhist Association Hall and gymnasium — which are still in use — is also where dozens of local JAs lived after the war, having lost their homes to foreclosure.

Since the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, the JA and Muslim communities have worked together to foster greater public understanding of Muslim, Arab, and South Asians who are unfairly scapegoated by ignorance and fear. ■

For more information: www.florinjacl.com, www.manzanarcommittee.org, www.cair.com



National business and Professional Directory

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

Oakland, Calif.	Greater Los Angeles	Seattle, Wash.
KITAZAWA SEED CO. SINCE 1917 The Asian Vegetable Seed Source for Gardeners, Retailers, Growers Request a Catalog P.O. Box 13220 Oakland, CA 94661-3220 ph: 510/595-1188 fx: 510/595-1860 kitaseed@pacbell.net kitazawaseed.com	Cambridge Dental Care Scott Nishizaka D.D.S. Family Dentistry & Orthodontics 900 E. Katella, Suite A Orange, CA 92867 • (714) 538-2811 www.cambridgedentalcare.com	UWAJIMAYA ...Always in good taste. 
Greater Los Angeles Dr. Darlyne Fujimoto, Optometrist & Associates A Professional Corporation 11420 E. South St, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 860-1339	Paul Jay Fukushima ATTORNEY AT LAW Wills & Trusts Probate & Conservatorships paul@fukushimalaw.com 12749 Norwalk Blvd, Suite 111 Norwalk, CA 90650 (562) 864-2575	For the Best of Everything Asian Fresh Produce, Meat, Seafood and Groceries A vast selection of Gift Ware
HOWARD IGASAKI, D.D.S., INC. ALAN IGASAKI, D.D.S. Dental Implants / General 22850 Crenshaw Blvd., Ste. 102 Torrance, CA 90505 (310) 534-8282	Phoenix, Ariz. YUKI TADANO REALTOR®, GRI Phoenix/Scottsdale real estate 1st USA Realty Professionals, Inc. (602) 565-1630 ytadano@cox.net www.yukitadano.com	Seattle, WA • (206) 624-6248 Bellevue, WA • (425) 747-9012 Beaverton, OR • (503) 643-4512

French Camp JACL Celebrates 60th Anniversary

In addition to its annual installation, the chapter announces its scholarship winner.

The JACL French Camp chapter recently celebrated its 60th anniversary in conjunction with its annual installation and scholarship luncheon at China Palace restaurant in Stockton. Approximately 95 members and their families attended the luncheon.

The French Camp JACL originated from a Nisei organization called the Progressive Society, which sought to unite the French Camp Nikkei community after the return from the World War II internment camps. Early activities included supporting evacuation claims for former internees and naturalization rights for the Issei, and maintaining the Japanese Community Hall.

In 1948, the Progressive Society, under the leadership of Bob Takahashi, successfully petitioned JACL national headquarters to become an official chapter. The first installation of chapter officers occurred the following spring in 1949, and has since been an annual community event.

Charter members from 1948 who remain active today include: Morey Egusa, Fred Fukano, Kiyoshi Hayashi, Shig Hisatomi, Katy Komure and Peter Takahashi.

French Camp JACL member and current NCWNP District Governor Alan Nishi installed the following



KELSEY HAYASHI

slate of officers: David Morinaka, president; Fumiko Asano, treasurer; Katy Komure, recording secretary; Tom Miyasaki, corresponding secretary; Hideo Morinaka, membership; Kimie Morinaka, historian; and Dean Komure, delegate.

The 2008 chapter scholarship was presented to Kelsey Hayashi, daughter of David and Candy Hayashi of Stockton and the granddaughter of Kiyoshi and Mari Hayashi of French Camp.

A graduating senior and honors student at Stagg High School, Kelsey has received numerous journalism awards for her work on the school newspaper and a varsity letter in basketball.

The next chapter event will be the annual summer picnic with Lodi JACL at Micke Grove Park on June 1. ■

JANM's Annual Dinner Highlights JA Redress Story, Key Figures who Made 'Impossible Dream' Come True



PHOTO: TRACY KUMONO

MOVERS AND SHAKERS: (L-r) George Takei, Sen. Daniel Inouye, former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, former Gov. Pete Wilson, Peggy Nagae, Dale Minami, Rod Kawakami, John Tateishi, Alan Nishio, Yuriko Hohri, William Hohri and Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga.

Among the evening's honorees is John Tateishi, former JACL national director.

The Japanese American National Museum used the occasion of its annual gala dinner to bring together some of the key figures in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in order to present the story of the Japanese American Redress before an audience of over 1,000 April 19 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel.

The theme of the dinner was "Fulfilling the Promise of America: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988" and included representatives of three community organizations who advocated for redress: John Tateishi, former national director of JACL; Alan Nishio of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR); and Aiko Herzig-

Yoshinaga and William Hohri of the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR).

The dinner also brought together the lead counsels for the three *coram nobis* cases of the 1980s: Rod Kawakami, who represented Gordon Hirabayashi; Dale Minami, who represented Fred Korematsu; and Peggy Nagae, who represented Minoru Yasui, as all three Nisei men fought to overturn their unfair World War II convictions.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and former Secretary of Transportation and former Congressman Norman Mineta were also on hand to recall key moments in getting a bill through Congress and then having it signed by President Reagan. Former California Governor Pete Wilson, who as a senator voted and supported redress, was also in attendance. ■

Deadline Extended for JACL Playwright Award

The deadline to apply for the Ruby Yoshino Schaar Playwright Award has been extended to May 9.

The award, which was established in 1984, encourages talented playwrights to tell the story of the Japanese American or Japanese Canadian experience in North America.

The award's namesake, Schaar, was a vocal artist and teacher who was a strong advocate for social justice. She died in 1987 leaving behind a legacy as an artist who always used her voice to promote a positive image of JAs.

In 1946, Schaar pursued her musical career in New York City. As one of the few JA vocal artists performing at that time, she paved the way for future Nikkei artists.

Schaar was also instrumental in revitalizing the New York JACL. She served as a chapter president and on the city and state human and civil rights advisory committees.

The award, which was contributed by Schaar's family and friends, is administered by the New York

JACL.

This biennium's winner will be announced during the July 16-20 JACL Salt Lake City convention. ■

Ruby Yoshino Schaar Award

- Applicant must be a playwright of Japanese descent with American or Canadian citizenship, sponsored by an active member or chapter of JACL.

- Applicant must have had at least one play presented in a public forum. Any play theatrically produced before Jan. 1, 2006, will not be considered.

- Send two clear copies of the typed manuscript. One manuscript per applicant. Do not send originals.

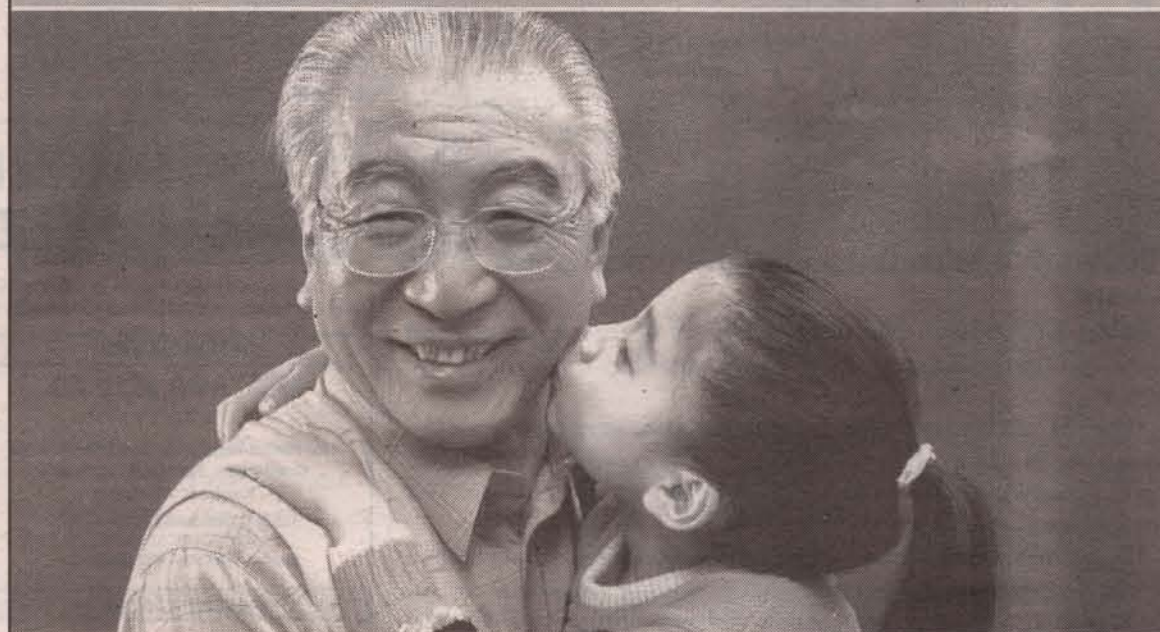
- Manuscripts must be accompanied by an application form (available online at: www.jacl.org) postmarked no later than May 9.

- Send application form and manuscript to: New York JACL, 75 Grove Street, #2, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

For more information:
www.jacl.org



Blue Shield of California
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Health Plans for California JACL Members

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at

1.800.400.6633

or visit www.jaclhealth.org



Convention Memories

This July, Salt Lake City is the place to be as JACL gets ready to host its national convention on the 20th anniversary of Redress.

By KATHY AOKI
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Twenty years ago, I remember my older sister, an active member of the Tokyo JACL chapter at that time, called to ask me if I wanted to meet her in Seattle to attend the JACL national convention.

I had never been to a JACL convention before and was very excited. Unfortunately, since I had just started my new job I could not take time off from work. Although I was disappointed, I knew there would probably be more opportunities in the future.

Ten years ago, I did attend my first JACL national convention in Philadelphia. As the alternate delegate from my chapter, I had much to learn. My sister told me it would be a good learning experience — and it was.

I learned about how business procedures were done, how the elections are run, how members of the national council propose amendments and voted. This can be daunting to figure out, but after you attend a few conventions it will make more sense. Don't be afraid to participate either. I remember volunteering to represent my district and speaking out on an issue I probably knew little about.



(L-r) Joan Aoki with current JACL National Director Floyd Mori and Kathy Aoki at the 2000 JACL convention in Monterey, Calif.

Some of the highlights of that convention were meeting Peter Westbrook, the Olympic fencing champion, who received the Japanese American of the Biennium Award.

Since then, I have attended the JACL national conventions in Monterey, Las Vegas, and Arizona as one of the delegates from the Contra Costa chapter.

Every convention I have attended has special memories. It's a chance to reunite with family members and friends. It's also a chance to meet new people, and learn more about different subjects and JACL. If time permits, I also enjoy visiting some of the local attractions in the host chapter's city.

This year, JACL's 40th biennial convention will examine JACL's history and accomplishments in their work to achieve justice and equality. The organization will also commemorate the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The Utah chapters are working hard to plan an exciting and successful convention that has something for everyone. There are many activities for the youth and children. Events include the opening mixer,

awards luncheon and the oratorical contest. Attendees should not miss the "Wing Ding" and see Grateful Crane Ensemble, Inc.'s "Nihonmachi: The Place to Be." The Sayonara Banquet is always another highlight of the convention.

Don't delay planning your trip to Salt Lake City — register today to receive early registration rates.

Although I have been told Salt Lake City could be very hot in the middle of July, I look forward to attending the convention. I've been thinking about this since I left Arizona two years ago. If you want to learn more about JACL, this is the place to be. ■

Kathy Aoki is a member of the Contra Costa chapter.

JACL National Convention July 16-20 Salt Lake City Marriott

Call the hotel by June 24 (not June 31 as listed on the convention Web site) to receive the JACL rate of \$119 a night.

Register by June 30 to receive early registration rates.

For more information
www.jacl.org

JACL Seeks Candidates for Masaoka, Mineta Fellowships

The JACL is now seeking candidates for the Mike M. Masaoka and Norman Y. Mineta Fellowships.

The Masaoka Fellowship is the annual program which places extraordinary students in congressional offices to learn about public policy firsthand.

The Mineta Fellowship, which is made possible through generous support from State Farm Insurance, will be in the JACL's public policy and legislative office in Washington, D.C. and will focus on public policy advocacy as well as programs of safety awareness in the Asian Pacific American community.

Application deadlines for both fellowships is May 10.

Masaoka Fellowship

The Masaoka fellow will serve in the office of a U.S. Senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives for a negotiable term ranging from six to nine months.

The Masaoka fellow will receive a stipend to cover living expenses and roundtrip airfare from the fellow's home to Washington, D.C.

The fellowship period may begin in the fall term (September, 2008) or spring term (February, 2009). Final details will be arranged in consultation with the congressional office and the selected Masaoka fellow.

All students who are in at least their third year of college or currently in a graduate or professional program who are also U.S. citizens are encouraged to apply.

Preference will be given to those with a demonstrated commitment to APA issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community.

The JACL established the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity.

The purpose of the fund is to develop leaders for public service by providing opportunities for college seniors or students in graduate or professional programs to work for a member of congress or a senator.

The fellow's assignments include a variety of tasks where they will be exposed to all facets of the work of the representative or senator and his/her staff.

The most recently selected Masaoka Fellow is Nina Fallenbaum who is currently serv-

ing in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii.

Mineta Fellowship

Along with working closely with the public policy director in the areas of public policy advocacy, the successful candidate will monitor and support the State Farm Insurance Child and Youth Safety Program in the APA communities; support various events sponsored by the JACL; learn to effectively build relationships and interact

with other APA national organizations and become involved in the JACL's various programs.

All applicants must have a minimum of a four-year degree from an accredited college or university; excellent writing, analytical and computer skills; ability to take directions and follow through with assignments; good interpersonal skills and work well with others and be a member of the JACL. Preference will be given to those with a demonstrated commitment to APA issues.

The awarded Mineta Fellow will serve his or her fellowship in the D.C. office for a negotiable term ranging from six to nine months. The monthly stipend will range from \$1,500 to \$2,500 depending on qualifications. The fellowship period will begin in August. Final details will be arranged in consultation with the selected Mineta Fellow.

The JACL established the Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship Program in 2007 in recognition of Mineta's past achievements as the former secretary of transportation and his continued service and dedication to the APA community.

The main purpose of the program is to develop public policy leadership and advocacy opportunities for recent student graduates.

APPLY NOW

Interested persons should visit the JACL Web site for more information and application or contact the JACL Washington, D.C. office at 202/223-1240 or by e-mail at policy@jacl.org.

For more information
www.jacl.org



Name _____
(Please print) Last First MI
Nickname _____
(Name for your badge)
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____
Chapter _____
Category ☐ Delegate ☐ Booster ☐ Millennium Club
☐ Alternate ☐ 1000 Club ☐ National Board/Staff
☐ Youth ☐ 1000 Club Life ☐ Masaoka Fellow
☐ Other (Specify) _____

Make check payable to: MWT Tours & Events

or to pay by credit card

Cardholder's Name _____
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express
Account Number _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

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

Registration Fees

CONVENTION PACKAGE REGISTRATION
(Includes individual events listed below)

	Before 6/30	After 6/30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package	\$225	\$250	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package	\$150	\$175	\$ _____
<small>(Youth Package are for Youth/Students who are 25 years of age or younger or currently enrolled in a college, trade school or university. Youth package includes all of the events in the Reg. package.)</small>			

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (all included in package registration)

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

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

OPTIONAL EVENTS (not included in package registration)

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

Convention Package	\$ _____
Individual Events	\$ _____
Special Events	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Mail Check and this form together to:

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



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA Japan's Favorite Past Time

I am by no means a baseball fan. The last time I went to a baseball game was four years ago, and it was purely circumstantial. I think we were rooting for the Giants, and I think we won, but I could be wrong. For all I knew, going to a baseball game was a thinly veiled excuse for us to hang out, eat unhealthy snacks, and occasionally walk around enjoying the crisp night air.

A few weeks ago, when my friend invited me to go to a Waseda University baseball game, I was expecting more of the same thing: catch up, eat snacks, and if inspiration struck, occasionally cheer.

I was wrong.

I didn't have time to catch up with my friend. I was too busy standing up and cheering.

Upon entering the stadium, student volunteers give you two cardboard drumsticks and a pamphlet with the lyrics of the school cheers. Every time your team is up to bat, you are beating together your cardboard drumsticks in rhythm to the music played by the school band. You are also shouting out cheers with the rest of the crowd in unison to the dictation of the male and female cheerleaders interspersed throughout the aisles.

The male cheerleaders (or the "ouen-dan," as they are called) are smartly dressed in militaristic black uniform. The leaders of the ouen-dan stand on a raised platform and through their forceful choreography, will the spirit of the crowd to the player up at bat. You have no excuse of not knowing the cheers because people are holding up posters with all the words written out. You have no excuse of not doing the cheer, because everyone else is doing it. And by everyone, I really literally mean everyone.

Every time our team scored a run, everyone in the audience put their arms around each other's shoulders, swayed back and forth, and started singing the school song at the top of their lungs. That day, Waseda University happened to be playing against a very weak team, so there was a lot of singing and cheering to be had.

When we got hungry, we ate our hot noodles by the vendors downstairs. We didn't dare bring up any food to our seats, because that would have meant sitting down and disrupting the unity of the big communal cheer if our team scored another run.

No booing and heckling in a baseball game? No obnoxious, hotheaded jerks ruining the fun for everyone else? As an American, such differences are uncanny. Even in a mundane activity as a university baseball game, the very Japanese desire for cooperation is very apparent.

I thought about this when I read recent news about how movie theaters in Tokyo are canceling screenings of a documentary by a Chinese filmmaker about the Yasukuni Shrine. The Yasukuni Shrine, for those of you who don't know, is a Shinto shrine in Tokyo commemorating the spirits of those who died fighting on behalf of the emperor of Japan.

Much to the resentment of several neighboring Asian countries, some of these individuals include Class-A war criminals. Every year, controversy abounds over whether or not the current prime minister of Japan will pay respects to the Yasukuni Shrine.

The screenings were cancelled due to pressure from the right-wing nationalists who have decried this movie as anti-Japanese and have even sent death threats to individuals involved in the distribution of the film. Though editorials in major newspapers across Japan have criticized this turn of events as a major threat to freedom of speech, the general reaction of the Japanese population has been relatively quiet.

Every social virtue comes with a price. In America, the pride of individuality brings the risk of more fragmented communities. In Japan, the emphasis on societal harmony can be dangerous to the existence of an alternative voice.

At the end of the Waseda baseball game, the two teams raised their school flags up in the air. Each side quietly waited for the other to finish singing their respective school songs. Before the crowds finally dispersed, the two teams and their supporters chanted their support and recognition for the opposing side.

Both America and Japan can benefit more from this sentiment: mutual respect for the opposing side in the greater game of ideological difference.

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



[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD

My Life with Ernest Weiner

I just learned that an old friend — old in some ways, young in others — is retiring after more than a half century waging battles in the civil rights and cultural arenas.

So why even take note when so many are retiring these days? And what makes him so special? Well, for beginners, he's a good friend, the most trusted and admired friend I have in the nation's entire civil rights community. Plus, he's the most eloquent and the most emotionally generous friend I've ever known.

It all began with a phone call back in 1978.

"Hello, is this John Tateishi? (And he even pronounced it right.) My name is Ernest Weiner, and I'm the director of the Bay Area chapter of the AJC."

After a moment's silence on my part while I tried to figure out who this man was and what the heck the AJC was, he continued.

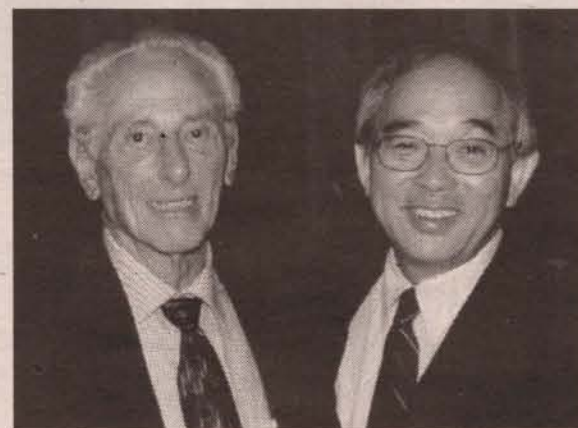
"John, obviously you don't know who the AJC is." Obviously, I hadn't a clue. So he went on to explain that the AJC was the nation's oldest and largest (sound familiar?) organization protecting the rights and preserving the culture of the Jewish community, and among the three oldest civil rights organizations in the country.

Ernie explained that he had been assigned by their NYC headquarters to monitor the JACL's Redress campaign and wanted to introduce himself to me. And that was the beginning of a 30-year friendship.

After we had gotten to know each other, Ernie suggested that he bring one of his New York heavy hitters to San Francisco to meet with Clifford Uyeda and me. Cliff and I met for lunch with Ernie and Seymour Samet, who I recall was the AJC's director of domestic affairs (I may be wrong about his title — golden years, you know).

It was during this luncheon meeting in 1978 that Ernie suggested we consider the idea of legislation to establish a blue-ribbon commission to examine what led to the decision to exclude and imprison Japanese Americans during WWII. Samet thought it was an intriguing idea and the two discussed the merits of that strategy with Cliff and me, mainly that Americans across the country knew virtually nothing about the internment, something emphasized by Samet, who had spent his life on the East Coast.

I don't remember exactly what we said in response,



FRIENDS: Ernest Weiner (left) of the American Jewish Committee met John Tateishi 30 years ago.

but I'm sure Clifford and I were very polite when we rejected what we considered an absurd idea!

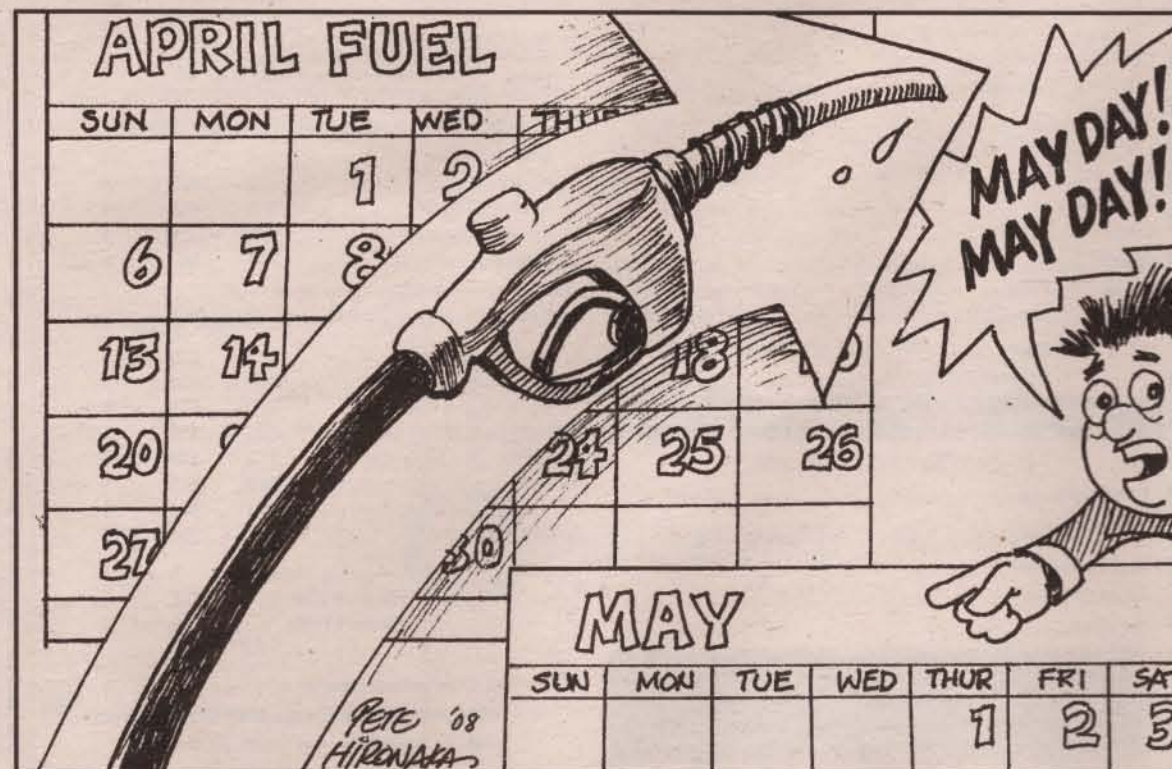
Not long after that, Ernie told me he would get the AJC's endorsement of the campaign. About 15 years older than I, always much wiser, politically more astute, he understood that I was at that time still untested in the political arena. Local and state politics, fine, but it was a totally different league at the national level.

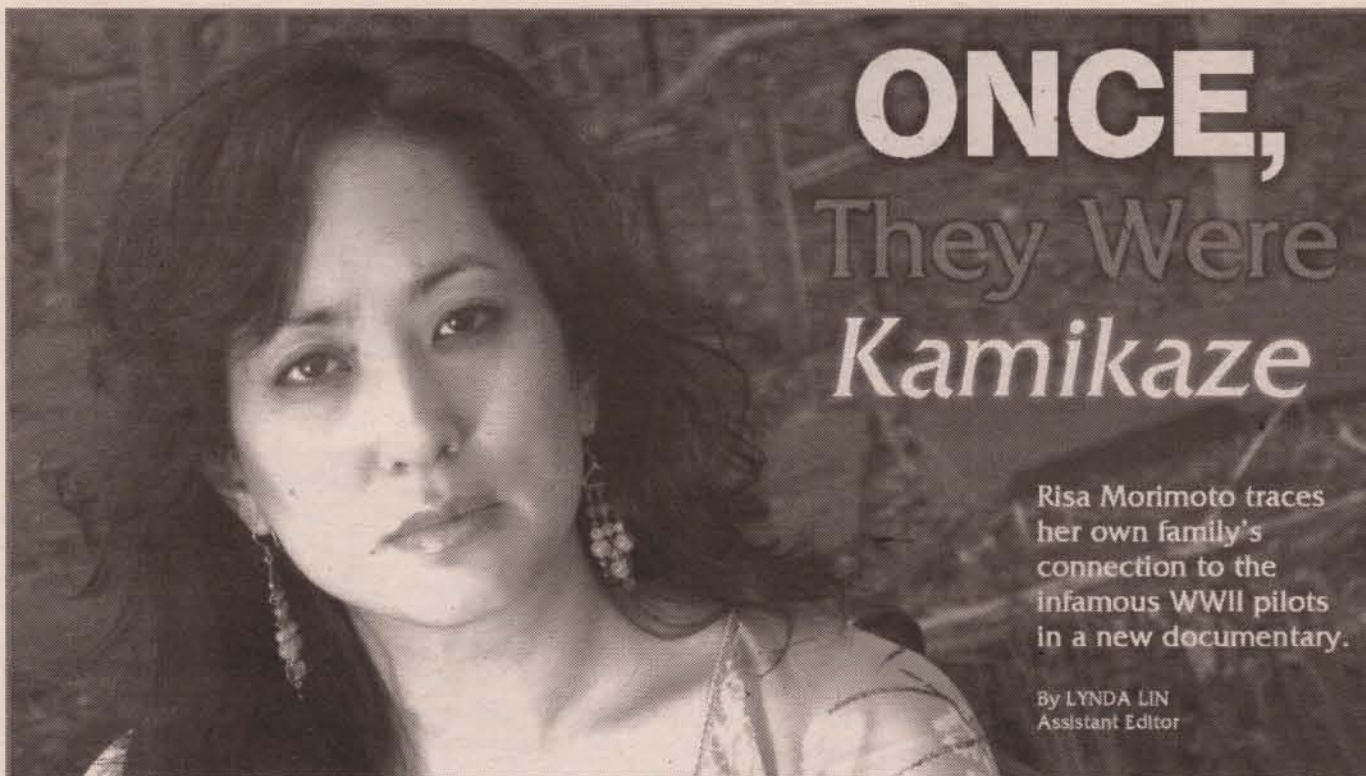
And thus, the American Jewish Committee became the first and most important organization to endorse the JACL's Redress campaign. That act brought credibility to our campaign and enlisted the assistance and support of the AJC's legislative director in Washington, and gave us a number of easy votes among AJC's congressional members and supporters in the Congress.

Those early months of getting to know Ernie were both informative and interesting for me and the beginning of a long and wonderful friendship with a remarkable individual. There is no brush that can, in one or many strokes, paint the picture of this man. One cannot capture the passion, the intelligence, the eloquence, the astounding commitment to the verities of life that are embodied in this individual.

At 83, he's still a young man at heart. He's the greatest flirt I've ever known — greatest because he's so good at it and never offends women with his charm — and at 83, he still has in him the boxer he was when he was 23. He still has quick hands (in boxing, not flirting)

See TATEISHI/Page 16





ONCE, They Were Kamikaze

Risa Morimoto traces her own family's connection to the infamous WWII pilots in a new documentary.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Every family has a dark secret hidden under a cloak of silence. Risa Morimoto's family secret bubbled to the surface in 2005 during a conversation about World War II. It was one of those shocking revelations punctuated with, "I thought you knew!"

You know, Uncle Sunada Toshio trained to be a kamikaze pilot — I thought you knew!

Up until then Morimoto, a Shin Nisei, had never known about this part of her family history. Her uncle was one of a few of her Japan-based relatives who spoke English. She has many fond memories of him gently joking with other family members before his passing almost 20 years ago.

How could this warm and loving man train his body and plane to become a weapon?

"I found it disturbing," Morimoto said about the secret her uncle took to his grave. "It's like you thought you knew a person in one respect, but he had this whole private life and for whatever reason he couldn't share it."

To live an entire lifetime carrying such a secret was unbelievable for the New York native. She began focusing a camera lens on her family members in a quest for truth. Along the way, Morimoto discovered that the immortal kamikazes of her imagination were in reality flesh and bone like her uncle — and greatly misunderstood.

Beyond Evil Martyrs

Morimoto's new documentary, "Wings of Defeat" — which she co-directed and co-produced with Linda Hoaglund — starts off as a personal journey, but takes flight as a larger look at this little known part of history. Like many other Americans, she assumed kamikaze pilots were fanatical suicide bombers who all died defending their country.

In reality, many of these pilots were drafted young and forcefully trained to crash into U.S. ships and other Allied targets as part of Japan's last ditch effort to win a losing war. The Japanese government called them a select group of gods among men, but by 1945 all Japanese planes were reassigned to kamikaze status. By war's end, about 4,000 kamikaze pilots had died, while thousands were still awaiting sortie orders.

Even today, wartime myths live on in people's imagination perpetuated by old propaganda campaigns that depicted these pilots as evil "Banzai!" screaming martyrs.

"How odd it is that these stereotypes continue to resonate."

In 2005, Morimoto traveled to Japan armed with a camera to interview her family about her uncle's secret life. No one knew any details of Toshio's kamikaze training.

"I thought, 'Oh boy, this is going to be a short movie,'" she laughed. "But that's the beauty of documentary filmmaking — you don't know what you are going to get. It's an adventure."

Morimoto, who received her Master's degree in film and education from New York University, had dabbled on the business side of filmmaking as the executive director of Asian CineVision, a nonprofit media arts organization.

But passion for the arts is in her blood. Her dad Nori is a sculptor and furniture designer who studied with Isamu Noguchi. Her mom Noriko is a painter.

Face to Face with Former Kamikazes

In the film, Morimoto draws a fuller picture through

in-depth interviews with four former kamikaze pilots, who even now in their 80s still talk about their experiences with hints of pain.

"I have a Japanese face but I'm an outsider ... It's almost like talking to a therapist, you know?" she said about forming a close bond with the former kamikazes.

"I always felt like the enemy here," said Morimoto about growing up on the East Coast. In elementary school on Pearl Harbor Day, she would often catch her classmates staring at her accusingly.

"This is what my grandfather would've said about what it was like during the war. Upon meeting them, it was difficult to picture these guys in that position because they are so old and frail."

Some of what the former pilots told her still sticks to her ribs.

Ena Takehiko was 20 when he was drafted to become a kamikaze whose first target was an American ship near Okinawa. He crash-landed nearby because of engine failure. Years later, Takehiko boarded a train to Hiroshima after the atomic bomb leveled the entire city.

Up until that point, he really felt that he was doing the right thing, said Morimoto. "He was a warrior who believed in the country that much. But when he saw the devastation, he couldn't believe that human beings could do this to each other."

Healing and Reconciliation

The horrors of the war are depicted in archival footages of kamikaze attacks and mid-air firefights. Most were taken from old Japanese newsreels that were confiscated after WWII and stored at the National Archives in Maryland.

"Wings of Defeat," which was funded in part by Japanese government grants, premiered in Japan last year.

"It's a real sign of change," said Morimoto. "There have been plenty of movies made in Japan about kamikazes, but 99 percent glorified their actions as heroic."

"For the Japanese audience, it's very personal. Hopefully Japan could look itself in the mirror as it moves forward. They're really at a critical stage right now," she added, especially since Japanese officials have been reexamining the "no war" clause in its constitution.

For the documentary's U.S. tour, former kamikaze pilots attended a few screenings to talk about their experiences. At one stop, the former kamikazes held hands with U.S. veterans in an ultimate symbol of healing and reconciliation.

In the States, the film has evoked comparisons to suicide bombers.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Morimoto was living in Queens when terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center buildings. Many compared it to WWII kamikaze attacks. What was dangerous was how the media simplified the entire experience into sensational headlines, she said.

Former kamikaze pilots are adamant that they were not suicide bombers — they were part of a military operation aimed at military targets not civilians, she added.

Yes, there are similarities — young men indoctrinated into defending the honor of their country.

"But who are these 'enemies' we are talking about? Reality is a lot more complicated than you can imagine."



WATCH IT

L.A. Asian Pacific Film Festival
May 4

Info: <http://festival.vonline.org>

Delray Beach Film Festival
May 9

Info: www.dbff.us

The DVD will be released in August.

For more screening information:

www.edgewoodpictures.com/wingsofdefeat



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APA HERITAGE

(Continued from page 1)

heels of larger national events — the controversial Olympic Torch relay in San Francisco and protests in Tibet. Although Park and aKDPi started planning it well before last month's headline-grabbing controversies, the timing propelled them into a dialogue about national identity.

"Overall, I really thought it was imperative that as Asian Americans we know our own culture but also those we may know less about," said Park, a biological engineering major and aKDPi cultural chair who worried about how the recent fallout between Tibet and China would affect their event.

And there were plenty of reasons to be concerned, especially since protests of the upcoming Beijing Olympics have stirred national pride and alarming reactions on other campuses like Duke University — where aKDPi's Tibet speaker Losang Rabgey had to cancel a scheduled appearance after student Grace Wang was labeled a traitor for trying to mediate an on-campus China protest.

A storm was brewing at the University of Virginia too. A pro-Tibet column in the student newspaper launched angry Facebook.com groups, so hours before the aKDPi event, Rabgey called Park to ask if there were any protesters carrying signs or flags on campus.

"Thankfully, nothing happened," said Park. But then again, something did happen — three months before the Beijing Olympics, all eyes are on China — and there's no room to stay neutral in the political debate. So in a month that celebrates APA history and culture, how does all the attention over China's "image problem" affect young APAs trying to celebrate their own identities?

Conflicted Nationalism

In August, China will be the cen-

ter of the world's attention as the backdrop for the Olympic Games. It is only the third Asian country to host the games behind Japan and South Korea. Although many APAs have expressed pride, many also feel conflicted. Especially since all the pomp and circumstance that come with the Olympic Games has been met every step of the way with harsh criticism.

The country known as the "Land of the Sleeping Dragon," has long been a target of criticism for its political and human rights related issues, but the barrage of news about last year's tainted consumer products and increased attention on China and Tibet relations have opened up more opportunities for fervent protest. Even China's Olympic float in the famous New Year's Day Rose Parade was met with protesters in Pasadena, Calif.

Not to mention China's reported role as a top trading partner and a major weapons supplier to the government in Sudan, which experts say has fueled a conflict that has killed about 200,000 people in the Darfur region.

What happens to APA self-identity when their "home country" is the target of criticism similar to Japanese Americans during World War II?

"When people ask me how I feel about the Chinese government, I will be honest — I don't agree with many of the policies of the Chinese government," said Ziwei Hu, a 21-year-old international political economy major at the University of California, Berkeley. "I know that corruption is still a huge problem, and that there's an absence of the rule of law."

Hu was born in California to parents who grew up in Mainland China learning to dislike Communist Party rule during the Cultural Revolution, but they still taught their daughter to love the country.

During past Olympic competitions, her family always cheered for

the Chinese teams over the American teams even though they were all U.S. citizens, she said.

"They looked like us [and] they had names like us."

Over the years, Hu started identifying more with the APA community and seeing more problems with the country's policies on democracy and human rights. Now, she is interning with an organization that helps Tibetans seek political asylum in the U.S.

This summer, Hu will be cheering for American teams.

"I am still proud to be Chinese — there's such a rich cultural heritage that comes with being Chinese — but I don't think the current regime in China reflects what it means to be Chinese. Maybe some people would think that makes me less Chinese, and perhaps they're correct, because I did grow up in America. And because of this background, I feel strongly about democracy and human rights, and I guess that outweighs any nationalist pride I have."

Are We Uninformed?

"I think the times are different because people feel more comfortable with their own identities and make a distinction between being Asian and being Asian American," said Naomi Oren, a senior art history major and Chinese minor at UC Berkeley.

Oren studied abroad at the New School of Collaborative Learning, a small international school in the suburbs of Beijing.

"Living in China and seeing it grow to what it is today helped me realize how much I do have in the



Losang Rabgey, the head of a Tibet non-profit organization spoke at the University of Virginia for APA Heritage Month. She had to cancel another appearance at Duke University because of protests.

States, such as a freer access to information and freer press," she said. "I know that there are many people who feel that the Olympics is the chance to prove China can compete economically on a global scale."

"But I also know some people who are Chinese American who believe that, okay, so the Olympics shouldn't be boycotted but China has some serious civil rights issues to deal with and the protesting is good because it puts the Chinese government to shame when it needs to shine."

But even with growing anti-Chinese sentiment — evident in the continued protest in almost every leg of the Olympic Torch relay — and growing media coverage of these events, APA Heritage Month cultural events continue in many U.S. college campuses with barely a mention of the controversies or its long histories.

It's because most young APAs are uninformed, said Eming Piansay, a senior at San Francisco State University majoring in journalism.

The first she ever learned about Tibet was in the 1997 movie "Seven Years in Tibet," she admitted in a blog entry for New America Media.

Yes, Brad Pitt was her world history professor because China-Tibet relations were never a focus of her formal education.

Last month Piansay, 22, stumbled upon a downtown San Francisco silent protest against China. Instead of the traditional protest method of gathering and shouting, opponents of China's human rights policies let photos of alleged victims tell their stories. Piansay had to look away from the gruesome photos of burns and wounds.

"I am very far from being a historical expert when it comes to international conflict. But I think as a young person who is unfamiliar with this particular part in history, it gave me a sense of how important the Olympics taking place in China has affected people so many people enough to come out, and post these photos which I thought were really disturbing."

Piansay sees a potential for more tension as the Olympics draw closer. But if anything, she argued, the controversy is forcing young Americans to pay attention to issues that they didn't learn in their U.S. history books. ■



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CITIZEN

FILIPINO VETS

(Continued from page 1)

D-Hawaii, who sponsored the bill.

"The Filipino veterans of World War II fought bravely under U.S. military command, helping us win the war only to lose their veteran status by an Act of Congress. I commend my colleagues for supporting those veterans who stood with us."

The bill had the support of several Asian American organizations including the JACL who encouraged its chapter members to contact their representatives and ask them to support S. 1315.

Opposing federal aide to veterans, especially in an election year, is anathema to lawmakers. Senators on both sides bandied that accusation and sparred over which veterans are most deserving of U.S. aid at this time in history.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., noted there was never a promise of compensation made to the Filipinos ordered to serve with Americans during World War II. His amendment would have spent the money instead on new housing and burial assistance for American veterans.

His amendment failed, 56-41.

Burr ended up voting for the bill, even with the controversial pensions.

"Senate approval of the benefits

for the surviving Filipino veterans is the first step in removing a more than 60-year-old stain on our national honor," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii. "Senate approval was the right action to take, and it fulfills our long-held promise to our Filipino comrades in arms. They are heroes who served under our flag, and they are entitled to the full U.S. veterans' benefits that the Congress rescinded in 1946."

The legislation also includes aid for a broad array of veterans. It would make some benefits retroactive for more people. It also would increase the amount of mortgage life insurance that some disabled veterans can purchase and give severe burn injury victims new kinds of housing benefits.

"We are proud to have been part of this momentous effort. The membership of the JACL made their voices heard on the Hill and we have seen the results of our labor in the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act," said Debee Yamamoto, JACL's director of public policy. "Because of our participation and cooperation with our partners we've been able to advance the cause of justice for these very deserving veterans."

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives. ■

MORISHITA

(Continued from page 2)

profit, privately owned, or publicly owned, good leadership is good leadership!

More specifically, I advocate creating a leadership/management training program targeted towards the national officers and the district governors. This training would be based on management training finely tailored to our unique needs and requirements in subject matter such as motivation and mobilization techniques, customer (member) retention, process reengineering (learning how to analyze and improve upon the various processes used by the JACL), characteristics of good leaders, effective communication, high level project management and planning, and other topics to be determined.

To more fully leverage the benefits of this training, the governors and elected officers would be encouraged to roll out this training to the districts and then to the chapters albeit at a more customized level.

The commitment for such a training and development program to flourish and to be effective is two-fold. There is an obvious financial commitment required to develop this model. Equally important is that it would probably require most of a dedicated two-day weekend com-

mitment by the officers to attend. Finally, to gauge this training model's efficacy, meaningful performance measures and self-assessment techniques need to be developed and applied.

Although I have expressed these ideas at the "30,000-foot level" devoid of much detail, I hope they will serve as a platform to launch follow-up dialogue. I encourage you to share your thoughts with me on these ideas by writing to me at:

bkm@srv.net.

With the wealth of talent among our JACL membership that includes educators, business people and a host of other leader types, the brain trust to formulate a sound leadership development program is there waiting to be tapped into. I believe the only ingredient missing to implement this is an organized will among the JACL membership to push this into fruition. ■

NAMBA

(Continued from page 2)

the many individuals who have contributed to the P.C. Spring Campaign.

This once a year campaign has resulted in the new and improved P.C. Web site, a new production process for the P.C. and new funds received will continue to give the P.C. an opportunity to implement some exciting new changes for the

future, including the hiring of an online reporter.

I realize there are many choices as to where to give each spring but I would like to encourage you to join Michele and I in making a contribution to the 2008 P.C. Spring Campaign.

Thanks! ■

Ted Namba is the Pacific Southwest District's P.C. editorial board representative.

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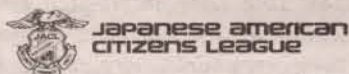
The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper, a national publication of the JACL, is currently seeking a part-time online reporter for its office in downtown Los Angeles.

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

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

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



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TULE LAKE

(Continued from page 1)

Manzanar how the site has developed and it would be wonderful to see that happen to Tule Lake," said Carl, a board member of the JACL New England chapter whose family members were interned at Tule Lake.

"This is part of my family history and it's a part of our national history. Tule Lake ought to be preserved ... otherwise it makes it much harder to remember the mistakes that were made, the violation of civil liberties."

A federal bill known as the "Tule Lake Segregation Center Special Resource Study Act" has been introduced to attempt to do just that.

HR 2506

S. 1476 was placed on the Senate calendar on April 10 and a vote looks promising. But the companion Tule Lake preservation bill in the House, HR 2506, has been stuck in the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands since June of 2007.

The lack of movement on the House side has many Tule Lake committee members on edge.

"The silence ... well, we don't know what it means," said Carl's mother Barbara Takei, a committee member.

To get some answers, Barbara and the committee members have tried to contact the bill's sponsor — Rep. John Doolittle, R-Calif. — but have had little luck. They fear a federal investigation into Doolittle's association with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his decision not to seek reelection, has made HR 2506 a non-priority.

But Doolittle's chief of staff Dan Blankenburg assured the *Pacific Citizen* that the representative, whose district includes Tule Lake, is still committed to the bill.

"[Rep. Doolittle] believes it's important to recognize the historical significance of the site. It's important for the community at large in the United States," he said.

Blankenburg is also optimistic that the House bill will be taken up

this session.

"I believe it has a chance to come up, if not, [Rep. Doolittle] would not have introduced it."

But he too is at a loss to explain what the hold up is in the subcommittee. The cost of the study is estimated to be minimal, between \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Calls to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands and its chair, Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., were not returned by press time.

Debee Yamamoto, JACL policy director, notes that Doolittle and his staff have been very supportive of the efforts to preserve Tule Lake from the beginning.

"All of my dealings with Doolittle's office have been nothing but supportive," she said.

"We share the belief that the lives of the American public will be enriched through the preservation and study of this time in history when civil liberties of Americans of Japanese descent were unjustly taken away," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We'll continue to work with [Doolittle] to ensure this bill succeeds through the House."

Yamamoto also notes that Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Calif., a cosponsor of the bill, and Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., who recently signed on as a cosponsor, have vocally supported HR 2506.

"By preserving our history, and the physical sites that represent it, we can ensure that we pay due diligence to our past in order to not repeat our mistakes in the future," said Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Calif.

A Unique History

Hiroshi Shimizu, 65, was just a one-year-old boy when he and his family were sent to Tule Lake, the first of the camps to open and the last to close. Like many of the residents of the camp, Hiroshi's parents were part of the so-called renunciant, those Japanese Americans who made the difficult decision to renounce their U.S. citizenship during the War.

Tule Lake also housed the "no-no" boys, those who answered in the negative when asked the infamous

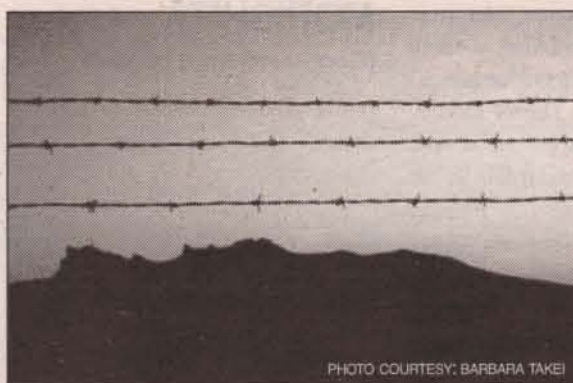


PHOTO COURTESY: BARBARA TAKEI

Questions 27 and 28. These men wanted their civil rights restored before offering their lives in defense of a country that had taken those rights away.

Even today, Tule Lake is often referred to as the camp where the "disloyals" were held, a lingering stigma that has often blurred the lines of truth. Of the camps, it was the only one to be ruled under martial law. It was also the largest, housing 18,700 people at its peak.

"Tule Lake has the most untold stories of any of the other camps," said Hiroshi, vice president of the Tule Lake committee and president of the San Francisco JACL chapter. "It's been branded by that disloyalty brand. We'd like to clear that up. All of that was caused by the government and not by any of our people."

Barbara grew up hearing little of the camps from her mother and as an adolescent wrapped up in the civil rights movement, she admits she often wondered why the JAs never fought back.

In 1999 she received a California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund grant to publish a guide called "Tule Lake Revisited." It was only after doing her research that she

learned some JAs did fight back and they were at Tule Lake.

"Tule Lake has a fascinating history that is only now beginning to emerge," said Barbara, a member of the Florin JACL

chapter. "Tule Lake was the place where there was grassroots protests and resistance." The Tuleans "were the civil rights heroes of World War II. We are trying to get them some respect."

In 2006, 42 acres of Tule Lake were designated as a National Historic Landmark. Now groups hope Tule Lake will become a part of the National Park Service.

Tule Lake Pilgrimage

This July, Lauren Roberts, 26, will head to Modoc County to take part in the Tule Lake pilgrimage, the site where her grandmother and the entire family were interned in 1942.

"The stories I hear from my grandmother about Tule Lake are generally pleasant. For her, it was a time when she had more freedom and her parents were less strict," she said. "That is not to say that it was an easy time for her family however. And as is expected, there is much silence and vagueness around the more difficult things that they went through."

For Lauren, the federal bill to preserve Tule Lake is very personal.

"Tule Lake is our history," she said. "Not only the history of JAs but

also of Americans. It is a means to tell our story, to learn from our story, and to relate to one another."

For Nina Fallenbaum, 29, this year's Tule Lake pilgrimage will be her fifth. She plans to make it a family affair with her mother, aunt, and 93-year-old grandmother in tow.

Each year she is shocked to see the deterioration of the historic site which still includes a stockade.

"Visiting the actual site, running your fingers over the walls of the stockade, people see blood stains on the wall, *kanji* and poems engraved on the walls. It has a powerful effect," said Fallenbaum, the current Mike Masaoka fellow.

Nina hopes legislation to preserve the historic Tule Lake site will take place before the aging Tuleans pass away and the first-person stories are gone forever.

The current congressional session has less than six weeks left and Tule Lake descendants are hopeful the preservation bill will soon come to a vote. The Tule Lake committee has begun an aggressive letter writing campaign and are encouraging legislators to heed their messages.

"There's a sense of urgency. We'd like to get this done this Congress," said Hiroshi.

"I would urge them to finish this one last piece of legislation, help ensure Tule Lake would be protected for future generations," said Barbara. "It would mean a lot to the community." ■

The Tule Lake pilgrimage takes place July 3-5. For more information: www.tulelake.org. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5857573804&ref=ts.

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Beginning February 1st, National JACL Credit Union is offering free gas** to members who are approved for auto loans! Not only will you save big on your loan with rates as low as **5.00% APR***, but we're filling up your tank too!

Hurry! This offer is for a limited time only and may be discontinued at any time without notice.



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Fill Up On Us!

Loan Amount	Gas Card
\$5,000-14,999.99***	\$25.00
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\$60,000+	\$200.00

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. **Members may choose gas card for one of five different merchants: Chevron, Exxon/Mobil, Shell Gas, Sinclair Gas, and Tesoro. Gift cards will be mailed to members 45-60 days after the loan is closed. ***Chevron and Exxon/Mobil not available.

Membership and eligibility required.

Calling All Interns!

Wanted: summer intern for the *Pacific Citizen*. Reward: working with an enthusiastic staff and gaining experience in a workplace environment.

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

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

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

The application deadline is June 2.

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

BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

Mori and Membership Coordinator Tim Koide urged board members to have a more positive vision to set and achieve higher membership goals.

But the board ultimately voted to adopt several of JACL Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kobayashi's recommendations — which included the elimination of the dues increase and a reduction of membership goals — and send the budget back to program owners and managers to balance.

With the organization's continued declining membership trend, to expect a 10-percent increase with no specific plan is not prudent, said JACL National President Larry Oda, whose analysis showed that membership has been declining at a rate of 4.14 percent per year over the last seven years.

"The path [the board] chose still includes an aggressive membership campaign, but more of an achievable amount," he added.

More Cuts on the Horizon

The new measures passed by the board — with one dissenting vote from PSW District Gov. Alayne Yonemoto — in the next biennial budget include:

- An elimination of the proposed

\$5 membership dues increase.

- New reduced membership goals to 1,000 new members for both 2009 and 2010.

- A contingency plan — including staff furloughs, cutting the P.C. print frequency from semi-monthly to monthly and holding off on hiring new staff members — if revenue goals are not met.

Because of the reduction in revenue goals, about \$180,000 and \$280,000 in expenditures needs to be cut in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Under this proposed budget, JACL districts would be expected to increase its membership or equivalent revenue in the next biennium (see chart for a breakdown).

Program owners and managers are expected to make the cuts and balance the budget in time for a May 16 conference call when board members will take up the budget again.

"I agree that we need to have a positive vision for the future but that must be grounded in the reality of today," said Kobayashi. "We should set high goals for the organization to reach but our budget should be conservative and can be modified should we realize our lofty goals."

"Reducing our expenditures will certainly reduce our ability to deliver programs to the same extent that

were originally laid out, but I believe with some creativity we can deliver some great projects at a lower price tag," he added.

A Bad Harbinger

JACL closed out the second quarter of 2008 with a deficit of \$17,425 — the first shortfall in over two bienniums.

"This is a bad harbinger for things to come this year," said Kobayashi.

The deficit can be attributed to membership numbers coming in lower than projected. JACL has been on a downward membership trend — losing about 916 members per year since 2001, said Kobayashi. In 2006, the decline accelerated to 1,781 members, starting a new alarming trend.

Most of JACL's investment funds are down as well. The downturn reflects the overall decline of the market.

As of Feb. 29, the Legacy Fund is at \$6.3 million, the Life Trust Endowment is at \$488,145 and the National Endowment sits at \$440,014. The Masaoka Endowment Fund is at \$374,938 and the JACL Reserve Fund sits at \$413,825.

"Deficits are not a good sign and I won't give any excuses," said Mori. "However, the financial picture of an organization is not easy to portray in a single shot in time. We are aware that the main issue has been membership. This means that we have a great opportunity to look at our national and local membership programs and make adjustments to remedy the decline that we have witnessed."

A recent shake-up in staff and board membership positions has also attributed to the crisis. In February, the national board unanimously approved Larry Grant as the new vice president of membership replacing Edwin Endow, who resigned for personal reasons. Koide

PROPOSED 2009-10 MEMBERSHIP GOALS

DISTRICTS	# OF NEW MEMBERS NEEDED/YEAR
Northern Calif.-Western Nevada-Pacific	415
Pacific Southwest	239
Central Calif.	52
Pacific Northwest	80
Midwest	101
Intermountain	50
Eastern	48
Nat'l Associates	15

DATA: MARK KOBAYASHI

Aggressive membership goals are included for each JACL district under the proposed next biennial budget.

also replaced Lotchana Sourivong, who served as the national membership coordinator for less than five months.

Staff instability was one of the reasons why NCWNP district board members Gordy Kono and John Hayashi spoke to the national board on behalf of the district requesting possible corrective action for their decision to have the national director based in Washington, D.C. instead of national headquarters in San Francisco.

"From the district's view, it appears that national headquarters' staff needs more guidance," said Hayashi, who emphasized their concerns did not reflect the national director's job performance.

Mori, who moved to Washington, D.C. in 2005 to become JACL's director of public policy, said the nation's capital is the "center of activity in the advocacy community."

"The issues that we face are not California-centric, they are national in scope. This means that we have to work with the Congress and national advocacy organizations in order to make an impact," said Mori. "I have been told over and over that it was about time that the JACL reestablished its presence in Washington, D.C."

Hope and Hard Work

Board members say there is still time for a positive change.

"I think there is hope as we have seen that between 2004, 2005 and 2006 the membership loss rate slowed to around a loss of 534 members per year," said Kobayashi. "Membership must be one of our top priorities going forward as it is so crucial to the vitality of the JACL."

Mori emphasized the importance of looking "at the glass as half-full and work to fill the glass." The national board has taken the negative half-empty view, he said.

"I think that the board needs to set higher goals and match those goals with increased effort and activity. The status quo is admitting that we are satisfied with going downward. I have much greater faith in the organization's ability to reach higher."

"The staff cannot affect change without the full support and commitment of the board. If we have reasonable objectives and programs, it seems to me that the board has a job to develop and implement the funding mechanisms necessary to meet those goals."

After the national board passes the proposed biennial budget, it will go to the national council for a vote at the July 16-20 Salt Lake City convention. ■

American Holiday Travel

2008 Tour Schedule

SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR JUNE 12-23
Attend Centennial Celebration Program of Japanese Immigration to Brazil in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires. OPTION: Peru-Lima, Machu Picchu.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR SOLD OUT
Tokyo, Lake Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR II JULY 8-17
Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Atami, Lake Hakone, Tokyo

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE JULY 20-27
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City.
HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.

CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 7-14
Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria City, Rocky Mountaineer Train.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE SEPT 11-24
Rome, Florence/Pisa, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Majorca, Tunisia, Palermo, Naples. HOLLAND AMERICA Noordam Ship.

HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 5-17
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Morioka, Matsushima, Kinugawa Onsen, Nikko, Tokyo.

CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE OCT 13-24
Ft. Lauderdale, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Tortola, Half Moon Cay.
HOLLAND AMERICA Maasdam Ship

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 8-23
Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound.

COMING FOR 2009: EGYPT-NILE RIVER TOUR JAN 16-26
HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR FEB
NEW ORLEANS GETAWAY TOUR MAR
KOREA SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR MAR
JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR APR
EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR MAY
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUN

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SECOND ANNUAL

nikkei
community day

saturday
may 17 2008
10 am to 4pm

in Little Tokyo's JACCC
Courtyard & Gallery

Changing Landscape: From Redress to Redevelopment to Redefinition

Nikkei Health Forum Featuring:

Morning Health Screenings:
Stroke, Bone Density, Blood Pressure
Provided at no cost by Secure Horizons,
10:30 am - 2 pm

Afternoon Health Forum:
12:00pm: Nikkei Health Experience in
Internment Camps with Dr. Masako Kusayanagi-
Miura, Physician and Internment Camp Internee

1:45pm: Breast Cancer Among Japanese-
American Women: Results of Lifestyle Changes in
Japan and Los Angeles with Dr. Dennis Deapen,
Director, LA County Cancer Surveillance Program

Afternoon Health Forum (cont'd):
2:30pm: Nutrition For School and Sports
with Joyce Nakashima, Registered Dietitian
with the LA County Public Health Nutrition
Program

3:15pm: Screen Time: What Your Children
and Youth May Be Doing 40-45 Hours a
Week! with Dr. Glenn Masuda, Associate
Clinical Director, Asian Pacific Family Center

Generously supported by National JACL

For more information, visit
www.myspace.com/ttbncc

Calendar

National

SALT LAKE CITY

July 16-20—2008 JACL National Convention; Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown, 75 South West Temple; \$225/regular, \$150/youth; early bird registration through June 30; events include, welcome mixer, youth luncheon, awards luncheon, sayonara banquet, workshop, optional tours and a golf tournament; hotel rate \$119/night plus tax (reserve by June 24); Info: www.utjacl.org or www.jacl.org.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thurs., Sept. 25—National JACL Gala Dinner, "Celebrating Champions of Redress"; 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner; Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H St. NW.

AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION

May—Citizen Tanouye will be broadcast by American Public Television. Contact your local public station for broadcast date and time. Citizen Tanouye is the story of Medal of Honor recipient, Ted Tanouye by a group of Torrance, Calif. high school students.

East

NEW YORK

May 8-June 28—Minidoka on my Mind, paintings by Roger Shimomura; Tues.-Sat. 10:30-5 p.m.; Flomenhaft Gallery, 547 W. 27th St., Suite 308; featuring recent paintings by Roger Shimomura. Info: www.flomenhaftgallery.com or 212/268-4952.

Sat., May 10—Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival; noon-6 p.m.; Dag Hammarskold Park (East 47th between First and Second Ave).

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wed., May 21—Town Hall Meeting, "Working Together to Strengthen Our Economy"; 8:30-12:30 p.m.; Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. G-50; presented by Democratic Leadership and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus' Asian American and Pacific Islander Town Hall.

Midwest

AMACHE, Colo.

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

ARVADA, Colo.

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

DAYTON

Sat., May 3—Ohanami, Cherry Blossom Viewing Party, Japanese Bazaar and Bake Sale; 9-1 p.m.; Hyde Park Bethlehem Church, 3799 Hyde Park Ave.

DENVER

Sat., May 17—17th Annual Asian Pacific Heritage Month Festival; 11:30-3 p.m.; 1700 Lincoln St.; enjoy cultural entertainment and food from various Asian Pacific countries. Info: Peggy Yujiri, pyujiri@msn.com or Lily Shen,

720/256-8888 or lilyshen@comcast.net.

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

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

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

May 9-Aug. 31—Exhibit, "Go For Broke: Photographs by Motoya Nakamura; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. noon-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; exhibit features portraits of JA veterans from the 442nd RCT. Info: www.oregonnikkei.org.

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

Northern California

BERKELEY

Sun., May 4—Berkeley JACL Scholarship Awards Luncheon; noon; Berkeley Doubletree Hotel, 200 Marina Blvd.; \$28/person, \$18/students, 18 or younger; guest speaker, Gene Nakamura, former Berkeley High School girls basketball coach.

EL CERRITO

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

SACRAMENTO

Sun., June 1—Sacramento JACL Community Picnic; William Land Park; games and a raffle drawing. Info: Sacramento JACL office, 916/447-0231.

Sat., June 7—Screening, "Only the Brave"; 3 p.m.; The Crest Theatre, 1013 K St.; \$10/general admission, free for veterans of WWII and Korean Conflict; proceeds will benefit the Nisei War Memorial Hall.

SAN FRANCISCO

CORRECTION

In the Apr. 4-17, 2008, issue of the *P.C.*, a picture of a church on page 4 was incorrectly identified as Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and should be Salt Lake Japanese Church of Christ.

CORRECTION

In the Apr. 18-May 1, 2008, issue of the *P.C.*, the article "With the Calif. Supreme Court's Decision, Marriage Equality May Become Reality," the *Loving v. Virginia* case was decided in 1967 not 1976.



Roy Maeda (top) and John Murakami (left) are former 442nd RCT members that are part of the exhibition 'Go For Broke: Photographs by Motoya Nakamura' that opens May 9 at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

© MOTOYA NAKAMURA/
THE OREGONIAN

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

SAN JOSE

Sun., May 4—31st Annual San Jose Japantown Nikkei Matsuri; 9:30-4 p.m.; San Jose Japantown; featuring food, cultural exhibits, entertainment, Nihonmachi Run, Health Fair, a farmer's market and the dedication of five Japantown landmarks: Wesley United Methodist Church, Issei Memorial Building, Japanese-American Museum of San Jose, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and Lotus Pre-School. Info: www.nikkeimatsuri.org or Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900.

TULE LAKE

July 3-6—2008 Tule Lake Pilgrimage; four-day program includes: bus tour of former campsite, cultural performances in Klamath Falls, Ore., speeches from survivors of Tule Lake, discussion groups and a memorial service;

\$395/person, \$325/seniors and students; free for former Tule Lake internees who are 80 or older and children under 6 (registration includes bus transportation, housing, and all meals and activities; buses will depart from San Francisco, Berkeley, San Jose, Sacramento, Seattle, Portland and Eugene on July 3 and return July 6. Info and to download registration forms, www.tulelake.org.

Southern California

LONG BEACH

Sat., Sept. 13—PSW District Awards Dinner, "PSW Heroes from Redress: 20 Years of a Living Legacy"; The Grand: Long Beach Event Center; \$100/person, \$1,000/table of 10; sponsorship and advertising available. Info: psw@jacl.org.

LOS ANGELES

Sat.-Sun., May 17-18—Little Tokyo Fun Fest; JACCC Plaza; Sat. features an Asian Pacific Arts and Crafts Faire, 10th Annual San Tai San basketball tournament and Nikkei Community Day featuring a Health Care forum sponsored by

JACL; Sun. features live entertainment, food, Chibi-K fun run and the Cultural Discovery Workshop. Info: www.jaccc.org.

OXNARD

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

Hawaii

HONOLULU

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

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

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

APAICS

14th Annual Celebration

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

"Building Today for Tomorrow"

Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 6:00pm

JW Marriott Hotel

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Reception 6:00pm • Dinner 7:00pm

Black Tie Optional

Honoring

Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senator, Hawaii
Honorable Patricia F. Saiki, Former U.S. Congresswoman and
Former Administrator U.S. Small Business Administration
Stewart Kwoh, Esq., President and Executive Director, APALC

MC Hosts

Yul Kwon, "Winner of Survivor: Cook Islands"
Rebekah S. Lee, Founder & Executive Director Becky's Fund

Entertainment

Hiroshima

www.apaics.org • (202) 296-9200

In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Brinton, Kate Keith, 89, Lebanon, New Hamp.; Jan. 26; along with husband Art, managed a hostel in Cincinnati for JA families that had recently been released from the internment camps; survived by husband, Art; sons, Keith and Dan; daughters, Anne and Erica Brinton and Clara Coan; and 7 gc.

Fujimoto, Esther, Mar. 26; survived by sons, Scott (Lisa) and Wayne; daughter, Leota Shimabukuro; 5 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister, Grace Douglas.

Fukuda, Kay, Monterey Park, April 6; survived by husband, Lester; son, Randy (Gloria); daughter, Nancy (Adam) Geczi; and 5 gc.

Fukuwa, Kiku "Kae," 85, Mar. 19; survived by husband, Herbert; daughter, Lorraine; and sister, Chiyeiko Taniguchi.

Hasui, James Noboru, 81, Las Animas, Colo., April 19; survived by sons, Bryan and Glen (Brenda); 7 gc.; and sisters, Naomi (Tonney) Yamane, Azusa (George) Yoshioka and Yoshimi (Alley) Watada.

Higashiyama, Kenso, 90, French Camp, April 12; survived by wife, Fumiye; daughters, Arleen (Larry) Ota, Collen (Norman) and Kathleen

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

(Derrick) Yamane; 5 gc.; 3 ggc.; brother, Akira Sato; and sisters-in-law, Lillian Higashiyama, Hana Sato, Yukio Yamashita, Ronnie Yamashita, Jane Jung, Pat Uyemoto and Janet Rodgers.

Hirata, Toshio, 76, Torrance, April 4; survived by wife, Ruth; daughter, Cheryl Aguayo; sons, Darren (Erica) and Danny; 4 gc.; brothers, Mitsuji and Kenichi (Yoshiko); and sisters, Kay Katagihara, Pat Matsuyo (Steve) Tanoue and Yaeko (Frank) Tanaka.

Ikeda, Takeshi, 84, April 10; survived by son, Kevin (Mayumi); and 2 gc.

Kadoya, Aiko Numata, 85, Klamath Falls, Ore., Mar. 28; survived by daughter, Nancy (Bob) Gilder; 3 gc.; and sister, Mickey (John) Wold.

Kano, Nobuyoshi, 93, April 10; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Tamako; son, Philip; and daughter,

Barbara Joy.

Katahira, Miyoko Yoshida, 92, Spokane, Wash.; April 14; survived by daughter, Joyce (Karl) Ota; sons, Robert (Jennifer) and Bruce; 5 gc.; 7 ggc.; sisters, Sumi Okamoto, Asako Katayama and Kimi Nakata; and brother, George Yoshida.

Kato, Shizue, 99, Los Angeles, Mar. 31; survived by son, Edward.

Kawamoto, Kiyoshi, 62, April 6; survived by wife, Diana; son, Chris (Aileen); daughter, Wendy; sisters, Misato (Ken) Nakamori, Judy (Tosh) Tawatari, Alice (Minoru) Furuno, Sally (Sam) Ariza and Patsy (Tom) Narasaki; mother-in-law, Yaeko Nagai; and sister-in-law, Bernice (Walter) Nishikawa.

Kurisu, George Mamoru, 82, Monterey Park, Mar. 19; WWII veteran 100th/442nd; survived by wife, June; sons, Kendal and Leland; brother, Kenneth (Myrtle); sister, Gladys Iglesias; and sister-in-law, Elsie Kurisu.

Kusunoki, Shinobu George, Los Angeles, April 6; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Hagiko; sons, Paul (Elyse) and Gary (Carol); daughter, Dr. Sahron-Michi Kusunoki; and brother, Kiyoshi (Pearl).

Mita, John Takashi, 84,

Honolulu, April 7; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Marian; sons, Miles and Milton Iha; daughter, Gloria Nakashima; 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Walter; and sister, Gerry Muranaka.

Mitani, Hikaru, 32, Irvine, April 5; survived by husband Michael; daughter, Ashley; parents, Leo (Keiko) Suzuki; sister, Kumi Suzuki-Lee; father-in-law, Dennis (Diana) Mitani; sister-in-law, Marcy Mitani; and brother-in-law, Frank Lee.

Nagamura, Matsumi, 89, Torrance, April 4; survived by daughter, Michiko; and 1 gc.

Nakazawa, Adam Scott, 29, Alameda, April 4; Marine Corps veteran; survived by mother, Linda; sister, Mami; and brother-in-law, Phil.

Nishimoto, Mitsi Mitsuko, 89, Coachella Valley, April 8; survived by son, Clifford (Janet); daughters, Carol (Mas) Yamaguchi and Judy (Robert) McConnachie; 6 gc.; sisters, Toshiko (Hiromu) Yamada and Lillie Neeno; and sister-in-law, Angela Neeno.

Ohara, Kenzi, 93, Sacramento, April 14; survived by wife, Tomiko; son, Tom (Kathy); daughter, Jeanne (Frank) Andersen; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; brothers, Tokio and Esom; and sister,

Mae Kumagai.

Omura, Am, 92, Pacific Grove, Sept. 14; survived by daughter, Lynn (Dick) Standen; 2 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Claire Minami, Ruthe Fujishige and Mitsuko Omura.

Sakahara, Toru, Seattle, April 26; used his legal skills to help resettle the JAs returning from internment camps and played a major role in overturning Alien land laws of Washington, which banned ownership of land by immigrants.

Sakoda, Sam, 85, San Jose, Jan. 27; WWII veteran; survived by daughters, Dannette (Warren Shimotsu) and Shari (Chris Lynn); and sons, Duane (Jeanne) and Ryan.

Santohigashi, Masao, 89, April 6; survived by daughters, Mayumi, Kikue (Ken) Graeber and Lynn (Neil) Auma; and 3 gc.

Sasahara, Amie Yemiko, 72, Gardena, April 4; survived by brothers, Harry (Barbara) and Dan (Patti) Sasahara; and sister, Janet Kakurai.

Tanaka, Tadao, 83, Camarillo, April 17; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Kyoko; daughters, Donna, Joni and Lisa; 3 gc.; son-in-law, Wayne Yoshimura; brothers, Henry Ted and Akira; and sisters, Chizuko, Hideko and Misako.

Ugaki, Yuzo, 82, Idaho Falls, Ida., April 11; survived by wife, Waka; daughters, Karen (Karl) Sandmann and Janice (Doug Greally) Ugaki; son, Steven; 4 gc.; and sisters, Sekiko Ouye, Fumiko Nukaya and Takako Nukaya. ■

DEATH NOTICE

KEN KITASAKO

Ken Kitasako, who was the sales manager for the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange from 1955 until his retirement in 1977, died peacefully April 20 at Alder House Assisted Living Residence in Arroyo Grande. He was 101 years old. He was a devoted father and husband, who gave unstintingly of himself to his family, friends, and church; someone whose advice and counsel was highly valued and sought by those around him.

Ken was born Mar. 8, 1907 in San Francisco and moved to Palo Alto with his father George and mother Fume the following year. Upon his mother's death in 1917, he assumed much of the responsibility for his younger brothers, George and John, while his father held two jobs in order to keep the family together.

He graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1925 and enrolled at Stanford University, graduating in 1930 with a B.A. in economics. During his high school summers he traveled to Guadalupe, Calif., for summer work which would be his introduction to the produce industry and the beginning of an enduring friendship with Setsuo Aratani, owner of Guadalupe Produce and his son George. After leaving Stanford, Ken worked for Santa Maria Produce as general manager and it was at this time that the Aratanis introduced Ken to Mutsuko Tamura. They were married in 1934, a marriage of 64 years until Mutsuko's death in 1997. With the forcible removal of Japanese-Americans from the west coast in 1942 by the U.S. Government, Ken and Muts and their three children Edwin, Barbara, and John, were sent to the Gila Rivers Internment Camp in Arizona where his family would remain for over three years, during which time Ken was permitted to leave camp to work in Chicago, ironically, in a defense plant.

After the war Ken returned to his brother's home in Palo Alto and then to Phoenix for a short time. In 1950, he received word of a job opening for shed foreman at the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, better known as POVE.

Upon being hired, Ken was then able to bring his family back to California. Ken, a life-long Buddhist, was a member of the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church where he served both as president of the Board of Trustees and secretary-treasurer. From 1978 to 1993 he served on the Board of Directors of the Kyowa Bank in Los Angeles. In 1999 Ken established the Edwin T. Kitasako Memorial Scholarship at the Art Center College of Design, something he had wanted to do after losing his son Edwin, a graduate of Art Center, in an auto accident in 1964. Edwin had attended Art Center on a full scholarship sponsored by Ford Motors.

Ken is survived by daughter, Barbara Finn, son, John Kitasako, granddaughter, Mariko Finn and son-in-law, Robert Merrick.

A Memorial Service is scheduled at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church on May 3, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials in his name be directed to the Edwin T. Kitasako Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Art Center College of Design, Attention: Amy Swain, 1700 Lida Street, Pasadena, CA, 91103.

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COMMENTARY For Freedom

By GARY Y. OKIHIRO

With the Japanese cherry trees in bloom here in the nation's capital, I am reminded of another spring decades past on the other coast in California.

I was picking through the ruins that was once a concentration camp for Japanese Americans in the desolate high desert that was Manzanar when I happened upon a solitary tree. Its gnarled trunk bore branches that reached outward and on their tips, fluttering in the breeze, were exquisite, fragile cherry blossoms. I shall never forget that sight.

Someone must have had faith in the future, I thought.

It was not always so. Some 10,046 women, men, and children were confined there on the order of their president after having been racially profiled, registered and given numbers, summarily evicted from their lives, rendered anonymous in long and ubiquitous lines, herded into cattle trucks, and confined to horse stables.

In that light, the planting of that solitary cherry tree in Manzanar revealed a spirit that soared, refusing

containment behind barbed wire or acquiescence to the indignities visited upon them.

That same spirit prompted the historic U.S. Supreme Court challenges of Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Mitsuye Endo, and the contemporary Redress Movement, which resulted in passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

That spirit of determined struggle is the only assurance that racism or sexism or homophobia or nativism or religious bigotry will never again shape and justify government policy and action can only be guaranteed when we the people resolve it.

I remember being astonished by my dear and close friend — an esteemed constitutional scholar — when he admitted sadly to me that he was so shaken in the days after 9/11 that he was willing to trade some civil liberties for his personal safety.

Of course, in the days, weeks, and months following 9/11 in the U.S., thousands of Arab and West, Central, and South Asian Americans reported instances of racial harassment and intimidation. Airline passengers were removed from their flights. A South Asian and his white friend were beaten in San Francisco. Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh, was killed in Arizona in a hate crime and Waqar Hasan, a Pakistani, was killed in Dallas.

And while those apparently immune from harassment and intimidation

might willingly trade some of the freedoms for their perceived personal safety, they sacrifice more than the rights of the dispossessed.

More than 83,000 African and Asian men have registered under the "special registration" program begun by the Justice Department, which required the fingerprinting and photographing of all men over 16 years of age on non-immigrant visas from selected Muslim countries in Asia and Africa and from North Korea.

And ominously, Halliburton reportedly announced on Jan. 24, 2006, that it had received a \$385 million contract from Homeland Security to build detention centers for "an emergency influx of immigrants into the U.S., or to support the rapid development of new programs" in the event of a crisis.

As the government's own agency reported in 2003, the roundup of more than 700 Muslim and Arab non-citizens after 9/11 on the pretext of immigration violations was religious and racial profiling without any evidence.

In excess of physical abuse and as in the case of Japanese Americans, the U.S. violated and thereby undermined some of its most basic foundations, including the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

And when a coalition of Asian Americans, African Americans, Latina/os, Whites, and women

joined in a press conference at the National Japanese American Memorial to declare their opposition to racial harassment and intimidation, they upheld some of the best ideals of this Republic.

Never again, they urged, should bigotry betray the Constitution's promise.

Indeed, the memorial serves as a powerful reminder for this country and future generations to never forget. Our democracy depends upon that remembrance and resolve. We will never forget as long as the haunting memories of lonely desert gravesites pursue us still. We will never forget as long as the wind blows cold and hot and the dark

gives way to light.

And we will never forget, because this story, this memorial is about us all. It is our commemoration as Japanese Americans, as Americans, as one people. And the silences of meaning will be whispered around the campfires of our consciousness, and with the dawning we will stand, stretch, and yawn, and return to our homes to sleep in the warmth of the sun. ■

Gary Y. Okihiro is a professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University. He spoke at the April 5 Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk in Washington, D.C. This was an excerpt of his speech.

TATEISHI

(Continued from page 8)

and can probably still throw a decent right cross, but I never stand there to find out.

In some ways, boxing is the perfect metaphor of his life. He's a fighter and where he no longer bobs and weaves in the ring, he does so when he takes on difficult and sometimes impossible issues in the community. And always with courage. And passion. He doesn't always win battles, just as the once broken nose tells you he didn't always win fights. But one thing he always does do is bring dignity and honesty to any discourse. Only once in 30 years have I stood on the opposite side of an issue from

Ernie, and I could see from that view how formidable he can be.

Somehow the thought of Ernest Weiner no longer sitting at his desk at the AJC office is disconcerting. It throws the world as I've known it off its tilt. At least the AJC is wise enough to keep him on as a consultant, but still, it's not the same. This man, who is no bigger than I, is in many ways so much bigger than life. Probably because he has given so much meaning to so many people.

You never really say goodbye to someone like this. Life demands more of you as a friend. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

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