

Old friends work to promote Heart Mountain—PAGE 3

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Get Ready to Vote!

Candidates outline their goals and vision for the upcoming national board elections.

NOMINATIONS PAGES 6-7

MAY 16-JUNE 5, 2008

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Symbol of Once-Thriving Sac'to J-Town Needs Desperate Repairs

The Nisei War Memorial Hall has seen better days. Now a committee hopes to raise the needed funds for renovations.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Shig Shimazu, 82, is one of the lucky few who can still share memories of the once-thriving Japantown in Sacramento's downtown core. As a young boy of eight, he and his dad would often drive into the area to patronage the more than 300 Japanese businesses.

"My dad used to drive me into Japantown as a child," he said. "I would just follow my dad and do our shopping."

A brief stop at the tofu shop or a



quick snack at the manju store were often popular destinations for the father and son. Their trips to J-town were also a chance to catch up with community friends.

But today, all that remains of this historic enclave is the Nisei War Memorial Hall, a two-story building

that stands just steps away from the Capitol.

Purchased in 1956 with funds raised by the community and seed money from a prominent Japanese American attorney, the building is now owned by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and the Sacramento JACL chapter. Years of

usage with little upkeep have created much-needed renovations

Now the two groups have formed a committee to raise the monies to help preserve the historic building.

See NISEI HALL/Page 11

Bush Signs Bill Expanding Borders of Minidoka Monument

The massive public lands bill also designates Bainbridge Island's Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial a part of the national park system.



Entrance to Minidoka

By Pacific Citizen Staff

With a stroke of his presidential pen, Bush signed into law a bill that expands the borders of the Minidoka Internment National Monument and designates Bainbridge Island's Nidoto Nai Yoni memorial a part of the national park system.

The massive public lands bill, better known as the Wild Sky wilderness bill, was passed by the House on April 29 and Bush added his signature on May 8.

"This memorial proclaims that we should never again sacrifice liberty at the altar of fear," said Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Bainbridge.

The Nidoto Nai Yoni memorial on Eagle Harbor in Washington will now become a satellite of the historic Minidoka Internment National Monument in southern Idaho. Minidoka was designated a National Monument in 2001.

The Bainbridge Island memorial marks the place where 227 Japanese American residents were taken to the Eagle Lake ferry dock before being sent

See MINIDOKA/Page 12

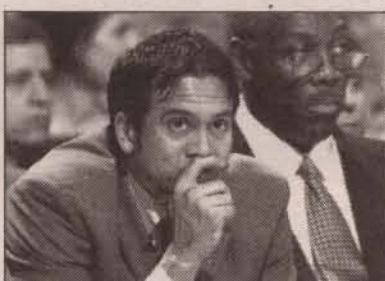
The Heat is on for NBA's 1st APA Head Coach

In April, Erik Spoelstra made history as the successor to a Hall of Fame coach. It's his love of basketball that has taken him this far.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Call it one of the coolest job promotions ever. For Erik Spoelstra it's a dream come true.

After 13 seasons working with the Miami Heat, he was recently tapped to succeed Pat Riley and become the National Basketball League's current youngest head coach. At 37, he



NBA PHOTO

also made history as the league's first Asian Pacific American sideline boss. The moment isn't lost on him either.

"I'm very proud of my heritage," said Erik, who is of Irish, Dutch and Filipino descent. "I'm very excited and at the same time extremely honored to hold this position in history."

A day before he stepped behind a podium at a news conference to announce to the world his new job title, he had to tell his family the good news first. He picked up the

See SPOELSTRA/Page 10

Astronaut Dan Tani to Keynote JACL Convention

NASA astronaut Daniel M. Tani is slated to be the keynote speaker at the JACL National Convention's Sayonara Banquet on July 19 in Salt Lake City.

A longtime JACL member, Tani is a third generation Japanese American and Chicago-area native who has been an astronaut since 1996. The Tani family has had a long involvement with the JACL dating to the service of Tani's father, Henry, as president of the San Francisco chapter at the outbreak of World War II.

Following Ellison Onizuka as the second JA to have ever ventured into space, Tani has taken two spaceflights during his time with NASA. He just returned from his second mission on Feb.

See DAN TANI/Page 12

In Immigrant Rights Movement, New Activism Meets an Old Injustice



UNITY: Sonoma County JACLers (l-r) Lina Hoshino, Sachiko Chermin and Gary Sugiyama marched in a local May 1 immigration rights rally.

PHOTO: ANGELO SACERDOTE

Not long ago, APAs were the target of anti-immigrant sentiment. JACL led the fight back then. Today, some chapters are continuing the tradition.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

When Sachiko Chermin first moved to the United States from her native Kobe, Japan she had no problems getting her visa and green card. The Shin Issei also breezed through the naturalization process to become an American citizen in 2004, so she thought it was a level playing field where everyone had the same opportunities.

Then one day, she learned a different truth.

"Japan is one of the privileged countries when it comes to immigration," said Chermin, a Sonoma County JACL board member. In her experience

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8 WEEKS
July 16-20
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Drama Queen

After 20 years in the business, Joan Chen is comfortable in her own skin.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



100th Anniversary

The Japanese Cemetery in Oxnard, Calif. marks an historic milestone.

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center

By FLOYD MORI

Some recent visitors to the JACL office were Shirley Higuchi and Doug Nelson, board members of the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation (HMWF). They gave an update on their efforts to raise funds for an Interpretive Learning Center at Heart Mountain.



The Foundation has been in existence for 11 years and is a non-profit organization established to memorialize and educate the public about the internment of Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain near Powell, Wyoming. Their president is David R. Reetz. The foundation has set and achieved an aggressive agenda of preservation and education. They are currently seeking funds and support to build an interpretive learning center which they expect to open in 2010.

Shirley Higuchi is the assistant executive director of the Legal and Regulatory Affairs of the American Psychological Association and has served as president and board member for the District of Columbia Bar. Shirley's parents met at Heart Mountain as children and later became reacquainted at UC Berkeley. They have supported the HMWF for many years. A self-guided walking tour at the Heart Mountain site is named for her mother, Setsuko Saito Higuchi.

Doug Nelson is president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a leading advocate for children. He became interested in Heart Mountain while attending graduate school at the University of Wyoming. His social history of the World War II relocation of JAs entitled "Heart Mountain" earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1976. He has taught social history at the University of Wisconsin. The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a financial contributor to the educational efforts of the JACL.

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, immediate past secretary of transportation, was interned at Heart Mountain as a young boy and has been very active in supporting the HMWF. His close friend, former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson, whom he met when both were Boy Scouts in Wyoming, has also been involved with Heart Mountain and Redress efforts.

Retired Judge Raymond Uno, a former national JACL president from

See MORI/Page 12

SPRING CAMPAIGN Keeping Members on the 'Other' Coast Informed

By MARGIE YAMAMOTO
EDC P.C. Board Rep.

Los Angeles and Little Tokyo have really changed over the years, but as much as it changes, there are a lot of things that stay the same. I was struck by this when I visited L.A. recently for the first time in 15 years.



I attended a meeting this January in Los Angeles and arrived by train after a visit to San Diego. When I walked into Union Station, I looked up at the tall arching ceilings and was flooded with old memories.

The last time I was there was more than 60 years ago, when I was just a little girl and my family was returning to California after the camps and the War. At the station, the whole family piled into a cab and we went to Little Tokyo and the Miyako Hotel.

In 2008, I piled into a cab by myself and went to the Miyako Hotel! A different Miyako, but the same name.

Later during that visit, I wandered around East First Street and remembered coming here after the family settled into a house in Compton. My mother worked in one of the sewing sweatshops in L.A. and my father worked for his brother at a Little Tokyo company called Denver Preserving Company. My uncle started it in Denver to make *umeboshi* and other Japanese treats that were not being imported during the War.

Back then there was no such thing as day care or preschool, and because I was too young for kindergarten, I would spend the day at my father's office. Lunch would be at one of the noodle shops on First Street. I always ordered *kuroi udon* or black noodles, my name for soba. A treat for the whole family on weekends would be Chinese dinner in one of the booths at the Far East Cafe. I was pleased to see it still there, the same name, but with a very different menu.

Why all this nostalgia? For the last 25 years I've lived in Massachusetts in a small town outside of Boston. Before moving here, I lived in San Francisco and was used to having Japantown nearby. Out here, it's easy to go days, weeks or even months without seeing another Japanese American. I belong to the New England JACL chapter and our

See YAMAMOTO/Page 12



Letters to the Editor

Tule Lake Committee Thanks P.C. for Coverage

Thanks to the *Pacific Citizen*, there is a chance at passing Congressional legislation that would be the first step toward turning Tule Lake into a National Park site similar to the one at Manzanar.

The pending legislation, HR 2506, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of including Tule Lake Segregation Center in the National Park system.

HR 2506 was introduced in May 2007 by Rep. John Doolittle and cosponsored by Rep. Doris Matsui. For the past year, the House legislation has languished, while the companion bill in the Senate, SB 1476, has sped along and is ready for passage.

In the 11 months before the *P.C.* began making story inquiries about the House bill, there was no activity. Within days of the story about the stalled House legislation appearing, Reps. Doolittle and Matsui acted and sent a letter requesting a Subcommittee hearing on HR 2506.

The coverage of the *P.C.*, with its large Japanese American readership from all over the U.S., helped our grassroots community group gain the attention of members of Congress. Now that the *P.C.* story has focused more attention on Tule Lake, we hope that readers will take the next step and contact their local Congressional representatives and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors to HR 2506.

Thank you for your support of Tule Lake.

HIROSHI SHIMIZU

Chair, Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee
Co-President, San Francisco JACL Chapter

Glendale Should Honor Munemori



I read with interest your article in the *Pacific Citizen* (P.C., April 18-May 1) about the efforts to memorialize and honor Medal of Honor recipient Sadao Munemori.

A year ago my husband and I took a tour of Italy with Tonko Doi of Waves Travel in Chicago. As a side trip from Florence she arranged for us to go to Pietra Santa where a statue to honor Sadao Munemori (left) had been erected by the grateful citizens of that community.

It was truly an emotional experience to see the life sized statue and to see on the plaque how young the young soldier was when he committed such

heroism.

If the Italians can honor him, surely the citizens of Glendale can too. Please feel free to forward this to the officials of Glendale, Calif.

BETTY MORITA

Via e-mail

For WWII Internees, UW Degrees Come After 66-year Wait



PHOTO: UW NIKKEI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND DENSHO

Members of the Japanese Student Club (JSC) pose in front of the clubhouse fireplace. The JSC was a precursor of the current University of Washington Nikkei Alumni Association.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE—The University of Washington is planning to issue honorary degrees to Japanese Americans who were students at the school, but were forced to leave campus in the months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

A ceremony to honor the former students is scheduled for May 18 at Kane Hall on the university's Seattle campus.

In the fall of 1941, about 450 Japanese Americans signed up to study at the University of Washington.

But Pearl Harbor was attacked in December that year, and in February 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt gave the military broad powers over anyone considered a security threat.

The military banned JAs from the West Coast, forcing most of the JA UW students into out-of-state internment camps.

Many of the surviving students, most of whom are now in their late 80s, tell *The Seattle Times* they are excited about finally being recognized as Huskies — although others remain ambivalent, or wonder what has taken the UW so long.

Some finished their degrees after the war — at the UW or elsewhere — while others never did. ■

JACL Announces 2nd Annual D.C. Gala

National JACL recently announced that this year's Gala Dinner Event will be held Sept. 25 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, has agreed to serve as the honorary chairman of the gala event. Master of Ceremonies will be Congressman Mike Honda of San Jose, Calif.

The focus for this year's Gala Dinner will be the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Several champions of the Redress Movement will be honored at the event.

Floyd Mori, national JACL director, and Larry Oda, national president, are encouraging friends and supporters to save the date of Sept. 25 and to make plans to attend this major national JACL event. Further details will be forthcoming shortly.

The national JACL held its first D.C. Gala Dinner last September. The Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, former secretary of transportation and secretary of commerce, was the honorary

chair for the dinner with several members of Congress on the honorary committee.

Actor and activist George Takei served as MC and Tamaki Kawabuko, concert violinist, provided musical entertainment. The Salute to Champions event honored individuals and a corporation who have championed the causes of the JACL.

Honorees were: Sen. Inouye, Hon. Ryoza Kato (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America), Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, Karen Narasaki (president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center), and State Farm Insurance, a major supporter of JACL programs, was the corporate champion. ■

GALA DINNER

Date: Sept. 25

Place: Grand Hyatt Hotel
1000 H Street NW,
Washington, D.C.

Info: www.jacl.org

Al Simpson and Mineta Join Forces to Promote Heart Mountain

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

POWELL, Wyo.—Former U.S. Sen. Al Simpson and others are undertaking a nationwide campaign to raise money for a proposed state-of-the-art interpretive center at the site of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center west of Powell.

This past week they traveled to Washington, D.C., where they were joined by former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

Mineta and Simpson met in 1943 as Boy Scouts at the Heart Mountain camp. The friendship forged by the two 12-year-olds 65 years ago has seen them through a life of politics, and they now serve as fundraising co-chairs for the interpretive learning center project.

The center promotion effort was to include stops in Jackson Hole and San Jose and Los Angeles in California.

Plans for the proposed \$5.5 million center include an 11,000-square foot building. The center will house a theater, two replicas of barracks that housed internees, interactive

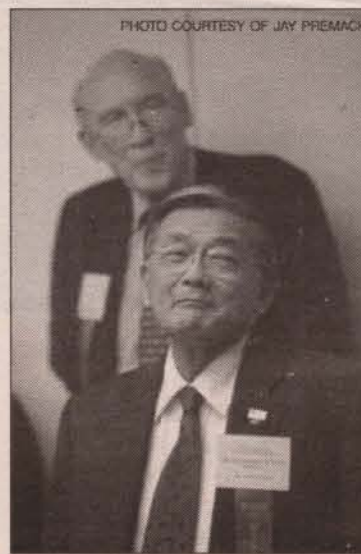


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAY PREMACK



Former Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta (front, left) and former U.S. Sen. Al Simpson are working together to promote the Heart Mountain Relocation Center pictured above during WWII.

exhibits and a research facility. Designs also include a reconstructed sentry station at the camp entrance and a guard tower rebuilt in its original location.

It will provide an overview of the wartime relocation of Japanese Americans and provide visitors with personal stories of internees and local residents during World War II.

Designers relied heavily on the involvement of former internees.

The fundraising campaign for the center has raised \$1.2 million so far.

"We're getting pretty close," Dave Reetz, a member of the Heart Mountain foundation board, said. "We are raising awareness of this project and for what we're doing."

The Heart Mountain camp, which is a Wyoming Heritage Site and a National Heritage Landmark, already is home to an eight-station, self-guided walking tour. ■

JACL Celebrates APA Heritage Month at the White House

To kick off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the JACL participated in a May 1 White House ceremony where President George W. Bush recognized Japanese American veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) for their valor.

President Bush commended Ben Kuroki, a World War II hero and one of the few JAs allowed to join the U.S. Air Force during WWII. Kuroki flew 58 missions in both Europe and over the Pacific.

"Asian American pride was felt by all during the emotional part of the program when the Japanese American veterans were extolled by President Bush for their courage, patriotism, and bravery in spite of many enlisting from behind barbed wire of concentration camps into which their families were forced to live during World War II," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

At the event, APA leaders were also recognized including former Secretary of Transportation and author of Public Law 102-450 Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Congressman David Wu.

APA Heritage Month was designated by Public Law 102-450 to be held during the month of May each year to honor the achievements and contributions of APAs.



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY JOYCE N. BOGHOSIAN

President George W. Bush salutes Tech Sgt. Ben Kuroki, of the 442nd Regiment, during his remarks at the Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the East Room of the White House.

The first APA settlement dates back to 1763, when Filipinos escaped imprisonment aboard a Spanish ship and established a community near New Orleans, according to the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). Chinese and Japanese immigrants started communities in Hawaii and California seeking labor and agricultural opportunities.

From the beginning, APAs have experienced discrimination, said Congressman Mike Honda, who is also chair of CAPAC.

"From the legal fight against internment championed by Fred Korematsu, to the efforts in response to the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin

in Detroit, to the current fight for full benefits for the thousands of Filipinos who fought for our country during World War II, the national AAPI community has stood ready to rally for justice and equality," said Honda in a statement.

In May, "we celebrate not only the individuals that have forged milestones throughout our proud history, but we also celebrate our growing community," Honda added.

"This month is a special opportunity to pay tribute to the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and to address the challenges facing the community," said Congresswoman Hilda Solis in a statement. ■

S.F. Chapter Receives School District Commendation

The JACL San Francisco chapter was recently honored with a commendation from the San Francisco School Board highlighting the support the chapter has provided to the school district.

Over the past two decades the chapter has often partnered with the district including the introduction of a "Day of Remembrance" resolution in 1990 formally carried by then board member Leland Yee. The resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

The chapter, with the support of the S.F. Bay Area Nikkei Singles, financed the development and duplication of the first curriculum guide about the Japanese American experience that was distributed to every teacher in the district.

The chapter has also donated over \$5,000 worth of books and videos related to the internment experience to the district.

The chapter has arranged spe-



(L-r): Greg Marutani, Board of Education member Eric Mar, and Superintendent Carlos Garcia.

cial readings by Marlene Shigekawa who read "Blue Jay in the Desert" and "Welcome Home Swallows" to elementary school students as well as having Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston on panel presentations to teachers in the district.

Most recently the chapter donated 480 copies of "Journey to Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience" curriculum and resource guide to teachers and all school libraries.

Education Committee chair for the chapter, Greg Marutani, accepted the commendation.

The chapter has recently begun a program to collect books about the JA experience that will be donated to the district's Teacher Resource Center as well as the school libraries.

Anyone wishing to donate books from their personal collections are encouraged to contact the San Francisco chapter at P.O. Box 22425, San Francisco, CA 94122. ■

Mori Receives 'Voices of Courage Award'



JACL National Director Floyd Mori was recently presented "The Voices of Courage Award" for speaking out against the racial profiling of Muslim and Arab Americans following the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

The award was presented by the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno at a Day of Remembrance event hosted by the JACL. Mori was the JACL's national president in 2001. The day after the terrorist attacks, Mori had the JACL speak out in support of Muslim and Arab Americans. ■

(L-r) Raafat L. Shahata, Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Floyd Mori and JACL National President Larry Oda.

Fill Up On Savings!

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 **4.50% 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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*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. **Members may choose gas gift card for one of five different merchants: Chevron, Exxon/Mobil, Shell Gas, Sinclair Gas, and Tesoro. Gas 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.

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

University No Longer Offering Credit for Work on Student Newspaper

BOULDER, Colo.—Students working at the University of Colorado's *Campus Press* will no longer receive credit for working there after publication of a satirical column saying Asians "hate us all."

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

University officials are also examining whether the February column by Karson violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Campus Chancellor Bud Peterson says the school will continue to support student-journalists by providing workspace, a professional adviser and a "modest operating budget."

Affirmative Action Petition Misses Deadline

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—A group seeking to bar many state affirmative action programs has missed a May 4 deadline to submit its initiative petition.

Missouri had been one of five states California businessman Ward Connerly and his supporters had targeted for an effort to strike down affirmative action laws. The director of the Missouri effort said there were not enough signatures to qualify the proposed constitutional amendment for the ballot, and he pledged to try again in 2010.

California, Washington and Michigan have already approved ballot measures backed by Connerly. Besides Missouri, he is supporting similar efforts in Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Burmese Americans Try to Help, But Have Few Options

NEW YORK—In the days since Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, thousands of Burmese immigrants around the United States are desperately scrambling to organize relief to their ravaged homeland.

The challenge of providing relief has been magnified by the sheer desperation of the situation in Myanmar and a ruling military regime that is hostile to U.S. citizens and supplies. The United Nations and other agencies have said they are trying to persuade the government to issue more visas to speed the aid to sites where it is most needed.

More than 10,000 Burmese residents live in New York City. Thousands more live in nearby New Jersey and Connecticut, forming the second largest U.S. Burmese community. California has as many as 100,000 residents of Burmese descent.

House OKs Bill to Add Sexual Orientation to Hate Crimes Law

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The Alabama House has approved a bill to add crimes against people because of their sexual orientation to the state's hate crimes law.

The bill by Rep. Alvin Holmes, a Montgomery Democrat, generated heated criticism last year and did not get enough votes to come up for passage. The bill passed by a close 46-44 vote with no discussion. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Holmes said the state's current hate crimes law, passed in 1994, includes crimes against people for race, color, religion and national origin, but left out sexual orientation because of a technical mistake.

Holmes said most other states have hate crime laws that include sexual orientation.

Hawaiian School to Offer Scholarships for Other Schools

HONOLULU—Kamehameha Schools has found a way to help more Native Hawaiian students than it can fit into its classes.

The school is offering scholarships for students to enroll in kindergarten at other Hawaii private schools. The scholarships would carry through to graduation.

The richly endowed Hawaiian school system plans to start the program for the upcoming school year. Only about one in eight applicants gets into Kamehameha Schools, which was set up to help boost education for Native Hawaiians.

The school has not said how many scholarships will be issued, which private schools will be considered or how much the program is expected to cost. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

First APA Woman to Run for Public Office in Utah



Jani Iwamoto is running for a Salt Lake Council seat making her the first APA woman to run for public office in the state's history.

Iwamoto was born and raised in Salt Lake City where she graduated from the University of Utah. She went on to practice law in California. She was also a regional governor of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Her dedication as vice president of the Japanese Community Preservation Committee helped prevent the expansion of the Salt Palace and Convention Center from negatively impacting the Salt Lake Japanese Church of Christ and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

City Councilman Inducted into Bowling Hall of Fame



Gary Yamauchi, a councilman of Alhambra, Calif., was recently inducted into the Japanese American National Bowling Association Hall of Fame.

Yamauchi, a graduate of Gardena High School and founder of Tri-Star Vending, one of the largest independent vending service businesses in Southern California, was selected in the category of tournament performance.

In 1973, Yamauchi led his team to the Greater Los Angeles All Stars League Championship, the nation's highest scoring traveling league, as well as leading the entire league in scoring with a 210 average.

Sacramento Valley JA Wins MetLife Award

Sam Inouye was recently honored by the MetLife Foundation for his volunteer work with the Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley. Inouye was among the first volunteers to help launch the center's rides transportation program in 2003 and is currently one of the 50 volunteer drivers and escorts providing over 1,000 one-way rides per month.

As part of the celebrations for older Americans month, the program, now in its sixth year, honors the exemplary contributions of older volunteers and promotes volunteering. The volunteers are all over the age of 50.

Akaka Commends two APA Officers for Making a Difference in Iraq



Pictured above: (L-r): Col. Lisa Onaga and Maj. Gen. David Clary, both USAF, serving in Iraq.

Two high-ranking Japanese American Air Force officers were recently praised by Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, for their contributions to their country.

"I am proud of the commitment and dedication to duty displayed by the members of the Armed Forces from Hawaii and across the nation," said Akaka.

Col. Lisa Ann H. Onaga, has been assigned to Camp Victory in Baghdad since June 2007 as the director of collection management and dissemination for MNF-I.

During the past 32 years, Maj. Gen. David Clary has served in various staff and command positions, including 10 assignments to domestic posts, six overseas posts including South Korea, Italy, Turkey, England and Iraq. ■

Oxnard Japanese Cemetery Celebrates 100th Anniversary

This year marks the 100 anniversary of the historic Japanese Cemetery, the final resting place for many pioneering Japanese immigrants who first settled in Ventura County, Calif. and were excluded from the Caucasian cemeteries in the area.

The JACL Ventura chapter marked the historic anniversary with a May 10 annual cleanup of the cemetery.

According to Yoshio Fukuyama, author of "Citizens Apart: History of the Japanese in Ventura County," the cemetery dates back to the turn of the 20th century when the first group of Japanese immigrants arrived in Ventura County.

The Japanese Cemetery is located on a one-third acre plot at the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Etting Roads in Oxnard. An estimated 139 graves are on this site with the last burial taking place in 1960 when several old bachelors were buried

there. The property is owned by the Hueneme Masonic Cemetery Association.

In 1971 the Japanese Cemetery was designated County Landmark No. 18 by Ventura County.

In 2006 the city of Oxnard implemented some major improvements to the cemetery such as a six-foot wrought iron fence around two sides of the cemetery, which protects the cemetery from vandalism.

At the height of the cemetery, a large torii-style wooden gate marked the entrance. Elaborate granite headstones with names carved in Japanese characters or in English were placed over the graves. After 1960, the Japanese Cemetery fell into disuse.

Fukuyama notes that nearly all the families who have their dead buried in the Japanese Cemetery no longer



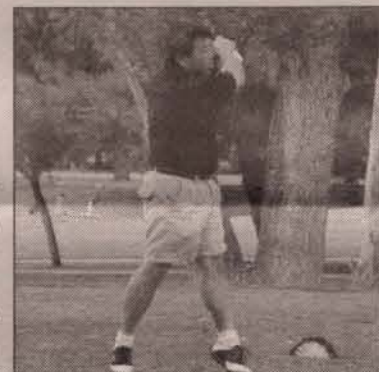
live in Oxnard. Others have moved the remains of family members to Ivy Lawn or sent them to Japan.

Over the years neglect and vandalism have destroyed many of the original headstones, and they have been replaced by obelisk-shaped wooden posts with only identifying names painted on them.

For over 40 years, the maintenance of the cemetery has been undertaken by the Ventura County JACL members and friends. Presently on an annual basis the VC JACL organizes a cemetery clean up in the first or second week in May. ■

PSW District Holds 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

The PSW district held its third annual golf tournament May 3 at Los Robles Golf Course in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Over 72 golfers in five divisions turned out for the event. John Saito (left) displays his putting stroke during the putting contest. San Fernando Valley JACler Brian Moriguchi (right) stares down his tee shot as it heads for the fairway.

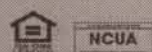


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JACL Announces Slate of National Board Nominees

Submitted by the JACL Nominations Committee

Nomination forms for national JACL officers have been received. The following are excerpts from the nominees' biographical information and statements regarding leadership and the role of the national board that were included in the nomination forms.

Although the regular filing period has passed, potential candidates can still submit late applications at the convention as a "candidate from the floor."

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Larry Oda



JACL Background/Community Service/Personal Background:

Larry Oda has 40 years of membership, chapter and district board responsibilities, and most recently national board leadership positions. He has been a chapter president, and has served as a national convention chair as well as chair for many of NCWNP District fundraising events. He was vice president of general operations

in 2004 prior to assuming the presidency in 2006 to the present.

Oda has also led his chapter in supporting various community events. Some examples include the listing of the Monterey JACL Hall as a Monterey Historic Landmark and the chapter being named the Philanthropic Organization of the Year for participation in acquiring a Chiura Obata mural at California State University at Monterey Bay in 2003.

Oda's community service includes volunteering at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament and at the Big Sur Marathon. Professional memberships include the American Civil Liberties Union, Society of Automotive Engineers, American Public Works Association, and Epsilon Pi Tau Honorary Fraternity in Industrial Arts.

Oda is currently the fleet, facilities, parking, and administrative manager for maintenance services for the city of Salinas, Calif. He earned a BA and MA from California State University, Fresno and served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He is a Vietnam war veteran. He has also been active in the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple holding several leadership positions. He is married to Anne Oda.

Definition of leadership and the role of the national board:

I define leadership as the quality that one possesses that encourages or influences others to accomplish a task or objective. The role of the national board is that of governance, to set policy, manage the business and affairs of the organization and implement the directives of the national council. In a leadership sense, the national board directs the organization, interpreting the decisions of the national council in such a way that the chapters and members internalize the objectives and desire to accomplish them. Our members have the right to be guided by those they respect and who have a clear sense of direction or strong vision of the future.

Qualifications: Internal structure of JACL: My experience and ongoing training as a municipal division manager has given me a different perception of organizational structure than my experience as a business owner or employee. The diverse view helps me understand the dynamics of organizations in general, and JACL in particular.

Personnel Policies: Municipal management-level employees are the administrators of personnel policy and are provided with ongoing training on every aspect of personnel administration. This ongoing training has given me a wealth of knowledge as well as reference material at my disposal beyond what I personally possess.

Implementing Program for Action: The Program for Action is the blueprint for the organization. As adopted by the national council it is the directive for the board to accomplish. It is the responsibility as president to insure that the programs and activities recommended by the Program for Action are given the highest priority. The leadership involved in implementing the Program for Action would be to interpret it and provide a clear vision of the need, set goals to accomplish, and empower the board and staff with the tools and methods they will need to fulfill these goals. In terms of the responsibilities of

the president, the leadership I would provide would be to effectively guide the board to comply with the additional governance requirements of the Nonprofit Integrity Act.

CANDIDATE FOR V.P. GENERAL OPERATIONS

Sheldon Arakaki



JACL Background/Community Service/Personal Background:

Sheldon Arakaki is running for the position of vice president for general operations and is currently holding this position. Arakaki has held leadership positions in JACL locally, at the district level and nationally. He is the current Lake Washington JACL chapter president, serves on the PNW District Strategic Planning Committee and has been the PNW District Pacific Citizen representative in addition to a number of other positions and committees.

Arakaki has also served as the Washington University in St. Louis Seattle Club chair, is involved with the International Community Leadership Scholarship program and is a member of the Organization of Chinese Americans. Born in Seattle and raised in Honolulu, Arakaki now calls Bellevue, Washington home and will celebrate 14 years at his current position as an e-commerce coordinator for Univar USA.

In his candidate application, Arakaki states: "Leadership is taking action and risks. Leadership is dealing with the hand given ... and creating something positive from it."

Definition of leadership and the role of the national board:

Leadership is taking action and risks. Leadership is a willingness to question the effectiveness and relevancy of the status quo. Leadership is dealing with the hand given whether good, bad or ugly, and creating something positive from it.

The role of the national board is to implement the will of the national council as expressed through the budget and resolutions passed, and using the Program for Action as a guideline. The national board must, however, also keep the big picture in mind when making decisions, educating the membership about the issues and defining the "what" and not getting too caught up in the "how."

Qualifications: As the current vice p of general operations, I have nearly two years of national board participation and governance reality which has altered my perception of how things get done.

My company's acquisition of a large rival last spring followed by the summer private equity buyout has stress tested my abilities to manage the complexities of people and processes while trying to stay on time and budget during the integration process.

I believe these experiences combined with and tempered by my past non-profit experience elsewhere (we are still all just volunteers) provides the background and inspiration needed to do this job for the next two years.

Implementing Program for Action: The membership must own the Program for Action with actionable items for them to achieve at the chapter and district level. I envision taking the Program for Action process to the next level and address how it is created, implemented, supported and reported on. This continues the incremental evolution of the Program for Action and its value to the organization.

The process starts with an earlier appointment of a chair and definition of committee member skills. One key milestone could have the committee use the bi/tri-district/annual convention meetings to review the accomplishments of the current state of the Program for Action and to begin the discussion on the next Program for Action.

CANDIDATE FOR V.P. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

VACANT

CANDIDATE FOR V.P. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

David Kawamoto



JACL Background/Community Service/Personal Background:

David Kawamoto has served as president of the San Diego chapter, Pacific Southwest district council governor and was elected to two terms as the vice president of general operations. He currently chairs the National JACL Scholarship Committee.

In 2002, Kawamoto was elected to the founding board of the San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans. The "Alliance" was created to increase communication, collaboration and celebration of the cultural heritage and diversity of the Asian Pacific Islander communities in San Diego.

In 2000, he was appointed the Western Region vice president of the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association and was reelected in 2002 for a three-year term. This association serves as a union for the federal government employees.

Kawamoto has also served on the board of Kiku Gardens, a senior housing facility for the Nikkei community in San Diego. He is also on the board of governors for the 100/442/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, a group organized to recognize the accomplishments of Japanese American military personnel from WWII.

Kawamoto has a BA in Public Administration from San Diego State University. He also possesses a Juris Doctorate. He has worked for the past 22 years for the U.S. District Court, Pretrial Services Agency, where he retired in February 2008.

Kawamoto has been married to the former Carol Iguchi for almost 32 years and has two sons, Kevin (29) and Keith (27).

Definition of leadership and the role of the national board:

Fiduciary responsibility is the primary responsibility of each member of any board. This is very true with the JACL. It is vital to our organization that the elected officers be familiar with all of the organization's programs. Decisions affecting the programs are made at each meeting and the leadership of JACL must be able to make learned decisions on these matters.

The governance of JACL also includes the management of a million dollar budget. With decreasing membership and inconsistent investment income, the national board must be prudent in all its fiscal decisions. It is very easy to fund new programs when the income is available, but it may not be in the best interest of the JACL to utilize funds which may be needed for operations in the coming years. We need to have a long-term vision for the organization when allocating funds.

Qualifications: I feel I have the education and experience to effectively serve on the national board. My legal education has served me well during my service on various non-profit boards. With the JACL, the personnel and budget issues often require the opinion of our legal counsel and during my past service on the JACL national board, I've been able to assist with some issues.

Also, having served JACL at the chapter, district and national levels gives me a better perspective on how all these levels of our organization need to be considered in all decisions by the national board. I also have prior experience working on several of the national JACL programs, including service as the chair of the Personnel Committee and chair of the Scholarship Program.

Implementing Program for Action: In our Program for Action and biennial resolutions, the JACL is always setting

goals. However, we need to be more concrete in our goals. In most bienniums, there are resolutions which receive little (or no) attention. If elected, I will put into action the resolutions which fall under my supervision, and will provide updates on all of my programs at national board meetings. I did this when I previously served on the national board and will continue this practice.

CANDIDATE FOR V.P. MEMBERSHIP

VACANT

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER

VACANT

CANDIDATE FOR NAT'L YOUTH/STUDENT REP.

Brandon Robert Mita



JACL Background/Community Service/Personal Background: Brandon Mita has served as the JACL national convention internship manager, youth committee and communication chair, editor of the *Chicago JACler* newsletter, public policy and hate crimes fellow and youth chair for the Eastern district council. In these various positions Mita has been involved in bringing leadership, aware-

ness, strategic action planning and education in the areas of racial hate crimes, civil liberties and Asian American politics.

His other affiliations include the American Bar Association, Law Student Division; UIC Asian American Alumni; Korean American Coalition; and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mita is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago earning a BA in political science. While at the University of Illinois, he was a former chairman and Webmaster for the Asian American Coalition Committee which advocated for the creation of an Asian American Studies program, and was awarded the Asian American Coalition of Chicago, Japanese American Community youth award. He was also the recipient of Cook Inlet Region Inc., Foundation Scholarship.

Mita is now a Juris Doctor Candidate at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

Definition of leadership and the role of the national board: Leadership must come in the form of being an able advocate and a strong voice for the youth segment of JACL. Whether it is tough policy or budget decisions, it is imperative that the youth take an active role in shaping the future of the organization.

Leaders accomplish this by paying meticulous attention to details and planning accordingly by creating viable solutions and solid contingency plans. Moreover, leadership is being held accountable for both the positive and negative byproducts that derive from the many tough national board decisions. Lastly, leadership is one's taking initiative to utilize all available resources to inspire and galvanize the organization.

Qualifications: Currently, I am the Eastern District Council's youth chair. In my capacity as youth chair, I strategize with fellow JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) members in addressing critical issues pertaining to youth and civil rights, such as the Jena Six Case. Moreover, I sit on several committees with the NY/SC such as the Youth Director Committee and the External Issues Committee. I am also on several Convention Committees, including the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Program for Action Committee.

Implementing Program for Action: ADVOCACY: I hope to expand this area beyond the scope listed in the Program for Action by not only focusing on the protection of rights and on issues pertaining to persons in the United States, but by also incorporating the protection of human rights for all persons affected by tyranny and oppression.

TOLERANCE AND DIVERSITY: As far as expanding the Anti-Hate Network, I would utilize the resources of the District Youth Representatives and young Asian American leaders in student organizations to establish a large and expansive network of JACL Anti-Hate University Liaisons. My goal is to have one liaison per major university by the time I leave office.

LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP: For these two areas, I see them inherently tied together. It is my hope to have the majority of chapters in every district to have at least ONE board member between the ages of 18-22 as its youth chair. By 2009, I hope to develop a handbook on how JACL chapter youth chairs can build a strong youth group and thereby attract new blood into the organization.

CANDIDATE FOR NAT'L YOUTH CHAIR

Kimberly M. Shintaku



JACL Background/Community Service/Personal Background:

Kimberly Shintaku is an incumbent candidate running for the office of national youth chair for a second term. Previously, she was the Pacific Southwest district co-youth representative. In addition, she is an active member of the Fresno JAYs, in which she formerly held positions of secretary and president.

retary and president.

Shintaku has been involved with numerous organizations over the past few years. She has volunteered at various fundraising and family events at the San Diego Buddhist Temple. She assisted at J-CAP, which is an annual high school competition to encourage knowledge growth of Japanese culture and language.

As a student at the University of California, San Diego, Shintaku was active in the Nikkei Student Union (NSU) and the Intercollegiate Nikkei Council (INC), an umbrella organization for all of the Japanese and JA interest organizations at Southern California colleges. As a staff member of the NSU, she held the positions of cultural chairperson and social external officer on the executive board, where she helped organize such events as the Annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar, 2005 Day of Remembrance, and INC Nikkei Youth Conference.

Shintaku is a recent graduate of the University of California, San Diego, receiving a BA in Pure Mathematics. She currently works at the university in the Environment, Health and Safety Department for the Research Safety Division. She ensures that the university research is in compliance with all safety codes, and serves as a liaison between the Research Safety Division and the researchers in the laboratories and medical facilities.

Definition of leadership and the role of the national board: Leadership is not only taking an active role in a group or organization, it is going the extra step to make things happen. It is not taking on the entire burden by oneself, it's having the ability to delegate and distribute the workload to others. Another key quality of effective leadership is having a mutual respect to and from others, without which an organization would not be able to function.

Qualifications: In my past biennium as national youth chair, I feel that the opportunities for JACL have grown, and my leadership skills have grown right along side them. By sitting on the national board as a youth voice, I realized the importance that we, the young people in JACL, speak up and we can truly make a difference. Also, chairing the National Youth/Student Council has been an opportunity for me to grow as a leader. I have gained skills in facilitating, leading, and organizing. I feel it is important for youth to become active in the issues, and just in the past year, the youth council has brought various issues such as Jena Six and Asian Americans in the media to the attention of national JACL.

Implementing Program for Action: I feel my role would be focused on the youth in the JACL Program for Action. I plan on working with the youth council in outreaching to all communities of youth for new membership and get the ones that are already members more involved. I would like to see the communication between the generations be utilized. In order to work on retention of our existing youth members, I would like to work with the chapter and district boards to provide opportunities for youth to get involved both with participation and leadership. Overall, I feel there are three keys in which I would be focused on to help JACL youth grow which are outreach, retention, and programming. ■

The National Council will elect its officers at the JACL National Convention, July 16-20 in Salt Lake City. See registration form on the left.

The early bird registration deadline is June 30. Registration is \$225 before then and \$250 after June 30. The hotel early bird rate of \$119 a night plus tax is June 24. Please call 801/531-0800 to make your hotel reservations.

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 (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.)	\$150	\$175	\$ _____

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.utjaci.org.

OPTIONAL EVENTS (not included in package registration)

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

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

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[PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN]

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

Oba-mania!

Oba-ma-gic! Oba-mania! Barack 'n Roll! You name it, the tacky cliché name mangle, is out there. Honestly, what is it about this political B'Rock Star that entices so many people, young and old alike to join the ranks? Maybe it is his inspiring oratory, his charming, disarming tenor, his fan club or his audacity to hope? Time and time again I face the query: why am I, like so many others, so magnetically drawn to Obama like the gravity that encompasses Oba-Mama Earth.

Despite living in Manhattan for the last three years, the cradle of progressive liberalism, I still check the square indicating GOP when I step into the ballot box. Of course, I know that encroaches blasphemy in many JACL circles, but let me qualify that claim by stating for the record, that I am not "one of those" Republicans.

Like many children, I was raised as a political half-breed. Staunch Republicans on one side of the family and equally decided Democrats on the other side. I do not present my political pedigree to defend or defame either party; rather I want to highlight the irony that while I feel more Republicanly inclined, I cannot help but love Barack Obama and pray that his path to the White House will be paved with success. What is it about Barack Obama?

My conclusion: Barack Obama is America.

I grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood in a very white state. Yes, I was half Japanese, but mostly, I was white. My friends were all white; my schoolteachers, neighbors, church leaders were basically all white. I felt normal. Of course, I had the token Japanese middle name. My family ate *mochi* and *sashimi* on New Year's Day, but I did not feel any different from my white friends. Their lives were normal; my life was normal, so why should I have felt any different? And yet, I was different. My life as a halfie was different.

While I came to understand my halfie status throughout the awkward coming of age years, nothing was more potent than my experience living in Japan. I had the opportunity to live in Japan for a couple of years doing missionary service for my church and was able to truly immerse myself into Japanese culture. Early on during my time in Japan, I was very quick to claim either: Japanese roots and also American citizenship, as needed per occasion. Other times I skillfully distanced myself from either as I saw fit. In the end, I found the most comfortable position was to claim both, wholly, with all the intricacies, shortcomings, and strengths included in the total package.

Back to America. I do not exclude other nations/cultures claim to the same, but I believe the ability to simultaneously embrace seemingly irreconcilable ideas/opinions is very American. This ability runs throughout our country's history, even before we were a nation. Take the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that all men are created equal, penned by a slave owner; or the U.S. government's selection of the brave soldiers of the 442nd out of internment camps.

We have a history rife with co-existing realities. Now, I do not for an instant promote embracing sanctimonious hypocrisy. Rather, I simply assert that we Americans have a unique ability to embrace supposedly contrasting or even conflicting ideas simultaneously without selling out to either side.

Back to Barack. Yes, Barack Obama is mixed. A man with a black father and white mother, a certifiable halfie. Welcome to the club. But is halfie club membership enough to warrant my vote for president? Probably not. He can, however, claim or deny either or both races, as he deems necessary. Yet, Barack wholeheartedly embraces both with all the inherent tugs and shoves each brings with the not-so-tidy baggage.

So, is this why I stump for Barack Obama? Possibly. There are too many factors concerning presidential qualifications to squeeze and simplify a decision down to one characteristic. The point is: we as Americans are all halfies. While America is one giant inter-racial, inter-cultural, inter-everything marriage, we are its progeny. We are all half-breeds. We can either continue to claim only the half of our country that momentarily plays to our advantages or we can recognize the goods with the bads of our co-existing realities as we avow our citizenship as American halfies.

We have both the ability and the need to embrace our past and present with all that it entails or we will never powerfully assert ourselves into the future, our future. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen's 'Shigeki Shake Down' column debuts in this issue of the P.C. He is currently a student at Columbia University, College of Dental Medicine and is also a Mt. Olympus JACL member.



[HARRY HONDA]

VERY TRULY YOURS

A Treasure: 'Memorial Book of Japanese Families in U.S.A.'

Published by New World Sun (Shin Sekai-Asahi Shimbun-sha), January 1939

THIS PRICELESS VOLUME is very heavy in weight featuring family pictures taken a year or two before publication. Except for three lines of English identifying families and place of residence, the text is entirely in Japanese.

The absence of Japanese families in Los Angeles and Southern California is conspicuous, so designed since this area was outside the newspaper's area of coverage. The Table of Contents shows 15 regions as follows:

1 - 75: San Francisco—Now historic photos of the 1930s of such groups as the *New World Sun* office, staff (Saburo Kido) and production area, 1618 Geary; Junior Floriculture Society of No. Calif. (63 faces), 171 Fifth St.; Japanese Art Goods Merchants Assn; Japanese YWCA Fujinkai; S.F. Nihonjinkai Council; Japanese Salvation Army Headquarters, cor. Laguna and Geary

76 - 102: East Bay and Flower Growers—Z. Shibata, Mt. Eden; Y. Oshima, Richmond; J. Ninomiya, RFD Richmond; K. Honda, El Cerrito; S. Neishi, Oakland; M. Shinoda, San Leandro; K. Inouye and S. Inouye, Redwood City; K. Okamura, Redwood City; Tom Yamane, Redwood City

103 - 133: Peninsula, San Jose, Gilroy—A. Takahashi, Menlo Park; T. Kumagai, Palo Alto; S. Hori, Mt. View; J. Ogata, Mt. View; Mitarai Brothers, Sunnyvale; K. Hatakeyama, Saratoga; K. Yamaichi, San Jose; K. Hirasaki, Gilroy; S. Kato, Gilroy

134 - 156: Monterey Peninsula, Salinas—G. Kajioka, Santa Cruz; T. Miyana, Salinas; H. Menda, Monterey; B. Torigoe, Watsonville

157 - 169: San Benito Valley—F. Sumida, Hollister; T. Kuramoto, San Juan Bautista

170 - 238: Sacramento—Ishima Beauty Shoppe on M Street; K. Matsutani, Rt. 5; S. Matsui; J. Okada, J. Sugiyama; Walter Tsukamoto (caption all in English), T. Yagi, Walnut Grove

239 - 266: San Joaquin Area—S. Ishimaru, Stockton; Niisaburo Aibara, Turlock; H. Hamaguchi, Livingston; U. Nishihara, Cressey

267 - 294: Northern California Region—The Kawaoka Brothers, Petaluma; S. Hinoki Colusa; (Mrs.) Majiu Uyesugi, Colusa

295 - 308: Central California Region—G. Fukushima, Dinuba; T. Hoshiko, Fresno; Y. Kanagawa, Sanger; K. Kimura (Rose Bottling Works), Fresno; H. Mochizuki, Madera; T. Taira, Fresno; **309 - 318:**

Nevada—S. Toyota, Mc Gill; T. Nakajima, Ely; Roy Muranaka of Nevada Consolidated Copper Co. (an open pit enterprise founded in 1906), Ruth

319 - 352: Utah—Boy Scout Troop 84; U. Terazawa, Salt Lake City; Floyd Mori's family - S. Mori, Murray; T. Tsukamoto, Ogden; G. Miyagishima, Roy; B. Tanaka, Tremonton; T. Amano, Helper

353 - 400: Idaho—H. Kurose, Twin Falls; R. Kawamura, Rt. 1, Pocatello; H. Hasegawa, Rt. 5, Idaho Falls; T. Morishita, Rt. 7, Idaho Falls; K. Nukaya, Rt. 3, Idaho Falls; S. Hanami, Rt. 1, Rexburg; K. Odow, Rexburg

401 - 419: Nebraska—J. Hayano, Henry; B. Ikeya, Rt. 2, Minatare; T. Sakurada, Rt. 1, Scottsbluff

420 - 496: Colorado—F. Takamine, Denver; Y. Hishinuma, Rt. 1, Denver; R. Mayeda, Longmont; J. Onodera, Rt. 2, Brighton; S. Hatasaka, Rt. 1, Brighton; M. Mitamura, Rt. 1, Fort Lupton; G. Urano, Rt. 2, Platteville; M. Watada, Rt. 1, Platteville

497 - 543: Arizona—S. Ishikawa, Rt. 2, Glendale; T. Tadano, R T. Tanita, Phoenix; Rt. 2, Glendale

The sad part is that the pages are not numbered. On the final page of photographs appears three men of the *Shin Sekai* Tokyo Office. Standing is Tamotsu Murayama who served as P.C.'s Japan correspondent during the 50s and 60s.

How did I come to review this historic collection?

Thanks to Ko Hoshizaki, who kept it as a family heirloom, showed it to me. And flipping through, it was fascinating. My first thoughts were that they, in the judgment of the *Shin Sekai-Asahi* editors, were the Issei pioneers in their community. It was like being introduced to their family—all in Nihongo. Names of children are in *Romaji*.

The value of this book became more pronounced after Chuck Kubokawa revealed he and his brother had burned their "Memorial Book" in the fireplace and other memorabilia with a Japanese overtone because of Pearl Harbor. "I'm sure other Nikkei did the same." And having that picture taken was "almost like a command from the Nipponjin-kai," he added. That negates my idea that newspaper editors began the project.

It was fun trying to spot guys and gals in their 70s and 80s today. The Sansei and Yonsei will drool over these pictures. ■

ASIAN AMERICANS FOLLOWING THE BIG LEAGUES



Return of the Drama Queen

The screen legend sidesteps Hollywood's 'exotic' role for more complex portraits of mothers on the verge.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor



Joan Chen is feeling a little stressed lately. Calling from her adopted home city of San Francisco, Calif., the screen legend is almost breathless. Don't worry, it's the good kind of pressure that comes with juggling an exciting new slate of films and the demands of family life.

She promised them they could go shopping, said Chen about her husband Peter Hui, nine-year-old Angela and Audrey, 6. In a week, the actress who gained international fame in 1987 as an opium-addicted empress in "The Last Emperor," will be flying away to the French Riviera for the Cannes Film Festival. Her new film, "24 City," is in competition for the coveted Palme d'Or award.

Somewhere in the background, the tinkling of a department store piano brings her back to the present.

"I drift wherever. I never had a plan," said Chen, 47, about her career.

On her uncharted journey to the silver screen, she has always found amaz-



HARD WORK: Joan Chen won 'Best Actress' at the 2007 Australian Film Institute Award for her role as a single mother in 'The Home Song Stories.'

To prepare for the role, Chen simply looked at her own life through a microscope. When her temper flared up at her children, she thought about Rose. When she was trying to make amends with her children, she thought about Rose.

"This is the type of mother we seldom see onscreen," she said. Rose inhabits this complicated gray area we're not used to seeing. In Hollywood, moms are either June Cleavers or Joan Crawfords in "Mommie Dearest." Rose is some place in the middle. She is complex and flawed.

"It's Tony's portrait of a woman he is trying to understand."

Like in real life, Rose uproots herself and her family and plops down in 1960s Australia. It's the classic immigrant story, said Chen.

"That part of Rose's life parallels with mine," she said. "But I'm much luckier."

'That [Harold and Kumar] movie is great!

I haven't seen the new one yet, but the first one — I love it.'

A Gray Area

Chen became a U.S. citizen in 1988 when she discovered that her identity did not magically change once she took the oath. The feeling of being American didn't automatically rush over her after waving the small American flag she was given — it was a lot more complicated. She didn't feel Chinese American, but she wasn't just Chinese anymore.

Only recently did Chen start feeling a little more comfortable with the title of Asian Pacific American.

"For the longest time, I didn't want to identify with this group. I'm an immigrant. I don't have the sense of entitlement of someone who is born in the U.S. You come to a strange land and you expect certain difficulties."

There was a time when she didn't think much of calling herself "Oriental," until someone told her it was a denigrating term. And when people tell her she speaks English well, she actually takes it as a compliment.

In the beginning of her career, she even went along with the stereotypes.

"It was funny and strange. I thought it was fun. They would tell me to do this and do that. I saw it as a challenge. Oh, this is who Americans think Chinese people are? Later on, I would look back and think 'Oh, that was so stereotypical!'"

For "Tai-Pan," the filmmakers were dissatisfied with the Asian-ness of her accent, so they hired a dialect coach to train her to speak with what they thought was a real Chinese accent.

"I was trying to learn the American perception of what Chinese was."

She's more comfortable in her skin these days as a mother of two American-born daughters.

"They need to be prepared to be stronger than the Chinese Americans of my generation. I think they will be stronger."

And the Hollywood of today is much friendlier to APAs than the Hollywood she broke into over 20 years ago — there is more representation and visibility.

"That [Harold and Kumar] movie is great! I haven't seen the new one yet, but the first one — I love it." ■

WATCH IT

'The Home Song Stories'



The Silk Screen Asian American Film Festival
May 16

For more info and screening dates: www.silkscreenfestival.org, www.dendyfilms.com.au/homesongstories.

ing opportunities. Would you call it luck or fate to be discovered in a Los Angeles studio parking lot? After moving to the United States in the 1980s to attend school, Chen caught the eye of a legendary producer. She was walking through a parking lot when a "huge car and a small man in it" pulled up next to her. It was Dino De Laurentiis.

"He said, 'Did you know Lana Turner was discovered in a drug store?' He had this heavy Italian accent. I thought it was some dirty man trying to hit on me," Chen laughed. That chance meeting led to a role as a concubine in the 1986 film "Tai-Pan."

Many similar roles followed. "A lot of exotic flower types or the exotic villain types."

But in the last few years, Chen has stretched beyond typecasts to embrace comedy in the 2004 film "Saving Face" and wartime drama in last year's "Lust, Caution."

Her role as a nightclub singer struggling with single motherhood in "The Home Song Stories" won her a best actress prize at the 2007 Golden Horse Awards.

"It's my return to drama ... my return to being a drama queen."

Portrait of a Mother

"I love this movie," said Chen about "The Home Song Stories."

She first read the script, which is based on Australian filmmaker Tony Ayre's real life, in 2003.

"I knew right away that I wanted to play the part," she said about Rose, the sensual single mother who relies on her beauty and the kindness of men to get through life. "It's a really juicy part."

At first, Chen was plagued with fear. She was afraid that Rose was too unsympathetic.

"Being a mother myself, I'm sure she loved her children," said Chen who tried to breathe warmth into the character.

But she understands Rose. What if she became a parent in her 20s when she wasn't ready?



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- July 6-10 Yamato Tour in Conjunction with the Japanese American Museum Conference** - Post Conference Tour - 5 days beginning from Denver to Sheridan, Little Big Horn, Devils Tower, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore National, Crazy Horse Monument and Badlands National Park. **Lilly Nomura**
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SPOELSTRA

(Continued from page 1)

phone and left a mundane message for Monica Spoelstra Metz, his older sister. *Just wanted to say hi, but call me back.* Monica grew suspicious when her mom Lisa kept asking if she talked to Erik lately. Oh, you really should talk to him, Lisa insisted.

When the siblings finally connected that evening, Monica found out she was talking to the new head coach of the Miami Heat.

"We were so very excited," she said from her hometown of Portland, Oregon. But she can't really say that she was surprised.

Humble Beginnings

Erik's work ethic is now almost legendary — long hours, no sleep and barely any time off. The story about his rise to the top of the NBA reads like the plotline of a quintessential American dream. A starry-eyed kid from Portland gets an entry-level job with the Heat splicing videos and picking up lunches for the staff. His boss Pat Riley didn't even know his name for a few years.

It's Erik's great love of basketball that drives him, said Monica.

A few weeks into his new job, Erik is already ushering in an air of newness. In a sport dominated by a usual slate of grizzled, clipboard clutching sideline bosses, Erik chats with fans online and prefers e-mail over the more archaic form of communication — you know, the telephone. For the most part, he said life has not changed much, except for a few minor points.

"Well, now I'm in a position to make final decisions. I used to be in a position to just suggest," said Erik in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "I guess I also get recognized on the street a little more than I used to."

Destined for Success

"When I was a kid, all I wanted to do was play basketball, so I played every opportunity I could. I dreamed of being Isaiah Thomas and Magic Johnson," said Erik.

Growing up, basketball wasn't his only love.

"He had a lot of 'Star War' figures," said Monica with a laugh. But those quickly fell out of mind, when he dribbled his first basketball. Then Erik became a fixture in the family driveway teaching himself to handle the ball and dribble between his legs. His dad Jon Spoelstra, a former NBA executive with the Portland Trailblazers, made three-point hash marks for young Erik. And through rain or cold, Monica would look out the window and see him shooting basketballs in his wool cap.

Jon met his future wife Lisa when he was traveling in the Philippines during a year off of college. They were introduced by mutual friends and kept in touch for two years through letters. Then he proposed

and brought her to America where they eventually settled in Portland.

"I grew up looking different than most kids at school, so that's probably the most obvious way I experienced my Asian roots. People were always wondering what I was," he said. "I would say the Asian influences were in food and cuisine ... and commitment to family and extended family. My mom cooks a lot of fish and rice, and my uncle makes awesome lumpia."

Erik grew up around the game.

"I must have attended almost every Portland Trailblazer home game when I was a kid. That really stoked my passion for the game."

After graduating from Jesuit High School in 1988, Erik went on to the University of Portland where he was the Pilots' starting point guard for three years and was named the West Coast Conference Freshman of the Year in 1989.

When Larry Steele, a former Portland Trail Blazers guard and college coach, first met Erik he saw a personable gentleman and a fierce competitor on the court. He watched Erik grow up and come into his own as a leader.

"He was dedicated to doing things correctly," said Steele. "He spent many, many hours honing his basketball skills. He was destined to become successful."

After college, Erik spent two seasons as a player and coach for a German professional basketball team before taking a low level job with the Miami Heat as their video coordinator.

"At the Miami Heat, I've worn many hats. In fact, many of the jobs I've had to do wouldn't appear to lead to a head coaching position," he said. "But I stayed in the moment as much as possible, and did that particular job at the time to the best of my ability. Because of that, my opportunities just arose naturally."

Other job titles came along: assistant coach/advance scout and assistant coach/director of scouting. And success poured in. In 2006, the Heat won their first ever NBA championship against the Dallas Mavericks. But two years later, the team ended their season with a league-worst record of 15-67.

Then his longtime mentor said he was "definitely sure" he didn't want to coach anymore. And then Riley said Erik's name in the April 28 press conference.

"We're hiring Erik Spoelstra today to get a result," he said at the press conference. "When you take a look at the game today, it's a game about men like Erik who are very, very talented, have an incredible work ethic, are loyal, trustworthy and deserve an opportunity."

Just like that, the kid who no one knew was thrust into the spotlight.

A New Future

"It was just the right opportunity for this organization," said Erik about his new job. "I fully realize

how difficult it is to get a head coaching job in this league. There are so many successful and talented coaches out there. But each team and situation is different. Pat Riley felt that continuity was going to be very important with this change."

Riley remains the Heat's president, something Erik is glad to still have.

"We've had a great working relationship for 13 years. I look forward to continuing to work together for the common goal of trying to bring another championship to the city of Miami. And what better resource could I have as a young coach to go to when I need advice? I'm sure I'll be in his office a lot asking his advice on various things."

Even with the demands and pressure of the new job, Erik is determined to not let his new job title change his life too much. His tight-knit family tries to go on vacations together once or twice a year. On these trips, while everyone sleeps in, Erik often wakes up at the crack of dawn and goes on eight-mile runs, said Monica.

But for now, Erik and his coaching staff are focusing on the May 20 NBA draft lottery and the June 26 draft itself to help rebuild his team.

"I will be involved in the decision-making process of the draft. Right now, we are all (personnel staff and coaching staff) watching film and analyzing statistical data on possible prospects. This draft is an exciting possibility for our franchise," said Erik.

"We are very encouraged about our current situation. We acknowledge our season last year and how we got to where we are now, but we use that as motivation in moving forward. We like our young core of athletic, exciting players returning under contract.

"I think it's important that I stay true to myself. I can't try to be Pat Riley or anyone else. Communication is something I'll work very hard at with my players.

"But, ultimately, my relationships and connection with the players probably won't be any better or worse, it will just be *different*," he said. ■



NBA PHOTO

Erik Spoelstra (right) learned from the best — Pat Riley, who remains the Heat's president.

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NISEI HALL

(Continued from page 1)

"The hall is the last figure of the former Japanese community in Sacramento," said Loren Ishii, VFW Post 8985 commander whose grandfather once owned a pharmacy in J-town. "We need to preserve the legacy and keep it as a symbol of what the Nisei did and what they endured."

"It's an historical building, the only Nisei building in Japantown," said Shimazu. "We have to preserve the legacy."

A Gathering Place

Erin Komatsubara, 49, lets out a giggle as she recalls attending dances at the Nisei War Memorial Hall as a teenager.

"I was a little wallflower. Boys would stand on one side and the girls on the other," said the current Sacramento JACL chapter president. "We had some good old times there. It's a near and dear place to us."

Although the once popular teen dances aren't held at the hall anymore, many community groups continue to use the building including Asian American dance groups and there are various Tai Chi classes and Mahjong clubs. It is also still the home of Boy Scouts Troop 250.

As a young child, Dean Okimoto, 34, would often accompany his parents to pick up his two older brothers from their weekly Boy Scouts meet-

ings at the Nisei Hall.

"I remember often times wandering about the Nisei Hall, and cherishing the rich history that was installed upon the building," said Okimoto, a Yonsei member of the Sacramento JACL. "From the names of veterans on different plaques to the names of the Eagle Scouts, I relished my time reading the rich history and stories that the Nisei Hall had to tell."

Like Okimoto and Komatsubara, younger generations of the local JA community are now working alongside the largely Nisei members of the VFW to help preserve the Nisei Hall. They hope to raise about \$250,000 for much-needed renovations — including electrical rewiring, ADA compliance, and asbestos abatement.

Their hope is that by renovating the building, more community groups and members will rent out the hall space, making it once again a thriving community center.

"With the renovations we hope it draws people back to using the building for events," said Suzanne Sasaki, 28, a member of the Nisei Hall board and Sacramento JACL. "There have been offers to buy the building but we have an attachment to it. It's part of our community, of who we are."

"We want to take pride in ownership of it and make sure it stays here."

Nihonmachi

From Third Street to the West to Fifth Street to the East, bordered by M Street to the north down to O Street, Sacramento's Japantown was once a bustling area of this Capitol City.

Komatsubara's great-grandparents and grandparents owned the Kobayashi Fish Market in Sacramento's historic J-town, a once popular destination for the community.

But like many of the JA families who owned businesses here, the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Executive Order 9066 forced Komatsubara's family into internment camps for the duration of the War.

Luckily, a family friend looked after the fish market and the family was able to return to their home and business after the War.

"We were one of the first families to return to the area after the War," said Komatsubara.

By the late 40s and 50s, Sacramento's Japantown seemed to regain the luster it had possessed prior to the War. But like many areas undergoing urban renewal, the power of eminent domain would once again destroy the historic J-town.

With the city's desire to build a bustling Capitol corridor, the JA businesses were forced to sell and relocate to other areas of town. Although the community fought the orders, in the end the city got what



The Japanese American Civil Liberties Memorial Monument sits prominently in front of the Nisei War Memorial Hall.

they wanted.

"The Japanese Americans tried to fight it but they got nowhere," said Prof. Wayne Maeda, an ethnic studies professor and author of "Changing Dreams and Treasured Memories: A Story of Japanese Americans in the Sacramento Region."

But in a twist of irony, the JA community was able to raise the funds to build the Nisei War Memorial Hall. In 1956, the Flower Garden restaurant at 1515 Fourth Street was purchased for \$27,000 from an African American family.

"The building was on the edge of what was once Japantown," said Maeda. "Symbolically it is the last connection to what was once Japantown."

"The Nisei Hall is really moving. This was a place where the Nikkei rallied and tried to fight city hall," said Donna Graves, project director of the Preserving California Japantowns project. "To have a structure to recall the history of the community that was completely replaced is so poignant and important."

A Moving Symbol

The Nisei War Memorial Hall may be difficult to find for those unfamiliar with the area. Large towering office buildings and massive condominiums surround the modest two-story concrete structure.

Just steps from the Nisei Hall, a Japanese American Civil Liberties Memorial Monument helps tell the

story of the JA community before, during, and after WWII. Dedicated in 2003, the monument and the Nisei Hall are both visible reminders of what was once a bustling Japantown.

"It really speaks to this idea of the underdog trying to hold onto its space. The building speaks on its own for the heritage its holding onto," said Graves.

The Nisei Hall also stands as a living memorial to the heroic JA veterans who fought for a country that was imprisoning their own families.

"That is the importance of the Nisei Hall," said Okimoto, "keeping alive the legacy of the Japanese American veterans."

The Nisei Hall board is getting ready for its first fundraising event this June 7. A showing of "Only the Brave" — a moving film about the heroic 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team — will be sponsored by the local Mikuni Restaurant with all proceeds going to the Nisei Hall renovations.

Community members hope a large turnout will go far in helping to raise the needed \$250,000 to get the renovation project started.

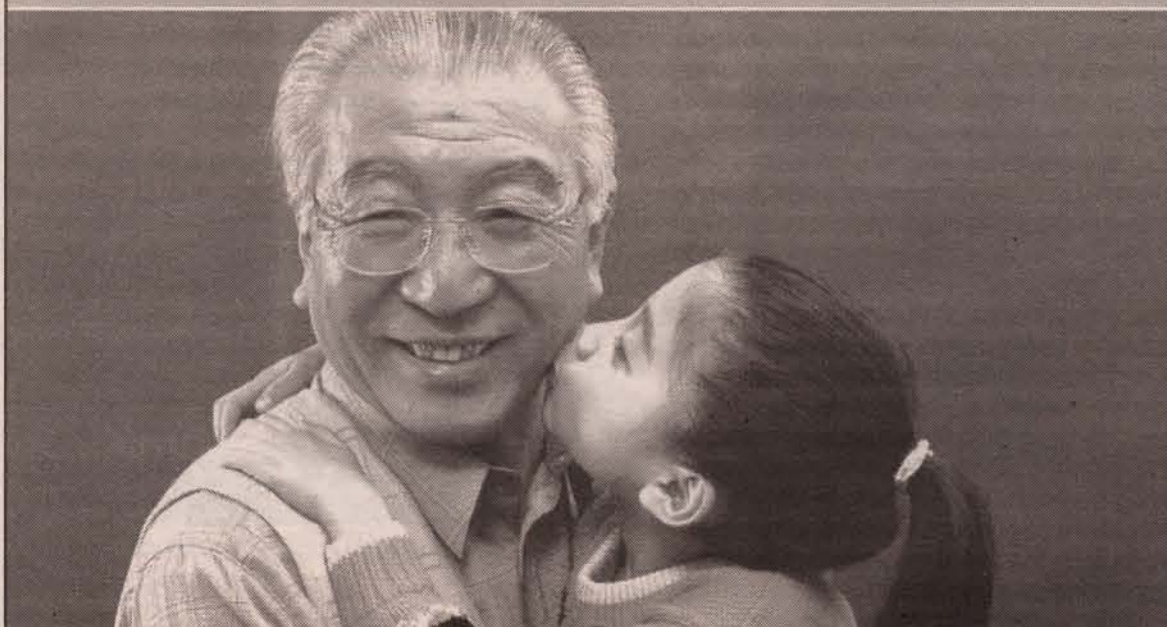
"This is so important to the veterans. Their eyes light up when we talk about the fundraiser, they are so proud of the Hall," said Komatsubara. "That made it worth it for me." ■

To order tickets for the 'Only the Brave' showing at the Crest Theatre June 7, www.thecrest.com or 916-44 CREST.



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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. ■

MINIDOKA

(Continued from page 1)

to internment camps in rural Idaho and California's Mojave Desert during World War II.

Almost two thirds of the JAs were American citizens.

Inslee first introduced the Nidoto Nai Yoni memorial bill in the House in February 2007 and in April it was attached to a massive public lands bill which also called for expanding the border of the Minidoka Monument in Idaho.

"I am happy to see this legislation finally signed into law," said Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho. "The Minidoka internment camp gives Idaho a unique place in history. This legislation will ensure that future generations will learn important lessons from a critical time in our nation's history."

Simpson and Sens. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and Larry Craig, R-Idaho, authored the Minidoka expansion provision that was included in S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

Minidoka, also referred to as the Hunt Camp, was the largest of the WWII internment camps that dis-



A rendering of Nidoto Nai Yoni.

placed more than 120,000 JAs during the War.

The Nidoto Nai Yoni memorial's inclusion in the national park system will give the site a higher profile and may lead to needed federal dollars to complete the \$5 million project.

The JACL, along with other groups, had been pushing for the bill's passage. Floyd Mori, JACL national director, commended those who worked on the bill and praised the members of Congress who were instrumental in its passage.

"Americans will now be able to more fully realize the importance of lessons of justice and our country's history through the Minidoka National Historic Site," said Emily Momohara, chair of Friends of Minidoka. ■

online reporter to enhance and continue its Web service. I hope you'll join me in supporting the *Pacific Citizen* with a donation in any amount.

I'm sure many of you make it a habit to annually thank your service providers — the mailman, the man who mows your lawn or clears the snow, your hairdresser, etc. — with a gift or a check. Think of your P.C. as a service provided year-around, without interruption.

And don't forget this added benefit of your contribution to the P.C.: you'll be helping your friends and relatives on the "other" coast to keep informed and be a part of the larger JA community. Our thanks in advance. ■

Margie Yamamoto currently serves as the Eastern district representative on the P.C. editorial board.

DAN TANI

(Continued from page 1)

20.

"We are delighted that Dan Tani will join us at this year's convention," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "Dan's accomplishments and character are inspiring and we look forward to acquainting him with our members, especially our youth."

Tani will keynote the Sayonara Banquet on the last night of the JACL National Convention, using his experience as a JA and an astronaut to explore this year's theme, "Legacy of Leadership." He has received much recognition including the NASA Spaceflight Medal in

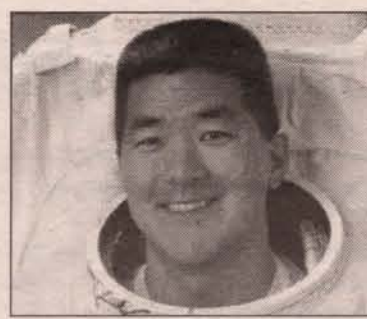


PHOTO: NASA

Dan Tani will keynote the Sayonara Banquet at the JACL Salt Lake City Convention.

2001 and was honored as the "Japanese American of the Biennium for Science and Technology" at the 2002 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas.

"Legacy of Leadership" will highlight the accomplishments and history of the JACL in the pursuit of justice and equality. The organization will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 with special activities and events highlighting the JACL campaign for Redress following the unjust incarceration of over 120,000 JAs during WWII.

The 2008 JACL National Convention will be held in Salt Lake City from July 16-20 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Salt Lake. ■

For more information:
www.jacl.org, www.mwt.com/jacl

MORI

(Continued from page 2)

Salt Lake City, was also interned at Heart Mountain and helps with fundraising. Jeanette Misaka, also an active member of the Salt Lake JACL chapter and a former internee at Heart Mountain, works on the project as well.

Through the efforts of the JACL and with the help of former U.S. Congressman Bill Thomas, R-Calif., Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, Gerald Yamada, and others, Public

Law 109-441: Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites, was passed by the Congress and signed by President Bush.

Congress has not yet appropriated funding for this program, but it is anticipated that matching funds will be available for the camp preservations. The National Park Service has held hearings on the matter. The HMWF has raised over \$1 million and hopes to raise \$2 million to receive matching funds from the Appropriations. The project is anticipated to cost

\$6.2 million.

Different groups are helping with preservation projects of the various camps. At this time of the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, it is a good time for all of us to consider supporting these worthy causes. Thanks to everyone who is working on these camp projects. ■

Anyone wishing to donate to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Fund may visit: www.heartmountain.us or call 307/754-2889.

YAMAMOTO

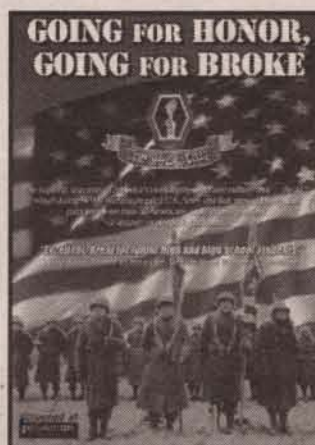
(Continued from page 2)

members come from six states. Many of them have to travel long distances to attend our events.

Maybe it's because there are so few of us, but we New England JAs are fiercely proud of our heritage and take that extra effort to celebrate it and pass this pride on to our children. The one thing that continues to connect us to other JAs here and throughout the U.S. is the *Pacific Citizen*. To me, it's one of the most important benefits of my JACL membership. The recent addition of the P.C. Web site (www.pacificcitizen.org) has been a boon to us given the time it takes for the P.C. to reach our mailboxes.

We are presently in the midst of P.C.'s Spring Campaign. Our newspaper needs the funds to hire an

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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (Continued from page 1)

rience, she was welcomed — not subjected to immigration raids and racial profiling.

So Chermin, 54, and a handful of other Sonoma County JACLeers decided to take a stand for human rights in a May 1 immigrant rights rally and march through downtown Santa Rosa, Calif.

They wore signs that read: "No Raids. No Profiling. Human Rights for all people!" As they marched, they held a large sign with their chapter's name and the JACL logo. During the event, many people asked about the JACL and Chermin explained that the organization has been fighting this type of discrimination since 1929.

"JACL's history begins with immigration problems," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. From the beginning, the organization has fought for equal rights for Asian Pacific Americans who faced immigration barriers from property rights to marriage laws. Today, some JACL chapters continue the tradition by pushing for immigrant rights at the grassroots level with rallies and educational forums.

In this new millennium, it's a kind type of activism to fight an old injustice.

Familiar Struggles

"I think it's a human rights issue," said Lina Hoshino about the immigration debate. In the last three years Hoshino, a Sonoma County chapter member, has been a constant at May Day events. She marched alone one year and another year with a group

of JACLeers. This year, they marched together for the first time behind a JACL banner.

Sonoma County, Calif. is rooted in immigrant history. Before World War II, hundreds of acres of farmland were tended by immigrant workers with last names like Sugiyama and Hamamoto.

"A lot of the farm workers have gone through similar experiences," said Gary Sugiyama, a Sansei Santa Rosa-based graphic designer whose family once owned a small farm in Sonoma County. They grew prunes and strawberries before being evacuated to the Amache internment camp.

Today, Sonoma's pastoral landscape is famous for bearing the fruits that make full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon. The identities of the immigrant workers have changed, but their struggles have stayed the same.

"Who picks the grapes?" said Hoshino, 40. "They are part of our community. Their children are the ones who go to school with your children ... and these people are living in fear because of the government's draconian laws."

Lately Hoshino, who is second generation American, has been hearing a lot of news stories coming from the Bay Area about racial profiling and raids targeting the Latino community.

Once upon a time, Japanese

Americans were treated in a similar way, she said. They were driven out of their home country because of economic hardship and treated like enemies of American workers.

Because of this shared history Hoshino says, "We should be speaking up as a community."

Rooted in JACL History

"Today's anti-immigration movement mirrors much of the same baseless economic rhetoric and race-based issues faced by the Issei and Nisei," said Mori.

In the 1950s, JACL actively took on discriminatory laws that banned Japanese immigrants from purchasing land and prevented the Issei from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. At the head of the battle was Mike Masaoka, then national legislative director of the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee.

"For four eventful decades the Alien Land Act originally passed in 1913 by the legislature and again in 1920 as an initiative measure, has been the backbone of discriminatory activity against the Japanese in California and against their

citizen children," wrote former *Pacific Citizen* editor Larry Tajiri in his April 19, 1952, "Nisei USA" column.

Each issue of the JACL's newspaper provided crucial information about the organization's push to pass the Walter-McCarran Bill of 1952, which gave about 80,000 Issei residents an equal chance at citizenship.

'We use these immigrants. They are taken advantage by people and businesses, but when it comes to their rights they're ignored.'

- Sachiko Chermin

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But when President Harry S. Truman vetoed the bill during the JACL's 12th biennial national convention in San Francisco, the national council was called into special session to send hundreds of telegrams to lawmakers. The JACL's action helped lead to an historic presidential veto override. To celebrate the victory, delegates and boosters met Masaoka at the airport on June 28 with banners and signs reading, "Well Done, Mike!"

Today, immigration should still be a JACL and APA issue, said Mori, who pointed out that about 15 percent of the undocumented immigrants are from Asia and are relatives of APA citizens.

"Can we so soon forget that we were just a few decades ago seen as part of the 'yellow peril'?" he asked. "The spirit of wanting to better one's personal well-being that exists in the immigrant community is the fuel that keeps the wheels of progress going in America. It is for both social and economic justice that the fair treatment of immigrants should be important to the entire APA community."

Solidarity in Diversity

In the modern day movement for immigrant rights, diversity is key.

"We want to build solidarity across all communities," said David Cardenas, outreach coordinator for Sonoma County's Graton Day Labor Center.

On a national level, pro-immigration reform groups like the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC) are shifting their focus during this presidential election year to magnify APA voices in the immigration debate.

Immigration reform has switched from action to behind the scenes negotiation. Fewer bills are being introduced, said Eun Sook Lee, NAKASEC executive director.

"There are only two months left before Congress goes into recess," she said. But there is still time for lawmakers to try to push through smaller bills with fixes or bills that could cause more damage to immigrant rights.

At the grassroots level the San

Jose chapter, last April, mobilized in support of immigration reform at a rally in Mi Pueblo Plaza.

But even within the community, dissenting voices continue to sound out saying it is not an APA issue, said Chermin. Hoshino attributes the divide to a lack of information. Somehow, the media has made the equation that immigration is just a Latino struggle.

"It's become a wedge issue," she said.

Even though most members are united under the JACL's general mission, there are diverse beliefs and opinions.

"We're dealing with a wide spectrum of people from different generations," said Sugiyama, a Sonoma County chapter board member. "The key is finding common ground."

Chermin thinks people who are against immigrant rights don't know the whole truth.

"There is a certain group of people that is not treated in a humane way. We use these immigrants. They are taken advantage by people and businesses, but when it comes to their rights they're ignored."

The Sonoma County chapter is hoping to spread more information in their local community by sponsoring a free May 18 immigration forum.

"All of these issues impact us, they impact our friends and family members. This is our issue," said Hoshino. ■

IMMIGRATION FORUM

The free event sponsored by the Sonoma County JACL will feature a panel of speakers from the local APA community and representatives from immigration and law-enforcement services.

May 18, 2-4 p.m.

Enmanji Memorial Hall
1200 Gravenstein Hwy.,
Sebastopol, Calif.

Information:

sonomacojacl@yahoo.com or
415/613-9348

JOB OPENING

Online Reporter

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

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

A minimum of two years 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.

Applicants must have their own vehicle.

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

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

Through 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.

Midwest

AURORA, Colo.

Sat., May 31—Mile Hi JACL Party; 11:45-3 p.m.; Beck Recreation Center, 800 Telluride; bring a potluck dish. Info: Gladys Konishi, 303/443-5404, Jayne Yoshimura, 303/451-0831 and Toe Sakamoto, 303/317-5355.

DENVER

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.janm.org.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Sat., May 31—Mt. Olympus and Salt Lake chapter JACL Scholarship Dinner; 5 p.m.; Pagoda Restaurant. Info: Lynne Aoyama, 801/466-1758.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Through 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.

Northern California

SACRAMENTO

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

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.

WATSONVILLE

Sat., June 28—Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Community Picnic; 11-4:30 p.m.; Aptos Village Park, 100 Aptos Creek Rd.; food, races, games, raffle prizes and entertainment by Watsonville Taiko; \$7/teens and adults to 69 years, \$4/seniors 70+ and children 6-12, under 6 are free.

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.



The annual Chibi-K Fun Run takes place May 18 in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo as part of the weekend's Little Tokyo Fun Fest.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., May 24—2008 Memorial Services; 11 a.m.; JACCC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St.; keynote speaker, Judge Vincent Okamoto. Info: Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113 or v.muraoka@verizon.net.

Sat., May 31—NJAMF Donor Wall Dedication Program; 5:30 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; free, RSVP required. Info: 202/530-0015.

Sun., June 1—JACCC's 28th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner; 5:30 p.m. cocktails and silent auction, 6:30 p.m. dinner. Info: www.jaccc.org or Margaret Shimada, 213/628-2725, ext 115.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., June 28—2nd Annual Asian American Health Conference; 8:30-1:30 p.m.; Riverside Community Health Foundation, 4445-A

Magnolia Ave.; conference is free and includes a light breakfast, lunch and free screenings.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

The Taiko Center of the Pacific is offering an annual TCP Fellowship to study and play taiko with Ken Endo and the members of the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble. One-week courses to study taiko are also available. Info: www.taikoarts.com or info@taikoarts.com.

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. ■

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Denver, Colorado

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Visit janm.org/projects/ec/conference for more information, or call Nancy Araki at 213.830.5649.

Major support for this project has been generously provided, in part, by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Aratani Foundation, and Dr. Paul I. & Hisako Terasaki.

Additional support has also been provided by American Airlines, The Henri and Tomoyo Takahashi Charitable Foundation, Manabi & Sumi Hirasaki, and Knapp Foundation.

Images credits: From the Japanese American National Museum permanent collections. Bottom left: courtesy of The Rafu Shimp.

Conference Highlights

Keynote Speakers

- U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye
- George Takei
- Dale Minami
- John Tateishi
- Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga
- Adam Schrager, Reporter 9News and author of *The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story*

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DEATH NOTICE

PAUL T. OHTAKI

Paul T. Ohtaki, 83, businessman and journalist, passed away on April 27. He grew up near Seattle on Bainbridge Island, Wash., and at age 17 was relocated along with his family and other Japanese-Americans to the Manzanar internment camp in east-central California during World War II.

The local newspaper publisher, Walt Woodward, asked him to write a weekly column about the daily lives of Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans in the camp. In his editorials in the *Bainbridge Review*, Woodward argued for the civil rights of these Japanese Americans, reinforced by the non-threatening, routine dispatches written by Ohtaki.

Woodward wrote to Ohtaki, "You'll be welcomed back by the vast majority of us, but those who don't or won't understand ... may actually try to stir up trouble. But they'll have a hell of a hard time of it if, in the meantime you've been creating the impression every week and every year that the Japanese are down there for just a short while ..."

As the *Bainbridge Review* noted in a 2004 article, this relationship between Woodward and Ohtaki became "A friendship that made island history." As a tribute to Woodward, Ohtaki compiled the stories and letters in an anthology titled, *It Was the Right Thing to Do!* in 2001.

Ohtaki enlisted in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and served in the Pacific Theater during the later part of WWII. He graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., where he met his wife, Katherine ("Kitty").

They moved to San Francisco where Ohtaki started a successful printing business, Diversified Business Forms. Paul and Kitty were married in 1960. Ohtaki was active in the Optimist Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, JACL, and various Bainbridge Island historical efforts.

A memorial service will be held on Sun., May 18, at 2 p.m. at the Ashley & McMullen Mortuary, 4200 Geary Boulevard, in San Francisco. Ohtaki is survived by his wife, Kitty, his brother-in-law, Mas Ishikawa, his sister-in-law, Rose Ohtaki, and their families.

In lieu of flowers or koden, donations in his memory may be made to the Bainbridge Island Nikkei Memorial, P.O. Box 10355, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

Mildred Loving, Whose Interracial Marriage Led to Landmark Ruling, Dies at 68

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Virginia—Mildred Loving, a black woman whose challenge to Virginia's ban on interracial marriage led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling striking down such laws across the United States, has died, her daughter said May 5.

Peggy Fortune said Loving, 68, died May 2 at her home in rural Milford. She did not disclose the

cause of death.

Loving and her white husband, Richard, changed history in 1967 when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld their right to marry. The ruling struck down laws banning racially mixed marriages in at least 17 states.

Mildred Jeter was 11 when she and 17-year-old Richard began courting, according to Phyl Newbeck, a Vermont author who detailed the case in the 2004 book, "Virginia Hasn't Always Been for Lovers."

She became pregnant a few years later. She and Loving got married in Washington in 1958, when she was

18. Mildred told the AP she did not realize it was illegal.

"The law that threatened the Lovings with a year in jail was a vestige of a hateful, discriminatory past that could not stand in the face of the Lovings' quiet dignity," said Steven Shapiro, national legal director for the ACLU.

After the Supreme Court ruled, the couple returned to Virginia, where they lived with their children, Donald, Peggy and Sidney.

Each June 12, the anniversary of the ruling, Loving Day events around the country mark the advances of mixed-race couples.

In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Asahara, Naoto, 90, Puyallup, Wash., April 21; survived by wife, Michiko.

Chino, Hideo, 65, Mission Hills, April 12; San Diego County Superior Court Commissioner; survived by wife, Sheridan Reed; son, Matsuo; daughter, Mayumi; stepchildren, Marty and Michael Reed; sisters, Kazumi and Hazuki; and brothers, Koo, Fumio, Haruya, Jun, Shigeru and Junji.

Eji, George, 85, Chicago, Mar. 5; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by son, Wayne (Ryama Epel); daughters, Cheryl (Joe) Muszynski and Michelle (Jim) Corbett; sisters, Helen (Bob) Ishikawa and Kimiye Kashiya; and sister-in-law, Nathalie Eji.

Higaki, Kazuko, Watsonville;

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.

survived by sons, John (Keiko), Art and Bob.

Hirahara, Nancy Miyeko, 77, Watsonville, April 10; survived by daughters, Karen, Trudy and Sharon; and 1 gc.

Kataoka, John A., 89, Spokane, Wash., May 1; survived by son, Arthur; daughters, Mary and Rose; sister, Midori Morigasu; and brother-in-law, Harry Emoto.

Kato, Minori, 88, Canyon Lake, April 22; survived by wife, Sue; daughter, Marsha (Steven) Kato-

Waldroff; 2 gc.; brothers, Kazuo (Memi) and Kiyo; and sisters, Jane (Fred) Yasukochi and June Iba.

Michigami, Masashi, 85, Federal Way, Wash., Mar. 20; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Rose; sons, Michael (Sharon) and Wayne; daughter, Donna (Jim) Foster; 4 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Okura, Jimmie M., 86, Long Beach, April 29; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Jean; daughter, Jill; and son, David.

Taketa, Benjamin Tsutomu, 72, Mar. 18; Air Force veteran; survived by wife, Tomeko; daughter, Mary Bailes; 1 gc.; brothers, Roy (Josei) and Harry; and sisters, Amy (Mas) Kato, Lilly (Tad) Kato and Katie (Jim) Komoto.

Tanabe, Bob Akira, 74, Mar. 1; survived by brother, Dan (Alice); and sisters, Florence (Tad) Fujita, Betty Kuwano and Tsuruka Tanaka.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

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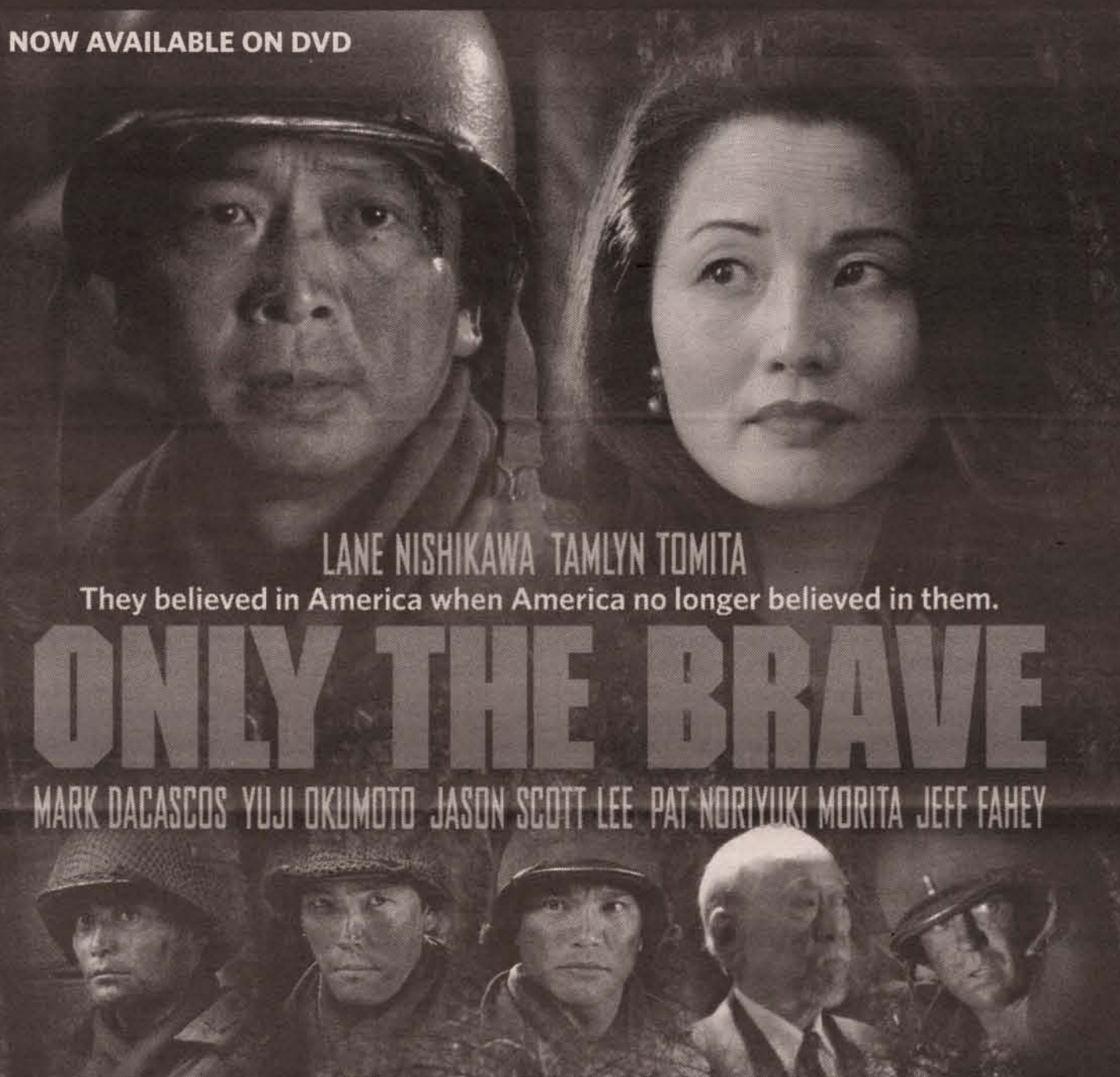


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— *Nikkan San (The Japanese Daily Sun)*

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— *Asian Sun News*

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

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ORDER TOTAL	\$

