



Redevelopment plans in SJ's J-town stalled. —PAGE 3

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Save Our EALC!

UC Berkeley students protest cuts to the East Asian Language Program.

NATIONAL PAGE 3

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JULY 4-17, 2008

APA Youth Journey to Vietnam for 'A Day of Independence'



A GOOD CAUSE: Youth from the Washington, D.C. and Virginia area bring supplies and much needed bikes to orphanages in rural areas of Vietnam.

They raised money to donate 180 bicycles to needy children in rural areas of the Southeast Asian country. Now, they battle heat and fatigue to personally deliver each bicycle to its new owner.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

This summer, 13-year-old Nicholas Do planned to spend his break from school hanging out with friends, not battling unbearable tropical heat in Vietnam helping less fortunate children gain a new sense of independence.

But for a week now, Nicholas has been getting up at the crack of dawn

See **VIETNAM**/Page 11

Daughter Hopes to Fulfill Mother's Last Wish with 'Gila River and Mama: The Ruth Mix Story'



Claire and Ruth Mix

Ruth Mix was a 15-year-old girl volunteering as a nurse's aide at Gila River during WWII. Together with her mother, she helped JA internees by smuggling goods into the camp. A new documentary hopes to tell their story.

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

When Claire Mix was 12, her mother told her they were going to meet actor George Takei. An avid "Star Trek" fan, Claire put on her best Trekkie T-shirt, and along with her best friends, anxiously waited to

See **RUTH MIX**/Page 12

Does Race Play a Role in the Struggle to Save Little Tokyo?

The sale of the Little Tokyo Shopping Center pitted the new owners' Korean American heritage against the community's historic identity.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

The sale of yet another landmark in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo didn't surprise Keizo Shimamoto. The Shin Nisei from Diamond Bar, Calif. knew a different, more vibrant Nihonmachi of the past, so it wasn't a shock to hear that investors had snatched up the Little Tokyo Shopping Center and plan to change its ethnic identity.

"I always expected something like this to happen, especially with the increasing Korean population living in the newly developed housing in the area," said Shimamoto, 30.

The shopping center's new Korean American owners reportedly

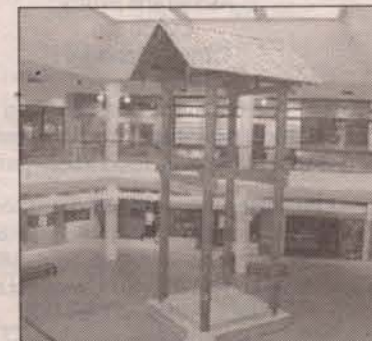


PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

CHANGE: The tower in the heart of the shopping center (top) may become a relic of the past. But Jenni Kuida (left, background) still wants her daughter Maiya Kuida-Osumi to feel connected to Little Tokyo.

plan to convert the three-story structure located at 333 South Alameda Street into a Korean-themed or more mainstream center, the group's real estate broker told the *Los Angeles Times*.

And almost overnight it was all

about race and ethnicity — like the community's struggle to maintain its historic character became a symbol of the area's interethnic tension. An article in the *Los Angeles Business*

See **LITTLE TOKYO**/Page 13

Nat'l JACL to Honor Community Members at Sayonara Banquet

A host of accomplished individuals will be honored with awards at the JACL National Convention's Sayonara Banquet on July 19. The Ruby Pin Award will be presented to Tom Tamaki, and the President's Awards will be presented to Neil King, Franklin Odo and Raymond Uno for their achievements and contributions to the community.

The Hon. Raymond Uno was the first minority judge to sit on the Third District Judicial Court of the State of Utah and has been an active civic leader and com-

See **BANQUET**/Page 7

'Chink Mobile' and Other Racial Epithets Sprayed on Korean Church Van in Georgia



JACL is disturbed by the racist graffiti and warns that hateful symbols should not be taken lightly.

By *Pacific Citizen Staff*

Korean church goers in Suwanee, Georgia got more than their regular Sunday morning services when they were greeted by racist graffiti that included swastikas and hateful words like "Chink mobile."

Vandals had spray-painted a church van, a dumpster, the pavement and parts of a basketball court outside of the Evergreen Presbyterian

See **RACIAL EPITHETS**/Page 11

Legacy of Leadership
2008 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City

July 16-20

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A JA in Peru

Ann Kaneko's new film spotlights the lives of artists after Fujimori.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Starting Over

Michelle Wie, no longer a novelty, struggles at the recent U.S. Open.

SPORTS PAGE 10

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT A Busy Time for the JACL Staff

By FLOYD MORI

This is a busy time for your national JACL staff as final preparations are being made — in conjunction with the Utah convention committee, national board members, and others — to ensure that the National JACL Convention and Youth Convention in Salt Lake City July 16-20 will be a big success.



Redress and the passage by Congress of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 will play a major role in the convention proceedings. Highlighted throughout the convention will be issues of Redress and some of the people who played a major role in the Redress Movement.

We hope it will be a chance to reflect and remember for the older members of the JACL and a chance to learn more of their history and heritage for the young people who will be in attendance, some for the first time. Membership recruitment, which is vital to the future of the JACL, will also be an important issue.

Other matters continue on even with the business of the convention uppermost. The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), of which I am the current chairperson, has been actively involved with seeking support from Congress for the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act to right a historic wrong which revoked the status of Filipino veterans who fought for the U.S. during World War II. This bill would provide veterans benefits for the 18,000 remaining veterans today.

Leaders of NCAPA, which is a coalition of Asian American and Pacific Islander advocacy organizations, met with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a private meeting to discuss their legislative priorities which are presently before Congress.

Civil rights leaders of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nation's oldest, largest and most diverse civil and human rights coalition of which the JACL is on the executive committee, have been invited by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to meet with Senate leaders on critical issues of fairness and equality facing the nation.

There is a new Ambassador of Japan to the U.S. now stationed in Washington, D.C. Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, and Mrs. Fujisaki invited a group of Japanese Americans to their residence after being at their new post for just three weeks, having arrived from Geneva, Switzerland. They previously served in Chicago.

An elegant Japanese dinner was served to the guests, which included the Hon. Norman Y. Mineta and his wife Deni, and several young and older leaders within the JA community. The JACL has developed a good relationship with the Ambassador and Embassy of Japan in D.C. and with Japanese Consulates throughout the U.S.

Our good friend of the JACL and supporter of many AA organizations, Norman Mineta and his wife Deni, will be attending the National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City. There's still time to register for the convention. Hope to see you there. ■



Letters to the Editor

60th Anniversary of the 1000 Club

Come and celebrate the 60th birthday of the 1000 Club at the upcoming National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City.

It was here, back at the 1948 National JACL Convention that the regular JACL dues were \$3.50 and did not cover the national budget. Brave men like Hito Okado and George Inagaki went on record to have a group of men and women donate \$25 a year to help cover the national budget. They called this new group the 1000 Club for if they could get 1,000 members it would bring in \$25,000 to cover the national budget.

But it would take 20 years to reach 1,000 members in 1966 under the leadership of Shigeru Wakamatsu who spearheaded the campaign. I was later elected to help, and by 1968 we were able to reach 2,000 members. A recommendation was also made to have a fun night where men wore Derby hats and vests and ladies wore garters. Neckties were also cut off.

In 1996 Milo Yoshino of the Diablo Valley chapter came to the rescue and promoted a group called the Millennium Club, where you contribute \$1,000 a year to help the JACL programs.

Please come and celebrate the 60th birthday of the 1000 Club, but be sure to not wear a tie for it will be cut off. See you in Salt Lake City.

DR. FRANK SAKAMOTO

MILE-HI CHAPTER

Not Many Know About Little Tokyo's WWII Veterans Memorial

The 100/442/MIS Memorial Foundation with the late Col. Kim, did a wonderful job in building the foundation. However, the few times I have been to the memorial I felt very lonely. Except for the wonderful volunteers, there was no one around. Even my relatives, I'm sure, never heard of or know the monument exists.

You need a tram from First Street to the monument with a docent. The docent should tell the story of the monument, the 20 Congressional Medal of Honor winners and their heroics. There are lots of stories like these for the young people to hear to reinforce an appreciation of what the Nisei vets did.

You should invite Maya Lin (Vietnam Memorial Wall) to the monument and have Howard Furumoto's (served with Ken Akune in Burma) son, who is now music director at Cal State Fullerton, have a concert.

Now that Akemi Yano is the CEO of the Japanese American National Museum, maybe the foundation and the museum can help each other increase membership and funding.

JOHN M. NISHIZAKA

GRANADA HILLS, CALIF.

Thank You P.C. Spring Campaign Donors!

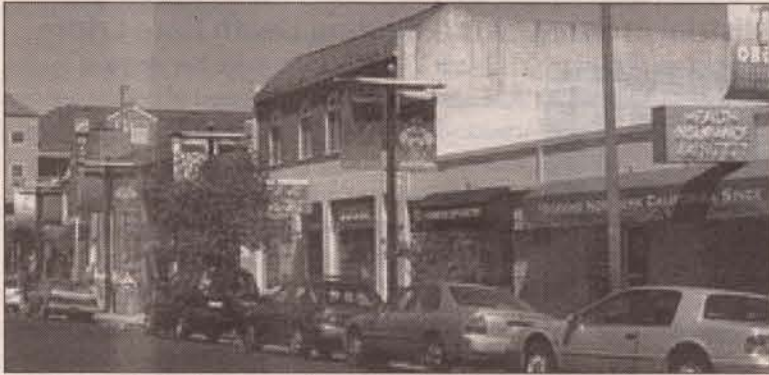
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Environmental Impact Report Stalls Project to Revitalize S.J. J-town



A main street in San Jose's Japantown.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

An environmental impact report has halted efforts to revitalize San Jose's Japantown area due to the high density of the project, and local Japanese Americans are working to ensure their voices are heard as new development takes place in the historic neighborhood.

Developer Williams & Dame and the Redevelopment Agency had planned to build affordable housing and provide community amenities, transforming a five-acre old corporation yard of black asphalt into a site of development. However, an environmental impact report this year indicates the neighborhood cannot handle the new homes due to problems of traffic and a lack of parking.

The original proposal included 600 housing units and 75 homes, and John Weis, the Redevelopment Agency's deputy director, said they are considering all options to balance meeting the standards of the report and satisfying the developers.

"We're exploring a lower density of plus-or-minus 500 units," Weis said in an interview with the *Business Journal*.

Reduction in density and the number of housing units, however, presents problems for the amenities important to the JAs in the community.

Tamon Norimoto, vice president of the Japantown Community Congress, is concerned about the effect of the controversies on the San Jose Japantown, one of only three in the nation. But he acknowledged the impact as necessary to revitalizing Japantown.

"We understand that with any kind of development there will be impacts," Norimoto said to the *Business Journal*. "If you don't want impacts, you can leave the corp yard as it is, just black asphalt."

Councilman Sam Liccardo also believes in the importance of the development but recognizes the need to renegotiate the number of housing units.

"We all agree that we should strive to find a balance with this development that meets the legitimate objectives of the developer, as well as the needs for this diverse and unique community," Liccardo said in the same article.

Although the developer had wanted a city council decision on the agreement in June, the debate surrounding the development has resulted in postponement of the vote until August. ■

UC Berkeley Students Speak Out Against Administration's Proposed East Asian Language Budget Cuts

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The UC Berkeley administration's proposed budget cuts will damage the East Asian languages and Korean Studies programs say members of a student-based coalition who met with George Breslauer, executive vice chancellor and provost, to speak up for those who want to protect these programs.

However, Breslauer would not make any guarantees, according to the Committee to Save East Asian Languages and Korean Studies at Berkeley (CSEALKS).

CSEALKS is an ad-hoc student coalition that was formed in opposition to the planned budget cuts to the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC), and five of its members presented Breslauer with petitions opposing the proposed budget cuts containing 7,264 signatures of students, faculty, staff and community members.

The Korean Studies program, which will be most affected by the budget cuts, is important for connecting students to their cultural roots. John J. Judge, a Korean American transnational adoptee, said the Korean language classes connected him to the cultural roots he never knew.

"Taking Korean was a life-changing experience that enabled me to bridge the gap between the non-Korean culture I was raised in and the Korean culture I was separated from as an infant," he said.

Other EALC students expressed their frustration with the proposed budget cuts, citing the university's 45 percent ethnic Asian student body and the importance of transnational communication in an increasingly global world.



"The globalization of the world economy is inevitable, and with these cuts UC Berkeley students will find themselves severely under prepared after they graduate," said David Chen, a Japanese and Molecular Cell Biology double major.

In addition to stressing the importance of preserving Korean Studies, CSEALKS presented demands to Breslauer regarding job security for language lecturers who are otherwise vulnerable to layoffs.

"He seemed unaware of the burden visa applications and renewals place on instructors who are foreign nationals," said David Humphrey, one of the CSEALKS representatives who met with Breslauer and a second-year doctoral candidate in Japanese literature.

Although CSEALKS clarified the historical neglect of Korean Studies and pressed for the assurance of permanent lecturer positions in the department, representatives say Breslauer refused to make guarantees and defended the budget estimates, calling them a "worse-case scenario."

Breslauer indicated he was mak-

ing efforts to give more finances to the Division of Arts and Humanities under which EALC is housed, but he did not specify how much the damages would be reduced, according to CSEALKS. A finalized budget — which was due by June 30 — was not available at press time.

What makes the administration's unwillingness to support the East Asian language programs particularly disappointing for CSEALKS member Christine Hong is Breslauer's "recent trip to Tsinghua University in Beijing in which he promoted Berkeley as a preeminent institution in the study of Asia."

Because the administration has been mostly unresponsive to the actions of CSEALKS so far, Jun-Hyung Kim, a CSEALKS member and third-year economics major, said support is crucial.

"Since the school is not supporting us, it is important that the community support us so that we can save East Asian languages and, in particular, Korean Studies at Berkeley," Kim said. ■

For more information
savekoreanstudies.blogspot.com

Family Ties Bring U.S. Nuclear Site Manager Back to Nagasaki

By SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press Writer

RICHLAND, Wash.—In 1945, workers at a remote, top-secret reactor built amid Washington's wind-blown sagebrush produced plutonium for a new bomb to be dropped on Japan.

Across the world, 15-year-old Kazuko Ozaki narrowly missed the atomic bomb that destroyed Nagasaki that August, effectively ending World War II.

Decades later, Ozaki's daughter, Shirley Olinger, is a nuclear engineer overseeing cleanup at the now-highly contaminated Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state.

The pair returned to Nagasaki on June 14.

"I'm very aware of the legacy of

the war here in this country, and I'd like to learn the legacy of the war there," Olinger said. "I want to get their point of view."

On Aug. 6, 1945, the U.S. bomber Enola Gay dropped the "Little Boy" bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later the B-29 Bock's Car dropped a bomb dubbed "Fat Man" on Nagasaki, with plutonium from the remote Hanford nuclear reservation. Estimates of the death toll exceeded 200,000.

Ozaki had forsaken her annual visit to her grandmother in Nagasaki, because regular U.S. bombing runs across Japan had made travel too dangerous. Instead, she remained in Okiyama, near Hiroshima, with her father, a contractor for the Japanese military.

"We were so shocked, so concerned, so worried," Ozaki said, recalling news of the bomb blasts. Two weeks went by before they learned her grandmother had survived in her home outside of Nagasaki. However, her best friend, who had been working in the city, was among the dead.

Twelve years later, Ozaki married a U.S. sailor, Frank Olinger, during the occupation of Japan, gave birth to a baby girl and moved to the United States. They led a military life, setting up house in Kansas, Washington, California and Hawaii.

At Pearl Harbor, daughter Shirley Olinger recalls hanging around the shipyards, saying goodbye to her father each time his submarine left for sea. She went on to be a civil

engineer for the U.S. Forest Service, building bridges in the Willamette National Forest, before returning to Hawaii.

She trained as a nuclear engineer at the same Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard where she had visited her father. She met her husband, a fellow engineer, and they both moved to Washington D.C., where they began working for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Nuclear waste cleanup became their focus. Stops in Savannah River, S.C. and Rocky Flats, Colo. followed. Hanford, then, sounded like a neat experience with a similar cleanup mission, she said.

The couple moved to south-central Washington in 2001.

"When I found out where the

building was that created that original plutonium ..." Olinger's voice trailed off, as she smiled and shivered goose-bumps. "I felt like this must be meant to be. I'm here for a real purpose."

Olinger and her mother, now 79, have each been back to Japan, but her mother hasn't been to Nagasaki for 37 years. For Olinger, it is her first trip back to the country since she assumed the Hanford oversight job.

Her husband and two children also made the trip.

"They were so apologetic. They were crying," Olinger said of her relatives. At the same time, they harbor no ill will with the United States.

"War is war. That's what they say," Olinger said. "There's no bitterness." ■

Brazil's Japanese Celebrate Centennial

By STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press Writer

MOGI DAS CRUZES, Brazil—"Inu ga wan wan." Miyabi Endo, a gregarious 8-year-old, carefully sounds out "the dog barks" in Japanese in a modest concrete schoolhouse amid the small farms that skirt Sao Paulo.

"Neko ga nyan nyan." The cat meows.

The school in this greenbelt city is one of several operated by the region's Japanese Brazilian families to continue their culture and traditions a century after their ancestors first arrived in Brazil.

Nearly 800 Japanese peasants landed in the port of Santos aboard the steamship Kasato Maru on June 18, 1908, spurring a wave of immigration that has grown to 1.5 million people — the largest Japanese community outside Japan.

Not only are the numbers significant, but Japanese immigrants introduced foods that changed Brazilian cuisine and farming techniques that helped turn Latin America's biggest country into the agricultural superpower it is today.

"The importance of the Japanese community is best reflected in the greenbelts that today exist throughout Brazil, and in the concept of agricultural cooperatives that they introduced," said University of Sao Paulo historian Mario Sergio de Moraes. "It is also reflected in the many other contributions its members have made to our society in the arts, sciences and politics."

Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of the landing of the Kasato Maru and spent a week visiting Sao Paulo, Parana, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro states.

Japanese Brazilians, now in their fourth generation, have integrated and prospered. They are among the country's top artists, doctors and business leaders.

The immigrants first arrived because of negotiations between Japan and Sao Paulo state, where most Japanese Brazilians still live. Japan needed an escape valve for poor farmers, who were left out of the country's rapid modernization beginning in the late 1800s, said historian Marcos Persici of Sao Paulo's Japanese Immigration Museum.

Like many immigrant groups, the early settlers planned to return home in two to five years and start new lives with their earnings, but they quickly realized they would never save enough for a return ticket. Many even-



A model of the Kasato Maru, which first carried the Japanese to Brazil, is displayed in a museum.

tually migrated to urban centers or to other rural areas, where they started as sharecroppers then purchased small farms.

"Recruiters told my mother and father that money grew on trees in Brazil. They had never even heard of Brazil, but the idea of picking money off trees persuaded them to board the ship," said 80-year-old Antonio Nisishima, whose parents arrived on the Kasato Maru.

Nisishima said there wasn't much discrimination, except during World War II. But while some Latin American countries, particularly Peru, deported citizens of Japanese heritage to internment camps in the United States, Brazil didn't follow suit. Japanese Brazilians were not allowed to speak their language in public or hold any kind of public gathering.

The Japanese community also loosened its taboo on intermarriage after the war. Today, about 40 percent of the community has non-Japanese ancestry.

"In 50 years, it will be almost impossible to distinguish the community as an ethnically different group," said Persici.

Miyabi's father, Horacio Massanori Endo, doesn't agree.

Endo, who grows persimmon, eggplant and peppers on his 12-acre farm, is the grandson of Japanese immigrants who arrived in 1910 and settled in Mogi das Cruzes.

"This may happen in terms of our physical traits because of the growing number of mixed marriages. But not in terms of language, culture and traditions," he said. "My daughter is just as much a Brazilian as anyone else, but she is also Japanese." ■

Electoral Glossary Now Available in Asian Languages

In order to fulfill provisions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has issued glossaries of election terms in five Asian languages: Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Japanese — the most widely spoken Asian languages in the United States.

In support of HAVA, APIAVote along with local and national organizations worked with EAC on the glossary project.

"Organizations like ours do not have the resources to publish a comprehensive translation of election terminology; it was a wonderful opportunity to aid the EAC on this endeavor," said Vida Benavides, interim executive director of APIAVote.

According to the 2006 Census, 26 percent of Asian Americans and 14.2 percent of Pacific Islanders speak English less than "very well." While the percentage of those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) varies for each ethnic group, from 9.8 percent of Native Hawaiians to 52.8 percent of Vietnamese speakers, a significant portion of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population are in need of language aides.

Many persons with LEP experience difficulty understanding the terminology used by media sources or election officials when registering to vote.

"The goal of APIAVote is to encourage political partic-



FILE PHOTO

The glossary will help APAs with limited English proficiency better understand the electoral policy.

ipation within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community," said Benavides. "This project will undoubtedly benefit our voter outreach and education efforts."

Language is a key to understanding the democratic process, and AA groups hope these guides will improve the accessibility for political participation to AAPI voters.

The EAC has made electronic copies available through a free download at www.eac.gov, or a toll-free call to Edgardo Cortes or Laiza Ortero at 866/747-1471 for a physical copy. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Mistrial in Sacramento Beating Death Hate Crime



SACRAMENTO—A judge has declared a mistrial against a defendant accused of beating another man to death in what prosecutors described as a hate crime.

A Sacramento County Superior Court jury said it could not agree whether 22-year-old Aleksandr Shevchenko started a fight with Satender Singh because he believed he was gay. The jury convicted Shevchenko of disturbing the peace and simple assault for throwing a bottle, both misdemeanors.

Singh died last July, four days after he was allegedly punched by Shevchenko's friend Andrey Vusik.

To remember Singh and other hate crimes victims, Calif. Assemblyman Mike Eng has introduced ACR 51, a bill to designate June as Hate Crimes Awareness Month.

Senators Urge U.S. to Press Thailand not to Deport Hmong Refugees

WASHINGTON—Seven U.S. senators are pressing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to look into Thailand's repatriation of more than 800 ethnic Hmong to possible persecution in Laos.

The senators from Wisconsin and Minnesota said they are unhappy that Thailand repatriated the Hmong without independent parties monitoring the process. They urged Rice in a letter sent this week to press Thailand to meet United Nations and basic human rights standards.

Human rights groups said that the repatriation may have included some who were sent back involuntarily in violation of international humanitarian standards.

Police Officers Cleared in Michael Cho Shooting



SANTA ANA, Calif.—Two police officers who shot a man 11 times acted legally because the victim threatened one of them with a tire iron, according to the Orange County District Attorney.

Michael Cho, 25, was agitated when officers, with guns drawn, ordered him to drop the weapon. The police had responded to calls that Cho was vandalizing cars.

The Korean American community accused the police of using excessive force.

Sikh Community Protests Attacks on Students

NEW YORK—The Sikh community recently marched in protest over an attack on a 12-year-old girl who had her long hair cut off by a fellow student.

The June 9 incident at Public School 219 in Flushing is the third incident in two months targeting a Sikh student in Queens. A four-inch section of Gurprit Kaur's religiously mandated long hair was cut off by a student.

School officials said the accused student was immediately suspended. Sikhs and elected officials marched through Queens and rallied at Richmond Hill High School, where another Sikh student was punched in the face.

Court Rules in Favor of Chinese Muslim Held at Guantanamo Bay



WASHINGTON—A federal appeals court has ruled that a Chinese Muslim held by the U.S. military was improperly labeled an "enemy combatant."

A brief one-page order from the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington

directed military officials to release, transfer or "expeditiously hold a new [military] tribunal" for Hazaifa Parhat.

It's the first time a Guantanamo Bay detainee has been given an opportunity in a civilian court to try to secure his release. Parhat has been in U.S. custody for more than six years.

The order came just 11 days after the Supreme Court ruled the approximately 270 detainees at Guantanamo have a basic constitutional right to challenge their detention in federal courts. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

UCLA Asian Americans Studies Center Director to Retire Next Year



Don Nakanishi will retire as director of the Asian American Studies Center (AASC) at UCLA next September after 18 years as the leader of AASC and a 35-year career at the university. Nakanishi plans to work for the advancement of East Los Angeles after retirement and continue his writing and engagement in educational issues and politics.

Professor Paul Ong of Asian American Studies and the School of Public Affairs will be in charge of the committee to search for a new director.

White House Honors Two APAICS Members

David L. Kim and **William Marumoto** of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) were awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) recently. The award is the highest honor for community service in the nation.

APAICS Chair Kim has served as an advisory council member to different organizations including the Korean American Coalition, Asian American Arts Alliance and Japanese American National Museum.

President and CEO Marumoto has served the community for over 50 years, serving as a board member for organizations including the Advisory Committee on the Arts for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

AAJA Announces Winners of Top Awards

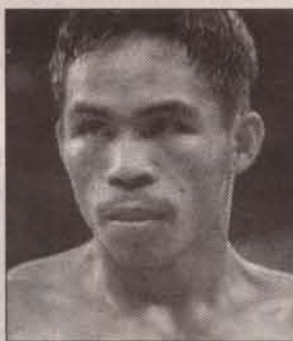
The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) presented its top awards recently to **Dith Pran**, former photographer of *The New York Times*; **Simon Li**, former assistant managing editor of the *Los Angeles Times* and **Dori Maynard**, president and chief executive officer of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.

The awards were presented July 2 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago during the AAJA gala scholarship and awards banquet.

Pacquiao Becomes First Asian Boxer to Win Major Titles at Four Weights

Manny Pacquiao defeated World Boxing Council Lightweight Champion David Diaz in a bout June 28, making him the first Asian boxer to win major titles in four weight classes.

Pacquiao won the super featherweight title in March after winning a split decision against Juan Manuel Marquez. He has won world titles at 112, 122 and 130 pounds and also knocked out linear champion Marco Barrera in November 2003.



442nd Veteran Retires, Receives Award from Secretary of Defense

Seikichi Kaneshiro received the Outstanding Civilian Career Service award from Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and retired as the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron's vertical repair superintendent after 66 years of service. Gates presented the award recently at the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam.

"Mr. Paul is an example to us all — an example of the extraordinary service required to keep our nation safe, prosperous and strong," Gates said.

High School Student Masunaga Selected as U.S. Senate Page

Colette Masunaga, a 16-year-old student from Captain Cook, Hawaii, was selected as a U.S. Senate Page by Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii.

Masunaga is one of 30 Senate Pages, paid to work at Washington, D.C. this summer Monday through Friday. The Senate Pages stay a few blocks at the Capitol at Webster Hall. ■

Coalition Calls for Federal Support of Culturally Based Teaching

Research shows that students thrive in the classroom where culture is integrated into the course work.

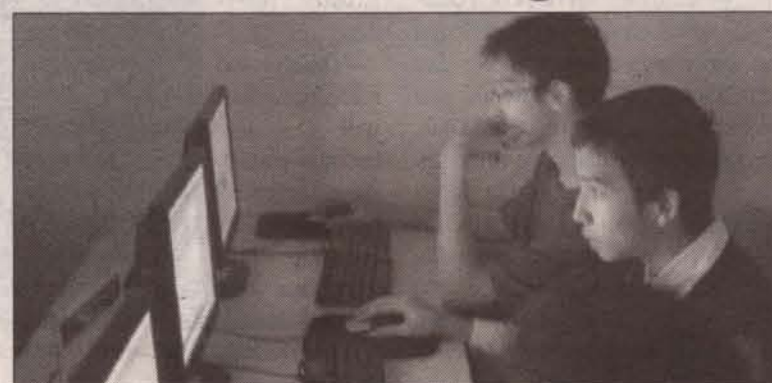
Civil rights and education leaders are asking lawmakers to support culturally based teachings as a way to improve the nation's unequal public education system.

The crisis is most severe at the high school level, according to the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE), a coalition of civil rights organizations including the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC).

The coalition recently held a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill to promote the importance of culturally based teaching in high schools.

At the briefing, CHSE highlighted activities that should be considered for integrating culturally based teaching into U.S. education policy, including:

- Promoting culturally relevant content knowledge and teaching in the classroom to prepare students to be effective participants in a global economy;
- Implementing a variety of quality high school models shown to sup-



port different learning styles and cultures; and

- Promoting instructional practices designed to meet the needs of diverse learners, such as reflexive learning and culturally competent learning techniques.

The Asian Pacific American community's diversity often comes at the expense of many Southeast APA students and new immigrants who are plagued by the Model Minority Myth but often don't have the tools for academic success.

According to the 2000 Census, Hmong Americans have the lowest per capita income of any ethnic or racial group in the U.S.

Culturally based teaching is an approach to education that integrates native language, culture and traditions into the classroom — an

approach that experts argue can close the achievement gap between minority and white students in U.S. high schools.

Data reveal that more students thrive in the classroom when culture is integrated into their course work, creating an environment where all students excel, regardless of race or socio-economic status.

"Teaching content areas and native language and culture are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary and enhance academic achievement in other subject disciplines," said Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert, president of the National Indian Education Association. ■

For more information:

www.highschool equity.org
www.searac.org

APAs are Less Likely to Get Lifesaving Colorectal Cancer Screening

Asian Pacific Americans are among the least likely to undergo lifesaving colorectal cancer screening, according to a national study by the University of California, Davis.

The study, published in the June 23 issue of *Archives of Internal Medicine*, also revealed that African Americans and Hispanic Americans are less likely to undergo colorectal cancer screening than whites primarily because of socioeconomic, health care access and language barriers.

However, these same barriers do not fully explain screening disparities of APAs, leading study authors to recommend more thorough exploration of the cultural factors that could drive lack of participation in screening for APAs.

"We were surprised by the very low rate of screening in Asians, whose screening rates have not previously been well-studied at a national level," said Anthony Jerant, associate professor of family and community medicine at UC Davis and lead author for the study.

Disparities in cancer screening contribute to higher cancer incidence and death rates. Increased colorectal cancer screening has

contributed to an overall decrease in cancer diagnoses and deaths in recent years because it leads to the early removal of polyps that could later become cancerous.

In an effort to better understand factors keeping some people from participating in colorectal cancer screening, Jerant and colleagues analyzed data from two national surveys conducted between 2000 and 2005.

A total of 22,973 adults age 50 and older answered questions about demographics, screening behaviors and other social and health factors. Overall, 54.1 percent of the participants were screened for colorectal cancer using either colonoscopy or fecal occult blood testing.

Colorectal cancer screening rates lag behind those for other cancer screening tests, and marked disparities exist between non-Hispanic whites and racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S.

Individuals in racial and ethnic minority groups were less likely than whites to be tested: 33.8 percent of APAs, 36.7 percent of Hispanic Americans and 48.2 percent of African Americans underwent a colorectal screening procedure within the recommended timeframe, compared with 57.2

percent of whites.

"The paths we can take to increase testing among blacks and Hispanics seem clear," Jerant said. "What is driving this disparity for Asians is not fully explained by traditional factors measured on national surveys, like language, age or insurance status."

Beyond socioeconomic factors, which disproportionately affect all minority groups, the findings suggest that improving access to care and providing language-appropriate care could have positive effects on increasing cancer screening.

According to Jerant, the findings suggest that different types of outreach programs may improve screening rates in the various minority groups.

Jerant recommends additional studies to further examine why APAs are not participating in lifesaving cancer prevention measures. ■

A copy of the study 'Determinants of Racial/Ethnic Colorectal Cancer Screening Disparities' can be downloaded at www.jamamedia.org or requested by calling JAMA/Archives media relations at 312/464-JAMA or e-mailing mediarelations@jama-archives.org.

Topaz Museum Board Seeks Architects

The Topaz Museum board is currently seeking the services of a qualified architectural and exhibit design team to design a new complex that will house two other museums and facilities for the city of Delta, Utah. One wing of the complex will commemorate the history of the Topaz Internment Camp in Delta, which is 16 miles from the original camp site.

The complex will include two other museums, the Great Basin Museum dedicated to the history of West Millard County and the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum. Delta City will have meeting rooms in the facilities. All four groups have purchased Main Street property and incorporated as a governing body for the complex.

"The Topaz Museum has been renting space from a small local museum for many years. Finally, all the artifacts, artwork and furniture collected by the board will be able to be displayed," said Jane Beckwith,

Topaz Museum Board president.

"The restored recreation hall will also become part of the complex so that people can continue to walk into that building and see and feel the conditions people lived under during incarceration," she added.

Last year with help from the National Park Service, the Topaz camp site became a National Historic Landmark comprising all of the camp except for blocks 35 and 42 which are still privately owned. The other 627 acres of the camp have been purchased by the Topaz Board.

In addition, the Topaz Board has



Recreation hall restored by the Topaz Museum Board.

had significant donations including artwork by Mine Okubo and chairs and a table constructed by Frank Kami, who were both in Topaz.

Architects and exhibit designers who would like to respond to the RFP are asked to contact Mayor Gayle Bunker at 435/864-2759 or e-mail gshafer@delta.utah.gov for an electronic copy of the scope of the project.

The response deadline is July 25, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. ■

NH Diversity Group Honors Sen. Inouye and JAVA

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—A New Hampshire diversity group is honoring a Hawaii senator and Japanese American veterans of World War II.

The New Hampshire Cultural Diversity Awareness Council (NHC-DAC) traveled to Washington on June 24 to honor Sen. Daniel Inouye and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). The council presented its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Keeping the Dream Alive" award at a Capitol Hill reception.

Senators Judd Gregg and John Sununu helped present the award to their colleague, a decorated World War II veteran. Gregg said Inouye and the Japanese American veterans risked so much to defend America abroad while facing adversity and racism at home.

Sununu said Inouye is committed to making this country a better place

for the people of Hawaii and all Americans.

Wayne Jennings, founder and chairman of the NHC-DAC, said the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award was presented to Inouye for exemplifying Dr. King's dreams and goals for diversity and equality for all.

"I am deeply grateful and overwhelmed by this award," said Inouye.

Former U.S. Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta was on hand to present JAVA with their award. Mineta noted the organization's diversity in membership and activities as well as its association



PHOTO: MICHAEL YAGUCHI

(l-r): Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Senator Daniel Inouye, Wayne Jennings and Robert Nakamoto.

with various veterans organizations.

The NHC-DAC was formed in 2000 and has since expanded its charter statewide to cover all ethnic groups to embrace diversity and to promote the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ■

JA Veterans Group to Add More Names to Korean War Memorial

The memorial service coincides with a Sept. 15-21 group tour to Imjin-Gak Memorial Park.

Four newly discovered names of Japanese American soldiers killed in action during the Korean War will be added to a JA war memorial in Korea.

The new names to be added to the JA Korean War Memorial are: Henry P. Enoka, Moses E. Kuni, Fredrick Nobutoshi Pestana and Yoshikio Tengan.

This brings the total of JAs killed in action (KIA) during the Korean

War to 251.

The U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean War were all racially integrated units, which caused difficulty in finding all of the JA KIAs. All available listings of KIAs had to be reviewed for JA names, some which were spelled the same or similar to Japanese, but of different ethnicity. Lately, through individual contacts, new names have been found.

The JA Korean War Memorial in South Korea will be engraved with the new names and rededicated during a Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) group tour Sept. 15-21, according to Sam Shimoguchi, JAKWV 2008 Korea

Revisit Committee chair. The memorial is located at Imjin-Gak Memorial Park near the border of North Korea.

A memorial service will be held in honor of these heroes who were never able to come home to their families.

The tour group will also go by bus to see the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Korean War Battle Site, North Korean Invasion Tunnel, Korean Folk Village and the Gyeongbok Palace. ■

For information and details, call Sam Shimoguchi 310/822-6688 or Min Tonai 818/591-1269.

Get Your Family Story in the *Nanka Nikkei Voices*

Start writing that family story now because the *Nanka Nikkei Voices* committee is looking for submissions for the fourth volume of its popular publication.

This latest edition will focus on the Japanese American family.

Nanka Nikkei Voices, a publication of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, is a collection of stories submitted on a voluntary basis by JAs or individuals who are active in the JA community.

The publication offers its readers and contributors the unique opportunity to engage in personal life stories told from the first-person point of view.

The stories retain the very personal language of the writers.

The committee is seeking stories of JAs who reside or once resided in Southern California. *Nanka* means Southern California and *Nikkei* means Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Each story should focus on an aspect of family life — like Issei and Nisei values or family practices and customs such as *oshogatsu* (Japanese New Year) or values like *gaman*.

The historical society has published three other editions of *Nanka Nikkei Voices*. The last one focused on Little Tokyo. Serving on this edition of the *Nanka Nikkei Voices* are Naomi Hirahara, guest editor and mystery writer, designer Kimiyo Ige and Jenni Kuida. ■

Call for Submissions

Nanka Nikkei Voices Vol. 4

Deadline: July 1, 2009

Rules: Stories must be limited to four pages, minimum 11-type font, typed (no handwritten submissions), preferably as a Word document. E-mail your submission to goiku@sbcglobal.net. Or mail copies to: Iku Kiriya, JAHSOC, P.O. Box 3164, Torrance Calif. 90510-3164.

For more information: contact Iku Kiriya at goiku@sbcglobal.net or 310/326-0608.

Manzanar School Reunion Committee Announces Kaji as Keynote Speaker

The Manzanar School Reunion Committee recently announced that the keynote speaker at its annual dinner banquet on Oct. 15 will be Bruce Kaji, the founding president of the Japanese American National Museum and former Manzanar internee. Kaji is a pioneer in helping to preserve Manzanar.

The committee is also seeking stories, information, recollections of Manzanar residents and events past and present for its newsletter.

In keeping with this year's theme of "Manzanar ... Continue The Legacy," younger generations are particularly encouraged to attend to carry on the tradition of remembering Manzanar. Relatives and friends of internees are also encouraged to attend.

The Manzanar School Reunion will be held Oct. 14 to 16 in Las Vegas. The program includes a banquet dinner, mixer night, slot tournament, exhibits and memory books. There will also be presentations and displays from the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Transportation to Las Vegas is available. For additional information, contact Cherry Uyeda, 818/981-2629; Grace Deguchi, 310/968-1666; or Jane Tochi, 714/826-2987.



**Larry Oda
for
JACL National
President**

This year, as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of redress, I am grateful for the support you have given me this past biennium and ask for your continued assistance to strengthen and sustain JACL.

Vision + Drive = Results
Productive Leadership for the Next Biennium

20th Anniversary of Redress Focus of Upcoming Nat'l JACL Convention

The historic Redress Movement and the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 will be a major focus at the upcoming National JACL Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 16-20.

"Civil liberties are as relevant today as they were 20 years ago when the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was passed by Congress which allowed for redress for those remaining of the over 110,000 Japanese Americans who were unjustly removed from their homes on the West Coast and placed in internment camps during World War II," said Floyd Mori, national JACL director.

"The recent discriminatory actions against the Muslim community are examples of the need for constant vigilance against the abuse of the basic tenets of the Constitution."

A plenary session on "Redress, Then and Now" will include panelists who were or are involved with the civil liberties issues of the past and present. John Tateishi, appointed as the JACL's Redress Committee chair in 1978 and former national JACL director, will speak on "The Role of the JACL and the Legislative Process that Brought about the Redress Legislation."

Richard Foltin, legislative director and counsel in the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Office of Government and International Affairs in Washington, D.C., will discuss "Reasons Why the AJC Came on as a Coalition Supporter



(L-r) Karl Nobuyuki, John Tateishi, Floyd Mori and Dr. Clifford Uyeda pose with a resolution on redress in the mid-1970s.

and the Importance of Coalitions on Issues Such as Redress."

Muzaffar Chishti, director of the Migration Policy Institute at the New York University School of Law, will discuss "The Relevance of the Issue of Redress and its Relationship to the Muslim Community since 9/11."

NASA Astronaut Daniel M. Tani will be the keynote speaker for the Sayonara Banquet which will be the culminating event of the convention on Sat., July 19.

Tani is a third generation American of Japanese ancestry and a Chicago-area native who has been an astronaut since 1996 and has undertaken two space flights.

His mother, Rose Tani, who was interned during WWII, died in an automobile crash while he was in space in December 2007. His father, Henry Tani, passed away when Dan was four years old.

The JACL acknowledges its major corporate sponsors for the convention — Platinum Sponsors: Eli Lilly, Salt Lake County, State Farm; Gold Sponsors: AT&T, National JACL Credit Union, Zions Bank; Silver Sponsors: Rocky Mountain Power, Comcast; Bronze Sponsors: Ford Motor Company, UPS; Copper Sponsors: Anheuser Busch, Intermountain Health Care, JACL Health Benefits Trust, Union Bank of California.

Members and friends of the JACL and any other interested persons are invited to participate in any or all events at this 40th Biennial Convention in Salt Lake City. ■

National JACL Convention

Dates: July 16-20

Where: Salt Lake City, Utah

Info: www.jacl.org or 415/921-5225

Former AJC Director Ernest Weiner to be Honored at JACL Nat'l Convention

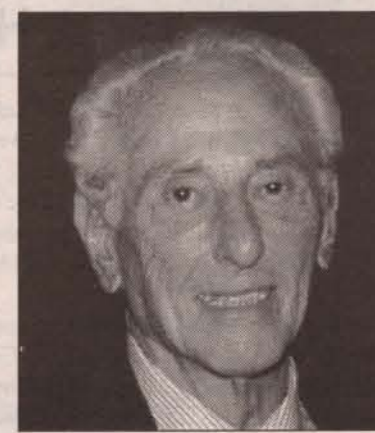
Former director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) for Northern California, Ernest H. Weiner, will be honored for his achievements at the upcoming JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The retired executive director of the AJC for Northern California served in that post for 35 years. In 1978, Weiner forged lasting bonds with the Japanese American community when he was assigned the task of monitoring the JACL Redress campaign for the AJC.

In meeting with John Tateishi, former JACL national director, and Clifford Uyeda, former national JACL president, Weiner suggested the idea of pursuing a commission approach to the redress effort because there was very little public knowledge about the internment.

AJC later became the first major organization to endorse the redress effort.

Prior to his career with AJC, Weiner had been a professional journalist for more than 25 years, as a reporter, feature writer and editor with newspapers and magazines. He received his M.A. degree from the University of Missouri in 1950 and was a feature writer with the



University's Public Information Bureau and a faculty member in the School of Journalism and the College of Arts and Letters.

His feature articles and commentary currently appear in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Jose Mercury News* and other metropolitan daily newspapers. He is a frequent guest speaker on radio and television. For 11 years he was the host and principal commentator of the weekly radio program: "Jewish Perspective," which was heard each Sunday on KFAX in the Bay Area.

Weiner will be honored at the JACL National Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah from July 14-20. For more information on the convention, visit www.jacl.org. ■

BANQUET

(Continued from page 1)

munity organizer for over 50 years. A Korean War veteran and former internee, Judge Uno is also the co-founder of the Utah Minority Bar Association.

King recently retired as superintendent of Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Over the course of his 42 years of service with the National Park Service (NPS), King forged a lasting bond with the Japanese American community as he worked to preserve and commemorate the Minidoka internment site, paving the way for development of the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Dr. Odo has been director of the Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institution, since its inception in 1997. He is also the author of "No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i During World

War II," and has edited several books, such as the "Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience." He has secured many Asian American exhibits at the Smithsonian, and has been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, and Princeton.

The Ruby Pin Award will be presented to Dr. Tamaki, a longtime member of the JACL who has served as chair of the Mike Masaoka Congressional Fellowship Program since its inception 20 years ago in 1988.

Tamaki's history with the organization reaches far back, having served as president of the Philadelphia chapter in 1954, and subsequently receiving the JACL Sapphire Pin award for 10 consecutive years of service in 1963.

The awardees will be honored at the JACL National Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah from July 14-20. ■

For more information on the convention, visit www.jacl.org.



ODO



TAMAKI



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Nickname _____
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Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____
Chapter _____
Category ☐ Delegate ☐ Booster ☐ Millennium Club
☐ Alternate ☐ 1000 Club ☐ National Board/Staff
☐ Youth ☐ 1000 Club Life ☐ Masaoka Fellow
☐ Other (Specify) _____

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

Registration Fees

CONVENTION PACKAGE REGISTRATION
(Includes individual events listed below)

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

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (all included in package registration)

<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Mixer	\$60	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (2)*	\$0	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon	\$60	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet	\$110	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon	\$50	\$

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

OPTIONAL EVENTS (not included in package registration)

<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament	\$75	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Nihonmachi Show	\$25	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth 18 and under	\$10	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club Wing Ding	\$25	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 Club + Nihonmachi	\$40	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> JACL Credit Union Luncheon	\$20	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth 5 - 18 years	\$10	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-members	\$25	\$

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

Mail Check and this form together to:

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



[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD A Historic Return

In July, the JACL returns to Salt Lake City for its convention. It's a historic return, one which celebrates the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act.

It's also the 30th anniversary of the historic launching of the JACL's redress campaign, which was launched from the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City in 1978, beginning a most improbable campaign that everyone but us thought was doomed to failure.

We went to Salt Lake City determined to set a course for redress when the organization accepted the Salt Lake City guidelines: \$25,000 in individual payments, an apology, and the creation of an educational trust fund. These were our demands to redress the injustices of the WWII internment of Japanese Americans.

In response to Calif. Sen. S. I. Hayakawa's keynote speech in which he called our demands "absurd and ridiculous," and in doing so, "Sleepy Sam," as he was sometimes referred to by the media, did us a favor. We responded by launching our campaign with press releases to all major media around the country calling Hayakawa's total ignorance about the injustices of the WWII internment absurd and ridiculous.

The strategy was to begin with an educational campaign: to educate the American public about the internment, to educate the Congress about the injustice, and to educate the JA community about the ways in which the government violated our rights and set a dangerous precedent for the nation. We had to educate ourselves and the public before we could find our way through the Congress with legislation.

Within a year, with a legislative strategy in place, we had drafted a bill that was introduced in both the Senate and House and we embarked on a nationwide grassroots legislative campaign to push the commission bill through the Congress. JACL members and chapters became a lobbying machine that would accomplish the impossible by helping to get our bill to the president's desk for signature.

As both Dan Inouye and Norm Mineta said at the passage of the commission bill, our success in this, our initial legislative fight, would help carry us through to the next battle, the fight for redress legislation.

But first, we had the Commission to deal with, and with the help of groups like the NCRR, churches, and other community organizations helping individual JAs prepare their testimonies for the commission hearings, over 750 JAs testified to tell their personal stories about their internment experiences. It was powerful testimony covered by the national media and turned the tide of the nation on the issue of the WWII injustice.

The Commission's report made national news when it stated that the internment was unjustified and was a consequence of "race, greed and a failure of political leadership." The report's conclusions were unequivocal and a strong indictment of the government's actions against our community during WWII. And the Commission's recommendations, issued six months later, made national news again as it urged remedial action in the form of an apology and \$20,000 in individual payments.

That was in June 1983, and before year's end, we worked with the JA members of Congress to introduce bills in the Senate and House, using verbatim the language of the Commission's recommendations.

And for the next five years, the JACL's focus was on lobbying for redress, maintaining the momentum we had gained by the publicity of the Commission's findings and recommendations, and picking up the votes that had gotten the commission bill through the Congress. The JACL became a fully functioning lobbying machine, adding to our efforts the support of coalition partners throughout the country.

As we continued our push, other organizations in the JA community finally joined us on the bills we supported, now that we were pushing redress legislation. And with the activation of the LEC, all of our efforts were directed toward one goal: redress.

I left the JACL in 1986, not to pursue other goals as some believe (I had resigned an 11-year teaching tenure to work on redress so why would I leave so close to the end?), but to try to stop the in-fighting for power that had become a pre-occupation within the JACL. At this point in our historic struggle, it mattered little which group within the organization directed the legislative battle because we had more important issues to deal with.

The JA community was now fully committed to the course we had chosen. I continued to work on the issue privately and would occasionally run into Grayce Ueyehara on the Hill, and knew we were all in good hands.

The return to Salt Lake City is historic for the JACL. The organization has much to celebrate as it commemorates an incredible and historic moment in its and the JA community's history. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA Slow Down, Shut Up

Kimitsu is a slow city.

I live in a neighborhood of Kimitsu that seems to be composed solely of old people. They are old people mostly tending rice farms and vegetable plots. Growing vegetables, I imagine, is something that cannot be rushed.

Even the local river that flows through the city seems to be taking its time flowing westward into the Tokyo Bay. You will not find any rushing torrents or furiously swirling eddies in the river, though on a clear day you may see some koi fish lounging beneath the surface. On the jogging path running parallel to the river, elderly couples take morning strolls. Old men in baseball hats walk around with unleashed dogs trotting beside their feet.

This is not only a city for old people, but a city for families with young children. When I am not surrounded by old people, I am surrounded by mothers chasing after their kids. This is the sort of city where children's drawings from local schools are proudly displayed in the hallway of the train station. On the opposite wall, photographs with family-friendly subject matter (nature, children, local festivals) taken by local citizens are proudly displayed as well.

Kimitsu is also a quiet city.

Unlike Tokyo, I don't hear the dull roar of a massive crowd crossing a major crosswalk. I don't hear store patrons blaring out bargain sales on megaphones, or music videos playing on a giant outdoor screen. Instead, I hear a lot of birds singing, wind rustling and children shouting. The most jarring noise I probably hear within this city on any given day is the occasional clang-clang of bars being lowered to block cars from driving into an oncoming train.

At nine o'clock, the city goes to sleep. Stores are closed, and with the exception of the occasional raucous laughter of drunk businessmen, the city is exceptionally quiet. I bike home to the sound of frogs croaking in the rice fields. Nine o'clock seems to be the official bedtime of the city, because by the time I get home around ten-thirty after work, my entire family is asleep.

ly is asleep.

A slow and quiet city is the antithesis of what this modern world is supposed to entail. I always associated living in a slow and quiet city with a passive-aggressive admission that you couldn't handle the thrilling masochism of living in a big and loud city. But living in a slow and quiet city, like tending a vegetable garden, demands a certain degree of inner strength as well.

Living in a big and loud city is for people living in the future.

Everyone is furiously hoping for that next big encounter that will finally transform their humble and ordinary lives into something better.

My relatives whom I am living with are exceptionally good at living in a slow, quiet city. They are also exceptionally happy people.

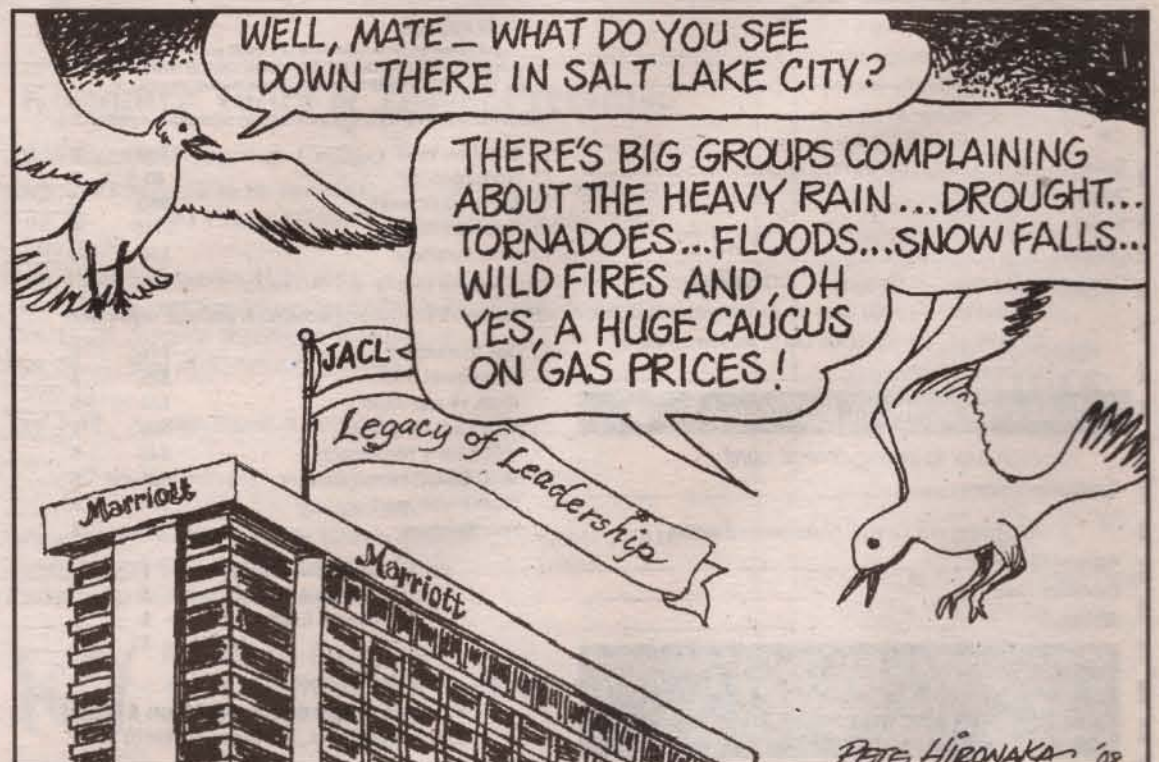
My grandmother is 76 years old, and her tiny body and stooped back doesn't stop her from waking up at five in the morning every

day to work in the farms. Every now and then she asks me to stop what I am doing to step outside and see something she wants to show me. One day, she might point out the bamboo shoots poking from the earth that would later be dug up, chopped into pieces and steamed in a big cooker. Other times, it might be the shiitake mushrooms sprouting from a log, or a vine heavy with kiwi fruit that will be picked later in the year.

Living happily in a slow, quiet city means living fully in the present. People who fail to succumb to this idea are doomed to sporadic fits of anxiety, boredom and existential despair.

It took me more than half a year to fully realize this. I still remember with shame the time my aunt picked me up from work and instead of driving us straight home, drove along the local river lined with cherry trees in full bloom. Instead of fully admiring the fragile petals magnified beneath the street lamp glow, I was too anxious thinking about the things that I needed to get done that night. ■

Yumi Sakugawa currently teaches English in Japan.





Ann Kaneko chronicled the lives of artists in Peru after ex-president Alberto Fujimori's downfall.

Going 'Against the Grain' With a Japanese American in Peru

Ann Kaneko's new documentary examines artistic self-expression with the rise and fall of Alberto Fujimori.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

"It's a funny story," Ann Kaneko said about how she ended up in Peru chasing the ghost of Alberto Fujimori. It was a natural extension of her first feature length documentary, "Overstay," where she chronicled the lives of several Peruvian workers in Japan.

The Sansei filmmaker had always wanted to live in the Central American country that, at the time, was still being lead by a Japanese Peruvian nicknamed "Chino."

"I found Fujimori fascinating."

So in 2000, Kaneko won a Fulbright grant to work on a documentary about Alberto Fujimori's rise to power. But by the time she arrived in Lima, "Chino" was gone. He fled to Japan after a tumultuous reign and faxed in his resignation to escape the corruption scandal exploding in his homeland.

But with her camera, she managed to capture another more fascinating reality — the exorcism of "Chino's" spirit from the people of Peru and the psychological effects of a decade of oppression manifested in art.

Even though "Chino" was no longer there, it seemed he was still everywhere. A "Wall of Shame" with pictures of the Fujimori regime was erected for citizens to scribble their thoughts. Other artistic expressions popped up in plazas all over the country, so Kaneko decided to focus her camera on a few artists struggling to find their own voices.

"Against the Grain: An Artist's Survival Guide to Peru" is like Kaneko's personal odyssey to self-discovery. Is there a difference between being a Peruvian and an American artist? Are they more or less compelled to make a political comment?

The film, which won Kaneko a nomination in the "emerging director" category at New York's upcoming Asian American

International Film Festival, took over five years to make — but there were perks.

"I got to hang out with these artists. That was cool."

Big 'Chinita' in Little Peru

"Here I'm a little fish in a big pond. There I'm a big fish in a little pond," said Kaneko. In her native Los Angeles, her film has garnered critical acclaim on the festival circuit. But in Lima, she was immediately thrust onto a national television news show within weeks of her arrival.

Kaneko includes snippets of herself in the film fidgeting uncomfortably under the weight of a reporter's gaze. It's one of a few refreshing self-reflective moments that personalizes the often too serious documentary film genre. In another scene when a Peruvian man attempts to send an angry message to back Japan via Kaneko's camera, she wryly shouts back that she isn't Japanese.

"The moment you see is isolated in the film," said Kaneko. "I don't think that it was so hostile. I just thought it was a hostile period."

The whole time she was in Peru, she was called "Chinita," a more affectionate nickname for the country's populous Japanese population.

"Lima is very diverse. I never felt fear," she said.

Kaneko followed the lives of four dynamic artists: Alfredo Márquez, Claudio Jiménez Quispe Eduardo Tokeshi and Natalia Igúñiz.

"I always tell people that superficially they may seem like they're all different, but they reflect different parts of me."

Kaneko initially lived in Peru for a year and returned twice to continue filming. But her film project was afflicted with a common disease that plagues many other independent filmmakers — funding. Aside from the Fulbright, most of the film's budget came out of her pockets.

"It was a real personal project," she said. "Halfway through, I said I'm going to put this film on the shelf."

She worked on other projects before finish-



"I don't think that it was so hostile. I just thought it was a hostile period."

Ann Kaneko (right) arrived in Lima during a period of artistic demonstration. Street art like the 'For Sale' sign (above) in front of the president's palace highlight the mood of the country.



ing "Against the Grain" in 2007 complete with a post-Sept. 11th perspective intricately woven into the narrative. Although the film is about Peru, Kaneko thinks the theme is also very American.

"I think it gives us a chance as citizens and artists to think about our role in voicing our opinions and critiquing our society."

A Rarity Among Sansei

Growing up in Los Angeles, Kaneko spoke Japanese to her grandmother — who lived next door — and fine-tuned her mother tongue in Japanese school. After college, she worked with a papermaker in a rural area of Japan where she became fluent.

"I'm a rarity among Sansei," she said.

Originally, Kaneko studied photography, but she didn't enjoy its solitary nature, so she decided to go into film — it's an influence you can see; her work is frameable art in every scene.

She attended film school at the University of California, Los Angeles and threw herself into a Spanish language immersion program in Guatemala.

Along the way, her parents Masako and Takeo — who were incarcerated at Jerome during World War II — have been supportive of their daughter's aspirations.

"My parents have been supportive of what I do ... if they know what I do," said Kaneko. "It's baffling for people who make a living working nine to five."

Her family of artists has also been supportive of the film, which will screen in Peru for the first time in the fall — her long-awaited dream.

In the meantime, Kaneko is celebrating the simple joy of actually finishing the film.

"It's just a relief that it's done," she said. "And that people actually like it!" ■

Watch It

'Against the Grain: An Artist's Survival Guide to Peru'
July 17
New York's Asian American International Film Festival
Info: www.aaiff.org/2008,
www.annkaneko.com/againstthegrain
See the trailer: www.pacificcitizen.org

GOLF

No Longer a Novelty Through Age or Game, Wie Tries to Start Over

EDINA, Minnesota—Michelle Wie has seen her picture in Christmas catalogs for Sony. She has heard the shutter of cameras on the golf course on three continents, and felt the stare of thousands of people at an awards banquet in Paris.

So she was mildly concerned such celebrity treatment would follow her to Stanford University as a student, but those worries didn't last long. Two of her roommates didn't even know who she was.

"They said, 'We hear your name is Michelle Wie,'" she said. "They didn't know what I did."

There was a time when the 6-foot teenager from Hawaii would walk onto the putting green at the U.S. Women's Open and players far more accomplished would stop to watch. A dozen or so photographers would camp to the side of the green, watching her every move.

But she was just one of the women recently at Interlachen, still taller than most, now older than some.

"It's kind of weird being on the putting green and not being the youngest person," she said with a laugh.

Indeed, she played the first two days of the U.S. Women's Open with **Kimberly Kim**, a 16-year-old from Hawaii.

Wie is an old 18.

She has been a fixture at the biggest event in women's golf since she qualified in 2003 at 13. She was tied for the 54-hole lead at Cherry Hills when she was 15, tied for the lead with six holes to play a year later at Newport.

That all seems like ancient history.

Wie showed up at Interlachen looking for a new start, hopeful she is on the road to recovery.

Wie was not forthcoming with her wrist injuries last year, and still claims loss of memory on such details as how long she was in a cast and how much time she spent away from the practice range.

She completed only 19 rounds on the U.S. LPGA Tour and broke par



Michelle Wie recently played in the U.S. Women's Open but failed to make the cut.

AP PHOTO

only twice. In the three tournaments where she played 72 holes, she finished a combined 91 shots out of the lead.

"I feel like I'm re-emerging as a new player, a new person," she said. "I feel like I'm never, ever going to think about last year again. I'm not ever going to think about before I broke my wrist. That was then and this is now. I'm only going to think about now."

She is coming off three straight events that once would have looked ordinary but now look promising. Wie finished sixth in the Ladies German Open in Europe against a weak field, then breezed through 36 holes of U.S. Women's Open qualifying, the first time she has had to earn her way into a tournament since she was 14. Last week on the tour, she closed with a 69 and tied for 24th.

When she was 15, that would have been her worst finish of the year. Now, it is called progress.

"Right now, golf is getting a lot more fun," she said. "I know I'm not fully recovered, but I feel like I'm getting there. This past year, I've been able to become a better player and stronger player than I ever was before. And I feel like I'm on the road to that. I want to be able to prove to myself how much better I can be."

But there are some things she can never get back — mainly, her youth.

What allowed Wie to bring so much excitement to women's golf was her age and her ambitions. Annika Sorenstam's caddie, Terry

McNamara, shook his head in a mixture of wonder and sadness when he recalled being in the final group with her at the Kraft Nabisco Championship when Wie was only 13.

Now she blends right in on a tour loaded with youngsters.

Morgan Pressel won the Nabisco last year at age 18, the youngest major champion in U.S. LPGA history. This month, 19-year-old **Yani Tseng** of Taiwan won the McDonald's LPGA Championship.

Tseng was 15 when she rallied to beat Wie for the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links title.

"I don't know what's her problem," Tseng said when asked why Wie had struggled so much. "I just feel maybe she needs to play more tournaments in the LPGA and she needs to get more experience."

Wie picked up experience in humility, some of that from injury, some of that from going through U.S. Open qualifying.

"I think it made me realize how much of an honor it is to be here, how much of a privilege it is," Wie said. "It's been a long time since I had to qualify for something, and it made me want it even more. I think going through that qualifying humbled me a lot as a player, as a person." ■

BASKETBALL

Yao Ming Aiming for July Return to Play

BEIJING—Yao Ming recently returned to light training with China's national team and expects to play in pre-Olympic warmup games.

The fitness of the Houston Rockets center for the Beijing Olympics has been a subject of national concern in China since he suffered a stress fracture to his left foot in February, ending his NBA season and threatening his star turn as part of China's team at the games.

A day after returning to Beijing, Yao said X-rays and an MRI taken in Houston on June 24 showed his recovery was on schedule, with the foot about 80 percent healed. The remaining 20 percent usually takes a full year, Yao said.

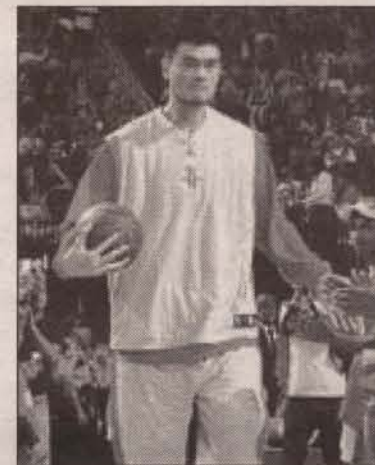
"I've now done everything I can possibly do to get fit," said Yao, the most popular and highest-earning Chinese athlete. "In terms of being basketball fit, the only way to do that is to play games."

With pressure on Yao to perform, some have questioned whether he would be pushing himself so hard were the Olympics not being held in Beijing. Yao dismissed such speculation, saying that there were "no 'ifs' about the Olympics, there are no 'ifs' about me."

"This is the biggest, weightiest opportunity of my life," Yao said. "Intense pressure goes hand-in-hand with major competitions."

Yao started light training with the national team recently, giving him time to learn tactics and strategies worked out by China's Lithuanian-born coach Jonas Kazlauskas.

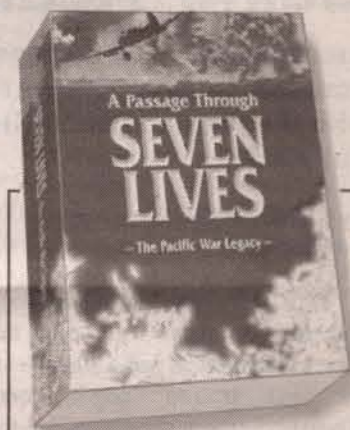
The Chinese men's team is in a tough group at the Olympics, facing the United States in its first game. They are joined by defending world champion Spain and Angola, with the remaining two teams in the six-team Group B to be determined by a qualifying tournament in Athens, Greece, on July 14-20.



China's first game of the preliminary round is against the U.S.A. on Aug. 10.

Yao said Spain and the U.S. would be tough to beat, making it crucial to take points away from Angola and the other two teams.

"That's the best way to ensure we get into the final eight," Yao said. "I hope that's the way it goes." ■



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VIETNAM

(Continued from page 1)

and traveling long distances to rural parts of the Southeast Asian country to give children shiny new bicycles. It's not the vacation of his dreams, but seeing eyes light up with joy has eased the pain a little.

"Looking at the faces of children when we give our help to them makes me feel better," wrote the teenager in an e-mail from Vietnam.

Organizers call it "A Day of Independence," in honor of the American holiday and the freedom gained from a low-tech set of wheels. In rural parts of Vietnam, children who live too far from major cities can't go to school without bicycles.

So while many other young Asian Pacific Americans hole up for the summer with their Wii consoles, Nicholas and a group of his peers from Virginia and the Washington, D.C.-area journeyed to Vietnam to help the needy.

They left on June 20 and have spent most of their days personally giving out the bicycles — which they helped buy — and visiting orphanages until their return to the U.S. on July 5.

"Many of my friends were happy

and jealous that I was going to Vietnam," said Michael Nguyen, 18. This is his last summer home before heading off to James Madison University, and he's happy to be doing something meaningful rather than just "chilling."

Besides, his friends at home are counting on him for favors.

"They were also happy because this meant that they could bug me to go buy them some \$20 Nikes and \$1 shirts."

Kids Helping Kids

For Michael's dad, this trip is more than a homecoming — it's a chance to show his American born children how lucky they are. In 1979, Dr. Phu Ngoc Nguyen fled war-torn Vietnam on a boat that was raided by pirates before it reached Indonesia.

"I'm lucky to be alive," said Phu, the trip leader and board member of Global Community Service Foundation, a Washington, D.C. nonprofit organization working to reduce poverty in Southeast Asia.

He still remembers his first glimpse of America from Dulles International Airport — the crush of human traffic and the feeling of having the world at his fingertips.

"In the end, I came to this country,

and to be where I am right now, it's a happy ending."

In the last few years, he's been raising money to support orphanages in Vietnam. Now he wants his sons Michael and 15-year-old Jimmy to get involved in his humanitarian work.

The bicycle project idea, which started in February, turned into reality with the help of other parents who also wanted to share the same lessons with their kids.

"Everyone here wants the kids to appreciate what they have," said Phu, 45.

At first the young participants from about six families — ages ranging from seven to 20 — weren't too enthusiastic about the idea of fundraising for bikes to give away, but they soon changed their minds. They held car washes and stationed themselves at lemonade stands and bake sales beguiling customers with their innocent faces. They raised over \$15,000.

This is the first time the local APA community has come together to help the home country they left behind so many years ago, said Phu.

"I knew this is a once in a lifetime chance and I knew I had to take advantage of it even if it meant spending my summer," said Justin



LEMONADE FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Young APAs raised over \$15,000 to buy bicycles for less fortunate Vietnamese children.

Do, 15.

Checking in From Vietnam

After all their hard work, the group almost didn't make the trip. Days before their scheduled departure, their travel agent had run away with their money. Over 100 bicycles were waiting for them in Vietnam. They were also scheduled to donate houses to needy families, but they were stranded in the U.S.

"The kids were so upset," said Phu.

"I could not wait to go," said Michael, who graduated from high school two days before they were scheduled to leave. "I was jumpy and even hyper in my seat at graduation."

So what could they do? Phu and the other parents bought new airline tickets. "We couldn't disappoint them."

Since they arrived in Vietnam, the group has visited Hue, Dong Nai and other rural regions. It's been pretty rough, said Michael. Every morning, they wake up at 6 a.m. to make their donations until the heat threatens to

wipe them out.

"All day you're in the 90-plus degree heat. Some of the younger ones get tired and cranky and it gets hard to [think]," said Michael.

Jimmy agreed, "I am sweating the whole time."

Michael is also nursing a swollen ankle, which he twisted days before he arrived in Vietnam.

"It's been a real pain trying to keep up with everyone."

Despite their discomfort, the group has been rewarded with smiles.

"They just look so cute," added Michael about the children.

This project has also offered a rare change of perspective for many of these young APAs.

"We are so lucky to have what we have," said Justin. "These kids are so happy to get a fraction of what we have. The sight of poverty puts life into perspective and shows how fortunate we in America are." ■

On the Web

www.globalcommunityservice.org

American Holiday Travel

2008 Tour Schedule

- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE** JULY 20-27
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City.
HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.
- CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR** AUG 7-14
Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria City, Rocky Mountaineer Train.
- WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE** SEPT 11-24
Rome, Florence/Pisa, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Majorca, Tunisia, Palermo, Naples, HOLLAND AMERICA Noordam Ship.
- HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR** OCT 5-17
SOLD OUT
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Morioka, Matsushima, Kinugawa Onsen, Nikko, Tokyo.
- JAPAN AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR** OCT 12-23
NEW TOUR
Tokyo, Sado Island, Nagano, Takayama, Kanazawa, Yamanaka Onsen, Kyoto.
- CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE** OCT 13-24
Ft. Lauderdale, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Tortola, Half Moon Cay. HOLLAND AMERICA Maasdam Ship.
- AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR** NOV 8-23
Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound.

2009 Tour Schedule Preview

- EGYPT-NILE RIVER TOUR** JAN 16-26
WAIT LIST
Cairo, Luxor, Nile River Cruise, Kom Ombo, Aswan, Abu Simbel.
- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR** FEB 2-11
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French Quarter, Steamboat River Cruise, New Orleans Cooking School, Mardi Gras Mask-making Workshop.
- KOREA SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR** MAR 27-APR 8
Seoul, Cheju Island, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Chuncheon/Namiseom Island.
- JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR** APR 15-25
Tokyo, Tendo Onsen, Akita, Hirosaki, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Higashiyama Onsen.
- EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR** MAY 3-11
Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR I** JUN 28-JUL 7
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR II** JUL 7-16
Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Atami, Hakone, Tokyo.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE** JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City.
HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.
- EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/ GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE** AUG 22-SEPT 3
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia.
HOLLAND AMERICA Oosterdam Ship.
- PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR** SEPT
PANA Convention - Uruguay.
- NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR** OCT 1-8
Boston, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire. Day trips on historic trains: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Green Mountain Flyer Railroad, Essex Steam Train.
- OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR** OCT 18-30
Naha, Kagoshima/Ibusuki, Miyazaki, Nobeoka, Takachiho, Mt. Aso, Beppu, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.
- CANYONLAND GETAWAY HOLIDAY** NOV 8-13
Laughlin, Grand Canyon, Valley of Fire Park, Mesquite, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Las Vegas.

RACIAL EPITHETS

(Continued from page 1)

Church during the early morning hours of June 15.

In addition to the anti-Asian graffiti, the vandals had drawn a swastika and a circle with an 'A' through it. They also wrote: "Jesus is DEAD."

Capt. Clyde Byers with the Suwanee Police Department believes the racist graffiti is the work of local kids who have nothing better to do.

"I don't really think that we had a real political statement to make here," said Byers in an interview with AccessNorthGa.com. "I think a lot of it is just kids acting crazy."

Currently there are no suspects and an estimate of the damage has not been released.

Asian American groups, including the JACL, are disturbed by the

hateful nature of the racist graffiti.

"Hurtful racial slurs like 'chink' are startling reminders that anti-Asian sentiment still exists, and can manifest in ugly and violent ways," said William Yoshino, JACL Midwest director.

"It is also a sad reminder that 26 years after the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, Asian Americans are still lumped together as one large indistinguishable, perpetually foreign people," he continued.

Chin was brutally murdered following an altercation in which the perpetrators perceived him as Japanese.

The JACL warned that hateful symbols must not be taken lightly, as vandalism and graffiti can be a precursor to violence. The JACL urged authorities to fully investigate this case and to not dismiss it as youthful exuberance. ■

RUTH MIX

(Continued from page 1)

meet her favorite actor.

She thought it odd that the room was full of Japanese people but reasoned they must be all avid "Star Trek" fans. But as Takei began to speak, she quickly learned they were not there to hear about a popular sci-fi show.

It was 1973 and Takei was speaking about his World War II internment experience. Part way through his speech he noted that many Caucasians did not come to the aid of the Japanese American community. It was then that Claire's mother Ruth raised her hand.

"She stood up and she explained what she did, and the babies she tried to save," said Claire, 47, as the memory of her mom's words brought a flow of tears. "She and her mother risked their lives to help the Japanese Americans."

Although that day was difficult to understand for a 12-year-old girl, over the years Claire has been able to piece together Ruth and her grandmother Frida's time at the Gila River Internment Camp in Arizona during WWII.

Frida had been a schoolteacher at the camp, teaching both the first and fourth grades. Her daughter Ruth, only 15 at the time, was a volunteer nurse's aid. Claire would soon learn that her mother and grandmother risked their own lives to smuggle in goods for the JAs, including food, medical supplies, shoes and also contraband items like camera film.

Although Ruth was reluctant to dredge up many of the horrors she witnessed during her time at the camp — including the birth of still-born babies and a suicide — in the last few years of her life she decided her story needed to be told.

"She was only 15 years old, helping deliver babies, watching people die," said Claire. "She wanted peo-

ple to know the Japanese Americans were not pampered in these camps. It was a prison camp and because of that people died."

Sadly, Ruth passed away from breast cancer in the fall of 2007 but her daughter Claire is determined that her story is told. She is now working on a documentary called "Gila River and Mama: the Ruth Mix Story" which she hopes to complete by September 2009.

A Mother's Wish

Claire, a music teacher, dabbed the tears from her eyes as she spoke with the *Pacific Citizen*. She had just completed an emotionally draining viewing of the tapes of interviews she has of her mother.

Although she has four hours of interviews with Ruth, only about 37 minutes are useable. Recalling her days at Gila River was difficult and Ruth sheds many tears, making some of her comments inaudible. There are also some stories she did not want Claire to include in the documentary.

"Mom was very scared to talk about it," said Claire noting that she vetoed many portions of the interviews. In the end, she made the cuts and her mother gave her approval. "I had to honor my mother's wishes."

What emerges from the tapes are the memories of a 15-year-old girl witnessing one of the most horrific moments in U.S. history. Yet, even at a young age she realizes right from wrong, and does her best to help the JA internees.

Frida was a suffragette and she wanted her daughter Ruth to see Gila River for herself. She lied about her daughter's age, telling authorities



Frida Mix was a grade school teacher at the Gila River Internment Camp. She is pictured above with her first-grade students.

Her daughter Ruth (right, at 15 years old) was a volunteer nurse at the camp.



she was the required age of 18. At 5-foot-8, Ruth had no problem convincing the authorities.

My grandmother "brought mother so she would be witness to these horrific acts, so in the future she would not let it happen again," said Claire.

Ruth was soon assigned to the maternity ward of the camp hospital. As a nurse's aid — the only white person among JAs — she helped with the delivery of the camp babies.

She witnessed the birth of many still-borns and often the babies did not survive more than a week.

Seeing for the first time the "blue foot" of a stillborn baby made Ruth determined to help all of the JAs living at Gila River.

"She didn't know how to process what was happening, but it was the catalyst that made her want to save every Japanese person there," said Claire. "Gila River was very personal to her. She was going to save everyone."

Humanitarians and

Contraband Goods

Shortly after arriving at Gila River, Ruth convinced her mother and some of the other Caucasian staff members to try to help the internees. They would often head to town to smuggle back goods for the JAs — things like soap, sanitary products and fabric. They would even bring back contraband items like camera film, helping make Gila River one of the most photographed

internment camps to this day.

It was an act of kindness that could have landed Ruth and her cohorts in jail.

"A few times they were almost caught. They were told that if they were caught they would be tried for war crimes and treason," said Claire.

Richard Strickland, 65, was born on March 31, 1943, to parents who lived and worked at the Gila River Camp — his mother Eva was a schoolteacher and his father Roe was the principal. Eva and Frida were best friends and they naturally worked together to help the JAs.

Although in later years Eva would often tell her son stories about the camp, including bringing in goods for the JAs, Richard recalls that much of it was done in the open.

"I really don't think they had to sneak the stuff in. She never really talked about it in terms of being a big secret," said Richard from his home in El Centro, Calif. "Japanese Americans there really had nothing. The impression I got was that the people who ran the camp there realized it was a bad deal for everyone."

Although restrictions were increasingly lifted for the internees at Gila River in later years, Eva did convey to her son was that what the U.S. government had done was wrong.

"My mother was very passionate about it, it was just an atrocity," said Richard, who plans to be inter-


See RUTH MIX/Page 16

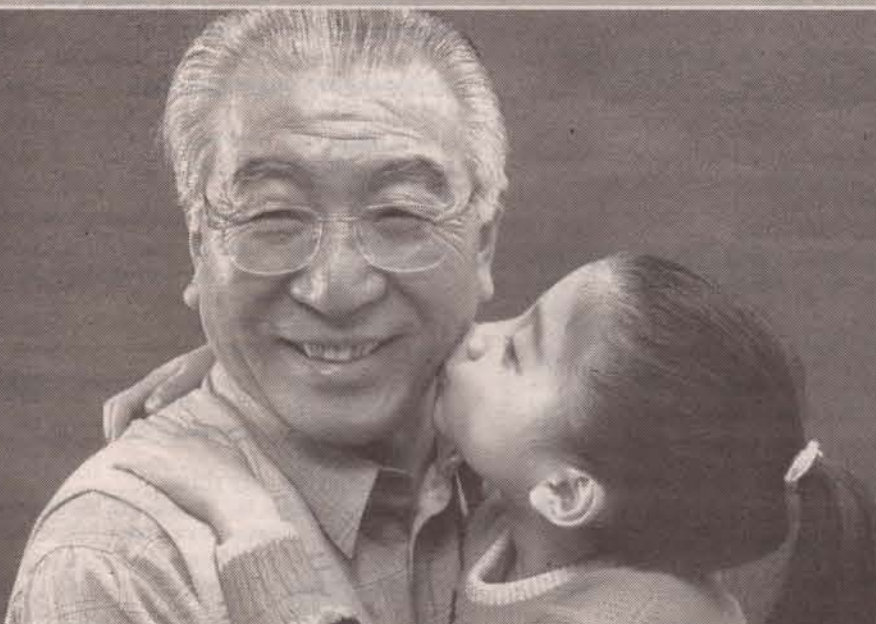
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LITTLE TOKYO

(Continued from page 1)

Journal attempted to illustrate the friction with its headline, "Sushi to Kimchi." And Angelenic.com took it a step further with their online entry titled, "Little Seoul Mall? New owners to evict Japanese businesses."

But for many community members like Shimamoto, it wasn't a surprise that the once thriving shopping center — a monolithic gray structure better known as its old name Yaohan Plaza — needed a change. The once popular destination has become a shadow of its former self with seemingly more vacant retail space and "For Lease" signs than patrons.

Seeing the shopping center return to its glory would be nice, said Shimamoto, but not at the cost of abolishing its Japanese roots.

On the heels of other controversial landmark sales in both Los Angeles' and San Francisco's J-Towns, many see this sale as another possible threat to Little Tokyo's identity. But how big of a role does race really play in the current struggle for space?

Spotlight on Ethnicity

In business, sales like these happen all the time, said Shimamoto.

"To sit here and say that it is totally unacceptable for this Korean American company to come in and do what they want with the plaza they purchased would be a bit self-ish don't you think?"

In the last few years, JA community members have grappled with shifting identities. 3D Investment, a private Beverly Hill, Calif.-based real estate developer, scooped up holdings in both Los Angeles' and San Francisco's J-Towns. Coffee giant Starbucks was prevented from inhabiting space between San Francisco's *manju* and origami paper shops. But in Los Angeles, Starbucks anchors Little Tokyo in two spots. In between, other retail chains like Subway and Pinkberry have also staked their claim.

The shopping center's \$35.5 million sale is like an extra straw on the camel's back, said Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center.

With 3D, much of the controversy focused on the company's huge presence in two of the last three J-Towns in California. Petitions were launched to demand accountability from 3D. Amidst the fray there was no mention — at least not on the surface — of 3D's ethnicity.

In contrast, the Korean heritage of

the shopping center's new owners has been a focus point.

"That's the worst part of this whole thing," said Craig Ishii, JACL PSW regional director. "Everyone is saying, 'did you hear that the mall was bought out by Koreans?' When in reality people should be saying, 'did you hear the mall was bought out?'"

With 3D, the focus was not on ethnicity but on their commitment to the community, said Ishii. "It should be the same for this situation as well."

But Watanabe said ethnicity is not a factor here either. Developer Richard Meruelo, who bought the shopping center in 2000, was not JA.

"It's the same concern the community had back then — will [the new owners] be sensitive to the community?"

And so far, the new owners have been far from sensitive.

The group apparently refused to identify itself publicly and announced plans to possibly convert the plaza's ethnic identity through its real estate agent in a newspaper article.

"We were surprised," said Chris Aihara, chair of the Little Tokyo Community Council. "We're hoping to have an opportunity to sit down and talk with the new owners and give them some background on Little Tokyo."

Representatives from Coldwell Bankers Commercial did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* request for comment.

The move also left many tenants wondering about their future in the shopping center. Other than an official notice about where to send the rent check, Frances Hashimoto has not heard from the new owners. Hashimoto owns Mikawayaya, a Japanese pastry shop located in front of Mitsuwa Market on the shopping center's first floor.

She worries about Little Tokyo's cultural identity.

"I welcome all the new residents and businesses regardless of their ethnicity but this area has been Little Tokyo for 124 years," said Hashimoto. "In a diverse Los Angeles, being Little Tokyo makes this area unique and identifiable. Why would anyone try to change that?"

Korean Americans in J-Towns

Korean American presence in J-Towns is nothing new. Today, Korean American businesses share space in both San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Many of the Korean Americans who have bought the properties in J-Towns are post-1965 immigrants, said Dr. Sachiko Kotani from Kyoto University.

Kotani, who researched the role of



CONTRAST: The Little Tokyo Shopping Center is already home to several Korean-themed businesses and empty retail space.



Korean Americans in San Francisco's J-Town, also attributes the trend to Korea's postcolonial association with Japan. Although most of today's Korean American business owners are not directly influenced by Japan's past colonization of Korea, Kotani found that linguistic and cultural familiarity with Japan have been passed onto the next generations.

"So, I am seeing Korean merchants in Japantown as deterritorializing and reterritorializing postcolonial agents who are part of constructing the world's contemporary Japanese marketing space," said Kotani.

Korean tenants she interviewed in San Francisco's Nihonmachi said they wanted to do business in J-Town, but had no intention of changing its symbolic images to take over the space.

"One of their repeated phrases was 'Japantown is Japantown,'" said Kotani.

The trend will continue, she said about Korean Americans in J-Towns. But other new trends are burgeoning in the JA communities — including the multicultural draw of Japanese pop culture like Anime to preserve and revitalize J-Towns.

Preserving Nihonmachi

"I think it's complicated honestly," said Aihara about the role of race in the shopping center sale. "There is a deep relationship ... there are a lot of shared experiences both positive and strained."

But other businesses in Little Tokyo have changed ownership very quietly over the years including the Japanese Village Plaza, which was purchased last year by Malibu-based American Commercial Equities.

"I think change is here. Little Tokyo is a more multicultural community with new tenants and residents that are not Japanese. But there it's still an important historical neighborhood with a lot of meaning," said Aihara.

The small community has a lot of personal meaning for Sansei Jenni

Kuida, whose connection stretches back to post-war Little Tokyo when her father's family returned from the Gila River internment camp to find their farmhouse torn down. They lived at Koyasan Buddhist Temple for three weeks.

Now Kuida is a constant presence in Little Tokyo. She works here, plays here and sends her daughter Maiya Kuida-Osumi to a nearby preschool to learn JA culture, and occasionally walks down First Street for a *mochi* indulgence at the 105-year-old Fugetsu-Do.

J-Town goes hand in hand with what it means to be Japanese American, said Kuida. "And even if we don't live in Little Tokyo, it is still meaningful and symbolizes a part of my family's and the community's history; and that's kind of what I want to share with my daughter, Maiya."

Although the shopping center is a part of Little Tokyo, its isolated location on the corner of Third and Alameda Streets has also made it exempt from the city's Community Redevelopment Agency design guidelines — which requires buildings in this neighborhood to reflect its historic JA theme.

Community leaders are working with the city to create a Community Design Overlay (CDO) that may include the site of the shopping center, said Karen Yamamoto of the Community Redevelopment Agency.

But the proposed CDO would likely not be put in place until 2010, added Aihara.

For now, community leaders say they are in a wait-and-see mode with the new shopping center's owners.

"We are going to invite them to come to community forums," said Watanabe. "We'll start there. If they blow us off then we'll go from there." ■

On the Web

www.jaclpsw.org
www.ltsc.org
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- Oct. 20 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" 11 Days-\$3795-Tokyo-Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Daizen-Osaka.
- Nov. 3 Fall Japan Classic "Intro to Japan" 11 Days-\$3695-Tokyo-Takayama-Nara-Kobe-Okayama-Takahashi-Hiroshima-Miyajima-Shodo-Kyoto.
- Nov. 12 Okinawa, Kyushu & Shikoku 11 Days-\$3995-3 Days in Okinawa-Kyushu-Fukuoka-Karatsu-Nagasaki-Kumamoto-Beppu-Shikoku-Cape Ashizuri-Kochi-Takamatsu-Osaka.
- Mar. 02 Splendors of Croatia 11 Days - \$2599 - Zagreb-Zadar-Dubrovnik - Split - Plitvice National Park - Zagreb.
- Mar. 16 Best of China - 11 Days - \$2795 - Beijing/Great Wall-Xian & Terra Cotta Warriors-Guilin/Li River Cruise & Shanghai.

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Calendar

National

SALT LAKE CITY

July 16-20—2008 JACL National Convention; Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown, 75 South West Temple; \$250/regular, \$175/youth; early bird registration discounts have expired; events include welcome mixer, youth luncheon, awards luncheon, sayonara banquet, workshop, optional tours and a golf tournament; Mormon Tabernacle Choir to perform July 20 at the LDS Conference Center. 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; \$200/person, \$150/non-profits, \$100/JACL members; sponsorships available. Info: 202/223-1240.

East

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wed., July 23—Presentation, "The Japanese American Political Experience: Past, Present, Future"; 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Japan Information and Cultural Center Galleria at Lafayette Center, 1155 21st St. NW; Dr. Mitch Maki will discuss the JA political experience. RSVP to: janogwrsvp@gmail.com.

Midwest

CLEVELAND

Sat., July 19—Obon Festival; Cleveland Buddhist Temple, 1573 East 214th St.; 5:30 food sale, 7:30 obon dance.

Sun., July 27—JACL/CJAF Scholarship Luncheon; Tizzano Party Center, 1361 East 260th St.

DENVER

Sun., Aug. 3—Japanese Association of Colorado Picnic; 11 a.m.; Berkley Park. Info: Charmaine Palmer, 303/449-8526 or alohagirlfriend@gmail.com.

Aug. 16-17—Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance Festival; 11-5 p.m.; Pearl Street Mall. Info: Gladys Konishi, 303/443-5404 or Toe Sakamoto, 303/317-5355.

TWIN CITIES

Sat., July 5—Super Senior Luncheon; noon; Grand City Buffet, 8912 Highway 7, St. Louis Park; \$8.75; persons 75 and older will be comped. Reservations: Sam Honda, 651/429-3410 or samlilyhonda@aol.com.

Pacific Northwest

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 9—Bon Odori hosted by Olympia JACL; Capitol Lake at Water St.; 5 p.m. food booths open, 6 p.m. tae kwon do demonstration, 7 p.m. bon odori. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562 or sgt-milehibob@att.net.

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.

SEATTLE

Sat., July 12—Annual NVC Summer Cookout; 5-7 p.m.; NVC

Clubhouse; \$8 steak or salmon dinner, free hot dogs for kids; RSVP: Elaine Ishihara 206/725-8715 (deadline July 1).

Mon., Aug. 25—NVC Annual Golf Tournament; 9 a.m.; Jefferson Park Golf Course, 4101 Beacon Ave. S.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Mon., July 7—Berkeley JACL's bento and baseball; 7 p.m.; Oakland A's vs. Seattle Mariners; \$25 (plaza level seats, bento and bottle of water). Tickets: Mark Fujikawa, 510/232-0724.

LIVERMORE

Sat., July 26—Screening, "Farewell to Manzanar"; 7:30 p.m.; 851 Placenza St.; a discussion of what camp life was like and one veteran's experiences in the MIS follow the screening. Info: www.trivalleyjacl.org.

SALINAS

Through July 27—Exhibition, "Heroes All! Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea" by photographer Tom Graves; National Steinbeck Center, One Main St.; hours 10-5 p.m. daily; \$10.95 admission to the center; Info: www.steinbeck.org or 831/775-4721.

STOCKTON

Sat., Sept. 27—Stockton JACL Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser; Stockton Buddhist Church; \$7/adults, \$4/children 10 and under; proceeds benefit the chapter Education fund.

Southern California

GARDENA

Sat., Aug. 2—GLAS JACL Hana Uno Shepard Scholarship and Fundraiser Dance; 7-11 p.m.; Ken Nakaoka Center, 1670 W. 162nd St.; \$20/donation; featuring DJ David Shinjo. Info: www.glasjacl.org/events.

LONG BEACH

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

LOS ANGELES

July 10, 24—JANM's 1st and Central Summer Concerts; 6:30 p.m.; JANM; free; July 10, Southern California Ukulele Showcase II; July 24, Prelude to the 2008 Central Avenue Jazz Festival. Info: www.janm.org.

July 12-13—Nishi Hongwanji Obon; 3-9 p.m.; 815 E. 1st St.; enjoy food, games, entertainment and Bon Odori. Info: 213/680-9130.

Thurs., July 17—Aoyama Tree Reception; 10 a.m.; (First St. near Central).

Aug. 16-24—Nisei Week Festival; various locations around Little Tokyo; events include: a baby pageant (July 26), Nikkei Games (Aug. 2-16), coronation ball (Aug. 16), car show, grand parade (Aug. 17), pioneer luncheon (Aug. 20), gyoza eating contest (Aug. 23) and the Nisei Week ondo (Aug. 24) and closing ceremony. Info: www.niseiweek.org.

ROLLING HILLS

Sept. 8—40th Annual Japan America Golf Classic; 11 a.m. shotgun start; Rolling Hills Country Club. Info: www.jas-socal.org or 213/627-6217 ext. 2007.

THOUSAND OAKS

Sun., July 13—Screening, "Only the Brave"; 2 p.m.; Teledyne Scientific, 1049 Camino Dos Rios; \$10/admission, \$7/JACL members, \$5/students with I.D., free for U.S. Armed Forces Veterans; DVDs will be available for purchase; proceeds benefit Ventura County JACL. Tickets: Jefferson Kunisaki, 805/493-1824.

WHITTIER

Mon., July 14—17th Annual Keiro Golf Classic; 8 a.m. start; Candlewood Country Club, 14000 Telegraph Rd.; \$175/golfer; Info: Karl Kim, 562/282-0599 or rpa_karl@hotmail.com.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Through July 11—Exhibit, "More of Mo: Sculpture by Mamoru Sato"; gallery hours Tues.-Sat. 10-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; Mamoru Sato shares his most recent sculptures. Info: www.jcch.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.

July 26-Sept. 27—Exhibition, "Pride & Practicality: Japanese Immigrant Clothing in Hawaii"; gallery hours 10-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; exhibition shows how the first Japanese immigrants weaved their cultural pride and identity into the fabric of Hawaii; free for JCCH members, \$3/non-members and residents,



PHOTOS: JOSEPH WU

"The Life of Paper" exhibition at the Japanese Canadian National Museum features the origami works of Joseph Wu. The exhibition runs through Aug. 5.

\$5/non-residents. Info: 808/945-7633 or www.jcch.com.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Oct. 14-16—2008 Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; reunion is open to anyone who was in Junior High or High School in Manzanar between 1942 and 1945; relatives and friends are also invited; events include a mixer, slot tournament, photos and memory books; Manzanar rangers will participate with displays and presentations. Info: Cherry Uyeda, 818/981-2629, Grace Deguchi, 310/968-1666,

Michi Osaki, 323/463-5143, Venice area; Kats Marumoto, 310/836-3565, Gardena; Jun Okimoto, 310/372-7133, Maryknoll; Seigo Yoshinaga, 626/576-1196, and San Fernando Valley; Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

Canada

BURNABY

Through Aug. 5—Exhibition, "The Life of Paper" featuring origami by Joseph Wu; Tues.-Sat. 11-5 p.m.; Japanese Canadian National Museum, 6688 Southoaks Crescent. Info: 604/777-7000 or www.jcnm.ca.

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In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Adachi, James S., 88, San Francisco, June 7; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughter, Catherine; son, Daniel; 5 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Conetta, Kayoko Chiyoko, 74, June 7; survived by husband, David; daughters, Lisa Conetta-Lee and Takako Arakaki; 4 gc.; brother, Kenichi; and sisters, Sadako, Masako and Kimiko.

Fujii, Theodore Toshiharu, 83, Captain Cook, Haw., May 28; survived by sons, Clifford and Calvin; daughters, Lenora Stone and Evelyn Morioka; 5 gc.; 6 ggc.; and sister, Jane Yamamoto.

Hamano, Fukiko, 86, June 2; survived by son, Martin (Laura); daughter, Marianne (Peter) Moore; and 5 gc.

Hazama, John Yoneharu, 85, Northridge, June 17; survived by wife, Sadako; daughter, Kathy (Steve) Yoshimura; sons, Ron and William (Dori); 3 gc.; brothers, Katsuji (Mae) and George (Yo); and sister-in-law, Emi Hazama.

Hirano, Peter H., 80, Concord, June 11; U.S. Army; survived by wife, Ruth; and sons David (Reen) and Christopher.

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.

Hirasuna, Jimmie, 83, Fresno, June 6; WWII veteran; survived by daughters, Gail (Dan) Lynch, Irene (Armondo) Aguirre and LaVerne (Rodney) Kiss; son, Curtis; 4 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Hori, Minoru, May 26; survived by wife, Joyce; daughters, Janet, Pearl, Evelyn (Kan Wong) and Jeanice; 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sisters, Sumiko (Naozo) Oki and Emiko (Hiromi) Ota.

Horita, Tadashi, San Francisco, June 8; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by brothers, Hisashi (Yoko), Sakae (Viola) and Shiro (Marsha); and sister, Shigeko Kawabe.

Ishigo, Rodger, 54, Torrance, June 6; survived by brothers, Clarence (Linda), Leroy, Terry (Irene) and Carl.

Ishii, Fred, 87, Oceanside, June 12; survived by wife, Margaret; sons, Scott and Ron; daughters, Luckie Yasukochi and Peggy Horan.

Ishizu, Fujiko, 90, San Gabriel, June 10; survived by husband, Tasuo; and daughter, Lorraine.

Isoda, Seishi "Jack," 83, Chicago, June 12; survived by wife, Sumiko; daughters, Candice Wilson, Jean Sakamoto and June Kadohata; sons, Randolph (Debbie), Jay, Donald (Linda) Kaita and Chris (Satako) Kaita; and 9 gc.

Kaita, Tom Makoto, 83, Gardena, June 9; survived by daughter, Cathie Yamaguchi; 5 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Kiyohara, Fumiko, 98, Montebello, June 5; survived by sons, Tom (Jane), Fred and Howard (Kim); daughter, Helen (Katsumi) Imoto; 13 gc.; and 20 ggc.

Kusumoto, James Kiyoto, 69, Honolulu, May 28; survived by brother, Larry.

Kuwata, James Seiho, 77, Whittier, April 3; veteran; survived by son, Glenn; daughter, Theresa (Villanueva) Kuwata; 3 gc.; brother, Makoto (Patsy); and sisters, Teruko (Bill) Tsubota and Akio (George) Uchiyama.

Masuda, Tadao, 76, Montebello, May 23; survived by wife, Joyce; sons, Bruce (JoAnne) Asada and Lance (Machiko) Masuda; daughter, Brenda (Scott) Oshita; and 3 gc.

Matsushita, Mitsuo, 85, Auburn, Wash., June 12; WWII veteran,

MIS; survived by wife, Yasuko.

Motoyama, Haru, 84, Montebello, June 20; survived by son, Dale (Violeta); daughter, Marsha (Leonard) Young; and 4 gc.

Nakagawa, Dave Y., 86, Temple City, May 28; survived by wife, Helen; son, Wayne; daughter, Janet (Dr. Kent) Miyamoto; 2 gc.; sister, Akiko Nakagawa; and brother-in-law, Joey (May) Kitayama.

Nakamura, Fumiyo, Gardena, June 17; survived by husband, James; son, Garry (Janice); daughter, Jane (Rod) Nishimura; 1 gc.; and sister, Joyce Sakogawa; and brothers, Mitsuo, Mamoru and Nobuo Matsumoto.

Nakata, Flora Yoriko, 90, Pasadena, May 29; survived by sons, Richard (Sook Young) and Kenneth (Masako); daughter, Jane (Gerald) Sakamoto; 4 gc.; and 4 ggc.

Nakashima, Calvin Takashi, 81, Mililani, Haw., May 25; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Susan; daughters, Dr. Melanie (Marshall McCormick) Nakashima, Anne (Allen) Young and Noel (Cliff) Tamura; 6 gc.; brothers, Daniel (Peggy) and Stanford (Barbara); and sisters, Gladys (Wataru) Minami, Gertrude (Takeo) Ogawa and Esther (Daniel) Char.

Nishinaka, Hazel Hatsue, 93, Carpinteria, June 11; survived by daughter, Kay Watanabe; 8 gc.; 8 ggc.; 2 gggc. and 5 sisters.

Nomi, George Ryoji, 89, Los Angeles, May 26; survived by sons, Scott and Gary; daughter, Carol

(Michael) Shimokochi; 2 gc.; and sister, Alice Tashiro.

Ogawa, Hisashi Bob, 92, June 5; survived by sons, M. Ken and Dean; daughter, Janice Ogawa; 4 gc.; and sister, Mary Hamano.

Oki, Mae Hiroko, 82, Los Angeles, June 10; survived by husband, Tadashi; sons, David (Joyce) and Dennis; daughter, Jo Ann; 1 gc.; sister, Kimiye Minami; and brother, Setsuo Kikuta.

Osugi, Mary Misao, 89, Saratoga, June 3; survived by husband, Ken; daughters, Linda (Wes) Yamasaki, Joyce (Arthur) Yamasaki and Cathy Osugi; and 4 gc.

Ota, Mary J., 85, Los Angeles, June 4; survived by sisters, Vonita Wu and Jane Tochi; and brother, Edward Harada.

Sakauye, Rose Kazuye, 93, Huntington Beach, June 8; survived by daughter, Ruth (Tamio) Sakurai; 1 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sisters-in-law, Lily Takahashi and Chickie Sakauye.

Sumi, Hideko, 95, Los Angeles, May 30; survived by son, Roy; daughter, Christine (Dr. Masashi) Uriu; 4 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Taguchi, Lauren Shigeko, 15, Northridge, June 14; survived by parents, Dennis and Susan; sister, Lindsay; and grandparents, Sumiko Taguchi and Toshiro Nishikawa.

Takenouchi, Tomoko, 75, Gardena, May 28; survived by husband, Yasuo; son, Rex; daughters, Shirley Rehmani and Marian Takamura; son-in-law, Walter Takamura; 2 gc.; sister, Chizuko (Yukio) Shimomura; brother, Victor (Sanae) Onouye; and sisters-in-law, Hatsumi Matsuhira and Harue Suzuki.

Tran, Du Hai, 30, Reseda, June 20; Staff Sgt. passed away in Iraq. Tran was assigned to the Fires Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army.

Yamashiro, Yoshio, 86, Huntington Beach, June 16; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Grace; daughters, Susan and Esther; and 1 gc.

Yoshimaru, Fred Hisao, 75, U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Ryuko; son, David (Gennifer); and 2 gc. ■



sons, Randolph (Debbie), Jay, Donald (Linda) Kaita and Chris (Satako) Kaita; and 9 gc.

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Matsushita, Mitsuo, 85, Auburn, Wash., June 12; WWII veteran,

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Los Alamitos, CA 90720

DEATH NOTICE

FUMIKO S. NISHI

Fumiko (Shitamae) Nishi, a former resident of Seattle, Wash. and Rockville, Md. passed away peacefully April 20. Pre-deceased by husband Harold, she is survived by daughters, Linda (Curtis Marx) Nishi, and Karen (partner Mary) Nishi; son, Alan (Joan); and sisters, Miyo (Joe) Ike and Yoshi Miyauchi. Beloved grandmother of Cooper and Slayton Marx and aunt of numerous nieces and nephews. Private services were held in Bethesda, Md. In lieu of remembrances, please take your family and friends to dinner and spend time with those you love.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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SGV SCHOLARS:
(l-r) Andrew Kochi,
Sophia Chinen,
Miki Fukusumi,
Tamara Teragawa,
Melissa Kozono,
Stephanie
Horiuchi and Erik
Akune.

JACL Chapters Announce Scholarship Winners

Four JACL chapters recently awarded scholarships to their scholars.

Seven motivated high school students were recently honored by the San Gabriel Valley JACL with scholarships: Erik Akune, Andrew Kochi, Miki Fukusumi, Tamara Teragawa, Stephanie Horiuchi, Melissa Kozono and Sofia Chinen.

The Las Vegas and Twin Cities chapters also recently awarded scholarships to their future leaders. This year's winner of the Las Vegas JACL's \$1,000 scholarship was Jennifer Rowe.

The Twin Cities awarded scholarships to: Mari Bennett, Simeon Kawakami, Bailey Kimitch, Alexander Noonan, Joshua Savitt, Jeffrey Tanaka, Alison Tsuchiya and Abigail Wesley.

The Puyallup Valley JACL also recently awarded scholarships to Keriann Wong and Courtney Tanabe.

San Jose JACL's annual Scholarship Luncheon was held at the Issei Memorial Building. Attendees also watched a presentation about the 20th anniversary of the signing of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act.

This year, the chapter's scholarships totaled \$17,250.

The following students were selected to receive scholarships from the San Jose JACL: Jeffrey Morimune, Andrea Hyde, Erica Baba, Conor McClure, Alexa Chavez, Brad Matsushita, Nicole Yamamoto, Bryan Finney, Michael Nakamura, Nancy Yokoyama, Erwina Kwan and Michael Miyakusu. ■

RUTH MIX

(Continued from page 12)

viewed for Claire's documentary. "It was something I was very aware of growing up, the horrible way the United States treated its Japanese American citizens."

Finding Gila River Internees

One of the first former internees to contact Claire was Hy Shishino, 84, chair of the Gila River Reunion Committee. He had been sent a copy of some of Ruth's interviews and was touched by the mother and daughter's actions in WWII.

"The people that stood up for us, I will always have a soft spot for them," said Hy, 84, a member of the SELANOCO JACL chapter.

Soon Hy got in touch with Claire and convinced her to apply for a CCLPEF (California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund) grant to help fund her documentary. She recently learned that she had been awarded a \$20,000 grant.

Now the Gila River Reunion Committee is working to raise an additional \$60,000 to help Claire complete "Gila River and Mama."

"I thought hey, we've got to do something," said Hy. "Ninety percent of this country still doesn't know we were interned. We have to give real credit to the people who stood up for us."

"If we don't tell our stories now, these stories are going to die with us."

Claire is also hoping to find former Gila River internees who may have known her mother and grandmother. So far she has found a few internees and is now working to convince them to be part of the documentary.

Mas Inoshita, 89, a former Gila River internee who often goes around speaking about the WWII internment in the Arizona area, recently learned about Claire's new film. He hopes the documentary will help educate people.

"It's a very personal story," he said.

Fulfilling a Promise

Although Claire is struggling with her own health ailments — she suffers from a form of Parkinson's disease — she is determined to tell her mother's story.

She plans to interview members of her family, create reenactments, and score the music for the film herself. She also plans to reunite with George Takei at the upcoming "Whose America? Who's American?" conference in Denver. She wants him to be a part of the film.

Although Claire misses her mother and the daily editing of tapes brings a constant stream of tears, she

knows these stories need to be told.

One segment she plans to include is her mother's story about an Issei woman named Miyoko. The two had developed a close bond while Miyoko was suffering from a high fever and staying at the camp hospital.

Sadly, after four weeks Miyoko passed away and for a long time afterwards Ruth did her best to find the woman's three children so she could tell them how much their mother loved them. She snuck into the barracks one night in a desperate search but was discovered by a soldier and dragged away.

"Mom felt guilty that she never found the three children to tell them their mother loved them," said Claire. Even into her 70s, Ruth would often cry about it.

Claire hopes her documentary will eventually make it to broadcast television and into California schools. Perhaps then Ruth will finally be able to pass on her message to Miyoko's children. ■

To donate funds to 'Gila River and Mama,' send a tax-deductible check to: Gila Reunion Claire Mix Fund, c/o Kimi Taira, 2001 W. 245th St., Lomita, CA 90717.

For more information, <http://ruth-mix.clairemix.com>. To contact Claire Mix: thesolo@sbcglobal.net.

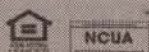


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