



APA Olympians strive for gold. — SEE PAGES 10-11

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



'Monkey' Ad Pulled

A Japanese cell phone company uses a monkey to parody Senator Obama.

NATIONAL PAGE 4

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Young APAs Make Their Voices Heard Through Presidential Campaigns

Whether Obama or McCain supporters, APA youth are getting involved in the political process one vote at a time.

By TODD KUSHIGEMACHI
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

Shandon Phan, 28, wonders why he was unable to find a pro-McCain group for Asian Americans on the Internet.

'He's a great candidate. Why is there no group out there?' he wondered.

The young law student took the situation into his own hands by starting Asian Americans for McCain, an independent group focused on reaching out to those interested in Sen. John McCain. With about 10 active members, the group hopes to make an impact by recruiting voters and branching out into the community.



Young Asian Pacific Americans like Phan have been moved by the 2008 presidential candidates and have taken the initiative to make a difference, campaigning for the can-



APAs show their support for Sen. Barack Obama (left). Shandon Phan (top) canvasses door-to-door for Sen. John McCain.

didates of their choices and working to get involved in the political process.

As the son of a former active-duty officer in the South Vietnamese army, Phan sees McCain's service during the Vietnam War as an indication of the candidate's dedication to both America and to APAs.

"Senator McCain was there, fighting with us, and in a way he also fought for the freedom

of South Vietnam," he said.

McCain's story of service is a source of great respect for

See YOUNG APAS/Page 12

Controversial Minidoka Feedlot Proposal Still Alive



A proposed 13,000-heifer feedlot could be built just one-mile from the historic Minidoka site.

A district judge reverses the Jerome County Commissioners' decision to deny a permit for a 13,000-heifer feedlot near the Minidoka Historic Site. The three-member board must now revisit the issue.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

For Sansei Tom Ikeda, the annual pilgrimage to the Minidoka National Historic Site in rural Idaho has become a family affair of sorts — 15 of his relatives, including his parents and grandparents, once called this barren landscape home.

See MINIDOKA/Page 2

Can Portland's Former J-Town See a Revival?

The city's ethnic enclave disappeared with the WWII evacuation. Uwajimaya, a JA-owned supermarket, is contemplating a move into the old neighborhood.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

George Katagiri remembers a place in his hometown of Portland, Oregon that no longer exists. At 81, the Nisei still walks the same streets he did as a teenager on his way to Japantown for judo class or to visit his friends.

The memories are pristine, but the sights, sounds and ethnic identity of his old neighborhood have changed.

World War II hastened Katagiri's coming-of-age when his family was forced from their home to the Portland Assembly Center and Tule Lake. When they returned after the war, Japantown was gone.

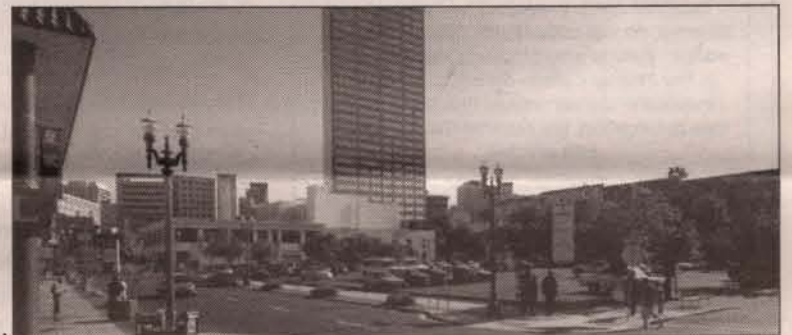


PHOTO: RICH IWASAKI



PHOTO COURTESY OF PDC

PICTURE IT: The proposed Uwajimaya project may build on a parking lot (top) in Portland's former J-Town. The project may also include parking and housing.

Today, the former J-Town is like a ghost city inside Portland's Old Town/Chinatown District — the only nod to its existence are some of its original buildings and

See PORTLAND/Page 13

Louisiana School Officials Propose Requiring English at Graduations

Two students who spoke some Vietnamese in their commencement speeches spark the debate. APAs protest the English-only proposal.

By TODD KUSHIGEMACHI
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

Controversy is stirring around a few sentences spoken in Vietnamese during two Louisiana high

school commencement speeches. School officials have now put forth proposals to require commencement speeches to be in English only.

Co-valedictorians Cindy and Hue Vo, cousins, delivered part of their commencement speeches in Vietnamese at an Ellender High School graduation ceremony in May.

Cindy recited a sentence in Vietnamese dedicated to her parents, roughly translated as a command to be your own person, and Hue spoke three sentences in Vietnamese to summarize an English

portion of her speech in which she thanked her parents.

Hue said being able to use Vietnamese allowed her to help her parents understand her emotions and how appreciative she is of the sacrifices they have made for her.

"I think it's fortunate that I'm able to speak two languages, that I kept my culture like my mom and dad want me to," she said in an interview with

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'Passing Poston'

Joe Fox and James Nubile shine a light on the little known history of the Arizona camp.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9

'Sgt. Rock' Debuts

A new comic series will feature the heroic soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

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Jerome County to Revisit Controversial Feedlot Issue

(Continued from page 1)

His uncle Francis Kinoshita answered the patriotic call to duty while incarcerated here, giving up his life while fighting in Italy as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"I attended this year's Minidoka pilgrimage in honor of his memory," said Ikeda from his home in Seattle.

But just one week after Ikeda and more than 250 former World War II internees and their families gathered for the annual pilgrimage, an Idaho judge has breathed new life into a controversial proposal to build a 13,000-heifer feedlot just over a mile west of the historic site.

Fifth District Judge G. Richard Bevan ruled June 27 against the Jerome County Commissioners who had voted last October to deny the feedlot permit request by Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership. The judge believes the commission erred in their decision by relying largely on the county's comprehensive plan instead of the county's zoning and confined-animal feeding operation (CAFO) ordinances.

The commissioners will now have to revisit the controversial issue and will likely take it up in August.

It's a situation that has left a lingering sense of unease for those who have ties to the historic Minidoka site.

"The feedlot owners are focused on making money and will aggressively pursue actions, even if it isn't in the best interests of the overall community," said Ikeda.

An Odorous Proposal

Dr. Frank Kitamoto, 69, was surprised to see the lush greenery of the surrounding farms during the recent Minidoka pilgrimage, a sight in stark contrast to the barren landscape he and his family had endured during WWII.

It's not hard for him to imagine the negative impact a feedlot one-mile downwind would have on the historic site.

"It would definitely affect us," he said.

But Kitamoto, a longtime resident of Bainbridge Island, Wash., has confidence that the local residents will ensure the defeat of the proposed feedlot.

"Most of the people in the area are against the feedlot being there," he said. "I think the people in Idaho are going to take care it."

When Jerome County Commissioners held two days of hearings on the controversial proposal last October, many local farmers did come out to voice their opposition. Joining them were several former internees of Minidoka.

Karen Yoshitomi, PNW regional director, attended last year's hearings and provided testimony. Without the likely benefit of hearings this time around, she believes the discussions should focus on the CAFO and zoning ordinances rather than the permitting process.

There's also the issues of waste management, odor, and airborne pathogens.

"I've been to a number of rest areas along interstate highways and downwind of large dairies or feeding operations," she said. "In the summertime especially, the combination of the smell, heat and hordes of flies, would turn even the strongest stomach."

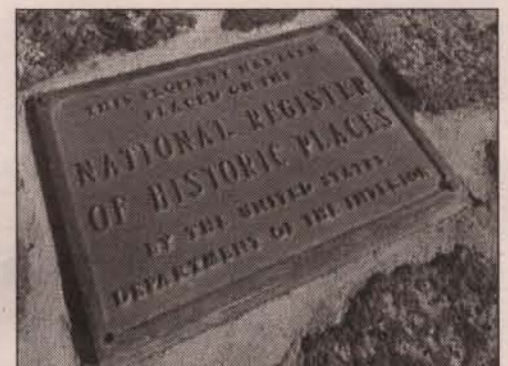
But the issue is still a sensitive one, especial-



A waiting room (above) still stands today at the Minidoka National Historic Site in rural Idaho.

At right is a plaque identifying the site's historic status.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH IWASAKI



ly in Idaho where farmers greatly impact the local communities and economy.

That's why the group Friends of Minidoka has largely stayed out of the ongoing debate, preferring to defer to the National Park Service which has oversight of the Minidoka National Historic Site.

"We're doing as much as we can but still respecting the local community," said Emily Momohara, chair of Friends of Minidoka. "We realize this is a national issue with local implications. We hope that everyone involved can see this is an American story when people make their decisions."

Friends of Minidoka recently received a grant from the National Historic Trust and is using the money to conduct a study on the impact the feedlot would have on the historic site. They hope to have it completed by the end of August in time to be considered by the County Commissioners.

A Second Round

Jerome County Commissioner Diana Obenauer was not necessarily surprised by Judge Bevan's ruling. But she notes that a 22-page supplemental report the commissioners had prepared outlining their decision was not submitted by the prosecuting attorney. If it had been, she believes the judge would have ruled differently.

She and the other commissioners are now regrouping and hope to set a date in August to address the feedlot proposal once again.

Obenauer voted against the proposed feedlot last October, two out of three commissioners to do so, and she was largely swayed by the testimony of the former internees.

"I understand their concern and I share it," she said.

She also believes a second round of hearings is a good idea although the Commission

has yet to address the issue.

"I believe that this will be a significant watershed decision that will have significant impact to any future decisions regarding the siting and approval of large CAFOs built close to historical sites and preservation areas, as well as the protection of the general health and safety of our population and future water purity and supply," she said.

Although Judge Bevan ruled against the Jerome County Commissioners' October decision, his ruling did not order them to approve the feedlot permit. But he did order the County to cover the court expenses of Big Sky, something the commissioners hope can be reduced or eliminated.

Ironically Big Sky is no longer the owner of the land for the proposed feedlot. However details of the new owner have not been released.

In May the federal government approved a bill to elevate the Minidoka site's status from a National Monument to a National Historic Site. And now plans are underway to expand the former WWII internment camp.

For the national JA community, preserving the integrity of the site is a top priority.

"Allowing an offensive land use in such proximity to a National Monument is an insult to those who were unjustly incarcerated there," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "It is a travesty to those who have worked so hard to make this national treasure a reality, including members of Congress, local citizens, former internees, and JACL members."

"The site has the potential of being a powerful beacon for the advancement of democracy in our increasingly diverse country," said Ikeda. "The commissioners have the opportunity to nurture and expand the activities focused on Minidoka by opposing the feedlot proposal." ■

New Report Examines Causes of N.Y. Chinatown Troubles

Although Chinatown's economy has improved since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the community has made less progress than New York City as a whole because of a need for further support, according to a report by the Asian American Federation of New York.

Progress suffers from factors including purely price-based competition, counterproductive business practices and noncompliance with labor and tax laws, according to the report.

The research report, "Revitalizing Chinatown Businesses: Challenges and Opportunities," was based on a survey of businesses, analysis of government data and interviews with leaders in the community and economic development.

According to the report, from 2001 to 2004, total employment in Chinatown decreased five percent, and improvements in the average wage for workers barely exceeded the increase in the CPI for the New York area.

The report also attributed the stunted growth to the area's negative image, including dirty streets, crowded sidewalks, traffic congestion and limited English use.

Proposed solutions to the recent dwindling of manufacturing, restaurant and retailing, include improving business practices to draw more business and changing strategies to better serve a diverse consumer base.

Wellington Chen, executive director of Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation, said changing business operations is necessary.



"We need to improve our store conditions, and we need to give the customers a better experience," Chen said to *The New York Sun*. "I could bring in all the customers you want, but if they have a bad experience they can walk away and say I'm not returning."

Support from community leaders and government officials was also recommended by the report. Suggestions included resolving issues with parking and transportation and also pursuing a developmental project including a cultural center and a central food-market.

"Chinatown business owners have a vital role to play, but they need additional support," said Cao O, executive director of the Federation. "Economic revival requires long-term, cohesive efforts by business, government and community leaders."

The Asian American Federation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing the voice of Asian Americans by supporting community service organizations and performing research to influence policies. ■

APA Community Still Upset About Movie '21' as DVD Release Approaches

The controversial film '21' will be released on DVD July 22, and groups like Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) are still upset because of the casting of white actors in the roles of fact-based characters who were Asian American.

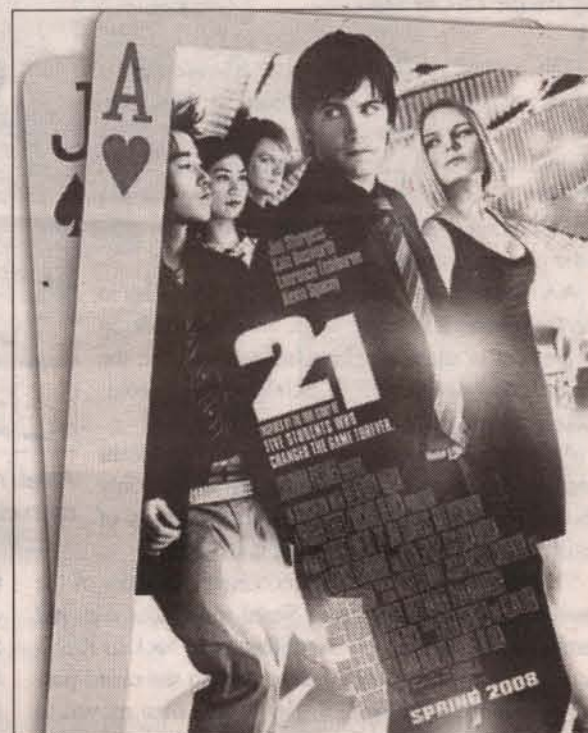
The movie, starring Jim Sturgess, Kevin Spacey and Kate Bosworth, was based on the novel "Bringing Down the House" and tells the story of an MIT professor who teaches his students how to make millions in Las Vegas playing blackjack. Based on a true story, the novel features mostly AA characters, including the professor who is played by Kevin Spacey in the film adaptation.

MANAA said they believe the movie could have done just as well at the box office with AA stars because many of the actors in the film were not household names, referencing the flop of "Across the Universe" which also starred Sturgess.

Producer Dana Brunetti responded to the issue of "white-washing" by saying had he known how upset the AA community would be, he would have picked a different story to film.

"Believe me, I would have loved to cast Asians in the lead roles, but the truth is, we didn't have access to any bankable Asian Americans that we wanted," Brunetti wrote after the issue was raised on the "Entertainment Weekly" Web site.

Although many are upset that AAs were not used in the film, the real-life leader of the team



of students Jeff Ma told *USA Today* it could have been worse.

"I would have been a lot more insulted if they had chosen someone who was Japanese or Korean, just to have an Asian playing me," said Ma, a Chinese American.

Guy Aoki, MANAA's founding president, spoke to producer Brunetti about the film in late 2005, and the producer reportedly said she was looking for the best actor for the role rather than worrying about realistic ethnic casting.

"Asian American actors are 40 years behind African Americans in being allowed to play themselves in their own stories," Aoki said. "'21', unfortunately, continues that discriminatory tradition." ■

Group Says Anti-Affirmative Ban Will Be On Ballots

Opponents have filed a lawsuit accusing petitioners of voter fraud.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb.—Voters in two states may get to decide this year whether public entities can use race and gender when deciding who to recruit and hire.

Supporters of a proposed ban on some kinds of affirmative action recently said that they've turned in enough signatures to get the measure on the ballots in Nebraska and Arizona.

But the fight isn't over in either state, with opponents of the measure vowing to challenge the validity of some signatures to the petitions that have ignited controversy across the country.

A coalition of opponents based in Michigan has filed a lawsuit accusing Arizona petitioners of committing voter fraud and violating election law by using deceptively worded pitches to convince people to sign.

And a group opposing the measure in Nebraska plans to go to the secretary of state with video footage that appears to show circulators leaving petitions unattended and filling in information for signers. Both are illegal and could invalidate signatures.

"There's a significant difference between submitted signatures and valid signatures," said David Kramer, head of Nebraskans United, which opposes the measure. "We'll wait to see the outcome of that process before litigation."

In both states, supporters claim to have gathered far more signatures than needed. In Nebraska, they needed 112,000 and

turned in 167,000. In Arizona, organizers needed about 230,000 signatures and submitted nearly 335,000.

The proposed constitutional amendment would bar preferential treatment by public entities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

The Nebraska and Arizona groups pushing the measure are affiliated with the American Civil Rights Initiative's Super Tuesday for Equal Rights Fund, founded by California businessman and activist Ward Connerly.

Connerly has prevailed three times in past elections, with voters in California, Michigan and Washington approving proposals banning government-sponsored race and gender preferences in public education, state hiring and public contracts.

Studies have shown that Asian Pacific Americans have been major beneficiaries of California's Proposition 209, which dismantled affirmative action in 1996.

APA admission has increased steadily at University of California campuses in Berkeley, Los Angeles and San Diego, according to a 2008 University of Florida study, which expanded on the 2005 Princeton University study that APA students generally don't benefit from affirmative action at so-called elite colleges.

But affirmative action proponents say that although some APAs are not underrepresented in higher education, those who are of Southeast Asian descent and newer immigrants need affirmative action programs.

In May 1996, the JACL national board adopted a resolution to reaffirm its longstanding commitment to affirmative action

as an important tool in fighting for equal opportunity and racial gender inclusiveness.

Arizona Deputy Secretary of State Kevin Tyne said, barring any legal challenges, his office would have a final tabulation of signatures by late August. In Nebraska, the count of acceptable signatures will be known by mid- to late-August, said Neal Erickson, deputy secretary of state for elections.

Max McPhail, executive director of a group pushing the measure in Arizona, scoffed at allegations of wrongdoing. He said Arizona voters will overwhelmingly side with the initiative in November.

"This radical organization believes people should be classified by the government and placed into racial categories and they should be treated differently," McPhail said. "That's the definition of racism."

In Nebraska, the effort was started by a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who said he saw preferential hiring that infuriated him.

"Nebraskans are speaking loud and clear," Marc Schniederjans said. "They want the opportunity to end the use of race and gender discrimination and preferences in state employment, contracting and education."

Supporters said they do everything possible to train circulators — both paid and unpaid — to follow the rules.

This year, organizers in Missouri conceded that too few signatures would be gathered by the deadline, and they bowed out in Oklahoma in the face of challenges to the signatures gathered there. A petition drive is still active in Colorado. ■

Asian Plurality at Top Public School Raises Questions About Admissions Policy

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The incoming freshman class at prestigious public magnet school Thomas Jefferson High School will have more Asian American students than white students for the first time in the school's history. The disproportionate representation of AA at the Fairfax County school has led some to consider changing the admissions policy.

AA students took 45 percent of the 485 seats in the freshman class while white students made up 42 percent of the class. This last school year, the student body at T.J. High School was approximately 38 percent AA.

Although AA students make up a significant portion of the student body at the high school, only about 16 percent of the Fairfax population is of Asian descent, according to census data.

Seiyoung Jang, one of the incoming members of the freshman class, moved from Seoul to Atlanta with her family when she was 11. Her father went back to Korea later, but Jang stayed with her mother so she could pursue an education in the U.S. Her family then moved to Northern Virginia partly so she could apply to T.J. High School.

"I heard T.J. was famous for education courses and high opportunities," said Mejung Kim, her mother, to the *Washington Post*.

Other elite math and science magnet schools are also seeing this increase in the percentage of AA students. Only about 10 percent of the New York population is of Asian descent, but Stuyvesant High School, Bronx High School of Science and Brooklyn Technical High School have majorities of AA students.

Some attribute the success of the AA students to the commitment of immigrant communities to education. Many students are privately tutored and also take preparation classes for the T.J. High School entrance exam.

Many of the public magnet schools are utilizing merit-



Asian American students make up 45 percent of the freshman class at Fairfax County's Thomas Jefferson High.

based admission systems instead of the race-based policies that have recently been overturned by courts. The San Francisco Unified School District in the 1990s was sued by a Chinese American student who was rejected from Lowell High, leading the school to change its quota-based system.

The Fairfax School Board changed the T.J. admissions policy and stopped using affirmative action in the 1990s. After only nine black or Hispanic students were admitted in 2001, however, the school board in 2004 said race and ethnicity could be used as plus factor but not a determining factor.

The 2004 admissions policy has yet to make a significant impact in increasing the enrollment of Hispanic and black students. The incoming freshman class will have 10 Hispanic and nine black students.

John Johnson, a member of the board's Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee, told the *Washington Post* in the same article that changes in admissions policy are not going to help much "if you have been behind the eight ball since kindergarten." ■

Minnesota's Hmong Community Especially Hard-hit by Economy

MINNEAPOLIS—During economic times that increasingly favor workers with post-secondary degrees and prior work experience, immigrants trying to support their families with minimum wage jobs are hit especially hard.

For Minnesota's Hmong community, the high costs of rice, gasoline and utilities are causing some to lose their homes. Others have lost jobs, forcing them to find ways to cut costs.

"Five or six men living in one apartment: I never saw that in my life," said Yao Lo, a job counselor with the Lao Family Community of Minnesota in St. Paul. "But now people are like that, because they lost their house, they lost their job."

Working immigrants often hold two minimum wage jobs to make ends meet.

Tong Lee, 24, works third shift cleaning a Brooklyn Center production facility. When he finishes at 6:30 a.m., he goes home for a few hours of sleep before showing up for his second job as a janitor. His pay is \$9 per hour.

Lee is always looking for a job that pays better, but he said his options are limited because he speaks little English.

"Yes of course I would like to change, but everything is complicated," he said through a translator. "The lan-

guage barrier: I can't go anywhere."

For many immigrants, the better long-term solution would be to work less, take English as a Second Language classes and get additional training. But they also have to meet short-term needs and pay for things like mortgages and day-to-day food costs.

'Yes of course I would like to change, but everything is complicated. The language barrier: I can't go anywhere.'

—Tong Lee

"(When) we came here, we were already 20, 30: You cannot go to school for another 10 or 20 years, you're going to have to go to work," said Chupheng Lee, who is vice president of the Lao Family Community. The group works to empower Hmong and other minorities.

"It's really affecting the Hmong community," he said. "They don't have the skills to move job to job."

They rely upon the one job they found, and because this situation in the United States right now, most of the manufacturing job is not stable."

But even when the economy does get better, advocates say immigrants like Tong Lee will still face major roadblocks when trying to leave the low-paying industries for something better.

When Lee thinks about his future, he doesn't see it as much different from what he has now.

"I just keep working," he said. ■

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Japanese Company Pulls Obama 'Monkey' Ad After Accusations of Racism

TOKYO—Japanese cell phone company eMobile pulled a television ad in which a monkey appears to be standing in for Sen. Barack Obama after it was accused of being racist.

The commercial shows a monkey at a podium with supporters cheering with signs saying "Change," a word that has been used to represent Obama's campaign for presidency.

The monkey has been historically used as a slur used to dehumanize blacks, but Eric Gan, president of eMobile, said the company's mascot is a monkey and that they were unaware of how the ad might be interpreted.



Vietnamese Man Charged With Shooting at Motorists

GARLAND, Texas—A 22-year-old Vietnamese man was charged with firing on random motorists in the Dallas suburbs. Prosecutors said they would treat the charges as hate crimes.

Thai-An Huu Nguyen was charged with three accounts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and deadly conduct by discharging a firearm.

Several people were injured in the June 29 to July 1 shootings, the majority of which involved cars traveling on highways or stopped at red lights.

Nguyen told detectives he was targeting Hispanics and Asians to get back at the ethnic groups after two altercations months before, according to police.

House of Representatives Tightens Shark Finning Bill

WASHINGTON—The U.S. House of Representatives took steps to further prevent the act of shark finning, keeping shark fin soup, a delicacy in Asian countries, out of restaurants.

Shark finning is the process in which fishermen cut off the fin and throw the shark back into the water. Action by the House was partly a response to a federal appeals court ruling in March. The court ruled that a ship stopped with 65,000 pounds of shark fins was said to not have violated law because it was not a fishing vessel.

The House bill tightened a 2000 law that bans shark finning, closing a loophole under which vessels sailed into international waters for shark fins and brought them back into U.S. waters. The bill also requires that shark fins on vessels be naturally attached to the carcass.

Miss Washington Apologizes for Internet Photos



TACOMA, Wash.—Miss Washington Elyse Umemoto apologized for photos of her in embarrassing poses that were on the gossip Web site TMZ.com.

Umemoto said the pictures were stolen and that they were taken before she was Miss Washington. The pictures featured Umemoto making suggestive hand signs, playing a drinking game and flipping off the camera.

Umemoto will not be disciplined for the photos. A new Miss Washington will be chosen at the 2008 pageant.

Japanese Government Acknowledges Ainu as Indigenous People

NIBUTANU, Japan—The Japanese Government has recognized the Ainu as an indigenous people. Parliament passed a resolution that said the Ainu had a "distinct language, religion and culture."

The Ainu lived on the island that is now Hokkaido where they hunted, fished and worshipped nature. In the late 19th century Japanese settlers seized the land of the Ainu population.

The recognition has been met with strong emotions of satisfaction, particularly in towns with high concentrations of Ainu like Nibutani, but there is also suspicion that the acknowledgement will not continue after the Group of 8 (G8) summit meeting in Hokkaido. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

High School Graduates Receive Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarships



KIKUCHI



KIMURA



MAYEDA



PALMER

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL selected high school graduates Jackie Palmer, Justin Kikuchi, Walter Mayeda and Jennifer Kimura for the 2008 Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarships were presented at the annual JACL community picnic June 28. Each recipient received \$1,000 from the Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship fund.

Palmer and Mayeda had acting roles in the JACL chapter's reenactment of the evacuation entitled "Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty." Mayeda was also a valedictorian of Aptos High School, and Kimura was salutatorian of her class at Watsonville High School.

Each recipient wrote an essay on the significance of observing the Day of Remembrance. Kikuchi described it as "a symbol of strength, empowerment and high ideals."

Creative Writing Prof. Named Finalist for Poet Laureate

Marilyn Chin, a creative writing professor at San Diego State University, was named one of four finalists for California Poet Laureate. Her poetry often deals with the challenges of East-to-West assimilation.

Chin tells her students that poetry must challenge the status quo or push the limits. She immigrated to the United States in the 1960s and has taught at SDSU since 1989.

The recommendation of the California Arts Council is forwarded to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to make a final selection to be approved by the California State Senate.

Internment Awareness Volunteers to Receive Award

The JACL will present the 2008 Distinguished Service Award to Robert Bratt, Betsy Young and Jane Kurahara for their work raising awareness of JA internment camps in Hawaii.

Bratt as the first director of the Office of Redress Administration helped former internees receive a national apology and compensation for their incarceration.

Through their publications and research, Young and Kurahara have helped to preserve the Honouliuli internment site.

Former JACL Nat'l Scholar Wins Fulbright Award



Lily Anne Welty has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student scholarship to Japan in History, Modern, the U.S. Dept. of State recently announced.

Welty is one of 1,450 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2008-2009 academic years through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Welty was the winner of a National JACL scholarship last year. She was awarded the Abe and Esther Hagiwara Memorial scholarship.

Radio Station Fires 'Tsunami Song' Talk Show Host

New York radio station Hot 97 fired Tarsha Jones, known as Miss Jones, and replaced her with Big Boy and MTV reporter Liz Hernandez.

A few years back, Miss Jones and her crew stirred controversy by recording and airing "Tsunami Song," a parody mocking victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami. The song resulted in protests and the show being suspended for a few days. ■

Patriot Act Worries Japanese Americans Gathered at National Conference



PHOTO: SEVENJU PEPPER



George and Kashiwa Hatamiya (top) greet Norman Mineta. Mitch Maki moderates a panel with Hershey Miyamura (leaning forward), Edward Ichiyama and George Sakato (right).

More than 800 attendees take part in JANM's Denver conference, 'Whose America, Who's American?'

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

DENVER—Many of the Japanese Americans who gathered July 5 to remember the internment of 120,000 family members during World War II expressed concern about what they see as an erosion of civil liberties since the Sept. 11 attacks.

During a town hall discussion on the Patriot Act at a weekend conference organized by the Japanese American National Museum, San Francisco lawyer Dale Minami told the audience they shouldn't think denying people access to lawyers or a right to a trial is something that can't hurt regular law-abiding people.

"It did happen to you. It did happen to you in 1942," said Minami, who worked on the landmark case that led to the exoneration of Fred Korematsu who refused to report to an internment camp.

Korematsu's conviction for violating the internment order in 1942, along with the overall internment policy, had been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1944.

Many in the audience of approximately 100 people nodded at points made by Minami and fellow panelist Noel Saleh, a civil liberties and immigration lawyer. Some people in the audience and the meeting's moderator, retired California State University, Long Beach professor Lloyd Inui, wore the names of the camps where they lived on ribbons below their nametags.

They also laughed when a white librarian in the crowd told them how her institution has been displaying a sign saying that the CIA hasn't requested any records as a way to get people asking questions about the Patriot Act.

The 2001 legislation strengthened the authority of law enforcers to investigate suspected acts of terrorism and expanded their access to private telephone, e-mail, financial and other records.

The leaders of Los Angeles' Japanese American National Museum have spoken up in support of protecting the rights of Muslim Americans following Sept. 11. However, Inui said he didn't think any mass incarceration of people was likely again, partly because of the activism of JAs, who won a presidential apology and \$20,000 in restitution for each internee in 1988. Inui,

who was interned at the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming, said he's more afraid that people who have unpopular views, regardless of their ethnic background, will be targeted.

"You're going to suffer if you don't learn from history," Inui said. "It's an American issue, it's not just a Japanese American issue for us now and in the future."

Saleh, the former president of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, said the "climate of fear" of terrorism following Sept. 11 is not unlike the fear the nation experienced following Pearl Harbor. However, he said the eventual conviction of Jose Padilla shows that the U.S. doesn't have to give up the principles of its legal system in order to be secure.

Padilla, an American once accused of plotting with al-Qaida to blow up a radioactive dirty bomb, was sentenced earlier this year to 17 years in prison on unrelated terror support charges. The charges were filed against him in 2005 just as his legal challenges to continued detention without criminal charge were reaching the Supreme Court.

Saleh, a Barack Obama supporter like many in the crowd, acknowledged he was disappointed that the Democratic presidential candidate has endorsed a congressional compromise on legal protections for telecommunications companies that aided the Bush administration's wiretapping.

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., cautioned those upset with Obama's position to remain involved. Honda, who was interned at Camp Amache on Colorado's southeastern plains, said if Obama isn't elected, he

won't be able to make changes that could help make government less secretive.

"When it's open and transparent, at least you can see the laundry," said Honda, who voted against reauthorizing the Patriot Act in 2006.

Over 800 people, including 50 teachers from 12 states, attended the conference at a downtown hotel focusing on the history of JAs in the interior West. Attendees also participated in discussions on oral histories and tracing Japanese roots along with road trips to Camp Amache.

Other speakers invited to talk on a range of topics included Sen. Daniel Inouye, the husband of the museum's director, Irene Hirano, "Star Trek" actor George Takei and former transportation secretaries Norman Mineta, a former internee, and Federico Pena, the former Denver mayor. ■

'You're going to suffer
if you don't learn from
history ... It's an
American issue, it's not
just a Japanese
American issue for us
now and in the future.'

— Lloyd Inui
Retired CSU Long Beach professor

Mesa School's Popularity Reflects Growing Chinese Population

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

MESA, Ariz.—On a recent warm Saturday afternoon, classrooms at Mesa Community College were buzzing — with Chinese. The Hope Chinese School was hosting a Chinese speaking competition, where children could recite poems, songs and tongue twisters to showcase their knowledge of the language.

In other classrooms, students sang Chinese songs as part of the school's junior choir, or practiced martial arts. Toddlers danced to Chinese music.

And outside on the college's lawn, some parents practiced tai chi.

It was just a typical Saturday at the school, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote Chinese culture in metro Phoenix, as well as among Chinese American youth.

Every Saturday, some 400 children — mostly Chinese American students — gather in Mesa to learn about their heritage through classes in Chinese language, dance and martial arts. The school also offers academic enrichment, too, including essay writing, test prep and calculus, said Eugene Xu, an engineer and chairman of the school's board.

This year, students could choose

among 67 classes during the five-hour school day.

The school, which was started by the Chinese community in 1995, is growing in size and mission, Xu said.

Starting with fewer than 30 students, the school now enrolls more than 400 children.

Xu believes there are two reasons behind those numbers.

"One is the population in the East Valley of Chinese community who migrated here is growing. Also, the general public is also more interested in learning about Chinese culture and language," he said.

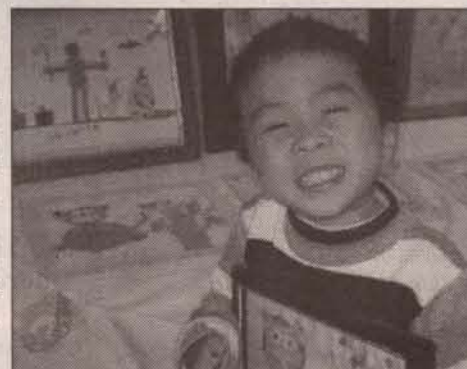
According to a 2005 survey by the Census Bureau, the Valley's Asian population has grown by 46 percent since 2000, the third-highest growth rate in the nation.

The Census Bureau does not break down the Asian population, by country, for each community. But it does report that in Chandler — where it does track the population by country of ethnicity — the Chinese population increased by 242 percent from 2000 to 2005 — up to 6,861 residents. That's much higher than the city's general population growth of 28 percent.

In Mesa, the Chinese population



Students at the Hope Chinese School in Mesa, Arizona take part in art classes.



The non-profit school aims to promote Chinese culture and heritage.

nearly doubled during the same time period, up to more than 2,000 residents.

While the vast majority of the students at the school are the sons and daughters of Chinese immigrants,

others are adopted from China. About 10 percent the school says are American children whose parents want to give them a head start on learning about China.

The soaring popularity of Mandarin language lessons in America — which most public schools do not offer — has contributed to the enrollment increase.

Mary Shuai, the school's principal, said nearly all the students at the school take some type of Chinese language class.

"Parents maybe know that China's economy is growing fast, that's important for the parents," she said. "But I think for the kids, they just like the Chinese characters, the language, the Chinese culture."

The school also offers SAT Chinese prep and Advanced Placement Chinese prep classes. Last year, the school had three students participate in the first Advanced Placement Chinese test offered in the U.S. and all of them received scores of five — the highest available.

Like many of Hope's students, Jennifer Wu has Chinese heritage. She's attended the school on Saturdays since she was four years old to hone her language skills.

It helps when she telephones her grandmother in China, who speaks only Chinese, said Wu, 14.

Recently, Wu won a second-place prize in a national Chinese writing competition where she wrote an essay, in Chinese, about the upcoming Olympics in Beijing.

"Chinese was my first language, and when I was younger I was more fluent," she said. "But I've lost it some because I go to an American school where I speak English every day. So I go to Saturday classes." ■

Comic Book Miniseries Will Feature 442nd Regimental Combat Team

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Comic book creator and writer William Tucci is producing *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*, a monthly miniseries that will feature the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

The series, scheduled to debut in November 2008, will tell the story of the 442nd RCT rescuing the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division that was trapped and surrounded by enemy forces in eastern France.

Members of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) have been invited to speak about their wartime experiences at the Sept. 29 comic convention in Baltimore where *Sgt. Rock* will be featured.

Tucci said he is determined to tell the story of the Japanese American soldiers who had to fight for a country that was persecuting their family members.

"The members of the 442nd RCT fought against tyranny and oppression overseas while many of their own family members were interned behind barbed wire in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's internment camps," Tucci said.

Because *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* is based on the actual stories of soldiers in battle, Tucci decided to visit the region of France depicted in the comic series to take



photographs and conduct research.

"I felt compelled to write and draw a story as accurate as possible," he said.

On March 4, Tucci attended a

wreath laying ceremony at the 442nd RCT monument in France to honor the JA soldiers who helped liberate the town from German forces. Also present at the ceremony were regional mayors, councilors and resistance fighters and historians.

In addition to honoring the efforts of the 442nd RCT, Tucci was honored as an ambassador in the town of Bruyeres.

"The ambassadorship means that I am to tell my countrymen that the people of France will never forget their liberators," Tucci explained. ■

JACL Condemns Hate Crimes Against Sikh Americans

The JACL said they are disturbed by the recent hate crimes committed against the Sikh American community and have called for stricter enforcement of punishment against those who commit such acts.

There have been at least three incidents in Queens in the past few months where Sikh students were targeted. Hair cutting violates Sikh religious beliefs, and a 12-year-old girl had her long hair cut off by a fellow student June 9.

Another Sikh was punched in the face by a student June 3 at Richmond Hill High School after attempts to remove his *patka* or headwear, and a student at another

Queens school had his turban removed and his hair cut off in May.

Over 40 percent of Sikh Americans living in New York City have experienced harassment because of their religion, and 60 percent of all Sikh American students have been either verbally or physically harassed because of their religious headwear, according to a report issued by the Sikh Coalition.

The JACL said citizens should demand stricter enforcement of punishing those who commit the hate crimes, emphasizing the importance of treating everyone with respect regardless of religious background. ■



38th Annual Nisei Week
J. A. 家紋と苗字史展
 (Original Bronze "J.A. KAMON" & "J.A. MON-KEIFU" Exhibit)
KAMON & MYOJI EXHIBIT
August 23 & 24, 2008 11 A.M.~4 P.M.
Higashi Honganji / 505 E. 3rd St., Rm. #5, L. A., CA

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Schedule Announced for the 68th Annual Nisei Week Festival

Get your *Ondo* on at Aug. 16-24 event.

A long-time community supporter, a U.S. Senator and a news anchor are headlining this year's Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The Aug. 16-24 event is the nation's longest-running ethnic festival. And this year, Sen. Daniel Inouye will join Fred Hoshiyama and KNBC-TV news reporter Gordon Tokumatsu as grand marshals of the Aug. 17 grand parade.

Every summer Nisei Week offers free Japanese cultural activities, good food and fun games for everyone.

Events include cultural exhibits, martial arts and sumo demonstrations, and a street fair at the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center (JACCC).

On Aug. 16, the new Nisei Week Queen will be crowned at the annual



The *ondo* is a Nisei Week tradition and helps close the annual festivities.

coronation dinner and show. The same day, the Nisei Week Car Show will be held at 100 South Alameda Street.

But save your appetite for the Aug. 23 Gyoza Eating Contest — the popular event is only in its second year.

Dancers will take to the streets Aug. 24 to close the festival with tra-

ditional *ondo* dancing on First Street. The public is encouraged to join in this Japanese street dancing ritual.

Nisei Week activities will be held in various locations throughout Little Tokyo, including the JACCC at 244 South San Pedro Street. ■

For more information: www.nisei-week.org or 213/687-7193.

Senate Considers Tule Lake Preservation Bill

The U.S. Senate will soon vote on a bill that will authorize a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Tule Lake Segregation Center as a part of the National Park System.

Section 273 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 authorizes the National Park Service to conduct a Special Resources Study, a step towards enabling the development of a visitor center that will preserve the stories of the JAs incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II.

The Senate bill is on the floor and will be presented to the House of Representatives for approval if it

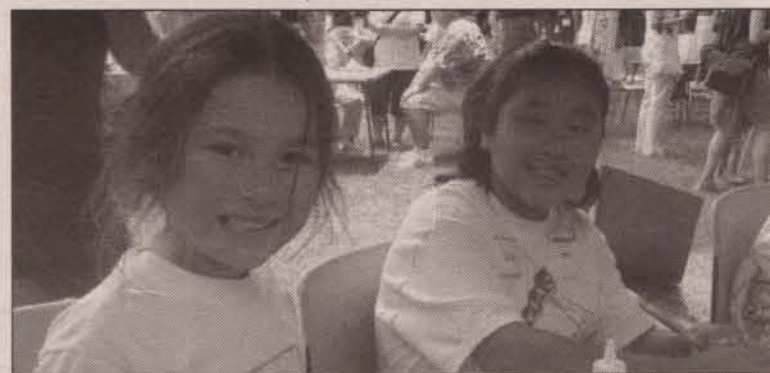
passes.

Located in Northern California, Tule Lake is where the War Relocation Authority and Army chose to segregate the 12,000 JAs who protested their incarceration. The segregation center was designated as a National Historical Landmark in 2006.

The Tule Lake Preservation Committee, a nonprofit corporation, is requesting people to contact their Senators and urge them to vote for the bill. The committee has planned and conducted biennial pilgrimages to the Tule Lake site. ■

For more information: www.TuleLake.org.

San Jose Children's Day Event Attracts Multigenerational Families



Miya Hillesland and Caitlin Tanaka make crafts at the annual Children's Day event.

San Jose JACL hosts the popular event.

Mae Ishimaru brought her granddaughters to the recent San Jose Children's Day event but it was also a homecoming of sorts for her too.

This was the first time in 75 years Mae was returning to the place she was born and where her parents — Michiko and Riichiro Takamoto — decided to move after growing chrysanthemums in the peninsula area.

"This was the first time I had been back to the building," said Mae of the historic Issei Memorial Building where the Children's Day festivities were being held. "Isn't it amazing?"

The Day's event were also a chance to introduce the younger members of the Japanese American community to the history of the local San Jose community.

Barbara Tanaka attended the event with her daughter, daughter-in-laws and four of her grandchildren. The kids took part in a variety of events including basketball, horseshoes and a bean bag toss. The children also learned paper doll decorating and origami.

The event brought out more than 130 children to the Issei Memorial Building which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010.

Melody Sweeney, eight years old, helped pick the winners of the Stay at Home Fundraiser: Frank and Marjorie Kagawa. They took home a prize of \$500. ■

NJAMF to Host Two Events to Honor 20th Anniversary of Redress

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) will host two events to honor the 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

A reception for senators and members of Congress will be held July 31 at the Capitol, and a public ceremony will take place Aug. 3 at the Japanese American Memorial to

Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Congressman Mike Honda of California will also be present at the July 31 reception.

Inouye is a WWII veteran, and Mineta and Honda were both relocated and interned as children.

The NJAMF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising public awareness about the JA experience during the war.

The two upcoming events are in part meant to serve as reminders to never allow an injustice like internment to happen again. ■



INOUE

Patriotism During World War II. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 offered a national apology and reparations to JAs interned during WWII. More than 120,000 people of Japanese descent were relocated from their homes and businesses during the war.

Former U.S. Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta, a leader in the redress movement, and former Sen. Alan Simpson, co-sponsor of the Civil Liberties Act, will be at both events. Craig Uchida, chairman of the board of the NJAMF, will also be present at the two ceremonies.

Information:

Reception for Senators and Members of Congress

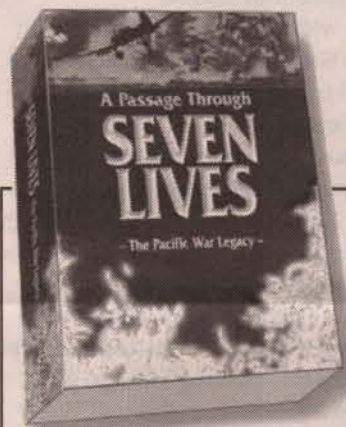
Date: July 31, 6 to 8 pm

Place: U.S. Capitol, Room HC-5

Public Ceremony

Date: Aug. 3, 2 to 3:30 pm

Place: Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II, intersection of Louisiana and New Jersey Avenues and D Street, NW



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- Oct. 18-Nov. 2 Yamato Exclusive Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** 16 days visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Fukuoka/Saga, Nagasaki, Beppu and Hiroshima. Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 2-8 Yamato Southern Charm with Collette Vacations** - 7 days visiting Charleston and Beaufort, South Carolina, Savannah, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island, Georgia and St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida. Sharon Seto
- Nov. 3-12 Yamato Exclusive Miyamoto Musashi & Samurai Tour** - 10 days visiting Nagoya, Takayama, Kyoto and Kumamoto. Lily Nomura

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[PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN]

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

Theory of Relativity

Recently, my cousin (and roommate) and I were having a debate about opposites. The debate hinged on the premise of relative versus absolute.

He posited the theory that when you *pull* open a door, is it not the same as your fingers *pushing* the handle in the opposite direction, making the difference between push/pull a matter of relative position.

As the contrarian, I challenged him to *push* open a door with a rope. Until he could accomplish such a feat, I would refuse to give further attention to his claims.

This conversation forced me to consider the value of relativity and perspective, particularly in the opposing concepts of being an "insider" versus "outsider." Is it better to be an insider or an outsider? And are these terms absolute or relative?

Take the Japanese word *gaijin* (外人) for example — such a strange word. Literally translated as outside (外)-person (人).

When I was living in Japan, I experienced this mysterious thing called *gaijin-power*, where *gaijin* are given preferential treatment. It was hard to admit that it did not exist when we received more generous welcomes into people's homes or better service at stores and restaurants.

Sometimes our Japanese peers would want us to exploit our *gaijin-power* to get the hookup for our whole group. It was tempting and we succumbed — often. Retrospectively, it still seems so perplexing that an entire culture could be wired to treat outsiders so well.

Think about how the concept of *gaijin-power* would work in America. It would not. It could not. Where would you even begin to design who was inside and who was outside? It would be near impossible to divvy all the various groups. What does this say about American culture in relation to Japanese culture? Do Japanese people put more value on outsiders or simply provide better treatment? Do we as Americans put more value on the insider? Do we even have insiders?

Again, is it relative or absolute?

Naturally, it is difficult to ascribe any given characteristic to a group and expect it to apply to each individual in the group, but it is my opinion that we Americans are obsessed with being insiders.

Tabloid magazines like *In Touch* or *People* thrive on our collective fixation with knowing the insider lowdown. On Facebook and MySpace, it's a badge of honor to have 500-plus friends or be in 20-plus groups.

Add to that the advent of the GPS-enabled iPhone 3G and other web-enhanced cell phones, and other people can be so "inside" that they can know precisely where you are at any given moment.

With college students and young professionals killing hours of time on the Internet, at home, at work and now on their phones, any of their friends can instantly know their status: "out to lunch," "cramming for biology" or "too busy to chat with you."

We are compulsively competing to be more and more inside. Ironically, broadcasting our insider information to everyone.

Nonetheless, sometimes it's cool to be an outsider too. We take pride in sticking out, having our own distinct individuality.

The complicating factor arrives when our position on the outside conflicts with the greater good on the inside. This can be minute, like when you are the only one with closed-eyes in a family portrait. Or it can be much grander, like when Iran recently rejected an economic incentive package presented by the European Union.

Ironically, when outsider status creates waves that affect the inside, it inherently forces the outsider in, creating an insider out of an outsider. This brings us back to the original question, is inside/outside status simply relative or definitively absolute?

I think these questions are very applicable to the current state of the JACL. As we address the challenges of membership decline, we are forced to consider the many dormant members who may feel as if they are outsiders to our organization. They may think their actions have no effect on our organization, or they may just wish to sit on the sidelines. Whatever the case may be, it is our responsibility to fuse the best of our joint Japanese and American heritage to reach out.

We can effectively extend ourselves to these so-called *gaijin*/outsiders of our organization, while simultaneously capitalizing on their inherent tendency to be on the inside. We need these outsiders on the inside. ■

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



[HARRY HONDA]

VERY TRULY YOURS

Daze in Denver - Astonishing Amache

FOR THE NIKKEI over the Fourth of July holidays in Denver, Colorado, the question was — "Whose America? Who's American?" the theme of JANM's conference.

For the *hakujin*, they came to JANM's third national conference in Denver. For the majority Nikkei attendees at JANM's project that took three years of preparation at the Hyatt Regency Hotel by Denver's Convention Center downtown, the day at Amache camp site (August 1942 – October 1945) was an astonishing experience (at least for this writer).

Six 50-passenger buses with JANM tour-guides rolled eastward towards Amache for a burrito lunch and a power-point presentation about the camp.

After 30 untended years, the Amache Preservation Society to preserve and protect was formed by Granada High School students due to extraordinary efforts of a dedicated teacher and resources given by the Denver Central Optimists, National Park Service, University of Denver's Anthropology Department, among others.

Noticeable were the Nisei counselors in their green T-shirts at the Amache commemorative visit. Of kind assistance to me personally was Col. Paul Maruyama, retired Air Force Academy graduate who was the Japanese American member of the first U.S. judo team, coached by JANM board member Yoshio Uchida of San Jose, at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

The JANM conference squeezed some 50 topics over three days (July 3-5) with moderators and panelists. In place of the Amache tour Thursday, there were visits to University of Colorado's U.S. Navy Japanese Language School at Boulder, another to visit the National Archives-Rocky Mountain Region at Federal Center downtown or the University of Denver's anthropology museum — both focusing on Amache.

I deliberately chose topics that were forward-looking: (a) "Preserving a Historic Place: Nihonmachi in California and Interior West," which covered ongoing efforts to save Japanese communities in Colorado and Utah. National JACL President (1970-72) Raymond Uno of Salt Lake City was a panelist. Kara Miyagishima, a National Park Service historian, covered the 100 years of Japanese in Colorado. California's project director Donna Graves to Save the Japantowns

of Los Angeles, San Jose and San Francisco has also added 40 pre-war Nikkei communities.

And there were other similar workshops such as "Future of the Japanese American National Museum" that took place at the same hour as I wanted to meet (and fortunately did later) New Yorker Greg Robinson PhD, now teaching at Université du Québec, Montreal, Canada, author of "By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans" and *Nichibei Times* columnist.

His latest column, "Another Look at Our Queer Nikkei Heritage" reveals Nikkei gays and lesbians comprise "a vital component of the Nikkei community." He cites JACL in the mid-90s was the second civil rights organization (after ACLU), on record to support same-sex marriage as a civil rights matter.

The second session which I chose: (b) "Perceived Threats: Being Persons of Japanese Ancestry in (pre-war) Hawaii and Canada" was moderated by Dr. Lloyd Inui, JANM advisor and professor emeritus at CSU Long Beach in Asian American Studies.

Paired on the panel with Dr. Robinson who detailed the lock-up of Issei in Hawaii was Toronto-born Norman Okihito, PhD from Halifax, Nova Scotia, who reviewed the ill treatment of Japanese Canadians because of Pearl Harbor. Having two scholars from Canada for this conference about "Enduring Communities and the Japanese American Experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah" was a unique gathering nowhere else in the Nikkei world.

(c) "The Bonds of Community: Hapa Identity in a Changing US," moderated by past P.C. Board Chair Gil Asakawa of three bienniums, pictured the Hapa past, now and future. The two panelists were Dennis Tojo Bambauer and Michelle Tamotsu Trevino. Michelle grew up in Okinawa, Camp Zama, Japan, and for the past 20 years has worked as a counselor at UC Boulder.

After his mother died in childbirth, Dennis was placed in an orphanage, then at Manzanar's Children Village, and was adopted by the Bambauers of Bishop, Calif. After graduating from Occidental College, he taught for 33 years in California.

JANM plans to issue a summary of all the sessions. So I'll close here. ■



Going Psychologically Deeper with 'Passing Poston'



Filmmakers James Nubile (left) and Joe Fox delved into the emotional effects of the WWII internment.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLY ON THE WALL PRODUCTION

The documentary features four former internees who lay their souls bare to talk about their WWII experiences.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

In "Passing Poston," filmmakers Joe Fox and James Nubile plumb the souls of former World War II internees and release a torrent of dark emotions and well-guarded secrets.

For many Japanese Americans, memories of waking up to a world filled with gun-toting soldiers and miles of barren wasteland are like hidden wounds that never fully healed. But the reflection of a camera lens often offers the license for unbridled honesty.

So the tears come, anger explodes and shame surfaces.

"We allowed them a moment of reflection," said Fox from his office in New York. "I've seen a lot of internment films and this one takes it one step psychologically deeper."

The feature length documentary, which recently premiered in theaters in Los Angeles and goes to DVD in September, follows four former Poston internees — Ruth Okimoto, Leon Uyeda, Mary Higashi and Kiyo Sato — in their reflections of past events that continue to shape their lives.

In one scene Uyeda stands on the bank of a pond and compares himself to a white duck splashing in the water with a flock of black ducks. Maybe he doesn't know he's white?

"It's tragic in a way," said Fox, "how they see their lives through this whole prism of racism."

Jewish American Parallels

"I had no idea," said Fox, 48, about the internment. "All I knew was that it happened."

The second generation Jewish American filmmaker whose father was a rabbi, grew up attending services at a synagogue filled with Holocaust survivors. He heard personal stories about the atrocities that happened across the ocean during WWII, but not about his own government's "Nuremberg-type laws" against JAs.

"It was really eye-opening," he said about the Alien Land Laws and exclusion orders.

His own ethnic heritage connected him to JA internment history. Although the Holocaust and the internment are not interchangeable, there are parallels, he said — even in the historic War Relocation Authority photos of thousands of JAs forced from their homes and taken to train stations to await their fate. Often, trains pulled away with countless innocent faces peering out the windows.

"They weren't exterminated, but there was a certain level of degradation of human life going on."

As former journalists, Fox and Nubile developed the skills to find great stories. Fox wrote regularly for *USA Today* until he met Nubile, a photographer, in Rwanda. They shared a passion for filmmaking, so they formed Fly on the Wall Productions.

A few years ago, they decided to make a film on historical preservation.

"It always fascinated me," Fox said about the people who dedicated themselves to saving old buildings. "You know those people who throw themselves in front of wrecking balls? Why would something so old be so important to somebody?"

So they reached out to historical societies across the nation and asked for personal stories about historical preservation. They were deluged, but one story stood out.

"The Arizona Historical Society said we have a great story for you — a group of Native Americans and former Japanese American internees working together to save the remnants of a former internment camp located on a Native American reservation."

What more could they ask for?

'They Used Us'

Poston was built on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. During WWII, the Bureau of Indian Affairs saw an opportunity to develop the area's agricultural land using the War Department's budget. Much of the existing infrastructure is credited to former internees.

"They used us," said Okimoto in the film, her voice crackling.

Fox and Nubile interviewed about 60 former internees, but many couldn't be prodded to talk past a certain point. The featured four internees, on the other hand, laid their souls bare.

In the film, Higashi's face alternately hardens with anger and softens with nostalgia while she talks about the hardship of camp life and meeting her husband. On their wedding day, she carried a bouquet of paper flowers down the aisle and invited their entire block to the reception.

"Passing Poston" took three years to make with a self-funded budget. It also includes rare video of the internment camp being built. The footage was recently discovered in a vault at Del Webb, the construction company in charge of building Poston.

Research took the New Yorkers to Arizona and California where they attended an all-camp reunion. There, a former internee earnestly asked Fox, "So what camp were you from?"

At first, it was strange for Fox that the reunions were held in



BARREN PLAYGROUND: Former internees tried to make the best of the situation for the sake of the children.

honor of something as painful as the internment, but that was where many lifelong friendships were formed. And he kept hearing, "for the sake of the children."

"Many people turned the negative around. And for many children it was like an adventure in the desert."

Fox was moved by stories of former internees, who in the last chapter of their lives should have peace, not ask questions about their place in the world.

"I think they are really grateful that the film has been made," he said about the former internees. "They're hearing themselves in the film and hearing a voice they haven't really heard before." ■



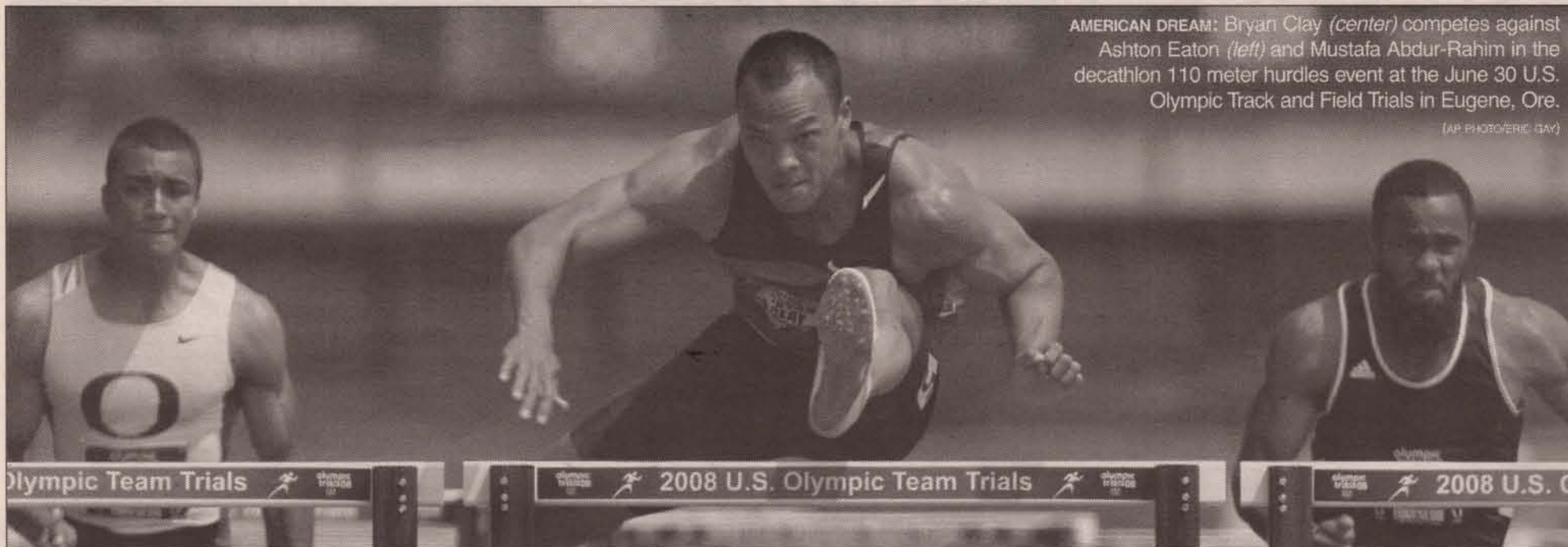
SEE IT

'Passing Poston'
New York, NY
Pioneer Theatre
Aug. 8-14

The documentary will be available on DVD through Docurama Films on Sept. 23.

On the Web
www.passingposton.com

U.S. Decathlete Clay Hopes for Gold Redemption



AMERICAN DREAM: Bryan Clay (center) competes against Ashton Eaton (left) and Mustafa Abdur-Rahim in the decathlon 110 meter hurdles event at the June 30 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene, Ore.

(AP PHOTO/ERIC CLAY)

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Bryan Clay's sixth grade teacher said the boy he struggled with in physical education class some 15 years ago in Hawaii was stubborn and mentally strong.

The characteristics he showed even back then played a significant role in his success in the decathlon, a grueling two-day, 10-event competition of running, jumping and throwing that harkens back to ancient Greece.

He is one of the world's greatest athletes, among the favorites to win the decathlon at the Beijing Olympics.

"The only way I can explain to people is that it's mentally, physically, spiritually draining on a daily basis," he said. "People go out and play basketball for fun, play golf for fun, jog a few miles for fun, but not a whole lot of people go out and do a decathlon for fun."

Clay, silver medalist in 2004, sealed his second Olympics by winning the U.S. trials with the best decathlon score by an American in 16 years, and the best in the world in four years.

Clay's total of 8,820 points at the 2004 Athens Games was the fourth highest total in Olympic history (it was his personal best until the 8,832 points he scored at the trials in Eugene, Ore.). But Czech great Roman Sebrle set an Olympic record with 8,893 points.

"Everything leading up to the silver medal was the dream, the kind of out-of-body experience," said Clay. "To be in the stadium with 75,000 people cheering and seeing the U.S. flags raised throughout the stadium; I actually start crying when I got to the long jump because I was so overwhelmed by where I was and what was going on around me."

'I guess you could say I'm the smallest decathlete; everybody's taller than me.'

The following year, Clay won the world championships. Hampered by injury last year, this spring he won the heptathlon at the world indoor championships.

Clay uses determination to make up for his stature — at 5-feet-11 and 185 pounds, he is undersized for the sport.

"I guess you could say I'm the smallest decathlete; everybody's taller than me," he said. "There are some things that they get a certain advantage with the height, but I think

it all equals out."

The first decathlon event, the 100 meters, is among his strongest, and the last, the 1,500 meters, perhaps his weakest. So he might have to build a substantial lead heading into the decathlon finale if he is to win Olympic gold. ■



Kayla Bashore will return to her birth country of South Korea after the Games.

PHOTO: JEFF GANZA/USA FIELD HOCKEY



'08 APA Summer Olympians

They will dive, run, tumble and push their bodies to the limit for a chance to touch glory. Who will you root for?

BADMINTON



(L-r) Bach, Malaythong, Lee, Mangkalakiri and Rai.

Returning Olympian **Howard Bach** (San Francisco, Calif./Orange, Calif.) will be leading the all APA team. Bach qualified in both men's doubles with **Khan "Bob" Malaythong** (Rockville, Md./Orange, Calif.) and mixed doubles with **Eva Lee** (Orange, Calif.). Lee also qualified for women's singles, mixed doubles with Bach and women's doubles with **Mesinee "May" Mangkalakiri** (Garden Grove, Calif.). **Raju Rai** (Atlanta, Ga./Anaheim, Calif.) rounds out the team having qualified in men's singles.

DIVING



Haley Ishimatsu, 15

Hometown: Seal Beach, CA

Current Residence: Indianapolis, IN

Inside Scoop: The former gymnast, who takes online courses through California's Halstrom High School, started diving in 2004. She is one of only three female divers to perform a back 3-1/2 pike at a 3.6-degree of difficulty. Her sister Tory is also a diver.

FENCING



Emily Cross, 21

Event: Women's Foil

Hometown: New York, NY

Inside Scoop: Cross currently attends Harvard University, where she is fencing and majoring in biology. She's also an avid saxophone player.



James Williams, 22

Event: Men's Saber — Replacement Athlete

Hometown: Sacramento, CA

Current Residence: Long Island City, NY

Inside Scoop: Williams was a two-time NCAA All-American in fencing. If he sees action during the Games, he may burst out in Russian — the Columbia University graduate student is fluent.

FIELD HOCKEY



Kayla Bashore, 25

Position: Midfielder

Hometown: Shoemakersville, PA

Current Residence: Bloomington, IN

Inside Scoop: Bashore, who was adopted from South Korea, plans to travel to her birth country with her sisters after the Games. "It will be very special because it is the first time back to Korea since we were adopted at a very young age," said Bashore, an Indiana University graduate with a degree in biology and chemistry.



Amy Tran, 27

Position: Goalkeeper

Hometown: Grantville, PA

Inside Scoop: "I think that we are in a very fortunate position with the pool assignments. Our two biggest challenges will be Argentina and Germany," said Tran, who started playing field hockey because it was the

only fall sport offered at her high school. In 2002, she graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in Communications Studies and Speech and Hearing Sciences.

GYMNASTICS



Kevin Tan, 26

Program: Men's Artistic

Level: Senior

Hometown: Fremont, CA

Inside Scoop: Tan's parents enrolled him in gymnastics class as an outlet for his "hyperactive" nature. He's come a long way — Tan was captain of the men's team for the 2006 World Championships. His favorite event is the rings, and he managed to squeeze in a finance degree from Penn State.

The U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team was not finalized before deadline.

JUDO



Taylor Takata, 26

Weight Category: 66-kg

Hometown: Wahiawa, HI

Current Residence: Colorado Springs, CO

Inside Scoop: The Hawaii native has represented the U.S. at the 60-kg division level at Junior and Senior World Championships. He's won at the Pan American and U.S. Open Titles before moving up to the 66-kg division in 2004. When he's not throwing his opponents to the mat, he likes to fish.



Sayaka Matsumoto, 25

Weight Category: 48-kg

Hometown: Richmond, Calif.

Current Residence: El Cerrito, Calif.

Judo Rank: Sandan (3rd-degree black belt)

Inside Scoop: After missing out on two other Olympic Games, this year Matsumoto's dream may come true. Her father David Matsumoto has been coaching her Japan-born daughter since she was five years old. One of her favorite techniques is the *Uchimata*, an inner thigh throw.

SHOOTING



Sandra Fong, 18

Events: Air Rifle, Three-Position Rifle

Hometown: New York, NY

Inside Scoop: Shooting is a family activity for Fong — her dad taught her how to shoot. Her sisters Abby and Danielle are both shooters too. Fong also competes in track and field and swimming. She will be attending Princeton University in the fall, where she will major in theater and history of jazz.

SOCCER



Natasha Kai, 25

Position: Forward

Hometown: Kahuku, HI

Inside Scoop: The team has Kai to thank for her two goals against Costa Rica in a victory that qualified the U.S. for the '08 Olympics. She is the first-ever player from Hawaii to play for the full Women's National Team (WNT) and to make a Women's World Cup Team. But her best record may be her tattoos — 19, by far the most ever for a WNT player.

The U.S. Men's Soccer Team was not finalized before deadline.

SOFTBALL



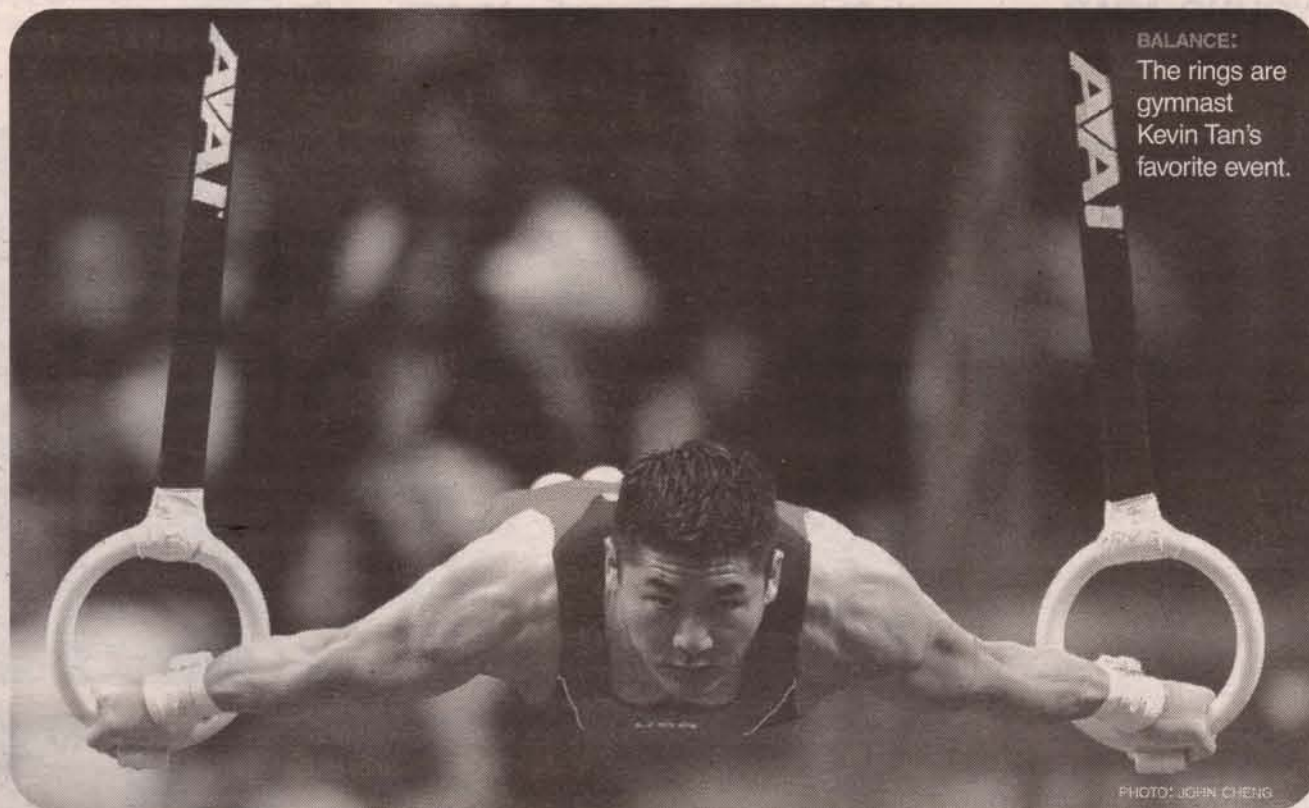
Lovieanne Jung, 28

Position: Second Base

Hometown: Fountain Valley, CA

Inside Scoop: Sometimes it's hard for a returning Gold Medal winner. "I think everyone is definitely out to get us this time," said Jung, who was a part of the U.S. team's 2004 win.

"We have seen a couple teams this year and everyone looks much better than they were in 2004." But the University of Arizona graduate is looking forward to the opening cere-



BALANCE:
The rings are gymnast Kevin Tan's favorite event.

PHOTO: JOHN CHENG

monies — they missed out last time because they had a game the next day.

SWIMMING



Nathan Adrian, 19

Hometown: Bremerton, WA

Current Residence: Islamorada, FL

Inside Scoop: Adrian beat out some veterans in the 50-meter freestyle final to qualify. He's an aspiring doctor at the University of California, Berkeley who earned the nickname, "Bok Choi" because he's half Asian.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING



Annabelle Orme, 21

Hometown: New York, NY

Inside Scoop: To get pumped up for competition, Orme listens to Al Pacino's speech from "Any Given Sunday." Her iPod will be blaring in Beijing where she's hoping to perform her favorite moves — jump ups and rockets.



Becky Kim, 23

Hometown: Redwood City, CA

Inside Scoop: Kim tried gymnastics and figure skating before settling on synchronized swimming. She plans to win Gold and then go back to Ohio State University to get her degree in Korean.

TABLE TENNIS



(L-r) Gao, Wang, Zhuang and Huang.

Olympic veteran **Jun Gao** started playing table tennis when she was five. Her first lesson was to learn how to bounce the ball against the wall without letting the ball drop. Now, she is hoping for glory alongside her all APA teammates: **Crystal Huang, Chen Wang and David Zhuang.** ■

Also look out for these other potential APA Olympians: **Ivana Hong** (gymnastics), **Lee Nguyen** (soccer), **Logan Tom** (volleyball) and **Lindsey Berg.**

Check www.roadtobeijing.org or the U.S. team's Web site for a more complete listing of APA Olympians.



PHOTO: JEFF NOIT

'I think everyone is definitely out to get us this time.'

— Lovieanne Jung,
USA Softball



PHOTO:
USA SOFTBALL

YOUNG APAS

(Continued from page 1)

Phan, but it is only a plus, not the main reason for his support. What he really admires about McCain is his compassion and his leadership.

"He had almost every bone in his body broken, and he forgave those who tortured him. He has the compassion and wisdom to be a great leader."

Personal and Political

Obama, like McCain, has gained support from young APAs because of his character, policies and personal background.

Ramey Ko, the 28-year-old founder of Asian Americans for Obama, said the senator from Illinois is comfortable being around APAs because of his upbringing in Hawaii and his family, particularly his half sister Maya Soetoro-Ng.

"As Asian Americans, we are so unused to seeing Asian faces close to high levels of leadership," he said. "When we do see Asian faces, it provides a reassurance that a person with personal experience with the issues we grapple with has an influence."

Ko also believes Obama is strong on issues important to the APA community, including small business and health care. His parents run a small business and have difficulty providing quality affordable health insurance.

"My parents always try very hard to get the best plans for their employees, but the employees are still left with pretty high deductibles and premiums," said Ko, an Austin, Texas resident.

One policy area in which Trinh Le, an 18-year-old supporter of McCain, does not agree with Obama is abortion. She said she wants young Obama supporters to

see the inconsistency of supporting both human rights and abortion.

"As young voters, we don't look at the wide spectrum," she said. "When it comes down to it, I wish people would see the full picture and see how well-rounded McCain is."

Le, whose father is a veteran and was a prisoner of war like McCain, said she is also drawn to the heroism McCain showed by serving his country. She believes McCain would be a great president because of "his experience, his courage and his desire to do right."

Online Campaign Efforts

The group Asian Americans for Obama was founded by Ko to organize the AA community to elect Obama as president. The group's Web site is a resource center for organizers who need tools to campaign in their communities.

"Our job is not to tell people what to do," Ko said. "The idea is that every person in their community knows what to do in that community."

One of the resources is the "Supporter Toolkit," full of downloadable documents to help mobilize AAs. Included in this section of the Web site are flyers for Obama in English, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and both traditional and simplified Chinese.

Angelica Jongco, a 30-year-old civil rights lawyer in San Francisco, has helped the Web site by working on outreach to ethnic media, particularly the Filipino press. She has helped to ensure ethnic media outlets receive media releases from the campaign.

McCain supporter Phan acknowledges the Obama campaign's effectiveness in mobilizing the younger generation and minority groups. The group Asian

Americans for McCain is limited in its resources, he said.

"The Obama campaign is more tech savvy. They have been very effective in reaching out to the younger generation."

Asian Americans for McCain, according to Phan, is attempting to bridge the generational gap and attract young APAs who are more inclined to support Obama in part because of his multiracial background, age and coverage in mainstream media.

"Young people do not care much about politics," Phan said. "When they look at the presidential election, Obama has more exposure in the media."

Small Victories

The efforts of young members of the APA community in presidential campaigns are making a difference one community at a time.

Matthew Chea, 28, along with other APAs set up an all-volunteer office in the Philadelphia Chinatown to reach out to the AA community in the months leading up to the Pennsylvania Primary. The office was diverse with volun-

teers from New York, New Jersey and Virginia.

Although the office was disappointed about Obama's loss in Pennsylvania, they were still happy with what they accomplished, said Chea.

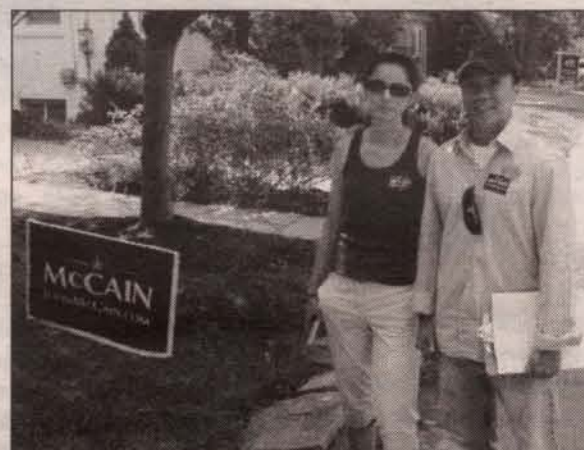
"To be honest, we won Philadelphia, especially in the Chinatown ward. It wasn't a loss for us. We got people excited to vote."

Outreach and involvement in the community along these lines is important for giving a voice to the APA community, according to Ko.

"It's precisely things like that that will bring members of the Asian American community into contact with people who might not have had contact with Asian Americans," he said. "That's important for a good democracy."



A young Obama supporter (above) holds a sign cheering on the candidate in Chinese.



McCain supporters (left) campaign in Northern Virginia.

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PORTLAND

(Continued from page 1)

bronze plaques detailing the area's history. But its presence from the turn of the century to 1941 has left imprints in its former residents and revelers.

"The echoes of prewar Japantown will always be there for me anyhow," said Katagiri, his words warm with nostalgia.

Disappearance is a common theme in most of today's J-Towns — the last three in California continue to fend off shrinking borders and loss of ownership. But in Portland what is gone may soon return with the possible arrival of Uwajimaya, an Asian food and gift market.

"It would be the first JA business in the area since the 1950s," said June Schumann, executive director of the Oregon Nikkei Center. "It's significant because it would reestablish the commercial history of the neighborhood."

A Tentative Possibility

The Seattle-based Uwajimaya has been a source for Japanese food and goods in the Pacific Northwest since 1928 when Fujimatsu Moriguchi started hawking homemade fish-cakes from the back of his truck. From this humble beginning, the business has grown into a large supermarket chain with three locations in Seattle, Bellevue and Beaverton.

Now Uwajimaya and developers are eyeing a parking lot — free of any historic building or current tenants — at Northwest Couch Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues in Portland's former J-Town as the site for a possible new supermarket space complete with fixed-income housing and underground parking.

Uwajimaya is in the very early stages of this endeavor, said CEO Tomio Moriguchi, who has been meeting with city officials, developers and community members to determine the feasibility and even desirability of the project. A quick analysis of the area revealed that it might not be a fit with Uwajimaya's

core clientele.

"We have other opportunities," said Moriguchi, adding that the supermarket's presence in Old Town/Chinatown would depend on the city's commitment to redevelop the area.

For many years the neighborhood, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, has been on a decline.

"The only grocery stores were the corner stores that sold chips, cookies and cheap wine," said Schumann.

If the Uwajimaya project moves forward, it would mark another city-backed effort to revitalize Old Town/Chinatown, said Peter Englander of the Portland Development Commission (PDC).

The PDC's budget currently earmarks \$10 million in tax increment funding for the next five years from the downtown waterfront urban renewal area to help finance the Uwajimaya project. City officials say once details of the project are set, approval is needed from the PDC board and the Portland City Council.

'It was nostalgic but there was nothing to draw me back there,'
said George Katagiri, about his old Japantown after WWII.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON NIKKEI LEGACY CENTER

ECHOES OF THE PAST: The Tsuchino Sumida family stands in front of Hotel Taylor in Portland's former Japantown.

"I am so proud of Chinatown," said Stephen Ying, president of the Chinese American Citizen Alliance. He doesn't want the area to become a dumping ground for the homeless and the mentally ill, a problem that was prevalent in other urban areas like Downtown Los Angeles.

Since his retirement, Ying, 52, goes to Old Town/Chinatown almost every day.

"It's important to keep the history and culture of Chinatown. We want Chinatown to keep its identity," he said. But a big name like Uwajimaya could revitalize Chinatown — and usher in an old Asian identity with a nod to history.

After all it began as Japantown, said Ying.

Old Nihonmachi

It was a neighborhood where many immigrant groups got their start.

Before WWII when it was Japantown, Issei men who worked in the sawmills and railroad construction sites during the week would come to J-Town on the weekends to take baths, get clean clothes from the local laundries and visit the barbers, said Schumann.

The small Nihonmachi, which consisted of just five to six blocks near the waterfront, was also an urban hub for JAs to find staples like shoyu, miso and rice.

But when the bombing of Pearl Harbor thrust the U.S. into war, Portland city leaders quickly rescinded business licenses for JA-owned businesses and shut down J-Town, even before President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued his removal orders for all JAs on the West Coast, said Schumann.

Prominent JA businesses like Teikoku, a retail store established in 1905 by the Matsushima family,

were eventually forced to sell all its goods and close its doors. Growing up in pre-war J-Town, young Hiroshi Matsushima helped his parents run the shop by packing *umeboshi* into jars.

"That was my job," said the Nisei, who was taken to the Minidoka Internment Camp with his mother and siblings. His father had been picked up earlier by the FBI and taken to a separate camp. By the time the Matsushima family was reunited over a year later in Crystal City, Texas, young Hiroshi barely recognized his own father.

Thousands of Portland's JA residents experienced the same forced dislocation, and most never returned after the war — leaving the old J-Town to fade away. It was by chance in 1950 that Katagiri, an MIS veteran who earned his teaching credentials at the University of Minnesota, returned to his hometown. He was hired to teach at Portland's Abernethy, the same elementary school he attended growing up.

When Katagiri returned, J-Town had already become Chinatown.

"It was nostalgic but there was nothing to draw me back there," he said.

The Matsushima family also returned to the Portland area after the war to set up shop again with \$500 borrowed from friends. The government barred the name Teikoku calling it "imperial," so they settled on Anzen or "safe."

In 1968, the family moved across the river to its current location at 736 NE ML King Boulevard. The 103-year-old business is now being run by Hiroshi, who is wary of Uwajimaya's possible move across the river. Anzen was once the only place to get Japanese food and goods, but Uwajimaya's move to

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Calendar

National

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

LOWELL, Mass.

Sun., Aug. 10—New England JACL's Bento and Baseball; 10 a.m. screening of "American Pastime" at Middlesex Community College, Federal Building, Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square; bento lunch after screening (please bring one dish per person); 1:30 p.m. Lowell Spinners vs. Hudson Valley Renegades, LeLachur Park, 450 Aiken St.; \$10/members, \$12/non-members (covers game ticket, beverages and paper goods for lunch); RSVP by Aug. 4 to Stephen Nishino, nishino@nejacl.org or 781/647-9293 (limited tickets for baseball game).

TOWSON, Mass.

Sat., Sept. 6—Towson University Asian Arts and Culture Center present the Many Moons Festival; 11-6 p.m.; Center for the Arts at Towson University; enjoy performances by dancers and musicians, sample Asian cuisine; \$13/advance purchase, \$15/at the door, \$10 AA and CC members, \$5/students and children over 3. Tickets, 410/704-2787 or www.towson.edu/centerforthearts.

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.

WESTPORT, Conn.

Sat., Aug. 9—New York JACL Chapter Picnic; noon-5 p.m.; 32 Mayflower Parkway; potluck, conversation, games and swimming; RSVP: Lillian Kimura, 973/680-1441, lckimura@att.net or Aileen Yamaguchi, 212/873-4170.

Midwest

CHICAGO

Sat., Aug. 2—Annual Nikkei Community Picnic; 10 a.m.-till tired; LaBagh Woods, Grove #1; food, races, games, dunk tank; free; sponsored by Asian American Law Enforcement, Chicago Nikkei Post N. 1183, JACL, JASC, Tohkon Judo Academy. Info: chicago@jacl.org or 773/728-7171.

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.

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

July 26-Sept. 2—Exhibition and Sale, Portland Japanese Garden's Annual Behind the Shoji Art Show and Sale; 10-7 p.m. Tues.-Sun., noon-7 p.m. Mon.; Portland Japanese Garden, 611 SW Kingston Dr.; featuring pottery, photography, glass, jewelry, textile art and more. Info: www.japanesegarden.com.

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

Mon., Aug. 25—NVC Annual Golf Tournament; 9 a.m.; Jefferson Park Golf Course, 4101 Beacon Ave. S; \$40/player, includes the round, prizes and dinner; cart is \$15/player; RSVP by Aug. 8. Info and RSVP: Terry Takeuchi, 425/228-8937, Warren Higa, 425/269-1046 or Bob Kiga, 206/930-6190.

Northern California

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 24—JANM's 1st and Central Summer Concerts; 6:30 p.m.; JANM; free; Prelude to the 2008 Central Avenue Jazz Festival. Info: www.janm.org.

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.

Aug. 18-22—East West Players' Creative Play Program for Children; Mon.-Fri. 10-2 p.m.; East West Players' David Henry Hwang Theater, 120 Judge John Aiso St.; program offers children ages 9-13 an opportunity to develop strong teamwork skills, build self confidence and stretch the imagination; \$300/per student, discounts for siblings who enroll together. Info: Marilyn Tokuda, mtokuda@eastwestplayers.org or 213/625-7000 ext. 15.

Through Aug. 3—Exhibit, "The Wonder Of It All: The Muriel Pollia Exhibition of Japanese Antiques and Artifacts"; Doizaki Galleries at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St.; featuring a unique collection of ceramics, netsuke, tanu, masks, kimonos and byoubu screens. Info: www.jaccc.org.

Sat., Nov. 15—Go For Broke National Education Center's 7th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner; Westin Bonaventure Hotel, 404 S. Figueroa St.; Ret. Gen. Eric Shinseki is the keynote speaker; food prepared by Roy Yamaguchi and Chris Yeo. Info: www.goforbroke.org/ea or 310/222-5702.

ROLLING HILLS

Sept. 8—40th Annual Japan



Get out your kimonos and hapi coats because it's obon season. Enjoy food, dancing and cultural festivities.

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

SAN DIEGO

Sat., Nov. 15—Screening, "Daniel K. Inouye: An American Story"; 1-2 p.m.; Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Public Library, 9005 Aero Dr.; this biographical film tells the story of the Senator from Hawaii who is now the 3rd most senior senator in the U.S.; presented by the San Diego JACL.

SANTA BARBARA

Sun., Sept. 14—Annual Santa Barbara JACL Community BBQ; featuring games, raffle, prizes, food and stuff for the kids; \$10/adults, \$6/kids under 11 years old. Info: Wade Nomura, wnomura@verizon.net or 805/448-9912.

VENTURA COUNTY

Sun., Oct. 12—18th Culture Day. Info: Jeff Kunisaki, 805/493-1824 or Mariko Chilcott, 805/231-1392.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

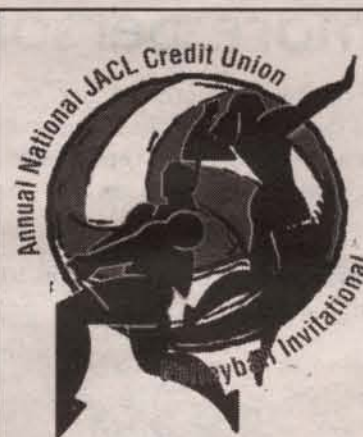
July 26-Sept. 27—Exhibition, "Pride & Practicality: Japanese Immigrant Clothing in Hawaii";

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, \$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. ■



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Saturday, Aug. 9**

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*Participants must be members of JACL, JACL CU, or 1/16 Asian and or spouse.

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In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujimoto, Rieko, 83, Arcadia, June 28; survived by husband, Yoshito; sons, Kenneth (Lana), Michael (Michelle) and Tim (Cindy); daughter, Margaret (Christian) Fujimoto; and 8 gc.

Hatakeda, Ben T., 84, Redondo Beach, June 10; ; survived by wife, Misa; daughters, Lisa (Michael) Lo and Karen Herberts; and 1 gc.

Ishihara, Keith Kenji, 27, Los Angeles, June 30; survived by parents, Ray and Kiyoko; sisters, Kristina, Kimberly and Kellie (Jeff) Kaptain; brother, Kent (Abigail); and grandmother, Haruko Ishihara.

Iwanaga, Dorothy Natsuko, 86, Pasadena, June 15; survived by husband, Ross; son, Rick (Emi); 3 gc.; brother, Jake (Mary) Matsumoto; and sister-in-law, Toki Matsumoto.

Kato, Robert Kazuo, 72, Torrance, June 19; Army veteran; survived by wife, Amy; daughters, Kimi (Chris) Kaz Gee, Michele (Darin) Kato and Gail (Mike) Poulin; 7 gc.; mother-in-law, Fumiko Kitagawa; and brother, Charles Kato.

Matsumura, Roy Masao, 90, Gardena, June 15; survived by wife, Shizu; sons, Victor, Eugene and Mitchell; step-children, Kay Shishima, Albert, Craig and Tex Yamada; and sisters, Bunny

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.

Ogimachi, Susan Sunada and Yasue Ishihara.

Mori, Ted Tetsuzo, 90, survived by daughters, Linda Chung and Patti Sako Briglio; 3 gc.; and many great-grandchildren.

Morihisa, Maxine Machiye, 82, June 16; survived by husband, Shoji; sons, John and Don; daughters, Wendy McColough and Bonnie Morihisa-Small; 4 gc.; sister, Yoshi Noji; and brothers, James and George Nakamura.

Moriwaki, Shoji "Charley," 81, Honolulu, June 10; Army veteran; survived by son, Calvin; 2 gc.; brothers, Paul and George; and sister, Irene.

Obayashi, Clara Tsuchiyama, 92, Arroyo Grande, July 2; survived by daughter, Patsy (Patrick Chow) Obayashi; and 2 gc.

Oka, Terumasa, 80, Portland, June 19; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Christine; sons, Daniel, Dennis and Andrew; 5 gc.; and brother, Shigeo.

Onaga, Tetsuo, 88, Honolulu,

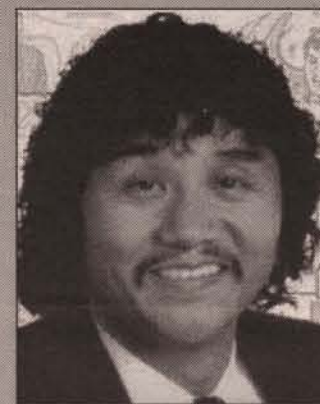
Benihana Founder Rocky Aoki Dies in New York From Cancer

By KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI—Rocky Aoki, who sought to offer diners a sense of magic and entertainment at his Japanese steakhouse Benihana, has died after complications from cancer. He was 69.

Aoki, whose Benihana empire includes more than 100 restaurants worldwide, died July 10 in New York from pneumonia, surrounded by his wife and six children, company spokeswoman Nancy Bauer said.

Born Hiroaki Aoki, he worked in the family business, a coffee shop in Japan, and wanted to offer diners "something out of the ordinary," along with their food. Aoki



also inherited his father's love for theater, according to the restaurant's Web site.

He opened his first restaurant in New York in 1964, naming it Benihana, which means "red flower" — the same name as his parent's coffee shop.

Designed to look like an authentic Japanese farmhouse interior, food was prepared "teppan-yaki" style at the table on a steel grill, where specially trained chefs performed knife tricks while cooking up the restaurant's signature shrimp, steak and chicken dishes.

The Benihana empire has grown to 5,000 employees.

"Rocky's legacy is much greater than Benihana; he was also a well-known sportsman, philanthropist, environmentalist and author," Benihana chairman and CEO Joel Schwartz said in a statement.

The Rocky H. Aoki Foundation has benefited Juvenile Diabetes, the Leukemia Society and the National Foundation for Cancer Research. ■

June 9; survived by daughter, Patricia Nichols; 1 gc.; brother, Leonard; and sister, Ruth Shimabukuro.

Ono, Hisako, 77, Monterey Park, June 27; survived by husband, Koichi; son, Daryl; daughter, Catherine (Gary) Tani; 2 gc.; and sister, Yemiko Rosenow.

Ritchie, Rudolph Maria, 85, Los Angeles, June 10; survived by wife, Yaeko; sons, Richard (Joanne) and David (Susan Mukai); daughters, Anne (Joseph Schlitt) and Kathryn Ritchie; 3 gc.; and sisters,

Bettie (Norman) Barrow and Katherine (James) Gay.

Shimabuku, Ralph Zensho, 81, Honolulu, May 30; Air Force veteran; survived by wife, Loretta; daughter, Susan Nakahara; 4 gc.; brothers, Edwin and Stanley; and sisters, Kathleen Fukumoto, Maryann Nakata and June Sato.

Shimamoto, George Shigeo, 87, Montebello, June 23; survived by son, Alan (Ellen); daughter, Leslie (Peter) Hentzen; 3 gc.; and sister, Mary (Shu) Magota.

Sugino, Seiichi S., 87, Gardena, June 16; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Nobuko; sons, Jeffrey (Catherine) Stein and Lester

(Lynn); daughters, Nancy (Joey) Omatsu, Lynne (Craig) Yonemura, Ilene (Joe Johnson) Sugino and Joyce; 7 gc.; and sisters, Chieko Dote and Yaeko Ishii.

Tanabe, Charles Hideyuki, 84, Honolulu, June 13; WWII veteran; survived by son, Elton; daughter, Janice Asentista; 5 gc.; and brothers, David and Benjamin.

Tsukida, Joe Hironori, 85, Altadena, June 6; survived by wife, Akiko; daughters, Karen (Ichiro) Yamamoto, Janice (David) Shiba and Sachiko Tsukida; 3 gc.; and sister, Shizuko Uyemura.

Umemoto, Mas Bob, 77, Los Angeles, June 12; survived by wife, Ruth; son, Ron; daughter, Sandy (Murray) Jansen; 4 gc.; sister, Sunnie Umemoto; and brother, Harry (Kiyoko).

Yano, Hiroyuki, 82, Aiea, Haw.; U.S. Air Force (ret.); survived by wife, Joyce; son, Jesse; daughter, Elaine Okada; 4 gc.; and brother, Yoshitaka. ■

DEATH NOTICE

GEORGE SHIGERU SUYEHIRO

George Shigeru Suehiro, 82, passed away peacefully June 28. He served with the MIS during WWII and was a member of VFW Post 8985. "Sugar" is survived by his wife, Emi Suehiro of Santa Clarita, Calif.; daughter, Kim (Mike) Thies; sisters, Masako (Kenneth) Shimotsu of Texas and Agnes (Irvine) Matsuda of Colorado; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A funeral service was held July 5 at the Memorial Chapel of Kubota Nikkei Mortuary with Rev. Grace Suwabe of Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church officiating. Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, Directors, (213) 749-1449.

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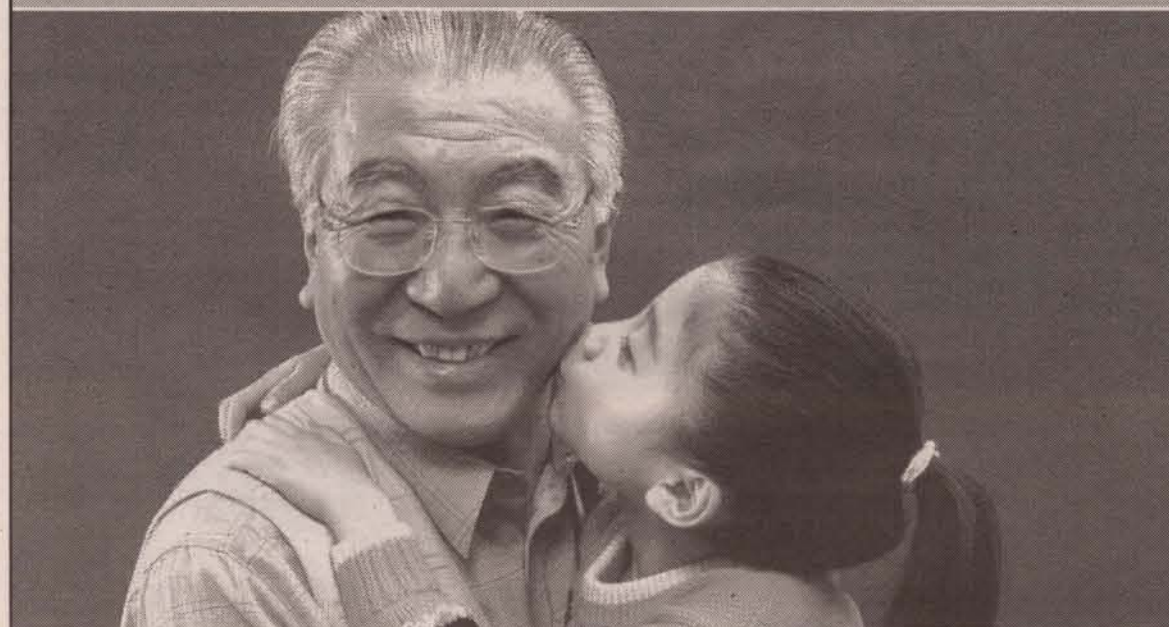
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ENGLISH ONLY

(Continued from page 1)

the *Pacific Citizen*.

The speeches were approved prior to the graduation ceremony by Beth Bajon, an English teacher at Ellender who looked over the speeches for grammar and content.

School board member Rickie Pitre had issues with the commencement speeches, and another board member made a motion that charged David Bourg, the secondary education supervisor with the Terrebonne Parish School District, with forming a committee to critique the high school graduations. The committee has not been formed because schools are still in summer session.

Bourg said he meets with the principals in the district regularly, and graduation comes up as a topic about three or four times a year. What makes this situation different is that board members had particular issues, but he stressed that his role as a chairman of the committee was the result of a board directive.

"This did not originate with me," Bourg said. "It was a board member who had issues, not me, not anybody from the staff."

Board member Pitre said he did not like the students addressing in a foreign language and said the board or administration needed to address the inconsistencies. Pitre did not respond before press time for further comment.

Hue said she first heard about the proposals from a local reporter and was never directly notified by school officials. She was shocked by the news, particularly because past valedictorian speeches had utilized foreign languages without complaint.

"I was very shocked and surprised because in the process of writing our speeches everyone knew there was going to be a Vietnamese part of it," said Hue.

Different groups like the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA-NO) have spoken out against the proposals. Minh Nguyen, executive director of VAYLA-NO, has been helping both Cindy and Hue.

The group has built up a support group and a youth letter writing campaign for young people to express how they feel about the issue. Because of all of the support they are receiving, Nguyen said the requirements are not likely to take effect.

"I don't think we are going to let that happen," he said. "We have a lot of people to support us in this."

The JACL has also spoken out against the proposals, urging the Terrebonne Parish to strike down the policy.

"It is deeply concerning that a school would think to censor students for their bilingual abilities," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Their multicultural roots should be celebrated, not punished." ■

Associated Press contributed to this story.

PORTLAND

(Continued from page 13)

Beaverton 10 years ago cut into Anzen's business.

"It hurt quite a bit," said Hiroshi.

Besides shopping, Anzen's loyal customers often come in to ask Hiroshi for referrals for credible dentists or skilled mechanics. "They tell me don't close up," he said between sighs. "We'll see."

Multicultural District

Today, a dozen or more buildings with JA roots stand next to buildings steeped in Chinese American history, said Schumann. "Some of us still think of this area as a multiethnic historical district."

The Nikkei Legacy Center is currently located inside the old Merchant Hotel, a J-Town mainstay, that's located near the proposed site of the Uwajimaya project.

Katagiri, a Portland JACL member, and other community members welcome the pan-Asian supermarket, calling it a good fit for the multiethnic historical district.

Moriguchi said the possibility of bringing back a JA-owned business to the old Nihonmachi would be an opportunity to give his newly born grandson a slice of history.

"As we learn more about the history of Portland's Old Town/Chinatown/Japantown, we are struck by the similarities with Seattle's International District," said Alan Kurimura, Uwajimaya vice president. "It is unique to the Pacific Northwest to have Chinatowns, Japantowns and Manilatowns side by side. We hope an Uwajimaya in Portland will bring together all Asians and non-Asians."

Katagiri does not have to go far to remember a place that used to bring JAs together. The Japanese

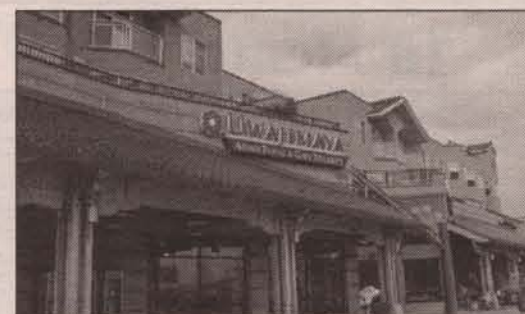


PHOTO: RICH IWASAKI

Uwajimaya (top) may be the first JA-owned business in the former J-Town since the 1950s. One of the last standing buildings is the Merchant Hotel (left).

American Historical Plaza at Tom McCall Waterfront Park commemorates the city's history with a series of stones etched with poems in English and Japanese.

"Just over there," one says, "was our old community. Echoes! Echoes! Echoes!"

"Every time I read that, all I have to do is look over my shoulder," said Katagiri. "I still hear the sounds and think once upon a time there was a Japantown." ■

On the Web

www.uwajimaya.com,
www.oregonnikkei.org,
www.pdxjacl.org

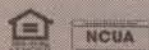


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