Special Utah Convention Issue

JACL Sets New Course with Ambitious 2009-10 Biennial Budget

With new membership and fund raising goals, the national board approves the appointment of a new secretary/treasurer. But the vice president of membership post remains vacant.

By LYNDA LIN Assistant Editor

SALT LAKE CITY—The national council adopted a biennial budget that includes aggressive measures to curb membership erosion, fund programs and move towards what some national board members are calling "a new JACL.”

This budget is a good blueprint of what we will be doing for the next two years, said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. For an organization that went over the 2009-10 budget's benefits — no membership dues increase — and its risks. Over the next biennium, the national board must raise $50,000 each year.

And perhaps most significantly, the membership objectives set in the next biennial budget requires any losses in 2008 to be recovered. In 2009, potential losses need to be overcome in addition to about 151 new paid members. Based on that, about 448 new members need to be added in 2010.

For an organization that continues to face membership decline, it's a new reality that requires full participation from the national board and the chapter members.

"I'm hopeful that all of our membership will rally around the need to increase our membership," said Mark Kobayashi, immediate former JACL secretary/treasurer. "Membership is the lifeblood of the JACL. We need to revive and learn new ways to become a relevant part of our members' lives."

An Ambitious Plan

"I agree that the membership objectives are the greatest risk," said Mori. "At the same time, I need to revive and learn new ways to become a relevant part of our members' lives."

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A Familiar Homecoming lor Astronaut Tani

From midair somersaults to M&M chocolate-filled water bubbles, Tanishows why being an astronaut is the coolest job ever.

By CAROLINE AYOAGI-STOM Executive Editor

SALT LAKE CITY—For astronaut Dan Tani, keynoting the JACL's Sayonara Banquet was like a really comfortable homecoming.

"The Portland chapter is once again the winner of the George Inagaki award.

See NORTH KOREA/Page 10

A Visionary

Adrian Hong of LINK is the winner of the NY/SC's Vision Award.

See PAGE 3

Repeat Winner

The Portland chapter is once again the winner of the George Inagaki award.

SEE PAGE 3
Meeting Lofty Expectations

This was my first national JACL convention where I actually attended the events and participated. Salt Lake City did a great job, and I had a wonderful time. I drove to Salt Lake City with three San Jose JACL youth and a mother. On the 12-hour drive home we had a lot of time to talk and debrief about the convention.

I think the strength of the organization is the youth and young professionals. I hope we can keep them interested and involved. We hosted the 2007 youth conference in San Jose, and I was so happy to see so many from that conference at the convention and involved on the youth council and national council.

My take on the business was the national council does not want to micro-manage the national board, national director, and staff. I hope the national board and national director heard the suggestions and complaints for timely minutes, use of the Internet, communication and improving the management of the entire organization. If they do their jobs the national council can concentrate on the business of the organization and not have to micro-manage the organization.

The new national board has a big job ahead, but I’m sure they heard the national council and will work to meet the lofty expectations.

JEFF YOSHIOKA
San Jose, CA

Celebrating a ‘Legacy of Leadership’
By SILVANA WATANABE

On behalf of the 2008 convention committee, we want to thank you for your participation in the Salt Lake City National JACL Convention. We were happy to see new faces, and we found comfort in old friends and familiar faces.

We congratulate Craig Ishii, Tim Grant and the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) for the success of the first national youth convention. (As a reminder, next year the national youth convention will be held in Minnesota.) We thank all the sponsors, in-kind donors, vendors and exhibitors for their financial contributions and support. Without you we could not be standing together celebrating 80 years of bringing together communities from across our country.

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to all the committee members for their tireless commitment and support. Also, I thank the good friends and strangers who stepped in and lent giving and helpful hands in moments of need and worked diligently to make this convention run smoothly.

Extra special acknowledgments and love to Sadie Yoshimura, Amy Tomita, Jeannette Misuka, Jean Karusaki, Ted Namba, Sandra Grant, Tim and Mary Misaka-Jessop. Oh yes, I almost forgot Kai Uno — believe it or not, Kai was terrific. And lastly, thanks to my husband Jeff and our girls for their unbelievable love and support. When things got tough, everyone was there.

As for Reid Tateoka, even though he couldn’t be at the convention, I know he was thinking of everyone and wishing he were there. For those who don’t know, Reid and his wife Sharron were called to serve a Latter-day Saints (LDS) mission for three years. Reid is serving as a LDS mission president in Japan. They left on June 21.

Speaking for Reid and myself, thank you to everyone! We hope we will have the opportunity to meet you in Chicago in 2010 and carry on the “Legacy of Leadership.”

Kayla, Silvana, Dan Tani, Norm Mineta, Monet and Jeff Watanabe.

Silvana Watanabe served as the Salt Lake City convention co-chair.
JACL Makes a Historic Move to an Annual National Convention

The change, which will take place in 2011, was one of six constitution and bylaw amendment proposals. Another determined the location of the national director’s office.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

SALT LAKE CITY—A national JACL convention every two years is now history.

At its 40th biennial meeting, the national council voted to make the gathering of members and delegates an annual event.

PNW District Gov. Elaine Akagi, who also headed up the nine-member annual convention committee, called it a historic move.

“I just didn’t realize [the vote] was going to be that close,” she said.

The constitution/bylaw amendment or CBA 02, which requires a two-thirds vote to pass, squeaked through 57-24 with five split votes. CBA 02 was initially declared a failure because of a discrepancy in how to count split votes, but was clarified by the national council and Gary Mayeda, constitution and bylaw committee chair.

Fifty-nine “yes” votes were needed, and ultimately 59.5 votes pushed the

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JACL Nat’l Youth Council Recognizes Group Fighting for North Korean Refugees

Adrian Hong of LIN (above) was unable to attend the youth luncheon but Daniel Lee accepted the Vision Award (left) on his behalf.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

SALT LAKE CITY—Adrian Hong may have physically been in South Korea but his message of hope for North Korean refugees worldwide came across loud and clear.

“Today we have in front of us a test of our humanity,” Hong expressed in a prepared statement read by Daniel Lee, a North Korean refugee. “Today millions of North Koreans live in a police state unable to lean on freedoms we enjoy everyday — the right to say what we feel, meet with our friends and colleagues.

“By having the courage and conviction to speak openly about the crisis in North Korea you are blazing a trail and making a stand before it is popular to do so.”

Hong, co-founder and executive director of Liberty in North Korea (LIN) — an international NGO devoted to human rights in North Korea and the protection of North Korean refugees worldwide — is this year’s recipient of the National Youth Student Council’s Vision Award.

The award is given at each JACL biennial convention to an individual or organization who has inspired Asian Pacific American youth and played a positive role in their line of work.

“The youth, taking a stance on this specific issue reflects an urgency to focus on human and civil rights issues that transcend our borders,” said Leilani Savitt, former national youth representative. “In our day and age, no longer can we and should we be solely focused only on human rights problems occurring in the United States.”

The Vision Award was presented at the Utah convention’s youth luncheon July 17.

Hong’s dedication to the plight of North Korean refugees has even landed him in prison. In December of 2006 Hong was arrested and imprisoned in the People’s Republic of China along with two LIN field workers and six North Korean refugees.

Currently the PRC does not recognize North Koreans as refugees and those caught escaping face severe punishment, including being sent to labor and concentration camps, upon their return to North Korea.

“Over 250,000 North Koreans toil in a network of concentration camps comparable to Auschwitz and thousands upon thousands have fled the country seeking food or freedom only to be caught in China by local authorities or criminal traffickers,” described Hong. “Their fates are bleak.”

Although Hong was later released, the six North Korean refugees would wait until July of 2007 before the Chinese authorities released them to South Korea in an unprecedented move.

See YOUTH LUNCHEON/Page 5

Teruya Named JACLer of the Biennium

Portland chapter wins George Inagaki award once again while playwright Tim Toyama is honored with the Ruby Yoshino Schaar award. Winners of the Legacy Grants are also announced.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

SALT LAKE CITY—National JACL gives out a number of awards at each biennial convention but one award seems to have a special meaning for the membership: the JACLer of the Biennium.

This year’s honorée is Emily Teruya, a member of the Diablo Valley chapter.

Emily is “truly a special individual that has done many things for the strength and growth of the organization,” said Larry Oda, national JACL president, this award is presented every two years to a JACL member who has contributed the most to the strength and growth of the national organization during the immediate past biennium.

Emily has been a JACL member since 2001 and has worked on a number of projects including revisions of the chapter president’s handbook and the national board handbook. She has also served as her chapter and district’s membership chair.

“Emily’s passion is membership,” said Oda.

“It’s a real honor. I’m a little bit crazy about JACL,” said Emily as she accepted her award.

She chuckled as she described thinking about JACL as soon as she wakes up in the morning.

“I really do love it,” said Emily. “This is a real honor.”

Past winners of the JACLer of the Biennium Award include Henry Tanaka, Mae Takahashi and David Kawamoto.

George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award

This biennium’s winner of the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award is a repeater from the last: the Portland chapter.

“The Portland chapter is a great family of individuals. Our board is so dedicated in what they do,” said Jeff Selby, Portland chapter president, as he accepted the award. “We’re so very proud and honored to have this award.”

During the past biennium the Portland chapter held 139 different activities including a Day of Remembrance and a popular Nikkei community picnic. They also gave out more than $35,000 in scholarships and continue to produce a popular monthly newsletter.

Named in honor of George Inagaki, a former national JACL president, this award is presented to a JACL chapter that has worked towards promoting better citizenship which has resulted in the betterment of society as a
Kashima and Ikeda Named JAs of the Biennium

HONORING OUR OWN — (L-R): Judge Raymond Uno, Dr. Tetsuden Kashima, Neil King, Dr. Franklin Odo, Judge Dale Ikeda and National JACL president Larry Oda.

AJC's Ernest Weiner honored with Edison Uno Civil Rights Award

SALT LAKE CITY — As with every JACL biennial national convention, attendees look forward to the prestigious awards handed out by the organization.

"We take this opportunity to honor our own ... in service to our community," said Larry Oda, newly reelected JACL national president. "We wish to honor them in a public forum."

The following are the various awards handed out during the Sayonara Banquet July 20 in Utah.

Japanese Americans of the Biennium Award

This year's JAs of the Biennium Awards were presented to Dr. Tetsuden Kashima in the area of Education/Humanities and the Hon. Dale Ikeda for Politics/Public Affairs/Law.

"These are among the most prestigious awards the JACL confers during the biennium," said Former Sec. of Social/Cultural Affairs Judge Raymond Uno, chair of the JACL redress campaign. Still in its infancy at the time, the JACL redress campaign, still in its infancy at the time. He has held for the past 33 years.

In 1978 Weiner was assigned the task of monitoring the JACL redress campaign, still in its infancy at the time. He first met with John Tateishi, former national director and redress director, and National President Clifford Uyeda, and suggested the formation of a commission to study the WWII internment since little was known at the time.

JACL would later become the first major organization to publicly endorse the redress efforts.

"This is someone who is incredibly exceptional. I'm proud to be his friend," said Tateishi in accepting the award for Weiner who was unable to attend due to his health. "He has tremendous respect for the organization, and he deeply respects this recognition."

In a recorded message to the attendees, Weiner thanked JACL for the prestigious award and spoke of his admiration for Edison Uno who he called "a towering figure."

Weiner called the WWII internment of JAs "a stain on American society" and spoke of the parallels with the Holocaust. "I swore I would never let this happen to any other member of American society," he said, remembering members of his own family who had been killed during WWII.

The Edison Uno Award is presented to an individual or group which has been instrumental in the protection and preservation of the civil and religious rights of Jews worldwide.

This year's Edison Uno Civil Rights Award was presented to Ernest H. Weiner, executive director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) of Northern California, a position he has held for the past 22 years.

"I accept this award on behalf of my family." he said. "I deeply respect this recognition."

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YOUTH LUNCHEON (Continued from page 3)
Hong relayed his thoughts while currently working in South Korea “on what sometimes may seem like an implacable crisis.”

Part of LINK’s work includes supporting a wide network of underground shelters for Korean refugees in hiding and working to bring these people to freedom.

Hong expressed dismay at the lack of attention the plight of North Korean refugees has received in the U.S., even within the Korean American community.

He explained the NYSC for their courageous stance in supporting the plight of North Korean refugees.

...the JACL it seems is not one for bandwagons of conscience. It is inspiring to see that the youth of the JACL have taken this issue to heart and decided to stand up for the rights of the oppressed strangers that they may be,” said Hong.

“It may seem to be a small gesture but it will make a significant difference. Someone always has to take the first step and the JACL is truly taking a courageous step for conscience.”

In addition to being this year’s Youth Vision Award recipient, Hong was chosen as a “Distinguished Asian American Leader” by the JACL in 2007.

“Millions of North Koreans lack necessities like food, water, and shelter. Many of them are imprisoned in concentration camps, or rather, death camps. I say death camps because that is exactly what they are, as about two-thirds of those that are sent there can expect to not come out alive,” said Kimberly Shintaku, newly re-elected national youth chair.

“JACL has always been an organization to defend civil and human rights, and this issue is no different.”

For more information: www.linkingglobal.org

SEVEN LIVES

"A Passage Through SEVEN LIVES is a stirring and perceptive memoir/history of Japanese culture and imperialism before and after the World War II.

"Kyo Takahashi weaves a majestic tapestry; using the history of Japan and bloody battlefields as the warp, and lives of people who were involved in the war, as the weft. Every fact was in the war, as the weft. Every fact was

"This book is a valuable addition for those not familiar with Quaker Friends’ supportive actions for Japanese Americans who were sent to the camps during internment."

As this convention marked the 20th anniversary of Redress and the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, several references were made to the 1978 convention held in Salt Lake City where the 10-year process was begun. I was in attendance at that convention when Floyd Shimomura was a very young candidate running for national vice president. He later became national president and also attended this year’s convention. Other past national presidents in attendance were Judge Raymond Uno, Lilian Kimura, and Helen Kawagoe.

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed national board officers who will serve for the next biennium. Thanks to the outgoing board who served diligently in their capacities.

38th Annual Nisei Week

J. A. 家紋と苗字史展
(Original Bronze "J.A. KAMON" & "J.A.MON-KEFU" Exhibi)
KAMON & MYOJI EXHIBIT
August 23 & 24, 2003 11 A.M.-4 P.M.
Higashi Honganji / 505 E. 3rd St., Rm. #5, L. A., CA

★「移民ものふ始祖一世」の苗字史は、完全手作業による青銅の J. A. 家紋が、苗字史を闊歩邁ます。

★ "日本の系図"と「J. A. 家紋图」の違い。Differences between a "Japanese Genealogy" & "J. A. KAMON Genealogy";

★ 一世出身地を代表する人物名と家紋の「紋型」。Learn which MYOJI and KAMON are historically representative of your ISSEI ancestor’s birthplace.

★ 家紋の価値を伝える。"価値ある家紋を伝える。"

★ MD as a new American Leader" by the JACL in 2007.

"Millions of North Koreans lack necessities like food, water, and shelter. Many of them are imprisoned in concentration camps, or rather, death camps. I say death camps because that is exactly what they are, as about two-thirds of those that are sent there can expect to not come out alive," said Kimberly Shintaku, newly re-elected national youth chair.

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MORI (Continued from page 2)
his four-month experience living in space. He stated that he was pleased to be in attendance as he was unable to attend in 2002 when he was the recipient of the JA of the Biennium Award at the JACL convention.

Former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and his wife Deni came from Washington, D.C. to attend the convention. He always gives inspiring remarks. John Tateishi, immediate past JACL national director was on hand for a plenary session and then to accept the award for Eriie Weinier of the American Jewish Committee who received the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award.

APAs in the News

Senate Confirms Matsumoto for Federal Judge Post

The federal court system has a new APA judge. The Senate has unanimously confirmed the appointment of Kiy0 A. Matsumoto in the Eastern District of New York.

Matsumoto will become the second-ever APA woman to serve as a federal district court judge, the third APA federal district court judge outside of California and Hawaii and the eighth APA federal district court judge currently active out of approximately 850 federal judges nationwide.

She is currently a federal magistrate judge in the Eastern District.

JACL to Receive Nisei Week Community Award

The Nisei Week Foundation will recognize the JACL for its service to the community during its Aug. 18 annual Awards Dinner.

The Awards Dinner takes place during the 68th Nisei Week Festival. Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress and the Southern California Nisei Athletic Union will also be honored.

The dinner will be held at the Kyoto Grand Hotel & Gardens in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. Other awardees will include Fred Y. Hoshiyama and NBC4 reporter Gordon Tomotaku.

Kanda Donates to Puyallup Valley, National JACL

The Puyallup Valley JACL recently awarded two new $3,000 scholarships to deserving scholars. Grace Kanda, a Century Club Life member, donated the Dr. John Kanda Scholarship Awards. She also donated an additional $5,000 to National JACL. The late Dr. Kanda served as president of the Puyallup Valley chapter.

JCCNC to Honor Osaki at 35th Anniversary Fete

At its “Salute to a Vision’ dinner, the JCCNC, will recognize its executive director Paul Osaki for 20 years of leadership. The Sept. 13 event, which also recognizes the JCCNC’s 35th anniversary, will take place at San Francisco’s Westin St. Francis Hotel.

The honorary co-chairpersons of the event include: Ryozo Kato, former ambassador of Japan; Shunji Yruiai, former ambassador of Japan; Norman Y. Mineta, former Sec. of Transportation; Yasumasa Nagamine, consul general of Japan in San Francisco; Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Mike Honda.

South Bay Announces Scholarship Winners

The recipients of the 19th Annual Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship were: Natalie Inoue, Justin Lai, Miles Honkawa, and Chehey Kitazawa. Ichiro Ogishira established this scholarship in memory of his brother Kiichi Egashira.

The winners of the 2nd Annual Janice Kobata Zoeger Memorial Scholarship were: Natalie Kimiko Friess, Tricia Kiely Dong and Kathleen Nakamura. John Zoeger established this scholarship in memory of his wife Janice Kobata Zoeger.

Jonathan Fujii and Jeanette Fong won in both scholarship categories.

Sequoia JACL Recognizes Its Scholars

Five outstanding students recently received their scholarships from Sequoia JACL. The recipients were: Lauren Tomosada, Megan Sawamura, Rob Masuda Frey, Nguyen Tran and Monica Pen.

In addition to the scholarships, Patricia Yoshida Yotsuya presented the Harry and Elvis Yoshida Memorial Award to RobMasuda Frey.

Sugie Wins Prestigious Fellowship

Naomi Sugie was recently awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Sugie is a PhD student in sociology and social policy at Princeton University.

The NSF Fellowship will provide for three years of graduate funding, which will help her pursue research on issues of race and inequality in the U.S.

Sugie is the granddaughter of Mary Takai and the late Roy T. Takai.
In 2008, Salt Lake City was the ‘right place’ for a national gathering of JACLers.

Utah history met JA history during the Welcome Mixer at This Is The Place Heritage Park.

40TH BIENNIAL JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Legacy of Leadership

ACTIVISM: Young JACLers like Annie Kim Noguchi (foreground) urges the national council to support human rights in North Korea.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN TANAKA

ROCK THE VOTE: Gardena Valley chapter member and former JACL National President Helen Kawagoe casts her vote for national board members July 19.

ALL SMILES: Peter Yamamura (left) and Chris Batalon, both from the PNW district, celebrate a successful youth conference.

Dr. Frank Sakamoto holds up a 1000 Club flag that is well over 30 years old.
National convention attendees enjoyed a sell-out performance of ‘Nihonmachi: The Place to Be’ by playwright Soji Kashiwagi. Norman Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation, attended the performance with his wife Deni.

2010: Megan Nakano doesn't shirk from the spotlight while highlighting the next national convention in Chicago June 30-July 4, 2010.

NCWNP’s Jim Craig (left) and Interim V.P. of Membership Larry Grant honors Helen Kawagoe with a Millennium Club medal.

‘This is our creed we’ll live in loyalty...’

— JACL Hymn
[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Littler Tokyo

All names of ethnic enclaves come with a sense of diminution. An entire country is reduced to a little city (think: Chinatown, Koreatown, Japantown), or a city is reduced to something even smaller than a city (think: Little Tokyo, Little Saigon).

Along with the diminution, the names of ethnic enclaves may come with a sense of humility. They are saying, “We are so sorry, but we are smaller than the real thing.” However much they try to recreate the elusive quality of a better homeland through authentic restaurants, stores selling authentic things, cultural events and ties with other fellow immigrants — it is never quite enough.

Or maybe the names of ethnic enclaves contain arrogance. The grand arrogance that all the best and memorable things about a country or capital city can be crammed into a few street blocks like a geographical Cliff’s Notes. Or the implication that a carbon copy chunk of a city fell into a wormhole, dropped itself off in America, and like a sci-fi cultural dimension, continues to faithfully reflect the comings and goings of the original copy back home.

In the end, the names of ethnic enclaves are misnomers. As years and decades pass, they end up having little to do with their originators. They stop being diminutive copies, start having autonomous lives of their own, stop being diminutive copies, start having autonomous lives of their own, doppelganger. Little Tokyo is not swarming every weekend with painfully tired twenty-somethings not crammed with ten-story department stores, karaoke box buildings and things. The perimeters within Los Angeles Street and Alameda Street are a version of a smaller thing, but a contrast of two very different places that are diametrically opposite in spirit.

Little Tokyo bears little resemblance to its bigger and more international Tokyo, being the big powerhouse city that it is, will undoubtedly continue marching to the beat of its own criss-cross decades pass, they end up having little to do with their originators. They try to recreate the elusive quality of a better homeland through authentic restaurants, stores selling authentic things, cultural events and ties with other fellow immigrants — it is never quite enough.

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The JVP tower in Little Tokyo.

It was interesting too to sit around the lobby and see the daydreams, now looking like the Nisei did back in 1978 when we met in SLC for that historic convention, the beginning of the JACL’s redress campaign. We are who the Nisei were back then, but I hope we don’t resist turning the reagan over to the Yonsei so we can do what the Nisei did to our generation.

The Salt Lake City convention brings us full circle. It was at the 1978 convention that the Nisei stepped into major leadership roles (national director, Washington rep., redress chair, board officers), and today, we’re at that point as a generation that we ought to begin handing the reins over to the Yonsei.

It’s their time now and time for us to begin stepping into the background to help guide them and, if they should fail, to help pick them up. They may think differently than we do (I should hope so), and even if they have what some may consider crazy ideas, that’s okay.

It’s time the JACL began to change anyway. It’s time for a new leadership to begin to emerge and recognize the change. For too long now, the JACL has been like the Titanic, unable to change course when it should. Well folks, there are some humongous icebergs out there in the mist that is the future, and somebody had better start turning the wheel.

Who better than the Yonsei? Let’s give them the chance to succeed... and fail if it comes down to that.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

This year’s convention was interesting, not for breaking new ground on issues but because it held out new, new promises. National Director Floyd Mori tried something new (who says you can’t teach old dogs new tricks?) and included a youth conference that ran parallel to the national council confab.

What that seemed to do was bring a new kind of energy to the setting and a kind of enthusiasm I hadn’t seen in a long time. It was nice being at the convention for the first time since Monterey (2000) without the responsibilities of making sure all went well and according to plan, but it was even more exciting to see the youth component of the organization playing a real role in what the three-day meeting was about.

There were more youth members at this convention than I remember being in a long time. You’d have to go back to the days of the five-day conventions we used to have to recall seeing so many young people around.

But the big difference was that they had a more integral role in this meeting than in the past. Their presence mattered.

It was great to see them bring up the North Korea resolution, led by the very capable Brandon Mita. It was enjoyable watching the youth council work that resolution, to see them lobbying delegates to support it, and then to present it in such a logical and convincing way that it almost dared delegates to vote against it. Not surprising that it carried unanimously by the national council, a body that’s not very prone to support issues outside our self-imposed “domestic policy” limitations.

It was a bold step to bring that resolution to the floor as they did, but they did so with determination and an understanding about how the politics of the organization works.

The energy of the youth was refreshing and important for what went on at Salt Lake City this month. In my mind (as an observer), it set a direction, it was an indicator of the future evolution of the organization’s young leaders stepping into meaningful roles in the JACL.

It was interesting too to sit around the lobby and see the daydreams, now looking like the Nisei did back in 1978 when we met in SLC for that historic convention, the beginning of the JACL’s redress campaign. We are who the Nisei were back then, but I hope we don’t resist turning the reagan over to the Yonsei... as the Issei did to the Nisei and as the Nisei did to my generation.

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Who better than the Yonsei? Let’s give them the chance to succeed... and fail if it comes down to that.

The JACL is strong enough to flourish from the one and to survive the other.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

Yumi Sakugawa currently teaches English in Japan.
The idea was first brought to the national council at the 2004 Hawaii convention, Akagi said, but the measure lacked sufficient information. It was reintroduced at the 2006 Phoenix convention, but questions and concerns lingered.

So for the 2008 Salt Lake City convention, Akagi and the committee, comprised of representatives from all the JACL districts, spent the last biennium attending bi- and tri-district conferences and other JACL events spreading the word about the benefits of an annual convention.

"Since this was the third time, we thought it was either three strikes and you're out or three times a charm," said Akagi.

The committee found that the benefits of an annual convention include: More opportunities for the JACL to address important timely issues.

More opportunities to build and enhance corporate and foundation partnerships.

Increased visibility of the JACL in all regions and cities.

Opportunities for smaller JACL chapters to raise funds and host these shorter national conventions.

Most conventions make a profit, said Akagi. "It's never been a money loser.

JACL falls off the radar of many corporate funders that work an annual budgeting process, said Mori.

"Eventually, the move to an annual convention will help the organization conduct business on a more timely basis," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

JACL currently hosts a national convention every two years with smaller bi- and tri-district and youth conferences in the years between. The move to an annual convention, proponents say, would be like combining those smaller conferences into one event.

"It would be just like having a larger tri-district," said Akagi, except with one day designated for a national council meeting. National elections and national awards ceremonies will continue to be held every two years. Once the change takes effect, the biennial budget will also continue to be set biennially, but the national council will be able to review the budget every year.

Several chapters have already expressed interest in hosting the JACL's first annual convention in 2011, including SELANOCO and the Las Vegas chapter.

An annual convention means that, "we don't have to reinvent the wheel every two years," said newly elected Vice President of Planning and Development David Kawamoto to the national council during the July 17 business session.

Supporters of the change said an annual convention would make it easier to attract more funders and sponsorships. It was a sentiment echoed at the same business session by Leslie Moe-Kaiser, State Farm's corporate relations manager for national Asian Pacific Islander organizations.

"The need is annual," said Moe-Kaiser.

Others including youth members said the change is needed to inject new life into the JACL.

"The future of the JACL lies in the hands of the youth," said Riverside Chapter Delegate Frank Hiroyasu to the Pacific Citizen. "Meeting only once every two years doesn't really give [the youth leaders] the opportunity to develop and get to know the organization at the national level."

"Unfortunately students and youth lose interest, do not have the time or can't even anticipate what they will be doing two years ahead, so by having this convention annually we can hopefully involve the youth more in the business and progress of this organization," he added.

But other JACLers say an annual convention may come to too high of a price. Don Delcollo, co-president of the Contra Costa chapter, expressed concern that the national council that the high cost of travel to an annual convention would be too much for some smaller chapters.

"I suspect that I'm just resistant to change," said Delcollo, who pointed out that it cost his chapter about $2,000 to send two delegates to Salt Lake City this year.

The lower cost of local district conferences is a welcomed financial relief, but usually larger cities like Philadelphia and Chicago have hosted national conventions.

"How will we endure the expense annually? And yet, endure it we must ... a few years hence, we'll be asking ourselves why are we doing this every year when video conferencing can do just as well, and for much less cost," he added.

**IN BRIEF:** Other Proposed Constitution & Bylaw Amendments

**CBA 01 — Reduce member minimum for chapter in good standing status**

Submitted by the IDC, the proposal sought to change one of the qualifications for a chapter to be in good standing from 25 to 10 members, IDC District Gov. Brian Morishita said a chapter in his district can't meet this requirement, but still wants the chance to be more active. Other council members said the amendment would set the bar too low. "If we can't get 25 members to join, we're nothing," said Helen Kawagoe, former JACL national president.

**MOTION FAILS**

**CBA 03 — Colorado chapters move from MDC to IDC**

The IDC-submitted proposal sought to move the Colorado chapters to IDC, which is closer. The move would reduce the MDC regional director's workload by about $600-$630 in the next biennium.

**MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY**

**CBA 05 — Chapter in good standing: state and federal tax forms**

Submitted by the national board, the proposal sought to require chapters in good standing to comply with federal tax laws.

**MOTION CARRIES**

**CBA 06 — A 'Greener' JACL**

"It's time for JACL to jump on the green bandwagon," said Chip Larouche, a Portland chapter member. The bylaw amendment proposal sought to make the national council agenda and other documents available online and through e-mail to reduce the cost of mailing. Council members were unclear on the fiscal impact and the logistics of the proposal.

**MOTION FAILS**

*Denotes a bylaw amendment without notice*
NORTH KOREA
(Continued from page 1)
sees this latest measure as an opportunity to forge closer relations. "I hoped that the passage of this resolution would help to build bridges for my two communities to provide mutual support for each other." 

Youth Activism
The resolution calls for the JACL to "endorse and advocate for policies and negotiations that strengthen peace and security on the Korean peninsula, promote reconciliation and engagement with North Korea, and measurably improve the human rights situation of the North Korean people....

Groups like Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) and Amnesty International have documented many cases of human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) including the denial of basic civil rights, starvation and public executions.

About 13 million people in North Korea — over half of its population — have suffered from malnutrition, according to a study by the Food and Agricultural Organization. Many North Korean citizens, who rely on international food aid, often die from food shortages caused by natural disasters and economic mismanagement.

North Korea's crisis could not be ignored by the NY/SC. Headlines blared news about human rights violations and heart-wrenching images of suffering children streamed through the internet, so the NY/SC decided it was time to take a stand.

"We, the NY/SC, are entrust by the national JACL and the youth of the organization to find issues that resonate with young JACLers and APAs," said Brandon Mita, newly elected JACL youth representative.

The resolution is proof that fighting for human rights never goes out of style. In 2007, Mita brought the idea to the NYSC after a debate with a friend in a Chicago café that human rights — not just civil rights — needs to be the focus for the Japanese American community.

"It was a long discussion that mapped out the entire history of the JA community's evolution. After this discussion, I felt that the JACL would be a proper forum to discuss the many issues involved," said Mita.

The NY/SC responded positively and invited Adrian Hong, LiNK executive and this biennium's Vision Award recipient, last summer to the National Youth Conference in Santa Clara, Calif. to host a workshop.

"There was such a great response from the workshop participants," said Kimberly Shinakta, NY/SC chair. "It was important for us to push this resolution at the convention to have the support of the organization as a whole, educating the national council and members about the issue."

On the council floor in Salt Lake City, a procession of youth waited patiently to speak their minds on the important issue. Conrad Ohashi, 24, told council members that the problem may not be solved in one or two years, but we want to take a stand today.

"When I first heard about the resolution, I had my doubts as to how effective something like this resolution would be," said Ohashi, a Shin Nisei. He worried that it could encourage the U.S. government to challenge another foreign nation's sovereignty.

But he changed his mind with recent news reports of the country's progress in denuclearization talks and global diplomacy. During talks in Beijing, North Korea agreed to disable its main reactor by the end of October and allow international inspectors to verify its nuclear disarmament. In exchange, the United States, China and three other countries promised to complete deliveries of fuel oil and other economic aid to Pyongyang. "I figured that now would be a perfect window of opportunity for JACL, as one of the more stronger (but slower) voices in this country, to remind our government that there are neighbors abroad who are suffering and deserve to be heard," said Ohashi.

A JACL Issue
While JACL is struggling to find its voice among the youth, this resolution gives the organization the opportunity to reach out to them with something substantial, said Mita.

"I think this says a lot about our future as JACL, and says a lot when we stand together as one," added Shinakta.

But there were concerns that the resolution would not pass. While the youth campaigned for the resolution during the convention, some JACLers expressed concern about the relevancy of the North Korea crisis to the JACL. Youth members said the JACL mission statement advocates civil and human rights for all, regardless of ethnicity or nationality.

The resolution is important for building coalitions, said Noguchi, who pointed out that about two-thirds of the APA population in the U.S. is made up of recent immigrants.

"With many Japanese Americans and JACL members having been in the United States for a long time, I think it's important that we don't become disconnected with the issues that other Asian American immigrant communities are facing," said Noguchi. "Just like we couldn't have achieved redress alone, other communities need our support.

Youth POWER: Conrad Ohashi (right) leads the procession of youth in urging the national council to pass Resolution 4.

YOUTH POWER: Conrad Ohashi (right) leads the procession of youth in urging the national council to pass Resolution 4.

Andrea Soguchi

Just like we couldn't have achieved redress alone, other communities need our support.

- Andrea Soguchi

IN BRIEF: Other Proposed Resolutions
R1 - Human rights protection for detainees
Sponsored by the New England chapter, the resolution sought to have the national council support the human rights of detainees. On the council floor Kenneth Oye said the resolution "is not just symbolic." MOTION PASSES

R2 - 20th anniversary of Redress
The resolution, sponsored by the Seattle chapter, recognized the 20th anniversary of Redress and called for some form of recognition of the movement's key players to be held on or near Aug. 10. MOTION PASSES

R3 - Gold Hill Wakamatsu Colony Foundation
The Florin chapter-sponsored resolution sought to recognize the Gold Hill Wakamatsu Colony Foundation for its preservation work and to have the history incorporated into future JACL events. MOTION PASSES

R5 - Return of national director office to San Francisco
The resolution, sponsored by the Diablo Valley chapter, sought to have the national council order the national board to transfer the national director back to headquarters in San Francisco. MOTION WITHDRAWN

R6 - 12th Annual JACL Singles Convention
The Las Vegas chapter-sponsored resolution sought to encourage attendance to the JACL Singles Convention. The event will take place Sept. 18-20, 2009, in Las Vegas. MOTION PASSES

ER 1 - JACL national director and JACL offices
The resolution sought to reaffirm that the JACL national director can work out of any of the JACL offices. The New York chapter sponsored the resolution. MOTION WITHDRAWN

ER 2 - Support the creation of a commission for WWII JALs
The resolution urges Congress to act swiftly on the passage of H.R. 662 and S. 381 to establish a fact-finding commission to investigate the WWII deportation, relocation and internment of JALs. MOTION PASSES

Donates an emergency resolution

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Ambitious Membership Goals in 2009-2010 JACL Biennial Budget

(Continued from page 1)

feel that the membership element of the budget provides opportunity for new approaches and broader targets for membership.

Now, said Mori, the JACL is enjoying new enthusiasm from its members and Tim Koide, the JACL membership coordinator.

"I will not be surprised by what positive steps the membership will, take to even surpass membership projections in the budget," said Mori.

The next biennial budget also includes the following fundraisers:

- An annual fundraising gala dinner in Washington, D.C.
- A $10,000 fundraiser tentatively hosted by the PNW district in both 2009 and 2010.
- Planned Giving must raise $10,000 over the biennium.
- A President's Council initiative that will need to bring in $50,000 each year.
- "As we progress through the next biennium, I, along with the rest of the board, will be monitoring our revenues and expenditures so we do not find ourselves in a deficit situation," said JACL National President Larry Oda. "Additionally, if we find that we are able to generate more revenues, we need to have a priority list of program plans that can be implemented."

As of May, JACL has a deficit of $58,349. Kobayashi is hopeful that revenues from the Salt Lake City convention will help offset this shortfall, but as usual low membership numbers are to blame.

Over the years, JACL's membership numbers have been steadily decreasing. In 2007 membership was down 12 percent, a stark contrast to the organization's norm of a 4 to 5 percent decrease. Board members have attributed this sharp drop to a shake-up in staff and board membership positions.

In late June, membership was already down 12 percent from the budget. If this trend continues, membership revenue could be down $193,000 by the end of the year.

"A shortfall in a particular quarter has very little significance in analyzing the annual budget situation," said Mori, who pointed out that the summer is usually a lean membership revenue time for the organization.

It's important to have a balanced budget over the cycle of the year, he added.

As of May 31, the Legacy Fund is at $6.5 million, the Life Trust Endowment is at $501,604 and the National Endowment sits at $457,251. The Masaoka Endowment Fund is at $369,173 and the JACL Reserve Fund sits at $416,814.

Several new Millennium Club members were recruited during the Salt Lake City convention. Tak Kawagoe and Stanley Yanase posthumously became a part of the prestigious membership category through donations from Helen Kawagoe, past national JACL president, and Millennium Club member.

Floyd Shimomura, George Azumano and David Lin from AT&T have also expressed commitment to become new members, according to Koide and Milo Yoshino, immediate past Millennium Club co-chair.

Millennium Club members contribute 1% each year for their JACL membership.

Board Vacancies

Even with the aggressive membership and fundraising goals, a key national board position remains vacant.

After the national election, familiar names and faces of veteran board members were sworn into service. The new board consists of: National President Larry Oda; Sheldon Arakaki, vice president of general operations; Ron Katsuyama, vice president of public affairs; David Kawamoto, vice president of planning and development; Kimberly Shintaku, chair of the national youth/millennium council and Brandon Mita, national youth representative.

Michelle Yoshida was reappointed as JACL legal counsel and the new Pacific Citizen editorial board chair is Margie Yamamoto of the New England chapter.

No candidates ran for the position of secretary/treasurer, so Oda appointed former national board member and St. Louis chapter member Joshua Spry to the post. The national board appointed the appointment at its July 20 meeting. Spry, who served as both youth chair and youth representative from 2002-06, is a certified public accountant working in the San Francisco office of Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP.

"The budget projects a net increase in members, something that we haven't done since 2000. We need to break this trend," said Spry. "We're also counting on new fundraiser revenue, an area that we haven't relied on as heavily in the past."

The budget for the coming biennium indicates that we will not maintain, but grow as an organization. The board needs to internalize this mentality of growing not maintaining," said Kobayashi.

Kobayashi believes the new secretary/treasurer and new board are up for the challenge. But he stresses the importance of monitoring the progress of revenues and program expenditures carefully "to adjust for issues in a timely fashion."

The position of the vice president of membership remains vacant. Oda said he has a candidate in mind.

"As this person is qualified in my opinion, I will nonetheless follow up with their chapter president and other individuals who are familiar with this person so I may be prepared to present a strong recommendation for this appointment," said Oda.

This appointment may be made before the next board meeting Sept. 26-27 in Washington, D.C.

Tough Decisions

By November, the national board will need to assess their fund raising milestones, said Kobayashi.

"Ultimately, harder decisions could lie ahead," he said during the July 19 council meeting.

If fundraising and membership goals are not met, Kobayashi identified a three-tiered contingency plan to help balance the budget. The plan includes:

- Finding alternate fundraising.
- Drawing from the Reserve Fund.
- Cutting back expenses, which may include the Pacific Citizen going monthly and staff furloughs.

"In my best hopes for the JACL, we use some of the fundraising contingencies that I mentioned as ideas to spur on revenue opportunities for the national board fundraiser," he said.

But communication, determination and strong leadership will be key in pushing the JACL to be its best in the next biennium, said Kobayashi. ■
DAN TANI  
(Continued from page 1)

During a visit to the organization’s biennial convention in Utah July 16-20, Tani was enthusiastically greeted by kids and Nisei alike, all enthralled to hear from the second Japanese American to ever visit outer space. (Ellison Onizuka was the first.)

In a video and photo presentation of his most recent four-month visit to the space station that ended this past February, Tani showed why being an astronaut is just about the coolest occupation a person can have.

Performing midair sumo matches with ease, capturing M&M chocolates in floating bubbles of water and peering through the dome-shaped helmet of his spacesuit—all while tens of thousands of miles from earth—helped others see a glimpse of life in space. Tani also showed some of the photos he took from space, images of glowing city lights in major cities around the world like London, the Twin Cities, Chicago and San Francisco.

There was also footage of Tani performing difficult spacewalks to carry out maintenance on the shuttle, a difficult task performed by the best that NASA has to offer. And in answer to a curious convention attendee, blasting off in the shuttle is definitely more exciting then returning back to earth.

“The effect of Zero G takes some getting used to,” said Tani, 47, who noted that his muscles and coordination took some time to return to normal after spending months in space.

But in the midst of his awe-inspiring presentation of life as an astronaut, Tani acknowledged the responsibility of representing the JA community, a task that has naturally come with the job.

“I find a lot of comfort in being a part of the JA community, doing JA events,” he said. Growing up in Chicago, he didn’t often get a chance to experience JA culture and community.

Sometimes I feel jealous that I didn’t get to grow up in a more Japanese-y kind of environment.

But he added, “the job description is the celebrity, not the individual.”

Tani’s parents were interned at Topaz during World War II and his parents were integrally involved with JACL—his father Henry was president of the San Francisco chapter during WWII. In seeing photos of his parents at Topaz he’s amazed at their resilience, at their proudly smiling faces during a time of utter turmoil.

“I think it’s remarkable. It only took one generation for the government to imprison, to distrust a nationality based on heritage, and one generation later I’m allowed to represent the country and our Japanese American community, to be entrusted with expensive equipment,” he said. “It says a wonderful thing about my family, my community and the federal government.”

In 2002 Dani was honored with the “Japanese American of the Biennium for Science and Technology” at the 2002 JACL convention in Las Vegas but was unable to attend due to his NASA training in Russia. His proud mother Ruth accepted the award on his behalf.

Sadly, Tani’s mother passed away earlier this year in a car crash while he was on his most recent space mission and never got a chance to see her son return as the keynote of the Synosura Banquet. Although Tani was unable to attend her funeral, he feels comfort from all the outpouring of support he has received, both from NASA and the community.

“It’s an honor. I feel honored to be able to represent the JA community,” said Tani, recalling the strength of his mother raising her children on her own after his father passed away when he was only four.

Now back from his latest mission in space, Tani’s future at this time is still unclear. He’s taking some well-deserved vacation time and may begin training for a new flight mission in the fall.

“Everything is up in the air. I’ll decide what is best for my family,” said Tani who is married to wife Jane and has two daughters, Keiko and Lily.

But even for someone who has already done the seemingly impossible, the possibility of returning to space is a much welcome scenario.

“I would love to see us going back to the moon in 20 years, and then once we do that it will be Mars,” said Tani with a smile.

For now, he’s busy signing autographs for his many fans and taking on more speech engagements.

“It’s such an honor for me to represent the JA community in my profession,” he said.

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Ornami & Kite Making

This hands-on workshop, led by Ginger Brakke and Ine Takenaka, gave convention attendees an opportunity to learn and take part in the Japanese paper folding and kite making, providing step-by-step instructions, participants created a number of different origami creations including cranes and flowers.

More than a dozen workshops provide an opportunity for Utah convention attendees to learn about culture, politics and community issues.

SALT LAKE CITY—From judo and kite making, to Medicare and financial planning, a plethora of workshops were available for Utah convention attendees during the five-day conference July 16-20.

The following is a brief description of some of the workshops:

Judo Demonstration and Workshop

Led by Santi Takeda, head of the Idaho State University Judo Club, this workshop provided an opportunity to learn about the Japanese art of Judo and watch a live demonstration. Participants were also encouraged to take part in the Judo warmups and exercises.

Awareness Now! An Introduction to Significant API Youth Issues

Medicare

Led by Ann Avery, API outreach coordinator at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Central Office in Baltimore, participants got a chance to learn about the details of Medicare coverage including benefits and costs. The focus of this workshop was to use various online resources to tap into Medicare coverage and management.

Youth advocacy can make a difference and this workshop, led by Amy Munemoto and Stephanie Nishihara, introduced youth participants to pertinent issues for API youth today. In a roundtable format, youth attendees discussed civil rights and health issues.

Are You the Next Apple.com?

A panel of local business owners including Tyler Kaneko, Thomas Lee and Lynne Aoyama talked about their experiences starting up their own companies, and the benefits of the Small Business Association’s programs. Suzan Yoshimura of Utah’s SBA moderated the discussion.

Money Matters: Save, Invest and Manage Your Money Better

Participants learned tips about budgeting, credit and savings during this workshop, which featured: James Aoki, board chair of the JACL Credit Union; Lekeshia Frasure, community affairs specialist of the FDIC; and Kelly Matthews, executive vice president of Wells Fargo.

Conventioneers Learn Kitemaking, Financial Planning, and API Youth Issues

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REDRESS
(Continued from page 1)

July 17.

Although the national JA community is currently celebrating the 20th anniversary of the historic 1988 Civil Liberties Act, it took a while for the community to come on board.

In those early days, suggestions of monetary compensation for the forced removal and incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II was not an easy sell.

"When we started the campaign there was so much division within the community," said Tateishi. "There was a huge split among the delegates in 1978."

He noted that it was largely the Sansei who pushed for monetary compensation while many of the Nisei did not wish to dredge up painful memories. Many of the former internees also expressed a feeling of shame in asking for monetary redress.

"It was a difficult discussion among delegates ... but we set a course for the entire Japanese American community," he said.

AJC and a Commission Bill

Eventually that course would take the direction of a commission bill, an idea Tateishi credits Ernie Weiner, executive director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) of Northern California, with first introducing.

Weiner believed that the formation of a commission would help bring out details of the WWII internment — since many Americans had never heard about this period in history — and it helped shape the remainder of the campaign.

As a WWII veteran who had served in the occupation of Japan, Weiner first learned of the JA internment upon returning home, said Richard T. Foltin, legislative director and counsel in the AJC's Office of Government and International Affairs in Washington, D.C., who joined Tateishi on the redress panel.

"His experience in the occupation taught him to be sensitive to the Japanese people," said Foltin. The internment of JAs "was always a matter that was very much on his mind."

By the summer of 1980 a commission bill had been passed and several national hearings with former internees were being held, getting national coverage. With the support of many organizations and individuals — including former Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta, Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, and Rep. Bob Matsui — the Civil Liberties Act was passed in 1988.

AJC's support of redress, the first national organization to throw its support behind the bill, "goes to the core of what AJC is about," said Foltin. The internment was "a national disgrace ... a blatant violation of their constitutional rights."

Although the Jewish experience is different from the internment of JAs, he sees important similarities between the two communities' experiences.

"Japanese Americans were not singled out for extermination ... but we need to point out the parallels," he said. Both communities were singled out for one specific reason: their ethnicity.

Redress and 9/11

Today, the passage of the Civil Liberties Act continues to have an impact, especially after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

And if there is one community that truly understands what the Muslim and Arab American communities experienced after 9/11, it is the JA community, said Muzaffar Chisti, a lawyer and director of MPI's office at New York University School of Law.

One week after the horrific events of 9/11, four people were murdered in the U.S. by those who blamed them for the terrorist attacks. Two of the victims were mistakenly identified as Muslims. One year later, six people had been killed, victims of horrific hate crimes.

"Both communities felt they were double victims," said Chisti. Many Muslim Americans felt saddened by 9/11, but they were also targets of the backlash. JAs lived through a horrific war like all Americans, but they were also interned.

In both cases, national origin and ethnicity were used as reasons to create fear and assign blame.

Lessons of History

But what has not happened to the Muslim American community since 9/11 also needs to be pointed out here, said Chisti.

"Despite the fear of massive round up, there was no roundup of Muslims," he said. "Lessons of history had meaning here."

And although the targets of anti-Japanese sentiment during WWII were both citizens and immigrants, the principal targets post-9/11 were immigrants and not citizens.

"We did not touch citizens as we did with Japanese Americans during WWII," said Chisti.

But he noted the increased surveillance and monitoring of the Muslim American community often feels like its own form of internment. It may not be a physical confinement, he said, but "we have a different form of internment."

In 2008, the U.S. government would be foolish to attempt to round up Muslims, said Tateishi.

The JACL would be the first to come to the Muslim American community's defense, he noted.

"The constitutional breach in our history ... was an important lesson in our history," said Tateishi. "What we did had significant meaning in this country."

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National Council Passes the Next Biennial Program for Action

During the Salt Lake City convention, the national council passed the 2009-10 Program for Action. Below is the document, printed in its entirety.

Introduction
The JACL and the Japanese American community are affected by actions and changes in the political and economic environment and in the demographics of our community. Our nation’s global relationship with Asian countries affect perceptions about Asian Americans, and our society continues to be impacted by the events of September 11, 2001, which created a worldwide climate of uncertainty and insecurity where we must reconcile the proper balance between issues of national security and our civil liberties. We are also affected by the changing demographics of race, ethnicity and age.

Looking to our future, we need to determine what role JACL will play in Japanese American, Asian Pacific American and civil rights communities, and what programs are necessary to support our mission and effectively achieve our goals. The Program for Action sets the course for the JACL in each biennium. The ongoing effectiveness of the organization will depend, in part, on the outcomes of the programs that address our organization’s vision and mission.

Vision
Aware of our responsibilities as the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, JACL strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.

Mission
The JACL is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Program for Action Statement
During the 2009-10 biennium, the JACL will continue its role of promoting civil rights and social justice through programs of advocacy and education. These programs will monitor and respond to issues that threaten civil and human rights and the dignity of affected communities. The programs will also educate the public about the historical experiences of Japanese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans, including efforts to preserve our histories and legacies. Finally, the programs will begin to address the actual disparities in social justice that exist for Asian Pacific Americans.

The JACL recognizes the need to develop and maintain a sustainable source of effective leadership that will act for positive social change for Asian Pacific Americans and for the community at-large. The JACL will commit resources to programs that encourage leadership opportunities especially for our youth in networking, advocacy, coalition building and education about community issues. The JACL also recognizes that need to strengthen our current leadership by offering internal training opportunities that reach all levels of the JACL so that we remain a vital and contributing organization in our society.
President’s Awards
This year’s President’s Awards were presented to Dr. Franklin Odo, Judge Raymond Uno, and Neil King. The awards are presented to individuals who have advanced the welfare of JA and Asian Pacific American issues in the U.S.

Dr. Odo has been the director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program since its beginnings in 1997. The APA program assists 19 museums and other agencies in incorporating APA programs, research and outreach. Odo has brought several APA exhibits to the Smithsonian including “From Bento to Mixed Plate” about JAs in Hawaii, a show created by the National Japanese American Museum.

Odo’s most recent book, “No Sword to Burn: Japanese Americans in Hawai’i During World War II” was published by Temple University Press in 2004. “It gives me great pleasure to do this,” said Odo in accepting his award. “We need more stories.”

The Hon. Raymond Uno was the first minority judge to sit on the Third District Judicial Court of the state of Utah. He has also served as a State Circuit Court Judge and a Senior Third District Court Judge. He was also an assistant Utah attorney general.

“You never get anywhere without the help of many people,” said Judge Uno as he accepted his award. “Hopefully younger people will do the same thing.”

Uno was interned at Heart Mountain and is a veteran of the Korean War. Uno served as the national JACL president and is still active in the national organization. He currently serves as a board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and is co-founder of the Utah Minority Bar Association.

“Judge Uno has been breaking barriers his entire life,” said Oda in presenting the award. “JACL has benefited immensely from Judge Uno’s leadership over the years.”

Neil King worked for the National Park Service for 42 years and helped to preserve and commemorate the Minidoka internment site. He helped to prepare a management plan which outlined the monument’s development for the next 15 to 20 years. In his efforts to preserve Minidoka he worked to reach out to the JA community holding over 30 town hall meetings in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. He was also instrumental in helping to acquire a 128-acre parcel of land adjacent to Minidoka and worked to win Congress’ approval to expand its boundaries.

“I gained more than I gave,” said King, as he accepted his award. Although now retired, he continues to serve on the board of Friends of Minidoka. He also recently joined JACL, something he was unable to do as a federal employee.

Ruby Pin Award
This year’s recipient of the Ruby Pin award is Dr. Hitoshi Tomaki. A longtime member of JACL, he has served as chair of the Mike Masaoka Congressional Fellowship Program since it first started 20 years ago in 1988.

A former president of the Philadelphia chapter, it is largely due to Mr. Tomaki’s efforts that dozens of JACL youth have had an opportunity to intern at the offices of a U.S. Senator or Representative through the Masaoka Fellowship.

“Judge Uno has been breaking barriers his entire life,” said Tomaki in accepting the honor. As the JACL D.C. office takes over the fellowship, “I hope the program continues in perpetuity.”

Tom Tomaki was presented with a Ruby Pin at the recent Salt Lake City JACL national convention.

JACL Fellows
Floyd Mori, JACL executive director, also announced the newly selected JACL fellows. Leslie Tamura is the new Masaoka fellow and will intern at the office of Doris Matsui. She is currently attending Northwestern University.

The new Mineta fellow, sponsored by State Farm, is Crystal Xu and she will serve in the JACL D.C. office. The new Inouye Fellow, sponsored by Eli Lilly, is Elizabeth Nakano and she will also serve in the JACL D.C. office.

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2008/9 TOURS

American Holiday Travel
2008 Tour Schedule

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

HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR .... OCT 17-27 
SOLD OUT
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Asahikawa, Atami, Hokkaido.

JAPAN AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR .... OCT 12-23 
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR . ............. OCT 1-8
Boston, Newport, New York, Bar Harbor, New Haven.

CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE .... OCT 13-24
Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Tortola, Hol Chan.

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

2009 Tour Schedule Preview

EGYPT-NILE RIVER TOUR I ...... JAN 16-26
Cairo, Luxor, Nile River Cruise, Karno, Obico, Aswan, Abu Simbel.

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR ..... FEB 2-11
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Asahikawa, Atami, Hokkaido.

EGYPT/NILE RIVER TOUR II ..... FEB 20-30 MAR
NEW ORLEANS GETAWAY TOUR .... MAR 16-20
French Quarter, Steamboat River Cruise, New Orleans Cooking School, Mardi Gras Mask-making Workshop.

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KOREA DRAMA SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR .... MAR 27-APR 8
Seoul, Cheju Island, Busan, Daegu, Daegun, Chuncheon/Rimno Island.

JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR .... APR 15-25
Tokyo, Tendo Onsen, Akita, Hiota, Lake Toya, Monroka, Mashiko, Higashiyama Onsen.

EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR .... MAY 3-11
Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN TOUR .... JUN 28-JUL 7
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN TOUR II .... JUL 17-26
Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Atami, Hakone, Tokyo.

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE .... JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN .... AUG 22-SEP 3
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PAHA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR .... OCT 13-23
PANAMA CONVENTION - Urguay, Argentina, Brazil. Opiton to Peru.

NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR I .... OCT 1-8

OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR .... OCT 18-30
Naha, Kagoshima/Kusunose, Miyazaki, Nobeoka, Takashima, Mt. Aso.

CANYON FALLS GETAWAY TOUR .... NOV 8-11
Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Valley of Fire, Mesquite, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Las Vegas.

SALT LAKE CITY CRUISE .... NOV 13-24
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SLC CONVENTION
AUG. 1-14, 2008 15
JACL to Honor Champions of Redress at Gala Dinner

The JACL will honor former Congressman Norman Mineta, Grayce Uyehara and former JACL National Director John Tateishi at the second annual Gala dinner for their contributions to the Redress movement. The Gala will take place Sept. 25 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The Gala will focus on the Redress movement in honor of the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which provided for Redress.

Mineta was one of the driving forces in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and Tateishi was JACL’s Redress chair during the initial stages of the Redress Campaign. Uyehara of Philadelphia worked on the grassroots level and lobbied members of Congress.

“We are excited to make this year’s Gala event a fitting tribute to the champions of the Redress Movement,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. “We thank all who were involved in bringing about the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.”

Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii will serve as the honorary chairman for the Gala, and Congressman Mike Honda of San Jose, Calif. will act as master of ceremonies.

The corporate award will be given to AT&T, a major sponsor of the Gala and the national conventions. David Lin of AT&T has become a friend of the JACL and many other Asian American organizations.

Larry Oda, JACL national president, encourages JACL members and friends to make plans to attend the national JACL Gala and the national convention.

JACL Selects New Mike Masaoka Fellow

Leslie Tamura of Fresno, Calif. is the JACL’s new Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow. This fall, the Fresno, Calif. resident will work in the Washington, D.C. office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui and learn about the importance of public service on a national level.

Tamura, 22, is currently a graduate student reporter covering health and science news at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

“This award is significant,” Tamura wrote in her application, “because it seeks to develop leaders committed to something bigger — the public good.”

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was established in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka for a lifetime of public service to the nation and the JACL. Masaoka was the JACL’s national secretary, field executive, national legislative director of the JACL’s Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the JACL, Washington, D.C. representative.

“We are pleased to have Leslie Tamura selected to carry on the fine legacy of outstanding JACL Masaoka Fellows. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity for young people and anticipate great achievements for Leslie in the future,” said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. “It is expected that our Masaoka Fellows will be future leaders within the JACL and throughout the country.”

Tamura is actively involved with the Asian Pacific American community. The Fresno JACL chapter member participates in APA student groups and contributes to APA publications as a writer and editor.

Dr. H. Tom Tamaki, who was recently awarded the Ruby Pin for his service to the JACL, has administered the Masaoka Fellowship program for 20 years. The JACL Washington, D.C. office will now administer the fellowship.

San Francisco JACL Sponsors Panel Discussion on Redress

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of Redress, the San Francisco chapter is sponsoring an Aug. 10 panel discussion at the San Francisco Main Library.

Former Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta, former JACL National Director John Tateishi, Dale Minami and Banafsheh Akhlaghi will be in attendance at the program, entitled “The Impact and Legacy of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.”

“The chapter is very pleased to have such a distinguished panel confirmed to be a part of this 20th anniversary event,” stated Hiroshi Shimizu, chapter president.

Mineta played a crucial role in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 as a member of Congress, and Tateishi served as the Redress chair for the JACL that crafted the legislative and public affairs strategies for the campaign.

Dale Minami chaired the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund established by the Civil Liberties Act, and Banafsheh Akhlaghi transformed Akhlaghi & Associates into the National Legal Sanctuary for Community Advancement (NLSCA), which has since emerged as a lead advocate for civil rights and human rights in the post-Sept. 11th era.

“One of the purposes for the program is to look at what the legacy of the Civil Liberties Act has meant to our community and all Americans,” said chapter board member Greg Marutani.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will be followed by a reception.

For more information, e-mail the San Francisco chapter at sfjacl@yahoo.com.

NEGLECTED LEGACIES:
Japanese American Women and Redress
Seeking Justice (Part 3 of 3)
with Karen Kai, Grace Shimizu, Diane Fujino, and Lane Hirabayashi

Saturday, August 2 • 2 PM
FREE admission

Presented in collaboration with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Aratani Endowed Chair

Neglected legacies explores the roles and contributions made by Japanese American women to the movement. This program features first-hand accounts by participants from the major redress organizations pivotal to the success of the campaign during the 1980s.

Reservations recommended to 213.625.0414.

Neglected Legacies is presented in conjunction with the National Museum’s 2008 program series, Redress Remembered: A Moment of National Redemption, which commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. For more information about redress, related public programs, and access to additional redress resources, visit janm.org/events/special/2008/redress.