



S.F. Nihonmachi Street Fair is under attack. — PG. 3

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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National JACL scholarship winners — SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION

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Two Teens Embark On Paper Crane Peace Memorial Project



Carly Gutzmann (left) and Michelle Reed, both 14, of Minnesota spend much of their spare time folding Japanese paper cranes, all in an effort to create a more tolerant world.

Michelle Reed and Carly Gutzmann, both 14, plan to fold and collect 120,313 paper cranes — one for each internee imprisoned during WWII.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Michelle and Carly have been the best of friends since sixth grade. They like to walk their dogs, catch the latest new flick and grab a bite to eat — you know, the normal everyday things most 14-year-olds like to do.

But Michelle Reed and Carly Gutzmann aren't typical teenagers. They've decided to take on a national Peace Memorial Project, folding and collecting 120,313 paper cranes to spread the lessons of the World War II internment.

"We wanted to raise more awareness," said Michelle from her home in Minnesota. "A lot of people know about the Holocaust but not a lot of people know about the internment."

Michelle and Carly were researching the history of Japanese Americans behind barbed wire for a National History Day project a couple of years ago. They ended up making a documentary on the art school at the Topaz Internment Camp.

It was during their research that both girls started to learn to fold paper

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Drawing Parallels Between Immigrant Experiences

Sonoma County JACLers pass a resolution to support a sanctuary ordinance that ensures safety for all its residents.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Racially profiling, unjust police interrogations and harassment based on skin color — the state of affairs in her own neighborhood all seems too dangerously familiar for Mei Nakano. For the last few years, news headlines have blared reports about local law enforcement officials singling out members of the Latino community in arrests and raids.

Remembering a time not long ago when members of the Japanese American community were treated in a similar way, Nakano along with other members of Sonoma County JACL decided it was time to speak up in favor of making their county a refuge from discrimination.

"I grew up under a cloud of race hate, as did most, if not all, second generation Japanese in this country," said



PHOTO: ANGELO SACERDOTE

ACTIVISM: (L-r) Sonoma County JACLers Sachiko Chernin, Mei Nakano and Lina Hoshino protest the Sheriff Department's racial profiling tactics.

Nakano. "I know what it feels like to be targeted as an 'undesirable' in a society that touts freedom and oppor-

See PARALLELS/Page 12

At Long Last, George Takei and Brad Altman Become Spouses for Life

Guests received wedding favors with the message: 'May sweet equality live long and prosper.' Proposition 8 looms as a threat to their legal union.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

On Sunday, September 14, George Takei and Brad Altman became husband and husband.

As tradition at many weddings, tears sprung from jubilant eyes while the couple exchanged personal vows



PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

George Takei (left) and Brad Altman have been together for 21 years.

and rings made of Native American turquoise — a nod to Brad's hometown of Phoenix, Ariz. The rings symbolized their enduring love and one perfect moment in time during their long love affair when the couple finally stood equal to other married couples under the law.

With former "Star Trek" stars, a senior senator from Hawaii and 200

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PSW District Honors Its Own 'Redress Heroes'

Fourteen JACLers are recognized for their contributions to the historic redress efforts.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Marleen Kawahara, 65, is one of the lucky few that had a front row seat to the signing of the historic redress legislation in 1988.

Like many JACLers, she had been attending the national JACL convention in Seattle when word came that President Ronald Reagan would be making the historic signing.

"I felt an overwhelming feeling of joy and satisfaction that our community worked together on this issue," said Kawahara, a former Rohwer internee, recalling the emotions that day amongst a standing room only crowd in the nation's capital.

"I am proud of the commu-

See PSW DINNER/Page 11



Marleen Kawahara (left) and Harry Kuwahara were two of PSW's 'Redress Heroes.'

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Soulful Songstress

Rachael Yamagata talks heartbreak and her new album.

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Sports Star

Wat Misaka, who broke barriers in sports, is the star of a new documentary.

SPORTS PAGE 10



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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Busy End of Summer

By FLOYD MORI

The 68th Annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Los Angeles honored the JACL and the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR) organizations with community service awards at the Awards Dinner held on Aug. 18. The awards were given for work done during the Redress campaign.



I was privileged to attend to accept the award for the JACL, along with Larry Oda, JACL national president. Also attending were Craig Ishii, PSW regional director, Carol Saito, PSW administrative assistant, and other JACL members and interns. Helen Ota is president of the Nisei Week Foundation, Inc. Fred Hoshiyama, a dedicated JACL member for many years, was the grand marshal and the star of the show and parade.

As many of you know, the Ladies

Professional Golf Association (LPGA) recently announced a new ruling that would affect players who do not speak English. They were proposing that players must pass an English proficiency exam by 2009 or risk suspension. The LPGA rationale was that this rule is needed to increase marketability and ensure public interest at LPGA tournaments.

The JACL and NCAPA (National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans), of which I am the current chair, along with other Asian American organizations opposed the ruling based on the fact that it was clearly discriminatory against the Asian LPGA players. The LPGA has rescinded the ruling, and a meeting has been set up between LPGA leaders and AA leaders to discuss this matter.

The APIA (Asian Pacific Islander American) Vote organization invited APA organizations to participate in APIA events at the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee Conventions held a week apart at the end of August. I attended and was on a panel at both the DNC

PROPOSITION 8

(Continued from page 1)

guests looking on, they celebrated their legal union with a kiss, some confetti poppers and a bagpiper.

It's an enormous moment for any couple, but for George, 71, and Brad, 54, it's the culmination of a 21-year journey filled with good times and bad, made all the more sweet simply because now they *can*. Thanks to the May 15 Calif. Supreme Court decision to uphold same-sex marriage, George and Brad can call each other "husband" or "spouse."

But they need to get through the wedding first. Days before the momentous occasion, the couple met with the *Pacific Citizen* at their wedding venue, the Democracy Forum across the way from the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

And as custom may hold, at least one of the two is a bundle of nerves.

Brad confesses to having pre-wedding anxieties. He has nightmares that no one is going to show up. The pressure to write heartfelt vows nearly makes him break out into a cold sweat. And he fears that he'll forget to bring the rings.

George is not shaken.

"I work in the theater. I know how to deal with it. We'll borrow people's wedding rings ... or we can even fake it if there were that aesthetic distance. We'll just, you know, stand like this," said George while turning his back to rows of empty seats in the Democracy Forum.

"And then at the reception, we'll just kind of stand like this," he clasps his right hand tightly over his left one and laughs.

Brad does the same. "It's much too personal to show right now."

Just Like Any Other Love Story

Their relationship has always been underscored with humor.

George, the actor best known for playing Hikaru Sulu on the "Star Trek" television and film series, first met Brad over two decades ago when they were both members of a run-

ning club. They started off as friends, but then love blossomed.

"It's just like any love story," said Brad.

At the time George, who was on the board of the Los Angeles Theater Center, needed help organizing a theater party so he asked Brad to be his assistant.

"He's a good record keeper and he's very organized. Well, I've discovered. At first I asked him to be my assistant for *other* reasons," said George, laughing.

They also both loved the theater. Brad was struck with George's intellect and broad vocabulary. Once, early in their courtship, they were walking around the Silver Lake Reservoir and taking in the scenery when George turned to Brad and in his baritone voice described the hills in the background as undulating.

"Undulating ... I mean how often does someone use that?" said Brad.

George's first impression of Brad was much more superficial. "For me it was his legs and his svelte running physique."

For a long time, George said he was leading a secretive personal life because of his very public career. But in 2005, his public and private life intersected when both houses of the Calif. legislature passed a same-sex marriage bill, which Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed.

Two years later, the state legislature again passed a same-sex marriage bill, which swiftly received another veto stamp from the governor. That's when George and Brad knew they had to speak out.

"It was so near. All it needed was one human being's signature," said George about marriage equality. "One human being counts. I thought maybe I could be that one human being together with others to make that difference. We were one step away from equality in marriage and by taking the shroud off of my career I thought I could contribute something."

In 2006, George went on a nationwide speaking tour with Human Rights Campaign as an openly gay man. The political activist spent most of his childhood at the Rohwer and Tule Lake internment camps — a personal history that he says overlaps with the present day

and the RNC where we met with APA leaders of both political parties.

Checks have been issued for this year's national JACL scholarship recipients (see the winners in this special P.C. scholarships edition). Our congratulations to all the scholarship winners for their excellent accomplishments. The JACL wishes them well as they endeavor to further their education.

The JACL owes a great deal of thanks to David Kawamoto, newly elected national vice president of planning and development who took over the position his wife Carol held for the previous four years. David has served as the volunteer scholarship chairman for the past several years. He and his committee have done a monumental service for the JACL.

JACL's PSW Gala Dinner on Sept. 13 at the Grand Events Center in Long Beach featured a live band, silent auction, and awards to outstanding JACL members from PSW who played important roles during Redress.

The National JACL Gala in Washington, D.C. is coming up on Sept. 25. Anyone wishing to support the event or attend should call the D.C. JACL office at 202/223-1240. For more information on JACL activities, check out the JACL Web site at www.jacl.org. ■



struggle for equal marriage rights.

"Just like when we were interned it was easier to intern us and characterize us as potential traitors and saboteurs because we've been stereotyped in movies and political cartoons. They didn't know us as human beings.

"And the same thing with gays and lesbians, we've been cartooned as the drag queens as extreme cartoonish figures. But you know, we're school teachers, we're bankers, we're football stars and Olympic swimmers."

The Threat of Proposition 8

In 20 years, society has made incredible shifts in favor of same-sex marriages. In May when the state Supreme Court upheld marriage equality, Brad proposed to George while watching the news coverage on television.

"They've waited so long for this moment, but the couple is also mindful of the larger resonance of their union.

"It's the most momentous day in my life personally, but if you take a big picture look, it's the continuation of the struggle for civil liberties in the United States. It's something that isn't over yet," said Brad.

But like many other married same-sex couples in Calif., George's and Brad's future together is legally tenuous.

Over 1.1 million Californians signed petitions to place Proposition 8 on the November ballot. If passed, Proposition 8 would change the Calif. Constitution to restrict marriage rights.

"For the first time, it would provide an exception to the equal protection clause," said Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel at Lambda Legal, a national organization committed to

See PROPOSITION 8/Page 11

LPGA Backs Down on Controversial English Requirement Policy

APA groups, including JACL, still want to pursue the issue to ensure fines are eliminated.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The LPGA Tour's "mea culpa" didn't need much translation.

Facing anger from lawmakers, community groups and bewilderment from sponsors, the LPGA Tour backed off plans to suspend players who cannot speak English well enough to be understood at pro-ams, in interviews or in making acceptance speeches at tournaments in the United States.

The policy has generated a storm of bad publicity since it was announced last month.

LPGA Tour commissioner Carolyn Bivens said she would have a revised plan by the end of the year that would not include suspensions, although fining non-English speakers remains an option.

"We have decided to rescind those penalty provisions," Bivens said in a statement. "After hearing the concerns, we believe there are other ways to achieve our shared objective of supporting and enhancing the business opportunities for every tour player."

Bivens disclosed the tour's original plan in a meeting with South Korean players at the recent Safeway Classic in Portland, Ore., *Golfweek* magazine reported. The policy, which had not been written, was widely criticized as discriminatory, particularly against Asian players.

The LPGA membership includes 121 international players from 26 countries, including 45 from South Korea. Asians won three of the four majors this year.

The reversal was quickly hailed by two California lawmakers who challenged the original policy.

State Sen. Leland Yee, a Democrat from San Francisco, had asked the Legislature's legal office to determine whether the English policy

violated state or federal anti-discrimination laws. If it was deemed legal, Yee said he would have pushed for legislation banning such policies in California.

The LPGA Tour plays three events in California, including its first major championship.

"I'm very pleased that the LPGA saw the wisdom of the concerns that we raised," Yee said. "It's a no-brainer for those of us who have been the recipient of these kinds of discriminatory acts."

State Assemblyman Ted Lieu, a Democrat from the Los Angeles area, said he would target corporate sponsors if the LPGA Tour persisted with its English requirement.

"I'm pleased they have come to their senses," he said.

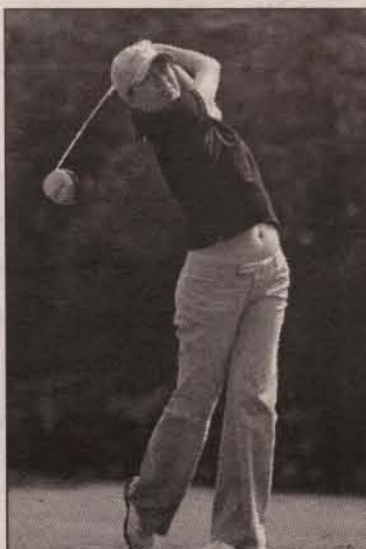
"By rescinding the proposed English proficiency requirements, the leadership of the LPGA has demonstrated an understanding of the value of diversity within the sport of golf," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director, who has been in contact with Bivens' office since the controversy first broke.

Mori plans to continue discussions with the LPGA "in hopes of establishing an understanding for the need of cultural sensitivity and to respect the sport of golf and its players without requiring proficiency in the English language."

Bivens' announcement came two hours before the Asian Pacific American Legal Center planned a news conference in Los Angeles to demand the LPGA overturn its policy.

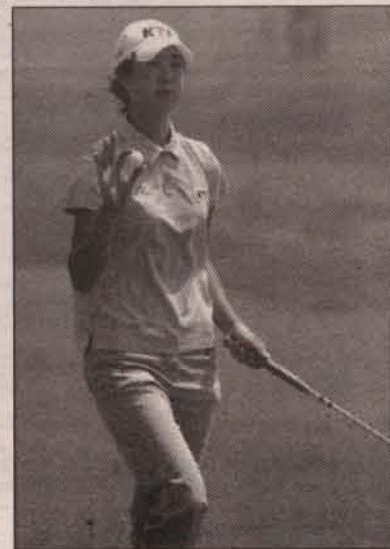
"Until they completely retract it, issue an apology to the players and the fans, I think we'll remain very concerned and interested in what happens," said Gerald D. Kim, a senior staff attorney for the center. "The LPGA has gone about this totally the wrong way."

One of the tour's title sponsors, State Farm,



South Korean professional golfer Shi Hyun Ahn (left) and Birdie Kim are some of the golfers who may be affected by the new English requirement policy.

The LPGA backed off of suspending players but fines are still being considered under the new policy.



said it was perplexed by the original policy. State Farm spokesman Phil Supple said the company had asked the tour to review its decision.

Contacted via e-mail when the policy was rescinded, Supple said: "We're encouraged the LPGA is looking at other alternatives on this issue."

Bivens said the tour will continue to help international players through a cultural program that has been in place for three years and offers tutors and translators.

Earlier this month, Bivens sent a 1,200-word memo to the LPGA membership to outline the goal behind the new policy. She said players would never be required to be fluent or even proficient in English, but rather would be asked to get by with the basics of the language.

She argued that international players who could communicate effectively in English would improve the pro-am experience, sponsor relations and could help land endorsements for the players.

"We do not, nor will we ever, demand English fluency, or even proficiency, from our international players," she wrote. "To the con-

trary, we are asking that they demonstrate a basic level of communication in English at tournaments in the United States in situations that are essential to their job as a member of the LPGA Tour."

Yee said he understood the tour's goal of boosting financial support, but disagreed with the method.

"In 2008, I didn't think an international group like the LPGA would come up with a policy like that," Yee said. "But at the end of the rainbow, the LPGA did understand the harm that they did."

The lawmaker said he will continue with his request to the Legislative Counsel's Office, as a way to prevent similar policies in the future.

Grace E. Yoo, executive director of the Korean American Coalition in Los Angeles, said corporate sponsors are not only American but from around the world, yet players don't learn the languages of the countries where they are headquartered. The LPGA plays in such places as Singapore, China, Thailand, South Korea, France and Japan.

"We have a long fight ahead of us," Yoo said. "This is not over." ■

Chinese American Community Protests Proposed Casino in Philly's Chinatown

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

City officials may support Foxwoods Casino's plan to relocate its facilities to the heart of Philadelphia's downtown, but nearby Chinatown residents are unhappy with what they see as another attempt to force an unwanted project on the community.

The casino location is just a few blocks from Chinatown, where residents successfully fought plans to build sports stadiums nearly a decade ago. Chinatown residents and other casino opponents packed a recent news conference to voice their frustration.

Helen Gym, a board member of the community group Asian Americans United, said that it feels like history is repeating itself for Chinatown.

"We would have thought that officials would have learned the lessons of that," Gym said.

Many of the Chinatown supporters wore their former "No Stadium Chinatown" T-shirts as they protested the casino plans.

"We just can't believe that they would do this again to us, and every five or 10 years we've got to get out there and try to fight for the survival of the community," said Debbie

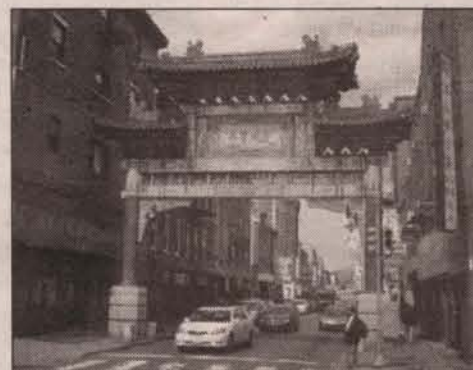
Wei, principal of Folk Arts Cultural Treasures in an interview with *Metro*.

The Foxwoods group, led by the Mashantucket Pequot Indians of Connecticut, is looking into building a \$670 million slots parlor at a downtown mall called The Gallery at Market East. Michael Thomas, the tribe's chairman, said the site is better than the original waterfront location in South Philadelphia because it is near existing shops, restaurants and mass transit lines.

Thomas said his group is talking to the company that owns The Gallery, and looking at a 300,000 square-foot area a few blocks down the street from where Jefferson wrote the Declaration, and where Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell draw hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

"This is a serious proposal that will get serious consideration," Mayor Michael Nutter said at the news conference with Gov. Ed Rendell and others.

Nutter said he was not concerned about the prospect of having a casino, hotel and other development in a retail district so close to one of the country's most historic areas. If the site is chosen, he said, the city would ensure that



there would be no garish signs or lighting that would mar the historic area.

"There's a fair amount of separation," Nutter said. "Unless you know it's there, you won't know it's there."

In July 2004, the Legislature passed a gaming law that legalized as many as 61,000 slot machines across the state, including two free-standing casinos in Philadelphia. If the casinos open, Philadelphia would become the nation's largest city with casino gambling.

Along with the necessary city approvals, the proposed change in the Foxwoods casino location would need approval from the state gaming board. Rendell said discussions over the

new site are ongoing and he hopes to know more in a month or two.

Foxwoods' decision to consider the downtown site brought quick opposition from casino opponents who have been fighting the projects for years. "You're not going to get more tourists for a city that's known for two things, which is history and gun violence, by bringing a casino to downtown," said Daniel Hunter, a spokesman for the group Casino-Free Philadelphia.

"What they promoted time and again was the economic benefits to restaurants and businesses," said John Chin, head of the Philadelphia Chinese Development Corp. to *Metro*. "But if they build a casino [inside the Gallery], that doesn't help the businesses in Chinatown."

But the National Park Service, which runs the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, said it was withholding judgment on the latest proposal.

"If it helps bring in tourists to the area, it could actually help us," said Jane Cowley, a spokeswoman for Independence National Historical Park. "With any new neighbor, we're going to protect park interests." ■

APA community members respond to threats on a San Francisco Japantown event, which includes Polynesian dancing (right).

PHOTO: DAVID YU



Nihonmachi Street Fair is Here to Stay

By TODD KUSHIGEMACHI
Special to the Pacific Citizen

When a Japanese American cultural event is said to have “schlocky souvenirs” and “mediocre food stands,” the community is not going to sit quietly.

Members of the Asian Pacific American community in San Francisco spoke out against threats to the Nihonmachi Street Fair, a community event that brings together APA organizations, vendors and artisans. Individuals volunteered and gathered 2,800 signatures for a petition showing support for Japanese community festivals.

The controversy was sparked by e-mails written by David Zisser, president of the 1600 Webster Street Homeowners' Association, and John McInerney, president of Anasazi Properties. The e-mails voiced concern of the fair's inability to pay for steam cleaning on the property's sidewalk. Zisser also made negative comments about the fair itself.

“This Association ... must tolerate what seems to be an endless use of Post and Webster Streets for a series of look-alike street fairs with the same purveyors of schlocky souvenirs, mediocre food stands and exhibitors who have absolutely no relationship to the community,” Zisser said in an e-mail sent to Grace Horikiri, president of the Nihonmachi Street Fair.

These comments have been seen as a part of a general threat to the ethnic character of JA enclaves. Across the street from the Japantown Center, the property in concern was originally the site of Japantown Bowl until it was purchased in 2000 and replaced by condominiums that now house about 100 residents.

Not Just About Clean Streets

At the Aug. 9-10 Nihonmachi Street Fair, members of the APA community gathered signatures for a petition titled, “Save Our Japantown Community Festivals.” The petition was partly in response to threats of filing protests with the city in future years and legal action if the fair did

not clean the streets.

“If we have to clean up afterwards, we will not only oppose the event next year. We will look to small claims court to reimburse us for the clean up costs,” McInerney said in his e-mail to Horikiri. “If your event doesn't make money, you should rethink its usefulness.”

Horikiri said she was furious about the comments made about the community event, particularly McInerney's questioning of the “usefulness” of the fair.

“When I was writing my comments back to him, my hands were literally shaking I was so angry,” Horikiri said. “It showed our committee that his thinking is concentrated on money rather than helping the community. If we were in this to make money, we would have quit a long time ago.”

McInerney said in an interview with the *Pacific Citizen* that his comments were taken out of context from a private e-mail and that Horikiri initiated the discussion. He said he did not have a problem with the fair until he received a letter from Horikiri, which said the fair could not provide steam cleaning for the sidewalk at Post and Webster.

“We've had about 25 days of street fairs. It's never been an issue, and out of the blue comes a letter from this lady,” McInerney said. “All this is about is clean up after yourself. It's a total non-issue.”

The Nihonmachi Street Fair ended up being able to pay for the steam sweeping after scraping money together to have the city clean up the sidewalk. McInerney said they did a “fine” job of keeping the streets clean.

Patty Wada, JA CL NCWNP regional director, said the issue was not the street cleaning but the fact that Zisser went on to criticize the festival itself.

“We can certainly understand Mr. Zisser's concern over clean streets. But, that's where he should have stayed,” Wada said. “Instead, he crossed the line and disrespected our community and culture by demeaning all the artisans and food vendors at the fair.”

Zisser declined further comment to the *Pacific Citizen*, pointing to the issue being covered “ad nauseum” in local vernacular publications.

Community Response

Wada is one of many who collected signatures for the petitions at the street fair. Twenty-four clipboards with copies of the petition were available at the lobby of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California for volunteers to pick up. Wada said she gathered 100 signatures in one day.

Paul Osaki, executive director of JCCCNC, said the petition was meant to organize a response and educate people who came to the festival about the situation. He said the response from the community was great.

“I'm glad that we did it because a lot of people including volunteers didn't know what was going on,” Osaki said. “It's important that people stay educated and informed about issues affecting Japantown.”

Osaki also said it was nice to hear from people visiting from out of state, including visitors from the Midwest.

“They don't have those festivals where they come from,” he said. “They were sad to hear there were efforts from individuals to stop it.”

The JA CL NCWNP young professional group Nakayoshi also contributed to the cause. Megumi Kaminaga said the group sent out messages via Facebook, a popular social networking Web site, to notify members about the e-mails from the property owners. Kaminaga said she personally lent her support by volunteering to help at the Nihonmachi Street Fair.

“The significance of the events doesn't rely on the income of the festivals. It's something that keeps our tradition alive,” Kaminaga said. “It enables young people and people of all generations to participate.”

With the help of all the individuals in the community, Horikiri said she did not have to stand alone.

“If anything good has come out of this, we as a community have really

See NIHONMACHI/Page 7

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Study: More Biracial APAs Diagnosed with Mental Disorders



SACRAMENTO—Biracial Americans of Asian and white descent are twice as likely to be diagnosed with a psychological disorder compared to monoracial APAs, according to a new study from the Asian American Center on Disparities Research at UC Davis.

This is the first nationwide study to look at mental health in the biracial community, UC Davis psychology graduate student Lauren Berger told the *California Aggie*.

Researchers analyzed data from the 2002-03 National Latino and Asian American Study and found that 34 percent of biracials are diagnosed with a mental disorder compared to 17 percent of monoracials.

Conflict and confusion over ethnic identity may result in negative psychological outcomes, according to the study.

\$54 Million 'Pants' Lawsuit Heads Back to Court

WASHINGTON—Former D.C. judge Roy Pearson wants an appellate court to reinstate his \$54 million lawsuit against the dry cleaners he accuses of losing his pants.

Pearson's lawsuit in D.C. Superior Court claimed Custom Cleaners did not live up to Pearson's expectations of “Satisfaction Guaranteed,” as advertised in store windows.

The Chungs, who owned Custom Cleaners, won the case when it was heard by a lower court.

Now Pearson, who also sued when he lost his job as an administrative law judge, wants the higher court to overturn that ruling and order a new trial.

The Chungs were forced to close Custom Cleaners last September because of the emotional stress from the lawsuit.

Lawsuit Hits Anti-Affirmative Action Petitions



LINCOLN, Neb.—A new lawsuit challenges thousands of signatures gathered to place an anti-affirmative action initiative on the Nebraska ballot.

The campaign director for Nebraskans United, which is fighting the measure, says the lawsuit was filed Sept. 11 in Lancaster County District

Court. The lawsuit would keep the secretary of state from placing the Nebraska Civil Rights Initiative on the Nov. 4 statewide ballot.

Affirmative action proponents say the lawsuit challenges illegal actions by paid petition circulators and notaries public in connection with the petitions.

The initiative would prohibit state and local governments from giving preferential treatment to people on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity or national origin.

Saipan Judge Orders Miura Extradited to California



SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands—A Superior Court judge has ordered the extradition of a Japanese man accused of arranging for his wife to be killed in California more than a quarter century ago.

Associate Judge Ramona Manglona denied Kazuyoshi Miura's petition for a writ of habeas corpus and ordered the government to extradite him to California.

Bruce Berline, Miura's lead Saipan attorney, immediately filed a motion for a stay but Manglona denied his request.

Miura is accused of conspiring to have his wife shot when they were visiting Los Angeles in 1981. Someone shot them as they stood by a downtown parking lot, hitting Miura in the leg and his wife, Kazumi Miura, 28, in the head. She died a year later. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Inouye Receives Medal of Honor Flag



PHOTO: JESUS J. ARANDA

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye was honored with the Medal of Honor flag during a recent presentation of the 25th Infantry Division at Honolulu's Schofield Barracks.

Inouye was presented the flag by Capt. Terry H. Zoch, commander of Echo Company, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment. The light blue color flag with

white stars is adapted from the Medal of Honor ribbon. The flag commemorates the sacrifice and bloodshed of Medal of Honor recipients like Inouye.

During World War II, Inouye served as a lieutenant and platoon leader in the 442nd RCT and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in a battle in Italy where he lost an arm. His award was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in June 2000.

Mori to Receive Leadership Award

The AT&T Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and Community Advancement will be honoring JAACL National Director **Floyd Mori** with its "Community Leadership Award" during a Sept. 27 banquet in Fords, New Jersey.

The evening's event will begin with a tour of the AT&T Global Network Operations Center.

State Highway 85 Renamed in Honor of Mineta



Calif. State Highway 85 in Santa Clara County was renamed the "Norman Y. Mineta Highway," in honor of the former U.S. secretary of transportation.

Mineta was San Jose City Councilman and mayor — the first APA to serve as mayor of a large U.S. city. He was also a

U.S. representative for 20 years and secretary of transportation from 2001 to 2006. He was the longest-serving secretary of transportation in U.S. history.

The highway runs from Mountain View through Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos and southwest San Jose which also named their international airport after Mineta.

Doctor is 'Making Chicago a Better Place'

A Korean American doctor has been included in the *Chicago Sun-Times* list of "50 People Who Make Chicago a Better Place." **No Kap-joon** is recognized for his dedication to the city's Korean community.

The *Sun-Times* called No "the heart of the community."

For years, he has helped organize the annual Korean American Health Fair, a public way for Koreans who might not have insurance — or who have prohibitively high deductibles — to find the care they need.

The doctor even has been known to give needy patients the money for co-payments.

Filipino American Teen Activist is Running for Calif. District Assembly

Lucilla Esguerra, 19, is running for California State Assembly's District 48, under the banner of the Peace and Freedom Party.

The Filipino American anti-war activist and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights advocate has led an anti-war protest in L.A. of 10,000 people. She also has organized resistance to the anti-immigrant Minuteman Project and mobilized support for the May 1 mass protests demanding full rights for all immigrants over the past three years.

In between campaigning and organizing, Esguerra attends classes at Los Angeles City College, trying to earn transferable units to a university and be a teacher. ■

Older Vietnamese Report More Mental Health Problems

Political refugee issues are cited as a factor; need for improved community mental health services is emphasized.

'... little is still known about the health status of these older Vietnamese Americans.'

Dr. Quyen Ngo-Metzger (below)

Vietnamese Americans over 55, most who came to the United States as political refugees, report more mental health problems than non-Hispanic whites, according to a UC Irvine Center for Health Care Policy analysis of state data.

Vietnamese Americans participating in the California Health Interview Survey were twice as likely as whites to report needing mental health care but were less likely to discuss such issues with their doctor. In addition, they were more prone to have trouble functioning in their daily lives because of these problems.

While the study highlights the need for improved community mental health services, it also reveals long-standing mental health issues among older Vietnamese related to the Vietnam War and to adjusting to life in the U.S. as older immigrants, said study leader Dr. Quyen Ngo-Metzger.

"Many Vietnamese refugees who immigrated to the U.S. in the 1970s, '80s and '90s suffered from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, and they continue to have mental health issues today," said Ngo-Metzger, medicine assistant professor. "Despite this, little is still known about the health status of these older Vietnamese Americans."

One important step, she noted, is to make more resources available for community mental health services, which can help remove the significant resistance among older Vietnamese Americans to discussing mental health. Another step, she added, is to train primary-care physicians to properly screen older Vietnamese Americans and to direct them toward treatment.



PHOTO: DANIEL ANDERSON

Orange County, Calif., is home to the nation's largest Vietnamese American community, and it is projected that by 2030 they will form the largest Asian American subgroup in California.

Vietnamese refugees have come to the U.S. in multiple waves since the end of the Vietnam War. The first arrived in 1975 when many Vietnamese with ties to the U.S. government left their country for fear of reprisals under the new communist regime. The second wave came between 1978 and 1984 with the "boat people" escaping religious and political persecution on small fishing vessels.

A third group, from 1985 to 1990, consisted of Amerasian children of U.S. servicemen and Vietnamese mothers. And a fourth and current wave of immigration began in 1990, when the U.S. government humanitarian operation allowed political prisoners recently released from labor camps to immigrate to the U.S. ■

Congressman Honda Blasts Utah Candidate's 'Tent City'

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SALT LAKE CITY—California Congressman Mike Honda who was imprisoned at the Amache internment camp during World War II is criticizing a Utah Republican candidate for his plan to detain undocumented immigrants in tent cities.

In a statement issued recently, Rep. Honda said the plan from Jason Chaffetz, who is running for Utah's 3rd Congressional District seat, is an "odious reminder" of a shameful time in U.S. history. He says Chaffetz's comments on the plan will "fuel resentment toward targeted ethnic groups."

"Jason Chaffetz's comments are more than just offensive and embarrassing to all Americans; they demonstrate a blatant disregard of the need to be vigilant in remembering the lessons learned from a disgraceful chapter in U.S. history," Honda said.

A native of California, Honda spent part of his childhood in a Japanese American internment camp in Granada, Colo.

Chaffetz says he never singled out any specific ethnic group in his immigration proposal and wants an apology from Honda.

Chaffetz says the idea to house convicted immigrants in prison

camp ringed by barbed wire was borrowed from the Maricopa County, Ariz. sheriff's office, which houses prisoners awaiting deportation in tent cities.

"Where these guys are overstepping the line is saying that it has anything to do with ethnicity. They absolutely should apologize for that. That has never been my position, and it is terribly unfair and inaccurate," Chaffetz said.

During the war, Utah's Topaz camp housed more than 8,000 detainees. Last year the camp, located in the 3rd Congressional District, was designated a national historic landmark. ■

Yellowface Puppet on YouTube Sparks Outrage

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Yellowface mockery is still alive on the pages of YouTube.

More than a dozen videos from the "Farnfucious Say" segments show a yellowface puppet portraying Confucius in a mocking Asian accent in stereotypical Asian garb. The segments are from the CBS Mobile's Farnsworth and the Fox and are available on the popular YouTube video sharing site.

"We have no objection to the use of comedy and satire as a means to inform and enlighten. However, when it is reduced to racial mockery as in 'Farnfucious Say' it goes beyond the bounds of acceptability," said Bill Yoshino, JAACL Midwest director, in a letter to Jeff Sellinger, executive vice president and general manager of CBS Mobile.

The JAACL is demanding that the offensive

"Farnfucious Say" segments be taken down immediately.

AA bloggers were equally upset about the "Farnfucious Say" YouTube videos.

"Does it still count as yellowface when you dress up a white puppet character like an old Asian man? That's got to be a first. It's ridiculous," wrote Phil Yu on his popular Angry Asian Man blog.

So far representatives from CBS Mobile have not responded to the community's concerns and the "Farnfucious Say" videos were still available on YouTube at press time. ■



UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Library Organizes Major APA Photograph Collection

A second collection by Henry Woon, which documented APA life in the Bay Area since the 1950s, needs funding for preservation.

Pictures are worth a thousand words, especially if they piece together Asian Pacific American history.

The Ethnic Studies Library at the University of California, Berkeley recently finished archiving one of the largest APA photographic collections to be held in a public institution.

Over 200,000 photos, taken by professional photographer Kem Lee of San Francisco's Chinatown from the 1940s to the 1980s, were cataloged using a \$180,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Lee was a freelance photojournalist who worked for the local Chinese community newspapers. He owned a photography studio in Chinatown, which gave him the opportunity to capture all aspects of Chinese American life in San Francisco, including beauty contests, family association events, festivals and family portraits.

Lee's work is one of the two significant photograph collections the library owns. The second major photograph archive contains over 240,000 images produced by Henry Woon, who documented APAs in San Francisco and the East Bay from the 1950s to about 2000.

Woon was an amateur and freelance photographer and photojournalist. In 1956, he graduated from UC Berkeley, with a degree in political science. In contrast to the Lee archive, the Woon's photographs include coverage of war protests and visits by politicians.

The library still needs about \$200,000 to process and preserve Woon's photos.

Wei Chi Poon, a UC Berkeley Asian American Studies librarian, said she hopes a government agency or nonprofit will come forward with grant money to help the library archive the Woon photos, which now sit in golf-shoe boxes in a back room of the UC Berkeley library and in a storage facility in Richmond. ■

For more information or to help, contact Wei Chi Poon at 510/642-2220 or wcpoon@library.berkeley.edu.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UC BERKELEY ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARY



CAPTURED HISTORY: The photo collections at UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies Library record life. (Above) APAs celebrate Chinese New Year with a dragon dance and pose during the 'Chinese Hour' show (left) on Radio KSNB.

AA Civil Rights Groups Oppose Prop. 11 Redistricting Initiative

The groups believe the initiative will negatively impact AA communities.

Five Asian American civil rights organizations recently announced their joint opposition to Proposition 11, a redistricting-related initiative which will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot in California.

These organizations include the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the Asian Law Caucus (ALC), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), the Asian Law Alliance (ALA), and the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

Prop. 11 would change authority for drawing state office district lines from elected state representatives to a 14-member commission, and also establish new rules for drawing state office and congressional district lines.

"APALC supports the notion of reforming the redistricting process because of the harm we have seen Asian and Pacific Islander communities endure during past redistrictings," said Eugene Lee, APALC's voting rights project director. "We have supported previous reform proposals. However, we oppose Prop. 11 because its commission will lack racial diversity and its criteria will make it harder to draw districts that keep minority communities together."

"We acknowledge the struggle over the past four years to find a workable reform proposal," said Jacquelyn Maruhashi, managing attorney at ALA. "However, we believe that Prop. 11 could and should have done more to protect minority communities. Contrary to its intent, Prop. 11 will have a negative impact on minority communities during future redistrictings, including Asian and Pacific Islander populations."

Lee noted the following points about the initiative:

- Prop. 11 establishes a 60-person nominee pool from which the 14 commissioners are appointed. Prop. 11 fails to ensure that this nominee pool will be diverse because it does not require diversity to be a factor in whether applicants make it into the nominee pool.

- Prop. 11 establishes new criteria for drawing dis-



tricts, such as nesting and compactness, which do nothing to keep minority communities together, and simply reduce the flexibility of map-drawers to draw districts that keep minority communities together. A better set of criteria would consist of the criteria that affirmatively keep communities together while leaving out other criteria such as nesting and compactness.

- Prop. 11 establishes a difficult threshold for the commission to approve a redistricting plan. The votes of 3 of 5 Democrats, 3 of 5 Republicans and 3 of 4 commissioners affiliated with neither party are needed to pass a plan. This makes it easy for any small group of commissioners to stalemate the process.

"Reform proponents in other states should take heed of the debate in California," said Terry M. Ao, AAJC's director of census & voting programs. "As communities of color continue to grow across the country, reform proposals must take into account their potential impact on these communities. Any redistricting reform proposal set forth should make protecting minority voting rights a top priority." ■

APALC's position paper on Prop. 11 can be accessed at <http://apalc.org/pdf/files/prop11statement.pdf>.

Final Plans Being Made for JACL Gala

National JACL encourages all to participate by supporting or attending the annual event.

The JACL is making final plans for its annual National JACL Gala Event in Washington, D.C. Sept. 25 and is encouraging all members and friends to take part in the important fundraiser.

With this year being the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the focus of the gala dinner will be on the Redress Movement including Special Awards for some Champions of Redress.

The work of the JACL and others during the 1970s, 1980s, and into the 1990s paved the way for an apology from the U.S. president and reparations for some of the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were wrongfully imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II.

Among those who will be honored are: The Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, last year's honorary chairman who worked tirelessly on the issue as a U.S. Congressman; John Tateishi, former JACL national director who became the JACL Redress chair after the national convention in 1976; and Grayce Uyebara, who worked with the JACL's Legislative Education

Committee and was instrumental in lobbying Congress for passage.

Also to be honored is the American Jewish Committee (AJC), an organization that was very supportive of the issue. The corporate partner to be honored will be AT&T who has given great financial support to the JACL in recent years.

The Hon. Daniel K. Inouye, who received an award at the first Gala as a true champion for the causes of the JACL, is serving as honorary chairman. The Hon. Mike Honda, Congressman from California, is the master of ceremonies.

"Last year's event was an outstanding and inspiring event. We expect more of the same this year and would welcome everyone to participate in some way," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

The JACL invites all to participate in this year's gala event by sponsoring, attending, and/or

placing an ad, in the program booklet. The deadline for placing ads has been extended. ■



MINETA



TATEISHI

National JACL Gala Dinner

When: Sept. 25
Where: Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C.
For information: www.jacl.org

Sac'to JACL to Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Redress

The Sacramento JACL will honor local community movers and shakers at an Oct. 16 event that will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of redress.

The honorees are: A.G. Kawamura, secretary of the Calif. Department of Food and Agriculture; Kinya Noguchi, a lifelong community activist; and Genevieve Shiroma, a board member of the Agricultural Labor Relations and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper from Orange County, Calif. where his family grows strawberries, green beans and other specialty crops. He is also the immediate past chairperson of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee.

Noguchi is a Sacramento native who was the first minority in law enforcement as a sheriff's deputy in 1955. He finished his career as first commander of the women's detention facility. He was also a past pres-

ident of the Sacramento JACL and commander of the VFW Nisei Post 8589.

In addition to other positions of leadership, Shiroma has been a member of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board since 1999. Prior to that, Shiroma held a variety of positions at the Air Resources Board from 1978 to 1999.

Several new chapter board members will also be installed, including: Tom Fujimoto, Shig Shimazu, Stacy Matsunami, MaryAnn Miyao, SueAnn Kashiwagi, Dean Okimoto, Priscilla Ouchida and Chris Reefe.

The event hosts will be Suzanne

Phan, general assignment reporter for KCRW Channel 3, and Ryan Yamamoto, sports director of KXTV Channel 10. ■

Sacramento JACL Redress Event

Oct. 16, Hilton, Sacramento Arden West; No-host cocktails begin at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m.; Tickets are \$75 per person; Sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information: Sacramento JACL office, 916/447-0231

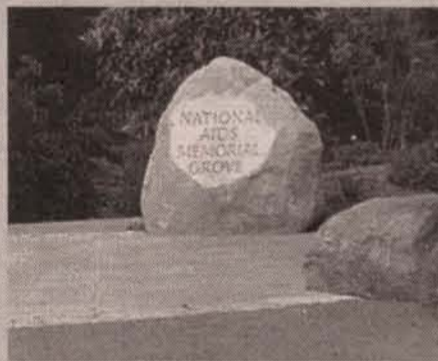
San Francisco JACL Seeks Volunteers to Help Clean Nat'l AIDS Memorial Grove

The JACL San Francisco Chapter is sponsoring its annual workday at the National AIDS Memorial Grove Sept. 20. Volunteers are needed to help remove weeds, plant a variety of plants and other maintenance work in the 7.5 acres designated as the first National AIDS memorial.

The workday begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at noon. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and can work for any length of time. Refreshments as well as a catered lunch will be provided to the volunteers by generous supporters of the Grove.

Volunteers are urged to dress in layers as the weather conditions in the Grove can change during the course of the morning. While gloves are provided, volunteers may choose to bring their own pair. Tools to rake, plant, or prune will be provided by the gardeners at Golden Gate Park.

For more information or to sign up for the workday, contact Greg Marutani at 415/ 641-1697. ■



AAPI Serving Institutions Program Becomes Law



The Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPISI) program will allow higher education institutions to better serve APA college students.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPISI) program — as a provision of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HR 4137) — recently became law. Aligned to the goals of other minority serving institution (MSI) programs, the AAPISI program will expand the capacities of higher education institutions to better serve college students, particularly those with low-income and/or AAPI ethnic backgrounds.

Under HR 4137, the AAPISI program will be extended through fiscal year 2013 and allow schools to expand services such as tutoring, counseling, collecting data on AAPI populations, outreaching to AAPI communities to encourage youth to pursue post-secondary education, and partnering with community-based organizations serving AAPI populations.

"Too often are our AAPI students overshadowed by the model minority stereotype — as if they have no needs whatsoever," said National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) Chair and JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "This historic program is a giant step forward to addressing those neglected needs."

NCAPA applauded Congressman David Wu, D-Oregon, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) led by Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., for marshalling the AAPISI program into law.

Federal agencies will now be able to use the AAPISI designation to target grants and programs to AAPI students and communities. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has provided millions of dollars in grants to MSIs under the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) designations so that they can expand their capacities to serve low-income and under-represented African- and Latino American students.

With a similar designation, AAPISIs will be able to reap comparable benefits, which can further support low-income and underserved AAPI students and communities. ■

To monitor the implementation of H.R. 4137's provisions including the AAPISI program, visit www.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html#dcl.

NIHONMACHI

(Continued from page 4)

come together," she said. "One person cries for help, I look behind me, and I see a whole city standing."

The Nikkei community has been continually concerned about the loss of ethnic character in California's remaining JA enclaves. The recent sale of the Little Tokyo Shopping Center in Los Angeles to Korean owners and the purchase of San Francisco's Japantown Bowl in December 2000 are examples of Japantown properties being lost to non-Nikkei owners.

McInerney is the president of the real estate development company that purchased the property formerly known as the Japantown Bowl shortly after the closure of the alley. For decades, Japantown Bowl was a place where JAs of different generations could gather, bringing almost a quarter million people to Japantown each year, according to Osaki.

Osaki said he thinks it is ironic that the developers voiced such strong opposition to the Nihonmachi Street Fair.

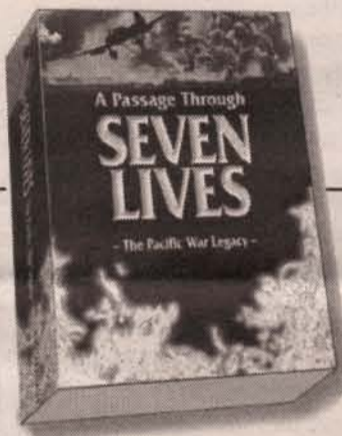
"They knew the situation they were coming into when they put in an offer to purchase the bowling alley site," he said. "It's appalling they would object to festivals and cultural activities going on in their neighborhood."

In spite of this growing concern, Wada is confident that the community will not allow the Nihonmachi Street Fair and other celebrations of history and diversity to be taken away.

"Mr. Zisser reduces these festivals to 'disruptions' he must tolerate," Wada said. "These celebrations made San Francisco the city that it is, and they're here to stay." ■

On the Web

www.nihonmachistreetfair.org
www.1600webster.com
www.nakayoshi-jacl.blogspot.com



What does war solve?

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"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 blended in carefully with artistic illustrations, creating a shocking and enlightening panorama.

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PACIFIC

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CITIZEN



[PETER SHIGEKI FRANSDEN]

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

Mind Matters

Have you ever met one of those people with an incredible memory? I am talking about those people who can remember a moment in time with immaculate detail, recalling multiple emotions and simultaneous occurrences effortlessly without the slightest ounce of mental exertion.

I have always been envious of those people.

And if I were one of them, I would be able to quickly conjure up a time when I marveled as someone told one of these intricately elaborate tales. Yet, I am not one of these people.

I guess I should keep a diary, or at least update my blog more often.

Memory is such an elusive beast. We are each subject to our own memories. Our memories are the masters; we are the captors.

I have often wondered what my personal history would look like if a documentary film crew had followed me around for the last 27 years. I wonder if objectivity would validate or eradicate some of the biased positions that I have taken on. Would objectivity be more or less forgiving of my failings? Would it be more or less congratulatory of my victories?

Whether you subscribe to a strict idea of evolutionism, creationism or a complementary blending of the two, man's advanced memory remains one of the most distinctive traits that separate us from the animal kingdom. Yes, dogs can remember their owners and chimpanzees can remember the hand motions of sign language, but the ability to reach back to emotionally-laced memories remains strictly within our human privilege.

I have also marveled at the potency of emotions that accompany these memories.

To this day, I have one memory that still floods my senses with all the same emotions just as the day of the event. During my teenage years, soccer was my life. Any given week was packed with two or three practices intertwined with a few games. That's a full week.

As my buddies and I entered high school, we were quickly indoctrinated with the importance of winning high school boys state soccer championships. This became the ultimate pinnacle of success. Without belaboring the details with obnoxious boasting, I will simply say that when we won the state championship our junior year, it was a big deal for us.

Then without fail over the course of the next two years, every time I thought back to those final moments of the game when we watched the seconds tick down to victory, I got serious chills. Even now almost 10 years later, when I think back to the field, the celebration and the excitement, I get the all-familiar sensations.

So whether by nature's law or the God of nature's law, we each possess this capacity to remember. So then the question becomes: what do we do with these memories? While some emotionally-laced memories take us back to a more carefree day when all that mattered was conquering high school athletics, others can transport more difficult emotions: the death of a child, a divorce, betrayal, a nasty break-up or even racism.

There are a myriad of events that elicit painful memories.

While we are naturally inclined to recall memories with their complicated emotions, it becomes our responsibility to delicately balance the weight of our memories. Although it's important to remember the events that have indelibly marked our histories, it is equally imperative that we ward off the paralyzing effects of heartache, bitterness, failure and fear.

During the recent Democratic Convention in Denver, some of these themes were played out on the main stage. During the opening day of the convention, Michelle Obama poetically positioned herself in the "cross-currents" of the civil rights and women's movements. While recognizing the battles with their associated battle scars that were fought and won prior to the moment she stood on center-stage, she was also positioning herself to be a player in shaping the next great movement to create "a world as it should be."

Forgiving all the formulaic stagecraft and propaganda of a political convention, we can take a page from the Obamas' book as we balance the effects of our memories. We cannot afford to forget. Yet, we cannot bankrupt our future by living solely off our investments of the past. Our future is too valuable. ■

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

My Favorite Color 'Live' on Emerald Isle

OUR FIRST TRIP to Ireland — indeed the Irish green is luxurious, thanks to Mother Nature (rain). Four days before we landed at Dublin International Airport (Aug. 1), the River Arra overflowed, causing extensive damage in the heartland. And traveling with the Arras (Dan, his mother, our daughter Patricia and four children), were they surprised seeing a river with their surname. Our one day of sunshine (Aug. 15) belittled the gray skies, rain and "misty days with sunny spells," fittingly from Guinness Storehouse, where with a pint of the black stout in hand we were blessed with a 360-degree panorama of Dublin.

To get some statistics out of the way, the island of Ireland with 4 million people is about the size of Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire with Dublin at 53° N, which means daylight in the summer till 10 p.m. Ireland elected its first woman, Mary Robinson, president in 1990. Knowledge of Gaelic is required now to enter the university or for a career in public life. And tea is preferred over coffee (\$3 U.S. per cup).

Thing and Places I Wanted to See

In Dublin are the Book of Kells at Trinity College (founded in 1592 as a Protestant college that only began to take Catholic students in 1970) and the National Museum of Archeology and History.

The Book of Kells dates from ninth century, a copy of the four Gospels in Latin illuminated by Irish monks on vellum. It's touted as the "most important piece" from the Dark Ages. Better than squinting at captions in the exhibit leading to the room with the Book of Kells, I bought a 94-page booklet with over 100 color plates.

The National Museum displays simple artifacts from Ireland's Stone Age (2000 to 600 BC) and an extensive array of Bronze Age gold. Viewing human remains and a 120-foot long canoe created from a single tree discovered in the Irish bogs in modern times was unexpected.

Four Nights in Galway

In the west of Ireland, Galway (140 miles from Dublin) is one of the Irish-speaking regions. A gentleman at the hotel (we stayed at Connemara Coast) said

his young lads were at a nearby summer camp — no TV, no computers — to learn Gaelic. 'Tis true, the Irish love of conversation prevails.

It being the first Monday of August (a national bank holiday), the ferries to Inishmore, biggest of the three Aran Islands, were crammed with visitors. Incredible but we agreed there are "10,000 miles" of stone fences criss-crossing the austere landscape.

A daily paper headlined (Aug. 7) "Obama ancestor was a Dublin bigwig in 1700s," meaning (not what we Americans think) a "bigwig" made those white wigs worn by prominent men in public life. Obama's ancestor left Ireland for the U.S. in 1850 after the Great Potato Famine — not to California for gold.

The Cathedral and a Marian Shrine

Not to be missed, the Galway Cathedral, opened by Cardinal Cushing of Boston in 1965, has a stained glass window in a side chapel depicting Christ's resurrection with a profile of JFK, "nearly a saint in Irish eyes at the time the cathedral was being built," as the tour books tell.

The site I especially wanted to visit was the Marian shrine in Knock, north of Galway, to pray in thanksgiving for our golden wedding anniversary this year.

Here in rural County Mayo in 1879, two local women saw an apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist by the gable of Church of St. John Baptist. Witnessed by 13 other onlookers, it was validated by the Catholic Church.

My other "must see" — the Cliffs of Moher south of Galway — were breathtaking, in spite of heavy rain that day, to capture on camera part of the five-mile stretch of rugged limestone rising 650 feet from the sea, buffeted by the Atlantic gale.

What a Surprise

There's a hooker named "An Tonai" in Galway and last month I had to tell Nisei Week Pioneer honoree Minoru Tonai about her. He was relieved to learn a "hooker" is a thick-masted sailboat, once common, to ferry peat, cattle and beer. (I'm still searching for an English translation for "tonai.") ■



Rachael Yamagata: Weathered, But Not Cynical

Stronger, wiser and still soulful. The Yonsei songstress returns with 'Elephants ... Teeth Sinking Into Heart,' a single album in two parts.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

It's been four Rachael Yamagata-less years. In June 2004, she surfaced in a flash of genius with the aptly titled, "Happenstance," her first full-length album that drew comparison to Janis Joplin.

And just like that, she disappeared.

Her fans — haunted by the songstress with the long, raven hair and low, throaty voice — searched for her and left messages on her MySpace page, which continued to advertise a new album "coming soon."

But "soon" turned into Oct. 7, 2008.

"It's a long story," sighed Yamagata over the phone. The short version is that she was swallowed up by red tape.

After two years of touring with "Happenstance," Yamagata went back into the studio and finished recording her sophomore album in 2006, just in time for a switch-up in her management team. Then there was a whole series of regime changes at her label RCA Records.

Last year, the reality check came: Yamagata and RCA broke up.

"It wasn't a nasty split," she said. But with her head spinning from all the changes, she

descent.

In Woodstock, she could go a week without seeing another human being. The isolation gave way to some "really odd songs."

"I spent nights writing song structures that totally captured what I wanted to say and there was no one there for me to scream, 'Hey, look at this!'"

In nine months, 160 songs were born.

"Elephants" opens the first part of the album with a haunting piano and Yamagata warning about the potential heartache of a new relationship. It was one of those magical songs created at Woodstock. She ran down the mountain and by the time she made it back up, the song was written.

"If I tried to write it now I couldn't ... there are so many layers to the song," she said. "It was one of those that was delivered unto me songs."

The journey to her new album has also been physically difficult. She blew out her left knee jogging. She got into boxing and broke her wrist. Once she fell off a ladder and left a dent in the ground where her chin hit.

"It was one of those times where I told myself to wake up because otherwise no one would find me."

In the Dominican Republic, she faced her strongest fears: sharks and open water. She made it a goal to pick up some sand from the ocean floor. At the bottom, she heard the pop of her eardrum blowing out.

"I think it's healed or maybe I've just adjusted."

*You're vulnerable.
You get hurt.
Relationships can flatten
you in a way ...*

took off for the Dominican Republic to clear her mind. The singer/songwriter, famous for her soulful songs about heartbreak, came back strong.

She threw herself into blogging, MySpacing and releasing an EP. She toured with her "bud" Mandy Moore and interviewed new managers. She negotiated with Warner Brothers Records, her new label. Really, it's been the business side of her musical career that accounted for the holdup.

In the meantime, Yamagata entered her 30s, a theme in her new album, "Elephants ... Teeth Sinking Into Heart," a single album in two parts.

"All the travel and extreme experiences have been like a tornado that picks you up and when it touches down, brings you back to life."

An Album Delivered Unto Her

"Elephants" was created in seclusion. It was really Thoreau-esque: Yamagata retreated to Woodstock, New York in her family-owned refuge literally on top of a mountain to get in touch with her muse.

"It's as secluded as you want it to be," said the Yonsei, who is also of Italian and German

Heartbreak, Evolved

Yes, it's been a long journey. But Yamagata didn't start out wanting to be a singer.

"I was going to be an actress."

In college, she was a French major and then an Italian major. Ultimately, she graduated with a theater degree. But on weekends when her friends were out partying, Yamagata would play a piano in an empty auditorium.

Then fate stepped in — she saw a funk fusion band called Bumpus and that was it. She became a vocalist for the band, wrote songs, performed and recorded. Eventually her songs reached the ears of a record label executive and within weeks she was hosting her first open mike.

Success came out of nowhere. Her parents always encouraged her artistic endeavors, but they had their typical parental concerns. Then they attended her first real show — at Madison Square Garden opening for David Gray — and they felt safe in her career choice.

Yamagata is always asked how much her multiethnic background has influenced her music. She feels a strange kinship to her



PHOTO: HILARY WALSH/WARNER BROS. RECORDS

roots. On trips to Japan, she noticed some of her characteristics mirrored in others.

Some of her family members were victims and children of internment camps.

"I identify with people's struggle and with what my relatives have gone through," she said.

But relationships and heartbreak is a constant theme in Yamagata's work.

"It's the story of my life. I weave that all over the place," she said. "It's all about relationships and heartbreak. I liked the idea of evolution. Because that's what relationships are. You're vulnerable. You get hurt. Relationships can flatten you in a way, but then you can gain your independence."

In "Elephants," heartbreak evolves from a personal, lush meditation to the "Teeth" — the defiant rock side of the album.

"It's a different beast," said Yamagata, about "Teeth," which she describes as the part of the album you crank up while driving with the windows down.

Her mom compared this album to the richness of being in her 30s.

"I love that idea though. Not that the first record was naïve but it was much more concerned with the outside influence of relationships. This one is about the inner workings."

In her 30s, "I'm weathered but not cynical, which is a good place to be," said Yamagata. ■

See Rachael Yamagata Live*



- Sept. 20 Wonder Bar - Asbury Park, NJ
- Sept. 24 Johnny Brenda's - Philadelphia
- Sept. 25-26 Joe's Pub - New York
- Oct. 1 Lakeshore Theater - Chicago
- Oct. 4 Chop Suey - Seattle, WA
- Oct. 10 Cafe Du Nord - San Francisco
- Oct. 7 Coronet Theatre - Los Angeles
- Oct. 18 Music Box at Fonda - Los Angeles

'Elephants ... Teeth Sinking Into Heart' will be released Oct. 7.

Preorder now at: www.rachaelyamagata.com.

* This is not a complete listing.

BASKETBALL

Stories by Associated Press

Wat Misaka Broke Basketball Ethnic Barrier

SALT LAKE CITY—Wat Misaka stood out for much more than being the shortest guy on the court when he played basketball for the University of Utah and briefly with the New York Knicks.

The son of Japanese immigrants, Misaka played in an era when almost everybody else playing the game was white and America was at the height of the anti-Japanese sentiment of World War II.

Misaka's career is the subject of a new documentary titled "Transcending: The Wat Misaka Story," which puts his playing career in context with the times and the tensions that anyone with Japanese ancestry faced in the 1940s.

Although he's always happy to talk about basketball and remember his playing days, the idea of being a racial pioneer in professional sports is a little much.

"This was kind of a surprise — that they'd be interested in doing something on an old has-been," Misaka said with a modest laugh.

The film premiered to a packed auditorium in Salt Lake City Sept. 10.

Misaka, 84, hardly has the look of a former basketball star. The black hair that was sharply slicked back in photos from his playing days turned white long ago. He moves slowly and deliberately with no hint of the quickness that made the 5 foot-7 guard a notorious defensive pest with a knack for getting the ball up the court.

No matter how much he smiles and shrugs off the notion, Misaka made history 61 years ago, when he broke an ethnic barrier in the Basketball Association of America. A precursor to the NBA, the league was all-white when the Knicks took Misaka in the first round of the 1947 draft and was still three years away from the debut of the first black players.

As far as Misaka was concerned, he just looked a little different. Having grown up in Utah, he was quite used to that and said he never thought of it as a racial milestone.

"It was not a big thing. They didn't make much of it," he said.

It was the same year Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, which Misaka himself says was a larger event in history than the two weeks he spent with the Knicks.

Misaka played in three games for New York, scoring a total of seven points, before getting cut early in the 1947-48 season.

Misaka is asked occasionally to recount his playing career, which he said was highlighted much more by Utah's NCAA championship in 1944 and NIT title three years later than his short time with the

Knicks.

But he was surprised when he was contacted two years ago by Christine Toy Johnson and her husband, Bruce, who said they wanted to do the documentary.

"It's just not in his nature to really talk about it, but to a lot of people it's a barrier he broke and we really recognized the importance of that," Christine Toy Johnson said. "He's just a humble guy, so he does shy away from attention a lot, and yet I think he is also happy that people are recognizing his accomplishment."

Former college teammates in the film recounted how Misaka never got rattled by racial taunts and marveled at how he ignored the endless variations of "Jap" that he heard whenever the team hit the road.

Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were forced into internment camps, including one in Utah's western desert. Misaka said he felt fortunate to be from Utah and not sent to a camp, but also sympathized with the families who were kept there.

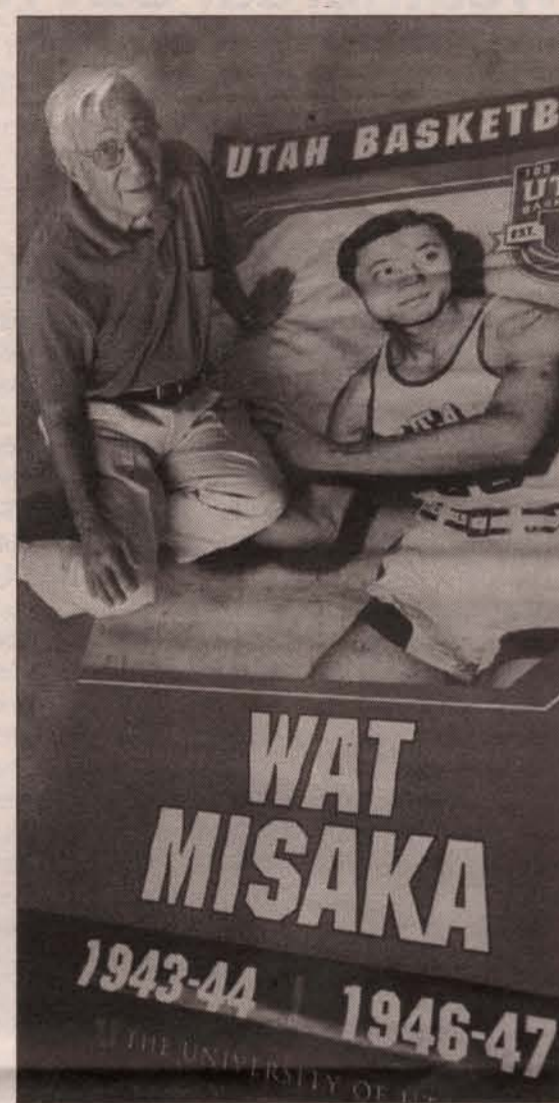
Misaka served two years in the Army, getting his draft notice when he returned from the 1944 NCAA championship, and was sent to Japan after the war ended. He looked Japanese, but was an American. He sensed that fellow U.S. soldiers were wary of him because of his ethnicity and the Japanese wouldn't trust anyone in an American uniform.

He returned to college, helping Utah upset Kentucky in the 1947 NIT championship when it was a bigger deal than the NCAA tournament. The game was played in Madison Square Garden, which would be Misaka's home during his short-lived career with the Knicks.

Misaka's fame quickly faded after he returned to Utah and started a career in engineering, but an old picture from his college days caught the Johnsons' attention. When the couple started researching his basketball career, they were surprised at how little had been noted about what Misaka did and the significance of when he did it.

Two years later, their documentary is complete and will be shown this week in San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles. Bruce Johnson said they hope to get it on the film festival circuit and possibly get a cable network to pick it up.

"That would be our ultimate dream — to get to a larger audience that could learn about this story," he said. ■



AP PHOTO/DOUGLAS C. PIZAC

Former University of Utah and New York Knicks basketball player Wat Misaka poses with a banner made in his honor at his home in Bountiful, Utah.

GOLF

Wie Enters Q-school for US LPGA Tour

ST. LOUIS—Unable to earn her card through sponsor exemptions, Michelle Wie has entered the U.S. LPGA Tour qualifying school and played the first stage last week on the California course where she first rose to fame at age 13.

Her father, B.J. Wie, had said at the U.S. Women's Open that Wie had "no other options" but Q-school if she didn't make enough money to finish the equivalent of 80th of the U.S. LPGA Tour money list.

"Nothing has changed since then," he said from Palm Desert, California. "She will go to Q-school."

Wie turned pro in 2005 and a year later had at least a share of the lead on the back nine of three majors. Her career went into a tailspin shortly after that, when she tried to play through wrist injuries, withdrew from the Ginn Tribute when she was on the verge of shooting 88 and facing suspension, and continued to play the occasional event on men's tours.

She has not won any tournament since the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links in 2003 at 13.

But she showed signs of getting her game back in order this year. Wie was one shot off the lead going into the final round of the State Farm Classic in July when she was disqualified for leaving the scoring trailer before signing her card. That might have kept her from earning enough money to get a U.S. LPGA card, and she tied for 12th in the Canadian Women's Open at her final event.

Her father said Wie, who turns 19 on Oct. 11, will return to Stanford University after the California qualifier. Wie went through the first quarter at Stanford last autumn as she tries to blend college life with professional golf.

Going through U.S. LPGA qualifying could soothe some



Michelle Wie, 18, didn't make enough money on the LPGA tour this year so she's heading to Q-school.

criticism that she has taken too many free passes. The USGA gave her an exemption into the U.S. Women's Open when she was 14 while teammates on her Curtis Cup team had to qualify.

She made it through qualifying for the U.S. Women's Open this year, but took a 9 on her ninth hole of the opening round and shot 81, and she failed to make the cut. ■

SUMO

Banned Sumo Wrestler Suing to Get Job Back

TOKYO—A Russian sumo wrestler banned for life by the Japan Sumo Association for marijuana possession is suing for back pay and a return to the ring.



The lawsuit was filed in the Tokyo District Court on behalf of the wrestler formerly known as Wakanoho. It seeks payment of the wrestler's monthly salary of \$12,000 and to have him reinstated as a sumo wrestler in the association.

The sumo association played its first-ever lifetime ban on an active wrestler last month when the Russian, whose real name is Soslan Aleksandrovich Gagloev, was arrested on suspicion of possessing marijuana.

"If you look at past punishments against other sumo wrestlers, the ban was too harsh," said his lawyer, Makoto Miyata.

Miyata said examples include three Japanese wrestlers who were arrested on suspicion of beating a junior wrestler to death last year but were only suspended, and a wrestler in the top division who hit and killed a pedestrian while driving in Osaka in 2000 but was only forced to sit out one tournament.

Gagloev said he first appealed to the sumo association to be reinstated, but was told that was impossible.

"I understand that a lawsuit is not a good thing, but I'm suing so that I can return to sumo," he told reporters.

The 357-pound former wrestler also faces the cancelation of his work visa and expulsion from Japan.

The sumo association refused to comment because they had not examined the suit. ■

PSW DINNER

(Continued from page 1)

nity for standing up for an issue like redress and working together.”

Although she is still surprised at the success of the redress campaign, even after 20 years, she believes “Congress at that time knew it was the right thing to do.”

Kawahara of the San Diego JACL (former redress chair for her chapter and the PSW district) was honored along with 13 individuals at the Pacific Southwest District’s “Heroes of Redress” annual dinner Sept. 13. The honorees were presented with awards for their hard fought efforts in helping to secure the historic legislation.

A Historic Milestone

For honoree Harry Kawahara, 76 — also a former chair of the PSW district’s redress committee — the emotions and courage of those who testified at the Commission hearings in Los Angeles will always remain with him.

With the passage of a bill to create the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1980, several hearings were held across the country where former internees drudged up painful memories to ensure the true stories of the internment camps were heard by the American people.

The former internees “were scared to appear before the Commission,” said Harry (no relation to Marleen). “It was a very nerve racking situation for them. But they bravely stood up and testified.”

Even today, Harry — a former Topaz internee and member of the Greater Pasadena JACL chapter — is still surprised by the campaign’s success.

“I was pessimistic for a long while,” he said. But “I was elated by the outcome, pleased because so many odds were against us.”

On Aug. 10, 1988, the historic redress legislation was passed, providing an official apology and \$20,000 to every surviving victim of the internment camps.

PROPOSITION 8

(Continued from page 2)

achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people.

Proposition 8 contains similar wording that was previously approved in 2000 by over 61 percent of voters, that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in California.

“That poses a question that everyone should think hard about: What purpose does an equal protection clause have if it only protects the majority? If it only protects those who don’t need it?” said Pizer.

The basis of the arguments against same-sex marriage is prejudice, fear and ignorance, said National JACL President Larry Oda. “We bore the



PSW’s ‘REDDRESS HEROES’ — (top, l-r): Phil Shigekuni, San Fernando Valley Chapter; Miyo Senzaki, Pasadena Chapter; Lillian Morizono, Las Vegas Chapter; Bruce Mori son of Meriko Mori, GLAS Chapter; Michiko Yoshimura for Dr. Junji Kumamoto, Riverside Chapter; Marleen Kawahara, San Diego Chapter; Harry Kawahara, Greater Pasadena Chapter; (bottom, l-r): Hitoshi Kajihara, Ventura Chapter (former nat’l JACL president); Kenneth Inouye, SELANOCO Chapter (former nat’l JACL president); John Saito, former PSW regional director; Carol Saito, PSWD administrative assistant; Masaji Inoshita, Arizona Chapter; Fred Hoshiyama, Venice-Culver Chapter; and Joseph Allman, Arizona Chapter.

“This was a piece of unprecedented legislation in which our nation apologized not only to the JA community but truly apologized to itself for abandoning its most cherished values during a time of crisis,” said Dr. Mitch Maki, dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Cal State Dominguez Hills and the night’s emcee.

“As such it stands as a reminder to all Americans that we need to be vigilant about protecting civil rights in times of crisis.”

A Day of Remembrance

Honoree Phil Shigekuni, 74, recalled the difficulty he experienced trying to get JACL members interested in the redress efforts during the early parts of the campaign.

“The interest was from outside JACL by and large, from younger people, the NCRR (Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress) — that was frustrating,” said the San Fernando Valley Chapter member.

But his frustration helped propel him to organize the first Day of Remembrance on Feb. 19, 1979, a commemoration of the signing of Executive Order 9066 that led to

brunt of these same opinions when we were interned during World War II.”

At one time, Asian Pacific Americans were also denied equal marriage rights because of anti-miscegenation laws. Until the 1967 *Loving v. Virginia* decision when the nation’s highest court struck down the laws, people of different races could not legally marry.

In 1994, the JACL was only the second non-LGBT national organization to support same-sex marriage. Today, the JACL continues to reaffirm its position from the district and chapter levels.

The Pacific Southwest District is currently working with API-Equality to help maintain the equal right to marry.

“Marriage is an institution not a

internment. DOR is still observed today.

“That was satisfying,” he said. “That one event was significant because it kept the idea of redress in the public on an annual basis.”

Still, when former national president Harry Kajihara (also one of the night’s honorees) called him to let him know that the redress bill was likely to pass, he was in complete shock.

“It was a complete surprise,” said Shigekuni, a former Amache internee. “I was in it because it was something I had to do. Justice had to be done. It was something I believed in wholeheartedly yet I didn’t have any feeling it was going to be successful.”

He added jokingly: “I thought, ‘My God, if I had known it would have been successful I would have worked harder.’”

Grassroots Activism

Although most of the honorees were aware that they would be receiving awards, the news had been kept secret from honorees Carol Saito, PSW administrative assistant and her husband John Saito, Sr., a

feeling, people need to start feeling and understanding that it’s okay to like and love whomever you choose,” said Craig Ishii, PSW regional director.

“We want Prop 8 to be defeated in November,” said Brad.

If images of their wedding help people see the reality of two people who just simply love each other celebrating their lifelong commitment maybe it will help change people’s minds.

So they will continue to push their love into the spotlight if it means equality for all.

The difference is now they will be able to call each other spouses for life. ■

On the Web:

www.georgetakei.com

longtime PSW board member.

“I was really surprised. I am still wondering how [they] kept it a secret from me,” said Carol. “I would like to thank the district for always being so good to John and myself.”

John was the PSW district’s regional director from 1979 to 1990, a pivotal period in which much of his time was spent working on the organization’s redress efforts.

In addition to lobbying important Congress votes — including Rep. Dan Longren who was the vice chairman of the CWRIC at the time — at the national convention in Gardena, Calif. in 1982 the PSW district agreed to help finance the JACL’s redress efforts in Washington, D.C.

“The redress efforts here were monumental,” said John.

For many of the honorees, redress was a chance to experience grassroots activism for the first time,

including trying to convince members of Congress to vote for the historic bill.

“Before the redress campaign I never even talked to a politician,” said Marleen. “It was a wonderful experience.”

For many in the audience, the efforts of the honorees during the historic redress campaign continues to be a living example of the power of grassroots activism.

“The capstone to the success of the Redress movement was the relentless and untiring efforts at the grassroots. While friends in Congress and JACL officers and staff framed and structured the effort, the individuals honored by the PSW district made the effort a classic lesson in participatory democracy,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

“Generations of Americans are indebted to them for their hard work and personal sacrifices. ■

PACIFIC

Job Opening Circulation/Receptionist

The Pacific Citizen, a national publication of the JACL, is currently seeking a part-time circulation/receptionist for its downtown Los Angeles office.

The focus of the position is to maintain and update the P.C. database of non-member subscribers, coordinate the member mailing list with JACL headquarters, handle subscription invoicing and all inquiries and duties related to the circulation of the newspaper. Position also requires the answering of telephones and correspondence.

A minimum of two years college education or business training required. Experience in circulation management and marketing a plus. Knowledge of MAC and Microsoft Office are preferred.

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CITIZEN

PARALLELS

(Continued from page 1)

tunity, the ability to 'be all that you can be,' to have your dreams deferred."

During their Aug. 1 meeting, the Sonoma County JACL passed a "County of Refuge" resolution to ensure that all its immigrants, both documented and undocumented, can live free from discrimination.

"Lawmakers, we know, commonly hold the power to shape the hearts and minds of their constituents, in this case, generating fear and suspicion against 'aliens,'" said Nakano. "Unfortunately, that process seems to be gaining momentum today, and fear and suspicion appear to be intensifying against another group of new immigrants."

The resolution, which calls on the Board of Supervisors to designate Sonoma County as a "County of Refuge," was followed by a federal lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern Calif. (ACLU-NC) against the county Sheriff's Department for unlawful detentions and racial profiling of Latinos suspected of being undocumented immigrants.

Civil Rights Breaches

Several other Northern California cities including San Francisco, Oakland and Richmond have affirmed a "County of Refuge" designation, which bars local law enforcement from using county funds to help Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents enforce civil immigration laws.

California doesn't allow local sheriffs and police to enforce immigration law. But for the last three years, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department has been working with federal immigration officials to stop and search people who look Latino,

interrogate them about their immigration status and jail them without legal basis, according to the ACLU-NC lawsuit filed on behalf of the Committee for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County and three victims.

Sonoma County residents Francisco Sanchez-Lopez, Christyan Sonato-Vega and Samuel Medel Moyado were all stopped and questioned by sheriff's deputies about their immigration status and their gang affiliations.

"None of our plaintiffs were gang members," said Julia Harumi Mass, ACLU-NC staff attorney. "They were young Latino men. That doesn't make you a gang member."

Sonato-Vega was trying to buy a cake at a Santa Rosa bakery when he was stopped, searched and interrogated by two deputy sheriffs last July. A month later, he was arrested on his suspected immigration status and held at the county jail without receiving notice of the charges against him.

"Our chief concern is to protect the Constitution," said Richard Coshnear, an immigration lawyer and member of the Committee for Immigrant Rights. "It's about racial profiling and using gangs and criminal activities as excuses for civil rights breaches."

When local law enforcement officers engage in immigration enforcement, it creates a sense of fear within the community they are required to protect, said Mass. Many fear calling for help.

"It's a real safety concern for the immigrant community and the community at large," she added.

Sheriff Bill Cogbill denied the allegations before seeing a copy of the lawsuit, according to the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*. He was served with the lawsuit on Sept. 4, but did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* request for comment.

Sonoma County Activism

Supporting immigrants' rights is nothing new for the Sonoma County JACL. Over the years, their members have actively marched and rallied in support of this very same issue. They worked with other coalition groups to support the "Know Your Rights" campaign, which produced wallet-size cards with instructions on what to do if stopped by law enforcement officials.

In August, Coshnear and Mass were invited to attend the JACL NCWNP meeting to talk about the county Sheriff Department's racial profiling issues.

"People showed a great deal of interest," said Coshnear about the meeting. "JACL members are sensitive to the denial of due process and arbitrary detention."

Many JACLers can just look to the experiences of the Issei and memories of World War II for examples of parallel experiences with recent immigrants.

Michael Bryant, a Sonoma County JACL member who worked on the chapter's "Giri" oral history project, noticed the similarities in the stories told by Nisei members of their community.

"One of the things that jumped out was the correlation between what happened then and now ... the fear-mongering and racial profiling that overlap into immigration history," said Bryant. "It was a clear picture that the same things were happening again."

For decades, racist laws prevented the Issei from becoming U.S. citizens and owning land. And almost immediately after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, FBI agents worked with local law enforcement to round up mostly Issei men they considered to be threats to national security.

In the early 1890s, Ishitaro Miyano traveled from Hiroshima to



'I grew up under a cloud of race hate, as did most, if not all, second generation Japanese in this country...'

— Mel Nakano (far left) of the Sonoma County JACL

Hawaii at 13 in search of a better life. He eventually set his roots down in Sonoma County where he became a successful chicken farmer. It didn't take long after Pearl Harbor for the FBI to show up at the Miyano home to arrest Ishitaro, said Cynthia Hayashi about her grandfather.

Ishitaro was incarcerated in New Mexico. It would be months before his family found out where he was.

The Sonoma County JA community is close-knit because of the turbulent history it shared.

Growing up there, Carol Kawase always knew the importance of a strong immigrant community. During WWII, her father Harry Kawase was interned at Amache and her mother Betty was taken to Tule Lake.

Harry remembers the positive things of people standing up and supporting JAs during their time of need, said Carol. "Now it's JACL's opportunity to be supportive of immigrant rights."

But like in any other community there is a diversity of opinion.

"Some people did not understand the point of our resolution," said Carol. Some Sonoma County chapter members thought the "County of

Refuge" resolution supported unauthorized immigration.

"It has a lot to do with the different generations and different life experiences," said Cynthia, who added that although not all chapter members agree on all issues, they are open to the discussion. "It's important to have these discussions that determine the direction of the JACL. Is it a civil rights organization? A cultural organization? What is the main focus?"

"This issue hits close to home for us, given our own immigrant history in America," said Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director. "We recognize the parallels in what is taking place today with how the Issei were treated — the scapegoating and misinformation are creating that same climate of fear and bigotry that our grandparents lived under. We have to ensure that fear doesn't lead to the same anti-immigrant legislation and policies that targeted Asians." ■

On the Web:

www.jacl-ncwnp.org
www.aclunc.org
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PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

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PAPER CRANES

(Continued from page 1)

cranes. They also watched a documentary called "Paper Clips," the story of school kids in Tennessee who collected more than six million paper clips to represent the Jews who were killed during the Holocaust.

Before long the two girls had come up with the idea to fold 120,313 paper cranes — one for each internee — as a way to symbolize peace and tolerance in the world.

"Before our project I didn't know much about [the internment]," said Carly. "But the more and more we did our research, we discovered what a huge impact it had on our history but it wasn't a really known fact."

The girls have made and collected close to 3,000 paper cranes so far and e-mails from well-wishers and boxes filled with paper cranes have already started coming in.

A Snowball Effect

When Michelle and Carly first started folding paper cranes, their idea for a peace memorial hadn't come to fruition yet. They had simply folded 350 cranes and donated them to the Topaz Museum as a thank-you for helping them with their documentary: "The Art and Soul of Topaz Relocation Center."

But soon, word about their DVD had spread and they were invited to attend the recent Japanese American National Museum conference in Denver. They showed their documentary and decided to have a table

so people could join them in folding paper cranes.

"At that point it blossomed into this whole thing — get enough cranes for each internee," said Mary Reed, Michelle's mother.

So now Michelle and Carly are folding paper cranes every chance they get.

"I do paper cranes while reviewing in chemistry class," said Michelle. "My teacher didn't mind me doing it. It helped me concentrate."

Former internees are touched by the enthusiasm shown by two girls from Minnesota who have no real connection to internment yet understand its historical significance.

"They are just amazing girls," said Alice Hirai, 68, of Utah. "These two girls have nothing to do with Japanese Americans but are working to ensure this doesn't happen to any other people again."

Hirai was only two and a half when she, her younger brother and parents were taken from their home in San Francisco and sent to the Topaz internment camp. Only in her later years did she realize the hardship her parents had faced.

"It makes me cry to think of what they went through — we were spat on and called 'Japs,'" she said. "But my parents protected us and we lived a normal childhood."

When Hirai learned of Michelle and Carly's efforts, she sent them 49 golden paper cranes she had folded, each with the names of former Topaz internees she had remembered.

"It's such an amazing thing to see how touched [former internees] are



by our project," said Carly.

The girls plan to donate the first 11,212 paper cranes (for each Topaz internee) to the Topaz Museum. They are still looking at options for where to send the 120,313 paper cranes. Their ultimate goal is to get even more paper cranes so they can send some to other museums across the country.

"It's exciting to think of all the possibilities," said Jane Beckwith of the Topaz Museum who added they are currently going over a number of possibilities of how to showcase the girls' paper cranes. "Needless to say we will be working on the ideas while everyone is folding."

'Our Gift to the Community'

Michelle hopes to attend the University of Hawaii one day and



Carly Gutzmann (left) and Michelle Reed show off some of their paper crane creations (top). Both girls attended the recent Japanese American National Museum's conference in Denver.

study to become a marine biologist. Carly loves science and animals so she sees a future eventually as a veterinarian.

In the meantime the girls are excelling in school and somehow finding the time to work on their project about peace and tolerance.

"They look at things at a macro-level and they worry about things that regular people don't look at," said Mary, explaining her daughter's maturity. "Michelle actually worries about tolerance, she sees the big picture."

Like Mary, Carly's mom Kelly couldn't be more proud of her daughter's wish to create a more tolerant world.

"I feel an enormous amount of pride, to see what she is learning from it," she said. "This is not another school project for a grade. This has connected her to people who have been touched by it. She has talked to people who have been in internment camps and she has been able to connect to the real world."

Michelle and Carly see parallels between the history of the internment and today's real world where Muslim Americans are often punished for looking like "the enemy."

"We definitely hope this never would happen again, that's why we are doing this," said Carly. "This was such a dark part of American history we don't want it to be repeated."

"I think I have a better understanding of how much discrimination has

shaped our world," said Michelle, who added: "I have more sympathy."

With the new school year just starting, the girls hope to get their fellow students involved through their Community Service Club. Their school principal has already shown support for the project.

So far, word has spread fast among former internees who are hosting paper crane folding parties and teachers who want to incorporate the same ideas into their own classrooms. E-mails of support come in daily and more and more boxes filled with paper cranes are being delivered.

"These are two incredibly wonderful girls," said Hirai. "They took ownership of a terrible injustice that was done and they took it upon themselves to educate people so it won't happen again."

Although there is no target date to complete the 120,313 paper cranes, both girls hope to finish the peace memorial project before they graduate from high school.

"It's nice to know our project is out there and people appreciate what we are doing," said Michelle.

"This is our gift to the community," said Carly. ■

To contact or take part in the Paper Crane Peace Memorial Project write to: Paper Cranes, c/o SGI, 2750 Blue Water Road, Eagan, MN 55121.

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EWP

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; honoring Norman Mineta, John Tateishi and Grayce Uyehara; \$200/person, \$150/non-profits, \$100/JACL members. Info: 202/223-1240.

East

SALEM, Mass.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 27-28—Stage Idols: Japanese Kabuki Theater; Sat. begins at 10:30 a.m., Sun. begins at 2 p.m.; Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex St.; events feature workshops, demonstrations, art activities, performances and a film discussion; some events require reservations, call to inquire. Info: 978/745-9500, ext. 3011.

Midwest

ALBUQUERQUE

Sun., Sept. 28—New Mexico JACL Annual Aki Matsuri Festival, "Bamboo: The Way of Living Green"; 10-6 p.m.; National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St.; featuring entertainment, food, arts and crafts for sale, etc. Info: Leo Gomez, 505/291-1062 or hanayagi@spinn.net.

GRINNELL, Iowa

Through Oct. 26—Exhibition, "Return of the Yellow Peril" A Survey of the Work of Roger Shimomura, 1969-2004; Grinnell College, Bucksbaum Center for the Arts, Sixth Ave. and Park St.; gallery hours, Sun.-Wed. noon-5 p.m., Thu.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: 641/269-4660.

POCATELLO, Idaho

Thu.-Sun., Oct. 2-5—2nd Annual Idaho Kite Festival; Oct. 2 flying will take place at the church park adjacent to the Portneuf Library; kite making at 2 p.m. at the library; Oct. 3-5, flying field will be Tyhee School; Oct. 3, kite making with Veterans, 7 p.m., Memorial Building, 300 S. Johnson; festival will also feature a 100-kite train, fighter kite battle and a veterans' and cancer memorial flies (all kite flying will be weather permitting). Info: www.idahokitefestival.com.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 19-21—Portland Taiko Performance, Fall Concert "In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors" and Children's Matinee "Little Feet, Big Drums!"; Footsteps, Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.; Little Feet, Sat. 2 p.m.; Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway; Fall concert \$28.75/adults, \$21.75/seniors 62+ and students; Children's matinee \$17.75/adults, \$11.75/seniors and students. Tickets: 503/790-2787 or www.portlandtaiko.org.

Through Jan. 11, 2009—Exhibit, "Oregon Nisei Baseball: The Early Years"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; hours: Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m. and Sun. noon-3 p.m.; \$3/admission; exhibit honor the 10th anniversary of the ONLC. Info: 503/224-1458 or www.oregonnikkei.org.

Sun., Sept. 28—Oregon Nikkei Endowment Annual Banquet; 5 p.m. reception, 5:30 p.m. dinner; Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St.; honoring Sho Dozono and June Arima Schumann; \$100/person. Info: info@oregonnikkei.org.

Northern California

HAYWARD

Sun., Sept. 21—NJAHS's Fall Event, "Cultural Connections: Global Engagement/Activism"; 11-4 p.m.; Mt. Eden Business Park, 25941 Industrial Blvd.; featuring dialogue, performances, food and exhibits; \$35/person, \$65/couple, children 12 and under are free. Info: 415/921-5007.

SACRAMENTO

Wed., Oct. 1—Northern California Premium Sake Fest; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Sheraton Grand Sacramento, 1230 J St.; reservations call Judy, 916/373-1111, ext. 120 or judy@nafdc.com; advance tickets are \$55 or \$60 at the door (advance tickets must be purchased by Sept. 26); must be 21 years or older.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Sept. 20—Cleanup of the Nat'l AIDS Memorial Grove; 9-noon; Golden Gate Park; gloves and tools will be provided; lunch and refreshments will be provided. Info: Greg Marutani, 415/641-1697.

Oct. 8-11—An Intimate Evening with Hiroshima; The Razz Room at Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason; tickets start at \$40. Info and tickets: www.therazzroom.com.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Oct. 4—Spirit of Japantown Festival; 10-6 p.m.; Fifth and Jackson Streets; featuring entertainment, artisans, vendors and food; featured entertainment includes Daniel Ho and Grateful Crane Ensemble cast members Keiko and Scott. Info: Aggie Idemoto, 408/268-4440.

STOCKTON

Sat., Sept. 27—Stockton JACL Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser; Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr.; \$7/adults, \$4/children 10 and under; proceeds benefit the chapter education fund. Info: 209/476-8528.

Southern California

CERRITOS

Sat., Sept. 20—Hiroshima in Concert; 8 p.m.; Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Dr.; tickets \$58, \$47 or \$36. Tickets: 800/300-4345, 562/916-8500 or www.cerritoscenter.com.

GARDENA

Sat., Oct. 11—WRA Photo Demonstration with Lane Hirabayashi; 2-4 p.m.; Gardena JCI Veterans Hall, 1964 W. 162nd St.

LOS ANGELES

Sept. 25-28—ID Film Fest; all screenings 7:30 p.m.; Democracy Forum in the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, 111 N. Central Ave.; focus on films that explore and celebrate identity crisis in the diverse API communities; free for JANM members, \$5/each film. Info: 213/625-0414 or www.janm.org

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 4-5—Ohara School of Ikebana L.A. Chapter 40th Anniversary Exhibition; George J. Doizaki Gallery, JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; free. Info: 213/628-2725.

Sun., Oct. 5—Ohara School Floral Performance; 2 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St.; \$30/general admission. Tickets: www.jacc.org or 213/680-3700.

Through Oct. 12—Performance, Be Like Water; David Henry Hwang Theater, 120 Judge John Aiso St.; Thurs.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.; play takes place a few years after Bruce Lee's death; \$35/orchestra, \$30/balcony. Tickets and info: 213/625-7000 or www.eastwestplayers.org.

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.

VENTURA COUNTY

Sun., Oct. 12—18th Culture Day; 1-4 p.m.; Camarillo Community Center, Carmen Dr. at Burnley St.; \$7/adults, \$5/students with I.D., seniors and children 5-17 yrs. Info: Jeff Kunisaki, 805/493-1824 or Mariko Chilcott, 805/231-1392.

Arizona

PHOENIX

Tues. Oct. 7—ASU Asian Pacific American Studies 10th Anniversary Event, "Justice Reclaimed: Japanese American Redress and Civil Rights"; 7 p.m.; Xavier College Preparatory, Virginia Piper Performing Arts Center, 7th Street and Highland; John Tateishi will speak. Info: apas.clas.asu.edu.

Tues., Oct. 7—Exhibition, "Line of Exclusion" by Mona Higuchi; 5 p.m.; Xavier College Preparatory, 7th Street and Highland; Higuchi

will showcase her site-specific artwork on the JA internment. Info: www.monahiguchi.com.

Sat., Oct. 18—Screening, "Passing Poston, An American Story"; 4 p.m. reception, 5 p.m. screening; Univ. of Arizona College of Medicine, 550 E. Van Buren St.; a Q&A session with Ruth Okimoto and Mary Higashi will follow the screening; tickets at the door will be \$20. Advance tickets: Ted Namba, 602/571-0247 or Cindi Harbottle, 480/710-8296.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Through 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.

Oct. 24-25—Rhythm Summit 2008; 8 p.m.; Cupola Theatre, Honolulu Design Center, 1250 Kapi'olani Blvd.; featuring Kenny Endo and Noel Okimoto with special guest, Dean Taba; \$22 in advance or \$25 at the door. Info and tickets: www.taikoartscenter.org.




The 2nd Annual Idaho Kite Festival takes place Oct. 2-5 — weather permitting. Micki Kawakami (above) flies a multi-kite train.


Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Oct. 14-16—2008 Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; 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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In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Hata, Joshua "Juggo," 84, Aug. 22; WWII veteran; survived by sons, Larry and David (Janet); 2 gc.; brother, Seiji; and sister, Miye (Hank) Kanazawa.

Hayashi, George, 91, Seattle, Wash., July 29; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by son, Henry; son-in-law, Toby Higashi; 2 gc.; brothers, Frank (Yaye) and Tom; and sister, Lillian (Akira) Horita.

Hiranaka, Charles Toshio, 95, Seattle, Wash., July 23; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Hisa; sons, Wayne (Theda) and Collin (Jan); 5 gc.; 2 ggc.; brothers, Don (Grace) and Bob (Haru); and sisters, Marge Okitsu and Betty Hirano.

Hori, Kazuo, Garden Grove, Aug. 30; survived by wife, Elaine; and son, Bryan.

Ishizu, Tatsuo, 91, San Gabriel, Aug. 21; survived by daughter, Lorraine.

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.

Isobe, Teruko, 80, Gardena, Aug. 25; survived by husband, Jimmy; son, Daniel; and sister-in-law, Kikue Isobe.

Jofuku, Kaz, 81, Watsonville, Aug. 22; survived by wife, Jane; children, Diane, Kerry, and Tracey; 6 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brothers, Shig, Tsugi and Tomio.

Kato, Charles Tsukasa, 74, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 18; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Lillian; son, Steve (Miranda); daughters, Suzanne (Brian) Kumasaka and Janine (Darin) Chinn; 5 gc.; and brothers, Shuzo (Jean) and Hideo (Janet).

Kubo, James K., 82, Louisville, Ken., Aug. 25; WWII, Korean Conflict and Vietnam veteran; survived by step-daughters, Margaret (Wayne) Poole; 5 step-gc.; 4 step-ggc.; sisters, Jane Aki, Annie Christian, Alice Fujimori, Hazel Kobayashi and Irene Apana; and brother, Leslie.

Maruyama, Mike, 81, Aiea, Haw., Aug. 11; WWII veteran; survived by son, Michael; and brothers, Roy and Herbert.

Matsumoto, Emiko "Emi," 82, Gardena, Aug. 28; survived by husband, George; sons, Glenn (Josephine) and Gary; daughters, Elaine (Steve) Masuo and Gail (Karl) Phillips; 5 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Isao Kawahara; and sisters, Mary Kawano, Fumiko (Robert) Harada, Sumiko (Joe) Hamamoto, Hideko (Rupert) Jimenez and Nanako Kawahara.

Miura, Kyogyo, 61, Gardena, Aug. 31; survived by wife, Eiko; son, William (Kyoko); and 1 gc. Miyadi, Sam L., 86, Huntington Beach, Aug. 23; survived by son,

Eric (Adrienne); 2 gc.; sister, Dorothy Sato; and brother, Al.

Nagai, Akira Allen, 86, Pacoima, Aug. 27; survived by wife, Hamako; daughter, Eunice Kamimura; son, Ronald (Carol); and 1 gc.

Nobu, Kay Kawamoto, 87, Spring Hill, Fla., Aug. 25; survived by daughter, Kathy Ravenscraft; 2 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, David Katsgiri.

Okamoto, George T., 71, Vancouver, Wash.; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Janice; son, Gary; daughter, Elaine Wingren; 5 gc.; brother, Paul; and sisters, Karen Rohman and Nancy Roach.

Oye, Tetsuo, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 4; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Sunkie; children, Tish and David; 1 gc.; and sister, Terrie (Tazumi).

Shimoda, Kazuo, 81, Dothan, Ala., Sept. 8; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Tsuyako; daughters, Sue (Collier Jr.) Espy and Judy (fiancé Gill Stiff); son, Steve (Audra); 6 gc.; and siblings, Mas (Sets) and Nod Shimoda.

Shiosaki, Rodney Kazuto, 87, Alhambra, Aug. 27; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by daughter, Lillian (James) Tanaka; 2 gc.; 5 ggc.; and sister, Michie (Robert) Mizuno.

Shoji, Adeline Mae, Aug. 21; survived by husband, Butch; daughters, Leslie (Steve) Johnson and Noelle; son, Jeremy; 2 gc.; and sisters, Harriette Yamaka, June Ushijima and Georgia Tagawa.

Tani, Kikako, 92, Long Beach, Aug. 15; survived by son, James; and daughter, Yukari Tani.

Tsubota, Minoru, 89, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 8; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Cherrie; daughter, Charlene (Curtis) Nakayama; and 2 gc.


Uyemori, Sumiko Darlene, 76, Camarillo, Aug. 20; survived by husband, Ray; daughters, Naomi Nakamura, Sharon (Robert) Jeffrey and Diane; son, Lennie (Ellen); 10 gc.; brothers, Bill (Evelyn) and George (Susan) Yamamoto; and sister, Shizuko (Yukio) Mitsuchi.

Yabu, Harry H., 89, Gardena, Aug. 12; survived by sons, Dean (Carol) and Jon (Edna); 1 gc.; brothers-in-law, Bob (Sue) Hirai, Tosti (Pat) Hirai and Harold Kadota; and sisters-in-law, Elsie Higashi, Kay Hirai, Josie Nishida, Shirley Yabu and Kazuko Yabu.

Yamashiro, Ken, 73, San Diego, Aug. 9; survived by wife, DeAnna; son, Cyn; daughters, Doe and Kyo; and 3 gc.

Yokoi, Mieko "Meggie," 85, Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 17; survived by sons, Bobby (Kristen) and Mickey (Carole); daughters, Cynthia and Tracy; and 6 gc. ■

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**"MY WIFE AND I HAVE
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NOW MY DAUGHTER AND HER
PARTNER CAN DO THE SAME"**

*-James Yapp, whose daughter Margot Yapp married
Koko Lin, her partner of 11 years.*

We knew Koko was the one for Margot when we met her. They met at the Lunar New Year parade, the Year of the Rat. Koko was wearing mouse ears and chatting with everyone. She has always been open with us, and she and Margot love each other. My wife Teoto and I love seeing them taking care of one another, so happy together, year after year.

After 11 years as a couple, California finally allowed Margot and Koko to get legally married. We supported their marriage every step of the way—literally! Together, my wife and I walked Margot down the aisle. We are all family now and family matters so much.

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SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE

PACIFIC CITIZEN

SEPT. 19-OCT. 2, 2008

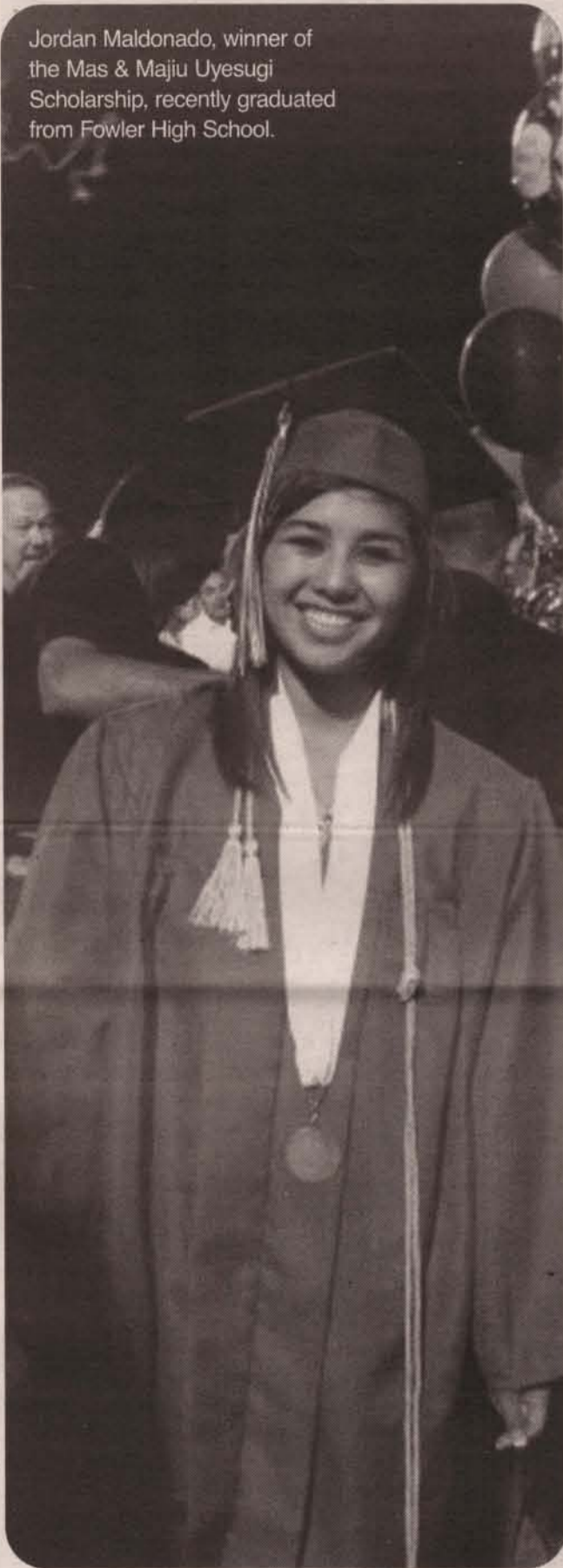
JACL awards
\$59,000 in
scholarships!



AWARDEES' LISTING, PHOTOS AND EXCERPTS OF THEIR WINNING ESSAYS — ALL INSIDE!

And The National Scholarship Winners Are...

Jordan Maldonado, winner of the Mas & Majiu Uyesugi Scholarship, recently graduated from Fowler High School.



This year \$59,000 in scholarships were awarded to students from across the country.

The National JACL recently announced the recipients of its 2008 scholarship program. This year the JACL awarded 28 scholarships.

On behalf of National JACL, Scholarship Committee Chair David Kawamoto expressed his appreciation to the Chicago Chapter and the Central California District Council for their significant assistance with the 2008 national scholarship program.

Chicago Chapter volunteers were: Ron Yoshino (*chair*), Pat Harada, Joyce Morimoto, Lisa Sakai, Pat Yuzawa-Rubin, Ellie Olin, and George Wong. CCDC volunteers were Bobbi Hanada (*chair*), Ralph Kumano, and Bob Taniguchi. The JACL thanks them for their time and effort in screening the hundreds of applications.

Because of the excellent quality of all the applications submitted from throughout National JACL, narrowing the selection to the 28 recipients was very difficult. We are particularly grateful to Ellie Olin and George Wong for their expertise in judging the Creative & Performing Arts submissions.

Also, with only limited staff assistance, all of the processing of the applications, follow-up communications with applicants and the verification process with recipients were handled by volunteers.

Below is a listing of recipients along with excerpts from their winning essays. Please join the JACL in thanking these volunteers.

FRESHMAN AWARDS

Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



DYLAN SHINZAKI
San Diego Chapter
Princeton University
Mechanical Engineering

"The JACL is increasingly composed of multi-racial Americans, not just Japanese Americans. Japanese Americans are leaving traditional centers, spreading out and integrating. And yet, on September 11th, 2001, I saw a world straight out of grandma's stories. I saw an attack on America. I saw fear. I saw a people who happened to look like the enemy. While conditions change, my Japanese American heritage finds root here. I can honor the sacrifice and work of those who came before me by assuring that the wrongs done to them are never repeated. I look to the Japanese American Citizens League for this."

Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship



ALYSSA HINCHMAN
Arizona Chapter
University of Arizona
Veterinary Science

"The best way to honor any aspect of my life is to first embrace it, and then work to share it with those around me. My Japanese heritage is no exception. In fact, my heritage is what started this way of thinking — to share is to honor. ... I know that my own knowledge of the Japanese culture is sketchy at best. I'm a member of the JACL, and I help at the Arizona Buddhist Temple, but I have a long way to go before I can consider myself a true Japanese American. I intend to take courses on Asian American and Japanese American his-

tory in college as well as in the Japanese language itself. I want to be able to teach my future children and grandchildren all about their unique and gifted heritage, in hopes that they will pass it on for the generations to come. I want to share my heritage with the world."

Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship

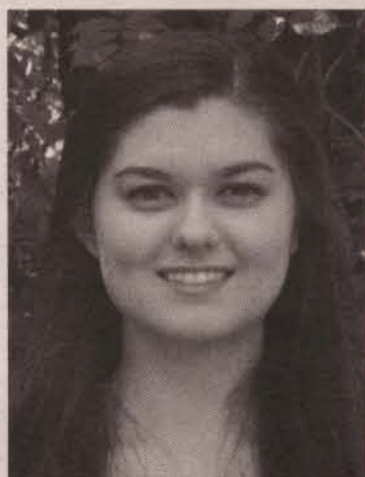
CHRISTINE MCFADDEN



Portland Chapter
Stanford University
Political Science

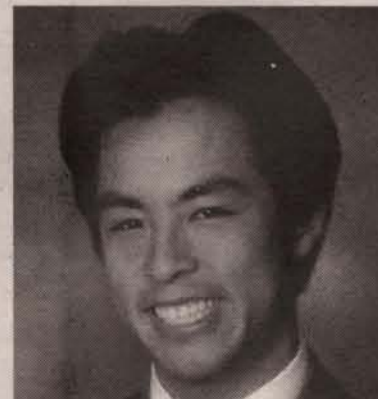
"Each new hand sends a heavy punching sensation to my stomach and causes the knot in my throat to pull tighter. As the last hand raised and the final vote counted, I realize that my worst fear has finally been confirmed. My sophomore AP U.S. history class had just taken a mock vote in a reconstruction of the 1944 Supreme Court case *Korematsu vs. United States*. My classmates, acting as student justices, had elected to support the government, repeating the previous 1944 ruling that justified and legalized Japanese American internment. Decades after the original decision, I was shocked and betrayed to see my fellow peers sustain such a racist ruling. As a Japanese American, I felt personally targeted by my class vote. That day proved to be as important in my life as the day Fred Korematsu first spoke out against internment. I felt family history and ancestry surge and surface up to my brain. This classroom reenactment relit the weeks of family research I had previously done and ignited a passion inside of me to raise my voice and represent my heritage, beginning my path towards realizing that standing for what is right was truly the best method for honoring my Asian heritage."

Patricia and Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship



Congratulations Justine Kondo on winning the Nobuko R. Kodama Memorial Scholarship.

From the Spokane Chapter JACL



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Dear Dylan,

Congratulations on all your accomplishments! You make us proud!

Love from,
Dad, Mom, Michael & Amy

Our thanks to the San Diego Chapter and the National JACL Scholarship Committee



'While conditions change, my Japanese American heritage finds root here.'

— Dylan Shinzaki (left, kicking), winner of the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship.



JEFFERY MORIMUNE
Eden Township Chapter
University of San Diego
Biomedical Engineering

"Within the diversity of the United States, Asian heritage can take multiple forms, but can be easily lost within this society's melting pot. Thus, I have been granted the wondrous opportunity to maintain and protect the rich cultural backgrounds that create the fountain of the Japanese life style. In the past I regretfully failed to embrace my Japanese heritage; I continued to live an ignorant life, learning of only a few Japanese customs such as the tea ceremony, *obon*, *mochitsuki* and *taiko*. However, as I entered high school, I felt that it was time I finally embraced my culture and honored my Asian heritage; therefore I became a member of the Eden Township JACL."

humility. In the slightest movements of the wrist and head, I recognize the power of subtlety. With each step in dance, I am one step closer to my otherwise distant Asian heritage. My understanding of the Japanese culture expands with every movement in every dance."

Mas and Majiu Uyesugi Scholarship



JORDAN MALDONADO
Fresno Chapter
University of California, Los Angeles
Undeclared

"My freshman year, I learned about Assembly Bill 781 authorizing all California high schools to retroactively issue diplomas to Japanese Americans whose education was interrupted due to forced removal from the state during WWII. I decided to correct a wrong by helping my 82-year-old great-aunt obtain her denied high school diploma. I reviewed the 1939-1942 Fowler High yearbooks and gathered addresses for 58 of the 87 Nisei — discovering they comprised one-fourth of the student body. Sadly 23 of the Nisei had already passed away. I sent letters and diploma applications to the 58, and 27 applied for the Fowler School diploma. I was very excited that 14 Nisei (including my great-aunt), all 78 to 82 years old, participated in the 2005 FHS graduation ceremony with 100 family members cheering. I will never forget these grey-haired senior citizens in caps and gowns, and the joy and excitement on their faces."

Mitsuyuki Yonemura Memorial Scholarship

LAURA YAMASAKI



Chicago Chapter
Cornell University
French

"It wasn't until I started high school when I realized what it truly meant to be of Asian heritage. In the span of four years, I've grown to know the stereotypes of the "model minority", to understand the expectations that accompany my ethnicity, and as a result, I have struggles with my personal identity. I have struggled with finding a way in which to present myself not only to friends, family and classmates, but to other Asian kids my own age as well. I have never been skilled at math or science, and I'm more interested in early 90's noise music, French New Wave cinema, and underground comics that I find my Asian classmates to be. In addition, I never felt the same extreme parental pressure as they do: to excel in school, to value a solid education, and not to stray from the traditions of my heritage. Nevertheless, I worked hard in school and took the classes that the "smart Asians" took. I did this in order to prove myself that I could achieve just as much — perhaps have more fun doing it. Looking back, I feel that in doing so I have honored my Asian heritage by combining traditional Asian work ethic and highly valued education with the American high school experience that I was living — I took what I thought was best from both of my "worlds".

Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship



PHILLIP NAKAMURA
Salt Lake City Chapter
University of Utah
Architecture and Japanese Language

"Years ago, my ancestors came to America, the land of opportunities. In order to best honor these ancestors and what they did for me, I try to take every opportunity to pursue my dreams. When I served as a Hiroshima Youth Goodwill Ambassador, I met with many other delegates from around the world. Though we were connected through our heritage, we were uniquely nationals of our respective countries. The discussion of peace and conflict ultimately impressed upon me the need for more international cooperation. With all the tools around me, I work to one day impact the international community positively. Serving as a goodwill ambassador instilled within me a dream shared by many people of Hiroshima and around the world. By incorporating both my heritage and the American dream, I am able to pay tribute to my culture and positively influence the world around me."

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



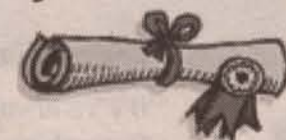
LEANNA MORINISHI
St. Louis Chapter
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Biomedical Engineering

"With the cool, flowing silk kimono just barely grazing the floor through the air, I am one with the culture to which I otherwise pay little heed. Through the dance, I learn the lesser fables of ancient Japan, the customs and ideals of my ancestors. I learn the patience and discipline of the culture in each movement, controlled and precise. The bows before and after each lesson or performance teach me the significance of

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Arizona Chapter congratulates all of this year's scholarship recipients, including Arizona's Alyssa Hinchman.



Congratulations also to Will Auther for winning this year's Min Yasui Oratorical Competition in Salt Lake City.

CONGRATS!

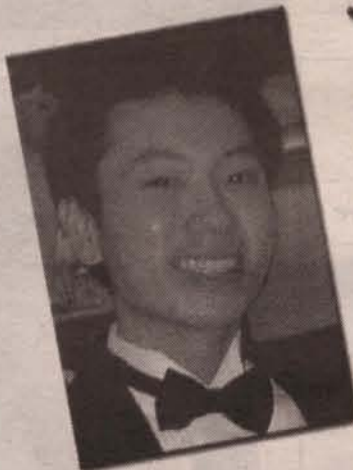
A Sincere Thank You to:

Mrs. Shizu Sakauye
The Momoye Kawakami Family
Harry K. and Tomoko Ishimoto

San Jose JACL
Eden Township JACL
National JACL

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Morimune

congratulations
Sen Sugano



we wish you the best of luck
for your senior year at usc!
love,
mom, dad, aya & dai-shin



KATHERINE E. HIRAI
Boise Valley Chapter
University of Idaho
Psychology

"Two years ago, our local youth chapter donated a thousand paper cranes to the cancer ward of the local hospital. In Japanese culture, the gift of a thousand paper cranes is a sign of good luck. This bright artwork brought light and hope into the cancer ward and its patients. We held a ceremony to give the gift to the hospital. During the ceremony we explained the history of the thousand paper cranes and why it was important to our heritage. The director of the hospital was very gracious and appreciative of our gift. There was an article in the local newspaper the next day explaining the significance of this gift and what it meant to the cancer ward. By conducting this project, we not only shared a part of our culture and brought joy to those in the hospital, we were able to gain even broader exposure through the local media."

Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial Scholarship



JUSTINE P. KONDO
Spokane Chapter
Eastern Washington University
International Affairs

"So what is our duty as Asian Americans? While we are young, we must harness any youthful idealism we have to first combat our own ignorance and apathy before we take our cause to anyone else. If we are tired of being severed from our roots, we must educate ourselves of our history. If that means digging into the traumatizing stories of our grandparents' past, then that is what we must do. When the elderly have died, we will only be left with the books at the library. I am not asking for immediate political activism on the part of young people, but I am asking for us to realize that we must learn to care about our cultural heritage. In addition, we must recognize the fact that our

welfare as a minority is equal in importance to the welfare of other racial minorities, and we must defend each other. Haven't Arab Americans experienced the same problems after 9/11 that Japanese Americans did after Pearl Harbor? Wouldn't it be a crime not to stand by them? If we don't, we will surely enter a new American crisis, or perhaps we already have."

Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship



MARI MICHENER OYE
New England Chapter
Yale University
English or Political Science

"How can I, a citizen of the United States, best honor my Asian heritage? I might also ask this question in reverse: how can I, a woman of Asian heritage, best be a citizen of the United States? The two questions are inseparable for me. The week I spent in Washington as a Presidential Scholar, meeting 141 students from around the country and persuading many of them to sign a letter against torture and civil liberties violations, gave me more pride in my country and my citizenship than I had ever felt before. Standing on the White House lawn and looking across to the Jefferson memorial, I loved what is good, fair, and strong about the American system of government — the system of checks and balances, the emphasis on minority rights as well as majority representation, and the freedoms to live and speak as we see fit."

Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship



CHRISTINA M. SHIGEMATSU
West Los Angeles
University of California, Berkeley
Communications

"My involvement with JACL has directly affected my understanding of my Asian culture, while also fostering an awareness for issues regarding the Japanese American

community. My internships at the JACL National Conventions in 2004 and 2006 have helped me relate better to my Asian heritage by introducing me to current problems within the lives of Japanese Americans today and proposing solutions for change. The conventions, along with the youth conventions in 2005 and 2007, have also helped me meet other youth members that I can relate to as a Yonsei. The older and more seasoned members are helpful mentors that offer insight as to how to take Japanese American issues to greater American systems like the United States government. JACL works towards achieving goals set out by our ancestors such as acceptance, education, and involvement. My trip to Japan over Spring Break has opened my eyes to history's impact on current society and by experiencing it first-hand, I have been inspired to be that change that can affect future generations of Japanese Americans, Asian Americans, and Americans of other cultures."



Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



KRISTIN T. YOSHIMURA
Wasatch Front North Chapter
University of Utah
Mechanical Engineering

"During the summer of 2007 I had an amazing opportunity to work with the Japanese American National Museum and Davis School District. I was chosen to conduct two one-on-one interviews with elders from the Japanese community. It was a very emotional and moving experience. The interviews were filmed and will be used to develop a Japanese American history lesson to be incorporated into the district's educational curriculum, and as a visual exposition for the museum. This project gave me the chance to meet and work with some amazing individuals, and to also give something back to the Japanese community. I was inspired by these individuals' strong sense of commitment to the Japanese community and their drive to maintain that dedication."

Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship





Congratulations Amy!

From the
Salinas Valley JACL

Congratulations Greg!

We are so proud of you!




Love,
Mom & Dad



Margaret, we are so proud of you. Words cannot express the joy we feel at your tremendous accomplishment. You have carried yourself so far. No star shines brighter than you do today. We love you so much.

Sandy, Doreen, Kexy, Chris, Katelyn and Maddox




Congratulations, Alyssa!

We've always had faith, yet it's hard to believe Everything you have come to achieve.

Your college career has just begun – A time for learning and having fun.

So enjoy discovering who you are; We're sure you're destined to go far.

With love from Gram, Poppo, Mom, Rachel, the Matsuuras, and the Buckwalters



Congratulations Jeffrey!

We are so proud of your accomplishments and your choice to attend UCSD!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Kelly



AMY YONEMITSU
Salinas Chapter
University of California, Davis
Biology

"America is a country full of opportunity and has become the light to numerous and exotic fireflies. My grandparents were just a few of the millions of immigrants that

have come to this prosperous land to build a new life. Along with their belongings they brought with them their heritage and deeply engraved customs. With such diversity flowing into America over the centuries, it has formed a culture all its own and many have been consumed by the majority's ways and end up losing their own self identity. I am an American and I will never forget my Asian heritage that makes me unique and the proud person that I've grown to become."

Kyutaru & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship



ELISABETH M. LEAKE
Chicago Chapter
Yale University
History

"With this concept of citizenship in mind, my first suggestion for honoring and preserving Asian and Asian American heritage would be the most obvious, which is to

continue to practice the customs and practices that accompany Asian and Asian American culture. By going through these practices, one never forgets his or her heritage, having constant reminders and opportunities to appreciate culture. However, one must go beyond an appreciation of his or her culture; while an Asian American will continue to preserve his or her heritage, a sole focus on preservation within the Asian American community will cause heritage to remain insular, important to those who have grown up with that heritage but incomprehensible to other Americans who have come from different backgrounds. Thus, Asian Americans must strive to not only celebrate and practice their own heritage, but to make a concerted effort to communi-

cate their heritage to other, non-Asian Americans. Through this process Asian heritage will be preserved both within the Asian American community and within American society at large. Heritage is a cultural phenomenon that must be both practiced and expanded to create a more general awareness."

Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship



SEN SUGANO
Venice Culver Chapter
University of Southern California
Policy Management and Planning

"In a community that is slowly declining, I find it especially important that I advocate and voice my opinions for the Japanese American community. With only a few

remaining Japantowns across the nation, it is important that we strive to preserve our heritage through these communities. Communities such as Little Tokyo have a rich history of Japanese ancestry that we must save. With the recent buyouts by 3D Investments throughout Little Tokyo in Los Angeles and Japantown in San Francisco, there is a fear that there may not be a community for future generations. For this reason, I, an American citizen, find it necessary to advocate and have my voice heard not only to save the community for myself, but for all Japanese Americans. Involvement within these communities are not limited to the local level, but on a state and national level as well."

GRADUATE AWARDS

Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



LISA K. HANASONO
Hoosier Chapter
Purdue
Communication

"Finally, I believe that my passion for civil rights and activism allows me to honor my

Asian heritage. Unfortunately, Asians and Asian Americans continue to be victimized by hate speech, discrimination, and prejudice. My active involvement in the Japanese American Citizens League has played an instrumental role in the development of skills and experience that empower me to speak in favor of Asian American rights and against social injustice. Furthermore, my educational background in communication has given me a unique understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of social movements, advocacy, and persuasion. I hope to remain an active advocate for Asian American issues as my career unfolds."

Abe and Esther Hagiwara Student Aid Award Scholarship



EMILY M. MITARAI
New York Chapter
Bank Street College of Education
General and Special Education

"Learning from the past helps my students understand the struggles and the triumphs of great examples before us. In my reading workshop, we study biographies of great

people such as Susan B. Anthony, Cesar Chavez, and Martin Luther King. All of these individuals knew something was not fair, and were relentless in their pursuit of equality. In February, I also taught a social studies unit on Japanese American internment. In one of the books by Eve Bunting, she talks about the pilgrimage of a Japanese American family back to Manzanar. My family went to Heart Mountain, but I felt it was important for my kids to know about the injustices the Japanese Americans faced during World War II. I started to cry as I read about the girl who left her grandfather a Boy Scout handkerchief to show she knew him as a "true American." We learn from the past so we can improve our own lives and not let the same injustices happen again. We learn from the past."

Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship

GREGORY J. TOYA

*Congratulations
Katie!*

*Best wishes for continued
success at Georgetown University!*

From the Dayton JACL

The Hoosier JACL congratulates

Lisa Hanasono

winner of a National JACL Scholarship!

CONGRATULATIONS AMY!

*We are so proud of you.
Best of luck at U.C. Davis.*

Love, Mom & Dad



**THE JACL NATIONAL
YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL
CONGRATULATES THE 2008
NATIONAL JACL
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.**

**WISHING ALL OF YOU THE
BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR
FUTURE ENDEAVORS.**



Way to go Katie

We are so proud of you

*Love,
Dad & Wendy*



Congratulations
Christine!
&
Good luck at
Stanford!

Love,
Dad, Mom & Alex

Christine with her grandmother, Mary Hara Coe



**LEANNA MAHEALANI
MORINISHI**

*We are so proud of you!
Good Luck at MIT and in
NCAA gymnastics!*

*Love, Baachan, Grammy &
Grampa, Mom & Dad, Justin,
Melissa & the doggies*

**CONGRATULATIONS
JUSTINE!!**

We are so proud of you!

Love,
Your Family





**San Diego Chapter
University of California, San Diego
Educational Leadership**

"The *kodomo no tame ni* philosophy, coupled with institutionalized racism impacted my parental career paths and grounded the importance of education within the family. Despite earning an Associate Arts

degree, institutionalized racism relegated my father to blue-collar occupations. Displaying resilience in developing business acumen, my father provided a middle class lifestyle for the family. This economic privilege allowed my parents to impart the importance of being the first in the family to obtain a bachelor's degree. To reinforce my familial mission, my father took me to work to reinforce my career options. After pushing the lawnmower, raking leaves, and other landscaping duties in the hot Southern California summer sun, my father reminded me that I could take over the family business or *get an education and a nice desk job*. Dedicated to my educational aspirations, my parents precluded other career opportunities for themselves to insure success for my siblings and I. Parental sacrifices served as the impetus for my service to the AAPI community as an educator."

Railroad & Mine Workers Memorial Scholarship



**MARGARET A. REED
Washington, D.C. Chapter
George Washington University
History**

"I feel that the best way to honor my Asian heritage as an American citizen is to keep history alive in terms of past prejudices committed against Japanese Americans

and all other minority groups. I am proud to be an American citizen, but I realize that our nation has a long and sad history of discrimination against all those who were not white, protestant, and male. From Jim Crow laws to Japanese internment there are parts of American history that cannot be forgotten in order to learn and grow into a better nation for all of the citizens who live within the borders. In this tumultuous time of anti-Muslim feelings, this goal is even more important now than ever."

**Reverend H. John Yamashita
Memorial Scholarship**

**KELLY E. IWANABE
Orange County Chapter
University of Southern California
Health Administration**



"I look forward to collaborating with doctors, hospital personnel, and policy makers to address the inequities in health care services that face our diverse community. As a naïve child, I witnessed my diabetic grandmother endure preventable health complications due to transcultural health-care obstacles. My grandmother, a first

generation Chinese immigrant, was one of the many immigrants who was *lost in translation* while seeking healthcare. Suffering from diabetes, her treatment required daily use of various medications. Unfortunately, my grandmother consumed excessive amounts of her prescriptions because she could not understand the instructions and side effects written in English. Many individuals with an immigrant background seek little or no medical treatment due to fears and misconceptions of Western medicine. Their fears are compounded by the language barriers and cultural insensitivity of many health care providers. My goal is to break down the cultural barriers that prevent many from obtaining effective health care and a better quality of life. As an Asian American and a health administrator, I would be sensitive to the needs of all populations, regardless of immigrant background, age, or socioeconomic status. I believe I possess the ability to listen, respond, and meet the needs of my patients. A Masters in Health Administration will provide me with the skills and knowledge to give back to my community, directly improve healthcare for all patients and to honor my Asian heritage. My goal has been and will be dedicated to raising the quality of life for those in need. I live by the words, 'It is not what I have gained, but what I give that measure the worth of the life I live.'"

**Chiyoko and Thomas Shimazaki
Memorial Scholarship**



**AYA Y. MICHAELS
New York Chapter
Harvard
Medicine**

"My Asian heritage has also made me more sensitive to the difficulties of social integration within a society that thinks differently than you while preserving cultural

identity. Being culturally competent has been a big theme in the Harvard Medical School curriculum. We are taught that 'to understand patients who are culturally different from ourselves, it is first necessary to recognize our own cultural beliefs, values, and behaviors as well as how our life experiences influence the way we think about health care, and how it shapes the way we make clinical decisions.' Growing up in a multicultural environment has allowed me to compare both the Asian and Western

beliefs and ways of doing things. As I proceed through medical school, I am sometimes overwhelmed with the many hats doctors must wear; they must be empathetic, culturally competent, up-to-date with current practices in an ever-changing field, and entrepreneurs aside from the responsibilities as caregivers. Thus, one cannot possibly familiarize oneself with the many types of cultures and beliefs within his/her patient population. One can, however, learn how to determine the patient's perspective and explore the various miscommunications that may arise. I believe this type of thinking has become second-nature to me because I have been culturally attuned from an early age."

LAW SCHOLARSHIPS

Grace Andow Memorial Scholarship



**SHELLEY M. DOI
Salt Lake City Chapter
Chapman University
Law**

"My Asian American heritage, specifically the work ethic, trials, and hardships faced by my grandparents also inspires me and

has provided me with a strong desire to serve people. Regardless of whether I am providing legal advice to Burmese refugees seeking to bring their family members to the United States, or arguing for disability benefits for my client, I am honoring my Asian heritage by giving back to those who, like the internees during WWII, lack a strong voice. As a social worker and a future attorney, I will do my best to use my passion and story to advocate for those individuals who may not always have a strong voice to carry their own story."

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Scholarship



**ALLISON S. MILES
Mount Olympus Chapter
Brigham Young University
Law**

"There will always be people who feel safer with things that look alike, but I want them to understand the *beauty* of diversity — not the division. Law school is a forum where

people of different backgrounds can find a common interest: education to provide vital service to others. In law school I will use my understanding and love of diversity to explore new options and help others in new ways. As an Asian American with a legal education, I will have the unique opportunity to give legal aid to those who would otherwise not have access to legal representation. I not only represent myself, but I effectively represent Asian Americans in the industry in the way that I use my degree."

**Congratulations
Jeffrey!**

**BEST WISHES TO
YOU AS YOU HEAD
OFF TO COLLEGE!**

EDEN TOWNSHIP JA CL

**The PSW
District
Congratulates**

Alyssa Hinchman
Kelly Iwanabe
Christina Shigematsu
Dylan Shinzaki
Sen Sugano
Greg Toya

Congratulations Kate!

**We are so proud of you.
We love you!**

**Dad, Leslie, Morgan, John
Mom and Dave
Grandma Yuri**

By building a name for myself that members of my community will associate with high ethical, moral, and professional standards, I similarly build a similar name for Asian Americans as lawyers and Asian Americans as people. Like those of all Asian Americans, my ancestors fought to come to America. They fought through the War; they worked and sacrificed in order to provide a better life for their families. I have been a beneficiary of their efforts, and I plan to use my legal education to build upon their legacy of honor."

Mary Reiko Osaka Memorial Scholarship



KATHLEEN C. WILCOX
Dayton Chapter
Georgetown University
Law

"Honoring my Japanese heritage means participating fully in American civic life — voting, contributing to the community, constantly continuing my education — and

allowing those actions to reflect my family's origins. By studying Japanese in college, I am hoping to be able to better communicate with my family in Japan and to better understand Japanese culture. This sort of cross-cultural understanding will help me to interact with others in the increasingly globalized world. On a more personal level, I have begun to more fully understand the ways in which Japanese culture can be integrated into my life as an American. Respecting and honoring my Japanese heritage is more than simply being successful and saying, 'I'm part Japanese', and expecting that to represent the abilities of the Asian community. Instead, it is a matter of integrating my heritage into my daily life in such a way that it helps me grow as an American citizen while still maintaining elements of my Japanese identity. Through continued involvement in Japanese educational and cultural events, I can follow my grandmother's example of what it means to be a truly Japanese American citizen."

Sho Sato Memorial Scholarship

JUSTIN K. OTANI



**Portland Chapter
Indiana University
Law**

"I understand the importance of seeking to understand one's heritage because Japan and Japanese culture has at times felt foreign to me. As a fourth generation

Japanese American growing up in an area with few other Asians, I have felt at times slightly alienated from Asian American culture. Even people I knew and went to school with for years had just assumed I was Hispanic because of the demographic make up of my area. This sense of personal alienation and frustration over others' misconceptions instilled in me a strong desire to learn about the history and culture of Japan and Japanese Americans."

**PERFORMING ARTS
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka Memorial
Performing Arts Award Scholarship**



LAUREL K. SHANNON
Philadelphia Chapter
University of California, Santa Cruz
Music

"As a citizen of the United States, the way I can best honor my Asian heritage is to learn about my heritage and family history, and try to help my community as much as I

can with this knowledge. As a prospective American Studies major at the University of California, Santa Cruz, one way I have already engaged in this was through a final essay I wrote for my 'California and Californians' class. My essay consisted of a combined family history and research report on the internment of the Japanese during World War II. I was fascinated throughout my studies to learn what members of my family, their friends, and other Japanese internees had to face. I was very fortunate to

have my mother and uncle provide valuable resources regarding what my great-uncle and great-grandfather endured living in America during World War II. Life was not easy during that period of history, of course, and I feel extremely privileged to be able to live my life in America as a Japanese American citizen with the rights that I have, because of the struggles my family and others endured."

**CREATIVE ARTS
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial
Creative Arts Scholarship**




HIROKO SHONO
New York Chapter
St. John's University
Fine Arts – Creative Photography

"However, the photo essay *Indian Circus*, by American photo journalist Mary Ellen Mark, made me change the way I thought of my potential in life, completely. When I

saw her photographs for the very first time in a Japanese magazine without knowing the photographer, I simply thought these photographs must have been taken by a man. They were unbelievably beautiful, but more important, unflinching and courageous. I had never believed that a woman could ever photograph such difficult subjects consistently for a long period of time. Her achievement inspired me to be a worldwide documentary photographer, and influenced my journey to come to New York in March 2001. After nine months of internship at Mary Ellen Mark's studio, I gained innumerable experiences from her. I truly hope my photographs can influence someone's life in a positive and encouraging way, as I was influenced by Mary Ellen Mark's photographs."

National JACL provides scholarships to deserving youth members each year. Be sure to check the JACL Web site (www.jacl.org) regularly for more information on the upcoming 2009 scholarships.

Mari Michener Oye and her parents, Kenneth Oye and Willa Michener, would like to thank JACL and the family and friends of Mr. Kenji Kajiwara for the scholarship donated in his honor.



**Congratulations
to all the 2008
Scholarship
Winners!**

Larry Oda
JACL National President


**Congratulations
Laurel Shannon**

2008 Winner of the Aiko Hiratsuka
Memorial Scholarship for Performing Arts

*We wish you much success in
your future endeavors –
Mom and Dad, Alana, Uncle Tommy,
Aunt Nancy, Jennifer and Stefanie*

Congratulations . . .

. . . to all the scholarship recipients AND applicants. Your accomplishments are considerable and admirable. Your successful efforts reflect well on you, your families and your community. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.



DAVID KAWAMOTO, National JACL Vice President for Planning & Development

CAROL KAWAMOTO, National JACL Scholarship Committee Chair

**Congratulations to the 2008 National
JACL Scholarship Winners!**

Margie Yamamoto, chair	Justine Kondo, PNWDC
Ted Namba, PSWDC	Lisa Hanasono, MDC
Kathy Ishimoto, CCDC	Naomi Oren, Youth
Judith Aono, NCWNPDC	Jeff Itami, IDC

PACIFIC CITIZEN EDITORIAL BOARD

National JACL Credit Union Congratulates all 2008 National Scholarship Winners

Some Fabulous reasons to bank with
 The National JACL Credit Union

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- ☪ Service Centers (*shared branching – its like we are right there with you*)
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- ☪ Money Market Accounts



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Austin Aoyama (Utah)
 Winner



Emily Teruya (California)
 2nd Place



Brandon Mita (DC)
 3rd Place



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