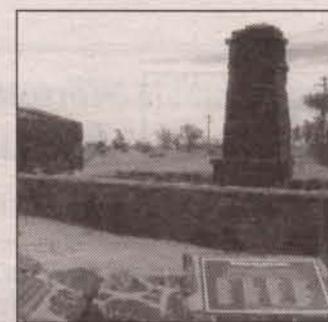




3 of 5 counts dropped in Watada case. — PAGE 3



## Minidoka Lawsuit

Several groups, including JACL, file a lawsuit to stop a controversial feedlot.

NATIONAL PAGE 3

### TRIBUTE

## Remember the Weeds ... and Ed



Edwin Endow passed Oct. 25.

By BILL YOSHINO

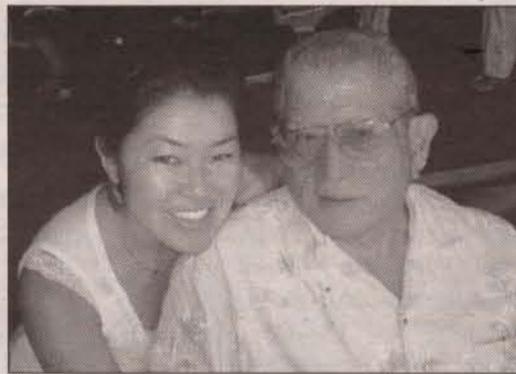
When Ed Endow served as the JACL vice president for membership, he once wrote a letter to the lapsed members titled "Remember the Weeds." Ed's imagery suggested that just as a well-tended front lawn needs constant maintenance, so too must the JACL deal with the weeds of injustice, prejudice and ignorance in pursuit of a better world. And that's what I liked about Ed — his plain-spoken, descriptive, always honest demeanor and approach.

I first came to know Ed when we ran into each other in the baggage claim area at the Philadelphia airport where we arrived to attend the 1998 JACL Convention. Ed offered me a ride to the hotel with his wife, Debbi and son, Robert. These were the pre-GPS days, when our conversation overtook my map reading causing us to miss the hotel exit resulting in a scenic tour of Philadelphia's Society Hill area. With Ed, it was easy to get engrossed in conversation, sometimes to the exclusion of other

See EDWIN ENDOW/ Page 11

### VETERANS DAY FEATURE

## Yonsei Grandchildren of Nisei Vets Help Keep 'Go for Broke' Story Alive



Robyn Tofukji (left) wants to ensure that the JA veterans' legacy continues to be passed on, including the story of her grandfather Tetsuo Asato (right), a member of the 442nd.

Whether it's making a film or volunteering at various veterans' events, these grandchildren hope their grandfathers' stories of bravery continue to be told.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Like many grandchildren, 22-year-old Robyn Tofukji's own personal hero is her grandfather Tetsuo Asato, 83. But in her case she means

it both figuratively and literally.

Robyn's grandfather Tetsuo is a World War II hero, part of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team who along with the 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service have been showered with accolades for their bravery.

And like Robyn, many of the grandchildren of these Nisei vets are realizing they are the bridge to help keep their heroic stories alive.

See 'GO FOR BROKE'/Page 11

## Portland, Maine Marks Little-known Chinese American History

A local attorney's interest spurs efforts to place 20 historical markers at sites where the Chinese community once thrived.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

The vacant lot at 615 Forest Avenue in Portland, Maine may not look like much today, but this spot has deep historical roots in the once prominent Chinese American community.

In the early 1920s, the Goons — the pioneering family of Dogan and Toy Len Goon and their eight children — embarked on a new life running a successful family laundry where the vacant lot now stands.

It's a history that few locals in Portland, an area that has a relatively small Chinese American community today, are aware of. But now, a local attorney is spearheading a project to help mark this community's history in the city.

"Nobody, the local Chinese or the local non-Chinese historians knew anything about the historic Chinese community when we began," said Gary Libby, 61. "A few of the local Chinese who were descended from the pioneers knew their own family history but not much about the

See HISTORICAL MARKERS/Page 10

## In an Economic Downturn, APA Nonprofits are Struck Hardest



PHOTO: CARINA A. DEL ROSARIO

Seattle APAs line up at ACRS for Asian-friendly produce. Staffers had to cut the amount of food given out because of rising prices.

With less funding coming in, the most vulnerable victims are the communities these vital organizations serve.

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor

Forget the clichés about Wall Street and Main Street. What about Girard Street in Washington, D.C.?

"It's a make or break year," said Rick R. Chen of Asian American LEAD (AALEAD), a nonprofit organization headquartered at 1323 Girard Street where the nation's economic downturn has struck hard.

For the past 10 years, AALEAD has helped low-income Asian Pacific American youth move out of poverty to become successful, self-sufficient adults. Currently, over 300 APA families in the D.C. and Montgomery County take advantage of AALEAD's after school and youth development

See APA NONPROFITS/Page 12

## Breaking Down the Silence Barrier



PHOTO: ACRS

Autism doesn't discriminate against race, gender or socioeconomic status.

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor

One moment turned into days, then years of silence.

Ever since she got the news, sitting speechlessly in the doctor's office, Sophia Shi has been a mother under siege.

"I need a second opinion," she

kept saying. All the medical tests came back normal, but the doctors said her toddler son had borderline autism. Sophia, a biochemist living in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, had never heard of autism before.

Did "borderline" mean young Kevin Shi could be pushed into normalcy? Sophia pictured her first-born son straddling a fence with his arms stretched out to his sides, eyes

See AUTISM/Page 13

PACIFIC CITIZEN  
250 E. FIRST ST., STE. 301, LOS ANGELES, CA

### INDEX

National.....	3-5
Community.....	6-7
Voices.....	8
Calendar.....	14
Obits.....	15



### Young Spielberg

Kevin Walker is making a complete documentary on the internment.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



### Historic Election

As election day finally comes, APAs head to the polls in record numbers.

COMMUNITY PAGE 5



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## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# A Successful Gala but Membership Numbers are Still Down

By FLOYD MORI

There is a lot going on in the world these days. As preparations for the various elections, including the important Presidential election take place, there are many problems with the economy. The JACL is not exempt from worries and concerns about the future.



The second National JACL Gala Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C., however, was a bright spot and enjoyed by those who attended. "A Salute to Champions of Redress" commemorated the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, an act that provided redress and an apology to Japanese Americans who were interned in concentration camps during World War II.

The honorees were: The Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, John Tateishi, Grayce Uyehara, the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and AT&T as well as two rising champions, David Inoue and Nathan Shinagawa. Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, was honored for 30 years of service on the JACL staff. Congressman Mike Honda was the emcee, and Sen. Daniel Inouye was honorary chairman.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Gala in any way. The sponsors were: AT&T, Eli Lilly, State Farm, Aratani Foundation, Freddie Mac, NEA, Anheuser Busch, Annie E. Casey Foundation, CBS, Patrick Atagi, Beth Fujishige, Donna Cole, John Tagami, Ray and Mary Murakami, and national JACL board members Larry Oda, Sheldon Arakaki, and David and Carol Kawamoto.

JACL districts and chapters that purchased

tables, dinner tickets, and/or ads were: CCDC, EDC, MDC, PNW, Philadelphia chapter, Washington, D.C. chapter, Twin Cities JACL, Chicago chapter, Cincinnati JACL, Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, Boise Valley chapter, New York JACL/XV Copani.

Individual support was received from: Judy Niizawa, Kaz Oye, Miyako Kadogawa, Aiko, Lou and Paul Igasaki, Norman Mineta, myself, Ross Macdonald (BB&T Bank), Kristine Minami, Michelle Yoshida, Josh Spry, Maya Yamazaki, and the national JACL board. Supporting organizations were AJC, APAICS (Asian American Institute for Congressional Studies), APALA (Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance), JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association), NJAMF (National Japanese American Memorial Foundation), and OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans). (Apologies if some were not listed.)

Membership numbers are down within the JACL, and outside funding is not plentiful. The JACL has long been a membership driven organization. We NEED our members. Thanks to everyone who is a member of the JACL. Those who are lapsed members are not likely to hear this message except from you who are their friends and family members. Please help us try to get our lapsed members to rejoin the JACL.

As we review chapter membership rosters, many chapters have almost as many listed as lapsed members as those who are current members. There are even some chapter board members and membership chairpersons are on the lapsed list. This hurts the workings of the JACL.

Scholarship applicants often join the JACL simply to apply for scholarships and let their

membership lapse as soon as they have received a JACL scholarship. Somehow we need to instill in them a feeling of purpose in belonging to the JACL so that they will WANT to continue as members.

It is so inexpensive for students to be members of the JACL, but it seems that most only join for the scholarships. This group should be our future leaders, but they have generally not had much of a sense of loyalty or commitment to the JACL. We hope they will feel a responsibility to give back to the community which helped to provide an education for them.

There will always be discrimination and prejudice in the world. The Topaz Museum recently received an extremely hateful letter from a group that is still espousing the idea that the internment of Japanese Americans was justified. They still call us by the hurtful and hateful J-word.

The JACL is needed to combat this type of racism and to protect civil rights. Higher membership numbers will help us in the fight for justice. If we could just get back half of our lapsed members, we could increase our numbers substantially. Some of them just need a personal contact from a chapter or family member. The JACL needs YOUR help to increase our membership.

As a closing note, we would like to say thank you to Debee Yamamoto, former director of public policy in the D.C. JACL office. Debee worked very hard on the Gala, and we appreciate her efforts. After giving birth to her daughter Emi earlier this year, Debee has decided to leave her employment at the JACL to spend time with her baby. We wish her and her family well. ■

*'The JACL is not exempt from worries and concerns about the future.'*



## Letters to the Editor

### Reader Commends Black Reparations Coverage

I commend the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* staff on their cover story of the JA-Black reparations (*Pacific Citizen*, Aug. 16-Sept. 4). Not only did it accurately capture the JACL's mission toward inclusiveness, but also demonstrated our extended mission of "securing and maintaining" civil rights to "all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry."

By comparison, Black Americans share a very different and unique history than Japanese Americans, which any form of reparations to the former should indeed reflect these differences. I am glad your article brought this point to light (I believe one commenter expressed her concern for allotting Black Americans an identical monetary redress).

What should be emphasized here is the historical consequences faced by Black Americans as a result of slavery, financial loss and beyond (i.e. educational and job opportunities). To this, there may not be an adequate solution, or a consensus — but the strides the JA community has made in inspiring those towards its progress should be lauded.

KELLI M. RUCKER  
Membership Chair  
Chicago JACL



### Two Brave Men: George Takei and Brad Altman

The article "At Long Last, George Takei and Brad Altman Become Spouses for Life" (*Pacific Citizen*, Sept. 19-Oct. 2) touched my heart. I'm so appreciative that these two brave men have stepped out with full celebration of their love.

As they have done this, I feel that they are also expressing their love to all of us. Stay awake they say with their actions. May we all be free to be fully who we are.

Your article encourages us to remember to support everyone to be free, all of us holding full civil rights equally.

LEE LIPP  
Diversity Coordinator  
San Francisco Zen Center

# Lawsuit Filed to Stop Idaho Feedlot Near Minidoka

The broad coalition, including JACL, believes the Jerome County Commissioners made a mistake in their recent decision to approve the controversial feedlot.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho—A lawsuit has been filed in an effort to prevent a massive animal feedlot from being built near the Minidoka National Historic Site in south-central Idaho where about 9,000 Japanese Americans were confined during World War II.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and JACL are part of a coalition of groups and individuals that filed suit Oct. 21 in 5th District Court, seeking to stop the planned 13,000-animal dairy.

"It doesn't make any sense," said Charlie Tebbutt, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, which represents the groups. "It's a lot like putting a hazardous waste facility next to a hospital."

"The involvement of the JACL shows a continuing interest by one of the major civil rights organizations in the nation. We hope that this will lend a degree of credibility to the lawsuit and aid in the reversal of the decision," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Jerome County commissioners in August approved the feedlot, to be located a little more than a mile from the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

But the groups who filed the lawsuit say a state law that prevented some opponents from participating in the process is unconstitutional.

That law, enacted about 10 years ago, allows only someone living within one mile of a proposed feedlot to offer information or an opinion about it. The national monument is located 1.2 miles from the feedlot.

The groups also allege the commissioners violated their own zoning ordinances by approving the feedlot.

"I think it's unfortunate that we had to file this petition," said the chairwoman of the Friends of Minidoka, Emily Momohara, noting two of her grandparents and two great-grandparents were held at the internment camp. "But we are dedicated to preserving Minidoka. The civil rights and constitutional issues of Minidoka are national history lessons which are not specific to any one ethnicity."

The groups also contend that commissioners didn't fully consider the negative effect on the monument that could be produced by the feedlot, called a confined-animal feeding operation, or CAFO.

"It will severely detract from the monument and the desire of people to go to a place that is full of foul odors and flies and other potential pollution," said Tebbutt. "In Idaho, the laws are not fully developed or fully enforced when it comes to the CAFO industry."

Jerome County commissioners rejected Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership's application for the feedlot a year ago. But after the company sued, a 5th District judge ruled the commissioners hadn't taken into account zoning and feedlot ordinances and ordered the commissioners to reconsider their decision.

That led to another vote in August and approval of the feedlot.

Commissioner Charlie Howell, who voted to approve the feedlot both times, said he expected the lawsuit.

"It's quite ironic that the people who had their rights taken away and who were put in that internment camp are now trying to take away the rights of people who live near the site," Howell said.

He said the commissioners followed all the laws in making their decision. He also said the county several years ago passed its own ordinance to allow people living more than a mile away from a proposed feedlot to participate in the decision process.

Commissioner Diana Obenauer is the only commissioner to have consistently voted against the Big Sky feedlot. She thinks the con-



*'It's a lot like putting a hazardous waste facility next to a hospital.'*

— Charlie Tebbutt, Western Environmental Law Center attorney

In August, Jerome County commissioners (right) approved a feedlot to be located less than a mile from Minidoka (top).



trovery is far from over.

"This should prove very interesting and if [the lawsuit is] approved by the court in favor of the petitioners, could mean that historical sites and their significance to the education of our citizenry for decades to come will be protected or not," she said. "The story is not yet in its final chapter."

The Minidoka site, the largest of 10 detention camps around the U.S. during World War II, was designated a national monument in January 2001.

The camps housed more than 120,000 Japanese Americans — mostly U.S. citizens — under an executive order signed by President Roosevelt in 1942, when America was reeling from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The Minidoka site was originally a 33,000-acre prison compound operated by the War

Relocation Authority at the Jerome County farming community of Hunt. It operated from 1942 through 1945 and held as many as 9,397 U.S. citizens of Japanese descent.

In May, President Bush signed a bill to expand and refurbish the monument, and to add an 8-acre site on Bainbridge Island, Wash., west of Seattle, as a satellite to the monument. The Bainbridge site is where 227 men, women and children were rounded up and placed aboard a ferry in March 1942 to be sent to Minidoka.

Also taking part in the lawsuit are Preservation Idaho, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment, the Idaho Rural Council and several local families.

"Our mission is to preserve the story about the internment and about what happened afterward," Momohara said. "It's a really great American story." ■

# Judge Blocks Retrial of 1st Lt. Watada on 3 of 5 Counts

Ehren Watada could still face a military trial on two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

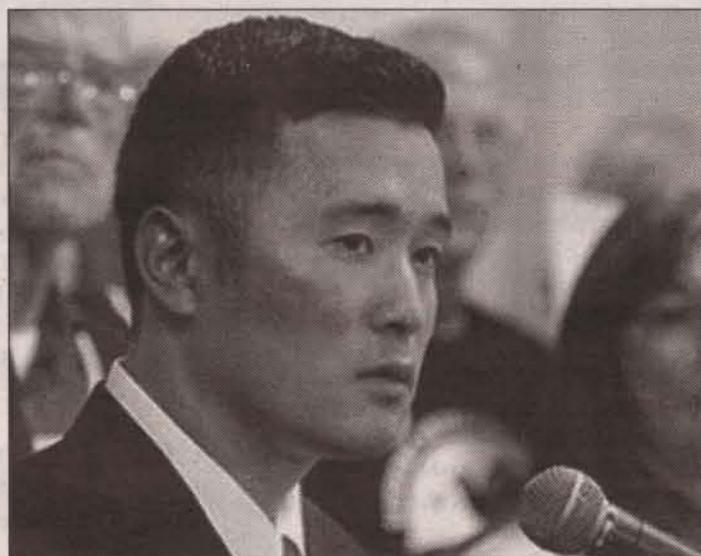
SEATTLE—The Army can't retry Iraq war objector 1st Lt. Ehren Watada on several key charges because that would violate the soldier's constitutional protection against double jeopardy, a federal judge ruled late last month.

U.S. District Judge Benjamin H. Settle of Tacoma said the government could not retry Fort Lewis-based Watada of Honolulu on charges of missing his unit's deployment to Iraq in June 2006 and for denouncing President Bush and the war.

To do so would violate Watada's Fifth Amendment rights by trying him twice for the same charges, Settle held.

"He dismissed the heart of their case," Watada lawyer Jim Lobsenz said. "We're very pleased. It's taken a long time."

The judge kicked back to the military trial court for further consideration two other conduct unbecoming an officer charges against



Watada, opening the door to further court proceedings. Both of those charges involve public interviews Watada gave to reporters. A conviction on the two counts could result in two years in prison.

Settle said the military court should consider whether there are "constitutional defects" to

retrying Watada on those charges before a civil court does.

In a statement late last month, a Fort Lewis spokesman said the base's commanding general, Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., had not yet had a chance to review the ruling in depth.

"Once that review is complete, he will be

*'He dismissed the heart of their case ... We're very pleased. It's taken a long time.'*

— Jim Lobsenz, Watada's lawyer

The ruling leaves Watada (left) in a perpetual state of legal limbo as he continues working at an assigned desk job at Fort Lewis.

able to make a decision on the way forward with this case," the spokesman said.

The recent ruling leaves Watada in a perpetual state of legal limbo as he continues working at an assigned desk job at Fort Lewis.

Watada contended that the war is illegal and that he would be a party to war crimes if he served in Iraq. His first court-martial ended in a mistrial in February 2007.

Watada is the first Army officer to face a court martial for refusing to deploy to Iraq and his case has garnered international attention. The case has also sparked heated debate in the Japanese American community that has long honored its World War II veterans.

Lobsenz had said it was a mistake for a mistrial to be declared last February. Settle agreed, noting that the trial judge "did not exercise sound discretion" when he failed to determine whether a mistrial was appropriate.

In an interview with the *Seattle Times*, Lobsenz said he hopes the Army will dismiss the two remaining charges against Watada but if that doesn't happen he will return to federal court to try to get the two charges blocked. ■

## Filipino Vets May Get Another Chance at Benefits

Akaka says he'll work to pass the benefits bill in a lame-duck session. Inouye may get a key committee position.



By Pacific Citizen Staff

There is a glimmer of hope for Filipino veterans who fought alongside American forces during World War II — they may have another chance at getting their long-sought full benefits.

If Congress meets in a lame-duck session after the Nov. 4 elections, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii, has said he would try to negotiate a bill with opponents to give Filipino veterans their equity and recognition.

Congressional leaders are considering such a session to take up an emergency economic stimulus bill.

"The veterans waiting for passage of the equity provisions in S. 1315 are not someone else's veterans — they are our veterans," said Akaka, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, in a statement.

There are an estimated 18,000 Filipino veterans still alive and awaiting their benefits. About 470,000 Filipinos fought for the U.S. during the War. The Senate and House Republicans have fought the idea.

The sticking point is a special \$300-a-month pension for thousands of Filipino veterans living in the Philippines.

Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, the top Republican on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, has said the money should be used to improve benefits for U.S. veterans.

In September, the House approved legislation to make one-time payments of \$9,000 to Filipino veterans who are not U.S. citizens and \$15,000 to those who have gained U.S. citizenship.

At the end of the regular Congressional session, Burr blocked an effort by Akaka to pass the Filipino veterans legislation.

Burr recently told several Filipino veterans at

Davidson College in North Carolina that he would be willing to talk with Akaka about a more limited pension for the Filipino veterans in the next Congressional session, which convenes in January.

"It's my belief that Sen. Akaka, being a good friend and certainly an advocate for the payment to Filipino veterans, will bring this back up in January when we go back into the 111th Congress," said Burr in a YouTube video posted by The American Coalition for Filipino Veterans. "I will work with him as best I can to try to hit the lower number and if we can come to agreement on that we could have an accelerated process to having a bill passed."

Akaka wrote to Burr on Oct. 20 asking for the level of pension and compensation he would support.

"If we can agree on a compromise on the benefits level, there is no need to wait until next year," Akaka said in the letter. "I am willing to negotiate the extent of those benefits with you if you are prepared to recognize them as U.S. veterans," Akaka said.

Chris Walker, spokesman for Burr, told the *Honolulu Advertiser* that the senator has always been willing to work with Akaka on the issue.

Filipino veterans supporters say there is a chance Congressional leaders can come to a compromise, especially amidst reports that Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, another supporter of Filipino veterans, will succeed the ailing West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd as chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

If this attempt to pass the bill in a lame-duck session fails, Akaka has said he plans to introduce the provisions in the next Congress. ■

## National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

### Angel Island Immigration Station Not Threatened by Fire



SAN FRANCISCO—Angel Island has reopened on a restricted basis after a fire ravaged much of the historic state park.

The historic immigration station at China Cove did not sustain any structural damage, according to park staff.

The blaze, which ignited Oct. 12 and created a spectacle visible from all around the bay, consumed 380 acres of the 780-acre island. Investigators have determined the fire was started by human activity, but the exact cause remains under investigation.

### APA Man Forced to Say 'I Love America'

BOULDER, Colo.—A claim by an Asian Pacific American man who said he was assaulted and forced at knifepoint to say "I love America" is being investigated by Boulder police as a bias-motivated crime.

The 22-year-old told police he was walking down the street on Oct. 31 with some friends when the group was confronted by another group of men. While holding a knife to the victim's throat, the suspect punched him and forced him to affirm his love for America.

Police were offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the suspect who could face a felony menacing charge.

### Court Refuses to Free Chinese Muslims

WASHINGTON—A divided federal appeals court has refused to allow the immediate release of 17 Chinese Muslims being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In a 2 to 1 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit sided with the Bush administration in halting the detainees' release while the government prepares its full appeal.

Lawyers for the detainees, a group of Muslims from China known as Uighurs (pronounced WEE'gurz), had asked that they be freed into the U.S. pending the time-consuming appeal.

The appeals court ordered both sides to submit additional briefs by Nov. 7. Judges will hear oral arguments on Nov. 24.

### Hawaii Shows Low Diabetes Rate

HONOLULU—A new study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that Hawaii has one of the lowest rates of new diabetes cases in the country.

The report says that fewer than six out of 1,000 adults were diagnosed with diabetes in Hawaii, Wyoming and Minnesota in recent years.

But experts say Native Hawaiians, Filipinos and Japanese populations are diagnosed with diabetes at higher rates.

### Police Insurance Fraud Ring Targeting Asians

NEW YORK—Police officials have broken up a large insurance fraud ring that targeted APA drivers in Queens.

The 19-month sting, dubbed "Operation Direct Hit," charged 61 people and two businesses — including a Manhattan health clinic — with orchestrating car crashes in Flushing to defraud insurance companies of more than \$1.6 million dollars since 2005.

Scammers targeted APA drivers because they thought they were "bad drivers [who] would be blamed for the accidents," officials said. The Queens District Attorney Richard Brown charged at least one defendant with a hate crime.

### Hate Crimes Committed Against 2 NJ Sikhs



WAYNE, N.J.—An Oct. 27 attack on a 67-year-old man is believed to have been committed by the same suspect who also attacked a 10-year-old boy just weeks earlier. Authorities believe the motive behind both attacks was hate.

Ajit Singh Chima said he was doing his morning exercise routine on Carteret Street when a man in his 20s attacked him.

Weeks earlier, Gagandeep Singh was walking home from school when he was attacked. Because both victims are Sikhs, police believe the motive is hatred, based on the victims' religious beliefs. ■

## S.F. Japanese Tea Garden Hopes to Regain Authenticity



The souvenir shop is at the center of controversy.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Lush landscape, Zen gardens and elegant architecture make San Francisco's historic Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park one of the city's most famous landmarks.

But some city leaders say the venue is beginning to lose its authenticity.

The gift shop offers Buddha statues, magnets and t-shirts for sale, which some say makes the garden feel more like a tourist trap than a cultural destination.

Now, the city's Recreation and Park Department has begun a search for companies interested in managing the garden's teahouse and gift shop. This time the operator will have to follow some new guidelines.

"What we're looking for is to generate revenue and to

also provide a complete and authentic experience for the visitors to the Japanese Tea Garden," said Eison Pon, spokesman for the Recreation and Park Department, to KCBS San Francisco.

Two years ago, when the department went through the same process looking for a new operator, controversy erupted.

The Lo family, which has leased the concession from the city for 15 years, is Chinese American. But Japantown leaders supported a bid from a JA cafe owner. The department rejected both bids, leaving the Los with a month-to-month lease and the tea garden.

Now, everyone agrees that authenticity is key.

The garden was built in 1894 for the California International Exposition and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. It is also one of the park's largest revenue makers.

The department is asking for ideas on what products the new managers should offer and how they plan to bring traditional activities or programs to the garden.

"We now dedicate a whole section of the gift shop to selling books about Japanese gardens and origami, even though they don't really make money," said Vince Lo to the *Chronicle*.

Lo said his family will look at the new request for bids and is likely to apply to stay at the tea garden.

Applications will be due by Jan. 8, and a decision will be made by March. The five-year lease probably will begin on April 1. ■

## APAs in the News

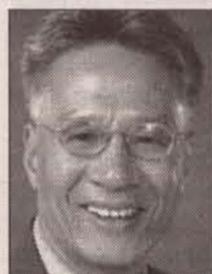
By Pacific Citizen Staff

### San Jose JACL Recognizes Community Leaders

At its Nov. 1, recognition dinner, the San Jose JACL gave out five awards to deserving leaders and organizations for their commitment to the community.

The honorees were: **Warren Hayashi**, president of the Fuji Tower board of directors and long time chair of the Nikkei Matsuri Committee; **Ray and Lucy Matsumoto**, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Advisory Board member; **James B. Peckham, Sr. and James B. Peckham, Jr.**, community leaders who opposed Alien Land Laws and helped save San Jose's Japantown during WWII; **Jimi and Eiko Yamaichi**, curator of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose; and **Nihonmachi Outreach Committee**, an organization dedicated to educating the public about the WWII JA internment.

### Post Office Named for Mui



Former San Gabriel Mayor **Chi Mui** has become the first Chinese American in California to have a federal post office named after him.

Hundreds of people turned out at the Oct. 25 dedication ceremony, including Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, who authored the bill authorizing the San Gabriel Post Office, located at 120 S. Del Mar Avenue, to be renamed in honor of Mui.

Mui died of cancer in 2006 at age 53.

### PSW JACL Announces New Mike Honda Fellow

**Tracy Huang**, a recent graduate from National Taiwan University with a degree in Foreign Languages and Literature, is the PSW District's new Mike Honda Fellow.

During her 10-month fellowship at the PSW office in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, Huang will focus on civil rights advocacy and develop new ways to educate the community about issues that are important to JACL and the APA community.



### Dela Cruz-Viesca is Appointed to L.A.'s Human Relations Commission



Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has appointed **Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca**, the assistant director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, to the city's Human Relations Commission.

Dela Cruz-Viesca also serves as the managing editor of *AAPINexus*, a nationwide journal published by the Asian American Studies Center focusing on APA community issues. She is also a member of the U.S. Census Bureau, National Census Information Center

Program Steering Committee.

### SELANOCO Awards First Hiromi Ueha Scholarship

The SELANOCO JACL recently awarded its first ever **Hiromi Ueha Scholarship** to **Natalia Maki Yamashiro**.

The \$1,000 scholarship was presented to Yamashiro, a graduate student at UCLA, by board members and the Ueha family.

Hiromi, who passed away in 2006 at the age of 33, served as the chapter president, PSW governor and national youth chair.



UEHA

### Kimura to be Honored in Concert

The Anti-Defamation League will honor **Lillian Kimura** at its Nov. 17 "ADL In Concert Against Hate," an event that honors heroes in the fight against intolerance, extremism and terrorism.

Kimura, a former Manzanar internee, served as the JACL's first female national JACL president.

The concert tells the stories of ordinary people who performed acts of courage and compassion when confronted by hatred and bigotry. ■

## Growing APA Vote Sheds Passive Past

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LORTON, Va.—For a long time, says Loc Pfeiffer, his fellow Asian Americans were passive participants in American politics. But things are changing.

"Asians don't like confrontation or being adversarial, but that's politics," says Pfeiffer, a 41-year-old lawyer who was six when his parents brought him to America from Vietnam.

"The more we're raised and bred here, the less likely we are to be passive. So much of our culture, it's a very, very obedient culture. ... You don't argue with the government. You don't argue with Big Brother. There's the assumption that you give up all your individual rights for the whole. Which is astounding to me, because I'm American now."

An assertive Asian America matters, especially in places like Virginia and Nevada, swing states where Asians have been growing in numbers and influence.

With a booming population of highly educated, increasingly Americanized voters, this former "silent minority" is entering the most engaged and visible era of its political history.

The number of Asians in the United States has grown 25 percent in the last seven years, to 15 million, said Jane Junn, an associate professor of political science at Rutgers University. Educated people are more likely to vote, and 50 percent of the Asian population has a college degree, compared with 25 percent of the U.S. population, Junn said.

"There comes a point where there's a critical mass," said Junn, whose parents were born in Korea. "When you're only one person out of 100, you're very self-conscious about (becoming politically active). But there is power in numbers."

Some say Barack Obama's rise



from humble origins resonates with many Asians who value education and hard work as the keys to success and have been forced to fit their heritage into an American framework.

"So much of what we deal with is the notion of being outsiders, foreigners, of being outside the social dialogue of the United States," said writer Jeff Yang. "You look at Obama and those are some of the same aspersions and slanders being cast at him. He's kind of the closest thing we can have legally to an immigrant in the White House. He's somebody who understands this journey that Asian Americans and other immigrants have made."

In the past, Asians were largely overlooked during past presidential campaigns because of their widely varied nationalities and concentration in the reliably Democratic states of California and New York.

But both campaigns had national Asian outreach efforts this time around. In Virginia, Obama's campaign focused on sending language-specific volunteers to register voters from particular countries. The McCain campaign's priority was securing the support of community leaders from the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and Filipino communities.

In the state of Virginia the Asian population has grown from 3.7 per-

cent in 2000 to 4.8 percent in 2006, above the national average of 4.4 percent. Virginia's Asians are concentrated in the D.C. suburbs, where the Asian population reaches as high as 16 percent in Fairfax County, as well as the Norfolk area, where the naval operations have attracted Filipinos.

In 2006, after incumbent Republican Sen. George Allen was caught on tape using the slur "macaca" to describe an Indian from the opposing campaign, he lost to Democrat Jim Webb by 7,231 votes out of 2.37 million ballots cast. Seventy-six percent of the Asian vote went against Allen.

In the past, many Asians nationally have leaned Republican because of the party's record of fighting Communism, support for small business owners, and emphasis on personal responsibility and family values.

Two-thirds of U.S. Asians are foreign-born. Their American-born children are now thriving, many in professions like medicine, law and high-tech industries. English is the first language of this second generation. And they landed squarely in the Obama sweet spot of young and educated supporters.

"I'm proud of my heritage," said Michael Chang, 34, "but I think of myself as American." ■

## S.F. Chinatown to Get New College Campus

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A decade after the project was proposed, San Francisco's Chinatown will finally be getting a new city college building. In a decision that may have ended the protracted legal battle, a Superior Court judge has refused to block the construction of a high-rise campus in Chinatown for City College of San Francisco.

On Oct. 17, Judge Paul Alvarado denied an injunction sought by local business owner Montgomery Washington, who has argued that the City College project would detract from some of the city's historic buildings.

The company will have another

chance to block construction when its lawsuit against City College goes to trial in April. A separate lawsuit by a group called Neighbors for Preservation, Land Use and Community Education, challenging the college's environmental review of the project, is scheduled for a hearing in December.

But city college officials, who told the *Pacific Citizen* that they were "ecstatic" over the court victory, hosted a Nov. 1 groundbreaking ceremony at the site of their new Chinatown/North Beach Campus on the northeast corner of Kearny and Washington streets.

Construction is slated to begin next summer, with a tentative com-

pletion date in early 2011.

The campus will consist of a 14-story, 215-foot tower and a four-story building at Washington and Columbus Avenues. It will house 42 classrooms and laboratories, administrative offices and a community auditorium to serve 6,500 students.

City College students now take classes at about a dozen sites scattered around Chinatown.

"Now the college can move forward in hopes of getting these students into a genuine campus and genuine college community and not just be spread out in these old buildings," Alan Sparer, the college's lawyer, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ■

## U.S. Army Awards \$450,000 to Go for Broke

The funds will support oral histories of Nisei linguists in Occupied Japan.

The Go For Broke National Education Center has won a Request for Proposal from the U.S. Army to collect oral histories from Japanese American veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) who served as linguists in occupied Japan.

The National Education Center will use the \$450,000 awarded for this Japan Occupation Study to interview 30 Nisei linguists a year for three years, working closely with the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

The program comes at the encouragement of Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii, and the National Japanese American Veterans Council, and follows the Department of Army's 2006 publication of "Nisei Linguist: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II" by Dr. James McNaughton.

"It is important that we study the successes of the MIS as a model for how our nation can move forward in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Akaka.

The Center for Military History will use the oral histories collected through this program for a sequel to McNaughton's work.

"Our mission to keep the story of the Nisei veterans alive makes this opportunity to work with the Center of Military History especially mean-

ingful," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, president and chief executive officer of the National Education Center.

The funding period for the Japan Occupation Study began on Sept. 1, 2008, and continues through Aug. 31, 2009, followed by two 12-month continuation options through Aug. 31, 2011. The budget is \$150,000 each year.

The National Education Center is hiring a historical analyst to work exclusively on the program.

In addition to background research within its own database, the organization is reviewing records and materials related to Nisei linguists in the Occupation of Japan held by the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institute and other repositories. Using its research as a base, the National Education Center is conducting and recording oral history interviews and also transcribing and editing them.

The National Education Center had already interviewed several Nisei linguists who served in the U.S. MIS during WWII and then stationed in Occupied Japan. An estimated 3,000 Nisei MIS members served in Japan from 1945-1952, during the U.S. Military's post-WWII occupation. ■

For more information:  
www.goforbroke.org

## Youth, Leadership are the Focus of PSW's '09 Programs

In an effort to promote youth, community leadership and advocacy, the JACL Pacific Southwest District has developed a slate of youth leadership programs that will be unveiled in 2009.

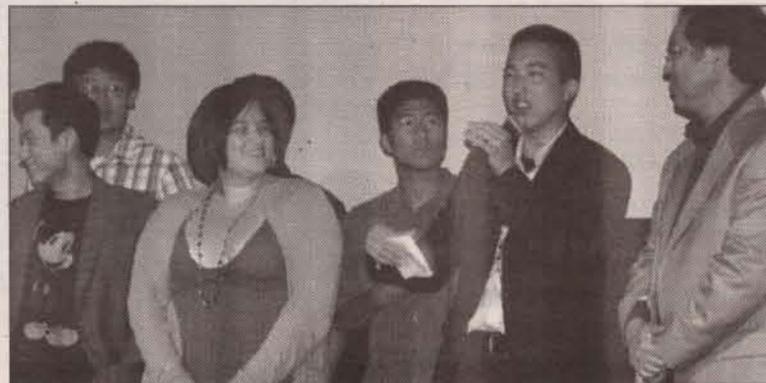
"By creating these programs JACL PSW hopes to show youth and the community the necessity of investing and developing youth into responsible, active and thoughtful community advocates," said Craig Ishii, PSW regional director.

The slate of programs for 2009 include:

- "Bridging Communities Program" (co-sponsored with Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress) will connect high school youth in the Japanese American community with the Muslim community. The program will gather 40 youth for a program designed to create an understanding of different cultures, religions, and traditions. In addition to workshops, the participants will take part in the Day of Remembrance program as well as the Manzanar Pilgrimage.

- "Mobilize for Policy 2009" will educate and train 15-20 collegiate youth to effect change in policy affecting the Asian Pacific Islander community. Throughout a series of workshops from late January to April participants will gain a better understanding of the issues facing the Asian and Pacific Islander community as well as potential ways for them to effect change.

- "LT and Me Survey Project" is a



PSW 'Project Community,' which encourages high school-age youth to be active in Little Tokyo, was a success in its inaugural year.

youth survey to ascertain needs and wants in the Little Tokyo Community. Understanding that youth are the future of the community, this survey will help to incorporate the youth's voice in a changing Little Tokyo.

- "Project Community 2009" will create high school community advocates to be active in the Little Tokyo community. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants gain an understanding of identity as well as the importance of preservation of the JA community. The program will gather 15-30 high school students for an eight-week program starting in late June to mid August on Tuesday evenings in Little Tokyo.

Each program is designed to not just train leadership but to create young community advocates in the community, civil rights and policy arenas. These programs will cumulatively train over 100 youth on advocacy issues in the community.

The 2009 PSW Programming Slate is part of a larger effort by the JACL to move in a direction of leadership development while still staying true to its basic mission of promoting civil rights for our community and all others victimized by prejudice and discrimination. Developing community leaders is JACL's proactive approach to civil rights advocacy.

The JACL PSW District programming is made possible with the support of various organizations and funders including: Southern California Edison, Union Bank of California, AT&T, the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), the JACL Legacy Grant Program and Japanese American Community Services. ■

For more information, contact JACL PSW Program Coordinator Kene Kubo at [programs@jacplsw.org](mailto:programs@jacplsw.org) or 213/626-4471.

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# 'I Felt Truly a Part of the JACL Family'

**Meilee Wong closes her term as the Norman Mineta fellow.**

By MEILEE WONG

As my term as the first Norman Mineta fellow comes to a close, it's hard to believe that it's been almost a year since I came to Washington, fresh out of college. I had the great pleasure and privilege of learning from Floyd Mori, JACL national director and Debee Yamamoto, former policy director. By imparting their wisdom from their extensive D.C. and life experience, as well as incredible kindness, I felt truly a part of the JACL family.

One thing I learned from my experiences as a fellow is that advocacy is done in a multitude of ways. I had the opportunity to participate in what might be considered traditional Washingtonian activities, such as meeting with members of Congress and their staff, attending committee hearings, helping with briefings and meeting with many other nonprofits based here in D.C.

I had the opportunity to serve as staff for the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, which is a coalition of many national APA advocacy organizations. My tasks as staff were challenging, such as helping coordinate press conferences across the country, and managing publication of the NCAPA platform, a collection of APA policy priorities for the coming presidential administration regarding healthcare, education, immigration and

housing, among others.

I learned an incredible amount about the wide array of issues our community faces, as well as the diversity within our community itself.

My fellowship took me on travels all over the country, to help advocate for the many different facets of the APA experience. I went to Kansas City to work on a committee that helped reduce minority undercount in the agricultural census. I went to Cornell University in upstate New York to present workshops on legislative issues and leadership for young APAs. I was even able to return home to northern California to observe and participate in JACL board meetings.

JACL is an incredible organization with many levels and ways for anyone to get involved. From the local chapter level to the regional level to the national level, JACL truly offers something for any interest, any time commitment.

I have learned an incredible amount over the course of my fellowship, and I would like to thank all of the staff, board members and other volunteers who have contributed to my experience. I wish Elaine Low, former Ford Fund Fellow in Chicago, and Naomi Lim, former Daniel Inouye Fellow in Washington, D.C., the best of luck in their future endeavors.

From playing taiko at the Sacramento chapter picnics growing up, to working in the D.C. office, I hope to remain involved with JACL for many years to come. ■

*Meilee Wong recently completed the Norman Mineta fellowship in Washington, D.C.*

# Jerry Enomoto Looks Back at LEC and Redress

By KATHY AOKI  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

"Many people thought Redress was a great idea but were doubtful this would ever happen," said Jerry Enomoto. "I give Edison Uno much credit because he had a vision and was instrumental in pursuing Redress."



Enomoto, a Nisei, grew up in San Francisco and attended Lowell College Preparatory High School when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. His family was interned in Tule Lake. Enomoto received his master's degree in social work from UC Berkeley.

A member of JACL since the 1950s, Enomoto served as a president of the San Francisco JACL chapter, a district council chair and JACL national president from 1966 to 1970.

"One of the keys in attaining Redress was the wartime achievement of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team," said Enomoto. "Key players were Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Spark Matsunaga, Congressman Robert Matsui and Congressman Norman Mineta."

Enomoto was the chair of the Legislative Education Committee (LEC) in 1986 after the passing of Minoru Yasui. The LEC served as the lobbying arm for JACL and raised \$700,000 to support a Redress bill that would eventually pass through Congress and be signed by President Ronald Reagan.



*'JACLers gave what they could to support Redress.'*

— Jerry Enomoto, former LEC chair

izations donated to help us," said Enomoto, who praised Harry Kajihara for his work as chair of LEC's fundraising committee. "JACLers gave what they could to support Redress. It's quite an accomplishment because it usually takes more money than we raised to accomplish what we did."

Enomoto said it's unfortunate that many people involved on the LEC Committee have passed away and cannot tell their stories. He said the story of LEC should be told to educate the younger generations.

During Enomoto's 28 years working at the California Department of Corrections, he served as the first Asian Pacific American prison warden, appointed by Gov. Ronald Reagan. Enomoto later served at the Department of Corrections becoming the first Asian American to manage a state Department in California. Enomoto was the first Japanese American to receive a presidential appointment to be a U.S. Marshall in 1994. His wife Dr. Dorothy Stevens Enomoto has the distinction of being the first African American woman to manage a California Department of Collections.

Enomoto, who is now a member of the Sacramento JACL chapter and an associate member of the Florin chapter, always supported JACL's youth movement. He started the Junior JACL and served as a former national youth commissioner.

Although he is not as active in JACL as before, Enomoto feels the younger generations should learn more about Redress, the people involved and how they achieved their goals.

"It's important the younger generations appreciate history and learn from it," he said. ■

"Members, friends, corporations and organ- Kathy Aoki is a Contra Costa JACL member.

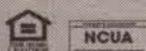


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[ YUMI SAKUGAWA ]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

## Election Season in Japan

As I write this, it is the eve of Election Day. "Not that I am old enough to say this," I said to my boyfriend, "but isn't this one of the wackiest election seasons in recent history?" My boyfriend replied that while this may be true, he also read somewhere that people tended to look back on the election that they voted for in their 20s as the most memorable.

True, I am 23 and this was only my second time participating as a voting citizen in the presidential race. And yet — along with the very historical significances of this particular race that by now we are all familiar with — I had another personal reason for why I should remember the 2008 election season so vividly. Much of my memories of this election were spent abroad in Japan.

Though I lived with my relatives in a rural part of town where the pregnancy of a neighborhood cat was newsworthy for kitchen table gossip, our house was at least connected to the Internet. This meant that before I headed off to work in the early afternoon, many of my morning hours were spent holed up in my little room behind the family kitchen scouring online newspapers and political blogs for the latest information.

Looking back on it now, living on a rice farm in a remote corner of Japan when one of the most dramatic events of American history was unfolding back home felt lonely at times. While impassioned citizens were canvassing for voters or crying tears of patriotic joy at rallies, I was stuck on the other side of the world in the peace and quiet of rice fields and old Japanese people.

I imagine this is how foreigners must feel in another country when their home country is playing in the World Cup and there is no one else within immediate vicinity to share the excitement with.

*Sometimes it takes being abroad to realize the things that you take for granted back home.*

Indeed, I had other American friends living in Japan, but as they all lived at least an hour away from me, my meetings with them were few and far between. These American friends were just like me — English teachers stranded in an obscure city of Japan, or Japanese Americans pursuing their dream to live and work in the motherland.

Though I was here in Japan reconnecting with my Japanese roots and learning how to become more Japanese, it was in no way mutually exclusive with my very American excitement and anxiety over the outcome of the presidential race. However superficial my political discourses were with these friends, they reminded me that I was a part of a bigger movement back home.

They were little things: like the ecstatic text I received from my friend and fellow teacher on my cell phone, claiming that he cried when he watched Hilary's speech at the Democratic convention on his laptop. Or how sitting on the second-floor of a restaurant that overlooked Tokyo's Imperial Palace, my JA friend and I worried out loud about the state of our economy, our crumbling health care system and the direction of our country.

No, I wasn't organizing voter registration rallies, or holding signs in the street or knocking door-to-door in swing states to persuade undecided voters. I was in Japan and watching all of these things happen from another country. Sometimes it takes being abroad to realize the things that you take for granted back home.

This happened to me when I spent the night at my Japanese friend's house. That following morning, I woke up earlier than my friend and like clockwork, already had a laptop open to scroll through the latest news and political updates. The biggest news that day was that Tina Fey finally took the hint and dressed up for the first time as Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live."

I'm sure my Japanese friend didn't know who Tina Fey was, or how this was a momentous event in the American pop cultural landscape that would be ironically referenced to in many years to come, and there was no way that I was going to miss this. She did know that whatever was happening on the laptop, I was very interested and it all had something to do with the presidential race back home.

"You're so lucky," she told me. "Most young Japanese people couldn't care less about politics." ■

*Yumi Sakugawa recently returned from teaching English in Japan.*



[ JOHN TATEISHI ]

FOR THE RECORD

## Reign of Fear: The Unnecessary Price of Democracy

*'Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear, kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor, with the cry of grave national emergency. Always there has been some terrible evil at home or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it.'* — Gen. Douglas MacArthur

For the past seven years, we've been a nation that has been governed by fear, reminded constantly by our leadership that we live with the threat of terrorism and terrorists among us, a fact exacerbated by our unprecedented pre-emptive war policy.

The result is that we've seen the foundations of American democracy chipped away little by little, sometimes in such small pieces that it's gone almost unnoticed. Civil liberties in America today are not what they were seven years ago, not because of terrorists but because of our own doing.

But I don't believe we are significantly safer from the evils of terrorism today than we were seven years ago. If a convincing argument to the contrary can be put forth, one has to ask if the loss of fundamental civil liberties and the transformation of the Constitution and the chipping away at the foundations of democracy in America have been worth it.

In most cases, we're hardly aware of the losses we've experienced, partly because the media too often buries important stories that expose questionable actions of the administration in back pages, or because we have too few Congressional members who have the courage to speak out against these changes when they've been brought before the Congress for consideration, or because some of these changes have come about by executive orders (and we know only too well how silent and effective executive orders can be in creating policies).

Democracy in America today is shaped by such laws as the USA Patriot Act, by a national leadership that has demonstrated time and again the arrogance of power, by voices of protest that are little more than whispers in the wind, and by a fearful or complacent public reluctant to question for fear of being accused of being unpatriotic. We have grown to accept deceptive and over-simplified answers to profound questions and inexcusable actions, or we simply just don't care.

The consequence is that we are no longer guided by the moral compass that has served this nation for over two centuries. Not always in the right direction: the accepted practice of slavery and the genocidal wars against the native peoples of this land are strong testimony of just how wrong we can be as a nation. And, of course, the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII.

But the great thing about this country is that it has had the courage and fortitude to try to correct some of its most egregious wrongs. Over 600,000 men died in a civil war over the issue of slavery and billions were spent in the Great Society programs of the 1960s and 70s aimed at uplifting black communities victimized by past racial policies; some native tribes won the rights to parts of their former tribal lands; and redress was given to JAs.

None of these were enough to truly address the magnitude of the wrongs, but at least they were courageous attempts, however flawed they may have been. These were strong testimonies of a nation with a conscience and a strong moral center.

But where are we now? And what of democracy in America today? Where are we as the moral beacon of the world when we accept extraordinary rendition? When torture, however much it is denied, is an acceptable practice? Or when those same law officers find it a reasonable proposition that the president stands above the law?

When a CIA operative and her field agents are exposed for vindictive political reasons and those responsible — because they're close to the heartbeat of the White House — smirk in their defiance of the law and go unpunished?

When the basic protections of democracy are denied over and over in the name of that vague bug-a-boo, the war on terror? When the basic rights of the privacy of Americans are taken from us so easily? Not with a bang, but a whimper. And where are we as a democracy when we allow this of ourselves?

It's not just the current administration that's to blame. It's all of us: our leaders in Washington, our representatives in the House and Senate; we as an organization, each of us as citizens. It's amazing how easily complacent we've all become and how we can so willingly accept what would have been unthinkable 20 years ago. Or even 10 years ago.

The madness of the past eight years is almost at an end, hopefully. But it can continue unless our leaders in Washington find new courage to speak out against the kind of fear-mongering and deceit that have governed this nation for too long.

It's time to say enough. ■

*John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.*

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PETE HIROKAWA '08

# Finding a Part in Internment History

An aspiring Yonsei filmmaker is road tripping across America to film a documentary on the lingering effects of living behind barbed wire.

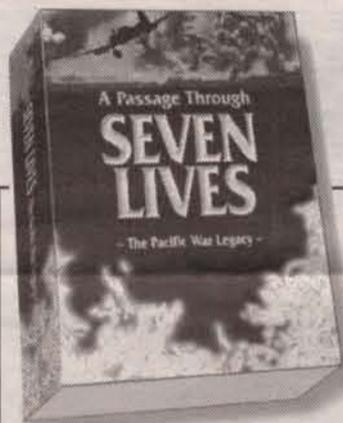
By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor

**I**n the ruins of old internment camps, Kevin Walker sees stories that need to be resurrected.

"It still defines who we are today," said the 22-year-old aspiring filmmaker about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. "To examine everything happening in our world right now, we must take a step back and reflect on how we arrived at this point."

Over 60 years after the last JA family was released from their barbed wire home, the experience continues to touch some of the most unlikely community members.

Kevin, a Yonsei who is also of English and German descent, had not come into existence yet when his grandparents were taken to Tule Lake. In fact, his mother hadn't even been born. And growing up in Vancouver, Wash., the internment was hardly a popular topic of conversation. His grandparents Shigeno and Toshio Ichikawa rarely talked about their years spent in the desert, and most didn't push them to open up.



## What does war solve?

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

"Kyo Takahashi weaves a majestic tapestry, using the history of Japan and bloody battlefields as the warp, and lives of people who were involved in the war, as the weft. Every fact was blended in carefully with artistic illustrations, creating a shocking and enlightening panorama.

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

## A Passage Through SEVEN LIVES

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by KYO TAKAHASHI

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Now Kevin wants to chronicle other internment stories in a feature-length documentary he is currently shooting while road tripping across the country. With a cinematographer by his side, he is filming at the 10 main campsites and 17 assembly centers.

"It's been crazy 14- to 16-hour workdays," said the recent Emerson College graduate to the *Pacific Citizen*. On this particular day, Kevin is heading to Topaz in Delta, Utah with Wyoming's Heart Mountain in his rearview mirror.

The film project, which is being financed by his parents, has a budget that is yet to be determined. They film by day and stay in small town motels by night. It's all very Jack Kerouac, except with the expressed purpose of documenting history.

"It just started out as a family project and grew," said Kevin.

His documentary has also taken him to Tule Lake, where his grandparents met and married. On their wedding day, the newlyweds climbed and slid down Castle Rock on a toboggan. So over 60 years later, Kevin climbed Castle Rock too. He didn't slide down though.

"... Although I almost fell a few times while filming."

## Ripping off the Bandage

For many former internees, memories of the camps are like hidden wounds bandaged with silence.

"I think the most important thing is to tell the stories built up inside you," said Kevin.

His grandmother Shigeno met his grandfather Toshio in the Tule Lake mess hall. When asked about their camp days, they would only talk about the fun times. Kevin listened, but was too young to ask the right questions. Before Shigeno passed away in 2001, the family went to Tule Lake.

"As soon as we stepped out of the car, she was telling us all these stories," he said. It would be the catalyst that spurred Kevin to think critically about wartime hysteria and injustice.

"Kevin had a wonderful relationship with his grandmother," said his mother Bobbi Walker, a Sansei. "I think he was thinking, 'How could someone as nice as that be interned?'"

During his sophomore year at Hudson Bay

High School, his two passions collided — his parents gave him a video camera. From an early age, Kevin's love for film was apparent, but he also had very sophisticated taste.

Young Kevin loved watching "Dances with Wolves," the 1990 Academy Award winning Civil War era epic starring Kevin Costner.

"He watched it so much that he memorized the dialogue," said Bobbi, a Sansei who lives in Fernandina Beach, Florida with her husband David Walker.

At Emerson College in Boston, Kevin made "9066," a short documentary on his grandparents' experiences during the War. And later, he went on pilgrimages to Minidoka, Manzanar and Tule Lake where he heard many emotional stories.

"I felt a connection when I went on those pilgrimages," he said. "Physically there isn't that much there, but the personal stories from these former camp survivors bring the places to life."

Some of the stories continue to haunt him. He interviewed one former Minidoka internee who broke down in tears when she described seeing acres of barren desert wasteland.

"It's hard. I'm an emotional person," said Kevin. "Sometimes you just want to lie down on the floor, curl into a ball and think about what you've just heard."

## The Snowball Effect

To bring a fresh perspective to the historical event, Kevin wants to examine the lingering effects of the internment on the JA community.

"You get a feeling of how this experience has affected generations of a community. Those 120,000 people had grandchildren who have stories too. The experience has snowballed."

He also wants to interview the Caucasian residents who lived in the area around the camps during WWII. Many have already contacted him expressing regret, but wanting to explain the mindset of the time.

In the Hood River region of Oregon, residents built a guard tower and manned it themselves, said Kevin. "That's fear. It's crazy what people are willing to give up in order to feel more protected."

In some places, people are still fighting in WWII, he added.

A few people have contacted him defending their WWII beliefs. Many had family members who died in battle at the hands of the Japanese.

"They categorize one minority as a whole," said Kevin. "Bitterness and hate can cloud anyone's judgment."

He's hoping to finish the documentary in early 2009.

"He has been very focused on a film career since early in high school and he's never wavered from his goals," said David about his son.

The project has also provided Kevin with some soul-searching opportunities. From Issei to Sansei, each generation has made their mark in the quest for justice.

"We're trying to find our part of the story," he said about being Yonsei. "I think that's through preserving the stories." ■

## CALLING ALL FORMER INTERNEES

Kevin Walker is still looking for interviewees, personal photographs and home movies for his documentary. If you are interested in participating, contact Kevin directly at 360/931-0953 or [kevin.walker.w@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.walker.w@gmail.com).

*'I felt a connection when I went on those pilgrimages.'*

— Kevin Walker, 22, Yonsei

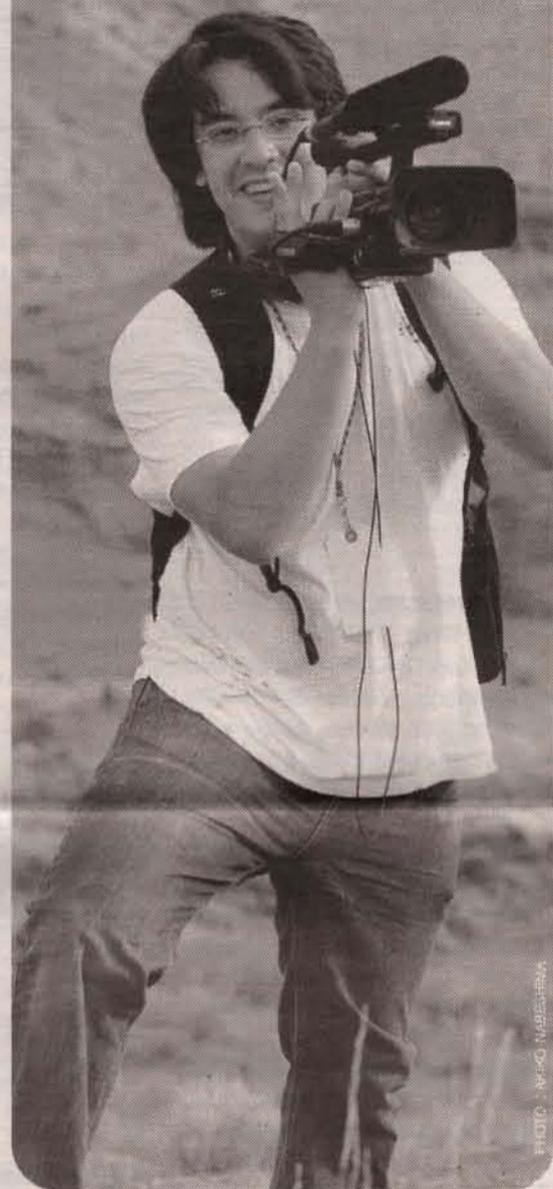


PHOTO COURTESY OF WALKER FAMILY

**PAPA AND NANA:** Kevin's grandparents Toshio (left) and Shigeno Ichikawa, pictured here with daughter Gerri, met and married at Tule Lake.

# Historical Markers Will Commemorate Portland, Maine's Chinese American History

(Continued from page 1)

Chinese community generally."

Libby, with the help of the Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine, has located several Chinese sites where they plan to place markers explaining each location's story. In all he hopes to mark 20 historic sites that includes laundries, grocery stores, restaurants and a gambling den.

One of the historic sites, an idea modeled after the Portland Freedom Trail that honors the pioneering local African American community, will be the former Goon Family Laundry.

"I would be so proud, as I'm sure my other family members would be," said Constance Psaros of Boston, a granddaughter of Dogan and Toy Len. "We are a quiet bunch and have achieved our own successes without fanfare or boasting, but something like this would be a wonderful and meaningful tribute to our family."

## An American Dream

Doris Wong, the seventh child of Dogan and Toy Len, runs her own court reporting firm in Boston. She attributes her success to the early values her parents instilled in her and her siblings.

"We all had 'jobs' in the laundry suited to our age and abilities," said the 75-year-old who now runs her business with the help of two nieces including Psaros. "I remember turning out the pockets of shirts and slacks before they were washed. I did the dishes. My siblings ironed clothes, waited on customers. We just all worked together doing what had to be done for the business."

Today, all eight Goon family children can boast successful careers. Amongst them are doctors, engineers and an attorney. Because the word "goon" has some negative connotations, some of the kids eventually changed the spelling of their name to Guen or took on their mother's maiden name Len.

But all are proud of the Goon family legacy in Portland, Maine.

Dogan first began his laundry business in 1915 and in 1918 he went off to fight for his adopted country in World War I, even though he was denied citizenship due to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

He was joined by his wife Toy Len in 1921 and together they ran the successful Goon Family Laundry. Soon all of their eight kids played a role in the laundry.

After Dogan's untimely death in 1941, Toy Len continued to run the business as a single mother, instilling in her children a work ethic that spurred success. In 1952 Toy Len had the honor of being named Maine Mother of the Year and American Mother of the Year.



Markers (above) will commemorate Portland's Chinese American history like this English class (left).

"I always marveled at how my grandmother managed the business while raising a large family mostly on her own without most of the modern conveniences we have now," said Psaros, 54, the eldest daughter of Josephine Moy (formerly Josephine Goon).

Wong noted that her mother did not read or write in Chinese or English since girls in China were not educated and she was too busy running the family business. Still, "she imparted to us the values that ensured our success as individuals." "It was a pretty big deal at the time," said Libby of Toy Len's Mother of the Year status. "She was quite the celebrity at the time. That family really exemplifies the American dream."

In addition to parades in the New York City, Boston and Philadelphia Chinatowns in her honor, Toy Len was also invited to a reception hosted by First Lady Bess Truman at the White House.

Toy Len passed away in 1993 at the age of 101.

## A Local History Discovered

Libby's interested in digging into the local Chinese American history was spurred by a 2001 article in the local paper titled "Are There Any Chinese in Maine?"

It was written by a local professor and Gary soon struck up a friendship. They started digging and soon the two discovered that there was quite a rich local Chinese American history. Even after the professor moved out of state for a new job, Libby continued the project.

"By then, I was hooked and kept going," he said.

The Chinese have been in the city of Portland since the 1850s. One of the earliest Chinese immigrants was Ar Tee Lam who arrived in the city in 1858 and ran a Chinese restaurant. The first known hand laundry business was established in 1877 by an enterprising 14-year-old named Sam Lee. In 1920 the Chinese population of Portland was roughly 70 residents.

In 2000 there were a little over 2,000 Chinese Americans in the state

of Maine according to the U.S. Census. About 200 live in the city of Portland.

A few years ago, Libby had a chance to meet some of the Goon family descendants after they contacted him during a family reunion in Portland. He took some of the relatives on a tour of the area their family once thrived.

"It was fantastic as it gave the grandchildren a chance to see where we grew up," said Wong.

Recently Libby held the first Chinese historic marker ceremony at 573 Congress Street, the former location of the Empire Restaurant which existed from 1916 to 1953. Locals gathered to mark the community's history with a lion dance and traditional drum performance.

Although they have commitments from about half of the businesses, others are concerned that marking their businesses with a historical marker may pose problems if they want to make any future changes to the property.

"We have about 20 sites where we want to place historical markers, not 20 places where the owner has agreed to let us do that," said Libby.

Eventually he hopes to copy the project in the cities of Augusta, Bangor, Lewiston and Biddeford.

Wong and her family later moved

to Lynn, Massachusetts in 1952 but she has only positive memories of Portland.

"My fondest memory is the privilege of truly living in a melting pot scenario where the neighbors and schools accepted our entire family and were helpful and friendly," she said, "because they saw us working together and were wonderful students, one and all."

She's grateful that her family's history in the area will be remembered.

"I applaud Gary's efforts in documenting the history of the Chinese community in Portland," said Wong. "We are all grateful and pleased for Gary's interest in preserving this part of Portland's history and including mother's accomplishments as part of that history." ■

For more information, Chinese & American Friendship Association of Maine: [www.cafamaine.org](http://www.cafamaine.org).

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**'GO FOR BROKE'**

(Continued from page 1)

"It is crucial that the Nisei story lives on, and many veterans have not yet shared their stories," said the Yonsei from her home in Torrance, Calif. "It is important for us, as the younger generation, to carry on the stories and legacy of 'Go For Broke.'"

Robyn recently recorded her grandfather's story on film. "My Grandfather, My Hero: An American Story," was her senior thesis as a film major at Occidental College. She hopes to eventually enter the film on the festival circuit.

"She got things out of me that no one else could," said Tetsuo who was confined at the Heart Mountain internment camp when he was drafted by the U.S. Army at the age of 18.

Like many of the Nisei veterans, Tetsuo did not share his war experiences with his children or grandchildren. It was only after volunteering as a docent at the Go For Broke Monument in Little Tokyo that he began to feel more comfortable sharing his story.

He believes it's important that the descendants of the Japanese American WWII veterans help pass on their legacy.



**NISEI LEGACY:** World War II veterans (l-r) George Fujimori, Ken Akune, and Tetsuo Asato volunteer as docents at the Go for Broke monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

"There are not many of us left now," he said. "What we did, what happened to us, despite all that we went to War. It's our American story ... and we are passing it on."

**Talking Story and Reunions**

Mika Ito, 25, recently went to her first Nisei veterans reunion in Las Vegas. It was the first time she saw her grandfather Lawson Sakai, 85, amongst a roomful of his fellow 442nd comrades.

"The bond that many of the vets have with each other is something that can't compare to any other relationship," said the Yonsei from La

Crescenta, Calif. "Having been through the War with each other has brought them to feel like family. The event felt almost like a large family reunion."

She ended up learning more about the other Nisei vets than her own grandfather who still says very little about his combat experience. But the reunion was the impetus she needed to enlist her family members in helping to document her grandfather's story.

"There is an urgency to learn as much as we can before it's too late," said Mika. "This is a major learning process for me, but I'm doing my best to do as much as possible as soon as possible before it's too late."

Lawson knows his granddaughter wants him to start writing down his

history. He just hasn't gotten around to it.

Still, he realizes the importance of telling the story of how a group of young JA men fought with honor even while their own families were confined behind barbed wire.

"Most grandchildren do not know their grandfather served in WWII," he said. "It is very important that we tell the story to the future generations as the WWII Nisei will soon be gone."

For many of these grandchildren, curiosity about their grandfather's war experiences had the same origins: a high school or college assignment.

Erin Tanaka, 25, a second lieutenant in the Air Force who is currently doing her medical residency in New York, remembers sitting down with her grandfather Earl Tanaka's fellow 422nd soldiers for a middle school project.

No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't get them to talk about their own heroics. Instead they praised their war buddies and what they accomplished as a group.

Like the other grandchildren, she feels an obligation to pass on her grandfather's legacy but she also wants to build on what they accomplished.

"For me personally, the Nisei legacy is more than heroism on the battlefield ... I also think about the sense of volunteerism and sacrifice associated with their generation,"

she said.

"My generation should appreciate the hard work and sacrifice that raised Japanese Americans to positions of leadership in government, education, law, medicine — opportunities that were not available before the War."

**Time is Running Out**

When Neil Yamamoto, 26, of Hawaii wanted to learn more about the Nisei veterans legacy, the opportunity to ask his grandfathers firsthand had sadly passed. Harumi Yamamoto and Harry Hiramoto — Harumi of the 442nd and Harry who served as a technical sergeant in Washington during WWII — had passed away in 1996 and 1995, respectively.

"I wish I had more time with them and I wish I had learned more from them," said Neil. "It sadly was only after they died that I began to understand the legacy of the Japanese American veterans, and my interest has since blossomed into somewhat of a career."

Today, Neil works as an education department assistant at the USS Missouri Memorial Association of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he helps tell the story of the USS Missouri to the younger generations.

This Veterans Day he plans to honor the Nisei veterans at a special sunset ceremony at the USS Missouri.

See 'GO FOR BROKE'/Page 16

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Mar 30	Japan Classic "Cherry Blossoms" 11 Days - \$3895. Tokyo Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
Apr 13	Japan "Off the Beaten Track" 11 Days - \$4295. Fukuoka - Hirado - Amakusa - Kurume - Kokura - Bullet Train - Shizuoka Lake Kawaguchi - Nasu Highlands - Nikko - Toshogu - Tokyo.
Apr 26	Welcome Korea "TV Drama Hillites" 12 Days - \$3595. Jeju Isle - Busan - Gyeongju - Yongpyong - Mt. Seorak - Chuncheon - Seoul.
May 16	NCL - Hawaii Cruise - 8 Days - From \$2470 - Balcony \$2699. Honolulu - Kahului - Hilo - Kona - Nawilwili, Kauai - Honolulu.
May 30	NCL - British Isles Cruise - 15 Days - From \$4246. London - Le Havre, France - Falmouth, England - Cork, Dublin & Belfast, Ireland - Glasgow, Inverness & Edinburgh, Scotland - Amsterdam - Brugge.
Jun 29	Summer Japan Family Tour - 10 Days - \$3595 - Child \$3295. Tokyo - Nasu Highlands - Nikko - Bullet Train - Kyoto - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island - Osaka.
Jul 18	Trains Colorado Rockies - 9 Days - \$2395. Denver - Rocky Mt. Grand Junction - Silverton - Durango - Mesa Verde NP - Colorado Springs.
Aug 1	NCL - Scandinavia/Russia Cruise - 14 Days - From \$3783 - Balcony \$4133. London - Copenhagen - Warnemunde - Germany - Tallinn, Estonia - St. Petersburg - Helsinki - Stockholm.
Aug 22	NCL - West Mediterranean Cruise - 15 Days - From \$3219 Balcony \$3769. London - Lisbon - Vigo, Seville & Granada, Spain - Gibraltar - Sardinia - Naples - Rome - Livorno - Cannes - Barcelona.
Sep 11	Egypt Deluxe - 10 Days - \$5495. Grand Hyatt Cairo - 4 Day Nile Cruise - Abu Simbel - Conrad Hotel Cairo.
Oct 12	Hokkaido/Tohoku - Oct 19 - Uranihon "Japan Sea Coast"
Nov 2	Fall Japan Classic - Nov 12 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku
Jan 16 2010	NCL - Panama Canal Cruise - 12 Days - from \$2369 Balcony \$3169. Miami - Cartagena - Daylight Transit of Panama Canal - Costa Rica - Guatemala - Huataulco - Acapulco - Cabo to LA.

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**APA NONPROFITS**

(Continued from page 1)

programs, said Chen, their manager of development and communications.

Like many others, Chen has been following the news about the global credit crunch, rising unemployment and the implosion of some of the nation's leading financial institutions. One headline hit close to home for AALEAD.

"Freddie Mac was a dedicated funder of our Family Strengthening program," said Chen, adding that the troubled mortgage behemoth recently changed their funding priorities and phased out youth programs. In September, Freddie Mac was taken over by the federal government as it faced growing losses.

"We're really scrambling here," said Chen.

Since the economic downturn, AALEAD has seen a decrease in grants, so they've had to cut activities like field trips and workshops with hired trainers and speakers.

For now, they're fortunate enough to keep from cutting existing programs by using money in their reserves to cover shortfalls, said Chen. But this is the last year they will be able to do that.

There are more than 900,000 public charities in the United States. And given the cratering economy, many nonprofits — which rely on the generosity of individual contributors,

foundations and corporations — have been left reeling.

But at risk in the fallout of the financial crisis are not just the APA nonprofits, but also the vulnerable APA communities they serve.

**A Critical Need**

In an election year, where America's socioeconomic map only includes Wall Street and Main Street — where political leaders tout the rights of "Joe the Plumber" — APAs want to know where they stand.

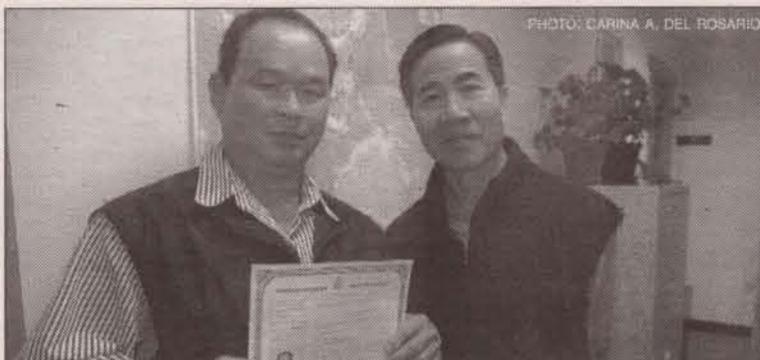
Paul the Landscaper says his business is diversified enough to be recession-proof so far. However, he has lost some business from developers who have foreclosed on their properties.

"I think this is a temporary lull," said Paul Saito, the owner of Saito Associates, a landscape architecture and urban planning company in Fresno, Calif.

It's a prediction APA nonprofits can only hope for.

"The actual impact of the crisis remains to be seen, but the potential impact is devastating," said Diane Narasaki, executive director of the Seattle-based Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS).

Many APA families can't turn to mainstream services because of language and cultural barriers. At its main office at 3639 Martin Luther King Jr. Way and its Bellevue office, ACRS serves 23,000 clients in 30 languages with an annual budget of



A recent U.S. citizen celebrates his new status with ACRS.

about \$11 million.

They've already felt the impact of the economic downturn, said Narasaki. Their nutrition program, which includes a community food bank, is the third most used food bank in Washington's King County — where APAs make up over 13 percent of the county's population.

Unlike other food banks, ACRS stocks rice and produce familiar to the APA palate. But in one year, the cost of rice has more than doubled while ACRS has seen an influx of new clients who are suffering from the bad economy.

"People come from far and wide," said Narasaki. Most are elderly people on fixed incomes trying to make ends meet, but lately she has seen more younger people and families with children who rely on ACRS as their main food source.

In recent days, people have lined up outside the food bank at 5 a.m. to wait until ACRS opens at 11 a.m., said Narasaki.

In the current food crisis, ACRS only has the money to feed their clients for eight months. They've had to reduce their rice distribution by half.

"It hurts the staff and the volunteers in the food banks," said Narasaki about giving smaller amounts of rice. "It's really painful to see the great need not being met."

The organization's financial crunch is at the center of what seems to be a perfect storm.

Most of ACRS' funding comes from government sources at the federal, state, county and city levels. But Washington is projecting a deficit of \$3.2 billion. King County is anticipating a \$93 million deficit.

To make matters worse, ACRS had previously received annual grants from Washington Mutual, the savings and loan giant, to support their vocational services program.

On Sept. 25 in the largest bank

failure in American history, federal regulators seized the troubled WaMu and reached a deal to sell most of the operations to JP Morgan Chase. Narasaki does not know if their grant will be renewed.

In 2007, banks were the second-largest corporate givers to the U.S. nonprofits. The crisis in the financial sector adds more hardship to a year in which experts say corporate giving already has been down.

"It's difficult. I don't know how ACRS will be," she said. ACRS' last fundraiser generated less revenue than in the previous year. It's been consistent with most nonprofits — regular funders just don't have the financial means to give anymore, said Narasaki.

**A Balancing Act**

For the next fiscal year, the JACL is projecting a deficit if the budget is not adjusted, said Larry Oda, national JACL president. "Our revenues, including investment income and membership revenue, are at risk."

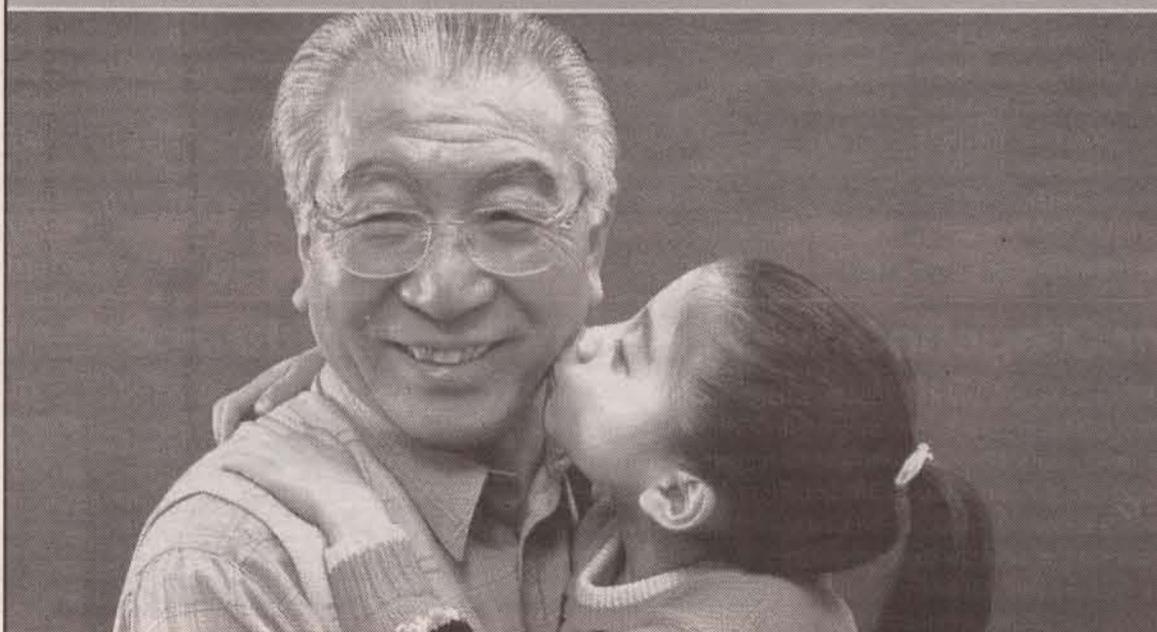
The 79-year-old nonprofit — which champions civil rights, promotes educational values and preserves the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community — has also been affected by the economic downturn.

The JACL relies on membership revenue as well as individual and

See APA NONPROFITS/Page 16



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Japanese American  
Citizens' League

# American Holiday Travel

## 2009 Tour Schedule

<b>EGYPT-NILE RIVER TOUR I (SOLD OUT)</b>	JAN 16-26
Cairo, Luxor, Nile River Cruise, Kom Ombo, Aswan, Abu Simbel.	
<b>HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR</b>	FEB 2-11
Sapporo, Abashiri, Lake Akan, Sourkyo, Asahikawa, Otaru, Shiraol, Noboribetsu. See 5 Snow/Ice Festivals. Ride icebreaker ship "Aurora".	
<b>EGYPT/NILE RIVER TOUR II NEW TOUR</b>	FEB 21-MAR 3
<b>KOREA DRAMA SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	MAR 27-APR 8
Seoul, Cheju Island, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Chuncheon/Namiseom Island.	
<b>JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR</b>	APR 15-25
Tokyo, Tendo Onsen, Akita, Hirosaki, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Higashiyama Onsen.	
<b>EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	MAY 3-11
Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.	
<b>GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR I (SOLD OUT)</b>	JUN 28-JUL 7
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.	
<b>GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR II</b>	JUL 7-16
Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Atami, Hakone, Tokyo.	
<b>ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE</b>	JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City. HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.	
<b>EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE</b>	AUG 22-SEPT 3
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia. HOLLAND AMERICA Oosterdam Ship.	
<b>PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR</b>	SEPT
PANA Convention - Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Option to Peru.	
<b>NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	OCT 1-8
Boston, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire. Day trips on historic trains: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Green Mountain Flyer Railroad, Essex Steam Train.	
<b>OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	OCT 11-23
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**AUTISM**

(Continued from page 1)

shut and walking towards an unknown future.

That was almost seven years ago when Sophia heard exactly why Kevin was not developing speech skills. Autism is a range of disorders that hinders the ability to communicate and interact. Most doctors believe there is no cure.

At one and a half, other children his age were talking up a storm while Kevin remained silent. He didn't play with other children. At 17 months, he finally took his first steps — on tiptoe. Yet Sophia, who is first generation Vietnamese American, found it hard to believe her handsome son was developmentally disabled.

"He's cute," said Sophia, 41. "I denied everything and didn't trust anyone."

Until recently, Sophia kept Kevin's autism a secret — even from his grandmother. Instead she focused on learning more about the condition and privately working with her son on his social skills. She never brought Kevin to parties or showed him off to her co-workers.

"I was afraid to talk," said Sophia. And after so many years of silence, she has found her voice. Now, she can't stop gushing about Kevin, 9. He's a loving brother and a thoughtful helper around the house.

Silence, many say, is reaching epidemic proportions especially in the Asian Pacific American community where developmental disorders are often misunderstood and treated as family secrets. If left unchecked, silence can lead to depression and even death, said Anna Wang, co-founder of the Fremont-Calif. Dream Center, the nation's only APA autistic-focused center.

"It is really a prevalent issue," said Anna, whose 18-year-old son Lawrence was also diagnosed with autism at three years old. "I am a minority within the minority trying to break out of that."

**A Dream Village**

People say it takes a village to raise a child, so Anna and a few other like-minded APA parents decided to build one.

What began in 1996 as a support group has grown into a viable non-profit organization — the Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) — complete with its own 6,000-square-foot Fremont headquarters and apartment complexes for families with children who are enrolled in their over 30 programs.

On certain days at the Dream Center, Master Ricky leads Shaolin kung fu classes for adults and school-age children with special needs. On those days, the hallways echo with students shouting "Ha! Ha! Ha!" with each movement.

It's part of the center's holistic and



Lawrence Wang, pictured here at 1 years old looking at his fingers, was in his own world.

PHOTO: ANNA WANG

cultural approach to treating autism. In May, FCSN began leasing a 2,000-square-foot facility in a San Jose, Calif. strip mall for expanded programs.

Over the years, Anna has seen FCSN's membership grow from double digits to 600. The community has come a long way since FCSN's inception, she said. When Lawrence was diagnosed with autism, Anna and her physician husband Albert Wang, fell into many cultural trappings.

When Anna expressed concern about young Lawrence's poor language skills, community members reassured her that boys tend to begin speaking later than girls.

"People said, 'Wow, your kid doesn't even make noise. You can take him to a restaurant!'"

Many children with autism develop normally through their first year. In their second year, definite signs of developmental disorders will manifest including poor social skills, poor

eye contact and the tendency to avoid crowds. An estimated one in 150 American children is diagnosed with autism. It transcends all race, sex and socioeconomic borders.

"People need to pay attention to these warning signs especially in the Asian community," said Anna.

Kaoru Fujimoto's 11-year-old son first started going to the Dream Center three years ago for cooking class and after school academic support. The Shin Issei mother from the Bay Area had been searching for an APA support group on the internet when she came across information on FCSN.

"For me, I'm comfortable because they are Asian. I really appreciate it," said Kaoru, 42.

She has heard many stories about Japanese parents who have attempted suicide because of the pressure and stress of raising a child with special needs.

"They try to hide it from other people," she said.

**Cultural Barriers**

Getting her second generation Chinese American parents to understand their grandson's autism diagnosis was "the most painful thing in the world," said Kristina Chew, 39.

Charlie Fisher, now 11 and a half, is Kristina's and husband James Fisher's first and only child. They named him after her grandfather and began planning for his college education. Both Kristina and James are college professors.

Charlie was diagnosed with autism in 1999 after Kristina noticed warning signs — delayed speech and poor social skills. Sometimes he would spend hours just opening and closing the lid of a CD case.

At first, Charlie's grandparents tried to rationalize the behavior. Kristina was a docile baby, so they thought Charlie was the same.

"It was very difficult for them to admit that Charlie had a problem."

Before her life was touched with the disorder, Kristina knew nothing about autism or children with special needs. Like every other member of her family, she excelled in school. She never met anyone in special education, so she had to come to terms with the idea that things may be different for Charlie.

"It was unfathomable at first," said Kristina, who now blogs about autism. "He's not going to college? He's not going to play the violin?"

See AUTISM/Page 16



**HONORING THE PAST.  
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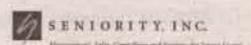
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# Calendar

## East

### BOSTON

**Sat., Nov. 15**—Paul Niwa, My Life as an Alien: Tales of an Asian American Expatriate in Asia; 4:30-6 p.m.; Emerson College Walker Building, Room W233, 120 Boylston St.; Niwa is a journalism professor at Emerson College; presented by New England JACL. Info: yamamoto@nejacl.org or 781/259-9444.

**Fri., Dec. 5**—Annual Harry Dow Dinner; 6:30-9:30 p.m.; China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler St.; Tina Matsuoka is the keynote speaker; \$125/person. Info: Zenobia Lai, 857/919-0565 or

zeno\_lai@yahoo.com.

### NEW YORK

**Sat., Nov. 15**—Screening, "The Footprints of Japanese-American Soldiers"; 1-5 p.m.; Japanese American Association of New York, 15 W. 44th St., 11th Floor; personal accounts by Nisei soldiers will follow the screening; free; hosted by New York JACL. Info: Aileen Yamaguchi, 212/873-4170, aileen8@aol.com or Lillian Kimura, 973/680-1441, lckimura@att.net.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Tue., Nov. 18**—Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership's 19th Annual Benefit Gala; 6-9 p.m.; Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave.; keynote speakers include Norman Mineta, the Honorable James Ho and Congressman Mike Honda (invited); Info and tickets: www.capal.org.

## Midwest

### CLEVELAND

**Sat., Nov. 8**—39th Annual Japanese American Holiday Fair; 1-5 p.m.; St. Ignatius High School, 1911 West 30th St.; free; food, craft and produce booths plus entertainment, door prizes and more; sponsored by Cleveland JACL. Info: 216/921-

2976 or 440/268-9674.

### DAYTON

**Sun., Dec. 14**—JACL Holiday Party; 2-6 p.m.; Wright State University; potluck.

### MEDICINE LAKE, Minn.

**Sat., Nov. 15**—Twin Cities JACL's 62nd Anniversary Chrysanthemum Banquet; 5 p.m. silent auction, 6 p.m. dinner and program; at the Chateau, 10715 South Shore Dr.; Tom Ikeda, keynote speaker; \$30/adult, \$20/Nisei, \$13/child under 12; RSVP by Nov. 3 to Joanne Kumagai, 763/420-6639. Late reservations will not be accepted.

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

**Sun., Nov. 16**—Lecture, Nancy Moore Bess, author of "Bamboo in Japan"; 2-3 p.m.; Portland Japanese Garden, 611 SW Kingston Dr.; Bess will lecture on bamboo in Japan; \$15/garden members, \$20/non-members (reservations required). RSVP: www.japanesegarden.com/events or 503/542-0280.

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

## Intermountain

### DENVER

**Sat.-Sun., Nov. 15-16**—Exhibit, Reflections on the JA Experience in Colorado; 11-2 p.m.; Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado; exhibit on the history of Sakura Square and farming communities in Colorado.

## Northern California

### SACRAMENTO

**Sat., Jan. 31, 2009**—Florin JACL Officer Installation and Fundraiser Reception, "Strength Through Unity"; 2-4 p.m.; Sacramento State Library Art Gallery, 6000 J St.; special awards to Amos and Mary

Freeman and Georgette Imura; keynote speakers, Carole Hayashino, Jerry Enomoto and Kiyo Sato; \$25/Florin JACLers, students and seniors, \$30/general admission. Info: 916/525-0716 or assistant@shimodalaw.com.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., Nov. 22**—Play reading and book signing; 2 p.m.; NJAHS, 1684 Post St.; play reading from Hiroshi Kashiwagi's "The Betrayed"; Kashiwagi will be signing his book Shoe Box Plays following the play reading.

## Central California

### CLOVIS

**Feb. 14-16**—CC-NCWNP-PSW JACL Tri-District Conference; events include: golf tournament, local tours, Saturday mixer, youth dance, plenary sessions and dedication of the Pinedale Memorial.

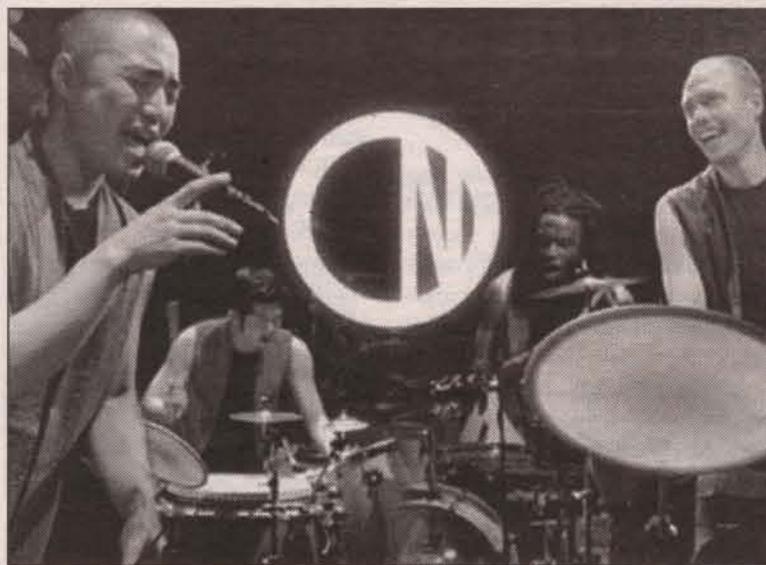
## Southern California

### LOS ANGELES

**Sat., Nov. 8**—On Ensemble '08: YOBU; 8 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St.; a musical odyssey of undulating rhythm and groove; \$30/orchestra, \$25/JACCC members and seniors; tickets: 213/680-3700. Info: www.jaccc.org.

**Sat., Dec. 6**—Spirit of the Season 7 by Hiroshima; 7:30 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theatre; special holiday concert by Hiroshima with Terry Steele and Tetsuya Nakamura; \$36.50/orchestra, \$31/balcony, \$28/JACCC members and groups of 10. Tickets: 213/680-3700. Info: www.jaccc.org.

### RIVERSIDE



On Ensemble performs Sat., Nov. 8 at the Aratani/Japan America Theater in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The program is a musical odyssey of undulating rhythm and groove.

**Thu., Nov. 13**—Screening, "Only the Brave"; 7:30 p.m.; U.C. Riverside, University Lecture Hall 1000, 900 University Ave.; free. Info: 951/203-9146 or nichibeinsu@gmail.com.

### SAN DIEGO

**Thu., Nov. 13**—Book signing and lecture, "Japanese Americans in San Diego"; 6-8 p.m.; San Diego Historical Society, Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado, Suite #3; author Susan Hasegawa will be on hand to sign copies of the book. Info or RSVP: 619/232-6203, ext. 129.

**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.

**Sun., Dec. 14**—Book signing and lecture, "Japanese Americans in San Diego"; 2 p.m.; Downtown San Diego Public Library - Central Branch, 820 E. St.; author Susan Hasegawa will be on hand to sign copies of the book. Info or RSVP: 619/236-5800.

## Hawaii

### HONOLULU

**Wed., Nov. 12**—William S. Richardson School of Law recognizes Professor Eric Yamamoto; 5:30 p.m.; Oahu Country Club; featuring Julie Su and Dean Avi Soifer; RSVP by Nov. 5 to lawevent@hawaii.edu or 808/956-8478. ■

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To ensure delivery before Christmas, all orders should be submitted by December 1.

DEATH NOTICE

**ELEANORE KAZUKO NAKASHIMA TOI**

Eleanore Kazuko Nakashima Toi was born in Fresno to Hiteyo and Hiroshi Nakashima on Dec. 27, 1926 and suddenly passed away at her home in Fremont on Oct. 10, 2008.

She is survived by her son, Dr. Randall H. Toi of Alamo; two loving granddaughters, Erin Hiteyo Toi and Blair Misao Toi; her sister, Betty Jane Oki of Reedley; brother, S. Stephen Nakashima of San Jose; and faithful dog, Doxie. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 42 years, Joseph H. Toi, who was taken from her in 1990; older sister, Bernice; and younger brother, Yukio.

Eleanore was an avid bridge player, belonging to the Fremont Senior Center Bridge Group and several local groups for many years. She also loved spending many hours working in her immaculate garden at her Fremont home for over 37 years. She was a faithful 49er fan, an ardent Cal Bears, Oakland A's, and Giants fan and a devout Steve Young admirer who rarely missed a 49er's home game over the past 25 years!

Her effervescent personality and joyous laugh will truly be missed but she will finally be reunited with her one and only true love, Joseph.

Private services were held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park Cemetery, 695 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, on Oct. 17, 2008.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4243 Manuela Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306

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DEATH NOTICE

**MINORU ENDO**

Minoru Endo passed away peacefully on October 27, 2008, at the age of 91. His wife of 64 years, Aya, passed away previously on August 31, 2006. He leaves his sons, Keith and Larry; his daughters-in-law, Debbie and Caron; Keith and Debbie's children, Sarah, Corey, and Seth; and Larry and Caron's children, Sasha and Josh. In addition, he leaves his great-grandchildren, Anna, Naomi, and Sophie.

Min Endo was born in 1917 to Shinnosuke Endo and Tei Kasuya Endo in San Francisco, Calif. His pre-war years were spent in California. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Like other West Coast Nikkei, he was interned in the interior during WWII, in his case at the Topaz, Utah relocation camp. He married Aya Mineta of San Jose, California, just after the war's beginning so as to remain with her during the war. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942 as part of the Military Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota, and later at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He was part of the U.S. Military Intelligence in post-war occupied Japan until 1949. After his war service, Min moved to New York City and joined American Commercial, Inc. and Mikasa, becoming vice-president during his long career there.

Throughout his long life, Min served his community, particularly the churches to which he belonged, the Japanese American Citizen's League, the Kiyosato Experimental Education Project, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the company for which he worked for 40 years, and most of all, his family.

For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Japanese American United Church, 255 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10001, or Christ United Presbyterian Church, 1700 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115."

DEATH NOTICE

**PAUL TSUKASA MATSUMURA**

Feb. 10, 1919 - Oct. 13, 2008  
Passed away peacefully on Oct. 13, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Sachiko; sons, Brian, Wayne (Terry), Scott (Linda) and Cary (Judy); grandchildren, Courtney, Kelly, Corey, Ryan, Jordan, Maiyah, Tamiko (Moses), Mariko (Robert), Yahmai (Vai); brother, Arthur of Detroit, Mich.; and sister, Laura (Tod) of Denver, Colo.

As were his wishes, there will be no services. A private celebration of his life will be held by his family.

Memorial donations may be made to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

**Yukiko Sugihara, Wife of Former Japanese Consul, Passes**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Yukiko (nee Kikuchi) Sugihara, the wife of the late Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara, passed away Oct. 8 at the age of 94.

Chiune was stationed at the Consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania prior to the onset of WWII. Along with Yukiko's support, the couple helped save thousands of Jews from the horrors of Hitler's Holocaust. In defiance of his own



government, Chiune issued visas for the Jews so they could get safe passage away from the German troops.

Yukiko was born in 1913 in Numazu and grew up on the island of Shikoku. She met and married Chiune in 1935. They had four sons: Hiroki, Haruki, Nobuki and Chiaki. Haruki passed away in 1946 and Hiroki — who founded a non-profit in San Francisco in honor of his father — passed away in 2001.

Yukiko's ashes will be interred at Kamakura where she will be joined by her husband Chiune and their two sons. Formal services will take place Nov. 9 in Tokyo in the Aoyama District. ■

**EDWIN ENDOW**

(Continued from page 1)

imperatives.

I came to know Ed well following his election to the JACL national board in 2004. I saw in him a leadership style that placed a premium on clarity and frankness. During discussions, Ed often asked for repeated explanations to help unwind complicated issues, less for his benefit than to ensure that his colleagues fully understood the impact of their decisions. I also saw him display the courage to stand alone knowing that he would incur the wrath of others because he believed strongly in the rightness of a chosen path.

Ed never minced words about his dedication to the JACL. He often described the commitment of steadfast members using well-worn clichés about how they bled for the organization. He was neither embarrassed nor dissuaded from wrapping himself in loyalty to JACL or in carrying out his official membership duties. I think Ed always worried about doing right by the JACL members he served, which caused him to explore services to attract members and provide tangible benefits beyond simply appreciating their support for the organization.

It was also during Ed's national board stint that he began making periodic trips to Chicago to help with the care of his elderly uncle, eventually having to dispose of his uncle's business, sell his home, tend to his health care needs and finally, arrange for his funeral and burial. You learn a lot about a person in these situations, and what I saw in Ed were qualities of steadiness, empathy and compassion. As for Ed, he learned the meaning of cold weather and icy driving conditions, the taste of a Chicago hot dog, the easiest routes from Midway Airport to the north-side and the hapless fortunes of a Chicago Cubs fan.

Ed's son, Robert, touchingly commented on his Facebook profile, "today the world lost the best man I ever knew." Yes, Robert, many of us admired your father for the goodness

he gave, and if you are defined by those you have lost, you are wonderfully equipped to share that same goodness. ■

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest regional director.

**JACL Expresses Sympathy For Endow's Passing**

Edwin Endow of Stockton, Calif., a former national JACL board member, passed away on Oct. 25 after a battle with cancer.

"I am deeply saddened to hear of Edwin's passing. He was a close friend and an effective member of the national board," said Larry Oda, national JACL president. "He worked tirelessly for the JACL for many years at the chapter, district and national levels. He was a good guy and a good friend. We will miss him."

Endow served as Stockton JACL chapter president and NCWNP membership chair. He was elected national JACL vice president for membership in 2004 and was re-elected to a second two-year term in 2006. He was also a recipient of the JACL Sapphire Pin for his years of dedicated service to the JACL. Earlier this year Edwin resigned from the national board after being diagnosed with cancer.

As v.p. of membership, Endow worked to increase membership and to bring new benefits to members of the JACL. He was also a strong financial contributor as a Thousand Club Life member and a charter member of the Millennium Club.

"Edwin did a great deal for the JACL, and he will be sorely missed. No one was more enthusiastic than Edwin about doing his part for the JACL in whatever capacity he was serving," said Floyd Mori, national JACL director.

"It was always a pleasure to be around him. We are grateful to have known him and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family," Mori added.

Endow is survived by his wife Debbi and son Robert. ■

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**PACIFIC CITIZEN** National business and Professional Directory

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**'GO FOR BROKE'**

(Continued from page 11)

"To honor the Nisei veterans, I will make an offering at the family altar and will remember their sacrifices."

Although some descendants of the Nisei veterans were lucky enough to have welcomed their war heroes home, others were not. Matt Stevenson's great uncle Kenkichi Kenneth Teruya, a second lieutenant of the 100th, was killed June 5, 1944, near Lanuvio just before the liberation of Rome.

It was when he was about 11 years old that Matt first heard about his great-uncle's wartime service. He made the fateful mistake of asking his mother whether his grand-uncle had served on the American or Japanese side.

"I will never forget the terrible stink-eye I got from my mom when, in my utter pre-teen ignorance, I asked if he fought for the Japanese or Americans," said the 29-year-old Yonsei. "I think a lot of my interest in the 100th/442nd has been to rectify my asking of such a horribly stupid question. I definitely took an immediate interest in the unit from that time."

Today, Matt cherishes the few memories he has of his great-uncle including a recording he has of

Kenkichi sending a greeting to his family during the War and than singing a Hawaiian song.

A few years ago he moved to Hawaii after living in California. It's been a great opportunity to learn more about the 100th in the local libraries. Still, he hopes to be able to sit down with some vets.

"I have never met anyone that was in the 100th/442nd ... I would love to talk story with the 100th/442nd veterans, especially those of course who were in my uncle's company," he said.

"I feel an immense amount of responsibility to pass on their story since my uncle never married and had no children."

**Walking in Their Footsteps**

A few years back, Robyn had a chance to visit Italy with her grandfather and fellow members of the 442nd. In addition to hearing the heartfelt stories of comrades in arms, she walked along the very same paths as the JA soldiers.

"Actually hearing their stories, seeing what they experienced ... it truly opened my eyes," she said.

In her free time, Robyn tries to dedicate as much time to the Go For Broke Educational Center, a nonprofit whose mission is to tell the Nisei veterans story.

Sometimes she heads to the Go for Broke Monument in Little Tokyo

**APA NONPROFITS**

(Continued from page 12)

corporate donations to fund its programs. Because of the downturn, the Legacy Fund is below the threshold for distribution, said Oda.

"We based our next budget on an increase in membership, but our history has shown a steady decline. Our budget is also dependent on investment income, which currently does not appear to be an option," he said.

Hard economic times may make membership dues unaffordable and additional contributions elusive.

The key to weathering the financial storm is a balancing act.

The Finance Committee will meet to review the current program com-

pletions as a prelude to revising the 2009-10 budgets, said Oda. "I expect that there very well may be a scaling back of program expenditures, but I am committed to maintain staff levels."

where the "three amigos" — her grandfather and his two best friends Ken Akune and George Fujimori — greet passerbys as docents and share their wartime stories.

"My grandfather has told me that, although he has shared his story numerous times, it never gets easier," she said. "It warms my heart when I see them together at the monument and all the volunteers and wives at the center. There is such a strong sense of camaraderie, hard work, and purpose.

"I as a Yonsei, wish to follow their example." ■

The JACL has weathered financial challenges before and the "staff is experienced in accomplishing program goals with changing resource pools," added Oda. "This experience will be valuable in the coming downturn."

Nationally other nonprofits have been responding to the challenge by launching fundraising appeals earlier.

Many nonprofits depend on year-end donations. AALEAD has shifted its focus to fundraising. Board members have been given lists of the D.C. area's top businesses to solicit. The families they serve deserve a fighting chance, said Chen.

If services from APA nonprofits are threatened, it's difficult for the individuals they serve to turn somewhere else.

"The problem is the stereotype of the model minority," said Narasaki. Many think APAs don't need help. "The need exists." ■

**On the Web**

[www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)  
[www.acrs.org](http://www.acrs.org)  
[www.aalead.org](http://www.aalead.org)

**AUTISM**

(Continued from page 13)

In the APA community, autism is sometimes synonymous with mental retardation, she added. The stigma drives some parents to try to hide the condition rather than ask for help.

"Once a month I receive a call from a parent who is home schooling [their special needs child]," said Anna.

Once, the father of an APA family who refused FCSN support killed his own son and committed suicide.

"It's so heartbreaking," said Anna. "Kids and families suffer if they don't ask for help."

Still, the community's perception of autism and other developmental disorders is much better now. Every year, FCSN and their students march in the local Chinese New Year parade. "We show the Chinese community we are out there."

Many APA parents with special needs children like Sophia have received the message.

"He's made a lot of progress," said Sophia about Kevin. But once in awhile she daydreams about the opportunity to do it all over again. If she could go back, she would seek help earlier.

"I wouldn't wait." ■

**On the Web**

[www.fcsn1996.org](http://www.fcsn1996.org)  
[www.autismvox.com](http://www.autismvox.com)

**ANNE NAMBA DESIGNS**

Hawaii designer, Anne Namba, will present trunk shows of her 2008 FALL / HOLIDAY collection in San Francisco and San Jose, available to view and purchase.

Also, selected items from her Annual Sale will be included for the first time.

Friday, November 21–Sunday, November 23

**SAN FRANCISCO**

Hotel Drisco  
2901 Pacific Ave.  
(corner of Pacific & Broderick Ave.)  
Friday, November 21, 9am–7pm  
Saturday, November 22, 9am–6pm  
(415) 346-2880 / (800) 634-7277  
[www.jdvhotels.com/drisco](http://www.jdvhotels.com/drisco)

**SAN JOSE**

Benefitting the San Jose JACL\*  
The Issei Memorial Building  
565 North 5th St.  
Sunday, November 23, 11am–5pm  
(408) 295-1250  
[info@sanjosejacl.org](mailto:info@sanjosejacl.org)

\*A portion of Sunday's sale will be donated to the JACL.

For more information, contact:  
Anne Namba Designs • 324 Kamanui Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 • (808) 589-1135  
[anne@annenamba.com](mailto:anne@annenamba.com) or [www.annenamba.com](http://www.annenamba.com)