



JACL challenges U.S. detentions.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Voting Power

Asian Pacific Americans make a significant impact in the 2008 elections.

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Nov. 21-Dec. 18, 2008

Equality Lost: Same-sex Marriage is a Civil Rights Issue of the 21st Century

The elections are over, but for many couples the battle has just begun.

By LYNDALIN Assistant Editor

It's been a painful few weeks for Tim Ky and his husband Larry Riesenbach. After California voters reinstated the ban on same-sex marriages, their six-year-old son Aaron asked, "Will you pretend you're not gay?"

"No," Tim responded. "We need to live proudly."

And so the small family from South Pasadena is maintaining a brave front despite their heartbreak. Because long after the new U.S. president takes office and campaign

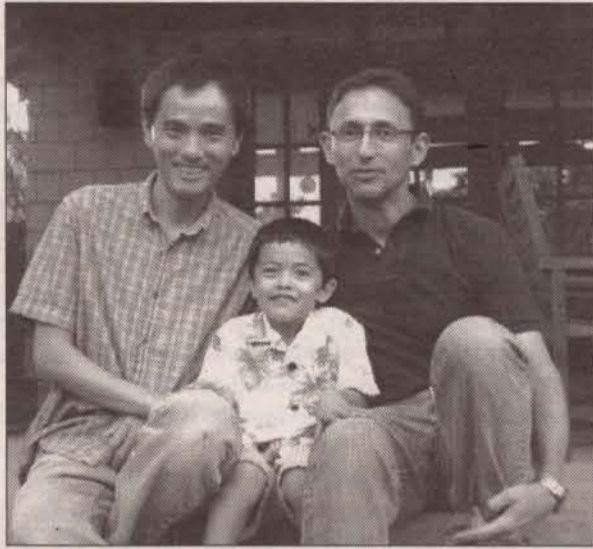


PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

JUST THE THREE OF US: After the elections, Tim Ky (left) and Larry Riesenbach (right) told their son Aaron, 6, to continue living proudly.

workers return to their normal lives, Tim and Larry need to fight on towards an uncertain future.

To illustrate their cause, Aaron's colorful crayon artwork urging people to vote "no" on Proposition 8 still hangs in the front window of their home.

For them and many other same-sex couples, Nov. 4 marked both a major milestone in the fight for equality with the election of the nation's first African American president and a major setback with the passage of Proposition 8 in California and similar constitutional bans in Arizona and Florida.

"It was such a bittersweet moment," said Tim, who is first generation Chinese American. After over 11 years of dating and domestic partnership, Tim and Larry legally married June 17 in a small West

See SAME-SEX MARRIAGE/Page 6

JACL to Continue to Press for Marriage Equality

Following passage of Proposition 8 in California, the JACL has joined with other civil rights groups to submit an amicus brief in support of the Petition for Writ Mandate in the case of Strauss, et al v. Horton, et al.

The Writ requests that the Calif. Supreme Court issue an order invalidating Proposition 8 in its entirety.

As an amicus, JACL supports the petitioners' claim that no Californian should be denied equal protection.

"The JACL supports the invalidation of Proposition 8 because it effectively eliminates the protections of the state's Equal Protection Clause for same-sex couples with regards to their

See MARRIAGE EQUALITY/Page 6

A Love of Science Breeds a Life of Humanity



Dr. Gordon Sato with some of the Eritreans he has helped through his Manzanar Project.

His next project is in Mauritania.

Dr. Gordon Sato has invented a pioneering cancer drug, but much of his life has been dedicated to helping the people of Africa through his Manzanar Project.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM Executive Editor

Ever since he was a child, Dr. Gordon Sato has loved science. He's always believed that science could be used to help people all over the world.

It's a belief he carried with him to the Manzanar Internment Camp, a desolate area near California's Death Valley where he spent two of his teenage years.

At the age of 80 today, Sato is a world-renowned cellular biologist, an inventor of the cancer drug Erbitux. He's also single-handedly helping the impoverished African peoples of Eritrea and Mauritania through his aptly named Manzanar Project.

See MANZANAR PROJECT/Page 12

Philly's Chinatown Fights On To Stop Casino Development

By MIYU KATAOKA Reporter

Many of the marchers held signs that read, "No Casino in Chinatown" and "No Casino." Another sign read, "Foxwoods says: 'You call it an addiction. I call it a customer base.'"

Despite the efforts by several organizations to prevent a slots parlor from being built just blocks away from Chinatown, a Philadelphia City Council committee recently voted unanimously in favor of a zoning change.

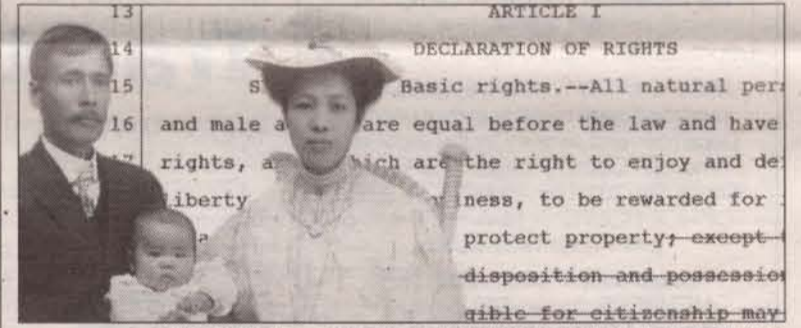
The five-hour hearing ended in outcries by community residents who oppose Foxwoods Casino from building the casino in their community.

"We definitely did not get a fair process," Helen Gym, a board member of Asian Americans United, said. "There was no acknowledgement of Chinatown's opposition to the casino."

Before the hearing, about 600 people, many of them children,

See CASINO/Page 10

Who Killed Florida's Amendment 1?



KAMIYA FAMILY PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MORIKAMI MUSEUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS

The Kamiyas, of the Yamato Colony, are a part of Florida's APA legacy.

In the Sunshine State, the motto 'we'll get them next time' may not be good enough.

By LYNDALIN Assistant Editor

In an election for change, old racism has stayed the same in Florida with the defeat of a ballot initiative that would have ended a legacy of anti-Asian sentiment.

"It would have been an ideal time to close this dark chapter in the nation's history," said Dennis Murasaki, a longtime Miami resident and JACL member. "But it didn't happen."

If passed, Amendment 1 would have removed a 1926 provision from the state's constitution barring Asian immigrants who were once labeled as "aliens ineligible from citizenship" from owning land.

Instead, voters at the Nov. 4 general elections reaffirmed Florida's status as the only state in the nation with a racially discriminatory law of a bygone era still on the books. Amendment 1 failed with 52 percent voting "no" and 48

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

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Q & A

Oscar nominated filmmaker Renee Tajima-Peña talks family and film.

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Tule Lake Bill

JACL urges support of an omnibus bill that would authorize a Tule Lake study.

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COMMENTARY

JACL Investments Decline Inline with Market

By JOSH SPRY

Nat'l JACL Sec./Treasurer



Recent world economic conditions have
sent uncertainty and volatility into the invest-
ment markets. According to the Yahoo!

Finance, the Dow Jones
Industrial Average, a
measure of the value of
30 large American com-
panies, has declined
approximately 30 per-
cent since the end of
2007.

From Dec. 31, 2007,
the Dow has dropped
from 13,264 to 9,336 as of Oct. 31, represent-
ing an approximately 30 percent decline. The
decline in value of financial investments is
impacting not only corporate America, but
nonprofit organizations with money invested
in the market, including the JACL.

Market declines discussed in most head-
lines, describe stock indices, such as the Dow.
The JACL's portfolio includes stocks, but also
includes cash and bonds, which are generally
less volatile than equities. As such, the JACL's
investments have not declined as much as
headline equity indices. In the 10 months end-
ing Oct. 31, 2008, our investments have
declined approximately 24 percent from \$9.4
million to \$7.1 million based on estimated fig-

ures.

The investments held in the JACL portfolio
are based on principals of conservative market
return determined by our Investment Policy,
which is overseen by the Investment Policy
Committee and ultimately the national board.
Our professional money manager has been
directed to invest the organization's funds in a
manner that provides a consistent level of
inflation-protected income over the long-term.
As such, the portfolio consists of cash, equi-
ties, and fixed income in the amounts of 26
percent, 43 percent, and 31 percent respective-
ly.

"At this time, it is the recommendation of
the Investment Policy Committee to continue
to invest conservatively and prudently in the
market under the long-term guidelines estab-
lished in the Investment Policy," said Jeffrey
Hattori, chair of the IPC. "The JACL is fortu-
nate to have IPC members who are well
versed in the market and are dedicated to pro-
tecting our investments during these turbulent
times."

Going forward the IPC and national board
are closely watching our investments and
overall financial position as there are immedi-
ate consequences for our operating budgets for
the current and upcoming years. The IPC is
reviewing the portfolio on a more frequent
basis to monitor market changes and the
national board is taking steps to revise the

budgets for the fiscal year '09 and '10 based
on this review. There are programs that are
dependent on investment income and unless
we can find alternative funding sources, these
may be at risk.

These are extraordinary times, where insti-
tutions are closing because of crises of their
own making. One of the world's oldest invest-
ment banks, Lehman Brothers, closed because
their investments were too speculative, and
large retailers are in great difficulty because
their business models were based on unending
growth.

JACL learned from our 2000-2002 expe-
rience with a declining market and devel-
oped a policy that would protect our invest-
ments in market conditions such as the
world is experiencing now. We acknowl-
edge that our investments are not for imme-
diate use, but for long-term stability. The
decline in the market demands our attention
but is not cause for alarm. Members can be
assured that JACL's investments are in safe
hands. ■

*The JACL Investment Committee mem-
bers include: Jeffrey Hattori, chair; Doug
Urata, secretary; Richard Yada; James
Aoki; Beth Renge; Kenta Takamori;
Floyd Shimomura; non-voting members:
Larry Oda, Josh Spry, Floyd Mori; Clyde
Izumi, staff.*

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tradition!

By FLOYD MORI

One of my favorite movies is "Fiddler on
the Roof." The music is outstanding, and the
acting is superb. And, of course, the storyline
that pits traditional ways
of life against the back-
drop of a changing soci-
ety is a real event in the
lives of all who are part
of the recent immigrant
history in America. We
can all "relate" to this
conflict in so many
aspects of our lives.



Institutionally, we face the same dilemma.
How can we maintain the strong and impor-
tant traditions that made the JACL unique and
a cut above other community-based organiza-
tions while at the same time move forward in
a different kind of society and community than
in the past? Can we rebuke old institutional
barriers to progress and at the same time
embrace new and innovative avenues to
progress and success in our programs? This is
the challenge we face.

In many respects we have begun the process
of change. While we like to see an increase in
the number of units within the JACL, we have
recognized that there is a need for some con-
solidation and realignment of chapters and dis-
tricts. We have moved from the biennial
national convention to an annual convention
which will allow better continuity and more
effective budgeting.

The national board reflects a newer genera-
tion of leaders and we have been able to bring
younger staff members on board with the addi-
tion of a fellowship program that provides for

us the talents of some of the brightest college
minds in the nation. Some of our newer pro-
grams are aimed specifically at the age demo-
graphic that will provide new and fresh leader-
ship in the decades ahead.

So rather than maintaining the status quo,
we are looking forward to the future with new
ideas and new programs in
which our young people and
families can become an integral
part.

With civil and human rights
as our backdrop, we continue
our work to bring equality and
fairness to the laws of our
nation. But the scope of equal-
ity and fairness reaches beyond
our own Japanese American
community and is broader than
what is defined as a right in our Constitution.

Our right to good health and access to health
care is a new initiative where we are seeking
fairness in our institutions. We are supporting
the rights of Filipino veterans and working to
lessen the bigotry against Muslims and Sikhs.

We are working jointly with OCA, NAVASA,
and other Asian American groups in increas-
ing our effectiveness and fund raising capaci-
ty. We are no longer an organization that
works exclusively for and with the JA commu-
nity.

The communications function of JACL
will need a more aggressive
movement towards the
Internet. With new and excit-
ing platforms that have high
use among younger genera-
tions, it will be necessary to
shift towards expanding and
perfecting the use of our Web
site for communicating,
fundraising, and developing
membership. While many are
wedded to the printed media,

more are discovering the limitless opportu-
nity that lies within the reaches of the com-
puter for both individuals and the organiza-
tion.

Change is inevitable, necessary, but can
be positive and beneficial. ■

*'We are no longer
an organization that
works exclusively
for and with the JA
community.'*



Letter to the Editor

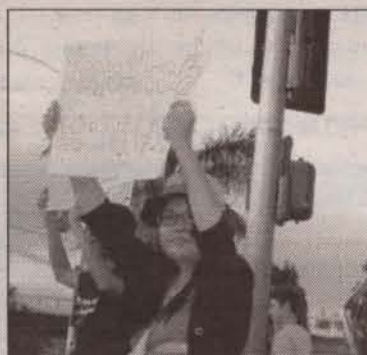


PHOTO: KERRY KANEICHI

Prop. 8 is Unconstitutional

All laws are not fair. All laws are not just, and the
majority isn't always right.

The rights of the minority must be protected, and,
in this country, they are. Where? In the
Constitution with its Bill of Rights.

Prop 8 is neither fair nor just. Prop 8 is unconsti-
tutional. Onward!

MAS HASHIMOTO
WATSONVILLE, CALIF.

Asian Pacific Americans Show Strength in Nov. 4 Elections

Immigration reform is identified as the priority issue under a new administration.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The former silent minority is now entering the most engaged and visible era of its political history.

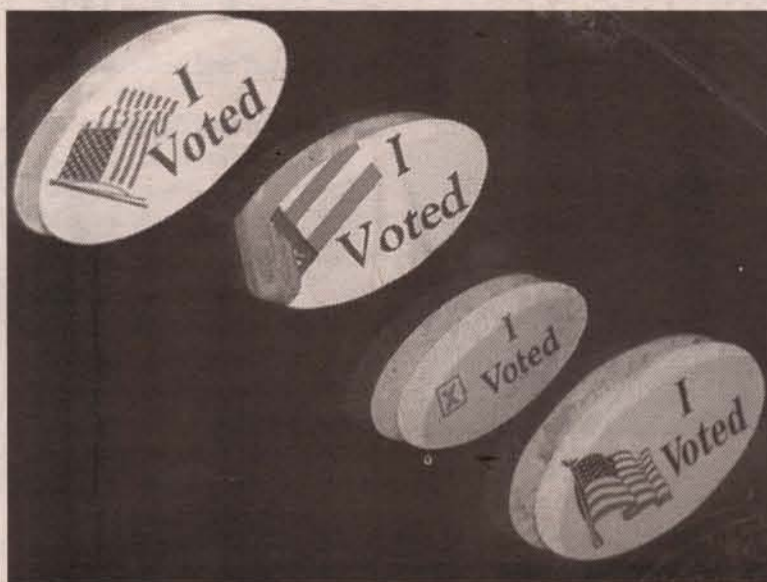
The Nov. 4 elections saw historically high turnout rates of Asian Pacific Americans and other minority communities, according to APIAVote, a national civic participation organization that helped to get out the APA vote in 14 states.

In the presidential elections, a national poll revealed that 62 percent of APAs voted for Sen. Barack Obama, and 35 percent voted for Sen. John McCain.

Civil rights groups across the nation have been weighing in heavily on the impact of the historic election.

"The election of Senator Obama brings ethnic minorities a step closer to the time when people can be looked upon as equals," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori in a statement congratulating Obama and thanking McCain for his "many years of dedicated service to this country."

The number of APAs in the U.S. 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 APA population has a college degree, compared with 25 percent of the U.S. population.

APAs also have the highest naturalization rate among minority groups.

"Asian Americans around the country loudly and clearly raised their voices via the ballot box," Stewart H. Kwok, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, said.

Not only did more APAs flex their

political muscle at the ballot box, but also more APAs leaders have made history in their ascension to political office.

In Irvine, Calif., voters elected their first nonwhite mayor, a first generation Korean American who credits his success in part to knocking on 10,000 doors. Sukhee Kang, 56, served two terms as city councilman before he became one of the very few Korean American mayors in the U.S.

In the nearby city of Placentia, 19-year-old Jeremy Yamaguchi has become the youngest elected official in the country's history. The son of a police officer and political science

major at California State University, Fullerton was elected to the city council.

And in Ohio, Steve Austria, who is of Filipino descent, became Ohio's first APA representative in Congress, taking the total number to 10.

In this election cycle, 12 APAs ran for Congress and over 50 ran for state offices throughout the country, according to the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

"I was honored to be part of this historic campaign of both thought and action," Rep. Mike Honda, CAPAC chair, said.

Honda, along with Reps. Doris Matsui and Curtis Oda, were re-elected to their seats in the House of Representatives.

With this emerging political power, APA community leaders say this is only the beginning of civic engagement.

"We as a community now face the tasks ahead of working with a new administration and Congress, and ensuring that APA concerns and policy issues are included in the agenda moving forward," Eunsook Lee, APIAVote board co-chair, said.

APA civil rights groups say the next big challenge is immigration reform. Nearly two-thirds of APAs are immigrants, so reform is a priority. APA groups will be urging the

new administration to enact immigration policies that promote family unity.

"Most of the Asian American community immigrates through the family immigration system, and one of the priorities we will push in a new Congress and new administration includes resolving family visa backlogs so that someone is not waiting over 20 years to be reunited with his or her sister," Tuyet Le, executive director of Asian American Institute of Chicago, said.

APAs in Election '08

APAs are flexing their power in many key political offices. Here is a snapshot of some APAs leaders who were (re)elected to office in this election cycle.*

Mazie Hirono — U.S. House, District 2, Hawaii
Mike Honda — U.S. House, District 14, Calif.
Doris Matsui — U.S. House, District 5, Calif.
Curtis Oda — state House, District 14, Utah
Warren T. Furutani — Calif. Assembly, 55th District

* Not a complete listing.

JACL Urges for Passage of Tule Lake Study Bill

Lawmakers are expected to take up the issue in the Congressional lame-duck session.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In one of the first moves in of a Congressional lame-duck session, lawmakers are expected to vote on an omnibus land bill that includes the Tule Lake study provision to make the former World War II internment camp a part of the National Park system.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 contains many bills to support National Park Service activities across the United States. Among them is a section which would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a special resources study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Tule Lake Segregation Center as a unit of the NPS.

"Along with other groups, the JACL supports the study authorization for the Tule Lake segregation center in California," JACL National Director Floyd Mori said in a Nov. 11 letter to Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii.

Congress returned Nov. 17 for its



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENSHO

lame-duck session to take up discussion on the stalling economy. Proponents of the measure say lawmakers are expected to call for a cloture on the bill to end debate and vote.

Days before Congress went into session, the JACL called on its members and supporters to contact their senators to urge for support on the bill and Tule Lake study.

"The internment camps of World War II, which unjustly housed Japanese Americans who were uprooted from their homes, constitute a sad part of our nation's history," Mori said in the same statement.

Tule Lake in Northern California was unique among the 10 War Relocation Authority camps because it was where the WRA and Army chose to segregate the 12,000 JAs

who protested their incarceration.

In 2006, the Tule Lake Segregation Center was designated as a National Historic Landmark, the nation's highest honor to a historic site. The designation was the first step towards the development of a visitor's center to preserve and interpret the history of JAs incarcerated during WWII.

This NPS study will be the next crucial step in the preservation of the historic site. The omnibus bill is a bipartisan proposal. President George W. Bush has indicated that he would sign it if Congress passes it. But if Congress does not, negotiations will have to start all over again.

"The preservation of the camps provides a needed reminder of the civil liberties which were violated at the time. It is something that must never happen again," Mori said. ■

JACL Joins Amicus Brief Challenging U.S. Detention

The JACL has offered its support of an amicus brief in *Iqbal v. Ashcroft*, an important civil rights case challenging the U.S. government's post-9/11 unlawful detention and mistreatment of Arab and Muslim men.

Citing a common history of discrimination during World War II when Japanese Americans were denied their Constitutional rights and incarcerated in desolate internment camps, the JACL continues to work to safeguard the civil rights of all persons within the U.S.

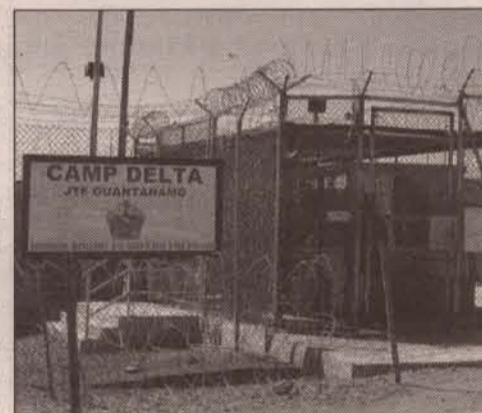
The lawsuit was brought by Javaid Iqbal, a Pakistani Muslim who said he was mistreated in a federal prison and classified as a "person of interest" because of his race and religion. He said he was continually beaten, subject to extreme temperatures and daily body-cavity searches without any evidence of ties to terrorism.

Iqbal was deported on unrelated identity theft violations, but was never found to have engaged in terrorism-related activity.

According to a recent national report, thousands of Muslims were the subjects of "preventative detention" after 9/11 where they were held by federal officials until cleared of any wrongdoing.

The brief maintains that national security is not a sufficient basis for targeting a group for preventative detention based on race or religion.

JAs during WWII were never charged with crimes against their own government, so the "perspective of history in the World War II case should serve as a lesson to those who sit in judgment during times of crisis in today's world," JACL National Director Floyd Mori said in a statement. ■



Work Starts on New Pearl Harbor Visitor's Center

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press Writer

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Aging, frail survivors of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor gingerly sifted dirt as they helped to break ground on a new visitor's center for the USS Arizona Memorial.

The current visitor's center — across the harbor from the submerged battleship — is sinking because it was built on reclaimed land, causing water to seep into its basement. Engineers estimate the building will last only a few more years.

The center is where visitors board ferries taking them to the white memorial straddling the sunken hull of the Arizona. It's also where they learn about the attack through exhibits and films, making it vital for conveying the history of the day that launched the United States into World War II.

The National Park Service, which runs the memorial, and the Arizona Memorial Museum Association, which supports it, have spearheaded the effort to build a replacement visitor's center so they can continue to tell the story of Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, a World War II veteran, told the several hundred people gathered for the groundbreaking Nov. 5 that walking through the visitor's center exposes people to the devastation and despair Americans felt during the attack.

It also instills in them unwavering



resolve, he said.

"We must always remember our history. While there were painful lessons learned, it is also the source of our inner strength and our spirit," Inouye said. "We must never allow that torch to flicker out."

Inouye, 84, witnessed Japanese fighter planes flying over Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941, when he was a 17-year-old high school student living in Honolulu. He served as a first-aid volunteer, helping to treat civilians wounded when misfired U.S. anti-aircraft shells fell on homes and businesses.

In 1943, he joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a highly decorated unit of mostly Japanese Americans. In 2000, President Clinton presented him with the Medal of Honor.

Herb Weatherwax, a 91-year-old attack survivor, said the new visitor's center would help survivors and the park service tell the story of the attack. "I just hope that I live long enough for it," he said.

The building is due to be completed by December 2010.

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund has raised nearly \$54 million of the estimated \$58 million cost of the center. Donations from individuals will cover more than \$22 million of it, while the federal government is putting up \$29.6 million and the state of Hawaii is paying \$2 million.

The current center, built in 1980, was designed to accommodate about 2,000 visitors a day. But more than 4,000 people have been visiting daily on average since the 1980s, straining its resources.

The Arizona sank nine minutes after being hit by an aerial bomb dropped by a Japanese plane. It is an underwater grave for more than 1,000 sailors and Marines who were unable to escape. ■

On the Net:

USS Arizona Memorial:
<http://www.nps.gov/usar/>
Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund:
<http://www.pearlharbormemorial.com/>

Major Study of Chinese Americans Debunks 'Model Minority' Myth

Chinese Americans, one of the most highly educated groups in the nation, are confronted by a "glass ceiling," unable to realize full occupational stature and success to match their efforts, concludes a new study from the University of Maryland.

The returns on Chinese Americans' investment in education and "sweat equity" are "generally lower than those in the general and non-Hispanic White population," says the report, "A Chinese American Portrait". It adds that, on average, Chinese American professionals in the legal and medical fields earn as much as 44 percent less than their White counterparts.

Based on extensive U.S. Census data and independent interviews, the study offers the most comprehensive and current portrait of the highly diverse Chinese American population.

The research was conducted by the University of Maryland's Asian American Studies Program with support from OCA, a national community-based organization of Asian Pacific Americans. The data in the



report goes through 2006, the latest available.

"Contrary to popular beliefs, Chinese Americans often face extra barriers to economic success, despite their educational achievements," says principal investigator Larry H. Shinagawa, a demographer and Americans Studies professor who directs the University of Maryland AA Studies Program.

"Time and hard work simply haven't been enough for Chinese Americans to fully enter into mainstream social and professional circles," Shinagawa adds. "I suspect there are many reasons such as language barriers or simply the difficulties that go along with being identified as an 'outsider.'"

"In the long run, increasing mentoring efforts and leadership opportunities can enhance the Chinese American community."

Yet this is only half the story. As Shinagawa points out, the Chinese American community is characterized by extreme diversity. It is split nearly 50-50 between poorly educated recent immigrants from China and a more settled, acculturated, educated and prosperous group of older immigrants and second generation Americans. These earlier arrivals came mainly from Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"It makes for a rather bi-polar picture of wealth and poverty, high and low education levels, white and blue collars," Shinagawa says. "It's a pattern you expect to see after a wave of immigration. But in this case, the long-term settled population has yet to achieve full equal treatment." ■

The full text of "A Portrait of Chinese Americans" is available online at:
<http://www.aast.umd.edu/ocaportrait.html>

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Hate Crimes Against APAs on the Rise

WASHINGTON—The FBI's annual hate crimes report shows that violence against APAs and other minority groups has increased since the previous year.

The report, "Hate Crime Statistics 2007," contains data from the largest number of law enforcement agencies in the program's 17-year history. But many hate crimes may not be included in the FBI's statistics. Some law enforcement agencies choose not to report their crime statistics to the FBI.

Civil rights advocates say that the FBI's statistics make a strong case for passing the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act, which will improve both hate crime reporting and anti-hate crime enforcement.

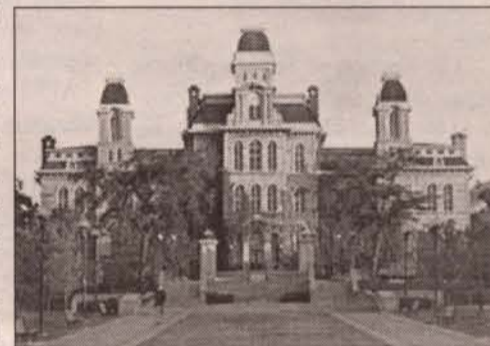


SU Takes Steps Toward Asian Studies Minor

NEW YORK—After 10 years of fighting for Asian American Studies, Syracuse University students are one step closer to realizing their dream. A committee set up to make the program a reality has been established.

The committee, set up last semester, has gained faculty support and created an official name for the proposal: Transnational Asian Studies Program.

The ultimate goal is to create a Transnational Asian Studies minor. The committee hopes to officially propose the program next fall to enroll students in the program for the first time in 2010.



N.Y. Muslim Deli Owner Says Police Targeted Her Business

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—A deli owner in suburban New York says police targeted her business for harassment because she is a Muslim and an Arab.

Haifi Tamimi filed a federal civil rights lawsuit accusing the city of Yonkers and 14 of its police officers of targeting her downtown deli by selectively enforcing a local ordinance requiring businesses to close between midnight and 6 a.m. She claims the officers told her Muslims did not contribute to the city.

She also claims much of the harassment was directed at her following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Yonkers City Counsel Frank Rubino said he was unable to comment on the lawsuit because the city had not yet been served with the complaint.

Colorado Rejects Ballot Measure to Ban Affirmative Action



DENVER—Colorado became the first state to defeat a referendum that would bar affirmative action programs based on race, gender and national origin in public college admissions and financial aid decisions.

Two days after the general election, officials finally reported that Colorado voters rejected the ballot measure by a razor-thin margin.

Similar measures were passed in Michigan, California and Washington in recent years. Nebraska voters also approved the ban on Nov. 4.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, many higher education officials in Colorado and Nebraska opposed the proposals — a ban on affirmative action programs would force institutions to significantly alter their admissions operations. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Inouye to Chair Key Senate Committee



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye will become chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Hawaii Democrat will take over in January when the new Congress convenes.

U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., stepped down as chairman and recommended Inouye, who was in line for the post by seniority. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., confirmed Inouye as the new chairman.

The committee, the largest in the Senate, is responsible for the 13 annual appropriations bills that pay for government operations. Inouye is currently the chairman of the panel's defense subcommittee.

Democrats Laud County Chairwoman with Statewide 'Maggie' Award

Terri Nomura, a Democratic Party chairwoman of Washington's Jefferson County, has received the Warren G. Magnuson Award as the state's county party chairperson of the year.

Nomura was recognized for making the party stronger in each of her two years as chair.

The "Maggie" awards are named for Sen. Warren Grant "Maggie" Magnuson, who represented Washington State from 1944 until 1981.

Mitsudo-Koide Receives Award for Medical Service

Dr. Sumi Mitsudo-Koide, an active JACler and past president of the New York chapter, was presented with a Special Honoree Award sponsored by the staff and alumni association of New York's Montefiore Medical Center.

Mitsudo-Koide served as attending pathologist at Montefiore, Bellevue and Morrisania Hospitals. She was also on the faculty of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

As a teenager during WWII, she was confined at the Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho. Upon release, she attended Swarthmore College the Women's Medical College and received specialty training in pathology at Temple University.

Takechi Elected to Omaha Education Board

Richard Takechi, Omaha JACL chapter president, was elected to a new metro area education board.

Takechi brings elected experience from the Omaha City Council to the learning community.

The Nebraska Legislature formed the learning community to settle school district boundary fights that sparked in 2005. The learning community will force the 11 metro-area districts to cooperate, share funding and operate under a voluntary school integration plan.

Hada is Appointed Denver County Judge



Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper has appointed Kerry Steven Hada as Denver County Court judge.

Hada, a private practice attorney, has more than 20 years of experience in law. He also served as an Airborne Ranger infantry officer with the U.S. Army from 1971-1974. He is a founding member and past president of both the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado and the Minoru Yasui American Inn of Court.

Hada's appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Melvin Okamoto.

Tsuji, Yamashita Receive City Proclamation

Los Angeles Councilwoman Jan Perry recently presented two proclamations on behalf of the city of Los Angeles to honor Isami "Mike" Tsuji and Junwo "Jim" Yamashita, founding members of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance.

Tsuji was recognized for donating his time and effort to design and oversee the WWII KIA monument in Little Tokyo. Yamashita was honored for his work in developing the "Echoes of Silence" CD ROM and Web site: www.ajawarvets.org.

\$1,000,000 Approved for MIS Historic Site at NPS Presidio of S.F.

A November 22 event at the park will celebrate the project's progress.

Legislation has been signed into law by the President that provides \$1,000,000 for the support of a Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center in the Presidio of San Francisco.

The provision was included in an omnibus bill to continue funding from the federal government until next spring at the request of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. and Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif. Senator Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, was also credited with supporting the funding.

"As Americans, this is a proud day for us to have the public support for this important story to be told," said Ken Kawaichi, president of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), the organization that will oversee the Center. "... our goal is now within reach of preserving a significant but overlooked part of American history."

The Center will be established at the actual historic site of the original MIS Language School, an unused airplane hangar (also known as Building 640), at West Crissy Field in the Presidio. When completed, the Center will offer a permanent exhibition and public programs. The permanent exhibition will include a recreated classroom and a mission map room that illuminates the historic achievements of the MIS.

"The heroic service of the MIS stands as an enduring counterpoint to this WWII injustice," said Rosalyn Tonai, NJAHS executive director. "Our hope is to tell the whole story, so that the lessons learned of war and peace can be told through the lenses of the people who



Building 640 was the first home for the MIS language school.

lived it."

More than 6,000 MIS participants served during the War, mostly in the Pacific, participating in every major campaign. They provided vital intelligence that saved countless Allied lives, hastening the end of the war and collectively earning them a Presidential Unit Citation. Later, they played a crucial role during the Occupation of Japan, helping rebuild that country and playing a key role in strengthening the close U.S.-Japan bi-lateral relations that endures to this day.

"MIS Language School graduates employed their linguistic skills and intimate knowledge of Japanese culture to help turn a defeated nation into the U.S.'s strongest ally today," said Col. (Retired) Harry Fukuhara, 86, a leading MIS veteran active in the campaign to restore Building 640. "This important historic fact is one facet of a complex MIS legacy that will forever be preserved and celebrated at the new Center."

To celebrate the project's progress, NJAHS and the National Park Service/Golden Gate National Recreation Area will hold a Return and Remembrance: Japanese American Experience @ the Presidio — A Commemorative Park

Partner Ceremony at the historic site of the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Presidio Building 640 near Crissy Field West in San Francisco on Nov. 22 from 10:30 am to 12 pm. At 12:30 pm at the Crissy Field Center will be a theatrical reading of the play "Betrayed" by award-winning author and playwright Hiroshi Kashiwagi.

This event is part of the partners' efforts to build public awareness for the MIS story and to raise the funds necessary in the community to help leverage the federal appropriations and complete the project by 2011. This appropriation brings the total raised for the project to \$3.58 million of an estimated \$6 million needed for completion. ■

What: "Return and Remembrance: Japanese American Experience @ the Presidio — A Commemorative Park Partner Ceremony"

Where: Presidio Building 640 near Crissy Field West in San Francisco

When: Nov. 22, 10:30 am to 12 pm

Also: 12:30 pm, at Crissy Field Center, reading of "Betrayed" by award-winning author and playwright Hiroshi Kashiwagi

Fund-raiser to Benefit Campaign For Justice

The San Francisco JACL is sponsoring a spaghetti crab feed fund-raiser to benefit the Campaign For Justice's mission to secure proper redress for former World War II Japanese Latin American internees.

The Dec. 6 event will take place at San Francisco's Christ United Presbyterian Church.

"While we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) are still waiting for recognition of the wrong perpetrated on them by our government. We wanted to draw attention to their work and to provide some financial assistance to their work," said Hiroshi Shimizu, San Francisco JACL chapter president.

In July, a scheduled House Judiciary Committee hearing to review HR 662, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, was canceled.

The bill would have established a commission to investigate and make appropriate recommendations on the WWII abduction and internment of over 2,200 persons of Japanese ancestry from 13 Latin American countries by the U.S. government.

"We were disappointed to learn that the commission bill was canceled at the last minute and no date has been set for it to be heard and voted on," said Shimizu.

The Campaign for Justice also works to educate the public about

the wartime and redress experiences of JLAs. ■

Eat for a Good Cause

San Francisco JACL Crab Feed

Dec. 6 from 5-8 p.m.
Christ United Presbyterian Church
1700 Sutter St., San Francisco
Advance tickets are \$20; \$10 for children 12 and under; ticket prices at the door will be \$30. Tickets may be picked up at the Paper Tree store, 1737 Buchanan Mall, in San Francisco's Japantown.

Due to their popularity last year, prawns will be a part of the menu!

For more information, call Greg Marutani at 415/641-1697 or e-mail sfjaci@yahoo.com.

What Now? APA Community Grapples With Same-sex Marriage Ban



PHOTO: SYLVIA TAN



'And whose rights are next up on the ballot?'

— Larry Riesenbach, who married Tim Ky (right) in a June 17 ceremony officiated by Paul Arevalo, city manager of West Hollywood, Calif., and attended by family members and their six-year-old son Aaron (left).

(Continued from page 1)

Hollywood ceremony.

For the first time, he was able to call Larry his husband. No matter what happens, Tim says he'll never stop.

"He is my husband."

But with their marriage status in limbo, what happens now? Across the U.S., rallies and vigils continue to take place like spontaneous outbursts of emotions. Lawsuits have been filed and a child's political artwork continues to stay up like an act of defiance when all other campaign signs have been taken down.

It's a fight for equality that cuts across all racial and socioeconomic borders, and many say it has only just begun.

"I believe that same-sex marriage will be one of the key civil rights issues of the 21st century," said Ted Namba, civil rights chair of the Arizona JACL.

APAs in the Divide

"About 400,000 votes divided us," said Jennifer Pizer about the difference between the "no" and "yes" votes on Proposition 8. "We came close. We fell short and that is heart-breaking."

Despite the defeat, the senior counsel for Lambda Legal — a national legal organization that advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community — says she sees this measure as an example of steady progress. In 2000 Proposition 22, a similar measure to ban gay marriage in California, passed with a higher percentage.

"I see the celebration of love and

marriage over the past five months as providing a positive education to the rest of the country," said Pizer.

In May, the Calif. Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage led to as many as 18,000 such marriages. Because of Proposition 8, these unions may be challenged in court.

But gay rights advocates say at the very least people are talking about marriage equality.

"It's hard to find someone in California who doesn't know about Prop. 8," said Karin Wang, vice president of programs for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

About 54 percent of APA voters surveyed by APALC in L.A. County supported Prop. 8, said Wang. Young APAs — between the ages of 18 to 35 — and fluent English speakers strongly opposed the measure. The challenge was with the higher population of first generation APAs, which anti-gay marriage groups targeted with high concentrations of in-language media ads.

The lesson here is that younger people are good on this issue, said Wang. "They get it. That's the silver lining. It's just a matter of time before justice will prevail."

On Nov. 14, civil rights groups including APALC filed a petition with the Calif. Supreme Court to stop the enactment of Proposition 8 on the grounds that, among other things, it would mandate discrimination against a minority group.

The court has invalidated a voter initiative before, according to APALC. In 1990, it overruled an initiative that would have stripped the

courts of their role as independent interpreters of the state's constitution.

"Should it be so simple to take away rights from a minority with a popular vote?" said Wang, who cited antisegregation laws as examples of a majority population discriminating against another minority group — APAs.

The last of the antisegregation laws was overturned with *Loving v. Virginia*, the 1967 landmark case, for which then civil rights advocate William M. Marutani argued the cause for the JACL by special leave of the court.

"To me, Prop. 8 is an attempt to marginalize people based on who they are not what they've done," said Rev. Mark Nakagawa of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. "It's consistent with all other race-based laws made to exclude someone."

Beyond California

In the fight for marriage equality, most of the resources came to California even though two other states had similar constitutional bans on their Nov. 4 ballots.

"We really wanted to win here," said Wang.

Arizona's Proposition 102, which bans same-sex marriage, passed and drew the most votes of all the state ballot measures.

"I believe that generally Arizona APAs support same-sex marriage," said Namba, whose 19-year-old daughter Lauren voted for the first time in the recent elections and contributed to the growing strength of the state's APA and youth vote.

"Many APAs understand that it was not that long ago that APAs were not allowed to marry who they wanted because of the color of their skin. For this reason, many APAs tend to fight for the rights of others," said Namba, who also pointed out that the city of Tempe, which has a large student population was strongly opposed to Proposition 102.

"Perhaps our younger voters have the correct vision on this same-sex marriage issue?"

In Florida where Amendment 1, a constitutional change that would have struck the anti-Asian Alien Land Law from the books, failed to get the 60 percent benchmark to pass. But Amendment 2, barring same-sex marriage, passed.

And in Arkansas, voters passed a measure aimed at barring gay couples from adopting.

"I see that coming down the pipe. It's a sad, sad thing," said Tim.

"And whose rights are next up on the ballot?" said Larry.

Moving Forward

After the elections, controversial exit polls showed that African Americans and Latinos strongly supported Proposition 8. But many gay rights proponents say these polls are not always accurate.

"It's too easy to find a scapegoat," said Wang.

Many like Tim and Larry, are trying to put their anger aside and work on broadening coalitions. They told their son Aaron that the civil rights movement took many steps forward and backwards. And now Barack Obama is president-elect.

"Our side also needs to do a much more effective job of communicat-

ing that this is about civil marriage and nothing else," said Riesenbach.

Henry Kameya, whose daughter is gay, agrees.

"Sexual orientation is not a choice," said the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter member. "As long as we are aware that some Asian Pacific Islander gays contemplate suicide because they lose hope of being understood by the API community, we feel a sense of urgency in our advocacy work."

Reports of churches overwhelmingly supporting a gay marriage ban don't show the full picture either. Shortly before the elections, APA religious leaders held a press conference in Little Tokyo to express support for same-sex marriage. Among them was Nakagawa, a Sansei.

"The Bible does not end with the last page of the book," said Nakagawa, about the strand of theology that says people have to continually be open to God's revelations to the world.

"You can read the Bible literally or seriously. I choose to read it seriously," he said.

He recently officiated a same-sex wedding between two Sansei women. It was the same type of ceremony as all of the other weddings he has performed except for a few changes of words here and there. What surprised him was the outpouring of support from community members. About 200 people were there to celebrate love.

"There would've been more if they could've fit." ■

On the Web:

www.jacl.org, www.apalc.org, www.lambdalegal.org

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

(Continued from page 1)

fundamental right to marry," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

Proposition 8, which passed in the Nov. 4 elections, would change the state constitution to identify "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

In the past, JACL has been a strong supporter of marriage equality. In 1967, the JACL was an amicus in the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Loving v. Virginia*, the seminal case that struck down antisegregation laws in 17 states.

"We have not forgotten that as Asian Americans, we, too, were once the victims of marriage discrimination in this country. Racism was the motivating factor back then, and it is incumbent upon us to be vigilant and not allow homophobia to guide our laws today," said Oda.

The passage of Proposition 8 overruled portions of the *In re Marriage Cases* where the Calif. Supreme Court held that statutes precluding same-sex marriage were unconstitutional.

The JACL, in 1994, was one of the first civil rights groups in the nation to affirm its support for marriage equality. The organization stated in a resolution that marriage equality "was a constitutional right that should not be denied because of a person's sexual orientation."

"The JACL has always worked for maintaining the Equal Protection Clause of the constitution," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "Any union of a couple that is based on love, mutual respect, sacrifice, and lifetime commitment should be afforded the same legal rights and process regardless of what the union is called by institutions within our society."

"Who one chooses to love and marry should be an individual and personal choice, not one limited by illegal and discriminatory laws," said Ron Katsuyama, JACL vice president for public affairs. ■



Rita Takahashi Reflects On Her Role on the JACL's LEC

By KATHY AOKI
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Rita Takahashi knows fighting for what she believes in is important.

"I always believed in Redress but I didn't know how long it would take to achieve this," she said.

Takahashi was the associate director of the JACL's Legislative Education Committee (LEC) from 1987 to 1989.



LEC was formed in the 1980s to do lobbying for JACL and was responsible for working on Redress legislation and protecting the organization's tax-exempt status.

Denny Yasuhara, former national JACL president, spoke to Takahashi about LEC while she was teaching at Eastern Washington University. She had an interest in the internment since her mother spent time in Rohwer, Arkansas, during World War II. Takahashi recalled traveling through Arkansas with her parents and how her mother commented about her camp experience.

At JACL's national convention in 1978, a resolution was passed to ask for reparations of \$25,000 for each surviving internee and an apology from the government to help correct the wrong.

President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that gave reparations of \$20,000 to each surviving internee and an apology signed by him.

Takahashi credits individuals including Clifford Uyeda, former national JACL president, Colleen Darling, former associate director who worked on JACL's Redress Program and Senators Spark Matsunaga and Daniel Inouye from Hawaii as being key players.

"Clifford Uyeda had much vision and Colleen's work on the Hill with the members of Congress was invaluable," Takahashi said, who also acknowledged Joanne Kagiwada, a former executive director of LEC, who played an important role in seeing the former internees receive their redress and reparations. "The members of the LEC worked toward a common goal of Redress."

During the time Takahashi served as the associate director of LEC, she was also JACL's Washington, D.C. representative from 1988 to 1989. Her two jobs had her attending numerous meetings, workshops, fundraisers, giving presentations besides working on Redress legislation and trying to get congressional support.

"When I first went to Washington, D.C. I never expected to stay as long



RITA TAKAHASHI

'No one person can take credit for Redress happening.'

as I did," she said. "I thought it would only be for a short time."

Takahashi currently works as the director and a professor at San Francisco State University's School of Social Work. She is a life member of JACL and a former chapter president of the Berkeley JACL.

Significant events that led up to Redress include President Jimmy Carter signing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment Act in 1980 and The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment

of Civilians hearings with former internees giving testimonies in 1981.

The Commission's findings in their 1982 report, "Personal Justice Denied," said the internment was based on race prejudice, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership.

Jim Wright, Majority Leader in the House of Representatives, introduced the first Redress bill, H.R. 4110, in 1983 followed by Sen. Matsunaga's companion bill, S. 2116, in the Senate. Subcommittee hearings on these two bills began in 1984. A year later the Redress legislation was re-introduced in Congress. The House of Representatives passed the Civil Liberties Act H.R. 442 on Sept. 17, 1987.

Takahashi said the fundraising committee led by Harry Kagiwada did an outstanding job raising \$700,000. She commented that having congressional support is important but it also takes money to get things done.

It was emotional for Takahashi to witness the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President

Reagan because she knew many internees had already passed away and would never receive their apology or reparation checks.

After the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was signed the JACL-LEC board voted to keep LEC running for two years and have the responsibilities of "overseeing the reparations process." They would have a full-time executive director and secretary working in their D.C. office.

Takahashi appreciates the opportunity to be involved in LEC, but she also realizes what it takes for something monumental like this to happen.

"No one person can take credit for Redress happening," she said. "This was a tremendous effort that involved building coalitions with other community groups besides receiving support from JACL members, congressional leaders and so many people. We must be appreciative and thankful to everyone involved in helping us achieve Redress." ■

Kathy Aoki is a Contra Costa JACL member.

COMMENTARY

Why I Care

By BRANDON MITA

As students and young professionals we seem to already have our lives mapped out. Additionally, as Japanese Americans we are extremely goal-driven. We know we all want that cute townhouse adjacent to Georgetown University, the high-priced 9 to 5 corporate job on K Street and the latest Range Rover that will withstand those crazy ice storms that cause numerous cars to go sliding down Connecticut Avenue.



So why care about anything else outside of the master plan? Why care about anything pertaining to people of color, or even other Asian Americans?

For me, I care because I walk the streets of Chicago, San Francisco or right here in our nation's capital, and I see two completely different worlds. More than that, when I look into a mother's eyes as she tells me that she does not have enough money to buy milk for her three-year-old son, to the close friends who come to me in tears because their lockers have been vandalized with

the words "Chink—JAP," I realize that the struggle of others must become my struggle.

It becomes my struggle when a close high school friend cannot attend college because her parents' immigration status would place them all in jeopardy of deportation. It becomes my struggle when hundreds of thousands of people who look like me are imprisoned without rights to a fair trial or without a meaningful reason.

It is my struggle because I care. I care because to care means that I am human.

As students and young professionals, we embody the future of the JACL and America. Sure, we can choose to go about our lives caring about things that are only important to our immediate needs. However, as JAs, we have the ability and the knowledge to inspire change.

We have the tools to help those that desperately need it. We have the creativity to be social engineers. And we only need to care. ■

Brandon Mita is the JACL national youth representative and has been the D.C. chapter youth chair and the JACL Eastern District Council youth chair. He is a second year law student at Howard University.

If you are interested in contacting Brandon about creating Student/Young Professional initiatives, contact him via email at: brandonrobertmita@gmail.com.



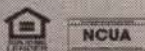
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[PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN]

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

Green Peace?

Hello, my name is Peter and I do not own a car.

Okay, living in Manhattan, maybe that is not such a huge confession. Living in a large metropolitan area illuminates the best and worst of living a green lifestyle.

On the one hand, public transportation is simple and convenient to use with subway vehicles that harness the friction of braking at every stop to produce energy. On the other hand, a toasted bagel with two eggs, cheese and bacon at any given deli or street vendor will cost you one paper wrap, one paper lunch bag, three napkins and a plastic bag.

Was it Kermit the Frog that sang, "It's not easy being green"?

Going green seems to be the latest and easiest trend. It's like the new black. But unlike parachute pants and slap bracelets, this is one fad that I don't think is going away anytime soon.

Over the summer, when the presidential campaigns were in high gear with politicians promising the clouds in the sky and oil was pushing over \$150 a barrel, it was really easy to get on the green train to _____ (fill in the blank).

We were promised domestic/national security, economic security, environmental security, job security, and the list went on and on. Just about any ill that ailed society could be fixed by greening. I even read about inner city schools that have gardens for students to tend and learn many life lessons.

Going green seems to be the latest and easiest trend. It's like the new black.

If I sound cynical, let me emphatically state that I fully endorse the green movement. I do honestly believe much good will come from a "Green Collar" economy. There are so many areas of innovation that are ripe for the plucking.

Recently, I was hungry and broke so I attended a Lunch 'n Learn, one of my favorite things in dental school. The idea is simple: food is provided while a lecture is presented. It has become a standard forum to disseminate information to the student body or select student groups outside of the rigid curriculum.

This particular Lunch 'n Learn featured Jeremy Mao, one of Columbia Dental School's foremost stem cell researchers. I have heard Dr. Mao speak about his work before, but it always strikes me as incredibly futuristic and progressive. He and his colleagues successfully cloned a jaw joint of a mouse using a stem cell line and a biocompatible template.

Think about what this means in the human world. Imagine a world where a person in need of a hip replacement or shoulder surgery can donate stem cells from their skin or bone and create new joint with the very same DNA, cells, and makeup as the previous joint. This type of world would be amazing and renewable.

There is a magnitude of empowerment that accompanies discovery. I cannot help but see the renewing force of stem cell research as a metaphor for the greatly needed "renewable" solutions that we need.

From the early days of patents, Americans have thrived at inventions and discoveries. We must continue in that tradition.

Much of the power structure of the next century will be determined by who can leverage technology the best, fastest and cheapest. With China and India producing a vastly increasing number of engineers each year, we desperately need to kick start our research and development, particularly in green technology.

So as we end another calendar year, pat ourselves on our backs for a great election victory, we must not forget the flowing oratory of President-Elect Obama's campaign and demand production from his promises.

Because, at this time in this country, too much depends on going green. ■

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



[HARRY HONDA]

VERY TRULY YOURS

And About Issei Pioneers in Alaska

WITH SO MUCH political play about Alaska the past several months, plus getting a photograph with Japanese characters inscribed on a wooden pole at the cemetery in Skagway for, no doubt, a sourdough who died sometime in 1900, invites us to spin some tales of Issei pioneers of Alaska. The photo came from Mas and Marcia Hashimoto of Watsonville after their recent cruise to Alaska.

My Japan-born friends who helped in reading the characters were surprised to read Nakano Densaburo (the name on the pole) had died in Alaska.

Our tales are gleaned from two sources: Tooru Kanazawa's "Sushi and Sourdough" (1989) and Kazuo Ito's "Hyakunen Sakura" (1968), translated by Shinichiro Nakamura, and Jean S. Gerard: "Issei, a History of Japanese Immigrants in North America" (1973).

Jujiro Wada [1872-1937], perhaps the most fabulous, was a Klondike prospector, the musher who initiated the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail from Seward to Nome, lived with Eskimos in Kotzebue, and was renowned as a superman who won long-distance races in Nome, Fairbanks and Dawson, where the Klondike gold rush began in 1896.

One was a 50-mile race he won in March 1907 in 7 hours, 49 minutes, 10 seconds in Nome Eagles Hall, as reported in a newspaper for posterity, carrying an American flag in his hand the last two laps, believing he was an American citizen, an honor conferred on him by the governor of Alaska.

Mogasaburo Sakamoto, a postwar resident in Wapato, prospected for gold dust for 12 years in the Yukon River near Fairbanks [1902-1914]. As he couldn't afford a dog, he pulled his own sled for a while, packed with a fur-lined sleeping bag, tools, utensils, and food. He spent the winters in Juneau, rented a house at \$12 a month, visited a hot springs spa or passed time gambling or imbibing whiskey.

Tooru Kanazawa (mentor for Bill Hosokawa as Tooru graduated in journalism in 1931 at University of Washington, ahead of Bill) also found various accounts where Wada was named James, Jujiira, Jujira and correctly as Jujiro.

Another legendary pioneer named in Kanazawa's novel is Frank Yasuda, a "tightfisted, opportunistic and unsavory character." When he tried to raise the price of flour, the miners reacted so violently that he built a stockade around his trading post in Barrow, the northernmost settlement in

Alaska.

Yasuda had been a cook aboard a Coast Guard cutter "Bear" in 1898, became a fur trader in the Arctic Slope, learned to speak Inupiat (the Eskimo language), Athabascan (of Indians in the Alaska interior), English and married Nevelo, an Eskimo woman.

He built schoolhouses for Eskimo children, delivered the mail and acted as a banker at times. During WWII, he was interned in New Mexico but returned after the war and died in 1958. A romanticized story, "Arasuka Monogatari" of Yasuda's life by Jiro Nitta, has been made into a Japanese motion picture.

The most colorful accounts of Issei in Alaska come from Sotaro Kawabe, who signed his articles under his pen name, "Sawado" (Sourdough?), when he spent eight months as the Klondike rush was ending in 1909-10. He estimated four or five hundred Japanese all over Alaska, many of them having jumped ship. They were engaged as merchants, clerks, cooks at mine kitchens or as prospectors.

There was even a "Jap" mine at Willow Creek, 50 miles north of Anchorage that was closed during the winter due to frigid temperatures. After the winter break, they hitched their 10 to 20 dog teams to work the mine.

Main food items were bacon, used oil for pancakes, rice, and flour pre-mixed with salt, sugar and baking powder to bake bread by adding water. A fully loaded sled with tools and supplies negotiated about six miles a day. Wada Ju's list included cornmeal, beans, evaporated apples, potatoes and a 100-lb. sack of sugar.

The Issei prospectors slept with only one blanket in a cavern sheltered by rocks overhead or dug a trench and piled up rocks for shelter. They hunted for hares and grouse, a knife to dress the game to feed their dogs and more important, carried a hammer to crack rocks, using a magnifying glass to check for gold dust.

While prospecting for gold is fascinating, the bulk of Issei (and prewar Nisei) in Alaska experienced life at the salmon canneries — as early as 1899 when Issei contractors in San Francisco, Seattle or Portland sent Japanese boys to work in the canneries, being paid around \$150 for half a year, meals included. My dad, perhaps yours, emigrated as teenagers and earned their first U.S. dollar in the Alaska canneries. ■



Q&A

8 Questions with Renee Tajima-Peña

The Academy Award nominee talks about family ghosts and her latest, 'Calavera Highway.'

For years, Renee Tajima-Peña and her husband Armando Peña talked about searching for his father Pedro who vanished as if in a dream during childhood.

"But life happened," said Renee. More specifically, marriage, a baby and an untimely death happened. The marriage was to Armando and later came baby Gabriel.

The death of Rosa, Armando's mother, was devastating to her sons — all seven of them, said the Sansei filmmaker perhaps best known for her Academy Award-nominated documentary, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"

But it also raised some questions about the Peña's family past that needed answers, so Renee, Armando, his brother Carlos and Gabriel piled into a car for a trip across America to bring Rosa's ashes back to her native Texas.

They captured all of the raw emotions with a camera.

"Calavera Highway," is Renee's latest documentary about her own family's haunted past. While screening the film in Dublin, Ireland, she caught up with the *Pacific Citizen* through e-mail. — Lynda Lin



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

part of the Chicano student blowouts going on all over the southwest at the time. They were demanding ethnic studies, better educational opportunities, hiring Mexican American teachers (the Rio Grande Valley is and was overwhelmingly Mexican American).

The boycotters at Edcouch Elsa were expelled and their case became the first major legal victory for the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund. A few years later I was involved in various strikes and walkouts demanding Asian American studies at my school in California. Even though we came from different cultures and economic backgrounds, this politicization and immigration heritage means we both 'get it' about the other's background.

My family was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Last year my husband, Gabriel, and another Mexican American friend and his son went on a fishing trip to June Lake and they stopped to show the kids Manzanar. I thought that was cool.

PC: In the backdrop of this family profile is a dark spot in American history — the Bracero Project and subsequent deportations tore families apart. What parallels do you see between the past and present day immigration policy?

RTP: Huge parallels. When I read about ICE raids and little kids watching their parents being rounded up and detained, I can't help but think those children are like Armando's brothers watching their father being hauled away by immigration authorities when they were little boys. I grew up with my grandparents, who could never go home for over 50 years because the Issei couldn't become naturalized citizens until what, 1959? So the idea of how families are torn apart is very real to me.

PC: I laughed out loud at the scene where Armando pushed miso soup as a possible answer to cancer. Was this your influence?

RTP: No, that was all Armando. He lived in the Sawtelle neighborhood of Los Angeles for years, ever since he was in graduate school at UCLA. That's an old Japanese American community, so he has always been familiar with Japanese food. And he's a bookworm, which we make a lot of fun of in the film. So when his mother was diagnosed with cancer, he researched alternative medicines and macrobiotic diets. That's why he introduced her to miso soup.

Their mother, Rosa, completely got into miso,



FINDING ROOTS: Renee Tajima-Peña (right) took her husband Armando (above, left), brother-in-law Carlos (above, right) and son Gabriel on the road with a camera to make 'Calavera Highway.'



PHOTO: WILLIAM SHORT

shitake and different teas. It was very familiar to her because she had grown up in rural Mexican American communities with medicinal herbs and folk medicines. I remember I was once walking with her in Central Park in New York and she noticed some kind of herb she recognized from Texas. I had to stop her from picking it up because of all the rat poisons and stuff they use in the city.

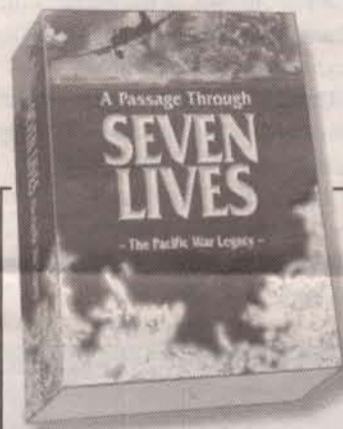
PC: Armando made a life-changing revelation about the identity of his father. Has he come to terms with it in real life?

RTP: But the film was documenting real life! His conclusion in the film basically describes what he believes about the situation. In the end, his mother was the central force in her sons' lives, and the notion of a father was not important in the end. He's told me it's something you could never really reconcile. But he has his own son now, and he's got all his brothers.

PC: What are you doing in Dublin? And what is your next project?

RTP: I'm showing two films, 'Calavera Highway' and 'The New Americans' in a Master's class I'm giving here. I am executive producing 'Whatever It Takes.' The director is a very talented, first-time director, Christopher Wong. You can see a trailer of the film on the Web site: www.whateverittakesdoc.com. ■

To buy 'Calavera Highway' on DVD, go to: www.pbs.org/pov/calaverahighway.



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Pacific Citizen: How difficult was it to make this film when the subjects are your family members?

Renee Tajima-Peña: It was difficult for all of us because Armando and Carlos were dredging up a painful history that they had never quite reconciled. They were talking a lot between themselves, unbeknownst to me, about what they were finding out, or afraid they would find out. On the other hand, these guys grew up without a father, and [are] very, very independent. I'm a part of the family, so they certainly weren't impressed that I was a film director, and by nature aren't given to taking direction. Plus my kid is a pretty hardheaded little guy. The three of them were a handful to say the least.

PC: You include footage of giving birth to Gabe. Talk about the importance of this scene.

RTP: The film explores how these seven brothers learned how to be men and fathers without the benefit of a father of their own. That scene was central to establishing that theme with the narrator and central character, my husband Armando, and his own emotional journey. What is interesting to me about Armando and his brothers is they've become very involved dads, despite growing up with absent fathers.

PC: What was the biggest challenge of traveling by car halfway across the country with a child?

RTP: Gabriel was about four when we shot the film. We actually took two vans — one for the characters and essential filming crew so that we could shoot while driving. The other one was for luggage, equipment, running errands, etc. To tell you the truth, traveling on a documentary is generally a lot of fun. We hire people we enjoy spending time with, and it's basically, 'road trip!' We talk, joke around, hang out together.

PC: Did you see any similarities in Armando's family history and your own?

RTP: My family started immigrating from Japan at the same time Armando's family started migrating to Texas, during the early 1900s. His grandfather landed in the Rio Grande Valley to harvest oranges and pick cotton; my grandfather went to Hawaii to cut cane on the sugar plantations.

We also had the same political coming of age in the student movement. He participated in the historic 1968 Edcouch Elsa School walkouts. It was

Protestors Continue to Fight Proposed Casino in Philly's Chinatown

(Continued from page 1)

marched to City Hall from Chinatown in an effort to convince the committee that the community does not need the Foxwoods Casino.

"The political leaders have taken the backseat and are completely unresponsive," Gym said. "They threw their hands up and said that there's nothing that they could do."

At the hearing, several dozen Chinatown residents shared their fears of gambling addictions that could possibly destroy families and the negative influences the casino may expose to the community's younger residents.

"I'm concerned about the proposed casino because of effects that gambling does to the life of individuals, family and community. I've seen families broken because of gambling," Harry Leong, a Chinatown resident, said. "A number of businesses have changed hands as a result of gambling."

Eighty percent of surveyed businesses in the Chinatown area are strongly opposed or are deeply concerned about the casino proposal and only 16 percent supported the idea, Gym said.

The possibility of increased prostitution, loan sharks and crime worry the residents of the community.

"The reputation of casinos would cause many people to reconsider whether they want their families to be in proximity to their environment," Leong said.

Leong, who was born and raised in Chinatown, led a petition with the local church congregations to stop the casino from being built in the area. Since Oct. 25, Leong has collected more than 25,000 signatures of Philadelphia locals who are against the new development of the slots parlor.

"We will continue to garner signatures," Leong said. "As our community is a center for Asians throughout the region, we felt that we should go outside to let others know of the plight that we have."

However, this zoning change is a step forward for the Connecticut-based Mashantucket Pequot Indians group, which proposed to build a \$670 million slots parlor near Chinatown after its initial plan of building a casino by the Delaware River waterfront was heavily criticized and protested against.

A final hearing for the zoning law took place Nov. 13.



PHOTO: MATT RONG

Philly Chinatown residents and supporters show their displeasure with Foxwoods Casino and their proposed move into the neighborhood.

Regardless of the petitions and protests, the state and city council supported the proposal to build the casino in Gallery Mall.

Even though many people fear the casino would bring only negative effects to the community, the City Council and Foxwoods Casino emphasize that the project is far from being set in stone.

"We are at an early process of evaluating the location," Maureen Garrity, a representative from Foxwoods Casino, said.

Though Garrity said that "nothing is a done deal," she added the con-

venient access to numerous public transportation options is a feature that makes surrounding areas of Chinatown an ideal location for the slots parlor.

"The selling point for the casino is that it would be an anchor business in the area," Leong said. "Other businesses will come into the area, although they may be undesirable ones."

Prior to the Nov. 1 march to City Hall, several organizations such as Asian Americans United and Casino Free Philadelphia had been trying to bring more awareness to the issue by

urging the APA communities to join their fight.

Both organizations' Web sites sport the YouTube video, created by Asian Americans United, which pleads for city officials to favor the public interest.

"We could see how it profits (Foxwoods) to have a casino within a block of a community," Ellen Somekawa, executive director of Asian Americans United, said in the video, "an Asian community that they target for their gambling promotion programs."

Although the population of APAs is less than four percent in Connecticut and less than five percent in Philadelphia, Foxwoods makes 30 percent of its revenue from Asian patrons.

"What we are asking for is for our city leaders to look for the public interest and not to look at the interest of Foxwoods," Somekawa said. "And not to look at the interests the wealthy investors who hope to profit off of other people's losses."

Though the odds are against them, Chinatown residents vow to keep fighting on.

"Chinatown is a fragile institution," Gym said. "(Building a casino) would destroy Chinatown from its people first." ■



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AMENDMENT 1

(Continued from page 1)

percent voting "yes." A 60 percent threshold of "yes" votes was needed to make a constitutional change.

It was the closest the state's now 82-year-old so-called Alien Land Law had ever come to being repealed.

"It's disappointing," said Winnie Tang, president of the South Florida chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), who has been working to repeal the law since 2002.

In the post election fervor, many reasons have been given for the failure of Amendment 1 — the most popular being the poor wording of the measure itself, which reportedly confused voters. Even people who knew the history of the Alien Land Laws didn't know if a "no" vote meant "yes" to a repeal, said Tang.

And the amendment's use of hot-button words like "aliens" and "property rights," only stirred opposition from anti-immigrant groups that misinterpreted the archaic label of "alien ineligible for citizenship" to mean the undocumented and potential terrorists.

So Florida voters killed Amendment 1.

But who was really to blame? Was it ignorance of a part of Asian Pacific American history most often learned in college, prejudice, or the lack of a real educational campaign that in the weeks leading up to the elections



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORIKAMI MUSEUM

Yamato Colony settlers in 1922.

had even its strongest supporters predicting the amendment's failure?

Amendment 1 sponsor Rep. Ronald Brisé, D-North Miami, said it's all of the above.

"This is something that is a shame for the state of Florida to not pass," said Brisé. "Everyone assumed that this was such a no-brainer that we didn't think we had to spend money to educate people. All of us who were players should take some blame."

Legacy of JA Pioneers

Removing the Alien Land Law from Florida's state constitution would have no effect or fiscal impact. The provision is unenforceable today because of equal protection laws, so it would simply strike out racist words.

"I regret that it didn't pass," said Steve Geller, a former Florida state senator who has compared the Alien Land Law to a provision in the state constitution allowing slavery even

though the U.S. Constitution bars it.

The wave of Alien Land Laws began in 1913 in California, where residents felt threatened by Issei farmers. At the time, Asian immigrants were prohibited from becoming U.S. citizens, so state laws barring land ownership to "aliens ineligible for citizenship" directly targeted APAs.

But Florida's APA history stretches back to the early 1900s when the first group of pioneering Issei settled near the modern day city of Boca Raton. Jo Sakai arrived in Florida in 1903 to establish the Yamato Colony.

The colony was established because political leaders wanted to bring Japanese farmers to Florida for economic reasons, said Tom Gregersen, cultural director of the Morikami Museum in Delray Beach. "The economy was in the doldrums and they wanted to bring in people from elsewhere with expertise in farming."

The Yamato Colony's intent was to have families settle and farm on their properties. The state's Alien Land Law, which was enacted in 1926 and gave the Legislature the power to take land away from JA residents, was not invoked in Florida.

Yuri Long, whose grandfather Henry Kamiya was a colony settler, spent a few years of her childhood in the colony.

"I remember feeding chickens,

See AMENDMENT 1/Page 13

Select Participants Now for JACL D.C. Leadership Conference

The JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference is just around the corner. It's time for chapter presidents to select candidates for this prestigious event and send the information to their district governors.

This annual leadership training conference is a joint program organized by the JACL, which includes participants from the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), the second largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization in the United States.

This four-day conference provides an opportunity for 30 emerging leaders of the JACL and OCA to learn firsthand about current national public policy issues facing our communities.

Each JACL district can send two participants in addition to potential alternate candidates. Except for personal incidental expenses, all other conference costs including lodging and meals will be covered.

The district will be responsible for a \$500 tuition for each participant sent by the district. Each district chooses its own deadline for applications. District governors must have their applications submitted and approved to the JACL D.C. office by Jan. 15, 2009.

The conference will also be a great opportunity for leaders within the JACL to learn about the workings of Washington, D.C. and nonprofits.

The JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference will be held March 6-10, 2009, in Washington, D.C. ■

To apply, go to: www.jacl.org

Program Seeks WWII Internees to Receive Diploma

The Sacramento County Office of Education is accepting applications for its Operation Recognition program to award high school diplomas to qualifying veterans and Japanese Americans whose education was interrupted by the World War II internment.

The program was adopted in 2001 to honor contributions and sacrifices of individuals who missed completing high school because of relocation or because of their service in the U.S. military during WWII or the Korean War.

Sacramento County residents have until May 8, 2009, to request diplomas for themselves or for qualifying family members.

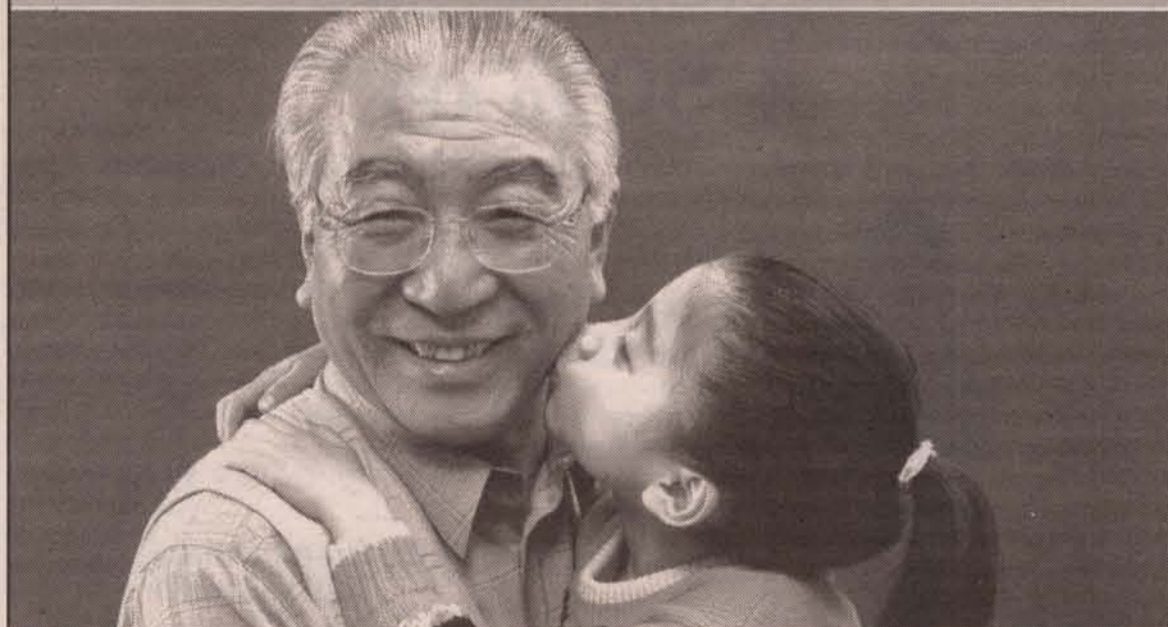
A diploma awards ceremony is scheduled for May 26.

"These veterans and Japanese American citizens went on to make countless contributions throughout their lives," said Dave Gordon, Sacramento County superintendent of schools. "Operation Recognition is our opportunity to honor them for the sacrifices they made." ■

Applications are available online at www.scoe.net or by mail to Operation Recognition, P.O. Box 269003, Sacramento, CA. 95826-9003.



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MANZANAR PROJECT

(Continued from page 1)

"Since I was a child I loved science and I envisioned science would help poor people, and it can," said Sato from his home just north of Boston. "In Manzanar I thought about the desert a lot so when I was in Africa I thought about the desert ... it came from my experiences at Manzanar."

What came to Sato was a simple, yet revolutionary idea. He had been in Eritrea during the Ethiopian famine. Shortly after the war ended, he was driving along the African coast when he noticed some thriving mangrove trees amidst a barren desert landscape.

The blossoming trees were near freshwater that emptied out into the Red Sea. He soon discovered that if three things — nitrogen, phosphorous and iron — were injected into seawater, mangroves and other plants could grow.

There are now over a million mangrove trees near the Eritrean town of Hergigo, a place with about 3,000 people. Sato and his staff of about 50 Eritreans have also helped to breed thousands of goats and sheep that feed on the mangroves. A diet of these trees with some fish-meal enables the sheep and goats to produce milk for their litters, another one of Sato's discoveries.

Today, this small Eritrean town is thriving, all due to Sato's efforts and discoveries.

"My impression of Africa is that when I look and see people who are poor and starving it is because of mismanagement, corruption and lack of thought," he said. "There is no reason for them to be poor and hungry. We've solved how to make the deserts of the world grow things with seawater."

An Idea is Born

Grace Nakamura isn't shy about her admiration for her childhood friend. She often uses the same adjectives to describe Sato: "brilliant" and "visionary" are used quite

a bit.

But most of all, she says, "He's a really good person."

Their mothers were longtime friends so it was natural that Nakamura and Sato developed a close bond during their childhood in Southern California. They were even in the same block, Block 29, during their time at Manzanar.

In camp, Nakamura recalls Sato talking about his vision to help people through his love of science.

He wanted to show "that we were people with dignity, with self-worth, and someday he would do something to prove this," she said. "He had a vision. He helps people anywhere in the world."

Like Nakamura, many former Manzanar internees have given generously to the Manzanar Project, a project that also helps to pass on the lessons of life behind barbed wire.

"When I talk to people I see a generation gap," Sato said. "Internees who have seen the hardship of camp can sympathize with what I'm trying to do. The young people who haven't experienced it, not as much."

Even at 80, Sato isn't slowing down. He still travels all around the world on speaking engagements and he plans to head to Mauritania next month where he recently brought the Manzanar Project.

With a current staff of five people, several mangrove trees and grasses are being planted to help the Mauritians. Unlike Eritrea, the mangroves this time will be planted inland with seawater pumped in from the Atlantic Ocean, a project that required new draining techniques to avoid seawater buildup.

Sato hopes the project will be as successful as Eritrea.

One factor in his favor is the support of the Mauritanian government, something he still does not have in Eritrea. The Eritrean government's past support of Al Qaeda and Sudan has prevented Sato from seeking funding from the United Nations or the U.S. government.

That's why Sato has embarked on an aggressive fundraising campaign in hopes of raising much needed



Dr. Gordon Sato has spent the past several years helping the impoverished people of Eritrea and Mauritania.

monies to continue operating the Manzanar Project.

"Science is easy but politics and culture are difficult. This was a big disappointment for me," said Sato, who has personally used hundreds of thousands of dollars of his own money to fund the project.

"He really needs help on this project to proliferate it," Nakamura said. "We need to get the younger people involved, to have an ownership in this thing."

The Next Generation

Nathan Sato, 51, admits that when his father first told him about the Manzanar Project several years ago he didn't really get it.

"I didn't understand it. But in the last 10 years I've come to appreciate what he has accomplished, what he has already accomplished," said Nathan from his home in Honolulu. "It's a simple idea. It's a simple but very radical idea."

Nathan is one of six Sato kids, a biologist by degree but currently the owner of the Malie Kai Chocolate company in Hawaii.

Recently he's been talking to his father about helping out more with the project he first learned about while in his 20s.

"We want to inject new life into the project," he said.

Nathan and his Japanese wife are planning a new direct mail piece, perhaps a new Web site and efforts to raise funds in Japan. He also believes the Manzanar Project qualifies for carbon credits for its efforts to reduce global warming.

His help on the project will be a welcome addition for Sato who still works on the Manzanar Project daily with little help.

Jack Hauck is his lone paid staff member in the United States. A social worker by training, Hauck first learned about Sato's work in Africa in an AOL pop-up notice.

Intrigued, he called the listed number and before long he was having a five-hour lunch at the Sato residence.

"He's just smart. He just looks at things in different ways," Hauck, 63, said. "He should have gotten a Nobel Peace Prize years ago."

Sato may not have a Nobel Prize to his name but he has been honored with several awards over the years including the Blue Planet Prize of 2005 and the 2002 Rolex Award.

Close to two decades after first introducing the Manzanar Project, Sato shows little sign of slowing down.

"My role at this point in life is not to be in the field. I've already done that," he said. "I'm sort of the administer now, getting funds and distributing funds. It's a job I hate; I'd much rather be in field."

"I'm very proud of my father. He never ceases to amaze me. He can't sit still. He's go, go, go," Nathan said.

But with his father getting on in age, Nathan hopes he can be the bridge to help ensure the Manzanar Project continues far into the future.

"My father is getting on in years, and he needs more help," he said. "I want this thing to have a life of its own, to build up the project to become self-sustaining so the project will still carry on." ■

To donate to the Manzanar Project: P.O. Box 98, Gloucester, MA 01931. For more information, 978/468-2658, manzanarmangrove@hotmail.com, www.themanzanarproject.com.

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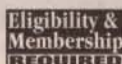
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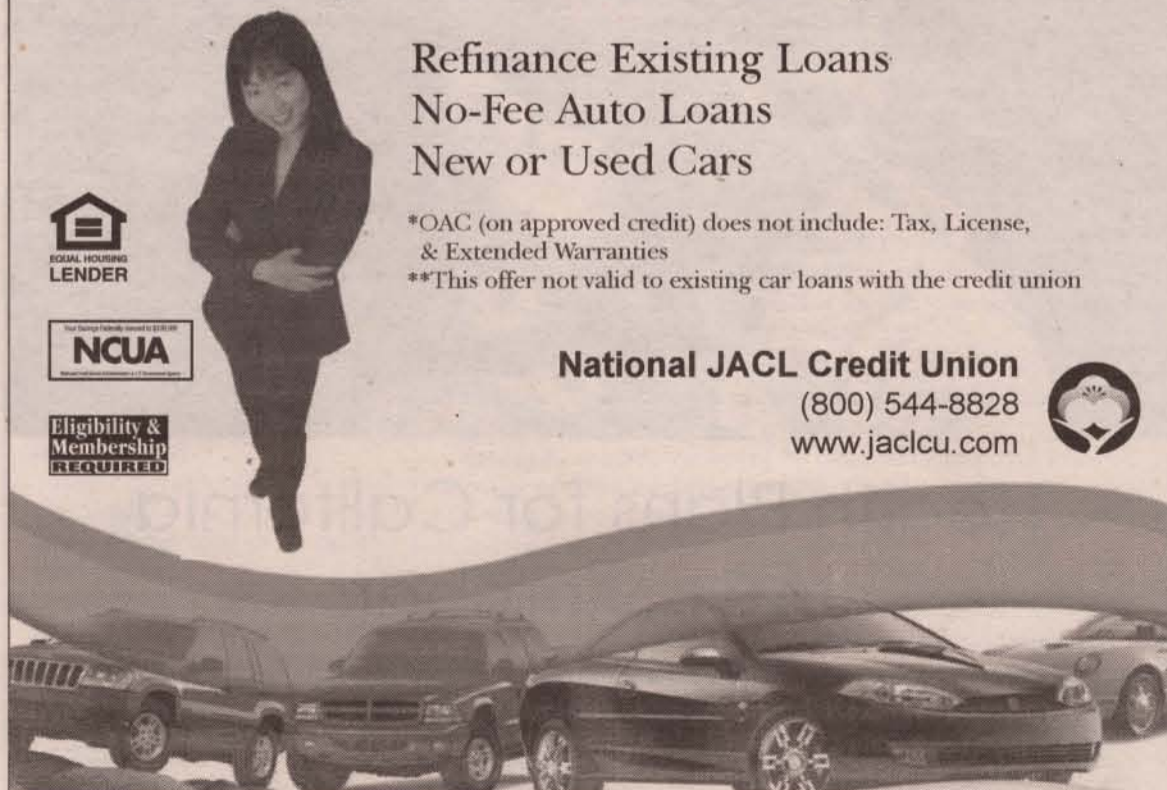
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AMENDMENT 1

(Continued from page 11)

and seeing a Japanese bath," said Long, a Nisei who now lives in Los Angeles.

By World War II many of the pioneering families had moved on, and the Yamato Colony was used as an Army Air Corp. training area.

"I was surprised that [the Alien Land Law] is still on the books and that the people of Florida voted to keep it," said Long.

Looking to 2010

For the last few years, Geller has fought a lonely battle to repeal the law.

"I did everything I could do," said Geller, a sponsor of Amendment 1 who recently termed out of the Florida Senate. "I got it through legislature. I got press coverage for it. I did my job."

During a historic presidential election, it wasn't easy. But he said he did not get help from the community that was directly affected by the Alien Land Law — Florida's estimated two-percent APA population.

"I would have hoped for more support than I received," said Geller. Promises were made, but when it came down to it, he didn't hear of any local APA leaders speaking at any community functions.

"That doesn't require money, it

requires an investment of time."

Murasaki disagrees. The grassroots movement was active enough to get 48 percent to vote to get rid of the provision, said the Sansei. "We didn't get as much media coverage because of the lack of funding."

Proponents of ballot initiatives usually create a funding mechanism for advertising, but one was not set up for Amendment 1, said Brisé.

But on the upside, Amendment 1 has drawn more attention to the cause, said Tang. Now they have to work to get the measure on the 2010 ballot.

Is It Too Late?

"We are going back to basics," said Tang about working closely with lawmakers to repeal the provision. "If we don't do it now, it's going to stay on for generations."

New Mexico, Kansas and Wyoming repealed similar laws in recent years. But it took two tries in New Mexico, where a group of law students made it their cause to not let the issue fade away from the public agenda, said Gabriel J. Chin, a law professor at the University of Arizona.

"A similar effort is needed in Florida," said Chin.

Answering the call is Muhammed Malik, a 26-year-old St. Thomas University law student. As a Florida native of South Asian descent, Malik

said he became interested in working to repeal the law "to stand up for the rights of our community."

In the future, he envisions a younger and more diverse pan-Asian coalition.

"It is hoped that with a couple more years worth of sustained community education and more effective intra-group and inter-group grassroots organizing, Floridians of all backgrounds will be able to work together to effect change," said Malik.

But some are already saying it may be too little, too late.

With Geller termed out of his Senate seat, a new friend is needed in the legislature. Brisé said he would work with the APA community to sponsor a similar measure in 2010.

Geller's successor Sen. Eleanor Sobel did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment.

Since the ballot initiative has failed once, Geller said it may be difficult to get other lawmakers to take up the cause.

It will take time, but the lesson learned from this election is that APA political participation is on the rise, said Chin.

"My hope is someday there is a political price to be paid for ignoring the political interest of APAs."

6 APA, Native American Pacific Islander Institutions Receive \$10 Million in Grants

The U.S. Department of Education awarded approximately \$10 million in grants to six Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI): City College of San Francisco (CA), Foothill-De Anza Community College (CA), Guam Community College (GU), Seattle Community College (WA), Univ. of Hawaii at Hilo (HI), and Univ. of Maryland-College Park (MD).

These six schools are the first grant recipients of this historic program due to their exceptional five-year plans that address the specific needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students.

Similar to other minority serving institution programs, the AANAPISI program seeks to increase the capacity of higher education institutions to better serve disadvantaged college students. Individual plans differ between the six awarded institutions from constructing a new resource center for AAPI students; to recruiting more AAPI students into science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) fields; to strengthening an Asian American Studies Program.

All six applications include outreach to their respective surrounding

AAPI communities to encourage youth to pursue post-secondary education.

The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) congratulates these six institutions on being the first to receive the AANAPISI grant.

"The Asian American and Pacific Islander community is thrilled about the inauguration of the AANAPISI program," said Floyd Mori, NCAPA chair and JACL national director.

"NCAPA organizations have been working closely with Congressman David Wu and CAPAC over several years in advocating for passage, and we look forward to working collectively with institutions, federal agencies, students and communities to ensure that the program will foster maximum benefits for AAPI students."

The AANAPISI program was championed by Congressman Wu, D-Oregon, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), as chaired by Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., into law in 2007.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act expanded the program's scope and extended the program to 2013. ■

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Calendar

East

BOSTON

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., Dec. 6—New York JACL Holiday Fund Raiser; noon-3 p.m.; Peking Duck House, 236 East 53rd St.; \$50; honoring Grant Ujifusa. RSVP: Lillian, 973/680-1441.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mar. 6-10, 2009—2009 JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference; Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island NW; each JACL district may send two participants; great opportunity of leaders within JACL to learn about the workings in Washington, D.C. and non-profit organizations. Info: www.jacl.org.

Midwest

DAYTON

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

Pacific Northwest

KENT, Wash.

Through Dec. 19—Exhibit, "Kenjiro Nomura: An Artist's View of the Japanese American Internment"; Wed.-Sat. noon-4 p.m.; Kent Historical Museum, 855 East Smith St.; Nomura's work provides scenes of daily life, as well as a sense of the architecture and landscape of Minidoka. Info: www.kenthistorical-museum.org.

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PORTLAND

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.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Nov. 22-23—International Taiko Festival 40th Anniversary Concert; Sat. 7 p.m., Sun., 3 p.m.; Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley; featuring Grand Master Seiichi Tanaka and San Francisco Taiko with more special guests; Sunday special guest artist, Kitaro; tickets start at \$38. Tickets: 510/642-9988 or

www.tickets.berkeley.edu.

Nov. 29-30, Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20—Berkeley Artisans' Holiday Open Studios; Lewis Suzuki Studio, 2240 Grant St.; Suzuki will show his recent work and a few of his earlier works. Info: 510/849-1427.

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

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

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.

Sat., Dec. 13—Silver Bells Arts and Crafts Faire; 10-4 p.m.; Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St.; featuring hand crafted items from over 70 artisans from throughout California and Hawaii; part of the proceeds benefit Kimochi, Inc. Info: Kimochi, 415/931-2294 or www.kimochi-inc.org.

Through Dec. 31—Exhibit, "Transforming Kami — The Art of Origami"; NJAHS, 1684 Post St.; 12-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and the first Sat. of the month. Info: 415/921-5007 or njahs@njahs.org.

Central California

CLOVIS

Feb. 14-16, 2009—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

GARDEN GROVE

Sat., Dec. 6—SELANOCO JACL



The San Francisco Taiko Dojo will host the International Taiko Festival 40th Anniversary Concert, Nov. 22-23 at U.C. Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall.

Mochitzuki; 8-3 p.m.; Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 13711 Fairview St.; \$3.50/lb; deadline to order is Mon., Dec. 1 (mochi must be picked up by 3 p.m. on Dec. 6. To order: Jun Fukushima, 562/865-5039 or BJ Watanabe 714/779-4140 or bjwatanabe@aol.com.

LOS ANGELES

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.

Through May 31, 2009—Exhibition, "Asian Roots/American Reality: Photographs by Corky Lee;

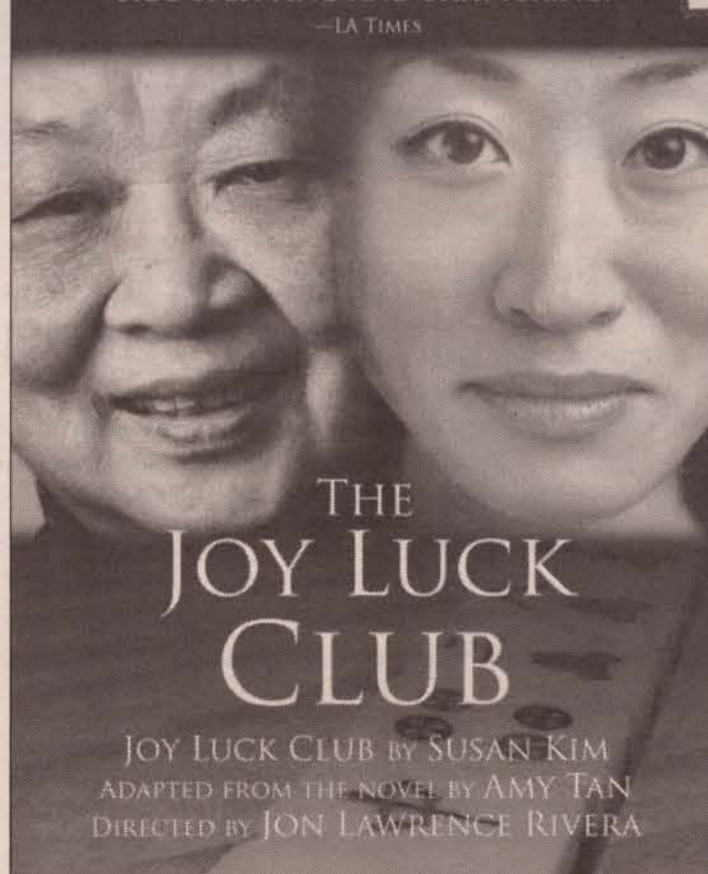
gallery hours 10-3 p.m., Tue.-Sun.; Chinese American Museum, 425 N. Los Angeles St. in the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument; \$3/adults, \$2/seniors and students, free for museum members; Lee's trademark images capture the personal stories amidst a public sphere of social and political movements from the 1970s to the present day. Info: www.camla.org.

SAN DIEGO

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. ■

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EWP

In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Ajari, Charles Shiro, 85, Concord, Oct. 22; U.S. Army veteran; survived by daughter, Mary; sons, Brian and Paul; daughter-in-law, Tes; 1 gc.; and sister, Betty.

Akamatsu, Haruko, 91, Northhampton, Mass., April 25; survived by son, John (Sharon); daughter, Norma; 3 gc.; and sister, Hiroko Shikuma.

Asahara, Michiko, 92, Puyallup, Wash., Oct. 27; survived by sister, Yoshi Nogaki; and brother, Masaru Yamaji.

Deguchi, Tommy T., 79, Seattle, Wash., Oct. 28; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Jean; son, Jay (Bernadette); daughter, Dana (Marvin); 6 gc.; and sister, Mitsuko (John) Hamakami.

Fuchiwaki, Hilo, 90, Arroyo Grande, Aug. 8; MIS veteran; survived by wife, Iso; daughters, Susan, DEATH NOTICE

ALICE M. FUJIKAWA

A memorial service celebrating the life of Alice May Fujikawa will be held at Grace First Presbyterian Church, 3955 North Studebaker Rd., Long Beach, Calif., on Sat., Nov. 29, commencing at 11 a.m. Following the service, a reception hosted by the Fujikawa family will take place at the Church.

Mrs. Fujikawa passed away after a brief illness on Oct. 16. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her name to the Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcomed. 'Death Notices,' which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$20 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.

Dona and Lori; 5 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Ben Fuchiwaki; and sisters, Marie Masushige and Lilly Kakita.

Fujimura, Yoshiyuki J., 91, Los Alamitos, Nov. 4; 442nd veteran; survived by wife, Takako; daughter, Nancy (Kevin) Godfrey; son, Ernie (Sharyl); 2 gc.; sisters-in-law, Faith Fujimura and Jane Yamamoto; and brothers-in-law, Henry (Jane) and Ikuo (Tomiko).

Harui, Junkoh, 75, Oct. 19; U.S. Army veteran; owner of Bainbridge Gardens; survived by wife, Chris; four children; five grandchildren; and two brothers.

Iizaki, Eiko, 74, Gardena, Oct. 31; survived by husband, Henry; daughter, Charlene (Hidetsugo) Yasuda; son, Geoffrey; sister, Michiko Mori; and step-mother, Hideko Mori.

Isobe, James, 76, Gardena, Oct. 24; survived by wife, Ellen; daughter, Debbie (Dave) Sugimoto; son,

Glen (Fumiko); 1 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brother, Wallace (Fumi).

Iwami, Noboru, 87, Hilo, Hawaii, Oct. 17; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Barbara; daughter, Iris; son, Eric; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brother, Masaru.

Kondo, Dr. Mark Minoru, 90, Spokane, Wash.; survived by sons, Mark Jr. (Katie) and Michael (Jackie); daughter, Bette (Bruce Johnson); 6 gc.; and sisters, Rosalia (Clem) Miyaya, Molly (Tom) Arima and Mabel (Yosh) Ogata.

Kosai, Joseph H., 74, Tacoma, Wash.; Army veteran; survived by wife, Kazuko; sons, Brian (Gwen) and Mark (Sharon); daughter, JoAnn (Pat) Kosai-Eng; 6 gc.; brother, Aizo (June); sisters, Hatsumi Higa and Reiko (Dick) Hara; and sisters-in-law, Fusako Kosai and Janet Kosai.

Kubota, Tsugio, 88, Lodi, Oct. 18; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Florence; children, Glenn, Carrie, Kristine, Elizabeth and Gregory; and 6 gc.

Masumiya, Asami, 92, Los Angeles, Nov. 10; survived by sons, Yuji (Meiko) and Asao (Kim);

daughter, Amy (Ken Helmes); 5 gc.; 5 ggc.; and sister-in-law, Suzuko (Bob) Alves.

Mayeda, Dr. Kazutoshi, 80, Las Vegas, Oct. 19; former JACL vp for public affairs, MDC governor and Detroit chapter president; was a professor of human genetics at Wayne State University; survived by wife, Betty; daughters, Karen and Kathy; son, Mike; 4 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Mayeda, Masami, 93, Orange, Oct. 24; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by children, Richard, Ted and Dale.

Mukai, Yoshio Joe, 90, Spokane, Wash., Oct. 25; survived by wife, Haruko; sons, Bob and Jim; daughters, Linda Cohee and Susan Mashtare.

Nagata, Genta Brian, 24, Glendale, Nov. 6; survived by parents, Hideo and Kazuyo; and sister, Tomoko (Sylvain) Copon.

Nagata, Mitsu, 84, Glendale, Nov. 8; survived by sons, Hideo (Kazuyo) and Toshio (Shioko); daughter, Mariko (Toshio) Ishida; 6 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Ogata, Shigemi Tommy, 83, Gardena, Oct. 31; survived by sisters, Sally Hirota, Natsue (Steven) Nakano, Mitzy (Ted) Ozaki, Yoshie Ueno, Anne Ogata, and Charlotte (Dennis) Masaki; and brothers, Seigo (Helen), Hayami (Kay), Shigeki (Chino), Katsumi (Ursula), Makoto and Ronald.

Ogawa, Atsumi, 72, Oxnard, Oct.

14; survived by son, Rolland (Blanca); daughter, Michele and 3 gc.

Okada, Yukiye, 92, Los Angeles, Nov. 3; survived by daughters, Dorothy (Tosh) Masukawa and Betty (John) Hatakeyama; 3 gc.; 2 ggc.; sisters, Yoshika (Fred) Misaki and Kikuye (Noki) Iida; and brother, Kiyoshi Shimokaji.

Snodgrass, Alice Mikami, Palmer, Alaska, Oct. 12; survived by son, Jack (Jeannie).

Suto, Henry Eiichi, 80, Altadena, Oct. 17; survived by wife, Miyeko; daughters, Eileen (Willy) Ma and Nadine (Fred) Ford; 2 gc.; and brother, Arther (Kazuko) Suto.

Tada, Richard, 77, Watsonville, Oct. 20; Air Force veteran; survived by brother, Ben; and sisters, Nancy Iwami and Haruko Tsurumoto.

Tomoyasu, Tatsuyuki, 89, Oct. 17; Army veteran; survived by wife, Chieko; son, Larry (Carol Uchida); daughters, Faye Tomoyasu and Sandra (Renato) Halili; and 4 gc.

Yamada, Masaru, 82, Syracuse, Utah, Oct. 28; survived by wife, Kiyoko; daughters, Julie (Paul) Kimura and LoRee (Wallace) Crandall; 8 gc.; brother, Sadamu and Ted; and sisters, Misuko (Shige) Shimada and Aiko (Bob) Okada.

Yamashiro, Stanley, 61, Los Angeles, Oct. 31; survived by daughter, Nikki; sister, Lily (Toshiro) Ohara; and half-sister, Aiko Kohama.

Yamauchi, Paul Kazu, 93, Los Angeles, Oct. 28; survived by wife, Helen; sons, Norman (Nora) and Kent (Lisa); daughters, Carol (David) Kawai, and Leah (Rick) Kurihara; and 6 gc.

Yokoyama, Harry Chiyoshi, 88, Garden Grove, Oct. 27; Army veteran; survived by daughters, Sharon, Ann (Rodger) Bell and Janice (Dan) Cloyd; son, Ron (Roseanne); 5 gc.; 1 ggc.; brothers, Bill, Frank (Kazuko), Robert (Yukiko) and Michinori; and sister, Michie (Henry) Murakami. ■

Whereabouts

This section runs on a space available basis at no charge.

MERCED ASSEMBLY CENTER INTERNEES

The Merced Assembly Center Committee is looking for former internees of the Merced Assembly Center. The committee is working on a project to place a memorial on the Merced Fairgrounds to educate the public of a time where 4,500 JAs were housed before being sent to Amache, Colo. Please contact, Bob Taniguchi taniguchi.r@mccd.edu, Marlene Tanioka mtanka@earthlink.net or to the committee at 12077 W. Olive Ave., Livingston, CA 95334.

DEATH NOTICE

HIRAM G. AKITA

Born Dec. 28, 1917, in Burlington, Wash., Hiram G. Akita passed away Sept. 29. Hiram attended the Univ. of Washington before evacuating to Tule Lake Internment Camp. The family relocated to Emmett and Nampa, Idaho in 1943, moved to Chicago in 1944 and returned to Seattle in 1952. In 1958, he returned to the Univ. of Washington and received his BA in Economics.

Hiram played baseball in the Courier League before WWII, but also enjoyed tennis, racquet ball, pickleball and skiing. He also enjoyed card games and crossword puzzles, but his passion was golf. He was a lifelong member of Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church where he held many leadership positions.

Hiram is survived by his wife of 68 years, Helen; son, Jerry (June); daughters, Barbara (Dick) Nagaoka and Corky (Jim) Kozu; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Nancy Kasamoot of Hilo, Hawaii; and sister-in-law, Marilyn Akita of Bellevue. He was preceded in death by his parents, Magotaro and Matsu; sister, Lilly; brother, Robert; daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Wayne Miyahira; daughter-in-law, Jane Akita; and brother-in-law, Hiro Kasamoto.

A memorial service was held on Oct. 12 at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.

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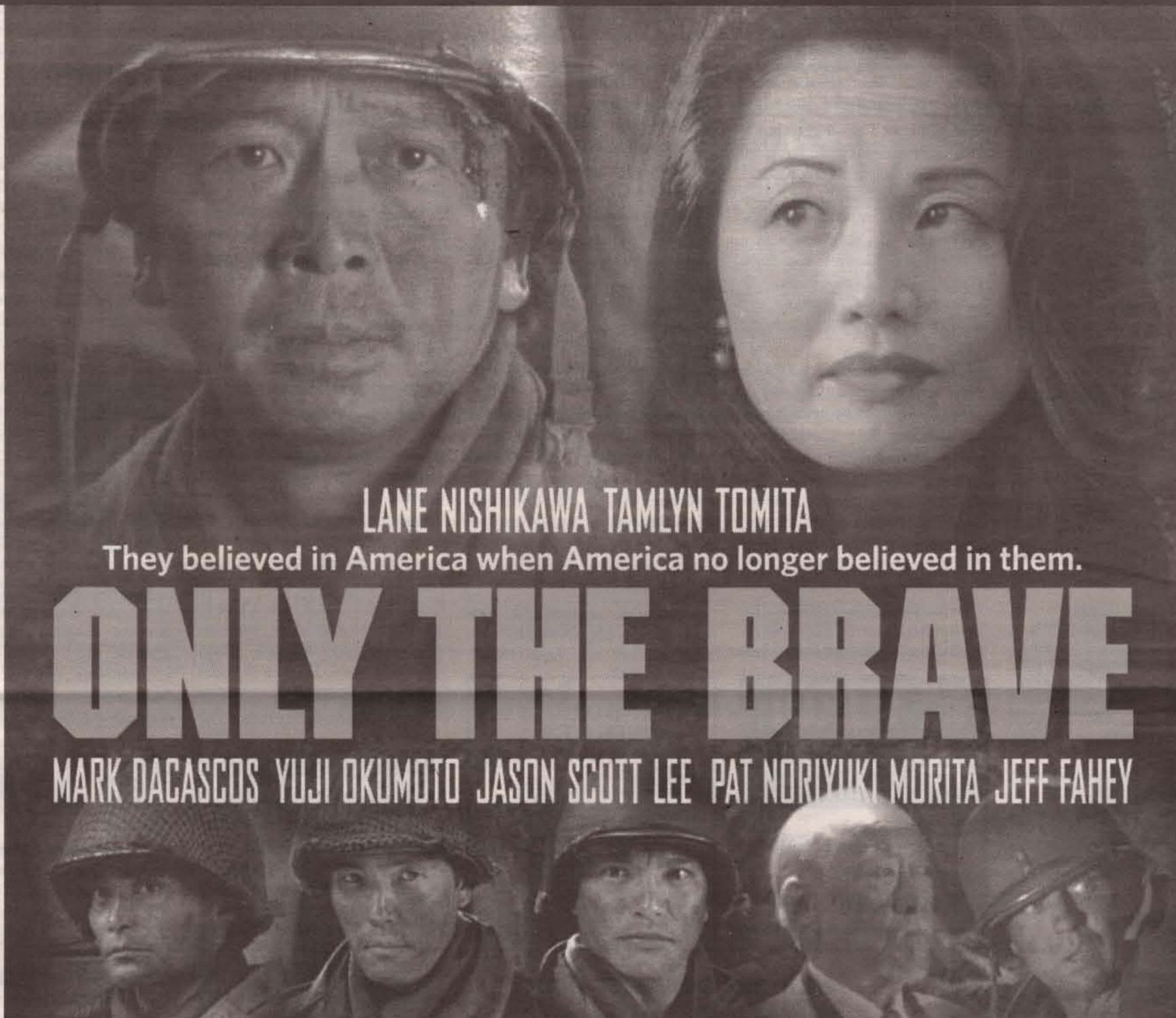
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