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 LYNDA LIN
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 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 Hollywood ceremony.

A Love of Science Breeds a Life of Humanity

Dr. Gordon Sato

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.

Philby’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 outrages 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 community sentiment."

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

By LYNDA LIN
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 percent voting "yes."
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 investment markets. According to the Yahoo! Finance, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a measure of the value of 30 large American companies, has declined approximately 30 percent since the end of 2007. From Dec. 31, 2007, the Dow has dropped from 13,264 to 9,336 as of Oct. 31, representing 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 headlines, 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 ending Oct. 31, 2008, our investments have declined approximately 24 percent from $9.4 million to $7.1 million based on estimated figures.

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, equities, and fixed income in the amounts of 26 percent, 43 percent, and 31 percent respectively.

“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 established in the Investment Policy,” said Jeffrey Hattori, chair of the IPC. “The JACL is fortunate to have IPC members who are well versed in the market and are dedicated to protecting 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 immediate 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 budget for the fiscal year ’09 and ’10 based on this review. These 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 institutions are closing because of crises of their own making. One of the world’s oldest investment 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 experience with a declining market and developed a policy that would protect our investments in market conditions such as the world is experiencing now. We acknowledge that our investments are not for immediate 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 members include: Jeffrey Hattori, chair; Doug Urata, secretary; Richard Yada; James Kaki; Beth Renge; Kanta Takamori; Floyd Shimomura; non-voting members: Larry Oda, Josh Spry, Floyd Mori; Clyde Izumi, staff.

We are working jointly with OCA, NAVASA, and other Asian American groups in increasing our effectiveness and fund raising capacity. We are no longer an organization that works exclusively for and with the JA community.

The communications function of JACL will need a more aggressive movement towards the Internet. With new and exciting platforms that have high use among younger generations, 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 opportunity that lies within the reaches of the computer for both individuals and the organization.

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

Letter to the Editor

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 unconstitutional. Overthrow:

MAS HASHIMOTO
WATSONVILLE, CALIF.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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JACL MEMBERS

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If you have moved, please send information to: National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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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 backdrop of a changing society 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 important traditions that made the JACL unique and a cut above other community-based organizations 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 consolidation and realignment of chapters and districts. 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 generation of leaders and we have been able to bring younger staff members on board with the addition of a fellowship program that provides for the talents of some of the brightest college minds in the nation. Some of our newer programs are aimed specifically at the age demographic that will provide new and fresh leadership 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 equality 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 increasing our effectiveness and fund raising capacity.

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

ralization rate among minority groups.

“Asian Americans around the country loudly and clearly raised their voices via the ballot box,” Stewart H. Kwoh, 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

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.

* Not a complete listing.
Work Starts on New Pearl Harbor Visitor’s Center

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press Writer

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Aglow, 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, 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.”

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/ussa/
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 educational achievements, a research report released on Nov. 4 says.

The report goes through 2006, the latest available, and finds that Chinese American business owners, professionals and 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.

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 the wealth and poverty, high and low education levels, white and blue collar,” 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.”

http://www.aast.umd.edu/ocapor.html

National Newsbytes

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.

Hafii 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.
Jefferson County, has received the Warren G. Magnuson Award as the state’s 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 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.

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**Takechi Elected to Omaha Education Board**

Richard Takechi, Omaha JACL chapter president, was elected to a new two-year term by the staff and alumni association of New York’s Montefiore Medical Center. He served as chair of the Nebraska Legislature formed the learning community to settle school project’s progress.

**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 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.

**Tsuiji, 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” Tsuiji and Junwo “Jim” Yamashita, founding members of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance.

Tsuiji 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.ajawarriors.org.

**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 American internnees. 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, Japanese American Citizens League (JACLs) 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.

**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 the play “Betrayer” 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 leverages the federal appropriations and complete the project by 2011. This appropriation brings the total raised for the project to $5.5 million of an estimated $6 million needed for completion.

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

For more information, call Greg Marutani at 415/641-1097 or e-mail sfjcal@yahoo.com.
What Now? APA Community Grapples With Same-sex Marriage Ban

(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 heartbreaking.

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 antimiscegenation laws as examples of a majority population discriminating against another minority group.

The last of the antimiscegenation laws was overturned in 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.

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 communicat­ing 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 Same 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 amicus curiae in the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Loving v. Virginia, the seminal case that struck down antimiscegenation 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 Katsuaya, 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 from 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.

The LEC was formed during the time Takahashi served as the associate director of LEC, she was also acknowledged as 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," said Takahashi.

During the time Takahashi served as the director and a professor at San Francisco State University's School of Social Work. She is a life member of JACL at Berkeley JACL. 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."

Rita Takahashi

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

RITA TAKAHASHI

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

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

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 at Berkeley JACL.

Significant events that led up to Redress include President Jimmy Carter signing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment 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.


Takahashi said the fundraising committee led by Harry Kajiwara 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.

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.
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 you.one paper wrap, one paper lunch bag, three napkins and a plastic bag. Was it Kernit 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 heard Dr. Mao speak about his work before, but it always strikes me as incredibly futuristic and progressive. He and his colleagues cloned a cell line and a biocompatible template. Columbia Dental School’s foremost stem cell researchers. I have 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 bio-compatible 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 a 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 most efficiently. What we need are new joint ventures that we can create 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.

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is currently a student at Columbia University, College of Dental Medicine. He is also a Mt. Olympus JACL member.
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 a child and never returned. 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

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 talking 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 Gabriel. 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 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 a 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 to 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 these 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, shiitake 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 son’s 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 Project and subsequent deportations tore families apart. What parallels do you see between the past and present day immigration policy?

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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.

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

It was the closest the state's 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 education? All of us who were players should take some blame.

\[ \text{Legacy of JA Pioneers} \]

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 Kaniya was a colony settler, spent a few years of her childhood in the colony.

"I remember feeding chickens," she said.

\[ \text{See AMENDMENT 1/Page 13} \]
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, phosphorus 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 50 Eritreans who have helped produce eggs 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.

"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, manzanar@seaweed.org, manzanar@manzanarproject.com.

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

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 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 administrator 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.

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AMENDMENT 1  
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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 pan­Asian coalition. 

"It is hoped that with a couple more years worth of sustained community education and more effective intra-group and inter­group 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 five­year 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 Mike Honda, D-Calif., 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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If you or someone close to your heart needs additional assistance with daily living, there’s a place of comfort and joy waiting. That place is Nikkei Senior Gardens — a unique assisted living community in the Arleta area where seniors can live as independently as possible, yet be surrounded by the culture, family and warmth of the Japanese-American community. Here you'll discover the compassion, security and care you expect, in a convenient location that keeps loved ones close to each other. 

There's no better time than now! Nikkei Senior Gardens is scheduled to open in December. Call (818) 899-1000 today to find out more. Nikkei Senior Gardens is a non-profit community open to all. 

Nikkei Senior Gardens 
9221 Arleta Avenue • Arleta, CA 91331 
(818) 899-1000 • www.NikkeiSeniorGardens.com
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 Seichiti 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.

SACRAMENTO

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 Pineland Memorial.

Southern California
GARDEN GROVE
Sat., Dec. 6—SELANOCO JACL Mochizuki; 8-3 p.m.; Wintersburg Japanese American History Museum, 3711 Fairview St.; $3.50/lb; deadline to order is Mon., Dec. 7 ($2.25/lb). Info: www.wintersburgjapamuseum.org.

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: Zeno 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.; $30; 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.jaccl.org.

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

Pacific Northwest
KENT, Wash.

SOUP TO SUSHI
(a special collection of favorite recipes)
New Deluxe 3-Ring Binder Cookbook With Over 750 Recipes $25 (plus $5.50 handling)
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The San Francisco Taiko Dojo will host the International Taiko Festival 40th Anniversary Concert, Nov. 22-23 at U.C. Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall.

The Joy Luck Club
JOY LUCK CLUB by SUSAN KIM
ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY AMY TAN
DIRECTED BY JON LAWRENCE RIVERA
EXTENDED TO DEC 21, 2008
Performance Run Wed.-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 2pm; $45 (orchestra), $40 (balcony)
* Bonus Matinees: Sat. Dec 13 & 20, 2008 at 2pm
* Minimum Friday and achieve complimentary classes of white shrimp and red fish served
* The production must be 71 years of age

BEYOND PRESENCE: HER STORIES, OUR STORIES
A series of Sunday forums discussing Asian American women.
November 22 @ 5pm (free) Conversations Dancing The Joy Luck Club for DC 2008 December 6 @ 2pm (free) Beyond Brains or Beautiful Beauty in Asia America 2.0
BBN Barne & Noble in The Grove, 109 W 3rd St, CA, 90069
IDBT David Henry Hwang Theater

East West Players
www.EastWestPlayers.org
(213) 625-7000

David Henry Hwang Theatre at the Union Center for the Arts
120 East fourth Ave Street in the
Little Tokyo District, downtown L.A.

To ensure delivery before Christmas, all orders should be submitted by December 1.
In Memoriam 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

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

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

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

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, Yuko; and sisters-in-law, Fusako (Nakajima) and Chiyo (Tomiko).

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

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

Isoe, James, 76, Gardena, Oct. 24; survived by wife, Ellen; daughter, Debbie (Dave) Sugimoto; son, Kenji (Katherine); and two brothers.

Kubota, Tsuru, 58, Los Angeles, Oct. 8; WWII veteran; Army; survived by wife, Florence; children, Glenn, Carma, Kristine, Elizabeth and Greg; and 6 gc.

Masunyi, Asami, 92, Los Angeles, Nov. 10; survived by sons, Yuji (Meiko) and Asako (Kim); daughter, Amy (Ken); 5 gc.; and sister-in-law, Suzuko (Bob) Alves.

Mayeda, Dr. Kazutoshi, 80, Los Angeles, Oct. 19; former JAACL 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, Kazuko and Kathy; son, Mike; 4 gc.; and 1 gc.

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 Cohense and Susan Mastihare.

Nagata, Genta, 74, Glendale, Nov. 6; survived by parents, Hideko and Kazuyo; and sister, Tomoko (Sylvain) Copon.

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

Ogata, Shigemi Tommy, 83, Glendale, Oct. 11; survived by sisters, Sally Hirota, Natsue (Steven) Nakano, Mitzy (Ted) Ozaki, Yoshie Ueno, Anne Ogata, and Charlotte (Dennis) Masaki; and brother, Seigo (Helen); Hayami (Kay), Shigeki (Chino), Katsumi (Ursula), Makoto and Ronald.

Ogawa, Atsunari, 72, Oxnard, Oct. 11; Wireless veteran; survived by wife, Reiko; children, Anna, Anthony, and John (Sharon) Okada.

Okada, Yukiko, 92, Los Angeles, Nov. 3; survived by daughters, Dorothy (Tosh) Masakawa and Betty (John) Hatakeyama; 3 gc.; 2 sisters, Yoshika (Fred) Masaki and Robert (Nori) Iida; and brother, Kiyoshi Shimokaji.

Snoadgrass, Alice Mikami, Palmer, Alaska, Oct. 12; survived by son, Jack (Jeanie).

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

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

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

Yamada, Masaru, 82, Syracuse, Utah, Oct. 28; survived by wife, Kiyoko; daughters, Julie (Paul) Kimura and Lorre (Wallace) Cranford; 8 gc.; brother, Sadanaka and 2 gc.; and sisters, Misako (Shige) Shima and Aiko (Bob) Okada.

Yamashiro, Stanley, 61, Los Angeles, Oct. 31; survived by daughter, Nikki; sister, Lily (Toshio) 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) Kuribara; and 6 gc.

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

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 lifetime 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 Cory (Jim) Knox; 11 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; sister, Nancy Kasamoto of Hilo, Hawaii; and sister-in-law, Marilyn Akita of Bellevue. He was preceded in death by his parents, Maguro and Matsu; sister, Lilly; brother, Robert; daughter and son-in-law; Pat and Wayne Miyahara; 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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OBITUARIES

Merced Assembly Center Internnees

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 when 4,500 JPs were housed before being sent to Amache, Colo. Please contact, Bob Taniguchi taniguchi.r@ mccd.edu, Marlene Tanioka mtan­ko@earthlink.net or to the committee at 12077 W. Olive Ave., Lindsay, CA 93634.

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If you order 2 or more DVDs by December 25, we will include an extra DVD to give to a friend.

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— Asian Sun News

To book a benefit screening at your local JACL chapter, contact Mission From Buddha Productions at (858)565-2021

Go to www.OnlyTheBraveMovie.com to order DVDs of ONLY THE BRAVE, or send check or money order payable to Mission From Buddha Productions to: Mission From Buddha Productions, P.O. Box 420866, San Diego, CA, 92142. Contact Mission From Buddha Productions at (858)565-2021 if ordering 10 or more.

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