



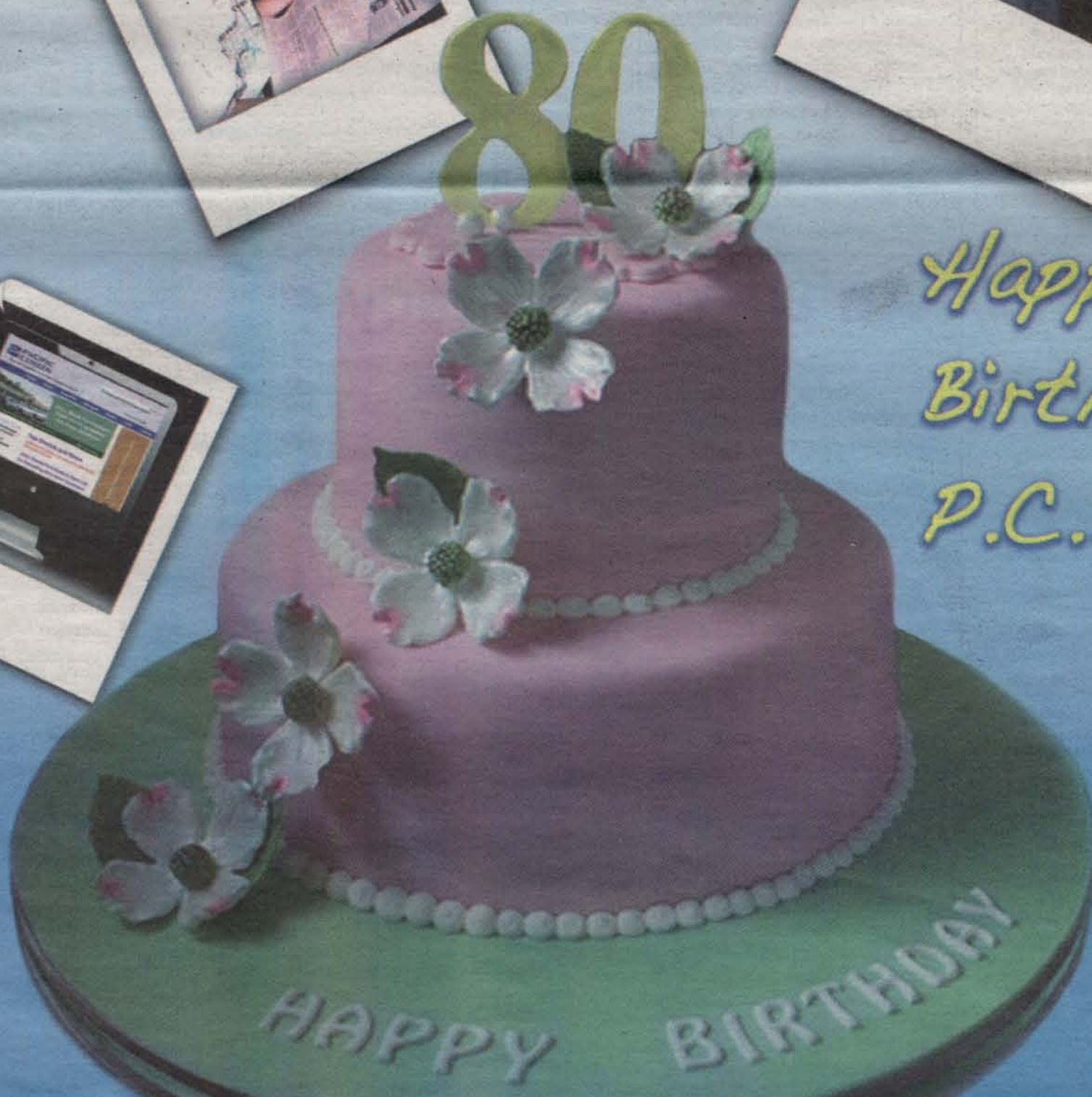
PACIFIC CITIZEN

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

EXTRA! EXTRA!
Your national JACL
board members outline
their vision for '09



Happy
Birthday,
P.C.!!



INSIDE
2008 in
photos





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Bringing Our Community Together

For the past 80 years, *Pacific Citizen* has helped to unite JAs and AAs across the country. Now with more online features, the *P.C.* can reach an even wider audience.

By MARGIE YAMAMOTO

When I moved from California to Massachusetts 25 years ago, I knew there were things I would miss. Back then, right after Christmas, I was struck with nostalgia for my family's



Oshogatsu celebration. I would remember my Hawaii-born Nisei mother taking days to cook all of the traditional New Year foods. Since we were not supposed to do any "work" on the first day of the New Year, she was always careful to finish cooking before midnight on Dec. 31. The next morning, on Jan. 1, we'd start the day with a breakfast of *ozoni* and toasted *mochi*. Then, by noon, out came the real food and a steady stream of family and friends coming to visit and eat.

After complaining about missing *Oshogatsu* for six years, I finally decided to do something about it right in our own home. That first guest list was made up almost exclusively of non-Asians. In deference to their uneducated palettes, I had a honey-

baked ham, roast turkey, bread, potato salad, and for me I made *makizushi*, *teriyaki* chicken, *daikon namasu*, and *kinpira*, fully expecting it all to be left over. They ignored the ham, turkey, potato salad and bread and ate everything else and asked for more!

Today, 19 *Oshogatsu* celebrations later, the menu is all Japanese and includes *hijiki*, *kuromame*, *onishime*, *kabocha*, and more than a dozen other traditional dishes. Mark, my husband, and I prepare almost everything from scratch and it takes us three days to shop for the food and three days to cook it. We have to go to about 10 different Japanese, Korean, Chinese and American stores to find all the ingredients ... that's when I miss California the most. Mark, who is non-Asian, has now become an expert at rolling *makizushi* and cutting the *gobo* for *kinpira*.

This year 111 people attended and our guest list was a multi-racial group of friends from all parts of our lives: professional, social, volunteer, and family. More than Christmas, Thanksgiving or even anniversaries, this has become *our* traditional celebration.

As Japanese Americans, we're fortunate to have a rich cultural heritage that we can identify, one that brings with it traditions like *Oshogatsu* that can enrich our lives. But as an ethnic group, outside of California and

Hawaii, we are so spread out that it is difficult for many of us to connect with other JAs.

Since becoming a member of the JACL *Pacific Citizen* editorial board, I've come to realize that the *Pacific Citizen* is part of JACL's heritage and tradition and it plays an important role in bringing our community together. It's the only English language Asian American newspaper to be published continuously since 1929. It's a document that chronicles not just the history of the JACL, but the story of the Japanese in America. Today the *P.C.* has evolved and expanded to include news about all AAs.

Looking to the future, the *P.C.* is working to be accessible and appeal to all our members — from our mem-

bers who prefer to read a printed newspaper to our more technology oriented members who use their iPhones for everything. The *P.C.* straddles both worlds with a traditional newspaper as well as a Web site providing electronic access.

Next month, the *P.C.* will introduce new online services that will help bring it to an even wider audience. The expanded Web site will offer more interactive functions including the "My *P.C.* Contributor" section, a feature that allows JACL chapters and districts to

'Since becoming a member of the JACL Pacific Citizen editorial board, I've come to realize that the Pacific Citizen is part of JACL's heritage and tradition ...'

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An 80-Year Legacy

As the *Pacific Citizen* celebrates its 80th birthday this year, we look forward to expanding our online presence.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

Perhaps you've heard: the newspaper industry is changing. Tough economic times are forcing some papers to shut down; others have chosen to eliminate their print edition while maintaining an online version. Ethnic



press are affected by these changes and the same goes for the *Pacific Citizen*, one of the only national Asian American publications left still standing.

As the national publication of the JACL, the *P.C.* is unique and we're in a great position to embrace the evolution currently taking place in the newspaper industry. With its niche focus (JACL members and the larger Asian American community) and small overhead budget (just over \$206,000 for national JACL in 2009), the *P.C.* is increasing its online presence while maintaining its print version.

This year is the *P.C.*'s 80th birthday and in

February we will be launching a newly redesigned database content management driven Web site (www.pacificcitizen.org).

For the first time, JACL members and subscribers will be able to receive their entire *P.C.* online. We realize that some of our readers will want to continue receiving their printed *P.C.*'s — and they'll still be able to do just that — but we hope to migrate many of our JACL members and subscribers to the online version. The savings in printing and mailing costs will ultimately help JACL's bottom-line.

www.pacificcitizen.org

The newly redesigned *P.C.* Web site will contain even more enterprising national JACL and Asian American community news stories and interactive media such as video-streaming and podcasts. Readers will also be able to give their opinions and provide feedback through our comment sections.

A new feature will be our blog: "The *P.C.* Beat." This blog will give our readers a behind the scenes look at what goes on at the *P.C.* including what stories the staff are working on and observations on the latest community news and events.

JACL members and paid non-member sub-

scribers will now be able to login to the *P.C.*'s secure Web site, providing access to exclusive areas of the site.

Some of these features will include:

- A downloadable PDF of the entire *P.C.* printed version.
- Galleries of photos for various events and stories including: JACL conventions, tri- and bi-district conferences, installations, etc.
- A searchable *P.C.* Archive with past articles and features going back 80 years.

• A "My *P.C.*" Contributors section that will feature sections for the JACL districts. Districts and chapters will be encouraged to submit items and stories for these sections.

• "My *P.C.*" Contributors training sessions to learn the basics of newspaper reporting. In these sessions, contributors will learn how to get their events publicized, how to write a lead, how to get the best quotes, etc. Training sessions will be held both in person and through online videos.



A sneak preview of the *P.C.*'s new Web site set to launch in February!

Funding

In 2009 the *P.C.*'s operating budget is \$408,375. The JACL funds \$206,375 while the remaining \$202,000 is funded entirely by the *P.C.* through general advertising, the annual Holiday Issue, non-member sub-

See AOYAGI-STOM/Page 19

2008: The Year in Review

We are not without challenges and difficulties, but we are better equipped and organized to solve the problems before us.

By FLOYD MORI

This past year saw many very visible changes in our nation. The "change we can believe in" was embodied in the election of Barack Obama to the Presidency. Other



new faces also emerged to reflect a fresh air of generational change.

David Gregory became the new moderator of "Meet the Press." Speaker Nancy Pelosi completed her first term as the first woman to be the Speaker of the House. The Phillies won the World

Series. There was a revitalization of so many facets of our society. Diversity and youth were themes that seemed to prevail.

The JACL, an organization that has a rich tradition in its people and its mission, was not exempt from change and revitalization. The changes that we are seeing are significant and provide immense opportunity for the future work and mission of this great organization.

Some changes that may seem negative and pessimistic can be turned into tools to build and reconstruct. Falling membership has given us the incentive to fill JACL with new members of a new generation and broader ethnic background. The same membership-based funding mechanism has forced us to look to innovative measures to finance new programs and initiatives. The narrowing of policy alternatives allowed us to develop a new drive toward programs that will benefit and involve members for generations to come.

The institutional shift from a biennial to an annual convention will trigger a new era of better communication and awareness among members and chapters. In

fast changing times in funding, membership and programs, an annual convention will allow quicker response to a dynamic nonprofit environment.

The mobility of today's membership requires a different approach to organizational problem solving. Youth and young professionals will have the tools and motivation to become more involved in programs that will enhance leadership and build meaningful relationships with the Asian Pacific American community and its causes.

There has been a new shift in staff responsibilities that focus on programs that benefit membership. The two main areas are youth and health. These programs involve members and their families and help them move

'JACL, an organization that has a rich tradition in its people and its mission ...'

towards individual excellence and a renewed understanding of the cultural values that enhance their own lifestyle and that of those around them.

New fellowship and internship opportunities have broadened experience and increased commitment to community and to a nation free of intolerance and inequality while at the same time giving support to an overburdened full-time staff.

We are not without challenges and difficulties, but we are better equipped and organized to solve the problems before us. With this "New JACL," we will use the best technology available to us along with the continued dedication of members, leaders, and staff members to break ground we have heretofore felt unreachable.

We merely have to lengthen our stride just a little towards our goal of developing better Americans for a better America for us as individuals and as families.

Thanks for your support of the JACL. Wishing you the best this New Year. ■

Floyd Mori is the JACL national director.

Happy New Year 2009

Redress was a phenomenal achievement, but our job is not done.

By LARRY ODA

As the Japanese American Citizens League begins to celebrate its 80th year as an organization, I recall the past year and reflect on who we are.

Two significant anniversaries for JACL were marked in 2008. Thirty years ago at the 1978 national convention in Salt Lake City the Redress campaign officially began. It was Edison Uno who proposed a resolution to the national council to seriously pursue Redress. With the adoption of Uno's resolution, John Tateishi was hired as Redress director and the movement began.



Twenty years ago in August 1988 during the Seattle national convention, HR 442, the Redress Bill — the culmination of a 10-year battle — made it to President Reagan's desk for a signature.

Redress was a phenomenal achievement. This was the very first time in the history of the United States where a small group of people, who were victims of injustice at the hands of the government, were successful in having their case heard before Congress — and prevailing. This was a significant accomplishment that we have a duty to pass on to others. Unless we are vigilant to ensure that the government cannot make decisions based on racial

'We have existed for 80 years to protect our community and we will continue to do so.'

prejudice, hysteria or inept political leadership, another community may be victimized.

Going forward, we expended this considerable effort to prevent any other group from suffering as we did, but we are losing ground. As much as we celebrate the great grassroots effort that was Redress, in the same way that we develop immunity to some drugs, there are those who find ways to circumvent laws.

The USA Patriot Act and Military Commissions Act have changed the landscape of civil liberties and enable authorities to examine library records or tap phones. American citizens can be declared enemy combatants, be stripped of their rights and be held without charges for an indeterminate time.

While we may have been successful in preventing another group from being placed in camps as we were, it has not stopped the government from targeting ethnic groups for extraordinary treatment. We must remain vigilant and stand up for our constitutionally guaranteed liberties whenever anyone tries to abridge them because of political expediency, racial prejudice or momentary hysteria.

JACL has evolved from looking after our own community to engaging the larger community. We are trying to accomplish this while our own community is shrinking. We continue to engage the larger issues that confront us with diminishing resources. The realities that are becoming evident for the rest of the nation and the world are affecting us, and maybe to a larger degree because we are losing our constituency.

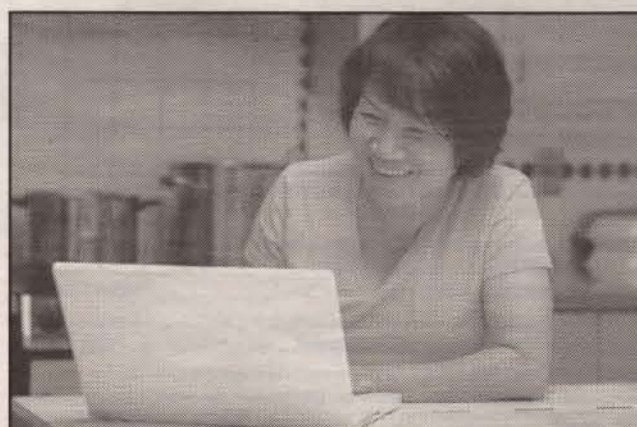
The national board has a job that is being repeated by many nonprofit organizations throughout the nation, that of adjusting the expectations of the organization in the face of the economic downturn. We have existed for 80 years to protect our community and we will continue to do so.

The national board is thankful for your support and looks forward to a productive year for JACL. I am proud of the accomplishments of our board and committees. As the various regulatory agencies demand an increasing amount of accountability for organizations such as ours, we have been able to demonstrate that JACL has shown the appropriate level of prudence in the handling of its affairs.

I guarantee that we will continue to demonstrate responsibility, due diligence and fiduciary responsibility — with which the membership has entrusted us — while protecting our civil rights and preserving our cultural heritage.

On behalf of the national board, thank you and Happy New Year! ■

Larry Oda is the JACL national president.



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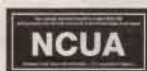
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Falling Average Ages Makes Your Secretary/Treasurer Smile

A youth revolution is happening everywhere in the JACL.

By JOSH SPRY

Normally, the secretary/treasurer uses this space to talk about our falling investments (they're still falling). Or falling membership



numbers (they're still falling). But for the new year, I'd like to write about

something happy — the falling average age of the national board!

In 2005-06, I was one of two non-30-plus year olds and dare I say non-40-plus year olds on the national board. This coming biennium, your national board has four people younger than 25. They are: Brandon

Mita, the national youth representative (born July 1984); Leilani Savitt, MDC governor (born April 1984); Kimberly Shintaku, national youth chair (born May 1984); and myself (born March 1984). That's an incredible amount of young people in the top leadership positions of JACL!

Out of respect for those born before 1984, I will refrain from actually calculating the average age of the national board for this article.

Take an inventory of your local chapter and district boards and I'll bet the average age is falling there too. I can think of five chapter presidents who are in their 20s. Even the national staff average age has decreased with the addition of several fellows, summer interns and a new PSW regional director (although all national staff members are young at heart).

What does this mean?

Young people are interested in our organization. By developing programs in community building, cultural preservation, campus civil rights and career networking at the local and national levels, JACL is becoming relevant to youth with different interests. It's this variety that's capturing the energy of young people in the JACL.

'This coming biennium, your national board has four people younger than 25. ... That's an incredible amount of young people in the top leadership positions of JACL!'

"Growing up" in the JACL, I went through phases of interest. I joined for the cultural preservation aspect, but then went from civil rights to community, to career networking and back to cultural preservation. As

a young person, my interests changed frequently, but the JACL gave me opportunities to meet people that shared my interests. By having a wide spectrum of programming, the JACL offers something for everyone, and makes our organization dynamic to young members.

Chapters and districts are also incorporating youth into normal events. The NCWNP district holds youth meetings in conjunction with the district quarterly meetings. Day of Remembrance programs have portions dedicated to and run by young people. Almost every chapter picnic or scholarship banquet has youth fundraisers. By making young people regular fixtures of JACL — and giving them greater responsibility — chapters and districts are developing commitment from their youth. The hope is that this commitment extends beyond their teens and 20s and these

people will become lifetime members.

So, what's next?

Creative and dedicated non-youth started this programming by asking, "what if we did this?" To the many, many people and chapters that have been coming up with creative programming, thank you. Don't stop, and tell other people about what you're doing.

For any of you who have seen rising average ages on your chapter boards, it's okay. Talk to the young people in your chapter and ask them what they want. It might sound strange (I've come up with some things that were really out there). But it might be crazy enough to work!

Happy New Year to you all. The next time I write (when I wear my secretary/treasurer hat), I hope I can tell you about our investments soaring and huge budget surpluses (a big New Year's wish, I know). But my second New Year's wish is to meet many of you in 2009 and hear about the falling average age on your chapter boards. ■

Josh Spry is the JACL secretary/treasurer.

A New Year's Resolution for All of Us

The Program for Action is a road map for districts and chapters to build coalitions, outreach and recruit new members.

By SHELDON ARAKAKI

"During the 2009-2010 biennium, the JACL will continue its role of promoting civil rights and social justice through programs of advocacy and education. These programs will monitor and respond to issues that threaten civil and human rights and the dignity of affected communities. The programs will also educate the public about the historical experience of Japanese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans, including efforts to preserve our historic legacies. Finally, the programs will begin to address the actual disparities in social justice that exist for Asian Pacific Americans."



The JACL recognizes the need to develop and maintain a sustainable source of effective leadership that will act for positive social change for Asian Pacific Americans and for the community at-large. The JACL will commit resources to programs that encourage leadership opportunities especially for our youth in networking, advocacy, coalition building and education about community issues. The JACL also recognizes the need to strengthen our current leadership by offering internal training opportunities that reach all levels of the JACL so that we remain a vital and contributing organization in our society."

The above excerpt is from the Program for Action, which the national council passed at July's Salt Lake City national convention and is the guide for your JACL life in this biennium.

The Program for Action is not just for the national staff or board to implement. The Program for Action is for each of us to implement at the chapter and/or the district level. This is an opportunity for community out-

reach, coalition building and membership recruiting.

The Program for Action is a broadly written document that gives you the flexibility to organize activities. My hope is that you can plan and implement at least one activity during this biennium, and I especially challenge the JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference alums to use what they have learned and lead the way.

The Program for Action can be realized by educating voters about candidates or issues through forums presenting all sides, conducting voter registration or volunteering as an Election Day poll monitor.

You can educate your representative in your state capitol or in Washington, D.C. about the issues that matter most to our community. You can organize a workshop on internal racial oppression, immigrant rights or health care issue like Hepatitis B. You can present the history of your local Japanese American community, their contributions, their small businesses and civic involvement.

You can sponsor a *matsuri*, *bon odori* or a forum on Hollywood Asian Pacific American images at an APA film festival. You can help create and mold the future leaders of this organization by having a "board 101," "membership recruiting 101" and "fundraising 101" sessions.

These ideas and more present an opportunity for your chapter to plan and implement with other chapters in your area or even your district. Many of these events would also be more effective and draw a larger audience by partnering with other community organizations such as the OCA, NAACP, ACLU, League of Women Voters, Council on American-Islamic Relations, APIAVote, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum or the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Achieving the Program for Action together means we can talk to potential members and sponsors and tell them not only what JACL means locally, but nationwide. It also shows them the value of 100-plus chapters.

Sheldon Arakaki is the JACL vice president of general operations.



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Philippe Theriault/Grace Sakamoto
- Mar. 31-Apr. 14 Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan** - 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Sendai, Niigata, Takayama, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Kyoto, Hiroshima.
Peggy Mikuni
- April 1-7 Yamato Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour** - 7 days/6 nights visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington, D.C.
Philippe Theriault/Lilly Nomura
- July Yamato Hokkaido Tour** - 12 days/10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Furano, Lake Akan, Kushiro, Ikeda, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate.
Peggy Mikuni
- July 9-14 Yamato Discover California Motorcoach Tour** - 6 days/5 nights visiting Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Hearst Castle, Monterey, San Francisco, Petaluma, Napa Valley, Fairfield, Sacramento, Yosemite.
Philippe Theriault
- July 30-Aug. 7 Yamato Canadian Rockies & the Majestic British Columbia Coast Tour** - 10 days/9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, rail to Prince George, rail to Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River, Victoria.
Philippe Theriault
- Aug. 28-Sept. 10 Yamato Tour to China** - 14 days/12 nights visiting Beijing, Xi'an, Yangtze River Cruise from Chongqing to Yichang (3 nights), Hangzhou, Shanghai.
Peggy Mikuni
- Oct. 2-11 Yamato East Coast Fall Foliage Tour** - 10 days/9 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Cooperstown/Baseball Hall of Fame, Williamstown, Loon Mountain, Kancamagus Highway, Boston, New York City.
Philippe Theriault/Lilly Nomura
- Oct. 15-29 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** - 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Kagoshima, Ibusuki, Kirishima, Kumamoto, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
Peggy Mikuni
- Nov. 9-17 Costa Rica - Nature's Museum, A Smithsonian Journeys Tour** - With Collette Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting San Jose, Poas Volcano, Braulio Carrillo and Tortuguero Nat'l Parks, Sarapiquí, San Carlos, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge. Includes stay at a rain forest resort.
- Nov. 30-Dec. 9 Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour** - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Romantic Road from Dinkelsbühl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.
Philippe Theriault

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Warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

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East Bay Eden

Yes, we do need to get more young people involved. How? Just engage them with community opportunities.

By TIM KOIDE

The biggest perk of my job is visiting with our members. I am always impressed with the diversity of experience and background that this incredible network can boast of. You all have wonderful stories to tell, ideas to share, and are actively concerned with the organization's future.

As I visit with you, there is one overwhelming sentiment voiced that seems to transcend all the differences that make our nationwide network so rich — indeed, the first thing that often comes up when we have the opportunity to talk, is the need to get more young people involved. Well, I don't believe in silver bullets, and I also don't believe that adjectives in front of someone's name like "young" or "old" necessarily mean anything functionally.

But when talking about the perpetuity of the membership of JACL, i.e., the sustainable human element of the organization, we must necessarily be talking about young people. Having said that, I will add my redundant voice to yours in saying that, yes, we *do* need to get more young people involved. But, involved doing what?

Recently I met with members of the Eden Township chapter at their board



Last summer, the Eden Youth Group members went on a big trip to Morro Bay, Calif. It's an annual tradition that deepens friendships.

officers' installation dinner. The menu was filling and the company was exceptional. Most exciting about this meeting was the chance that I had to interact with the Eden Youth Group. I was heartened with what I saw, and the people I met. The youth sat together at a table, seemingly comfortable with what they represented to the chapter.

Active since 1956, the EYG (as they call themselves) meets every month for a planning meeting covering their slate of activities that ranges from service activities, to social gatherings to fundraising efforts. Once a year, the group takes a "big trip" to celebrate their accomplishments, to deepen friendships, and to have fun. This past summer they traveled to Morro Bay.

As each youth would affirm, fun activities such as the "big trip" are definitely incentives to get involved, but the main utility that these young people derive from their involvement is found when they serve their community. Lindsay Oda, the group's president, emphasized that point:

"[The Eden Township Youth Group] means a lot to me because it lets me give back to the community that raised me. Not only that, it has given me a better understanding of my community. Before, it was just ... [an opportunity] to hang out with friends. Now it's about others. I get to serve a senior lunch, I get to do a cleanup for the local Buddhist church ... It's important for other youth to get involved for the same reason — to know that community is about helping others."

This young generation wants to serve. They want venues to create lasting friendships based on common ideals and identities. Our communities, no matter where we live, provide plenty of opportunities for service, and our youth provide plenty of energy and desire to serve. Food banks, neighborhood cleanups, care facilities, blood drives — the needs of the community never go away.

We, as an organization, stress leadership development. We stress civic engagement. We stress civil liberties. Service provides us with the construct to develop leadership, the venue to engage civil society, and the opportunity to exercise our civil liberties and help others maintain theirs. The rising gen-

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A Movement to Revitalize the JACL

Our choice is to let the membership numbers continue to wither or to proactively work together to grow them.

By RYAN CHIN

Membership. Membership. Membership.



It's the word of the day, or rather, the past 15 years. For years, the organization has been trying to reverse the continuous slide in membership numbers.

My first priority, since President Larry Oda appointed me to this position, has been to start a grassroots membership movement through empowerment. Clearly, stemming the receding tide of membership

can't be powered only from the top. And quite frankly this organization has always prided itself on its grassroots movements.

As such, this means engaging the chapters as much as possible in a membership **movement**.

I believe a leader should have a vision. A leader should make things happen. I have a vision and plan that I'm going to roll out over the next two years, but it all starts with the involvement of the chapters. Therefore, an integral part of my capacity to make things happen for the remainder of the biennium is contingent on my ability to get chapters to participate in this movement, as well as my ability to remove any encumbrances that our chapters may face.

As such, I have proactively reached out to chapter presidents via e-mail in October (through district governors) and November (through National Director Floyd Mori) opening the communication channels directly to me. I want to hear about the obstacles you're facing so I can remove them, as well as get you the things you need.

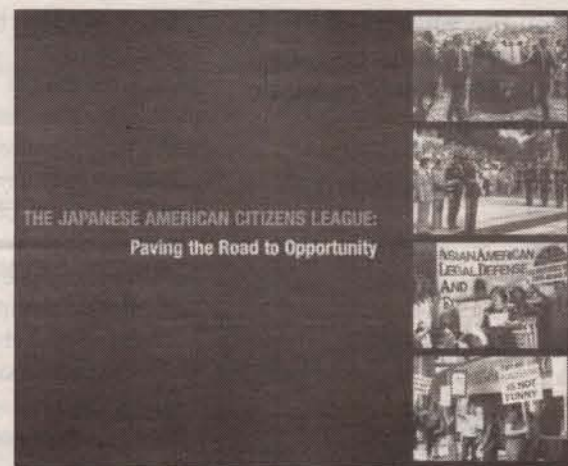
I have received some responses and look to work on the feasible ones, but this isn't a one-time activity so please keep the dialogue flowing. As you know, the best grassroots campaigns aren't executed through dictatorial commands, but rather many on-going conversations.

Beyond making a concerted effort to establish communication channels, a movement requires empowerment. A significant part of empowerment is to ensure that people are adequately prepared. As such, I have been diligently compiling a set of resources that chapters can use for their membership efforts.

Working with various staff and volunteers, I have started to put together a comprehensive set of tools for chapters and districts — a "one-stop shop" for this membership movement. My vision with this is to create an easily accessible repository for any and every brochure or document that chapters can use for membership recruitment so everyone knows what's available and can attain it at anytime, from any place — something we've never been close to offering.

As a result, I have created a membership center on the JACL's Web site (www.jaclmembership.org). These Web pages contain a set of membership tools that chapters can download at anytime. I encourage chapters to do this as soon as possible.

In the new JACL Membership Center, you will find things such as: membership brochures, JACL program brochures, sample letters, business cards, banners, presentations, posters and other items which can be used locally to promote your chapter. Passwords to the mem-



Every new JACL member will get a free copy of the 75th anniversary JACL book while supplies last.

bership center were sent to chapter presidents via e-mail in early January.

Take note: this site is in its infancy and will always be a work in progress (WIP) — not my WIP, but our WIP. The contents thus far have come from various regions and levels of the organization; please let me know if you have something that your chapter uses for membership. You'd be surprised at how something you view as inconsequential can make a difference for someone else in the organization — only good can come from sending it to me. Wouldn't it be worth it if that shared material resulted in just one new member?

We're continuously adding things, so make it routine to check back every month. For example, right now I'm working with PNW Regional Director Karen Yoshitomi on receiving digital copies of many of our program brochures, so these can be printed and used by chapters at their leisure.

Aside from the membership center, I have also been working actively with Tim Koide, JACL membership coordinator, on developing other things for chapters and districts. Of note, we have created membership kits, booth kits and have made the 75th anniversary books available as free gifts to new members.

The membership kits — folders with slots for your JACL business card — include: a membership brochure, benefits brochures, program brochures and a copy of the *Pacific Citizen*. Please request these through national JACL.

We have a limited amount of these available, so it may be helpful if you have an idea of how you will use these, so you know how many you'll need.

The booth kits — an excellent way to reach potential members — can be used to establish a JACL presence at public functions. To facilitate this effort, we have developed kits which you can checkout from national JACL by contacting Tim at mbr@jacl.org. These kits contain a 3 ft. x 6 ft. vinyl banner, JACL posters with backing boards, *Pacific Citizen* copies and numerous brochures (membership, benefits, programs). Think about how you can leverage these materials for public events coming up in 2009.

The 75th anniversary books were originally published to celebrate the JACL's 75th anniversary. These picture books detailing the history of the organization were originally sold for \$35. We still have a limited supply left, so we're offering them as free gifts to new members. This is an excellent way to offer new members an added bonus for their dues, as well as offering them additional information on the storied past of the organization. They're only available while supplies last!

See CHIN/Page 15

New Year, New Progress in 2009

With the support of members and volunteers, our organization will continue its growth.

By DAVID KAWAMOTO

Please let me wish all of you the happiest of new years. Thank you to all the chapters and members for their work on regional programs and



for their grassroots support of key issues affecting our community. JACL

has always been a membership organization and relies on the selfless efforts of many volunteers throughout our great nation. Please know that your efforts are noted and appreciated.

Like many people and organizations, national JACL is suffering from the effects of the financial recession. I am pleased to report that there has been little diminution in the programs under my direction. We are able to accomplish this because of the extra effort put forth by our wonderful staff and volunteers. Please join me in thanking these individuals who do so much for our community.

I'd like to report on the progress made in several of my office's programs.

Scholarships

As many of you are aware, my

wife Carol and I have voluntarily coordinated this program for the JACL for the last seven years. With valuable input from the members, we have worked to grow and improve this program. We have added JACL involvement as a scoring criterion. We have increased communication to the chapters on scholarship recipients from their chapter and to the chapters proximate to the schools the recipients attend. The JACL efforts to keep the recipients involved in the organization have resulted in greater involve-

evaluation of the freshman scholarships, but for various reasons the chapters were unable to assist during this biennium. We are very grateful that the Chicago chapter, which is preparing to host our 2010 national JACL convention, stepped in on short notice to do the freshman evaluations for this biennium.

Washington, D.C., Gala

National JACL held its second annual Gala last September. Floyd and Irene Mori, the Washington, D.C. chapter and many volunteers

'JACL has always been a membership organization and relies on the selfless efforts of many volunteers throughout our great nation.'

ment by the recipients at all levels of our organization. It is noteworthy that there are five former national JACL scholarship recipients presently serving on the national JACL board.

During 2008, Carol and I voluntarily conducted a membership and fund-raising drive targeting JACL's scholarship recipients. We were pleased to obtain several membership renewals, and were overwhelmed by the generous donations from past recipients to the scholarship endowment. The solicitation raised over \$10,000 for the scholarship endowment.

Please join me in thanking the Seattle and Lake Washington chapters, and the Chicago chapter for volunteering to evaluate the scholarship applications for the 2009 National JACL Scholarship Program. We had lined up several possibilities for

helped make this event another success for the JACL. In addition to adding needed funds, this year's event provided recognition to two young public servants, Nathan Shinagawa and David Inoue. The JACL is already planning for the 2009 Gala, which will honor our community's military veterans.

JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference

State Farm Insurance continues its role as the primary sponsor for the JACL's most successful program. It is with great pride that I mention that I am a graduate of the JACL's Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference. The graduates of this program are now JACL leaders at the chapter, district and national levels.

Among many other things, the

program is a great opportunity for some of our chapter members to learn how they can become more involved in the JACL's national grassroots efforts. The 2009 program runs from March 6-10. Anyone interested in attending should contact his or her JACL district council.

Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship

The JACL is presently accepting applications for the 2009 Mike Masaoka Fellowship. Applications can be found on the JACL Web site under the "Leadership" heading. The chapters are urged to encourage their qualified members to apply for this wonderful program.

Planned Giving

Several chapters have found people interested in including the JACL in their estate planning. Thanks go out to Steve Okamoto for his efforts in informing these generous individuals in ways they can assist JACL and, at the same time, benefit financially. If any members would like to find out more about planned giving, please feel free to contact me.

With the thoughtful support of our membership, our organization will continue its growth. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns. I can be reached at home at 619/287-7583 or via e-mail at dhkawamoto@aol.com. ■

David Kawamoto is the JACL vice president for planning and development.

Change is in the Air: Unique Opportunities for JACL

A rebirth of community and political activism provides new and unique opportunities for the effectiveness of our organization.

By RON KATSUYAMA

Having had recent opportunities to meet with members of college and community organizations on topics such as health care disparities, hate crimes and bias related incidents, and community outreach, I have recognized a growing activism among these leaders.



More recently, there has been a major change in attitudes concerning the need for greater government responsibility, and the call for such change is becoming more powerful among a variety of grassroots organizations. The recent economic meltdown seems to have consolidated feelings that our government agencies must once again serve all people and not just the privileged few.

As examples of the inaction or questionable policies of federal regulatory agencies (e.g., FDA, FCC, and FTA, etc.) and departments (e.g., Justice, Homeland Security, Interior, etc.) have come to light, it is not surprising that calls for widespread change resonated so strongly with voters in November's presidential election. As an agent of change, Obama's "Yes We Can!" mantra appears to continue its resonance in the airwaves, internet communications, public and private conversations, and the psyche of the general public.

Perhaps the current political and social climate bears some resemblance to that of the 1960s and early '70s, wherein major institutional changes were implemented under the "Great Society." While a depressed economy hinders fund-raising for nonprofit causes, including JACL's educational and civil rights initiatives, nevertheless, a rebirth of community and political activism provides new and unique opportunities for the effectiveness of our organization.

More youth seem to be seeking volunteer opportunities for community service, and more young professionals are choosing careers based upon the potential for satisfying service opportunities. As JACL develops new programs to further its worthy mission and goals, our organization can derive immense benefits from current and future members who seek such meaningful service that JACL can provide through strong education, civil and human rights, and service programs.

It is critical that we build upon JACL's current strengths, including our nationwide network of chapters, history of previous successes, and recognition for future success among certain agency leaders and elected officials at all levels. As JACL evolves in order to focus on the most promising programs with measurable outcomes, we will be ensuring an increasingly viable and effective organization, one that promotes more responsive social and governmental institutions and helps facilitate the full participation of all residents in our democratic processes. ■

Ron Katsuyama is the JACL vice president of public affairs.



National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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Just Getting Started: A New Beginning

With four national board members 25 or younger, the future is bright.



By **KIMBERLY SHINTAKU**
and **BRANDON MITA**

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu! Happy New Year! This time of the year we not only look back on the past, we can use this opportunity to look forward to 2009, making a fresh, new start.

During the past few years the youth programming has come a long way. With the constant turnover of active youth in all areas of JACL, one would think that it is simply because we are not getting any new young people interested in our organization. In addition, young people get older and eventually

age out of the student/youth age range.

Where is the upside to all of this? Take our national JACL board for example. Four of our current members are under the age of 25. Three of them had previously held a youth position and the other is a former JACL Fellow.

How do we attract new youth to JACL to become our future leaders? We find ways to work together to get young people involved and keep them interested. This new year is an opportunity to take steps in a new direction. We encourage chapters and districts to add at least one new young person into a leadership position. Not just a youth position either — we want to bring new members into this organization as a whole, not just youth programming.

Now that we have a goal, we need a plan on how to get there. From past experience, such as the 2007 JACL National Youth Conference, positive feedback for youth events comes from youth planning. This sounds like a chicken and egg scenario, which comes first? Well, there are a lot of current programs for youth and we

can use them to get in touch with more youth.

Our scholarship programs — whether national, district, or chapter — are a great way to find young people who have been active, are interested in becoming active, or know what JACL is and have even more of a reason to want to give back to an organization that has helped them in continuing their education. They may or may not be living at home anymore, they may not be living near your chapter or district, but why not get in touch with them, find out what they're doing, and help them get in contact with JACL near their new home?

Personal contact, that personal touch, may just sound like warm fuzzies but in the end it can make the difference between a member wanting to stay and feeling like they have a reason to stay or finding another organization to commit their time to. This is not a project that will require years or even months of time, just a few phone calls or e-mails. You can also get together for dinner to find out more about their interests and invite them to the

next JACL event.

We're excited about and hope to see a lot of new faces at this year's JACL National Youth Conference hosted by the Twin Cities chapter at the end of June in Minnesota. The theme is *"IMPACT" Your Community, Your Generation, Your JACL*. We hope that the youth conference will encourage the building of our community through passionate participation in the JACL and greater society.

This is just an outline, the shorthand notes of how we can get started. Who knows where this can put us in the next few years, maybe we'll have a 24-year-old district governor. Oh wait, we're already there!

We want to do what we can to help so please contact us if you have questions, want help or need help getting started. Not everyone will be successful in bringing in a JACL leader of tomorrow, but we hope that everyone will try their best to ensure a future for this organization. ■

Kimberly Shintaku is the national youth chair and Brandon Mita serves as the national youth representative.

Amazing Grayce and Hiroshi

The husband and wife team exemplify extraordinary service to the JACL.

By **KRISTINE M. MINAMI**

There are several names in JACL history that denote extraordinary service to and achievement on behalf of our community — Masaoka, Uno, Kido, Inagaki to name a few. We have honored these leaders' contributions and enshrined their legacies by naming buildings, programs, awards and scholarships after them. Generations to come will hear these names and learn about the contributions of these men and, in doing so, also learn our community's history.

But they are just a few of those who have built the JACL. There have been countless men and women throughout the decades of JACL history who have played vital roles, both small and large, in fighting for our community and for civil rights.

It would be impossible to recognize them all, but the Eastern District Council wants to highlight another name: Ueyehara. For the 20th anniversary of the Redress campaign, the EDC launched an internship program to honor the grassroots activism and contributions of Grayce and Hiroshi Ueyehara. This program will provide a stipend for a college student to serve in the Washington, D.C. office of the JACL to learn about legislative advocacy.

The Ueyeharas are JACL's own example of grassroots organizing at its finest; how the hard work and dedication of a few can make a difference; and that big things come in small packages. They are role models for the credo of "Better Americans in a greater America." They remind us that where there is a will, there is a way.

Grayce and Hiroshi have been active leaders in JACL at the chapter, district and national levels for more than 50 years. They were charter members of the Philadelphia chapter when it was formed in 1946. Both have served as chapter president and EDC governor, have held various other positions and were steadfast convention attendees for decades.

In 1969, Grayce became EDC governor and the first woman to serve on the national board. She was elected national vice president in 1972. For many veteran JACLers, Grayce may be best remembered for her years

of leadership in JACL's successful Redress campaign. She was deeply involved in formulating and executing a strategy to win support in Congress by mobilizing JACL's national network of chapters to relentlessly lobby key members of Congress.

She served for two years on the National Redress Committee before joining the board of the Legislative Education Committee (LEC), which was split off from JACL to focus on lobbying. In 1985, Grayce was "hired" on a nominal salary as executive director of the LEC. For three years, she commuted weekly from their home outside of Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. to realize the Redress campaign.

Hiroshi, who had retired around the same time that Grayce started commuting to Washington, drove Grayce to and from the Wilmington train station and managed to keep the household functioning on his own and without complaint. Grayce and Hiroshi's strength and teamwork were crucial to JACL's success in achieving Redress.

At its gala in Washington in 2008, the JACL saluted Grayce as a "Champion of Redress," and Hiroshi was there at her side. The EDC also recognized both Grayce and Hiroshi's contributions to the Redress campaign with the establishment of the Grayce and Hiroshi Ueyehara Legislative Internship Program.

The EDC further pledged \$10,000 to help fund the program because we believe that future generations need to know and learn from the Ueyeharas' example. We believe that JACL would not be where it is now in part but for Grayce and Hiroshi. We believe JACL needs to develop, mentor and provide opportunities for young community organizers to follow in the footsteps of the Ueyeharas.

Towards that end, the EDC is actively seeking donations to support this new internship and provide a student with the opportunity to experience legislative advocacy firsthand.

If you are interested in honoring the Ueyehara's legacy with a donation, please send a check to:

JACL
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Note in the memo that you are donating to the "Ueyehara Internship Program" or contact the EDC by e-mailing edc.gov@gmail.com for further information. ■

Kristine M. Minami is the EDC district governor.



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American Holiday Travel

2009 Tour Schedule

EGYPT/NILE RIVER TOUR II	WAITLIST	FEB 21-MAR 3
KOREA DRAMA SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR		MAR 27-APR 8
Seoul, Cheju Island, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Chuncheon/Namiseom Island.		
JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR		APR 15-25
Tokyo, Tendo Onsen, Akita, Hirotsaki, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Higashiyama Onsen.		
EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR		MAY 3-11
Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.		
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR I (SOLD OUT)		JUN 28-JUL 7
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.		
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR II	WAITLIST	JUL 7-16
Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Atami, Hakone, Tokyo.		
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE		JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City, HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.		
JAPAN OBON FESTIVAL TOUR		AUG 5-16
Tokyo (Tsukiji Obon Festival), Gujo Hachiman (Summer Odori Festival), Kyoto, Jozankei Onsen Sapporo, Kitami (Tsubetsu Obon Festival).		
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE		AUG 22-SEPT 4
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia, HOLLAND AMERICA Oosterdam Ship.		
PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR		SEPT
PANA Convention - Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Option to Peru.		
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR		OCT 1-8
Boston, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire. Day trips on historic trains: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Green Mountain Flyer Railroad, Essex Steam Train.		
OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR		OCT 11-23
Naha, Kagoshima/Ibusuki, Miyazaki, Nobeoka, Takachiho, Mt. Aso, Beppu, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.		
CANYONLAND GETAWAY HOLIDAY		NOV 8-13
Laughlin, Grand Canyon, Valley of Fire Park, Mesquite, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Las Vegas.		

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Ernest & Carol Hida

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest District!

The PNW is a microcosm of the JACL. We hope to create programs that will meet the interests of the community.

By ELAINE AKAGI

What a year 2008 turned out to be! Right now, the Pacific Northwest is buried under snow and ice. Portland, Seattle and Spokane have seen record amounts of snow this week. Typically, any snow that falls is gone within a few days, but our below freezing temperatures have stuck around for almost two weeks.



Driving on the hills of Seattle is far more challenging than driving in deep snow in flat Detroit. I really thought that I was leaving all the snow behind when I left the Motor City, but it has followed me here.

The country's economy is hitting everyone hard. The loss of jobs in our communities, the drop in the stock market, and the weakening economy has affected us all. It is especially difficult for nonprofit organizations like the JACL to find funding from companies and foundations. Everyone is tightening their belts and hoping to survive this recession.

The national JACL budget that the national council passed in Salt Lake City this past summer has been and will be under scrutiny by the national board. Programs that are funded by grants may not be able to begin.

JACL is a membership-based organization, which means that our budget is based on maintaining or growing our membership. We in the PNW are working to grow our membership through chapter membership drives and making personal contacts with perspective members in the community.

One PNW program that we hope will help grow our membership is our district's Strategic Plan. Headed by Ryan Chin, our new national vice president of membership and services, the committee and consultant are working towards its completion this spring. A community survey was completed almost a year ago, and now we're convening focus groups to help us identify the wants and needs of our community.

Although the Strategic Plan is a district project, it will have ramifications for the national organization. The PNW is a microcosm of the national organization with small, rural chapters, large metropolitan chapters, chapters with few Nikkei, chapters with largely older Nisei members, and areas with many persons of mixed ethnic heritage. We hope to create programs that will meet the interests of the community.

Our nation is on the brink of a new day. With the election of our country's first president of color, our country is preparing for change. The president-elect's proposed cabinet includes people of color, women and a mix of ideals and philosophies. President-elect Obama has said he looks forward to good debates at his cabinet meetings, which says he is willing to listen to all sides and ideas. It is truly a change in our country's leadership, which will make a difference in our country's mindset.

With the new year, we in the Pacific Northwest wish everyone joy and peace. We welcome you to visit and enjoy the wonders of the area from Alaska to Washington and Oregon.

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu! ■

Elaine Akagi is the PNW district governor.

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The Importance of Asking the Right Questions

The U.S. auto industry? The Swiss watch manufacturing industry of the '70s? These real life business examples could shed light on the JACL.

By BRIAN MORISHITA

Watching the current struggles of American car manufacturers and their efforts to survive raises a question: are there lessons here that we can apply to the membership struggles of the JACL?



By equating their continuous market share decline to our diminishing JACL membership numbers, perhaps an assessment of their situation could lend some insight into our situation.

One of the criticisms of the American car industry is that they sometimes seem to be

out of touch with both their market base and market factors. Applying this same criticism to the JACL, could we be somewhat out of touch with the needs of our members and potential members?

Could this be one of the reasons our membership does not show a continuous positive trend line?

Another business example that might have some lessons for us is the precipitous loss of

market domination by the Swiss watch manufacturing industry in the 1970s. Until then, the Swiss watch making industry dominated the market for precision watches. But with the advent of quartz technology, which the Swiss were slow to embrace, the Swiss lost that market preeminence that was undisputed until then. They did not adjust to an emerging externality by shifting their operating paradigm to accommodate the change.

How could these business catastrophes have been mitigated or perhaps avoided entirely? Using hindsight, part of the solution might have been that of developing and executing a better market and technology sensitive long-term vision or strategy. Without oversimplifying their business complexities, both industries seem to lack good strategic planning that sufficiently equipped them for the changing economic landscape. They also seem to lack the organizational structure that was agile and robust enough to quickly change their path forward.

It is clear that a strategic plan itself is not a guarantee

to success because it merely reflects a pathway that guides subsequent business behaviors. I heard a CEO at a conference say that unlike many large corporations that spend millions of dollars protecting their strategic plan, his company did not. In fact, they posted their strategic plan on their external company's Web site. He said the defining factor between his company and that of the competition was the execution of the plan.

So having stressed the importance of planning, where do we go from here? Should we immediately launch into an intensive strategic planning mode? Not just yet. What I believe we need to do is conduct some type of assessment of our members and potential members relative to their JACL needs. Without some reflective data points from our membership we will probably continue along that path of "doing the same thing, but expecting different results" (a layman's definition of insanity).

How do we ascertain these needs? One of several different ways is for every officer of the JACL at the local, district and national levels to conduct his or her own assessment by asking for input from members and potential members. But this is only half of the equation. It is also the responsibility of every member to articulate their needs and perspectives to the various levels of the

JACL leadership. We need this feedback from the membership to help us craft a vision that spans not just tactical and operational considerations,

'It is also the responsibility of every member to articulate their needs and perspectives to the various levels of the JACL leadership.'

but also takes us to the next strategic level of thinking.

I suspect that I may have posed more questions than answers, and the few solutions I offered might not be specific enough. Given our situation, I believe that it is more important right now to ask the right questions rather than to immediately launch into a solution development mode.

Albert Einstein once said that when problem solving he wanted to spend 90 percent of his time analyzing and understanding the problem and the remaining 10 percent developing the solution. We need to do the same and devote significant energy and time towards understanding what our membership problems are. From this, we may discover some hidden nuggets to help provide a framework for us to retain our current members and add new ones. ■

Brian Morishita is the IDC district governor.





CHANGE & HISTORY ...



Decision '08



THE ELECTIONS USHERED IN A NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP AND RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRIORITY OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ISSUES.



In electing a new U.S. president, the APA community shed its silent minority label.

Rep. Mike Honda (far left) asserted the community's presence at the Democratic National Convention, and JACL National Director Floyd Mori (inset) attended both conventions.

But the candidate-less APIA Vote Presidential Townhall meeting in May raised questions about APA priority.

NEW LEADERS & SOME FAMILIAR FACES

'There is no one more distinguished, more determined, or more qualified ...'

— President-elect Barack Obama about Retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki (right), his nominee for secretary of veterans affairs.

Shinseki, 66, is the first ever APA four-star general. If confirmed, he pledges to fix gaps in veterans' care.

Sanjay Gupta (right), CNN's chief medical correspondent, has been tapped as surgeon general.



Steven Chu, (below) Obama's pick for secretary of energy, won the 1997 Nobel Prize in physics. If confirmed, he plans to defend the earth through energy efficiency and conservation.



Rep. Anh 'Joseph' Cao (above), R-La., took an unlikely journey to Washington, D.C. As a child, he escaped war-torn Vietnam on a military transport plane. In January, he became the first Vietnamese American in Congress.

TAKE A STROLL
THROUGH MEMORY
LANE WITH THE
YEAR IN PHOTOS.

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08 Headline News



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

— **Larry Riesenbach** (above, second from right), who married longtime partner **Tim Ky** in a June 17 ceremony officiated by Paul Arevalo, city manager of West Hollywood, Calif. The ceremony, one of the first after the Calif. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages, was attended by friends, family members and their six-year-old son Aaron.



WEDDING CAKE & PROP. 8:

The right to marry became the rallying cry for same-sex couples like **George Takei and Brad Altman** (left), who married in September after 21 years together.

With the passage of measures barring same-sex marriages in California, Florida and Arizona, proponents took to the streets in protest and compared the laws to anti-miscegenation laws of the past.



PHOTO: KERRY KANEICHI

'[Minidoka] deserves a place in our history.'
— **Diana Obenauer**, Jerome County Commissioner.

In September, the commissioners voted 2 to 1 in favor of allowing an unwelcome neighbor to move in near the **Minidoka National Historic Site** (left) in southern Idaho. A coalition has filed a lawsuit to stop the planned 13,000-heifer feedlot from moving about one mile away from the former WWII internment camp site. In 2009, the battle is likely to continue.



COMMEMORATING A MILESTONE



In 1988, the **Redress Movement** culminated with President Ronald Reagan signing **HR 442**, which secured a government apology and a monetary payment for JA internees incarcerated during WWII.



Twenty years later, the community marked the anniversary in many ways. In September, PSW honored some of its own Redress heroes like **Harry Kawahara and Marleen Kawahara** (left).



The JACL's second annual **Gala Awards Dinner**, 'A Salute to Champions,' recognized organizations and community leaders like former JACL-LEC Executive Director **Grayce Uyehara** (above, at podium) for their contributions to the Redress Movement.

And the **Pacific Citizen** (left), the national newspaper of the JACL, dedicated a special issue to Redress.



Tule Lake, the former WWII internment camp (the jail house is pictured above), gets an official nod from the White House as a National Monument.



'We have been deterred, but we are not defeated.'

— **Sen. Daniel Akaka**, a strong proponent of the **Filipino Veterans Equity Bill**, which failed to pass again. The bill would have given a lump-sum benefit to WWII Filipino veterans who fought alongside American forces. Akaka and **Sen. Daniel Inouye** vowed to continue the fight in '09.

In '08 redress for **WWII Japanese American Latin Americans** remained elusive. During the war, they were interned in Army facilities and used for hostage exchanges.



The grassroots campaign for a **Nisei WWII veterans commemorative stamp** also stalled despite broad support. In April, the Illinois House of Representatives heard testimonies from 442nd Veteran **Sam Ozaki** (left) and **Bill Yoshino**, JACL Midwest regional director.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO: ABC

Kristi Yamaguchi, an Olympic gold medalist, sashayed her way to a win on 'Dancing with the Stars.'



PHOTO: SEATTLE MARINERS

In '08, APAs shattered the glass ceiling in professional sports. **Don Wakamatsu** (above), a Yonsei, made history as the first APA manager in MLB history when he accepted the post with the Seattle Mariners.

And in the NBA, the Miami Heat's **Erik Spoelstra** (right) became the league's first APA head coach.



PHOTO: NBA

'I guess you could say I'm the smallest decathlete ...'

— Five-foot-eleven **Bryan Clay** (below, jumping) won the title 'World's Greatest Athlete' when he took home gold in the Decathlon at the Beijing Olympics.



AP PHOTO



GLORY & CONTROVERSY: From the opening ceremony to moving performances of the country's elite APA athletes, the Olympic Games were truly historic.

But the event had its share of controversies including the torch relay protests (right) and the discovery of the Spanish basketball team (inset) and others posing in racially offensive 'slant-eye' photos.



Mirai Nagasu, beat out better known favorites to win a gold medal at the U.S. Nationals at the tender age of 15.

'I want to be the future. I have to work hard to become the future.'



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

We mourn the loss of these leaders in '08



CHERRY KINOSHITA

She fought for Redress because it was 'the right thing to do,' said her son Kyle in July after the former JACL-LEC member and community leader passed away at the age of 84.



MILDRED LOVING

Her 1967 case *Loving v. Virginia* changed history when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-miscegenation laws.



YUKIKO SUGIHARA

Sugihara and her husband Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara issued visas for Lithuanian Jews to escape German troops.



MO MARUMOTO

Marumoto was the first APA to serve at the executive level as part of the Nixon Administration. He later founded the Interface Group, Ltd.



EDWIN ENDOW

Endow, a stalwart JACLer, was the national JACL vice president for membership.

COMMUNITY



'My parents were so involved with JACL, I grew up thinking this was our organization, our community.'

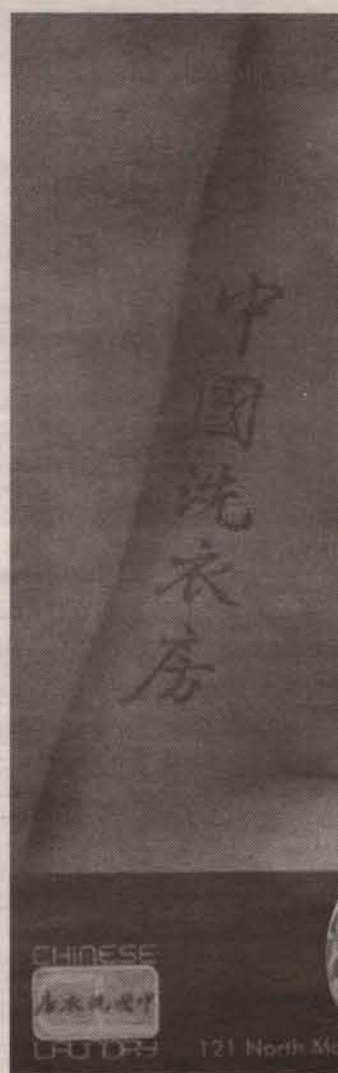
At the JACL Biennial National Convention in Salt Lake City, attendees met a real rocket man — NASA astronaut **Dan Tani**, who keynoted the Sayonara Banquet. Tani, only the second JA to ever visit outer space, is the son of former Topaz internees. One generation later, Tani, 47, said it's remarkable that the government has come full circle, allowing him to float in space under the American flag.



(Left, l-r) Judge Raymond Uno and Dr. Tetsuden Kashima, Neil King and Judge Dale Ikeda were honored at the JACL national convention.

(Top) JACL National Director **Floyd Mori** received the 'Voices of Courage Award' for speaking out against racial profiling.

CONTRIVERSY

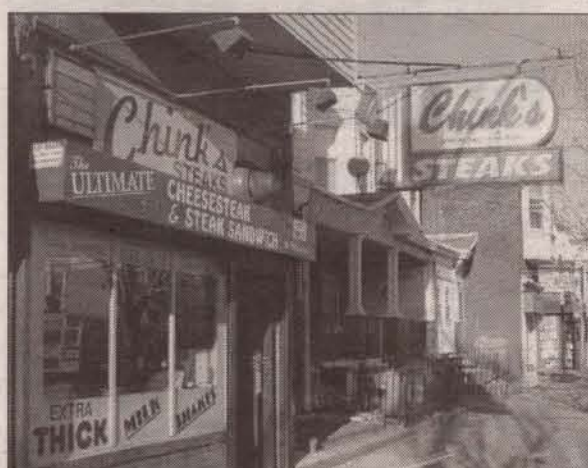


An ad announcing the opening of new Rhode Island restaurant **Chinese Laundry** ignited a firestorm of controversy in the APA community. The ad featured an image of a naked female torso tattooed with Chinese characters. Community leaders cried foul, while restaurateur **John Elkhay** (below, inset) defended the ad.



PHOTO: JOE NGUYEN/ASIAEXPRESS.COM

In February, an opinion piece in the University of Colorado at Boulder's student newspaper by editor Max Karson (below, inset) called for Asians to be rounded up and 'hog tied.' APA students rallied against the article and demanded accountability.



'Chink's Steaks,' the controversial Philadelphia steak shop sought to expand in '08. Owner Joseph Groh wanted to open up a new take-out location in a higher profile area, but his dreams were dashed.

The LPGA drew criticism in August after announcing it would suspend players that cannot speak English well. APA leaders called the policy discriminatory. The LPGA soon after changed its mind.



ANGELA PARK

Happy New Year from the Midwest District Council!

In '09, MDC is launching a new Web site, hosting conferences and so much more.

By LEILANI SAVITT

This year will be a busy one for the Midwest and the Midwest District Council. We've already gotten a head start on the many events and projects that will be taking place in 2009.



With the help of Midwest

Regional Director Bill Yoshino, the MDC Education Committee has continued to compile the accounts of Japanese Americans who resettled in the Midwest after World War II for the MDC Oral History Project. The project consists of archival research, personal narratives, and a filming of a documentary in Chicago featuring previously unrecorded stories from former JA internees.

As a component of the project, a summary of how and when each chapter in the Midwest was founded will be drafted and archived. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

To support district programming for 2009, a series of fundraising drives will be carried out. This past December, the council started a 2009 calendar fundraiser featuring two

pieces of art from Pete Hironaka, *The Issei* (1978) and *The Nisei* (2000). The proceeds from the calendars will go towards covering costs for the oral history project.

The Midwest district will also strengthen its means of communication and publicity by launching a district Web site. The Web site should be up and running sometime in January. This Web site will allow the district chapters as well as the rest of the chapters in JACL to read about upcoming MDC events and stay updated about district programming and projects.

The district continues to support youth leadership. At the MDC meeting this past October, two youth were elected to district positions.

Jamie Taniguchi, a law student at the University of Dayton, was elected 1st vice-governor and Matthew Teshima, an undergraduate student at Notre Dame, was elected membership chair. To date, five youth serve on the district council.

In addition to providing opportunities for youth to serve on the board, the Twin Cities chapter in the Midwest will host the 2009 JACL Youth Conference. The conference is planned for June 26-28, 2009, at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Twin Cities chapter and the MDC continue to look for-

ward to working with the JACL National Youth/Student Council in order to put on a very successful conference. The last time the JACL National Youth Conference was held in the Midwest was at Washington University in St. Louis in 2005. The district will also host the 2009 EDC and MDC Bi-District Conference, which will take place later this summer.

The MDC will also be advocating for the JACL to support the creation of JACL "chapters" on college campuses. This idea was initiated after Matthew Teshima, the current MDC membership chair, suggested starting a JACL chapter on his campus at Notre Dame. The district feels that supporting this measure is important for

increasing the presence of JACL on campuses. Its passage will allow college students to take action in furthering the JACL mission. The district will also continue to support health fairs to address health care disparities in the APA community.

This year the MDC looks forward to finding a variety of different ways to further the goals of the organization on the national, district and chapter levels. On behalf of the MDC, Happy New Year! ■

Leilani Savitt is the MDC district governor.

The MDC will also be advocating for the JACL to support the creation of JACL "chapters" on college campuses.

Celebrating a Legacy

The new year brings new beginnings. CCDC is abuzz.

By MARCIA CHUNG

Happy New Year to all. It has been a very busy holiday season. I'd like to thank all my supporters in my transition to governor. Thanks most of all to Bobbi Hanada, who displayed exceptional leadership as governor of the Central California District Council for four years. She was always willing to go the extra mile.



Here's an introduction to me. I grew up in Dinuba, a small farming town in Tulare County. My father Stanley Nagata was a past CCDC governor. He believed in the JACL and wanted to help those who were not always able to help themselves. He was an avid supporter of Redress and respected everyone's efforts that made it possible. Although my dad is gone now, I hope to carry on his love of JACL.

I am a full-time recovery room nurse at a surgical center. I have two grown sons and a granddaughter who is two and a half. My husband Robert is available for moral support.

This new year brings new beginnings. We have much to be thankful for. Although 2008 was a poor economic year, there are hopes for a brighter 2009. Our new President Obama has much hope for our country. He realizes that the task is not an easy one. But our country is still the best. Where else can you go and have the democracy that we have? It is true that 1st Lt. Ehren Watada stood up for his belief that the Iraq war was illegal. If he lived in another country, he could not have stood his ground in refusing to lead his troops into Iraq. Sometimes we do things that we believe are right and have to deal with the consequences.

Many soldiers have given their lives in the name of democracy. We, as Japanese Americans, are aware of the sacrifices the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team made during World War II. We remember Feb. 19, 1942, the infamous day Executive Order 9066 was signed into law and uprooted over 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast. With respect to our ancestors we remember this day as the Day of Remembrance.

CCDC invites everyone to join us in our Day of Remembrance/Tri-District Conference from Feb. 14 to 16. It will be held at the beautiful Clovis Veterans Memorial Building and conclude with the dedication ceremony of the Pinedale Memorial.

During the event, we will have three panel discussions on Feb. 15. Dale Ikeda has been instrumental in inviting keynote speakers and the *coram nobis* team. They were the "big league" lawyers who aided in the passing of Redress. What is *coram nobis*? According to Judge Ikeda's reference in "Civil Liberties and War," it is a common law writ to invalidate a criminal conviction after the sentence was served to prevent manifest injustice. This team of attorneys fought to have the WWII criminal convictions of Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Fred Korematsu vacated.

At the Day of Remembrance/Tri-District Conference, there will also be a first class dinner on Feb. 15 followed the next day with the dedication ceremony with our beautiful storyboards. These are unique and there was so much effort put forth by the committee to make these perfect.

Send in your registration forms to Larry Ishimoto today! The registration form can be downloaded at www.fresnojacl.org.

See you in Central California in February! ■

Marcia Chung is the CCDC district governor.

You're invited to attend
Central California District Council's
Tri-District Conference
February 14- 16, 2009
Clovis, California



Dedication Ceremony of the Pinedale Assembly Center
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Dedication Speaker: Norm Mineta
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Growing With the PSW JACL

With new staffers, members and programs, we can't lose momentum.

By ALAYNE YONEMOTO

Happy New Year, JACL! PSW had many exciting adventures in 2008. There were great programs, events and milestones celebrated. In addition to our annual events, we debuted new programs, events and committees.

Project: Community! is a collaborative program of the JACL PSW and the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program sponsored by the Nikkei Federation. Twelve high school youth met for eight weekly workshops that ended in a grand culmination event. The program was created to develop and empower the youth



voice as well as introduce them to the importance of the preservation of Little Tokyo and the Japanese American community. Sen Sugano, PSW programs coordinator, returned to school fulltime this fall and is missed in the office!

PSW's Second Annual Open House — although not a new event — grew so much in attendance that it seemed brand new! It gathered members, community partners, corporate partners and guests to a social event for the district. This annual tradition is a great opportunity to showcase the district and its programs.

A new committee formed in PSW. Recently renamed the Community Advocacy and Policy Committee, this committee spearheaded district

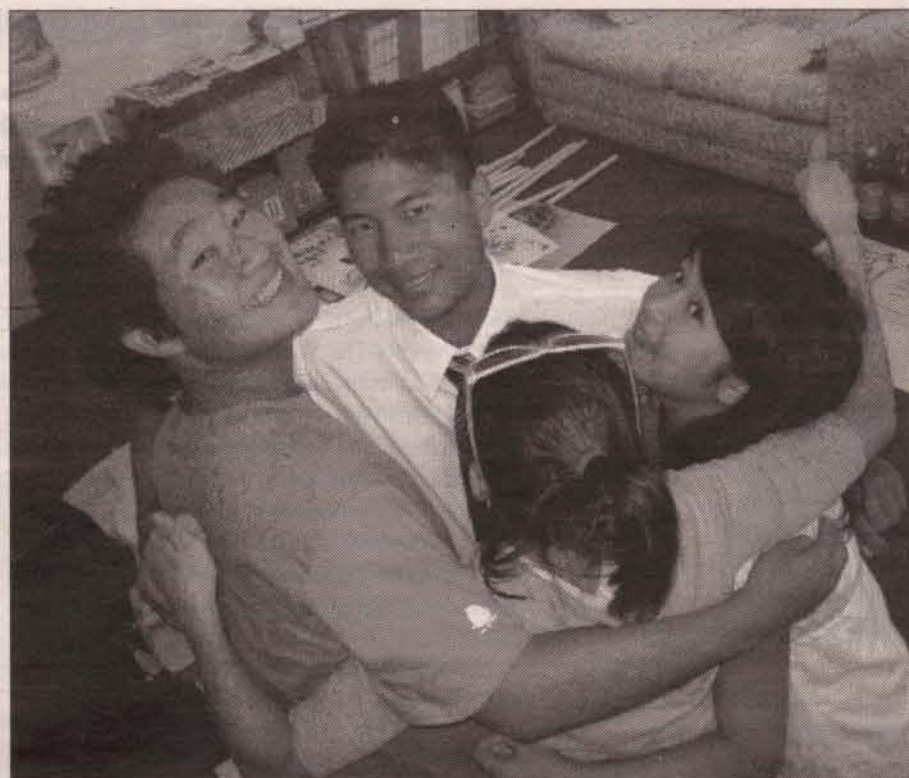
efforts in election education and JACL PSW's "No on Prop. 8" campaign. The committee also organized members to attend the APIAVote Presidential Town Hall event in Irvine, Calif.

In order to keep up with a more robust program and event calendar, the PSW finance committee and executive board worked with our staff to develop a business plan that supports a more complex budget system. This was a growing pain that we were happy to have!

This summer, PSW kicked off a successful membership campaign that raised over 100 memberships. The Venice-Culver chapter provided a summer intern as part of the Francis Kitagawa Leadership Fellow Fund. We were fortunate to have Philip Hirose in the office. But he was not the only new staff person to join us in 2008. Kristin Fukushima was our intern from the Nikkei Community Internship Program. She worked on a variety of projects that included: Project: Community! and Get Out The Vote items for PSW. She also assisted the district and attended the national convention.

Kenshin Kubo joined PSW as our programs coordinator. He has already jumped into the position as our representative on the Day of Remembrance 2009 planning committee. Kene is excited to be working on new programs for the district including Mobilize for Policy, a program to educate and train collegiate youth in policy affecting the Asian Pacific American community. LT and Me is a survey of youth in the Little Tokyo Community. These programs are changing our visibility in the community among high school and college youth.

Christina Lay joined PSW as our Bridging Communities intern. This program is made possible by the California Civil Liberties Public



Project: Community! participants (from left, clockwise) Michael Kunisaki, Ryan Taketomo, Iris Chiu and Courtney Takeda.

Education Program grant. JACL PSW and the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR) are working in partnership with the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Islamic Shura Council to bring together high school youth from the JA and Muslim communities. The program seeks to build understanding and a sense of compassion for future solidarity on issues within our communities.

This fall, PSW welcomed Tracy Huang, the JACL Mike Honda fellow, to the district. Tracy

See YONEMOTO/page 15

Focusing on Membership Goals in the New Year

It's now more imperative than ever that our membership numbers increase in 2009.

By ALAN NISHI

On behalf of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year!



It is hard to believe that 2008 is now history and that 2009 has arrived. By now it should be clear to everyone that our organization's top priority for 2009 is membership, especially since these hard economic times will significantly affect our investment and contribution income. It's now more imperative than ever that our membership numbers increase in 2009 to maintain a fiscally viable JACL.

In recognizing how crucial membership will be to our organization in the coming biennium, NCWNP will be making membership development and retention its top priority for 2009. In early January, our district board will conduct its annual retreat and will be focusing on our district's strategy to reverse our organization's declining membership numbers.

I am confident that the leadership of Emily Teruya, our district membership chair and reigning JACLer of the Biennium Award recipient; Ryan Chin, our newly appointed national vice president of membership; and Tim Koide, our national membership coordinator, will help our district in attaining membership goals in 2009.

In conjunction with our district membership program, I would like to acknowledge the activities of our district's co-youth representatives Megumi Kaminaga and Jenn Suzuki, who were both busy in 2008 organizing and starting up a new young professionals group called "Nakayoshi" or "circle of friendship." Nakayoshi brings young professionals together to participate in community activities, address social issues and network with each other. This new group serves as a vehicle to introduce young professionals to JACL.

Last June, Nakayoshi began holding planning meetings, hosting social events, and conducting volunteer work. Nakayoshi's main objective is to create a new image of the JACL for a generation of Japanese Americans who know little about JACL and to provide today's young professionals, who are in their 20s and early 30s, with opportunities to participate in the JACL and the JA/Asian Pacific American communities.

Since its inception in 2008, Nakayoshi has held eight social events including culinary explorations, mixers, retreats, sporting events

and professional development events. In addition, Nakayoshi has done volunteer work at seven community events. They also have their own blog (www.nakayoshi-jacl.blogspot.com) and Facebook group as well as a monthly e-newsletter to reach out to their current and potential members.

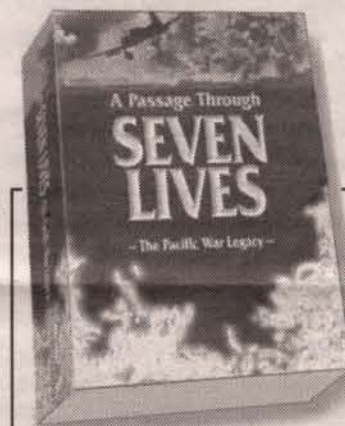
With membership being our organization's top priority, the recruitment of young adults is crucial to the sustainability of JACL, and Nakayoshi is one of our district's membership strategies.

On a personal note, our JACL family recently lost one of its most valued leaders — specifically in the area of membership — with the passing of Edwin Endow. I had known Edwin ever since I attended my very first JACL meeting shortly after entering the work force in Stockton, Calif. many years ago.

Edwin was very passionate about the JACL and committed to building membership as our national vice president of membership and NCWNP membership chair during my first go-around as district governor in the 1990s. I will miss the many discussions that we had in regards to the JACL and membership issues or ideas on our way to or from a JACL meeting or event.

Edwin's shoes will be hard to fill, and he will be greatly missed by us all. ■

Alan Nishi is the NCWNP district governor.



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

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CHIN

(Continued from page 5)

It surprised me greatly when, in September, JACL President Oda asked me to serve as the vice president of membership. The offer was unsolicited and I hadn't had any involvement with JACL over the last two years, as I was focused on completing my Masters in Business Administration during evenings, while working full-time and managing my small business. I decided to accept the nomination because I understood the criticality of this position to the future viability of the organization.

Clearly, the challenge is daunting. Nobody wanted to run for the position at convention, and I'm sure that I was-

n't the first person approached by President Oda. However, I know that we can do it. We still have a chance to reverse the declining trends of the organization, but it's going to take a concerted effort. It will take focus, as well as cohesive leadership between national JACL and chapters. But if we dedicate ourselves to this effort, the task isn't insurmountable. Our choice, as members, is to let the numbers continue to wither or to proactively work together with diligence.

Will you work with me lockstep, hand-in-hand, to begin a membership revival? ■

Ryan Chin is the JACL vice president of membership. He can be reached at rchin3@yahoo.com or 206/228-7926.

YONEMOTO

(Continued from page 14)

will work from the PSW office on JACL's advocacy and public policy awareness/programming, and education during her 10-month fellowship.

Most of all, we are thankful to have Craig Ishii, the PSW regional director in the office. Through his leadership, PSW is an exciting place to volunteer. Craig has suggested some new ideas for 2009. The PSW board will have a retreat this month to prepare for the year.

In the past three years I learned that being governor was one of the best volunteer positions in the entire organization. It allowed me to serve on the national and district levels simultaneously. I've met many people that have changed me for the better. I have had a hard-working board and wish to thank them for all of their help.

Each year we also look forward to the exciting activities of our chapters. I am not able to list them all here, please check our Web site at www.jaclpsw.org. We list updates on district and chapter events and programs.

I am certain that JACL is making our nation a stronger country. We need to continue our civil rights efforts in policy advocacy, education and cultural preservation in this tough economic time.

In the PSW, I continue to encourage our volunteers and members to give their time to the organization. We can't afford to lose any momentum. It will be financially difficult for the organization this year. But as a community, these types of challenges have only made us stronger. I am looking forward to a great 2009! ■

Alayne Yonemoto is the current PSW district governor.

KOIDE

(Continued from page 5)

eration embodies a tremendous treasure trove of energy and ideas concerned with service to their communities.

The mission of the JACL and the desires of our youth are congruous. We simply need to find a way to facilitate a marriage between the two. A good place to start is on the chapter level as the Eden Township chapter has done. Create a youth group. Give them some autonomy. Help them plan service. Channel them into the national programs of the organization, and help

provide a venue for them to learn and to have fun. The membership will come as a result. But more than that, the JACL will be able to fill a role and a need in the community it belongs to.

Everything is easier said than done, but that never stops people from trying. If we feel that we need the youth, let us not also forget that the youth need us. Let's make ourselves available to them. Let's give the youth a youthful yet substantive place in our chapters by providing opportunities for them to serve. ■

Tim Koide is the national JACL membership coordinator.



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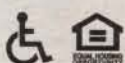
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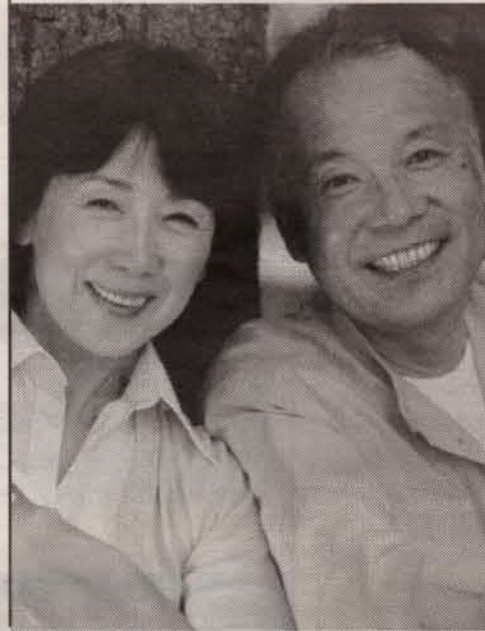
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In Memoriam - 2008

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Abe, Morris Shozo, 90, Camarillo, Jan. 11; WWII veteran, Ventura County JACler.

Adachi, James S., 88, San Francisco, June 7; MIS.

Ajari, Charles Shiro, 85, Concord, Oct. 22; Army.

Aoki, Rocky, New York, July 10; Founder of Benihana.

Araki, Kenso, 79, Selma, May 13; Korean War veteran.

Baba, Frank Shozo, 93, Los Angeles, Jan. 16; worked in the Office of War Information during WWII.

Carr, Johnnie, 97, Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 22; a leader of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Chan, Kim, Brooklyn, NY, Oct. 5; actor who appeared in such films as "Jumpin' Jack Flash," "Cadillac Man," "Lethal Weapon 4," and "Shanghai Knights."

Chino, Hideo, 65, Mission Hills, Apr. 12; San Diego County Superior Court Commissioner.

Chow, Ruby, 87, Seattle, June 4; Matriarch of Seattle's Chinese American community.

Deguchi, Tommy T., 79, Seattle, Oct. 28; Army.

Eiji, George, 85, Chicago, Mar. 5; 442nd.

Endo, Minoru, 91, Oct. 27; MIS; Philadelphia JACler.

Fuchiwaki, Hilo, 90, Arroyo Grande, Aug. 8; MIS.

Fujimura, Yoshiyuki J., 91, Los Alamitos, Nov. 4; 442nd.

Fujita, Robert Eiji, 84, Port Clinton, Ohio; MIS.

Harui, Junkoh, 75, Oct. 19; Army.

Hata, Joshua, 84, Aug. 22; WWII veteran.

Hayashi, George, 91, Seattle, July 29; 442nd.



S. HAYASHI

Hayashi, Shizuya, 90, Mar. 12; 100th and Medal of Honor recipient.

Higa, Col. Miyoshi, Aus. (Ret.), 82, Monterey Park, Jan. 22.

Hiranaka, Charles Toshio, 95, Seattle, July 23; WWII veteran.

Hirasuna, Jimmie, 83, Fresno, June 6; WWII veteran.

Inagaki, Christopher, 55, Sept. 13; son of former National JACL president, George Inagaki.

Iritani, Frank M., 87, Sacramento, Sept. 30; MIS; with his wife Joanne, wrote and published "Ten Visits: Accounts of Visits to All the Japanese American Relocation Centers"; Florin JACler.

Ito, Fred Yoshiaki, 89, Seattle,

July 5; MIS.

Iwami, Noboru, 87, Hilo, Haw., Oct. 17; Army.

Iwanaga, Aki, 88, Torrance, Aug. 27; 442nd.

Kanemori, Edward M., 84, Mar. 13; MIS and Korean War veteran.

Kaneshiro, Clifford, 66, Honoka'a, Haw., Aug. 8; Vietnam veteran.

Kashiwagi, Robert I., 89, Sacramento, Mar. 21; 442nd, featured in Ken Burns's documentary, "The War."

Kawashima, Isamu, 87, Monterey, Jan. 27; ret. U.S. Army.

Keawe, Genoa Leilani, 89, Honolulu, Haw., Feb. 25; Hawaiian music icon.

Kido, George H., 83, May 22; MIS.

Kikuyama, Seikatsu, 83, Honolulu, Haw., Jan. 9; 442nd.

Kimura, Robert Yoshinori, 83, Kaneohe, Haw., July 9; Army.

Kitaoka, Harvey Norisada, 81, Rancho Palos Verdes, Feb. 24; WWII and Korean Conflict veteran.

Kitasako, Ken, 101, Arroyo Grande, Apr. 20.

Kizuka, Shigeru, 84, Henderson, Nev., July 17; 442nd.

Kobayashi, Henry E., Silver Springs, Md., Mar. 9; 442nd.

Kosai, Joseph H., 74, Tacoma, Wash.; Army.

Kosugi, Shuzo, 84, Feb. 5; WWII veteran.

Kubo, James K., 82, Louisville, Ken., Aug. 25; WWII, Korean and Vietnam veteran.

Kubota, Tsugio, 88, Lodi, Oct. 18; Army.

Kurusu, George Mamoru, 82, Monterey Park, Mar. 19; 100th/442nd.

Matsumoto, George J., Aiea, Haw., Sept. 4; MIS.

Matsuo, George Minoru, 86, Yuba City, Aug. 23; WWII veteran.

Matsushita, Wakao, 88, Seattle, Feb. 23; 442nd.

Mayeda, Dr. Kazutoshi, 80, Las Vegas, Oct. 19; former JACL VP for Public Affairs, MDC governor and Detroit chapter president.

Mayeda, Masami, 93, Orange, Oct. 24; MIS.

Michigami, Masashi, 85, Portland, Ore., Mar. 20; Army.

Miyamoto, Masao, 89, Los Angeles, Feb. 6; 442nd.

Murakami, Tsui, 103, Long Beach, May 20.

Naganuma, Tony, 89, Feb. 13; 442nd.

Nagaoka, Michael M., 62, Sept. 27; former chief of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Nakada, Hank, 85, Homer, Alas., Mar. 13; 442nd.

Nakagawa, Dave Yutaka, 86, Temple City, May 28; Army.

Nakamura, Akira, 88, Denver, Jan. 10; MIS.

Nakashima, Calvin Takashi, 81, Mililani, Haw., May 25; Korean War veteran.

Naramara, Jack Hoichi, 88, San Francisco, Jan. 28; WWII veteran.

Nishimura, Jonathan S., 76, Hollywood Park, Tex., July 11; Army.

Nishio, Howard, 66, Sacramento, Aug. 12; Air Force.

Ohtaki, Paul T., Apr. 27; MIS, wrote editorials for the *Bainbridge Review* while interned at Manzanar.

Oka, Terumasa, 80, Portland, Ore., June 19; Korean War veteran.

Okamoto, George T., 71, Vancouver, Wash.; Army.

Onaka, Tsuneo, 83, Las Vegas, Mar. 7; WWII veteran.

Ono, Ernest Sanro, 87, Inglewood, Jan. 19; WWII veteran.

Otagaki, Richard Kazumi, 92, Spring Hill, Fla.; one of Washington, D.C.'s first Asian American dentist.

Pran, Dith, 65, Mar. 30; Cambodian-born journalist whose story was the subject of the movie, "The Killing Fields."

Sakahara, Toru, Seattle, Apr. 26; helped JAS resettle after internment and helped overturn Alien land laws in Washington.



SAKAHARA

Shimizu,

Michael D., 58, Shorewood, Ill., Sept. 19; Army.

Shimoda, Kazuo, 81, Dothan, Ala., Sept. 8; Army.

Shiosaki, Rodney Kazuto, 87, Alhambra, Aug. 27; 442nd.

Suehiro, Richard Yoshio, 84, Honolulu, Haw., Feb. 24; MIS.

Sugai, Tetsuo, 86, Hilo, Haw., Feb. 26; WWII veteran.

Suyehiro, George Shigeru, 82, Santa Clarita, June 28; MIS.

Takenaga, Sakon Roy, 88, Sacramento, Jan. 6; 442nd.

Takeshita, Shigeo, 89, Jan. 18; 442nd/100th.

Taketa, Sumiye, 78, San Jose, July 15; Air Force Flight Nurse.

Tanabe, Bob Akira, 74, Auburn, Wash., Mar. 2; Army.

Tanaka, Floyd, Denver, Colo., Jan. 29; 442nd and Mile Hi JACler.

Tanbara, Ruth, 100, Afton, Minn., Jan. 4; Twin Cities JACler.

Tani, Mamoru, 88, Fresno, Jan. 10; 442nd.



TANBARA

Tominaga, Joe Tomeo, 82, Shelley, Ida., Mar. 4; 442nd.

Tomoyasu, Tatsuyuki, 89, Oct. 17; Army.

Tsuboi, Henry Yoshiaki, 79, San Jose, Feb. 22; U.S. Army.

Tsubota, Nimoru, 89, Seattle, Aug. 8; 442nd.

Woo, Benjamin, 84, Mount Baker, Wash., Feb. 8; architect who designed the King County Fairgrounds.

Yamada, Takeshi Tom, Simi Valley, Sept. 10; Army.

Yamamoto, Masayoshi, 85, Honolulu, Haw., Sept. 3; 442nd.

Yano, Hiroyuki, 82, Aiea, Haw.; Air Force (ret.).

Yokoyama, Harry Chiyoshi, 88, Garden Grove, Oct. 27; Army. ■

DEATH NOTICE

KANJI NISHIJIMA

March 23, 1922 - December 30, 2008

A lifelong resident of Sacramento, Kanji passed away peacefully at home. Beloved husband of the late Shizuye Nishijima, he is survived by daughters, Jane (Gary) Komure and Bonnie (Clifford) Okamoto; sons, Dan (Aurora) and Alan; grandchildren, Brooke (Jim) Shimano, Stephanie Komure, Kimberly Okamoto, Lisa Okamoto, Shayn Nishijima; and great grandson, John Shimano as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. During WWII, Kanji was interned in the Tule Lake Relocation Camp where he met and fell in love with Shizuye Nakanishi. With his parents, he was later detained in the Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas until the end of the war. Kanji was the owner of L&M Co., a TV/Appliance sales and service store for forty-five years. He was loved by many and always gave a helping hand whenever he was needed. His generous and gentle spirit will be greatly missed. A memorial service was held on Sat., Jan. 10 at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

DEATH NOTICE

KIYO NISHIYAMA FINUCANE

Kiyo Nishiyama Finucane, a strong-willed woman who led a clan of six sons and more than a score of grandchildren, died Dec. 11, 2008 of cancer at her Columbia, Md. home. She had just turned 91. Mrs. Finucane was born Dec. 10, 1917 to Ryoichi Nishiyama and Seki Hiraoka on a farm in La Puente, Calif. A 1939 graduate of Occidental College, she received a Master's in social work at the University of Chicago. During World War II, when her family was interned at Heart Mountain in Wyoming, she worked to bring her mother and younger siblings to Chicago. After the war, she moved to Washington to take a social work job. In 1947, she married James F. Finucane, a union that lasted until his death in 2005. She raised her family in Northwest Washington. In 1962, she joined the staff of the Florence Crittenton Home. She retired in 1980. In her later years, she helped raise her grandchildren, moving from Washington to Columbia in 1997. She was always a source of straight talk and wise counsel. Her caring and values reached across three generations and a wide circle of friends. She is survived by her sister, Sally Nishiyama Schurr; her sons, James J. Finucane of Cambridge, Mass.; Thomas E. of Columbia, Mary.; Robert B. of Waterbury, Vt.; Matthew H. of Washington, D.C.; Stephen J. of Bethesda, Md., and Martin L. of Lexington, Mass.; five daughters-in-law; more than 20 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews and their families. A service was held Dec. 14 in Columbia and interment was at Columbia Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the Japanese American Citizens League, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

DEATH NOTICE

ALICE (KUBOTA) NAGANO

Sept 18, 1917 - Dec 30, 2008

Alice Kubota Nagano passed away peacefully on Dec. 30 at the age of 91. She was born in Salinas, Calif. and was a Michigan resident for over 60 years. Loving wife of the late George Nagano, also of Salinas; proud mother of daughters Marilyn (Don) Schlieff and Elaine (Rick) Medlen, both of Michigan and grandsons Jeffrey and Jason Medlen. Dear sister of Shiro (Ria) Kubota of El Cerrito, Calif. She was preceded in death by sisters May (Albert) Ikeda of Seabrook, NJ; Syd (Victor) Nakamura of San Francisco; Sue (Bob) Takiguchi of Chicago; and brothers Yukio, Seizo (Miya), and Jiro (Billie) Kubota of Salinas. Alice is also survived by 24 nieces and nephews.

In 1943, after leaving Poston II, Alice relocated to Detroit where she resumed her nursing studies. The next year she married George Nagano of Salinas, who also relocated to Detroit for employment. Michigan became their new home, where they raised two daughters.

Alice completed her nursing studies to become a registered nurse and worked at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. In 1980 after years of dedicated service, she retired as the head nurse of the hospital's ophthalmology clinic.

The funeral was held on Jan. 5, 2009 in Farmington Hills, Mich. Final resting place will be Yamato Cemetery, Salinas, with interment on Memorial Day weekend. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, 1620 I Street, NW, Suite 925, Washington, D.C. 20006; 202/530-0015.

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 Nov. 3-13 The Best of Kyushu
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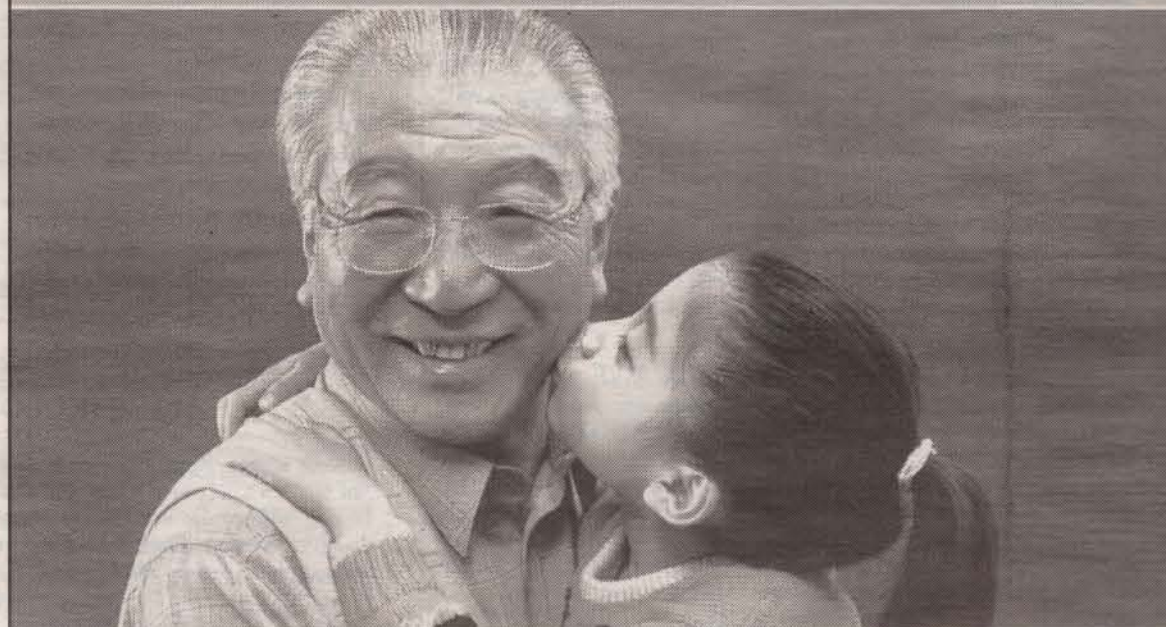
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 Apr 26 Welcome Korea "TV Drama Hilites" 12 Days - \$3595. Jeju Isle - Busan - Gyeongju - Yongpyong - Mt. Seorak - Chuncheon - Seoul.
 May 16 NCL - Hawaii Cruise - 8 Days - From \$2470 - Balcony \$2699. Honolulu - Kahului - Hilo - Kona - Nawiliwili, Kauai - Honolulu.
 May 30 NCL - British Isles Cruise - 15 Days - REDUCED PRICES Window \$4246 - Reduction \$675 - REDUCED TO \$3,571 Balcony \$5116 - Reduction \$1025 - REDUCED TO \$4,091 London - Le Havre, France - Falmouth, England - Cork, Dublin & Belfast, Ireland - Glasgow, Inverness & Edinburgh, Scotland - Amsterdam - Brugge.
 Jun 29 Summer Japan Family Tour - 10 Days - \$3595 - Child \$3295. Tokyo - Nasu Highlands - Nikko - Bullet Train - Kyoto - Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island - Osaka.
 Jul 18 Trains Colorado Rockies - 9 Days - \$2395. Denver - Rocky Mt. Grand Junction - Silverton - Durango - Mesa Verde NP - Colorado Springs.
 Aug 1 Scandinavia/Russia Cruise - 14 Days - REDUCED PRICES Window \$3783 - Reduction \$394 - REDUCED TO \$3,389 Balcony \$4133 - Reduction \$464 - REDUCED TO \$3,669. London - Copenhagen - Warnemunde - Germany - Tallinn, Estonia - St. Petersburg, Russia - Helsinki - Stockholm, Sweden.
 Aug 22 Mediterranean Cruise - 15 Days - REDUCED PRICES Window \$3219 - Reduction \$170 - REDUCED TO \$3,049 Balcony \$3769 - Reduction \$170 - REDUCED TO \$3,598 London - Lisbon - Vigo, Seville, Granada, Spain - Gibraltar - Sardinia - Naples - Rome - Livorno, Italy - Cannes, France - Barcelona.
 Sep 11 Egypt Deluxe - 10 Days - \$5495. Grand Hyatt Cairo - 4 Day Nile Cruise - Abu Simbel - Conrad Hotel Cairo.
 Oct 12 Hokkaido/Tohoku - Oct 19 - Uranihon "Japan Sea Coast"
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YAMAMOTO

(Continued from page 2)

contribute many of their own stories. There will be a *P.C.* blog, comment sections, and more video-streaming and podcasts. In addition, *P.C.* subscribers will be offered the option of getting their entire *P.C.* online.

Personally, I fall into the category of the more traditional *P.C.* reader. Although I use a computer every day, I still prefer to get my news by reading a printed newspaper. I like to tuck my *P.C.* into my briefcase or purse and read it when and where I want. Isn't it great that we have a choice!

In the past year, I've had the privilege of getting to know the incredible people who produce the *P.C.* Do you know that just three and a half staff members do all the work of putting out the newspaper twice a month and the *P.C.* Web site?

The talented and hardworking team is headed by Executive Editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom and

includes Lynda Lin, assistant editor, Brian Tanaka, office/production manager, and Eva Tau-Ling, part-time circulation assistant. Most recently, thanks entirely to our readers' donations to the 2008 *P.C.* Spring Campaign, the paper has begun looking for a part-time Web reporter.

'Although I use a computer every day, I still prefer to get my news by reading a printed newspaper. I like to tuck my P.C. into my briefcase or purse and read it when and where I want. Isn't it great that we have a choice!'

Margie Yamamoto is the current chair of the Pacific Citizen editorial board. She is a member of the JACL New England chapter.

This column is appearing in the New Year's edition of the *P.C.*, and by tradition I should be writing about the *P.C.*'s achievements during the past year. The best report I can offer is the newspaper you are holding in your hands. The fact that twice a month, you receive a news-filled *P.C.* speaks for itself.

For me, it's one of the most valuable benefits of my JACL membership. As the *P.C.* begins its 2009 Spring Campaign, I hope you'll join me in sending in a contribution. Your support can make a difference. ■

AOYAGI-STOM

(Continued from page 2)

scribers and the Spring Campaign. For a total of \$206,375, JACL members receive a semi-monthly newspaper, the 120-page Holiday Issue, and a new database content management driven Web site.

The *P.C.* Web site has been entirely funded by the generous donations of our Spring Campaign donors. Through their generosity, we've been able to redesign the site, build a database and buy software. We also plan to hire a part-time Web reporter.

Online vs. Print

The Newspaper Next Report from the American Press Institute advocates for looking at multiple demographics instead of eliminating one product to go to another. In the *Pacific Citizen*'s case, the largely older demographics indicate a loyal print readership while the online version of the newspaper targets younger, more tech-savvy readers and

non-readers who have never heard of the *Pacific Citizen* or JACL.

Having both a print and online version of the *Pacific Citizen* will also help to continue two revenue streams for the newspaper. As industry reports have indicated, it will still be several years before online advertising reaches the revenue generated by print advertising.

As we celebrate the *P.C.*'s 80th anniversary we reflect on the impact this newspaper has had on the Japanese American and larger AA communities. From its important role during WWII as one of the few JA newspapers able to publish, to disseminating information during the historic Redress Campaign to continuing to tell our community's stories, the *P.C.* has a legacy we can all be proud of.

So check out the new *P.C.* Web site in early February and be sure to give us your feedback. After all, this newspaper was founded for and is about you. ■

Caroline Aoyagi-Stom is the executive editor of the Pacific Citizen.

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