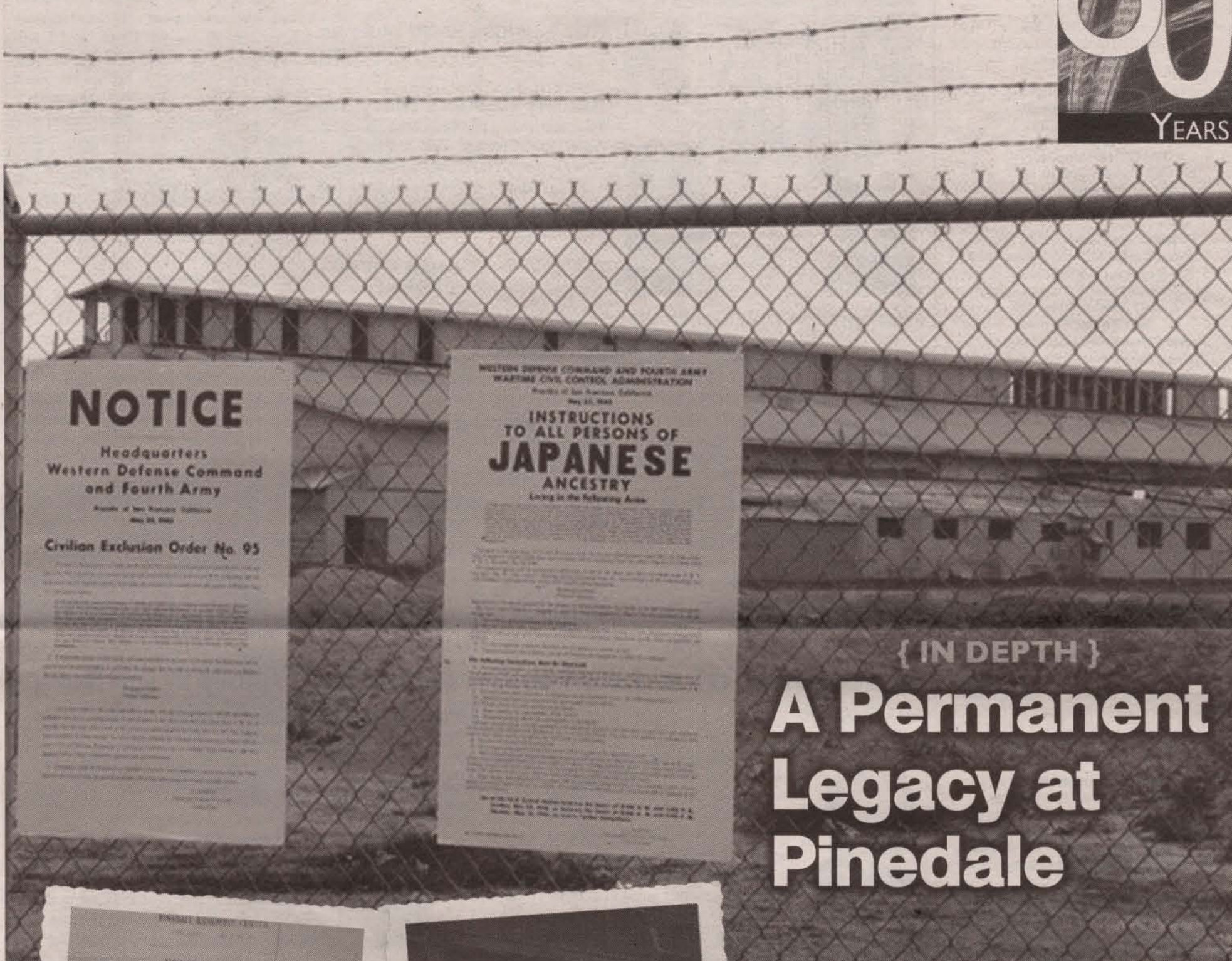


PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

80
YEARS



{ IN DEPTH }

A Permanent Legacy at Pinedale

The ruins of a World War II Japanese American Assembly Center will take its rightful place in history at the JACL Tri-District Conference.

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{ COMMUNITY }

Marking the day FDR signed E.O. 9066

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{ NATIONAL }

Brian Moriguchi fought the Sheriff's Dept. Now he's a JACL leader.

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{ ENTERTAINMENT }

Actress Tamlyn Tomita talks Little Tokyo & mom roles.

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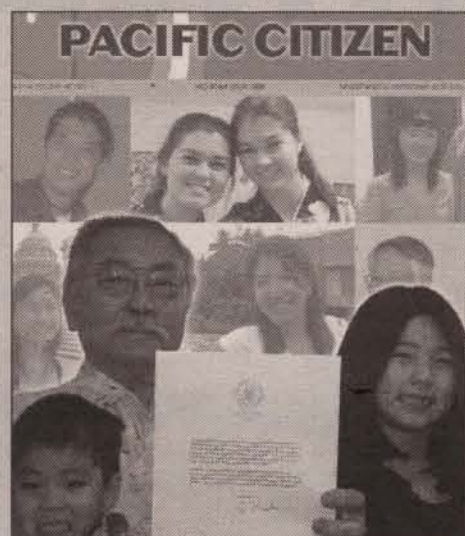
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Letters to the Editor



Recognition Truly Deserved

On the 20th anniversary of President
Reagan's signing of the Redress bill, many
from the PSW district were publicly recog-
nized and honored at last year's PSWD dinner.
It was noted that along with my spouse of 51
years, Itsuko Janet Kajihara, other spouses of
these honorees remained in the background,
unheralded.

This is universally practiced, I believe. So I
would like to take this moment to publicly rec-
ognize my spouse, Itsuko Janet Kajihara, who
outstandingly managed the operation of the
Kajihara household while I was frequently
absent attending to Redress matters. In addi-

tion, may I also publicly extend recogni-
tion to all the spouses of the honorees.

HITOSHI HARRY KAJIHARA
Former Nat'l JACL President

Re: 'My Redress Diary'

This year's Holiday Issue, "My Redress
Diary," should be read by all generations of
Japanese Americans as well as friends of the
AJA community. I suggest text (and photos)
of all the stories be placed on the *Pacific
Citizen* Web site.

HARRY K. HONDA
P.C. Editor Emeritus

Re: Prop. 8

Same-sex marriage is not a civil rights
issue. It is more of a moral issue.

Since the beginning of time, be it plant, ani-
mal or human being, the strong concepts of
the preservation of their individual species
has been eminent.

For the satisfaction of law and order, man
and woman have long declared their togeth-
erness by a ceremony at a church of their choice
or at a court-of-law.

HARRY NAKATA
Kingsburg, Calif.

Thank You, JACL

Like many Americans, I'm familiar
with the internment of the Japanese
Americans during the 1940s. And I will
admit that the U.S. government was
wrong for doing it. It breaks my heart
every time I think of it. The late President
Gerald Ford called it the greatest civil
rights tragedy of the 20th century. I agree
with him wholeheartedly. I can certainly
sympathize with the Japanese Americans.
You see, even though I'm Caucasian
(Irish/English), I'm also part Native
American (Cherokee/Peoria). So I know a
few things about people being mistreated
racially by another group.

But since I'm also part Caucasian, I do
feel the need to say this, too. I'm really
very sorry for the internment that the
Japanese Americans went through during
the 1940s. It still breaks my heart when-
ever I think about it. Our government
rushed to judgment and made a terrible
mistake in doing what they did. It should
never happen to the Japanese Americans
again.

Thanks for all of the work that you and
the rest of your staff do at your office of
the Japanese American Citizens League.

PASTOR ROGER L. ROBINSON
Chicago, Ill.

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Inaugural of a Lifetime

By FLOYD MORI



My first inclination was to leave town during
the Inaugural week because we knew that D.C.
would be a virtual gridlock with people and
events throughout the city. But when we got
invitations to attend the various events, my wife
Irene and I decided that we needed to participate
in this historic series of events. So we stayed and
exhausted ourselves going to as many events as

we could.

While the events were exciting and memorable to witness, the gen-
uine spirit of togetherness and enthusiasm were the highlights of the
week for me. People came from all over the nation just to be here.
Most had no fancy invitations nor did they even expect to get into any
of the events of celebration. They just wanted to be here at a historic
time. They roamed the streets, rode the METRO, and hung out at the
bars and restaurants.

A contractor from Detroit was on the METRO, and we struck up a
conversation around the issue of the change to inclusion rather than
exclusion. There was this young Republican couple from New York
who became impressed with Obama's ability to inspire to better things.
The sports newscaster from Alabama told me that she dropped every-
thing just to spend a few days here hoping to get a glimpse of the
President and his wife. She was rewarded with a front row view of the
President dancing with his wife, Michelle and of course, standing next
to me.

The New York City fireman, who was disabled and in braces, still
braved the crowds to get his seat at the swearing-in ceremony. A cou-
ple from San Antonio, Republican African Americans with the
wife seven months pregnant with twins, dropped everything just
for the opportunity to watch the Inaugural parade. I met so many
happy people

We are concerned about whether the spirit and attitude of change for

COMMENTARY

Witnessing History in the Making

For the inauguration, the best place to be was the
National Japanese American Memorial.

By BRANDON MITA



Two years ago, I was frantically awaiting the fate
of my future. LSAT test — check. Resumes —
check. Personal statements — check. Law school
application — check.

I had applied to over 15 schools, but in reality, I
knew that I was destined to attend only one. When
I got my acceptance letter to the Howard University
School of Law, it was an easy decision for me.

Now, a year and a half after my decision to be in our nation's capital
for law school, I see that my decision has been rewarded in another way
— by being able to witness history in the making.

On election night this past November, the entire law school packed
itself into the President's Bar in D.C.'s Chinatown to watch, then Senator
Barack Obama, become the first person of color to be elected as the pres-
ident of the United States. In addition to the rigors of obtaining a law
school education, many of the students worked tirelessly in Ohio,
Arizona and Virginia for Obama's campaign.

After his victory speech, many of us marched from the bar all the way
to the White House where we danced late into the night with thousands
of others who joined us from the four corners of the district.

Then on Jan. 19 — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday — street ven-
dors lined the road from my house all the way to the closest D.C. metro
station. They packed their booths with T-shirts, hats, buttons and sweaters
with images comparing the late Dr. King with the incoming president.
They smelled a good sale — nearly 2 million people came from all over
the country to witness the inauguration of President Obama.

Even Ben's Chili Bowl, one of the cities oldest African American
establishments, has become famous after President Obama and
Washington Mayor Fenty stopped by on Jan. 10 for a classic chili half-

A Permanent Legacy at Pinedale

A Remembrance Plaza at the former WWII assembly center will be dedicated during the JACL Tri-District Conference in Fresno, Calif. Feb. 14-16. A Day of Remembrance will also take place.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

A nondescript industrial area is all that remains today of what was once the Pinedale Assembly Center, but Kiyo Sato, 85, can still describe its World War II facade in surprising detail, erasing the 67 years that have since passed.

Like a black and white dusty film, Kiyo remembers the large compound surrounded by guard towers that comes into view upon her first drive to the Center in 1942. Passing through the main gate, black tar-papered barracks greet her family, one of which would be their home for the next three months.

"That's all there was, just the cots and the one light bulb," recalls Kiyo upon entering her family's barrack.

But there were not enough cots for her seven siblings and parents. Luckily, one "young fellow" rounded up a couple of extra cots to squeeze into the tiny barrack.

It was this generosity from her fellow Nisei that still stands out for her during this difficult time in Japanese American history.

"What was so impressive to me was the young Nisei were so helpful. We were supportive of each other."

Kiyo's story and the story of her fellow Pinedale Assembly Center internees will soon be memorialized with a permanent monument. On Feb. 16 the Pinedale Memorial will be unveiled in Fresno, Calif. as part of the CCDC/PSWDC/NCWNPDC JACL Tri-District Conference, "Internment and Redress Remembered." The event will also include a Day of Remembrance on Feb. 15.

"I was pleasantly surprised when I heard that little place was going to be memorialized," said Kiyo, from her home in Sacramento. "I feel we need to do these things to remember history, to not pull this thing again."

A Pinedale Legacy

The Pinedale Memorial, located on a site that already has state historical landmark status, is currently being built at 625 W. Alluvial Ave.

in the northwest side of Fresno. The Remembrance Plaza will showcase cherry blossom trees surrounding a square fountain and 12 storyboard panels will detail the history of the JAs who were once confined in this area.

Jim Hirabayashi, 82, was one of the 4,823 Pinedale Assembly Center internees who were rounded up and sent here from May 7 to July 23, 1942. He was just a 15-year-old living in a rural area between Seattle and Tacoma when he and his family were forced to take the train ride to Central California.

"When I was in Pinedale we were confined in barb wire fence so I didn't get much of a chance to see around there, just what I could see through barb wire. We hope our reception will be better this time than last time," joked Jim, who plans to attend the memorial dedication.

Jim connects the Pinedale Memorial to the historic Civil Rights Movement, a topic he knows first hand after taking part in the fight to establish the first Ethnic Studies program at San Francisco State University in the 1960s.

"For me it's not closing the books because it's just a reminder of what happened. This is part of the general Civil Rights Movement," said the SF State emeritus professor. "For us it's a reminder of what happened because racism is not over by a long shot in this country."

Like many former WWII internees, Jim views the current struggles of the Arab and Muslim American communities as eerily familiar, especially when he hears calls to put them in camps.

"Looking back at this history, where certain civil rights were taken away, this is very appropriate right now because sort of the same things are happening to Arab Americans rights now," he said. "This may be history to us but this is not over."

Lane Hirabayashi plans to be by his father Jim's side during the upcoming dedication. As a member of the Hirabayashi family — which includes his famous uncle Gordon who dared to defy executive order 9066 during WWII — he grew up hearing his family's internment stories.

As a descendant of a Pinedale internee, he feels an obligation to preserve the site's history.

"Once the Nisei generation passes, these physical sites are part of the memories that are left," said the 56-year-old Sansei. "I feel a first hand investment as a JA to say we can't



All that remains of the former Pinedale Assembly Center is a dilapidated warehouse (above).



But now thanks to the efforts of the local JA community, a memorial will be unveiled in Fresno Feb. 16. Pinedale Memorial Committee Chair Dale Ikeda (left) believes the memorial represents the courage of the Issei and Nisei.

erase these sites. These physical reminders are what will last."

Although many Nisei may still struggle to tell their internment stories, Kiyo has opened up her experiences for all to see in her book "Kiyo's Story," a work based on her father's haikus.

She wants her fellow internees to see how important it is to talk about her generation's WWII stories.

The Pinedale Memorial "will be a teaching tool for the coming generation and to remember that we can't allow this kind of thing to happen again," said Kiyo. "We need to keep talking about it. One of the problems is that so many people don't want to talk about it."

Kodomo No Tame Ni

Once the three months at the Pinedale Assembly Center had passed, all of the internees were scattered to various internment camps, many for the duration of the War. Many from Pinedale ended up at Poston, Arizona and Tule Lake, Calif.

But even as their lives were being torn apart and the indignities of forced confinement became unbearable, the Issei did all they could to shield their Nisei children so they could go on to prosper as Americans.

"The Issei went through some terrible times and handled things so well. They practiced non violence and they protected the children, that was their main goal — *kodomo no tame ni*," said Kiyo.

"Even when we got to camp they kept doing things to keep the children happy. The children who came out of camp, they went straight out to their schooling. They didn't lose a step. They did pretty well."

Marielle Tsukamoto, 71, was just a five-year-old girl when she and her parents were taken to the nearby Fresno Assembly Center during WWII. She's helping educate others about the Pinedale Memorial to continue her mother Mary's favorite motto: "justice is a matter of continuing education."

It was Mary's experience as director of the Jankenpo Gakko that prompted her to speak out about her internment experiences. She was surprised to learn that many of her JA students knew little about their history and some even thought JAs were interned because they were at fault.

"Many misunderstood the internment camps. Many thought that we had been guilty," said Marielle, Florin JACL chapter president, recalling her mother's stories. "She realized we cannot leave this gener-

ation uninformed."

From that moment on, Mary dedicated her life to teaching the lessons learned from the internment experience. Mary passed away in 1998 but Marielle is doing her best to continue her mother's legacy.

That's why she feels the Pinedale Memorial is so important.

"This is another step in ensuring that the story of the internment and the heroic efforts of the 442nd, 100th, and MIS will not be lost in history," said Marielle. "I know my parents and so many others would be so relieved that the country has taken this direction."

"Remembrance Plaza will be a place to reflect on the past, assess the present and look to a better future," said Dale Ikeda, chair of the Pinedale Memorial Committee. "The former internees can take pride that their sacrifices, perseverance and patriotism paved the way for a better life for their families and future generations." ■

The CCDC/PSWDC/NCWNPDC JACL Tri-District Conference takes place Feb. 14-16 in Fresno, Calif. The Pinedale Memorial will be dedicated Feb. 16. For more information and to register: www.pinedalememorial.org.

Still No Regrets Says JA Lieutenant for Filing Successful Discrimination Lawsuit

Over 10 years ago Lt. Brian Moriguchi fought discrimination within the L.A. Sheriff's Dept. Retaliation is still an issue but his experience spurred his dedication to civil rights.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

It's been 10 years since Lieutenant Brian Moriguchi, 44, won his landmark discrimination lawsuit against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and although he sees some of the negative fallout continuing today, the experience was nothing less than life changing for the Yonsei.

Today, Brian has dedicated not only his job but his personal time to fighting hate crimes and discrimination much like the kind he suffered as a sergeant willing to raise his voice against the LASD.

"I'm glad I filed the lawsuit. It was the right thing to do and I wouldn't change what I have done," he said in an exclusive interview with the *Pacific Citizen*. "It was an eye opener to me, the importance of civil rights."

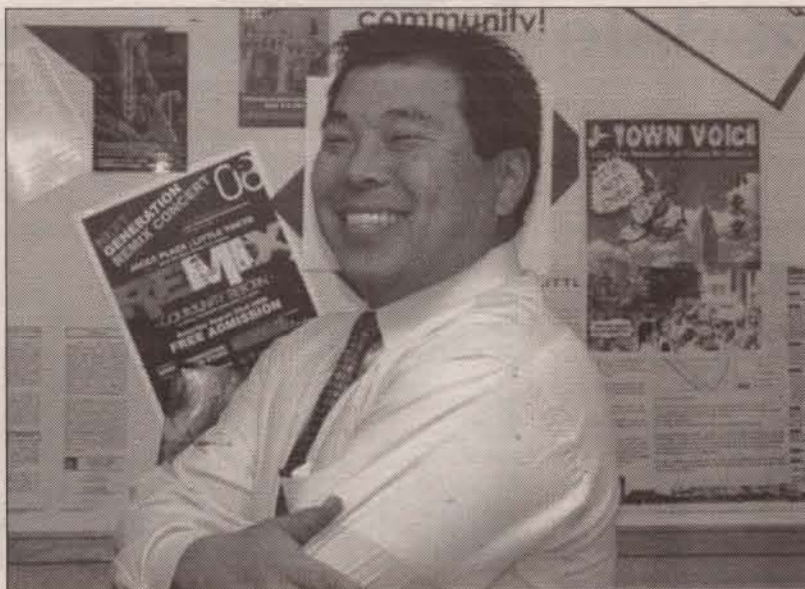
Brian easily admits that before his troubles began at LASD, the issue of civil rights was not high on his list of priorities. But the grey areas that once existed became a lot clearer once he started to fight for his own rights.

"I was able to define my own ethics and integrity," he said.

It was also his lawsuit that brought him to JACL. He credits the Pacific Southwest District with helping him gain a voice in his fight against the discrimination being aimed at him. He joined the organization soon after and on Jan. 25 he was sworn in as the San Fernando Valley chapter's newly installed president.

"I guess it was time to step up and be more involved."

A Landmark Lawsuit



Lt. Brian Moriguchi's victory against discrimination at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has propelled him to fight against hate crimes.

When Brian first saw the hateful drawing of a stereotypical Asian caricature — with buck teeth and slanty eyes accompanied with the words "Ah so" — in his office back in 1996, he was sure it was a rare incident that would quickly be taken care of.

But after three days of little action from higher ups he decided to make an official complaint about the racist drawing. And that's when his life changed.

According to the now decade old lawsuit, a string of retaliatory events started taking place. Superiors took no action on his complaints, negative comments were being filed in his spotless personnel records and even his car was vandalized on three different occasions.

Everything culminated in Brian's official discrimination lawsuit against the LASD and higher ups in 1998. A year later, Brian was vindicated as a judge and jury decided in his favor, unanimously censuring his supervisors.

But sadly, Brian says some retaliation still continues today.

His recent promotion to lieutenant took place in April 2008, something he believes should not have taken so long. He has consistently scored high on his lieutenant exams but says those lower on the promotion list bypassed him instead.

"My promotion was delayed in my opinion for several years because of my lawsuit."

But ironically, the difficult experiences have not tainted Brian's love of his job and the respect he has for his fellow officers.

"It still is a great job. It's the best law enforcement agency in the country," he said. "It's like anything else with power, you need transparency and oversight ... Ninety-eight percent of the officers are doing a great job. It's the two percent that make us look bad."

A Life Changing Experience

When Brian filed his discrimination lawsuit, one of the first actions taken against him was to ship him off to the far reaches of the county in Lancaster, adding 100 miles to his daily commute.

But it was this action that would change his life forever.

"It turned out to be a blessing," says Brian who currently resides in Santa Clarita.

See LT. BRIAN MORIGUCHI/Page 12

Second Chances at Life

The APA community is in the dark when it comes to organ and tissue donation, but the need continues to grow.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

The scar running down Todd Sato's chest is a badge of honor. "It's a reminder of what happened."

Over 10 years ago, Sato, 28, underwent a life-saving procedure: his ailing heart was replaced with a healthy one. Since then, the Los Angeles, Calif. native has spent each day enjoying life's simple things like playing more than just one game of basketball without becoming exhausted.

"I'm very grateful," said Sato, a Yonsei.

He was born with "Blue Baby Syndrome," a cardiac or pulmonary defect that causes inadequate oxygenation of the blood. At eight months old, he underwent an experimental operation that seemed to correct the condition. But three weeks after his high school graduation in 1998, Sato relapsed and went into the hospital in need of a miracle.

Help came from a stranger. Early one morning a nurse woke him up and said they had found him a heart.

Sato's new heart has given him the opportunity to go to college and serve on the JACL national board, but to date he still does not know who to thank for the gift. In organ donation procedures like his, it's typical for both parties to remain anonymous. All he knows is that his donor was a 19-year-old male who lived nearby. But the gesture isn't lost on Sato.

"Someone gave me the gift of life."

He received something that can't be plucked off a department store shelf or ordered online. Its availability is the result of unspeakable sadness met with overwhelming relief.

"It's the greatest gift," said Sabrina Ho, Asian community development coordinator for OneLegacy, a nonprofit transplant

donor network. Its beauty is its egalitarian nature — organ and tissue donation does not discriminate against race, gender or income. And it's in demand in the Asian Pacific American community where cultural beliefs and misconceptions often get exacerbated by popular culture.

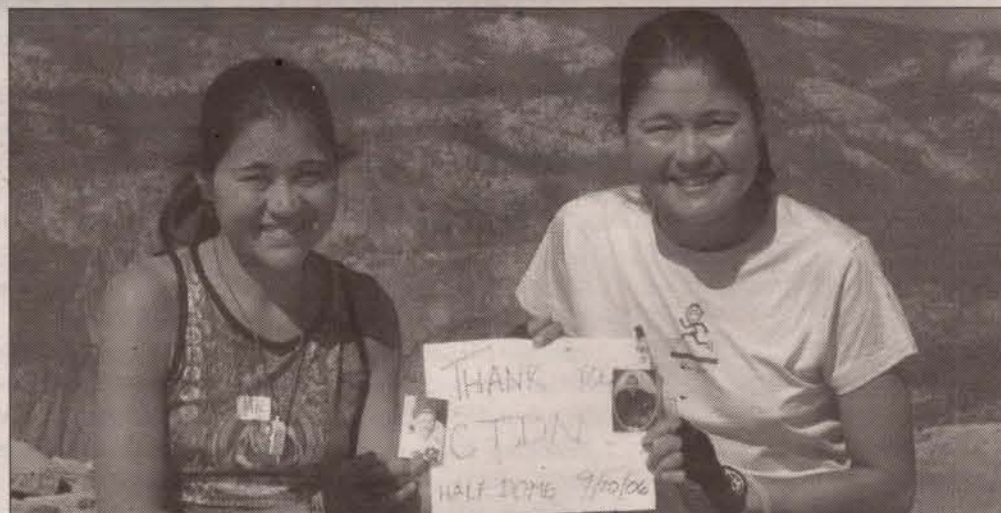
At press time, there are 100,575 people waiting for organ transplants, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing. About 17 people die each day waiting for transplants. And because new names are added to the national waiting list faster than the number of organs available for transplants, the gift of life is needed now more than ever.

"Just think of the people you could save," said Sato, who just found out from his doctors that he needs a second heart transplant.

Twin Miracles

The 2002 Hong Kong film "The Eye" — which Hollywood remade last year — took advantage of the cultural fear of "haunted" body parts. The horror flick is about a woman's ability to see ghosts after undergoing a sight restoring cornea tissue transplant procedure. The fallacies even find their way onto television shows. In a recent plotline of the popular ABC medical drama "Grey's Anatomy," a heart transplant recipient haunts his fiancée.

There's no truth there, said Ho. In her line of work, she has found that knowing the truth about the procedures usually dou-



Lung transplant procedures allowed Anabel (left) and Isabel Stenzel to climb Half Dome.

bles the odds of families granting permission for organ and tissue donation.

"Make an informed decision. Don't make a decision based on Hollywood."

The truth about organ and tissue donation lies in the people it touches and the inextricable bonds it creates between donor and recipient.

Growing up, Anabel and Isabel Stenzel struggled with the simple act of breathing. The 37-year-old identical twins, who are of Japanese and German descent, were born with cystic fibrosis (CF), a defective gene and its protein product that causes the body to produce thick and sticky mucus that clogs the lungs.

"I told the doctor, 'I don't know what [CF] is. Please write it down for me,'" said the twins' mother Hatsuko Stenzel, a Shin Issei.

"The doctor refused and said it's bad," said Hatsuko, 68.

If they were lucky the doctors said the twins would survive

See SECOND CHANCES/Page 13

Celebrating the *Pacific Citizen's* 80-year Legacy

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Through wars, Redress and revolutions, the *Pacific Citizen* was there. When events shook the community, the black and white newspaper published by the Japanese American Citizens League steadily reported the news.

The paper — simply called the *P.C.* by its readers — relied on the power of words to inform, advocate and serve as a beacon of hope during the Japanese American community's darkest hour.

The *P.C.* was the only national JA newspaper during World War II, said Ben S. Kuroki, 91, the famed U.S. Army Air Force veteran who earned a Distinguished Service Medal for his service during WWII.

Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor not only propelled the U.S. into war, it unleashed a national epidemic of racism against a community of innocent citizens. JAs were rounded-up for incarceration in barbed wire internment camps, their businesses were closed and their newspapers were forced to shut down — all except the *P.C.*, which along with the JACL, moved operations to Salt Lake City and continued publishing.

Through its pages, the paper became a trusted news source informing its readers about news on the community and the nation.

"The *P.C.* gave the JACL a viewpoint," said Kuroki.

This year, the *P.C.* turns 80.

It's been 80 years of unprecedented national news coverage, enterprising stories and in-depth features. So in its anniversary year, the newspaper that for so long reported on the stories important to the community is turning the mirror on itself and allowing community leaders of past, present and future to reflect on its legacy.

No doubt there is a lot of history to cover.

"I congratulate the *Pacific Citizen* as it marks 80 years of informing and serving the Asian Pacific American community," said Sen. Daniel K. Inouye in a statement. "I commend them for their celebrated history, and wish them many more years of success."

Pulitzer Prize Nominated WWII Coverage

What started out as a bulletin for JACL members evolved into a reputable news source under the editorship of Larry Tajiri. When the JACL was established in 1929, the *P.C.* — then called the *Nikkei Shimin* or *Japanese American Citizen* — was adopted as the official national publication of the newly formed civil rights organization. By 1931, the publication's name was officially changed to the *Pacific Citizen* — a name that was chosen in a national contest.

In an October 1948 issue of the *JACL Reporter*, I.H. Gordon described Larry as a "myopic, rotund and amiable editor."

Before Tajiri, the *P.C.* had been printed "on one sheet, not taken very seriously, even by the JACL members," said Greg Robinson, an associate professor of history at the Université du Québec À Montréal and author of "By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans."

"Larry turned it into an outstanding newspaper," said Yoshiko Tajiri, Larry's younger sister who worked in the *P.C.*'s circulation department during the war.

With Larry and his wife Marion on staff in Salt Lake City, the *P.C.* became a weekly. It was put together on the fourth floor of the Beason Building on 25 East Second South Street. The *P.C.* occupied one room of the JACL suite and Larry's desk was always piled high with copies of newspapers from all over the U.S., said Yoshiko.

Larry's column, "Nisei USA," was a regular feature and Marion also wrote a regular column under the pen name Ann Nisei. The *P.C.* covered every stage of the evacuation — in which JACL took the stance of cooperating with U.S. authorities in the evacuation — including news about Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui, the brave men



who protested their WWII internment.

It covered every development of camp life and the extraordinary heroics of JA soldiers. Although the *P.C.* was known for its support of the Nisei WWII veterans, articles did appear on those who protested service in the U.S. military, the "No-No Boys" and the "Renunciants."

Readers that may have been opposed to the JACL still need to know what was going on, so they subscribed to the *P.C.*, said the late Bill Hosokawa, a famed journalist and longtime *P.C.* contributor in his book, "JACL: In Quest of Justice."

In 1946, the Friends of the American Way nominated the *P.C.* for a Pulitzer Prize in journalism.

Post war, the *P.C.* kept its focus on civil rights even as other JA newspapers returned to print. In 1949, Marion traveled to San Francisco to report on Iva Toguri's "Tokyo Rose" trial, likely an unprecedented accomplishment for a JA female reporter at that time.

By the early 1950s the JACL decided that the *P.C.* needed to return to the West Coast to Los Angeles. But for the first time in over a decade the paper would be without Larry and Marion. In the Sept. 27, 1952 issue — Larry's last as editor — he said the *P.C.*'s objective was to tell the Nisei story.

"The *P.C.* published the story but the Nisei have written it," he wrote in his "Nisei USA" column.

Redress and the Aftermath

With the *P.C.* in Los Angeles, the paper came under the editorship of former *Shin Nichibei* staffer Harry K. Honda. His first issue of the *P.C.* was published Oct. 4, 1952. Honda would continue his work with the *P.C.* in many different leadership roles until his retirement in 2002.

By 1952, the *JACL Reporter* was discontinued and Honda led the *P.C.*'s new editorial voice.

"How do we balance the editorial spread? More JACL chapter news? More Nisei community news? More news of national impact affecting the Japanese American in particular?" said Honda about the coverage. "The overriding goal, of course, was to make the press deadline."

Since the war, the *P.C.* had been the stomping ground for many well-known journalists and community leaders including Hosokawa, Togo Tanaka, Saburo Kido, Mike Masaoka and Bill Marutani.

"But unique were the 'Minority Report' columns by Edison Uno in the 1970s demanding reparations/Redress because of the WWII evacuation and the camps," said Honda. "Several complained in the *P.C.*, that they were against Redress. There was no price to denial and loss of civil rights by the U.S. government."

The *P.C.* was there every step of the way during the Redress Movement to record the community's triumph of getting an official apology and monetary compensation for WWII internees.

"We had to reach every member of the organization to help

with the grassroots lobbying, and the *P.C.* was the most effective vehicle for doing so," said John Tateishi, JACL's Redress director and former national director.

But in its attempt to get different voices heard, the *P.C.* itself became the center of controversy when some JACLers objected to coverage of other community groups including the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, said George Johnston, a *P.C.* staffer from 1987-90.

"But while (fellow assistant editor) Laurie Mochidome and I were on the editorial staff, we thought it best to publish news and opinion that we felt was of consequence to the JACL membership, the thinking being that it was better for the membership to be informed rather than not," he said.

In 1988 when President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act, Honda attended the event on behalf of the *P.C.* The image of Reagan with former U.S.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Sens. Sparky Matsunaga and Daniel Inouye, and Rep. Robert Matsui is an iconic image that illustrates the magnitude of this accomplishment.

Post Redress, the *P.C.* continued to be a conduit for information and a forum for debate over issues of same-sex marriage and the National Japanese American Memorial.

"My belief is that a newspaper should make readers think and provide a forum where different voices could be heard," said Martha Nakagawa, the *P.C.*'s assistant editor from 1998 to 2003.

Online Revolution

As the community has continued to evolve, so has the JACL and the *P.C.* Today, the *P.C.* has become truly a national Asian Pacific American news publication providing award-winning coverage on immigration reform, same-sex marriage and 1st Lt. Ehren Watada.

The *P.C.* is also reaching younger generations in the new digital age.

With the addition of its popular Web site in late 2005, the reach of the *P.C.* is now truly worldwide. With the click of a mouse, readers who may have not heard of the JACL or the *P.C.*, get instant access to the articles, videos and information that can still connect communities.

"I think the awareness that I get from reading the *P.C.* about hate crimes/incidents towards Asian Americans makes me want to get involved and challenge stereotypical and ignorant views and actions," said Paul Fisk, 27, a graduate student at the University of Utah.

But many of the JACL's leaders and readers are not yet ready to part with the *P.C.* in print.

"I'm a kind of person who likes the written word," said Lillian Kimura, who was elected the JACL's first female national president in 1992. "I really do want the print edition."

"The *P.C.* brings current national Asian American issues to my doorstep. I enjoy reading it because it's a very unique paper that focuses on civil rights issues that happen around the nation," said Mike Mikawa, 22, a student at the University of California, Berkeley who also reads the *P.C.* in print.

With 80 years behind it, the *P.C.*'s legacy is still being written.

"We've inherited an important legacy but our work continues," said Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, *P.C.* executive editor. "As we continue to expand our national APA coverage, our increased online presence will be vital."

"I think it's important to have a record of any organization and the *P.C.* is a great vehicle. In the next few years, I see it as being both online and in print," said Lori Matsukawa, Seattle's KING TV anchor. "The *P.C.* should reflect the important work JACL is doing as a watchdog of civil liberties." ■

Check out *P.C.*'s new Web site: www.pacificcitizen.org

Asian American Political Profile Rising in U.S.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO—When three newly elected Chinese American city supervisors climbed on stage in Chinatown, flanked by dragon dancers and lit up by camera flashes, they were hailed for making history in a city their forebears have shaped since the Gold Rush Days.

Now their November sweep has been topped with the election of one of them, David Chiu, as president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors — the second most powerful position in local government.

It is fitting that San Francisco, which is 34 percent Asian and home of the nation's oldest Chinatown, is leading the way on Asian American political representation. But the country's fastest growing minority group also is reaching new heights on the state and national stage.

Experts say their newfound clout is not due to numbers alone.

The political engagement of AAs is growing. Many immigrants are earning citizenship. Community organizations are mounting voter registration drives. Ethnic media increasingly are endorsing candidates and covering political campaigns. And politicians are scoring victories, even in areas without a strong Asian electorate.

Countrywide, there are more than 2,000 Asian and Pacific Islander elected and appointed representatives, according to UCLA's Asian American Studies Center. In California, AAs hold two seats in the state Senate, 10 in the Assembly, plus the posts of state controller and chief of the Board of Equalization. A decade ago, there was only one high-ranking AA official, the state treasurer.

"We're finally gaining full admission to the club," said David Lee, who teaches political science at San Francisco State University.

The AA population has expanded



Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal

from 0.5 percent in 1960 — prior to repeal of restrictive immigration laws — to 5 percent now. The U.S. Census projects they will grow to 8 percent by 2050.

Many people of Asian descent have stepped beyond their national identities to develop a pan-Asian perspective, giving both money and votes to AA candidates who might not share their national origin, according to Don Nakanishi, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

That has translated into victories at the local level, where AA politicians are poised for higher office. "People are moving up — it's happening very quickly," said C.C. Yin, a businessman who helped found the Asian Pacific Islander American Political Association, which nurtures future leaders.

Chinese-language newspapers are increasingly reporting on political campaigns, encouraging readers to vote, and endorsing candidates, said Tim Lau, editor in chief of the West Coast *Sing Tao Daily*, the largest of the San Francisco Bay Area's five Chinese-language dailies.

"We realized we had a responsibility to our readers," Lau said.

In addition, states with legislative term limits, such as California, have seen opportunities open up for minorities who might have had a tougher time fighting entrenched incumbents.

"Having the field cleared and giving everyone a clean slate has been particularly helpful to Chinese Americans," said state Sen. Leland Yee, who rose from positions on San Francisco's school board and board of supervisors to become the first Chinese American elected to the state

Senate.

"What you're seeing is a changing of the guard."

Meanwhile, the American-educated children of earlier generations of immigrants are entering politics.

"We represent a new demographic," said Chiu, the new board president, saying he could not have become a supervisor without the support of interest groups outside Chinatown. "We have our feet in both our ethnic communities and the broader mainstream community. And that's essential — to win, we had to build multiracial coalitions."

That need also was apparent in Louisiana where voters elected Republican U.S. Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao last year, making him the first Vietnamese American in Congress. His victory followed the election of Bobby Jindal, a son of Punjabi immigrants, to Congress and then to the governorship in 2007.

The election of Barack Obama and his consideration of several AAs for high-profile positions also serve as incentives for AAs to jump into politics, said Nakanishi.

"After Obama, it's not unthinkable that a guy like Jindal could become president some day," he said. "There is still a lot pioneering going on, but Asian Americans are really becoming an even more viable and visible actor in American politics." ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

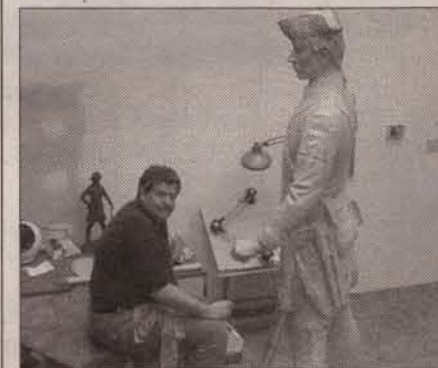
Economic Recovery Bill Allots Millions to WWII Filipino Vets

WASHINGTON—If passed, the Senate's economic recovery package spends up to \$198 million in lump-sum payments to aging WWII Filipino veterans. The compensation, supported by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, would go to about 15,000 living veterans who were promised postwar benefits for their service in WWII as a part of U.S.-led forces.

Money was allocated for Filipino veterans last year, but was never spent. Critics say the issue has no business in the recovery bill, but advocates say the money is deserved and belongs in the recovery package because Filipino veterans are dying.

WWII 442nd RCT to be Featured in Wash. Memorial

WASHINGTON—Sculptor Andrew L. Chernak is featuring the World War II 442nd RCT story in his Gold Star Mothers Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Sculptor Andrew Chernak in his studio with the U.S. Army Engineers memorial statue, which now can be seen at the Army Engineers Training Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

PHOTO: JAVA

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. honors the mothers of Armed Forces veterans. Chernak, a Vietnam War veteran, said the 442nd will be a focal point of the WWII section.

The five mothers and six children who will be featured are: Sami Murata and sons Sgt. Robert Murata and PFC Harry S. Yamasaki; Yae Moriguchi and PFC Haluto Moriguchi; Josephine Nilges and Cpt. Edward Joseph Nilges; Misayo Ninomiya and PFC Takao Ninomiya; Fuyuko Okura and Pvt. Susumu "Babe" Okura.

Senate Passes Bill to Expand Child Health Coverage

WASHINGTON—The Senate, on Jan. 29, passed a bill extending government-sponsored health insurance coverage to about 4 million uninsured children. The bill, which was approved 66-32, authorizes an additional \$32.8 billion over the next 4 1/2 years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The bill now goes to the House of Representatives and then to the president's desk.

More than 7 million children were enrolled in SCHIP at some point in 2008. The program was created more than a decade ago as a way to provide health care to children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private coverage.

"Nowhere does the saying that 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure' have more meaning and significance than it does with proper health care for the children of the nation," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director, in a statement urging lawmakers to pass the measure.

New Pan-Asian Store Planned for Old Mitsuwa Site

LOS ANGELES—A new Asian-themed supermarket will replace the Little Tokyo outpost of Mitsuwa Market.

A representative of Coldwell Banker, which handles leasing for the Little Tokyo Shopping Center and acts as a spokesman for the group that acquired the mall in 2008, told the *Los Angeles Downtown News* that the new market will carry Japanese, Korean, Chinese and American food products. Although a name has not been selected, it will likely incorporate the phrase "Little Tokyo."

City's First Vietnamese American Council Member Faces Recall

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Madison Nguyen, the councilwoman from District 7, is in a fight to save her job. On March 3, thousands of residents will vote to either keep or recall Nguyen, just the third time in the city's history that voters will consider a recall.

Community activists criticized Nguyen's choice to name a shopping area on Story Road "Saigon Business District." They argue that crime and gang violence have increased and that she has stopped listening to the community.

Nguyen was elected in 2005 as San Jose's first Vietnamese council member. ■

Report: APAs Narrowly Supported Proposition 8

New data has confirmed that Asian Pacific American voters in California narrowly supported Proposition 8, the November ballot initiative that restricted marriage to be between a man and a woman.

The 2008 Southern California Voter Survey conducted by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) is the largest and most comprehensive exit poll of Asian Pacific Americans in California.

Overall, APAs narrowly supported Proposition 8 — 54 percent voted "yes" while 46 percent voted "no." Korean Americans were significantly more likely to support Proposition 8 by a wide margin, according to the report.

Preliminary data shows that — similar to other racial and ethnic groups — age and religious belief were determining factors in voting on Proposition 8.

Fluent English speakers between the ages of 18 to 34 who "never" attended a church, temple, or mosque voted

strongly against Proposition 8.

"Asian Americans mirror the statewide patterns that have emerged in other surveys, where young people voted overwhelmingly against Prop. 8 but their parents or grandparents voted strongly in support of Prop 8," said Marshall Wong, co-chair of API Equality-LA.

APALC surveyed 1,200 APA voters in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, including hundreds of voters who identified as limited English speakers.

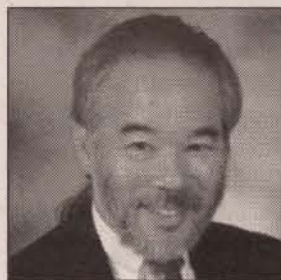
"This data underscores what many of us working in the community have known all along, that educating our communities in a language they understand is critical to winning the battle for marriage equality," said HyunJoo Lee, national organizing coordinator at the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium. ■

On the Web: www.apalc.org

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Ishimaru Named as EEOC Acting Chair



Longtime JACL member **Stuart J. Ishimaru** has been named acting chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). He has been a commissioner of the EEOC since 2003. Ishimaru, a San Jose, Calif. native, has also served as counsel to the assistant attorney general for civil rights and provided advice on a broad range of issues.

The five-member commission is charged with making EEOC policy and approving litigation in consultation with the EEOC general counsel. Appointments to the commission are subject to Senate approval.

Ishimaru is serving a second term that expires in 2012.

Fong Nominated for DHS Post

President Barack Obama has announced his intentions to nominate **Ivan K. Fong** as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Fong, who is currently the chief legal officer and secretary for Cardinal Health, Inc., has served previously as deputy associate attorney general for the Department of Justice. During his tenure, Fong was the primary author and editor of "The Electronic Frontier: The Challenge of Unlawful Conduct Involving the Use of the Internet," a groundbreaking report on cyber crime policy.

Harada Wins Community Service Award

At its 26th Annual Lunar New Year Dinner, the Asian American Coalition of Chicago honored **Yoshiro (Yosh) Harada** with its Community Service Award for his impact on the Japanese American community in Chicago.

Harada, who retired from the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute as a senior material scientist after 46 years, developed the paint used in the U.S. space program.

Harada also served on the JACL Scholarship Committee.

Arizona JACler Wins MLK Award

Mas Inoshita, a historian, civil rights advocate and Arizona JACL member, was recently honored with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Seryant-Leadership Award. When Inoshita's family was interned in Arizona during WWII, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and later was sent to assess the damages at Hiroshima.

He has spent more than 25 years serving as a guest lecturer for civic groups and Arizona schools.

Kawamoto Wins Teaching Award



Former JACL National Board Member and Karl H. Kellogg Elementary School teacher **Carol Kawamoto** was named one of the winners of the first "I'm Thankful For My Teacher..." Contest.

Kawamoto received a Westfield Shopping Center gift card. Kawamoto's fifth grade students will receive a classroom party or field trip of their choice and free Junior Achievement financial education classes in their classroom

for the school year, a curriculum valued at \$750.

Oishi Takes Home Community Leadership Award

Joe Oishi, 97, was recently awarded the Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award. Oishi's Issei father first puts roots down in Richmond, Calif. in 1906 when he established the Oishi Nursery.

Over the years, Oishi has given back to the community by supporting the Berkeley Buddhist Church, East Bay JACL and later the Contra Costa JACL, where as membership chair he recruited the largest number of new members in the chapter's history. He continued as membership chair from 1960-1975 and held other offices in his 30-year board membership.

The award is presented in memory of **Takeo Okamoto**, who was a pioneer in the San Francisco JA community. The award is given to persons who exhibit the spirit found in Okamoto's modest and scholarly demeanor. ■

U.S. Immigration History Preserved on Angel Island

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK, Calif.—The Angel Island Immigration Station, once known as the "Ellis Island of the West," is reopening after a multimillion-dollar restoration of the historical landmark aimed at showing visitors a chapter of American history that many would rather forget.

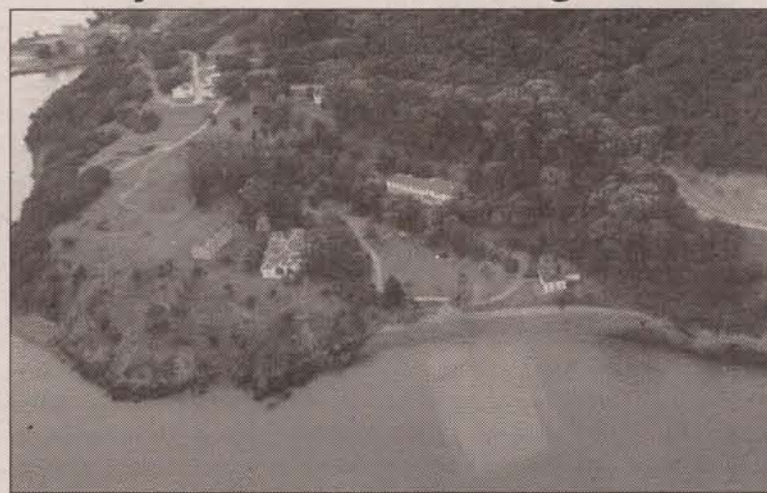
Hundreds of thousands of immigrants, mostly from Asia, were detained on the largest island in San Francisco Bay for days, weeks and sometimes months in the three decades before World War II.

They were housed in crowded, dingy barracks while undergoing humiliating medical exams and grueling interrogations administered by officials intent on upholding federal laws restricting immigration from China and elsewhere.

"Angel Island is a commentary on the kind of racist thinking that really impacted how people from Asia were treated," said Eddie Wong, executive director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. "To correct those errors for other people, not just Asians, it's important to know that history."

Nearly seven decades after it closed, the station is set to reopen in mid-February following completion of the first phase of a \$60 million restoration project that was started in 2005. The initial work has focused on restoring the barracks, where many immigrants carved poems into the wooden walls.

The station was built on Angel Island, a short boat ride from San Francisco, to help enforce the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and other laws aimed at curbing immigration at a time when Americans were worried about immigrants



stealing jobs and depressing wages.

From 1910 to 1940, about 1 million immigrants from some 90 countries — including an estimated 175,000 from China — were processed at Angel Island.

Some passed through fairly quickly, but many Chinese immigrants were detained for up to two years while immigration officials questioned their legal status.

Don Lee was 11 years old when he left his rural village in China's Guangdong Province to join his father in America in 1939. After three weeks crossing the Pacific in the steerage deck of a steamship, he was held for a month on Angel Island.

"The whole place is really congested and full of strangers, so I was more scared than anything else," Lee, 81, said during a recent visit to the renovated barracks.

The retired civil engineer remembers long interrogation sessions in which inspectors asked him detailed questions about his family, home, village and neighbors in China.

"They're not there to welcome you. They're really there to discourage you. It's up to them to bounce you," said Lee, who now lives in

Concord, about 30 miles east of San Francisco.

The station was closed in 1940 after fire destroyed the main administration building. Then it was used to process German and Japanese war prisoners during World War II, when the U.S. repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act because China and the U.S. had become allies.

The island became a state park in 1954, and until the restoration project began in 2005 about 200,000 people visited the station each year even though they could only see a small section of the barracks.

Now visitors can tour the entire two-story facility, including several rooms furnished with suitcases, clothes, books, games and other items from the period.

"We're trying to create as accurate of an experience for the visitor so they can see what it was actually like to be detained here," said Katherine Metraux, a museum curator with the state Department of Parks and Recreation. ■

Angel Island Association:

www.angelisland.org

Angel Island Immigration Station

Foundation: www.aiisf.org

JA Groups Commend Confirmation of Gen. Eric Shinseki

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

HONOLULU—Japanese American groups heaped their praise as Retired Gen. Eric Shinseki of Kauai was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as secretary of veterans affairs.

The unanimous vote confirming Shinseki, the first Asian American to lead the agency, and five other members of President Barack Obama's Cabinet came Jan. 20, a little more than three hours after Obama took office.

"It is a proud time for the Asian American community to have a person of his intellectual and moral caliber represent them in this exciting new administration of change," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Shinseki has long been involved with several different Japanese

American groups and was recently national spokesperson for the Go For Broke National Education Center. He has received praise for correctly estimating the huge number of troops that would be required to win the Iraq War although he was overruled by the Bush Administration.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, who chairs the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said he looked forward to working with Shinseki and Obama to help VA fulfill its "sacred obligation to veterans and their families."

Obama chose Shinseki in December to head the Department of Veterans Affairs.

During a Jan. 14 confirmation hearing chaired by Akaka, Shinseki, the Army's first four-star general of Japanese American descent, said six-month waits to process a disability

claim would not be acceptable under his watch.

He told the senators he didn't understand why veterans are currently waiting half a year on average to have a claim processed.

"We need to do something about this," he said.

"We can think of no other person who is better suited for this position. General Shinseki has a proven history of taking care of soldiers, veterans and their families. He will do much to ensure that all veterans, including those serving in uniform today, receive the care and benefits they rightfully deserve, earned and need. It is a proud moment for our community and our country," said Christine Sato Yamazaki, president and CEO, Go For Broke National Education Center. ■



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

JA Girl

A few weeks ago, I met up with your mother after work. She wanted to find one of those Chinese street vendors who could render the letters of your name into calligraphic swirls of birds, animals and flowers. It took only five minutes for the street vendor to paint your name — Kiyomi — and it is hanging in your room right now.

I saw your room when your mother and father threw a big party at your house in your honor. Everything is very pink and very beautiful — including the little pillow hand-sewn by your great-grandmother. There are also Japanese porcelain dolls sitting on your dresser. Your shelf is already filled with books. There is one that shows Japanese American girls doing *odori* dancing, and another picture book of traditional Japanese fairy tales.

I'm telling you these things because you haven't seen your room yet. You won't for another two months until you are finally born.

Your mother already instructed your great-grandmother to speak to you in only Japanese. This, of course, is coming from the woman who spent her childhood ditching Japanese language school so she could loiter at the nearby Hello Kitty store.

And being a Japanese school flunkie myself, I can completely relate. Do as we say, not as we did.

I imagine that being a Japanese American girl for your generation will be very different from the generations before us. Your mother once mused over the phone with me how strange it is that you will grow up in a world where having a black U.S. president is not some faraway dream, but a simple fact of life.

And what a colorful, multicultural world you will grow up in. You are so lucky to be living in Los Angeles, one of the most diverse places in the world. When you want to eat yummy *mochi* ice cream or sushi, you can always ask your mother or father to drive you to Little Tokyo or Sawtelle Boulevard. I hope you grow up enjoying the annual Tofu Festival and Nisei Week in Little Tokyo as I did when I was growing up.

When you are a little older, you might explore all the other neighborhoods of the world gathered within this one big city — like Chinatown, Koreatown, Little Ethiopia, Little Armenia, and Thai Town. Maybe you will be excited as I am to see how in this city, different things from different parts of the world are always meshing and transforming to form an entirely new and different idea. Los Angeles, after all, is probably the only city where you can see a Korean BBQ taco truck driving around your neighborhood!

It's so strange for me to think that a new JA like you is already coming into this world. I am proud of the accomplishments of my generation; I also feel that our generation is still very young and still has a long way to go. If I had it my way, your Saturday morning cartoons will have more Asian American programs, and not the cheesy ones about a Chinese boy who can do kung fu and transform into a dragon. You will have more multi-ethnic dolls (with more realistic proportions) to play with, and when you go to the movie theater you will see more actors and actresses who look a little more like you.

But maybe these are solutions your generation will come up with. And maybe in this new and complex world you grow up in, questions of racial identity will be overshadowed by greater issues that demand the integrity of our common humanity — like stopping wars, stopping global warming and poverty in third-world countries.

But I may be getting too ahead of myself. After all, you are still swimming in an underwater world where you are not yet capable of thought. Right now, you are busy forming eyelashes and fingernails. Every cell in your body is spinning in anticipation of the moment when you take your first breath of this world. ■

Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles.



[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD

Prop. 8

In the 1970s, when I taught in the English Department at City College of San Francisco, my best friend was a guy named Gerry. We both started teaching at City the same year and shared an office the entire 11 years I taught there. We also shared a similar view of life, which was interesting because we came from very different backgrounds. He was a working-class Italian from Boston, had majored in Latin at the prestigious Ivy League Bowdoin College, and talked about things in the movie "The Godfather" like it was a familiar personal experience (and not coincidentally one of his uncles was arrested as the head of the mob in another city). He was one of the most brilliant people I'd ever known.

And he was gay.

This was in 1971, in the days before gay rights had become part of the San Francisco scene, before Harvey Milk, before gay politics emerged as a major force in city politics. Actually, I never knew Gerry was gay until after almost six months of our friendship, and when he told me, my reaction was, so what? It didn't change who he was or how much I enjoyed his friendship or how I valued his mind. His being gay didn't change anything, not one iota, about who he was. He was, simply, a great guy.

Gerry's partner was a quiet, somewhat shy person, quite the opposite of Gerry. But together, they made a fantastic pair. You only had to be around them for a little while to realize how good they were together and to each other. I've rarely seen a hetero couple as caring and kind and so together in life.

Gerry was always interested in my involvement with the JACL. What fascinated him most were the stories I would tell him about camp, about my life at Manzanar, about the government. About redress. He understood injustice because he had experienced it himself.

When I learned some years later that Gerry had died, I was deeply saddened. By then, I had resigned my tenure at City College to work fulltime on the JACL's redress program. I was both saddened and angry when I also learned that his life partner, his perfect mate, wasn't allowed to attend his funeral and had been stripped of any rights to share in the family's grief in the passing of their son. His family being Catholic and very traditional, Gerry's personal life was a shame to them, and

his partner was a reminder of all they thought was wrong and immoral in the life of their son.

In the moment I heard about all this, I mourned for Gerry and I mourned for his partner too.

Nov. 4, 2008, was a day of mixed emotions for me. Of course, I was thrilled and excited that Barack Obama won the presidency. It was, I felt, the beginning of a new America and an end to the immorality and corrupted politics of George Bush. America had reached a new social and political horizon, and it felt good. It felt like a cleansing of America's soul after eight long years of madness.

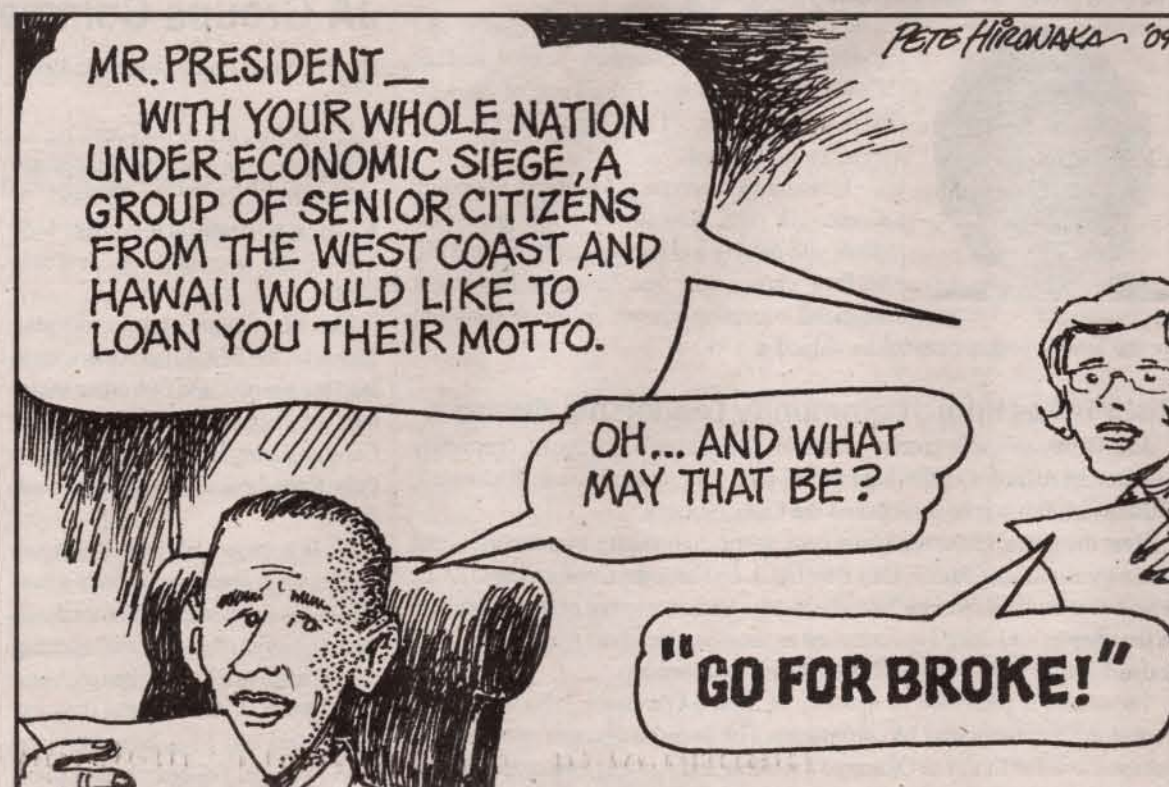
But at the same time, I was angered by the passage of California's Proposition 8 and furious with the cruelty of the ugly campaign launched by proponents and supporters of that bigoted proposition.

For those who find it repugnant that two individuals of the same sex should care enough about each other that they want to devote their lives to each other in marriage; or state that it's written in the Bible that marriage is a proposition between a man and a woman; or who believe that homosexuality is counter to the laws of nature because this is what's preached from the pulpit — they would do well to remember that it wasn't so long ago that the coupling of a black man and a white woman was considered an abomination of the laws of nature, and that it was not so long ago that it was against the law in many states for a white woman to marry an Asian man.

I'm particularly bothered by the meanness of Proposition 8 and its intent to nullify those same-sex marriages that had already been sanctioned in the state. How mean is that?

I think of my friend Gerry with sadness because he and his partner were denied the rights that come with a legal bond because they were gay, a right given to every other person in society. And so I'm glad the JACL has an official position on supporting same-sex partnerships. It speaks well of the humanity of the organization and its belief in civil rights and the rights of *all* people. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



The Reigning Queen of APA Hollywood

She's wooed a karate kid and mothered a time-bending 'hero.' After two decades in show business, Tamlyn Tomita is still going strong.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Tamlyn Tomita throws her hands in the air and confesses that the last few years have been a transitional time in her career. The actress, 43, who famously launched countless boyhood crushes as Ralph Macchio's love interest in "The Karate Kid, Part II," is starting to move into mom roles.

"I've been mom how many times this year or last year. Wow!" she exclaims with a laugh.

Let's see, there's the popular NBC series "Heroes," where last year she played Masi Oka's onscreen mother and George Takei's wife — despite in real life only being nine years older than Oka and 28 years younger than Takei. If there ever was any doubt that Hollywood is cruel, remove it now.

Because while sitting in the lobby of the Miyako Hotel in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and talking community and history with the *Pacific Citizen*, she's still every inch as lovely as her "Karate Kid" Kumiko character and sophisticated as Waverly in "The Joy Luck Club." Occasionally flashes of spunky Kana, her 1994 role as the Japanese Hawaiian plantation worker in "Picture Bride" bubbles to the surface too.

"It's just a natural part of life," says Tamlyn, a Sansei who was born in Okinawa. "I won't be able to go up against actresses who are in their 20s anymore."

But she doesn't mind.

"It's just a matter of really taking delight in the roles that are out there and saying 'Oh my God! I'm a mother? No way!'"

And with over 20 years in Hollywood, while many other former young actors have fizzled (Hello, have you seen VH1's "Confessions of a Teen Idol"?), Tomita has been a steady force with a lengthy IMDb.com Web page to prove it.

In the last few months, television projects have been popping up non-stop: "The Mentalist," "Eureka" and maybe even "Heroes" again ("You never know!").

She names the projects between snaps of fingers and pauses to reflect. "I've been very, very lucky."

'Karate Kid': 23 Years Later

After all this time, people still recognize Tamlyn in the role that launched her career. She could be walking down the street and hardened businessmen in suits would just melt remembering scenes from the film where Kumiko coyly dances in her kimono. They usually say, "You're that girl!" and maybe even start thinking about the chorus of Peter Cetera's "Glory of Love."

"It's cute, very sweet."

Before sharing screen time with other Japanese American legends like Pat Morita and Nobu McCarthy, Tamlyn was a his-



tory major at the University of California, Los Angeles and Little Tokyo's Nisei Week queen in 1984. From the beginning, her career and the community have always intersected.

The idea for Tamlyn to audition for the "Karate Kid" came from Helen Funai, another former Nisei Week queen. When she landed the role, Tamlyn's father, the late Shiro Tomita, said Funai had to be her manager.

"She basically mothered me through the first few years of my career. I wasn't alone."

Shiro, who was interned at Manzanar during World War II, was a Los Angeles Police Department officer who helped to form the nation's first Asian task force.

"I remember growing up and feeling that sense of community here in Little Tokyo."

Tamlyn's mother Asako, who is half Okinawan and half Filipina, experienced the other side of WWII. "With English being her third language it was very difficult for her to tell her kids about what it was like growing up in the war on that side."

In the fourth grade when Tamlyn finally read a very abbreviated version of the U.S. internment of JAs in her schoolbook, she rushed home and asked, "Dad, did this happen to you?" In response, Shiro gave his daughter a copy of Estelle Ishigo's book, "Lone Heart Mountain."

It's partly her parents' influence that she says drives her to be an active community leader. She's

been a Nisei Week host for the past eight years and a constant presence at community functions.

"It's that sense of trying to retain that sense of history and to pass along these ideas of what it means to be Japanese American."

This year during Nisei Week, Tamlyn brought her uncle as part of her "entourage" and had him sit in the thick of *ondo* dancers.

I said, "Yeah, that's right. This is all our people."

Itinerant Actor

"I think with actors unless we're super successful — like a Tom Hanks or a Julia Roberts — we're always itinerant workers. It's from job to job."

It's the kind of lifestyle that even after so many years makes Asako worry about her daughter. Even with the big budget splashy movies like "The Day After Tomorrow," Asako would ask, "Okay, what are you going to do next?"

In Wayne Wang's 1993 film "The Joy Luck Club," Tamlyn



"It's always a sense of belonging," said Tamlyn Tomita about Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

made history as part of the Asian Pacific American cast in the first APA film to be released into mainstream America. She still gets recognized as Waverly Jong, the grown up chess champion. Since then, Tamlyn has seen Hollywood evolve to include some more roles for APA actors.

"It does feel like it's opening up, but the bottom line to me still is that change is occurring slowly," she said. "There are more opportunities for roles that are not ethnic specific, but they're not *leading* roles."

Once in awhile, APA actors pop up in the peripherals of new films and television shows, provide some comic relief or added drama and then just disappear.

"We're just the seasoning. We're just the flavor still."

That's why she doesn't shirk from the label of community leader.

"You have to take it with the sense that by the fact that we're of a non-white face, it's a political statement. We're here to play. I'm going to sit at this table representing a whole group of people behind me. And I know there are people who would love to have the opportunity to speak and say something ... I happen to be very, very fortunate to have the opportunity to say what I need to say in order to propel our community and say, 'Hey, we're here! Count us!'"

In the recent politically charged presidential elections, whenever Tamlyn would hear pundits talk about "black and brown" ethnic communities, she would want to shout out "yellow!"

She leans forward and smiles.

"Actually, I like to say 'golden.'" ■

ONLINE EXTRA

To see a photo gallery and video of Tamlyn Tomita, go to www.pacificcitizen.org

Bill Seeks to Award WWII Nisei Vets With Congressional Gold Medal

Members of the highly decorated World War II 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion may be able to add the Congressional Gold Medal to their collection.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., has introduced HR 347, legislation to pay tribute to the WWII Nisei veterans commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments for their dedicated service. The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress's highest civilian honor.

The medal is presented both for singular acts of exceptional service and for lifetime achievement. Once legislation is passed, Congress commissions the U.S. Mint to design and create a medal that is unique to each individual or event that it is being awarded for.

Schiff introduced a similar measure last year to honor the men who waged wars both against racial injustice at home and abroad against U.S. enemies. During WWII, many



young Nisei men fought bravely to protect the country that imprisoned their families behind barbed wire internment camps.

"At a time when they could have easily turned their backs on a country which had seemingly turned its back on them, these men chose the nobler, bolder, and more difficult route," said Schiff in a statement. "It is long past due that Congress recognize their heroic efforts with Congress's most prestigious

award."

The Go For Broke regiments earned several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals,

4,000 Bronze Stars and over 4,000 Purple Hearts.

For their size and length of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd RCT were the most decorated U.S. military units of the war.

Last year, as part of HR 2638 or "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act," Schiff helped to secure \$4 million for the construction of the Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles. ■

JACL Establishes Nakahira Memorial Scholarship

Shigeru "Shig" Nakahira has been described as a good and helpful friend, a 442nd veteran, a capable accountant, an excellent bowler and a quiet doer of good deeds.

Sadly, Shig passed away in December 2007 at the age of 87. In his will, he continued his good deeds by making a generous donation to the National JACL Scholarship Program. The Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship will begin in 2009.

"The JACL is so fortunate to have truly altruistic members like Shig Nakahira," said David Kawamoto, national JACL vice president for planning & development, who worked with Shig's niece, Millie King, on the scholarship details. "He represents the best of the JACL and we are honored to have a scholarship bearing his name."

Nakahira grew up on a farm in the Stockton and Sacramento area and was interned at the outbreak of World War II. He went on to serve in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company C. After the war, he used his GI bill and graduated from Northwestern University with a major in business administration. In 1948, he moved to Madison, WI, and worked as an accountant. He later joined the Wisconsin Department of

Revenue until his retirement in 1986.

In 1953, he married Miekko Iabe of Chicago. A fatal car accident that same year claimed her life and he suffered major injuries. He never remarried.

Longtime friend Paul Kusuda recalled that Shig "had all kinds of golf equipment" and was an excellent bowler. As treasurer of the Madison Area Retired Bowlers Association he encouraged the group to make contributions to the Food Kitchen drive helping to raise \$3,000 each year. He was awarded the Kathryn Lee Humanitarian Award for this work.

Shig was an active member of the JACL's Wisconsin Chapter and a 1000 Club Life member. In addition to JACL, he generously funded scholarships for the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. He also contributed to the Japanese American National Museum, American Red Cross and Disabled American Veterans.

Kusuda recalls he and Shig would often go to a nearby farm to buy Asian-type vegetables like *daikon*, *nappa*, and *gobo*. Shig would often buy 50 to 60 pounds of vegetables and use his own special recipes to make *takuwan* and *tsukemono*, giving out much of it to his friends.

"They were more than tasty; they were the best," said Kusuda. ■

JACL Accepting Applications for Masaoka Fellowship

Do you want to get insider experience working for a member of Congress in the nation's capital? It's time to apply now for the JACL's Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship.

For the past 20 years, the JACL has placed future Asian Pacific American leaders in the offices of members of Congress to learn all facets of the workings of Congress. During the six-month fellowship, the chosen candidate will work in the Washington, D.C. office of a member of the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives.

Candidates for the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship must be U.S.

citizens and members of the JACL. He or she should be a graduating college senior or a student in a graduate or professional program. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated a commitment to Asian Pacific American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was established to honor Mike M. Masaoka, who passed away in 1991, for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity.

Dr. Tom Tamaki, of Philadelphia, has administered the fellowship

since its inception but the fellowship is now being handled by the JACL's Washington, D.C. office.

"The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship provides an excellent experience for a young person to learn about public policy and the workings of the United States government," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Applications for the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship must be received at the Washington, D.C. JACL office by April 15. The recipient will be selected by June 1. ■

For more information: www.jacl.org or e-mail policy@jacl.org

PSWD Launches New Youth Programs

JACL PSW has launched two new programs to encourage community activism among youth.

The district saw the start of its first annual Mobilize for Policy program, which empowers youth to become community advocates. The program's workshop sessions, which started Jan. 24, allow 15 college students from the Greater Los Angeles area to participate in a series of workshops on topics ranging from identity to identifying community issues.

The sessions' goal is to help young APAs better understand themselves, the community and how they can effectively voice their community's concerns on a policy level.

PSW's other new program, Bridging Communities, seeks to connect Japanese American youth to the Muslim American community by celebrating the strengths and differences between the communities.

Starting Feb. 21, 40 high school students will engage in workshops with discussions, group activities and site visits that will allow participants to learn about the Muslim and Japanese cultures. These sessions will focus on topics ranging from ethnic identity, culture/religion, civil rights and activism.

Since the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks and the start of the second Iraq War, Muslim communities throughout the nation have experienced heightened hostility and discrimination because of their ethnic identity.

The JACL recognizes that the hostilities and civil rights infringements on Muslim communities post-Sept. 11 are similar to the injustice forced upon JAs during World War II. The program seeks to build heightened awareness in both communities through education. NCCR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Islamic Shura Council are also working in partnership with PSW for the Bridging Communities program. ■

CCLPEP Grant Applications Now Available

Grant applications for the 2008-2009 California State Library's California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) are now available.

Grant awards totaling \$450,000 are available for this cycle. The deadline for grant applications is 4 p.m. on Feb. 17.

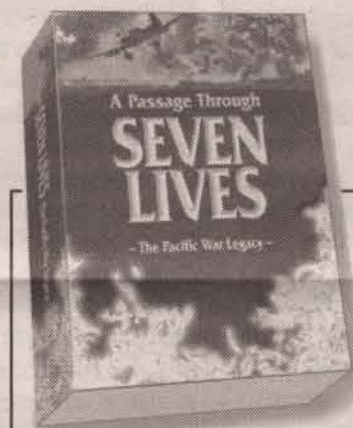
CCLPEP is the result of the 1998 California Civil Liberties Public Education Act, an initiative sponsored by Assembly Member Mike Honda.

According to the act, "The purpose of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act is to sponsor public educational activities and development of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that causes and circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood."

Grant categories for this cycle include Nisei oral history; gathering and safekeeping of written document, art, photographs etc.; and preserving internment camps, assembly centers, and other endangered resources. The maximum grant amount is set at \$25,000.

Grant applications are available at: <http://CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov>.

For more information, contact Linda Springer or Christopher Berger at 916/653-5217 or CivilLiberties@library.ca.gov. ■



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San Jose JACL Honors Community Leaders

The star-studded recognition dinner drew Honda, Mineta and many JACLers.

A record-breaking crowd recently attended the 7th Annual San Jose JACL Community Recognition Dinner to honor those who have distinguished themselves in service to the community.

At the event, San Jose JACL President Gail Sueki gave a brief summary of the year's activities and asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Judge Wayne Kanemoto, one of the pioneers of San Jose's Japantown. Kanemoto was one of the first Nisei to be appointed as a judge on the U.S. mainland.

The event's honorees included Ray and Lucy Matsumoto, Warren Hayashi, Jimi and Eiko Yamaichi, James B. Peckham, Sr. and James B. Peckham, Jr. (both posthumously) and the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee.

Each honoree received a certificate and glass photo frame with the word "Kansha" or deep appreciation etched into it. They also received framed proclamations from Assemblywoman Sally Lieber's office and certificates from Congressman Mike Honda, who also attended the event and, in a speech, acknowledged the role the JACL has played in the community.

San Jose Councilmember Kansen Chu also presented a plaque to the San Jose JACL.

The fundraising event was also attended by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and his wife Deni. Other JACLers who were in attendance included Larry Oda, JACL national president; Alan Nishi, NCWNP district governor; and Kim Nakahara, NCWNP vice governor.

At the event, former NCWNP District Gov. Thaya Mune Craig and her husband Jim, of Placer County JACL, won the benefits drawing — four round-trip tickets anywhere Southwest Airlines flies. ■

Wisconsin JACL Honors its Own at Inaugural Luncheon

The Wisconsin JACL's inaugural luncheon attracted a packed house of 42 attendees.

The Jan. 24 event gave the chapter the opportunity to honor some of its hardworking members. Lucille Miyazaki received the Member of the Year Award with many of her friends and family members in attendance.

Ed Jonokuchi, who delivered the invocation before the awards ceremony, was recognized for being a charter member of the Millennium Club.

Sherri Fujihira also received a prestigious award. She was one of the few Wisconsin JACL members who qualified for the Sapphire Pin Award for her years of service to the JACL.

The awardees received beautifully crafted cards, *chiyogami* dolls and other party favors, which were all handmade by Fujihira and Barb Suyama.

At the same event, guest speaker and professional photographer Kevin Miyazaki, presented some photos taken from his exhibit, "Camp Home." The exhibit, located at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, was made possible by a Mary L. Nohl Fellowship. Miyazaki focused on the buildings of the barracks at Tule Lake and how they still exist as structures for other families. Even though the buildings have deteriorated, there is still a connection with the Japanese American community.

The event was made possible with the support of Fujihira, Suyama, Irene Bridgeford, Miyazaki, Otto



Lucille Miyazaki received the Member of the Year Award at the Jan. 24 Wisconsin JACL event.

Christianson, Carole Shiraga, and Lynn Lueck.

Al and Vivian Hida also made a generous donation toward the chapter's inaugural luncheon. ■

For more information
<http://wijacl.googlepages.com>

JAVA Announces Scholarship Guidelines for '09

The second annual Japanese American Veterans Association Memorial Scholarship competition is now open, updated with revised eligibility rules and changes in application requirements.

The program — which honors the memory of Maj. Orville Shirey, 442nd RCT; Jack Tashiro, MIS member and past JAVA treasurer; and Douglas Ishio, son of JAVA founder Phil Ishio — provided three \$1,000 scholarship awards last year.

An additional \$1,000 scholarship in the memory of Gene Takahashi, a Korean War veteran, was specially awarded in 2008.

The JAVA scholarship program is open to any applicant who is a lineal descendent of:

- A person who served in the 442nd RCT, including the 100th Battalion, and all other units that were associated with them.
- A person who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during and after World War II.
- A person of Japanese ancestry who is presently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or who has so served and

was honorably discharged.

• A person who has been a member of JAVA for a period of no less than one year prior to the date of submission of the scholarship application.

High school graduates who will be newly entering an accredited college or university in the fall of 2009 will be eligible. The contest remains open to other high school graduates who plan to attend a more specialized school, or a junior college.

For 2009, each contestant will be asked to write a 500-word essay on: "What the winning of a 2009 JAVA memorial scholarship will mean to me."

Information will be requested of every applicant about the projected date of his or her high school commencement exercise. Completed applications must be received no later than April 22. The winners will be announced on May 16. ■

For complete contest rules and the application form, go to www.javadc.org. For more information e-mail Calvin Ninomiya at calvinnino@aol.com.



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- 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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MORI

(Continued from page 2)

the better will prevail in the halls of Congress. I think there is great hope as I listened to people from all walks of life and of all political persuasions come together in one big sea of optimism. We are worried of expectations that are too high. But I have always felt that you have to aim high to hit distant and lofty goals. I think our nation is ready for all of us to find common ground and move beyond strict political rhetoric and dogma that prevent us from solving the human problems of the day.

Was the Inaugural experience worth my postponed trip out of

town? Of course, it was. I will never regret sitting for hours waiting for the opening ceremony to begin and standing for hours in front of a stage to watch a couple of minutes of the First Couple dancing together.

I met so many great people who felt as I did. They didn't complain about long lines and people that cut in. They didn't ask your political party, but if they discovered that you were of a different political persuasion, they were accepting and willing to discuss differences and still go on speaking kindly of the President and what they were hoping to see happen.

There is hope that everything is going to get better. ■

LT. MORIGUCHI

(Continued from page 4)

Here in the boonies, Brian got his first taste of fighting hate crimes and he knew he had received his calling in life.

Brian was able to not only specialize in hate crimes, he was also training fellow officers in fighting these same crimes. He was also named chair of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission helping the community network with their fellow police officers.

Today, Brian is the president of the Professional Peace Officers Association, an organization of 8,500 members, helping to fight for the rights of his fellow officers and helping to create laws that help law enforcement do a better job.

"There's a lot of satisfaction," he said.

But Brian's newfound passion for fighting discrimination is not only his job, it's also turned into active volunteerism with his work with the JACL. In addition to his recent SFV chapter presidency, Brian is also co-chair of the PSW district's Civil Rights Caucus.

It's here where Brian works to help those who have had their civil rights violated and to lend support to those who have been discriminated.

One project he is currently working on is legislation that will protect undocumented immigrants from deportation when they report hate crimes. Today, Brian believes these types of crimes are being underreported for fear of retaliation.

His work in civil rights is something he tries to bring home to his fellow Japanese Americans.

"I realize that the JA community may not be the target today as we were in World War II, but I think all people should be concerned about discrimination," said Brian. "Post-9/11, racial discrimination surfaced quite quickly."

"In my view the sensitivities he has developed has made him someone uniquely prepared for the position of chapter president," said Phil Shigekuni, a longtime member of the SFV chapter. "Brian ... is someone our community can hold up for

gratitude and respect."

Father-Son Legacy

As Brian takes over as SFV chapter president, he will be following in the footsteps of his father Bob, 77, who served in the same role in 1968.

There's no doubt how much pride Bob has for his son.

"I've always had pride for him," he said. "[Brian] was always concerned for the underdog."

It's the same pride Bob has for his son's commitment to fight for what he believes is right, even if it means facing some difficult challenges within the Sheriff's Department.

"That really put a strain on him but he went through it even though others would not join him," said Bob. "He stood his ground and they did all kinds of things to discourage him, they retaliated. But he stood his ground and went through with his lawsuit."

"I think he's proud of what I've become," said Brian of his father. "He's proud of the fact that I took a stand against injustice, that I'm trying to take a more active leadership role in addressing civil rights"

When Brian was 18 he volunteered at the Sheriff's Department, getting his first taste. He decided to take some college criminal courses to see if he would enjoy working for the department full-time and soon he was hooked.

At the age of 21 he applied for a position and he hasn't looked back since. With 23 years of experience under his belt now, Brian has little time for regrets.

What he does sometimes miss is his former work as a detective.

"The satisfaction you get when you are able to put someone in jail who has done a great deal of harm to people and see the relief of victims," described Brian.

Still, he has a hard time seeing himself as a role model.

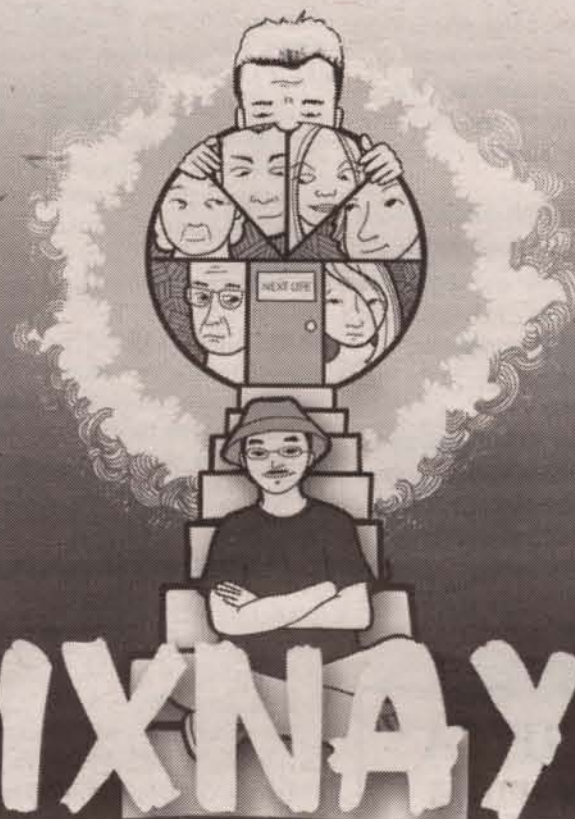
"I see so many other JAs and non-JAs who are far better role models than myself," he said. "But I would tell people to be yourself and do the right thing. If it doesn't feel right, don't do it." ■

For more information:
www.jacl.org

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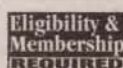
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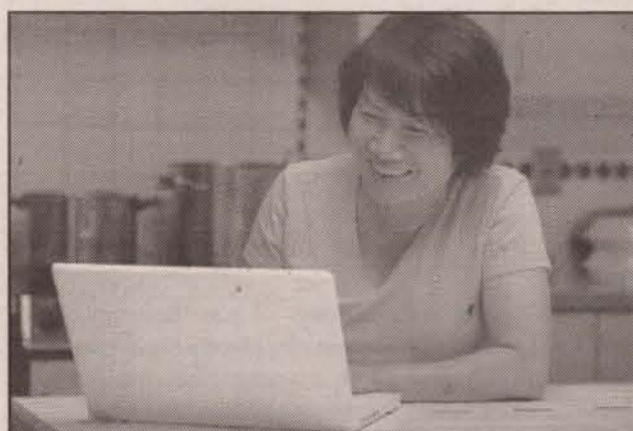
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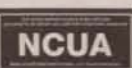
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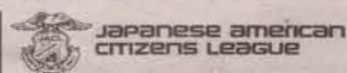
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Todd Sato received his first heart transplant over 10 years ago.

2ND CHANCES (Continued from page 4)

five years. But they beat the odds until they were in their 20s. Ana was the first to undergo a lung transplant in 2000. Isabel received her new lungs in 2004. When they recovered from their procedure, they both did what came naturally.

"My parents always taught me that when someone gives you a gift, you write a thank you card," said Anabel.

Their letters convinced two families that their difficult decisions had made an impact.

"Deciding to donate his organs wasn't easy. It was an all-day deliberation session," said Beth Martinson. Her youngest brother James Dorn's lungs gave Anabel a second chance at life. Dorn died of a brain aneurysm at 29 and left his five siblings with a decision no one wants to make.

"If James were here, he'd go for it."

Both Anabel and Isabel, who now live in the San Francisco Bay area, met their respective donor families in 2006. Isabel's donor, Xavier Cervantes, was 18 when he died in a car accident.

"I like to say that I'm tri-racial now," said Isabel. To honor her healthy lungs, she's also learning to play the bagpipe.

The journey has been a personal evolution for the twins and their parents.

"I grew up thinking my illness was something I should hide," said Isabel. All the medical equipment was kept in one room in the house and their parents got double-paned windows just for the twins' room. In hindsight, they say that was a byproduct of their culture of silence and shame.

Now Anabel and Isabel are working to dispel the myths of organ transplants with their memoir, "The Power of Two." The book will be translated and sold in Japan in the fall.

"A gift should always be reciprocated," said Isabel.

The Grace of Giving Life

Jennifer Choe knows every mom thinks their child is bright, but she insists her Erin was advanced in all areas. The tiny girl from Fullerton,

Calif. loved to sing and laugh and write. When she turned four, she demanded to read because she was a "big girl."

It makes sense now. "She was always so anxious because she knew that her days were numbered," said Jennifer, 42.

On a Saturday evening in 2006, Erin Choe, 5, died in a pool drowning accident at a friend's house.

The grief of losing a family member has a way of seizing you tight, said Jennifer. "You put together all these dreams. And then it's gone."

Twelve hours after Erin was pronounced dead at the hospital, Jennifer and her husband Victor got a call from hospital staff asking for a tissue donation. They looked at each other and said, "We should, shouldn't we?"

"This is what God wanted us to do. He gave us the strength to give."

They agreed to donate some of Erin's tissue and went on with life with a void in their hearts. Then in 2007 they received a letter saying that Erin's cornea tissue helped restore sight to two visually impaired individuals.

"I have been praying for them off and on. Whoever they are, I want to thank them because it's a reminder," said Jennifer. "Her eyes are giving life to these two people. They need to pursue as much as possible."

"Those are not ordinary eyes."

There are many beliefs and misconceptions in the APA community: some believe that the body should be buried whole. Others believe that the transplant procedure would disfigure the body — it won't. Even if you have a pink donor sticker on your driver's license and it falls off, your next of kin still has to make the decision, said Ho. The signed donor card is the legal document.

The safest way is to register online at www.donatelife.net.

"The APA community needs all the education it can get," said Ho. In 2007, nearly 700 organ transplants were made possible because of APA deceased and living donors.

"But most disagree unless they have the education or have talked about it." ■

On the Web

www.donatelife.net
www.stenzeltwins.com
www.onelegacy.org

2009 Day of Remembrance Events

CHICAGO

Sun., Feb. 15—'Breaking the Silence: The Chicago Redress Commission Hearings'; 2 p.m.; Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.; free. Info: 773/728-7171 or www.jaclchicago.org.

DENVER

Sun., Feb. 22—Amache Archeology 2009 Day of Remembrance Program; 2 p.m.; Sturm Hall, Room 281, Denver University; tentatively, Professor Bonnie Clark and her graduate students plan to present their research finding at Amache Camp. Info: Mark Shimoda, 301/933-4095.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Feb. 21—'Forging Alliances: Connecting Nikkei to Current Immigration'; 2 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 269 E. First St.; Roger Daniels will be the keynote speaker; he was a consultant to the Presidential Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; free; sponsored by JACL PSW, JANM and NCRR. Info: NCRR, 213/680-3484, JACL PSW, 213/626-4471 or JANM, 213/625-0414.

MEDFORD, Mass.

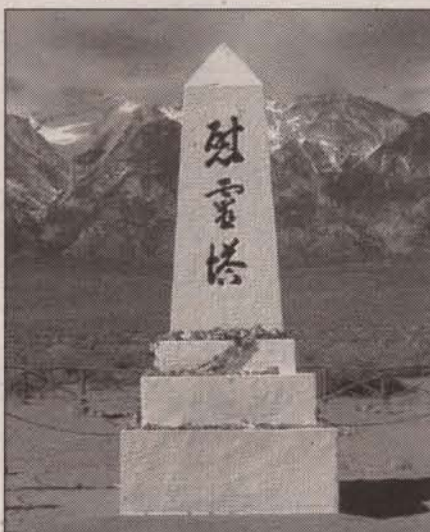
Thu., Feb. 19—'American Pastime: Baseball Behind Barbed Wire'; 5:30-7 p.m.; Pearson 104, Tufts University; Kerry Yo Nakagawa is the keynote speaker; Nakagawa is the founder of the Nisei Baseball Research Project and was an associate producer in the film, "American Pastime." Info: 617/627-3056 or asianamcenter@tufts.edu.

MERCED, Calif.

Sat., Feb. 21—Day of Remembrance Banquet; 5 p.m.; Merced County Fairgrounds, Junior Building; keynote speakers include Dennis Cardoza and Congressman Mike Honda; \$40. For tickets: Bob Taniguchi, 209/383-5161 or taniguchi.r@mccd.edu, Steve Teranishi, 209/393-6577, Grace Kimoto, 209/394-2456.

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Feb. 21—Day of Remembrance 2009; 1:30-4:30 p.m.; program honors Grayce



THE MEMORIAL SHRINE AT MANZANAR.

Uyehara who successfully lobbied for Redress; free. Info: Martha Fujimoto, 610/544-5449.

PORTLAND

Thu., Feb. 19—'The History of Racism in Oregon'; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Smith Memorial Center, Room 294, 1825 SW Broadway; program explores Oregon's complicated historical relationship to racial and cultural differences; featuring Patti Sakurai, Darrell Millner and Randy Blazak; sponsored by Portland JACL and Lake Oswego Library. For a full listing of DOR events visit: www.ci.oswego.or.us/library/.

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Feb. 21—2009 Time of Remembrance; 1-3 p.m.; Secretary of State Building Complex, 1500 11th St.; featuring Hiroshi Kashiwagi's "The Betrayed," a two-act play about a young Nisei man and woman's experience which brings out the tough issues and relationships between people in the internment camps during WWII; \$10 donation, students under 18 are free; sponsored by the Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL chapters. Info: Sacramento, 916/427-2841 or 916/447-0231, Lodi, 209/478-2499 or Placer

County, 916/508-6587.

STORRS, Conn.

Thu., Feb. 19—2009 Day of Remembrance; 4 p.m.; Student Union Ballroom, University of Connecticut; Robert T. Hayashi, author of "Haunted by Waters: A Journey Through Race and Place in the American West" is the featured speaker. Info: <http://asianamerican.uconn.edu/events.htm>.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thu., Feb. 19—'Annual Day of Remembrance at the Smithsonian: The Japanese American Experience in Print'; 6:30 p.m.; Rasmuson Theater, National Museum of the American Indian; speakers include Shirley Castelnovo, David Mura and Kiyo Sato; free; sponsored by NJAMF and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program. Info: 202/530-0015. ■

Calendar

East

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mar. 6-10—2009 JACL-OCA D.C. Leadership Conference; Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island NW.

Intermountain

DENVER

Sun., Feb. 22—JACL/OCA Chinese New Year Banquet; Palace Chinese Restaurant, 6265 Evans Ave. Info: Tom Migaki, 303/986-3267.

Sun., April 5—Mile-Hi Chapter Installation; noon; Renaissance Hotel, 3801 Quebec; featuring Adam Schrager, author of "The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story." Info: Charmaine Palmer, 303/449-8526.

ONTARIO, Ore.

Fri., Feb. 27—Snake River Valley JACL Crab Feed and Auction; 6-7:30 p.m.; auction begins at 7:30 p.m.; \$30/adults, \$25/seniors (70+), \$15/youth (13-18), \$10/youth (6-12). Info: Mike or Mary Ann, 541/889-8691.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Wed., Feb. 18—The Constitution in a time of War: The Trial of Minoru Yasui; 7 p.m.; Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 State St.; a readers' theater group will re-enact portions of the Yasui trial.

Northern California

TULE LAKE

July 2-5—2009 Tule Lake Pilgrimage; activities include a tour of the campsite, and a memorial service at the cemetery on the campgrounds, cultural programs and discussions; \$395/person, \$325 for students and people on fixed incomes, free for those who were incarcerated in Tule Lake, age 80 or older (fees include transportation, housing, meals, workshops, excursions and the cultural program at Ross Ragland Theater; early bird registration ends May 15. Info: www.tule-lake.org.

Central California

CLOVIS

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

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Sun., Feb. 15—Screening, "Transcending: The Wat Misaka Story"; 2 p.m.; Aratani/Japan America Theater; Misaka helped take the Univ. of Utah to the NCAA and NIT championships and was the first person of color in the NBA; \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, \$7/JACCC, JANM or Visual Communications members. Info: www.jaccc.org.

Mon., Feb. 16—23rd Annual Cultural Night, "Always Welcome, Never for Sale"; 7 p.m.; UCLA's Royce Hall; story is a dramatic and probing look into corporate responsibility in regard to the current development within Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Info: www.nsuculture.night.com.

SAN DIEGO

Sat., Feb. 28—Film Showing, "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story"; 12:30 p.m.; Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Dr.; Korematsu refused to obey E.O. 9066, which sent 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry into internment camps. RSVP to San Diego JACL, 619/230-0314.

TORRANCE

Mon., Feb. 16—10th Anniversary Showing of "Rabbit in the Moon"; 2 p.m.; Armstrong Theater, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr.; a commentary on the impact of the film by Alan Nishio and a reception with principles from the project. Info: 310/618-6342 or www.TorranceLive.us.

Arizona

PHOENIX

Feb. 21-22—Arizona Matsuri, 25th Anniversary; 10:30-4:30 p.m. each day; Heritage and Science Park (7th St. and Monroe); featuring entertainment, vendors and a special performance by noodle makers from Himeji, Japan. Info: Ted Namba, caseyfolks@aol.com or 602/571-0247. ■

MITA

(Continued from page 2)

smoke. To my dismay, ever since then, the line to place an order has been around the block.

That cold Monday morning, I made it a point to fight the surmounting crowd in the city to go to the Japanese American Memorial by the Capitol Building. I knew that I was not going to be at the National Mall to watch the inauguration in person, but I wanted to be close to the scene where America was about to embrace its transformation.

I sat on the benches that lined the outskirts of the dark marble. Across from me was the inscription, which read, "Japanese by blood, hearts and minds American, with honor unbowed, bore the sting of injustice for future generations." I stared at the cranes covered in barbed wire that emerged in the center of the memorial. It struck me, like never before, how beautiful and symbolic the cranes were.

Tears began streaming down my cheeks as I transposed the images of the cranes with the vision of President Obama raising his right hand to become the president of the United States. I saw the barbed wire representing the oppression of people of color in this country and the cranes finally freeing themselves from the barbed wire's death grip.

I began to understand my purpose for coming to the memorial that day. It wasn't just to be close to the scene

of the action, but it was a spiritual journey for me. It was one in which I could process that idea that we, as Americans, could stand firm in the belief that the different backgrounds that compose our collective heritage is the strength of our American fabric. That America is the place where we could embrace our shortcomings in order to take that decisive step forward. America is the place where we could exercise our freedom and see our dreams realized.

As an individual who has trudged along these streets of broken dreams for eight years, I now comprehend that I am not alone in my transformation from despair to hope and excitement. This inauguration has opened the eyes of millions around the world.

Standing in freezing temperatures, the huddled masses braced against the wind and awaited the rising of the sun. A warm glow emanated from the top of the Capitol Building on that Tuesday, Jan. 20 afternoon.

I am truly thankful that I am here in our nation's capital to be a part of it. I'm eager to see the light cast away the darkness that has shrouded this nation for far too long. ■

Brandon Mita is in his second year at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. He is also the current JACL national youth representative and a member of the Washington, D.C. and Chicago chapters.

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June 2
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July 6-16 Summer Japan "Fun for the whole family"
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Aug. 1
Aug. 19-31 Gems of Malaysia & Singapore
Sept. 7-18 Northern Japan "Hokkaido & Tohoku"
Sept. 15-28 Greek Isles Cruise "Celebrity Solstice"
Oct. 1-15 Exotic China
Oct. 22- Autumn Japan "Fall Highlights"
Nov. 1
Nov. 3-13 The Best of Kyushu
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In Memoriam - 2008-2009

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujii, Tomoichi, 79, Kapaau, Haw., Dec. 25, 2008; survived by wife, Lillian; daughters, Stacy Caswell and Heidi Ishida; 3 gc.; brothers, Zen and Isamu; and sister, Yae Murai.

Fukutomi, Robert "Bobby," 78, Camarillo, Dec. 20, 2008; survived by son, David; daughter, Amy (Doug) Wagner; and brother, Joe.

Hiraga, Benjamin Minoru, 94, Gardena, Jan. 15; survived by brothers, Kei (Cathy), George (Flo) and Willy (Helen); sister, Shirley (Roy) Ito; and brothers-in-law, Frank Nishioka and Yosh Okura.

Kagawa, Siegfried "Sig," 77, Jan. 3; philanthropist; survived by wife, Betsy; sons, Gordon and Stephen; and daughter, Kathy.



KAGAWA, 91, Santa Monica, Jan. 4; survived by wife, Hiroe; son, Steven; brother, Howard; and sisters-in-law, Yukie Gotanda, Ioe and Sumiko Terasawa.

Kimoto, Herbert Masao, 87, Jan. 12; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by wife, Mary; son, Jon; daughters, Elinor (Yuzo) Yoshida and Tianne Kimoto; 2 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Koba, Teruo "Ham," 81, Seattle, Wash., Nov. 26, 2008; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by sister, Nobuko Oka; and brother, Masao.

Kosaka, Takeshi Joe, 95, Los Alamitos, Jan. 17; survived by daughter, Toyomi (Ron) Harrington;

son, Ken (Shelly); 4 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Koyanagi, Hiroyuki, 87, Torrance, Jan. 9; survived by sons, Richard (Mauren) and Jerry (Carrie); 2 gc.; and brothers-in-law, Jack and Kingo (Ardith) Teranishi.

Kurata, Sakaye Nancy, 90, Santa Ana, Jan. 15; survived by daughters, Ikuko, Patricia (Phil) Oshita, Julie (Richard) Onishi and June Kurata; son, John (Janet); 9 gc.; 3 ggc.; sister, Mary (Kei) Shimizu; and sister-in-law, Masako Kobayashi.

Maekawa, William Keichi, 71, Dec. 14, 2008; survived by wife, Sanaye; daughter, Elaine (Michael) Chin; 5 gc.; mother, Kiyono; brother, Don (Kiyo); sister, Nina (Yick) Chinn; sisters-in-law, Starr Hashiguchi and Marianne Tada; and brother-in-law, George Morihoro.

Matsumura, Fred Mitsuharu, Kualapuu, Haw., Jan. 29; WWII veteran, 442nd, I Co.

Matsuura, Tayeko, 91, Jan. 6; survived by son, Dennis; daughters, Jane (George) Iwanaga and Marilyn (Robert) Harman; 6 gc.; and 7 ggc.

Mitani, Margaret Shizuyo Kono, 92, Auburn, Jan. 10; survived by son, Douglas (Michi); daughters, Enid (Bill) Yamamoto, Fran (Ken) Hoshiko, Linda (Russ) Takei; 2 gc.; brothers, Tadashi and Yoshio (Mieko), Kenso (Keiko) Kono; sister-in-law, Yayo Nakano; and brothers-in-law, Shigeru Yabumoto and Hideo (Atsuko) Mitani.

Nagareda, Fusao "Fuzzy," 81, Jan. 9; Korean Conflict veteran; survived by sisters, Tazzie Okita, Connie (Ken) Yamanaka and Judy

(Mel) Yee; brothers, Bill (Cathy), Ken (Melinda) and Harry (Linda); and brother-in-law, Hiro Sakata.

Nakagawa, Isuki Fred, 88, Dec. 5, 2008; survived by brothers, Giro (Miyo), Saburo (Yoshiko), Kazuo (Chiyo), George (Hiroko) and Ben (Marilyn); and sister-in-law, Myong Ju.

Nishida, Dr. George, 88, Golden Valley, Minn., Nov. 16, 2008; survived by wife, Toshiko; sons, Dennis and Terry (Shirley); daughters, Carolyn Tanabe, Naomi (Wayne) Kam and Emi (Eugene) Sako; 8 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sisters, Helen (Paul) Shimizu and Alice (Ted) Hirabayashi.

Nomura, Hideso "John," U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Chisato; daughters, Arleen and Carol (Don); son Ray; brother, Noboru; and sister, Jean.

Sakamoto, Yoshiaki, 84, Hilo, Haw.; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Edith; daughters, Sharon Sakamoto and Claire Hong; 1 gc.; and sister, Kay Miwa.

Uomoto, Masaru Sam, 81, Dec. 1, 2008; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Grace; sons, Michael and Scott; 4 gc.; and brother, Bob.

Yamauchi, Dr. Paul, 93, Los Angeles, Oct. 28, 2008; Yamauchi was a family physician who practiced in Little Tokyo for 29 years before retiring in 1985.

Yanagimachi, Frank S. "Bonsey," 89, Jan. 7; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by sons, Frank Jr. (Mary) and Steven.

Yoshikawa, Catherine N. Muraoka, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 27, 2008; Cincinnati JACler; survived by husband, Gordon; brothers, David and John; and sister, Teresa. ■

DEATH NOTICE

YOSHIO TOYOTA

Yoshio Toyota, 93, passed away Jan. 26. Modesto-born, he was a member of the 442nd RCT and was interned at Poston.

Beloved husband of the late Ida M. (nee Andow). Loving father of Linda Carol Toyota (Kenneth Olah) and Janice Toyota (Barry O'Brien). Grandfather of Tomiko Olah and Kirin O'Brien. Brother of Teruko Kanai and the late Ichimi, Takeshi, Kameo, Tsuruo, Shichizo, and Toshi.

A memorial service was held on Jan. 31 at West Park United Church of Christ. Private inurnment was at Lakeview Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to West Park United Church of Christ, Judson Foundation, or the National JACL (Cleveland Chapter), 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115. Arrangements were made by Chambers Funeral Home 216/251-6566.

DEATH NOTICE

S. STEPHEN NAKASHIMA

S. (Sadao) Stephen Nakashima, 86, who was interned in the Poston III Relocation Center Japanese internment camp during World War II and went on to establish a successful law practice, passed away peacefully at his home in San Jose, Calif., on Dec. 11, 2008.



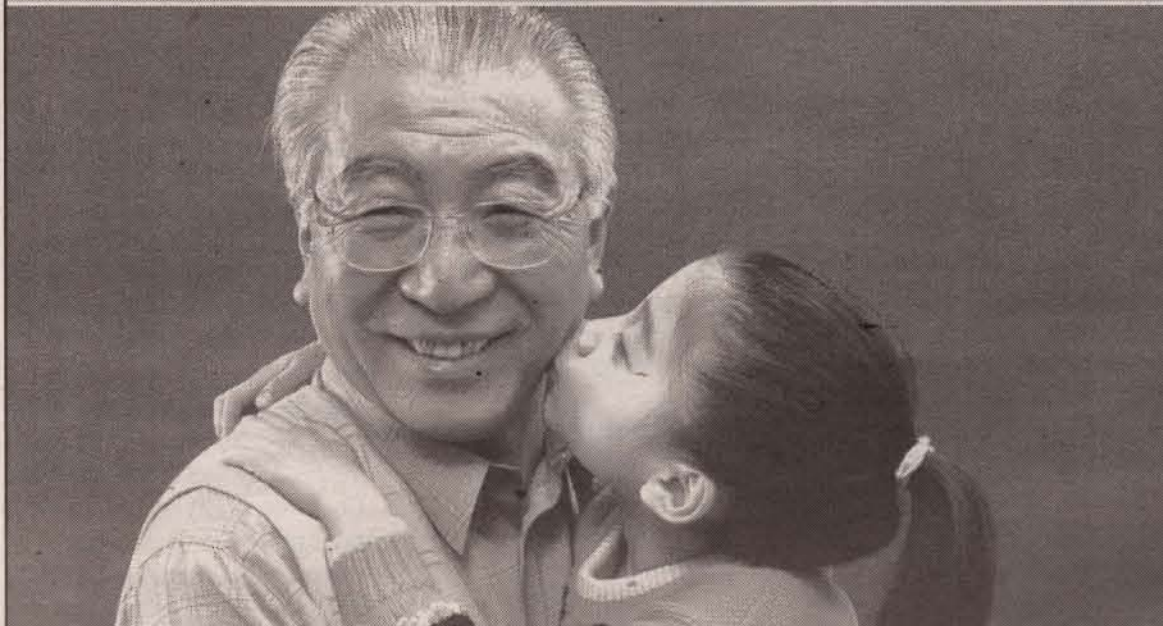
Attorney Nakashima graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, and soon after receiving his J.D. from the Boalt Hall School of Law practiced law first in private practice and then, from 1961-1999, in partnership with Theodore K. Boynton. Active in local and national politics, Nakashima was a three-time delegate to the Republican National Convention and served on the Republican National Platform Committee. Other appointments include a term with the California State Board of Medical Examiners, Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum, and Vice-President of the National JACL (Japanese American Citizens League). He had a great respect for education, and one of his proudest accomplishments was his appointment to the Board of Regents of the University of California, where he served for eleven years.

Born Jan. 29, 1922, in Fresno, Calif., the eldest son of Hiteyo and Hiroshi Nakashima, he grew up in Reedley and always considered himself "a simple Reedley boy," graduating from Reedley High School and Reedley Junior College. After WWII, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served as staff sergeant. Returning to Fresno, he met Sally, who would become his wife of more than fifty years. They were active members of the local and national chapter of the JACL.

He is survived by his sister Betty Jane (B.J.) Oki, his son Lex, daughters Dale, Jann, and Mona, and grandchildren Anneli Henriksson and Stephen and Emi Ichikawa. He was preceded in death by his wife Sally, brother Yukio, and sisters Bernice and Eleanore.



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Seoul, Cheju Island, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Chuncheon/Namseom Island.	
JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE TOUR	APR 15-25
Tokyo, Tendo Onsen, Akita, Hirosaki, 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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If you or someone close to your heart needs additional assistance with daily living, there's a place of comfort and joy waiting. That place is Nikkei Senior Gardens – a unique assisted living community in the Arleta area where seniors can live as independently as possible, yet be surrounded by the culture, family and warmth of the Japanese-American community. Here you'll discover the compassion, security and care you expect, in a convenient location that keeps loved ones close to each other.

Nikkei Senior Gardens is now open! Call (818) 899-1000 to arrange a personal tour, and see our beautiful new community firsthand. Nikkei Senior Gardens is a non-profit community open to all.

9221 Arleta Avenue • Arleta, CA 91331

(818) 899-1000 • www.NikkeiSeniorGardens.com



SENIORITY, INC.
Management, Sales, Consulting and Services for Senior Living