

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

80
YEARS

{ IN DEPTH }

Seeing Japanese American History Through Toyo's Lens

A new documentary about photographer
Toyo Miyatake bridges communities.

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JACL unveils new Calif.
youth program.

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JAs want a memorial at the
Merced Assembly Center.

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Filmmaker Steven Okazaki is
going to the Oscars again.

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Letters to the Editor



Poster Boy for Membership Recruitment

I enjoyed reading the interview of Lt. Brian Moriguchi in the Feb. 6-20 edition of the *Pacific Citizen*. The courage Brian displayed in challenging his racist superior officers and paying the price for it these many years was inspiring.

I was proud that our then regional director, Beth Au, supported him in eventually getting the County Board of Supervisors to establish a review board to investigate complaints such as Brian's dealing with county employees.

Brian has served for several years as District Civil Rights Caucus Chair, and was recently installed as president of our San Fernando Valley Chapter. He can surely be held up as prime reason for why JACL is still needed, and he can serve as a poster boy for membership recruitment.

PHIL SHIGEKUNI
Civil Rights Chair
San Fernando Valley Chapter JACL

Re: Prop. 8

Kudos to Harry Nakata of Kingsburg for his take on Prop. 8. I agree that immoral behavior should never be legalized. While on the subject, what prompted the Japanese American National Museum to host a gay "wedding"? As a past donor I'm still shaking my head on that one!

FRED SHINODA
San Leandro, Calif.

Guantanamo

An almost unnoticed article appeared in a recent edition of *Newsweek* addressing the issue of where to put the Guantanamo detainees once the detention center is closed. It has been suggested that these Gitmo prisoners be placed in existing federal facilities such as Fort Leavenworth. Howling protests arose from not only the governor of Kansas but from other governors fearful of having their states involved in the move.

The major argument? It would pose a danger to their community. This argument sounds similar to those arguments presented during the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. In early 1942, the governors and attorney generals of several western states vehemently protested and opposed the use of their states to hold and detain the dislocated JAs. Their reasoning was the same: danger to their nearby communities.

The U.S. government saw no danger as perceived by the states and had not intended to surround the relocation camps with barbed wire fences and watchtowers. The War Relocation Authority eventually relented to the governors' demands for maximum security.

Today, the Gitmo detainees may pose a national security problem, however the JAs from the beginning were not security risks. It was only perceived in the eyes of West Coast racist elements and General DeWitt who felt that all JAs were "disloyal" until proven otherwise. We too were the unwanted, moved about to undesirable places and confined behind barbed wire fences.

ROY U. EBIHARA
Topaz detainee
Oberlin, Ohio

Re: Holiday Issue

I received the *Pacific Citizen* Holiday Issue

YUKI KUMAKI
South Holland, Ill.

Re: Oshogatsu

I enjoyed the column by Margie Yamamoto in the special New Year's issue so much I wanted to share my experience with Japanese New Year with you.

I am the Italian American spouse of a Japanese gentleman who came to the States in 1969 to attend university and has been here ever since. We were married in 1976 and, with the exception of New Year's 1977 which we spent with his parents in Japan, my husband has prepared *osechi* every year since then.

Moving to Ohio in 1978 made the annual preparation of *osechi* challenging to say the least, but we always managed to have the basics and our *jubako* has the requisite assortment of delicacies. Years ago he made enough food to last for three days, but now we are happy to finish off all the food by the second day.

Keeping this tradition has been a joy for all of us. My only son, who has lived in three East Coast states since leaving home, comes home for both Christmas and the New Year's holiday no matter what other options he has.

I believe the children of bicultural families benefit greatly from these kind of traditions and that is why I am a member of the Cincinnati JACL which has brought us many good friends and cultural opportunities over the years. I enjoy *Pacific Citizen* very much, especially reading about people's life experiences.

BARBARA NODA
Via e-mail

COMMENTARY

Masaoka Fellow Realizes the Power of Politics

**With Hill experience, I can claim
active membership to a community
of Americans devoted to effecting
change.**

By **LESLIE K. TAMURA**

In one of the many local watering holes that surround Capitol Hill, young professionals stood shoulder-to-shoulder in their business suits, watching an Illinois senator and his colleague from Arizona go at it.

Ties had been loosened. Black, navy and gray jackets draped chairs and bar stools. Plastic identification cards, the distinctive trademark of a government staffer, swung from belt buckles.

Some women in their stiletto heels, looked over the heads in the crowd, while others —

exhausted by 12-plus hours of clicking and clacking along the marble halls to committee meetings, briefings and coffee breaks — stood comfortably in their flats, watching the third and final presidential debate.

Although Democrats and Republicans huddled in their respective groups, all clutched bingo playing cards, listening for buzzwords like "change," "hope" and "country."

"Bingobama," a voice shouted as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the winning phrase, "my friends."

A staffer next to me pointed to his playing card and said, "Joe the Plumber should've been on here."

We shared a smile before turning our attention back to the television as McCain and then Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., dived into a discussion about the state of American health care — my legislative baby during four remarkable months on Capitol Hill.

It was September when I came to Washington, D.C. to work in the office of Rep.

Doris Matsui, D-Calif., as the JACL's Mike Masaoka Fellow. I didn't know much about politics or policy, but I was eager to learn how I could be a more involved citizen and a more informed Asian Pacific American.

Although my time on the Hill was not long enough, I discovered an incredible amount about health care, government and the meaning of public service.

A Government Education on Health Care and Policy

Every day I attended briefings, or lectures, about the U.S. health care system. I'd check my e-mail in the office before heading off to a briefing about tax policy and health care. These briefings were meant to educate staffers about relevant legislation, debates and research.

I met with government affairs representatives who made me more aware of the health

A Lasting Memorial for Merced



Merced Assembly Center evacuees (left) depart the train after arriving in Granada, Colorado on Aug. 30, 1942, to begin their incarceration at the Amache internment camp. A bronze plaque (above) explains the former Assembly Center's history at the Merced County Fairgrounds. Now an expansive memorial is planned at the fairgrounds.

Local JAs and a politician are raising funds for a monument to be built at the former assembly center.

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

Walking by the colorful stands of fruits and vegetables, the hanging piñatas and the one of a kind antiques, it's hard to believe this bustling flea market at the Merced County Fairgrounds was once a place of injustice for thousands of Japanese Americans.

A bronze plaque at the fairgrounds entrance is the only reminder that the Merced Assembly Center once existed here, a forlorn place where 4,699 JAs were rounded up during World War II before heading to more permanent digs at an internment camp.

Sherman Kishi, 83, still remembers his first day there.

"I was interned on May 13, 1942. It was my 17th birthday."

Seven Kishi family members — five kids and Sherman's parents — headed to the Merced Assembly Center during World War II, leaving their grape farm in Livingston, Calif. behind. They would join other JA families from areas like Merced, Sacramento, Yolo and Mariposa.

"I still remember it vividly. All barbed wire fences and the buildings we were allowed to go to with their watchtowers and soldiers," said the longtime JACL Livingston-Merced chapter member.

He also remembers the black tarred barracks that were still unfinished by the time they had arrived. The 20-foot-high barracks had walls that only went up eight feet. "The rest of the walls were open so we could hear our neighbors."

After four months in confinement, the Kishi family was sent to the Amache, Colorado internment camp to spend the remainder of the war. Sherman volunteered to serve in the Military Intelligence Service.

Now some 67 years after the creation of the Merced Assembly Center a group of local JAs and a determined politician are working to raise funds to build a permanent reminder of

this part of Merced history, a story that few locals are aware of today.

"We need to educate our community of the fact that this happened ... it was one of the grossest violations of the Constitution," said Bob Taniguchi, co-chair of the Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee (MACCC) and a former JACL CCDC governor.

"We want to honor the spirit of these people who came back and kept on chugging. Most of us have succeeded because of the hardworking Issei and Nisei. We pay honor and tribute to them."

HR 129

Taniguchi first learned about the history of the Merced Assembly Center after taking a call from Rep. Dennis Cardoza's office. The congressman had an idea to build a permanent monument at the former site and wanted to get the local JA community involved.

So far MACCC, a coalition of the Livingston-Merced and Cortez JACL chapters, has managed to raise close to \$100,000 from various donors including the Merced Museum, the Merced County Board of Supervisors and several local businesses. Their goal is to raise \$150,000 for the permanent bronze structure along with benches, trees and storyboards. There will also be an educational component to the project.

On Feb. 10, HR 129 — a bill introduced by Cardoza, D-Calif., recognizing the memorial site at the Merced County Fairgrounds — passed.

"This designation is long overdue," said Cardoza in a statement. "We can never forget that this unconscionable act happened in our community. We have an absolute responsibility to remember this event and to educate future generations."

The bronze monument will depict a stack of suitcases with the former internees' identification tags and a small girl sitting on top. The memorial will be located in one of the busiest sections of the fairgrounds in a 600 square foot area. The group hopes to unveil the site on Feb. 20, 2010.

"It will be a real good visual reminder for

the community, many of whom have no idea of what occurred," said MACCC co-chair Patti Kishi, 57, whose father Fred and uncle Sherman were both interned at the Merced Assembly Center. "It's a permanent installation of a story that needs to be remembered so not to do a similar kind of injustice."

As a Sansei, Kishi believes the memorial will be an important story for her generation.

"It's our history and it has to do a lot with our families and how we developed and why we are the way we are," she said. "It's really important to share that history with the community so that the path is not followed again."

JA Farms

Local native Grace Kimoto, 80, grew up on one of the many JA farms in the Livingston-Merced area. She and her eight siblings would help the family after school by washing their farm's vegetables so they could be taken to the local market.

At 13, Kimoto and her family learned they would be forced to leave their Cortez farm to head to the Merced County Fairgrounds where they would be housed with other JA families.

"I was very scared," she recalled. "We had to get rid of all the Japanese things, pack what we could."

The family emptied their refrigerator and brought their furniture to the local church building to be stored. They also had to get rid of their trucks and farm equipment.

"Camp was very strange," she said. For the first time she would be surrounded by unfamiliar Japanese faces and forced to eat unusual foods. "The toilets were horrible. The water would go 'gachung' when we weren't ready."

This was their home for three months and like many of the JA families they were transported by train to the Amache internment camp for the duration of the war.

Unlike many JAs, Kimoto's family was able to return to their Cortez farm after their confinement. The land had been leased during their absence but was returned to them after the war.

"My family was very lucky."

For 34 years Kimoto taught grade 5 in the local Winton School District and she would

often tell her internment story to her students. She's ecstatic that a permanent memorial is planned at the former Merced Assembly Center.

"It really is educational. We want people in the area to really know what had happened in their history," she said. "It wasn't just Merced people, it was people from all over."

Coming Full Circle

During the 1970s when some local JAs proposed an idea for a bronze plaque at the former Merced Assembly Center site, many locals protested. The plaque was eventually placed in a far off, obscure location. Several years later the plaque was placed at the Merced Fairgrounds entrance.

This time around the response to a proposal for a permanent monument at the former site has been diametrically different.

"We've had nothing but support," said Taniguchi, who noted that the fairgrounds board gave the idea their unanimous approval.

"People have been so enthusiastic about it. There's been an incredible change of attitude," said Sherman.

MACCC plans to hold a Day of Remembrance event on Feb. 21 to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

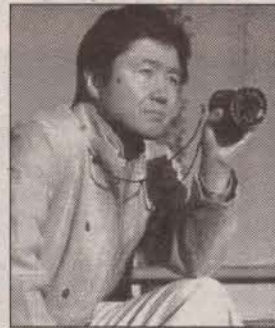
Many of the former Merced Assembly Center internees plan to attend. It will be another opportunity to tell their stories, stories many locals will be hearing for the first time.

"It's so sad they don't know," said Kimoto, who often gets looks of disbelief when she tells her stories to local students. "They don't believe it. I have a hard time believing it, that our government did this to their own people."

For more information:
www.mercedassemblycenter.org

Day of Remembrance:
Feb. 21, Merced County Fairgrounds, Junior Building; For information: Steve Teranishi at 209/383-6577, Ext. 13 or Bob Taniguchi at 209/384-6357, taniguchi.r@mccd.edu.

Seeing JA History Through Toyo's Lens



Toyo Miyatake's photos of Manzanar captured life behind barbed wire and inspired Shin Issei filmmaker Junichi Suzuki (top).

'Toyo's Camera,' a new documentary about the famed Issei photographer, creates a connection between two cultures.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Junichi Suzuki can look at Japanese American history with fresh eyes. When he first arrived in Los Angeles from Japan in 2001, he had 20 years of filmmaking experience on subjects inspired by true events — including a sweeping story about a dog that swims for miles to reunite with his true love.

"All filmmakers are influenced by real life," said Suzuki, 56.

He came to the U.S. with an artist visa to find a different source of inspiration. At the time, he admits he didn't know much about JA history. Because frankly, "Japanese people don't care about foreign matters."

But in his day-to-day interactions with Japanese Americans, he heard the same word pop up in different conversations: internment. It seemed to perfume almost every aspect of JA life. At their condo complex in Marina Del Rey, Suzuki and his actress wife, Rumi Sakakibara, befriended a former Tule Lake internee who would tell the couple about the history of the camps.

"So many dramatic and sad stories."

Then Suzuki saw some black and white photos by Toyo Miyatake and the inspiration for his next film found him. The late Issei photographer captured real life behind Manzanar's barbed wire: young teenage ladies playing basketball on a desert court, a young woman standing in a sea of chrysanthemums smiling shyly at the camera. They were all moments of normalcy during a time of unspeakable tragedy.

"I thought I should make this film," said Suzuki. "This is my responsibility as a movie director."

Shortly after, the telephone rang in Archie Miyatake's Montebello home. It was Suzuki. He wanted to know more about Toyo, Archie's father. He wanted to make a documentary on the photographer and the history of JAs during WWII from the point of view of a Shin Issei.

Well, said Archie, 84, with a pause. Okay. But first things first: "My father was an amazing man."

Outsider Gaze

"Toyo's Camera: Japanese American History During WWII," is Suzuki's ode to JA history. It's not just about Toyo — it's a sweeping documentary that examines racial discrimination and xenophobia from Dec. 7, 1941, to Sept. 11, 2001. The time between — internment, Redress, and reconciliation — is also explored with an unflinching third-person gaze.

"I'm not JA, I can't understand the JA heart," said Suzuki, who was born in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo. During WWII, Suzuki's father Sakaye went to

China as a soldier. He never talked about his military experience.

"I have a responsibility to tell the complicated, sad history between Japan and the United States," said Suzuki. During WWII, JAs couldn't completely belong to Japan or to America. "They had no space."

Many other films have been made about the internment, both fiction and nonfiction. Suzuki has watched most of them. What makes his film different, he says, is his unique point of view.

"[JA filmmakers] can't tell the JA story from the third-person because they are victims of discrimination. I am not a victim."

To recount JA WWII history, the film relies on interviews with familiar names in the community: Sakoda, Aratani and Omori. In the mix are the haunting words of Shoichi Watanabe, professor emeritus of Tokyo's Sophia University:

"America wanted to eradicate the Japanese race," said Watanabe about the U.S.' early anti-Japanese legislation.

Suzuki spent two months shooting "Toyo's Camera" starting in 2007. He crisscrossed the globe and attended camp pilgrimages interviewing Nisei veterans, lawmakers and younger JAs who still bear the weight of the legacy.

"At first, I thought it was strange how Japanese people from Japan were making a film about JA history because of the fact these two cultures are so different," said Stacy Iwata, a Gosei who appears in the film.

"But as I think about it, the Japanese and the JAs may have different nationalities, but we ultimately share the same ethnic background. Looking at it this way, I think it's understandable and more importantly, significant that the filmmakers are Japanese and not JA because it provides a fresh new perspective on the events that took place during WWII."

The new point of view on a historical event could help build bridges, said Craig Ishii, JACL PSW regional director, who also appears in the film.

"I think that 'Toyo's Camera' offers a unique opportunity for the Shin Nisei and Sansei and Yonsei community to start an exchange of culture, community and history, which up to this point hasn't really been present."

The Man in the Beret

Behind the film's broad examination of WWII internment history is the story of an Issei man who captured life in photographs.

Toyo was a man driven by his art, said his son Archie.

One winter Toyo, a fixture in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo before his passing in 1979, took his family to the mountains to play in the snow. Once there, he disappeared. In the evening, Archie saw his father making his way back with a camera slung over his shoulders.

"They were some of the most beautiful pictures," said

Raising the Bar to New Heights



PHOTO: JOHN SAITO, JR.

Holly Fujie is the first Japanese American woman to be elected as president of the State Bar of California.

Holly Fujie, a woman of influence in the legal profession, embraces the challenge of being the current president of the State Bar of California.

By **JOHN SAITO, JR.**
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

Growing up, Holly Fujie thought about what she wanted to do professionally with her life and narrowed it down to doctor, professor or lawyer.

Whether she was smart enough to pursue any of them was never an issue. In fact, it was more like was school sharp enough for her, because it was so seamless it almost made her head spin. She had skipped two grades by the time she was nine, graduated from high school at age 16 and finished college in three years.

By then, Fujie had decided to pursue law. She graduated from UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), and the Oakland native moved to Los Angeles to begin what has become a groundbreaking career. In 1978, she joined a firm of 70 lawyers as a litigator, became a partner in two subsequent firms and is now a shareholder at Buchalter Nemer, a business law firm in Los Angeles.

And last July, Fujie added quite a feather in her cap when she was elected president of the State Bar of California. The state bar is an administrative arm of the California Supreme Court, and its membership of more than 217,000 includes all practicing lawyers in the state.

Prior to being elected president, Fujie had served two years as a governor of the state bar representing Los Angeles County and one year as vice president. Becoming only the third woman chosen as president since the organization was established in 1927, Fujie took office in September and made it clear that one of her major talking points during the next year would be the issue of diversity in the legal profession.

"When I first was elected to the board of governors," Fujie said in her inaugural address before a crowd of 1,000 in Monterey, Calif., "a friend asked me why I had wanted to serve. After a lot of thought, my final answer was, 'Because when I started practice, I didn't think it would still be this way by now.'"

"And what I meant is that for those of us women and minorities who began practicing in the seventies, we truly believed — perhaps naively — that it would just be a matter of time before sheer numbers would cause the profession and the bench to reflect the diversity of the population."

"Instead, 30 years later, I am still speaking on panels and serving on task forces on retaining and advancing women in the profession and increasing diversity on the bench."

Current statistics show that 83 percent of the state bar membership is white and 68 percent are male.

In an interview in December, Fujie said that she received several hate e-mails from constituents who read the text of her speech on the state bar's Web site.

"I feel it's my obligation to speak up," Fujie said, adding that she felt her address was balanced and inclusive. "People look at you and that's what they see. It's part of who I am."

If diversity is part of her DNA, then it started in a hardscrabble section of Oakland, where Fujie was one of a few Japanese Americans growing up among African Americans. Her parents were raised in the Bay Area and then

JACL National Board Passes Leaner 2009 Budget

The fourth quarter closes with a six-figure deficit. Ryan Chin, the national president's appointee for vice president of membership, steps down.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL national board has passed a revised 2009 budget with reductions in revenue and spending. The revisions were necessary, according to board members, because of the effects of the economic crisis on the organization's investment funds.

JACL's investments are down about 22 percent compared to last year — below the threshold for withdrawal. So in December, the Finance Committee and national staff members adjusted the 2009 budget to take out \$262,949 of budgeted earnings from the Legacy, National and Life Trust Endowments.

Changes in the 2009 budget include:

- The cancellation of Legacy Grant programs and chapter legacy rebates because the Legacy Fund is under performing.
- The cancellation of chapter and district rebates/refunds from the Life Trust Endowment.
- An 8-percent cut in the *Pacific Citizen's* program budget.
- Keeping the director of public policy position in Washington, D.C. vacant.
- A 10-percent cut in travel across the board.

Even with these adjustments, in 2009 the JACL is looking at a projected deficit of \$28,731, which will be drawn from the JACL Reserve Fund.

But the revised budget, which passed with a 10-4 vote, drew heated debate from some board members who called the adjustments inadequate and opposed passing a deficit budget.

JACL closed out 2008 with a \$285,100 shortfall. In the fourth quarter of the 2008 fiscal year, JACL's revenues came in under budget by \$159,226 and expenses were over budget by \$125,874, reported JACL Secretary/Treasurer Josh Spry at the Feb. 7 national board meeting.

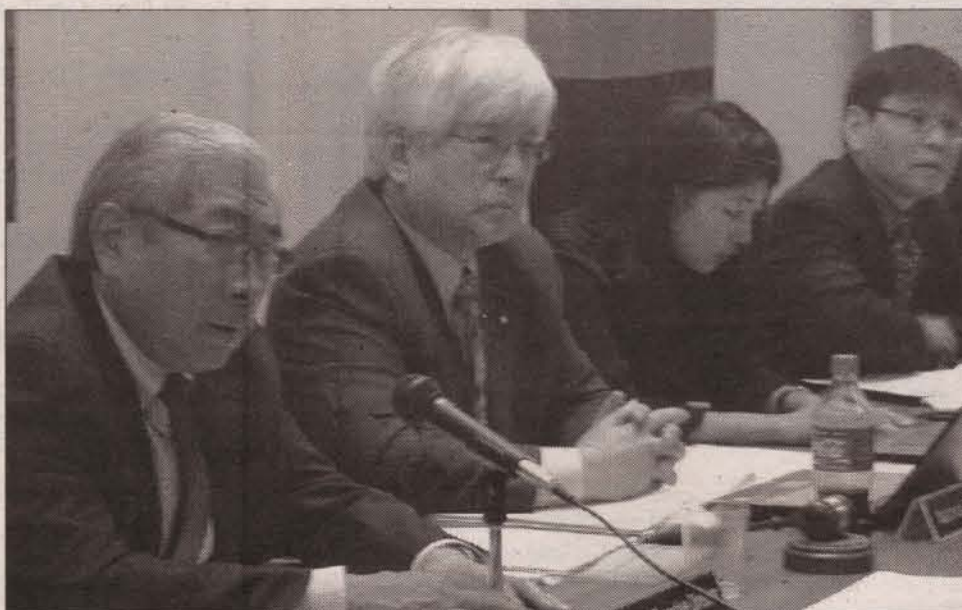
"Fiscal shortages, while painful, also require us to regroup, recap, and readjust direction," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "It is important that we can maintain adequate momentum through these economic hard times."

A Deficit Budget

"You never want to pass a deficit budget," said Spry. "However you have to look at facts and circumstances to see if a deficit is reasonable. Based on the size of the projected deficit, resources we have and goals we want to accomplish, at this time, I think the deficit budget is reasonable."

"It's important to recognize that there's change in the world, and decisions should always be revisited in order to prudently manage an operation," he added.

At the meeting, Hiro Nishikawa, proxy for EDC District Gov. Kristine Minami, pointed out that the projected \$28,731 deficit is a little



Floyd Mori (left), JACL national director, answers a question regarding the 2009 national budget. To his left are Larry Oda, JACL national president, Michelle Yoshida, legal counsel, and Sheldon Arakaki, national vice president of general operations.

over 1 percent of the total budget, an understandable amount considering the difficult economic times. Going forward, the budget needs to be monitored carefully.

But other board members say more thorough and immediate measures needed to be taken in order to stop the financial bleeding. About \$150,000 has already been withdrawn from the Reserve Fund to cover cash needs in 2008.

"I fear that the longer we put off taking immediate corrective action our budget woes will snowball into a much larger one which would limit our options to stabilize our finances," said NCWNP District Gov. Alan Nishi.

Ryan Chin, the national president's appointee for vice president of membership, called the revised budget "unrealistic." At the meeting, he announced that he was stepping

down from his post citing personal reasons.

"It did not reduce membership or grant/fundraising money — this despite the fact that I clearly pointed out that since October, these numbers swung dramatically from being more than budgeted to less than budgeted," said Chin about the revised budget. "This is significant because the stock market meltdown began in October and these numbers demonstrate that JACL isn't immune to the current recession."

The 2009-10 budget adopted by the national council laid the foundations for aggressive membership goals to fund JACL programs. Those goals have not been adjusted in the revised budget.

"In these troubled economic times factored in with an average annual membership attrition rate of approximately 4 percent, our projected membership revenue for the current fis-

cal year appears to be significantly overstated," said IDC District Gov. Brian Morishita, who voted against the revised budget.

Chin, Nishi and PNW District Gov. Elaine Akagi also voted "no."

But other board members say now is not the time to over adjust the budget.

"We are only into the beginning of the year, and it is not necessary to sound the alarms when we have 10 months to adjust our spending to match the actual membership revenues," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

In tough economic times, membership revenue has more certainty than grants or investment income, said Spry. More data is needed from the first quarter of the 2009 fiscal year, he added.

"This is the time to broaden our membership base because people are in need and we have the capacity to help," said Mori. "When the going gets tough, the strength of our organization comes to the surface. So we have to dig deeper and work harder and smarter."

Tough Decisions Ahead

The numbers, so far, are bleak.

As of Dec. 31, the Legacy Fund is at \$5.2 million, the Life Trust Endowment is at \$416,754, and the National Endowment sits at \$356,642. The Masaoka Endowment Fund is at \$341,758 and the JACL Reserve Fund sits at \$270,269.

For Oda, the real crisis is the potential of using up the JACL's Reserve Fund.

"We wasted a lot of time at the board meeting trying to erase [the 2009] deficit, when the board should have been focusing on the \$285,100 loss that we experienced in 2008," he said.

With the revised budget in place, the plan is to move forward, continue examining the data, and revisit the budget in the spring with more concrete numbers.

But the potential for additional cuts is very real.

"Basing revenue on membership dollars, grants and the kindness of members' donations is so iffy, it's frightening," said Akagi. "Remembering past years, we didn't realize our goals, and I fear this year will be the same."

No one wants to see a loss of staff, she added. "That is the hard decision we might have to face this year, and it won't be pleasant."

Chin says more transparency and accountability is needed from the national board.

"The membership must follow the board's decisions closely and inquire often — demand answers," he said. "The membership must hold the board's feet to the fire on reckless financial decisions."

Now, the consensus is: JACL needs its members.

We are at a crossroads, said Oda. "... We need their help to build our membership and maintain our programs and people." ■

Get New Members Now!

Download JACL membership development tools, brochures and other documents at: www.jaclmembership.org. Get the login information by contacting your chapter president.

Investments Discussion

Fund	12/31/2007	12/31/2008	% Change
Legacy	\$ 6,702,315	\$ 5,167,020	-23%
Life Trust Endowment	518,571	416,754	-20%
National Endowment	475,112	356,642	-25%
Masaoka Endowment	374,710	341,758	-9%
JACL Reserve	410,559	270,269	-34%
Scholarships	896,803	780,021	-13%
Student Aid	33,800	36,506	8%
Total	\$ 9,411,870	\$ 7,368,970	-22%

- Performance of negative 22% is comparable to similar endowment funds.

• Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – negative 20% in FY08.

- JACL Reserve decrease is due to cash needs in FY08, not market performance.

- No withdrawals from the Legacy Fund is allowed.

'Fiscal shortages, while painful, also require us to regroup, recap, and readjust direction. It is important that we can maintain adequate momentum through these economic hard times.'

Floyd Mori, JACL national director

Stimulus Bill Includes Benefits for Filipino Veterans

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

With a stroke of his pen President Barack Obama on Feb. 17 signed into law a \$787 billion stimulus package that includes \$198 million in payments to Filipinos who fought for the U.S. during World War II.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye had fought to include the veterans' long-awaited compensation in the Senate version of the stimulus bill.

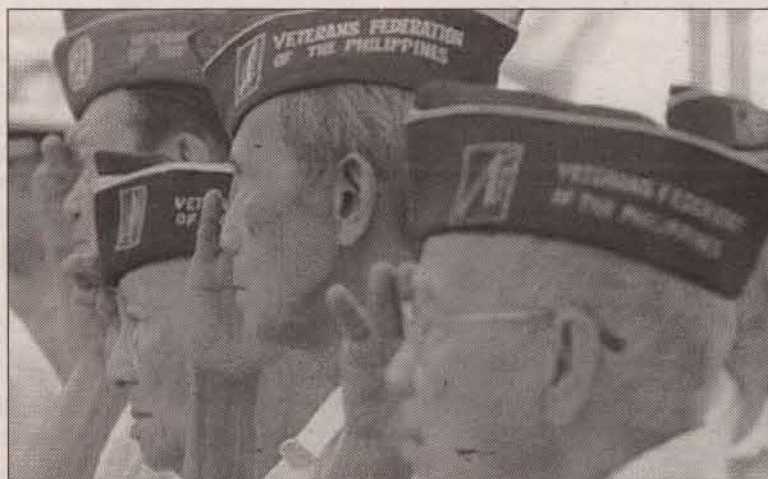
"While I believe that this action should have happened long ago, I hope that these veterans will now know that the people of the United States truly appreciate the great sacrifices that they and their fallen comrades made for our country," said Inouye in a statement.

The stimulus bill would award a one-time payment of \$15,000 to Filipino veterans who are now American citizens and \$9,000 to non-citizens.

About 200,000 Filipinos served alongside U.S. soldiers to defend the Philippines from the 1941 Japanese invasion and resist subsequent Japanese occupation.

The Philippines was a U.S. colony at the time, and the U.S. military assured Filipinos they could apply for U.S. citizenship and qualify for full U.S. veterans' benefits if they served.

After the war, however, Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, stripping Filipino veterans of their status as U.S. veterans. This denied Filipinos the benefits they were



promised.

The veterans have campaigned for decades to win these benefits back. They've had some victories, including when Congress passed a bill allowing thousands to immigrate and become U.S. citizens. Burial rights in national cemeteries came a decade later.

Inouye said about 18,000 veterans are still alive in the Philippines and the U.S. Many live in Hawaii and California.

Inouye, who fought with the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II, said the measure would "close a dark chapter in this history of this country."

"Through this funding, our government gives some recognition and thanks to the Filipino soldiers who fought under the Stars and Stripes and helped rid the world of tyranny and fascism," said Rep. Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional

Asian Pacific American Caucus. "This token of gratitude for their service is long overdue."

This "marks for many the end of a long struggle for equality and recognition for those Filipino veterans who served side by side with American soldiers," said the group KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress in a statement. "For some, it is compromise over full equity, but nonetheless an act on a promise long overdue."

Although the stimulus package garnered Democratic support, most Republicans in both the House and Senate voted against the federal bill.

Some Republicans also voiced their opposition to the Filipino veterans' benefits.

"I hope Americans will stop to ponder the distorted values of those who crafted this bill," said Republican Representative Steve Buyer of Indiana in an interview with *The New York Times*. ■

Obama Lifts Restrictions on Kids' Health Coverage

AA groups, including JACL, applaud signing of SCHIP bill.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama made more children from middle-class families eligible for government health insurance Feb. 5 by lifting a directive imposed by his predecessor.

In 2007, the Bush administration said it would strictly adhere to guidelines that limited the scope of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

A year later, it backed off its threat to penalize states that enrolled middle-class children without first proving they had enrolled nearly all poorer children first.

In a memorandum issued Feb. 5, Obama completely lifted the restrictions, which many governors and Democratic lawmakers said were nearly impossible to meet.

Obama said in a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services that "tens of thousand of

children have been denied health care coverage" because of the directive.

The Asian Pacific American community includes a large percentage of legal immigrants who do not have access to health insurance.

"The JACL feels that the signing into law of the SCHIP bill is a step toward healthcare reform by providing help to millions of deserving people," said Nat'l JACL President Larry Oda. "Making healthcare coverage available to those who need it most through SCHIP is a step in the right direction."

"The SCHIP bill being signed into law will ensure adequate healthcare for some of the most vulnerable of our nation's population," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We commend all those who were instrumental in bringing about the passage of the SCHIP bill."

Under the restrictions, at least 95 percent of poor children eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP had to already be in those programs before states could begin using federal funds to cover higher-income children.

Also, states covering higher-income children had to make sure individuals were without health insurance for one year before they were allowed to get government-sponsored coverage.

Obama's memo was issued a day after he signed legislation that will enable about 7 million children to continue coverage through SCHIP and allow another 4 million to sign up.

"The way I see it, providing coverage to 11 million children through SCHIP is a down payment on my commitment to cover every single American," Obama said Feb. 4 at a White House bill-signing ceremony.

"It is the first step in a long journey toward repairing our healthcare system and providing universal coverage, care, and access to the people of our nation," U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Most lawmakers and advocacy groups in the health reform debate acknowledge that the next steps toward reform will be harder than expanding SCHIP, given the increasing federal deficit. ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Foreclosure Puts North Austin Chinatown Center in Peril

AUSTIN—Like many shopping centers in today's economy, the city's Chinatown Center has become a victim of foreclosure and will go up for auction in March.

The center, which was appraised at nearly \$23 million, was one of the local APA community's largest shopping centers.

"It is very comforting to have a space that they can somehow connect with or identify with, with the language, with the spices, with the smells," Asian American Cultural Center CEO Amy Wong Mok told News 8 Austin.

Margaret Cho Calls Miley Cyrus a Disgrace

LOS ANGELES—Comedian Margaret Cho blasted Miley Cyrus for the recent photo of the teen star posing in a racially stereotypical gesture.

On a blog post entitled "Oh Miley," Cho calls Cyrus a "disgrace" and asks, "why isn't racism against Asians taboo?"



The photo surfaced showing Cyrus, 16, and her friends all making a stereotypical gesture by pulling their eyes into a slanted position. Cyrus denied that she meant the gesture to be racially offensive on her own blog and said that she was simply making a "goofy face." She later issued an apology after critics said her response was simply too little too late.

Earlier this week, a Los Angeles woman filed a \$4 million lawsuit against Cyrus on behalf of APAs.

Japanese Tea Garden Dispute Continues

SAN FRANCISCO—A Japantown cafe owner who promises to bring in a \$500,000 grant for improvements should operate the historic Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park instead of the current vendor who has held the contract for more than 15 years, city staffers have recommended.

The Recreation and Park Department said that an advisory panel had unanimously given highest marks to Cafe Hana owner Carol Murata. But the current garden operators, a firm led by Fred and Vincent Lo, called the decision racially motivated. The department is slated to take up the matter Feb. 19.

The Tea Garden, near the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, features stone footpaths, bonsai trees, pagodas, koi ponds and Buddhist statues.

APAs Still Not Ready to Switch to Digital Television

NEW YORK—About 6.9 percent of APA households are still not ready for the transition to all-digital broadcasting, according to a report from the Nielsen Company.

Under government-mandated action, all television stations are required to switch to digital programming, which will leave viewers without a television signal unless they purchase digital television sets, connect to cable, satellite, and alternate delivery systems or purchase a converter box.

Although Congress voted to delay the nationwide transition to June 12, the bill allowed stations to make the switch early with the approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

Park Backers Resist Chinatown Development

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Backers of a memorial park at the site where Riverside's Chinese community was once concentrated say they'll stake out the location to keep developers from breaking ground until a judge hears their request for a restraining order.

Save Our Chinatown Committee member Jean Wong says a crew with earth-moving equipment has arrived and began work on the site of a planned medical office building.

Riverside City Council has approved an excavation plan that requires archeologists to oversee work and for developers to preserve items of cultural or historic importance.

Wong's group has asked a judge to halt construction until a lawsuit it filed blocking the development has been resolved.

The 4.2-acre site — the location of Riverside's Chinatown in the early 1900s — is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Tammy Duckworth Nominated to VA Post

WASHINGTON—Tammy Duckworth, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs director, was nominated by President Barack Obama Feb. 3 to serve as an assistant secretary at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Duckworth is a University of Hawaii-Manoa and McKinley High School graduate who earned the Purple Heart for her service in Iraq. She was a helicopter pilot who lost both her legs and partial use of one arm in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in 2004. She ran for Congress in 2006, but lost.

"She is a role model for not only the Asian American community but for all of those who are faced with physical disabilities," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Tia Carrere, Daniel Ho Win Hawaiian Grammy



Actress and singer **Tia Carrere**, along with producer and guitarist **Daniel Ho**, won the Hawaiian Grammy for the album "Ikena."

It's the first time since the Hawaiian music Grammy was established in 2005 that

a non-slack-key album has won. This is Ho's fourth Grammy. Carrere lost out last year when she was nominated for her album "Hawaiiana."

Both Carrere and Ho live in Los Angeles now but were both born and raised in the islands.

Moon Wins Democratic Nomination for Supervisor

At-large Fairfax County school board member **Ilyong Moon** has won the Democratic nomination for Braddock District supervisor.

Moon, a Korean American, is the only APA elected official in Northern Virginia, even though the APA community makes up 15.8 percent of Fairfax County's population and is the locality's largest racial minority group.

Moon will face Republican and Kings Park Civic Association president John Cook in a March 10 special election. If he wins, another special election will have to take place to replace him on the school board.

Yale Law Dean May Be Considered for State Department

Harold Koh, dean of Yale Law, is a top contender to be the principal legal counselor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, according to the *Yale Daily News*. Koh, an international law expert, did not confirm or deny that he would be leaving Yale for a government post. He has testified numerous times before Congress and worked in the Department of Justice.

Yoon Launches Historic Bid to be Boston Mayor

Boston City Councilor **Sam Yoon** has confirmed that he plans to run for mayor. The 39-year-old Yoon, who has been a city councilor since 2005, represents a departure from traditional Boston politics.

He is the first APA to run for mayor and is not a lifelong resident of Boston. He was born in Korea, grew up in Pennsylvania and moved to the city in 2003. He has tapped a nationwide network of APA donors and has about \$210,000 in his campaign account.

Yoon says his campaign will focus on the city's future.

Moriwaki Named National Parks Conservationist of the Year

The nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) recently honored **Clarence Moriwaki**, chairman of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Committee, as national parks conservationist of the year with its annual Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award.

Moriwaki was singled out for his efforts to protect the former Eagle Lake Ferry Dock on Bainbridge Island as a satellite unit of Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho.

In addition to acquiring financial and political support for the site, Moriwaki worked to build local support for the project by educating the public about the injustices suffered by the members of the Japanese American community on Bainbridge Island during World War II. ■

Pinedale Remembrance Plaza Honors the JA Story

By LESLIE K. TAMURA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Although rain drenched the more than two hundred people who came to the Feb. 16 dedication of the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial in Fresno, Calif., they braved the elements to honor the journey Japanese Americans have made since World War II.

"The ground is wet, our bodies may be wet, but our spirits are not dampened," said keynote speaker Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

The dedication concluded the final JACL Tri-District Conference, which will change to an annual convention format in 2011. The three-day conference, "Internment and Redress Remembered," featured panel discussions with Pinedale and Fresno Assembly Center internees; the legal team that successfully petitioned the courts to overturn the wartime criminal convictions of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui; as well as major players in the Redress Movement.

"This was a community event not only for JACL members," said Bobbi Hanada, former JACL Central California District Governor, "but it embraced members throughout our community."

The Pinedale Memorial, also known as Remembrance Plaza, is a California historical landmark that focuses on the story of Japanese Americans.

Ray Ensher, 74, has lived in the Fresno area all his life. He was about eight years old when the government forced 4,823 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their homes in California, Washington and Oregon, and into the Pinedale Assembly Center, before transporting them to more permanent internment camps across the country.

"The [Remembrance] Plaza is gorgeous," Ensher said of the memorial at 625 W. Alluvial Ave. in northwest Fresno. "I'm familiar with the internment ... and I felt that I needed to be here."

Although the cherry trees surrounding the 7,000 square-foot plaza have yet to blossom, 12 storyboard plaques and a water fountain at its center honor a "unique American story," according to Elizabeth Laval, photographic historian of the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee.

Two storyboards provide background of the Sugar Pine Lumber Company, which established the Pinedale community, and Camp Pinedale, an Army Air Force base. The 10 remaining storyboards track the progress of JAs from WWII to Redress on Sept. 17, 1987.

A bronze water fountain, designed and fabricated by renowned artist Gerard Tsutakawa from Seattle, stands at the center of the plaza. Inspired by the work of his father, sculptor George Tsutakawa, the Remembrance Fountain brings together the elements of heaven, earth, man and life.

Buried beneath the fountain, "as a heartbeat of [the] memorial," Laval added, are artifacts from the Sugar Pine Lumber Company, Camp Pinedale, as well as photos from assembly and relocation centers.

"It's a great work of art," Mineta said. "It's a combination of the peace as well as the turmoil of the evacuation



PHOTO: MEGUMI KAMINAGA

The bronze water fountain at the Pinedale Memorial Plaza.

and internment."

The Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee, a partnership between the CCDC JACL and the Central California Nikkei Foundation, organized the development of Remembrance Plaza.

The project began in 2005, when a developer sought to demolish a building that may have been used to process JAs into the Pinedale Assembly Center.

Under the leadership of Judge Dale Ikeda, the committee sought and achieved a rezoning application from the Fresno City Council in November 2006 to establish the memorial. The next year, on Feb. 19, the committee broke ground.

The committee received more than \$60,000 for constructing the plaza, and the Clovis Memorial District, which provides and maintains memorials for veterans, donated \$65,000 for maintenance and repairs, and will have stewardship of Remembrance Plaza in perpetuity.

"Many of you who are here today will visit this site in future years, and your children will visit this site as well, and when they do so," Mineta said, "remind them that while this memorial reflects on a time of great injustice, it's most fundamental purpose is to show how far we have come."

In the audience, as Mineta spoke, was 14-year-old Holly Kirkman of Mendocino County, Calif.

While Kirkman knew about her grandmother's internment at Tule Lake, she didn't know much about Redress.

"My teachers didn't know much either," she said, "but it's exciting to listen to people who've been there, to learn about what they were experiencing."

Mineta concluded the dedication, reminding the audience that, "you cannot appreciate where you are if you do not understand and remember where you have been."

JACL National Director Floyd Mori added, "The enormous service and sacrifice that preceded us requires each of us to recommit ourselves to doing our part in keeping our Constitution intact and relevant." ■

JACL Urges Naming of Ishimaru as Chair of EEOC

The JACL is urging President Barack Obama to name Stuart J. Ishimaru as the permanent chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Ishimaru is the current acting chair and has served as a commissioner of the EEOC since 2003.

"Mr. Ishimaru has been a member of the JACL for many years, and we feel that he is the best choice to lead the EEOC," said JACL President Larry Oda. "He would be an excellent permanent chair because of his strong leadership and managerial skills. He understands the need for EEOC to adapt and improve as it becomes more efficient and effective in fulfilling its vital role in ensur-

ing justice and fair treatment to all those covered by federal employment discrimination laws."

Ishimaru has long been involved with the issues of the Asian Pacific American community and with civil rights generally. He is a native of San Jose, Calif., and received a BA in political science and economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He also has a law degree from George Washington University.

The JACL is currently asking its members, the Asian American community at large, and others to continue their support of Ishimaru and to advocate for him to be named the permanent chair of the EEOC. ■



[HARRY HONDA]

VERY TRULY YOURS Our Past Year with Books

Brophy, Don. "100 Great Catholic Books: From the Early Centuries to the Present." BlueBridge, New York, NY, (2007), 222pp.;

Burleson II, Hugh. "The Making of a Pacific Citizen." AuthorHouse, Bloomington, IN, (2007), 421pp.;

Castelnuevo, Shirley. "Soldiers of Confidence: Japanese American Military Resisters in World War II." Praeger, Westport, CT, (2008), 162pp.;

Hillsborough, Romulus. "Shinsengumi: the Shogun's Last Samurai Corps." Tuttle Publishing, Tokyo-Rutland, VT, (2005), 230pp.;

Kawaratani, Yukio. "Reluctant Samurai: Memoirs of an Urban Planner from Tule Lake to Bunker Hill." Self-published, (2008), 292pp.;

Kerr, George H. "Okinawa: the History of an Island People" (revised). Tuttle Publishing, Tokyo-Rutland, VT, (2000), 573pp.;

MacManus, Seumas. "The History of the Irish People." Devin-Adair Co., Greenwich CT, (1921), 724pp.;

Ogawa, Dennis and John Blink. "California Hotel and Casino: Hawai'i's Home Away from Home." Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu, (2008), 133pp.;

Ravina, Mark. "The Last Samurai: the Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori." John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ, (2004), 265pp.

• The biggest surprise (or attraction) for me this past year was Lake Washington JACler Hugh Burleson's autobiography inscribed with "Pacific Citizen" in the title. Having lost my auction bid for the red-covered book at the National JACL Convention last year at Salt Lake City, he kindly sent me a copy.

At JACL conventions, I knew Hugh was a retired U.S. foreign officer of 30-plus years, but learned (in his book) his father was a circuit-riding Episcopalian priest, who ranged from Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Porterville to San Diego where this JACler spent his youth in the '30s.

At Cal Berkeley in '44, Hugh bares his "uneven record" with the coeds, then drafted by the Army in March '45, basic at Camp Hood, Texas, and shipped to the 123d Infantry at Nagasaki in November and to Occupation duties at Yokohama, where this PK (preacher's kid) met and courted Kimi, his wife to be. What a fascinating life they led and Hugh wound up as the pacific citizen (in lower case).

• Heavy reading, it was, to learn in-depth about Saigō Takamori (1827-1877) of Satsuma who was the *Last Samurai*, a man behind the scenes during the civil war of Japan (1862-1868) that ended in a bloodless surrender at Edo Castle. (We're getting ahead of the story unfolding in NHK's Taiga drama, *Atsuhime* — Princess Atsu, on Saturday night on Japanese TV.)

And probably the TV series will end here but author Mark Ravina carries on. Takamori in 1873 became a full general in the Imperial army. He supported sending troops to Korea but became increasingly angry in 1874 at the low support of former samurai of lower rank and started a private school in Kagoshima. His colleagues were restless and opposed the Meiji government.

In 1877 Saigō led them in a military uprising that became known as the Seinen War, a lopsided affair since the imperials were a modern conscript army that surrounded Takamori in battle at Kagoshima where he committed *hara kiri* on the battlefield. The war ended after the head of Takamori was presented as proof.

One who revered his creed, "Reverence for Heaven and Love for Mankind," when the Meiji Constitution was promulgated in 1879, Saigō Takamori was posthumously pardoned by the government.

• Now, picking up the book, "Reluctant Samurai," by Yukio Kawaratani, who grew up in San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente, Calif. His family was evacuated to Poston I, Blk. 43. Yukio, then 12, writes candidly of life in camp. "After being isolated on the farm for so many years, camp was the first time we had so many Japanese people our own age to socialize with."

His father had successfully and tirelessly worked the farm through the Depression years to see after Pearl Harbor "it all disappear and helplessly watch his whole family thrown into camp, his two sons drafted ... Papa had many reasons to be angry, bitter and defiant against America."

In the summer of '43, the government issued the loyalty questionnaire and it was seen as one of "great confusion and suspicion," specifically No. 27 and 28. Their no-no response saw them on a long train ride to Tule Lake that summer, again to Blk. 34 near a sewage treatment layout. A year later, they were moved to Blk. 75, in a district named "Alaska" with new barracks for seg-regees. Kids were told to speak, read and write Japanese and learn *bushido*. Renunciation was allowed by Congress in '44. Life at Tule Lake was harsh. His father and two older brothers were shipped to Japan, but staying with his Mother and siblings, Yukio felt he was an ex-con.

Comments about the other books will be saved for another time. ■



[PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN]

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN The Gospel According to Obama

I have yet to hear any final tallies of how many Americans witnessed the swearing-in and subsequent address by our 44th president on that frigid, fateful morning in mid-January.

I know they told us that 1 to 2 million people had squished into the space between the Capitol and the Lincoln Monument, but I am curious to know how many people sat in their living rooms, dorm rooms, waiting rooms, auditoriums or offices watching the inaugural address on TV screens, flat screens and computer screens. What a seminal event in the living history of our country!

The Obama administration marks the ostensible beginning of a new era in the American story. Many people have hung their hopes on his audacity. It is hard to predict where we will be in four or eight years, but one thing is certain: we have many obstacles to face before we get there.

As I sat in a library auditorium packed with over a hundred other students, doctors, scientists, administrators and staff from the medical center where I go to school, Obama said:

"For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jew and Hindus, (rumbling of hands clapping, heads nodding) and nonbelievers, (eruption of applause and cheering). We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth."

The audience surrounding me was ecstatic for a presidential shout-out for nonbelievers to be included among the other religions of our land. After the Bush years, it's not hard to see why. To me, this illustrates one of the major obstacles that President Obama will have to face. The list of pressing issues facing this new administration has been stated *ad nauseum*. But for me, I hope that the Obama era will bring some type of reconciliation of the resurgent tensions between church and state.

Jon Meacham, in "American Gospel, God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation," lays the groundwork to explain our "civil American gospel." He points to the speeches of Jefferson and Lincoln to present the complex ways in which many of our nation's leaders have tried to find harmony between the tensions of church and state.

Jefferson spoke of the "wall of separation of church and state." Lincoln cited God more often when his popularity was low. Innumerable presidents since our founding have struggled to define this seemingly elusive relationship between our religious and civic beliefs.

Impossible as it may sound, this is one hope I hang on President Obama. And I hope I am not alone in this.

The controversy surrounding the passing of California's Proposition 8 is only the latest flare-up in a long running battle between religionists and secularists. On one side of the dispute, I had family members and friends who suffered at work and business for their support of Proposition 8. On the other hand, I had friends who took to the streets in protest after its passage. I struggled to find my voice in the matter because I could see value in tenets on both sides of the arguments.

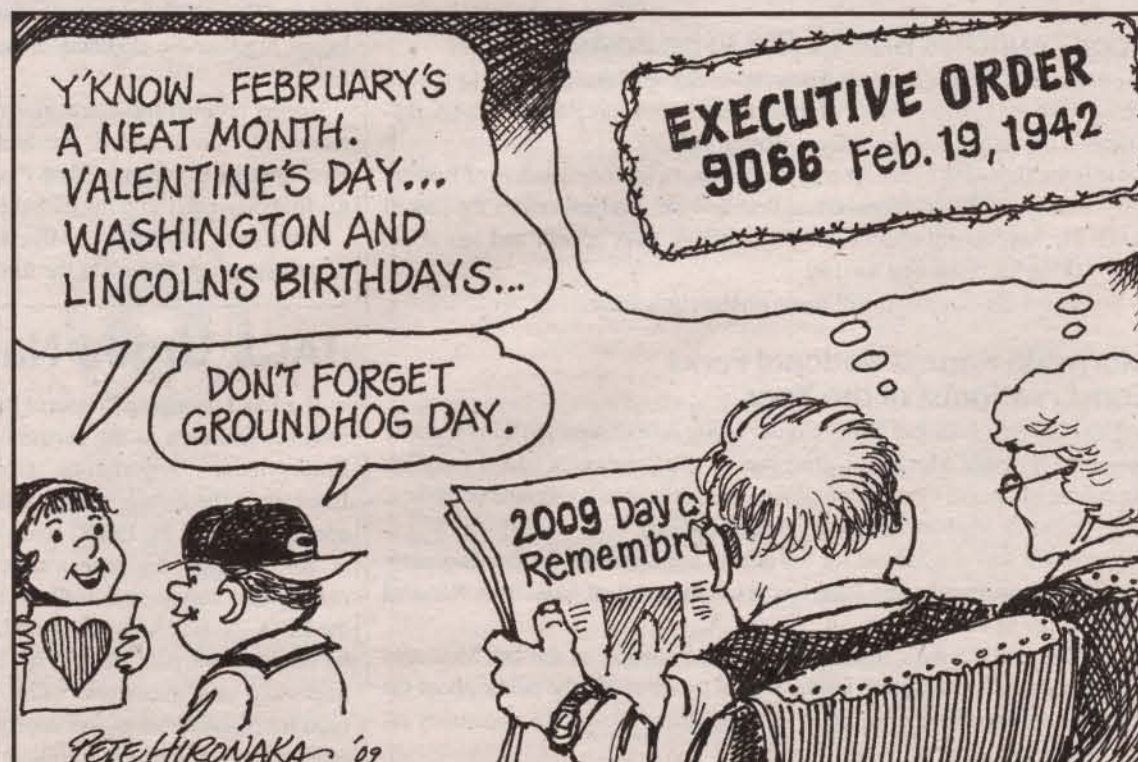
As individual believers, it's difficult to separate beliefs regarding church and state. That's like trying to separate the influence of mother and your father when you are analyzing your childhood. There is too much overlap. As individual citizens, it is difficult to see your pluralistic society be determined by a monistic majority.

The reality is that we do live in a pluralistic society that put the rights of its individual members as its foundation. How we decide to exercise and protect those rights remains the responsibility of its members.

But in times of conflict, we often need a leader who is wise enough to put things in historical and current perspective. It is my hope that a man with a mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya with a family made of Christians and Muslims and non-believers will be that leader and succeed where others have failed.

We urgently need to begin to salve the battle-scarred memories of our past, distant and near, and find a way forward to capture that ever-elusive balance between church and state. ■

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



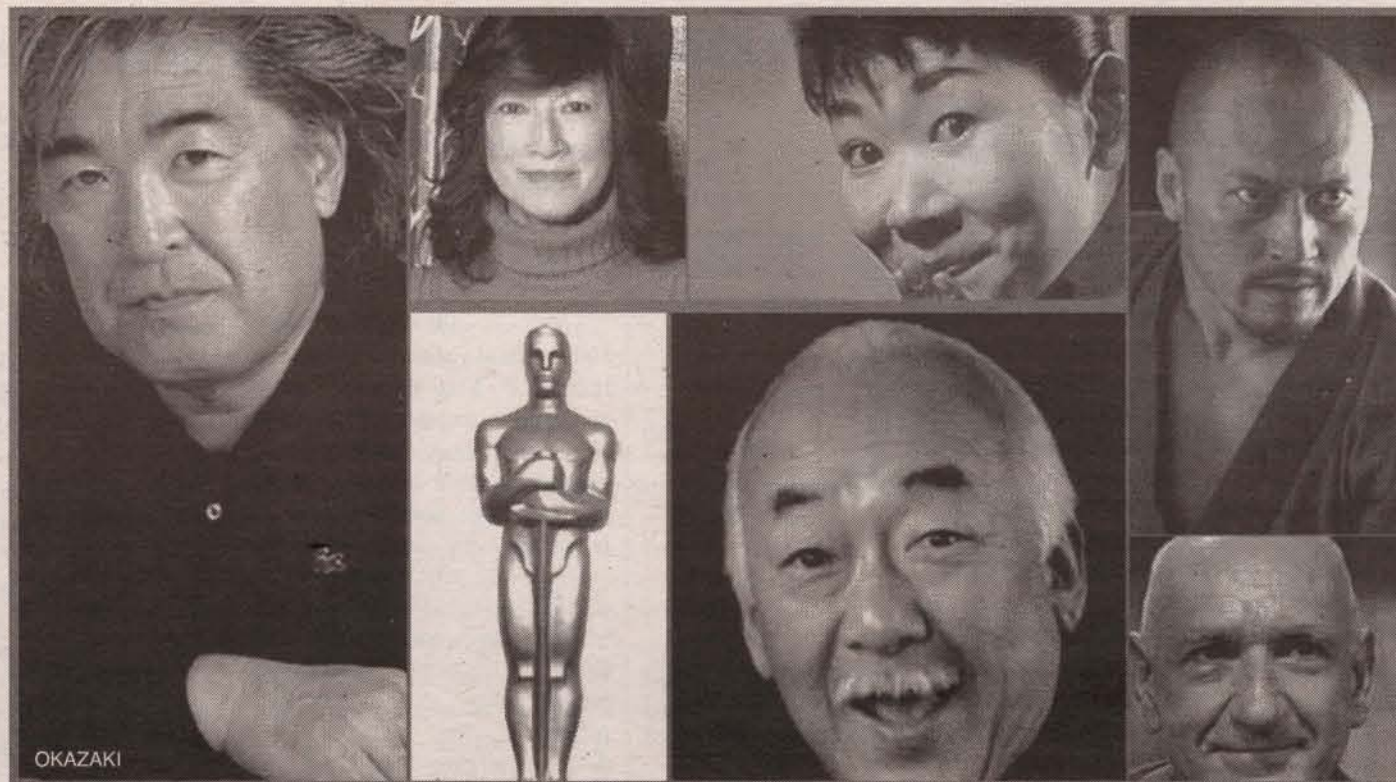
Entering the Hallowed Halls of Oscar History

Four nominations puts filmmaker Steven Okazaki in an elite group of Asian American Hollywood heavyweights.

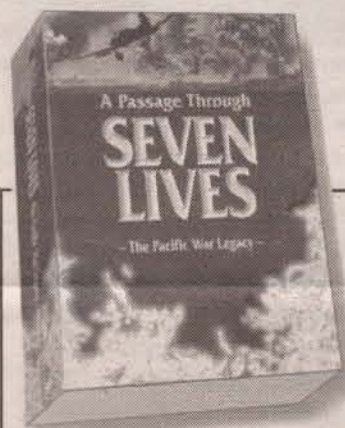
By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Steven Okazaki's fourth Academy Awards nomination got him thinking about his first time. When you've come so far, it's only natural to start looking back.

"They didn't even care," said the Sansei filmmaker with a chuckle about his first brush with Hollywood's premier awards show in 1985 as a nominee. He was there for "Unfinished Business."



Asians and APAs of past and present have been paving inroads into Tinseltown's most exclusive awards show one nomination and golden statue at a time.



What does war solve?

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

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

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

A Passage Through SEVEN LIVES
—The Pacific War Legacy—
by KYO TAKAHASHI

6" x 9" paperback, 504 pages includes over 250 illustrations, 25 maps, and charts.

\$23.99

10% goes to the AFSC Peace Fund

*

available at Amazon.com

Alibris.com

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ISBN: 0981659802

"We had to rent a Ford Taurus or something and park it in the parking structure of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion."

Since then, he's been nominated three other times including this year for the short documentary, "The Conscience of Nhem En." A total of four Oscar nominations, which includes a win in 1991 for "Days of Waiting," puts Okazaki in an elite group of Asian Pacific American filmmakers that includes Freida Lee Mock (five-time Oscar nominee, according to the Internet Movie Database).

In an industry famous for ignoring APAs altogether, Okazaki is a trailblazer. But he insists that the race for the Oscar doesn't get any easier with experience.

"It gets more stressful," he said by telephone from his producer's HBO office in New York. Over the years, Okazaki has had a steady working relationship with the cable channel. He makes the films, and they air it.

They've been able to hold screenings of "The Conscience of Nhem En" across the U.S. leading up to the awards show. Without this sort of visibility, said Okazaki, a small film like this could disappear amidst Batman franchises and a studio film about a man aging backwards.

News of No. 4 came during an ungodly hour in January after a rough night working on a new film project in Seattle.

"Someone from a foreign country kept calling my hotel room, so I slept through the announcements," said Okazaki. Then the call came from an HBO representative that brought a smile.

He keeps his Oscar statue at home on top of the refrigerator next to the primetime Emmy he won for "White Light/Black Rain." If Oscar is a boy, then Emmy is a girl. And he hopes to add another boy to the brood.

"My wife [writer Peggy Orenstein] made origami hats for them," said Okazaki.

Doing His Job

From 1975 to 1979 Cambodia's Khmer Rouge ruling party was responsible for one of the worst mass killings of the 20th century. Over 30 years later, the trials of some of the participants in the genocide have only recently begun in Cambodia.

"Like a lot of people, I've seen the photos from the Khmer Rouge genocide here and there and was always struck by them, but I didn't know much about it. I didn't know the story," said

Okazaki.

Then in 2007 Nhem En, a former Khmer Rouge photographer whose job was to take pictures of the victims, made a public apology. But Okazaki got the impression that En was motivated by fame.

"His reasons were not humanitarian."

The photos — an endless number of portraits of victims in various stages of denial and terror — are of the men, women and children who died shortly after En clicked the button on his camera. Often they were tortured and killed within earshot of the photographer.

Last January, the filmmaker and his crew spent two weeks in Cambodia interviewing survivors of the notorious Tuol Sleng prison where En, then 16, took photos. Out of the about 17,000 people taken to the prison, only eight are known to have survived. Three are featured in the film.

The survivors are not just haunted by their past, they are possessed. It doesn't take much to make Chum Mey relive the horror he experienced when he was 42. In the film, he gets backs into the closet-size cell at Tuol Seng to show the camera where he was taken after being tortured. He touches his feet to show how he was shackled naked. Then he weeps.

En offered to sell Okazaki never before seen photos he kept in a manila envelope for \$10,000.

"Of course as soon as I said I wasn't interested, he showed me the photos anyway."

They were mostly of En as a young Khmer Rouge soldier.

"I've never done an interview like that," said Okazaki. "I usually interview people I admire. Even with drug addicts, there was something I admired. I didn't feel any admiration [for En] and I felt like he was holding things back."

"He did nothing. He didn't offer [the victims] a kind word or a glass of water. He just did his job. Sit down. Look forward. Click. That was it. I found it disturbing."

In his last on-camera interview, En explodes under Okazaki's forceful questioning.

"I said to him the pictures have this cruel coldness about it. Maybe it reflects the photographer."

En's angry response is included in the film. He says he was simply doing his job. Not doing it meant he would die.

"The film is an examination of the effects of being silent when something horrible is happening to your fellow man," said Okazaki.

In it, En asks a question that would inspire the premise: would you die for your conscience?

Moving On

The film has drawn comparisons to Holocaust documentaries, but Okazaki thinks there are stronger parallels to the U.S. history of slavery and the WWII JA internment.

Tragedy can continue to affect people for generations. With the JA internment, there are still effects on people's self-esteem three or four generations later, said Okazaki. Surviving means you have to move on, but sometimes it's not so simple — even for the man behind the camera.

"I found making the film really traumatic, almost unbearable."

He heard horrific stories that he couldn't share. HBO called the initial cuts of the film too soft and poetic for the cruelty of the subject. Okazaki argued that he didn't want to lose the audience. "What I was also saying was that I didn't want to go this deep."

So the filmmaker sought the help of a therapist for the first time because he found himself blanking out and weeping.

Let's get this straight: the man who made documentaries about the internment and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings found this topic to difficult to digest.

"In a way, making a film on the effects of the atomic bombs was easier to process," said Okazaki. "There was a president who made a decision, someone pushed a button and all these terrible things happened. It was a political decision. The difference in this story is that there were so many individuals who made individual decisions without asking, 'Is this right?' What is the cost of not doing anything?"

For Okazaki, the cost is a lost soul like En.

The filmmaker has no plans to develop this into a feature-length documentary, perhaps simply because he can't bear it. En hasn't seen the film yet either, he said.

"Clearly, he is a cold and empty person," said Okazaki. "That's the price he paid." ■

WATCH IT

The Academy Awards show airs Feb. 22 on ABC. "The Conscience of Nhem En" is slated to air on HBO in June. For more information on the film: www.farfilm.com.

Ethnic Slurs Upset Virginia Tech Chief



Thousands of Virginia Tech students attended a convocation in April 2007 after Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people.

AP PHOTO

The recent arrest of a Chinese student for murder elicits string of anti-Asian e-mails and blogs.

By SUE LINDSEY
Associated Press Writer

BLACKSBURG, Virginia—An internationally diverse campus is vital to Virginia Tech, the school's president said recently in response to e-mails and blogs disparaging Asians that surfaced after a Chinese student was accused of decapitating a classmate.

The killing last month was the first since Seung-Hui Cho, a Korean American student, killed 32 people in a mass shooting in 2007 and revived memories of the tragedy.

Some of the comments from parents, alumni and members of the public questioned whether the university should allow international students to attend the school. Others supported the university's international community.

President Charles Steger said in an open letter that the school was enriched by its diversity and that overall there were few reports of international students getting into trouble.

"Virginia Tech is an open and accepting community including many races, ethnicities, and cultures from around the world," Steger wrote in the letter.

Steger said there was no evidence that the decapitation of Xin Yang, 22, in a campus coffee shop Jan. 21 had anything to do with her ethnicity, Steger said. Both Yang and suspect Haiyang Zhu, who is charged with first-degree murder, are from China.

The school has more than 2,100 students from 72 foreign countries among its full-time enrollment of 30,000.

University spokesman Larry Hincker said school officials have received several dozen letters as well as e-mails and calls attacking foreigners. Hincker called the comments "xenophobic barbs."

The head of a support service for the school's international community said the comments on blogs began the night of the recent slaying. They ranged from "being very supportive to being very irrational," said Kim Beisecker, director of the Cranwell International Center on campus. ■

UC Approves Sweeping Overhaul of Admissions Policy

Some AA groups fear the new rules could lower the number of AA students admitted.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SAN FRANCISCO—The University of California's governing board on Feb. 5 unanimously approved a major overhaul of its admissions policy that will greatly expand the pool of undergraduate applicants but guarantee entry to fewer high-achieving students.

Set to take effect with the freshman class of fall 2012, the new eligibility standards adopted by the UC Board of Regents represent the biggest change to UC admissions policy in nearly 50 years. It is designed to give many more high school seniors a shot at attending one of the nation's top public universities.

The new rules will reduce the number of students guaranteed admission based solely on their grades and test scores, but increase the number whose applications will be eligible for a full review by an admissions committee. A regents committee gave the proposal preliminary approval on Feb. 4.

Under the revised qualification requirements, applicants also will no longer have to take at least two SAT subject exams, which officials say blocked many otherwise-qualified students from seeking admission to a UC campus.

"You can't get much fairer than this policy," said UC President Mark Yudof. "We look at the whole student, and we look at more students ... It clearly will not diminish the quality of the students."

Officials said the plan would

encourage more students to apply and could potentially increase the number of low-income and under-represented minority students, but it's hard to predict its impact on campus diversity.

Some critics see the new admissions policy as an attempt for the university system to skirt a 1996 ballot measure that banned affirmative action at public institutions in California.

Some Asian American groups are concerned the new rules could lead to the admission of fewer AA students, who made up 36 percent of applicants admitted in 2007-08. The Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus had urged the regents to postpone the vote to allow more study of the plan's impact on various ethnic groups.

"Everything must be done to increase diversity at the University of California and this proposal could have the opposite effect," said Assemblymember Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, co-chair of the API Legislative Caucus. "Such a dramatic system-wide policy change demands input from the public and it is imperative that this proposal be fully vetted by UC with the legisla-

ture and civil rights and higher education organizations."

Under current rules, the top 12.5 percent of the state's high school graduates — as well as the top 4 percent at individual high schools — are guaranteed admission to at least one of UC's 10 undergraduate campuses, though not necessarily their school of choice. Currently, almost all students outside those groups are automatically rejected.

The new policy, which has been under development since 2004, would only guarantee admission for the top 9 percent statewide and the top 9 percent at each school. Those two groups combined make up about 10 percent of the state's graduating seniors.

Along with grades and test scores, admissions officials will review the achievements, application essays, family backgrounds and extracurricular activities of students who meet certain criteria.

To be eligible, students will have to complete 11 of 15 college preparatory courses by the end of their junior year, maintain a weighted 3.0 grade point average and take the main SAT or ACT with a writing component. ■



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Philippe Theriault

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JACL Announces Calif. Statewide Project: Community! Program



Participants at last year's PSW JACL's inaugural Project: Community!

The JACL recently announced the launch of a California statewide Project: Community! program intended to empower the high school youth voice in the Japanese American community. The program also seeks to give participants a sense of identity and understanding of their place in the community.

The program was started in 2008 by the JACL Pacific Southwest District in Southern California and has now spread to Northern California with both programs set to run through the summer.

Project: Community! will focus on the Japantowns in each area: San Francisco Japantown in Northern California and Little Tokyo in Southern California. JACL recognizes the importance of preserving physical places important to the JA community such as Japantown. Each session of the program will help participants better understand important community issues such as: the power of physical space, community organizations and grassroots organizing.

The program will begin on June 23 and run until Aug. 18 meeting on Tuesdays starting at 6 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. for Southern California and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Northern California. The programs will gather 15 to 20 high school age participants who are enthusiastic about learning about their community.

Applications for each of the programs are available upon request. For more information on the Southern California program, contact Kene Kubo at programs@jacpsw.org or 213/626-4471. For the Northern California program, contact Tim Koide at mbr@jacal.org or 415/921-5225. ■

Densho Announces New National Interview Initiative

The nonprofit hopes to collect oral histories from former internees in all WWII camps.

Seattle-based Densho, a nonprofit organization dedicated to documenting the oral histories of World War II Japanese American internees, is expanding its collection of video interviews to include national and diverse perspectives.

Working with local community partners and the Manzanar National Historic Site, Densho (meaning "to leave a legacy") is extending its visual history interview program beyond the Pacific Northwest to capture the life stories of JAs unjustly detained during WWII in all 10 incarceration camps run by the federal War Relocation Authority.

"We're proud of what we've accomplished in the Pacific Northwest, and we will continue our commitment to documenting our home region's Japanese American stories, even as we look forward to helping other communities preserve their historical legacies," said Tom Ikeda, Densho executive director.

The national Densho collection of visual histories will preserve diverse and relatively undocumented perspectives of the JA experience, including early immigration, prewar communities, the WWII internment of immigrants and incarceration of U.S. citizens. It will also document the opposition and resistance to the wartime measures, renunciation of

citizenship, postwar resettlement and the campaign for Redress.

Densho will also interview JAs who were not in a detention facility and non-JAs who played roles in the incarceration process, such as guards, teachers and administrators in camps.

In order to identify notable interviewees with exceptional life stories, Densho is collaborating with local organizations in key cities around the country.

As part of the Densho Digital Archive, all the interviews will be publicly accessible, free of charge, online at www.densho.org.

Densho will also be producing 80 video interviews from eight to 10 communities around the country. Each interview will be fully transcribed, catalogued, indexed and digitally preserved.

At the same time, Densho will be

adding thousands of historical photos to its digital archive. The archive currently holds over 300 transcribed and indexed visual histories and nearly 10,000 photos and documents about the JA experience before, during, and after the WWII mass incarceration.

This year, Densho will visit non-West Coast areas such as Chicago, Phoenix and Minneapolis/St. Paul to record memories of what are called the resettlement years, after JAs left the camps.

"The Twin Cities JACL is grateful to have this opportunity to work with Densho to add our community's perspectives to the Densho online oral history collection," said Steve Ozone. ■

For more information, contact Tom Ikeda at 206/320-0095 or tom.ikeda@densho.org.

JACL's Gala Dinner Will Take Place Sept. 17

This year's Salute to Champions dinner will honor the JA veterans.

The JACL recently announced that the National JACL Gala Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C. will take place on Sept. 17. Each year this event is held as a Salute to Champions, honoring those who have contributed to the Japanese American community and the JACL.

This year's annual gala dinner will honor the Japanese American veterans who served valiantly during World War II and in later wars.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Battalion, which was made up of Japanese Americans from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii, are the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. military history. Many of these veterans volunteered for service even as their family members were being detained behind barbed wire fences. Their service during WWII played a vital role in the welfare of the JA community after the war and the success of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act which offered an apology and redress for former internees.

In 2008 the JACL celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act. The honorees included former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta; former JACL Redress Chair John Tateishi; and Grayce Uyehara, who led JACL's grassroots efforts. An award was also presented to the American Jewish Committee who was the first national organization to support JACL's redress efforts. AT&T was honored as a corporate sponsor and Rising Champions awards were presented to David Inoue of Washington, D.C. and Nathan Shinagawa of Ithaca, New York.

"The JACL is very grateful to all who have supported the previous JACL Gala events, the sponsors, the honorees, and all who participated in any way," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We encourage everyone to save the date of September 17 to join in the next National JACL Gala Awards Dinner." ■

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Historical Society Calls for JA Family Stories

The Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California is seeking personal stories about Japanese American families for its fourth volume of "Nanka Nikkei Voices."

The JAHSSC is calling for submissions from contributors who currently live or once lived in Southern California. The stories should be regional and focused on JA families. Family histories, autobiographies and biographies will not be accepted.

The stories should illustrate personal family experiences with Issei values and practices, such as *gaman*, *shikata ga nai* and *enryo*. Also sought are stories of how Nisei and Sansei parents have continued these values and practices.

Are there geographic differences that influence JA family traditions?

Former Hawaii residents now living in Southern California could share their observations and experiences. Were you a lone JA or one of a few growing up in another predominant racial community? How did that affect your JA-ness and family interactions?

The publication will be released in 2010. Naomi Hirahara, mystery writer, is guest editor for "Nanka." Also on the committee are Jenni Kuida and Kimiyo Ige. ■

Writing Guidelines

"Nanka Nikkei Voices"

Deadline: July 1, 2009

Stories are limited to 4 pages, typed (single-spaced), minimum 11-point size font. Stories will not be returned, so don't send the only existing copy. E-mailed stories are preferred, but send hard copies to:

P.O. Box 3164, Torrance, CA. 90510-3164.

For more information, call chairperson and editor Iku Kiriya at 310/326-0608 or goiku@sbcglobal.net.

HOLLY FUJIE

(Continued from page 4)

sent to an internment camp in Topaz, Utah during World War II. Before the war, her father, Asa, was a student at UC Berkeley. Due to relocation, he would earn his degree at Brigham Young University and become an insurance agent. Her mother, Sonoko, was a secretary who would later start a thriving business as a tax accountant.

The internment was the subject of Fujie's monthly column in December for the *California Bar Journal*, in which she detailed the saga of her maternal grandfather who was detained by FBI agents on Dec. 7, 1941, for being the principal of a Japanese language school in San Francisco. Koichi Suzuki was never charged with any crime, and in the ultimate twist, he was asked to teach Japanese to U.S. naval officers in Boulder, Colo. He took the job.

She credited her mother for becoming a self-made career woman who deftly-balanced work, family and community affairs. That model continues to serve Fujie well, now more than ever with her duties as state bar president.

Fujie is married to Lee Cotugno, a Beverly Hills attorney who practices employment law. He was her moot court advisor at Boalt Hall, and the couple married the day after she finished law school. They have a daughter, Sabrina, who is a freshman at the California Institute of the Arts, and a son, Thomas, 12.

With their blessing and a flexible work schedule, Fujie — who is a member of the West L.A. JACL and once earned a \$100 scholarship from a Bay Area JACL chapter as a high school senior — will continue to delve head-first in her obligations. Meetings and speaking engagements across the state and to all parts of the country will keep her busy each week through the rest of her term.

And she was recently named chair of Sen. Dianne Feinstein's judicial advisory committee to President Barack Obama to screen nominees for the position of U.S. central district court judge in California.

In closing her inaugural address, Fujie made a simple, yet succinct appeal to those who could help bring more diversity to the ranks.

"What can you, individually, do that will make the profession more diverse? One word — mentoring. By mentoring an individual woman or minority attorney, you can influence that one attorney to stay and succeed in what could otherwise seem to him or her to be a hostile profession. Work with those mentees to help them succeed.

"Introduce them to your clients, help them to develop business and encourage them to take leadership positions in the bar and in your firm," she said.

Expect that to be a familiar refrain whenever Fujie goes on the speaking circuit.

"It's about helping (women and minorities) to succeed, making themselves known and powerful," she said.

"I never thought an Asian American could become president of the bar. It's empowering." ■

John Saito, Jr. is a board member of the West Los Angeles chapter.



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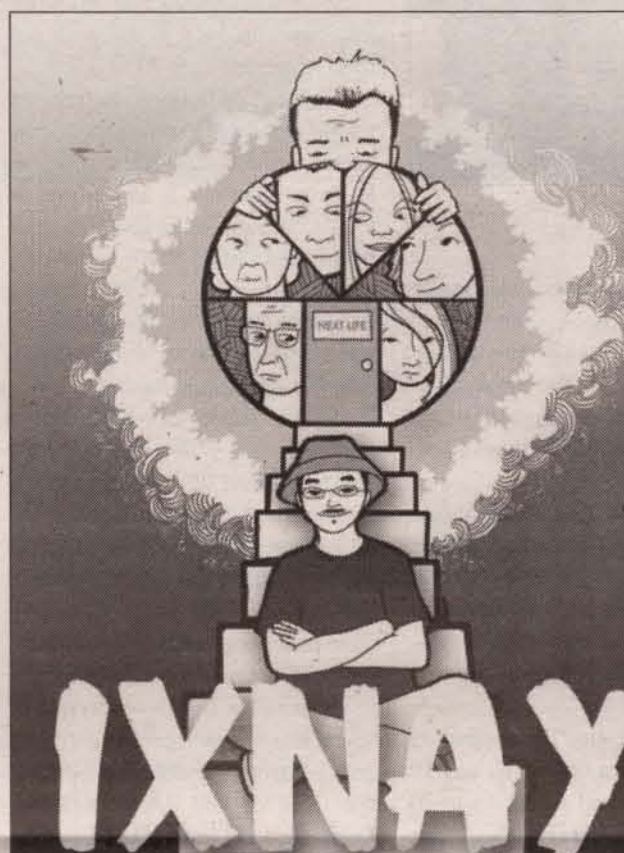
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BY PAUL KIKUCHI
DIRECTED BY JEFF LIU

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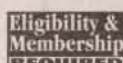
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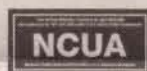
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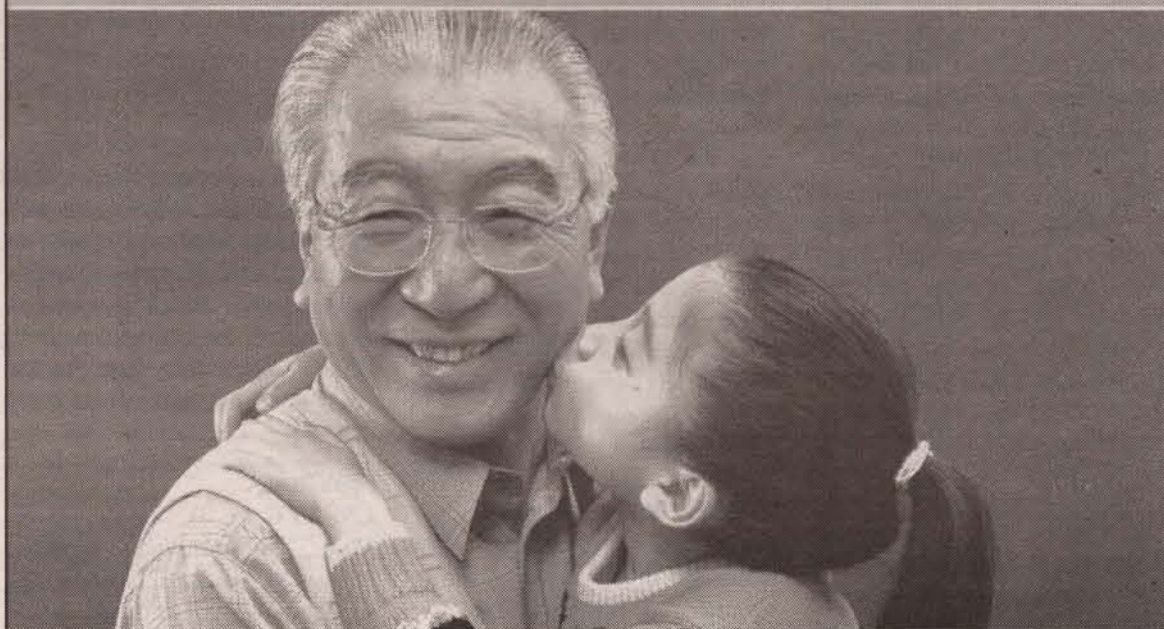
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'TOYO'S CAMERA'

(Continued from page 4)

Archie.

At Manzanar where cameras were considered contraband, Toyo secretly brought in all the necessary equipment to have a camera made from wood scraps. Nightfall was his cloak of secrecy. When other internees fell asleep in their cots, Toyo used the barrack or latrine as his darkroom.

"He said as a photographer, I have a responsibility to record camp life, so this kind of thing wouldn't happen again," said Archie. The wooden camera still works, he added.

Toyo's passion for art created three generations of Miyatake photographers. Archie is retired from the business, but his sons Alan and Gary Miyatake carry on the legacy. Gary operates his own studio while Alan runs the San Gabriel-based family business Toyo Miyatake Studio.

Alan, 55, is proud of his family legacy.

"I started realizing that as my father gets older and I see his memory start dwindling, who's going to tell this story?"

In March, United Television Broadcasting Systems will release "Toyo's Camera" theatrical at Santa Monica's Laemmle Theater and Little Tokyo's Aratani Theatre. In conjunction with the Little Tokyo screening, Toyo's photographs will be displayed in an exhibit at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

Toyo "is so important as a documenter of Japanese American community and cultural life," said Chris Aihara, JACCC executive director.

The largest collection of Toyo's work in Japan is located at the Kawasaki City Museum. In the U.S., the collection is mostly located in Archie's home. There have been smaller exhibits of his father's in the past, but this one will be special, if only for its location.

"It's just like going home for my father," said Archie about Little Tokyo. "That's where my father liked to be the most." ■

'Toyo's Camera'

The film is playing at the Laemmle Monica 4-Plex in Santa Monica, Calif. March 6-12, and at the Little Tokyo's Aratani Theatre on March 15. Toyo Miyatake's photo exhibit runs at the JACCC until March 15.

For more information: www.toyoscamera.com, www.laemmle.com, www.jaccc.org, www.toyomiyatake.com.

TAMURA

(Continued from page 2)

care concerns of APAs. I attended mark-ups where a committee reviews bills and proposes amendments before sending them to the House floor for final approval.

Although I had a master's in journalism, I traded my reporter's hat for that of a public relations person, writing press releases about Congresswoman Matsui and her platform. I shadowed the legislative assistants in the office. I'd walk the tunnels from the House office buildings to the U.S. Capitol with colleagues, talking about everything from happy hour specials to public policy.

Life on the Hill was a lot like going to college. Although some may argue that the "real world" of Capitol Hill trumps the more insular world of a college campus, the similarities made me understand how government truly is of the people, by the people, for the people.

The Meaning of Public Service

Working for Congresswoman Matsui gave me a valuable education on what it means to be a public servant. Every day, the members of Team Matsui — fueled by Diet Coke, coffee and a passion for people and politics — responded to the needs of the Sacramento area.

After working four months with these legislative experts, learning how policymakers evaluate and make tough decisions, I realize that good government starts with good people. These people, however, can't act without the input from their constituents.

Mike Masaoka, while he remains a controversial figure in Japanese American history, was an active and engaged participant in public policy. After World War II, he dedicated himself to the civil rights movement, lobbying against racial discrimination. Until his death in 1991, Masaoka continued to fight for what he thought was best for the JA community.

The main purpose of the Mike M. Masaoka JACL fellowship, I believe, is to empower a new generation of APAs dedicated to public service.

Before joining Team Matsui, I had no idea what public service was about. Now, after an incredible learning experience on and off the Hill, I can claim active membership to a community of Americans devoted to effecting change, improving government and promoting public participation. ■

After completing her service as the JACL Masaoka Fellow, Leslie Tamura — a member of the Fresno JACL — is planning to attend graduate school.

2009 Day of Remembrance Events

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.

MERCED, Calif.

Sat., Feb. 21—Day of Remembrance Banquet; 5 p.m.; Merced County Fairgrounds, Junior Building; keynote speakers include



A SIGN POINTING TO THE AMACHE CAMPSITE.

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

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. ■

Calendar

East

BOSTON

Aug. 7-12—Asian American Journalists Association's J Camp; J Camp's goal is to develop the next generation of journalists; no fee to apply. Info: Nao Vang, 415/346-2051, ext. 102 or programs@aaja.org.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.

Sat., Feb. 28—Forum, "So ... What Are You, Anyway? Multiracialism in the 21st Century"; 10-6 p.m.; Boylston Hall, Harvard University, 1310 Massachusetts Ave.; free but registration required. Register at hapa.eventbrite.com.

TOWSON, Mass.

Through Mar. 14—Exhibition, "Ostriches and Silent Flowers: Paintings by Kotaro Fukui"; gallery hours, Mon.-Fri. 11-4 p.m., Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Asian Arts Gallery, Center for the Arts, Towson University; free. Info: 410/704-2807 or www.towson.edu/asianarts.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Thu., Sept. 17—JACL Gala Dinner; focus will be on the JA veterans from World War II and beyond. Info: www.jacl.org or 202/223-1240.

Midwest

CINCINNATI

Sun., Mar. 8—Cincinnati/Dayton JACL Installation Dinner; 5 p.m. dinner, 6 p.m. installation of officers; Kyojin Japanese Buffet, 12140 Royal Point Dr.; MDC Regional Director Bill Yoshino is the speaker; \$30.

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

Feb. 26-Mar. 3—Display of Hina Dolls; Portland Japanese Garden, 611 SW Kingston Dr.; the Hina dolls will be on display during open Garden hours; free with garden admission. Info: www.japanesegarden.com.

Feb. 26, 28—Screening, "Zen"; Feb. 26, 6-9 p.m., HUB Auditorium, Univ. of Washington, Feb. 28, 2-6:30 p.m., Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University; film is the true story of Zen Master Dogen; free, but seating is limited to 470 for both screenings. Info: www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp.

Sun., Mar. 1—Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day) Reception and Tea; 1:30-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; celebrated Girls' Day; \$3 suggested donation. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458 or www.oregonnikkei.org.

Through Mar. 15—Exhibit, "Desert Sands: Photographs by Emily Hanako Momohara"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave.; Jan. 24, 1-3 p.m. features an artist's talk and reception; exhibit hours Tues.-Sat., 11-3 p.m. and Sun., noon-3 p.m.; \$3 admission, free for center members. Info: www.oregonnikkei.org or 503/224-1458.

Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO

Mar. 25-27—Asian and Pacific Islanders in Higher Education APAHE Conference, "Passing the Torch: The Next Generation of APA Leaders"; Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post St.; registration fees begin at \$270; rooms available at Hotel Kabuki for \$169/night, 800/533-4567 (must mention APAHE).

Through June 30—Exhibit, "The Many Faces of Manga"; gallery hours Mon.-Fri. noon-5 p.m., and the first Sat. of the month; NJAHS Peace Gallery, 1684 Post St.; featuring works by Osamu Tezuka, Stan Sakai, Tak Toyoshima and many others. Info: www.njahs.org.

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.tulelake.org, Hiroshi Shimizu (SF) 415/566-2279, Jimi Yamaichi (SJ) 408/269-9458, Grace Kajita (Sacto), 916/392-5416, Stan Shikuma (Sea) 206/919-1465, Soji Kashiwagi (LA) 626/351-1073, Sachiko Takita (Japan) stakita@yokohama-cu.ac.jp.

Southern California

ALISO VIEJO

Through May 15—Exhibit, "Manzanar Pilgrimage Photographs"; Founders Hall Art Gallery, 1 University Dr.; photographs were taken by Mark Kirchner from 1983-2008. Info: www.soka.edu, info@soka.edu or 949/480-4000.

LOS ANGELES

Mon., Mar. 2—Japanese American Community Night, Los Angeles Clippers vs. San Antonio Spurs; 7:30

p.m.; Staples Center; a taiko half-time performance will also be featured; tickets: \$12.50 (upper level), \$40 (200 level) \$48 (100 level). Contact: Urel Martinez, 213/742-7552 or umartinez@clippers.com.

Sat., Mar. 14—Symposium, "Asian American Artists in California"; 9-1 p.m.; Armand Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd.; examines the lives and work of artists past and present and offers insights into issues of cultural hybridity, race, social climate and transnationalism; free; RSVP is requested. Info and RSVP: 310/825-2974.

Through May 31—Exhibition, "Asian Roots/American Reality: Photographs by Corky Lee"; gallery hours 10-3 p.m., Tue.-Sun.; Chinese American Museum, 425 N. Los Angeles St. in the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument; \$3/adults, \$2/seniors and students; free for museum members; Lee's trademark images capture the personal stories amidst a public sphere of social and political movements from the 1970s to the present day. Info: www.camla.org.

Wed., April 8—Staged reading of "The Last Resort" a new play by Velina Hasu Houston; 6 p.m.; Performance Cafe, USC.

Fri., April 25—JANM's 2009 Annual Gala Dinner, "The Pavilion: Home, Community, History; Celebrating Ten Years of Building a Legacy"; 5:30 p.m. silent auction and reception, 7 p.m. dinner and program; dinner will recognize those major donors who helped build the Pavilion. Info: www.janm.org.

Mon., April 27—East West Players' 43rd Anniversary Visionary Awards Dinner and Silent Auction; reception and silent auction 6 p.m., dinner and program 7 p.m.; Hilton Universal City, 555 Universal City Dr.; \$175/person. Info: Lisa Tang, 213/625-7000 ext. 17 or www.eastwestplayers.org.

Through May 24—Exhibition, "Gokurosama: Contemporary Photographs of the Nisei in Hawaii";

JANM, 369 E. First St.; beginning in 2002, Brian Sato began shooting members of the Nisei generation, acutely aware that this important group was passing quickly. Info: www.janm.org or 213/625-0414.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., Mar. 14—Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon; noon; Riverside Golf Club, 1011 North Orange Street; W.T. Wimpy Hiroto is the guest speaker; \$20/person; RSVP by Feb. 28. Info: Meiko Inaba, 951/682-8116, imeiko@earthlink.net or Dolly Ogata, 951/684-7962.

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.

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.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

May 4-6—Amache Reunion; Golden Nugget Hotel; relatives and friends are invited. Info: Irene Furuya, 626/791-0547, mfu-ryua82@gmail.com or Min Tonai, 818/591-8815.

Aug. 11-13—Manzanar School Reunion; California Hotel; events include a mixer, banquet and a slot tournament; Info: Hank Nakano, 714/871-8178, Cherry Uyeda, 818/981-2629, Kats Marumoto, 310/836-3565, Jane Tochihiro, 714/826-2987 or Victor Muraoka, v.muraoka@verizon.net. ■

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DEATH NOTICE

JACK HIDEYA KAKUUCHI

Funeral services for the late Jack Hideya Kakuuchi, San Francisco, Calif.-born Nisei resident of Las Vegas, Nev. who passed away Feb. 5, were held on Feb. 16 at Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. Beloved husband of Rosie Maruki; father of Michael, Judy and Christine; grandfather of 5; great-grandfather of three; brother of Mitsuye Misawa; brother-in-law of Grace Maruki Wertz. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives. www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441.

DEATH NOTICE

TOM KIDA

Tamotsu "Tom" Kida, 89, of Galena, Ill., and Lemon Grove, Calif., loving husband, devoted father, actively involved grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 15.

He was born May 12, 1919, and lived a full hard working life with humor and grace. His parents were Jizaemon and Chitsue (Takehara) Kida.

Surviving are his daughter, Bobbie (Robert) Johnson of Galena; his son, Jeffrey Kida of Lemon Grove; five grandchildren, Keith (Andrea) Obayashi of Hartland, Wis., Derek Obayashi of Chicago, Ill., Bret Johnson of Galena, Justin (April) Kida of Tucson, Ariz., and Amber (Jimmy) Thompson of Portland, Ore.; 4 great-grandchildren, Juliana and Camila Obayashi, and Sierra and Tyler Thompson; brother, Satoshi (Momo) Kida; sisters, Hesaa Takahashi, Fusaje (Raymond) Uyeda; and sister-in-law, Aiko (Yutaka) Kida.

He was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Tom's family would like to express sincere gratitude to Oscar and Grace Kodama, Margie Caparas, and Diane and Chuck Dahlby for their many acts of kindness, support, care, concern and especially their friendship with Tom. A graveside memorial service was held Feb. 13 at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICE

SHIZU FUJII OYAMA

Shizu Fujii Oyama passed away Jan. 31 at San Francisco Towers. For many years she and her husband Clem were valued members of the Japanese American community in San Francisco, recognized for their philanthropy and community service. A longtime resident at the Towers, Shizu was well-loved by all who knew her for her gentleness, patience, helpfulness, and quiet kindness.

Shizu was born Jan. 1, 1911, in Stockton, Calif., and subsequently lived in South Pasadena. She was the second of five children; her parents immigrated from Japan in the early 1900s. A Registered Pediatric Nurse, she had trained at the Methodist Hospital of Los Angeles. In 1937 she married George (Clem) Oyama, and they had a daughter, Patricia, in 1939. Another girl, Susan, was born at the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in Wyoming, to which the Oyamases were moved when they, along with nearly 120,000 other Japanese Americans, were evacuated during World War II.

Clem's business had been lost with the relocation. Rather than returning to the West Coast after the war, the Oyamases lived for several years in Denver, Colo., where their third child, George Jr., was born, and where Clem opened a grocery store.

In 1948 the Oyamases moved to San Francisco; there they raised their children until moving to Tokyo a decade later. In Japan Shizu learned traditional Japanese crafts, including flower arrangement and wood carving. In the mid-1970s, Clem retired and the couple returned to San Francisco, where they lived for the rest of their lives, enjoying boating, spending time with new and old friends, and traveling. In later years Shizu's volunteer work teaching knitting with Kimochi Home meant a great deal to her.

Over the years, Shizu and Clem received numerous awards and commendations for their community activities, including one in 1987 for philanthropy and volunteerism from the State Senate Rules Committee and the Asian Foundation for Community Development. Most recently, on May 5, 2000, the Oyamases were presented with the Kimochi Spirit award for personal philanthropy. They also enthusiastically supported the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

The couple moved to San Francisco Towers in late 1999. Shizu lost her husband in 2003; she is survived by her brother Laurence Fujii; her children, Pat, Susan, and George; numerous grandchildren and one great-grandchild. At Shizu's request there will be no service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Kimochi Inc. at 1715 Buchanan St., San Francisco, CA 94115, or to Hospice by the Bay, 1902 Van Ness, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109.

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All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujii, Mary Mutsuko, 85, Stockton, Feb. 5; Stockton JACler; survived by daughters, Sumi (Jerry) Ueda and Emi Fujii; 2 gc.; and brother, Mitsuo Sakai.

Fukuchi, Shizue, 84, Downey, Jan. 30; survived by husband, Ken; brother, Iwao Nakatsuka; and sister-in-law, June Dorcy.

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

Funio, Jack Yoshikazu, 81, Monterey Park, Feb. 7; survived by wife, Sumiko; daughter, Leslie; brother, Masuo (Fumie); and sisters-in-law, Tomiko Domoto, Chikaye Hashimoto and Masami Azeka.

Haraguchi, Kenji "Ken," 60, Taylorsville, Utah, Jan. 17; U.S. Army veteran; survived by brother, Henry.

Hayashi, Helen Eiko, Gardena, Feb. 4; survived by daughters, Karen (Jay) Fisk and Jo Ann (Nelson) Inafuku; son, Michael; son-in-law, Colin Wheatley; 6 gc.; 12 ggc.; brothers, Perry, Roger (Betty) and Ken (Iris); sisters, Fumiko Tadori, Lillian Matsushima and Amy Enomoto; and sisters-in-law, Ruby Watanabe and Louise (Ed) Roman.

Hirai, Bobby Isao, 85, Los Angeles, Jan. 30; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by brothers, Charley (Martha), Jack (Kunie) and Yoshi (Kiyomi).

Kanegai, Toy, 90, West Los Angeles, Feb. 4; WLA JACler; survived by daughter, Elaine (Michael) Lips; sons, Bruce (Nancy) and Brian (Sue); and 1 gc.

Karasawa, Kimie Susie, 83, Long Beach, Jan. 29; survived by sons, David, Ron (Kimi) and Brian (Jani); 3 gc.; and sister, Chiyo Kumagai.

Kazunaga, Betty Ayako, 76, Monterey Park, Feb. 6; survived by husband, Sakai; daughter, Karen Samuelson; sons, Ronald and Jon; 1 gc.; and sisters, Alice Watanabe and Yoko (Roland) Miyagishima.

Koshiyama, Mitsuru "Mits," 84, San Jose, Feb. 6; WWII draft resister; survived by wife, Mizue.

Inouye, Helen Kimiye, 90, Fairfield, Jan. 21; survived by son, James (Joyce); daughter, Mari (Henry) Fujii; 2 gc.; brother, Ben Tsutsumi; and sister, May Kawakami.

Maeyama, Koji, 81, Panorama City, Jan. 23; survived by step-children, Wesley (Susan), Laura and Danny Yamaoka; brothers, George (Helen) and Bert (Grace); sisters, Ellen Chang, Florence (James) Suzuki, Mildred Imada, Amy (Mel)

Habu and Grace (Albert) Taguchi; mother-in-law, Setsuko Mukai; and sisters-in-law, Shigeko (Harold) Muraoka and Emmy (Tad) Yamaoka.

Matsumura, Fred Mitsuharu, 85, Gardena, Jan. 31; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Beatrice; son, Dane (Della); daughter-in-law, Diana Matsumura; 2 gc.; sisters, Margaret (Jim) Uemura and Mary Koga; brother, Chuck (Merrilyn); brother-in-law, Walter (Jean) Ogata; and sister-in-law, Elsie (Robert) Sakai.

Matsuo, Chiyo, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 28; survived by daughters, Donna (Paul) Dote and Elizabeth Yoshimura; sons, Michael (Dora) and Ernie (Pat); 9 gc.; 11 ggc.; brother, Yoichi (Yuki) Hara; and sister, Yuki (Tak) Hiyama.

Minamide, Takako, 83, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; survived by daughters, Christine (Alan) Shimizu and Shelby (Mark) Young; son, John (Joan); 8 gc.; and sisters, Kimiko Tazoi and Cassie (Bob) Endo.

Morozumi, John, M.D., 84, Stockton, Jan. 25; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Elaine; sons, Pius, John and Robert; daughters, Patricia Martzen, Paula Wakamiya, Michele and



MOROZUMI

Juliana Morozumi; 15 gc.; 1 ggc.; and brother, Bill.

Muraoka, Carl Hikaru, 89, Chicago, Jan. 19; survived by wife, Miyoko; son, Ronald (Charlene); daughter, Sharon; 3 gc.; 8 ggc.; and brother, Tadashi (Grace).

Nakawatase, Fred Hideshi, 85, Glendale, Jan. 31; survived by wife, Betty; sons, Ronald and Gerald (Rose); daughters, Vicki (Mike) Shimaji and Pam Nanson; 8 gc.; brothers, Roy (Terry) and Joe (Kaz); and sisters, Sachi Nakawatase and Ruby (Aki) Kiyohara.

Namba, Isao Ken, 90, Oak Ridge, Tenn., Jan. 29; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughter, Sharon (Allan) Steelman; 3 gc.; 6 ggc.; brother, Mark; and sisters, Mae Unno, Naomi Yagi and Lilly Ogawa.

Okamoto, Kenji, 83, Tampa, Fla., Jan. 30; Korean War veteran; survived by sons, Karl Kienegger, Eric and Kurt; daughters, Julie Spencer, Cheryl Piscioti and Peggy Paddock; 4 gc.; and brother Tadashi.

Okamura, Herbert Asao, 75, Torrance, Jan. 28; survived by wife, Millie; sons, Mark (Terrie) and Darin; daughter, Karin (Garrick) Sato; 2 gc.; and brothers, George and Thomas (Kazuko) Okamura.

Okazaki, Victor, 66, Milwaukie,

Ore., Feb. 2; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Bernice; brother, Richard; and sister, Ruby Ishida.

Okuda, Yemiko, 88, Hawthorne, Jan. 25; survived by daughter, Pat Watanabe; son, Jerry (Jackie); and 5 gc.

Oseto, Masao, 92, Honolulu, Haw., Jan. 18; survived by son, Dennis; daughter, Elaine Ishikawa; 2 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Sakasegawa, Eugene Isao, 85, Los Angeles, Feb. 5; survived by wife, Tomiko; sons, Michael (Tammy) and Patrick (Janis); and 4 gc.

Tachibana, Yoshinobu, 87, Gardena, Feb. 12; survived by wife, Elsie; daughters, Judy (Steve) Gibson and Sharon (Steve) Awakuni; son, Glenn (Gladys); 2 gc.; and sisters, Fumi (Buddy) Kasai and Miyo (Ted) Inouye.

Takemoto, Helen Misao, 85, Gardena, Jan. 28; survived by sons, Roger (Irene), Alan (Susanne) and Scott (Eugenia); and 4 gc.

Taniguchi, Takehiko, 95, Lakewood, Jan. 22; survived by son, Yoshihiko (Megumi); daughters, Yumiko (Masakiyo) Watanabe and Shoko (Haruyasu) Yawata; 3 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Tokiwa, Toshio "Duke," 85, Palo Alto, Jan. 21; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Mae; sons, Ronald and Bruce; daughters, Bonnie (Tom) Savage and Connie (Pete) Decena; 4 gc.; and sister, Sue Tokushige.

Tsujii, Isao "Sun," 82, Auburn, Wash., Jan. 19; U.S. Air Force veteran; survived by wife, Daisy; daughter, Kim (Derek) Fukuda; son, Ira (Lisa); 2 gc.; brother, Frank; and sister, Mary Osaki.

Wada, Tazuko, 91, Los Angeles, Jan. 14; survived by brother, Thomas; and sisters-in-law, Ayako and Teiko Wada.

Wong, Beatrice Michiko, 74, Monterey Park, Jan. 30; survived by husband, Theodore; daughters, Michelle (Courtney) Ukita and Suzanne (Joey) Matsuzawa; son, James; 2 gc.; brother, Saku (Kyoko) Nakamura; and sisters, Kay Kodani, Nora Imamura, Betsy (Harold) Kubo, Sarah Okada, Mabel (Hideo) Watanabe, Eileen Nakamura and Lorraine (Kenji) Yogi.

Yamada, Akira Douglas, 90, Dinuba, Feb. 10; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Grace; daughters, Clara Clark and Marjorie Davis; sons, Dennis and Arthur; 6 gc.; 7 ggc.; brothers, Roy and Harry; and sisters, Yo Kouno and Sue Tanaka.

Yanaga, Katsumi, 63, Montebello, Feb. 3; survived by wife, Tsuruye; sons, Rodney (Kumiko) and Ritchie; daughter, Cindy Yanaga; 1 gc.; mother, Toshie; sister, Kayoko (David) Endow; sisters-in-law, Yoshiko Naruko, Mariko Michiuye, Yoko Oishi and Sumiko (Akio) Kono; and brothers-in-law, Kazuo (Akio) Michiuye and Tom Matsumoto. ■



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