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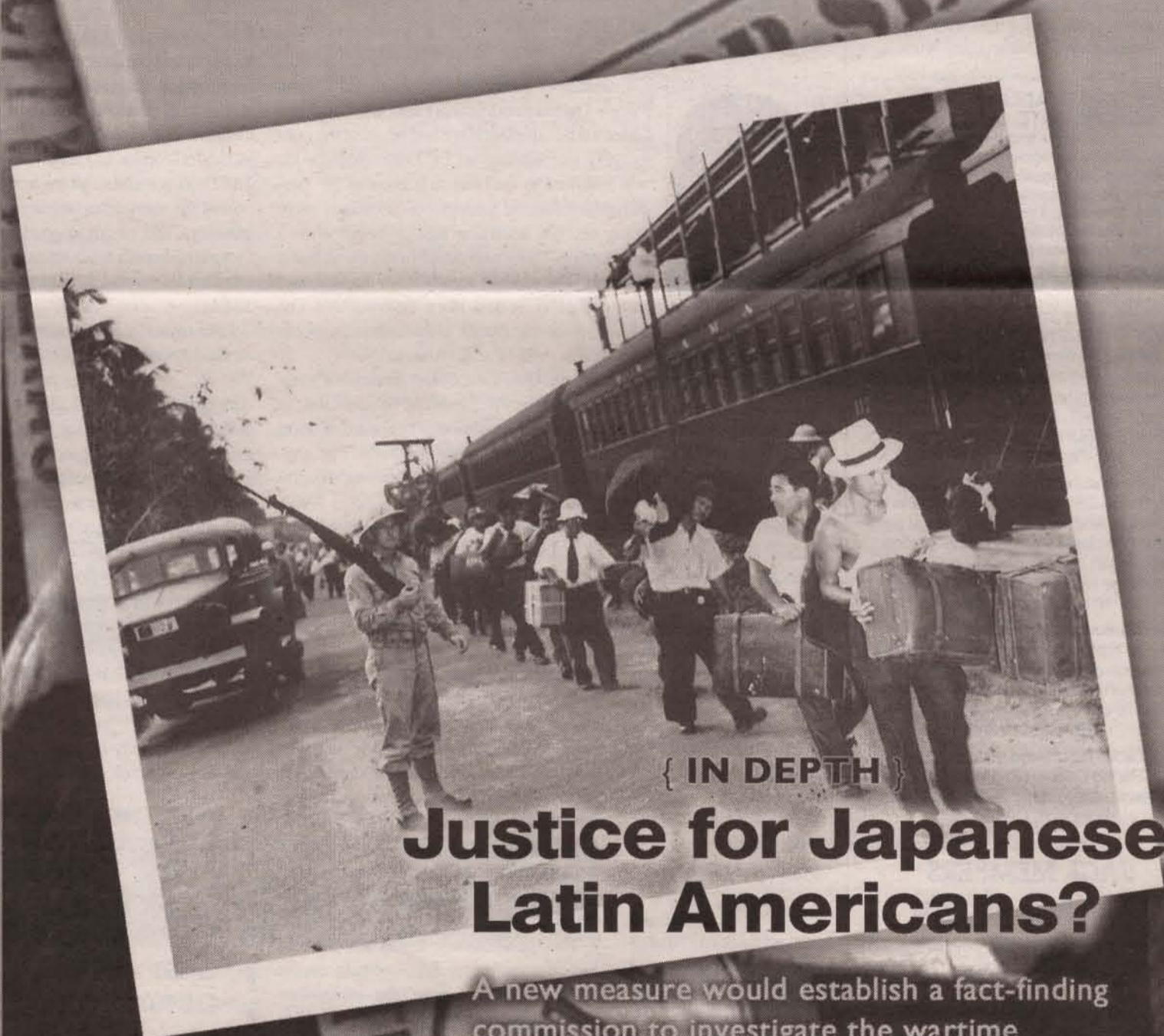
Sonoma County JACL speakers tell Nisei stories.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

80 YEARS



{ IN DEPTH }

Justice for Japanese Latin Americans?

A new measure would establish a fact-finding commission to investigate the wartime violations committed by the U.S.

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Letter to the Editor



Appalled

I was appalled and disappointed when I read in the National Newsbytes section of the Mar. 20 to Apr. 2 Pacific Citizen the headline: "McCain, Honda Face Off on Twitter About San Jose Japanese Museum." The part I was appalled about was the line: "Honda

tweeted right back to McCain in Twitter shorthand: 'Jap. Museum boost ...'"

After all these years that JACL has strove to get "Jap" out of written and spoken communications, we have none other than our esteemed Congressman using it. Why couldn't he have chosen to use JPN or JP or just written it out??

Ironically, in the same issue under the headline: "VA Hospital Permanently Replaces WWII Display" it says "JAs believed the 'Japs Surrender' headline dishonored the heroic legacy of the 442nd/100th/MIS."

I am disappointed that someone of Honda's stature could not have put more thought in his choice of words.

KIYOSHI KATSUMOTO
El Cerrito, Calif.

SPRING CAMPAIGN

A Sense of Identity and Purpose

By JUSTINE KONDO



I remember being especially grateful for the Pacific Citizen a couple years ago, when my professor asked our class if we had heard of the controversy surrounding 1st Lt. Ehren Watada. He was horrified to find that in a class of 30 presumably informed youngsters, no hands were going up, but heaved a sigh of relief when I raised mine. There's no doubt in my mind that if it weren't for reading the P.C., my hand would have stayed on the desk like everyone else's. The

P.C. has consistently covered issues that matter to its readers as socially-conscious Americans as well as Asian Pacific Americans.

As a member of the JACL and an APA, the P.C. has given me a sense of identity and of purpose. Without the P.C., I would have no link to other Japanese Americans nationally; I would only be aware of local JACL chapter and district activities, and I would not know that anti-Asian sentiment is still a serious issue in the U.S., a frightening thought.

As a newspaper that we all receive, the P.C. connects us as JACL members across the country in ways that other components of the JACL cannot. By uniting us, the P.C. aids the JACL in remaining a truly national, active organization. It is the tool we use to stay informed as JACL members, and is what we rely on as our chief source of APA news. The P.C. is the voice of the JACL, and it gives authority and direction to our mission.

What other newspaper does such a thorough job in covering APA news while retaining its JA core? Where else would we read about the fight to preserve JA landmarks around the country, or how national issues affect us specifically as APAs? The P.C. also serves as a showcase for emerging APA artists and professionals, showing the nation that APAs are a growing, successful community, with valuable members to contribute to society.

This past January, I was fortunate to meet the staff of the P.C., and gain a basic understanding of how the newspaper operates. Having arrived at the P.C. office in Little Tokyo, Calif., knowing nothing about what goes on behind the scenes, I left with a deep appreciation and respect for the small group of individuals that produce this consistently top-notch paper every two weeks.

I had known that the P.C. staff is made up of only four members, but when I learned of all the hard work it takes to make a newspaper, I was amazed by the efforts of the P.C. staff, who have proven themselves to be capable, talented, innovative and focused; they really know what they're doing. After meeting the P.C. team, I can honestly say that I

have witnessed the human embodiment of the APA spirit. Despite all that is asked of them, they press on in determination, never letting difficulties get in the way of their mission.

The high level of commitment the P.C. staff has to their paper has caused me to seriously re-evaluate my perception of it. My experience at the P.C. office in Little Tokyo reinforced my faith and pride in the JACL; as a member of its readership, I am convinced that the P.C. is one of the most deserving areas of our money, and that our extra contributions will be put to good use by a responsible team of people. As those who benefit from reading the P.C. in so many ways, we should do our best to support it, regardless of whether or not we belong to the JACL.

Like myself a few months ago, many people are unaware of what a vital component donations are as a form of financial support to the P.C. The P.C. relies heavily on both large and small contributions from donors to sustain it and allow it to become a better paper. These contributions can help pay for basic necessities like the hiring of new part-time staff, better equipment, and Web site development.

In this unfriendly economic climate, the P.C. will experience tough blows along with the rest of us; in addition to a substantial budget cut by national JACL, getting advertising business will also be a real struggle. That is where we come in as readers of the P.C. We have the power to fill in the gap by donating what we can to support the P.C. In these crucial times, it is necessary that we show our loyalty to the paper that has served us faithfully for the last 80 years. Let's help it reach 100!

Justine Kondo is the PNW district representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

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Japanese Latin Americans Bring Their 'Suppressed' Stories to the Hill



PHOTO: DENSHO



'There were massive civil and human rights violations that spanned two continents before, during and after the war.'

— Grace Shimizu, (above, left) with former Japanese Peruvian internee Libia Hideko Maoki Yamamoto at the March 19 Congressional hearing.

During WWII, almost 2,500 Japanese Latin Americans were interned by the U.S. including Art Shibayama's family (left) pictured here in 1939 in their Lima, Peru home.

If signed into law, H.R. 42 would establish a fact-finding commission to investigate the wartime violations committed by the U.S. government against JLAs during WWII. JACL works to push the bill forward.

By **LESLIE K. TAMURA**
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

As the Japanese American community fought for Redress, several Japanese Peruvians testified at the 1982 commission hearings about the federal government's mistreatment of Japanese Latin Americans during World War II. Despite their participation in the JA Redress Movement, JLAs did not receive any apologies or compensation from the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which only provided for those interned due to Executive Order 9066.

Since then, there has been no official congressional inquiry about the wartime actions taken by the federal government with regard to JLAs.

They finally had their say on March 19, however, when the Immigration Subcommittee of the House Judiciary heard testimonies about the relocation, internment and deportation of almost 2,500 Japanese Latin Americans by the United States during WWII.

Former Japanese Peruvian internee, Libia Hideko Maoki Yamamoto, Daniel Masterson, associate professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy and Grace Shimizu, director of Japanese Peruvian Oral History, testified in the first panel of the hearing. JACL Mineta Fellow Crystal Xu attended the hearing.

"This was a time for us to share an overview of what happened to our families," said Shimizu who is also the daughter of a former Japanese Peruvian internee and coordinator for the Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans.

Supporting the pending legislation, H.R. 42, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, Shimizu said the hearing provided representatives with a better understanding of the "suppressed" JLA story in the United States.

"There were massive civil and human rights violations that spanned two continents before, during and after the war," said Shimizu, whose father had lived in Peru for 20 years before the U.S. government uprooted him and his family from their home, forcing them into an internment camp in Crystal City, Texas. He never returned to Peru.

If signed into law, H.R. 42 would establish a fact-finding commission to investigate the wartime violations committed by the U.S. government against JLAs during the second World War. The nine-member commission would make recommendations to Congress for any appropriate remedies toward redress

based on its findings.

"This is an issue of injustice," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "It's basic to the mission and values of the JACL to wholeheartedly support the creation of a commission."

"In establishing a commission," said Congressman Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., who introduced the bill in January 2009, "we are saying, let the facts fall where they may, and let the facts determine what comes next."

Struggling Economy May Hinder Action

Although the bipartisan bill has already passed the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and has gained support from 11 cosponsors in the House, the struggling domestic economy has some worried about whether H.R. 42 will pass.

With "study bills" such as H.R. 42, which is meant to research and make recommendations, the strength of the economy is always a concern, according to Shimizu.

Shimizu understands that "these are particularly difficult times," but if H.R. 42 does not pass, and the commission is not established, soon there won't be anyone to give testimony on the JLA experience.

"We don't want this chapter of our history to be lost," she said. "It's very important that we pass this bill as soon as possible."

Commission members, who are not federal employees, will receive compensation for duties related to the commission. Those who are federal employees will not receive additional benefits from their commission work. The amount of funding necessary to execute H.R. 42 will be appropriated and remain available without fiscal year limitation until it is expended.

This commission would extend the 1982 study of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, concentrating on the JLA internees.

"I think it will be money well spent," Shimizu added, "and at least we'll know how this money will be spent."

When asked about how the current state of the economy would affect the legislation, Becerra said, "I would think that regardless of the date, the time or the circumstances in America, we would always want to visit an issue like this, to make sure that we provide clarity and focus on how America deals with these kinds of issues."

The Suppressed History of Japanese Latin Americans

Most American history textbooks recognize the internment of more than 110,000 JAs during WWII.

But what is often left out is that the federal government financed and coordinated the relocation of almost 2,500 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry from 13 Latin American countries to internment camps throughout the United

States, from December 1941 and February 1948.

During this time, more than 800 JLAs were included in two prisoner of war exchanges between the U.S. and Japan. Many of those deported to Japan were second or third generation Latin Americans and lacked any familial or linguistic ties to their ancestral country. Remaining JLAs remained in the camps without due process, through the end of the war.

"I'm very interested in what the congressional commission will determine," Shimizu added. "A lot has been learned from that period that is useful for present day ... it'll be good to see how our elected officials will respond."

A 'Windy Road' to Redress

Although many JLAs who remained in the U.S. secured permanent residency status and/or became U.S. citizens, they did not benefit from the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized and compensated JAs detained in internment camps due to Executive Order 9066. Since then, JLAs have sought their own redress.

With the class-action lawsuit, *Mochizuki et al. v. United States*, the government offered a letter of regret and \$5,000 compensation per person, instead of the \$20,000 offered to interned JAs. About 800 JLAs accepted the settlement, while others declined it or were never aware of it.

"Our road to redress has been windy," Shimizu said. "We tried the administrative route, litigation ... and now we have the legislative route."

The purpose of H.R. 42 is to take a formal step forward in providing redress for JLAs who were removed from their homes and interned in the U.S. during WWII in the name of national security.

"[The JLA story] is an important chapter in our history," Becerra said, "and our books should reflect correctly the history of this country."

"We are a nation that does very well in healing wounds, even those that we have self-inflicted upon our own people," Becerra added. "And [HR 42] is a great way for us to finally be able to close a chapter on a very significant era in American history."

The findings of the commission will reveal more about the JLA experience in the U.S. during WWII as well as how U.S. public policy and actions impacted this community.

"By understanding our history," Shimizu said, "hopefully we'll learn where there have been mistakes or abuses so that they cannot be repeated in the future."

Many JLAs have already passed away, which makes it important to work rapidly to let the public know about this untold story, said Mori. ■

On the Web:

www.campaignforjusticejla.org

www.enemyalienfiles.org

www.gaic.org

2010 Census: New Challenges Arise for Asian Pacific Americans



Census officials will use high tech equipment to count people in 2010. APAs say it's not enough.

It pays to get counted — literally. But APA leaders say the census' history of undercounting minorities needs to stop. Step one: more community involvement.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

What seems like a simple question — How many Asian Pacific Americans are living in the United States? — has become surprisingly complex as the 2010 Census approaches.

APAs and other minorities have historically been undercounted in the once-a-decade survey. Advocacy groups are now launching their traditional efforts to ensure an accurate count, but a variety of factors have created new problems for the painting of America's official portrait.

"We each have a critical role to play to make sure that our communities are counted," said Rep. Mike Honda, a member of the Commerce, Science, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the Census Bureau.

There's reason to worry — the census has historically undercounted minorities. In 1990, the census missed an estimated 8 million people, mostly immigrants and urban minorities, advocacy groups say, and it counted about 4 million whites twice, mostly college students and people who owned two homes.

Many APA leaders say more outreach is needed in order to avoid the same problems in 2010.

Activists and government officials say fears over immigration enforcement and government snooping are making people more reluctant to share their information. The economic meltdown and Bush administration budget cuts have slowed funding for the census. Millions of laid-off renters and foreclosed homeowners are on the move.

There are more immigrants here, speaking more languages, than ever before. Some of those immigrants may not know what a census is, or may come from countries where such information is used against rather than for the people.

"This country is just much more complex now, on many different levels," said Terry Ao, director of census and voting programs for the

Asian American Justice Center.

The Constitution mandates that every 10 years, each person living in the country — regardless of citizenship or immigration status — must be counted.

The census results are used to draw congressional districts and allocate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding for schools, roads and other services.

The data also trickles down to state and local governments for determining everything from the size of hospitals to the placement of bus stops.

On a more emotional level, the census is the measure of our nation, a literal definition of what we are. That can touch nerves left raw by the simmering immigration debate.

Numbers certainly do mean power. New Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, whose department oversees the census, has expressed a commitment to making sure it is carried out efficiently and accurately.

"The census only happens once every 10 years and we need to get it right — no exceptions, no excuses," said Locke at his Senate confirmation hearing.

The Census Bureau seems receptive to these efforts. For the first time, it will mail bilingual forms to 13 million homes this year. It has a more accurate database of addresses and demographic information thanks to the annual American Community Survey, which began in 2001. It is soliciting employees who can speak languages other than English.

Stephen Buckner, a Census Bureau spokesman, said it would be working with minority groups to "hire indigenously."

"When somebody knocks on your door and you answer it, you're almost going to see a reflection of yourself," he said.

Buckner said that when 2010 budgets are approved, the Census Bureau expects to spend more on advertising. The total 2010 census budget is expected to be between \$14 billion and 15 billion, the most ever, he said.

To ensure an accurate count, census officials said they were devoting \$250 million from \$1 billion in stimulus money for stepped up canvassing outreach and to boost the bureau's advertising budget by \$80 million, of which \$26 million would target the fast-growing Asian and Hispanic populations in television,

radio and online spots.

But there have been persistent questions about whether the federal government is prepared to mobilize its largest peacetime operation. The official kickoff date is April 1, 2010.

The census director position is currently filled on an interim basis; the process has been held up by delays in confirming a commerce secretary — Locke was President Barack Obama's third nominee. Technological snafus have plagued plans to gather data by handheld and wireless devices.

The federal Government Accountability Office recently said the 2010 Census is in "serious trouble"; on March 6 the GAO reported that the census was still behind schedule, and that the bureau had no clear plan to improve the counting of minorities.

And minority groups still claim that spending levels for outreach are currently below 2000 levels.

Still, Ao said, "we definitely run the risk of having, possibly, a more inaccurate census" than 2000.

"People don't understand that you can't make up for not giving them the money they need at a certain time," she said. "If you triple the amount a month late, they can't do anything with that. Timing really does matter."

The distribution of federal funds to the various states, the flow of business activity, and our political future depend on an accurate count by people who have cultural sensitivity. JACL members can play a critical role in an accurate count.'

— Floyd Mori,
JACL national director

The impact of undercounting can be significant. For example, about 838,000 Californians went uncounted in 1990, which cost the state \$223 million in Medicaid and other federal programs, according to the GAO.

"The decennial count also affects bread and butter issues in our communities," said Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott in a March 23 national census teleconference hosted by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

"Each person left uncounted costs a local jurisdiction \$24,000 of federal funding over a course of 10 years."

APA leaders emphasize the importance of non-profit organizations and ethnic media. The JACL is working with the Leadership Conference on Civil Right to spread awareness on the upcoming census.

"Members of the JACL should be involved in the 2010 Census and step up to be counted," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "The distribution of federal funds to the various states, the flow of business activity, and our political future depend on an accurate count by people who have cultural sensitivity. JACL members can play a critical role in an accurate count." ■

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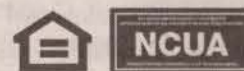
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Battle for Marriage Equality Crosses Many State Borders

When one state's same-sex marriage measure fails, others draw closer to a shaky reality.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

In the fight for marriage equality, it's two steps forward and one step back.

While Californians continue to wait for the state Supreme Court's decision on Proposition 8, lawmakers in Hawaii have killed a measure to allow same-sex civil unions.

A March 25 effort to force a vote on same-sex civil unions fell three short of the nine required for a full Senate vote, essentially killing HB 444 even though a majority of senators claim they support such unions.

Asian Pacific American leaders have called the measure's failure disheartening. If passed, it would have undone a decade long wrong.

In 1998, nearly 70 percent of Hawaii voters approved a constitutional amendment granting the state Legislature the power to reserve marriage for couples of one man and one woman, which it then did.

"At that time, JACL Honolulu stood shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sister organizations to fight for fairness, equality, and justice," said Shawn L.M. Benton, president of the JACL Honolulu chapter.

In the current battle, the chapter, along with the Family Equality Coalition, continued their fight for marriage equality.

"HB 444 was the first step toward rectifying

the wrong that was done 10 years ago," he said. "However, JACL Honolulu was disheartened when the Senate voted against bringing HB 444 full vote and denied an opportunity to right the wrong done 10 years ago by creating a process where same-sex couples could be given the option, outside of marriage, of benefiting from the law's recognition of their commitment."

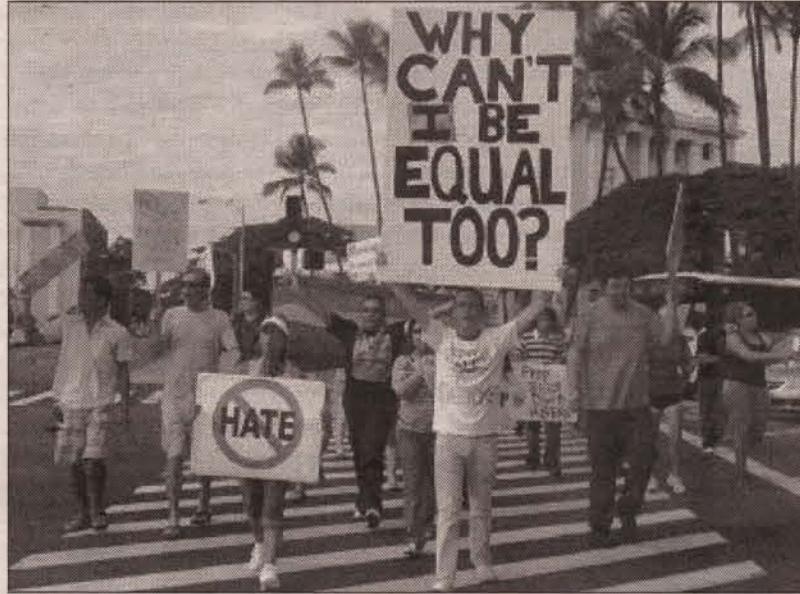
Battle lines have also been drawn in northeastern New England where lawmakers in three states are considering same-sex union laws.

Vermont's Republican Governor Jim Douglas has said that he will veto a gay-marriage proposal — which passed the Senate on a voice vote March 24 — if it passes the state Legislature.

In New Hampshire, the state House on March 26 voted narrowly to make it the third state to allow same-sex couples to marry. The bill, which passed the House 186-179, next goes to the Senate, where its future is uncertain.

And in Maine, a bill to legalize gay marriage has nearly 60 co-sponsors in the Legislature.

Although civil union laws grant many of the



Protestors in Hawaii make their feelings known.

"As racial minorities who have been told in the past that separate is equal, Asian Americans should be very fearful if the court decides to uphold Prop 8," said Karin Wang, vice president of programs of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "It means that the court may allow any minority group to have its fundamental rights eliminated by a simple popular vote."

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

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

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


"Proposition 8 seeks to limit the participation in society from a distinct group of people and JACL feels that this is wrong," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

The JACL has been a longtime supporter of marriage equality. In 1967, the organization was an *amici* in the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Loving v. Virginia*, the seminal case that

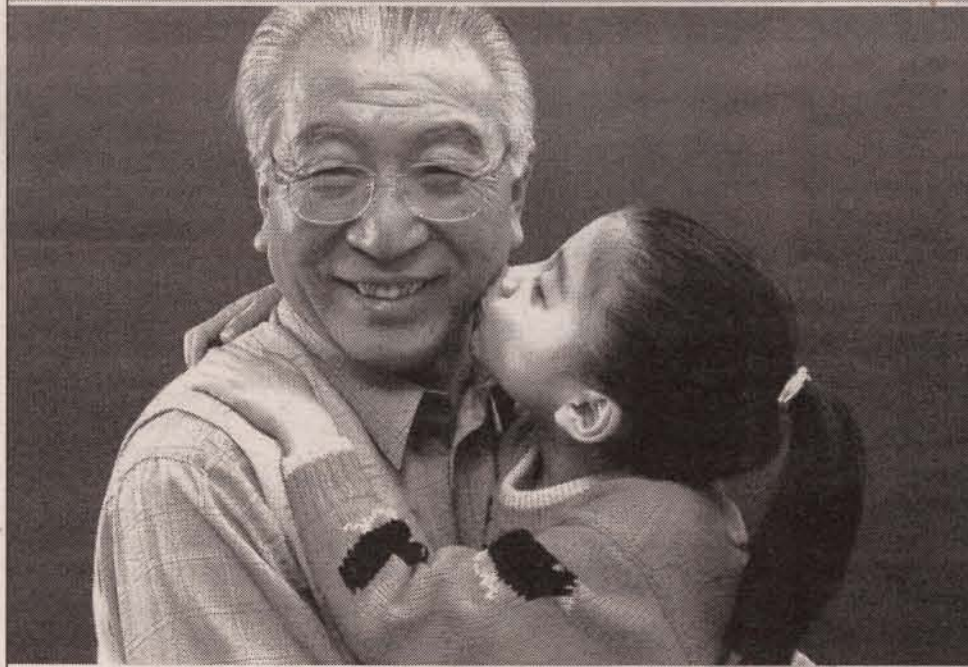
rights and responsibilities of marriage to same-sex couples, many gay rights advocates have argued they do not go far enough. California — a place where many activists call the forefront of the battle for marriage equality — also permits civil unions.

In November, Californians passed Proposition 8, a ballot measure that defined marriage as between a man and a woman. It overturned an earlier court decision that legalized same-sex marriage. APA activists say marriage equality is especially important to a community that has felt the sting of marriage discrimination in the past.

See MARRIAGE EQUALITY/Page 6




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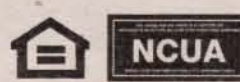
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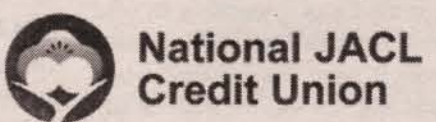
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Iowa Teen Takes on School's English Language Tests

Even with a history of straight A's in English, Lori Phanachone was forced to take English language assessment tests she called demeaning.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Lori Phanachone has a message for her high school: knowledge of a second language does not mean English language deficiency.

The 18-year-old from Storm Lake, Iowa, is taking a stand against English language assessment tests at her high school. The Laotian American was born in California to immigrant parents. She has a near perfect grade point average and has excelled academically in all subjects including English.

So when she was asked to take an English language assessment test for a second time, she refused calling it demeaning.

Phanachone did well the first time she took the test, said Khin Mai Aung, staff attorney for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). The second time she had to take the test, she protested by marking the same answer for every question.

Storm Lake school officials punished Phanachone with three days of in-school suspension for insubordination and said there would be a number of further consequences, including more suspension time.

"It's wrong, not just for me but for all minority students. The test is demeaning," said Phanachone to the *Sioux City Journal*.

School officials have said that even with her high academic achievements Phanachone needed to take an English language assessment test because she listed Lao as her first language when she registered for school.



'It's wrong, not just for me but for all minority students. The test is demeaning.'

Phanachone (pictured, left) to the *Sioux City Journal*.

"Someone told me I should have put English as my first language when I registered for school," said Phanachone in the same article. "But I refused. I will not deny who I am. And I will not disrespect my culture or my mother."

School officials are conflating knowledge of another language with a English language proficiency problem, said Aung, who is currently talking to Storm Lake school officials to remove the suspension from Phanachone's records and have her reclassified as English proficient. They also want a written statement saying that additional punishments will not be imposed.

And they want written documentation on why Lori was classified as

an English Language Learner (ELL).

"We want to clarify Storm Lake's procedures for assessing whether incoming students are ELLs and find out why she was classified as ELL when she has excelled academically with straight A's in English and was not previously an ELL," said Aung.

"There seems to be a major problem in Storm Lake's assessment pro-

cedures," she added. The real question is: was it misapplied in Phanachone's case or is there a larger systemic problem?

In areas like Iowa where there have been large growth in ethnic communities, some school districts don't have the resources to correctly assess the needs of English language learners and students' rights are not met.

Phanachone is doing okay, said Aung. "But she mentioned that [the incident] still feels like it's hanging over her."

"And at the end of the day, if [Storm Lake officials] say we've made a mistake and we're going to change our procedures, that's all we want." ■

States Take Up Marriage Equality Issue



Vermont Representatives take up the same-sex marriage issue.

(Continued from page 5)

struck down antimiscegenation laws in 17 states.

For now, it's a waiting game for the court's ruling on Proposition 8 and on similar same-sex rights measures across the U.S.

"I hope that the [California] Supreme Court remembers its own words from its May 2008 decision where it ruled that separate is not equal and that marriage under any

other name is not truly marriage," said Wang.

In Hawaii, JACL Honolulu is committed to continuing this fight for equal rights amongst all people, said Benton. ■

Across the Nation: Same-sex Legislation

COLORADO

The state Senate has given initial backing to a bill making it easier for gays and lesbians to leave property

to their partners. If passed, H.B. 1260 would apply to any two unmarried people, not just same-sex couples. They could file a designated beneficiary document with county clerks giving them rights such as making funeral arrangements and receiving death benefits in addition to automatically inheriting property.

GAINESVILLE, FL.

Voters rejected a charter amendment that would have removed the city's anti-discrimination protection for gay, LGBT residents. Charter Amendment 1 sought to strip away any equal rights protections for employment, housing, credit and public accommodations not included in the state's Civil Rights Law.

NEW YORK

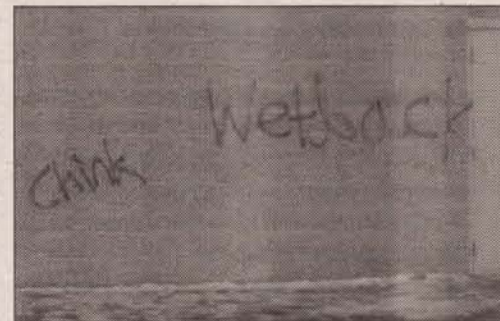
Married lesbian couples can now both be listed as parents as soon as their children are born in New York City, rather than having to go to court to be listed on their children's birth certificate. The city Board of Health voted unanimously March 24 to make the change.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

JACL NY/SC Successfully Combat Hate

ST. PAUL, MINN.—The JACL National Youth/Student Council's quick action has resulted in the removal of racist and anti-gay graffiti recently found spray-painted on the Great River School in St. Paul, Minn.



The words, "chink" and "wetback" were scrawled across a brick wall at the school. The JACL contacted a Great River school administrator, who said the school was deeply troubled by the graffiti and has had it removed.

Although saddened that a place of learning was targeted and defaced, the NY/SC was pleased that proper action was taken and that Great River students were counseled on the negative effects of hate messages.

The JACL NY/SC will be holding its biennial National Youth Conference at St. Paul's Macalester College from June 26-28.

Unpaid Wage Complaints on Rise for Immigrants

TRENTON, New Jersey—An undercover investigation by The Government Accountability Office found that the labor department's wage and hour division is doing a poor job of helping vulnerable immigrant workers in the United States.

The investigation revealed problems of wage theft is prevalent in low-wage, immigrant-heavy industries where many employers assume immigrant workers are unfamiliar with the U.S. legal system and unaware of their rights. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis has promised to step up enforcement at the agency.

APA Reps. Urge Obama to Reform Immigration

WASHINGTON—APA lawmakers, saying the current immigration system was tearing families apart, are calling on President Barack Obama to reform the system by the end of the year.

Rep. Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, wrote Obama a letter saying that immigration reform "must remain an early priority in your administration."

Honda said some two million APAs waiting to be reunited with families are languishing in the immigration service's backlog. He also said APAs are also concerned about the Department of Homeland Security's past treatment of detainees and lack of due process.

Non-Profits Tackle Development Projects



LOS ANGELES—In the early phases of its capitol campaign, Los Angeles' Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) has released renderings of the much anticipated Little Tokyo Recreational Center.

The renderings, created by the Ishou Keikaku

Corporation of Tokyo and coordinated through the Rec Center's Design Architect Hayahiko Takase, help potential donors and community members envision how the project will look once completed.

Additionally, LTSC recently landed a \$200,000 federal grant to help pay for the clean up of an old oil field and to build new residential lofts. The plan calls for LTSC to serve as the managing partner with the Pilipino Workers Center during construction of the project.

New Mall Reflects APA Community's Growth

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The vitality of the local APA community is demonstrated in a shopping center set to open on the 1000 block of South 13th Street. The 44,000-square-foot Asian-themed building will include a restaurant, video store, gift shop and coffee shop. Owners hope to draw Vietnamese Americans and other APAs from all over the state.

An estimated 11,892 people of Asian descent were living in Dauphin and Cumberland counties in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That figure represented an increase of 126 percent from the 5,265 counted in the 1990 census. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Koh, Pan Get Nods for Key Administration Posts

President Barack Obama has announced his intent to nominate **Harold Hongju Koh** as the State Department's new legal adviser and **Florence Pan** as an associate judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Koh, who is dean and international law professor at Yale Law School, previously served on the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Public International Law.

Pan is currently the deputy chief of the appellate section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. She is also an adjunct professor of criminal procedure at the Washington College of Law at American University.

Davis is Player of the Week



Adams State College senior **Courtney Davis** was recently selected as the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference/Rawlings Player of the Week.

The designated player and pitcher went 11 for 15 (.733) at the plate with four home runs and eight RBIs. She also pitched two complete games as Adams State broke the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs eight-game home win streak.

Last season, Davis earned All-American honors.

Four to be Honored as 'Women of the Year'

The Downtown JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California have selected four JA community leaders as the 2009 Women of the Year honorees.

Kay Kayoko Inose, Kiyoko Matsubayashi, Kitty Sankey and Katsuko Kay Yamada will be honored at a May 3 luncheon at Little Tokyo's Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens.

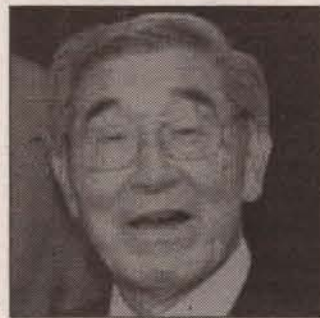
Inose was vice president of the Japanese American National Museum board of trustees. She is also a founding member of the president's council.

Matsubayashi, a teacher in Lawndale for 34 years, is active with the Los Angeles Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple where her husband was the rimbun.

Sankey is the Downtown JACL's former president and current vice president. The current third grade teacher is also a vice president of the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California.

Yamada's services included being a delegate for the Los Angeles Unified School District, an advisor for the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, and a cabinet member at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. Yamada's teaching skills has also extended to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where she worked as an educational consultant.

Yasumoto Steps Down from Health Benefits Board



After 44 years at the head of the JACL Health Benefits Administrators, **John Yasumoto** has announced his retirement.

Yasumoto has served the JACL on the chapter, district and national levels. In 1964 as NCWNP district governor, he established the health insurance program. Today health benefits administrators represent about 20 percent of JACL's membership.

Yasumoto will become the board administrator's chairman *emeritus*.

2010 Calendar to Benefit APA Health Care Venture

"Survivor: Cook Islands" winner **Yul Kwon**, actor **Daniel Ichikawa** and martial artist **Darren G. Domingo** are just a few of the APA celebrities to be featured in the 2010 Asian Pacific Male calendar.

Jeff Sheng, a lecturer and adjunct professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is the photographer.

This calendar seeks to increase the visibility of APA men and to benefit the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture of Los Angeles. ■

After Saberi, Two APA Journalists are Detained In North Korea

Saberi is still being held in a Tehran prison, while Ling and Lee are being held by North Korea. JACL calls for their release.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Two more Asian Pacific American journalists have been seized and detained while on the job in a foreign country.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's online media outlet Current TV, were arrested March 17 along the Chinese-North Korean border along with their Chinese guide.

They were reportedly detained by North Korea for ignoring warnings to stop shooting footage of the reclusive country.

Ling is the sister of Lisa Ling, a former co-host of the talk show "The View" and now a contributing correspondent for Explorer. She said the family had no comment.

The journalists were seeking to interview North Korean defectors hiding in China.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton "is engaged on this matter right now," spokesman Robert A. Wood told reporters on March 20. "There is a lot of diplomacy going on. There have been a number of contacts made."

The incident comes at a sensitive time on the Korean peninsula, with North Korea declaring its intention to fire a satellite-equipped rocket into space in early April.



EUNA LEE



LAURA LING



ROXANA SABERI

a launch some fear will be a cover for the test-fire of a long-range missile.

The North, locked in a standoff with regional powers over its nuclear program, ordered out five U.S. groups that distribute much-needed food aid in a country where the World Food Program says millions are going hungry.

The arrests of Ling and Lee come on the heels of another controversial imprisonment of an APA journalist.

Iranian authorities have been holding Roxana Saberi, 31, in a Tehran prison without charge for almost two months. She was arrested for working as a journalist after the government revoked her press credentials.

"Roxana doesn't feel very well," Saberi's father, Reza, told the Associated Press from his home in Fargo. "She's very upset, frustrated and disappointed."

The North Dakota House and Senate have approved a resolution to support efforts to gain the release of Saberi.

"In a contemporary global world, nobody should have to be subjected to the kind of incarceration and unknown treatment that Ms. Saberi is apparently having to endure," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori, in a statement calling for the journalist's release.

"The JACL urges the Iranian government to release Ms. Saberi and asks that she be given permission to return to her home country, the United States," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

The Asian American Journalists Association has called for the immediate release of Saberi, Ling and Lee.

Before her arrest, Ling had been sending updates about her trip to the online site Twitter. Her most recent entry on Twitter read: "Missing home." ■

Locke Becomes the First Chinese American U.S. Commerce Secretary

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Now with the Senate's approval, Gary Locke wants to rebuild, retool and reinvent.

On March 24, the former Washington governor was confirmed as the nation's 36th commerce secretary by unanimous consent. He is the first Chinese American to serve in this position.

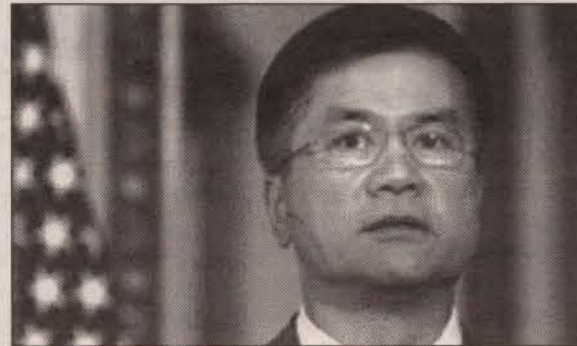
"I'm honored to take on this challenge and will work every day to make the Commerce Department an engine for improving our competitiveness, encouraging innovation and creating jobs," said Locke in a statement.

During his hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee, Locke emphasized job creation amid the economic crisis.

"My goal is simple: to carry out the president's plan for economic recovery by putting every part of the Department of Commerce single-mindedly to work on saving American jobs and creating family-wage jobs of the future," Locke said. "We must rebuild, retool and reinvent our national strategies for sustained economic success."

As new commerce secretary, Locke leads an agency with a broad portfolio that includes many aspects of international trade, oceans policy, the transition to digital television and expanding rural broadband Internet service. He will also oversee the 2010 census.

Many say he's up for the challenge. As the two-term governor of the nation's most trade-dependent state, Locke has vast experience promoting American products from airplanes and apples to operating systems, said Sen.



Patty Murray, D-Wash.

"Gov. Locke has brought that level of expertise and dedication to the taxpayers in every position he has held," she said.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., called Locke a "testament to the American dream."

Locke, the son of Chinese immigrants, grew up in public housing in Seattle and graduated from Yale University and Boston University School of Law. He served in the state legislature and as chief executive of King County, Wash.

In 1996, he was elected Washington's 21st governor, making him the first Chinese American governor in U.S. history and the first Asian Pacific American governor on the mainland.

His confirmation has drawn support from many APA leaders who endorsed Locke's nomination.

"Gary Locke has been a great example to the Asian Pacific American community," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori in a statement. ■



[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD Proving a Point

The other day, Floyd Mori and I were having a conversation when he mentioned that he had gotten a phone call from someone who said he had been going through his father's attic when he came across a Treasury check for \$20,000. A redress payment check.

We were wondering if the check would still be good, but then, how would anyone, even a family member, be able to cash it when the recipient had passed away?

"Can you imagine that?" Floyd said, more thinking aloud than really asking the question. "Forgetting a check for \$20,000."

I was reminded of those many discussions with Japanese Americans and with non-JA audiences about the compensation issue. It was an endless and complex issue back then which seemed to have no resolution because so many Nisei and even conservative Sansei opposed the very idea of demanding monetary compensation.

"A handout," they would say. "Japanese Americans don't ask for handouts," they argued. "It would dishonor us even more than the shame of being imprisoned did," they insisted.

The arguments from non-JAs who opposed redress were many and varied, both in terms of how they argued the issue and in terms of emotion. We're all familiar with those arguments now, but in those days a lot of Americans were just learning about the internment and many responded with anger, not at the government but at us.

From the early days of the Redress Movement and my involvement in it, I always felt the money was important. Words were cheap, I used to think, especially coming from politicians. After all, through the hard work of the Seattle redress group, Gerald Ford had issued his "American Promise" when he officially rescinded E.O. 9066. But that beautifully worded document hung on a wall at the JAACL headquarters and sadly went unnoticed for the most part.

When I look back on those early days when I faced non-JA audiences and talked about the internment and redress, I think about how the idea of our demanding monetary compensation so often aroused such anger.

Actually, when I think about it, it wasn't all that different when I faced Nisei audiences, only the anger came from a very different place. Besides, the anger was never threatening as it sometimes was from mainstream audiences.

My whole point was always that, for us, redress was not about money, no matter how much we insisted on compensation being a part of the package. It was always about the apology, about the recognition of the injustice done to JAs, and about the Constitution.

And it was always about honor.

It was about honor in such a deep and profound sense that I could only understand it by its Japanese word. My Japanese is lousy, as it is with most Sansei, but I did understand words like *giri* and *meiyo*, and *on*. And this was all about *meiyo*. It was about who we were as Japanese and as Americans, and it went to the heart of everything we were.

Back in those days, I had talked with (i.e. lobbied) some of the key commissioners on the CWRIC about the commission's recommendations, if and when the commission issued them. I had insisted that the monetary compensation figure be placed at the top of the list because it was the most important part of the recommendations in my view. Dan Inouye called me to his office one day and asked me what I thought was more important as first on the list, the apology or the money. Of course, I insisted the money because, I argued, an apology would be meaningless without the money.

We debated this until he told me to think about it and come back the next day. Amazing what 24-hours can do! At some point, it struck me; and by the time I went back to see Inouye, I knew what he was trying to tell me: If the Congress accepted the commission's report, it was virtually obliged to accept their recommendations, and if the apology were at the top of the list, it was acknowledging the wrong committed against JAs. That would make our argument for monetary compensation easier — well, maybe not easier, but it would certainly give logic to the argument for compensation.

I told Inouye that's why he was a U.S. senator and I wasn't!

I always knew the acknowledgement of the injustice was the most important thing for the Nisei. And as I spoke before audiences, I always told them that redress wasn't about the money but that for us, it was about honor. I made the same argument as I lobbied the various redress bills I was involved in with the Congress and at the hearings I testified at, and it was an easy argument for me because I really believed that.

It proved to be true as we began to receive redress checks in the community. It wasn't about the money but about the letter of apology.

A dusty old check in the attic kind of proves the point, doesn't it? ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JAACL national director.



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA One Millimeter

Last Sunday, I officially became a full-fledged volunteer for the Museum of Tolerance. Once the bearer of a laminated nametag held together by a safety pin that designated my trainee status, I have upgraded to a nicer nametag that I can pin onto my shirt with a small metal clip without poking holes into my shirt. Moreover, as an exhibition assistant and future tour guide, I can now aid the museum public with their questions and concerns.

For those of you who are not from Southern California, the Museum of Tolerance (MOT) is a multimedia museum in Los Angeles that examines racism, prejudice and genocide, with a strong emphasis on Holocaust history. Other exhibits in the museum focus on the civil rights movement, global human rights abuses, and hate crimes in America.

If you grew up in Southern California, it is highly likely you spent at least one middle school or high school field trip going to the MOT with your classmates. Open to the public since 1993, the museum annually receives 350,000 visitors, with one-third of those visitors being school-age children.

I went to the museum when I was in eighth grade. I never would have suspected that 10 years later, I would be spending nearly every Sunday taking a half-hour bus ride to the MOT just so I could spend several hours there.

It is difficult for me to explain to other people why I would enjoy spending my weekends immersing myself in such depressing subject matter. Learning about the Holocaust or watching a documentary on genocides is not exactly everyone's idea of a fun weekend afternoon.

After all, every Sunday I learn many new things about what is wrong with our world today. One week, I might be watching a video program on human trafficking and genital mutilation in Africa. Another week, I might learn more about the rise in suicide bombers, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

And yet, every Sunday, I also learn what humanity still has going for them. I learn about high school students who are rallying their communities to raise money and awareness for Darfur. I read about the brave families and individuals who risked their own lives to save Jewish people from being sent to death camps during World War II. I walk down hallways that celebrate the triumphs of political activism from ordinary citizens. Some Sundays, I am lucky to listen to an actual Holocaust survivor speak.

Last Sunday, I learned for the first time about a gay man who was once brutally beaten and left for dead by a white supremacist. The white supremacist eventually learned the error of his violent ideology and transformed himself to become a volunteer for the MOT. By pure happenstance, he happened to meet the same gay man he once hated enough to kill, who had also become a volunteer for the MOT. After many long years, they miraculously reconnected a second time — this time as friends.

The former white supremacist is now a regular staff at the museum. He gives a lecture on the first Sunday of every month on the dangers of hate.

I guess you can call this Sunday volunteering my Sunday church. Every

Sunday, I make my pilgrimage across Los Angeles to an institution of knowledge, courageous action and justice. I am surrounded by people of many ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. Every Sunday, my heart sinks low with terrible despair, and yet I am also filled with an improbable hope that sends tingles down my spine.

I believe the challenge for our generation is this: can we open our hearts wide enough to care for people we have never met, who are suffering terribly from injustice and are in desperate need of our help?

I like to think that with every terrible knowledge gained, my heart cracks open one millimeter wider. One tiny hole where selfishness and apathy can escape. One tiny hole for courage, compassion and hope to start creeping in. ■

Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles.





'Live a Simple Life and Act'

Sung Kang wants a chance to swing for a home run role in mainstream Hollywood.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Between auditions in Los Angeles and his Brentwood area restaurant, Sung Kang, the actor famous for making street racing cool is — pardon the pun — running on all cylinders.

On a temperate March day, Kang has just returned from an audition for a role as an FBI agent when his cell phone bleats. Pleasantries are exchanged. It's been a good day. Yes, he feels good about his audition. Then the biblical questions begin.

In "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," we last saw Kang's character Han trapped in a Mazda MX-7 that burst into flames.

"I died, didn't I?" he asks rhetorically.

And yet here we are three years later with the "Fast & Furious" and there's Kang in the opening scene driving backwards at over 100 miles per hour, flowing hair and all.

In Hollywood, magic is real, but he can thank director Justin Lin for resurrecting his character, of sorts. Lin was adamant about bringing Han back for the fourth installment, says Kang.

"There's so much love for this character."

The love became evident in an advance screening in Los Angeles when Kang's face flashed across the screen. In the darkened theater, the audience of mostly teenagers broke out in applause.

It's interesting, says Kang. Since "Tokyo Drift," his fan base has grown from just purely Asian Pacific Americans who have seen and loved him in independent films like "Better Luck Tomorrow" and "The Motel."

Last year while he was waiting at a crosswalk in Chicago, an African American woman likely in her 40s or 50s approached him to proclaim her love. She rubbed up against him and said, "I never saw an Asian guy before who was sexually appealing."

It's the reach of a mainstream studio film, he says. All of a sudden, she saw APA men as three-dimensional characters.

But what Hollywood can giveth, it can also taketh away.

Kang's chiseled features and appeal makes him the very definition of a leading man. Just ask Lin, who has never been shy about talking up the actor's talent. Since "Better Luck Tomorrow," the filmmaker has seemingly looked for every opportunity to create roles for Kang.

Despite this, "I'm not in the game," says Kang, who grew up in Gainesville, Georgia dreaming of becoming a baseball pitcher. If anything, his role in "Tokyo Drift" has given him a chance at the plate.

"I've been allowed to come in and try out."

But the roles he continues to be offered are still less than desirable. Ninety-eight percent of his career, he says, is still made up of playing stereotypical gangsters and bad guys.

"I don't like those kinds of roles for us."

Somewhere between "Better Luck Tomorrow" and "Tokyo Drift," Kang has cultivated an image of a cool-as-ice bad boy. It's dogged him at auditions where producers have directed him

'I'm not in the game ... I've been allowed to come in and try out.'



Sung Kang (right) has continued his collaboration with director Justin Lin since "Better Luck Tomorrow."

to be like Han.

Real life couldn't be further from the truth, says his "Better Luck Tomorrow" co-star Parry Shen.

"He's so funny and borderline dorky."

In "Ninja Assassin," the forthcoming Wachowski Brothers-produced martial arts film, Kang plays a coiffed character ironically named Hollywood. In this town, even with strong dra-

matic performances in "The Motel" and "Undoing" (which he also produced), he's always halfway to mainstream leading man status.

If you ask Shen, Kang is a leading man.

"Why isn't he getting the big, commercial leading man roles — well, that's always the \$64,000 question," said Shen in an e-mail. "I mean, what Asian American male ever do get to be the leading man in films (aside from being centered around martial arts or being made for under \$5 million?)"

Those leading man roles don't exist, says Kang.

He's met and worked with many progressive producers who have tried to push the boundaries, but at the end of the day, Hollywood is about business. Would middle America respond to an APA man as a sex symbol? Would he generate ad revenue? Maybe they should check in with that woman from Chicago.

"You can't take it personally," says Kang. "Things are changing, but you can't expect things to happen overnight."

Instead he's hedged his bet a little bit. Kang owns and operates "Saketini," his own Asian fusion restaurant. But unlike other celebrity-owned restaurants that just borrow a name, Kang says he works at his restaurant every day. When his accountant advised him to incorporate himself, Dishwasher Productions was born.

"The restaurant was a pragmatic move. You don't know if your next job could be your last job."

Still, he can look back on his career and marvel at how far he's come since 2002 when he was on the brink of walking away from show business altogether until Lin showed up with "Better Luck Tomorrow." Since then, he's grown more comfortable in his own skin.

Nowadays before turning 37, he has simple dreams.

"I just want to act. Live a simple life and act."

And for the record, he'd like to push the boundaries of his own acting abilities and play the nice guy, the gay guy, the politician or a red-blooded FBI agent.

He's asking for more than a chance a plate. He wants a good solid pitch and a chance to swing for a home run. ■

'Fast & Furious' opens nationwide April 3.

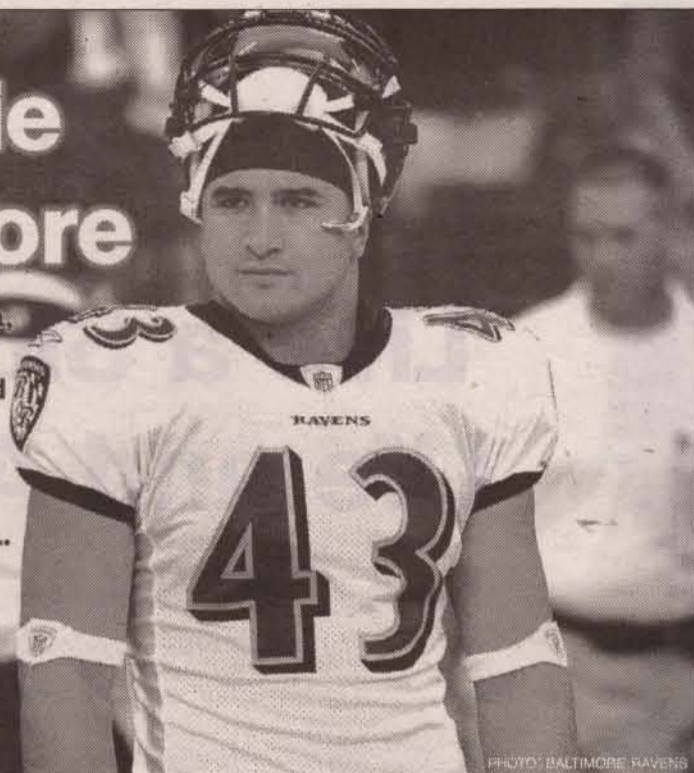
On the Web

www.sungkang.com
www.saketini.com

Rookie No More

Haruki Nakamura, the Baltimore Ravens' safety and special teams phenom, talks about his first season in the NFL.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor



In the waning hours of the day, Haruki Nakamura is enjoying a walk with Jordan and Oscar. We spoil them so, he says breathlessly. In the background, they bark in excitement.

That's sweet, a Raven walking his dogs.

The NFL player known to his family and friends simply as Ruki is trying to stretch out every moment of his vacation away from the field, especially since the clock is ticking down to the start of practices and workouts.

His voice is lined with the same mixture of dread and excitement you would expect from a kid talking about the first day of school. But at the same time, Ruki, 22, is anxious to shed his rookie label.

And yes, he's very aware of the unfortunate similarities between his nickname Ruki and "rookie," the sports world's equivalent to "greenhorn" and, even "gopher." Sometimes his teammates would shorten his name all the more and call out "Ruke," and he would instinctively yell back, "What did you just call me?"

"It's all in good fun," he says with a laugh.

In football, it's fun when you're good. Just a glimpse of the Baltimore Ravens' last season can tell you how much fun Ruki had. The team was just one win away from the Super Bowl — falling to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship game.

As a safety and a special teams member, Ruki was a part of the Ravens' touted defense, ranked second overall in the NFL. He backed up defensive star Ed Reed. And on any given game day, Ruki was seen running across the field like a heat-seeking missile.

Jerry Rosburg, the Ravens' special team coordinator, calls Ruki's contributions to the special teams unit "integral."

"He was the second most productive player in blocking and tackling behind Pro-Bowl Special Teams ace Brendon Ayanbadejo."

In his rookie season, Ruki earned the job of "personal protector" — essentially the quarterback of the punt team. "Very few rookies are entrusted with this duty in the NFL," said Rosburg.

It all started about a year ago at this time, when the Nakamura family was gathered at Ruki's Cincinnati apartment for a pivotal moment in his career — draft day. For the first few rounds, the University of Cincinnati football player only half-watched the television.

"By the fifth round, my heart started to break," said his mom Karen Nakamura about the tension that day. Becoming an NFL player is one of the toughest jobs out there.

Suddenly, his phone rang. *Oh hello, Mr. Newsome.* And just like that in the sixth round, Ruki became a Raven.

"I get goose bumps every time I think about it," said Karen.

Ruki's story doesn't start here. Ask any one of the Nakamuras and they'll tell you it starts with family.

Karen, who is Caucasian, met Ruki's dad Ryozo Nakamura through judo. He came to the U.S. from Japan to teach the martial art. At a judo clinic in 1968, their eyes locked. Ryozo was an eighth-degree black belt and Karen a fourth-degree black belt. In 1976 with a growing family, the couple opened the Nakamura Judo Institute in Elyria, Ohio where Ruki was born into the blended family.

Judo was a way of life for the Nakamura kids.

"It was like change their diapers, put them on the mat," said Karen, 60.

Ryozo, who also worked as a corrections officer with the Lorain County Sheriff's Department, always stressed tradition. On New Year's, he would make all the traditional Japanese fare for good luck and thank everyone for their hard work during the year.

The Nakamuras live by the code of *konjo* or fighting spirit.

"It's the attitude of fearlessly working towards anything that you set your mind to," said Ruki.

That's what Ryozo's life was all about until he succumbed to cancer in 1992. The next morning, five-year-old Ruki woke up, saw the empty bed in his parents' room and started to cry.

Life as a single mom was far from easy, but Karen, a mammographer, eventually closed the judo school and focused on raising four children. The family had one car, which she used to drive the kids to school, including Ruki who played football at St. Edwards High School over 20 miles away.

"I learned leadership through my mom," he said. "My mom expected a lot from us."

More than anything, the Nakamura kids — Makoto, 38; Yoshi, 30; Ruki, 22; and Kimiko, 20 — grew up tight-knit.

"We knew with dad gone, we all needed to do more," said Yoshi.

One day in the absence of a swimming pool, Karen filled some buckets up with water for the kids. Ruki, about five, sat in a bucket, got stuck and started to whimper. Like many childhood memories, it was caught on videotape and continues to live on in infamy at family functions.

"We watch that video almost every time we get together," said Yoshi. "Here's this tough football guy stuck in a bucket."

Growing up, Ruki was a natural in all sports. In baseball, he was a center fielder and a catcher. When his brother was in the sixth grade, Yoshi secretly signed him up for a community football youth league.

"I put the pads on and he said, 'You're going to be a football player,'" said Ruki.

Those were prophetic words.

But it's never been easy for Ruki. All his life, he's heard people say he wasn't big, fast or tall enough, said Yoshi.

"He's always thrived on people saying that he can't do things. It just gives him that drive to work harder."

It goes back to the *konjo* spirit and the memory of his dad.

In college, Ruki had the word tattooed across his back and "Nakamura" etched down his spine. And about 17 years after Ryozo's death, Ruki still carries the brown blanket his dad used to sleep with wherever he goes.

"He's the biggest mush bucket," said Karen.

But on the field, a switch flips and the mush bucket turns into a predator.

In a game against the Steelers, Ruki

knocked his college friend Andre Frazier out cold. He watched Frazier get carted off on a stretcher.

"I couldn't have felt worse. I felt so terrible."

The second time the two faced off, Frazier joked about the hit.

"I think I've been forgiven."

Ruki's come a long way from the judo mats and water buckets of Elyria. Knowing that he's one of the few Asian Pacific Americans in the NFL, he catches himself looking around the field for other APA faces.

After a game against the Atlanta Falcons, he made it a point to go over to the teams' Japanese wide receiver and return specialist and say 'hey.' He also gets fan mail from Japanese people.

"I really get a kick out of it. It's something special. It's a special opportunity."

Off the field, the mush bucket is a self-proclaimed mama's boy.

For Christmas, he bought Karen a new refrigerator and a flat screen television, so she could watch her son play. There's one small problem: Karen is a diehard Cleveland Browns fan.

Except if they're playing the Ravens of course, she laughs.

For his next season, Ruki is talking Super Bowl like Babe Ruth at the plate pointing to the outfield. He's also really looking forward to not being a rookie.

Last season, his underling status meant he had to buy Popeyes' fried chicken ("about \$100 worth") for the team whenever they went on the road. Next season, Ruki the veteran has plans for the new rookies.

"I'll be sure to put in a special order." ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Grassley: 'Of Course I Don't Want Anybody to Take Their Life'

JACL National Director Floyd Mori says Grassley's comments amplify stereotypes about Asian culture.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Sen. Charles E. Grassley wants people to know that he doesn't want corporate executives to commit suicide.

A day after the five-term Iowa Republican suggested that some corporate executives should "follow the Japanese example" and either "resign or go commit suicide," Grassley backtracked during a March 17 conference call with Iowa reporters.

Responding to criticism that his remarks were insensitive to Japanese Americans, the senator's office said he meant no offense.

"Of course I don't want anybody to take their life," he said. "That's not Chuck Grassley."

In that call, Grassley said he would like executives of failed businesses to make a more formal public apology as business leaders have previously done in Japan.

"What I'm expressing here obviously is not that I want people to commit suicide. That's not my notion," Grassley said. "But I do feel very strongly that we have not had statements of apology, statements of remorse, statements of contrition on the part of CEOs of manufacturing companies or banks or financial services or insurance companies that are asking for bailouts."

Grassley's initial comments came during a March 16 interview with Cedar Rapids, Iowa, radio station WMT. They echo remarks he has made in the past about corporate executives and public apologies, but went further in suggesting suicide.

"I suggest, you know, obviously, maybe they ought to be removed," Grassley said. "But I would suggest the first thing that would make me feel a little bit better toward them if they'd follow the Japanese example and come before the American people and take that deep bow and say, I'm sorry, and then either do one of two things: resign or go commit suicide."

The comments "reflect incorrectly on Asian culture," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori, about Grassley's reference to the feudal Japanese samurai warrior ethic of ritual suicide. "It just amplifies stereotypes Americans maintain about Asian culture."

Rep. Mike Honda agrees.

"While I share the senator's outrage with the AIG executives, stereotypes like these are harmful whether stated with animosity or not," Honda said. "I certainly hope that his intent was not to offend, but he should know better."

Grassley spokesman Casey Mills said the senator's point was to chastise those who accept tax dollars and spend them on travel and bonuses. ■

PACIFIC

Job Opening — Web Reporter

Are you a journalism or English major looking for a part-time job? Then the *Pacific Citizen* needs you! The P.C. is a national Asian American newspaper and is in need of a part-time Web reporter for its downtown Los Angeles office.

The focus of the job is writing news stories and features for the P.C. Web site. Other duties will include general editing and production duties, rewriting, research and taking photos. Assignments may include some evenings and weekends.

The ideal candidate has two years news reporting experience or 2 years of college journalism experience. Individuals with knowledge of Quark X-Press and Dreamweaver a plus. Knowledge and experience with the Japanese American and Asian American community is also preferred.

If you want to gain experience towards your career, then please send a cover letter, resume and two writing samples to: Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, Executive Editor, 250 E. First Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: editor@pacificcitizen.org.

APPLY TODAY WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG
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CITIZEN

Oregon House Committee Approves Bill for Nisei Vets Stamp

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The U.S. Postmaster General has yet to approve a commemorative stamp for the heroic Nisei soldiers of World War II, but that isn't stopping states like Oregon from pushing the issue forward.

An Oregon House Committee approved legislation on March 26 urging the U.S. Postmaster General to take up a proposal to issue a commemorative stamp in honor of the Nisei veterans. The issue will now go before the full Oregon House and Senate.

If the Oregon legislation is approved, the state will join Hawaii, California and Illinois which have already passed similar legislation. Washington state is currently looking at a similar bill.

"In my mind, the Nisei veterans may have won a battle over prejudice, but a commemorative stamp honoring these heroes would be a step toward winning the war over prejudice," said Jeff Selby, president of Portland JACL, in an interview with OregonLive.com.

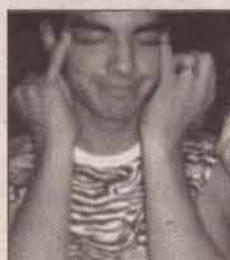
The 442nd Regiment/100th Battalion was the most



decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military service.

Although a proposal for a Nisei veterans commemorative stamp has been forwarded to the U.S. Postmaster General, a stamp has yet to be approved. Volunteers are looking to bring up the issue again with the U.S. postal service. ■

APA Group Demands Apology From a Jonas Brother



An Asian Pacific American group is demanding Joe Jonas apologize for a leaked photo allegedly of the teen idol making an anti-Asian gesture.

Blogs including the Huffington Post have identified 19-year-old Jonas, the youngest member of pop group the Jonas

Brothers, in the widely circulated online photo using his fingers to pull back the corners of his eyes.

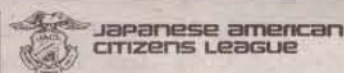
The Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) is calling on Jonas to issue an apology.

Jonas has not publicly commented on the photo.

The "slant-eyed" gesture is considered racially offensive to many APAs.

"If there is an explanation, we'd very much like to hear it, as the silence just seems to be making the controversy grow," said Phil Lee, MANAA president.

"It is disheartening that this crude gesture could happen again, especially in the spotlight so shortly after the instance earlier this year from fellow Walt Disney star, Miley Cyrus," said Kimberly Shintaku, JACL national youth council chair. "Joe Jonas is a role model for youth around the globe. ■



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Bainbridge Island JA Memorial Breaks Ground on Phase 2



Sixty-seven years after this photo of Fumiko Hayashida (top) was taken, the 98-year-old helped break ground on phase 2 of the memorial (left).

The memorial commemorates the history of the first group of JA wartime evacuees.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

During World War II, this ground was a site of sorrow for the first group of Japanese Americans to be evacuated from their homes. Sixty-seven years to the day later, Bainbridge Island community members marked a new milestone in the transformation of the site into a memorial.

During a March 30 ceremony, Fumiko Hayashida, one of the first JAs to be forcibly evacuated from Bainbridge Island, climbed aboard a construction backhoe and broke new ground on phase 2 of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial.

"As more and more of our precious friends, the Nisei and older Sansei, pass away, it is very gratifying that we are finally able to break ground on the second phase of our memorial," said Frank Kitamoto, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC).

Phase 2 — which is being built by The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Committee and the city of Bainbridge Island — will include a memorial walk and a 272-foot stone and cedar "story wall" that will tell the story of the 272 JA residents on the island in 1942.

The memorial is located at the former Eagledale Ferry landing, where on March 30, 1942, JA men, women and children were rounded up by armed U.S. soldiers to board a ferry bound for internment camps.

These Bainbridge Island families were the first of more than 120,000 JAs to be exiled from the West Coast because of wartime hysteria. They were only given six days notice to arrange to bring only what they could carry or wear.

In 2008, the federal government designated the Bainbridge Island site as a satellite unit of the National Parks Service's Minidoka National Historic Site.

The first phase of construction was completed in 2006, consisting of boardwalks, bridges and paths meandering through forests and over wetlands.

Drury Construction of Poulsbo, Wash, projects phase 2 to be complete this summer. To date, BIJAM has raised \$2.7 million for the \$9 million memorial project. But about \$300,000 is still needed to design and install the story wall's interpretive materials.

Phase 3 will include construction of the \$5.7 million interpretive center cluster, and Phase 4 will build a \$900,000 departure pier.

BIJAM President Clarence Moriwaki said he hopes people will come away from the memorial thinking about the fragility of the U.S. Constitution. "In a time of war, even the strongest country can do wrong."

"We hope, through education and emotional involvement, to stimulate people to make the effort to visit other sites," Kitamoto added. "In these times it is important that the message and name of our memorial, 'Nidoto Nai Yoni' — 'Let It Not Happen Again,' becomes a reality for all people." ■

On the Web

To donate: www.bijac.org

Calif. Bill For Nisei College Degree Clears Education Committee

JACL National Director Floyd Mori testified at the March 17 hearing.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A California assembly bill that would grant honorary college degrees to World War II Japanese Americans is one step closer to becoming law.

On March 17, the Assembly Higher Education Committee unanimously passed AB 37, a bill that directs California's higher education institutions to grant retroactive college degrees to JAs whose education was interrupted by the WWII internment.

The bill now heads to the Committee on Appropriations.

Assemblyman Warren T. Furutani, who introduced the bill last year, has called the conferral of honorary college degrees "the unfinished business of our time."

The JACL has championed the passage of AB 37 as a way to honor JAs who were denied their college education when they were forced into WWII internment camps.

"The passage of Assembly Bill 37 would not only right a wrong, but it reminds us that we should never again let war hysteria and racism override the basic civil liberties and due process promised to each one of us, regardless of the color of our skin," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori, who testified at the hearing.

In the last few years, colleges like the University of Washington and the University of Southern California have already taken up the charge to honor their former JA students.

On May 29, California's College of San Mateo will be awarding honorary associates degrees to its former JA students. Furutani is scheduled to keynote the event.

AB 781, a similar measure, was enacted into law in 2004 authorizing high schools, unified school districts or county offices of education to retroactively grant retroactive high school diplomas to former JA students.

"It is unfortunate that anyone be prevented from completing their college education and receiving their degrees because of racism, war hysteria and ineffective political leadership," said Larry Oda, JACL national president. "This acknowledgement is overdue." ■

PACIFIC

Job Opening Circulation/Receptionist

The Pacific Citizen, a national publication of the JACL, is currently seeking a part-time circulation/receptionist for its downtown Los Angeles office.

The focus of the position is to maintain and update the P.C. database of non-member subscribers, coordinate the member mailing list with JACL headquarters, handle subscription invoicing and all inquiries and duties related to the circulation of the newspaper. Position also requires the answering of telephones and correspondence.

A minimum of two years college education or business training required. Experience in circulation management and marketing a plus. Knowledge of MAC and Microsoft Office are preferred.

Please send a cover letter and resume to: Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, Executive Editor, 250 E. First Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: editor@pacificcitizen.org.

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Passage of Omnibus Bill Authorizes Special Study for Tule Lake Segregation Center

The JACL thanks representatives for passing HR 146, a bill that will help conserve the former WWII internment camp.



With the passage of HR 146, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have taken an important step in helping to conserve an important part of Japanese American history.

HR 146 authorizes the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Northern California, which was the largest and longest running of the ten concentration camps which housed people of Japanese ancestry who were removed from their West Coast homes during World War II.

"The American concentration camps, such as Tule Lake, are part of the mosaic that tells the story of America — and now, thanks to Congress, we have legislation that will help to conserve these important historic resources," said National JACL President Larry Oda.

The bipartisan Tule Lake legisla-

tion was sponsored by U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein, D-Calif. along with Senators Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. and Patty Murray, D-Wash. Former Representative John Doolittle, R-Calif., introduced companion House legislation in 2007 that was co-sponsored by Representatives Mike Honda, D-Calif., Doris Matsui, D-Calif., Jay Inslee, D-Wash., and Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii.

It is expected that HR 146 will soon be signed by the President.

In December of 2008, President Bush designated Tule Lake as part of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The JACL worked with the White House

and the Department of Interior to conserve the Tule Lake site as part of the National Monument. The JACL also worked in close partnership with the California-based Tule Lake Committee and The Conservation Fund of Arlington, Virginia, on this and other camp preservation projects.

"The JACL has worked closely with several congressional offices regarding legislation on the camps and is particularly grateful to Senator Feinstein, Senator Inouye, and others for their commitment to this specific project," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "This will be the first step in planning for a permanent educational facility at the Tule Lake Camp Site." ■

EDUCATION MATTERS

Sonoma County JACL Speakers' Bureau Continues Telling Nisei Stories

Recognizing the decline in the number of Nisei who could share personal stories about their experiences in World War II U.S. concentration camps, the Sonoma County JACL has developed a speakers' bureau made up of mostly Sansei and Yonsei to continue telling those important stories.

A group of volunteers, many who worked on the chapter's "Giri Oral History Project," has developed educational materials to help a 15-member speakers' bureau reach out to schools in Sonoma.

The presentation covers topics ranging from immigration, the pre-war years, Pearl Harbor, evacuation, internment, military service, the "No-No" boys, post-war life, Redress, civil liberties including the Supreme Court cases, consequences of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, the USA PATRIOT Act, local history, and acts of kindness recounted by the Nisei during the incarceration and upon their return to Sonoma County.

Jodi Hottel assembled the material for the speakers, which includes a customizable PowerPoint presentation filled with historical and personal photos. For the project, the chapter purchased a laptop and a portable



Nisei stories: Pictured are (front row) Henry Kaku and Jodi Hottel; (Back row) Nancy Davlin, Mark Hayashi, Alice Kashiwagi, Marie Sugiyama and Phyllis Tajii.

projector and organized workshops to train the volunteer speakers.

To outreach to the community, the group crafted letters of introduction and inquiry letters to be sent out to schools in Sonoma.

There have been several requests for speakers to visit classrooms throughout the county, according to Hottel.

In 2005, the chapter worked on the "Giri" project, which included video clips of local Nisei sharing their personal reflections on Sonoma County during the relocation, the internment and after the war.

The chapter also has an extensive library of books and videos, coordinated by Mei Nakano, that is available to researchers and teachers at no charge. ■

For more information about the speakers' bureau or the Sonoma County JACL's other education programs, please contact Jodi Hottel at 707/525-8203 or hottel@sonic.net or Marie Sugiyama at 707/544-4824 or mariemugi@att.net.

On the Web
www.sonomacojacl.org

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Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR II** JUL 7-16
Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Atami, Hakone, Tokyo.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE** JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City. HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.
- JAPAN OBON FESTIVAL TOUR** AUG 5-16
Tokyo (Tsukiji Obon Festival), Gujo Hachiman (Summer Odori Festival), Kyoto, Jozankei Onsen Sapporo, Kitami (Tsubetsu Obon Festival).
- EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE** AUG 22-SEPT 4
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia. HOLLAND AMERICA Oosterdam Ship.
- HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR** SEPT 9-20
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Noribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Nikko, Tokyo.
- PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR** SEPT
PANA Convention - Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Option to Peru.
- NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR** NEW DATES OCT 2-9
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Calendar

East

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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.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fri., April 17—NJAMF Gala; 6 p.m.; The Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St., NW; \$150/person. Tickets and info: 202/530-0015 or www.njam.org.

Tue., May 19—APAICS 15th Annual Gala Dinner; 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner; JW Marriott Hotel; black tie optional. Info: www.apaics.org or 202/296-9200.

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.

Intermountain

DENVER

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

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Wed., April 22—Portland Taiko 4th Annual Benefit Banquet; 6 p.m.; Wong's King Seafood Restaurant, 8733 SE Division St.; \$50 tickets available at www.portlandtaiko.org, the Hollywood Theatre or 503/205-0715. Info: 503/288-2456 or info@portlandtaiko.org.

Through May 24—Exhibit, "Katazome: Textiles by Karen Illman Miller"; Tue.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. noon-3 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; \$3 general admission, free for Friends of the Legacy Center; Katazome is the art of stencil and paste-resistant dyeing of cloth that can then be sewn into wonderful textiles. Info: www.oregonnikkei.org.

Sat., May 16—Performance, "PT from A to Z" by Portland Taiko; 3 and 8 p.m.; Fir Acres Theatre, Lewis and Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd.; performance is a reunion concert. Info: www.portlandtaiko.org.

Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., May 30—Kristi Yamaguchi's Dancing the Night Away; 6:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. show; Hyatt Regency; will showcase an all-star cast of participants from "Dancing With The Stars." Info: www.alwaysdream.org.

SAN JOSE

Sat., April 18—West Valley JACL Fundraiser; 10-3:30 p.m.; West Valley JACL Clubhouse, 1545 Teresita Dr.; featuring Spring collections from the Oyako Ltd. Trunk Show.

Sun., April 26—32nd Annual Nikkei Matsuri; 9:30-4 p.m.; San Jose Japantown; featuring arts, crafts, food booths, cultural displays, entertainment, children's activities and a health fair. Info: www.nikkeimatsuri.org.

Sat., May 16—"Talking Story: An Intimate Conversation with Asian American Authors"; 1-5 p.m.; Northside Community Center, 488 N. 6th St.; featuring: Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, Janice Mirikitani, Delphine Hirasuna, Marlene Shigekawa and Gail Tsukiyama; \$20 before April 30, \$25 after and at the door, \$15 for seniors (65+) and students with ID. Info: Phyllis Osaki, 925/596-1770, posaki@gsmmanagement.com or Aggie Idemoto, 408/294-3138, aggie@jamsj.org or www.midorikai.com.

STOCKTON

Sun., April 19—Stockton Day of Remembrance; 11:30 p.m.; Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr.; teaching the JA internment experience to students through interactive learning activities; lunch will be provided after the program; RSVP by April 15 to May Saiki, 209/465-8107. Sponsored by Stockton JACL, Stockton Buddhist Church Dharma School and UOP Nikkei Student Union.

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.

Central California

MANZANAR

Sat., April 25—40th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage; noon; featuring speakers, taiko, interfaith service, tributes, ondo and Manzanar At Dusk program (5 p.m., Lone Pine High School Auditorium); buses will depart from Little Tokyo. Info: www.manzanarcommittee.org or 323/662-5102.

Southern California

GARDENA

Sat., April 18—

Discussion, "Samurai of Gold Hill"; 2 p.m.; Merit Park Recreation Room, 58 Merit Park Pl.; filmmaker Brian Maeda will speak about his research on the first immigrants from Japan to Gold Hill in El Dorado County; sponsored by GLAS JACL. Info and RSVP: Joyee Okazaki, 562/430-5783 or Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3269.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., April 4—Screening, "El

Mexico Mas Cercano A Japon/The Closest Mexico to Japan"; 4 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; tells the story of hundreds of Japanese families who immigrated to Mexico and created a small community Tijuana. free with museum admission. Info: JANM, 213/625-0414 or www.janm.org.

Mon., April 6—Monday Mingler; 6:30 p.m.; Blue Velvet, 750 S. Garland Ave.; will highlight the API Policy Summit in May. Info: apalegislativestaffers@gmail.com.

Through April 11—Performance, "Tofu Exposed: An All New Sketch Comedy Show" by Cold Tofu Improv; Fri. and Sat. nights, 8 p.m.; Avery Schreiber Theatre, 11050 Magnolia Blvd., N. Hollywood; \$15/general, \$12/students and seniors. Tickets: tofuexposed@gmail.com or 213/739-4142.

Thu., April 23—LTSC's "Mystery of Sake"; 7-9:30 p.m.; California Science Center, 700 State Dr.; \$60/presale, \$70/at the door, subject to availability; must be 21 years and older. Info: Jennifer Kim, 213/473-1615 or <http://sake.ltsc.org>.

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



See photographer Brian Sato's 'Gokurosama: Contemporary Photographs of the Nisei in Hawaii' exhibit at Los Angeles' Japanese American National Museum through May 24.

Alleluia! He is Risen!

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Easter Sunday Masses: 8:30 AM (Japanese) & 10 AM (English)

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.east-westplayers.org.

Sat., May 16—Annual Children's Day Celebration; 10-4 p.m.; Little Tokyo; featuring the Chibi-K kids fun run, San-Tai-San basketball tournament and more. Info: www.jacc.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.

Mon., June 15—Japan America Society of Southern California Centennial Dinner and Gala Celebration; the Globe Theatre, Universal Studios Hollywood; celebrating 100 years of Japan-America relationship building. Info, sponsorship opportunities and tickets: 213/627-6217, ext. 207 or www.jas-socal.org.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

June 8-12—Taiko drumming courses; 12:30-4:15 p.m.; Taiko Center of the Pacific; classes offered are "Good Time with 'Ma' and Imagination" and Creativity and Composition"; classes are \$150/each. Info: 808/737-7236, info@taikoarts.com or [\[arts.com\]\(http://www.taikoarts.com\).](http://www.taiko-</p>
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Nevada

LAS VEGAS

May 4-6—Amache Reunion; Golden Nugget Hotel; relatives and friends are invited. Info: Irene Furuya, 626/791-0547, mfuruya82@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; registration deadline is June 30. 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.

Sept. 18-20—12th National Singles Convention; Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall; events include a golf tournament, welcome reception, workshops, gala dinner-dance and Sunday brunch; \$160/full registration; rooms available for \$89.99/night, single or double occupancy. Info: <http://jaclsc.com> or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/496-3763. ■

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In Memoriam - 2009

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Barncastle, Peggie Kikue Yamauchi, 77, Gardena, Mar. 10; survived by daughters, Kimberly Barncastle and Celeste Townsend; 3 gc.; and sister, Bette Endo.

Hayashida, John Edward, 60, Laguna Niguel, Mar. 12; survived by brother, Ronald.

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.

Hino, Mark Kazo, 53, Los Angeles, Mar. 13; survived by sisters, Alison and Georgia Gonzalez.

Igarashi, Shoichi, 80, Lihue, Haw., Mar. 18; survived by wife, Nobue; stepsons, Lee, Daryl and Dewey Yasutake; stepdaughters, Beverly Nagano, Valerie Silva, Lana Corregedore, Jr. and Lisa Koga; 10 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Ikuta, Shizue "Suzie," 101, Los Angeles, Mar. 3; survived by son, Ernest (Kay); and 2 gc.

Ishihara, George Haruyoshi, 88, Santa Monica, Mar. 17; WWII veteran; survived by daughter, Monica Saito; sons, Randy (Carol) and Jon (Elaine) Ishihara; 8 gc.; sisters, Helen Okamoto, Toshi (Koshi) Ando and Chickie (Ed) White; and sister-in-law, Haruko Ishihara.

Ishizaki, Joseph Ryozo, San Francisco, Mar. 6; WWII veteran, 100th; survived by wife, Pat; and daughter, Sheryl.

Iwamura, Helen Ayako, 94, Yuba City, Feb. 23; survived by son, Kenneth Yoshikawa; daughter, Irene

(Roger); 6 gc.; 4 step-daughters; and sisters, Dorothy Ariyoshi and Amy (Hank) Kuwada.

Kagawa, Isao, 93, Gardena, Mar. 16; survived by son, Norman (Rebecca); daughters, Frances (Robert) Quon and Lucille (Peter) Yamaguchi; 4 gc.; brother, Noboru (Shizue); and sister, Miyako Oba.

Kitayama, Roy T., 72, Arlington, Mass., Mar. 13; Army veteran; survived by wife, Louise; son, Jason; daughters, Julie and Lisa (Joe) O'Connor; 3 gc.; and mother, Jane Kitayama.

Matsumoto, George, 86, Honolulu, Haw., Mar. 8; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by son, Dick; daughters, Ginger Miller and Polly Davis; 4 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sisters, May Kawasaki, Frances Hatakeyama and Thelma Miya.

Miyata, Hideo, 86, Mar. 7; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Hitomi; daughters, Jeanette and Cynthia (Dennis) Wakita; 2 gc.; step-daughters, Chieko Kajihara and Mika (Kiyoshi) Kudo; 2 step-gc.; and brothers, Randy (Michiko), Roy (Mary) and Satoshi.

Morita, Take, 100, Los Angeles, Mar. 4; survived by sons, Mike (Sachiko) and Kazuhiro (Setsuko); daughters, Junko Suzuki, Ryoko (Keiji) Morita, Yoshiko (Yusuke) Kobayashi and Yuriko Regazert; 10 gc.; and 16 ggc.

Otsuka, Lewis Masao, 66, Honolulu, Haw., Mar. 13; Army veteran; survived by wife, Patricia; daughter, Katrina; and brothers, Ernest, Masashi and Tadashi.

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Aoki, Charter Member of Black Panthers

By Pacific Citizen Staff



Richard Aoki, a charter member of the Black Panther Party, passed away March 15 at his home in Berkeley from dialysis complications.

Aoki was a student at Merritt Community College in the mid-60s when he became friends with Black Panther Party founders Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. It was a

time of political activism, particularly black revolutionary thought.

Aoki became an early member of the Black Panthers and helped organize the initial rallies. He also gave them arms which at the time were used to patrol against

police brutality.

Aoki was also a key player in UC Berkeley's Third World Liberation Front Strike in 1969, representing Asian Americans. The strike eventually led to the founding of ethnic studies at UC Berkeley.

For the next 25 years Aoki worked as a counselor, instructor and administrator in the Peralta College system. ■

Daniel Sakai, Rising Oakland Police Star, Dies in the Line of Duty

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press



Sgt. Daniel Sakai, a member of the Oakland police SWAT team, was one of four police officers who died in a March 21 gun battle with a parolee. He was 35.

Sakai, of Castro Valley, was the youngest of the victims shot by a 26-year-old parolee with two guns. He had been working to protect people since his days as a college undergraduate, friends said.

At U.C. Berkeley, where Sakai studied forestry, he also worked as a community service officer, escorting students around campus at night. After graduation, he spent a year in Japan teaching English.

He was recently named a leader of

the SWAT entry team.

"He quickly learned his way through the steps of being a good, solid police officer," Oakland Police Capt. Ed Tracey told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Before joining the SWAT team, the former Boy Scout worked as a K-9 officer.

Sakai is survived by his wife, Jennifer, a UC Berkeley police officer, and a young daughter. ■

Osaki, Michi, Los Angeles, Mar. 8; survived by son, Jimmy; daughter, Linda Osaki-Nishikawa; sister, Kyoko Sakamoto, Junko Higdon and Sumiko (Lee) Davis; and brother, Ichiro Yoshimoto.

Sahara, Henry Yutaka, 83, Montebello, Mar. 6; survived by wife, Irene; daughters, Charlotte (Ray) Yoshinaga, Tracie (Tom) Arimitsu and Ellen (Chris) Sanchez; son, Doug; 4 gc.; and sisters, Florence Nakagiri and Virginia

(Bob) Chan.

Sakaguchi, Chebo Toshitaka, 92, Los Angeles, Feb. 18; Army veteran; survived by brothers, Sanbo and Bo (Ikuyo); and sisters, Mary (James) Oda and Lily Thibodeaux.

Sakane, Sidney Sadao, 94, San Jose, Mar. 16; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Helen; daughters, Beverly Sakane-Freeland and Deborah Lyerla; 2 gc.; and sisters, Chiyoko Fukuda and Fujiko Okamoto.

Sata, Yasuo, 87, Los Angeles, Mar. 18; survived by wife, Mary; sons, Ron (Lynda), Dennis (Dana) and Ed (Bennie); daughter, Leslie (Bernard) Fischer; 7 gc.; sister, Michiko (John) Ito; and sister-in-law, Mary Sata.

Sayauye, Miyako, 93, Harbor City, Mar. 6; survived by daughters, Helen De la Cruz, Nancy Doi, Junko (John) Shimoji, and Jeanne Wada; brothers, Yutaka (Toshie), Itsuto (Shizuko) and Mamoru (Tetsuko) Ohigashi; and sister, Suyemi Miyamoto.

Shiraki, Tatsuko, 92, Los Angeles, Mar. 3; survived by son, Phillip (Joan); daughter, Evelyn; brothers, Manabu and Bob Shimizu; sister, Mits Kinoshita; brother-in-law, Spud (Trea) Shiraki; and sister-in-law, Shiz Shiraki.

Taiji, Hiroshi, 81, Montebello, Mar. 7; survived by wife, Fujiko; daughters, Patricia (Robert) Wendorf and Debra (Kevin) Quock; 4 gc.; sister, Yuriko Wada; and sister-in-law, Grace Taiji.

Takayama, Sumiye Sue, 91, Torrance, Mar. 6; survived by daughters, Joyce Tanaka and Julia

(Lance) Nagano; 4 gc.; and sister-in-law, Irene Munesato.

Takemoto, Kenneth, Kensington, Md., Feb. 27; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Alice; daughter, Ruth McInroy; son, Paul (Lisa); 3 gc.; 1 brother; and 4 sisters.

Uda, Ben, 85, Homedale, Id., Mar. 17; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Bette; sons, Joni (Kathy) and Terry (Charito); daughter, Tami (Kent) Takeshita; 8 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Ueda, Misae "Mitzi," 82, Harbor City, Feb. 27; survived by daughters, Sharon (Lloyd) Kobayashi and Chris (Jimmy) Uyeno; son, Robert (Stacy); 10 gc.; sister, Kiyomi Akazawa; and brother, Frank (Keiko) Mizote.

Uematsu, Michi, 86, Costa Mesa, Mar. 5; survived by son, Greg (Patty); daughter, Jeri; 3 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Lily Uyeda and Sue Uematsu.

Yanagisawa, Samuel, 87, Dallas, Tx., Feb. 28; Army veteran; survived by wife, Fernande; sons, Shane, Steve and Ian; 1 gc.; and daughter-in-law, Waltraut.

Yokota, Miyoko, Hollywood, Mar. 8; survived by sister, Jeanne (Herbert) Nitake; brothers-in-law, Toyoo Nitake, Bill (Betty) Murata and Bob (Mary) Masukawa; and sisters-in-law, Ruth, Hana and Mari Nitake.

Yoshihashi, Ichiro, 88, Rosemead, Mar. 11; survived by wife, Margie; sons, Robert and Harold (Janis); 5 gc.; brother, Tokuji (Reiko); and sister, Eiko Sakamoto. ■

DEATH NOTICE

SHINKICHI TAJIRI

Funeral services were held in Baarlo, Holland, where Shinkichi Tajiri passed away at home on Mar. 15, from pancreatic cancer at age 85. He was born in Los Angeles, the son of Ryukichi and Fuyo Tajiri and later moved to San Diego. He was interred at the Santa Anita Assembly Center and Poston Camp III, Ariz. He volunteered for and was wounded with the 442nd RCT. Studied art in Chicago and Paris. Recognized internationally, with monumental sculptures in Europe and America. He was knighted in the Order of the Dutch Lion by Queen Beatrix of Holland.

He was predeceased by brothers, Larry (Guy), a former editor of the *Nichi Bei Shimbun, Pacific Citizen*, and drama editor and critic for the *Denver Post*; Vincent (Rose), a former photo editor of *Playboy Magazine*; and Thomas (Maile). Survived by wife Suzanne, daughters, Giotta (Terry) and Ryu (Martin); sister, Yoshiko of Berkeley; brother, James (June) of Pebble Beach; and two grandchildren, Tanae and Shakuru.

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JACL MILLENNIUM CLUB

The Millennium Club was established in 2004 as a means to further support the mission and programs of the National JACL. In addition to their time and effort, Millennium Club members demonstrate their commitment to the organization every year by generously donating \$1,000 to the JACL general fund. On behalf of the National JACL, thank you.