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Designing Minidoka



U. of Oregon students to memorialize the region's JA history.

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APA Heritage



Is it time to rethink APA Heritage Month?

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Filming Kids



Filmmaker So Yong Kim captures reality in 'Treeless Mountain.'

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Honoring Fred



Seattle University names a law center after Fred Korematsu.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

80
YEARS



{ IN DEPTH }

Once, Arboga Was Called Home

The little known Calif. WWII assembly center may finally get some historical recognition thanks to efforts by local groups and former Arboga internees like Christine Umeda (*right*) at six with a friend at Topaz.

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Letters to the Editor

JACL Recognizes Millennium Club Member Etsu Masaoka

The JACL apologizes again for the unintentional omission of
Etsu Masaoka from the 2008 Millennium Club honor roll.



Etsu has been a faithful and dedicated mem-
ber of the JACL for years, having shared in
bearing the burden of many of the early leg-
islative battles that the JACL confronted.

The wife of the former JACL and communi-
ty leader Mike Masaoka, Etsu's tireless devo-
tion to her community and family has been a
tremendous example to those who know her
best — thank you, Etsu.

TIMOTHY KOIDE

JACL Membership Coordinator

Financial CEOs Must Go Too

The taxpayers' bailout of AIG and large banks has a large hole.
The CEOs and top-level employees must have had a well-hidden
scheme to siphon off huge amounts of money for their pockets. The

best way to rob a bank is from the inside. Those clever insider bank
robbers and their concealed plans have not been uncovered — and
never will be as long as the same people remain, especially the
CEOs. The financial crises of those banks and AIG were not caused
only by ill-conceived loans.

Why has the Obama administration fired an auto company's CEO
and not the CEOs of the larger entities of AIG and banks? General
Motors' sin was faulty auto designs, but the banks' problem was
inside thieves. Fire the banks and AIG CEOs and their lieutenants
and put in new leadership. Only then can we give or lend them tax-
payers' money to give them a new start with transparency.

Firing GM's CEO is not okay without also firing the financial big-
gies; in fact, they should have gone first. This differential treatment
revives my suspicion that the financial magnates and legislators are
bedfellows after all. Are we the people once more in danger of an
administration, like the previous one, that forget that the American
people are the boss of this country, not the government?

The government's job foremost is to protect the nation's people
under the Constitution. We the people do not tolerate being robbed,
much less give money to the robbers!

JAMES TANABE
Honolulu

COMMENTARY

Opening the Door for Our JACL Future

By **KIMBERLY SHINTAKU**

Four years ago, I attended my first JACL National Youth Conference
in Salt Lake City, Utah. I attended the conference knowing two people
who were flying out from Los Angeles, but came back with many
more friends. Throughout the workshops, speakers, and activities, I
met youth from all across the nation and even afterwards I continued to e-mail, share pictures
from the conference, and became Facebook friends with them. I couldn't wait for the next
opportunity to meet more young JACLers.



The conference theme in 2005 was
"Identity". As young people today, we are con-
stantly trying to find where we came from, who
we are, and figure out what we can become.
Hence came our 2007 youth conference theme,

"Cultivating Leaders by Defining Our Roots" held in Santa Clara,
Calif. Youth had the opportunity to learn about JACL, organizing, and
community. They also took part in interactive workshops from *mochi*
making, to *taiko*, to hip hop.

JACL is always talking about giving youth the leadership tools nec-
essary to make things happen because they are our future. At this sum-
mer's youth conference we want youth to know they are just as much
a part of the present as they are the future.

This summer, the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is plan-
ning, with the assistance of the Twin Cities chapter, the 2009 youth
conference on June 26 to 28 at Macalester College in Saint Paul,
Minnesota. The theme is "IMPACT! Your Community, Your
Generation, Your JACL." The conference will encourage the building
of our community through passionate participation in the JACL and
within the greater society.

The conference will also give youth the chance to learn about the
opportunities JACL provides for young people and how they can strive
for success in the API community. There will be many workshops
allowing youth to learn about student and grassroots organizing that
cater to youth of all ages.

The conference will kick off with a dinner and ice cream social.
There will be opportunities for participants to get to know the NY/SC
with mixers and themed room parties. We will be providing business
cards for participants for a pre-lunch networking activity followed by
the *Meishi* (business card) Exchange Luncheon on Saturday to teach
youth important networking skills.

This year, the NY/SC decided to put a new twist on things and allow
for a new level of participation. After the Saturday night closing ban-

See **SHINTAKU**/page 13

SPRING CAMPAIGN

Why I Support the *Pacific Citizen*

By **JEFFERSON ITAMI**

I joined the National JACL at the insistence of my father, Tadao Itami,
way back in 1972 a few years after I had returned from overseas mili-
tary duty and had begun working as a graphic illustrator for Ajax Presses
in Salt Lake City, Utah. It wasn't until 1978 that I became active as a
JACLer, which is the year my wife, Linda
Kuenstler, and I attended some of the events
occurring at the National JACL biennial conven-
tion being hosted by the Salt Lake chapter at the
Little America Hotel.

There we met U.S. Congressmen Norman
Mineta, who was a fellow Heart Mountain
internee, and Robert Matsui as well as U.S.
Senator Spark Matsunaga. We had interesting
moments visiting with these energetic, influential
members of Congress who represented not only their constituents, but
us Japanese Americans! The fellow who had been president of a small
college in San Francisco during the anti-Vietnam war protests, U.S.
Senator S.I. Hayakawa, danced with Linda. We marveled at what good
dancers our fellow Nikkei were.

It was a wonderful, exhilarating experience. At that convention the
JACL national council voted to begin the Redress process under Judge
Raymond Uno, who was the national JACL president.

See **ITAMI**/page 13



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Arboga May Finally Get Some Recognition



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENSHO, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE UMEDA

Electric poles and fields of dried grass are all that remain today of the former Arboga Assembly Center in Marysville, Calif. (left). During World War II, 2,465 Japanese Americans from Sacramento and Placer County were temporarily housed here before their imprisonment in internment camps.

Christine Umeda and her family, including her parents and four sisters (pictured, above) were living in Sacramento when they got orders to head to the Arboga Assembly Center. Most of the family continues to live in Sacramento today.

The former assembly center was declared a California Historical Landmark in 1980 but no permanent marker exists at the site today. Local groups hope to change that.

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**
Executive Editor

Just west of the Oroville Highway in Marysville, Calif., few motorists make their way along a barren intersection of Feather River Blvd. and Broadway Rd. Here among the miles of dried grass and electric poles are clues to Christine Umeda's childhood memories.

A broken dish and a chunk of concrete slab are the few remnants of the Arboga Assembly Center that once existed here. In 1942, Christine, now 70, and her family were forced to leave their home in Sacramento to be temporarily housed here before making their way to Tule Lake and eventually the Topaz internment camp.

It was just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Christine was four years old, the second youngest of seven children. Although many of her young memories of her time at Arboga are fuzzy, one remains clear.

Two weeks after their arrival, she contracted pneumonia and was taken to the nearby Air Force base hospital.

"I remember being placed in this panel truck, no windows, and no doors and being in pitch dark," said Christine, a member of Florin JACL, from her home in Sacramento.

Her siblings would later tell her that no one was allowed to accompany her to the hospital, not even her mother. She was released a few weeks later and soon she and an older sister were placed on a train to reunite with their family at the Tule Lake camp.

Now more than 65 years after the Arboga Assembly Center officially closed, members of the Marysville JACL chapter and a local historical society are working to ensure that this part of history is permanently remembered.

The groups are in talks with local and state officials to place a permanent plaque and memorial near the former assembly center.

"It's an important lesson we don't want repeated," said Christine. "In some ways it's important we have these markers because we have to be constantly vigilant."

'Spanning Several Generations'

The idea for a permanent memorial at Arboga began in the late 70s. But after efforts to contact the landowner at the time failed, the idea "went on the backburner," said Frank Hatamiya, 50, president of the Marysville JACL.

But a couple of years ago he got a call from local historian Sue Cejner-Moyer and talks about a permanent monument were resurrected. Now plans for a memorial are finally coming to fruition.

"It's a project that has spanned several generations," said Frank. "It's kind of continued. We have members who would like to see it recognized. We are trying to complete it."

On April 14, the Marysville School District Board gave unanimous approval to placing a monument on district owned property situated just across from the former Arboga site. Although the site is currently undeveloped, future plans include a school where the groups hope a 20-foot easement will include the Arboga monument.

Thus far, approval to build a monument at the actual site of the former assembly center has been elusive. The land is currently held in trust and there are ongoing road assessment issues — barriers that have prevented the placing of a permanent memorial.

"This is the best we can do at this time," said Frank.

In the future, Sue, president of Friends for the Preservation for Yuba County History, hopes a permanent remembrance can eventually be built at the actual site of the former assembly center.

"That piece of property has some real California history, not just a plaque on a school that people may never see," she said.

For now, the groups plan to place a bronze plaque recognizing the site's designation as a California Historical Landmark, a designation bestowed in 1980, and a simple rock monument with an inscription across the street from the Arboga site. A temporary ceremony will be held and the plaque and rock will be kept at the local Marysville Buddhist Church until the school's easement is built. So far no exact dates have been set for the project.

"It's history and especially locally, history should be recognized," said Frank. "A lot of things in generations will change, but at least if we leave this remembrance there, people will know what happened."

At press time, the groups also planned to meet with Yuba County supervisors to garner their support for the monu-

ment project.

A Little Known History

Sue had been camping at Tule Lake with her husband when she was stunned to learn about the former Arboga Assembly Center.

"I didn't know anything about it," said the historian whose family has lived in Sutter County for five generations.

When she returned home she was surprised to learn that no marker existed at the former site. Soon she was talking to members of the local Japanese American community and plans to place a temporary marker near the site were underway.

Today, about 60 yards from the former assembly center, this temporary wooden marker still stands. Sue hopes a permanent marker will be placed sooner than later.

"It's important that this part of history be shared."

Although JAs living in Marysville were sent directly to Tule Lake, a former migrant labor camp was converted into the Arboga Assembly Center in 1942 to house JAs from Sacramento and Placer County. In total 2,465 JAs called this place home from May 8 to June 29, 1942.

Although the history of the former internment camps is better known today, the history of assembly centers like Arboga still remain largely in obscurity.

Hatsuye Nakamura, 89, had been married for just a month when the bombing of Pearl Harbor took place. Originally from nearby Biggs, she had moved to Marysville to join her husband who was born in the area.

She still remembers the whispers about the construction of the Arboga Assembly Center.

"We were so busy getting ready to evacuate," said Hatsuye as the memories brought back tears. "We were aware that there was a temporary camp at Arboga but we were not allowed to go beyond six miles. Because we had a curfew at night, we knew very little about it."

Eventually Hatsuye and her family were forced to head to the Tule Lake internment camp where she was joined by families who had been temporarily housed at Arboga.

Today, she lives just 10 miles from the former Arboga site and she has gone back a few times to pay her respects.

"Arboga is the only Assembly Center that is not documented and I am for [a monument]," she said. "I think it's been forgotten and someone needs to call their attention to it." ■

Time to Rethink Asian Pacific American Heritage Month?

What started as a week was expanded into a month-long commemoration in 1992. Some call for a post-racial end to heritage months. Where does that leave us?

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Ask Norman Mineta about the origins of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, and he'll tell you it was born out of need. In 1978 when then Congressmen Mineta and Frank Horton successfully pushed through a joint congressional resolution to designate the first week of May to APAs, anti-Asian sentiment was simmering in the background.

Japan bashing was on the rise, and the country's ire over Japanese-made goods became redirected at people.

"That was the backdrop, the whole atmosphere," said Mineta, the former U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

In turbulent times, APA Heritage Week was like a salve. It created an opportunity for the community to celebrate its diversity and rightful place in American history. Since then, the commemoration of all things APA formally expanded to include the entire month of May when communities across the nation can come alive with sights and sounds of APA cultural events.

And on its 31st birthday, its relevance along with all other heritage months is being called into question.

"I propose that, for the first time in American history, this country has reached a point where we can stop celebrating separately, stop learning separately, stop being American separately," *Detroit Free Press* columnist Rochelle Riley wrote in a Feb. 1 column calling for an end to Black History Month.

Arguments against heritage months are not new, but many say the election of President Barack Obama has started a new post-racial chapter in the nation's history and has touched off debate on the need to rethink heritage months.

"I think the intent and execution of the heritage month concept is pretty superficial," said Megan Emiko Scott, a 28-year-old graduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles. "The language usually focuses on 'celebrating diversity,' which is fine, but [it] isn't doing much to challenge the marginalization of communities of color in the U.S."

APA Heritage Month, in particular, often passes by quietly. Aside from the spattering of community events, college shows and requisite public television programming, a strong collective push to create a national mainstream APA memory is seemingly absent.

With a current population of about 15.2 million, the APA community is one of the fastest growing racial groups in the U.S., according to Census figures. But even on some college campuses in California — the state with the most APA residents — heritage month events often fly below the radar.

At San Diego State University, Kyle Yamauchi, 21, said he does not participate in APA Heritage Month events — mostly because he doesn't know of any.

"We have an Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (APSA), but they don't do much to celebrate outside of their meetings."

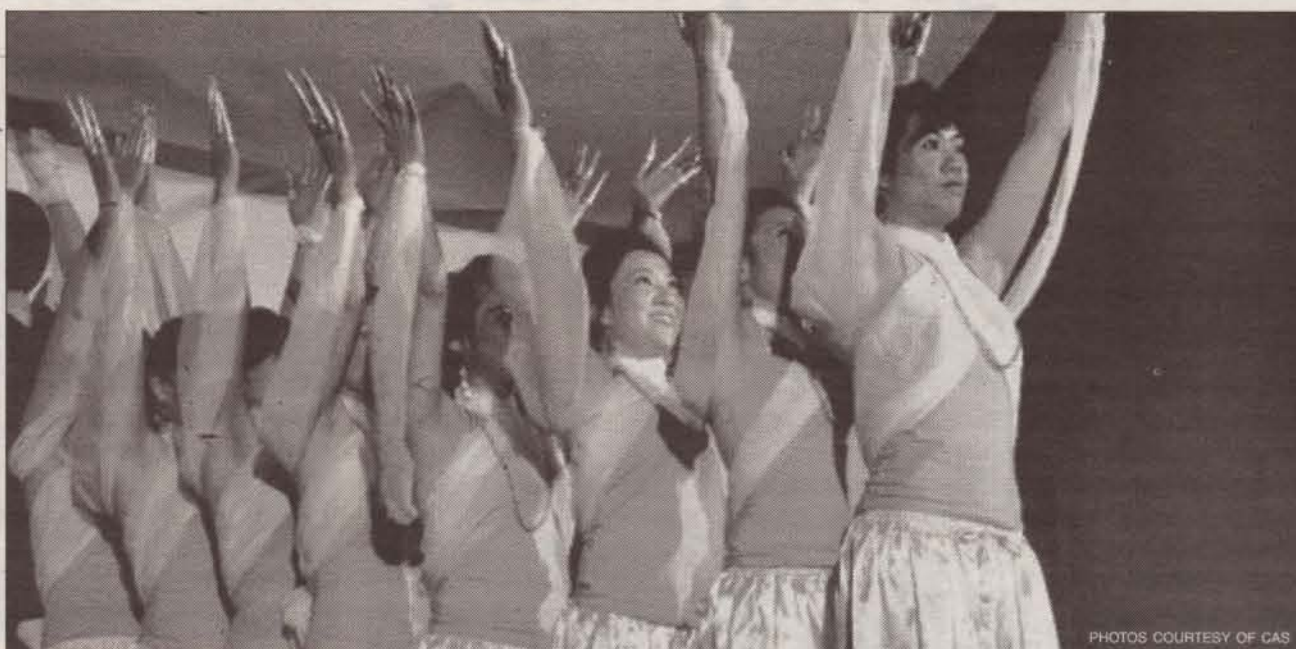
San Diego State does host some APA Heritage Month events, but that's news to Yamauchi, who connects to his community independently as a member of San Diego's Naruwan Taiko group.

Since its inception, the intent of APA Heritage Month has been about education, said Mineta.

"We're not only teaching our friends about ourselves, but we are also learning about each other in the APA community."

The month of May was chosen because it contains two milestones in APA history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the U.S. and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The generations of APAs that followed brought with them different experiences from all regions of the world. APA Heritage Month supporters say May is a time to celebrate those differences.

"I don't really buy the melting pot theory," said Mineta about the idea that people of different cultures, races and religions are



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAS



'It's fine to celebrate diversity, so long as it's not done at the expense of addressing serious issues and disparities between and within communities.'

— Megan Emiko Scott, 28, about APA Heritage Month events. Most college campuses celebrate the occasion in April. That's when Virginia Tech's Chinese American Society hosts 'Chinabration,' a variety show showcasing traditional dance (above), skits and more.

combined to create a homogenous identity.

"Our country is like tapestry, each yarn, is strong and beautiful on its own, but interwoven it represents a stronghold people of various ethnicities coming together."

Most colleges observe APA Heritage Month in April. That's when student groups often put on events that emphasize the "heritage" part of APA Heritage Month — traditional dance shows, ethnic food festivals and beauty pageants, usually with catchy event names using the word "Asian" and other cultural references.

This year, Indiana University's APA groups crowned a new "Mr. & Miss Asia" and hosted an "AsianFest" food event. At the University of Arizona, APA students distributed fortune cookies filled with stereotype-debunking messages like "not all Asian countries use chopsticks," according to the *Arizona Daily Wildcat*.

"It's fine to celebrate diversity, so long as it's not done at the expense of addressing serious issues and disparities between and within communities," said Scott. "The bottom line is that the needs of the APA community are not addressed through heritage month celebrations."

Some APA leaders say the cultural events serve a larger purpose. They are like Trojan horses that lure otherwise unsuspecting people to learn something new about APA culture and history.

"Anytime you can get together and celebrate identity and heritage, it's a good thing," said Curtis Chin, a writer, filmmaker and political activist who travels to colleges to promote, "Vincent Who?" a documentary about the impact of Vincent Chin's murder case on the APA community.

Chin would always tell students, "Don't let the beauty pageants get you down. It's only one part of it. It serves a larger purpose."

Questioning the relevance of APA Heritage Month in itself shows that education needs to be expanded beyond just a month-long commemoration, said Helen Zia.

"It's absurd," she said about the call to end heritage months. On most college campuses, APAs are often ignored or given "token attention and a token budget" for student services.

"This is the one time of the year that students have the opportunity to come together and be heard," said Zia. "Doing anything at all is good. It's more than they normally have going on."

Some colleges do better at creating diversity awareness than others. Virginia Tech sponsors five heritage months during its

academic year.

"The idea is to get the majority participating in our minority events," said Kristen Swanson Houston, the assistant director for programming at Virginia Tech's Multicultural Programs and Services.

It's a goal echoed by Richard Umemoto, 23, president of the university's Asian American Student Union.

"It's great to have support from your fellow artists and community members, but it's better to raise awareness beyond the small Asian American groups."

This year, Virginia Tech's AASU banked on the popularity of MTV to draw more attendees to their Spring Concert, which featured the Boogie Bots, the APA dance group from Season 3 of "America's Best Dance Crew."

And APA leaders like Tiger Woods, Jackie Chan and Patsy Mink can also be seen in the hallways of Virginia Tech — in paper form. The leadership poster campaign is a new pilot program designed to help students learn more about community movers and shakers, said Allison Dunn, who works in the Department of Student Activities.

The posters, which feature images and information on five prominent APAs, are on display at the student union. It's a guerrilla marketing campaign of sorts.

"It's a way to pique your interest and maybe motivate someone who would otherwise not go to a heritage event, actually attend," said Dunn.

There is perhaps no place more in need of unity and understanding than Virginia Tech, where two years ago during APA Heritage Month celebrations, gunman Seung-Hui Cho killed over 30 people and then himself.

The morning of the shooting, Qi Bin Li, then a sophomore, was scheduled to be in the area where the shootings occurred, but he overslept. He joined the Chinese American Society and this year, he helped coordinate "Chinabration," the organization's two-hour culture show, which included traditional and modern dances, fashion shows and a performance of Disney's "Mulan."

The event was a success, said Li, 22, drawing over 200 people of different ethnicities and age groups to sit in the audience and immerse in culture old and new.

"It educates people about us," said Li. "There is a need for that." ■

On the Web

www.aasu.org.vt.edu
www.cas.org.vt.edu
www.apaforprogress.org

Internment in the Pacific Northwest Remembered

Architecture students are spending their spring term learning from guest lecturers and creating plans for two projects memorializing the region's JA experience.

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

While walking through Old Town Chinatown in Portland, Oregon six years ago, a British architecture professor got a glimpse of the tragedy that befell the Japanese American community during World War II.

"I found out about the internment by accident," said Kevin Nute, a professor at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Nute, who was searching for a location to build a new Japanese art center, learned that downtown Portland was once home to a thriving *Nihonmachi*.

"I realized what happened to Japantown was that it basically disappeared," he said. "It was there and then everyone had to leave."

Although tempted to introduce the Japantown element into his design for the Japanese art center, Nute decided against it.

"It's not a Japanese issue," he said. "It's a Japanese American issue."

Since then, Nute has reflected on the causes and consequences of the JA internment, but lacked the opportunity to design something related to this history, until recently.

Nute and 16 of his architecture studio students are spending their spring term learning from guest lecturers and creating plans for two projects memorializing the JA experience in the Pacific Northwest, thanks to the Joel Yamauchi Fund.

Although there are no formal agreements to execute any of the designs, students have the option of designing new visitor's facilities for either Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho or the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland. Students will

present their designs on June 3.

"Ultimately it's about making more people aware of what happened," Nute said, "reaching out and being relevant to the general community."

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

Up to the challenge of creating a design that was sensitive to the emotional and social issues involved with the JA internment, Devin Saez, 25, a graduate student, was drawn to what he calls a very familiar, American story.

"Our ancestors came to this country with hope for opportunity and hope for better life," he wrote in an e-mail. "The Japanese American hope was active."

Saez is currently designing for the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland.

"It is an important design problem," he wrote, "because it encounters a sensitive historic trauma that deserves better surfacing and interpretation."

Although the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center does not have the money to create a new headquarters, Nute and his class are developing designs for the nonprofit organization's future growth.

Mari Watanabe, executive director of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, is excited to be a part of the students' architecture project.



University of Oregon Architecture Student Edwin Stanculescu on the roof of the root cellar at Minidoka. This semi-underground structure, built by internees along local lines, was used to preserve vegetables they cultivated themselves in the surrounding fields to feed the more than 10,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated at the camp between 1942 and 1945.

When Yamauchi died at age 48, Lee and his associates created the Joel Yamauchi Fund.

For about five years, the fund has supported various projects dealing with architecture and diversity. This year, along with the university's Office of Equity and Diversity and President's Office, it is helping to support Nute's architecture studio and accompanying lecture series about the JA internment.

"I think this project touches a chord," Lee said. "This is what we were hoping would happen: create a building, a memorial, an awareness of what happened [with the internment]."

About two-thirds of the architecture studio chose to work at Minidoka in Idaho, developing plans for a visitor's contact station for public orientation and information.

Like at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, there are no formal plans to implement the students' designs. Nonetheless, students have visited the actual site and used the Minidoka general management plan to inform their designs. Their assignment is to rehabilitate an original, historic warehouse at the site, making it useable for visitors.

"We appreciate their interest in Minidoka and their thoughts on the future," said Wendy Janssen, National Park Service superintendent at the Minidoka National Historic Site. "They are a wonderful group of creative students, and we're certainly looking forward to seeing their ideas."

Continuing the Conversation

As the students progress in their designs and the lecture series continues into May and June, Nute, Saez and others outside of the JA community are realizing the importance of telling this story.

"It's a story that needs to be retold less we forget and commit the same mistakes again," Nute said as he recalled the events after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

Attempting to help the National Park Service as well as the Nikkei Legacy Center recognize the many sides of the issue of internment, the architecture studio considers the social, legal and racial aspects of the internment and its contemporary relevance.

"This trauma is relevant even today," Saez added, "when social justices are threatened due to a few officials who harness shock to implement their radical, racist, policies."

Although the Portland *Nihonmachi* has washed away and the barracks of Minidoka have been deconstructed and forgotten, Nute and University of Oregon architecture students are doing their part to continue the tale of JAs during WWII.

"The point is," Nute added, "is that it happened. It happened to Americans, it happened on American soil. It was our government doing this to their own citizens." ■

On the Web

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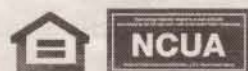
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"It will be interesting to see how the students will satisfy the particular needs of a historical museum in their fantasy designs," she wrote in an e-mail. "Perhaps someday we will be able to use these ideas to maximize our museum space."

Offering an interpretation of JA heritage and their journey in America, Saez writes that the "designs seek to demand outcry to government injustice, honor of loyal citizens and preservation of the legacy of Japanese American perseverance."

Minidoka

Many JAs from Oregon, Washington and Alaska, share the history of Joel Yamauchi's family, who spent years at the Minidoka internment camp during WWII, while the patriarch of the family fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Although born after the war, after the Portland *Nihonmachi* began its decline, Yamauchi understood the importance of community, according to Jerry Lee, Yamauchi's friend and colleague at the MulvannyG2 Architects.

"Joel was a very kind, gentle man," Lee said.

JACL: Continued Support Needed for APA Journalists Jailed in Iran, North Korea

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

These are tense times for three Asian Pacific American journalists being held by authorities in Iran and North Korea.

Roxana Saberi, the Japanese American journalist convicted of spying in Iran has gone on a hunger strike to protest her imprisonment, her father said.

"She will remain on hunger strike until she is freed," Reza Saberi told The Associated Press.

Saberi, a 32-year-old dual American-Iranian citizen, was convicted of spying for the United States and sentenced to eight years in prison after a swift, closed door trial in April.

In North Korea, officials have confirmed that Laura Ling and Euna Lee, two U.S. journalists accused of crossing into the country illegally from China and committing "hostile acts," will be tried on criminal charges. The nation did not say exactly what charges they face or when the trial would take place.

APA groups, including the JACL, have called for their fair treatment and release.

"Most of the world understands that Roxana Saberi has not had fair treatment in her quest for release from what appears to be trumped up charges of spying," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Even the president of Iran has expressed his doubts about the fairness of the case against her."

Saberi was arrested in late January and initially accused of working without press credentials, but in April, an Iranian judge leveled the far more serious allegation of espionage. It is the first time Iran has found an American journalist guilty of spying.

Her father said Roxana's lawyer, Abdolsamad Khorramshahi, has appealed the sentence.

The U.S. has called the accusations against Saberi baseless and demanded her release. Iran's judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi has said that the appeals court would reconsider the verdict, an indication her sentence could be commuted.

Saberi, who was born in the United States and grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, moved to Iran six years ago and worked as a freelance journalist for news organizations including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp. She received Iranian citizenship because her father was born in Iran.



SABERI



LING



LEE

Ling and Lee, who work for San Francisco-based Current TV, a media venture founded by former Vice President Al Gore, were arrested March 17 near the North Korean border while reporting on refugees living in China.

The Americans' prolonged detention and pending trial comes amid mounting diplomatic tensions between Pyongyang and the international community, including the U.S., over its rogue nuclear program.

Andrei Lankov, a North Korea expert at Kookmin University in Seoul, called the Americans another "negotiating chip" for Pyongyang as it embarks on negotiations with Washington and its allies over the nuclear impasse.

Putting them on trial "means that they want to increase their pressure on the U.S., much in line with their recent tactics," he said.

Under North Korea's criminal code, conviction for illegal entry could mean up to three years in a labor camp.

Espionage or "hostility toward North Koreans" — possible crimes that could be considered "hostile acts" — could mean five to 10 years in prison, South Korean legal expert Moon Dae-hong said.

Past detentions of Americans have required diplomatic intervention. In 1994,

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, then a congressman, went to Pyongyang to secure the release of a soldier captured after his helicopter strayed into North Korea. He went back in 1996 to help free an American held for three months on spying charges after going for a swim in the Yalu, another river dividing North Korea and China.

Washington, which does not have diplomatic ties with Pyongyang, has relied so far on the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang to negotiate on its behalf. A Swedish envoy has met with both journalists, U.S. officials said.

And as Saberi's parents have made their way to Iran to be near their daughter, JACL's Mori said sustained monitoring is needed from APA groups.

"It is important for the JACL and other civil and human rights organizations to keep this issue in the forefront in order that she doesn't fall off the radar of our government efforts to get her freed," he said. "We will continue to monitor her situation and we will keep reminding our government that all efforts should continue to get her released and return to her home." ■

National Newsbytes

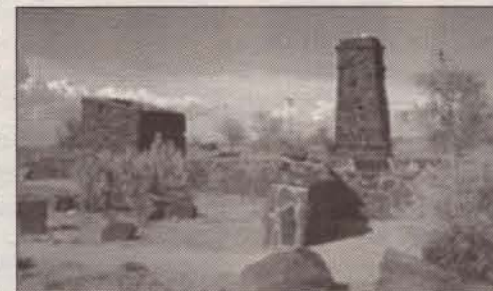
By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Stimulus Cash to Help Minidoka

BOISE, Idaho—The Interior Department has awarded \$775,000 in federal stimulus cash for repair and restoration projects at three national monuments in southern Idaho.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the awards, which included the Minidoka Internment National Monument. The site of the former WWII internment camp will get \$105,000 to spruce up trails and remove safety hazards.

Idaho's share is part of \$750 million in stimulus money awarded to national parks and monuments nationwide.



Attorney General: Parts of Calif. Affirmative Action Law Illegal

SAN FRANCISCO—Attorney General Jerry Brown says portions of a state law that bans preferential treatment of minorities and women in vying for public contracts, college admissions and government jobs violate the U.S. Constitution.

Brown outlined his position about Proposition 209, passed by voters in 1996, in a letter to the California Supreme Court.

Brown contends the proposition conflicts with federal law. The high court had asked for Brown's opinion because it is considering a lawsuit filed by two white contractors who claim San Francisco's consideration of race in its contract bidding process violates state law.

Lawmakers Introduce Private Bill to Help APA Same-Sex Couple

LOS ANGELES—Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Jackie Speier introduced a private bill to help Shirley Constantino Tan stay in the U.S. with her citizen partner Jay Mercado and their sons.

The couple married in 2004 and live with their 12-year-old twins in Pacifica, Calif. But because same-sex marriage is not recognized by the federal government, same-sex couples are unable to sponsor spouses within the immigration system. Tan is a native of the Philippines.

Because of the bill, Tan should not be deported until the end of this Congress in December 2010.

Activists say the case highlights the need for Congress to expand the definition of families to include same-sex partners.

APAs Not Ready for D-TV

WASHINGTON—APAs are among the most unprepared in the nation for this historic shift to all digital broadcasting in television on June 12, according to Nielsen.

Data for March 2009 reveals that 4.4 percent of APA households are completely unready for the switch. This represents thousands of families, elders, and friends in the APA community who may lose their TV signal if they do not take action.

Each U.S. household may request up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of certified TV converter boxes through the TV Converter Box Coupon Program administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

State Senate Acts to Bar LPGA Policy

SACRAMENTO—The California Senate has voted to make it illegal to hold events that require participants to speak English in a move prompted by the LPGA Tour's English-only proposal.

The women's golf tour wanted last year to require its players to speak English so they could talk with each other and the media and give acceptance speeches in English.

The LPGA backed off the plan after the JACL and Sen. Leland Yee and others criticized it as discriminatory. Yee says the proposal insulted women, minorities and immigrants and might disqualify the best golfers.

The San Francisco Democrat's bill makes such policies illegal in California without a "business necessity." The measure now heads to the Assembly. ■

Duckworth Wins Confirmation to Top VA Post

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Although her nomination was temporarily stalled by a Republican senator, a senate committee has confirmed Tammy Duckworth to a top post in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Duckworth will serve as assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, a position that will have her overseeing the department's public affairs, internal communications and intergovernmental relations.

Duckworth's nomination had

been stalled by North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr because he had some additional questions for Duckworth and the White House. The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee approved Duckworth, President Obama's nominee, on April 22.

"I am pleased my colleagues confirmed Major Duckworth unanimously," said U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, who chairs the committee, to the *Honolulu Advertiser*. "More than three months after taking office, Secretary (Eric) Shinseki now has his first confirmed assistant secretary."

"As VA's new public face and

intergovernmental liaison, Tammy can begin the long and hard work of improving the department's reputation and relations across the country. I look forward to working with her."

Duckworth, a decorated veteran of the Iraq war, was flying a Blackhawk helicopter when it was hit by a grenade. She suffered severe wounds in the attack, losing both legs. She was awarded the Purple Heart for her bravery.

A graduate of the University of Hawaii-Manoa, she previously served as the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. ■

APAs in the News

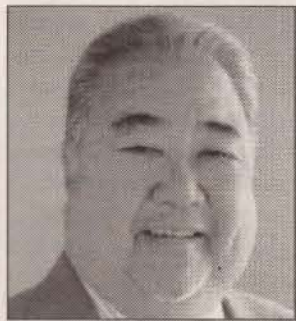
By Pacific Citizen Staff

Mukai Receives Honorary Degree

On her 90th birthday, **Kimiko Nagaoka Mukai** received a belated gift — her honorary college degree. Mukai was a sophomore at Seattle Pacific College (now Seattle Pacific University) majoring in Christian education during WWII when internment interrupted her education. She and her family were taken to Minidoka in Idaho.

Seattle Pacific University President Philip Eaton recently bestowed an honorary degree on Mukai, who went on to teach Sunday school at the First Baptist Church of Spokane for more than 50 years.

Furutani is Named Watershed Champion



Assemblyman **Warren Furutani** has been named this year's "Watershed Champion" for his work in authoring Assembly Bill 2537, which extends for three years the ability for volunteers to participate on community public works projects.

The award is presented by the California Watershed Network, a non-profit that helps people restore the natural environments of California's watersheds while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities.

Four Receive the 'Oscars of Teaching'

Four APA teachers were recently honored with \$25,000 Milken Educator Awards, the "Oscars of Teaching," according to *Teacher Magazine*.

The recipients were: **Mindy Yip**, a first-grade teacher from San Francisco, Calif.; **Stephanie Glover**, a math coach from Montgomery, Ala.; **Dr. Shannon Harvey**, a principal from Renton, Wash.; **Shannon Landefeld**, a fourth-grade teacher, Bowie, Md.

The awards were created by Milken Family Foundation Chairman Lowell Milken to honor excellence in teaching and attract high-caliber talent to the profession.

APAs Win Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Award

The Los Angeles-based non-profit **Asian Pacific Community Fund** honored young APA leaders who make a difference in the community through leadership and volunteer service.

Among the recipients of this year's 1st Annual 2009 Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Recognition Awards are: **Scott Chan**, JACL PSW board member; **Asian Professional Exchange**; **Asian Pacific Health Corps at UCLA**; **Jennifer Lin**, national vice president of Project by Project; **Joann Lee**, board secretary, Korean Resource Center; and **Kathy Khommarath**, National Asian Pacific Women's Forum — Los Angeles board member.

Chopra is Named First U.S. Chief Technology Officer

President Barack Obama has announced the appointment of **Aneesh Chopra** as the new U.S. Chief Technology Officer. As the country's first CTO, Chopra will work with already-appointed Chief Information Officer **Vivek Kundra** to "give all Americans a government that is effective, efficient, and transparent."

Before entering government, Chopra was managing director of a publicly traded health care think tank called Advisory Board Company. In his new post, he will work on U.S. technology and innovation policy.

APAICS to Honor APA Leaders

The **Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies** (APAICS) will honor two distinguished APA leaders at its May 19 Gala Dinner.

The late **William H. (Mo) Marumoto**, former president and CEO of APAICS, will be posthumously honored with the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for his 50 years of service in giving back to his community, his country, and his friends. **Martha Choe**, chief administrative officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will receive the APAICS Community Service Award.

The event will feature **Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke** as the guest speaker. "Star Trek" actor and community activist **George Takei**, will emcee the event. ■

Inouye Calls for Study of Hawaii's WWII Internment Camps

By Pacific Citizen Staff

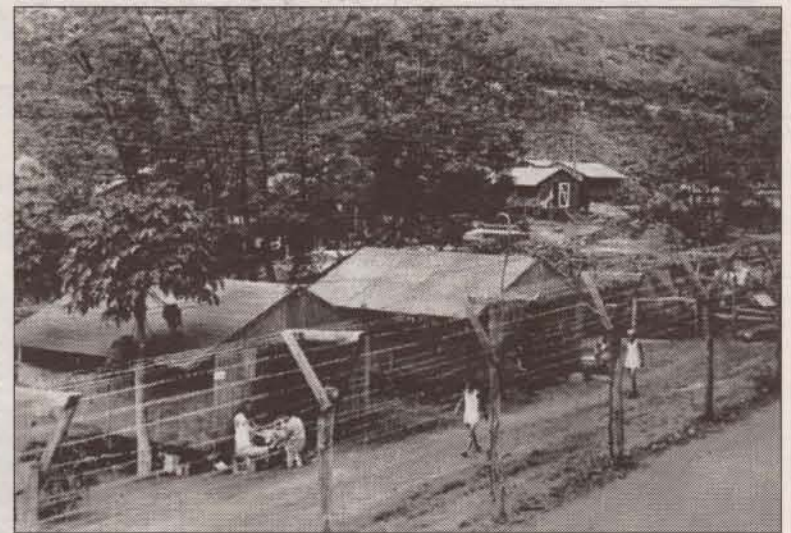
HONOLULU—U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye has introduced a bill calling for a study to determine if World War II internment camp sites in Hawaii can be listed as historic sites under the National Park System.

During World War II, more than 1,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned in eight internment camps scattered throughout Hawaii.

In a 2007 report conducted by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, these sites included Honouliuli Gulch, Sand Island, and the U.S. Immigration Station on Oahu, the Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Camp and Wailuku County Jail on Maui, and the Kalaheo Stockade and Waiialua County Jail on Kauai. In addition to JAs, about 100 local residents of German and Italian ancestry were also imprisoned at the Hawaii camps.

Many of the JAs who were eventually detained were leaders in Hawaii's Japanese immigrant community. The detainees were never formally charged and given only token hearings. Even though their families were detained behind barbed wire, many of the sons of the detainees went on to serve in the U.S. armed forces, including the legendary 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service.

"This legislation will enable the National Park Service to study these important sites in my state and make recommendations to Congress regarding the best approach to con-



The Honouliuli internment camp in Hawaii.

serve and manage these sites to tell this chapter in our nation's history to current and future generations," said Sen. Inouye in a statement.

So far Inouye's legislation has garnered the support of several local and national JA groups including Honolulu JACL, national JACL, the Japanese American National Museum and Densho.

The Cultural Center report of 2007 found that both the Kilauea Military Camp and the Honouliuli sites feature historic resources and have recommended that they be listed on the National Register for Historic Places. The Center is currently working with Monsanto, the landowner, to nominate the Honouliuli Gulch site to be listed on the National Historic Register.

"The internment of innocent Americans at Honouliuli and elsewhere is a tragic chapter of our country's history that we must never forget," said U.S. Senator Daniel K.

Akaka, a co-sponsor of Senator Inouye's bill. "Building on existing National Park Service initiatives, this new study will further efforts to share this difficult history in a way that appropriately honors the experience and memory of those interned."

The House version of Senator Inouye's bill was introduced by U.S. Representative Mazie Hirono. Its co-sponsors include U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie.

In addition to the support of the entire Hawaii delegation, the Inouye measure is also co-sponsored by Representatives Michael Honda, Doris Matsui, and Laura Richardson, all of California; David Wu of Oregon; Al Green of Texas; and Bobby Scott of Virginia; and Delegates Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa; Madeleine Bordallo of Guam; and Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands. ■

Oregon House Votes to Support Nisei Vets Stamp

L.A. County Supervisors also send a letter of support to the U.S. Postmaster General.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Following the states of Hawaii, California and Illinois, the Oregon House voted unanimously to support a Nisei veterans commemorative stamp on April 18.

The measure now goes to the Oregon Senate.

Oregon's House Joint Memorial 8 was sponsored by Rep. Brian Clem, D-Salem, whose wife Carol Suzuki's uncle Yoriaki Tambara fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Although Tambara sadly passed away in 1990, several of his Nisei comrades looked on as members of the House cast their votes.

"Initially refused the right to serve their country, and with their friends



and family incarcerated in the United States, these loyal Americans of the 442nd became the most decorated unit in the entire war," Clem said to the *Statesman Journal*.

Also throwing their support behind the Nisei vets stamp is the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In mid-April the board unanimously approved a motion to send a letter to the U.S. Postmaster General urging them to issue the stamp.

"Despite President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, relegating their families, friends and

colleagues to internment camps, more than 20,000 Japanese Americans served our country proudly during World War II," Supervisor Michael Antonovich said to *The Signal*.

"Many served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Services — one of the most decorated units in American history," he said.

The Japanese American World War II soldiers who fought in the 442nd/100th became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. And members of the MIS are credited with helping to shorten the war by at least two years.

Although a national grassroots campaign has garnered a huge amount of support, the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee has thus far not approved a stamp for the Nisei veterans. ■



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Save the Planet or Eat Toro?

Earlier this year, I decided to eliminate seafood from my diet. I had already stopped eating meat from farm animals for the last two years, and giving up fish seemed to be the next logical progression.

My parents were perplexed when I told them.

"Fish aren't really animals," my mother scoffed to me. "They actually want to be eaten by people."

This, of course, is coming from someone who grew up in a country where whale hunting is still going on in spite of international pressure to stop this traditional practice. When I was working abroad in Japan, I saw the whale sashimi and whale jerky being sold at the local supermarket, along with whale meat bento boxes proudly displayed at a big train station stop along the southern tip of the Chiba prefecture.

If Shamu and Moby Dick aren't lovable enough to be saved from human consumption in Japan, imagine what that spells for the rest of the underwater *animalia* kingdom.

"It's shameful when we get it wrong," the sushi chef snapped at me in Japanese when I messed it up a second, third time. There are few cultural offenses worse in Japan than the gross mishandling of sushi.'

I consciously delayed my no-seafood policy until *after* I moved back from Japan. I decided that while eliminating meat from your diet may be a tolerable quirk in this country, the complete exclusion of seafood from your diet feels like giving a middle finger to the very pillar of Japanese society.

I know this because I grew up with this. I can't think of another nationality that eats their fish with such religious fervor as the Japanese do. Before our fish is consumed with our taste buds, we supposedly take them in with our eyes — as works of art that com-

plete the delicate symphony of taste, color and composition.

Our fish is more than our lifeblood. Our fish operates on a higher plane of aesthetics.

This principle is more apparent when you enter the world of sushi. In my very brief stint as a sushi waitress in Los Angeles, our bald and cranky sushi chef yelled at us anytime we set the sushi platter before our customers the wrong way. Getting this wrong was worse than hanging a Monet painting upside down.

Never mind that most of the customers probably couldn't care less. In accordance with tradition, the specific arrangement of the sashimi had to open before the patron like a floral arrangement, with the wasabi and ginger dabs always on the right side of the plate.

"It's shameful when we get it wrong," the sushi chef snapped at me in Japanese when I messed it up a second, third time. There are few cultural offenses worse in Japan than the gross mishandling of sushi.

As many of you know, the popularity of sushi has exploded exponentially on a global scale. In the days before the term "globalization" was on everybody's lips, sushi used to be a weird delicacy, the gross-out foreign food that was up there with duck embryos and monkey brains. Now sushi is everywhere, and even the landlocked folk on the other side of the world just can't get enough of it.

Which is good for the farmer in Idaho who gets a weekly hankering for *toro*. Which is bad for our planet at large.

Our bluefin tuna population is now only 10 percent of the population than it was at in 1960. Just last month, conservation group WWF announced that unless we dramatically curve our overfishing, the entire species may be wiped out in three years.

Of course, the question of whether Japan can give up its sushi is a microcosmic example of the greater rhetorical question that all of us face, regardless of where we live or what we eat.

Can America give up its dependence on foreign oil? Can developed nations give up their out-of-bounds material consumption of stuff? Can we give up our own apathy, our individual indifference to the dire state of our one and only planet?

These questions won't be rhetorical forever. Sooner or later, we're all bound to find out. ■

Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles.



[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD

Becoming the Elders in the Community

Sometimes I'm struck by the fact that we Sansei, or at least that part of my generation that grew up in the camps and spent the formative years of our lives behind barbed wire fences, are becoming the elders of what's left of our community. We are now in the role we saw the Issei and then the Nisei occupy in the community, but it's different now.

We certainly don't feel like elders, don't view ourselves as ... what's the right word here? ... as elderly as we thought the Issei were or as old as we thought the Nisei were. Of course, we were just kids when our grandparents' generation came back from the camps with us, so naturally they seemed old to us.

The Nisei were our parents and had the onerous responsibility of keeping us in line and handing down to us the values that would guide our lives to be good and honorable and mindful of who we were as Japanese. Given the conditions they faced while raising us, I'm amazed they succeeded so well.

They gave us a sense of community and a feeling of pride at being Japanese at a time when it was so difficult for them just to survive, both in the camps and after the war when we returned to an environment that was often hostile and unfriendly.

But we grew up with the values handed down through generations, had a keen sense of our Japanese-ness, found comfort in the community and felt a sense of responsibility to preserve it. We respected with reverence our grandparents whom we didn't put in homes but kept with us in our lives, and even obediently went to *Nihongo-gakko* where the girls excelled and the boys knew only too well the sting of a wooden ruler.

So now we're the elders of the community, still respectful of the Nisei and even more appreciative now of how much they sacrificed for us. But things are different. The community is still the community, but we struggle to keep it intact. The *Nihonmachi*s have all but disappeared, and the J-towns in L.A. and S.F. are owned now by Japanese corporations or Koreans. A few of the familiar restaurants and stores are still owned by JA families, but those are now rare.

Things change. A truism if I've ever heard one.

The Yonsei are trying hard to maintain the traditions and meaning of what's left of the community. In some ways, they put more effort into it than we ever had to,

maybe because there's more at stake in it for them. They see value in it and have identified something important in what the community represents.

It's obvious that community as we know it is part of the transformation we experienced as we returned from the camps and the war. We still refer to "the war" almost like a code word, knowing we refer to *that* war, the one that so changed us, the one that left its mark forever on us. What other war can we possibly be talking about? Vietnam? That changed the country. Iraq? That's changed America's morality. But the war that changed us and our lives is the one that has always mattered most to us as a generation.

It's not, as young folks sometimes say, a preoccupation with us. We keep talking about camp, they say, and can't seem to get past it. There's some truth to that, but it's more than that. Perhaps in some deep, hidden part of our subconscious, we know that it's our generation that bears the guilt of letting the community die. One thing the war taught us was guilt and shame, and we struggled mightily to assimilate without knowing we were giving up so much of what was valuable to us as a people in our need to be accepted as equal.

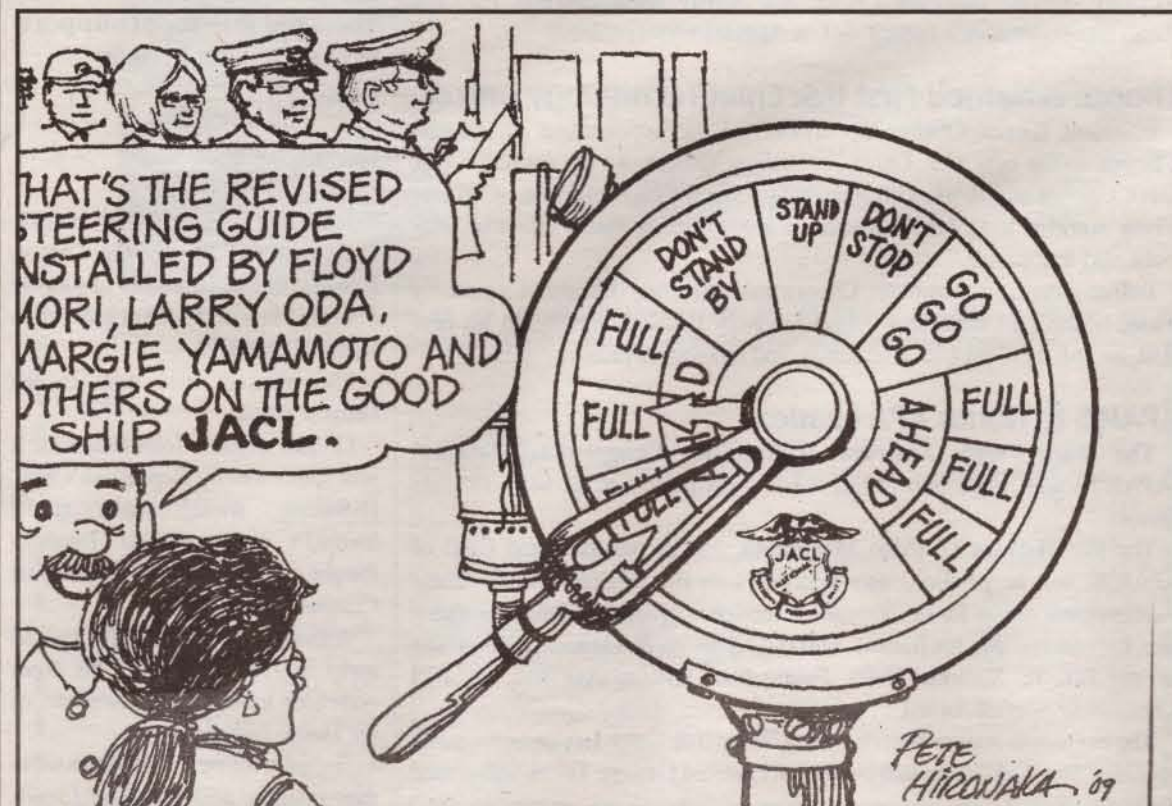
All we were trying to do as kids was survive and be accepted without rancor. Somehow, *gaman* wasn't enough to help us through. The Nisei had the 442nd/MIS and a belief in what was great about America. What we faced were the taunts of schoolmates and our own sense of shame about having been in the concentration camps.

What our instincts told us was to assimilate, to shed those parts of ourselves that were too Japanese and to become as American as possible. And we did. But in doing so, we left too little for our own children except for the tattered parts of our sense of community.

I've always felt a deep sense of gratitude for the Issei and Nisei for all they did for us and for their spirit and gumption. And now we're the elders of the community, and I'm left wondering if we've done enough, or if becoming American was too dear a price to pay.

I suspect it was. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



Keeping it Real

Filmmaker So Yong Kim didn't heed the warning — she worked with children in 'Treeless Mountain' and made their performances soar.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor



Jin (Hee Yeon Kim) is an old soul in a little body.

PHOTO: OSCILLOSCOPE FILMS

The journey to the big screen has taken So Yong Kim from rural Korea to the deepest recesses of her memory. Now with her film, "Treeless Mountain," set to open in theaters across the nation, the filmmaker takes a breath and exhales in a way that seems to release years of weight.

"It's like closure," said Kim, 40, by phone outside her home in Brooklyn, New York. Her voice, filled with joy, cuts through the street's musical composition of screaming sirens and shouts of children at play.

"This is a big deal for us."

Filmmaking is a lot like parenthood. It's a period of creative gestation followed by years of nurturing and some editing here and there. Then at some point, it's all about letting go. Kim is here. It's all in the hands of moviegoers and critics now, she says. The early feedback ("pitch-perfect" proclaimed *The Village Voice*) is proof she's done her job.

"Treeless Mountain," Kim's second feature film following "In Between Days," is a coming-of-age story about two young girls whose mother leaves on a mission to find their estranged father. Seven-year-old Jin (Hee Yeon Kim) and her younger sister Bin (Song Hee Kim) are left in the care of their aunt without explanation.

The film, shot near Kim's hometown in Korea with mostly non-actors, is like poetry in motion. The camera's gaze never strays from the girls' points of view. In one scene, Jin asks a stranger with a cell phone to call her mom, only to find that the number has been disconnected. The heartbreak is written all over her young face.

"These are raw emotions. It can hurt."

Kim's quest for realness in the film comes from a deeply personal place — "Treeless Mountain" is loosely based on her own experiences as the child of divorced parents.

"When a family separates, it's not easily explained to kids," said the filmmaker. For a while, the Kim children stayed with their grandparents while their mom, a nurse, moved to the U.S. to set up a new life for them.

These memories from her youth would surface spontaneously, and Kim — who was in her teens when she followed her mom to the U.S. — would write them down. It was 2003 and the beginning of the first of many drafts of the "Treeless Mountain" script. Still, as much as the film is based on her life, she makes it clear that the girls' story takes flight in a different direction.

"I wish I were as strong and smart and dignified as Jin," she said with a laugh.

When it actually came to bringing her script to life, she balked. She's heard horror stories about working with children — the tantrums, the meltdowns. But it took the birth of her daughter Sky, now 2 years old, to give her the confidence to make her film.

"I had a sense of urgency. I've been working on this story for a long time and I knew if I didn't do it now, I would never get this opportunity again."

Motherhood is the best excuse to take a year or two off. Kim felt like she had something to prove, so off they went to Korea — Kim, her husband and creative partner Bradley Rust Gray and their young Sky.

She pauses here at this imagery and chuckles. Filmmaking for Kim has always been a family affair. She met Gray, who is also a filmmaker, in college and since then, they've formed a partnership that blurs all lines between work and play. It's difficult to discern where one

ends and the other begins. They share one Web site (www.soandbrad.com), one e-mail address and until recently, one cell phone. They've also made four feature films together.

"It's a great partnership," said Kim, who likened it to driving a bus. "One person drives, the other has the maps ... we're constantly switching out."

On the set in Korea, Kim was in the driver's seat. To draw out the most natural performances from Hee Yeon and Song Hee, she threw out the script — yes, the one she worked on for years.

"I'm not so dedicated to dialogue per se. It's more important to capture real moments," she said. "It turned out to be an incredible experience. They gave me so much more than I could've written."

In the film, the range of emotions Hee Yeon shows in one scene where her aunt reads a letter from her mom — hope, joy, disappointment and crushing sadness — is real.

"I think people's interpretation of the girls' journey is rooted in their own individual childhood experiences."

On set, the girls instantly bonded. "My job as the director was to create a space for them to interact and shoot it." When Kim screened the film in Korea, the girls watched their performances and giggled all the way through it.

Now with her baby set to be released in theaters in the U.S., Kim is coy about her next project (a film about an older man this time), but who can blame her? She's still in the creative gestation phase. Isn't there an old wives' tale about how it's bad luck to talk about it at this stage?

"Yeah, this is — the writing process — is the most difficult part for me." ■

SEE IT



"Treeless Mountain" is this year's centerpiece film at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

www.vconline.org/festival

To find out when and where you can see the film in a theater near you: www.oscilloscope.net.

American Holiday Travel

2009 Tour Schedule

- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR I (SOLD OUT)** JUN 28-JUL 7
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.
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Ernest and Carol Hida

Pa. College Reports Racial Slurs, Physical Attack Against APA Students

In a letter to law enforcement officials, JACL demands a thorough investigation to ensure this 'type of crime will not be tolerated.'

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

One Asian Pacific American and two Asian international students at Pennsylvania's Franklin & Marshall College said they were punched and called racial epithets in an early morning incident near campus that left at least one student in need of medical attention.

Nobody was critically injured in the April 19 incident. Lancaster City police has said that three students were confronted by a larger group of young people near the campus. Some of the alleged assailants are also Franklin & Marshall students, according to a statement from the college.

Police officials are talking to several "persons of interest" in the alleged assault. It remains unclear what sparked the incident, or whether the victims were targeted. The identities of the two victims — ages 20 and 22 — have not been released.

"This behavior undermines the values of mutual respect and trust that are at the very foundation of the Franklin & Marshall community and are essential to its healthy, diverse and civil community," the college said in a statement.

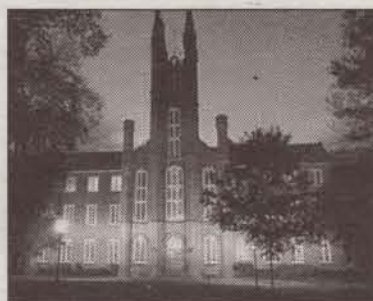
Students and APA leaders have also rallied in support of the students. About 100 people on April 23 gathered on campus to hold a silent vigil in support of the victims.

The JACL has also called on local law enforcement authorities to conduct a thorough investigation that will lead to the arrest of the individuals responsible for the alleged racial attack.

In a letter to the police chief, Keith Sadler, JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino said, "we urge you to cooperate with the officials at Franklin & Marshall College to take active measures to ensure the safety of the Asian and Asian American student population. A major step would be to arrest and charge the perpetrators to show that this type of crime will not be tolerated."

Franklin & Marshall College is among the oldest colleges in the United States. It was named for Benjamin Franklin and, in 1853, it merged with Marshall College, named for the noted Supreme Court justice, John Marshall. ■

For more information: www.jacl.org



Be a Part of JACL's New Collegiate D.C. Leadership Conference

The JACL is now accepting applications for its new JACL Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference to be held June 19-22.

The program, which is patterned after the JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference, is limited to Asian Pacific American college students who are in their freshman, sophomore or junior year.

The three-day program is designed to give APA student leaders a glimpse of the national policy-making arena in Washington, D.C.

The conference is structured to provide a broad overview of the decision-making process at the federal level including meetings with key policymakers, agency officials and advocacy organizations.

"The intent of the program is to provide student leaders with information, training and networking opportunities," said Bill Yoshino, JACL's Midwest director who is coordinating the program. "We hope this program provides the participants with additional motivation to be active and involved at their campus and in their communities."

The conference is being funded through a grant from the UPS Foundation, which will cover airfare, lodging and meals for 12 participants. Applicants must be full-time APA undergraduate freshman, sophomore or junior class students attending an accredited college or university. ■

Application Deadline: May 15
Download application at:
www.jacl.org

For more information, contact Bill Yoshino at 773/728-7170 or Midwest@jacl.org.

Apply Now for West L.A. JACL's New Internship

The West Los Angeles JACL is pleased to announce the creation of an internship program designed to give the participant an opportunity to work with the JACL at the district and chapter levels.

The intern will develop leadership skills and program planning and networking skills while helping the organization carry out its mission of civil rights advocacy.

The intern will work under the supervision of the Pacific Southwest District (PSW) program coordinator to support existing West L.A. chap-

ter programs as well as work with PSW staff members to implement new programs for the chapter.

The internship period is flexible, though is designed to be full time for two months. Interns should be 18 or older, preferably a college student or a recent college graduate. Upon completion of duties, the intern will receive a \$1,500 stipend.

The West L.A. chapter has 400 members and is the largest in PSW and sixth largest in the nation.

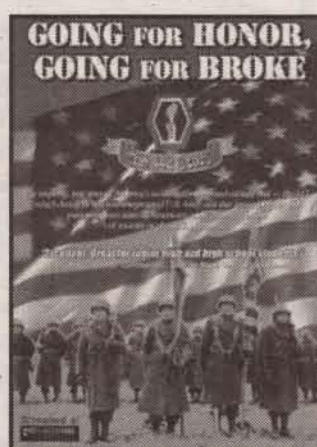
Each year, the chapter awards a college scholarship to a top area

high school senior and a scholarship to a student in medical school. It sponsors a candidate for the annual Nisei Week Festival queen competition in August, publishes a quarterly newsletter and organizes other community projects.

The application deadline is May 15. Selection will be made in early June. ■

For more info. or an application, contact John Saito Jr., West L.A. JACL board member, at johnsaito-jr@yahoo.com or 323/549-0371.

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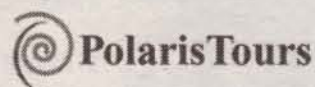
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Oct. 09-Oct. 22	Korea Highlights and Drama/Movie Tour (New Tour Date)
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Seattle University Names Law Center for Fred Korematsu

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE—Fred Korematsu considered himself as American as the next guy, a young welder from Oakland who had fallen hard for a special girl.

When his parents and three brothers were rounded up during World War II and sent to an internment camp, the 22-year-old, in a rare move, refused to leave.

With plans to leave California and get married, the U.S.-born Korematsu attempted to disguise his appearance through plastic surgery. He was eventually arrested, jailed and interned.

Years later, the little known events of his life would become familiar to every student of U.S. constitutional law. The soft-spoken father of two would go on to lobby successfully for redress for Japanese internees and to speak out against the treatment of Muslims in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

President Clinton would award him the Presidential Medal of Honor.

And on April 18, Seattle University's School of Law launched a new center that carries his name, the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality.

Its purpose is to address, through research, advocacy and education, discrimination in all areas — from race and ethnicity to gender, sexuality, class, disability and religion.

"Fred had a wonderful quiet dignity and a strong resolve," said Lorraine K. Bannai, associate director of the new center and a Seattle University law professor who is writing Korematsu's biography. He died in 2005.

"Until his death, he felt that what happened to Japanese people was very wrong," Bannai said. "It was never just about justice for himself; it was about equality and making sure it never happened again."

More than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast were rounded up and transported to internment camps based on an order signed by President Roosevelt after the December 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Korematsu felt it was unjust that as an American he should be forced to give up his home, his life, his friends — his girl, who was white.

"His actions didn't begin as an act of desire, but rather a desire to be free," Bannai said.

After his family left, he moved into a boarding house with her. Three weeks later, despite attempts

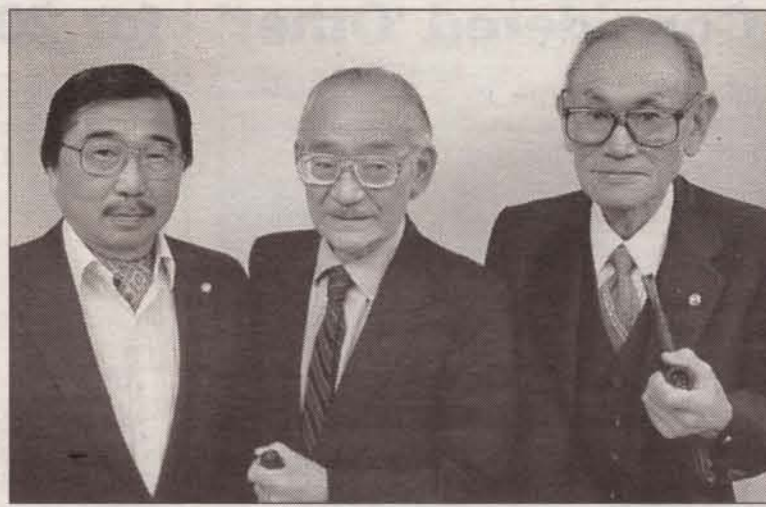


PHOTO: SHIRLEY NAKAO

Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui and Fred Korematsu (pictured, l-r) sued the U.S. government over their World War II internment.

to alter his appearance, he was picked up by police in the Bay Area.

Korematsu v. United States, a landmark suit against the U.S. over the forced relocation, began as a test case by the Northern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union. It was one of three cases challenging the government's actions that eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

The justices found the government's actions a military necessity in all three and ruled against the internees.

Korematsu was working as a tradesman in Detroit in 1944 when he learned of the ruling.

He met and married a woman there and moved back to the Bay Area, where they had two children.

He tried to move on with his life, but his past would not let go.

Law students and professors called regularly, but he declined to speak.

"Fred lived for 40 years always thinking he wanted to do something about what happened, but not knowing what he could do about it,"

Bannai said. "He never spoke about these things."

And that's where it might have ended were it not for a University of Massachusetts law professor who, while doing research, discovered a smoking gun.

Peter Irons found documents showing that government lawyers had suppressed key intelligence reports concluding that Japanese Americans had committed no wrong.

These official reports became the basis for reopening the three Supreme Court cases — including Korematsu's.

Bannai, then an attorney in San Francisco, was among a team of passionate young lawyers assembled to seek an overturn of the three convictions on grounds of prosecutorial fraud.

Twenty-five years ago, a federal judge in Northern California voided Korematsu's original conviction. The reluctant public speaker became a voice in the call for justice.

"It was so wonderful to see — this soft-spoken man, walking the halls of Congress talking to lawmakers," Bannai said. "He spoke from the heart, just an everyday person and that really appealed to people." ■



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JACL Meets With White House Officials



(L-r) Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation; Lisa Hasegawa, executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development; Doua Thor, executive director of the Southeast Asia Resources Action Center; Karen Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center; Jeff Caballero, executive director of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations; Tina Tchen, director of the White House Office of Public Liaison; Kal Penn, JACL's Floyd Mori and Deanna Jang, policy director of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

The JACL was among the Asian American and Pacific Islander groups whose leaders met in the West Wing on April 14 to talk with White House staff about the future of the White House Initiative on AAPIs.

Community leaders, including JACL National Director Floyd Mori, met with Kal Penn, the newly named associate director of the White House Office of Public Liaison. Prior to joining the White House staff, Penn was best known for his role in the "Harold and Kumar" films.

Tina Tchen, director of the White House Office of Public Liaison, invited the group for the meeting.

The White House Initiative on AAPIs

addresses the concerns of the community in areas such as health, education and labor. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life of AAPIs through public sector and private sector community involvement.

The group discussed issues surrounding the initiative that related to when a new executive order could be signed, where it would be housed and how it would be staffed.

White House representatives confirmed their commitment to institute this part of President Obama's blue print for AAPIs.

AAPI leaders will pursue future discussions on this and other issues as well as seek a meeting with President Obama. ■

New Survey Confirms that APAs are Still Considered 'Other'

An increasing number of people believe Asian Pacific Americans are more loyal to their countries of ancestry than to the United States, according to a new national survey.

The survey, "Still the 'Other?': Public Attitudes Toward Chinese and Asian Americans," was conducted by Harris Interactive for the Committee of 100 (C-100), a national APA nonprofit based in New York, to examine the changes in attitudes towards APAs since its previous major study in 2001.

Forty-five percent of respondents expressed suspicion of APAs' loyalty to the U.S., up from 37 percent in the 2001 survey.

The results confirm that racial discrimination, suspicion and misconceptions still exist today, according to a C-100 statement.

"At a time when some pundits claim that America has moved beyond race, this survey shows that there is broad ignorance of significant populations of Americans," said Helen Zia, C-100's vice chair for media and the author of "Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of An American People."

APAs have a distinguished history of serving the U.S., including the WWII heroics of the all Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion. Currently, approximately 59,141 APAs are serving in active duty in the U.S. Armed Services.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- At least 28 percent of the general population said they rarely or never interact with APAs.

- A majority of the general population believed that less than 25 percent of APAs were born in the U.S.

- Forty-four percent of the general population believed that APAs should think in more American ways.

"Race is not black and white — literally nor figuratively. Whatever our own individual backgrounds or political preferences, the facts are clear — the face of the nation is changing as it never has before," said Frank H. Wu, vice chair for research at C-100 and the author of "Yellow: Race In America Beyond Black and White."

The C-100 survey also tracked attitude towards APA political influence. Thirty-six percent of respondents said APAs have about the right amount of power and influence in Washington, D.C.

While the APA community celebrated the cabinet appointments of members to the Obama Administration — Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Gen. Eric Shinseki — there is a significant lack of representation among other federal, state and local elected leadership.

There are currently six APA members of the House of Representatives from continental U.S. states and two Senators from Hawaii and only one governor, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana.

To read the survey: www.committee100.org

APAICS Accepting Applications for 2009-10 Fellowship Programs

Do you want public policy experience in Washington, D.C.? The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) is now accepting applications for several hands-on fellowship opportunities.

APAICS, a non-profit educational organization, administers fellowship programs that place graduate students or professionals with a commitment to the Asian Pacific American communities into Congressional offices or federal agencies to work for nine months.

The programs include the National Association of Realtors (NAR) Fellowship. Here, the NAR Fellow will gain experience in legislative advocacy and national housing policy.

Another program, the State Farm Congressional Fellowship, will give a participant the opportunity to shadow a member of Congress for one to two weeks, depending on the Congress member's schedule.

"This is a hands-on experience to learn from a member of Congress the legislative process on how our laws are made in this country," said David L. Kim, APAICS chair.



The 2008-09 APAICS fellows who worked with Sen. Daniel Akaka are: (l-r) Rommel Calderwood, Gloria Mak, Akaka, Lan Nguyen and Ruby G. Moy.

Since 1994, APAICS has been working to empower APAs to enter and advance in elected offices.

Other APAICS Fellowships include: the Anheuser-Busch/Congressman Frank Horton Fellowship, the Sodexo Fellowship, the Wal-Mart Stores, Inc./Governor George R. Ariyoshi Fellowship and the AT&T Fellowship. ■

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These fellowships range from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for nine months. Fellows are placed in Congress, federal agencies or non-profit organizations.

The deadline for all fellowships is May 31.

Apply now: www.apaics.org



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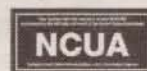
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ITAMI

(Continued from page 2)

My father died in April of 1978. He never saw justice for the wrongful incarceration of our family and ethnic group during World War II. In 1986, I became active in the national JACL Redress effort thanks to Linda's gentle prodding and sage gritty guidance by Grayce Uyehara.

At the 1988 convention in Seattle, Washington, I was one of the 75 Nikkei invited on Aug. 10 to the White House signing of HR442-S1009 into Public Law 383, the "Redress Bill". Hid Hasegawa, my co-IDC representative to that signing ceremony, later told the IDC at our district meeting that I'd hugged him after President Reagan signed the bill. It was the only time a man had touched him in an affectionate way and he was still heterosexual!

Throughout all of those years, it was the *Pacific Citizen* that kept me informed and aware of what was happening in and to our ethnic family. My wife was kept aware on behalf of our children of potential problems confronting us as a mixed race Asian-Anglo couple. I know that for most of us JACL members throughout the U.S. that it is our national newspaper, the *P.C.*, which keeps us informed on the issues most important in our

lives as an ethnic minority in this great country. It is our "link" to our ethnic "familia".

At this year's annual editorial board meeting in Los Angeles, California, I realized that I had not supported the only effort to raise money by our newspaper so it can survive to support us. I reported back to my fellow IDC members that we as a district had done nothing to support our voice in the *P.C.*, nor our small staff providing that voice which gives us eyes into the world.

IDC stepped up and at my chapter meeting, the Salt Lake chapter proudly stepped up and I'm personally stepping up to do the right thing for my newspaper: the *Pacific Citizen*.

The Spring Campaign fundraiser is the only one that *P.C.* can put on to provide themselves with the necessary funds to buy equipment, keep putting out a quality product and

provide a Web version of the paper. Please, join me and say, 'yes, I'll do my small part as well.'

Being a retired deputy sheriff, my pension provides us a comfortable but not extravagant retirement, so, the little extras have to be examined closely as they affect our quality of life. Supporting the Spring Campaign is a part of that "quality of life" we enjoy,

so we'll manage to find a way to do what is right. It ain't gonna be much money, but everything counts towards the total.

I thank you in advance for stepping up and "stepping up" to the plate! ■

Jeff Itami is the Intermountain District Council representative on the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board.

'Supporting the Spring Campaign is a part of that "quality of life" we enjoy, so we'll manage to find a way to do what is right.'



Kimberly Shintaku (second from left) mingles at a past youth conference.

SHINTAKU

(Continued from page 2)

quiet, there will be a talent show allowing participants (and the NY/SC) to perform with singing, dancing, music, spoken word, or any other performance art. We have asked for everyone to submit an audition packet which is located on the youth conference Web site, so that we can have all sound equipment necessary to assist the performers.

We try and vary the location so we can reach out to youth from all over the U.S. Minnesota has many great attractions that I otherwise, would not have the opportunity to visit. The Mall of America, located just outside of Saint Paul, has over 520 retail stores. The Walker Art Center has an amazing display of modern art sculptures, and the Guthrie Theater has an amazing view of the Mississippi River. Who could forget all of the beautiful parks and lakes located throughout Minneapolis and Saint Paul?

We've also decided to "go green" this year and provide all of the forms and information about the conference online. The Web site can be found through the JACL site (www.jacl.org) under the youth pages. Registration can be submitted and paid online. We tried to make the registration fees as affordable as possible for youth attendants, and encourage all of our chapters and districts to assist in getting as many youth to attend the this year's youth conference.

We look forward to a successful and well attended conference! ■

Any questions about how to register, volunteer, or how to outreach to your youth, please contact jacl.nysc@gmail.com.

Kimberly Shintaku is the national JACL youth chair.

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Oct 12 Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Days

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Oct 19 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days

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Nov 2 Fall Japan Classic-11 Days

\$3995 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Takahashi-Miyajima
Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island-Kyoto.

Nov 12 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days

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Calendar

East

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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.

Midwest

ST. PAUL, Minn.

June 26-28—2009 JACL National Youth Conference, "IMPACT! Your Community - Your Generation - Your JACL"; Macalester College; featuring workshops, speakers and events. For information or to register: www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.html.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

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.

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.

Intermountain

ONTARIO, Ore.

Sat., June 6—The Sky's The Limit! kite workshop; Japan Village at Global Village and Festival; see how to use recycled household materials and make them into Asian and classic kites. Info: www.idahokitefestival.com.

Northern California

EL CERRITO

Sat., May 30—Senior Appreciation/Scholarship Awards Potluck Luncheon; 12:30-3 p.m.; East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Potrero Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., May 3—Performance, "When Dreams are Interrupted"; 2 p.m.; 1830 Sutter St. (historic site of the Japanese YWCA); program weaves personal stories, dance, visual art and live music; \$15/suggested rate. Info: 415/552-1105, project@purplemoondance.org or www.purplemoondance.org.

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.

June 12-Sept. 20—Exhibition, "Lords of the Samurai"; Tue.-Sun., 10-5 p.m.; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; with more than 160 objects of armour, weapons, paintings, costumes and more, the exhibition explores the principles that governed the culture of the samurai lords; \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$7/13-17 years, under 12 are free. Info: 415/581-3500 or www.asianart.org.

SAN JOSE

Sat., May 16—San Jose Chidori Band's 56th

Anniversary Concert: An Evening of Japanese and Hawaiian Music and Dance; 7 p.m.; San Jose Buddhist Church, 640 N. Fifth St.; tickets \$12; Chidori Band's latest CD, "Portfolio of Passion" will be available for \$15. Info, tickets and CDs, 408/260-2533.

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; \$25 at the door, \$15 for seniors (65+) and students with ID. Info: Phyllis Osaki, 925/596-1770, posaki@gsmanagement.com or Aggie Idemoto, 408/294-3138, aggie@jamsj.com or www.midorikai.com.

TULE LAKE

July 2-5—2009 Tule Lake Pilgrimage; activities include a tour of the campsite, and a memorial service at the cemetery on the campgrounds, cultural programs and discussions; \$395/person, \$325 for students and people on fixed incomes, free for those who were incarcerated in Tule Lake, age 80 or older (fees include transportation, housing, meals, workshops, excursions and the cultural program at Ross Ragland Theater; early bird registration ends May 15. Info: www.tulelake.org, Hiroshi Shimizu (SF) 415/566-2279, Jimi Yamaichi (SJ) 408/269-9458, Grace Kajita (Sacto) 916/392-5416, Stan Shikuma (Sea) 206/919-1465, Soji Kashiwagi (LA) 626/351-1073, Sachiko Takita (Japan) stakita@yokohama-cu.ac.jp.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Through May 17—Play, "Bronzeville"; Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m.; The New LATC, Theatre 4, 514 S. Spring St.; play about JAs hiding from relocation in Little Tokyo during 1942; \$30/admission, \$20/students and seniors; Tickets: 213/489-0994 ext. 107 or www.thenewlatc.com.

Sat., May 16—The UCLA Asian American Studies Center Celebrates 40 Years; 4-7 p.m.; UCLA Dickson Court North; the program features special tribute to Don Nakanishi; admission is free; RSVP by May 5 to aascsvp@aasc.ucla.edu or 310/825-2974.

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, cultural demonstrations, craft faire, food and more (registration required for Chibi-K and San-Tai-San tournament). Info: www.jaccc.org.

Sat., May 23—JAKWV Memorial Day Services; 11 a.m.; JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; honoring those lost in WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, Grenada and Iraq. Info: Carl Miyagishima, 323/256-8451, Thomi Yamamoto, 213/387-9033, Robert Wada, 714/992-5461 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

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.

Through June 20—Exhibit, "Crossing: 10 Views of America's Concentration Camps; JANM, 369 E. First St.; the exhibition pro-

vides an artist's perspective into the mass incarceration of Japanese and JAs during World War II. Info: www.janm.org or 213/625-0414.

OXNARD

Sat., May 9—Annual Ventura County JACL Cemetery Cleanup; 8:30 a.m.; corner of Pleasant Valley Rd. and Etting Rd.; light refreshments will be served. Info: Ken Nakano, 818/991-0876.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

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 Tochiara, 714/826-2987 or Victor Muraoka, v.Muraoka@verizon.net.

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



The San-Tai-San Basketball Tournament is just one of the events at the May 14 Little Tokyo Children's Day Celebration.

benefits to a tee

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, designers Anna Sui and Koi Suwannagate have created limited-edition fashion T-shirts exclusively for Nordstrom. All after-cost proceeds from their sale benefit the scholarship program of OCA, a national organization dedicated to serving Asian Pacific Americans. \$60; available beginning May 1 in select Nordstrom stores and online. To see the tees and to learn more about the designers, as well as OCA and its mission, visit nordstrom.com/apahm.



NORDSTROM

In Memoriam - 2009

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Abe, Toraichi, 83, Anaheim, April 15; Army veteran; survived by daughter, Melissa; 5 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Hiyoichi; and sisters, Harumi Sekioka, Jane Tazawa, Kimie Yoshiba and Yemiko Yamamoto.

Higashi, Satsuko, 91, Los Angeles; survived by son, Teruhiko; daughters, Kimiko and Sumiko; son-in-law, Robert Smith; and 1 gc.

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.

Hitori, Lawrence, 79, Honolulu, Haw., April 14; survived by daughter, Charlene Inouye; son, John; and brother, Alvin.

Isonaga, Herbert Shunji, 87, Aiea, Haw., April 1; 442nd; survived by wife, Suzanne; son, Robert; daughters, Mae and Sara; 1 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sisters, Chito and Anne.

Iwashina, Edith, 96, Los Angeles, April 10; survived by son, Kenneth; daughter, Shirley (Dr. Shigeru) Kawanami; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister, Dorothy Nagao.

Kanada, Harry, 87, Walnut Creek, April 19; WWII veteran; sur-

vived by sister-in-law, Evelyn Kanada.

Kawamoto, Reiko, 74, Newhall, April 9; survived by son, Stephen; daughters, Patricia (Stewart) Suenaga and Susan Momita; 6 gc.; sister, Nobu Sasaki; and brothers, Ronnie and Byron Kunisawa and Donald (Sandy) Takakura.

Mizui, Jerry Ichiro, 95, San Francisco, April 7; survived by brothers, Masami (Toshiko) and Yoshiaki (Kuniko); and sisters, Harui (Yoshihiko) Domen, Natsuko and Kiyono.

Naito, Hajime, 70, Gardena, April 12; survived by wife, Mitsue; daughters, Arlene (Paul) Phipps, Lisa and Brenda Naito; 2 gc.; brother, Mike; and sisters, Nancy Naito and Kiyoko (John) Teodoro.

Nakamura, Randall, 56, Woodbridge, Vir., April 11; U.S. Air Force veteran; survived by wife, Lynn; daughters, Kelli and Kaitlyn; son, Kyle; mother, Rose; and sisters, Amy (Ernie) Prows and Carrie (Craig) Yoshimoto.

Noda, Masako, 79, April 8; survived by husband, Shigeto; sons, Gene (Miho), Norman (Eva), Ray and Glenn (Kay); 7 gc.; and brother, Tadao (Tomomi) Baba.

Okauchi, George, 84, Los Angeles, April 19; survived by son, Jason; and brother, Koji (Chieko).

IN MEMORIAM

James D. Houston, Author of 'Manzanar', Passes

By Pacific Citizen Staff

James D. Houston, who along with his wife Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, co-wrote the classic "Farewell to Manzanar" about his wife's experiences at the Manzanar internment camp has died. He was 75.

Houston passed away April 16 at

his home in Santa Cruz, Calif. from complications from cancer, said his daughter Gabrielle.

In 1973 the Houstons co-wrote "Farewell to Manzanar," a first-person account of Jeanne's family's experiences during and after their imprisonment at Manzanar. To date, more than 1.5 million copies have been printed and it is a staple of high school and college reading lists. The book was also made into an Emmy-nominated television movie in 1976.

Although Jeanne had originally

planned to write the story for her family, James convinced her that the story deserved a broader audience.

"He said, 'That's not just a story for your family, but a story that every American should read,'" said Jeanne in an interview with the *Honolulu Advertiser*.

In addition to "Farewell to Manzanar," James Houston wrote extensively about Hawaii and California. Among his credits are "Hawaiian Son," and "Bird of Another Heaven." ■



Sakuda, George Kaname, 79, Honolulu, April 1; survived by wife, Kyoko; sons, Lloyd (Yuko) and Paul; daughter, Sharon (Wayne) Okubo; and 2 gc.

Seto, Dr. Millard, 80, Mililani, Haw., April 12; survived by sons, Courtney (Laurie) and Scott (Alethea) Seto; daughters, Anne (Herbie) Titcomb and Jennifer (Thomas) Nollie; 6 gc.; and brothers, Chauncey, Hugo,



Dudley, Dexter and Anthony.

Taguchi, Dr. Jim, 87, Lakewood, Colo., April 21; Mile-Hi JACler and Thousand Life Trust member, Korean Conflict veteran, was head of the cardiology dept. of a VA hospital in Dayton, Ohio; survived by wife, Matilde; brother, Douglas; and sisters, Lucy Seo and Mary Tadano.

Takemoto, James T., 74, University Place, Wash., Mar. 21; survived by wife, Carolyn; daughter, Annette (Jason) Clark; 2 gc.; brothers, Victor (Lilly), Billy (Nobuko) and Fred; and sister, Terrie Sua.

Wakasa, Mitsuye, 98, Los

Angeles, April 3; survived by daughter Eileen.

Yamamoto, Irene Imako, 87, Sun Valley, Mar. 28; survived by son, John (Grace); daughters, Kayoko (Eugene) Uno and Betty (Gary) King; son-in-law, Wesley Kamikawa; 11 gc.; 4 ggc.; and sister, Asako Nomura. ■

Whereabouts

This section runs on a space available basis at no charge.

MISAKO TOMITA WADA
Theta Kappa Sorority and Alumni of UCLA is searching for the family of the late Misako Tomita Wada, who was one of the original nine charter members. Our sorority wishes to honor our charter members and their families at our 50th Anniversary and Reunion on May 16, 2009. With information, please contact www.thetakappi.com/alumnae or thetakappialumnae@gmail.com.

DEATH NOTICE

SAM YAMAGUCHI

SAN DIEGO—Sam Yamaguchi, 85, passed away Mar. 8. He was a World War II veteran serving with the 442nd, Company F. He is survived by his wife, Laura and sister, Jane Takeshita.

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DEATH NOTICE

FLORICE KUWAHARA

March 1919 - April 2009

Florice Kuniko Kuwahara, age 90, died peacefully on April 9, 2009 in Sacramento, Calif. from heart failure.

Florice was born on March 13, 1919 in Turlock, Calif. Her parents were Waichi and Kikuyo Morimoto, emigrants from Japan. She was the fourth in a family of six children. She had three older brothers, George, Albert, and Harry and two younger sisters, Florence and Lois. Her father, Waichi, died in a tractor accident in 1923 when she was just four. Her mother Kikuyo, married Sam Shiojiguchi, a good man who helped raise the family. Florice graduated from Turlock High School in 1937. She had one year of college.

In 1941, Florice married Sam Kuwahara, the manager of the Cortez Growers Association. Their wedding reception, set for December 7, 1941, was cancelled due to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Her happy life changed in a moment. She and Sam were interned in Amache, Colo. a few months later along with others of Japanese ancestry.

After the war, Sam and Florice returned to the Cortez area. They farmed, raising peaches and almonds. Florice was active in many community activities, including the Cortez Japanese American Citizen's League (JACL) and the Cortez Presbyterian Church. They had no children. Florice enjoyed cooking, sewing, knitting, and caring for their black cocker spaniel, Skippy.

On July 6, 1988, Sam passed away. Florice has given scholarships in Sam's name. In 1988, President Reagan signed legislation, which apologized for the World War II internment of Japanese Americans and provided redress. After Sam's death, Florice lived for a number of years at Covenant Village in Turlock and in the past year, at Greenhaven Estates in Sacramento.

Florice is survived by her sister Lois Shimomura of Woodland, Calif. and two sisters-in-law, Grace Morimoto of Sacramento and Lois Morimoto of Stockton, and one brother-in-law Yeichi Sakaguchi of Turlock. She is also survived by nineteen nieces and nephews: Aiko Sandburg, Karen Kajioka, Kathy Marquardt, Rodney Sakaguchi, Susan Yee, Joanne Malone, Janet Morimoto Terra, David Morimoto, Carole Chong, Neil Morimoto, Julie Kunisaki, Dennis Kawaoka, Diane Hansen, Betty Wilson, Keith Kawaoka, Sam Shimomura, Floyd Shimomura, Susan Shimizu, and Linda Don. She is also survived by 35 great nieces and nephews and 13 great great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held April 25, 2009 at The First Presbyterian Church in Turlock. Pursuant to Florice's wishes, in lieu of flowers or "koden", donations are requested to the Cortez Presbyterian Church, 12516 North Cortez Avenue, Turlock, CA 95380. A private family burial took place on April 15, 2009 at Turlock Memorial Park. Please share your memories at www.allenmortuary.com.

DEATH NOTICE

HARRY H. TANABE

Harry Harushi Tanabe, a resident of San Lorenzo, Calif., passed away peacefully on April 19, 2009 at the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., at the age of 86. Harry was born April 12, 1923 in Marysville, Calif., the fifth child of Yoshijiro and Asano Tanabe.



Harry is survived by his wife Miyako, children Christine (Russ) Burdick, Dave (Noryne), Brian (Pandora), Elaine (Dicky) Yamamoto, Andy and Kathleen (John) Kelley and step-daughter, Miyako (Steve) Schanely. He is also survived by grandchildren Mathew, Tamiko, Nathan, Nicholas, Yoshi, Sam, Bradley, Corey, Elise, Kevin, Brett and Makayla. Harry is preceded in death by his first wife Shizue.

Harry is survived by sisters Ruby Suzuki, Helen Hamasu and by brothers Tom and Roy. He is preceded in death by his sister Jane Otsuji, and by his brothers James and Norman.

Harry served bravely in WWII. His specialty was Counter Intelligence and he received the American Theater Ribbon, the Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation (Japan) Medal and the Purple Heart. He reached the rank of Warrant Officer Junior Grade.

He was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post 9879.

Memorial Services will be held at the Berkeley Methodist United Church, 1710 Carleton St. in Berkeley, on Sat., May 2 at 2 p.m.

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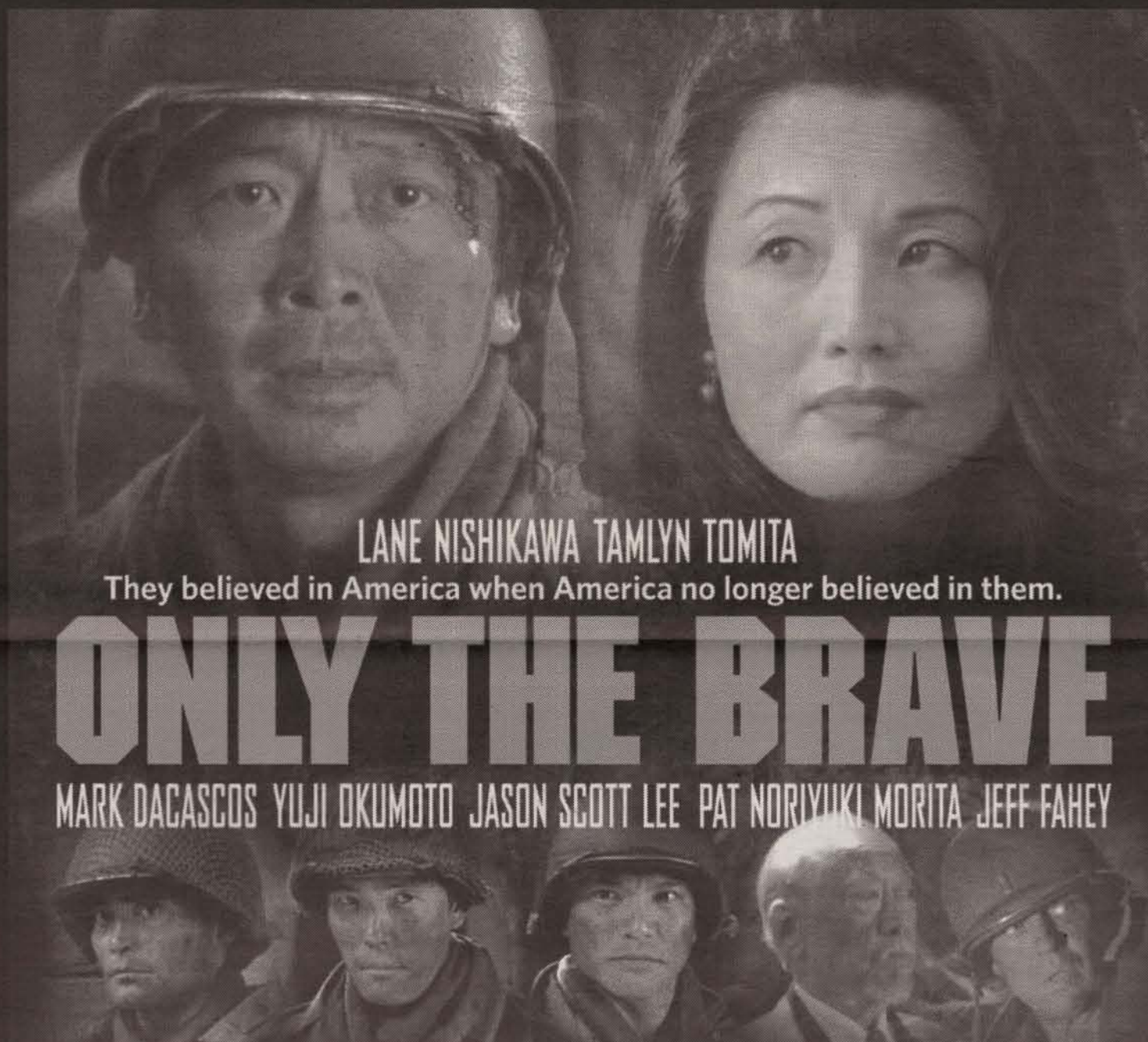
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