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**Running for a Cause**



Iraq veteran Robert Seo is becoming an Ironman in honor of his fallen comrade.

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**Olympic Hopeful**



Snowboarder Eden Serina is thinking gold in 2010.

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

**80**  
YEARS



Maggie Gee soared as a WWII female pilot.

{ IN DEPTH }

## The Women of World War II

Asian Pacific American women served as nurses, translators and pilots well before feminism became trendy. But their stories remain in the margins of history.

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## Letter to the Editor



The Arboga Assembly Center was home to 2,465 JAs from May 8 to June 29, 1942.

## Reader Remembers Arboga

Thank you *Pacific Citizen* for the informative article on the Arboga Assembly Center. I had totally forgotten that our family, the Miyamotos, were at the Arboga Assembly Center.

I was 18 years of age at that time and only remember it as an assembly center in Marysville. We had moved from Los Angeles to Florin, Calif., interned at Arboga then Tule Lake, and finally to Heart Mountain, Wyoming. I married in Cody, Wyoming, had my first child in camp and eventually came home to Los Angeles.

Thank you for the article which I will share with my children. I don't believe I've ever mentioned this phase of my life.

**HISA SAKIYAMA**  
Los Angeles

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT Happenings in the JACL

By FLOYD MORI

Plans are gearing up for the National JACL Gala Dinner which will be held in Washington, D.C. at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Sept. 17. This year's dinner will be a "Salute to Japanese American Veterans" and will honor some of the JA veterans organizations. Congressman Mike Honda is the honorary chairman.



The last official National JACL Student/Youth Conference will be held on June 26-28 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. We encourage all those between the ages of 14-25 to participate. Future youth conferences will be incorporated into the national JACL conventions from 2010 when the JACL goes to annual conventions.

Regional Directors Bill Yoshino and Karen Yoshitomi are busy working with the Chicago chapter in planning the 2010 national JACL convention which has Ron Yoshino as chair. Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director, is busy with Project: Community! which will be held in San Francisco this summer for high school students. Similar programs have already been held in Los Angeles.

The JACL is constantly looking for ways to gain more funds for the organization through donations and grants. Craig Ishii, PSW regional director, has been instrumental in helping with grant writing. One of the grants secured is from The Annie E. Casey Foundation for a project and study called: "Japanese Americans: Immigration through Acculturation? Applications for Immigrant Communities." The project is led by Dana Nakano (a PhD candidate at UC Irvine and a former JACL Masaoka Fellow) and Tim Koide (national JACL membership coordinator).

Various recent legislation has been of particular interest to the JACL. Some of these are: the hate crimes bill which passed the House of Representatives and which will come before the Senate soon; The GIVE Act (Generations Invigorating Education) which will improve the national service programs and levels of volunteerism; Redress for Japanese Latin Americans who suffered from relocation and internment during World War II; the Inouye bill to provide for a study on camp sites in Hawaii; and the Omnibus Bill which includes internment sites.

The Nisei stamp issue which is being presented to the U.S. Postal Service to honor JA veterans is still in the works. The JACL thanks its members who contacted their representatives and who wrote to the U.S. Postal Service to seek support on these issues.

The JACL is please with the release of journalist Roxana Saberi, an American citizen of Japanese and Iranian descent, who has been held in an Iranian prison since late January. Saberi, 32, was born in New Jersey, raised in Fargo, North Dakota.

JACL is an important organization. It is vital to maintain and increase membership. Staff and board members are trying to bring in new members. We want to thank you for your membership in the JACL and ask everyone to help get more members to join the JACL. ■

For more information: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)

## SPRING CAMPAIGN

## Let's Provide the P.C. With a 'Stimulus Package'

By TED NAMBA

Just about everyone in the country knows of a family member, co-worker or friend who has been impacted by our current economy. It's no surprise that many non-profits also have been forced to make adjustments due to a decrease in donations, revenues etc. JACL is no different than other non-profits so I can't fault the national JACL board for making numerous budget cuts, including the line item for the *Pacific Citizen*.

The P.C. is one of the few segments of JACL that funds much of its share of the budget through advertising, donations and non-member subscribers.

The P.C. has made numerous improvements in both its printed and Web version over the past few years and the key reason for these improvements is because of your past contributions to the annual P.C. Spring Campaign. Thank you for your generous support of the P.C. in the past. I'd like to share with you why we should all consider providing the P.C. with a little "stimulus package" so that we can help the P.C. flourish for another 80 years.

I can easily give you a dozen reasons why we should support the P.C., but I thought I would see what other JACLers around the country think about the P.C. I did a quick survey from various geographic regions of the U.S. and included both newer members and long time members. Here is a sampling of what JACLers think about the P.C.:

• Wendy Abe, Hawaii: "The P.C. keeps me informed on key events and activities impacting the API community. Its national coverage on political, economic and social issues provides information which affects the welfare and interests of local communities."

See NAMBA/page 13

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

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# APA Women Warriors of World War II

They served as nurses, translators and pilots well before feminism became trendy. But their stories remain in the margins of history.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

CANYON LAKE, Calif.—Sue Kato beams when she talks about World War II. The 87-year-old clasps her hands behind her head and demonstrates some of the exercises that were much easier to complete in her youth at Fort Des Moines.

At basic training, she said, the women did everything the men did, except carry weapons.

"And I never managed to do a push up."

The photos lining the hallway of her home are proof of a full life: births, graduations and military service. It's the latter part of her youth that fills a scrapbook with wartime memories. She's donated others to a museum, but a dog-eared photo album and a teal folder filled with newspaper clippings and Army documents are the only records of her service to the country. She points to a photo of herself at 22 in a crisp uniform. Her father thought she had lost her mind when she joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

"I was quite adventurous."

Male-dominated wartime narratives usually don't include the contributions of women, who during WWII played crucial roles in the war effort as nurses, translators and even pilots. They were women warriors who challenged social norms and racism in a time before gender equality became a standard. And now their stories of service are becoming endangered species, victims of time and lack of awareness.

"There aren't many of us left," Sue said softly. She calls out a list of some of her friends in uniform: Miwako Yanamoto and Florence Kaneshiro have passed away, and there are other friends she had lost touch with over the years — and with them, their stories.

During WWII, Asian Pacific American women entered military service in 1943 when the WAC, previously an auxiliary Army unit, was converted to full status. Other all-women military units included the Women's Army Air Corps Service Pilots (WASP) and the Navy's WAVES or "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service." The shortage of men created the demand for a policy change, and APA women stepped up to the challenge.

"This was feminism well before it was trendy," said Franklin Odo, director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution. "These women were way ahead of their time."

Their numbers are fewer compared to their male counterparts — just a few hundred, said Sue. But unlike the all-male Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion and other segregated ethnic troops, APA women did not have a set path to fight for their country. They were only granted equal standing with men for "emergency service."

"It wasn't like sign on the dotted line and you're in," said Dwayne Chung, 49 of Belmont, Calif. His aunt Maggie Gee was a WWII pilot. "She had to find her own way."

WWII, in particular, is a flashpoint in the APA community — the heroic stories of the Nisei soldiers have folded into the collective Japanese American identity like second skin. They symbolize the trials, tribulations and triumphs of an entire community, said Odo.

To get to the battlefields, the Nisei men faced a critical decision: whether or not to fight for the country that interned many of their family members and friends. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government, fearing collusion from its own JA citizens, ordered the evacuation and incarceration of about 120,000 JAs in internment camps. Answering the call to service drew lines in the community between soldiers and resisters. Nisei men had hard times convincing their parents that fighting in the war was the right thing to do, said Odo. Nisei women faced larger hurdles.

"[The military] was not preferred trajectory for a woman's career," he said. "It took independent women with a lot of



P.C. PHOTO



*'I was quite adventurous.'*

— Sue Kato, (above) who at 22 (far left, with friend) joined the Women's Army Corps. Other APA women like Hazel Toy Nakashima (left) became pilots and trained like the boys did during World War II.

courage."

Sue was the first to join the WAC. Fewer than 50 other JA women joined her over the course of the war.

"I needed to prove to myself. I was a Nisei. I needed to prove that I was a good American."

Each woman had her own reasons for joining the war efforts. For Sue, who trained as a translator at the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minn., it was the right thing to do. For 92-year-old Chito Isonaga, of Koloa, Hawaii, it was simply a matter of utility.

"I knew Japanese," said Chito, who joined the WAC in 1944. "I figured I had something to offer."

And for other women like Maggie Gee, 86 of Berkeley, Calif., the call to duty was a promise of adventure and a way out of the depths of the Great Depression.

"If you wanted a job, you got trained and worked," she said. "The government needed you."

During WWII, Maggie was the real life version of "Rosie the Riveter," the forearm flexing WWII female cultural icon. By day, Maggie studied at the University of California, Berkeley, and by night, she worked as a welder at the Richmond shipyard. But this Chinese American girl had dreams beyond the ordinary.

"Most of my life I wanted to fly," said Maggie. "Your heroes at the time were Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh. These people were having the great adventures."

Aviation, in its infancy, was a source of fascination for the Gee family, who would take trips to the local airport to watch airplanes take off. And on the schoolyard, young Maggie — eyes squeezed shut and arms stretched out to the sides — would pretend to be a plane buzzing through the sky.

It was almost as if she were destined to become a WASP pilot.

"She always did things out of the ordinary," said Dwayne. "She has this attitude of 'I'm going to do this on my own.'"

The WASP's objective was to take over all the domestic, non-combat aviation jobs. Maggie was 20 when she edged out thousands of other female pilots to fly from Texas to the East Coast in AT-6 single engine planes.

"It's something about being alone," she said. "It was the feeling of disassociation with the Earth. It felt like up there all your problems were gone."

The WASP unit was disbanded in 1944 when the men came home and took back their jobs, said Maggie. The women pilots did not receive veteran status until 1979.

"Ridiculous," she said. But then again it was simply a way of life back then, and she doesn't dwell on it — her war days make up only one chapter in her extraordinary life. She wonders aloud why it's important to keep talking about it. The 86-year-old still finds opportunities to fly — as a copilot — and in January, she traveled to Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"I'm creating new memories," she said. "I don't look back."

But the problem with not looking back is the threat of disappearance. Last year, Ren Nakashima, of Stockton, Calif., was cleaning out the house that belonged to his late mother Hazel Toy Nakashima when he found a suitcase filled with her wartime memorabilia: her uniform, dog tags and piles of documents. Hazel was one of the first women to become "Air WACs" and worked in air traffic control.

He had always known that Hazel had served in WWII, but finding her artifacts have both filled in blanks and raised more questions.

"She didn't talk too much about it," said Ren, 54, but he's sure she joined the war efforts because "it was the right thing to do."

Sue agrees. It was the thing to do. In her living room, surrounded by pictures of old friends and family members of past and present, she carefully rearranges the items that have followed her for over 60 years and closes her teal folder.

"I was proud of myself." ■

## VIDEO



Watch Sue Kato get back in touch with a long, lost WWII Army friend.

Watch now:  
[www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)



# Iraq Vet Trains for Ironman in Honor of Fallen Comrade



1. U.S. marine Robert Seo — of Bravo Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion — poses in an armored tank (left) in 2003 during the Iraq War.

2. Robert on one of his Ironman training sessions in Colombia.

3. Robert and Gregory MacDonald (far right) share a drink after a brutal marine training evolution in Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Greg passed away in June 2003 while serving in Iraq.



**Robert Seo lost a great friend and fellow marine in Iraq. Now he plans to swim, cycle and run to raise funds for his fellow veterans, many who are now homeless.**

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Robert Seo, a lanky 27-year-old Korean American, may look out of place as he runs along in his Nikes through the busy streets of Medellin, Colombia bordered by rows of colorful cafes and restaurants. But those here who have gotten to know this determined Iraq war veteran understand that he is a man on a mission.

For the past five months, Rob has traveled to Ecuador and Columbia relentlessly pursuing one goal: to become an Ironman and compete in the upcoming triathlon in Brazil. And he's doing it in honor of Gregory MacDonald, a remarkable friend and fallen comrade.

Rob and Greg were marine reservists when their unit — Bravo Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion — was activated in February 2003. After some brief training in Kuwait, they headed to Baghdad and the Iraq war where part of their duties included responding to and patrolling areas that had been ambushed.

It was on one of these missions that a dirt canal road gave way and a light armored vehicle flipped over, injuring several marines and killing Greg. When the unit returned to the United States later that year in September they were down one man. And that experience has forever changed Rob.

"Greg's death made me contemplate what he lived and fought for. I concluded that he lived to ensure that Americans would have the opportunity to live their lives to their full potential," wrote Rob in an e-mail from Potomac, Maryland during a brief visit home. "With that in mind, I decided that if I were to continue to slack through life, I would be letting his legacy down. And that was something I could never let happen."

Soon after returning from Iraq, Rob enrolled at the University of Maryland and graduated with a 4.0 GPA in economics. For the next three years he worked at UBS as a successful investment banker.

But Rob was still determined to do more to honor his friend Greg. About a year and a half ago he decided to leave his lucrative job and head to South America for the Ironman in Brazil.

"The Ironman is another example of how I believe I am realizing my potential, at least physically," he said. "I thought that it would only be fitting if I were to give back to Greg's memory, which has inspired me to constantly improve upon myself."

## Honoring Our Veterans

Rob is one of the lucky returning Iraq war veterans. His transition from military to civilian life was relatively seamless, at least compared to some of his fellow comrades.

Many of his friends are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Some have been hospitalized and others have buried their problems in alcohol.

But what Rob was surprised to learn is that many Iraq war veterans are now amongst the millions of homeless that live in this country.

A 2007 report by the National Alliance to End Homelessness indicates that 1 out of 4 homeless persons in the U.S. is a veteran. It estimates that in New York City almost 3,500 veterans sleep in shelters or on the streets each night.

"When one thinks of veterans who are struggling, one probably has in mind an older Vietnam War vet," said Rob. "But what alarms me, is that guys that I trusted with my life are now seen as a liability to society. I really believe that this is an issue that should be front and center of America."

"As someone who has experienced the military and combat, I felt that a home would be the *least* a country can offer its veterans."

So now he's running an Ironman to raise monies for his fellow homeless veterans.

So far he's raised about \$6,000 for the Jericho Project, a non-profit that provides housing, counseling and vocational training for homeless vets. He hopes to raise about \$12,000, enough to support one veteran for a year.

Fellow marine and best friend Paul L. Petzrick, 28, of Fairfax, Virginia calls Rob "an unstoppable force" and a "hero" for his efforts to help homeless Iraq veterans.

"People understand that Vietnam vets are suffering but the people that came back from Iraq are homeless and suffering greatly. Rob is making people very aware."

Paul also credits Rob with helping him overcome his own personal demons. Shortly after returning from Iraq, he was diagnosed with PTSD.

"I personally had a lot of problems when I got back from Iraq, and Rob helped me overcome some of these problems," he said. "Five and a half years later I'm doing great and I attribute that to Rob."

## Training Setbacks, Crossing the Finish Line

As a marine, Rob is familiar with the rigors of training to fight in a war. Running long distances was a no-brainer but he hadn't biked since middle school and he easily admits that his swimming skills were less than ideal. ("Little kids could beat me, in the kiddie pool!")

But on May 31 Rob will need to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles. It's a daunting task even for the most fit of athletes among us — but it hasn't fazed Rob.

"I knew that a marathon would be challenging, but the thought of it did not intimidate me."

Rob's been training non-stop for the past five months, spending hours each day running and working on his biking and swimming skills. In between, he volunteers at Casa Karah, a shelter for underprivileged children. So far he's been able to support himself on his own personal savings but he acknowledges it would be nice to have some sponsors.

But like most things in life, not everything is predictable. He suffered a foot injury a few months back and he recently had to have a growing cyst removed from his mouth. The operation required him to return to the States and he lost weeks of valuable training time.

Now just a few weeks left before the Ironman Triathlon in Brazil, Rob admits to feeling a bit anxious.

"This is my first Ironman and triathlon for that matter. After all that has happened with my surgeries and injury to my foot, I'm very anxious," he said. "I've come to accept that I will always be doubting and questioning whether I could do it until I cross that finish line."

"It's just a matter of how I deal with that doubt. The good news is that I'm using my doubts to fuel me rather than to get me down."

Rob's friends and family have no doubt he'll do well in the Ironman.

"I'm pretty confident that if he starts something, he's going to finish it," said his sister Jenny Seo, 30. "I'm confident he'll finish the Ironman. He may have to walk some of it, but he'll definitely finish it."

"I think it's very admirable to do something like this," she added, noting that their parents are proud of him too. "He's running for an admirable cause, for a fellow marine who passed away in Iraq."

This will be Rob's first and last Ironman. Afterwards, he plans to return to the U.S. and attend business school.

"I think I will take the lessons learned and focus my energy on other endeavors."

But for now, Rob's focused on one thing: crossing that finish line and honoring his good friend Greg. ■

## To follow Rob's progress:

<http://raceforthe fallen.blogspot.com>  
Information: [www.jerichoproject.org](http://www.jerichoproject.org)



# Lt. Dan Choi to Fight His Army Dismissal

The Army is accusing the Iraq war combat veteran of 'moral or professional dereliction' for openly talking about his sexual orientation.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

Lt. Dan Choi is getting fired for saying three little words: I am gay.

The Iraq war combat veteran is being dismissed from the New York Army National Guard for "moral or professional dereliction," according to an April 23 Department of the Army memorandum to Choi.

Army officials also said the West Point graduate's decision to openly talk about his sexual orientation "negatively affected the good order and discipline of the New York Army National Guard."

First came the shock. "I didn't expect the Army at-large to take action," said Choi in a telephone interview with the *Pacific Citizen*. Then came the anger.

At the unit level, Choi said his commander and troop members have been supportive of his decision to come out and become the face of Knights Out, a newly formed association for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) West Point alumni and their supporters.

The person who signed the memorandum has never visited his troop unit with the New York Army National Guard, he said.

The Army has given Choi, 28, two options:



The Army said Choi's decision to talk about being gay negatively affected the National Guard.

resign and receive an honorable discharge or fight.

"I have chosen to fight," he said. "I will not remain silent. I'm making a statement. Yes, I'm still gay. It wasn't a mistake."

Choi has landed in the center of a national debate on the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which prohibits LGBT people in the military from being open about their sexual orientation. A bill that would allow gays to serve openly has been introduced in Congress and President Barack Obama has said he supports ending the now 16-year-old policy.

Choi's decision to take a stand against what he calls an immoral law is very clear: he wants

to be a voice for the voiceless — the estimated 65,000 LGBT soldiers who are affected by the law.

"It's not about me," he said.

"Don't ask, don't tell" was put into place after President Bill Clinton tried to lift the ban on gay service members in 1993. Since then, over 12,000 service members have been discharged under the policy, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group fighting for equal treatment of

LGBTs in the military. Of those discharges, 800 were of individuals deemed "mission critical" including Arabic linguists — like Choi.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., has introduced the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would replace the current ban with new provisions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the armed forces. Reps. Mike Honda, Mazie Hirono, Doris Matsui and David Wu are cosponsors.

And while his troop gears up for another reported deployment to Afghanistan, Choi faces his own personal battle.

"I hope the Army will let me stay in," said Choi, who continues to run every day and practice his language skills. During the appeals process, his National Guard duties and his rank and benefits have all been suspended. There is also a very real chance he'll be separated from his troop members, a group he calls his family.

"It's like sitting on the bench when you know you're ready and willing and you can help the team."

But he still has no regrets.

"I regret 'don't ask, don't tell.' I never regret being honest." ■

For more information:

[www.knightsout.org](http://www.knightsout.org)

## Justice Dept. Won't Pursue Watada Case

With an end now finally in sight, the lieutenant hopes to return to civilian life and attend law school.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SEATTLE—The Justice Department is dropping its attempt to retry the first commissioned officer to be court-martialed for refusing to go to Iraq.

Army 1st Lt. Ehren Watada contended that the war is illegal and that he would be a party to war crimes if he served in Iraq. His first court-martial ended in a mistrial in February 2007.

A federal judge ruled last fall that the Army could not try him again on key charges, including missing troop movement, because it would violate his constitutional right to be free from double jeopardy.

The Justice Department initially appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but later asked the court to dismiss the matter. The court did so on May 6.

Watada's attorney, James Lobsenz, said in a news release that his client anticipates he will soon be released from active duty and "plans to return to civilian life and to attend law school."

"We are cautiously optimistic that perhaps we've had enough litigation," said Lobsenz in an interview with the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

But Fort Lewis leadership is still mulling how to handle two remaining allegations of conduct unbecoming an officer against Watada that the federal judge had kicked back to the military trial court for further consideration.

Options include court-martial, nonjudicial



1st Lt. Ehren Watada refused his deployment to Iraq, calling it an illegal war.

punishment such as docking his pay or giving him extra work, or kicking him out of the Army with either an honorable or dishonorable discharge.

Army spokesman Joe Piek said he was not sure whether the Department of Justice intended to refile the remaining charges. But according to Lobsenz, so far no charges are pending.

"What is most troubling to us here is that the most serious charge of missing movement will not be decided upon by a jury of the lieutenant's peers," said Piek. "We're troubled by that on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have deployed."

For several months after Watada announced his decision, heated debate took place in the Japanese American community with many former veterans chastising the lieutenant for his decision, but many also backed his refusal to deploy. ■

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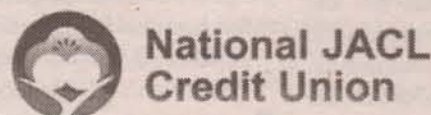
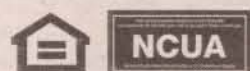
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## U.S. Journalist Freed by Iran, Reunited with Parents

JACL has been actively calling for Roxana Saberi's release.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Roxana Saberi, an American journalist imprisoned on espionage charges in Iran for four months, was finally freed May 11 and reunited with her smiling, tearful parents — a move that Asian Pacific American groups are calling a relief.

"We are happy to see that the Iranian government has heeded the requests of many global leaders and organizations for human rights by allowing Ms. Saberi to be released from her imprisonment," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

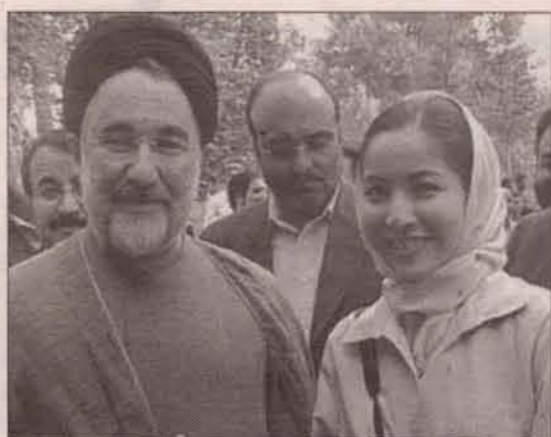
The organization has been actively calling for the journalist's release.

Saberi's Iranian-born father, Reza Saberi, wiped away tears, then flashed a broad smile as he and his wife, Akiko, arrived at Tehran's Evin prison — notorious for holding political prisoners — to meet their daughter, Akiko Saberi, who is of Japanese origin, wore a flowered headscarf.

"I'm very happy that she is free. Roxana is in good condition," Reza Saberi said later. "We had expected her release but not so soon."

Roxana Saberi's release came when an appeals court reduced her eight-year prison sentence on charges of spying for the U.S. to a two-year suspended sentence, said Iranian judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi. He said Saberi was free to leave Iran.

The court ordered the reduction as



a gesture of "Islamic mercy" because she had cooperated with authorities and had expressed regret, he said.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the Obama administration continues to stress that Saberi was wrongly accused, "but we welcome this humanitarian gesture."

The release ends an ordeal for Saberi, who was convicted and sentenced in a secret session by a security court. Her father said the trial lasted only 15 minutes and her lawyer was not given time to defend her.

Her parents, who live in Fargo, N.D., rushed to Iran to seek her freedom. At one point, Saberi held a hunger strike to protest her jailing, but ended it after two weeks when her parents, visiting her in prison, asked her to stop because her health was weakening.

Saberi, who was crowned the 1997 Miss North Dakota, moved to Iran six years ago and had worked as a freelance journalist for several organizations, including NPR and

the British Broadcasting Corp.

She was arrested in late January, but it was not known until Feb. 10, when she called her father in Fargo and told him she had been detained. She said it was because she had bought a bottle of wine, which is illegal in Iran but available on the

black market. Her parents decided not to publicize the news until early March when their concerns grew because their regular communications with her were cut off.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said she was working in the country illegally because her press credentials were revoked in 2006. But when she was put on trial in mid-April, she was convicted on much harsher charges of spying for the United States.

When talking about the release Marianna Malm, Saberi's former English teacher at Fargo North High School, was in tears.

"They are tears of joy," Malm said. "It's an overwhelming announcement."

But the news of Saberi's release is tempered by the continued imprisonment of two other APA journalists in North Korea. Laura Ling and Euna Lee have been in the country's custody since March 17.

North Korean government officials have said Ling and Lee will be tried for "hostile acts," but did not say when. ■

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Bill to Recognize Native Hawaiians Reintroduced

HONOLULU—Hawaii's congressional delegation has reintroduced a bill from 2007 that seeks to give federal recognition to Native Hawaiians.

The Akaka Bill was introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives on May 7 by the state's four Democrats: Sens. Daniel Akaka and Daniel Inouye and Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono.

They say the bill is "critical for the future" of the state. It gives recognition similar to that of American Indians and has a provision that would bar legalized gambling operations.

The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act was approved by the House and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee in 2007. It was shelved when President George W. Bush threatened to veto the bill.

### Scams Target Chinatown Business Owners

PHILADELPHIA—Chinatown business owners are being targeted by a variety of phone scams and extortion attempts, according to law enforcement officials.

Business owners have been getting calls in which the person on the other line threatens to kidnap family members or damage property unless thousands of dollars are wired to them.

The police station has received 19 such reports in Chinatown.

Police say if you get a call like this, hang up and dial "57" (star-five-seven) to store the phone number before calling police.



### German Minister: Need More Info on Gitmo Inmates

BERLIN—Germany needs more information from the U.S. on a group of Guantanamo prisoners before it can make a decision on whether to take them in.

German media have reported, without citing sources, that the U.S. would like Germany to accept nine Chinese Muslims, known as Uighurs.

Germany confirmed earlier this month that Washington has asked it to accept some prisoners when the facility in Cuba is closed, but officials have refused to say how many or to identify them.

President Barack Obama has ordered the closure of the military prison, which has been strongly criticized in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, in the next nine months.



## Hawaii Moves to Prevent Ceded Land Sales

By MARK NIESSE  
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU—Hawaiian lands couldn't be sold unless two-thirds of both the state House and Senate approve, according to a bill agreed on May 5. The bill now awaits the signature of Gov. Linda Lingle.

"Given how difficult it is to get a two-thirds majority of both houses, we think it's essentially a full moratorium on the sale of ceded lands," said Office of Hawaiian Affairs Administrator Clyde Namu.

The measure was passed by both the House and Senate on May 5.

The legislation is a response to the U.S. Supreme Court case over whether the state of Hawaii has the right to sell former Hawaiian monarchy lands. The court ruled that the government's apology for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom didn't strip the state of its land rights.

The bill falls short of an earlier proposal that sought a five-year



moratorium on all sales of ceded lands.

"In the long run, a full moratorium would have been better," said the leader of the Hawaiian Caucus, Rep. Mele Carroll, D-Lanai-Molokai. "Something is better than nothing. Looking at it from the general community, we just don't want our lands sold."

Sen. Clayton Hee also wanted an outright ban on ceded land sales, but he said this legislation should be sufficient to prevent sales for at least the next five years.

"I don't see it as a compromise as much as I see it as a safety net for the

public," said Hee, D-Kahuku-Kaneohe.

While the bill is aimed primarily at Hawaiian lands, it applies to all lands owned by the state.

This measure fulfills one of the requirements of a settlement proposal to end the long-running lawsuit at the heart of the U.S. Supreme Court case.

Four people and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs sued the state in 1994 to halt the sale of affordable housing built on ceded lands on Maui. The Hawaii Supreme Court in 1998 imposed a moratorium on the sale or transfer of ceded lands until the claims of Native Hawaiians are resolved.

The settlement requires Gov. Linda Lingle to sign the bill and have all parties agree to dismiss the case without prejudice, meaning the parties could sue again and raise the same issues. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Community Groups, Leaders Receive Honor at APA Heritage Month Celebration



Pictured Above: (L-r) Erwin Furukawa, vice president of programs and services at Southern California Edison; Alan Fohrer, CEO of SCE; Bill Watanabe, LTSC executive director; Daphne Ng, community partnerships director at SCE; and Ted Chen, MC and news anchor at KNBC-TV4.

At its fourth annual APA Heritage Month celebration, Southern California Edison honored some of the community's most prominent movers and shakers.

The Little Tokyo Service Center earned the Community Service Award for its 30-year commitment and dedication to serving Southern California's JA and APA communities. SCE presented the Leadership Award to **Susan Ahn Cuddy**, a Korean American pioneer whose influence inspired the leadership and service of many young APAs. The Corporate Award was given to **Seafood City**, a family-owned business that has made significant contributions to the Filipino community.

### Arizona JACL Recognizes Community Leaders, Scholars

The Arizona JACL recently held its 48th Annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards and Graduates Luncheon & Gold Saguaro Tribute.

At the April 26 event, \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to three high school students: **Will Auther** (Sunnyslope High), **Patrick Kishi** (Shadow Mountain High), and **Stephen Koons** (Mountain Pointe).

The chapter also awarded its Gold Saguaro Tribute awards to the following individuals for their many years of service to both the chapter and community at large: **Joe Allman**, **Beth Cole**, **Brian Flanigan**, **Gladys Sallas**, **Masako Takiguchi**, **Ayako Takiguchi** and **Fred Takiguchi**.

The event's keynote speaker was Adam Schrager from Denver, Colo.

### Bush Attorney Who Wrote Terror Memo Faces Backlash

Pressure is mounting against **John Yoo**, a former Bush administration attorney who wrote the legal memos used to support harsh interrogation techniques that critics say constituted torture.

Yoo, a constitutional law professor at the University of California, Berkeley, is fighting calls for disbarment and dismissal.

Justice Department investigators have stopped short of recommending criminal charges, but suggest in a draft report that Yoo should face professional sanctions. A number of groups across the country agree, and some want even stronger action.

### Calif. Assemblyman Says He'll Challenge Loretta Sanchez

**Van Tran**, the first Vietnamese American elected to the California Legislature, plans to challenge Democratic U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, one of the country's leading Hispanic politicians.

Tran, a three-term Republican assemblyman whose district office is in Costa Mesa, said he has filed paperwork to create a committee so he can run against Sanchez in what could be among the nation's hottest House races in 2010.

The 44-year-old believes the struggling economy makes the 47th Congressional District in Orange County — which includes parts of the country's largest Vietnamese-American community — ripe for change. ■

## Texas Voter ID Bill Passes House Committee

The controversial bill is opposed by JACL.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

AUSTIN, Texas—A House committee has approved strict new voter ID legislation that would require most Texans to present photo identification before being allowed to cast a regular ballot, but efforts to forge a compromise that can pass out of the Legislature seemed to be falling apart.

The 5-4 vote in the House Elections Committee May 11 comes after Republican Rep. Todd Smith, chairman of the panel, floated a series of proposals designed to attract a bipartisan coalition.

He said the chances of bridging the partisan divide were now "less than 50 percent." Republicans say the measure is needed to prevent voter fraud. Democrats have criticized the move as a partisan power grab designed to suppress their base vote.

Although the legislation would still need to make it through the Texas Legislature, JACL is vocally opposing the bill.

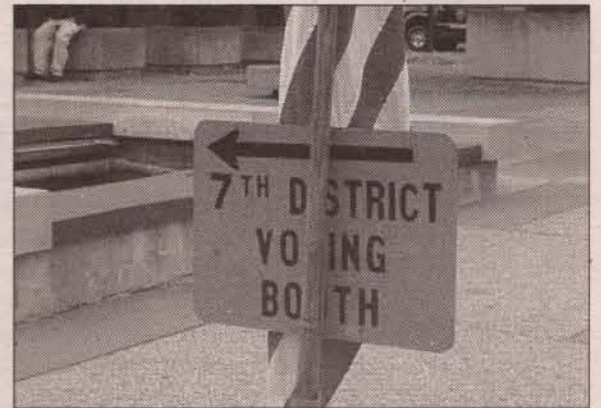
"Current Texas election code already contains safeguards against voter fraud," said Ron Katsuyama, JACL vice president of public affairs. "Application for a voter registration certificate must be submitted 30 days prior to an election, and the certificate must be presented at the polls."

The proposed legislation includes exemptions for voters aged 70 and over, the indigent and Texans who state a religious objection to having a photo ID — provided they show up at the polls with a voter registration certificate.

The proposal by Rep. Smith is far tougher than previous versions, which encouraged but did not require use of a photo ID. The legislation would also provide a two-year phase-in of the new rules, instead of four years as Smith had previously proposed.

Most Democrats say the voter ID legislation is a partisan ploy to keep their base voters away from the polls. Party leaders were already leery of the new plan, saying public hearings should be held before any legislation is approved in committee and sent to the full House.

But Rep. Joe Heflin, a Democrat who sits on the elections panel and represents a conservative district in the Texas Panhandle, said at first glance he doesn't think the



latest photo ID bill will negatively impact voting in Texas.

"I don't think it's too tough," Heflin said. "I want a bill that's not going to disenfranchise voters, not going to discourage voters. I think it's in there. Money is in there for education of voters."

The latest proposal would provide \$7.5 million to fund voter registration drives and a program whereby mobile units, operated by the Department of Public Safety, would give out photo IDs that could be used for voting.

"Texas S.B. 362 would disproportionately affect (1) Asian Americans, if their names are misspelled on precinct lists of registered voters, or (2) the poor, elderly, recent immigrants, or those with disabilities, who are less likely to have driver's licenses," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Voters who can't produce a photo ID or qualify for an exemption would be able to cast a provisional ballot provided they show at least one form of non-photo ID, including a utility bill, a bank statement or library card.

The provisional voters would have six days to present a photo ID and have their vote accepted as a regular ballot. If they do nothing, a bipartisan "provisional ballot signature verification committee" would compare signatures on file and vote whether to include or throw out the ballot.

In citing the history of disenfranchisement of minority communities, including documented cases of voter intimidation and racial profiling that suppress voting, JACL President, Larry Oda said: "As a civil rights organization, the JACL has long supported measures that would enhance voter participation rather than those that would impose barriers to participation." ■

## JACL Urges Continued Funding for Disadvantaged AAPI Students

The JACL recently joined the National Education Association (NEA) and others in calling upon Congress to continue funding a program which provides grants to colleges and universities that serve large numbers of low income Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

Congress permanently established the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution Program in 2008 to help schools improve their infrastructure to serve low income AAPI and other students, but many within the diverse AAPI community continue to face challenges and need the continued funding.

Schools are able to use the money to develop curriculums, create outreach programs to encourage students to pursue post-secondary education, provide tutoring, counseling and other support services, and conduct research and data collection for AAPI groups.

"While many within the AAPI community have accomplished great things and have attained high levels of education, there are still many young people within the AAPI community who are held back because of financial concerns," said National JACL Director Floyd Mori. "We urge Congress to elevate funding to newly designated serving institutions which would greatly benefit young people within the AAPI community who have a strong desire to attend college but who need help finan-

cially."

Statistics show low college degree attainment rates in many Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities. The national average of those 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher is around 24 percent. The 2000 Census found that only 7 percent of Hmong and Laotian Americans have advanced degrees and about 14 percent for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

"Education is a very important piece in the development of a community, and society as a whole," said National JACL President Larry Oda. "The AAPI youth who need financial help will become needed and effective contributors to this advancement if given the opportunity. We are grateful that Congress established this program to help underserved Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, and we ask that they continue this worthy investment in our young people."

The JACL has worked with other AAPI organizations for over a decade to establish this program for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander students which already existed for African American and Hispanic students. The JACL thanked Congressman David Wu, who led this effort in Congress with the support of Congressman Mike Honda. ■





[ HARRY HONDA ]

VERY TRULY YOURS

## Have You Seen P.C.'s New Web site?

The *Pacific Citizen* is about (some will insist otherwise) to enter its Third Age in communications art from Letterpress, Rotary Press to Digital. A cursory check into [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) shows a navigation bar with 12 categories. Vertical columns of reading matter, briefs to Top Stories and News, and some ads dancing around the page emerge to fill the monitor screen.

The 12 categories on the navigation bar offer detailed information and include — Home, News, Columnists, Calendar, Obits, About, Advertisers, Donate, Links, P.C. Beat, "My P.C." and Happy 80th!

The Web site lists links to 17 organizations in the Asian Pacific American community — Asian American Movement E-zine (electronic magazine), Asian American Net, Asian-Nation, Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches, Bamboo Girl, Densho: the Japanese American Legacy Project, Go for Broke, GoldSea, IM Diversity.com, Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese American National Museum, National JACL Credit Union, National Japanese American Historical Society, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Pinedale Memorial Center, Secret Asian Man ...

And also links to 14 JACL chapters — Arizona, Berkeley, Chicago, Diablo Valley, Downtown Los Angeles, Florin, Hoosier, Houston, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, Portland, San Jose, Twin Cities and Wisconsin.

*Mile-High Notes*, till recently edited by Alley Watada, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter's 14 to 20-page monthly editions, edited by Mas Hashimoto, have come to our e-mail box for some time.

*The New York JACL Scene*, edited by Lillian Kimura; the *Four Seasons* quarterly from Ventura County JACL edited by Anne Chilcott; the photo-rich *Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center* newsletters, and *South Bay JACL Newsletter* with veteran editor Ed Mitoma's column come to us in the regular mail at home.

\* \* \*

Looking into my own chapter's Web site, the first two pages feature color photos (which were in black and white in the P.C.) and three major *but undated* news items: (1) Downtown JACL opposes Proposition 8, a November state ballot measure banning same-sex marriage; (2) Downtown JACL supports push for postal honor for Japanese Americans who served in WWII, and (3) Downtown JACL celebrating 80 years of Advocacy in 2009.

Then known as Los Angeles JACL, it was among 10 pioneer JACL chapters which met in San Francisco to form the national body as related in "How we began in 1929." The other nine pioneers — San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, San Jose, Stockton, Newcastle (now Placer County), Stockton, Fresno and "historic" Brawley, meaning "no longer existing."

\* \* \*

Selection of "News" on the P.C. Web site includes several articles plus photos. The top current news shows is a photo-story of the hardly-known WWII Arboga Assembly Center at Marysville, Calif.

The link to "Columnists" (John Tateishi, Yumi Sakugawa, myself, Peter Shigeki Frandsen and Frances Kai-Hwa Wang) brings up text to current and past columns.

In the "About" section: We found a who's who on the P.C. staff, its own history and a crisp note that this Web site dates from 2005 and receives over 300,000 hits per month. The site was redesigned and re-launched in February 2009. The entire site is also searchable. It proudly remarks: "The Web version of the *Pacific Citizen* goes where print cannot — delivering streaming audio and video, music and film clips and late breaking news."

\* \* \*

The blog "P.C. Beat" is a behind-the-scenes look at the *Pacific Citizen* from the latest happenings at the newspaper to the latest stories the staff are working on. One entry, dated April 21, tells their efforts and interviews with former Arboga internees that appeared in the last (May 1) issue. More behind-the-scene accounts of stories that ran last month add the in-depth strategy that excites the newshounds.

"My P.C." reads: "To view this content, you must be a JACL member or a paid *Pacific Citizen* subscriber. If you would like to subscribe, please click on the Subscribe button. Thank you." Remember, all you need to do is login with your JACL membership number and you can enter the secure site for additional features and stories. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.



[ PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN ]

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

## Screaming 'Fire!' on National Television

Alexandre Dumas was a genius. So were his three musketeers: all for one, one for all.

My heart sinks when his immortal motto is hijacked by the three stooges — in this case, I mean Fox News' Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity.

Full disclosure here: I do not watch Beck, O'Reilly and Hannity regularly. Yet, without hesitation I can say they epitomize the worst of Dumas' call to arms. To me, these Fox News anchors will say anything that will serve one: themselves.

Here's what they think: outrage brings ratings; ratings bring advertisers; advertisers bring a better contract; a better contract brings more money.

All for one, indeed.

My news diet comes mostly from the Web — newspapers and blogs — with supplemental information from magazines and a splash of CNN. For the most part, I generally skip the more partisan news organizations like Fox News and MSNBC.

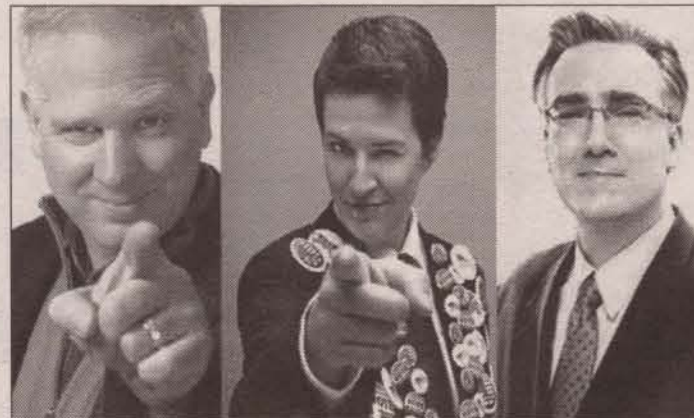
But as far as cable primetime news ratings go, Fox News has been dominating its competitors. This statistic is very puzzling to me, especially given the recently well-documented decline in the number of people willing to identify themselves as Republicans.

Maybe the Nielson ratings system has a glitch in its metrics. Or maybe many Americans really do hate the government and these anchors pour gas on their flames.

Maybe I am simply too young and naïve to understand how Fox News continues to pull in such big numbers.

Tune in anytime and catch the outrageous primetime line-up of commentators who start ranting at 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. That means if you happen to flip through the channels and land on Fox News at any given moment after work and before you go to bed, you have a two out of three chances of listening to one of these bloviated opinionators.

Yet, many, many people are tuning in on purpose specifically to hear these rants. O'Reilly himself once



PUNDITS: (L-r) Glenn Beck, Rachel Maddows and Keith Olbermann.

admitted to Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" that he has to find new ways to "bring the outrage every night."

How is that even possible and intellectually honest? Yes, there are many important issues to discuss each night, but is it necessary to always shove these issues through a partisan prism? I refuse to believe so.

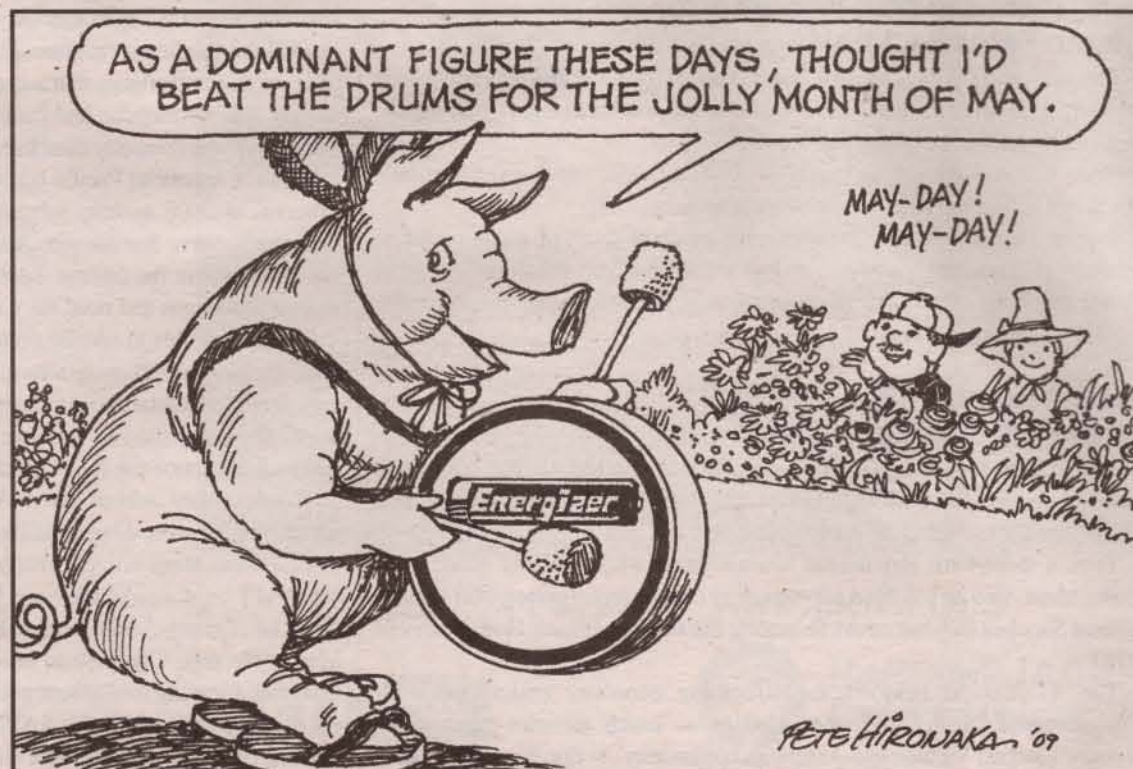
I fully endorse and subscribe to the rights laid out in the Bill of Rights, namely, my favorite, the First Amendment. That being said, the right to scream, "fire!" in a crowded movie theater is not protected by our Constitution.

So why are these three stooges (and their liberal counterparts like Chris Matthews, Keith Olbermann and Rachel Maddow) allowed to scream "fire!" every single night on national television?

The idea that smug little Beck can ask in every show "how did the government wrong you today?" makes me more than just a little bit nauseated.

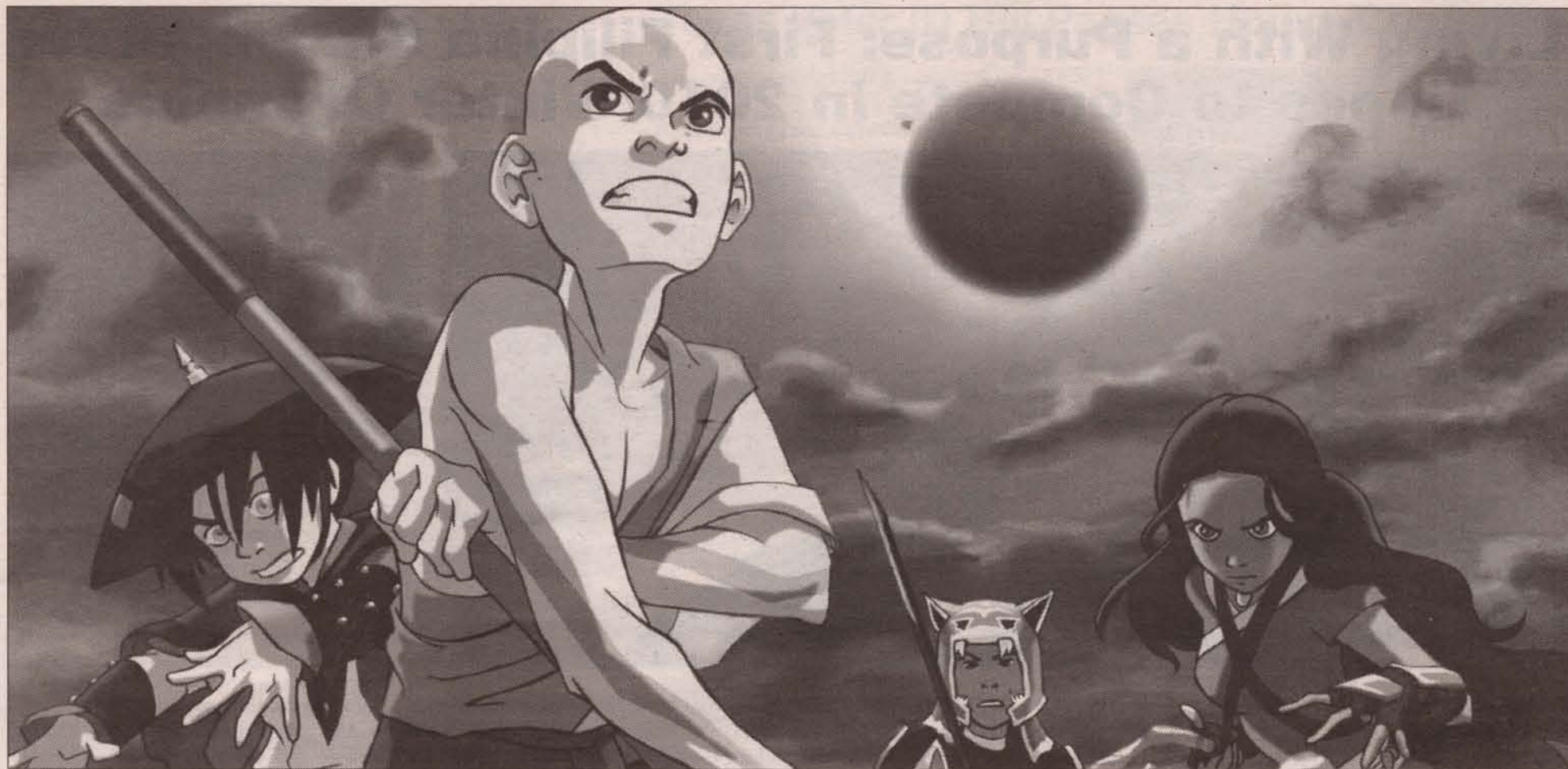
This is not a left/right issue. I'm just afraid the partisan hacks have hijacked our airwaves to make money off of "outrage." Who can we turn to to bring the outrage against the outrageous? Where are our true three musketeers and the true sense of striving for one and all? ■

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



PETE HIRONAKA '09





**RACE BENDER:** The Nickelodeon cartoon features prominent Asian heroes in an Asian themed fantasy world. But M. Night Shyamalan's forthcoming film version only casts one main Asian actor.

## APA Groups: Casting in 'The Last Airbender' is 'Whitewashing'

The film's one main Asian actor, Dev Patel of 'Slumdog Millionaire,' will play a villain.

By MELISSA CHUA  
P.C. Web Reporter

Hollywood is doing it again.

In the wake of "Dragonball: Evolution" and "21" — films that ignited controversy over their casting of mostly Caucasian actors in roles originally written for Asian Pacific Americans — another Hollywood movie studio is drawing similar criticism.

M. Night Shyamalan's upcoming movie "The Last Airbender," based on the Nickelodeon television series "Avatar: The Last Airbender," isn't set for release until 2010, but fans and APA advocacy groups are already accusing the production of racial bias in its selection of white actors to portray Asian characters.

The popular animated series takes place in an Asian fantasy world inspired by Asian cultures and themes. The characters practice East Asian martial arts and dress in traditional Asian attire. They even write with Chinese characters.

Yet in the film adaptation of the series, white actors play three out of four of the main characters. Dev Patel, of "Slumdog Millionaire" fame, will be the sole Asian face in the upcoming film version of "Airbender."

Among the critics are members of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA), the Los Angeles-based theater East West Players, and Racebending.com — a Web site launched in response to the film's casting.

"People need to realize that recasting Asian actors as white actors is institutionalized discrimination that affect children who perceive white as the norm, even in a world that is Asian-based," said Loraine Sammy, public relations coordinator for Racebending.com.

"This was a chance for actors from our community to be represented, but that chance was taken away," said Marissa Lee, also of Racebending.com.

The "Airbender" casting sends a message to the public that white actors are more qualified and entitled than APA actors to play Asian characters, added Lee.

So far Paramount Pictures, the studio backing the film, has remained tight-lipped about the casting process.

"At this time, Paramount does not have a comment to share," said Michael Agulnek, vice president of national publicity and the film's lead publicist.

But in a statement, "Airbender" producers said they "envisioned embodying the 'Airbender' universe with a large and ethnically diverse cast that represents many different heritages

a direct response Web site.

"Fans, most of which identify themselves as white, Latino and black, are really concerned that this racial discrimination sends a terrible message to children especially Asian children because they can't see themselves on screen," said Guy Aoki, co-founder of MANAA.

Community leaders also expressed outrage when the film's casting director Deedra Ricketts told the *Daily Pennsylvanian* that she had asked extras auditioning for roles "to dress in traditional cultural ethnic attire ... if you're Korean, wear a kimono. If you're from Belgium, wear lederhosen."

In response to Rickett's comments, East West Players' Tim Dang wrote a letter to Paramount blasting the studio.

"Besides the ignorance of confusing Korean *hanboks* with Japanese kimonos, Ms. Ricketts' call for extras to come looking ethnic and foreign could not contrast more sharply with the casting of whites for most of the leading roles."

Also at contention is Patel's character, Zuko — a villain.

APA activists say movies like "Fu Manchu", "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and "Sixteen Candles", show that Hollywood has a long record of casting actors of color as villains or stereotypical characters.

"Very rarely are Asian people allowed to be cast heroes in the story," said Aoki.

MANAA and Racebending.com are calling for a boycott of the film when it is released next summer.

"We can refuse to support movies like these that are willing to sell actors of color short for whatever reason and to deny what they've done by casting people of color as extras," said Lee. ■

For more information:

[www.manaa.org](http://www.manaa.org), [www.racebending.com](http://www.racebending.com)



Pictured above (top row) are the characters in 'Airbender' and (bottom row, l-r) their corresponding actors: Nicola Peltz, Jackson Rathbone and Patel.

and cultures from all corners of the globe."

"Diversity is good, but not when you're making the background more diverse and the foreground less diverse," said Lee. "The more this happens, the easier it gets for Hollywood to get away with it."

In December when news of the casting broke, outraged fans began protesting with a letter-writing campaign, a petition and

### ONLINE EXCLUSIVE!

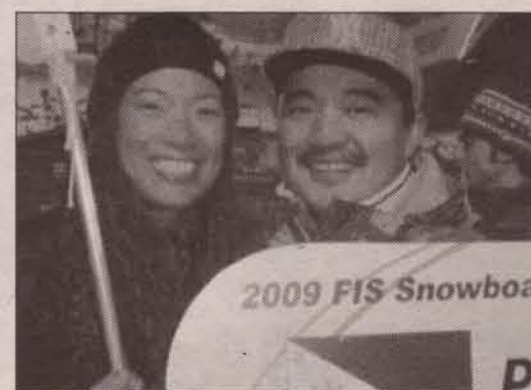


Seen John Cho as Sulu in 'Star Trek'? Now find out what he thinks of his predecessor, George Takei.

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# Living With a Purpose: First Filipina Snowboarder Hopes to Compete in 2010 Winter Olympics



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDEN SERINA

Eden Serina (left) shows she's got what it takes for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada.

Eden (top, left) at the World Championships with Lawrence de Guzman, a contender in the freestyle snowboarding events.

By **MELISSA CHUA**  
P.C. Web Reporter

Wealth and power or love and passion?

"Life is too short to not follow your passion," says Eden Serina.

At 34, Eden's goal is to become the first female athlete to represent the Philippines in the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada.

She even quit her dream job on Wall Street and moved across the country to Vail, Colorado — foreign territory for her — to pursue her dream of becoming a professional snowboarder.

Her love and passion for snowboarding may drive her, but the journey has not always been a smooth one.

With the support of her family, co-workers and many friends, Eden began her snowboarding career at 24. At first she was clueless, not knowing what to expect and where to even begin. She found herself competing against younger and more experienced opponents, so she was forced to quickly get up to speed.

But being in the right place at the right time paid off. Eden networked with the right people who gave her advice, encouragement and equipment.

Now she's the first and only snowboarder from the Philippines on the World Cup circuit.

"Eden Serina has created a Filipina legacy in snowboard racing," said Kail A. Christensen, a former trainer.

When Eden won second place in a USASA Snowboard championship in Maine early in her career she decided to represent the Philippines instead of a spot on the U.S. National Team.

Although Eden was born in West Virginia and raised predominantly in California, she is deeply rooted in her Philippine culture and heritage.

"It was the word 'Filipina,' a female Filipino — she is representing a country without snow, showing to her gender and the youth to dream, [and] it can be done," says Eliso B. Serina, Eden's father.

Becoming the first Filipina to compete in the

Winter Olympics is a chance to honor my family as well as my culture, Eden says.

"People don't even know where the Philippines is, [so] I want to educate people on who we are," she said. "I want to change the perspective of Filipinos worldwide [that] we're people to contend with."

As the youngest of four, Eden constantly found herself in the shadows of her over-achieving siblings. They all possessed a strong focus on academics and eventually gravitated toward the medical field.

Sister Elaine Serina describes Eden as, "laidback and approachable — a very smart and sharp businesswoman with the exterior of a Southern California surfer girl."

"You would never know when you meet her, the wealth of accomplishments that is behind the friendly attitude and cheery face," she says.

Eden felt she had a different path to follow in life — one that led her to her dream job working in New York City on Wall Street.

And life was good. She had a great career making great money, but while she was sky-diving one day, she knew something was missing.

Overlooking an aerial view of Las Vegas suspended from an airplane thousands of feet in the air, Eden had an epiphany: She didn't want to be stuck behind a desk anymore.

So Eden left New York and headed West to pursue snowboarding.

It was during a Christmas family vacation that Eden took her first snowboarding lesson with her sister Elaine. Immediately, she "fell in love."

The instructor questioned her being in the beginner's class and labeled her a natural. Snowboarding became Eden's new calling.

"I knew this is where my path was going [because] I love it (snowboarding) with a passion."

But following your dream takes hard work and sacrifice, says Eden.

"It is a job that's emotionally frustrating. The journey is a very difficult one, and the grass is not always greener on the other side, [but] all the hard work will be worth it."

For the past nine years, Eden has been the team captain for the Philippine National

Snowboard Team. She's competed in over 120 races, 24 World Cups and eight World Championships. In 2005, she had her best finish, winning the Bronze Medal in a National Championship race in Finland.

"Competing head to head with the best in the world, Eden has won the respect and admiration of her fellow racers one FIS World Cup at a time and through five coveted World Championships," said Christensen. "The 2010 Winter Olympics will be the standing ovation

for a truly inspirational racing career."

After the Olympics, Eden plans to move upward and onward with new hopes and dreams.

"I always wanted to climb Mount Everest, and maybe I'll bring my dad, (a Mt. Everest veteran) [but] it's kind of a blue sky dream," she says laughing. ■

For more information:  
[www.firstfilipina.com](http://www.firstfilipina.com)

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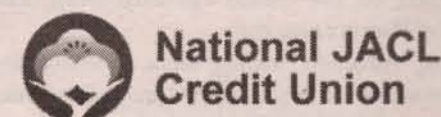
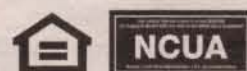
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# House Passes Federal Hate Crimes Legislation

APA groups, including JACL, praise the bill which adds more protections for gays.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—Gay victims of violence would gain new federal protections under a revived and expanded hate crimes bill passed by the House on April 29 over conservatives' objections.

Hate crimes — as defined by the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act — are those motivated by prejudice and based on someone's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

"The JACL strongly supports hate crimes legislation and applauds the House of Representatives for passing the Act," said National JACL President Larry Oda. "The JACL has been working on local hate crimes legislation throughout the country for many years, and we are anxious to see this federal law take effect to support local officials in this important area."

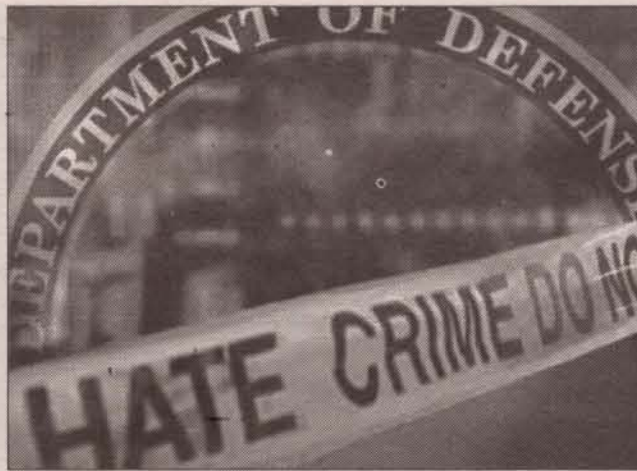
The bill, which passed 249-175, could provide a financial bonanza to state and local authorities, with grants for investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. The federal government could step in and prosecute if states requested it or declined to exercise their authority.

A weaker bill died two years ago under a veto threat from President George W. Bush.

President Barack Obama, in contrast, urged support, saying it would "enhance civil rights protections, while also protecting our freedom of speech and association." Obama called for passage in the Senate, where Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., is the chief sponsor.

The House bill added protections based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., a supporter of the



bill, contended it was protection for gays that drove the opposition.

"I wonder if our friends on the other side of the aisle would be singing the same offensive tune if we were talking about hate crimes based on race or religion," she said, referring to Republican opponents. "It seems to me it is the category of individuals that they are offended by, rather than the fact that we have hate crimes laws at all."

The issue was personal for openly gay Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who said the bill would protect "people like me." He said he wasn't asking for approval from people with whom he didn't want to associate.

Answering those who said the protections were not needed, Frank quoted Chico Marx, one of the Marx Brothers comedy team, from the movie "Duck Soup": "Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?"

Current law only permits federal prosecutions against crimes based on race, religion, color or national origin — and only when the victims are engaged in federally protected activity

such as voting.

The bill aroused the ire of conservative religious groups and pastors. Several Republicans argued those leaders could face criminal charges for speaking out against homosexuality or, at the very least, would be reluctant to state their views.

Supporters pointed to a section of the bill that protects any activities protected by the Constitution, and countered that nothing would prevent the religious leaders from speaking out.

The opponents and supporters argued strenuously over whether the bill would divide or unite Americans.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said the bill "divides America" by singling out special groups for protection.

"We should focus on the opposite, uniting America," he said. "The bill is probably unconstitutional and will be struck down" by the courts.

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., countered, "We in America have said we believe all people ought to be treated equally. If America stands for anything it stands for equality under the law."

Americans, he added, should not have fewer rights because of the groups to which they belong.

"The JACL has long been involved in supporting federal hate crimes legislation. We are grateful to the House of Representatives for passing this long overdue bill, and we encourage the full support of the Senate to enact the hate crimes bill into law," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We thank our JACL members who made the effort to contact their own representatives to ask for support of the legislation."

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate crimes, reported that there were 926 active hate groups in 2008, compared to 602 in 2000.

Forty-five states have hate crime laws, according to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. The exceptions are Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Wyoming. ■

## Bill to Extend Honorary Degrees to Former JA Internees Passes California Assembly

A California bill to extend honorary degrees to individuals whose college education was disrupted due to the evacuation of Japanese Americans during World War II was passed unanimously by the Assembly on May 4.

"I am very pleased with the Assembly's action today," said Assemblymember Warren

Assemblymember Furutani was instrumental in crafting the Japanese American Internment Diploma Resolution. The board approved the first-ever resolution to retroactively grant a high school diploma to any person who was enrolled in a LAUSD high school immediately preceding his or her internment and did not graduate as a result.

*'AB 37 marks the "unfinished business" of our time with respect to honoring a class of individuals who endured a grave injustice.'*

Warren Furutani, D-South Los Angeles County



T. Furutani, D-South Los Angeles County. "Today's vote represents a resounding endorsement of a measure that is, frankly, long overdue."

Assembly Bill 37 calls on California's higher education institutions to confer honorary degrees to individuals who were removed from their studies during WWII. Over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and communities during the War and incarcerated. Of that number, 2,567 JA students were enrolled in California's higher education institutions.

As a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board in 2004,

"AB 37 marks the 'unfinished business' of our time with respect to honoring a class of individuals who endured a grave injustice," said Furutani.

While a number of institutions in the state and country have sought to extend due recognition to these individuals, the vast majority of institutions in which these former students were enrolled have not done so.

"These institutions have had an opportunity to extend honorary degrees to these college Nisei for more than 60 years," said Furutani. "The fact that they have not done so is an affirmation of why AB 37 is necessary."

AB 37 now moves to the Senate for consideration. ■

## APAs Fight to Save D.C.'s Office on APIA Affairs

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American groups are protesting Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's proposal to eliminate the city's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, calling it a crucial link between the community and government.

For 2010, Fenty proposed merging the office within the larger Office of Community Affairs to save about \$300,000. The move, aides say, does not eliminate outreach to the local APA community.

But at the April 24 city council meeting, over 30 APA community members testified before council members about the importance of the city's Office on APIA Affairs.

"So many people from different backgrounds and experiences came out to share personal stories about language needs, health care, public safety, education, and business assistance, and how their needs were met through the D.C. Office on APIA Affairs," said Wylie Chen, co-chair of the D.C. Asian American and Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus.

The full city council is slated to take the issue up again on May 12 and because of vocal support from the community, the budget now includes funding for the APIA office.

The Office on APIA Affairs was created

over 20 years ago to ensure that the full range of health, education, employment, social services and business information, programs and services are accessible to the local community. Among other things, the office currently helps the district's over 20,000 APA residents get permits, enroll in school and gain access to social services.

APA leaders say the downsizing unfairly targets just one ethnic community — the Office of Latino Affairs remains unchanged in the same budget proposal.

Talks of cutting the Office on APIA Affairs also come at

an ironic time — during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

APA-owned businesses make up a large portion of the district's landscape. D.C. agencies estimate that 60 percent of groceries and 57 percent of lottery tickets are sold through APA-owned stores, said Francey Lim Youngberg, chair of the D.C. Fair Access Coalition, in an April 26 *Washington Post* opinion piece urging for the preservation of the Office on APIA Affairs.

"We urge the D.C. Council to right this wrong by preserving the mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs as an independent cabinet agency with adequate budget and staffing. It is a matter of fairness and recognition of the importance of this community to District life," said Lim Youngberg in the same article. ■





# Immigrants Push for Reforms at Rallies Across U.S.

APAs add their voices to the call for immigration reform.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI—Immigrants and their families gathered at rallies across the United States May 1 to push for changes to U.S. immigration policy, but as a swine flu outbreak continued to spread, attendance at some events was smaller than organizers had hoped.

Organizers sought to channel the political muscle Hispanics flexed last fall for Barack Obama into a new cause: jump-starting stalled efforts to forge a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

They had hoped crowds would equal or exceed those of last year, which was down from 2006 when a stringent immigration bill poised to pass in Congress drew massive protests. But turnout was lower than in previous years.

In Miami, more than 300 minority rights activists joined with union officials in one of the first local immigration rallies to be endorsed by the AFL-CIO.

"We are not just here for the immigrants, we are not just here for the workers," said Maria Rodriguez, head of the Florida Immigrant Coalition. "We are here for all the families who deserve a better life. Immigrants will not be pitted against union workers — our fates are intertwined."

Thousands were expected at events in Houston, Milwaukee, Denver, Chicago, New York and other cities — mostly in the late afternoon, when workers finished their shifts.

On the West Coast, several thousands of people rallied in Los Angeles and hundreds gathered under cold rain in San Francisco's Dolores Park.

"Many of our small businesses are started by immigrant entrepreneurs, and we need to do what we can to jump-start that entrepreneurship in these tough economic times," said David Chiu, a San Francisco supervisor who attended the rally.

Students at the rally called for passage of the DREAM Act, which was reintroduced in the Senate in March. It would make undocumented immigrants brought into the U.S. under the age of 15 eligible for in-state tuition.



"Our future is here," said Shayna Yang, 17, who moved to the U.S. from Indonesia five years ago to join her father. She wants to become an immigration lawyer. Without the DREAM Act, her hopes for college might be dashed.

"Allow us to show what we can do if we are citizens of the United States," she said.

In Chicago, rally-goers unfurled a banner of flags stitched together from countries across the globe.

Waukegan resident Armando Pena said he was disappointed more people didn't turn out and blamed the low numbers on a combination of the flu and tough economic times.

"The economy is so bad they don't want to lose their jobs," said Pena, who organized a contingent of about 50 people.

A line of about 225 marchers made their way down the main thoroughfare in New Jersey's largest city May 1, stopping to recite chants and gather for a vigil in front of the federal immigration building in Newark.

Thousands turned out in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin, despite a swine flu threat that closed area schools and forced the cancellation of weekend Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

"It's a country of equality," said Manuel Espera, a 46-year-old fabric factory worker. "We deserve the right to work."

The rally in New York City drew a diverse crowd that included Chinese, Ecuadorians, Mexicans, Salvadorans and Pakistanis. Among them stood a smattering of those who oppose immigration reform.

"They're coming out here demanding rights they shouldn't get," said John Budnicke, 34, of New Jersey.

Standing near him was Joanna Marzullo, 35, who runs an organization called New Yorkers for Immigration Control and Enforcement. She said undocumented workers were spreading the swine flu.

"I hope that swine flu wakes America up," she said.

One of the largest gatherings assembled outside the White House. More than 2,000 people rallied there to call for change in

immigration policy.

Graylan Hagler, the senior pastor at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in northeast Washington, encouraged the crowd to embrace racial unity in the fight for immigration reform.

"We all remember a time when black people were kept in the edges and shadows of society," he said. "Any struggle for civil rights and human rights is our struggle and we can't divorce ourselves from that."

Activists' hopes have been buoyed by Obama's election and a Democratic-controlled Congress, in part because they believe the Hispanic vote, about two-thirds of which went to Obama, helped flip key battleground states such as Colorado and New Mexico. Many Hispanics strongly back comprehensive immigration reform, and they believe Obama owes them for their support.

The White House announced recently that it would refocus its resources on prosecuting employers who hire illegal immigrants. And a Senate Judiciary subcommittee has taken up immigration for the first time in the new Congress.

But many immigrants are wary. They say the immigration raids that grew common under the Bush administration have continued since Obama took office. ■

## JCCCNC Unveils New Online National JA Community Directory

At one time, the Japanese American community, their homes, businesses and institutions, were concentrated in Japantown communities across the West Coast.

As the community continues to expand and disperse throughout the United States the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California hopes JAs can stay connected and informed about various community activities and the common threads that keep the community united.

In 1997, JCCCNC, with support from AT&T, published the Northern California Japanese American Community Directory. The new JA Yellow Pages is an updated online version which now reaches beyond Northern California to bring together the many JA organizational resources dispersed throughout the country.

The JA Yellow Pages provides valuable information on the community's resources in the areas of politics/advocacy, arts/culture, youth/children, senior services, community service, education, health, religion, media, social services, recreation, and U.S.-Japan relations. In addition to serving as a resource tool, the site serves to document the wealth of talent and resources in the community.

JCCCNC hopes the new JA Yellow Pages will help people better understand the vastness of JA community organizations throughout the U.S. and help preserve and promote JA culture. ■

Check it out: [www.JAYellowPages.org](http://www.JAYellowPages.org)

## APA Group to Host Nationwide Conversation on State of Community

Konrad Ng, the 'first brother-in-law' is slated to be the guest speaker.

Think of it as a "state of the community." On May 31, Asian Pacific Americans for Progress (APAP) will be hosting national house parties to discuss APA issues.

The event, being touted as the first national APA house party, will include Konrad Ng, President Barack Obama's brother-in-law, as a special guest speaker on the nationwide conference call.

The aim of the house parties is to unite constituents in raising awareness of APA concerns and build solidarity as communities across the nation work to advance APA interests.

Gatherings will be hosted in select cities across the nation. APAP has previously hosted house parties with Howard Dean, John Kerry, Mike Honda, Elizabeth Edwards, and various other distinguished leaders.

After the call, each house party will have the opportunity to discuss the current state of APAs in small groups and post blog entries on the APAP Web site. This will serve as a record of thoughts and activism at the local level.

A report on the event will also be submitted to the Obama administration. ■

### APAP House Parties

Sunday, May 31

4-6 p.m. EST

For more information or to find a local house party near you:

[www.apaforprogress.com](http://www.apaforprogress.com)

## JACL Announces Study That Will Explore Experiences of JAs

The JACL has received a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland, for a project and study called: "Japanese Americans: Immigration through Acculturation? Applications for Immigrant Communities."

Interest in studies regarding the JA community has decreased dramatically perhaps because of a sense that JAs have fully acculturated upon the successful completion of the Redress Movement. However, JAs have continued to grow, change, and influence society. This project attempts to uncover this contemporary story.

The project is being handled primarily by Dana Nakano and Tim Koide. Dana is a PhD candidate at UC Irvine and a former JACL Masaoka Fellow who worked in the Washington, D.C. office of Congressman Mike Honda. Tim is the national JACL membership coordinator.

The JACL is conducting a survey in conjunction with this project and random JACL members have been asked to participate. Looking at the experience of JAs is particularly salient given the present anti-immigrant sentiment and terrorist fears.

The information gathered will be used for collaborative work in policy and community preservation with other Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations. A publication will be produced at the project's completion. ■

For more information, contact Tim Koide at [mbr@jacl.org](mailto:mbr@jacl.org) or 415/921-5225.



## Fundraiser Launched for Vets Memorial Court



Chairman Fred Hoshiyama rallies the crowd.

Japanese American veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War gathered at the National Japanese American Veterans Memorial Court in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo to launch a fundraiser for much needed upkeep and maintenance of the memorial honoring all JA vets past and present.

"It is not the amount but the effort — Let's join together to honor these men," said Chairman Fred Hoshiyama May 2 as he addressed the crowd.

Guest speaker at the fundraising event was Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura who underscored the importance of remembering fallen community members.

"This court is special because it is the only place in the world that you can find the names of every American of Japanese Ancestry who has served and died in all the wars since the Spanish American War," said speaker Isami "Mike" Tsuji. "Their sacrifice and their families sacrifice should not be forgotten."

The National Japanese American Veterans Memorial Court located in the plaza of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center of Little Tokyo honors those in the JA community who were killed in action.

Representatives at the event included: Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance, Japanese American Korean War Veterans, Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, Gold Star Mothers, Sadao Munemori American Legion, Kazuo Masuda VFW Post, Japanese American Veterans Association, and the Military Intelligence Service of Southern California.

"We simply cannot afford to forget those who lost their lives while serving in our country's armed forces," said Susan Uyemura, CEO of JA Living Legacy, a participating member of the fundraising committee. ■

For more information, contact JA Living Legacy at 714/278-4483 or [info@jalivinglegacy.org](mailto:info@jalivinglegacy.org)

## PACIFIC

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Are you a self-motivated, results driven individual? Then the *Pacific Citizen* needs you! The *P.C.* is a national Asian American newspaper in downtown Los Angeles and is looking for an Advertising Salesperson.

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## Vets Group Honors 3 Generations of JAs in the Armed Forces



**Three generations of JAs in the Armed Forces:** (Seated, l-r) Grant Ichikawa, Stanley Sagara, Grant Hirabayashi, Kelly Kuwayama, Dr. Harry Abe and Terry Shima. (Standing, l-r) MG Tony Taguba; Cadet Jenna Lafferty (Army); 1/c Mace Melonas (Navy); Cadet Terikazu Onoda; Cadet Ashian Izadi; Hershey Miyamura (MOH), Col. Bryan Goda; Joe Sakato (MOH); Lt. Gen. Joe Peterson; VADM Harry Harris; 1/c Karl Motoyama (Navy); Marisa Miyamura (USAF); Glenn Hajiro; RDM Brian Losey, USN; and Bob Nakamoto.

Three Medal of Honor recipients, six cadets representing armed forces academies, four flag rank officers and six World War II veterans were recently recognized at a special Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) luncheon.

They represented a multigenerational legacy of "the best of the best," said Bob Nakamoto, JAVA president.

"The WWII Nisei generation settled the question of loyalty once and for all and the armed forces subsequently offered unlimited opportuni-

ties to compete for any position and rank," said Nakamoto. "The cadets represent our new generation of Asian American future leaders in the armed forces of America and they are challenged by unlimited opportunities."

Nakamoto presented each Medal of Honor recipient and each cadet with an inscribed commemorative JAVA coin.

The honorees attended the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Awards Dinner Gala during the previous

evening in Washington, D.C. Eric Nishizawa, a JAVA life member, arranged their participation in the JAVA luncheon.

"Viewing these past and present heroes and the next generation of Japanese American military leaders — standing together — was an awesome experience. I believe the young midshipmen and cadets gained strength and were inspired by meeting their courageous and patriotic ancestors that have fought and defended our country before them," said Kimi Murakami. ■

## JACL Seeks Applicants for Ford Fellowship

The JACL recently announced that applications are being accepted for its Ford Program Fellowship position located in the JACL Midwest Office in Chicago. The fellowship seeks a recent college graduate who is interested in working with the JACL staff on the organization's national and local programs. The fellowship is accompanied with a monthly stipend.

The fellowship is offered on a

full-time basis for a period of one year beginning on Aug. 1. The fellowship provides a unique experience in working for a national Asian American civil rights organization. The fellowship opportunity will focus on JACL's anti-hate, leadership and education programs as well as working with JACL staff and volunteers in planning for the 2010 National JACL Convention.

"We're looking for an emerging

young leader with a strong interest in advancing the welfare of the Asian American community," said JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino. ■

For information on applying for the JACL Ford Program Fellowship, contact Yoshino at 773/728-7170 or [Midwest@jacl.org](mailto:Midwest@jacl.org). The deadline date for the application is June 1.

## NAMBA

(Continued from page 2)

• David Furukawa, Georgia: "Living just blocks from the MLK Memorial and Carter Center, the Southeast JACL Chapter recognizes the importance of the *P.C.* in providing National Japanese American and Asian American information to our membership."

• Megumi Kaminaga, California: "I think the *P.C.* has done an amazing job on their Web site. With its sleek new look, and easy navigation, it's a great resource for JACL members to read about current issues and events that are happening in our community."

• Lillian Kimura, New Jersey: "The *P.C.* is very important to us in the East. As our local vernacular papers have gone out of business and we do not have the advantage of the *Nichi Bei Times* or *Rafu Shimpo*, we rely on the *P.C.*"

• Chip & Setsy Larouche, Oregon: "The *P.C.* is certainly informative and keeps us on top of things, but we're really excited about what the crew is doing with the Web site! This is turning into a great archive and place to find articles and columns when you need them later on."

• Ron Yoshino, Illinois: "I've been reading the *P.C.* for almost 40 years, and I still look forward to receiving

my biweekly issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. In particular, I look forward to receiving the Holiday Issue which is always filled with interesting and educational articles."

The consensus across the country appears that the *P.C.* is a valuable source of communication for the API community and that the *P.C.* Web site keeps getting better and better.

Your support of the *P.C.* at any level will enable the *P.C.* staff to continue making improvements with the Web site. I ask you to consider joining Michele and I in making a "stimulus package" contribution to the *P.C.* Spring Campaign. Thank You! ■



# 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](http://www.apaics.org) or 202/296-9200.

**Sun., May 24**—61st Annual JACL-JAVA Memorial Day Service; 9:30 a.m.; Arlington National Cemetery, Columbarium Ceremonial Courtyard; Brunch at China Garden, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn, Vir., noon, \$25; RSVP for brunch by May 20 to: Craig Uchida at [educhida@jacldc.com](mailto:educhida@jacldc.com) or 301/438-3132.

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

## Midwest

### CINCINNATI

**July 24-26**—2009 JACL MDC/EDC Conference, "Partnering for Change: Building Bridges in our Communities"; Cincinnati, Marriott River Center; workshops, speakers and activities; registration deadline is July 5. Info and registration: Bill Yoshino, [midwest@jacldc.org](mailto:midwest@jacldc.org) or 773/728-7170.

### CLEVELAND

**Sun., Aug. 23**—2009 Community Picnic sponsored by the Cleveland Japanese American Foundation; 10-6 p.m.; Brushwood Shelter, Furnace Run, Summit County Metro Park; games, taiko, relaxation, fishing and food.

### 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](http://www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.html).

## Pacific Northwest

### PORTLAND

**Through May 24**—Exhibit, "Katagome: 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; Katagome is the art of stencil and paste-resistant dyeing of cloth that can then be sewn into wonderful textiles. Info: [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://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.idahokite-](http://www.idahokite-)

[festival.com](http://festival.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

**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](http://www.alwaysdream.org).

**Sat., June 6**—San Francisco JACL Youth Fishing Derby; San Pablo Reservoir; 8-12 year olds are eligible for prizes; refreshments, snacks and lunch will be provided. Registration and info: Greg Marutani, 415/641-1697 or [sfjacldc@yahoo.com](mailto:sfjacldc@yahoo.com).

**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](http://www.asianart.org).

### SAN LORENZO

**June 7-8**—Eden Township JACL Fundraising Bazaar; Sat. 3-8 p.m., Sun. 11-7 p.m.; Eden Community Center, 710 Elgin St.; food and games; free. Info: Ron Sakaue, 510/276-0752 or Roxanne Nomura-Wang, 510/582-8408.

### TULE LAKE

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

### WATSONVILLE

**Sat., June 27**—Annual Community Picnic sponsored by Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL; 11-4:30 p.m.; Aptos Village park, 100 Aptos Creek Rd.; races, bingo, food, raffle, Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship presentation and entertainment by Watsonville Taiko; \$7/teens and adults to 69 years old, \$4/seniors 70 and up and children 6-12.

**Sun., June 28**—Natsu Matsuri by Watsonville Taiko Group and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL; noon-5 p.m.; Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St.; silent auction, crafts and a taiko lesson; \$5/adults, \$3/kids 6-13 years old.

## 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](http://www.thenewlatc.com).

**Sat., May 16**—Third Annual Nikkei Community Day; 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); "Mirai" community Forum, 3 p.m., JACCC; the forum is open to discuss and plan for the future of the Nikkei community; featured speakers include: Dr. Dean Toji, Rev. Mas Hibino, Margaret Miyauchi-Leong, Toshio Handa and Alan Nishio. Info: [www.jaccc.org](http://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.

**Sat., May 23**—Panel discussion of Americans of Japanese Ancestry Vietnam Veterans; 2 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; panel includes Kenneth Hayashi, David Miyoshi, Jerry Yamamoto and Lawrence Takahashi; moderated by Judge Vincent Okamoto who will sign copies of his book after the discussion; free to museum members or with paid admission. Info: 213/625-0414 or [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

**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](http://www.jas-socal.org).

**Through June 20**—Exhibit, "Crossing: 10 Views of America's Concentration Camps; JANM, 369 E. First St.; the exhibition provides and artist's perspective into the mass incarceration of Japanese and JAs during World War II. Info: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) or 213/625-0414.

### SAN DIEGO

**Sat., May 16**—Film showing, "Stand Up for Justice: The Ralph Lazo Story"; 12:30 p.m.; Serra Mesa-Kearney Mesa Public Library, 9005 Aero Dr.; the true story of a Mexican American teenager who slips on to a train to Manzanar to support his JA friends.

### TORRANCE

**Wed., May 27**—2009 Works in

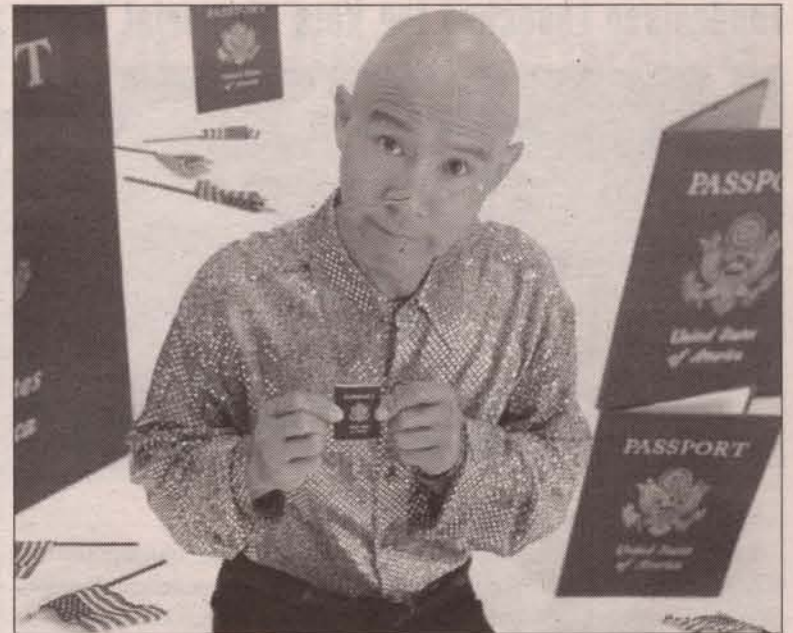


PHOTO: AARON RAPOPORT

Dan Kwong performs, 'It's Great 2B American' May 27 at the Nakano Theatre in Torrance, Calif. The piece is inspired by his discoveries while traveling in Asia.

Progress Presents "It's Great 2B American" by Dan Kwong; 7 p.m.; Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Dr.; Q&A will follow the performance; tickets: \$25/adults, \$23/seniors and students, \$20/subscribers, 310/781-7171. Info: 310/618-6342 or [www.torrancelive.us](http://www.torrancelive.us).

## 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](mailto: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://jacldc.com> or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/496-3763. ■



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- July 5-16** Yamato Hokkaido Tour - 12 days/10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Furano, Lake Akan, Kushiro, Ikeda, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate. **Peggy Mikuni**
- July 9-14** Yamato Discover California Motorcoach Tour - 6 days/5 nights visiting Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Hearst Castle, Monterey, San Francisco, Petaluma, Napa Valley, Fairfield, Sacramento, Yosemite. **Philippe Theriault**
- July 30-Aug. 7** Yamato Canadian Rockies & the Majestic British Columbia Coast Tour - 10 days/9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, rail to Prince George, rail to Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River, Victoria. **Philippe Theriault**
- Aug. 28-Sept. 10** Yamato Tour to China - 14 days/12 nights visiting Beijing, Xi'an, Yangtze River Cruise from Chongqing to Yichang (3 nights), Hangzhou, Shanghai. **Peggy Mikuni**
- Oct. 2-11** Yamato East Coast Fall Foliage Tour - 10 days/9 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Cooperstown/Baseball Hall of Fame, Williamstown, Loon Mountain, Kancamagus Highway, Boston, New York City. **Philippe Theriault/Lilly Nomura**
- Oct. 15-29** Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Kagoshima, Ibusuki, Kirishima, Kumamoto, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto. **Peggy Mikuni**
- Nov. 9-17** Costa Rica - Nature's Museum, A Smithsonian Journeys Tour - With Collette Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting San Jose, Poas Volcano, Braulio Carrillo and Tortuguero Nat'l Parks, Sarapiquí, San Carlos, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge. Includes stay at a rain forest resort.
- Nov.30-Dec. 9** Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Romantic Road from Dinkelsbühl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna. **Philippe Theriault**

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## In Memoriam - 2009

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Akisada, Mark Mitsuhiko, 84**, Honolulu, Haw., April 15; MIS; survived by sons, Bryant and Marshall; 2 gc.; brother, Shoji; and sister Grace Yokonuma.

**Arakaki, Nancy H., 91**, Montebello, April 13; survived by son, Clifford (Takako); daughter, Esther Taira; 1 gc.; daughter-in-law, May; sister, Helen (Sam) Teruya; and brother, Kiyoshi (Noni) Oshiro.

*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.*

**Guinto, Dr. Pedro M., 81**, Hudson, Ohio; Mar. 31; survived by wife, Kachiku; daughters, Thelma (Roger) Chaffee, Patty Stone (Larry) Frimerman and Gloria (Chuck) Griffin; sons, Peter (Terri), Victor (Connie) and Edmund (Brenda); 18 gc.; and 8 brothers.

**Honda, Alvin Yoshito, 62**, Kailua, Haw., April 20; survived by wife, Carol; father, Masaji; sister, Kathy Minami; and brother, Gerry.

**Isa, Yoshimori, 82**, Hilo, Haw., April 6; survived by daughters, Connie Nakamura and Pam

Igarashi; 5 gc.; 1 ggc.; brothers, Yoshinori, Harold and Jack; and sisters, Nobuko Shimabukuro, Hanae Yasuda and Margie Higa.

**Ito, Roy Minoru, 77**, Los Angeles, April 24; survived by wife, Reiko; sons, Ron and Glenn; daughter, Kathy; and 3 gc.

**Kaneshiro, Kamekichi, 84**, Honolulu, Haw., April 22; Army veteran; survived by wife, Imi; son, Paul; daughters, Gloria McCulloch, Karen Ray and Satsuki Higa; 8 gc.; 7 ggc.; brothers, Fred, Charley and Kenneth; and sisters, Sally Akima, Daisy Inokuchi and Carol Akazawa.

**Kawai, Shigeru, 91**, Pasadena, April 15; survived by wife, Ayako; son, Chris (Elaine); daughters, Shelley (Fred) Kammler and Leslie Kawai; 4 gc.; and sister-in-law, Miye Kawai.

**Kawakami, Keiji, 90**, Honolulu, Haw., April 21; 442nd; survived by wife, Edith; son, Lloyd; daughters, Patricia and Susan; 3 gc.; 2 ggc.; brothers, Toru and Daniel; and sisters, Yukie Murakami and Mabel Hashisaka.

**Kawamura, William Masami**, Gardena, April 21; MIS; survived by daughter, Irene Suzuko Kawamura; and brother, Takahiko (Yoko).

**Kazumura, Larry Takeshi, 88**,

Mar. 24; 100th/442nd; survived by daughters, Linda (Chris) Eng, Sue (Stan) Yamada, Karen Androvic, Betty - (Craig) Carr and Stacie (Jason) Eng; sons, David and Jeremy Yamada.

**Mikami, Takumi "Tuk," 85**, Seattle, Wash., April 20; survived by wife, Yoshie; sons, Steve (Becky) and Michael (Lisa); daughter, Joyce (Russell Odell); 6 gc.; sisters, Yaeiko Mikami and Haruko (Robert) Hiranaka.

**Miyashiro, Fred Tsugio, 82**, April 14; survived by wife, Hisako; daughter, Sally Miyashiro; sons, Edward and Ernest; brother, Kunio Miyagi; and sisters-in-law, Kiyoko Fukuichi, Fumiko Miyagi and Teruko (Masao) Sakumoto.

**Muranaga, Kenichi, 84**, Las Vegas, Nev., May 3; 100th/442nd; survived by wife, Yoshiko; son, Mark (Leti); 4 gc.; 2 ggc.; one brother; and five sisters.

**Nakagawa, Mitchell Mitsuo, 92**, Los Angeles, April 24; survived by wife, Ruth Nakagawa.

**Nakamura, Mitsuo, 85**, Honolulu, Haw., April 28; 442nd; survived by daughters, Fay Soares and Alexis Sumida; 5 gc.; 10 ggc.; and 7 ggc.

**Noriyuki, Iris Muramoto, Mar. 22**; survived by husband, David; children, Casey and Nicole; mother, Tsuyako; and sister, Margaret Tan.

**Ogata, Yasuko, 91**, Monterey Park, Mar. 29; survived by son, Frank (Carolyn); daughter, Jean (Glen) Omura; 4 gc.; and sister-in-law, Nobuko Yagake.

**Okuda, Hiroshi, 82**, May 1; survived by wife, Mary; step-children, Robert, David, Rebecca Sutton, Sara Holton; and Leeann Griffith; sister, Kaye Aoki; and brother, Tubber (Mary).

**Ota, Frank Tetsuji, 92**, Pasadena, April 1; survived by sons, Kenneth (Donna) and Ronald (Carolyn); daughter, JoAnne (Wellington) Soo Hoo; 5 gc.; sisters-in-law, Itsuko Ota and Suzuye Shoda; and brother-in-law, Kanji (Lily) Omokawa.

**Ozaki, Ruth Rumiko, 84**, Monrovia, April 8; survived by husband, Bill; sons, Robert (Masako) and Glenn (Jill); 6 gc.; and brother, Tosh (Monzelle) Hatashita.

**Shimaura, Takashi, 82**, Seattle, Wash., April 8; survived by wife, Gertrude; son, Mark and Wesley (Catherine); daughter, Jan (Scott) Parrish; brother, Tadashi (Helen); and sister, Norma (Yoshio) Yamaki.

**Shimizu, Doreen, 53**, Torrance, April 14; survived by mother, Nancy Watanabe; father, Ko Shimizu; siblings, Chris Shimizu, JoAnn Wood and Joey (Sandy) Watanabe.

**Takabayashi, Teruko, 93**, Yuba Sutter, Mar. 20; survived by daughter, Sakaye Takabayashi; son, Susumu; daughter-in-law, Sharon Takabayashi; and 1 gc.

**Tanimura, John Tsukasa, 88**, Salinas, April 27; survived by his wife, Sakako (Sachi); daughters, Jeannie, Susan and June Tanimura; 2 gc.; 5 ggc.; brothers, George (Masaye) and Tommy (Hisako); sister-in-law, Fumiko Tanimura; and



sisters, Alice Sato, Rose Yuki and Betty Furusho.

sisters, Alice Sato, Rose Yuki and Betty Furusho.

**Tanisaki, Bob Fujiwo**, Los Angeles, April 6; survived by wife, Marie; sons, Ronald and Jun (Jennifer); daughter, Yoko (Roy) Rico; 5 gc.; and sister-in-law, Minoru Mitooka.

**Tanji, Taro, 83**, Torrance, April 20, MIS; survived by his wife, Martha; sons, Michael (Yuriko) and Doug (Kimi); 5 gc.; sister, Kate (Jack) Muro; brother-in-law, Frank (Namiye) Fukuzawa; and sisters-in-law, Barbara Fukuzawa, Florence (Leo) Nakamura and Frances (Harry) Kozaki.

**Teruya, Toshio, 81**, Honolulu, Haw., April 17; survived by wife, Patsy; son, Derek; daughter, Laverne Masai; 3 gc.; and sisters, Judy and Hatsue.

**Torii, Mike Yorio, 90**, Bakersfield, May 2; survived by wife, Nobu; sons, Glenn and David; daughters, Connie and Nancy.

**Uyeji, Toshio, 86**, Seattle, Wash., May 4; MIS; survived by wife, Jackie; sons, John (Luisia) and Gary (Linda); daughter, Alice (Doug) McMillin; brother, Kam; sister Marcellene; stepdaughters, Coleen (Leo) Jay and Cheryl (Martin) Morisaki; 6 gc.; and 2 ggc.

**Wada, Mas M., 87**, Feb. 19; MIS; survived by sons, Byron (Jeanne), Marshall (Kate), Robert and Corey; daughter, Cami; 4 gc.; brother, Tad; sisters, Sara (Jim) Hino, Frances Yasunaga, Alyce (Chim) Yoshikai and Meri Wada; sister-in-law, Alyce Hayakawa; and brother-in-law, Terry (Sue) Fujinaga.

**Yahiku, Motoku, 87**, Honolulu, Haw., May 1; survived by his wife, Asano; son, Michael; daughters, Joan (Woody) Batula and Sandra Furumori; 6 gc.; and 5 ggc.

**Yamane, Herbert F., 79**, Kapaa, Haw., May 3; survived by his wife, Barbara; son, Stephen (Jennifer); daughter, Diane (Chris) Baxter; 5 gc.; brother, Robert; and sisters, Barbara Y. Yamane and Jane Sawyer.

**Yokoyama, Satoshi Tom, 91**, Cleveland, Feb. 15; 442nd; survived by wife, Mitsuko; sons, Glenn (Dana) and Ken (Janene); daughter, Patti (Dale) Carsel; and 6 gc. ■

### DEATH NOTICE

#### JOE OISHI

Joe Oishi, 97, passed away April 13, 2009 in Richmond, Calif. He was born on August 8, 1911, in Stege (Richmond). Joe owned and operated the Oishi Carnation Nursery until its closure in 2006.

During WWII, Joe was interned at the Topaz, Utah Camp. While there, he met and married Masako Matoi (deceased) of San Francisco in 1943. They enjoyed their life together for 35 years.

Joe was an active member of the Contra Costa JACL, Sakurakai, and the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. He enjoyed watching sports, especially the 49ers.

He is predeceased by siblings George, Lucy, and Miti, and survived by siblings Hanna, Amy, Tom, along with his children Walter, Gordon, Nancy and her husband Calvin; and his three grandchildren Masako, Tiffany, and Adam.

A private service was held April 15th at Sunset Mortuary. Family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple on May 30, 2009 at 2121 Channing Way at Shattuck Ave., Berkeley at 11 a.m.

### DEATH NOTICE

#### JACK YOSHIHARA

5/01/1921 - 4/20/2009

Jack Yoshihara, 87, a longtime Portland resident, passed away April 20, 2009, in Seattle. He was born in Okayama, Japan on May 1, 1921, and emigrated with his parents from Japan.

A graduate of Benson High School, he attended Utah and Oregon State Universities. Jack received an honorary degree from OSU on June 14, 2008, due to his internment at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho, during his college years. He was a member of the 1942 Oregon State Rose Bowl team, but did not play due to wartime travel restrictions.

Jack worked in refrigeration, and retired as a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 235. He was an active participant in judo, kendo, sumo, fishing, mushroom hunting and excelled in football. Working in his garden, grooming his bonsai trees and wood carving also provided enjoyment.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elsie Masuda. Jack recently remarried and moved to Edmonds, Wash., where he is survived by his wife, Mary Arai; her daughter, Stephanie Ulstein of Bellevue, Wash.; sister, Misa Minagi of Portland; son, Jay Yoshihara of Portland; daughter, Lynn Kanaya of Gig Harbor, Wash.; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. There will be no service, as his spirit will be kept alive by many kind thoughts. Remembrances may be sent to the Oregon State Beaver Athletic Student Fund or the Ikoi No Kai Senior Hot Lunch Program in Portland.



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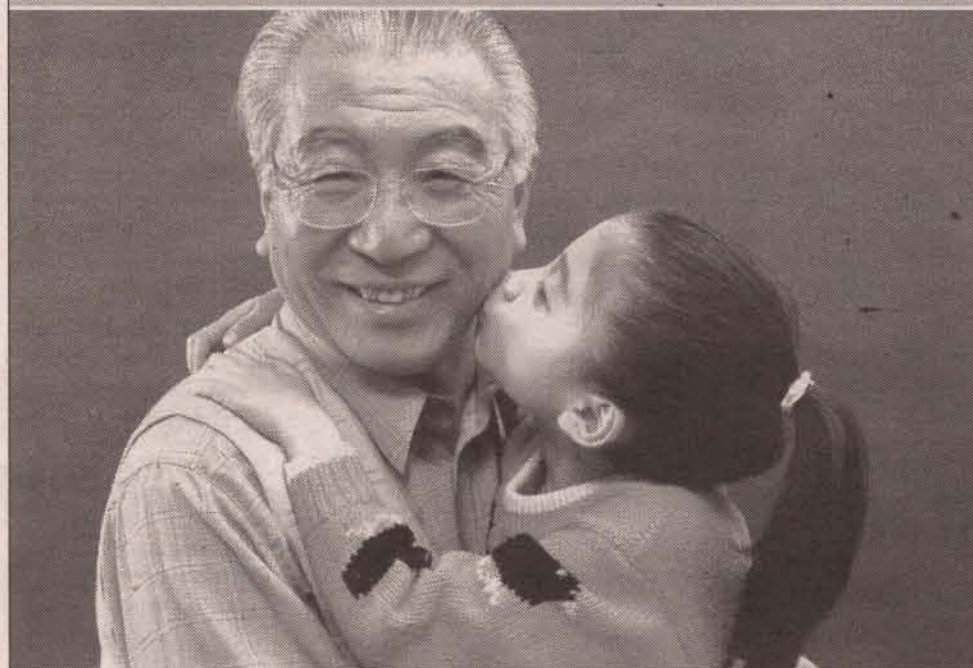
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