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PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

80
YEARS



{ IN DEPTH }

From Depression to Recession

Asian Pacific American survivor stories have new significance in today's bad economy.

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250 E. First Street, Ste. 301,
Los Angeles, CA. 90012
Tel: 213/620-1767,
800/966-6157
Fax: 213/620-1768
E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
www.pacificcitizen.org

Executive Editor:
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom
Assistant Editor:
Lynda Lin
Office Manager:
Brian Tanaka
Circulation:
Eva Lau-Ting

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League (founded 1929) 1765 Sutter Street,
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5225 fax: 415/931-4671, www.jacl.org

JACL President: Larry Oda
Nat'l Director: Floyd Mori

Pacific Citizen Board of Directors: Margie
Yamamoto, chairperson; Paul Niwa, EDC;
Lisa Hanasono, MDC; Kathy Ishimoto,
CCDC; Judith Aono, NCWNPDC; Justine
Kondo, PNWDC; Jeff Itami, IDC; Ted
Namba, PSWDC; Naomi Oren, Youth.

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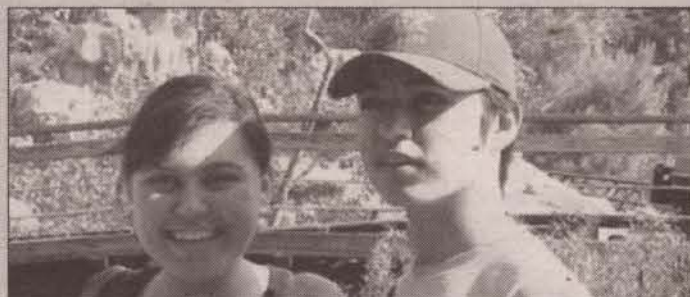
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Letters to the Editor



Katie and Justin Davis were allegedly targeted for their ethnicity.

NCWNP Applauds *P.C.*'s Coverage

On behalf of the NCWNP District Council, I would like to thank the *Pacific Citizen* for its full page coverage of the Robert and Linda Davis family from Burney, Calif. whose two children of Japanese American ancestry were subjected to racial slurs and taunts by their fellow students on page 4 of the March 9-19 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

Our district first became concerned over the Davis' situation when Patty Wada reported at our February District Council meeting that the parents had held a meeting with the superintendent of the school district and were told "let's forgive and forget."

The district involvement intensified with Patty sending a letter to the school district, contacting the Asian Law Caucus for legal representation, and contacting the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

It was the unanimous decision of the delegates present at our February district meeting that the district provide as much support as possible for the Davis family to protect the civil rights of the family, especially their children.

We believe JACL has a role in protecting the civil and human

rights of all Americans, especially those of Japanese ancestry.

Thanks again for working with the NCWNP district in getting the Davis family's story out to the membership.

ALAN NISHI
NCWNP District Governor

No Racism in 'Last Airbender'

I found myself shocked after reading Melissa Chua's article in the May 15-June 4 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. The article was about how casting in the upcoming "Last Airbender" movie is "whitewashing."

I think that casting of main characters (in any movie) should rely solely on talent. I have seen no evidence that people of Asian descent were not allowed to audition for the major roles of "The Last Airbender." I have also seen no evidence that the Caucasians cast were not chosen for their exceptional acting abilities.

I would have thought the intention of an organization such as the JACL would be to dissolve race barriers. From what I have seen here, however, it seems that we are more focused on "getting our share" of what we deserve. Many people are throwing around the term "racebending," and I would like to do so as well. I would argue that we have become the racebenders.

I fail to see how casting white people to act as fantasy characters in a fantasy world is heinous. Sure, the world of "Avatar" has its roots in Asian culture. But since when has earthbending, waterbending, firebending, or airbending had any place outside of fantasy worlds?

PATRICK KITO MONARI
Via e-mail

Editor's note: Check out the ongoing debate surrounding 'The Last Airbender' controversy at www.pacificcitizen.org.

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

Women Leaders of California

By EMILY MURASE

What is the future of California? What are the key issues that will shape this future? Who will be there to lead these issues? I was privileged to find myself among 60 exceptional women leaders from across the state as part of Leadership California, a year-long professional development training for senior-level women.

In the Class of 2009, I am joined by two other Japanese American women: Lynn Matsuda and Kimberly Oka. With over 30 years of experience in the banking industry, Lynn currently serves as senior vice president and director of Customer Experience and Loyalty for California Business Banking at Wells Fargo and is based in Sacramento. Formerly a board member of the annual Pacific Rim Street Fest in Sacramento, Lynn now dedicates her volunteer time to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters board in Sacramento, serving as chair of the organization's annual fundraiser in November that raises \$80,000 to support the mentoring of disadvantaged youth by successful professionals.

Kimberly Oka, a native of Salinas who now lives in San Francisco, serves as the Community Benefits Reporting and Compliance Group Leader of Kaiser Permanente's Northern California region. She began her career with a BA in Dietetics from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and received a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University. An avid cyclist, Kim is also a triathlete and skier.

In March, I met my classmates for the first time in Sacramento, where we were briefed by Assemblymembers, Senators, Agency directors, and members of the Governor's staff about the state budget and key legislative issues. As part of the three-day convening, we also traveled to Gallo Wineries in Modesto to hear Stephanie Gallo highlight issues critical to the Central Valley such as the need for quality public education and training for a changing workforce.

Next we gathered in Los Angeles to identify our leadership styles, review California history we were never taught in school, grapple with healthcare, generational differences, and demographic trends.

In Los Angeles, we engaged with Leadership California Board Member Kay Iwata, a nationally-recognized diversity consultant since

1987 and author of "The Power of Diversity: 5 Essential Competencies for Leading a Diverse Workforce" who led us in an exercise that forced us to reflect on our own attitudes about ethnic and economic diversity.

The session also featured a women's leadership panel with Hiroko Tatebe, the first and only woman on the board of directors of the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank of California. She recently retired as executive vice president and is currently focused on her work as the founding president of the Global Organization for Leadership and Diversity for high potential women leaders.

The remaining two sessions will be held in San Francisco and San Diego. For more information about Leadership California, go to www.leadershipcalifornia.org. ■

Emily Murase, PhD, serves as executive director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. A candidate for school board in 2008, Emily is active in the public schools community and is planning a second run in 2010. She is a member of the San Francisco JACL.

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From Depression to Recession: APA Survivor Stories Have New Significance

Victims of today's bad economy can look to their grandparents for tips on how to get by in hard times. They were the original 'frugalists' and 'recessionistas.'

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Lately, the world outside Aya Medrud's windows seem to be unfolding like an old memory. At 84, the Boulder, Colorado resident has seen many trends from her youth regain new life including now, growing joblessness, high foreclosure rates, and the inevitable human despair that goes along with a global economic recession.

Aya, who went from a toddler to a teenager in the Great Depression, knows this plight all too well. Growing up in Seattle, Aya and her family survived the decade-long period of epic hardship by living off of what they could catch and grow. All the while, people would come to their door begging for scraps of food.

"We're not doing that badly now as of yet," said Aya, a retired schoolteacher and Mile-Hi JACL member. But grim economic indicators in 2009 continue drawing comparisons to 1929 making Aya a witness, in one lifetime, to two of the worst economic crises in U.S. history.

"It's incredible that it's all happening again."

For Asian Pacific American survivors of the Great Depression, memories of hope amidst despair and lessons from those trying times have gained new significance in the depths of the current recession.

"They were the original recyclers," said Marlene Shigekawa, 54, about the older generation that included her mother, Misako Shigekawa.

They knew how to stretch every dollar and reuse everyday household goods year after year. They were the so-called "frugalists" and "recessionistas" before how-to articles and lifestyle magazines popularized the monikers. And while Americans today are scouring these resources for new ideas to save money, Misako has been dishing out free advice for years.

"Money doesn't grow on trees," she would tell her children. "Save everything."

In January, the Santa Ana, Calif. resident turned 100, and impressions of the Great Depression remain deeply set.

"It was a disaster for everyone," said Misako, an Orange County JACL member.

From this single life experience, she learned things she would remember for the rest of her life. She still insists on saving wrapping paper from opened birthday presents and shakes her head disapprovingly when her grandchildren waste even a drop of soda.

These are good lessons that have taken on new meaning in today's consumer-oriented society, said Marlene, a Bay Area writer.

"But watching our 401k diminish is motivation enough to follow mom's advice."

Children of the Great Depression

When the stock market crashed in 1929, Misako was attending the University of Southern California to become a pharmacist. News of the economic turmoil soon made its way on campus through newspaper headlines that announced the stark end to the "Roaring Twenties," an era of excess that led up to the Great Depression.

Misako got a job working in a drugstore after school in order to make ends meet.

"Everyone was in the same situation, so it didn't feel too bad."

But the effects of the era can perhaps be best measured by what's missing. There aren't many photos of Aya's family from the Depression days.

"Not surprisingly people did not have cameras or money for luxuries like photos," she said.

One of the few images captured during this time is a 1930 black and white photo of five-year-old Aya with her younger sister Hope and cousin Tamotsu each clutching a toy of some sort.



NOW AND THEN: The current recession has changed Tim Chang's (above) life. He's embarking on a new career path after getting laid off from Cal Tech after 13 years. What was old is becoming new again. Aya Medrud (pictured right in 1930, standing) has witnessed, in one lifetime, two of the worst economic crises in U.S. history.

Their expressions tell the entire story: a far-off gaze, a young face crumpled. These were the children of the Great Depression.

In those days, the definition of "luxury" extended from milk and eggs to doctor's visits.

"We never went to the doctor for preventive reasons," said Aya. "The money wasn't there."

Her father Joseph Kozo Uenishi and grandfather Itaro Uenishi had helped build the Great Northern Railroad across the northern tier states, but the stock market crash forced the family, in 1930, to move to Seattle in search of more opportunities. There, Aya, her parents and two younger siblings lived under one roof with her grandparents. Joseph took odd jobs to try to make ends meet, including selling encyclopedia sets.

"If you could imagine getting a job trying to sell encyclopedias during the Great Depression," Aya said wryly.

With unemployment at an all time high, desperation hung heavily in the air. Across the nation, suicide rates spiked and APAs — who, historians say, were blamed for taking away jobs — increasingly became victims of violence. In the summer of 1930, a mob of 400 attacked members of the Northern Monterey Filipino Club, killing two, according to the anthology, "Asian American Studies: A Reader."

In Aya's family, the effects of economic hardship seeped into everyday life.

Her grandmother, Tamae, suffered from constant migraine headaches and tended to the vegetable garden outside of their Seattle house, a pre-war "victory garden" with daikon and lettuce. And like other trends that have come around again, in March, first lady Michelle Obama broke ground on the White House's very own organic victory garden.

What was once old is becoming new again.

Recession Victims

There are some definite parallels between the Great Depression and today, said Marlene. "People are starting to feel helpless."

In April, Michigan reported the highest jobless rate, 12.9 percent, according to the latest report from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Joanna Takahashi, 26, is a part of that statistic. The single mother from Detroit was looking forward to a new beginning after her divorce was finalized in December. But two months later, she found out she was getting laid off from the automotive supply company where she had worked for a year.

"It was a big slap in the face."

To get by, she's pulled her three-year-old out of daycare and

collects unemployment benefits.

"It's very stressful. Why me? I haven't done anything to deserve this."

In April, the national unemployment rate for APAs was 6.6 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This doesn't include involuntarily part-time workers and those on the verge of unemployment like 38-year-old Tim Chang.

Tim, who has a Master's degree from Columbia University in higher education administration, has worked for the Pasadena-based California Institute of Technology for 13 years, most recently as the senior director of institute housing.

On Jan. 26, he became another victim of the bad economy. It was "the day," a Monday that was long rumored to be the day of layoffs. What can you do? said Chang, who is fourth generation Chinese American. "You go to work and wait to see if you get called."

Then the phone rings.

"Ah, there you go. Dead man walking."

For the father of two, the path to his next career started at fear and panic, followed by anger and finally acceptance and motivation.

"I take each day as it comes."

He's applied to 40 jobs so far and has heard back from 10. They're the same responses: they've closed their search because of a lack of funding or they've decided to hire from within.

"It's tough. There is a glut of people out there. At the same time the pool of jobs is shrinking," he said. "A lot of people have Master's degrees. A lot of people have 13 years of experience."

Tim's last day at Cal Tech is July 31. It's a day he and his wife have spent years preparing for — building a safety net like his parents and grandparents have always told him to do.

It's sound advice now and always. Even as President Barack Obama has said that the economy has "stepped back from the brink" of calamity and the Labor Department has reported that mass layoffs were down in April compared to the previous month, evidence that some economists say point to an economy that's still grim, but at least not freefalling at a rate that it was just a few months ago.

"It doesn't compare at all," said Aya about the current recession compared to the Great Depression of her childhood. "It was much worse then. But if this continues for a few more years, who knows?"

The other day, a department store representative called to offer her a 50 percent discount.

"I don't need anymore clothing. We don't buy a lot of things," she told the dejected representative. ■

Same-sex Couples Struggle to Find Meaning After Prop. 8 Decision



'How can there now be two separate classes of people, 18,000 couples who 'have' the right and potentially thousands of others who do not? It just doesn't make sense.'

— June Lagmay, (above, left) holding a photo of herself with her wife, Rita Romero, in high school where they met 40 years ago. Their marriage is being honored, an opportunity Eileen Ma (left) and Suyapa Portillo do not have.

The California Supreme Court has created two classes: the gay couples that are married and those unable to get married.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

SOUTH PASADENA, Calif.—In the battle for marriage equality, it's come down to the haves and the have-nots.

Eileen Ma and Suyapa Portillo, her partner of nearly 11 years, have found themselves a part of the latter group, the have-nots, whose members are now barred from legally using the word "marriage."

"It's an interesting contradiction," said Ma, 37, about the state Supreme Court's May 26 decision to outlaw same-sex marriage, except for the 18,000 couples who said their "I dos" in the five months that it was legal.

Ma and Portillo share a home across the street from a golf course with their two cats and a fish. They are not married. It's a life decision they wanted to make for themselves, not simply when the laws and courts say it's okay.

But in November when voters passed Proposition 8 to ban same-sex marriage, the couple signed up to become a part of the legal challenge. They're not married, but someday, they would like to have the right to be. Such is the plight of California's have-nots.

"The awkwardness about it is that somehow we're expected to accept that contradiction, that 18,000 people that are exactly like us are married, but we are not," said Ma.

What a difference a year makes. This time last year, the same high court ruled in favor of gay marriage. It was all love and wedding cake; now it's heartbreak.

Moments after the California Supreme Court announced its 6-1 decision to uphold Proposition 8, Portillo, 34, fought back tears.

"I didn't expect to get so emotional, but I did. I felt like something fell inside of me."

The court's decision came within weeks of the 42nd anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*, the case that struck down laws banning interracial marriage.

The irony isn't lost on Ma, who is second generation Chinese American. "The world has a way of working out that way."

Gay marriage advocates have often drawn comparisons to this legal landmark. Back then, the have-nots were mixed race couples. The struggle to ensure justice, they say, is separated by half a century.

And it isn't nearly over.

"It is a setback. It's a bump," said Karin Wang, vice president of programs at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "We're on the road to equality. We're going to get there."

California is home to the nation's largest population of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Asian Pacific Americans, according to the University of California, Los Angeles' Williams Institute. Many are descendants of other have-nots, like the "ineligible aliens" who were denied citizenship.

"How can there now be two separate classes of people, 18,000 couples who 'have' the right and potentially thousands of others who do not? It just doesn't make sense," said June Lagmay in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen* after the court announced its decision.

Just days earlier, Lagmay — Los Angeles' new city clerk — sat across from longtime love, Rita Romero, in her city hall office beaming as she talked about the October day they became lawful spouses.

The couple, both 55, met in high school when detention-prone Romero was called "Bandita" and June was known as the teacher's pet. In a small, faded photo of the couple as teenagers embracing, they almost melt into each other.

So when the opportunity came to gain legal status, they took it. In an October backyard ceremony with Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky as the officiant, Rita Bandita married June The Teacher's Pet.

The event was a highlight of their 40-year relationship, said Lagmay, and it marked the end of living "on the outskirts" of the law.

"It was the happiest day of my life," said Romero. "To be connected lawfully."

All things considered, Lagmay and Romero are the lucky ones — the 18,000 whose marriages were upheld.

"Of course we are relieved that we are still married and that the court is not coming after us to try and invalidate us," said Lagmay, who is of Japanese and Filipina descent. "At the same time we are devastated that the door has slammed shut for others to access the same right."

The justices' decision, experts say, has essentially created two classes of people.

"We now have two groups that are otherwise exactly the same except one, by virtue of timing, have certain legal protections," said Wang.

The fact that there are married gay couples and gay couples that cannot get married show that the rule is "arbitrary and does not defend the California Constitution," said Jenny Pizer, Lambda Legal senior counsel.

"It's an issue of same-sex couples being denied marriage for no good reasons," she said.

In the decision written by Chief Justice Ron George, the court rejected arguments that the voter-passed Proposition 8 was such a fundamental change in the California Constitution that it first needed the Legislature's approval.

APA community leaders say the decision sets up a dangerous precedence when it comes to minority rights.

"The argument has always been, that by upholding Proposition 8, the court is allowing discrimination against a minority group on the basis of a suspect classification," said Larry Oda, JACL national president. "This is in opposition to the promise of equality that underlies our California Constitution. Upholding Proposition 8 places at risk the state constitutional rights of all disfavored minorities."

The JACL, in 1994, was one of the first civil rights groups in the nation to affirm its support for marriage equality. It was a continuation of the organization's long fight for equal rights — in 1967, William M. Marutani argued the cause for the JACL by special leave of the court in *Loving v. Virginia*.

"We cannot stand by while the rights of others are being eroded," said Oda.

After the passage of Proposition 8 last November, JACL submit an *amicus* brief in support of the Petition for Writ Mandate in the case of *Strauss, et al v. Horton, et al*.

"The JACL is disappointed in the ruling, but we are ready to take the next step in creating equity for all regardless of sexual preference," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Ma and Portillo were part of the "et al" in the *Strauss* case, plaintiffs in search of the right to marry. They met at work over a decade ago when they worked as union organizers. These days, Ma, the campaign director at the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, juggles meetings and a constantly ringing cell phone. Portillo is hoping to earn her PhD next year. But someday: marriage.

Gay marriage supporters are already talking about a pro-equality ballot initiative in 2010 and a federal marriage challenge. But for Ma and Portillo, it's now about living their life together despite the laws and court decisions.

"For communities of color I think that's particularly important because I think we'll never be the majority," said Ma about the LGBT community. "In that sense, it requires that we really just live our lives and figure out how to build as powerful a community around what our lives really are ... and what we would like them to be on paper." ■

Information: www.jacl.org, www.lambdalegal.org, www.apalc.org

Facebook, Online Blogging Become Outlets for One APA Cancer Patient

MELISSA CHUA
Web Reporter

Online social networks like Facebook and Twitter are usually the place to keep tabs on your latest favorite celebrity or join like-minded socially conscious groups. But Jessica Lum, 21, is using Facebook to talk about her life-threatening cancer and how she's dealing with her pending death.

Since diagnosed with stage four pheochromocytoma, a rare cancer that forms in the adrenal gland, in December of 2008, Jessica has turned to online forums and a personal blog to update friends about her condition. It's also helping her deal with the roller coaster of emotions that come with battling cancer.

"I write to my audience of peers, of my friends, in order to help them and myself understand the situation I'm in," says Jessica from a hospital bed at UCSF Medical Center. "When I write, whether it's about my cancer condition or silly pop-culture trends, I really just try to write in a way that my peers can relate to and understand."

Sadly, things look dire for the Sacramento native. The average survival rate for pheochromocytoma cancer is about four and a half years with no cases having complete remission, says Dr. Paul Fitzgerald, Jessica's current physician and clinical professor of medicine at UCSF.

Jessica, an English major and geography and environmental sciences minor, was a full-time senior at UCLA juggling three jobs: photo editor at the *Daily Bruin*, an English tutor for



Jessica, 21, was diagnosed with stage four pheochromocytoma, a cancer of the adrenal gland.

athletes, and a student photographer and designer for UCLA Recreation, the campus's leisure center. She was your average college student — going to bars and relaxing at house parties on the weekends. Little did she know a series of events would soon change her life completely.

Diagnosis

It started with a severe cough that wouldn't go away in November of 2008. After multiple visits to the doctor, Jessica's pulmonologist finally discovered a tumor about the size of a grapefruit on her abdomen as well as masses on different parts of her body. After various

tests, more CAT scans and prolonged waiting, Jessica's primary doctor determined she had an aggressive form of pheochromocytoma cancer.

Jessica had no symptoms at first. But by the middle of last February, she was confined at home due to high fevers and aching bones. Since the cancer spread to her bones, lungs and liver, Jessica has trouble doing many of the things she loves to do.

"I can't do most of the things I like to do like snowboarding," says Jessica, who has been a seasonal snowboarder since seventh grade.

She soon moved back home to Sacramento with her retired parents who have become her caretakers.

After seeing Jessica go through a series of extensive chemotherapy last March, her father Bob retired from his teaching job at Sacramento City College saying it was a "hard decision, but necessary."

"This is not the life I expected post retirement," says Jessica's mother Anna, who retired from her community care licensing job with the state of California. "We're here for her and support her to help her in any way we can, and of course we wanted her to graduate and be on her own, [but] she was forced by this cancer to depend on us."

Talking Cancer

Jessica describes her family as a non-traditional Asian family and says she was always encouraged to be open about her feelings. So it's no surprise she's broadcasting her cancer experience to a wide audience.

In a May 20 blog entry Jessica writes: "In spite of the silence, the boredom, the bad food, the hospital smell, the lack of direct sunlight, the painful IV needles, and the harsh reality that I have a crappy life-threatening rare disease that Dr. Gregory House would make snide yet brilliant remarks about, this is my life — the life I get to live, rather than watch."

"She's a writer who expresses her emotions through writing [which] I think is therapeutic for her," says Anna.

With celebrities like Christina Applegate and Kris Carr, who came forward with their diagnosis and found empowerment through talking about their cancer, cancer patients of this generation are more inclined to expose their illnesses, says Naomi Hoffer, program director at Ida and Joseph Friend Cancer Resource Center at University of California, San Francisco Helen Diller Family

Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Younger cancer patients now are more open to talking about it and letting other people know what's going on with them ... it's not as much of a stigma as it used to be."

"It's not entirely an Asian thing to not want to share news like this," says Jessica. "It's a human thing to not be able to talk about cancer."

Hope

Although the cancer was initially a surprise, Jessica had her suspicions.

"After taking a biology of cancer class my freshman year, I knew it was cancer [because] it was everywhere cancer would be and should be," she said.

Cancer also runs in her family. Jessica's sister Bethany Ayres, 27 was diagnosed with thyroid cancer at age 19. After several surgeries and radiation treatments, the cancer is under control but still being monitored.

Then in 2007, Jessica's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent chemotherapy treatments and is currently in remission.

"I've been on both sides of this cancer thing — seeing my sister and my mom go through diagnosis and treatment with emotions and physical difficulties involved, and now, I'm on the patient side as well," says Jessica. "As a young person especially, it's really tough to know what to say to people who have cancer."

Jessica now faces chemotherapy treatments and currently, a radioactive isotope procedure that has her sequestered in a room for over a week now at the UCSF Medical Center. This radiation treatment is another attempt to shrink Jessica's tumors by targeting and hopefully absorbing them.

"They're not looking to cure it but to stall it from growing and buy me time," says Jessica.

"We're hoping she'll have a good reaction to the radiation," says Dr. Fitzgerald. "If we can keep her feeling healthy, Jessica will be able to live a healthy and productive life [because] people can live with cancer for many years."

'A Normal Life'

After continuous chemotherapy treatments in March, Jessica's symptoms have subsided for now.

"It's not hard to lead a normal life right now," she says.

In a May 16 blog entry Jessica writes: "I'm finding that this whole isolation thing isn't so bad. Lucky for me, as a mostly obedient Asian kid, I've been trained to lead a quiet, content life in front of a computer or television monitor."

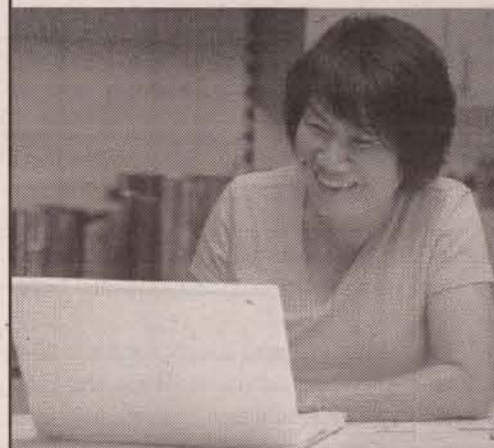
Through her writing, Jessica has touched the lives of her readers — family, friends, peers and the larger cyberspace audience who just so happen to stumble across her blogs.

"Reading all her blogs, you're able to get more in her head than just talking to her ... you feel like you're going through it with her," says Jonathan Chau, a close friend. "It's a lot harder to say something than write it."

"We're reading to help support her and to see what's going on, [but] at the same time, it helps everyone appreciate life a little bit more. It shows how strong of a person she is by sharing [this] with everyone ... it changes how you look at life and not take life for granted." ■

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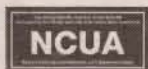
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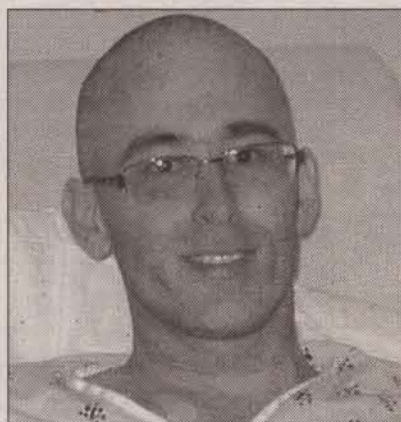
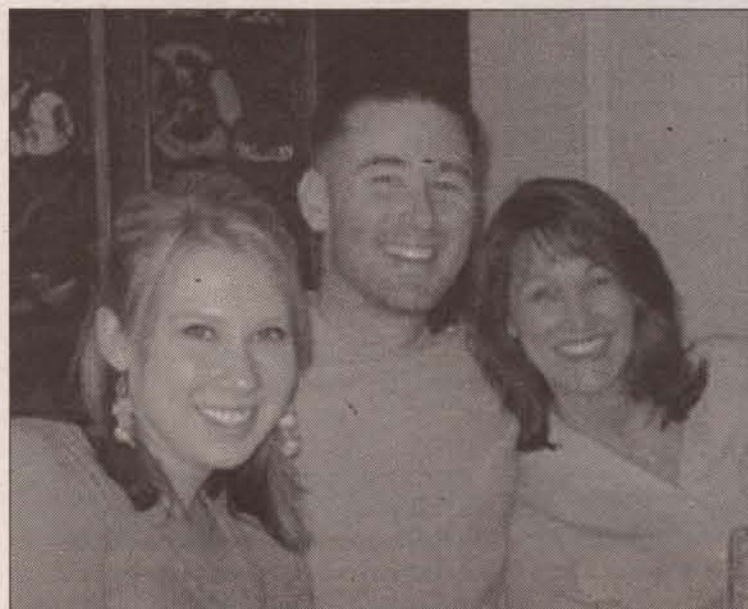
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Mixed-race Patients Struggle to Find Marrow Donors



Nick Glasgow (top and left) has been diagnosed with leukemia and is desperately trying to find a match for a much needed bone marrow transplant. He is one quarter Japanese.

Nick Glasgow, who is one quarter Japanese, was told by his doctor he has 'zero chance' of finding a match to cure his leukemia.

By JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

HAYWARD, Calif.—If Nick Glasgow were white, he would have a nearly 90 percent chance of finding a matching bone marrow donor who could cure his leukemia.

But because the 28-year-old bodybuilder is one-quarter Japanese, his doctor warned him the outlook was grim. Glasgow's background would make it almost impossible to find a match, which usually comes from a patient's own ethnic group.

The doctor "didn't say it was slim-to-none. He didn't say it would be hard. He said 'zero chance,'" Glasgow's mother, Carole Wiegand, recalled with tears in her eyes. "When Nick heard that, it sent him plummeting."

At a time when the number of multiracial Americans is rising, only a tiny fraction of donors on the national bone marrow registry are of mixed race. The National Marrow Donor Program is trying to change that by seeking more diverse donors for patients suffering from leukemia, lymphoma and other blood diseases.

"The truth is, when people of different backgrounds marry and produce offspring, it creates more types that are harder to match," said Michelle Setterholm, the program's director of scientific services. "The probability just gets lower when you have people of mixed ancestral DNA."

The number of people who identify themselves as multiracial in the United States has grown from 3.9 million in 2000, the first year the census included the category, to 5.2 million in 2008. Mixed-race people account for 1.6 percent of the U.S. population.

The donor program has been pushing for years to recruit more racial minorities and mixed-race donors. So far, multiracial volunteers make up just 3 percent of the 7 million people on the registry.

That is higher than the percentage of mixed-race people in the U.S. But there are so many possible racial and ethnic combinations that finding a match can still be extremely difficult.

The reason that mixed-heritage patients are so hard to match can be found in the immune system.

Populations in different parts of the world developed certain proteins, or markers, that are part of the body's natural defenses. These markers help the immune system determine which cells are foreign and should be rejected.

A match between two people who share many mark-

ers will reduce the risk of the donor and recipient cells attacking each other. Because certain markers tend to cluster in particular ethnic groups, matches are most often found among people of shared backgrounds. Multiracial patients often have uncommon profiles and a much harder time finding a donor.

About 6,000 patients in the U.S. are awaiting a bone marrow match.

Finding compatible organs for transplant is simpler. Organ matches rely essentially on blood type, which is not related to race.

Glasgow's grandfather, an Army soldier from South Carolina, fell in love while stationed in Japan after World War II and married across racial lines at a time when it was illegal to do so in many states.

From his Japanese grandmother, Glasgow got the almond shape of his eyes and cell markers that set him apart from most other whites. From his white grandparents, he got markers that set him apart from other Japanese.

Donors fill out forms with their health history and ethnic makeup before swabbing the inside of their cheeks to collect the genetic material that will be used to match them to waiting patients.

If a match is found, they will undergo a painful procedure in which doctors withdraw liquid marrow from the back of their pelvic bones.

Among those filling out donor forms was Abe Rindal, a retired engineer who heard through friends about Glasgow.

Rindal was born to a Norwegian-American father and Japanese mother who met in Japan after World War II. They started a family before interracial marriage bans were struck down by the Supreme Court in 1967. Rindal remembers meeting only two other people with similar ethnicity.

"It was socially unacceptable back then," he said.

The chance to help someone of similar ethnicity appealed to Rindal. He not only filled out his form and swabbed his cheeks, he also sent test kits to his four siblings and their children in the hope they might be a match for Glasgow.

At the hospital, Wiegand prays for her son. Her niece started a Facebook group that has collected upward of 1,000 members interested in helping. The Asian American Donor Program has been contacting Japanese American organizations, and large corporations such as Cisco have reached out to their employees via e-mail.

If chemotherapy sends Glasgow's cancer into remission, he might have months to find a match. If not, he might have far less time.

"I just keep thinking, 'Please, everyone, get into that database,'" his mother said. "I just know there's a match out there somewhere for him." ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Teens Reach Goal for Paper Crane Peace Memorial

EAGEN, Minn.—Michelle Reed and Carly Gutzmann have achieved a milestone in their project to remember the treatment of World War II Japanese Americans. Their paper crane collection now includes 120,313 cranes — their desired goal.

Each origami crane symbolizes an internee, and — more broadly — peace and tolerance in the world.

The teens got the idea for the project in 2006 when they researched JA history for their National History Day project.

They reached their goal for The Paper Crane Peace Memorial, as they called it, due to an outpouring of support from around the world.

Reed and Gutzmann have donated the paper cranes to the Topaz Museum in Utah.



Michelle Reed (left) and Carly Gutzmann

Ceded Lands Lawsuit Still Pending

HONOLULU—One plaintiff says he will continue seeking a permanent ban on the sale of former Hawaiian monarchy lands.

University of Hawaii-Manoa Hawaiian Studies professor Jonathan K. Osorio will not give up his lawsuit, even as the Lingle administration, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and three other plaintiffs are close to a settlement.

The settlement would come as the result of a measure passed by the state lawmakers barring exchanges of ceded lands unless two-thirds of each legislative chamber approves. Osorio says the new law doesn't go far enough.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in March that the federal government's apology for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom didn't strip the state of its land rights.

The case was sent back to the Hawaii Supreme Court, which hasn't yet taken further action.

Filipino Vets Get Checks for World War II Service

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Filipino American veterans are receiving \$15,000 checks from the federal government as compensation for their military service during World War II.

Seven octogenarians from San Jose are among the first Northern California residents to receive their share of the \$198 million Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

The fund was set up as part of the federal stimulus package to rectify a congressional snub that stripped away their promised veterans' benefits six decades ago.

Only about 18,000 of the 250,000 Filipinos who fought for the U.S. in WWII are still alive. About one-third of the survivors live in the U.S., including an estimated 200 in Santa Clara County.

Site of the Former Chinatown is Safe For Now

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—An appeals court has denied a request to overturn a judge's order that halted work at the site of a former Chinatown near downtown Riverside.

The Riverside County office of education filed the request. The office owns 2.3 acres of the 4.2 acres on which developer Doug Jacobs plans to construct a medical office building.

The sale of the 2.3 acres to Jacobs is in escrow, and the March 20 order by Riverside County Superior Court Judge Sharon Waters is preventing escrow from closing.

The Save Our Chinatown Committee has sued the city over its approval of Jacobs' project and sued the education office over its sale of the land. Trial is set for July 9.

The Chinatown site, at Tequesquite and Brockton avenues, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It also is a city and county landmark and a state point of historical interest. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Portland JACL Honors Local High School Scholars

Portland JACL recently teamed up with 10 other Nikkei organizations to honor 30 area high school graduates at the 62nd Annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet.

Highlights of the evening included an address by **Hirofumi Murabayashi**, the acting Consul General of Japan, and the awarding of almost \$20,000 in scholarships to college-bound seniors. Each senior also received "Touching the Stones," a book by **Lawson Inada**, Oregon's poet laureate.

Sugiyama is Selected for Emergency Medical Services' Highest Honor



William H. Sugiyama has been named the Intermedix International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs (IAEM-SC) Harvard Fellow.

Sugiyama was selected for the highest honor in the field of emergency medical services for his longstanding contributions to the field.

In the fellowship, he will be participating in Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government's three-week summer program to, among other things, develop new conceptual frameworks for addressing program and policy issues.

Sugiyama is Alameda County's emergency medical services pre-hospital care coordinator.

Sammy Lee, Olympic Diver, Gets His Own Star

Dr. Sammy Lee has become the 11th recipient of a star on the Anaheim/OC Walk of Stars.

A first generation Korean American, Lee won a gold medal in diving at the 1948 London Olympic Games and again in 1952 at Helsinki. He became the first male diver to win back-to-back golds.

Lee, a physician, coached the American diving team, and in 1976 he coached Olympian **Greg Louganis** to a silver medal.

His star is on Harbor Boulevard, just south of the entrance to Disneyland.

Chu is Poised to be So. Cal's Only APA in Congress



An APA candidate has emerged as the leading contender to fill a U.S. House seat in an overwhelmingly Hispanic district.

Democrat **Judy Chu** topped a field of 12 candidates in the recent elections, making her the favorite to claim the seat in a July runoff.

If elected, she would be Southern California's only APA in Congress.

The 32nd Congressional District seat had been in Hispanic hands since the 1980s. It was held by Rep. Hilda Solis until she resigned to become President Barack

Obama's labor secretary.

But Chu's track record in the district — she was mayor of Monterey Park and represented the area in the state Assembly — helped her draw votes from across the racial spectrum.

Chen May Become No. Cal's First APA Federal Judge

San Francisco U.S. Magistrate Judge **Edward Chen** is in the final stages of the White House vetting process to become the first APA on the Northern California federal bench, according to the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein recently recommended Chen to fill one of two vacant judgeships in San Francisco.

Chen, 56, was an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union before the court named him a magistrate judge. If nominated, Chen would still have to be confirmed by the Senate.

Magistrate judges are appointed to eight-year terms by the courts and earn about \$155,000 annually, while federal district judges have broader powers and are appointed for life by the president and earn about \$170,000 a year. ■

Heart Mountain Could be Considered for Historic Site

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

POWELL, Wyo.—A study is being sought to determine whether the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in northern Wyoming should become a National Historic Site.

Historic sites are managed by the National Park Service.

A private, nonprofit foundation has been leading the effort to preserve and commemorate the site where more than 11,000 Japanese Americans were held during World War II.

The foundation is asking the state's congressional delegation to authorize a special resource study for the site. Among other things, a study would make a recommendation as to whether the site should become a National Historic Site, managed by the National Park Service.

The study would have to be authorized by Congress.

Foundation president Dave Reetz said the group isn't necessarily advocating Park Service management. Instead, it just wants to examine all the options.

A special resource study, he said, would ask for a great deal of public comment, including from former internees and present-day adjoining land owners.

"We would be remiss as an organization in not having this done," Reetz said.

The Park County Commission, the Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Park County Travel Council, the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, the



Wyoming Business Council, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Norm Mineta and former U.S. Senator Al Simpson have joined with the foundation in requesting the study.

In asking Wyoming's congressional delegation to endorse a study, Park County commissioners wrote, "Not only is this place an important part of our history, it has the ability to provide another economic resource and stimulus to our region and state that is so critical."

At the commission's May 12 meeting, Commissioner Bucky Hall said he supported the foundation's effort, but he also asked if it was what the group really wanted.

"Do you want to give up control to the National Park Service?" he asked.

"How long do you think we're going to live?" asked Pat Wolfe, foundation treasurer, in response.

"You may live to see that nightmare," said Hall, with a chuckle. "They may close it when you don't want it closed."

Reetz stressed that a study would only make recommendations.

"It doesn't require action," he said.

A 2001 report compiled by the U.S. Department of the Interior suggested that the 74 remaining acres of Bureau of Reclamation land at the Heart Mountain site be transferred to Park Service control.

The relocation camp was built on some 20,000 acres, 4,600 of that Bureau of Reclamation acreage. After the camp was dissolved in 1945, the majority of the property was transferred to private ownership.

Today, only 124 acres of the camp remain — 74 belonging to the Bureau of Reclamation. The remaining 50 acres where a learning center currently under construction sits are owned by the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation.

Scheduled for a grand opening next summer, the learning center will house interactive exhibits, historic replicas and documents, as well as a theater. ■

Freed Journalist Roxana Saberi Says Thanks for Support

North Korea to put U.S. reporters **Laura Ling** and **Euna Lee** on trial June 4.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Journalist Roxana Saberi, recently freed after four months in an Iranian prison, met May 27 with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and expressed thanks for the support she received during her confinement.

"When I found that I had this support while I was in prison, I gained a lot of strength and hope and I didn't feel so alone any more," Saberi told reporters as she stood beside Clinton, with her parents seated nearby. Saberi did not take questions.

Clinton said she was relieved that Saberi was set free.

"This was a matter of great concern to our country, certainly to the Obama administration and to me personally — not only as secretary

of state but as a mother," Clinton said. "My heart went out to Roxana and to her parents every single day."

The 32-year-old journalist arrived in the United States May 22 from Vienna, where she spent a week recuperating after her release from prison in Iran. Saberi was arrested in late January and convicted of spying for the United States in a closed-door trial that her Iranian-born father said lasted only 15 minutes.

She was freed May 11 and reunited with her parents, who had come from Fargo, N.D., to Iran to seek her release. An Iranian appeals court reduced her sentence to a two-year suspended term.

U.S. officials had said the charges against Saberi were baseless and repeatedly demanded her release.

Saberi, who grew up in Fargo and moved to Iran six years ago, has dual citizenship.

Meanwhile North Korea said recently that two U.S. journalists arrested in the communist nation

near its border with China two months ago will be put on trial June 4.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency gave no other details in its brief dispatch, including what charges they face. North Korean media previously have said that the two journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, are accused of illegal entry and unspecified "hostile" acts.

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

Espionage or "hostility toward North Koreans" — possible crimes that could be considered "hostile acts" — could mean five to 10 years in prison, according to South Korean officials.

The journalists, who work for San Francisco-based Current TV, a media venture founded by former Vice President Al Gore, were detained on March 17 near the border while reporting on refugees living in China. ■



[YUMI SAKUGAWA]

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Gay Marriage: From Tokyo to Los Angeles

If you look at my photo-sticker collection from Japan, many of them will feature a cluster of handsome men — European, Burmese, Japanese — and me, the lone woman in the group.

It was all my friend Jerome's fault. Jerome was one of my closest friends during my time abroad in Japan. Jerome is gay, good-looking, and the reason why the term "social butterfly" was invented.

He had a plethora of gay friends in Japan from a prior study abroad experience.

By social osmosis, his friends became my friends.

I learned a thing or two about being a gay male in Japan. As with my gay friends back home, many of my gay friends in Japan found prospective dates through online social groups. I learned which districts in Tokyo were the most queer-friendly. In reverse fetishism of what we were used to back

home, I heard about Japanese gay men who were competitive over the limited pool of white gay foreigners that came to Tokyo.

In Japan, the idea of a gay marriage — let alone a civil union between two people of the same sex — is unheard of. There are no anti-gay discrimination laws that protect homosexuals at schools and in the workplace. In the political and mainstream public sphere, the dialogue on homosexual rights remains deafeningly silent.

In contrast, the gay community is very much an active part of the public and political sphere in California. We have LGBT communities in high schools and universities, annual Pride parades, and accessible resources for friends and advocates of the gay community. At the time I was living in Japan, we were also one of the two states in the whole country that recognized gay marriage.

These were the things that made me proud to be from California.

And then I came home in time for election season last October.

In my hometown of Orange County, men and women stood in rows on the street holding signs that proudly displayed their support for Proposition 8's same-sex marriage ban. If you support Proposition 8, the signs said, you are supporting family values and protecting our children's schools.

Cars passed by and honked in solidarity. On Nov. 4, 2009, Proposition 8 ended up passing by a slim margin.

Just last month, California Supreme Court unanimously decided to uphold Proposition 8. This decision was another heart-wrenching kick in the face. My disappointment and disgust mirrored the collective reaction of my other Californian friends and colleagues. How could California possibly do this? How could the state of California have possibly failed on this issue?

My limited and biased experience as an Angeleno had become, in my head, a representation for the opinions and viewpoints of the entire state of California. Could it be that having gay-friendly friends in a gay-friendly part of California made me intellectually complacent? I was no better than the Christian fundamentalists from the Bible Belt who assumed that their views represented all of America's views.

I am reminded of something that I saw before Proposition 8 officially passed in November. My boyfriend had picked me up from my parents' house in Orange County, and we were driving towards the freeway. As we turned the corner on a busy intersection, we passed by a scraggly group of teenagers. There were maybe five of them, and they proudly held up their handmade "NO ON PROP 8" poster. There were no cars honking. We were the only ones that did.

These teenagers, in my eyes, had already accomplished what I have still yet to do. It's one thing to surround yourself with people who already agree with you on many social and political issues. It's something else altogether to publicly stand for your belief in a city or a state where your view is the complete minority.

This is what these teenagers were doing on that day in late October. This is what the rest of us need to be doing. In one fleeting moment, I caught eyes with one of the teenagers. I gave them a thumbs up. The teenagers disappeared behind us as we drove onto the freeway ramp towards Los Angeles. ■

Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles



[JOHN TATEISHI]

FOR THE RECORD

A Tortured Decision

It's been interesting in the past couple of weeks (which it's been at the time of this writing) to see the response to the Obama administration's decision to release heretofore classified memos related to the previous administration's policy on torture.

Outrage on both sides but for very different reasons. The defenders of the Bush administration's use of torture (viz., Dick Cheney and Karl Rove) have warned that the release of these documents only endangers the U.S. (from what? I wonder) and weakens our ability to defend against future terrorist attacks. They accuse the Obama administration of over-simplifying the choices between keeping America safe and living up to the promises of our ideals versus making us vulnerable to those who plan evil against us.

Those who come from the opposite side of the political spectrum, while pleased to see some truth and honesty emerge from the White House after eight years of deception and secrecy, are incensed that Obama has stated unequivocally that his administration will not pursue legal charges against those who were involved in the nefarious world that practiced torture, namely the CIA.

In one sense, I can understand that. I don't think the president is necessarily trying to protect those who carried out the policy, primarily because they operated in a world made morally corrupt by those responsible in the previous administration. It seems a more pragmatic decision not to get bogged down in polemics and a long and drawn out legal fight that could only prove to be divisive and damaging. (Think of the hay day Republicans and Fox News commentators would have with that).

On the other hand, I don't see how we as a nation can ignore the now acknowledged truth that we were involved in torture, declared for centuries by all countries to be illegal, that is, except for the U.S. under the Bush administration and some of the world's worst dictatorships, past and present.

But once the cat is out of the bag, what do you do then? As a society that is guided by the rule of law, how do we make exceptions for something so profound and say that those who were responsible shall go unpunished?

It's a tough dilemma the Obama administration faces. Stated simply, "enhanced" interrogation techniques is torture, and the use of torture is a crime. Dick Cheney

can argue all he wants that we're safer as a nation because of the information gotten from enhanced interrogations, and those who defend that position note that the Bush administration prevented a terrorist attack in L.A. based on information taken from a prisoner who was subjected to this "technique." Fine, except they fail to point out that that particular prisoner was interrogated a year after the allegedly foiled L.A. attack.

But let's say, for the sake of argument, that the timing aligned with the claim. It still doesn't matter because torture is still torture. It doesn't matter what torture might yield as information, because to argue this is to say that the end justifies the means. And if we're a nation of laws and morality, the end should never justify the means.

A crime is a crime is a crime.

While I give high marks to President Obama for his handling of difficult problems he inherited and decisions he's made (and often reversed as policy) — the economic meltdown, global warming, stem cell research, etc — I'm troubled by his decision not to prosecute those responsible for the Bush administration policy on torture: those who made the decision, those who wrote the legal defense for it, those who bent the law to justify it, and those who carried it out.

When I, as the national director, took a public position on torture and sent letters to the White House, DOJ, the House and Senate leadership to condemn the administration's position on the issue, I was stunned to learn that we were the only national organization to speak out publicly on the issue, except for the ACLU. Speaking out now is not risky as it was under a vindictive Bush administration, so maybe those of us who are bothered by Obama's decision should join others who have criticized the decision not to prosecute.

Why should I even bother to write about this in the P.C. and why should we bother with this? Well, because a crime is a crime and those who commit them should be prosecuted. And because if we insist on the inclusion of APAs as part of the social framework of America, then it's equally our responsibility to speak out, even against a president we admire. And especially on issues critical to the character of this nation.

Otherwise, we deserve to just sit and wait for the crumbs to fall our way. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL nat'l director.

AND THERE GOES SWIFTY!

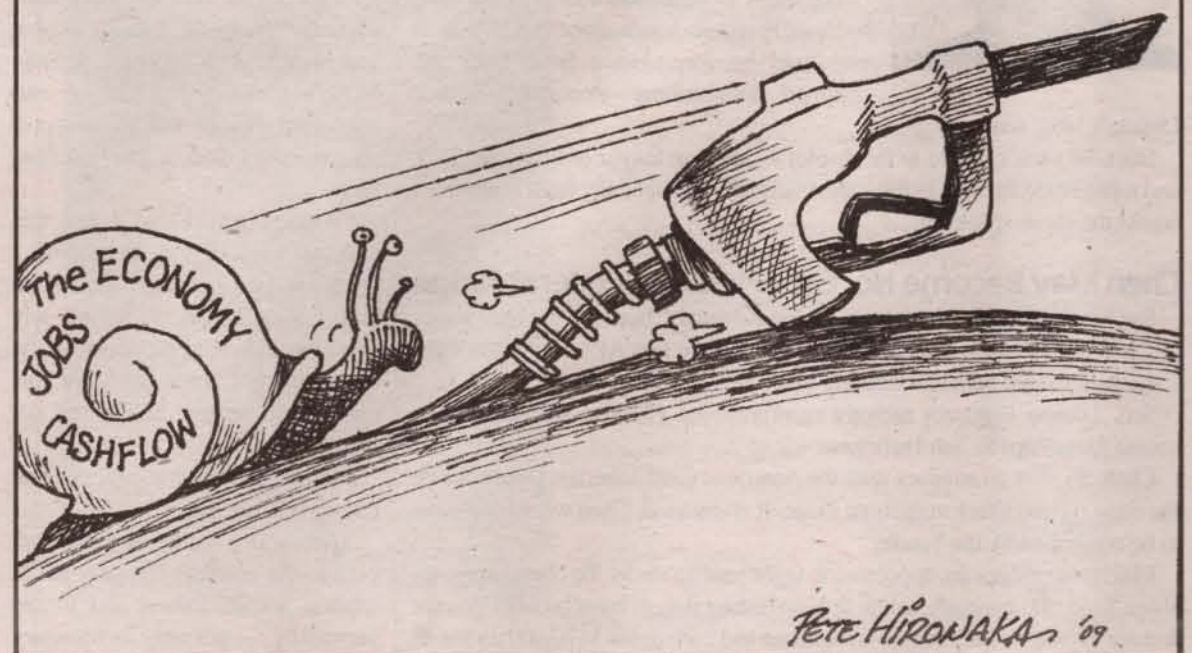




PHOTO: LEIGHA HODNET

'I'm proud that I'm one-quarter Japanese,' said the singer/songwriter who hails from Roberta, Georgia, population 808. In Los Angeles, before she became famous, she served Fabio smoothies.

Meiko Rising

The singer/songwriter had her bags packed to get out of her small town since five. In Los Angeles, she's gained success as part of the new wave of Web savvy musicians.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Meiko is calling from Madison, Wisconsin, where she says it's gorgeous.

"It's a big city with a small town vibe."

Of course, before the 27-year-old singer/songwriter announced her coordinates in the Cheese State — one in over 30 stops in her first ever headlining tour across the United States — the *Pacific Citizen*, along with her other online devotees, already knew where she was, where she was headed next (Denver) and even what she had been snacking on (string cheese).

Thank you, Twitter, for allowing up to the minute dispatches from the road. It's the 2.0 version of a musician's life. And when your self-titled debut album has been released through the MySpace Records label, it's safe to say Meiko, who is one-quarter Japanese American, is comfortable enough to lay her soul bare on the World Wide Web.

Google "Meiko" (she pronounces it *MEE-ko*) and you'll inevitably come across one of the many videos of the songstress puckishly strumming on a guitar and singing about the heart-break of growing up without a mom and being broke in Los Angeles. She describes her sound as indie, pop rock and folk — in the vein, others say, of Corinne Bailey Rae and Colbie Caillat.

Except Meiko is like a siren, a poet who seduces with a catchy hook. Listen to "Reasons to Love You" once and it could possibly get stuck in your head forever.

She's no stranger to life on the road. In the past, Meiko has opened for other bands "making small potatoes a night." These days with her music's increasing popularity — thanks also to play on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" — she's now the main attraction. Now it's her name in lights.

The perks come with some drawbacks. She's away from

home a lot and finds herself "wearing the same stinky shirt for three days."

But if that's the worst part, she'll take it.

On paper, Meiko's life reads like a fairytale. When she talks about it, the fantastic becomes almost surreal. A small town girl from Roberta, Georgia (population 808), who was once a star softball pitcher, adopted the nickname Meiko at a young age and told all her friends to remember it because she was going to be famous one day.

"It sounds like a cliché," says Meiko. "But it's all true."

The Roberta Meiko grew up in had two stoplights and one stop sign. There was a soul food restaurant in the middle of the tiny town and a Piggly Wiggly grocery store where everyone's moms and grandparents went for gossip.

"Everyone was in everyone else's business."

She loves her hometown, but she always wanted something else.

Meiko started singing as early as three and writing her own songs at seven, said her sister Kelly Nishimoto, a Los Angeles-based fashion designer. Young Meiko often performed at the local shows, including singing the national anthem at sporting events. Their father, Shep, a retired factory worker, taught her to play the guitar. In her loneliest times, it would be her best friend.

"She's always been shy. She's good in public now, but back then she would sing and twirl her leg in circles looking straight down," said Kelly, 32.

Meiko's grandmother, Chikako, died when she was eight leaving behind fuzzy memories of a woman who loved sushi and bingo. Meiko and Kelly were raised by their father, after their mother left — it's an absence that has become a theme in Meiko's music, including "Hawaii," a song about meeting her mom again on an island far away.

They were virtually the only Asian Pacific Americans for miles. It was a difference they embraced. She always wanted to know more about her Japanese heritage, said Meiko, but she didn't know where to find it in Roberta.

In the eighth grade, Meiko and her entire class were herded into the school auditorium to hear World War II veterans tell heroic war stories laced with racial epithets directed against

their wartime Japanese enemies.

"I didn't know a lot, but I knew I was offended by that."

At the end of the presentation, when they passed around the mike for a question and answer session, Meiko took the opportunity to blast the veterans for their offensive language. For her bravery, she was suspended.

"When you're in a small town, people don't always get it," she said. "It needed to be said. It would've bothered me more if I didn't say anything."

She always knew she wanted to get out of town.

Even at five, she kept a suitcase packed, a purple "My Little Pony" filled with crayons, coloring books and all the essentials, said Kelly.

After graduating from high school, Meiko left Roberta for Miami first, then Los Angeles, where she worked behind the juice bar at a gym making protein shakes for celebrities like Fabio. Then she took a job waiting tables at Hotel Café, a music venue hotspot that allowed the songstress to cut her teeth performing and soak up all aspects of her dream job.

Someday, she thought, she would put down her waitress tray forever, and be onstage.

Then came her self-titled and self-released album and a major music label knocking at her door.

The album includes, "Hawaii," the song about her estranged mother Rina, who Meiko is in the process of reestablishing a relationship with, and Meiko's favorite "How Lucky We Are," an upbeat song inspired by a hard time in life when you're "broke as a joke."

She's still writing while on tour.

"I've recorded six to seven songs." And she hopes to release her EP soon.

Her sophomore effort will still be based on her life, but she's a little older, a little more mature and still in search of touchstones with her heritage.

In July, Meiko is heading to the United Kingdom for the international leg of her tour then hopefully, one day: Japan.

"That's my dream." ■

For more information and tour dates:
www.myspace.com/meiko

House Passes Bill to Honor JA Soldiers with Gold Medal

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In a tribute to the Japanese American soldiers who served during World War II, the House recently passed a bill which grants the congressional gold medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

HR 347, a bill introduced by Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, was passed on May 14, and awards these soldiers Congress' highest civilian honor.

"The Japanese American veterans who served during World War II deserve this recognition for their bravery, loyalty and patriotism," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We thank Congress for passing this bill to show appreciation to them as a group."

The 442nd Regiment became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and length of service. Together with the 100th Battalion, these soldiers received seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals and over 4,000 Purple Hearts.

Many of these JA soldiers also fought discrimination while in service and also fought for a country that was internmenting their families.

"The JACL offers its appreciation for the leadership of Mr. Schiff, Mr. Skelton, Mr. Honda, Mr. Abercrombie, Ms. Bordallo, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Inslee, and Mr. McCotter for their work on this bill to recognize the uncommon valor of this segregated unit that was recruited out of the American concentration camps," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

Following the awarding of the gold medal, it will be given to the Smithsonian Institution to be displayed and made available for research. Duplicate medals may be available for sale. ■



The Tuskegee Airmen were honored with their own gold medal in 2006.

Multiracial People Become Fastest Growing U.S. Group

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Multiracial Americans have become the fastest growing demographic group, wielding an impact on minority growth that challenges traditional notions of race.

The number of multiracial people rose 3.4 percent last year to about 5.2 million, according to the latest census estimates. First given the option in 2000, Americans who check more than one box for race on census surveys have jumped by 33 percent and now make up 5 percent of the minority population — with millions more believed to be uncounted.

Demographers attributed the recent population growth to more social acceptance and slowing immigration. They cited in particular the high public profiles of Tiger Woods and President Barack Obama, a self-described "mutt," who are having an effect on those who might self-identify as multiracial.

Population figures as of July 2008 show that California, Texas, New York and Florida had the most multiracial people, due partly to higher numbers of second- and later-generation immigrants who are more likely to "marry out." Measured by percentages, Hawaii ranked first with nearly 1 in 5 residents who were multiracial, followed by Alaska and Oklahoma, both at roughly 4 percent.

Utah had the highest growth rate of multiracial people in 2008 compared to the previous year, a reflection of loosening social mores in a mostly white state.

"Multiracial unions have been happening for a very long time, but we are only now really coming to terms with saying it's OK," said Carolyn Liebler, a sociology professor at the University of Minnesota who specializes in family, race and ethnicity.

The latest demographic change comes amid a debate



on the role of race in America, complicating conventional notions of minority rights.

Under new federal rules, many K-12 schools next year will allow students for the first time to indicate if they are "two or more races." The move is expected to cause shifts in how test scores are categorized, potentially altering race disparities and funding for education programs.

Five justices of the Supreme Court have signaled they would like to end racial preferences in voting rights and employment cases — a majority that may not change even if Sonia Sotomayor is confirmed as the first Hispanic justice. Blacks and Hispanics, meanwhile, are touting a growing minority population and past discrimination in pushing for continued legal protections.

Left out of the discussion are multiracial people, who are counted as minorities but can be hard to define politically and socioeconomically.

Currently, census forms allow U.S. residents to check more than one box for their race. But there is no multiracial category, and survey responses can vary widely depending on whether a person considers Hispanic a race or ethnicity. ■

On the Net:

Census Bureau: www.census.gov

Democrats Stop Texas Voter ID Bill

JACL had opposed the controversial bill.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

AUSTIN, Texas—Texas Democrats declared victory in the partisan battle over tightening voter identification laws, but their five-day filibuster left hundreds of bills dead and threatened to spark a special session this summer.

With six days left in the 2009 session, there's theoretically time to resurrect almost anything. But a midnight deadline May 26 for the voter ID bill came and went in the House, and leaders from both parties said the controversial election reform had gone down in flames.

"I guess it's dead. I don't see any way it can be resurrected at this point," said Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco, leader of the House Democrats. Dunnam, whose delay tactics brought the legislative machinery to a virtual crawl, described the demise of the voter ID legislation as a victory for the voting public.

"We successfully stood up for people's voting rights and have shown that we're not going to be bullied into suppressing people's votes," Dunnam said.

Rep. Larry Taylor, chairman of the House Republican Caucus, said Democrats would pay a hefty price for killing off the voter ID legislation and inflicting "a lot of other casualties in that process."

"I think there's got to be some repercussions," Taylor said. "I think the average Joe at home isn't going to be pleased that an issue like voter ID knocked off all those other issues people have been working on."

The stalling tactics began May 22 as Democrats used up their time privileges to hold an entire slew of bills hostage. The target was the voter ID bill, which Republicans say is necessary to combat ballot box fraud while Democrats say it would diminish voting rights.

The legislation would require Texans to provide a photo ID or two non-photo alternatives before being allowed to cast a ballot.

JACL had vocally opposed the voter ID legislation.

"Current Texas election code already contains safeguards against voter fraud," said Ron Katsuyama, JACL vice president of public affairs.

"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," said JACL National President Larry Oda. ■



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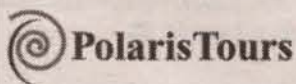
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Oct. 03-Oct. 16	Exotic China (New Tour Date)
Oct. 09-Oct. 22	Korea Highlights and Drama/Movie Tour (New Tour Date)
Oct. 22-Nov. 01	Autumn Japan "Fall Highlights"
Nov. 03-Nov. 13	The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 08-Nov. 16	Train Adventure through Copper Canyon (New Tour)
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Balcony \$4,133 - Reduction \$464 - REDUCED TO \$3,669
London-Copenhagen-Warmemunde, Germany-Tallinn, Estonia-
St. Petersburg, Russia-Helsinki, Finland-Stockholm, Sweden.

Aug 22 NCL - West Mediterranean Cruise - 15 Days

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Balcony \$3769 - Reduction \$170 - REDUCED TO \$3,598
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Oct 12 Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Days

\$4185 - Sapporo-Sahoro - Ainu - Lake Toya - Hakodate
Aomori - Hachimantai - Matsushima - Sendai - Tokyo.

Oct 19 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days

\$4095 - Tokyo-Japan Sea-Sado Isle-Kanazawa-Amano-
hashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Mt. Daisen-Kyoto.

Nov 2 Fall Japan Classic - 11 Days

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

Nov 12 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days

\$4295 - 3-Day Okinawa - Nagasaki - Unzen-Kumamoto
Beppu - Cape Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Kyoto.

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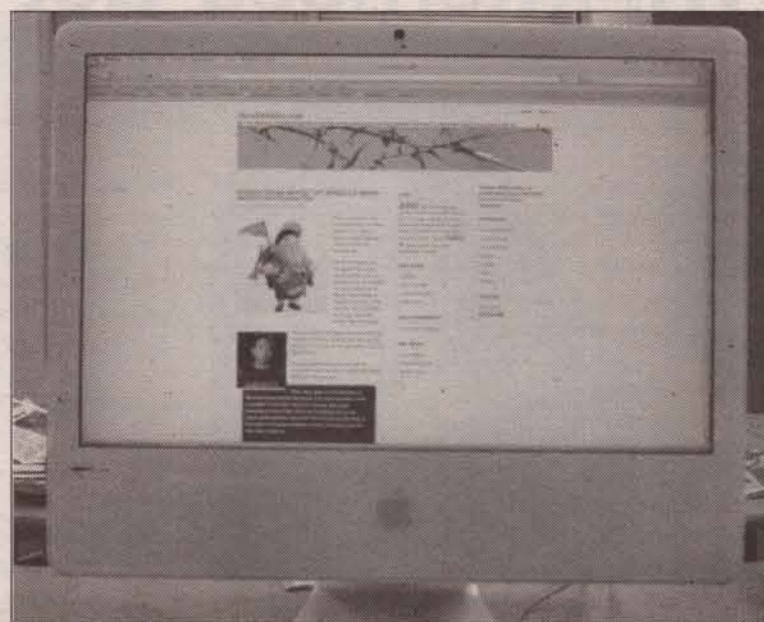
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VisualizAsian.com Launches Online Empowerment Series



By Pacific Citizen Staff

Call it "e-powering" the Asian Pacific American community. VisualizAsian.com, a new APA empowerment Web site, recently premiered its series of free teleconference interviews with prominent community leaders.

Founders Gil Asakawa and Erin Yoshimura launched the site in May to help APAs connect with their community's pioneers and leaders from politics, business, sports and entertainment.

The conversations are free and can be listened to over the phone or via a Webcast.

"The main goal is empowerment," said Yoshimura, 46. "To allow people to get close to these leaders and learn how they succeeded."

The first of the teleconference interviews kicked off May 21 with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, the first APA to be appointed to a Cabinet position, and the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in U.S. history.

"What was apparent from listening to Norm — we asked him before the call if we could call him 'Norm' and he was fine with that — is how approachable he is,

mayor of San Jose.

"It's all about the personal stories," said Yoshimura.

The live events, which will be archived online and accessible to listen to any time, also highlight the movers and shakers in the community.

"Because Asian Americans are invisible in mainstream culture, we often don't know about the accomplishments of our Asian American-Pacific Islander leaders. And when we do, don't know how and why they achieved their accomplishments," said Asakawa.

The second conversation, scheduled for June 9, will feature Yul Kwon, winner of "Survivor: Cook Island." Since winning the \$1 million prize in 2006, the Korean American lawyer has continued his work in the community and in the media to dispel negative APA stereotypes.

Future interviews will include actor/activist Tamlyn Tomita, journalist/activist Helen Zia and Phoebe Eng, an award-winning lecturer on race and gender issues.

"We want audiences to learn about the great things AAPIs do, and how and why they do them, so that they can follow in their footsteps," said Asakawa. ■

For more information: www.visualizasian.com

JACL Announces Inouye and Masaoka Fellows

Two Asian Pacific American recent college graduates have been awarded JACL fellowships and will have an opportunity to work in the area of politics and civil rights.

Scott Sakakihara has been awarded this year's Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship and will serve in the Washington, D.C. office of Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii.

Meanwhile Shirley Tang was recently named the Daniel K. Inouye Fellow where she will work in the area of health in JACL's Washington, D.C. office. The fellowship is funded by Eli Lilly.

Sakakihara previously interned in the office of Congressman Pete Stark and is a graduate of Harvard Law School where he graduated cum laude. He also received a B.A. in political science with a minor in law and society at UC San Diego.

Scott grew up in Union City, California and is the son of Dean and Tracie Sakakihara. Since moving to D.C. he has become a board member of the D.C. JACL chapter.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was estab-

lished in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka for a lifetime of public service to the nation and the JACL. Masaoka was the JACL's national secretary, field executive,

national legislative director of the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee and the JACL Washington, D.C. representative.

"We are pleased to have Scott Sakakihara serve as the JACL Masaoka Fellow," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "This is a great opportunity for young people to get a taste and feel for service in the nation's capital. Scott's achievements so far are commendable, and we

expect big things from him in the future."

Tang recently graduated from the University of California at Davis where she was a double major in communication and sociology. She was on the Dean's Honor List, and she served as secretary of the UC Davis Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Fraternity, Alpha Zeta Class.

Born and raised in Sacramento, California, Tang speaks three languages. She hopes to eventually obtain a law degree and continue working in public service and civil rights. ■



SAKAKIHARA



TANG

Former WWII Internees Get Honorary Degrees



PHOTO: ROSS MULHAUSEN, UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

BELATED DEGREES: Michiko Kiyokawa (left) and Yoshiko Sugiyama wait a few more minutes for their degrees. At the event, assistant professor of English Tamiko Nimura (right) read the citation.

The University of Puget Sound honors 36 former internees at a recent graduation ceremony.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE—Michiko Kiyokawa was a typical freshman in 1942, taking biology and playing field hockey, when she was forced to leave college and enter a World War II internment camp.

On May 17, more than six decades later, Kiyokawa returned to the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma to receive one of 36 honorary degrees being awarded to former JA students who were displaced by Executive Order 9066.

"It's an honor," the 85-year-old woman said in a telephone interview from her Parkdale, Ore. home. "The college is being very broad-minded. It's an effort to make up for something that had been done to us."

Kiyokawa is one of two former WWII internees who attended the graduation cere-

mony at the university's Baker Stadium. Some family members attended on behalf of former students, who have passed away or couldn't travel.

"Each loyal student removed from campus at that time represented a life and an education suddenly interrupted," said university president Ronald R. Thomas. "By granting these now, we complete a circle."

The university is the latest to award honorary degrees to former Japanese American WWII internees. The University of Washington, University of Oregon and Oregon State University held similar graduation ceremonies last spring.

Evacuation notices were issued the spring after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and drew the U.S. into war. About 120,000 ethnic Japanese were relocated to one of 10 camps in Washington, Idaho, California and other states.

Kiyokawa said her father had to give up the grocery store he owned in Tacoma, and "we sold off everything." Her older sister

and older brother also had to leave the college.

The family was first sent to a camp in Pinedale, Calif. and lived in barracks with no running water and showers with no privacy, she said.

Kiyokawa said she was thrown in with other JAs from all over the West Coast and was so busy living and meeting people that she didn't think much about college then. "Life went on with things happening constantly," she said.

She wrote for the internment camp newspaper, covering sporting events and upcoming classes.

Kiyokawa met her future husband when the family was transferred to another relocation center near Tule Lake, Calif., south of the Oregon border.

It wasn't until she left the camp, she said, that she realized how secluded she had been and what she had missed.

"It was wrong in the sense that you uproot

people up and down the coast and disrupt their lives," Kiyokawa said. "But it wasn't as though we were herded in and kept as prisoners doing nothing. We were a thriving community in the camps."

Kiyokawa left the camp in March 1944 to attend Hamline College in St. Paul, Minn. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology, and later moved to Oregon to train in medical technology.

She has five children, three of whom attended the recent graduation ceremony. Her niece also accepted a degree on behalf of Kiyokawa's late older sister, who was a college senior at the time the family was forced to leave Tacoma.

Kiyokawa said she feels she doesn't deserve a degree from the University of Puget Sound since she already has one. But "it's a gesture that the college is making, and I appreciate it."

"At my age," she joked, "this excitement is a little more than I need." ■

College of San Mateo Honors Former JA Students

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In a moving commencement ceremony, 45 Japanese American former students of the College of San Mateo were presented with honorary degrees after their own education was interrupted by World War II.

Although many of the former JA students were unable to attend or have since passed on, the college honored the students with the Associate of Arts, Honoris Causa, Nunc pro Tunc ("a thing is done at one time which ought to have been performed at another") on May 29.

SMC's JA students were among the tens of thousands of people of Japanese ancestry forced to leave their homes for internment camps during WWII.

Lewis Kawahara, an ethnic studies profes-

sor at the college, did much of the research on the students and contacted them and their family members.

Kate Motoyama, president of the San Mateo JACL and a language arts professor, noted that SMC is the first California community college to grant these honorary degrees to former JA students who were interned.

Warren Furutani, D-South Los Angeles County, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony, who spoke about AB 37, a bill he introduced calling on all schools to honor their former JA students sent to internment camps with honorary degrees.

The Senate Education Committee is scheduled to hear AB 37 on June 10. The bill recently passed out of the Assembly with an unanimous vote. ■

Plans Underway for Seattle WWII Memorial

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

SEATTLE—Fundraising has begun for a memorial wall in Seattle to honor Japanese Americans who were interned, served in the U.S. military during World War II or both.

The \$1.2 million effort is led by the Nisei Veterans Committee, which plans to erect the wall outside the Nisei Veterans Hall at the east end of Seattle's International District.

"The first and second generations have established a legacy that's second to none," said Keith Yamaguchi, head of the committee.

Yamaguchi and other organizers said a number of memorials around the country honor WWII JA veterans or JAs who were forced to spend the war years in internment camps, but none are dedicated to both groups.

Their slogan for the project is, "Honoring the Past While Education the Future."

In a solicitation letter, the NVC writes: "This memorial will ensure the Issei who were incarcerated, while many had sons who were fight-

ing and dying overseas, will never be forgotten."

The group plans to mount as many as 4,000 4-by-12-inch bricks in the wall, each bearing the name of someone who was interned or served in the military. The minimum donation for each brick is \$250. The group has until October to raise the necessary funds for the memorial project.

Lead architect Jay Deguchi says there will also be benches and a park-like ambiance.

Recent publicity for the project is spreading the word. Current Seattle Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu recently said in a MLB.com article that he is interested in being part of the project. Wakamatsu's grandparents were incarcerated at Tule Lake.

So far the committee has collected about \$120,000. Groundbreaking is tentatively set for next year. ■

Information: www.seattlennvc.org, or 206/322-1122



"The first and second generations have established a legacy that's second to none."

— Keith Yamaguchi, Nisei Veterans Committee

Seattle Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu (right) has said he is interested in being a part of the memorial wall project (rendering above).

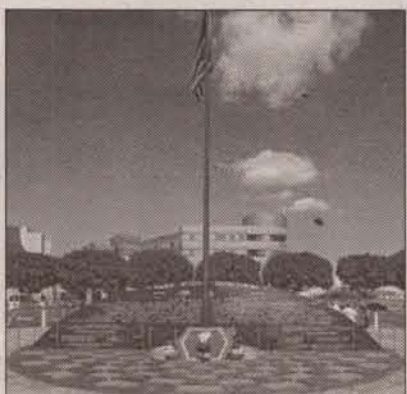


Group Marks 10th Anniversary of Go For Broke Monument

World War II veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and other heroic units will join local, state and national leaders for the Go For Broke National Education Center's 10th anniversary tribute to the soldiers' bravery and sacrifice at the Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo June 6.

The tribute program will be followed by a celebration luncheon at the Japanese American National Museum. The day's festivities mark both the 10th anniversary of the Monument's unveiling and 20 years since the Go For Broke National Education Center's founding.

Film and television star George Takei, emcee for many of the organization's milestone events, including the Go For Broke Monument unveiling on June 5, 1999, will reprise that role for the anniversary tribute. Among special guests expected to join in the day's anniversary festivities are Assemblyman Warren Furutani, D-Los Angeles Harbor and gateway communities, former Assemblyman George Nakano, D-Los Angeles South Bay, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Consul General of Japan Junichi Ihara. ■



10th Anniversary Tribute:

Date: June 6

Cost: Free, public is invited

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Go For Broke Monument, at Alameda and Temple Streets

Information: www.goforbroke.org

Luncheon:

Cost: \$40/person, space limited

Time: 12 noon

Location: Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First Street

SELANOCO JACL Accepting Applications for Ueha Scholarship

For the second year in a row, the South East Los Angeles North Orange County (SELANOCO) chapter of JACL, working closely with the Ueha family, is offering a Memorial Scholarship in honor of Hiromi Ueha, a former board member, and is currently accepting applications. This scholarship will be awarded to one individual during the academic year 2009-2010.



Hiromi Ueha dedicated her life to the betterment of others. While raising her son Chandler, attending the University of California, Irvine full-time, and working part-time, she became involved in the Japanese American community through her ties to Tomo No Kai, a JA cultural club at UCI, and through the SELANOCO chapter of JACL. After graduating, she continued to actively serve her community through the JACL

as a chapter president, district governor and national youth/student chair, all while raising her son.

Hiromi passed away suddenly in April, 2006. The Ueha family, with the assistance of the SELANOCO chapter, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship in Hiromi's memory, to assist an individual who is facing similar challenges (e.g., single parenting) while attending school.

Eligibility for the scholarship is limited to full- or part-time students currently attending a two- or four-year college/university, trade school, business school, or other institution of higher learning. They must be active in the JA community, and special consideration will be given to single parents or those facing significant hardships. A minimum GPA or test scores are not required. The applicant must live and attend school in Southern California, Arizona or Nevada.

To apply for the scholarship, interested students should send a completed application and a one-page essay to the review committee by June 30. The recipient will be notified by Aug. 12, in honor of Hiromi's birthday.

For more information, or to receive a copy of the application and essay questions, please send an email to: hiromi_ueha.scholarship@yahoo.com. ■

JACL, Veterans' Group Honor the Fallen at Memorial Day Event

It was a tribute to the brave men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. On May 24, JACL and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) held their 61st annual services at the Arlington National Cemetery.

The program included the laying of flowers at the gravesites of 63 Japanese American and Caucasian soldiers assigned to the Japanese American units.

Dr. Emily Ihara, from the JACL Washington, D.C. chapter, participated in a formal wreath presentation ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown.

Major General Thomas Bostick keyed the event. In his address, he praised the heroics of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service of World War II. "They help remind us that the



PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI

Pictured above: (L-r) 442nd Veteran Minoru Nagaoka, Major General Thomas Bostick and Al Tortolano, Co. B, 141st Regt, 36th Division.

freedom we enjoy should never be taken for granted," said Bostick.

The event chair was Turner Kobayashi, son of Key Kobayashi, a

lifelong JACL member and a JAVA founder who started the Arlington Cemetery Memorial Day program in 1948. ■

Hosoda Family Honored at Idaho Memorial Day Services

A ceremony at Idaho's Emmett National Guard Armory was held on Memorial Day where the American Legion unveiled a memorial wall honoring the memory of Max Hosoda Jr. and his brother Earl, both members of the heroic 442nd Regimental Combat Team who were killed during WWII. A third Hosoda brother, George, survived the war, graduated from the U of I and now lives in Washington.

Like many of the JA soldiers, the Hosoda brothers fought for their country while their family members were being incarcerated behind barbed wire. The memorial will not only honor the two fallen brothers but acknowledges the contributions and experiences of Japanese Americans during WWII.

Idaho Lt. Governor Brad Little addressed the more than 100 people in attendance and read a letter from



Pictured are (l to r): Roy Oyama, Mary Inouye, Robert Hirai, Nori Oyama, Idaho Lt. Governor Brad Little, Itsie Fujishin and Katie Hirai.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs and retired Army General Eric Shinseki acknowledging the Hosoda family. Also in attendance were JACL

Members Roy Oyama, Nori Oyama, Katie Hirai, Mary Inouye, Itsie Fujishin, Robert Hirai and Wendy Hirai. ■

JACL Receives APIA Health Forum Grant

JACL recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF/the Health Forum), an advocacy organization whose mission is to enable Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being.

The grant was part of the Health Through Action National Civic Engagement Grant funds that are to be used to carry out activities to support national organizations which are working to engage their members, constituents, and communities

in health advocacy and health care reform.

"The JACL is very grateful to the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum for this grant which will help in furthering our work in the important area of health reform and health disparities which are evident among the community of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "The JACL values its partnership with the Health Forum and will continue working with them toward better health for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans."

The JACL instituted the JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship which is focused heavily in health related areas. A Health Fair Tool Kit, which was developed by Naomi Lim, the first Inouye Fellow, is available at the JACL website (www.jacl.org). The current Inouye Fellow is Shirley Tang.

APIAHF and JACL have headquarters in San Francisco and they currently share office space in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ho Tran is the CEO of APIAHF and Dr. Marguerite Ro is deputy director with Deana Jang as policy director. ■

Calendar

National

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; registration \$130, hotel \$119/night. Info and registration: Bill Yoshino, midwest@jacl.org, 773/728-7170 or www.jaclmdc.org.

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; registration to the conference includes membership to JACL; *financial assistance available*; For information or to register: www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.html.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thu., Sept. 17—JACL Gala Dinner, "A Salute to Japanese American Veterans"; J.W. Marriott Hotel. Info: www.jacl.org or 202/223-1240.

Midwest

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.

Pacific Northwest

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 8—Olympia Bon Odori; 5 p.m.; between 5th Ave. and Legion St. on Water St.; food, martial arts demonstration, obon dancing and peace observance with candle floating boats at Capitol Lake at 9 p.m.

Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562 or sgtmilehibob@yahoo.com.

PORTLAND

Sat., June 13—"Homecoming" by Portland Taiko; 3 and 8 p.m.; Dolores Winningstad Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway; \$18 plus service charges at www.portland-taiko.org or 800/982-2787.

SEATTLE

Mon., June 22—William Kenzo Nakamura United States Court House rededication ceremony; 10 a.m.; 1010 Fifth Ave. Info: Ross Buffington, 253/931-7085.

Northern California

SANTA CRUZ

Sat., June 20—Japanese Cultural Fair; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mission Plaza Park, Aikido of Santa Cruz Dojo on Mission St. and the Zen Center on School St.; free; featuring presentations of Japanese culture; co-sponsored by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. Info: www.jcfsc.org or Chieko, 831/462-4589.

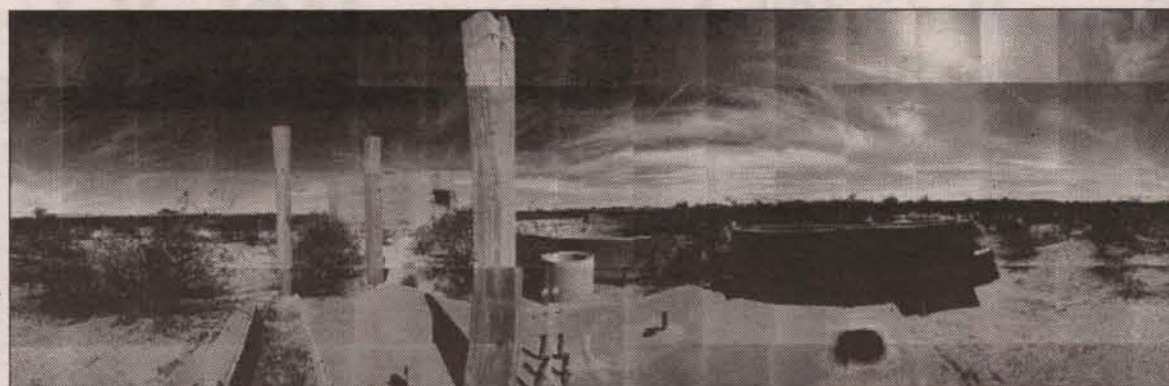
STOCKTON

Sun., June 14—Stockton JACL Scholarship Luncheon; 1 p.m.; King's House Restaurant. Info: Aeko Yoshikawa, 209/952-5578.

Sat., Sept. 19—Stockton JACL Spaghetti Dinner; 4:30 p.m.; Stockton Buddhist Temple Gymnasium; \$7/adults, \$4/children (10 and under); proceeds benefit Stockton JACL Education Fund. Info: 209/476-8528.

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



Above is a collage of the Gila River Internment Camp that is featured in JANM's 'Crossing: 10 Views of America's Concentration Camps.' Artists like Masumi Hayashi, Toyo Miyatake and Tadashi Nakamura are featured.

the cultural program at Ross Ragland Theater. Info: www.tulelake.org, Hiroshi Shimizu (SF) 415/566-2279 and Stan Shikuma (Sea) 206/919-1465.

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

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.

Sat., June 13—"Try This On For

Size"; 11-4 p.m.; JANM, 369 E. First St.; activities include making paper dolls and designing clothes for them, Ruthie's Origami Corner, Loud Wild and Proud will airbrush a shirt for the first 60 children from 1-4 p.m. and there will be readings of Vera Wang Queen of Fashion and Suki's Kimono; part of JANM's Target Free Family Day series. Info: www.janm.org.

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

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12—Obon Festival; 3-10 p.m.; Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. First St.; obon dancing, food, games, cultural demonstrations and entertainment. Info: 213/680-9130.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

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

CORRECTION

Two names were listed incorrectly in the article about the Ariz. Chapter Scholarship and Gold Saguaro Awards Luncheon in the May 15 issue of the *P.C.* The correct names are Ayako and Fred Tomooka, two of the Gold Saguaro Tribute Award honorees.

APA Women Authors Gather to 'Talk Story'

"Talking Story — An Intimate Conversation with Asian American Authors" on May 16 was a rare afternoon of extraordinary writers in an informal atmosphere.

The event featured: Delphine Hirasuna ("Art of Gaman"); Janice Mirikitani, poet laureate for San Francisco; Marlene Shigekawa ("Blue Jay in the Desert" and "Welcome Home Swallows") and Gail Tsukiyama ("Women of the Silk" and "Dreaming Water"). The participants gained insights of what inspires and motivates the authors and their experiences with the writing process. The authors represented a variety of writings: fiction, non-fiction, poetry and children's non-fiction.



PHOTO: KELLIE GALLEGUILLOS

(L-r) Event co-chair Phyllis Osaki, authors Gail Tsukiyama, Delphine Hirasuna, Marlene Shigekawa, Janice Mirikitani and Aggie Idemoto, event co-chairperson.

The event was held at the Northside Community Center in San Jose Japantown, and was co-

hosted by Midori Kai, Inc and Japanese American Museum San Jose (JAMsj). ■

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DEATH NOTICE

CLAIRE HIFUKO FUJISHIGE MINAMI

Claire Hifuko Fujishige Minami died on Sunday, May 24, in Bethesda, Md., following a severe stroke at her apartment on May 14. She was 94.

Born in Sacramento, Calif., on Jan. 12, 1915, she was the third child of immigrant parents Tsuchiichi and Masayo (née Hanaoka) Fujishige. She was raised in French Camp, Calif. where her family ran a truck farm. In 1936, she married Henry, a dentist in Berkeley.

During World War II, she and her family were interned in Gila River in Arizona. In 1943, they were released from camp and permitted to go to Detroit, where they lived for two years. The family then relocated to Washington, D.C., after the war, where she was a homemaker and teacher. She retired from teaching in the mid-1970s, after 23 years in the D.C. public school system. She continued to live a full and active life, and enjoyed doll making, flower arranging, koto music, crossword puzzles and socializing with her many friends. She also loved to travel.

She was a graduate of Wilson Teachers College and the first Japanese American school teacher in the Washington, D.C. school system. She was also the first Asian American Worthy Matron in the Order of the Eastern Star, president of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and a charter member of the Washington Toho Koto Society.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry; sisters, Jane Nushida, June Fujii, Agnes Tsukimura and Jewell Omura; and brother, Kaname. She is survived by her sons Warren, Wayne, and Denny; ten grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers/koden, the family requests donations be sent to the Toho Koto Society of Washington, 10230 Green Forest Dr., Silver Spring, Md., 20903.

DEATH NOTICE

MARIAN FUSAKO (MORITA) KODAMA

Marian Fusako Kodama, 90, of Lodi, Calif. and formerly of Yuba City, Calif., peacefully passed away on May 15, 2009. Marian was born on Feb. 10, 1919 in Fresno, Calif. and graduated from Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove, Calif., class of 1936.

Marian was interned at Manzanar during World War II and left the camp to gain employment in Washington, D.C. with the Dr. Ernest Griffith family. Marian then moved to Lodi and married Henry K. Kodama. She and Henry moved to Yuba City where she and Henry farmed and raised their family.

She taught sewing and cooking to young 4-H members, attended St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, and was a member of the Marysville JACL. Upon Henry's death in 1997, Marian returned to Lodi to be close to her family.

Marian was preceded in death by her parents, Kamekichi and Masano Morita; her brother, Goro; her sister, Rosie; and her husband of 49 years, Henry.

She is survived by her daughters, Beverly A. Kodama, DDS (William Galloway), and Candice K. Kodama, RN, MA (fiance Ken Hales), both of Carmichael, Calif.; brothers, Don Morita, Kenji (Dorothy) Morita, Jim Morita, John (Carol) Morita, Eugene (Shizue) Morita, and sister, Amy Morita all of Lodi; brothers-in-law, Robert Kodama and Eugene Kodama, both of Carmichael. Also special grandnephew, Matthew (Heather Caleb) Kodama, and best friend, Mitzi Oji, multiple nephews, nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews. Marian loved cooking, sewing, watching Japanese movies, and spending time with her family and friends. Marian's life was celebrated with a memorial service on May 21, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1390 Franklin Road, Yuba City, CA 95991, with Reverend Chris A. Kersting officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund; or Mercy Hospice, 3400 Data Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670; or Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Ave, Stockton, CA 95204. Please sign the online guest book at www.cherokeememorial.com. Cherokee Memorial Funeral Home in Lodi is assisting the family with arrangements.

IN MEMORIAM

Ronald Takaki, Pioneering Scholar of Ethnic Studies, Dies at 70

Ronald Takaki, a professor emeritus of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and prolific scholar of U.S. race relations who taught UC's first black history course, died at his home in Berkeley on May 26. He was 70.

Takaki, after suffering for nearly 20 years with multiple sclerosis, committed suicide, according to his son Troy.

"He couldn't deal with it anymore," said Troy in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*.

During his more than four

decades at UC Berkeley, Takaki established the nation's first ethnic studies Ph.D. program and advised President Clinton in 1997 on his major speech on race. He also received a Pulitzer nomination for his book, "A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America."

A descendent of Japanese plantation workers in Hawaii, Takaki left the islands in the late 1950s to study at Ohio's College of Wooster, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in American history from UC Berkeley in 1967 and was hired at UCLA, where he taught the campus's first black history course. He joined Berkeley's Ethnic Studies department in 1971

and served as chair from 1975-77.

Commenting on Takaki's passing and the recent death of Chinese American scholar Him Mark Lai, JACL National Director Floyd Mori said: They "did much for the Asian American community with their efforts to have the Asian American stories told in colleges throughout the nation. They leave a wonderful legacy of knowledge. Their teachings and leadership will live on through the lives of the student advocates whom they taught and mentored as they carry forth the work and vision of an inclusive society."

Takaki is survived by his wife, Carol, his three children and his grandchildren. ■

In Memoriam - 2009

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Chinn, Benjamin, 87, San Francisco, April 25; photographer documented San Francisco's Chinatown; during WWII served as an aerial, ground and public relations photographer in the Army Air Forces while stationed in Hawaii; survived by brothers, Martin and Thomas.

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.

Bronze Star and two unit citations; joined the Central Intelligence Agency after being discharged from the Army in 1947; continued to serve the Army as a reserve officer and attained the rank of Colonel.

Kubota, Mary, 89, Clinton Township, Mich., April 29; survived by sisters, Helen Sawai and Ruth Shibuta; and brother, James (Toby) Kubota.

Lai, Him Mark, 83, San Francisco, May 21; internationally noted scholar, writer and "Dean of Chinese American History"; his ten books, more than 100 essays and research in English and Chinese on all aspects of Chinese American life are published and cited in the U.S., the Americas, China, Southeast Asia and Australia.

Miyasako, Tony Tsunehisa, 83, Homedale, Ida., May 22; 442nd RCT; Boise Valley JACLer; survived by daughter, Kaylene (Reid) Saito; sons, Kevin (Jean), Randy (Chris) and Dan (Lynette); 7 gc.; and sisters, Mary Inouye, Yoshie

Yamada, Miyako Akutagawa and Itsie Fujishin.

Sagawa, Yayeko, 84, May 15; survived by son, Wesley; and daughter, Patti Sagawa.

Shiozaki, Jungi "Jay," 89, Nephi, Utah, May 11; Army veteran; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Elizabeth Wade, Susan (Ralph) West, Nanci Shino and Judy (Ken) Anderson; son, Tom (Gerie); brother, Kenichi; and sisters, Yuriko Matsuno and Miyoko Inouye.

Tanabe, Harry, 86, San Lorenzo, April 19; WWII veteran in counter intelligence and received the American Theater Ribbon, the Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation (Japan) Medal and the Purple Heart; Eden Township JACLer; survived by wife Miyako; children Christine (Russ) Burdick, Dave (Noryne), Brian (Pandora), Elaine (Dicky) Yamamoto, Andy and Kathleen (John) Kelley and step-daughter, Miyako (Steve) Schanely; 12 gc.; sisters Ruby Suzuki and Helen Hamasu; and brothers, Tom and Roy.

Wada, Shingo, 84, Ontario, Ore., May 22; MIS; JACLer; survived by wife, Emie; son, Mark (Robin); daughters, Sharon (Bob) Spencer and Stephanie (Eric) Fifer; 7 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Jim (Sharon); and sisters, Teddy (Gus) Tanaka, Sumi (Paul) Saito and Dorothy (Henry) Nishioka. ■

DEATH NOTICE

HIROSHI "CHARLIE" HISAMUNE

Hiroshi "Charlie" Hisamune, 79, Seattle, Wash. born Nisei, Veteran of the Korean Conflict, resident of Los Angeles passed away peacefully on May 24, at Keiro Nursing Home.

He is survived by his loving son, Kevin Yoshi Hisamune; brothers, Toshio (Barbara) and Masaru (Catherine) Hisamune; many nephews, nieces and relatives.

He is predeceased by his loving wife Joanne Nobuye Hisamune.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sat., June 6, at 12 p.m. at the Miyako Inn Banquet Room, 328 E. 1st St., Los Angeles.

The family requests casual attire. In lieu of flowers or koden the family requests that donations be made in memory of Mr. Hiroshi Hisamune to Keiro Nursing Home, 2221 Lincoln Park Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90031

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ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE	JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City. HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.	
JAPAN OBON FESTIVAL TOUR	AUG 5-16
Tokyo (Tsukiji Obon Festival), Gujo Hachiman (Summer Odori Festival), Kyoto, Jozankei Onsen Sapporo, Kitami (Tsubetsu Obon Festival).	
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE	AUG 22-SEPT 4
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia. HOLLAND AMERICA Oosterdam Ship.	
HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR	NEW TOUR SEPT 9-20
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Nikko, Tokyo.	
PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR	SEPT 7-23
PANA Convention - Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Option to Peru.	
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR	WAITLIST OCT 2-9
Boston, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire. Day trips on historic trains: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Green Mountain Flyer Railroad, Essex Steam Train.	
OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR	WAITLIST OCT 11-23
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