



1st place in arts, sports & entertainment

2009 WINNER!

{ TOP NEWS }

Angel Island



The state park is on the chopping block.

>> PAGE 4

{ NATIONAL }

National Board

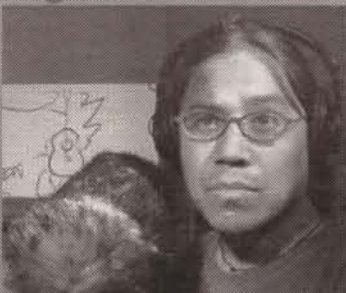


News from the JACL national board meeting.

>> PAGE 5

{ ENTERTAINMENT }

Big Screen? Nah.



More APA filmmakers are opting for the computer screen.

>> PAGE 9

{ COMMUNITY }

Finally a 'Graduate'



Martial artist Taky Kimura receives a belated degree.

>> PAGE 11

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

80 YEARS

{ IN DEPTH }

## A Friendship With Heroes

Three years ago, two sisters wanted to find the 442nd soldiers who saved their father. Now they count these men as their friends.

>> page 3



*Sgt. Bill Hardwick  
Member of the "Lost Battalion"  
36th Division, 141st Infantry, Co. B*

*Thank you 442 RCT for rescuing our  
father, Oct. 30, 1944, 1600 hrs. Our  
father always said you were the  
only ones who could do it!*

*Janet Hardwick Brown  
Susan Hardwick*

*I AM PROUD THAT I AM AN AMERICAN  
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY  
I BELIEVE IN THIS NATION'S  
INSTITUTIONS, IDEALS AND TRADITIONS  
I GLORY IN HER HERITAGE  
I BOAST OF HER HISTORY  
I TRUST IN HER FUTURE*





## NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Busy Times in Washington

By FLOYD MORI



The national JACL staff continues to work hard in administering the programs of the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization.

Plans are being finalized for the National JACL Youth Conference and the Collegiate Leadership Conference. And plans are underway for the JACL Gala in September. Fundraising is an ongoing effort.

The small staff in the Washington, D.C. office, which currently consists of myself, one fellow, two part-time interns, and one volunteer (the director of public policy position remains unfilled because of budgetary issues) has been busy.

Crystal Xu, the JACL Mineta fellow, and Mai Suzuki, a student intern from Japan's Meiji Gakuin University by way of the University of California, Santa Barbara, just completed their assignments with the JACL.

Lona Loudon, a student intern from the University of Utah, just started working in the JACL D.C. office. She joins Shirley Tang, the JACL Inouye Fellow, and Ide Viriya, a part-time intern from the University of Maryland.

The D.C. staff recently attended a conference hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), a national health policy organ-

See MORI/Page 13

## SPRING CAMPAIGN

## I ♥ P.C.: Support the Spring Campaign

By NAOMI OREN



Recently, I was watching correspondent Jason Jones on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" visiting the *New York Times* offices and his interview with executive editor Bill Keller and assistant managing editor Richard L. Berke. Although "The Daily Show" is not a "real" news show, Jones ridiculed the *Times* as if the highly respected newspaper headquarters were a relic from the past. He labeled Keller as "the last of a dying breed." He even blurted that only his grandmother would enjoy newsprint.

Many of us have heard it and others have seen it. The *Los Angeles Times* cut roughly 300 jobs and reduced its news coverage to cut costs. *N.Y. Times* plans to eliminate about 100 newsroom jobs this year. With ad revenues for newspapers replaced by free online listing sites like Craigslist, not only have mainstream newspapers been forced to go smaller in size but its content has downsized as well.

Newsprint may be a disappearing form of receiving news but the *Pacific Citizen* doesn't have to go that way. Personally, I love feeling the newsprint between my fingers as I turn the pages of the *P.C.* to read about the "Prop. 8 Fallout" or "Mixed-race Patients Struggle to Find Marrow Donors". I can't help but think that there is a sense of legitimacy, of feeling the hard work the

See OREN/Page 13

## P.C. Receives \$15,000 to Preserve Its History



The *Pacific Citizen* has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) to preserve and digitize a portion of its unique history.

This newspaper has been chronicling Japanese American and Asian Pacific American issues from the Great Depression to the election of our first minority U.S. president. The *P.C.* is the oldest continuously published English language chronicle of the Japanese experience in America.

And until now, the *P.C.* archives have faced the threat of disintegration, and with it, its rich history.

The CCLPEP grant will fund the effort to digitize the *P.C.* between 1936-1943, a tumultuous period in the lives of JAs. Issues of the *P.C.* during that time period will be digitized and placed online at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) for readers like you to read and research.

## INSIDE



PHOTO: ELIZABETH KIM

## Praying for Laura and Euna

JACLers respond to the news of the APA journalists' fate.

## Befriending Heroes

The Hardwick sisters count many 442nd veterans as friends. &gt;&gt; Page 3

## Saving Angel Island

APA groups fight to keep the state park open and its history alive. &gt;&gt; Page 4

## JACL Nat'l Board News

Missed the June 12-13 meeting? Catch up on all the news. &gt;&gt; Page 5-6

## A New Beginning

Columnist Peter Shigeki Frandsen starts a new life chapter. &gt;&gt; Page 8

## New Media Filmmakers

More APAs are making high quality films for the Web. &gt;&gt; Page 8

## Reuniting Families

APA lawmakers, groups push for immigration reform. &gt;&gt; Page 10

## A Belated Honor

Taky Kimura, a friend of Bruce Lee, finally gets his diploma. &gt;&gt; Page 11



## Honoring Akaka

JACL will honor the Hawaii lawmaker at its September gala. &gt;&gt; Page 11

ALSO ON

Pacificcitizen.org



## 'My P.C.'

Download this issue now. Read at your leisure.



## Photo Galleries

Browse bonus photos from this issue.

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

## HOW TO REACH US

E-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

Tel: (800) 966-6157

Fax: (213) 620-1768

Mail:

250 E. First Street, Suite 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## STAFF

Executive Editor  
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-StomAssistant Editor  
Lynda LinOffice Manager  
Brian TanakaCirculation  
Eva Lau-Ting

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League.

## JACL

1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
JACL President: Larry Oda  
National Director: Floyd Mori

## P.C. 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

## SUBSCRIBE

Get a one-year subscription to the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or call (800) 966-6157

## ADVERTISE

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (800) 966-6157 or e-mail: [busmgr@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:busmgr@pacificcitizen.org)

## LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*.

Editorials, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Event and products advertised in the *Pacific Citizen* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles.

JACL MEMBERS  
Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:  
National JACL  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

## LAST CHANCE!

Help the *Pacific Citizen* continue its award-winning coverage.  
**BONUS:** A donation of \$150 or more makes you eligible to sail away on a dream cruise!

For faster service, donate online: [WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG](http://WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG)

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100  
☐ \$150 ☐ Other



Voucher donated by  
National JACL  
Credit Union  
[www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)

RULES AND RESTRICTIONS:  
[www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

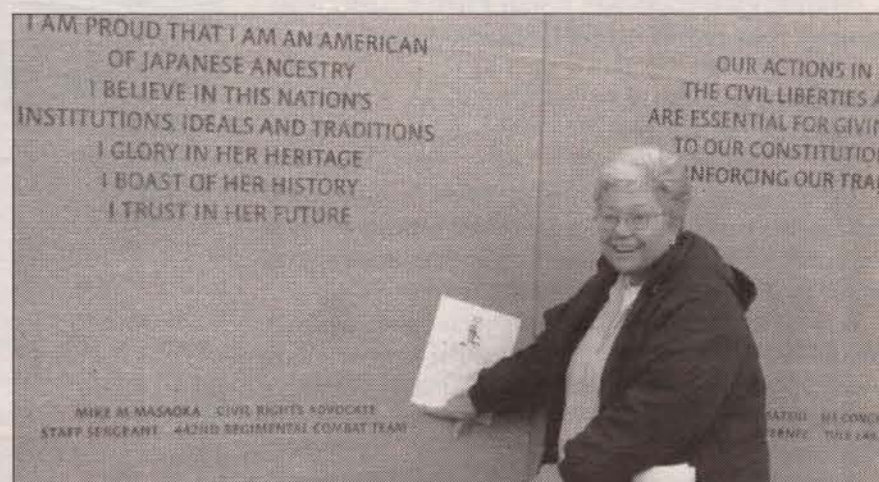


NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: PACIFIC CITIZEN, 250 E. FIRST STREET, SUITE 301, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012



# A Friendship With Heroes



Janet Hardwick Brown (pictured, far left) and Susan Hardwick with 442nd veteran Art Iwasaki at a recent veterans reunion. Iwasaki's sons had approached the Hardwicks to introduce them to their father who was a part of the rescue of the 'Lost Battalion.'

Susan (above) with the 'Note of Heartfelt Thanks' the sisters left at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C. more than two years ago. At the time, it was their only way of thanking the JA soldiers who had rescued their father during World War II.

**Three years ago the Hardwick sisters set out on a journey to find the 442nd soldiers who saved their father during WWII. Now they count many of these men as their closest friends.**

By **CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM**  
Executive Editor

*Editor's Note: In February 2007 the Pacific Citizen ran a story about the Hardwicks and their quest to find the 442nd veterans. We recently revisited the sisters to see where their journey has taken them.*

Penny Webster, 44, had been trying to call her mother all day but she knew she rarely carried her cell phone around with her. By the time she reached her at 4 p.m. that day last March, her excitement was barely contained. She was calling from France atop the Vosges Mountains, she told her mom, on the exact spot where her grandfather, Sgt. Bill Hardwick, had been rescued by the heroes of the 442nd Regiment during World War II.

"These men and their story have taught me a new word — *gaman* — meaning endurance with grace and dignity in the face of what seems unbearable," said Penny, who lives just outside of Detroit, Michigan. "They have refocused my definition of true patriotism and sacrifice — a story that I tell anyone with the patience to listen!"

Penny's excitement about the 442nd is inherited. Three years ago her mother Janet Hardwick Brown and her aunt Susan Hardwick set out on a mission to thank the Japanese American soldiers who rescued their father and the 211 men of the 36th Division who had been stranded during a battle with the Germans. Now their mission has become a family affair.

In July, all three women will head to France with veterans of the 442nd and their families where they will walk along the same paths the JA soldiers took to reach the stranded soldiers of the "Lost Battalion." There they hope to remember their father and grandfather and to thank the men who have become their personal heroes.

"We want to stand where our father stood — especially with those who were involved — directly or indirectly — with his rescue," said Susan, 64, from Indiana.

"I hope, by my presence, to speak to the souls of those whose hearts are still in the Vosges, whose blood, sweat and tears nourish the soil. And, I want to say to them, their families, their children and grandchildren, that there are those who know what they did, who *still* care, and who want others to care and know

as well."

Sgt. Hardwick passed away in 1972 at the age of 51 before he was able to personally thank the 442nd. He had always wanted to let them know that because of their heroics he was able to return to Indiana to see his two daughters grow up and enjoy 28 more years of marriage with his love Pat. Now, Janet and Susan are passing on that message.

It was over two and a half years ago that the Hardwick sisters left a note of thanks to the 442nd soldiers at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. At the time, the sisters did not have any other way of contacting them.

Shortly afterwards, their story ran in the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper and before long they were receiving e-mails and phone calls from their heroes.

"You don't know how many doors that article opened for us," said Janet, 66, of North Carolina.

Soon, the sisters began forming deep friendships with many 442nd veterans. They are now members of the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) and have attended several reunion events. And last year they attended an event in Austin, Texas honoring the JA soldiers.

"Literally getting to hug and have physical and verbal contact with the men who saved my father's life ... honestly when I started this I thought it would be a letter writing thing," said Janet. "It has exploded into so much more."

Dr. Sus Ito, 89, of Boston was one of the first 442nd veterans to contact the Hardwicks. As a forward observer with I company he was one of the first to reach the men of the "Lost Battalion." Now he exchanges e-mails with the sisters regularly and they met for the first time last year in Austin. Ito plans to join the Hardwicks in France, making this his fourth visit.

"I really appreciate the thanks the Hardwick sisters express," said Ito, a member of the JACL New England chapter. "They keep saying we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you guys. It's very touching."

"It's heartwarming to hear the thanks from those we rescued," said Lawson Sakai, 442nd veteran and FFNV president, who first invited the sisters to a veterans reunion. "After many hugs and tears, they have become a part of this group of friends and veterans."

During the Vosges Campaign, which included the rescue of the "Lost Battalion," the 442nd lost 216 men and more than 850 were wounded, according to the Go For Broke National Education Center. To this day the combined forces of the 442nd

and the 100th Battalion are the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history.

Many of these men chose to fight even while their families were being held in internment camps. But even though they are called heroes, the 442nd veterans who returned from the battlefields are humble, preferring to remember their buddies who didn't return home to their families.

Jim Yamashita, 85, is no different. The Hardwicks' "expression of gratitude has been extra ordinary. I try to imagine the echoes of their voices are being heard by the gallant young men who went down while saving these trapped men," he said.

In their quest to find their personal heroes, the Hardwicks have been embraced by the children and grandchildren of the 442nd vets. Many have approached them in thanks noting that through their journey to find the 442nd, their fathers and grandfathers, many for the first time, have told them of their role in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion."

"I am very touched by their sincerity and as a descendant I am gratified to know that my dad and his comrades have not been forgotten by people like the Hardwick sisters," said Gwen Fujie, daughter of Toshio Nishizawa, a veteran of the 522nd Central Postal Directory Battalion.

"Our sons and daughters are truly blessed. I believe no generation of men will ever be the kind of unassuming, heroic, fun loving, quiet and humble men that our fathers were."

On July 10, Janet, Susan and Penny plan to board a plane for Paris, France where they will make their way over to Bruyeres and Biffontaine to mark the 65th anniversary of the rescue of the "Lost Battalion." There they will head to Point 6, the site of the infamous rescue.

It's a trip many of the 442nd veterans have made, and for many of them now in their 90s, it will likely be their last.

For the Hardwicks, it will be a chance to visit the place where their journey first began. A chance not only to remember their father but to thank their personal heroes.

"[Dad] would be pleased with our 'journey' and, likely, a little sorrowful that he had not taken the journey himself," said Susan. "When Janet and I walk the Vosges we will walk with him in our hearts while bathed by the shadows of the spirits of those 'giants' he so admired." ■

## "A Note of Heartfelt Thanks":

[http://www.pacificcitizen.org/site/details/tabid/55/selectmoduleid/373/ArticleID/316/refTab/0/title/A\\_Note\\_of\\_Heartfelt\\_Thanks/Default.aspx](http://www.pacificcitizen.org/site/details/tabid/55/selectmoduleid/373/ArticleID/316/refTab/0/title/A_Note_of_Heartfelt_Thanks/Default.aspx)



# California Budget Crisis Threatens 'Ellis Island of the West'

Community leaders say Asian Pacific American history is at risk if Angel Island is closed.

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

The immigrant story is familiar to almost every American: they came in boats, enduring long, crowded voyages with nothing except for the clothes on their back and the dream of a better life that only the land of the free could offer.

Between the years 1910 and 1940, millions of immigrants entered the United States via Ellis Island. The Statue of Liberty welcomed the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The day they arrived was the day they became Americans.

Across the country, however, it was a much different story. The immigrants attempting to gain access to America's western shores — those arriving primarily from China and Japan — first had to penetrate the Angel Island Immigration Station, the "Ellis Island of the West."

In contrast to the three-hour health exams at Ellis Island, Asian immigrants were greeted at California's coast with intense weeklong interrogations, cramped quarters, and countless days of waiting on an island in the middle of the San Francisco Bay.

"The whole process of Angel Island was one of testing you to see if you were a legitimate person to enter," said Eddie Wong, director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. "[The park is] a living testament to the struggle of many Asian people who tried to immigrate here during the time of racial exclusion acts."

In February, Angel Island — now a California State Park — celebrated its grand reopening after a three and a half year, \$15 million project to preserve the walls of the Immigration Station, on which former inhabitants carved poems.

These stories are in danger of being lost yet again.

Angel Island is one of 220 state parks scheduled to close by summer's end in an effort to resolve the state's \$24.3 billion deficit.

One of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposals is to eliminate all general fund contributions, which is about \$143 million, to California state parks within the next two years. This means the public would not be able to visit 80 percent of the state-owned parks. If the state legislature does not amend or rescind Schwarzenegger's plans, the cuts would go into effect July 1.

Regardless of what the legislature decides, however, park activities will continue until after the Labor Day holiday said Dave Matthews, Angel Island State Park supervisor. Still, Angel Island would have to shutter its doors before it is able to celebrate its 100th anniversary in January 2010.

The California Budget Conference Committee met at the State Capitol to review Schwarzenegger's proposals on June 2, but tabled discussions so members could review all of the cuts and make final recommendations later in the month.

Closing Angel Island, a National Historic Landmark, would halt future renovations, stop research and may actually hurt one of the state's revenue streams.

Despite the tough economy, state parks have seen a rise in attendance and have had a record number of campground reservations. During the most recent fiscal year, Angel Island produced \$730,000 in state revenue according to park officials.

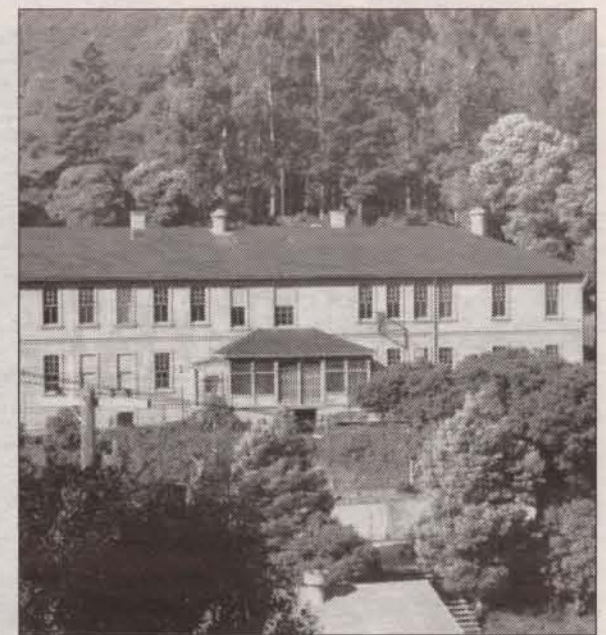
"Yes, you do save some money by closing down the parks," Wong added, "but you also lose."

For every dollar invested from the general fund, the state sees a return of \$2.35, according to Wong. State parks fuel local economies, providing state revenue and jobs. Moreover, closing the parks may have other unforeseen costs to the state.

"We need our parks," Wong said, "not only to help the economy but also because they really are tremendous recreational, historical, cultural and educational resources."

## Angel Island's History

Unlike Ellis Island, which deported about one to two percent



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION FOUNDATION

Korean immigrant women and a child pose at the Angel Island Immigration Center (left). Pictured above is the detention barracks where the immigrants were detained, sometimes for months at a time.

of its immigrant population, of those who arrived at Angel Island, an estimated 11 to 30 percent were ultimately sent back to their home countries.

Others stayed on the island for as long as two years.

"Ellis Island was inclusive," said Greg Marutani, member of the San Francisco JACL, "Angel Island was restrictive."

For the Angel Island detainees, life was regimented. Men and women were segregated in military-style barracks. Guards allowed the immigrants out of the barracks only for meals, medical exams and short recreational breaks in a yard surrounded by barbed wire. Officials locked the detention barracks at night and surveyed the island's perimeter from guard towers.

Detainees found an outlet for their fears and frustrations through messages and poems written or carved into barrack walls. The poems express a range of emotions about their personal hardships. They also offer advice to successive generations of would-be immigrants.

"What's really unique about Angel Island are carved on the walls are hundreds of poems in Chinese, Japanese, Russian, South Asian languages," Wong said. "You can actually hear the voices of people who were there because they left their mark visible on the walls."

About 1 million immigrants passed through Angel Island during its operation. More than 97 percent of the immigrants were Chinese, according to the California State Parks.

"It's very much part of Asian American history," said George Wu, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans. "It's where many Asian American communities and ancestors started in their journey to America."

A 1940 fire destroyed Angel Island's administration building, forcing the federal government to abandon the station. During World War II, Angel Island became a war camp for Japanese and German prisoners, and after the war, the island became surplus property of the federal government.

In 1970, Alexander Weiss, a California State Park ranger, discovered the writings and carvings on the walls. The artifacts kick started preservation efforts.

"[Angel Island] is one of the gems of the state park system," Matthews added. "It's part of our local, state and national heritage."

## Saving the Island

Since its reopening in February, thousands of schoolchildren and members of the public have visited the Angel Island State Park. A weekly guided tour of the Immigration Station have

been booked through the summer.

"There are a lot of lessons to be learned from how [Asian immigrants] were treated," Wu added, "how they persevered, what they did after their detention on Angel Island."

The restoration effort, however, is not complete. The next phase is a \$16 million project to repair, restore and reopen the island's hospital as a new space for exhibitions, conferences and a genealogy center.

"The site can be used for contemporary discussions of issues like immigration, migration, trade, relations with Asia," Wong said. "Angel Island can be a place where new social policies are discussed as well as looking at the past."

Marutani agrees that there is still much to be learned from Angel Island about the history of U.S. immigration policy.

"There are no more Issei alive that can tell you about the Japanese American experience [on Angel Island]," he said, "but it's still a California story."

On June 15, Democratic state lawmakers proposed a \$15 car registration hike. In return, state parks stay open and entrance will be free for visitors with a California license plate.

The 220 state parks on the chopping block were chosen based on how they are funded. State parks that will remain open are able to stay afloat through other means (i.e., boating tax, gas tax) or they are able to sustain themselves with nominal fee hikes and lower operating costs.

Angel Island's operating costs change every year, but last year's costs totaled about \$920,000 from the state, according to Matthews.

"[We] fully understand the gravity of California's and the rest of the nation's budget crisis," Wu said, "so we understand that some, likely many, cuts will have to be made."

But advocates fear that if the park shuts down, its priceless collection of poems would be vulnerable to vandalism and neglect and restoration efforts would come to a halt.

The JACL and other non-profit organizations have campaigned against the park closures, writing letters to the legislature and letting the public know the value of the state park that memorializes the immigrant story of the West.

"If [Angel Island] were to close, we'd be losing a chance to understand and interpret those poems," Wong added, "and more importantly [we'd lose the opportunity] to be in a place where immigrants actually stood and hear their stories." ■

**On the Web:** [www.jacl-cwnp.org](http://www.jacl-cwnp.org), [www.aiisf.org](http://www.aiisf.org)



## IN BRIEF:

## JACL National Board News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A summary of some of the news and discussion items from the June 12-13 national board meeting.

## Redesigning JACL's Logo



The red, white, blue and gold seal with the eagle perched on top may become a relic of the past.

Board members expressed support for establishing guidelines to redesign the 80-year-old logo, which some called "dated." It's a part of a staff-driven effort to "rebrand" the JACL, according to national director Floyd Mori.

"We need a more modern look that we'll be able to use thematically for everything we do," said Mori. "I think this is needed."

The staff will now work on a plan and guidelines for a possible logo design contest. The goal is to introduce the new logo design at the 2010 Chicago national convention, said Mori.

EDC District Gov. Kristine Minami said she supported the exploration of the redesign.

"I think that the logo has a great history and is a legacy for the organization, but it may be time to rethink what it represents — and if it represents what the organization stands for now," said Minami.

The logo was created during a time when the Issei faced citizenship restrictions and other anti-Asian laws. The motto, "security through unity," reflects the mood of the time.

"As the Japanese American community evolves, so should our symbols. I would very much like to see a logo that embraces the diversity of our community, celebrates our collective history and heritage and projects the breadth of possibility for the future of the Japanese American community," said Minami.

If JACL as a whole believes the logo represents the organization, then

See IN BRIEF/Page 6

# More Cuts in 2009 Budget Reflect JACL's Reality



## Facing a potential shortfall, board members reduce membership goals.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

The JACL national board has adopted a revised 2009 budget with additional cuts in revenue and spending, including a reduction in projected membership goals.

The revised budget is more reflective of JACL's reality, said Josh Spry, national JACL secretary/treasurer.

The 2009-10 budget adopted last July by the national council laid the foundations for aggressive membership goals to fund JACL programs. That was, board members say, before the economic recession gripped the nation.

At its June 12-13 meeting in San Francisco, national board members trimmed expenses and approved a \$98,849 reduction in projected membership revenue.

"Because of what we have realized in our membership numbers for the first four months [of the year], it's apparent that the goals may have been optimistic," said JACL National President Larry Oda.

The revised budget "is as real as you can get given the state of our economy," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "It's closer to what we need to do. The reduced membership goals is more in tune with what the chapters and districts are willing to do."

Budget cuts were also made in some JACL programs, said Mori, but they were not severe enough to affect the programs' performances.

Other larger changes in the 2009 budget include additional cuts in travel expenses for several programs including Planned Giving, Leadership Training and Conference and Fund Development.

Reductions in personnel costs also yielded a total of \$51,000. The board approved a hiring freeze on the administrative assistant position. The San Francisco-based position is being moved to Washington, D.C., where Mori said, he needs more help. The D.C.-based public policy director position remains vacant. Susan Tamai held the administrative assistant position since 2007.

On the revenue side, the \$10,000 goal for the PNW fundraiser was increased to \$15,000 and an additional \$3,000 was added to the National Youth/Student Council conference profit.

With these revisions, the 2009 projected deficit is \$25,849.

The revised budget passed with only NCWNP District Gov. Alan Nishi and PNW District Gov. Elaine Akagi

opposing.

"I voted 'no' again, for the same reason I voted that way in February," said Akagi. "No matter how small, there is still a deficit in the budget, and as my fiduciary responsibility, I don't feel I can vote for it."

## Membership is Still Key

There are many positive points in the current numbers, said board members.

As of April 30, JACL had a \$1,102 surplus. The organization's investments, which are correlated with the market, were also back up from its "low point" in February, said Spry.

The Legacy Fund is at \$5,116,387, the Life Trust Endowment is at \$398,553, and the National Endowment sits at \$336,956. The Masaoka Endowment Fund is at \$321,259 and the JACL Reserve Fund sits at \$119,998.

The organization is doing better than he expected six months ago when the global financial world was in chaos, said Spry. "I feel more confident."

In addition, there are revenue elements that are not enumerated in the budget, said Mori, including new and anticipated corporate revenue and grants. Fundraising events are also in the works. He's confident that these elements will help prevent passing future deficit budgets.

"I know there are some promises of money coming in, but it's not written into the budget. Until I see a budget without a deficit, I'll continue to vote 'no,'" said Akagi.

Membership revenue, board members say, is still vital to the organization.

"To keep our heads above water, we need to recruit one new member for every 10 we now have," said Oda. "A lot goes into generating membership, and what is occurring now is just a continuation of our last 10 year's experience. All of our efforts have not yielded the desired results of a membership increase. Whatever we are now doing or saying is not working."

Membership decline is nothing new to the JACL, said Spry. "The question now is: is that decline going to continue to get worse?"

"The main thing is that we need to maintain the membership objective. We cannot fall short of this reduced objective," said Mori.

Expenditures also need to be closely monitored, said Oda. "The deeper we go into deficit, the more likely we will need to take more drastic measures."

See BOARD MEETING/Page 6



**YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU®**

(CST No. 1019309-10)



### PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2009

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

Yamato Travel Bureau® continues to be a full service travel agency. This means we will sell all phases of leisure and corporate travel: airline tickets; hotel accommodations; car rentals; tours; cruises; rail passes, etc. We also have discounted airfare to many destinations. Please call on our experienced travel consultants for your travel and tour arrangements.

Professional Memberships: American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), VACATION.COM (a national consortium).

Warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

**YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU®**  
250 East First Street, Suite 1112  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3827  
(213) 680-0333 OR (800) 334-4982  
Email: groups@yamatotravel.com



## IN BRIEF: JACL National Board News

(Continued from page 5)

we can keep it, she added.

"I'm somewhat of a traditionalist," said Larry Oda, JACL national president, "but to command the attention of our new demographic and to sustain the organization, our public face needs to accomplish that."

The next step, he said, is to better define the guidelines for the redesign. A cost assessment will be included. And 2010 may be too soon.

"Some on the board felt that Chicago would be a good time to roll out the new logo, but I think we are looking at a longer process," said Oda.

### JACL Establishes Cooperation With Community Groups

The national board has greenlighted a plan for the JACL to work with the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN), a national Azerbaijani American non-profit advocacy and voter education organization.

USAN leaders first contacted Mori and expressed interest in working with the JACL to promote a "greater understanding and links, including trade, between the two communities," according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) unanimously passed by the national board.

"In general, we are cooperating with the Azerbaijan's and the MOU is just a way to formalize the effort," said Oda.

"It's important to develop strong coalitions like these," said Mori.

The national board and staff are also looking into expanded collaborations with the Organization for Chinese Americans (OCA), another national APA non-profit that the JACL already works with for their D.C. Leadership Conference.

JACL national board members are looking at the possibility of co-hosting a future convention with OCA.

"The purpose and goals of our convention are very different from OCA's, so there needs to be some in-depth coordination before there can be any meaningful dialogue," said Oda.

**On the Web:** [www.usazeris.org](http://www.usazeris.org), [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org)

### New JACL Chapter Emerges From California's Silicon Valley

"The birth of Silicon Valley JACL offers opportunities for new members in the Silicon Valley area to have a choice," said Mark Kobayashi, former national JACL secretary/treasurer and vice president of the newly adopted Silicon Valley JACL.

The national board passed a resolution to adopt the new chapter, which has recruited 30 new members and fulfilled all of the requirements of becoming a national JACL chapter.



**Silicon Valley JACLers:** (L-r) Gail Sueki, Mark Kobayashi, Pat Nakashima and Jeff Yoshioka.

"This is what we need to focus on, growth in membership," said Oda. "The ultimate goal of an increase in the number of chapters is to facilitate membership growth, but to the member, it means a choice."

#### Tanabata Festival

July 7 at 7 p.m.  
Roy's Station Coffee and Teas in  
San Jose's Japantown  
Celebrate the launch of the Silicon  
Valley chapter.

**Info:**  
[SiliconValleyJACL@yahoo.com](mailto:SiliconValleyJACL@yahoo.com)  
[orhttp://siliconvalleyjacl.dnsalias.net](http://siliconvalleyjacl.dnsalias.net)

The Silicon Valley JACL officers are:  
Gail Sueki, president;  
Kobayashi; Pat  
Nakashima, secretary;  
and Jeff Yoshioka,  
treasurer.

Chapter members  
are already off and  
running. Silicon

Valley JACL's first event will be the Tanabata Festival, a month-long celebration that kicks off July 7.

### JACL Signs Onto Two Amicus Briefs

In a continued effort to fight for equal rights for all, the JACL has signed onto two *amicus* briefs on cases regarding English language learners (ELL) and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

"Because of our stature and credibility, we are asked to file 'Friend of the Court' briefs to support or oppose filings that affect our community," said Oda. "We sign on to educate the court about the JA experience and its relation to the case at hand."

In *Horne v. Flores*, the U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether the state of Arizona must comply with a 1974 federal law that requires public schools to teach children to speak English proficiently.

"Language should not be a barrier to being a full citizen of the U.S.," said Mori, who also pointed out the parallels in experience with the Issei generation.

JACL also signed onto *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder*, a case where a small Texas district is challenging the constitutionality of Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

At issue is whether Congress can continue to require states with past and current discriminatory voting practices to first receive clearance for changes in voting procedures from the Justice Department or a federal judge. ■

"We need to think about what's going to be sustainable in the long term," he added. "It's time to recognize that these short, quick fixes are not sustainable for the long term."

Change is absolutely necessary, said Mori. "We're in a new era. We face new challenges."

For JACL's future, he sees a need to form more partnerships with other community groups and focus on building "business plans and revenue generation at the national board and regional board levels."

For now, JACL's reality is grounded in membership decline, said Oda. And yes, change is needed.

"We can no longer do business as usual until we can find a suitable replacement of membership revenues." ■

#### Join JACL!

It's now just a mouse click away. Spread the word. Become a JACL member at: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

## BOARD MEETING

(Continued from page 5)

### Changes in the Future

In the face of these new challenges, board members say, it's essential for the 80-year-old organization to change and evolve to meet the Asian Pacific American community's new demands.

"Overall, we need to assess who we are and what our mission is. We need to determine if our structure fits the 21st century rather than the 19th century," said Mori.

The next national board meeting, scheduled for Oct. 31, will mark the beginning of a new budget process. This is the time to think critically about the JACL's future, said Spry.

## National Newsbytes

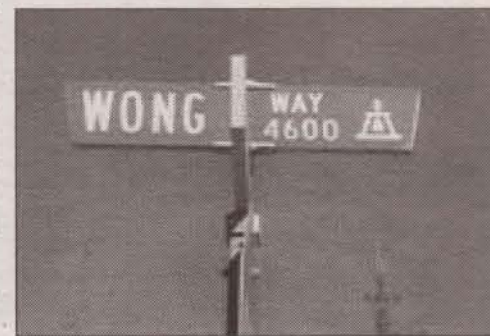
By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Wong Way? Not Any More

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—It's Wong Way no more.

Believing a road in this city's former Chinatown called Wong Way has been sending the wrong message for decades, officials in Riverside have renamed it Wong Street.

In 1961, the short connector street near downtown was named after the



late George Wong, the last resident of Riverside's Chinatown.

But some in the community thought the street name appeared to be more of a joke than an honor and were insulted by it.

City Councilman Mike Gardner, who requested the street name change, said the sign was disparaging to Chinese immigrants with limited English skills.

### Chinese Muslims to Resettle in Palau

KOROR, Palau—After years of imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay, 13 Muslims from China will try to resettle on the tiny Pacific nation of Palau.

They have been treated like global untouchables since the U.S. decided to free them, saying they weren't a danger to the country. No nation agreed to take the men until Palau — a former U.S. trust territory — welcomed them to the tropical tourist getaway, about 500 miles east of the Philippines.

The detainees were captured in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001. They were detained in Guantanamo and accused of being militants seeking training in Pakistan and Afghanistan. But the Pentagon determined last year that they were not "enemy combatants."

### Teens Accused of Strangling Newspaper Executive

NEW YORK—An advertising executive for the largest Chinese-language newspaper in the U.S. was robbed and strangled by two teenagers who spotted him sleeping in a luxury sport utility vehicle late at night.

Those two and another teenager charged in connection with the attack on 49-year-old David Kao, who worked for *The World Journal*, preyed on Asian men to rob, said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown. But the case is not being prosecuted as a hate crime, he said.

Chris Levy, 17, and Cory Azor, 16, have been charged with second-degree murder. A third teenager, Keron Wilthshire, was accused of driving the stolen Lexus after Kao's death and was charged with criminal possession of stolen property.

The three were also charged with robbing 42-year-old Jin Tong Yuan as he entered an elevator at a building about a week before Kao was killed, prosecutors said.

### Obata Studio Becomes a Landmark

BERKELEY, Calif.—The Landmarks Preservation Commission has designated the former studio of renowned artist Chiura Obata's former studio on Telegraph Avenue a landmark.

From 1939 to 1941, Obata worked at the 1907 Spanish Revival Style studio on Telegraph but was forced to abandon it because of the internment.

Last year, the building was scheduled to reopen as the Muse Art House and Café, but currently sits empty.

### Decision on a Wichita Vietnamese Memorial Delayed

WICHITA, Kan.—The Wichita City Council has delayed a decision on whether to allow a Vietnamese war memorial in Veterans Memorial Park.

The issue caused nearly 90 minutes of debate at a June 9 public hearing. More than 30 people spoke before Mayor Carl Brewer asked the two sides to reach a compromise while the city studies the issue.

The memorial would have a sculpture of two soldiers — one American and the other South Vietnamese — from the Vietnam War.

Critics say the park already has a Vietnam War memorial and the park is meant for veterans of the U.S. military. They suggest a different location for the memorial.

Supporters say the memorial would add honor to the park as the South Vietnamese fought alongside the Americans. ■



## APAs in the News

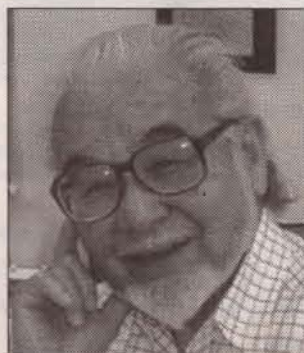
By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Arizona JACL Awards New Scholarship

At its Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards and Graduates Luncheon, the Arizona JACL awarded a new scholarship. The first annual Mark Saka Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Alyssa Hinchman**, a first year student at the University of Arizona.

Her award-winning essay was titled, "What Does it Mean To Be Japanese American in 2009."

### Yamanaka is Inducted into Hall of Distinction



**Kunitake Morgan Yamanaka** was recently inducted into the California Social Work Hall of Distinction. Yamanaka worked as a professional social worker at San Francisco State University from 1962-2006.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, he was elected treasurer of the Golden Gate chapter's National Association of Social Workers. He has been active in many civil, social and professional organizations, including the San Francisco JACL.

### Jesse Takamiyama retires from sumo



Hawaiian wrestler and trainer **Jesse Takamiyama** retired from sumo wrestling recently after a 45-year career in Japan's ancient sport.

Takamiyama, also known as Jesse Kuhaulua, became the first foreign-born wrestler to win the top division championship in 1972. He was also the first foreign-born wrestler to take charge of a training stable, having been head coach of the Azumazeki stable he founded in 1986.

Takamiyama made his professional debut in March 1964 and quickly moved up

the ranks. His highest rank was sekiwake, which is the third highest in the elite division behind yokozuna and ozeki

### Go For Broke Names Scholarship Winners

Twelve students who are descendants of World War II Japanese American veterans have won Eiro Yamada Memorial Scholarships, said the Go For Broke National Education Center.

The 2009 recipients are: **Sean Kenji Bonnell, Richard Randolph Carrillo, Stephan E. Chao, Amy Kristin Choi, Lindsay Mieke Fujinaka, Marisa Kiyomi Fujinaka, Maya Kanani Kochiyama, Kimberly Emi Ikuma Naguwa, Lauren Mahina Akemi Sato, Doug Nobutoshi Sekimura, Wendy Akemi Sekimura, Garrett Mitsuo Yamamoto.**

Established by the Yamada-Scott Family Foundation, the program honors the memory of the late **Eiro Yamada**, a 442nd veteran.

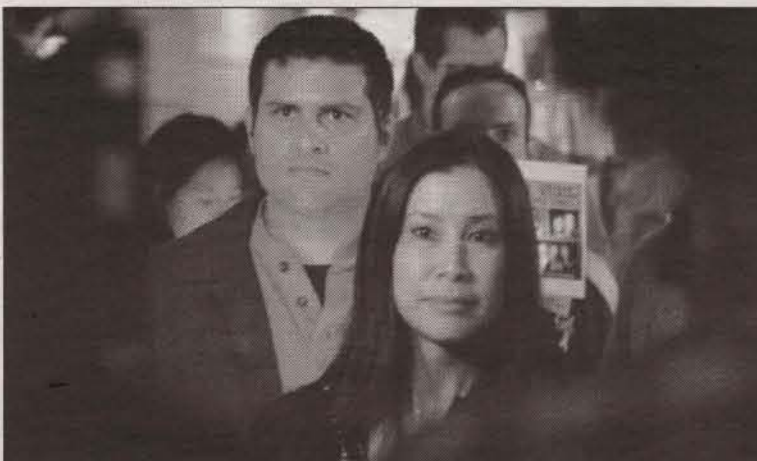
### Hatamiya is Chosen as Lead Trombone for Jazz Orchestra

**Jon Hatamiya**, a junior at Davis High School in Davis, Calif., was selected as lead trombone in the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra and also as a member of the Brubeck Institute Summer Jazz Colony.

Hatamiya also plays lead trombone in his high school jazz band and is principal trombone in the symphonic band, as well as a member of the Davis High School Jazz Combo.

Last November, he was selected as a finalist for the Grammy Jazz Ensemble, according to his MySpace profile. ■

## Harsh Sentencing of Two American Journalists Sheds Light On Human Rights Issues in North Korea



Relatives and supporters of imprisoned journalists **Laura Ling** and **Euna Lee** attend a vigil recently in Los Angeles. Pictured here are Euna's husband **Michael Saldate** and Laura's sister **Lisa Ling**, renowned journalist formerly of "The View."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH KIM

**Last summer, the JACL National Youth/Student Council successfully pushed through a resolution to support human rights in the country notorious for its labor camps. Now, it's gained new significance.**

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

It was a sentencing heard around the world: 12 years in a North Korean hard labor prison for two American reporters who were convicted of unspecified "hostile acts."

For **Brandon Mita**, the JACL youth representative, news of the June 8 conviction and sentencing of **Laura Ling** and **Euna Lee** further underscored the need for more human rights awareness in North Korea.

"This is an issue that the JACL needs to begin caring about," said Mita. "Human rights is the next logical progression from civil rights and the North Korean people need our support."

It's an issue close to the hearts of the JACL National Youth/Student Council's (NY/SC) mostly Yonsei members. Last summer at the JACL national convention in Salt Lake City, they lined up behind a microphone for a chance to urge the national council to pass their resolution supporting human rights in North Korea.

The resolution, which passed with a majority vote, was touted as an important step in building bridges between two nations and communities. In the JACL's fight for human rights, Ling and Lee's plight has brought new significance to the cause.

And, said Mita, it's not just a "youth" issue.

"This issue involves all of us because it speaks to our human dignity and our ability, as humans, to feel compassion and empathize with others that are unjustly wronged. That is why this organization exists," he said about the JACL.

North Korea's jail and gulags, experts say, are rife with human rights violations. Inmates are poorly fed and often do backbreaking work in factories, coal mines and rice paddies. The worst North Korean prisons are part of a network of five large political labor camps where people accused of being spies, defectors and dissidents get locked away. The U.S. State Department estimates the camps hold a total of between 150,000 to 200,000 inmates.

Analysts doubt that Pyongyang wants to send Ling and Lee to these notorious prisons. Rather, the sentence is a way for the country to maximize its leverage with Washington, said **Roh Jeong-ho**, the director of the Center for Korean Legal Studies at Columbia Law School.

Asian Pacific American groups have strongly expressed concern over the treatment of these two American journalists.

JACL National Director **Floyd Mori** called Ling and

Lee's sentencing "a blatant case of injustice and miscarriage of human rights cloaked in the name of an unspecified crime."

JACL similarly called for the release of another APA journalist imprisoned in Iran, **Roxana Saberi**, who has returned to the U.S. since her release in May.

For Ling and Lee, the APA community remains vigilant. The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) has said it would "continue to monitor this situation closely in hopes that tensions will subside."

Lee, 36, and Ling, 32, — who both worked for former Vice President **Al Gore's** Current TV — were arrested March 17 near the China-North Korea border where they were reporting about the trafficking of women. It's unclear whether they tried to sneak into the North or if aggressive border guards crossed into Chinese territory and grabbed them, as has happened before.

The North accused the reporters of illegally entering the country, but the formal charges against them were unclear. Their trial, which was closed to foreigners, began June 4. A day earlier in the U.S., vigils were held across the country in support of the journalists.

At the Los Angeles vigil, **Laura Ling's** sister, **Lisa Ling** of "The View" fame, made an appearance. The purely grassroots-driven events were spearheaded by **Brendan Creamer** of Philadelphia, who started a Facebook.com group page called, "Detained In North Korea: Journalist[s] **Laura Ling** and **Euna Lee**, please help."

He started the group, which now has over 20,000 members, simply to get more information. For some reason, he said, the incarceration of two American journalists wasn't making headlines, so he decided to do something about it.

"If there were something to gain from it, it's that I wanted to know more. I wanted others to know more," said Creamer to the *Pacific Citizen*.

Since their sentencing, Ling and Lee's families have remained quiet, except to issue a statement urging North Korea for clemency, amid hopes the U.S. government would send an envoy to negotiate their release.

"We remain hopeful that the governments of the United States and North Korea can come to an agreement that will result in the release of the (women)," said a June 9 joint statement by their families, which also called to light concerns about the women's health. Ling suffers an ulcer, and Lee's 4-year-old daughter is showing "signs of anguish over the absence of her mother."

Plans for another vigil are also in the works for July 9, in many major U.S. cities and in Seoul, South Korea, said Creamer.

Now, said Mita, it's critical to raise awareness on human rights issues "so that we can cherish the rights we already have and fight for those that need them as well."

For a link to **Laura Ling** and **Euna Lee's** Facebook group, go to [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org).





# VERY

## truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

### U.S. Issei Pioneers with a Tokugawa Vintage

Several weeks ago, while attending the funeral of a Nisei centenarian, Ben Fukushima of Los Angeles, I recognized for the first time a tombstone for an Issei (his father Tatsusaburo) born in 1867 — a year before the end of the Tokugawa-Jidai: [1603-1868]. The Kumamoto native emigrated to Hawaii in 1889, married and then moved to California around 1900. They were interned at Poston, relocated to Denver and settled postwar in Los Angeles.

The year 1889 in Hawaiian history is conspicuous. King Kalakaua faced foreign dominance and reluctantly signed the "Bayonet Constitution of 1887" that reduced the king to a ceremonial role and gave U.S. exclusive use of Pearl Harbor. Native Hawaiians failed to restore the King's rights in 1889.

Other Issei in Japanese American history born during the Tokugawa-Jidai lived and died in America. Their accounts are fascinating.

Okei, the Japanese girl at the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm near Placerville, Calif. was 19 when she died at the colony in 1871. While she was not an Issei in the American sense, the two men who remained after the Wakamatsu Farm folded were Matsunosuke Sakurai, a samurai who was employed by Francis Veerkamp, owner of the property that John Henry Schnell had purchased for the Wakamatsu-Aizu refugees, and Kuninosuke Masumizu [1849-1915], the carpenter who married the daughter of a Freedman and Cherokee Indian. Their descendants lived in the Sacramento area. Being partially black and Japanese, the Army questioned them but did not evacuate them in 1942.

Tadaatsu Matsudaira [1855-1888] came to America in 1872 with the Iwakura Embassy to Europe and the United States. While the mission failed to make revisions in the 1858 U.S.-Japan treaty, their study of governmental systems in the different countries and actual observations of life in the West were valuable to the Meiji Restoration.

His fame rests in the design of the Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge. He had assisted engineers build the Brooklyn Bridge, roamed the Wild West, worked as an engineer with the Union Pacific in Wyoming, attended the Colorado School of Mines, and was appointed assistant to the state mine inspector. He died at age 33. His grave at Denver's Riverside Cemetery was forgotten until 1912 when Issei erected a tombstone in memory of Matsudaira, the first Japanese resident of Colorado.

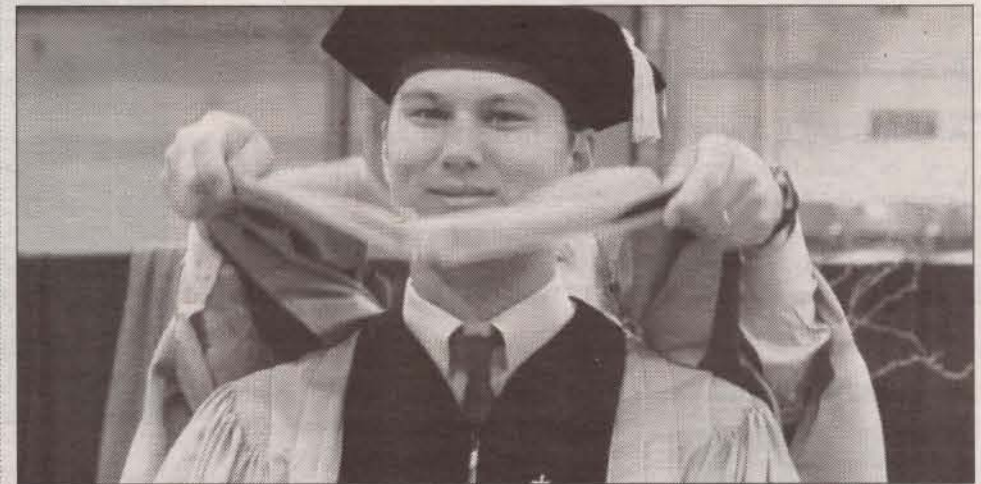
Hachiro Ohnuki [1849-1921], who visited Philadelphia for the U.S. Centennial Exposition in 1876, was founder of the Arizona Gas and Electric Co. in 1885, when newspapers of that time spelled his name Hutchelon Ohnick.

Kanaye Nagasawa [1853-1935] came to America by way of London in 1872. Chosen among the sons from the Satsuma clan (then in battle with the Tokugawa regime) in 1865 to study in Britain, Nagasawa attended grammar school in Aberdeen for two years.

In 1867 he met American philosopher Thomas Lake Harris in London and joined his Brotherhood of New Life that moved to upstate New York near Dunkirk. He was probably the first Japanese immigrant entering the U.S. through Castle Garden in Manhattan. The Brotherhood finally settled in Santa Rosa in 1875, established Fountaingrove, a 2,000-acre ranch growing grape mainly and devoted 400 acres as pasture for milch cows.

When the 18th Amendment doomed the vineyards, Nagasawa raised thoroughbred Arabian horses in great demand in Korea. Understanding that the last surviving member of the brotherhood would inherit the total estate, the transition to Nagasawa, despite challenges by descendants, became a Sonoma County showcase. ■

*Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.*



A new beginning is here. Many young people across the country, like myself, have just recently graduated from their respective colleges.

Some will enter into the toughest job market in recent history. Some will continue in their educational pursuit for additional degrees, specialties, and certifications. Others will relax, travel, or in other multitudinous ways, enjoy a well-earned calm after the storm.

My new beginning has taken me from the fast-paced life of New York City to the quainter, slower-pace of the Deep South, (in fact in the first week I was pulled over for doing 53 in a 35), from dental school to dentistry, and from skyscrapers to beaches. I recently graduated from Columbia University, College of Dental Medicine and will soon begin a one-year dental residency program with the U.S. Air Force here in Mississippi.

I will be meeting new people and co-workers, assuming new roles and responsibilities, and learning the many new rules of serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. My wife and I will be buying new furniture, making new friends, trying new restaurants, and searching for new places and activities to pass the time.

Yet all the newness brings back the oldness.

When it comes to new and changing circumstances, people often compare the new to the old and subconsciously assign higher value to the old — of which I am guilty. I already miss the restaurants in Manhattan. I detest the crowded parking lots at Wal-Mart. I miss walking everywhere. I hate driving to the grocery store. I can't help but notice all these differences between my old lifestyle and my soon-to-be new lifestyle.

Reconciling these differences is going to be my new beginning.

Luckily, a wise man of considerable authority recently spoke on a related matter.

In his recent speech to the Muslim word from Egypt, President Obama sought reconciliation between differences much greater than the ones between New York and Mississippi. His new beginning involves healing ancient rifts in the Middle East, where years of bloodshed has hardened the ground too much to sow new hope. Yet, as he concluded his speech, he directed these

words to the young people of the world:

"... if we choose to be bound by the past, we will never move forward. And I want to particularly say this to young people of every faith, in every country — you, more than anyone, have the ability to remake this world.

"All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort — a sustained effort — to find common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children, and to respect the dignity of all human beings.

"It is easier to start wars than to end them. It is easier to blame others than to look inward; to see what is different about someone than to find the things we share. But we should choose the right path, not just the easy path. There is also one rule that lies at the heart of every religion — that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

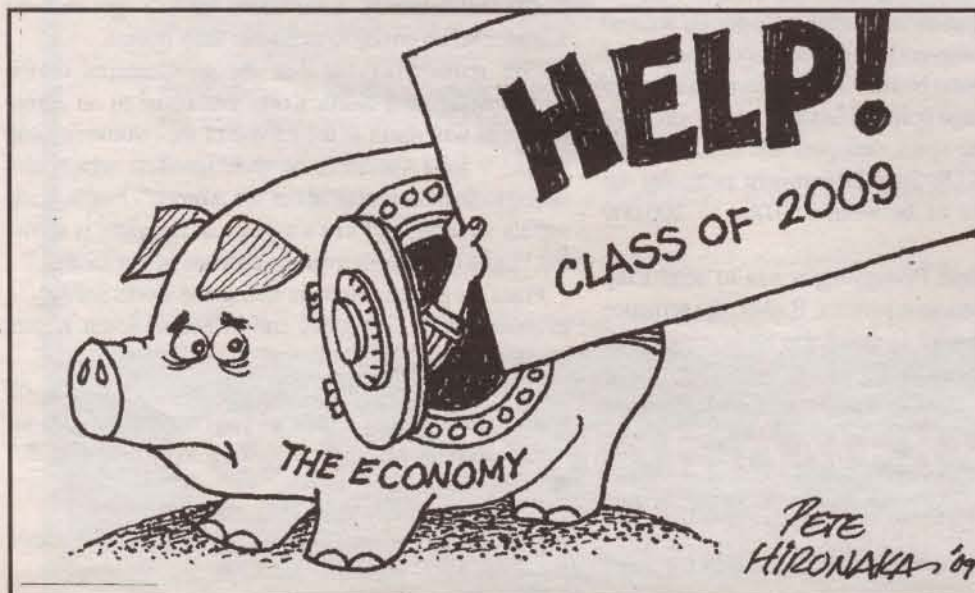
"We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written."

Moving forward does not mean forgetting the past. Loving Mississippi more does not mean that I have to love New York any less. Loving both New York City and Mississippi are not mutually exclusive, no matter what differences exist. It's much easier to change my perceptions than to change my new surroundings.

My mother consistently reminds me to emulate the virtues of my namesake, Shigeki "Shake" Ushio: namely tolerance, patience and being content. I believe I will need all three as I begin to adapt to my new beginning. But I guess the goal will be to move beyond just "tolerating" to truly accepting and enjoying change as it comes to me, in whatever form it may take.

Now, who's with me? I hope y'all are. Welcome to the Deep South! ■

*Peter Shigeki Frandsen will be serving as a U.S. Air Force dentist at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. He is a Mount Olympus JACL member.*







An internet filmmaker is 'free to explore creatively without the hindrance of producers or studios,' said Gary San Angel.

## Big Screen? Nah. The New Frontier is on the Computer Screen

**Asian Pacific American filmmakers are looking to the Web as a new way to showcase high quality film projects and APA talent.**

By **LYNDA LIN**  
Assistant Editor

This summer, Gary San Angel's name isn't going to appear above the title of a big screen blockbuster, but the Philadelphia-based filmmaker can attract viewers from Texas to the United Kingdom.

He's like the Michael Bay of the online world, except without the explosions and blank checks.

You can be the best director in the world with the greatest film ever made, said San Angel, 37, but it's all a loss if no one watches it.

"No one cares about you unless you go out there and make them care, make them excited about something you believe in."

His short film, "The Koaloha Ukulele Story," is an animated documentary about a gregarious ukulele maker named Alvin Okami. And his screening room is in your computer. The price of admission is right too: free for those in the know. Just don't forget to leave your comments when you leave.

Making movies for internet consumption isn't new, but until now the genre has been saddled with an unflattering image of being mostly low quality, home videos of sneezing pandas and lip-synching boy band wannabes.

Not San Angel's "Koaloha," which is shot and presented in high definition for that full cinematic experience. In the art of guerilla filmmaking, it's now all about high quality. And for filmmakers like San Angel, who is second generation Filipino American, the Web is a new frontier to showcase Asian Pacific American talent.

"On the Web there are different markets and communities that I'm able to tap into that I'd otherwise never be able to access," said San Angel. "And you're free to explore creatively without the hindrance of producers or studios."

The Web is also a haven for competition-killing innovation.

"In our lifetimes we've seen the MP3 destroy the traditional sales model of the music business, it's not out of the question for something to come along and do the same to the film industry," said Ryan Esaki, a 27-year-old co-founder of Ukulele Underground, LLC, which hosted the online world premiere of "Koaloha."

Sites like Vimeo.com and Ustream.tv offer filmmakers the ease of setting up internet screenings and receiving instantaneous responses.

"The Web is a great way for filmmakers to connect to their audience and it can be a cost efficient way as well," said Jennifer Thym, a second generation Chinese American filmmaker currently based in Hong Kong.

With online film releases, you can make and distribute films that appeal to a worldwide audience, said Thym, 34.

"Compare that to traditional theatrical release, which is an expensive distribution method, plus you only have a limited window in which to sell tickets."

In August, Thym plans to launch "Lumina," an original Web series that borrows themes from "Snow White" and the "Twilight" novels. The series, shot in high def with a power Red One video camera, features a mostly APA cast, including JuJu Chan as Lumina Wong, a beautiful career woman in love with a man she can only see in mirrors.

If it were any other filmmaker, Chan said, she would've been hesitant to venture onto the Web. But ultimately, it was all about turning traditional industry mechanism on its head and creating a new venue for APA actors.

"We are here to make a change, and we are serious in producing a high quality and professional production to break the tradition," said Chan.

"Lumina" which was written and directed by Thym, "explores that fantasy of playing with something (or someone) that is magical and not of this world, and how that can have severe consequences for everyone involved."

And like most things on the Web, "Lumina" will be free to view.

Thym is in good company. Last year, veteran director Wayne Wang released "The Princess of Nebraska" exclusively on YouTube's screening room.

"It's not just indie filmmakers using the internet — it's just the direction of the industry," said Michael Kang, whose 2007 film "West 32nd" garnered critical success.

"I think right now we are still in the beginning stages with new technology, but in a decade, watching movies off the internet will probably be the norm. That being said, I don't think that the experience of going to a movie theater and sitting in a dark room with a couple hundred people and having that collective experience will ever go away," said Kang.

In March, when San Angel screened "Koaloha" online for the first time, the film shared screen space with an instant message chatterbox filled with "LOLs" (for the new media newbies that's "laugh out loud").

"At first I was kind of disturbed by it but then I realized that this was the internet at its best," said San Angel.

Two years ago, the theater artist was in the market for a ukulele when he came across the incredible story of Alvin Okami, an inventor, musician and craftsman whose family-owned manufacturing company was rescued from the brink of bankruptcy by the ukulele, a four-string instrument that has become synonymous with Hawaiian culture.

Among other things, Okami invented the spam musubi maker and the toothpaste tube squeezer.

San Angel knew this story had all the makings of a great doc-

umentary. He envisioned an oral history style documentary with Okami, a skilled storyteller, leading the way.

"There aren't many documentaries about ukuleles. If there are, they're done in a PBS historical style or concert style."

To make "Koaloha," San Angel spent about \$25,000 of his own money on the top of the line camera and audio equipment. Then he headed to Hawaii where he shot over an hour's worth of Okami talking about the birth of his first ukulele.

On the plane back home to Philadelphia, San Angel turned on the camera to review the footage and saw nothing but static.

"I felt like a failure."

He filed the project away until months later when he ran into Rocky Kev, a talented animator, and told him the whole story.

"I laughed," said Kev, a 23-year-old second generation Cambodian American. "I'm a follower of Murphy's Law. 'Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.' But Gary didn't just chuck the footage. He saw the bigger picture and worked it differently."

The audio from the interview was intact, so why not animate?

I don't have any money, San Angel told Kev, but every time we work I'll buy you lunch. For over a year, they met at the restaurant inside the local Ikea furniture store to bring the Alvin Okami story to life.

It's a familiar story for all filmmakers passionate about their art.

"I believe in positive action," said Thym. "I strongly believe that if you want to make change, then don't wait for Hollywood to do it for you."

The next step, she adds, is to snag the attention of the mainstream machine to fund projects like "Lumina" and others. You know, like they do for Michael Bay.

"I want to contribute some alternatives to the traditional mainstream content that is available to viewers. Every view that 'Lumina' gets, I regard as a positive reinforcement that my stories can entertain people and as further validation of our casting decisions." ■

On the Web: [www.luminaseries.com](http://www.luminaseries.com)

### EXCLUSIVE

Watch 'The Koaloha Ukulele Story'



Want access to your own private internet screening of Gary San Angel's short animated film about Alvin Okami? It's exclusive for Pacific Citizen readers! Find out how at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org).



## APA Leaders Push for Family Reunification Immigration Reform Bill

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press



Rep. Mike Honda speaks at a recent press conference in support of "Family Unit."

Asian Pacific American lawmakers are pushing for passage of an immigration reform bill that would help Filipino World War II veterans and same-sex couples reunite with their families.

Rep. Mike Honda introduced the "Reuniting Families Act," June 4.

"The Reuniting Families Act should be at the heart of comprehensive immigration

reform," said Honda in a statement. "Our family-based immigration system has not been updated in 20 years, separating spouses, children and their parents, who have played by the rules, for years, often decades."

The bill seeks to clear the estimated 5.8 million people backlog by providing a legal mechanism to streamline the application process. Supporters say the backlog keeps families separate, often for decades.

It also includes a provision to allow same-sex couples to sponsor their foreign partners for residency and exempt the sons and daughters of Filipino WWII veterans from immigration caps.

About 200,000 Filipinos served with American troops during WWII. About 18,000 of them are still alive.

"I Have listened to many heartbreaking stories of sons and daughters of our Filipino World War II veterans waiting patiently in the Philippines with the hope that one day they will be able to come to the United States to care for their aging parents," said Rep. Mazie Hirono.

The report, "A Devastating Wait: Family Unity and the Immigration Backlogs," released last year by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center highlighted some important family immigration data and stories of APA immigrants waiting in line to reunify with family members.

According to the report, most family members waiting for reunification are mostly young families, recently married or with young children. ■

## Minority Lawmakers Want Bill to Close Health Gaps

By BEN EVANS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—Black, Latino and Asian lawmakers warned Democratic leaders that any health care overhaul that ignores health gaps between whites and minorities will face stiff opposition.

The lawmakers said they would be hard-pressed to support a bill without a new program providing access to health care for all Americans.

"The public health option has to be there," Rep. Mike Honda, a California Democrat who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, said at a news conference. "If we don't have a public option, there's no discussion."

Republicans are resisting a government health insurance program that would compete with private insurance companies, arguing that the companies would be put at a competitive disadvantage.

Members of the Asian Caucus, along with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said they plan to introduce legislation that includes their wish list for broadening health care overhaul beyond various plans floated in the House and Senate. The three minority caucuses have a total of 91 members, most of them Democrats and enough to help shape the final legislation.

Citing federal research showing higher rates of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and infant mortality among minorities, they said they would seek more funds for community health centers that provide care in poor neighborhoods.

The lawmakers also called for expanding a National Institutes of Health center that focuses on minority health concerns, works to improve work force diversity in the medical industry and collects more data to better track disparities in health care.

They said the costs of reaching into low-income, minority communities to improve upfront health care would be more than offset in the long run by preventing expensive procedures and hospital stays.

"Believe me, a comprehensive health care reform bill without the aspects that we're discussing today will be set for failure," said Rep. Nydia Velazquez, a New York Democrat who chairs the Hispanic Caucus.

Later, at a discussion of minority health issues at the White House, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the Obama administration is committed to addressing the "alarming disparity in the delivery of quality health care."

Doing so, Sebelius told officials, is critical to lowering health care costs.

Sebelius noted that 75 percent of the nation's \$2.2 trillion health care expenses go toward treating chronic diseases, referring to far higher rates of such diseases among minorities. She said the rising rates of HIV/AIDS among African-Americans is among "the most troubling" developments in U.S. health care.

"Minority Americans not only are more likely to be uninsured, so they don't have preventative care, don't have early intervention, but are less likely to have quality care when they come to seek the care that they need," she said.

The White House issued a summary report on minority health care showing that African Americans are seven times more likely as whites to have HIV/AIDS, that blacks and Hispanics have diabetes rates nearly twice as high as whites, and that black men are 50 percent more likely than whites to have prostate cancer.

The report said more than one in three Hispanics and American Indians, and about one in five African Americans, are uninsured. That compares to one in eight whites lacking coverage. ■

## come and explore

### at the Japanese American National Museum

#### You're Invited!

Celebrate all that has been presented within and beyond our walls with your fellow members, donors, and the community.

#### Happy 10th: Celebrating the Pavilion!

Saturday, June 20 • 11 AM-4 PM • Free All Day

Enjoy a day of exciting activities including:

- Family Fun Arts 'n Crafts All Day
- Fighting for Democracy Exhibition 11 AM-2 PM
- Children's Storytime 12 PM
- NEW! Family Tour of Common Ground: The Heart of Community 1 PM & 2 PM
- Taiko for Families Workshop 1:30 PM
- Performances by Paul Dateh, TAIKO PROJECT and Demon Drummer from East LA with CAVA 3:30 PM-5:30 PM

#### Special Announcement:

See the new kaeru frog design with a special t-shirt by Zolo Toys and a kaeru naming contest.

Visit janm.org for more information. Call 213.625.0414 for reservations to the Members' Coffee (ext. 2249).

This program is sponsored, in part, by American Honda Motor Co., Inc., LA County Arts Commission, and The Ratu Shimpō.

#### JUST FOR MEMBERS

- Members' Coffee & Architectural Tour 10 AM-11 AM (Reservations required; space limited).
- Upper-level Member Collections Tour & Tea (By Invitation) 2:30 PM
- Members' Raffle (1 FREE ticket per member; winners must be present to win).

#### Upcoming Public Programs

#### 2009 Summer Film Festival\*

June 18-28

Harsh Canvas: The Art & Life of Henry Sugimoto

\*Screenings are throughout the day in the Terasaki Orientation Theater.

#### Saturday, June 27

Little Tokyo Walking Tour 10:15 AM-12:15 PM

Craft Class with Ruthie Kitagawa: Origami Snail Garden Greeting Card and Decorative Balls

1 PM

Film Screening: On Paper Wings 2 PM

Programs are free with admission unless otherwise noted. Visit janm.org for more details, or call 213.625.0414.



# JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 • Tel 213.625.0414 • janm.org



## JACL to Honor Sen. Akaka at Gala Dinner



as a civilian worker and then on active duty in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1947. He returned to school after the war, enrolling at the University of Hawaii. He became a teacher and principal in the State of Hawaii.

Akaka was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 and was appointed to the Senate when Senator Spark Matsunaga passed away. He then won election to the Senate in 1990 and has served in Congress for 32 years.

The national JACL will honor Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, at its Gala Dinner in Washington, D.C. Sept. 17 for his tireless efforts to fight for the good of all veterans. In addition to the Senator, JACL will also honor Japanese American veterans at its third annual gala event.

"Senator Akaka's dedication to the legacy of veterans is legend," said National JACL Director Floyd Mori. "Veterans owe much to the Senator's steadfast efforts to assure good care and keeping for those who gave so much for our liberties, including his support for the Filipino Veterans Equity Act that was recently signed into law."

Sen. Akaka is America's first senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry and the only Chinese American member of the U.S. Senate. Upon graduation from high school, he served

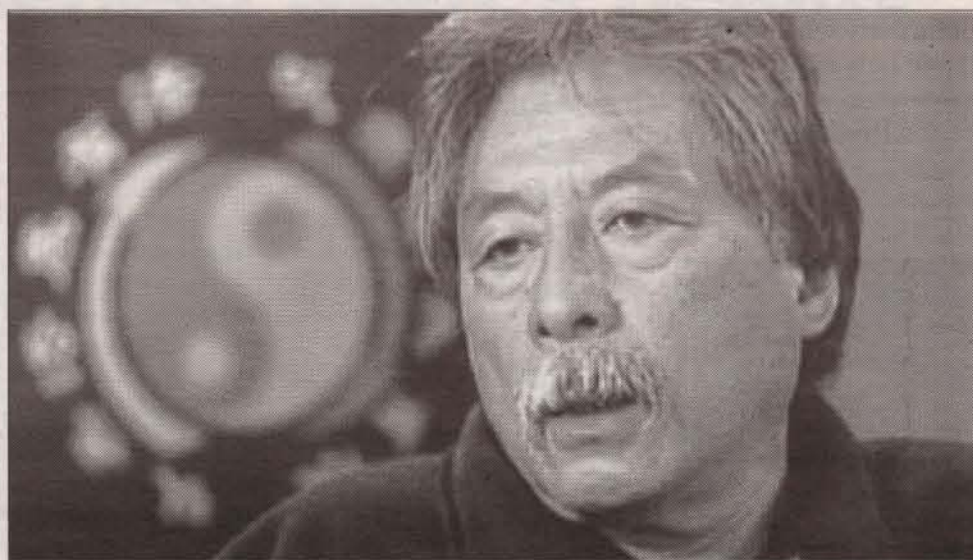
Besides being a veteran himself, Sen. Akaka has tirelessly served veterans and others for decades. He is chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management of the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia. He also serves on the Armed Services, Indian Affairs, and Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committees.

Sen. Akaka and his wife Millie have four sons and a daughter, plus 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The JACL Gala Dinner will also mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the JACL, which was organized in 1929 by Nisei leaders.

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

## Nisei Taky Kimura Receives Belated High School Degree



Taky Kimura was finally able to receive his high school diploma after missing the ceremonies in 1942 because of his incarceration in a World War II internment camp.

**Taky Kimura, 85, was surprised to learn his martial arts students had arranged the whole thing.**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLALLAM BAY, Wash.—Sixty-seven years ago, an 18-year-old Taky Kimura was preparing for his high school graduation from Clallam Bay School.

He never made it to the ceremony.

At about noon on that June day in 1942, he and his family of nine were put in old railroad cars with windows boarded up and swept away to Tule Lake Internment Camp in California.

On June 13, Kimura, now 85, received his diploma at last, during a graduation ceremony for the class of 2009 at Clallam Bay High School.

"It is such an honor to be able to do this," he said.

Kimura operates the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute in Seattle with his son, Andy. When he was 36, Kimura befriended the 18-year-old Bruce Lee who trained him in the martial arts.

Some of Kimura's students heard that he had never received his high school diploma and phoned the school.

"They went behind my back and called," said Kimura, who added he never dreamed of asking the school to allow him to participate in the graduation.

"When I found out, I asked them, 'What the hell did you do that for?'"

Superintendent of Cape Flattery School District Kandy Ritter said that the school and students were excited that Kimura was part of the ceremony.

When he was 18, Kimura had wanted to be a doctor after earning a scholarship to Washington State University. But four years in an internment camp changed him.

"With the incarceration and the camps — and we were called all kinds of names — I lost all esteem for myself. It really ruined me."

Kimura described himself as a "broken man, mentally and physically," until he met the young Chinese American who inspired him. He said that Lee helped him accept his circumstances and rebuild himself.

"I was old enough to be his father, but he became something of a surrogate father to me," he said.

In addition to becoming Lee's friend — and eventually a pallbearer at his funeral and the caretaker of his grave in Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle — Kimura worked with his parents at the grocery stores they opened in the area.

The stores were closed in 2001, and now Kimura focuses his attention on running the martial arts school that Lee founded in 1960 to teach Jeet Kune Do.

"We don't make any profit off of this," Kimura said. "What me and my son are trying to do is to teach these young people how to deal with their problems."

Kimura said he holds no bitterness against the government for his internment at Tule Lake during WWII.

"That is water under the bridge now," he said. "You can't live your life being bitter about that, because the only person it hurts is yourself."

His father, Suejiro, had moved to the United States when he was 16; his mother, Haruyo, when she was 15.

The couple, he said, never would have encouraged or joined an uprising against the country that had become their home.

In Clallam Bay, it was different. The people of Clallam Bay/Seki area took them in like family and still remain close to his heart, Kimura said.

He especially remembers Hazel K. Murrey, who was principal at the school when he was there.

"She treated me almost like her son or something ... She was a big point in my life out there."

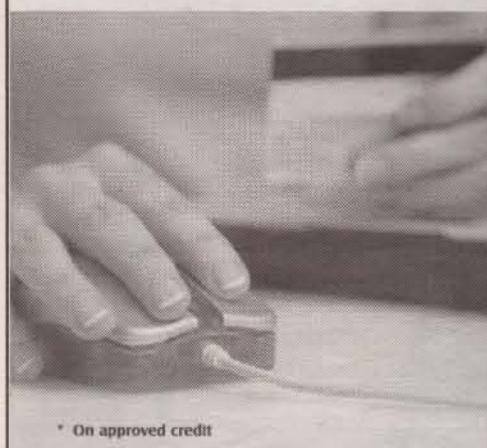
Another local he remembers with great respect is a country doctor he knew only as Dr. Baker.

"When all the stuff with the internment camps started coming up, he called up one of the generals of the Army and said that if they would let us stay here, he knew we were great people," Kimura said.

"Clallam Bay has been a huge part of my life," he said, adding that he returns every so often to visit the "old timers." "It is where I grew up." ■

## Great Rate with Rewards

Earn rewards with JACL Credit Union's VISA® Platinum

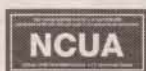


JACL Credit Union's VISA® Platinum Credit Card\* is just the card for you! Not only do you get a low rate, but our VISA® Platinum comes with rewards. Earn points with every purchase and enjoy no annual fee.

We also offer a VISA® Classic Credit Card\*, which has no annual fee and is perfect for building credit. Whether you need to improve your credit or if you are just starting, our VISA® Classic is the perfect card for you.

Visit our website for current rates. Call or come in to get your credit card today!

(800) 544-8828 • [www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)



National JACL Credit Union



## COMMENTARIES

## Working with JACL for Common Community Causes

**Before my fellowship, I didn't know how extensively JACL worked on an advocacy level. Now I have firsthand experience.**

By CRYSTAL XU



Prior to my work here at the JACL, I worked with Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., as a congressional aide in the district. I served as the

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community liaison among other duties. I've always been passionate about working with the AAPI community.

Working in the district office of a Congressional member gave me an opportunity to work with many non-profit and community-based organizations. It also gave me great insight on how beneficial they are to the community and the members they serve. When I saw an opportunity to work in the policy office at JACL, I was immediately interested.

Before I was selected to be the JACL's Mineta fellow, I was not aware of how extensively JACL worked on an advocacy level. Although the JACL is a community-based organization with members across the nation, it serves a broader community.

The work that I did in the Washington, D.C. office focused on policy work as well as advocacy for the AAPI community, addressing issues that face our communities as well as basic human rights issues. I followed legislation that was of concern to the JACL including but not limited to immigration, the Census, service nation and Japanese Latin American issues.

Another position I held during the fellowship was with the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), a coalition of 27 nationally recognized AAPI organizations that JACL National Director Floyd Mori chairs. Serving as the NCAPA staff person, I worked very closely with all 27 different organizations to further NCAPA's agenda for the AAPI community.

This year, NCAPA was especially involved with the new administration. NCAPA played a huge role in writing support letters and recommendations for appointment positions. As a member of the NCAPA staff, I worked closely with the executive committee as well as all the executive directors of NCAPA to compose these letters and send them to Donald Gips, the White House director of presidential personnel.

My experience working with JACL and NCAPA has given me great insight on how hard all these AAPI organizations come together to work for a common cause and I plan to continue to do work with the AAPI community in my future endeavors. ■

*Crystal Xu was the 2008-09 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.*

## Table Tennis Champion Joins the Millennium Club

By IRENE MORI

When JACL National Director Floyd Mori met David Sakai at a function, he asked the printing company president & CEO some printing questions and then asked him to join the JACL.

David, a Sansei from Bowie, Maryland, later came to the JACL Washington, D.C. office to discuss printing. He went home a new JACL Millennium Club member.

He said he wanted to get involved with the JACL because besides relatives, he hasn't had a lot of interaction with other Japanese Americans in the past.

David is also a champion in table tennis who continues to play and compete even in his 60s. He's played table tennis competitively for over 40 years. He won at the 1964 U.S. Open and became the no. 2 U.S. junior at the U.S. Open in 1965.

He's competed in every U.S. Open and national table tennis championship in the last 36 years.

"I've lost more matches than anyone in history and probably won more matches than anyone as well."



DAVID SAKAI

In 2004, David was inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame.

In 1976, David was vice president of a newly formed Players Association and was among a number of players who boycotted and picketed the Philadelphia U.S. Open tournament. They wanted to become professional and play for substantial sums of money in order for the sport to grow. Six months later, much more prize money was offered to the players.

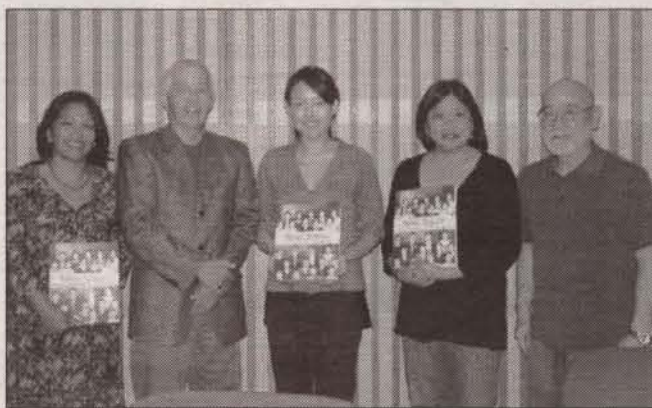
David also met his wife Donna through table tennis. They won the mixed doubles championship at the U.S. Open in 1977. Donna was inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame eight years earlier.

He started his own successful printing business, but always kept up with table tennis.

David continues to practice almost every day to stay in top form and competes in approximately 35 tournaments a year. ■

*For more information on how to become a JACL Millennium Club member, go to [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) or call JACL national headquarters 415/921-5225.*

## 'Nisei Voices' to be Placed in San Francisco District School Libraries



Pictured (l-r) are: Hydra Mendoza, Greg Marutani, Jane Kim, Sandra Lee Fewer and Hiroshi Shimizu.

The Curriculum and Program Committee of the San Francisco School Board unanimously voted recently to have copies of "Nisei Voices: Japanese American Students of the 1930s — Then and Now" placed in its middle and high school libraries.

Earlier this year author Joyce Hirohata contacted the JACL San Francisco Chapter expressing her desire to have copies of the book, initially begun by her grandfather Paul Hirohata when he collected nearly 50 valedictory speeches given by Nisei in the 1930s, in the district libraries.

Copies of the book were sent to members of the Program and Curriculum Committee comprised of Sandra Lee Fewer, chair, Jane Kim and Hydra Mendoza. The book was referred to Pete Hammer, history/social studies content specialist for the district, who prepared a

review of the book that included possible classroom use of the book and how the book would address the California standards for history. His recommendation to accept the book was then sent to the members of the committee.

"We are grateful to Joyce [Hirohata] for making copies of her book available to the public school libraries in San Francisco" said Hiroshi Shimizu, S.F. chapter president. He added, "Having Greg [Marutani] following through with the district's formal procedures and kept the project moving forward to this successful conclusion."

The book will be distributed to the school libraries prior to the start of the fall semester along with a letter that will provide a brief background about the gift of the book to the libraries. ■



**Blue Shield of California**  
An Independent Member of the Blue Shield Association



## Health Plans for California JACL Members

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at  
**1.800.400.6633**  
or visit [www.jaclhealth.org](http://www.jaclhealth.org)





## MORI

(Continued from page 2)



D.C. staffers (l-r) Floyd Mori, Mai Suzuki, Ide Viriya and Shirley Tang.

ization that has awarded a grant to the JACL. It was a great and well-attended conference that addressed issues of health disparity and other health issues facing the Asian Pacific American community.

JACL was also represented at a recent D.C. summit sponsored by Senate Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for APA community leaders, many of them from the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) — an APA coalition that I chair.

JACL national board members Sheldon Arakaki, vice president of general operations, and Ron Katsuyama, vice president of public affairs, also attended the D.C. summit.

At the event, Congressman Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), greeted participants and former Sec. of Transportation and Commerce Norman Mineta spoke to the group.

Other members of Congress who attended the summit and addressed participants were: Sens. Daniel Akaka, Daniel Inouye, and Debbie Stabenow, and Reps. Madeleine Bordallo, Ahn (Joseph) Cao, Eni Faleomavaega, Al Green, Bobby Short and David Wu.

I've also been regularly invited to the White House for various policy and personnel meetings, functions and events. In the meeting to discuss the nomination of Sonia Sotomayer for the Supreme Court, I was one of only two APAs in the discussion.

The JACL is often called upon to represent the APA community. And the JACL continues to have relevance in today's world. It is important for us to keep up our vigilance in the arenas of civil and human rights, education, heritage, fundraising, leadership, senior and youth issues, and other interests of our organization. ■

## OREN

(Continued from page 2)

P.C. has put into organizing this paper for 80 years.

Unlike many online blogs, the P.C. writes a lot of investigative reports on the APA community. The P.C. print edition not only unites communities from various parts of the nation but also bridges the gap between the different generations. The Letters to the Editor section is a display of the diverse opinions of P.C. readers from the West Coast to the East Coast.

I love newsprint but when I want my jolt of APA news, I know I can rely on the P.C. Web site. I can easily read the latest P.C. headlines as well as search through P.C.'s archive of past articles. What is most exciting about the online edition, is the way it incorporates new ways of seeing and participating in the virtual newsroom. Through the P.C. Beat blog I can find out what articles the P.C. staff is working on. It's like a sneak preview of what I can look forward to both online and in the print edition.

What is most exciting is the "My P.C." feature where any JACL members and paid subscribers, including the youth, can contribute to the online P.C. We are in an exciting age where the way we intake news and information is no longer just a one-way road where editors moderate the boundaries of an issue. Blogs and networking sites like Twitter have accelerated the speed of spreading information. With "My P.C.," JACL members have a forum to contribute articles

and write comments that directly impact the APA community without waiting for the article to go to the printing press.

We've heard it over and over again: older JACL members want to hear the voice of the youth. In the past, the P.C. has provided a space where the youth can vocalize their thoughts on APA issues. The "My P.C." section gives youth a bigger space to present their slant. This can be our opportunity as youth members to show other members we exist and we want to make a difference.

Some like *The Daily Show's* Jones may say print media is a relic of the past, but I look forward to getting it in the mail — since it is the *only* thing that I get in the mail these days. The paper edition is my refuge from gazing at the computer screen eight hours a day. On the other hand, the online edition is my online archive of favorite articles as well as a way to stay connected with local APA communities.

This is why the P.C. needs our support. Contribute to the Spring Campaign and if you give \$150 dollars or more you will be entered into a drawing for a cruise to Mexico. You will be supporting a prestigious APA newspaper and just might be the lucky supporter to read the latest P.C. news while under the Mexican sun sipping on a margarita. Now that's a sweet deal. ■

Naomi Oren is the youth representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.



Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

## National business and Professional Directory

## Greater Los Angeles

**Dr. Darlyne Fujimoto,**  
Optometrist & Associates  
A Professional Corporation  
11420 E. South St, Cerritos, CA 90703  
(562) 860-1339

## Paul Jay Fukushima

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
Wills & Trusts  
Probate & Conservatorships  
paul@fukushimalaw.com  
12749 Norwalk Blvd. Suite 111  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 864-2575

## Cambridge Dental Care

**Scott Nishizaka D.D.S.**  
Family Dentistry & Orthodontics  
900 E. Katella, Suite A  
Orange, CA 92867 • (714) 538-2811  
www.cambridgedentalcare.com

## HOWARD IGASAKI, D.D.S., INC.

**ALAN IGASAKI, D.D.S.**  
Dental Implants / General  
22850 Crenshaw Blvd., Ste. 102  
Torrance, CA 90505  
(310) 534-8282

## Phoenix, Ariz.

**YUKI TADANO**  
REALTOR®, GRI



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE  
(602) 565-1630  
yuki.tadano@azmoves.com  
www.azmoves.com

## San Jose, Calif..

## MISAO KUSUDA, M.D.

Psychiatry  
20833 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 100  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
(408) 930-CALM  
(408) 930-2256

## Oakland, Calif.

## KITAZAWA SEED CO.

SINCE 1917

The Asian Vegetable Seed Source for  
Gardeners, Retailers, Growers  
Request a Catalog

P.O. Box 13220 Oakland, CA 94661-3220  
ph: 510/595-1188 fx: 510/595-1860  
kitaseed@pacbell.net kitazawaseed.com

## Seattle, Wash.

**UWAJIMAYA**  
...Always in good taste.



For the Best of  
Everything Asian  
Fresh Produce, Meat,  
Seafood and Groceries  
A vast selection of  
Gift Ware

Seattle, WA • (206) 624-6248  
Bellevue, WA • (425) 747-9012  
Beaverton, OR • (503) 643-4512

## Join YOUR Credit Union Today

JACL Credit Union has all the financial services you need



National JACL Credit Union  
has been proudly serving JACL  
members nationwide since 1943.

We provide services to meet the  
financial needs of our members  
while operating with the same  
philosophy, People Helping  
People.

Members can take advantage of:

- FREE Checking
- Online Account Access
- Mortgage & Home Equity Loans
- CDs
- FREE VISA Debit Card
- FREE Online Bill Pay
- VISA Credit Cards
- Money Market Accounts

If you have any questions, call us toll free or visit our website.

Open your National JACL Credit Union account today!

(800) 544-8828 • www.jaclcu.com



National JACL  
Credit Union



# GO SEE DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



In 2007, participants got their taiko on.

## The Last JACL Youth Conference

ST. PAUL, Minn.  
June 26-28

*The youth-led conference has been a stand alone JACL tradition for decades. Starting in 2010, the event will become a part of the JACL's new annual national convention tradition. This year's conference, themed 'IMPACT! Your Community, Your Generation, Your JACL' takes place at Macalester College.*

**For more information:**

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

### National

#### JACL MDC/EDC Conference

CINCINNATI

July 24-26

"Partnering for Change: Building Bridges in our Communities" at the Cincinnati Marriott River Center will feature workshops, speakers and activities. Registration is \$130, hotel \$119/night. The registration deadline is July 5.

Info and registration: Bill Yoshino, [midwest@jacl.org](mailto:midwest@jacl.org), 773/728-7170 or [www.jaclmdc.org](http://www.jaclmdc.org).

#### JACL Gala Dinner

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thu., Sept. 17

"A Salute to Japanese American Veterans"; J.W. Marriott Hotel.

**GO!**

### SOUP TO SUSHI

(a special collection of favorite recipes)

New Deluxe 3-Ring Binder Cookbook With Over 750 Recipes

\$25 (plus \$5.50 handling)

Wesley United Methodist Women  
566 N. 5th Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

Info: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) or 202/223-1240.

#### JACL IDC-PNWDC Conference

ONTARIO, Ore.

Sept. 30-Aug. 2

"Atarashii Hajimari ... A New Beginning" at the Holiday Inn will feature workshops, speakers, movies, a banquet and craft vendors.

Info and registration: Janet Komoto, 208/739-2777 or [janetkomoto@gmail.com](mailto:janetkomoto@gmail.com).

### East

#### Bento and Baseball

LOWELL

Sat., June 20

2 p.m.

Middlesex Community College, Federal Building, Assembly Room Screening of "Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball"; bento afterwards. 5 p.m.

Lowell Spinners vs. Vermont Lake Monsters. \$10/JACL members, \$12/non-members.

Info: Stephen Nishino, [nishino@nejacjcl.org](mailto:nishino@nejacjcl.org) or 781/647-9293.

### Midwest

#### JACL-CJAF Grad Celebration

SOLO, Ohio

Sun., July 12

12:30 p.m.

Shinano Restaurant, 28500 Miles Rd. Luncheon recognizes its 2009 graduates; \$18/person, \$15/student, non-graduates.

RSVP: Keith Asamoto, 216/921-2976 or Aiko Ebihara, 440/775-4435.

#### Flower Drum Song

ST. PAUL

Sat., July 11

**SEE!**

7:30 p.m.

McKnight Theatre  
345 Washington St.

David Henry Hwang's adaptation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic; tickets \$22; RSVP by June 30 to Joanne Kumagai, 763/420-6639 or [joannekumagai@comcast.net](mailto:joannekumagai@comcast.net).

### Pacific Northwest

#### Bon Odori

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 8

5 p.m.

Between 5th Ave. & Legion St. on Water St.

Featuring food, martial arts demon-

stration, obon dancing and a peace observance at Capitol Lake at 9 p.m. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562 or [sgtmilehibob@yahoo.com](mailto:sgtmilehibob@yahoo.com).

### Northern California

#### Japanese Cultural Fair

SANTA CRUZ

Sat., June 20

11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Mission Plaza Park

The free event, co-sponsored by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, will feature presentations of Japanese culture.

Info: [www.jcfsc.org](http://www.jcfsc.org) or Chieko at 831/462-4589.

#### JACL Spaghetti Dinner

STOCKTON

Sat., Sept. 19

4:30 p.m.

Stockton Buddhist Temple Gym

Eat for a good cause! The proceeds benefit Stockton JACL Education Fund. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$4/children (10 and under).

Info: 209/476-8528.

#### JACL Community Picnic

WATSONVILLE

Sat., June 27

**DO!**

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Aptos Village Park  
100 Aptos Creek Rd

Picnic attractions include races, bingo, food and a raffle. The event, sponsored by Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, will also feature the 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.

#### Summer Matsuri

WATSONVILLE

Sun., June 28

Noon-5 p.m.

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

### NEVADA

#### National Singles Convention

LAS VEGAS

Sept. 18-20

Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall The 12th annual singles convention will include a golf tournament (if sufficient interest), welcome reception, workshops, gala dinner-dance and Sunday brunch \$160/full registration; hotel \$89.99/night, single or double occupancy.

Info: [www.jaclsc.com](http://www.jaclsc.com) or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/496-3763. ■

## \*Advertise

'Go•SEE•Do' is a free limited listing for P.C. readers. Not all event submissions are listed.

Don't see your event here?

Find out how to get a

**guaranteed** listing.

Contact the P.C.:

(800) 966-6157

or [busmgr@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:busmgr@pacificcitizen.org)

### INDIVIDUAL C-STORES FOR SALE IN PA, OH & NY

These 113 stores offer an excellent opportunity to acquire recession-resilient, cash-flow generating businesses with or without real estate. Prospective buyers can acquire single stores for a few thousand dollars and are NOT required to keep the current fuel brand. For more info:

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

Matt Murphy — 410.752.3833, ext. 3

Kim Wagner — 410.752.3833, ext. 4

### MAYFLOWER TRANSIT LLC



A portion of each move is donated to JACL HQ.

Call Today for a Free Competitive Quote.

Please mention JACL  
800-392-3596

PUC CAL T-182,288; USDOT #125563; TX DOT #636711

# OBON

## FESTIVAL • JULY 11-12, 2009

SAN JOSÉ BUDDHIST CHURCH BETSUIN IN SAN JOSÉ'S JAPANTOWN  
FIFTH STREET BETWEEN JACKSON & TAYLOR STREETS, 95112  
SATURDAY FROM NOON TO 10:00PM - SUNDAY FROM NOON TO 8:00PM  
[WWW.SJBETSUIN.COM](http://WWW.SJBETSUIN.COM) OR (408) 293-9292 FOR INFORMATION



## TRIBUTE

**MASAYE DOI**

June 13, 1924-May 18, 2009



Masaye Doi, 84, of Brighton, Colo., died Mon., May 18 in Brighton. Masaye was born June 13, 1924, in Murray, Utah to Toranosuke and Masami (Hashimoto) Tadehara.

Masaye graduated from Murray High School in Murray, Utah. She married Tom Doi on Sept. 2, 1948, in Las Vegas, Nev. Masaye moved between Murray and the Denver area before settling in Brighton in 1965. She helped operate the family accounting business, Tom Doi Accounting, and also worked as a full-time legal assistant for many years.

*'Masaye enjoyed bowling, fishing, gambling and spending time with her grandchildren.'*

Masaye was a member of the Brighton Sangha, the Brighton JAA, and was also active in the Brighton Senior Center. Masaye enjoyed bowling, fishing, gambling and spending time with her grandchildren.

Masaye is survived by her children, Carol Doi (Craig Minor) of Niwot, Colo., Robert (Lorraine) Doi of Tinton Falls, N.J., BJ (Jim) Gardner of Wildwood, Mo., a sister, Sei Otani of Salt Lake City, Utah and brothers, Itsuo Tadehara of Brighton and Bill Tadehara of Seattle, Wash., and grandchildren James and Erin Gardner and Leslie, Anders, and Elliot Minor.

A memorial service to celebrate Masaye's life was held May 28 at the Tabor-Rice Funeral Home in Brighton. Tabor-Rice Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

(562) 598-9523

Established 1965

**Imperial Jewelry Mfg. Co.**

Fine Jewelry • Custom Designing • Repair

11072 Los Alamitos Blvd.  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

**WILLS, TRUSTS, PROBATE**

日本語でどうぞ

(310) 540-9266

Thomas N. Shigekuni & Associates  
Ste. 625, 21515 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503



RELIABLE, COMPASSIONATE, PERSONALIZED

9111 VENICE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015  
TEL (213) 749-1449  
FAX (213) 749-0265

日本語でも親切にお世話をさせていただきます。

www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com



Four Generations of Experience FD #808

707 East Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Ph. 213/626-0441  
Fax 213/617-2781

Gerald Fukui  
President**REVERSE MORTGAGE**

Call for a free information package

If you are 62 or older and own your house,  
a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!

- Turn Home Equity into Tax Free Cash
- You keep title to your home
- No Monthly Mortgage Payments
- Safe FHA Program Designed for Seniors

*"I pledge to provide excellent customer service  
with the highest standard of ethics"*

25+ Years Experience as a Financial Professional

**David C. Miyagawa Chee**

Certified Public Accountant

CA Dept. of Real Estate - Real Estate Broker #01391106

1-800-967-3575



Sandra Otaka 1952-2009

**Cook County's First APA Judge Was a Community Advocate**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Judge Sandra Otaka, a community advocate who helped overturn the conviction of Fred Korematsu and the first Asian Pacific American to be elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in Illinois, died June 6 of natural causes, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. She was 57 years old.

"Sandra was a dear friend to the Asian American community," said Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director. "She instinctively cared about fairness and justice in issues affecting our community."

Otaka, a Sansei and a Chicago JACL member, was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2002.

Before that, the California native whose mother was a former Minidoka internee, campaigned against the Vietnam War, worked as a waitress, and enrolled as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley at 28.



'If I can do it, anyone can,' said Otaka at a 2005 JACL Bi-District event in Chicago.

At Berkeley, Otaka volunteered as a legal clerk with the law firm of Minami, Lew and Tamaki, working to overturn the conviction of Korematsu, who was jailed in 1944 for failing to report to an internment camp. She was in the courtroom in 1983, when Judge Marilyn Patel overturned the conviction.

"When Judge Patel read her opinion vacating [Korematsu's] case, everyone was crying in the court-

room, including me," said Otaka at a 2005 JACL Bi-District event in Chicago.

She received her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and moved to Chicago where she began her professional career as a commercial litigator before serving as a negotiator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1991, Otaka led a campaign to get Lynne Kawamoto appointed as the county's first APA associate judge. Over a decade later, Otaka earned the title "judge" herself and made history.

"If I can do it, anyone can," said Otaka at the same JACL Bi-District event.

"The high regard in which Sandra was held, the strong voice she provided, and the good deeds she accomplished did much to advance the cause of all Asian Americans," said Yoshino. ■

Kenji Murase 1920-2009

**Educator Brought Diversity to the Practice of Social Work**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Dr. Kenji Murase, a professor emeritus of social work at San Francisco State University and long-time advocate for Asian Pacific American mental health and social services, died June 2 at his home in San Francisco. He was 89.

Emily Murase, his daughter, said he died in his sleep.

Murase was known as a prolific writer. At SFSU, he devoted his 23-year tenure to making the practice of

social work more inclusive of diverse populations.

His career was greatly influenced by the help he received to continue his college education, said Emily Murase.

During World War II, Murase and his family were ordered to the Poston internment camp in Arizona.

With the help of the National Japanese American Relocation Council, formed by a small group of university administrators and championed by Eleanor Roosevelt,

Murase was one of about 5,000 Japanese American college students permitted to leave camp and continue his studies in the Midwest and East Coast.

Murase received his bachelor's degree from Temple University. In 1947, he earned a master's degree in social work and a PhD in 1961.

He is survived by his children and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Seiko, his wife of 42 years. ■

**IN MEMORIAM**

All locations are in California except as noted.

**Abe, Masaji, 87,**

Montebello, June 2; survived by wife, Yuriko; daughters, Geraldine (Tomio) Odama and Frances Tom; son, Roderick (Cindy Yuki); and 6 gc.

Odell; 6 gc.; and sisters, Yaeko Mikami and Haruko (Robert) Hiranaka.

sons, Ronald (Janet), Wayne and Peter; daughters, Joy (Peter) Wolfe and Debra (fiancé James Vasquez) Takemoto; and 8 gc.

**Hata, Seiji William, 82**

May 9; survived by son, Rick (Dee); daughter, Julie (Brian) Hamilton; 4 gc.; companion, Kathy Suyama; and sister, Miye (Henry) Kanazawa.

**Ozawa, Jane Miyako, 88**

Alhambra, June 2; former *Pacific Citizen* staffer handling circulation and general finances; East Los Angeles JACler; survived by sister, Hatsuko Nakatsuka.

**Teramoto, James Koichi**

San Jose, May 28; Marine veteran; survived by wife, Amy; daughters, Kim (Cyrus) Lum and Jennifer (Keith) Wong; 3 gc.; brother, Bob; and sisters, Lili Moriyama, Mary Lau and Sachiko Taketa. ■

**Ichimura, Yoshio, 91**

Honolulu, Haw., May 23; 442nd veteran; survived by son, Ian; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister, Yayeko Nonaka.

**Shintaku, Marguerite, 78**

Orange County, May 30; served in the Women's Army Corps; survived by sons, Kenji and Toshio (Tori); daughters, Karen (Ken) Brumm; 3 gc.; and sister, Fanny Lou Smith.

**Mikami, Takumi "Tuk," 85**

Seattle, Wash.; survived by wife, Yoshie; sons, Steve (Becky) and Michael; daughter, Joyce (Russell)

**Takemoto, Hitoshi "Jerry," 88**

Upper Deerfield Township, N.J., June 2; U.S. Army veteran; Seabrook JACler; survived by wife, Yoshiko;

*This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcomed. Tributes, 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.*



# JAPANESE HERITAGE NIGHT & FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009 @ 7:10PM

*Dodgers*

VS.



Nisei Week Court will be introduced prior to the game  
and the Japanese Consul General will throw out the first pitch!

SAVE UP TO **50%** OFF  
THE GAMEDAY PRICE!

Visit: [dodgers.com/japan](http://dodgers.com/japan)  
Promo Code: Japan

SIT IN MY TOWN  
*Dodgertown*  
JAPAN

All-Inclusive Section Including:  
Japanese Menu  
Dodgertown, Japan T-Shirt

Visit: [dodgers.com/sitinmytown](http://dodgers.com/sitinmytown)  
to purchase.

Great for Groups!  
SIT IN MY TOWN June 26



## To Purchase Tickets:

For groups of 30 or more contact Afton Kurth at  
323-224-1565 or email [aftonk@ladodgers.com](mailto:aftonk@ladodgers.com)

THIS IS MY TOWN  
*Dodgertown*  
JAPAN

