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S.F. Japantown



Will redevelopment plans keep culture intact?

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Apology, Please



Assemblyman Paul Fong seeks redress for Chinese immigrants.

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Unsung WWII Vets



Women Air Force pilots may get Congressional Gold Medals.

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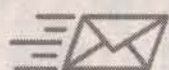
{ IN DEPTH }

Saving Minidoka

Preservationists say a feedlot would jeopardize the historic site's history. Now community groups are fundraising for a legal battle.

>> page 3

PHOTO: DENSHO



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Aya Medrud in 1930.

P.C. is Only Connection to Other APA Communities

I've gotten e-mails and phone calls from recipients of the latest *Pacific Citizen* (June 5-18). I appreciate the issue, not just the article on the Depression ('From Depression to Recession: APA Survivor Stories Have New Significance'). But generally the issue is current, relevant and well written. For some JAs the P.C. might be the only connection to APA communities outside of their own. Thanks for your excellent work!

AYA MEDRUD
Boulder, Colo.

Re: Prop. 8 Decision

In regards to the article, "Same-sex Couples Struggle to Find Meaning After Prop. 8 Decision" in the June 5-18 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, evidently, they are a dedicated and devoted couple among the same-sex society. To assuage the majority, why not reserve the term "marriage" to be a union of a bride and groom?

As for the "marriage" of the same-sex group, why not use some other appropriate term such as "same sex union" or some other appropriate term that is meaningful and at the same time requires a license. This way, the couple may enjoy all the same benefits as a married couple.

LEO H. HOSODA
Roseville, CA

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JACL is at the Table in D.C.

By FLOYD MORI



The most asked question that I get these days is: "What is it like being in D.C. with the new Administration?" There is considerable curiosity as to whether or not the President has brought the "change" that he promised. Is the federal government beginning to reflect what the "real" America is today rather than the elitist perception that has prevailed in the recent past?

There is no question that there is an atmosphere of enthusiasm and a feeling of inclusion in the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. My AAPI colleagues have commented that we've been to the White House more times in the past five months than in the past 10 years.

It is important to note that the White House meetings have not been restricted to ceremonial events but to substantive discussions on policy and personnel. We have met with high-level officials, including the president and the first lady, on issues from fatherhood to Sotomayer and from health care reform and public service to the White House Initiative on AAPIs. A critical fact is that there are AAPI faces on the other side of the table.

Processes continue to exist, and this causes anxiety waiting for a final decision. Vetting, legal definitions and political posturing continue to exist, and

See MORI/Page 13

INSIDE



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PHOTO: KRIS PRICE/SEIU

Calling for Passage of the DREAM Act

Students across the nation hold 'DREAM' graduations. JACL and other APA groups urge lawmakers to pass the bill that would allow undocumented students the chance to achieve the American dream.

Saving History

APA groups are fundraising to pay for a legal battle over Minidoka. >> Page 3

S.F.'s Nihonmachi

J-town merchants worry redevelopment plans will erode culture. >> Page 4

Say You're Sorry

A Calif. lawmaker wants an apology for past mistreatment. >> Page 5

Help for ELLs

An Iowa school changes its language learner procedure. >> Page 7

Identity Neurosis

Columnist Yumi Sakugawa tackles the double bind of being APA. >> Page 8

Getting to Know Soo

Jack Soo is the most famous Nisei actor you've never heard of. >> Page 9



A Belated Honor

WWII Women pilots could receive highest civilian honor. >> Page 11

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KAT HIRAYANAGI

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VIDEO: Watch the P.C.'s Kat Hirayanagi tell Helen she won!
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Preservationists Continue to Resist Feedlot Near Minidoka

A coalition, which includes the JACL, has been fighting the feedlot. Now, the need is to raise money for the legal expenses.

By **LESLIE K. TAMURA**
P.C. Correspondent

Stepping outside his house at night and looking up at the sky, Dean Dimond says he feels like he can touch the stars.

"That's one of the neatest things about living out where I do," he said. "But if they come and build this big [Confined Animal Feeding Operation, CAFO] ... your attention won't go to the stars."

Dimond is a fourth-generation farmer. Since 1994, he has been working the land near the site of the former Minidoka War Relocation Center in Jerome County, Idaho, raising grain, barley, hay and corn.

"We love it out here," he said. "We're out here kind of by ourselves. We've got good neighbors. It's open country, fresh air."

Dimond and his neighbors — including the recently named Minidoka National Historic Site — are up in arms along with several other organizations, however, as a new neighbor threatens to move into the area: a 13,000-animal 160-acre dairy feedlot.

"I'm not anti-agriculture at all," Dimond said. "Everybody has a few cows, but they're talking 13,000 animals, and any time you take that many animals and shove it into that small a space, there's a lot of odors and flies and crap like that, that I don't want to live in it."

Litigation against the feedlot has been ongoing for three years. Currently attorneys are in the preliminary phase of settling the record of the case, collecting information about Jerome County's decision-making process in approving the construction of the proposed factory farm.

Although the County Board of Commissioners initially denied the permit application, it reversed its decision in 2008 approving the construction of the feedlot within 1.5 miles of the national historic site.

Dimond and others worry that the proposed CAFO will have environmental, public health, cultural and economic consequences, among others.

"Placing facilities like this is a critical decision," said Richard Carlson, legal counsel for the Idaho Rural Council and the Dimond family. "If they're going to put [the CAFO] somewhere, they should put it someplace where they're not going to impact the residents of the area, the visitors, or those who have some kind of important connection with the Minidoka historic site."

Litigating to Save History

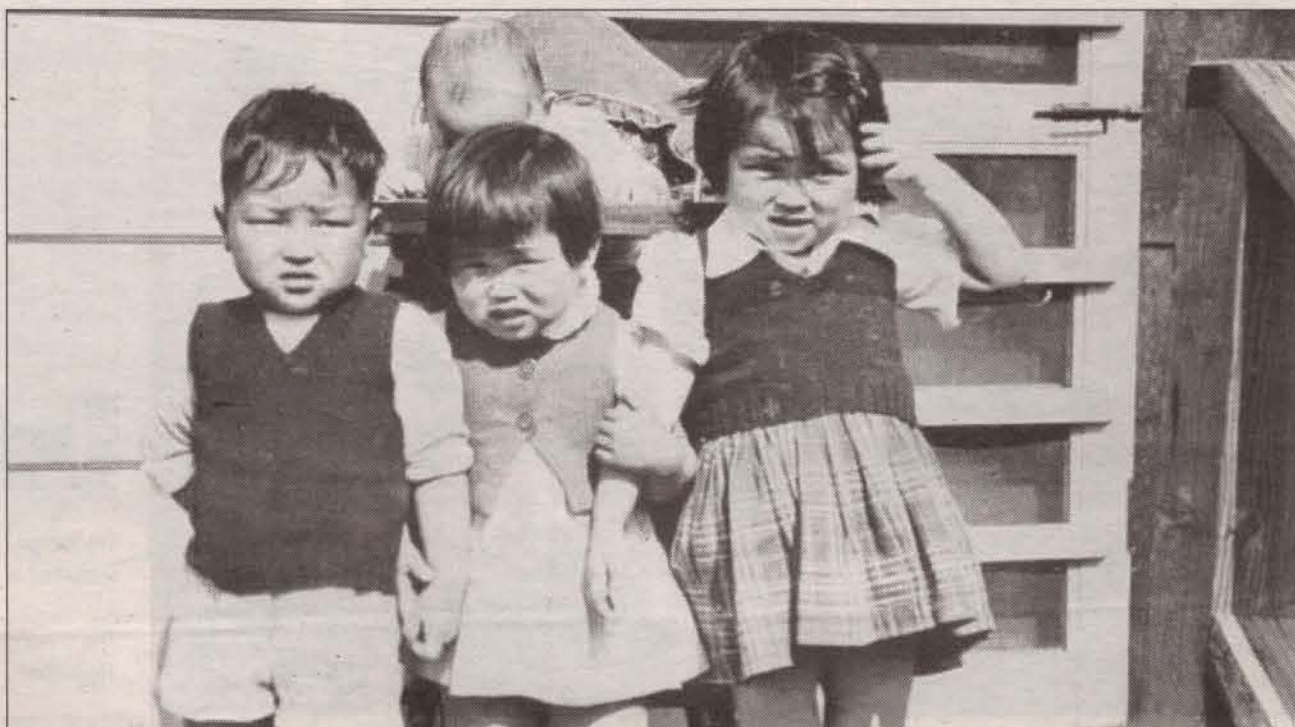
Legal efforts began in December 2006 to try and block the development of this facility. Big Sky Farms had proposed the feedlot, advocating the significant economic benefits of a CAFO for the area. Although it did not receive its initial permit, after an appeal in July 2008, a judge ruled in favor of the CAFO.

When the decision returned to the Jerome County Commissioners, however, no testimony was allowed. Commissioners did not hear comments from the National Park Service (NPS) and other organizations regarding the health, environmental and safety hazards associated with a CAFO located next to a national historic site. Idaho state laws pertaining to CAFOs limits testimony about permit applications to residents within one mile of the proposed site; this factory farm is just outside of that one-mile marker.

In a 2-to-1 vote, the commissioners approved the CAFO permit.

Commissioner Charlie Howell's primary concerns when he approved the permit, he said, were the rules and regulations of Jerome County.

"I can't say there won't be an impact; I don't know," Howell said. But Howell did say he predicted that although there may



Children in front of a Minidoka internment camp barrack, c. 1943

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENSHO

be more traffic and pollution because of the feedlot, there'd also be more jobs and increased market value for the area.

In September 2008, a coalition of organizations protested the CAFO's proposed site. The coalition includes the Friends of Minidoka, Preservation Idaho, the JACL, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment, the Dimond family, the Idaho Rural Council, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Since then, attorneys for the various organizations have been trying to settle the record as coalition members have organized environmental impact studies, public information efforts and rallied members against the feedlot.

"We believe that there were some serious mistakes made by the Jerome County Board of Commissioners in the hearing process that they went through before reaching their decision," Carlson said. "We're trying to get the court to consider evidence of some of the serious mistakes that occurred in the process of making their decision."

The lawsuit, which challenges Jerome County's approval of the CAFO and the constitutionality of the county's zoning ordinance limiting those who can testify, will likely stall feedlot construction until 2011. Still, predicting the litigation timeline is "just about impossible," Carlson added.

At the end of June 2009, attorneys for the coalition will have filed a motion to supplement the record with agenda, meeting minutes and other correspondence discussing the deliberative process of approving the CAFO permit, according to Charlie Tebbutt, legal counsel for the Western Environmental Law Center.

"We hope that the commissioners will take a hard look at the overall impacts," Tebbutt said. "Placing a huge livestock facility near a national monument makes no sense; it shows disrespect to those interned, area residents, and other national historic sites."

"This isn't your normal farm," Dimond said of the CAFO factory farm. "These are big rich people who are just coming in, trying to get richer."

Forced out, sold and consolidated, many family farms are lost to larger CAFOs according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As small farms shut down, local businesses suffer as factory farms choose to employ fewer people and purchase feed and supplies from outside sources.

"It's a business decision," Tebbutt added, "a poor business decision because of the [historic] interest of the particular area."

South View Dairy, the new owners of the permit for the Big

Sky Farms feedlot has several options as to where it can build its CAFO, says Tebbutt, and there is "no particular reason" for constructing a feedlot so close to the Minidoka site and to other local farms other than "it's affordable land."

Remembering Minidoka

One of the largest internment camps during World War II, the Minidoka War Relocation Center was once the temporary home for about 13,000 Japanese Americans who hailed from Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska, according to the NPS.

"The Minidoka National Historic Site is an important place in our nation's history," Tebbutt said. "It's not a pleasant place in United States history for everyone, but it reminds us of our own frailties and prejudices."

Not much remains of the camp located in south central Idaho. Although it was designated a National Monument in 2001 and a National Historic Site in 2008, there are no visitor facilities or services currently available. There are some remnants of former internment camp buildings, however, such as an entry guard station and waiting room.

According to the site's general management plan, the NPS is working to restore some of the original barracks to the site so visitors can have a better understanding of the internment experience as well as the local history.

Threatened by the CAFO development and poor public policy, the Minidoka camp was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered National Historic Sites of 2007 list.

Within the coalition doing its part to get the CAFO permit reversed, the JACL is activating its members in opposition to the factory farm development, in an attempt to preserve the Minidoka National Historic Site.

"At this juncture, the most pressing need right now is to convey to our membership the need to raise money for the legal expenses to fight the CAFO," Karen Yoshitomi, PNW regional director, wrote in an e-mail.

Having lived and worked in Jerome County for about 20 years, Dimond says he appreciates the solitude, the quiet of the area.

"The monument is something that's going to be here forever," he said, "I'm hoping that if they want this [national] park to succeed, they need to shut this CAFO down." ■

On the Web:

www.jacl.org
www.minidoka.org

S.F. Japantown Merchants Gain Time Before Redevelopment



PHOTO COURTESY OF AARON KITASHIMA

Traditional *mochitsuki* (traditional rice pounding) is part of the annual Obon festivities in San Francisco's Japantown (left).

The concrete five-tiered peace pagoda (above), the centerpiece of S.F.'s Japantown, was designed by Japanese architect Yoshiro Taniguchi.

The WWII internment and redevelopment in the 60s and 80s are still open wounds from many community members.

By NALEA J. KO
Reporter

Sakura Sakura store owner Stephen Jordan and his wife Mariko have operated their women's apparel and accessory shop in San Francisco's Japan Center for about 10 years, selling items like *yukatas* and *obis*. Over the years, Jordan said he has seen the community change and he is concerned about city plans to redevelop the area.

"Japantown should be a shining light in the city and not just another condominium or tourist site," Jordan continued. "If this becomes a condominium I don't know if it's conducive to business."

Sakura Sakura is located on the ground floor of the Kintetsu Mall in the Japan Center, a part of San Francisco's Japantown. Jordan's store is one of many retail stores that would be impacted by the Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan, or BNP, which proposes redevelopment of the area. The city is recommending "interior upgrades" and "exterior improvements" to the Japan Center buildings, among other things.

Jordan says he welcomes improvements to the community, but said he is worried that the plans could possibly alter the landscape he has become accustomed to for the past decade.

"The way I'm looking at it right now, I see that there is a draft and it's very inclusive of all parties. I think that last draft is very inclusive of everybody," Jordan continued. "As a merchant I care about my business, but I also care about Japantown as whole."

Others in the area echoed Jordan's sentiments, asking for more time to draft a "fair" plan. The San Francisco Planning Commission members voted June 25 to not endorse the BNP, which will give everyone in the community more time to voice their concerns. The commission staff will continue to rework the plan, collecting feedback from the community.

Jordan said repairs are needed to the buildings, indicating that there are leaks and heating and cooling problems. Community members hope the revised plan will ultimately preserve the distinctive character of Japantown.

"What's sad is the plan suggests raising the height limits of the Japan Center malls, and if all the legal processes go through, it would let the developer demolish the site and the city-owned garage below it," wrote Aaron Kitashima, a San Francisco-based blogger, in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*.

There are various scenarios proposed in the BNP. The "tallest scenario" proposes a 25-foot tower at Geary and Webster Street.

Besides proposed aesthetic repairs, city officials said other renovations are necessary to make buildings structurally sound. The garage in Japan Center is seismically unsafe, said Rosemary Dudley, lead planner with the San Francisco Planning Commission. Construction repairs to the commercial portion of Japan Center and the parking garage are estimated to cost \$45 million.

Storeowners say they fear their rents will increase after the renovations are completed, concerns city officials say they cannot dispute.

"I don't know [if rent will increase] because the scenarios that are studied are not moving forward at this point. However it would be surprising if they didn't go up. The previous owner of the mall was not collecting rent on a regular basis," Dudley said.

Merchants in Japantown said increasing the rent in this economy would further negatively impact business. "Our family has been here for over 100 years," said Nob Mihara, owner of the Paper Tree in Japantown. "I am hoping that the plan will be for the benefit of the community."

Jordan said he has experienced a monthly increase of about \$500 in his common area dues since the change of ownership. Retailers like Jordan also do not know where they will relocate to when redevelopment begins since city officials do not have a secured relocation site.

Japantown's History

There are three Japantowns in California including sites in Los Angeles, San Jose and San Francisco. San Francisco's Japantown has had a complex history, making concerns about renovations more palpable, said Kitashima, who was raised in the city.

"With only three remaining Japantowns in the United States, it is important to preserve all of them as best as possible," he said. "While the consensus of the community is to reject or delay the plan, it's a terrible sight to see when the community 'leaders' want to rush this plan without any real consideration of the general population."

Kitashima noted the Japantowns in the United States have experienced "racist" policies in the past, with the internment of Japanese Americans and past redevelopment plans.

Internment camps became a reality for JAs during World War II but by 1945 many Nikkei had returned to San Francisco's Japantown. Then in the 1960s to the 1980s families and businesses were displaced under the redevelopment plan, said community leaders. Planning for the current redevelopment plan was hastened in 2006 when the former Japanese owners of Kintetsu Corporation went public about seeking new buyers for its Japantown properties. In 2007 the Kintetsu and Miyako

malls were sold to 3-D Investments. Currently the entire center has multiple owners.

Ten sites within Japantown have been identified by the BNP historic resource survey as historically significant to the "Nikkei culture" and are eligible for the historic register. Places like the Nichiren Buddhist Church and the Sokoji-Soto Zen Buddhist Temple made the list. Former first lady Laura Bush designated San Francisco's Japantown as a Preserve America Community in 2008, recognizing it as a culturally significant, natural heritage site.

"The whole [past] redevelopment was seen as the second evacuation of Japantown," said Paul Osaki, executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. "I see this plan as a last chance to correct 67 years of bad planning. And if we fail on this third time around, I think it's strike three and we're out."

Most want more time to gather further community input and ensure that historical buildings are preserved.

"At this point in the draft plan process — none of the decisions this week will result in construction changes because we do not have the environmental study," said Dudley. Before any construction begins, an environmental study will need to be completed and is estimated to cost \$500,000. It is not financially feasible to begin any development until the next four to five years, said Dudley.

"There's a concern that this is going to make changes tomorrow, and what we've been trying to say is there is a lot of additional analysis — as well as ongoing changes before anything gets implemented," Dudley added. "I would imagine that once we get funding, it would take at least one to two years just for the environmental analysis."

A petition sponsored by the Concerned Stakeholders of San Francisco's Japantown had gathered 366 signatures as of June 26. Petitioners are also asking the city for more time to review the current plan.

Jordan did not sign the petition because he was unsure about who authored it. He said he hopes that there will be open communication about any future plans.

"I feel that the draft plan seems to be about as fair as they can get," Jordan said. "But nothing is going to happen if you do not have the cooperation of San Francisco. Change is always hard." ■

GET INVOLVED

For more information about the Japantown BNP, visit the San Francisco Planning Department (http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=57149).

Or to sign the petition, visit the Care 2 Petition Site (<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/against-japantown-plan>).

Calif. Legislator Seeks Redress For Chinese Immigrants

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—California's Chinese immigrants helped build ships, levees, irrigation systems and the transcontinental railroad. They worked in farm fields and mines and helped develop the abalone and shrimp industries.

For their efforts, they were rewarded with special taxes, forced out of towns and denied the rights to own property, marry whites and attend public schools. They also were subjected to violence, intimidation and denied equal protection by the courts.

State Assemblyman Paul Fong, a Cupertino Democrat whose maternal grandfather was subjected to immigration restrictions, thinks it is time the state and the federal governments formally apologize for the mistreatment of the Chinese.

"To move forward and become a stronger state, we need to recognize our mistakes," Fong said at a recent news conference.

It is not the first time state lawmakers have sought to make amends for past mistreatment to Chinese Americans.

In May, State Assemblyman Mike Eng and several civil rights organizations designated Dec. 17 as the Day of Inclusion. The day carries significance because it marks the date in which the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was repealed. The Magnuson Act, or the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act, was signed in 1943 and allowed Chinese Americans in the country to

become naturalized citizens.

The Chinese started coming to California in droves during the Gold Rush in the mid-1800s, hoping to strike it rich and return home. Many settled and more came, working in the mines or taking other jobs, including helping build the transcontinental railroad. Tens of thousands of Chinese immigrants were recruited to labor on the railroad. In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act then derailed other immigration efforts.

"It was a double standard all the way," until the mid-20th century, Fong has said. "They couldn't marry who they wanted. They couldn't buy property until the 1950s. Asians couldn't become (naturalized) citizens."

Eddie Wong, executive director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, said Chinese immigrants made "tremendous contributions to building society, building the economy of California. That should be recognized along with an apology."

Wong said in an interview with *The Mercury News* — a San Jose, Calif.-based newspaper — that he hopes to raise public awareness about past mistreatment more than anything.

"It's a point of respect," he said. "I'm not discounting the need for redress, but if the history and contribution are acknowledged in textbooks and pop culture, that's the ultimate

reward."

Fong has introduced a resolution in the Assembly that cites the contributions made by the Chinese and expresses California's deep regrets for the discrimination. The measure is scheduled to be considered this week by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, the first step in winning approval from the Legislature.

Fong said he also planned to seek an apology from the federal government and some form of reparation, such as a contribution to maintain the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, which housed Chinese immigrants between 1910 and 1940 as they tried to prove they were eligible to enter the U.S.

Angel Island was dubbed the "Ellis Island of the West" because it served as a quarantine and immigration station. The island is a state park, that could be closed as a result of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's state budget recommendations.

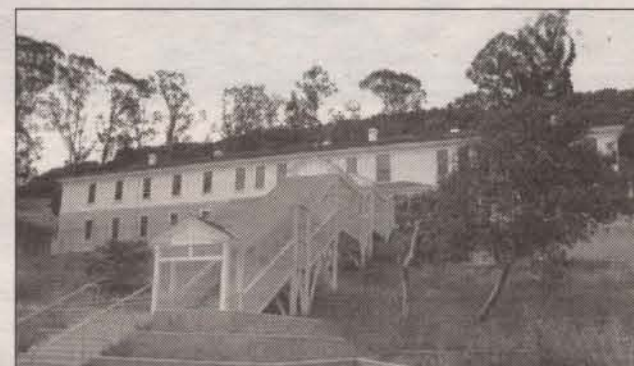
Historically Congress has rarely apologized for government mistreatment and reparations. In 1988, Congress apologized for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and offered \$20,000 payments to survivors. It also issued an apology in 1993 to native Hawaiians for the unlawful overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Legislation is pending in Congress to apologize for slavery, and for years of mistreatment to Native American Indians.

Fong and a resolution co-author, Assemblyman Kevin De Leon, D-Los Angeles, said it has drawn some negative and "very racist" reaction in reader comments on newspaper Web sites, but they predicted it would pass the state Legislature.

A spokeswoman for state Senate Minority Leader Dennis Hollingsworth, R-Temecula, said he had no comment on the proposal.

Many in the Chinese American community said an apology is long overdue.

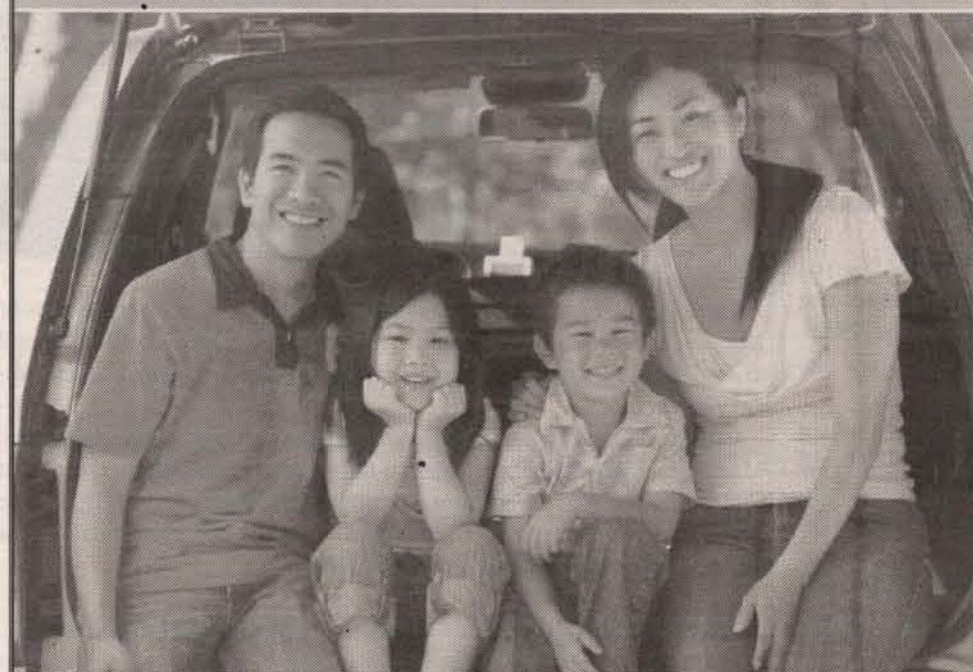
"A bill like this would recognize that history and acknowledge what happened," said author Helen Zia in an interview with *The Mercury*



Angel Island Immigration Station (top photo) once housed hundreds of Asian Americans who were kept in detention barracks like the one pictured above.



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News. She wrote "American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People," in 2001. The author said without any apology Chinese immigrants would "go missing in history."

Fong's maternal grandfather experienced discrimination firsthand in California. When he arrived in the United States in 1939, he spent two months on Angel Island undergoing questioning to determine if he was eligible to enter the country, Fong said.

He was not eligible, under the immigration restrictions that allowed Chinese to immigrate if they were members of certain professions, were the children of immigrants in those professions or were the children of Chinese Americans who were citizens because they were born in the U.S.

Fong's grandfather paid about \$2,000 for fake identification papers and took a new name of Chan Share, becoming a "paper son." The term referred to immigrants who purchased fake identification papers from the Chinese who claimed they were citizens and wanted to help their children in China to immigrate to America. The practice became popular after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake that destroyed many birth records.

His grandfather settled near San Mateo and became a flower grower, later becoming one of the founders of the Chinese Bay Area Chrysanthemum Growers Association.

"There were discriminatory laws on the books at the time, and he had to get around them," Fong said. "That was the way they did it." ■

JACL, APA Groups Say High Court's Decision to Preserve Voting Rights Act is Vital



'Studies clearly show that minority voters are often disenfranchised of their constitutional right to vote and here is where the JACL voices strong agreement with the Supreme Court ...'

— Floyd Mori, JACL national director, about the Supreme Court decision in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder*.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Asian Pacific American groups are calling the Supreme Court's decision to preserve the Voting Rights Act an affirmation of the continued need to protect minority rights.

The Supreme Court justices, on June 22 in an 8 to 1 ruling, issued a decision in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder* that leaves in place Section 5, a central provision of the Voting Rights Act that requires some states and local governments to seek federal permission before changing their voting procedures. But the court did not rule on the question of Section 5's constitutionality.

"Studies clearly show that minority voters are often disenfranchised of their constitutional right to vote," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori, "and here is where the JACL voices strong agreement with the Supreme Court in that there are jurisdictions that require federal oversight to deal with the problem of ongoing voting discrimination in covered jurisdictions."

JACL had signed onto the *amicus* brief for the *Northwest Municipal District Number One* case.

"We signed on to educate the court about the Japanese American experience and its relation to the case at hand," said Larry Oda, JACL national president.

The Voting Rights Act has been the government's chief weapon against racial discrimination at polling places since the 1960s.

After arguments in late April, it appeared the court's conservatives could have a majority to strike down part of the law as unnecessary in an era marked by the election of the first African American president.

But with only one justice in dissent, the court avoided the major questions raised over the section of the voting law that requires all or parts of 16 states — mainly in the South and with a history of discrimination in voting — to get Justice Department approval before making changes in the way elections are conducted.

Months after Barack Obama became president, Chief Justice John Roberts said the justices decided not to determine whether dramatic civil rights gains means the advance approval requirement is no longer necessary. That larger issue, Roberts said, "is a difficult constitutional question we do not answer today."

Section 5, which was reauthorized by Congress for 25 years in 2006, covers several jurisdictions with emerging

Asian Pacific American populations including Texas and Arizona, according to the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

"With Section 5 in place these past decades, there has been some progress toward equality in our voting system," said Stewart Kwok, APALC president and executive director. "However, much work still needs to be done and this work cannot be accomplished without this necessary provision."

But critics of the law said the court made clear that it may not take such a restrained approach the next time a voting rights challenge comes its way.

The Voting Rights Act, first enacted in 1965, opened the polls to millions of minorities. In 2006, the Republican-controlled Congress overwhelmingly renewed the part of the law which provided for the advance approval requirement for 25 years and President George W. Bush signed it.

The Austin utility district, backed by a conservative group opposed to the law, brought the court challenge. It said that either the district should be allowed to opt out or the entire provision should be declared unconstitutional.

The Austin utility district is in the heart of Canyon Creek, an affluent suburb of about 3,500 residents that didn't break ground on its first house until the 1980s. About 80 percent of residents in Canyon Creek are white, according to the 2000 census.

As recently as 2002, voters in Canyon Creek used a neighbor's garage to cast their ballot in their utility board elections. The board wanted to change the polling location to a school, but first had to seek federal clearance. The community got it, but Canyon Creek's board felt that needing approval from Washington was an unnecessary obstacle in a tiny neighborhood with no history of minority voter discrimination.

APA leaders disagree.

"The historic accomplishments of the Voting Rights Act are irrefutable," said Tuyet Le, executive director of the Asian American Institute. "The Voting Rights Act is vital to our democracy and our nation, and this decision preserves the law." ■

On the Web

www.jacl.org
www.apalc.org
www.aachicago.org

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Husband of Jailed Reporters Speak at Calif. Vigil

SAN FRANCISCO—The husband of an American journalist jailed in North Korea says his wife sounded scared during a recent phone call and described her confinement as "bearable."

Iain Clayton, the husband of Laura Ling, said his wife recently called him. He said although she tried to be strong on the phone, he could tell she was worried.

Clayton spoke after a vigil at San Francisco's Academy of Art University for Ling and Euna Lee, the other American reporter jailed in North Korea.

Lee and Ling have been sentenced to 12 years of hard labor for allegedly entering the country illegally in March and engaging in "hostile acts."

Clayton also says Ling's medical condition has deteriorated and Lee has developed a medical problem. Ling reportedly suffers from an ulcer.



EUNA LEE

LAURA LING

Senate Sends Race-Gender Measure to Ariz. Ballot

PHOENIX—Arizonans will vote next year on a proposed state constitutional amendment to generally prohibit state and local governments from discrimination and preferential treatment based on race, ethnicity and sex.

Senate passage with a 17-11 vote June 22 without debate sent the measure championed by Republican legislators and California activist Ward Connerly to Arizona's November 2010 ballot.

The measure is a retooled version of an initiative proposal that failed to qualify for Arizona's 2008 ballot because it lacked valid signatures on petitions.

If Arizona voters approve the amendment, the state would join four other states — California, Nebraska, Michigan and Washington — that have approved versions.

Some Guantanamo Detainees Reject Palau Move

KOROR, Palau—Several Guantanamo detainees from western China are uninterested in moving to Palau, the country that agreed to resettle them after their upcoming release, because it is located too close to their homeland.



The Uighurs (pronounced WEE'-gurs), from China's far western region of Xinjiang, are considered separatists by Chinese authorities. The U.S. refused to send them back to China because of concerns the men would be immediately arrested.

Palau consented to President Barack Obama's request to take the Turkic Muslims as part of plans to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba. The men were captured in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001, and the Pentagon determined last year that they were not "enemy combatants" — but the men have since been stuck in legal limbo.

Senate Apologizes For Slavery, Segregation in U.S.

WASHINGTON—The Senate has unanimously passed a resolution apologizing for slavery and racial segregation in the U.S. and sent the measure to the House.

Democrat Tom Harkin first introduced the measure years ago but wanted it passed on the eve of Juneteenth, June 19, a day of celebration commemorating the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the release of African Americans from slavery.

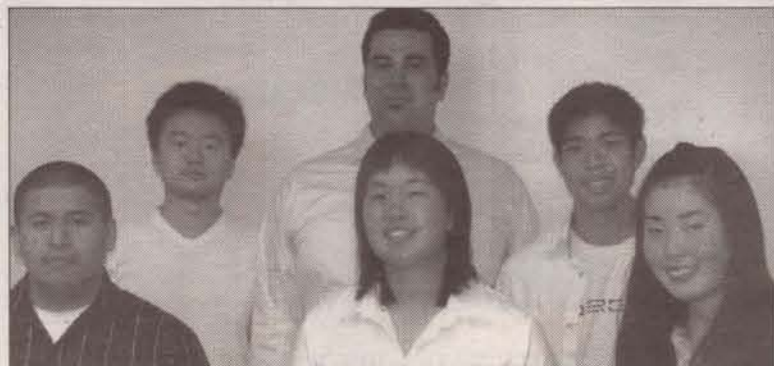
The Senate has passed such nonbinding but highly symbolic resolutions before, apologizing for such things as the internment of JAs during World War II.

The resolution includes a disclaimer saying that nothing in it supports or authorizes reparations. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Sequoia JACL Awards Scholarships



At its recent scholarship reception, the Sequoia JACL recognized seven outstanding students who demonstrated high academic achievements and extensive community involvement.

This year's recipients are: (l-r) Jaime Antonio, Bo Yi, Mario Alvarido, Kacyn Fujii, Bryan Yasukawa and Leslie Hamachi.

Hama to Receive Comic Book Award

Comics pioneer **Larry Hama** will receive the **Henry Y. Kiyama Award** at the First Annual Asian American ComiCon July 11 in New York.

Hama is best known as a writer and editor for Marvel Comics. Among others, he wrote the licensed comic book series "G.I. Joe, A Real American Hero."

Kiyama's 1931 breakthrough book "The Four Immigrants," is considered the first original graphic novel published in America.

Hirahara's Latest Novel Receives Youth Literature Award

"1001 Cranes," **Naomi Hirahara's** latest novel, was awarded honorable mention for youth literature by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association.

The award recognizes literary and artistic merit in an effort to promote APA culture and heritage.

Hirahara, a former editor of *The Rafu Shimpō* newspaper, is also the writer of the Edgar Award-winning Mas Arai mystery series.

East West Players' Honored Twice by James Irvine Foundation

Tim Dang, producing artistic director of the Los Angeles-based APA theater East West Players, was honored with a 2009 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for increasing understanding of and appreciation for California's diversity and creating new opportunities for APA artists.

Dang is the second arts recipient to receive this honor since the inception of the Leadership Awards in 2006.

The James Irvine Foundation also renewed its grant to EWP in its continued support of the theater's literary programs. This grant provides EWP with \$300,000 over the next three years.

Pan Becomes First APA Judge in D.C.

The Senate has confirmed **Florence Pan** as an associate judge for the District of Columbia Superior Court making her the first ever APA to serve as a judge in D.C.

Prior to her appointment, Pan served D.C. for over a decade as assistant U.S. District Attorney and then Deputy Chief of the Appellate Division for the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office.

Koh is Confirmed as State Dept. Legal Adviser

Former Yale Law School Dean **Harold Hongju Koh** is the new State Department legal adviser.

The Senate confirmed his appointment June 25.

Koh, who has been on the Yale Law School faculty since 1985 and dean for the past five years, will be on leave from the law school during his time in Washington. He will return to teach when his public service ends.

Koh previously served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in the Clinton Administration. ■

Iowa School District Agrees to New English Language Classification Policy

Lori Phanachone, the student who took a stand against the policy, said she is 'glad.'

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Lori Phanachone is no longer an English Language Learner, according to the Storm Lake School District, which has reclassified the Laotian American student as English proficient and created a comprehensive new ELL policy.

The policy change is seemingly the end of the controversy involving the Iowa high school and Phanachone, an honor student who in February protested the school's classification by boycotting a yearly ELL test. She received a three-day suspension and had her National Honor Society membership and extracurricular privileges revoked.

On June 26, Phanachone and Storm Lake officials signed a memorandum of understanding.

"I'm glad my taking a stand has led Storm Lake to improve its ELL classification policy," said Phanachone in a statement. "Now, other students who were misclassified under the old policy will have a chance to be reclassified as English proficient."

Storm Lake will retroactively apply the new policy, which sets forth clear steps for identification and classification of ELL students. About 1,000 ELLs are currently enrolled in Storm Lake public schools.

"We believe it is a role model policy that can be followed across the state," Dr. Paul Tedesco, Storm Lake superintendent, told KMEG 14.

The school district worked with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Commission on the Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage.

In March, Storm Lake drew criticism from community groups for wrongly classifying Phanachone, 18, as an ELL. Phanachone was born in California to immigrant parents. She has a near perfect grade-point average and has excelled academically in all subjects including English.

JACL issued a statement criticizing Storm Lake's actions against Phanachone.

"While language is critical for communication, it is also a reflection of culture," said Floyd Mori, JACL



Phanachone (above, left) and a Storm Lake official sign a memorandum of understanding on the school's new ELL policy.



national director. "Lori Phanachone is to be commended for the high value she places on her cultural heritage and also for her persistence in motivating the district to reevaluate their discriminatory policy. Courage has many faces and Lori has exemplified the kind of courage that brings pride to the Asian American community."

With the help of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), Storm Lake agreed to reclassify Phanachone as English proficient, lift all disciplinary consequences from her record, and restore her National Honors Society membership.

"We are heartened by Storm Lake's willingness to improve its ELL classification policy. Moving forward, we will monitor how Storm Lake applies this new policy to current students who — like Lori Phanachone — may have been misclassified as ELLs," said Khin Mai Aung, the AALDEF staff attorney representing Phanachone. ■

On the Web:

www.jacl.org
www.aaldef.org

High Court Calls for a New Look at Arizona's English Program

JACL had signed onto the *amicus* brief for *Horne v. Flores*.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The U.S. Supreme Court has handed a partial victory to Arizona officials, ruling that the state is entitled to a fresh legal review that could lift a court order requiring changes in how schools teach children learning English.

On June 25 the justices, in a 5-4 vote, reversed an appeals court ruling in a 17-year-old lawsuit intended to close the gap between students in Nogales, Ariz., who are learning to speak English and native English speakers.

New York-based Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) submitted an *amicus* brief for *Horne vs. Flores*. JACL, citing the parallel experiences between the Issei and English Language Learners (ELLs) of today, signed onto the *amicus* brief.

"Language should not be a barrier for being a full citizen of the U.S.," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

ELL advocates say the high court's ruling underscores a "rampant lack of ELL assessment and services, inadequate interpretation and translation, insufficient teacher training and certification, and general curricular inequality across the country," said AALDEF in a statement.

"We hope lower courts will apply the new factors the high court set forth to preserve ELLs' rights to continued funding and support," said Khin Mai Aung, AALDEF staff attorney.

Justice Samuel Alito, in the majority opinion, said a federal District Court judge in Tucson must take another look at the program to see whether the city now is "providing equal opportunities" to ELLs.

Alito, joined by his conservative colleagues, was highly critical of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco that have kept Nogales and, more recently,



for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

Perspective is an interesting thing. Two people can see the exact, same thing and come to completely different conclusions depending on their perspectives. Obviously, it depends on what you bring to an issue, what your experiences are, what you believe. And thus it is with important issues that face the JACL from time to time.

Two such cases that have more or less been resolved will, I suspect, probably linger for years within the JACL's rank and file: Ehren Watada and Proposition 8. Both issues evoke strong personal reactions, both have real relevance for the JACL. Watada because he's JA; Prop. 8 because the JACL is the only national civil rights organization that has a public, affirmative position on same-sex partnerships.

In May, the Justice Department dropped its appeal of an earlier court ruling that a retrial of Watada would constitute double jeopardy, thus bringing to a close the main charges against Watada. And in June, the California Supreme Court upheld the decision of the state's voters to ban same-sex marriages in the state, bringing to a close that particular battle for equality for same sex partners.

The Watada issue raised the ire of Nisei vets and others in the JACL's membership because it was felt he was bound by his military oath to obey the orders of his commander-in-chief. But the conundrum Watada created was the moral question of whether a soldier should obey orders based on what he considers deceit and illegalities. His was the ultimate moral question, should a soldier follow orders regardless of any other considerations even if he thinks those orders are immoral?

In presenting the JACL's public position, I raised the question of Nuremberg and the My Lai slaughter of innocents with the "soldiers only following orders" rationale. My personal view which I later argued with the board was that his was a First Amendment issue and one imbued with deep moral convictions. But now his refusal to deploy is no longer an issue with the withdrawal of the government's appeal. Two lesser charges still stand, and it's up to the Army to decide if they'll press forward on those.

Prop. 8 in California was settled by the state's Supreme Court when it decided that the voice of

the voters would stand and declared the legality of Prop. 8, which disallows all future same-sex marriages in the state. It seems to me that Prop. 8 only delayed the inevitable because it's only a matter of time before most states in the union will join Iowa, Connecticut and Massachusetts in legalizing same-sex marriages.

Just as Bob Dylan's song, "The Times They are a-Changing" became the anthem for the social revolution that took place in the 1960s, echoes of those sentiments are true today. The times *are* changing, and young people today don't think twice about people being gay. It's a "so-what" issue for them.

A half century ago, there were still miscegenation laws in this country, and people stared at mixed-race couples, usually with condemnation more than curiosity (especially if it was a black male-white female combination). Today, it's an accepted fact and non-issue. There are even commercials on TV that show mixed-race couples, and how much more mainstream can you get than that?

The hypocrisy of race has shifted in part to the hypocrisy of sexual orientation in today's world, but like racial issues, this too will change. It's inevitable.

And as time passes, historians will no doubt find the courage to reveal the facts that lie behind the deceptions that led this nation into a war that had no relevance to the truth. And when that happens, perhaps the moral stance taken by Watada will be viewed in a different light. I hope so because he deserves better than he's gotten.

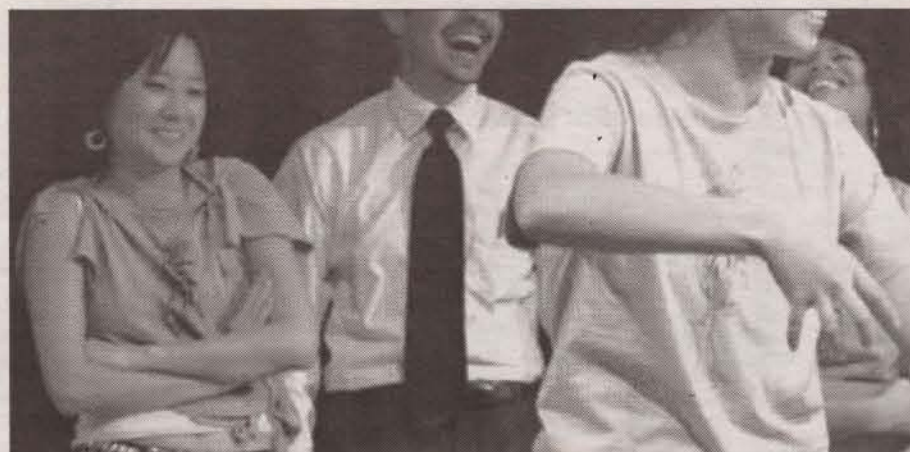
It was exciting to be part of, and live through, the great social revolution that was the Civil Rights Movement. The social changes taking place today are more subtle; the paradigm evolves rather than shifts. I hope those younger in our society keep pushing that evolution toward meaningful changes that make us a better society.

And if we should stumble in the process, I hope the JACL will have the courage to be involved in the debate to help set the course in the future. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA Identity Neurosis

BY YUMI SAKUGAWA



Last Friday, I went to a screening of a movie called "Amreeka" at the Los Angeles Film Festival.

It follows the story of Muna, a Palestinian woman who moves to America with her 16-year-old son Fadi to stay at her sister's family home in Illinois. Ashamed of the fact that she accidentally lost her entire life savings at U.S. customs, Muna secretly takes a job at a local White Castle hamburger joint. Meanwhile, Fadi takes cues from his more Americanized and rebellious cousin Salma on how to adjust to his new American high school.

I loved this movie. But even more than that — I felt an immense sense of gratitude and relief.

"Oh, thank God," I remember telling my boyfriend as we walked out of the theater, "This was a movie about cultural identity, and it was actually good!"

We then rattled off the list of things we were so thankful the movie *didn't* do: melodramatic death scenes, overly done stereotypes, shameless plugs for local ethnic-American bands, didactic and long-winded monologues about race.

My neurosis relating to identity and art probably comes from being the former co-producer of an Asian American college theater group. One running joke is that every new school year, at least one group meeting is dedicated to answering the impossible question of what it means to be an AA theater group. Are we an AA theater group, or are we a theater group with AAs? What do we do if we start having more non-Asians than Asians in our group?

Our discussion goes in circles and, of course, no satisfying conclusion is ever reached.

And there was the issue of what to put in our shows. "I noticed," someone from an AA student group once told me with disappointment, "that lately your shows don't really deal with Asian American issues."

An AA theater show that explores no AA issues smacks of misleading advertising. And yet, the second scenario — to force a creative requirement on the writers to always have AA themes in their scripts — feels even worse.

This is the strange double bind you fall into when you begin placing your identity

(AA/feminist/gay etc.) before your main task as a storyteller (theater/author/artist etc.). An individual artist may begin feeling pressured by the community to express their stories or views within strictly defined parameters, as certain characterizations or opinions become more acceptable than others.

Amy Tan expressed this concern in one essay as she recalls certain AA college students who felt personally offended when they read her novels involving abusive male characters who are Chinese. She much preferred to identify herself as an American writer, instead of an AA one.

Artist Adrian Tomine also explores this issue in the opening to his graphic novel "Shortcomings": a Japanese American male sits completely miserable through the closing screening of an AA film festival his JA girlfriend helped organize. An argument ensues between them on the drive home. The woman wishes he would be more supportive. The man doesn't understand why he should ever have to support movies he doesn't like.

After the "Amreeka" screening, a Q&A took place between the first-time director-writer Cherien Dabis and the rest of the audience. Someone asked her what inspired her to make this movie. Dabis said that many of the plot points in the movie were based on her experiences as an Arab American girl growing up in rural America against the backdrop of the Gulf War.

She also said, "I wanted to make something honest without being heavy-handed or didactic."

This is why movies like "Amreeka" give me gratitude, relief and joy. Though the storyline may explore cultural and racial issues relating to the Palestinian immigrant experience, I am not constantly conscious of the fact that I am watching a Palestinian American movie directed by a Palestinian American filmmaker. I am too busy being swept away by the strange and wonderful human truth that shines through in every scene. ■

Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles.

A HAPPY TWITTER FOURTH!

PETE HIRONAKA '09





PHOTO: JENNIFER YIN

Public Defender By Day, Filmmaker By Night

Jeff Adachi hopes more people will get to know Jack Soo through his new documentary.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

To make "You Don't Know Jack," his new documentary on the legendary Japanese American actor Jack Soo, Jeff Adachi borrowed a theme straight from comic books.

By day, he protected the poor as San Francisco's public defender and late at night he worked to immortalize the story of the most famous Nisei actor you've never heard of.

Adachi, 49, will be the first to admit that it wasn't always a seamless transition. He didn't rush out of his office unbuttoning his shirt to reveal a costume with a big "S" (or would it be "PD" for California's only publicly elected public defender?).

"It was karmic how it came together."

The art of filmmaking is difficult to refine with a fulltime job, said Adachi, but it had to be done. Because as the film's title suggests, people don't know Jack, the actor best known for his roles in the 1961 Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, "Flower Drum Song," and a long list of television shows including "Barney Miller" and "Valentine's Day."

"I wanted to tell the story of a man that would have otherwise been lost," said Adachi by phone from his public defender's office. "His legacy is there, but the details of his life would've faded away."

So the Yonsei filmmaker decided to color in the lines and fill in the blanks of Soo's life. "You Don't Know Jack," reveals the life of an extraordinary man born Goro Suzuki, who broke free from the World War II barbed wire internment camps to become a groundbreaking actor and the first Asian Pacific American signed to Motown Records.

Soo's friends called him the first APA hipster, who rubbed elbows with Joey Bishop and other Rat Pack members, and the APA Bing Crosby, partially because his singing voice melted butter, but likely also because of that crooked smile and the irrepressible twinkle in his eyes.

The film also reveals the patriotic side of Soo, who as a teenager won a JACL award for his essay on being American.

Adachi never met Soo, who died of cancer in 1979, but they share a common family history — along with thousands of other JAs who were swept up in WWII hysteria and placed in desolate internment camps. Soo was taken to Topaz, where he entertained internees with songs and skits. Adachi's parents were in Poston and Gila River.

In a time of oppression and discrimination, Soo represented hope.

"For my parents' generation, Frank Sinatra and Joey Bishop were like gods and standing right next to them was Jack Soo," said Adachi. "He was the kind of entertainer that broke all boundaries."



'I wanted to tell the story of a man that would have otherwise been lost.'

Adachi has always said that his family's internment history was the driving force behind his career — he wanted to give a voice to the defenseless. He's a public defender first, he said. Filmmaking is a hobby — one that took about a year to complete. And when asked about the budget, the lawyer in him emerges.

"A film like this takes \$50,000," he said about the funding that came from family, friends and his own pockets.

But being a filmmaker, Adachi insists, is very much like being a trial lawyer. Skill sets include piecing a story together and making sure the facts presented are true.

"It's like solving a mystery," he said.

Three years ago, Adachi's first foray into filmmaking resulted in "The Slanted Screen," a documentary that examined the

roles of APA men in movies. That's when he came across Soo's story — a JA actor who changed his name to pass as Chinese American.

Adachi grew up watching "Barney Miller," the television comedy series where Soo played Nick Yemana. "I remembered his face mostly, those droopy eyelids."

But questions about Soo's past kept haunting him. Why would he change his name? The lawyer decided to find out. Some thought Soo changed his name because of "Flower Drum Song," while others thought the film's director Gene Kelly insisted on it.

The truth is much simpler and perhaps more tragic. During WWII, Soo was allowed out of camp to perform at nightclubs. Adachi found an original letter that said one nightclub owner feared there would be a backlash if Soo went by his Japanese name, so Goro Suzuki became Jack Soo.

But the actor was proud of being JA, said Adachi. Every time Soo did a major interview, he talked about his ethnicity and he took a stance against playing stereotypical roles.

"What's different about Jack is that you get the sense that through the ups and downs, he was still determined," said Adachi.

He embodied the historical experiences of the JA community — from the darkness of the internment to the height of fame. But within the larger community story lies individual stories like Soo's that up until now haven't been documented.

Here, the usually unflappable public defender shows a moment of vulnerability.

When Adachi completed the documentary using testimonies, images and rare video footage to reconstruct Soo's life, he wondered if it captured the essence of the man.

"I wasn't sure what I captured was who he was."

The people who knew Soo best, including his daughter, said Soo poured out of every frame.

And if Soo had seen the film, Adachi is sure he would've downplayed his achievements.

"He was not a person who would feel superior. He was a regular guy. He was just Jack." ■

On the Web
www.jacksoo.com

WATCH IT

'You Don't Know Jack'
July 21
Asian Film Festival of Dallas
Info: <http://2009.aiff.org>

July 25
Asian American Int'l Film
Festival - New York
Info: www.aaiff.org/2009

APA Groups Call On Congress to Pass DREAM Act

Students from across the country staged mock graduation ceremonies to call attention to the plight of the undocumented.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Calling the DREAM Act an important piece of comprehensive immigration reform, Asian Pacific American groups are urging Congress to pass the bill that would make it easier for undocumented students to pursue higher education.

A bipartisan group of legislators have reintroduced the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act in the House and the Senate. In 2007, a similar measure failed in the Senate.

If passed, the DREAM Act would allow undocumented students a conditional path to citizenship.

"The Japanese American community has always recognized the value of an education in creating an informed electorate, which is the fuel of our form of government and our market economy," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Immigrant values are what ignites that fuel into productive energy, which the Dream Act will allow."

Depending on the state, undocumented students may or may not qualify for financial aid for their college education.

On June 23, students from across the country

staged mock graduation ceremonies to call attention to the plight of about 65,000 undocumented students who graduate from high schools every year but often find that their legal status prevents them from attending college.

Students from New York, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Washington wore caps and gowns and marched to state buildings.

Studies have shown that undocumented students have the potential to provide the country with a boost in the workforce, according to the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

"The DREAM Act can make an overwhelmingly positive impact on both our youth and our economy," said Stewart Kwok, APALC president and executive director.

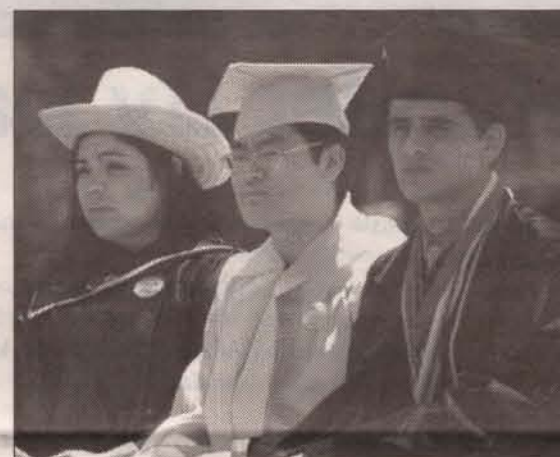
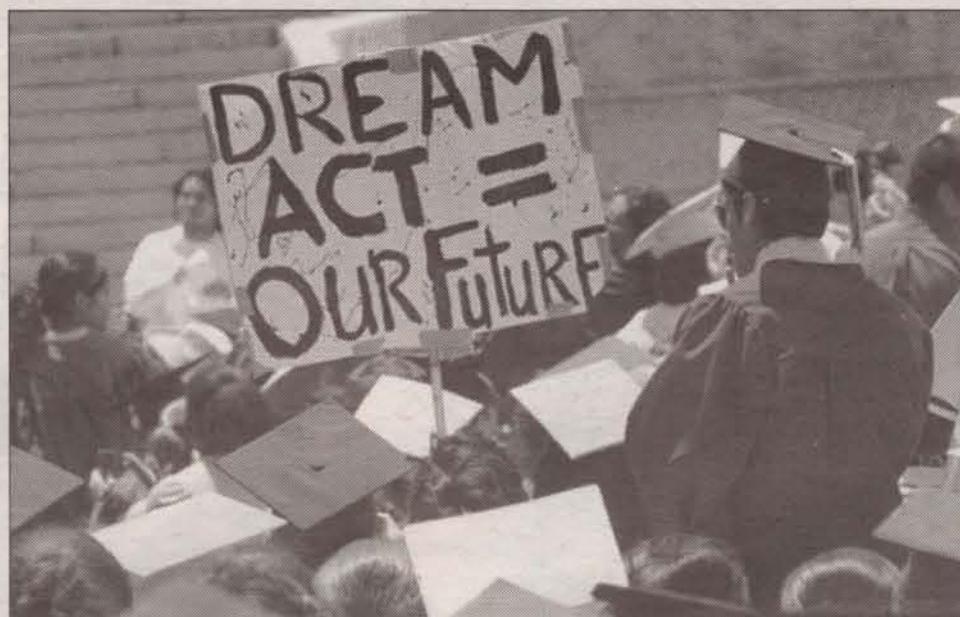
"Many of the estimated 1.4 million undocumented Asian Americans are students who have come to America as young children and now have hopes of becoming fully active members of society."

President Barack Obama has said his administration is committed to working with Congress to pass a comprehensive U.S. immigration reform.

He said there still are differences on how to implement changes, but said all sides agree that the current system is broken "and needs fixing." ■

For more information:

www.dreamact.info



More than 500 students from across the country took part in a symbolic graduation ceremony in D.C. June 23 to urge Congress to support the DREAM Act. The National DREAM Graduation ceremony was hosted by labor organizations, education, faith, business, immigrant and civil rights groups through the United We Dream Coalition.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRIS PRICE/SEIU

Native Hawaiian Bill Gets New Airing

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—Granting Native Hawaiians the chance to form their own government, like those established by many of the nation's 562 American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives, would break new ground and eventually be ruled unconstitutional, critics of the proposal said June 11.

Hawaii's congressional delegation has fought for much of the past decade for a bill that would allow for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and federal recognition of that government. Their prospects for success have never looked better with President Barack Obama saying he supports the measure, which a House panel reviewed June 11.

Rep. Doc Hastings of Washington, the ranking Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, said legal precedent "cast a larger shadow than ever before on the doubtful proposition that Congress can and should extend recognition to a governing entity for Native Hawaiians."

Also, Gail Heriot, a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, said that granting ethnic Hawaiians tribal status for purposes of forming their own government would be comparable to letting Chicanos in the Southwest or Cajuns in Louisiana gain that same recognition.

Supporters of the bill, including members of the state's Congressional delegation, argued

that a long line of legal cases have granted indigenous populations a special recognition and relationship with the U.S. They said that Native Hawaiians are the only indigenous group of people in the country without their own governing entity.

The legislation allowing for a Native Hawaiian government passed the House on two occasions, including most recently in October 2007, but it routinely has stumbled in the Senate. The Bush administration opposed the bill. Obama's support has changed the political dynamic, however, and some supporters say they believe the bill can be passed before the year's end.

The bill would not automatically establish a Native Hawaiian government. Rather, it would provide a roadmap for how Native Hawaiians could organize such a government. Once established, the new government would negotiate with the state and the federal government over which assets the new government would own. Currently, the state administers 1.2 million acres of former monarchy land, and some of that land could revert to the new Native Hawaiian government.

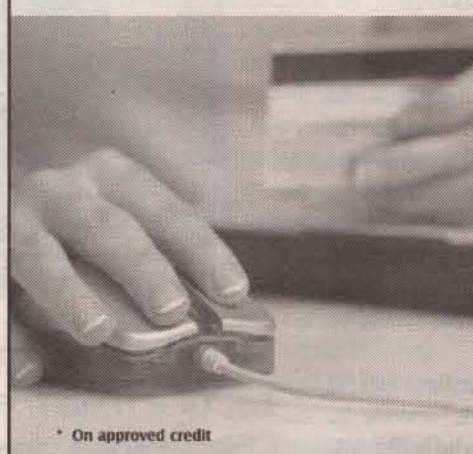
Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, said it would allow Native Hawaiians a chance to manage land and assets as they see fit.

"When the land wasn't worth anything and there was no money, nobody cared," Abercrombie said.

"Now that the land is worth a considerable amount of money, now all of a sudden, everybody is interested." ■

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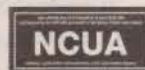
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APA Group Wants Outstanding Woman Nominations



The Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE) is calling for nominations for its "Outstanding Woman of the Year" award.

The award will celebrate a young Asian Pacific American woman who is a role model for their community. Last year the Boston-based organization, which works to empower Asian Pacific American high school and college girls, presented

the award to Mihiri Uthpala Tillakaratne, a Harvard University student who worked to build schools in Sri Lanka.

"This year, we hope to recognize another young Asian American woman who contributes to the community and sets an example of someone who is passionate in reaching excellence for not only herself, but those around her," said Vienne Cheung, ASPIRE interim executive director.

The award will be presented at the Oct. 3 Asian American Women in Leadership (AAWIL) Conference in Boston.

The winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to Boston to attend the conference where she will spend a day with an APA female mentor of her choice from ASPIRE's network. The winner will also be featured on ASPIRE's Web site. ■

To submit a nomination, go to www.girlsaspire.org/award. All entries must be received by July 31.



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Aug 1 NCL - Scandinavia/Russia Cruise - 14 Days

Window \$3,783 - REDUCED TO \$3,389 - SOLD OUT
Balcony \$4,133 - Reduction \$464 - REDUCED TO \$3,669
London-Copenhagen-Warnemunde, Germany-Tallinn, Estonia-St. Petersburg, Russia-Helsinki, Finland-Stockholm, Sweden.

Aug 22 NCL - West Mediterranean Cruise-15 Days

Window \$3,219 - Reduction \$170 - REDUCED TO \$3,049
Balcony \$3,769 - Reduction \$170 - REDUCED TO \$3,598
London-Lisbon, Portugal-Vigo, Seville, Granada, Spain-Gibraltar Sardinia-Naples-Rome-Livorno, Italy-Cannes, France-Barcelona.

Oct 12 Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Days

\$4,195 - Sapporo-Sahoro - Ainu - Lake Toya - Hakodate Aomori - Hachimantai - Matsushima - Sendai - Tokyo.

Oct 19 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days

\$4,095 - Tokyo-Japan Sea-Sado Isle-Kanazawa-Amano-hashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Mt. Daisen-Kyoto.

Nov 2 Fall Japan Classic-11 Days

\$3,995 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Takahashi-Miyajima Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island-Kyoto.

Nov 12 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days

\$4,295 - 3-Day Okinawa - Nagasaki - Unzen-Kumamoto Beppu - Cape Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Kyoto.

Jan 16 NCL - Panama Canal Cruise - 12 Days

2010 Window \$2,369 - Reduction \$194 - REDUCED TO \$2,175
Balcony \$3,169 - Reduction \$294 - REDUCED TO \$2,875
+Free overnite Miami-Cartagena-Panama Canal-Costa Rica-Guatemala-Huatulco-Acapulco-Cabo to LA.

2010 PREVIEW

Feb 12 - Caribbean Cruise - Feb 26 - Sunny Portugal
Mar 15 - Best of China - Mar 29 - Japan "Cherry Blossoms"
Apr 12 - Japan "Off the Beaten Track"
May 5 - Great Lakes "Mackinac Island"
Jun 22 - Summer Japan "Family Tour"
Jul 20 - Niagara/DC - Aug 2 - Black Sea Cruise

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Recognition Near for WWII WASP Pilots

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

For most of her life, Maggie Gee wanted to fly. The 86-year-old from Berkeley, Calif. remembers taking trips to the local airport to watch airplanes take off. During World War II, when Gee was attending college and working as a welder, she achieved her dream.

She became a member of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP).

"It's something about being alone," said Gee in an earlier interview with the *Pacific Citizen*. "It was the feeling of disassociation with the Earth. It felt like up there all your problems were gone."

Now Gee and about 300 living WASP members may soon be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. Both the House and the Senate have passed a bill to recognize the women pilots of WWII. It now awaits the president's signature.

If the measure is approved, the U.S. Mint will design and create individual gold medals to honor the accomplishments of the WASPs. The medals will be given to all the pilots and to the families of those who have died.

Of more than 1,000 women in the group, which started in Houston in



While the men were away, WASP pilot Maggie Gee took to the skies.

1942, more than three-quarters have died.

The women held stateside flying assignments left vacant by men who were on combat duty, according to Air Force records. The WASP towed targets for Air Force pilots' shooting practice, transported cargo and flew planes from hangar to hangar for the Air Force. They also trained men who would later fly combat missions. About 25,000 women applied for the program, and 1,830 were accepted.

Though the WASP were not in combat roles, they often faced danger: 38 women died while serving, including Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman to fly for

the U.S. military.

The program was disbanded in December 1944 as men returned from the war and the need for female pilots decreased. But it wasn't until 1977 that Congress passed a bill that made the women pilots eligible for veterans benefits.

Now, the unsung heroes of WWII may receive the highest civilian award in the United States.

"We women pilots were the forerunners of the great women pilots of today," said Gee. ■

For a related story on the APA women of WWII:
www.pacificcitizen.org

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Call Issued for Heart Mountain Memorabilia

As part of ongoing efforts to expand its archival collection, a call is being issued by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation for memorabilia associated with the World War II internment camp experience at Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Photographs, diaries, letters, documents, crafts, paintings, furniture, news articles, books and other artifacts will serve as an educational resource and reference for the partially completed Interpretive Learning Center currently under construction at the original internment camp site between Powell and Cody, Wyoming.

Former internees, their families and friends may bring their memorabilia to a special Heart Mountain Collection Day and Progress Party at the site of the future Interpretive Learning Center on Aug. 15. Volunteers will be on hand to record oral histories and scan, copy and catalog donated items.

Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the HMWF board of directors, expressed gratitude to former internees and their families who have already contributed to the Heart Mountain collection. Among them are the Hirahara and Sugiura families and others, who have donated photographs and artifacts, including a Girl Scout handbook, trumpet, Japanese doll, handmade jewelry and much more.

Also contained in the growing collection are complete sets of *The Heart Mountain Sentinel*, camp newspaper, including one set contributed by the late veteran journalist Bill Hosokawa and another set donated by Nomako Murakami.

"There are countless stories, and these items are essential to help illustrate how the internees lived and worked," said Higuchi, whose parents met at the camp. "Heart Mountain remains a significant chapter of American history, which is why Wyoming citizens, former internees and so many others have united to help preserve the site and the



A young man sits dejected as he faces the reality of World War II internment (above).



During WWII the Heart Mountain internment camp (left) housed 11,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

lessons it holds for all of us."

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center in northwestern Wyoming opened its gates on Aug. 12, 1942, and soon housed 11,000 internees, making it Wyoming's third-largest city for the next three years. Of that number, 6,000 were from the Southern California area, and 3,000 were from San Jose and other parts of Northern California. About 1,100 originated in the Seattle area.

Conditions at Heart Mountain were harsh. Whole families were moved into unfurnished

single-room barracks. With only bare walls and tarpaper to protect them from the Wyoming wind, internees shivered in the winter and sweltered in the summer. Armed sentries peered from guard towers.

Remarkably, despite the suspension of their civil rights, the internees persevered. They developed a functioning system of democratic self-government, organized sports teams and classes, and harvested more than 1,000 acres of crops, while adding three miles to an irrigation canal that continues to water fields

today.

In 1943, 38 internees volunteered for U.S. military service. The following year, hundreds of others were drafted. Some however resisted the orders, believing their rights should be reinstated before complying. Before the end of WWII, over 800 men and women from Heart Mountain would serve in Europe and in the Pacific. Fifteen were killed in action, and two soldiers from Heart Mountain were recognized with the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award.

A Progress Party reception will be held after the Collection Day at the Heart Mountain site. Featured will be Sen. (ret.) Alan K. Simpson and former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. The two met and became friends at Heart Mountain as Boy Scouts. Years later, they were reunited in Washington, D.C., when each was elected to national office. Mineta served in the House of Representatives from 1975, and Simpson was elected to the Senate in 1978.

Those interested in donating their memorabilia to the Interpretive Learning Center should contact LaDonna Zall, HMWF acting curator at 307/754-2400 or by e-mail to lzall@wir.net. ■

Heart Mountain Collection Day and Progress Party:

Where: site of the future Interpretive Learning Center on Road 19 off the 14A Highway between Powell and Cody, Wyoming
When: Aug. 15, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Cost: Free

Dinner to Follow:

Where: Cody Holiday Inn
Time: 6 p.m.
Cost: \$25
Reservations: Contact HMWF Treasurer Pat Wolfe, 307/754-2689 or pwolfe@wavecom.net

Young Historian is Seeking Autographs, Memorabilia from APA Veterans

"There are so many people my age who don't fully understand the magnitude (of what) the veterans ... did for our country."



High school student Kyle Nappi, of Ohio, has collected autographs and stories from over 2,000 veterans in 20 countries. Now he's trying to collect autographs of Asian Pacific American veterans of all wars.

Kyle Nappi, a high school student from Ostrander, Ohio has collected autographs and stories from over 2,000 veterans in 20 countries. His oldest autograph is from a veteran who is now 112 years old.

Now Nappi wants to add autographs and biographies of Asian Pacific American, including Japanese American, veterans of all wars.

"The more stories I have, the more I learn about our history and the brave men and women who fight to protect our way of life," said Nappi, a senior at Buckeye Valley High School.

He recently sought help from the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA).

"There are so many people my age who don't fully understand the magnitude (of what) the veterans ... did for our country," wrote Nappi in an e-mail to JAVA. "So

overall, I am trying to obtain as many autographs/stories from veterans as I can to ensure their stories are not forgotten."

His efforts have landed him on television — last August, PBS interviewed him.

His passion to keep history alive is evident. Nappi's bedroom has been turned into a museum of sorts. He has lined his walls with historical photos, military medals, patches and pins and other memorabilia.

"I'm running out of room," Nappi said.

At supermarkets and other public places, he approaches elderly persons to ask questions about their veteran status.

"Some people suspect I am stalking them and become suspicious," he joked. "When veterans are convinced that my interest is genuine they respond positively and fully. I respect them and am grateful to

them."

For college, Nappi, of course, plans to incorporate history.

"I would like to pursue my interest in military history and turn it into a career, something along the lines of a military historian," he said. "I am also considering a military career." ■

HELP KYLE NAPPI

100th, 442nd, MIS, 1399th Engineers Battalion, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Gulf War veterans and other Asian Pacific American veterans are encouraged to contact Nappi, a budding military historian.

Address

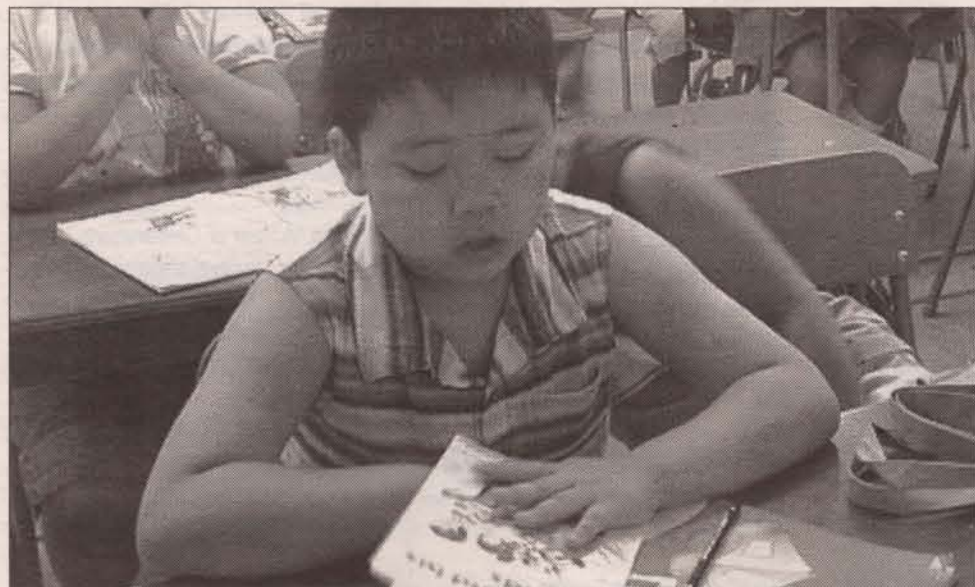
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ARIZONA'S ENGLISH PROGRAM

(Continued from page 7)



ELL programs statewide under federal court supervision.

In 2000, a since-retired federal judge found that the state had violated the Equal Educational Opportunities Act's (EEOA) requirements for appropriate instruction for ELLs. A year later, he expanded his ruling statewide and placed the state's programs for non-English speaking students under court oversight.

In accordance with AALDEF's brief, the high court affirmed EEOA's continuing relevance.

Arizona has more than doubled the amount of funding that schools receive per non-English speaking student, and taken other steps prescribed by the No Child Left Behind Act, the broader education accountability law

passed by Congress in 2002.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne, one of the state officials who defended the current system and asked for it to be freed from the oversight expressed confidence that the state can demonstrate compliance.

"It's a major victory for the principle of self-government," Horne said of the ruling.

Arizona's 143,000 English-learning students, or 13.2 percent of the state's total enrollment, follow four-hour daily classes in English that were implemented a year ago under a 2006 law. The state Department of Education, which is overseen by Horne, announced June 24 that 28.6 percent of the program's students passed a proficiency test, up from 12 percent two years ago. ■



WRA PHOTO

Manzanar's Children's Village housed over 100 children, including these two orphans in 1942.

Manzanar School Reunion to Feature Children's Village

Organizers of the upcoming Manzanar School reunion are hoping to shed light on the stories of some of the youngest victims of the World War II Japanese American internment — the orphans.

At the Aug. 11-13 school reunion, four former residents of the Children's Village orphanage will speak about their experiences living behind barbed wire.

Keynote speaker Dr. Catherine Irwin, assistant professor of languages at the University of La Verne and author of "Twice Orphaned: Voices from the Children's Village of Manzanar," will also talk about her efforts to preserve some of the oral history of former residents of that orphanage.

In 1942, seeing that Manzanar's barracks were unsuitable for young children, evacuees built three new one-story buildings with running water, baths and toilets, according to the National Park Service.

The Children's Village was located near the hospital in the firebreak east of Block 29. It

included a nursery and dormitories. Over 100 children, according to the NPS, were housed at the Children's Village.

Reunion events will include a mixer night with an open mike session for former internees to share stories and comments. ■

REGISTER NOW

Manzanar School Reunion

August 11-13

California Hotel in Las Vegas (rooms are still available)

Bus pickups will be available from four locations: Gardena Buddhist Church, the Maryknoll Catholic Church in Los Angeles, the Venice JA Center in Venice and The San Fernando Valley JA Community Center in the Valley

For registration forms or information: Ray Kawahara 714/521-4036, Sam Ono 310/327-5568, Cherry Uyeda 818/981-2629 or Victor Muraoka 818/368-4113

American Holiday Travel

2009 Tour Schedule

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE	JUL 26-AUG 2
Seattle, Glacier Bay, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria City. HOLLAND AMERICA Westerdam Ship.	
JAPAN OBON FESTIVAL TOUR	AUG 5-16
Tokyo (Tsukiji Obon Festival), Gujo Hachiman (Summer Odori Festival), Kyoto, Jozankei Onsen Sapporo, Kitami (Tsubetsu Obon Festival).	
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE	AUG 22-SEPT 4
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia. HOLLAND AMERICA Oosterdam Ship.	
HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR	SEPT 9-20
NEW TOUR Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Nikko, Tokyo.	
PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR	SEPT 7-23
PANA Convention - Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Option to Peru.	
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 2-9
WAITLIST Boston, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire. Day trips on historic trains: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Green Mountain Flyer Railroad, Essex Steam Train.	
OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 11-23
WAITLIST Naha, Kagoshima/Ibusuki, Miyazaki, Nobeoka, Takachiho, Mt. Aso, Beppu, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.	
CANYONLAND GETAWAY HOLIDAY	NOV 8-13
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Ernest and Carol Hida

MORI

(Continued from page 2)

Senate confirmation votes do not occur as quickly as desired. We do see a strict adherence to ethics standards. Some good people have been passed by because of past lobbying work.

The ethics bar is set higher, and this has impacted how agency and Congressional staff interact with the public. When a friend was finally confirmed to be an assistant secretary in a cabinet agency, my wife and I invited him out to dinner to welcome them to D.C. In thinking nothing of it, we paid for dinner. Then he presented us with a check to cover their portion of the bill because he wanted to adhere completely to the strict ethics rules.

The same attitude of inclusion has spilled over to Congress. Just this past week, the JACL was one of a handful of organizations that took part in a round table discussion with the Senate leadership. We were promised that

the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Bill would be passed soon and go to the president for his signature. We expressed our concerns about due process and immigration policy. We urged timely confirmation of key administrative and judicial appointments. Leader Reid and Senators Leahy, Specter, Levin, Durbin, and Stabenow were among the senators who sat at

the table with us.

So to answer the question at hand, yes, there is much more optimism and encouragement in the AAPI community in Washington today. At the same time, this is cautious optimism as we face the realities of recession and budget concerns.

It is refreshing that AAPIs are often found "at the table" of policy discussions on the critical issues of the day. There are many areas where we need to see

improvement, but the momentum is in the right direction. The unity of AAPI coalitions is being strengthened. It is indeed a good time for the JACL to be visible in the nation's capital and to be at the table. ■

'It is indeed a good time for the JACL to be visible in the nation's capital and to be at the table.'

GO SEE DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



JACL IDC-PNW Conference

ONTARIO, Oregon
July 30-Aug. 2

Join fellow JACLers at the bi-district, 'Atarashii Hajimari ... A New Beginning.' Events will include fun workshops, speakers like Rep. Patrick Takasugi and a round of golf at the Idaho's Scotch Pines Golf Course. The deadline to register is July 16. Info. and registration forms are available at: www.jacl.org.

For more information:

Janet Komoto, 208/739-2777 or janetkomoto@gmail.com

National

JACL MDC/EDC Conference
CINCINNATI
July 24-26

GO! "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, 773/728-7170 or www.jaclmdc.org.

JACL Gala Dinner
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Thu., Sept. 17

"A Salute to Japanese American Veterans"; J.W. Marriott Hotel. Info: www.jacl.org or 202/223-1240.

East

Obon Festival
FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA
Sat., Jul. 11

Ekoji Buddhist Temple. Featuring music, bon-odori dancing, games and crafts, food, and taiko by Nen Daiko. Tours of the temple, memorial candles in the Garden of the Three Treasures, and short lec-

or Aiko Ebihara, 440/775-4435.

JACL Potluck Dinner
CINCINNATI, Ohio
Sun., Aug. 23
4 p.m.

Hyde Park Bethlehem Methodist Church. Cincinnati JACL annual potluck dinner. Guest speaker Jim Kariya has been the recipient of a Mansfield Fellowship for study in Japan and has worked collaboratively with Japanese scientists. Also featuring the Sakura Ladies Chorus and Bon Odori.

Flower Drum Song
ST. PAUL
Sat., July 11
7:30 p.m.

McKnight Theatre. 345 Washington St. David Henry Hwang's adaptation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic; tickets \$22; Info: Joanne Kumagai, 763/420-6639 or 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 demonstration, obon dancing and a peace observance at Capitol Lake at 9 p.m. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562 or sgtmilehibob@yahoo.com.

Northern California

JA Baseball Heritage Night
STOCKTON
Fri., Jul. 10
6:30 p.m.

The Stockton Ports will be honoring Satoshi Hiroshima, their first Japanese baseball player who went on to play for the Nippon Professional League. Limited MVP seating for \$9/person. Info: Aeko Yoshikawa, 209/463-6060 by June 25.

APCC Dragon Reception and

tures on Buddhism will also be available. Free admission. Info: 703/239-0500 or www.ekoji.org

Midwest

JACL-CJAF Grad Celebration
OLON, 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

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Fundraiser
SACRAMENTO
Fri., Sept. 11
5:30 p.m.

Sacramento State Alumni Center. The Asian Pacific Community Counseling will be honoring Marielle Tsukamoto, president of Florin JACL. Also featuring John Christgau, author of "Kokomo Joe: The Story of the First Japanese American Jockey in the United States." Tickets are \$40/person with complimentary wine drink ticket. Info: Effie Shum, 916/383-6784 ext. 135.

JACL Spaghetti Dinner
STOCKTON
Sat., Sept. 19
5:00 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.

NJAHS Presents New Exhibit
SAN FRANCISCO
Through Dec. 31

The National Japanese American Historical Society announces the arrival of traveling exhibit "From Our Land," focused on exploring Japanese American rural legacies. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 12 p.m.-5 p.m., first Saturday of the month, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Southern California

Hank Umemoto at Manzanar
MANZANAR
Jul. 3-5
Manzanar National Historic Site. Join former internee Hank Umemoto as he returns to Manzanar to lead

tours, show slides, and share colorful stories such as "Grandeur Once Denied." Guided tours, 11 a.m. Slide shows all weekend, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. Info: 760/878-2194, Ext. 2710.

69th Annual Nisei Week
LOS ANGELES

Aug. 15-23

Themed "A Year of Celebrations," the festival showcases free Japanese cultural events, activities, and exhibits, with entertainment, food and fun for all ages. Info: Nisei Week office, 213/687-7183 or www.NiseiWeek.org

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 or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/496-3763.

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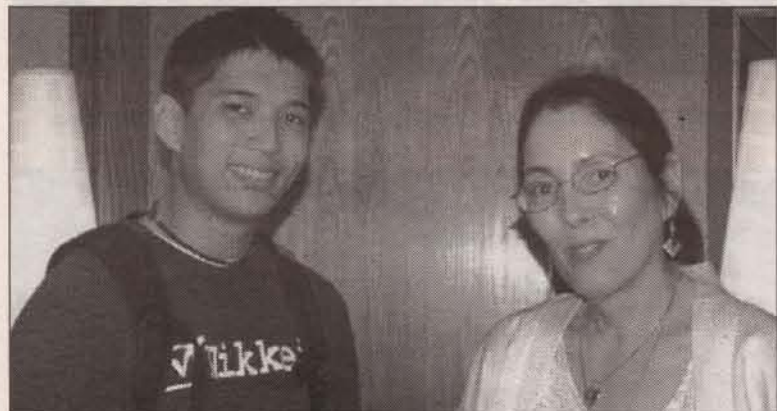
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COMMENTARY

Remembering Judge Sandra Otaka



Brandon Mita with his mentor Judge Sandra Otaka.

By BRANDON MITA

Judge Sandra Otaka, strong ally and tireless advocate for the Asian American community, passed away June 6. Upon hearing the news, I had to pull my car over. I'd like to think I am a rock when it comes to such tragedies but on this occasion I was unable to keep my nerve and turned off my engine.

Judge Otaka attended UCLA law school and was never one to shy away from the fact that she was there because of affirmative action. But that didn't stop her from receiving top honors and eventually clerking for Dale Minami as he prevailed in the Fred Korematsu *coram nobis* decision.

Otaka was the first AA to be elected to the Circuit Court bench in Cook County. Every event you went to in Chicago, she was there — having dinner with the Counsel General of Japan, talking to fellow attorneys at the Korean American Bar Association Gala, and winning awards for championing numerous campaigns and issues.

Thankfully I got to know Judge Otaka on a personal level. I first met her at the 2005 JACL Bi-District in Chicago and ever since that moment she helped guide me along as I aspired to be an advocate like her. At every turn, she was there to offer her assistance — calling me, e-mailing me and making sure I knew she was a person I could look up to on my path towards community activism and professional responsibility.

One memory from four years ago stands out. I was a senior at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and chairperson of the Asian American Coalition Committee (AACC), an organization whose mission was to increase resources for AA students on campus and initiate a full-fledged Asian American Studies Program. On a cold morning in March 2006, AACC led a protest rally in the UIC quad to raise awareness of the lack of an AA Studies Program.

In the months prior, we visited every AA organization in the Chicagoland area, asking them to sign petitions and support the students. It was like pulling teeth — few fully supported us and barely anyone showed up on that day. However, out of the sparse number of community members present on that day, Judge Otaka stood out. That was the type of person she was and that is the person I will remember.

I write this for her because I want to honor her legacy. Moreover, I write this for her son, Jeffrey. So he knows how much others cherished her presence and that she will be missed. Lastly, I write this as a reminder to myself. To continue reaching for the highest rung on the ladder for our community because that's what she would have done.

And most importantly, to remember to not address her as Judge Otaka, but as Sandra because she called me her friend. Rest in peace, Sandra. ■

Brandon Mita is the JACL national youth representative.

Minneapolis Cemetery Looks to Attract AA Families

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS—A large Minneapolis cemetery has developed a new burial site aimed at attracting Asian American families.

The section, known as the Garden of Eternal Peace, opened recently at Sunset Cemetery in Northeast Minneapolis. The Asian-themed graveyard is not just an act of cultural accommodation — it's also a smart business move.

The Garden of Eternal Peace is in some ways unremarkable. Not even an acre large, the site's entrance is marked by simple gate made of two wooden pillars and a modest roof. But this land is slightly higher than the rest of the cemetery, making it an ideal burial spot for followers of feng shui. Consultant Andrew Hong says the space offers a commanding location for both the living and the dead.

"It's just like when you're fighting a battle, and your enemies are coming," he said. "You're on higher ground. So imagine the people buried — they will feel very secure and safe."

Safe, Hong says with a smile, from evil spirits.

Feng shui is an ancient Chinese philosophy that strives to balance the energies in a given space. It has influenced everything from interior design to corporate logos. Hong has advised clients in both matters, but this was his first cemetery project. He's placed every object carefully, from the entry gate to a foot bridge, which he says gives negative energy a way out of the burial site.

Hong grew up in a poor family in Singapore. He says he learned the fundamentals of feng shui from his grand-

mother, who would give families advice in exchange for food.

Sunset Cemetery officials say the garden is the first in the Twin Cities to be designed according to these ancient principles. But Asian families in Minnesota already practice feng shui when scouting for areas across the state for the perfect burial spot. Many Hmong and Vietnamese families have been known to favor a certain Maplewood cemetery because it's surrounded by hills — the better to protect the deceased.

It may sound strange to segregate our dead by building ethnic "neighborhoods" right into our cemeteries, but people in the industry say it's no different than creating special sections for war veterans.

"It's easy for the dead," Hong said. "They can communicate with each other. They don't have to travel. Sometimes it's all in our man-made imagination. But you cannot fight tradition. If tradition believes in that, we better believe in it, too."

Robert Fells, external COO and general counsel for the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association, says there's no question that cemeteries are trying to keep up with the needs of immigrants. Some cemeteries have begun to start hiring more diverse staffs who can speak foreign languages and understand the unique burial customs of their customers, he said.

"It's a business move, because if you want people to use your funeral home and cemetery, you've got to have something of value for them," he said. "And if they come to you and (you) act like it's some alien culture, they'll go elsewhere. You either serve them and their values, or you don't." ■

IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

Bannai, Hideko, 82

June 14; served on Board of Governors of the Calif. Community Colleges; survived by husband, Paul; son, Don; daughters Kathryn (Robert Miura) and Lorraine (Norman Mar); 5 gc.; and sister, Alice Yamashiro.

Kawahara, Fred, PhD

February 23; worked for Standard Oil of Indiana and Environmental Protection Agency; developed lubricant additives that aided NASA in space exploration; helped protect environment by devising safe substitute for Freon.

Miyake, Scott F., 60

Seattle, Wash., June 3; Vietnam War veteran; survived by wife, 4 children, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, 1 gc.

Muraoka, Tomoye, 96

Chicago, Ill., May 6; survived by niece Betty Breyer.

Nadamoto, Iwao "Dugan," 85,

Honolulu, Haw.; Army veteran and Hickam Air Force Base retiree; survived by sons Brian and Bruce; daughters Joy Kumagai and Sherry Nadamoto; and 3 gc.

Nakamura, Kimiyo, 97

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 10; interned at Minidoka Relocation Camp in WWII. Moved to Cincinnati, Ohio after Mr. Nakamura retired.

Namba, Isao Ken, 90

Oak Ridge, Tenn., January 29; WWII veteran MIS division; graduate of Univ. of Alabama and Auburn; chemical engineer of ORNL in Oak Ridge.

Oyama, Kenny "Bongo", 87

Seattle, Wash., June 2; 442nd veteran, saw action in Italy; survived by son, Kevin (Cate); daughters Gayle (T.J.), Lisa (Dexter); 2 gc., and sister June Takahashi.

Sasano, Lawrence Tsuneji, 97

June 21; survived by wife, Fumiko Sasano; daughter, Karen (Bill) Carter; son, Larry (Gale) Sasano; 2 gc., brother, Robert (Mitsuko) Nakamura; and sisters-in-law, Toshiko Sasano and Teruko Nakamura.

Tada, Takeshi "Tuk," 82

May 13; worked in grocery industry, managed south end of Mercer Island QFC for 25 years; survived by children Randy (Cheryl), Richard (Sue), and Wendy (Tim); 2 gc.; and siblings

Kazuo (Justyn), Norma (Walter), and Carol (Kenzo).

Takeda, Roy Takeshi, 76

June 21; survived by wife Sayuri Takeda; son, Terry (partner Lou Slimp) Takeda and Todd (Jamie) Takeda; daughter Sharlene (Glenn) Miyagishima; 4 gc.; and sister Mary (Lincoln) Nagato.

Taniguchi, Hisaye, 89

June 22; survived by children, Hideko (Warren) Shimonishi, Miyoko (Gary) Hawkins, Bob (Pamela) Taniguchi, Jim Taniguchi; 8 gc.; and 6 ggc.

Uchida, George, 85

May 27; MIS Korea veteran; volunteered with Explorer Search and Rescue and King County Search and Rescue groups; survived by son, Jay (Fran); daughter Robin (Dave); 6 gc.; and 3 ggc.

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.

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