PACIFIC CITIZEN
The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

TOP NEWS
Check Legacy

The Redress checks built a legacy in the JA community.

NATIONAL
160,000 Cranes

Carly Gutzmann and Michelle Reed’s memorial project has exceeded goals.

ENTERTAINMENT
Paper Heart

Comedian Charlyne Yi takes on love in her new film.

COMMUNITY
JACL Bi-District

JACLers gathered in Cincinnati at the last EDC/MDC bi-district.

IN DEPTH
Lighting the Way Home

In the summer, cities come alive with taiko drums and traditional dancing. Obon festivals are rooted in tradition.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Honoring Our Veterans

Reference is made to the July 17-August 6 issue of the Pacific Citizen and the article entitled “Remembering the Legacy of the ‘No-No’.” Due to the “deeply flawed” loyalty questions #27 and #28, the so-called “No-No Boys” had every right to respond as they did and should not be blamed for responding accordingly. However I question the need to honor them.

In my opinion, those men who volunteered out of the concentration camps and served in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team should be recognized and honored for their service. Also, don’t forget the brave JACL officers who were beaten and ridiculed for encouraging the Nisei to join the Army — to prove to the American public that despite looking like the enemy, we are patriotic Americans.

I wonder whether the Japanese American public is aware that the presidential apology and the monetary Redress received by every evacuee is a result of House Resolution 442 (HR 442) and Senate Resolution 1009 (SR 1009) in recognition of the historical accomplishments of the 100th/442nd RCT.

These men left a proud legacy and are now in their 80s and 90s. If anyone should be honored these veterans of the 100th/442nd RCT should be recognized before they pass on. It has been reported that 1,500 to 2,000 WWII veterans are passing away and leaving us every day.

LEO H. HOSODA
Roseville, CA

NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

At the event, Mori visited with Jimmy Mirkitani, an artist and former internee.

An Enlightening Tule Lake Pilgrimage

By FLOYD MORI

Most of us have often heard the phrase: “There were ten World War II concentration camps for Japanese Americans.” I placed the Tule Lake camp as one of the ten, knowing only the academic differences. Attending this year’s Tule Lake Pilgrimage opened my eyes a little wider but more importantly, it engaged my heart and I began to experience the feelings that have existed among former Tulaneans.

Initially, Tule Lake was a destination for Japanese Americans from a specific geographical locale, much like the other camps. Tule Lake began to change when the government identified persons whom they suspected of being potential spies. It also became home to those who voiced dissent regarding their forced detention.

The identification of Tule Lake as a Segregation Center created a stigma that has lasted over the decades. Much like a quarantine, which isolates people from the “healthy society,” this designation had the same effect.

We, as Japanese Americans, are of different backgrounds but have inherited a legacy of strong values from our forefathers. Loyalty, upholding the family name, hard work, fairness and justice are values that our Issei and Nisei forbears engrained in us. At times, these values may be in conflict or engage my heart and I began to experience the feelings that have existed among former Tulaneans.

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Redress Compensation Checks Leave Lasting Impression

20 years after most Japanese Americans received their $20,000 redress checks, the P.C. looks into the legacy of a wrong acknowledged.

By NALEA J. KO and LESLIE K. TAMURA
Report and Correspondent

About three months ago while sorting through Peggy Kodama’s belongings, a relative came across an unexpected treasure buried in the garage. It was an unused Redress compensation check for $20,000.

After the death of her husband, Peggy Kodama moved from her Lompoc, Calif. home to Los Angeles, where she currently lives. Twenty years ago, Peggy Kodama was busy dealing with her husband’s failing health in addition to her own health issues, said her daughter.

“They were a little shocked,” said Gail Kodama, Peggy Kodama’s daughter, about finding the check made out to her mother. “My dad’s sister-in-law found it. My dad had a lot of health problems. He was hit by a Greyhound bus and my mom was dealing with that. Plus she has macular degeneration and glaucoma. She was stressed with having to follow up with so many things.”

On Aug. 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law giving former Japanese American prisoners of war $20,000 in compensation for their suffering during World War II. In the early 1990s, as head of the Redress Committee, John Tateishi told the Issei, Nisei and Sansei who had experienced the camps that he wanted to enter the public arena to force a discussion about monetary compensation, education and restitution.

“[This is a story I will always remember],” Saito said. “This was not about money, not about making the government pay,” Tateishi added. “What I saw in it for the Nisei was a way to make sure the government should apologize, but they didn’t want to monetize the apology. And then there was a third group who felt that the apology meant something only if the government paid.

“I was really blindsided,” Tateishi said, “by not realizing just how strongly the Nisei felt the shikataganai about camp.”

Asian American history books often refer to the strength of honor and shikataganai, the cultural philosophy that emphasized letting go, moving on, looking to the future. Many community leaders were against Redress because they wanted to leave the past in the past.

“This was not about money, not about making the government pay,” Tateishi added. “What I saw in it for the Nisei was a vindication for who and what they were as Americans; we were doing this not for ourselves but for the future of the United States, for the future of democracy and the constitution.”

Regardless of how each recipient used their compensation checks — or did not use it — most hope the injustice they faced.

George “Pop” Okada used his $20,000 to pay for his annual income tax.

During WWII, Okada spent three years interned behind barbed wire on U.S. soil. His crime was his Japanese ancestry. When he was released from the Tule Lake camp, Okada received a one-way ticket home to Parlier, Calif.

“I had to work the next day to buy my groceries,” said the now 88-year-old retired farmer living in Fresno, Calif. “The Redress money was too late, too little,” added Okada.

“I really felt that it wasn’t enough.”

Legacy of the Redress Money

As interned in the camps during WWII received their $20,000 compensation checks according to their age; the oldest were paid first.

People often bought goods, donated it to various JA or other civil rights causes, or invested it for their family, according to Mitchell Maki, dean of the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

“The $20,000 did not change [Japanese Americans’] lives financially,” said Maki. “However, the meaning of the $20,000 was priceless in the sense that it was a true acknowledgement that they had been wronged.”

The Redress money also supported the Japanese American National Museum as well as the JACL’s Legacy Fund as both organizations began fundraising drives in the early 1990s.

Carol Saito, who has worked as an administrative assistant with the JACL Pacific Southwest District office since the Redress Campaign, recalled the Issei coming to the Little Tokyo office nearly everyday with $200-$500 in hand.

“When they got the checks, a lot of them lived in Tokyo Towers. They all came with cash donations to the office,” said Saito. “They would come by bus to give us the donations, which we put in the Legacy Fund.”

Saito said the Issei would not always share their stories about how they used the money, but one woman did.

“This is a story I will always remember,” Saito said. “This one woman walked across from the Towers. She wanted to thank us so much because she wanted to buy her teeth. I just felt this kind of tremendous sadness that here is this woman who wanted to buy teeth.” Saito recalled that most recipients who donated to the Legacy Fund were very happy about the compensation.

But some thought the Redress checks didn’t make up for the injustice they faced.

The Issei received their Redress checks first. Many donated the government’s money to community organizations and charities.

The Nisei followed, and then the Sansei.

“[This is a story I will always remember],” Saito said. “This was not about money, not about making the government pay,” Tateishi added. “What I saw in it for the Nisei was a way to make sure the government should apologize, but they didn’t want to monetize the apology. And then there was a third group who felt that the apology meant something only if the government paid.

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Regardless of how each recipient used their compensation checks — or did not use it — most hope the injustice of the JA internment will forever live on in the history books.

Peggy Kodama is “still hopeful” that something can be done with her mother’s unused Redress check. The family has waited 20 years to find the check, so Gail Kodama said she would not be rushing to the bank any time soon.

“Not valid after six months,” Gail Kodama said, reading a notice on the check. “I don’t necessarily think a bank would take it. I’ll just probably hold on to it for awhile.”

Shikataganai

The road to Redress was long, difficult and filled with dissenting voices.

“In the beginning there was no consensus on what the community should do,” said Chris Komai, the public information officer at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

In the 1970s, as head of the Redress Committee, John Tateishi told the Issei, Nisei and Sansei who had experienced the camps that he wanted to enter the public arena to force a discussion about monetary compensation, education and restitution.

“There was a very strong cultural reaction against [Redress],” Tateishi said, “because in the minds of a lot of people it was a kind of dishonoring of Japanese Americans.”

There were individuals who wanted to leave the issue alone, forget the war and move on. There were those who thought the government should apologize, but they didn’t want to monetize the apology. And then there was a third group who felt that the apology meant something only if the government paid.

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Lighting the Way Home: Celebrating Culture at Obon Festivals

The annual festivals are distinctly Japanese American right down to the traditional dancing. (Above) a woman performs the bon odori, a folk dance, near Little Tokyo’s Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple.

Obon festivals in Japan have their roots in Buddhism. Today’s festivals in the U.S. feature traditional taiko and obon dancing and are great ways to fundraise

By NALEA J. KO

Reporter

Wayne Itoga met the person that would lead him to Buddhism about six years ago. He was dancing beside bon odori dancers in Los Angeles with his adoptive son strapped in a baby carrier. Itoga’s interaction with his son made a lasting impression on another dancer, a woman named Joan.

At another obon festival a year later, Itoga met Joan again. She remembered seeing Itoga dancing with his son and thanked him for introducing his child to obon. Joan also invited Itoga to the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in downtown Los Angeles, but he would not visit the temple until years later.

“I made a commitment in my head to go to Higashi to see Joan,” said Itoga. “When I finally did this — I think it was last year — I went to their obon practice and I talked to the teacher. I said, ‘I met a woman named Joan at the obon festival.’ She said, ‘Joan passed away and she was my mother.’ I felt really bad. This woman passed away, but she lead me to this temple.”

Itoga returned to the temple this year to work as a volunteer for the obon festival and services where he is now a member. This year was the 50th anniversary of the obon festival. About 1,000 to 2,000 people showed up for the entertainment, taiko drummers, bon odori, food and prayer services.

Although obon festivals have changed over the years, temple leaders say awareness about obon has increased.

“When we were kids people just thought of it as a carnival. We really didn’t think of the meaning of it,” said Rinban Noriaki Ito, with Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple. “In our youth program we try to teach them about the tradition before the festivals.”

The Los Angeles-based temple’s celebration was one of the many obon festivals that were held this summer across the country. Many festivals are also scheduled for August, including the celebrations in Japan.

At the Oregon Buddhist Temple, Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs spoke to the Pacific Citizen while he was preparing for their obon festival, which began Aug. 1. He said thousands are expected at the event, which is one of two in the area.

The History of Obon

Obon festivals vary in different regions around the country and in Japan. Jodo Shinshu Buddhists call obon the gathering of joy. Most now use the festival and services as a fundraising opportunity. But recognizing ancestors and friends is still an integral part of obon.

Lanterns traditionally light up festivities and performances.

Obon’s origins can be tied to a Buddhist myth about a monk named Mokuren Sonoji who was trying to save his deceased mother from the underworld. Mokuren enlisted the help of other monks, offering them food and drink. He eventually saved his mother from her suffering, marking the beginning of obon.

Historically it was believed that the spirits would return to their families during obon season. The Japanese would hang lanterns outside their houses to lead the dead home. Today obon attendees still pray to their ancestors and give offerings.

“Obon is a moment when we (as ordinary people) remember our deceased beloved ones, is a rare chance to think on our own lives seriously,” wrote Kakei Nakagawa in an e-mail, a priest with the White River Buddhist temple in Auburn, Wash. “Obon is the best chance for Buddha-dharma followers to realize the significance of life.”

Many Buddhists are clear in differentiating between Japanese American obon festivals from traditional Japanese services and festivals. For instance, bon odori is not classical Japanese dance but folk dance. Itoga said obon festivals have changed since his youth. He recalled festivals, which were more traditionally Japanese.

“I think back to my childhood, it was not too different,” Itoga said. “The feeling, now it’s much more contemporary.”

He said the dancing in the late 1950s and 1960s was more formal, with only the women performing in yukatas and kimonos. Now Itoga said, the celebration is more inclusive, drawing people who have no ties to Buddhism or Japanese culture.

“When I look at the dancers today it is really a big mix of youth and older people — male and female,” Ito explained.

The festivals typically culminate with the floating lanterns, or toro nagashi. Flickering lanterns float down the Motoyasu River in August for the Hiroshima Lantern Floating Memorial, honoring those that perished from the atomic bomb. Hawaii residents and tourists hold a similar service called Lantern Floating Hawaii Memorial, sending lighted lanterns out to sea.

Itoga arrived early in the morning last Saturday to help set up for the obon festival. The night before volunteers like Ito helped string up about 410 lanterns, which remained suspended in the air during the festival. He bought three lanterns to remember friends that died. Itoga still attributes Joan as the light that lead him to Buddhism.

“I totally regretted it,” Itoga explained. “It’s funny being a Buddhist because that’s when you realize that these services are not for the deceased they’re for the living.”

“I think they’re really for you to deal with the guilt and acknowledge your debt to your ancestors. I felt really bad because I would’ve loved to have seen Joan, this woman who led me to this temple.”
The Peace Crane Memorial Project: Healing Past Wrongs With Origami

By NALEA J. KO
Reporter

Fifteen-year-old Michelle Reed never set out to be a political advocate. But the teenager’s efforts to raise awareness about the World War II Japanese American internment have garnered national media attention.

Michelle and her childhood friend Carly Gutzmann started the Peace Crane Memorial Project, with a goal to collect 130,313 paper origami cranes. Each crane represents a JA interned during WWII. With Michelle’s basement full of boxes crammed with cranes, the 15-year-olds well exceeded their goal.

“The project started after the high-schoolers made a documentary about the Topaz Internment Camp for National History Day, a place where about 8,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were interned. The idea to make a documentary came after the teens watched a film called “Paper Clips,” documenting Tennessee children who collected millions of paper clips to signify each Holocaust victim.

After making the 10-minute film the girls decided to make cranes for former Topaz internees to sign, which sparked the idea to start the Peace Crane Memorial Project. In addition to the cranes they made themselves, the teens received thousands from all over the nation.

“We now have 160,000 cranes in our basement,” said Mary Reed, Michelle’s mother, “They’re being stored in 30 boxes in our basement.”

Packages containing thousands of hand-made cranes arrived at Michelle’s father’s office from places like Hawaii, North Dakota and Florida. The duo also collected personal internment stories, receiving thank you letters from former internees and their relatives.

“I learned that the experience for many of the internes was horrible, but some of them also used our project as a learning experience,” Michelle said. “Many didn’t want to go back and revisit it. This project has helped them to go back and talk about the internment.” Carly echoed her friend.

“The project has certainly shown me that I can really make a difference, if not in the world, then at least in a community,” wrote Carly in an e-mail. “I have a lot more respect for people who have experienced history like that, and I want to get their stories to the world.”

News about the teens’ work spread to California at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum where a video about the Paper Crane Peace Memorial Project is on display at the “Reading the Walls” exhibit.

“Michelle and Carly have been phenomenal,” said Lynn Voorheis, the museum curator of historic structures and collections. “Upon the achievement of their goal, we started to think about launching the California Origami Peace Crane Project.”

Voorheis said museum officials’ goal is to collect 92,785 cranes for the California Origami Peace Crane Project, representing those who were interned in the state. Thirty thousand cranes will be sent to the museum in Riverside, Calif. where they will be exhibited behind plexiglass. To date museum staffs have collected about 13,000 cranes.

As for the remaining paper cranes that Michelle and Carly collected, Steve Koga — with the soon-to-be-built Topaz Museum — is on a two-day trek to personally pick up the remaining origami creations in Minnesota.

“I wanted to drive out because the girls have put in so much work,” said Koga over the phone while driving through Nebraska, heading toward Minnesota.

“When I first met Michelle and Carly (via e-mail) in the fall of 2006, they were seventh graders seeking information for a National History Day project,” Koga said in a statement. “As a museum, we get many youths stating that they would like to do projects for the museum. Not many have enough initiative to follow through to actually start, let alone complete a project goal.

Origami Fever

In addition to gaining origami skills, Michelle and Carly learned more than their high school history class provided about the WWII internment camps.

“They really liked the idea of Japanese Americans internment,” Mary added. “They read about a paragraph about it in their internment in history class.”

Michelle and Carly stopped receiving crane submissions as of June 1. That has not stopped the girls from pursuing origami as a hobby. During the project, Michelle collected about 70 cranes a day in school while simultaneously taking notes.

“Before the project I really only did simple things, like, I knew how to make a paper cup,” said Michelle.

“Thanks for having now learned to create intricate paper lilies and roses. Carly said origami is a habit now, too. She has learned to make various origami animals.

Like other teens, Michelle and Carly have career and college plans on their radar. Michelle is entering her junior year of high school and will also take classes at Inver Hills Community College. Carly is going into her sophomore year of high school and plans to go into business for music production or environmental science.

Although the project is over, the duo said they have not forgotten about the first-hand history lesson they received. They encourage other teens to make a difference in the world, too. “I know it sounds so cliché, but you can do anything you put your mind to! I was amazed at the help and support that came pouring in when we got the word around,” Carly said.

“Teenagers should definitely challenge themselves to attempt the impossible because you never know if it really is possible. Trust me. I’ve collected over 150,000 cranes. I don’t even know the definition of impossible.”

For more information about the Peace Crane Memorial Project: www.120313cranes.org.

For more information about the California Origami Peace Crane Project, visit www.riversideca.gov/museum.

- PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY REED

Young visitors at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum in California make paper cranes for the California Origami Peace Crane Project (above), a program inspired by Minnesota-based teens Michelle Reed and Carly Gutzmann (left). Officials with the museum say they are hoping to collect 92,785 origami cranes.

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For more information about the Peace Crane Memorial Project: www.120313cranes.org.

For more information about the California Origami Peace Crane Project, visit www.riversideca.gov/museum.
NPS Awards JA Internment Grants

The Heart Mountain Center receives the largest grant; three JACL chapters also get funding

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The National Park Service has awarded nearly $1 million in grants, paving the way for the preservation and increased public awareness of the various sites related to the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The former Heart Mountain Relocation Center received $282,253, the largest of the 19 grants recently announced. The funds will be used to build a museum at the former site located just outside of Wyoming. Also receiving grants were three JACL chapters: Livingston-Merced Chapter, Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Memorial, $25,000; Marysville Chapter, Arboga Assembly Center Project $5,000; and the Twin Cities Chapter, Minnesota Japanese American Oral History Project, $16,000.

"The JACL is grateful to Congress for making these grants possible and to the National Park Service for implementing this program which was a difficult assignment with the many worthy applications which were submitted," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "These grants will help to move the camp preservation programs forward.”

In 2006, Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program (under Public Law 109-441, 16 USC 461) to preserve and interpret the various sites associated with the WWII internment. The law authorizes up to $38 million for the life of the grant program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historic confinement sites. During WWII, the U.S. government forcibly interred 110,000 Japanese Americans at dozens of sites.

Others who received grants include the Manzanar and Tule Lake relocation centers in California, Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii, Fort Lincoln Internment Camp in North Dakota, Kooskia Internment Camp in Idaho, Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas, and Central Utah (Topaz) Relocation Center.

Additional grants will help organizations record interviews with people who lived at the camps.

"Especially now, it’s really urgent that we document internees’ experiences — firsthand experiences, what it was like," said Kara Miyagishima, a Park Service historian in Denver.

In total the National Park Service awarded $960,000 after holding various public meetings in Honolulu, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco. In total, 32 applications were received.

"They’ve, I think, gone out of the way to outreach to the community and get input," said Gerald Yamada, national coordinator for the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition.

Missing from the awardee list is the Minidoka National Historic Site. Although Miyagishima confirmed that funds were requested by the nonprofit Friends of Minidoka, they were not included in the final round of funding. In an interview with the Times-News, she called the proposal “really interesting” and encouraged the group to apply again in the future.

Grant recipients must raise $1 on their own for every $2 in federal funding they receive. Congress now is considering awarding another $2.5 million through the program next year, according to Yamada.

"This grant is important validation for the story of Tule Lake and Segregation," said Hiroshi Shimizu, president of the Tule Lake Committee who received $40,000 to preserve the Tule Lake Stockade and Jail. "We are grateful that the JACS grant program will make it possible to begin the planning needed to preserve the jail and stockade area.”

Associated Press contributed to this report.

NPS Grant Recipients:
- Poston Community Alliance, Saving the Stories: Oral Histories and Digitization of Former Poston Detainees and Staff, $25,994;
- Livingston-Merced JACL Chapter, Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Memorial, $25,000;
- Marysville JACL Chapter, Arboga Assembly Center Project, $5,000;
- Manzanar Committee, From Barbed Wire to Barbed Hooks, $49,400;
- Tule Lake Committee, Preserving the Tule Lake Stockade and Jail, $40,000;
- Hawaii Heritage Center, Administration Building and Fire House Existing Condition Analysis Report, Honolulu Internment Camp, $58,600;
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Hawaii Confinement Sites Project Traveling Exhibit, $43,197;
- University of Hawaii, Multidisciplinary Research and Education at Honolulu Internment Camp, $26,148;
- University of Hawaii for Oral History, $282,253.

The grants will help restore the Tule Lake stockade jail,

Japanese Tea Garden May Soon Get a New Operator

San Francisco—The city is close to approving a new operator for the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park. The Recreation and Park Department has reportedly selected the people behind Murata’s Cafe Hana in Japantown as the new vendor to bring more authenticity to the city’s visitor attraction.

Current operator Fred Lo has fought the search. The Board of Supervisors needs to sign off on the deal.

Group of Veterans Agrees to Compromise on Wichita Memorial

WICHITA, Kan.—A group of U.S. veterans have agreed to a proposed compromise that would keep a memorial to South Vietnamese soldiers out of a Wichita park.

The Vietnamese Community of Wichita had raised money to put the memorial to U.S. and South Vietnamese troops in Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Wichita — prompting outrage from some U.S. veterans groups.

The proposed compromise would allow the memorial to be built near the park but not on park grounds.

The Wichita City Council has approved the compromise.
APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

L.A. Middle School to be Renamed Young Oak Kim Academy

The Central Los Angeles Area Middle School No. 3, located at 615 S. Shatto Place, is being renamed Young Oak Kim Academy. Kim was the first APA to be commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army. He served as a lieutenant in the 100th Infantry Battalion during WWII. Work is underway for an October campus dedication.

Cleveland JACL Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Scholarship Program

The Cleveland JACL and the Cleveland Japanese American Foundation recently awarded $1,000 scholarships to several of their scholars. This is the 50th anniversary of the chapter’s scholarship program. In 1959, the Cleveland JACL established a scholarship fund to give recognition to exemplary high school graduates. Pictured above: (Back row, l-r) Kyle Guinto, Victor Matsunaga, (front row, l-r) Maria Schumhli, Taylor Ullman, Kelsey Siebold and Aleah Fisher.

San Fernando Valley JACL Recognizes Burgeoning Leaders

Recently, the San Fernando Valley JACL and the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center awarded their annual scholarships to Molly Setzawa and Michael Nishida, two burgeoning community leaders. Scholarship committee members included: Kay Inaba, Doreen Kawamoto, Barbara Okita, Linda Tanaka, Sumi Yamaguchi and Jean-Paul DeGuzman.

Hirasaki Receives Order of the Rising Sun Award

George Hirasaki, a chemical engineering professor at Rice University has been awarded Japan’s prestigious Order of the Rising Sun Award. Hirasaki, who became the Houston JACL president in 2002, was honored for his dedication to the JA community in a recent ceremony at the Japanese consulate. The award was established by Emperor Meiji and is the oldest national decoration awarded by the Japanese government. Only 15 were awarded in the U.S. this year, including one to film director Clint Eastwood.

West Los Angeles JACL Awards Scholarships

Dean Sasaki was awarded the $2,500 Chiyo M. Hattori Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, which is given to a student pursuing a career in medicine, is named in honor of a long-time chapter supporter. Tyler Oyakawa, was awarded the chapter’s $1,000 scholarship given to an area high school senior. At its recent awards dinner, the chapter also recognized its current intern, Kristin Fukushima. She is working with the JACL PSW on public policy issues.

Law Professor Tapped as Civil Rights Czar

Seton Hall Law School professor Chinh Q. Le has been chosen as New Jersey’s next civil rights protection czar. Le is a former assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. There, he litigated cases related to education, school integration, voting rights and affirmative action.

Now a practitioner-in-residence at Seton Hall’s Center for Social Justice, his areas of focus include affordable housing preservation, mortgage fraud, tenant rights and charter schools. Le also serves as an adjunct associate research scholar at Columbia University School of Law.

JLA Commission Bill Garners Favorable, Bipartisan Vote in House Subcommittee

Campaign for Justice urges the public to contact Judiciary Committee members to ask for support.

Japanese Latin Americans who were kidnapped and forcibly interned in U.S. detention camps during World War II are now one step closer to seeing their long-awaited justice, something they have been fighting for for decades.

A bipartisan majority of members of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law voted 7 to 2 on July 24 to report H.R. 42, the JLA Commission bill, to the full House Judiciary Committee. The bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-CA-31, this past January.

“This favorable, bipartisan vote demonstrates the positive change that the 111th Congress along with the new administration have brought to our nation’s Capital,” said Christine Oh, legislative director of Campaign For Justice, or CFJ. “I commend the subcommittee members for moving this important legislation forward, and I urge the full Judiciary Committee members to support its passage.”

The JLA Commission bill would establish a federal commission to investigate and determine the facts surrounding the wartime deportation, internment and relocation of Latin Americans of Japanese descent by the U.S. government and recommend any appropriate remedies.

While many Americans are aware of the internment of JAs during WWII, few know about the U.S. government’s activities in certain non-combatant countries against people of Japanese ancestry. Approximately 2,264 JLA were uprooted from their homes and forcibly transported to the United States to be held in internment camps, and among whom hundreds were used by the U.S. government for hostage exchanges with Japan.

On March 19, the subcommittee held a hearing focusing on the treatment of Latin Americans of Japanese and German descent, European Americans, and Jewish refugees during WWII, providing a platform for JLA to lay a historical foundation for the need for a commission investigation into these wartime government violations.

Witnesses who testified at the hearing included Libia Yamamoto (former Japanese Peruvian internee), Grace Shimizu (director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and daughter of a former Japanese Peruvian internee), and Daniel Masterson (professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland). CFJ is asking supporters to contact their members of Congress who sit on the Judiciary Committee to express their support for the bill.

For more information, contact Christine Oh, CFJ legislative director, at 213/300-9346 or info@campaignforjusticejla.org.

L.A. Event to Commemorate 10th Anniversary of Ileto Murder

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Ten years after a Filipino-American postal worker was gunned down in California’s San Fernando Valley by a self-professed white supremacist, Asian Pacific American groups are hosting an Aug. 10 event to reflect on its impact.

The murder of Joseph Ileto, 39, “galvanized the community,” said Tracy Haung, the PSW JACL Mike Honda Fellow. The Los Angeles event, sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), will feature Ileto’s family members and lawmakers. PSW JACL is a co-sponsor of the event.

“On the 10th anniversary of Joseph Ileto’s death, we are both grateful for how far we have come, but also aware of how far we have yet to go on the road to eliminating hate crimes,” said Karin Wang, APALC vice president of programs. On Aug. 10, 1999, Buford Furrow, Jr. shot and killed Ileto less than an hour after opening fire at the North Valley Jewish Community Center. Furrow reportedly told investigators that Ileto was a “good target of opportunity” because he was a minority and worked for the federal government.

Furrow pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Since the murder, the Ileto family has worked with several civil rights organizations to fight hate crimes and raise awareness. A post office building in Chino Hills, Calif. also bears Ileto’s name.

Remembering Ileto

Tenth Anniversary of a Hate Crime speakers including Congresswoman Judy Chu and Assemblyman Mike Eng will reflect on the life and death of Joseph Ileto.

Date: Aug. 10
Time: 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Asian Pacific American Legal Center, 1145 Wilshire Blvd., 1st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Info: Shukry Cattan at 213/241-0269 or scattan@apalc.org

Staff
Moving Forward

By JOHN TATEISHI

I find it interesting to think about how much America has changed since President Barack Obama took office. In only a matter of six months the mood of the country has changed so dramatically. Never mind the ungodly economic mess Obama inherited and the multi-trillion dollar debt dumped on him, and all the other related woes he has to deal with just to keep the country, and the world, from listing too far and failing in deep waters.

What I’m thinking about is the atmosphere of fear that was so much a part of the Bush presidency and the Bush strategy to get what he wanted. FDR, in his first inaugural speech, said those now-famous words, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,” and those wokers from the right wing in the Bush administration knew just how true that was.

For seven years we lived in fear of the terrorists who were among us and the constant threat of an imminent attack from within. Whenever Bush needed or wanted something, all he had to do was invoke the fear of terrorists and paint a landscape of America replete with threats lurking behind every door and around every corner. And the Congress bought it every time. Or more accurately, the Republicans rallied behind their president and the Democrats meekly muttered to themselves.

There were threats from all corners of this country, if you were to believe the Bush inner circle and the Republicans who played a chorus that sang the refrain of fear over and over. And if you listen to them now, those of the now-minority party who can’t wait to pounce on anything Obama does or proposes as real solutions to real problems, you’d think this ship is about to sink with Obama and the Democrats at the helm.

Except their rhetoric of fear isn’t working any more.

It’s just that I find it so refreshing that the guiding principle of our current leadership in this country isn’t based on threats and fear. Could things have changed so much? Or is it simply that Obama just doesn’t get it (as Dick Cheney keeps insisting)? Is he negligent as our president of minding the shop of the USA Patriot Act and all it stands for? Which makes me wonder just how much of that incredible act is being exercised daily as it was under the Bush administration. Are citizens still being spied on and their private lives kept under the scrutiny of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies?

Maybe Big Brother is taking a break. It’s hard work having to be so busy after seven intense years of lurking on the other side of the Constitution.

To be honest, I truly doubt we’re any safer from terrorists now than we were seven years ago. Or twenty. Who among us driving through the state of Idaho doesn’t think at some point about all those white supremacist jerks hidden in the hills? The potential terrorists there happen to look more like Timothy McVeigh than someone who happens to look Middle Eastern. Interesting how Oklahoma City was never figured in as part of the equation of fear.

I find it interesting how the atmosphere has changed so dramatically in only six months. There are dangers that still lie ahead, and they’re very real. We face the worries of the worldwide economic meltdown, and global warming poses a real threat to the entire planet. But instead of isolating ourselves and finding fault elsewhere, this country has taken responsibility for leading us out of this mess instead of getting us into one.

It’s good to know that we have a moral center as a nation once again. A year ago, I often used to think of the lines from a W.B. Yeats poem: “The best lack all conviction/While the worst are full of passionate intensity.”

“Today,” I’m more drawn to lines by Thom Gunn: “At worse, one is in motion, and at best/Reaching no absolute, in which to rest/One is always nearer by not keeping still.”

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.
'Paper Heart': On The Road To Love

Comedienne Charlyne Yi's character sets out to diffuse the concept of true love but ends up falling in love herself.

By NALEA J. KO
Reporter

Comedienne Charlyne Yi's parents have always supported her dreams to pursue comedy. The two were by her side after she dropped out of UC Irvine and quit her Wal-Mart job to do stand up comedy.

The 23-year-old got her start performing magic, comedy and her original songs at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and bike bars in Fontana, Calif. Yi continued performing live even after her money for college ran out.

She found herself sneaking into theater class at her former college. The then-struggling performer used whatever funds she had saved while living at her parents' home in Fontana to drive to open-mic nights and comedy contests in Los Angeles. Her motivation was waning, but Yi did not give up.

"I was having a nervous break down," said Yi over the phone from a bowling alley in Minneapolis where she was doing a press junket. "I was performing for three people in a comedy club and my dad just lost his job. My dad was like, 'just don't have any regrets.'"

Her father, Luciano Yi, was by his daughter's side again for her latest project. He helped design the puppet show sets in Yi's new film, 'Paper Heart,' which also stars Michael Cera and Jake Johnson. The movie, funded by Overture Film's sister company Anchor Bay Entertainment, was first released at the Sundance Film Festival.

The "Paper Heart" film crew traveled in a van across North America — including stops in France and Canada — collecting love stories for the film. First casting director Eileen Kennedy prescreened the lovebirds, love gurus, romance novelists and other interviewees from across the nation. Director Nick Jasenovec and Yi revisited with selected interviewees to film their stories.

Yi recalled loading up their van for an exciting but smelly adventure. "It was intense." Yi explained breaking into laughter, "I had fart wars going in the van and in the hotels all the time. We made a rule that we couldn't fart in the van anymore. But, I remember one time our DP (director of photographer) started snacking his lips and he tasted the fart."

Searchign For Love

As in her career, Yi wore many different hats in the movie "Paper Heart." She co-wrote the score with Cera, was executive director and co-wrote the script.

It is the first time Yi wrote for a movie, but she is no stranger to writing music. The 23-year-old plays the guitar, piano and harp and is also in numerous bands: Glass Beef, Old Lumps, Helen Hunt, the Twisters and Chandelier Teeth.

"Paper Heart" is a hybrid film: 50 percent documentary and 50 percent scripted film. All of the off-camera interviews are real, explained Yi. But the rest is tightly scripted, including the on-screen love connection between her character and Cera's character.

"We found it exciting," said Jasenovec, who was portrayed off-screen by Johnson. "If you thought what you were watching was potentially real, you'd be more engaged in the story. The actors are playing themselves, but it's not them and it's not 'real' circumstances ... although they're similar."

Toting around her black notebook, Yi set out on a trek to find out if true love exists. Her character does not believe in love and speaks with scientists, an Elvis impersonator, a psychic, and children for their take on the subject. But soon Yi's character eventually gets a firsthand lesson in romance when she meets Cera.

The lines between documentary and film become blurred at times because the two lead actors play characters with their same names. Consequently Yi has found herself fielding questions from journalists about a possible off-screen relationship with her co-star.

"Every interview, people are like, 'I hate to ask this,'" Yi continued with a chuckle. "I'm like, 'If you hate to ask, why ask?' They ask if we're dating and I'm, like, 'No we're not dating.' And they're, like, 'Sure.' I guess it doesn't help that we play characters with our own names."

Charlyne Yi is 33

Yi is not the quintessential Hollywood romantic lead. Her long black hair is perpetually unkempt. Her father is a Korean, Caucasian, Mexican and Native American. Her mom is Filipino and Spanish. With black-framed glasses perched on her nose, Yi's style mostly consists of worn jeans, sneakers and baggy T-shirts.

The performer said she also was not the typical teenage, prompting people at school and at home to question her "strange" behavior. Yi's role as a stoner in the movie, "Knocked Up," did not help diffuse rumors.

"When I told them [my parents] what I wanted to do, they, 'so long as we don't feel you are f--- up.'" Yi said, her parents' warning was meant for her to stay away from illicit drugs.

"I was not a typical teenager, so they thought I was doing drugs," Yi said, "I actually caught them in my bedroom. I said, 'you're not going to find anything. You're just going to find dirty underwear or little drawings. I don't really have anything to hide.'"

Some of the other rumors about Yi are solely her fault, she said. Yi's MySpace page shows that she is 33 years old. Her MySpace page also features her face superimposed on a "16 Candles" movie poster. She jokingly about creating a sequel called, "32 Candles," to celebrate her birthday.

"It's this joke. I have only told, like, three people," Yi said. "People were talking to me like a baby so, I told this woman I was 33 and her face had this look of disgust. It's just such an interesting thing that people will treat you differently depending on your age. It's strange how respect can come with age."

When people knew her real age, Yi said she fought for respect because she did not have experience. After doing stand up at AA meetings, Yi went on to perform at Los Angles' The Upright Citizens Brigade, The Steve Allen Theatre, the Just For Laughs Festival in Canada, among other venues.

Reviewers of her stand-up shows did not always agree on how to peg Yi's comedy style. She has been compared to Andy Kaufman and Carrot Top because she uses props in her act.

Today Yi's virals have been viewed tens of thousands of times on YouTube and MySpace. Her Internet work includes a spoof of "Dirty Dancing" with Channing Tatum. In the future, Yi also hopes to create more Internet videos, with her eyes set on spoofing the Geena Davis and Samuel Jackson film "The Long Kiss Goodnight." For now she is consumed with promoting "Paper Heart."

Contrary to Internet rumors, Yi does not find love in the film although her character does.

"Originally it was going to be a street documentary and I was planning on capturing true love stories with Nick." Yi added, "Because they thought it would be interesting to see things through my eyes. Nick thought within the five weeks of shooting, I would fall in love. But, I didn't want to start dating on camera." Instead she approached Cera to do the movie, which interwove real love stories into the film.

"I think me as a real person I was inspired by these people," Yi explained, "Charlyne in the movie didn't believe in love. I think through talking to people and hanging out with them I realized that love is uncertain." Yi explained that the film "Paper Heart" was just as uncertain as the subject of the film.

"During the whole editing process of the first editing was so bad," Yi said, "We were really quiet. We thought we made a really bad film. I think the next cut was definitely better. About a week and a half later we found hope in the film."

Working on "Paper Heart" has given Yi a renewed hope in her career. She hopes to continue stand up comedy, acting, drawing and singing.

Senate Votes to Expand U.S. Hate Crimes Law

JACL urges lawmakers to support the bill, which if passed would effect the most significant extension of hate crimes law since 1968.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

A new Senate-approved measure that significantly expands the reach of hate crimes law is an important tool to fight intolerance, civil rights leaders say.

This latest bill, the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, expanded the list of hate crimes—which originally focused on attacks based on the victims' race, color, religion or national origin—to include those targeted because of their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

The Senate approved the measure by voice vote after a 63-28 procedural vote was needed to allow its consideration as part of the defense bill.

"We have long awaited the passage of this legislation that has actually passed both houses on separate occasions in the past, but a presidential threat of veto killed the bill during the last session," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

Before the July 16 Senate vote, JACL called on its members to urge lawmakers to pass the measure. The civil rights organization supports the expansion of "federal hate crimes laws because the Asian American community has had the experience of being one of the targets of the prejudice and ignorance that precipitate hate crimes," said Larry Oda, JACL president.

The Senate bill also would make it easier for federal prosecutors to step in when state or local authorities are unable or unwilling to pursue hate crimes.

"The passage of this bill gives us another tool to fight this kind of violent behavior and allow the federal government to step in where needed," said Mori. "While violence of any kind is to be avoided, violence born out of hate creates an atmosphere of long-term intolerance."

"The Senate made a strong statement this evening that hate crimes have no place in America," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said after the chamber voted to attach the legislation as an amendment to a $680 billion defense spending bill expected to be completed next week.

In April, the House approved a similar bill. President Barack Obama has urged Congress to send him hate crimes legislation, presenting the best scenario for the measure to become law since Sen. Edward Kennedy first introduced it more than a decade ago.

Lawmakers will have the opportunity to propose several more changes in the coming weeks to the hate crimes bill for a final approval by both houses of Congress.

Passage of the bill would effect the most significant extension of hate crimes law since Congress first acted in 1968 after the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The 1968 law defines hate crimes as those carried out on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. It also limits federal involvement to when the victim is engaged in a narrow range of activities, including attending a public school, serving as a juror or participating in an event administered by a state or local government.

Some 45 states have hate crime statutes, and investigations and prosecutions would remain mainly in state and local hands. But the bill provides federal grants to help state and local officials with the costs of prosecuting hate crimes.

Vets Group Kicks Off Fundraising for Seattle JA Memorial

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The dream is to build a memorial wall in Seattle to honor Japanese Americans from World War II. Each brick would honor a former internee or Nisei veteran whose stories should always be remembered.

After much planning, the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) has launched its $1.2 million fundraising campaign to make the dream a reality.

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

Now, they say, is the time to honor this legacy.

The new NVC Japanese American Memorial Wall will be built next to the NVC Memorial Hall located at 1212 South King Street in Seattle.

Money raised during this fundraising campaign will go toward the purchase of the property, demolition of the existing structures and expansion of the parking lot for the memorial.

The memorial, designed by lead architect Jay Deguchi, will feature bricks inscribed with the name of an internee or veteran. One section of the memorial will be dedicated to former JA internees who were forcibly imprisoned by the U.S. government during WWII. The other section will honor JAs who have served in the military. The memorial is touted to be the first ever to honor both groups at once.

The minimum donation for a brick is $250. The NVC has already raised about $330,000 and sold 870 bricks.

"This memorial will ensure those incarcerated, while many had sons who were fighting and dying overseas, will never be forgotten," said the NVC in a statement.

To make a tax-deductible donation: www.seattlenvc.org.

NVC JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL WALL BRICK DONATION FORM

The NVC Japanese American Memorial Wall is your opportunity to honor your grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends - both living and deceased - who were interned during World War II as a result of Executive Order 9066 as well as Japanese Americans who have served America in the military.

The Memorial will be built next to the NVC Memorial Hall in Seattle. The minimum donation is $250 per brick. Please make your tax deductible check payable to The NVC Foundation.

INTERNEES

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I wish to donate $ _______ for a total of ___ bricks at $250 each to honor my loved ones.

I wish to donate or contribute an additional $ _______ to help fund the NVC Memorial Wall.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________
Phone: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________

Thank You!
Building Bridges & Constructing Coalition: Reflections on the JACL EDC/MDC Bi-District Conference

By LISA K. HANASONO
Special to the Pacific Citizen

A wise friend once told me that the Midwest experiences two major seasons each year: frosty winters and construction periods. Indeed, my commute from central Indiana to the 2009 JACL EDC/MDC Bi-District Conference in Cincinnati was decorated with rows of orange barrels and matching construction cones.

Although I silently cursed the collection of detours, reduced speed limits and road hazards, I eventually came to appreciate the importance and purpose of road construction projects. Ultimately, they help connect communities in new and enhanced ways, and they are vital for progress and mobilization.

In a similar fashion, the recent EDC/MDC Bi-District Conference focused on the theme of building bridges and constructing coalitions as a means to pave the way toward progress and social change. From New York and Philadelphia to Minnesota and Omaha, JACL members traveled many miles to celebrate and discuss the importance of communities, coalitions and civil rights.

Building Bridges: East Meets (Mid)West ... Again

Before building partnerships with other organizations, JACL members were given opportunities to reaffirm the link between the EDC and MDC at the bi-district conference. Members from both districts attended a variety of educational workshops, including ones on new technologies to enhance communication between members and chapters.

Members of the EDC and MDC gathered for the last JACL bi-district conference in Cincinnati.

Constructing Coalitions: JACL and Beyond

In addition to strengthening relationships within the JACL, the bi-district conference provided ample opportunities to construct coalitions and network with members of other organizations.

Members from a variety of different groups attended bi-district events, including Donald W. Murphy, the president and CEO of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Murphy was the keynote speaker at the bi-district banquet. He discussed the importance of strong partnerships, explaining how they have the potential to positively transform society.

Delegates at the bi-district conference also discussed ways to develop new coalitions with college students. How can the JACL build partnerships with this promising demographic of bright individuals? JACL National Director Floyd Mori organized a special committee to develop and propose the concept of JACL affiliates.

University affiliates are student groups who wish to work closely with the JACL. The college students would work with a sponsoring district or chapter and engage in activities that are congruent with the JACL's mission. Although the concept of a JACL affiliate is still in its infancy, it is ripe with potential. Students at the University of Notre Dame have already expressed interest in building a partnership with the JACL.

Heading Home

After an eventful weekend, I departed the Cincinnati area with a strong pride in the JACL's ability to develop coalitions, a packet of complimentary Gold Star chili seasoning, and a newfound appreciation for the importance and promise of construction projects that pave the roads for social justice and civil rights.

Thanks to the bi-district conference, I think the construction period is now my favorite Midwest season.

Lisa K. Hanasono is a Hoosier JACL member and a Pacific Citizen editorial board member.
The decision requires a one-time lifting of a suspension on the awarding of honorary degrees.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SAN FRANCISCO—The University of California’s governing board voted July 16 to grant honorary degrees to hundreds of Japanese Americans who were forced to leave internment camps during World War II.

The UC Board of Regents unanimously approved a one-time suspension of UC’s 37-year moratorium on honorary degrees to recognize the estimated 700 former students of Japanese descent who were forced to leave various UC campuses—including Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Davis—in 1942.

“This action is long overdue and addresses a historical tragedy,” UC President Mark G. Yudof said, noting that he hoped the degrees would provide “a small measure of justice” to the former students and their families.

UC is the latest university to award honorary degrees to former Japanese American WWII internees. The University of Washington, University of Oregon and Oregon State University also granted such degrees to former students last year.

Aiko “Grace” Obata Amemiya was enrolled in a nursing program at UCSF when she was sent to the Gila River internment camp in Arizona. She later worked as a nurse in Iowa, but never received her UC degree.

“Today’s vote for honorary degrees fills my heart with joy,” said Amemiya, 88, who grew up in Vacaville, California. “I’m glad the university is recognizing that what the government did was wrong, and now my classmates and I can finally take our place as full-fledged UC alumni.”

UC officials have not decided when or where the honorary degrees will be awarded.

The university is asking for the public’s help in identifying former students who were enrolled at UC during the 1941-42 academic year but were prevented from completing their degrees because of their internment.

Many of those students have already passed away, but the university plans to grant degrees posthumously.

In the spring after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were sent to various detention camps in California and other Western states under an executive order signed by President Franklin Roosevelt.

“This is a truly exceptional case where students were exiled from the university based on racial prejudice,” said Bill Kidder, a UC Riverside administrator who helped develop the proposal. “It’s appropriate to honor these students in this way.”

Information about former UC students who were interned should be sent to: HonoraryDegree@ucop.edu or call 510-987-0239.

UC President Mark G. Yudof with former internee and UC student Grace Amemiya.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INA MARDAY, UCSF

JACL Seeking Mineta Fellow

The JACL is currently seeking applicants for the JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship located in the organization’s Washington, D.C. office.

This fellowship will focus on public policy advocacy as well as programs of safety awareness in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The fellowship is named for the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta and is funded by State Farm Insurance.

Some of the fellow’s responsibilities will include:

• Monitor and support the State Farm Insurance Child and Youth Auto Safety Program in the APA communities;

• Monitor key legislative initiatives that deal with economic justice;

• Work on and support various events sponsored by the JACL; and

• Interact with other APA national organizations.

The qualifications of this fellowship are:

• Minimum four-year degree from an accredited college or university;

• Excellent writing, analytical and computer skills;

• Must work well with others and have good interpersonal skills; and

• Be a member of the JACL and familiar with APA issues.

The term of the fellowship will be six to ten months and will begin as soon as the recipient is available. The stipend will range from $2,000 to $2,500 a month depending on qualifications.

This fellowship is available immediately and will be open until filled.

Interested applicants should submit a resume, a sample of writing, and names and contact information for two references to the JACL Washington, D.C. office via email at policy@jACL.org or by fax: (202)229-8052.
one is deemed more important at a particular point in time.

Japanese Americans had little control over their WWII internment. Yet, each confronted the situation the best they could with the values that were important to them. Actions that were based on the principle of justice were not cowardice nor unpatriotic. It has been unfair for that stigma to remain.

Nisei Resisters of Conscience, those who protested the incarceration and funds would be appreciated as they are raising matching funds to one of the resisters were former residents of the Thle Lake camp.

Many of those who were considered unpatriotic and labeled as troublemakers at Tule Lake were people of great principle and conscience. The JACL needs to have further conversations about Tule Lake. The understanding of how an era dealt with values, rejection, and conflict may heal some of the hurt and anger that have existed in the community since the war.

The JACL has had difficult relations over the years with many of the former residents of Tule Lake, and it was enlightening and beneficial for me to attend the pilgrimage to represent the JACL.

An important part of this year's pilgrimage was the dedication of the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument as designated last year by President George W. Bush. The ceremony was held in front of the site of the former jail.

Consul General of Japan Yasumasa Nagamine, his wife Ayako and Yoshiro Tasaka, the consulate's liaison to the Nikkei community, attended the ceremony and pilgrimage. Jon Jarvis, regional director of the National Park Service, Pacific Coast Region, was in attendance as well as various other elected officials and friends of Tule Lake.

Those who planned the pilgrimage are to be commended for a job well done. Hiroshi Shimizu, who was a small child at Tule Lake during the war, is chair of the Thle Lake Committee. Roy Ikeda is chair of the Thle Lake Preservation Committee.

If anyone would like to donate to the Tule Lake Preservation Project, the funds would be appreciated as they are raising matching funds to carry the project forward.

For more information: www.tulelake.org

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ESCORTED TOURS FOR 2009
Postponed to 2010

Yamato Kokkaido Tour - 12 days/10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Furano, Lake Mashu, Mabicho, Lake Toya, Lake Shikotsu, Lake Toya, Lake Shikotsu. Peggy Mikuni
Aug. 28-Sep. 10

Yamato Tour to China - 14 days/12 nights visiting Beijing, Xi'an, Yangon, River Cruise from Chongqing to Yichang (3 nights), Hangzhou, Shanghai. Peggy Mikuni
October 2-11

Yamato East Coast Fall Foliage Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Cooperstown/Beastial Hall of Fame, Whistler, Lein Mountain, Kamakura, Highway, Boston, New York City. Philippe Thériault & Lily Nomura
October 15-29

Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Kyoto, Nagoya, Kusatsu, Kusatsu, Kamakura, Fukushina, Hiroshima. Akiko

November 9-13

New Orleans Getaway with Collette Vacations - 5 days/4 nights New Orleans includes sightseeing and a scenic river cruise, plus a Collette Foundation feature when you spend the evening going back to the districts of New Orleans in a special service project. Space is limited. Sharon Seto

November 9-17

Costa Rica - Nature's Museum, A Smithsonian Journeys Tour with Collette Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting San Jose, Pacific Volcanos, Beaches, Carillo and Tortuguero National Parks, Sarapiqui, San Carlos, Arenal Volcano, Carao Negro Wildlife Refuge, La Fortuna Lake at a rain forest resort.

Nov. 30-Dec. 9

Yamato European Christmas Markets of Europe Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Romantic Road from Dinkelsbuhl to Lien, Nuernbergweint, Strasbourg-Pitieckerether. Philippe Theriault

Yamato Travel Bureau continues to be a full service travel agency. This means we sell all phases of leisure and corporate travel: airline tickets; hotel accommodations; car rentals; tours; cruises; rail passes, etc. We also have discounted airfares to many destinations. Please call on our experienced travel consultants for your travel and tour arrangements. Professional Memberships: American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Vacation.com (a National consortium). Please visit our website at yamatotravel.com.

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For more information, call
1-800-503-9230
or visit www.jaclinsurance.com
Annual picnic sponsored by the Japanese American Service Committee, Tehkion Judo Academy and Chicago JACL. Help us celebrate JA heritage with food, games, karaoke, a dunk-tank and food! For info: Chicago JACL, Chicago@jacl.org

East Meets Midwest
ST. LOUIS
SEE!
Sat., Sept. 6
10 a.m.
Missouri Botanical Garden
Featuring taiko, sumo, bonsai trees, kimono fashions, bunbuku puppetry and more. Held Labor Day weekend. Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Mon., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Info: 314/577-9400, 800/642-8842 or www.mobot.org

Pacific Northwest
Bainbridge Island JA
Community Reunion Picnic
Bainbridge Island, WA
Sat., Aug. 15
11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Bainbridge Point Park, Bainbridge Island
BYOB-bring your own bottle! Everyone is invited to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community's bi-annual all-island reunion picnic. Enjoy good food and company, as well as view models and exhibits.
For info: Clarence Moriwaki 206/855-9038 clarence@bainbridge.net

Girl Genius Artshow
Portland
Fri., Aug. 14-Sun., Sept. 20
121 NW 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97209
Oregon Nikkei Endowment will host a selection of original artwork from the collection of comic Girl Genius creators, Phil and Kaja Foglio. For info: Nicole Nathan 503/224-1458 Nicole@oregonnikai.com www.oregonnikai.org

Midwest
JACL Potluck Dinner
CINCINNATI, Ohio
Sun., Aug. 23
4 p.m.
Hyde Park Bethlehem Methodist Church
Cincinnati JACL's annual potluck dinner will feature guest speaker Jim Kariya, who has been the recipient of a Mansfield Fellowship to study in Japan. Kariya has also worked collaboratively with Japanese scientists. The event will also feature the Sakura Ladies Chorus and Bon Oodori.

Nikkei Community Picnic
CHICAGO
Sat., Aug 15
10 a.m.
LaBagh Woods, Grove #1

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 and Sunday brunch. 9/19 speaker will be author Mary Swick, topic will be FENG-SHUI. $160/full registration; hotel $89.99/night, single or double occupancy. Info: www.jaclsc.com or Yas Tokita, 702/896-2345.

Southern Calif.
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

Kokeshi: From Folk Art to Art Toy
LOS ANGELES
Through Oct. 4
Japanese American National Museum
The Los Angeles Toy, Doll & Amusements Museum and Japanese American National Museum bring together the traditional Japanese doll with hundreds of examples of contemporary and custom kokeshi created by American and international artists.
Info: 213/625-0414 or www.jamm.org.

MidTones: Eclectic Open Jam
LOS ANGELES
1st and 3rd Wednesdays
9 p.m.
Grand Star Jazz Club
943 N. Broadway
Chinatown, CA 90021
If you play any musical instrument, use devices and machines that make noise, sing, rap, beatbox, write poems, dance, do stand-up AND you're looking for something that is different, experimental, this is the venue for you.
For info: 213/626-2285 grandstarjazzclub.com

Zen Calligraphy Scroll
Exhibit/Sale
NEW HOPE, PA
Sat., Oct. 3-4.
1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Free admission
Event presented by the Nakashima Woodworkers.
Info: nakashimawoodworker.com
Tel: 215/862-2272
Fax: 215/862-2103

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Teukamoto, president of Florin JACL. Also featuring John Christgate, author of "Kokomo Joe: The Story of the First Japanese American Jockey in the United States." Tickets are $40/person with free wine drink ticket.
Info: Effie Shum, 916/383-6784 ext. 135.

Mideri Kai Boutique
MOUNTAIN VIEW
Sat., Sept. 12
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mountain View Buddhist Temple
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View, CA 94043
Tenth annual fundraising boutique featuring Asian American arts, crafts, handcrafted jewelry, clothing, pottery and much more! Performance by Heiwa Taiko @ 10 a.m., CD signing by Hiroshima from 12:30-2p.m.
For info: Phyllis Osaki 925/396-1770, Marsh Baird 510/579-1518
www.miderikai.com

JACL Potluck Dinner
STOCKTON
Sat., Sept. 19
5 p.m.
Stockton Buddhist Temple Gym
Eat fo a good cause! The proceeds benefit Stockton JACL Education Fund. Tickets are $7/adults, $4/children (10 and under).
Info: 209/476-8528.

JACL Gala Dinner
Thu., Aug 20
Takahashi Garden
In Westport, CT 06880-8014
NY JACL Annual Picnic
WESTPORT, CT
Sat., Aug. 22
Noon - 5 p.m.
La Bagh Woods, Grove #1

APCC Dragon Reception & Fundraiser
SACRAMENTO
Fri., Sept. 11
5:30 p.m.
Sacramento State Alumni Center
The Asian Pacific Community Counseling will be honoring Marielle

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Info: nakashimawoodworker.com
Tel: 215/862-2272
Fax: 215/862-2103
Paul Shinoda passed away peacefully in Santa Barbara after living a rich and full life. Born in Oakland, California, Paul attended Highland Park High School in Los Angeles and was a 1935 graduate of UC Berkeley, focusing on plant nutrition. In 1936, Paul married Alice Hamako Fujisawa of Los Angeles and began his lifelong career in the flower industry, establishing the San Lorenzo Nursery Company in Torrance, California in 1939.

At the outbreak of WWII, Paul defied travel restrictions imposed on Japanese Americans and took his family to Idaho, eventually joining his nine siblings in Grand Junction, CO, where they farmed until the war's end. He returned with his family to California in 1945 and to the nursery he had left in the hands of R.E. Swift, a trusted and loyal employee. In defiance of a post-war ordinance that prohibited Japanese Americans from buying property within the city limits, he bought a home by proxy in Torrance. Paul's family resided there until 1966, when he moved his family and nursery to Santa Barbara.

Throughout his life, Paul believed in giving back to his community, both the Japanese American and mainstream communities. For years he was an active leader of the Torrance Boy Scouts, for which he received the Silver Beaver award. He served as president of both the Torrance and Santa Barbara Kiwanis Clubs, and the Gardena chapter of the JACL and was one of the original Thousand Club Life members, devoting both time and financial support to the JACL as it struggled to rebuild itself following WWII. Paul was also an active member of the Gardena Baptist Church as well as the Bethany Congregational Church in Santa Barbara. Ever since the 1950s, Paul invited employees and friends from the community to his nursery on the weekend before every New Year’s day to make mochi. It was a much-loved tradition that carried on until the closing of his nursery, long after his retirement.

Paul was an avid fisherman, taking annual deep sea fishing trips in Mexican waters and surf fishing trips to Baja. After retirement, he and Alice traveled all over the world and for two decades spent summers on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. In his retirement, he was inspired by a Santa Barbara City College writing class and wrote "Recollection," a memoir of his life’s experiences.

Paul will be remembered by family and friends as a generous and caring man who had a great passion for life and found joy in helping others. He will especially be remembered for his love of family, his wonderful and sometimes mischievous sense of humor, his quick wit, his intense loyalty to family and friends, and his delight in discovery.

Paul is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, Alice Shinoda; children Paul, Jr.; Carol (John) Tateishi; Michael (Charlene Ajiu); Irene (Robert) Thornton; Roxanne (Wade) Nomura; daughter-in-law, Norma Shinoda; and ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son David and grandson Patrick.

A memorial service will be held at the Bethany Congregational Church in Santa Barbara, on Saturday, August 15, 2009, at 4 p.m.

Donations may be made in Paul's memory to Bethany Congregational Church, 556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara CA 93110, or to Japanese Evangelical Ministries, c/o Bethany Congressional Church; or to the Morning Rotary of Carpenteria Charitable Foundation Inc., PO Box 703, Carpenteria, CA 93014, for its sponsorship of the Tomol Play Area Project.

Riverside To Host Reenactment of 1944 Korematsu Case

To honor the courage and patriotism of World War II Japanese American internees, two constitutional scholars from Southern California will reenact the oral arguments in the 1944 case Korematsu v. United States.

The Aug. 13 event at the Court of Appeals in Riverside, Calif. will feature Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law, and John C. Eastman, dean of Chapman University School of Law, arguing both sides of the case.

The court has already reached its attendance capacity, said Paula Garcia, assistant clerk/administrator, but names are still being taken for the wait list.

The event marks 65 years since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn the incarceration of 120,000 JAs during WWII, including Fred Korematsu who passed away in 2005 at the age of 86.

During his lifetime, Fred Korematsu wanted to educate the public about his experience and the JA internment to ensure that history never repeats itself, said Karen Korematsu-Haig, who will also attend the reenactment event as a special guest.

"I know my father would be pleased that his original U.S. Supreme Court case continues to be discussed 65 years later and he would say the more often these types of discussions take place the better," said Karen Korematsu-Haig, a San Francisco JACL member.

The Korematsu decision has since been broadly condemned, most recently by Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor during her confirmation hearings.

"Just as the decisions that propelled our country forward toward 'liberty and justice for all' should be celebrated, the decisions that fell short should not be forgotten, so that by remembering the errors of the past they may better be avoided in the future," said presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez of the 4th District, Division Two, in a statement.

Fred Korematsu, a Nisei, made history by challenging the wartime relocation order against JAs. He filed a lawsuit arguing that his constitutional rights had been violated and appealed all the way to the Supreme Court, which upheld his conviction in 1944. In 1984, Fred Korematsu finally saw justice in the landmark coram nobis case, which overturned his conviction.

"My father believed what the U.S. government did in 1942 by incarcerating 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants without criminal charges or due process was unconstitutional and my father's coram nobis hearing also represented their day in court, which originally was denied to them," said Korematsu-Haig.

After the oral argument, Chemerinsky and Eastman will discuss the case and the War Powers Act. Retired Justice John G. Gabbert and Judge Ben Chernerinsky, of the San Bernardino County Superior Court, are also expected to attend.

The reenactment is the first in a series to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the creation of California’s Court of Appeals.

"In Memoriam" appears on a limited, space-available basis at no cost.

“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. For info: busman@pacificcitizen.org.
come and explore

at the Japanese American National Museum

11th Annual Summer Festival on the Courtyard
Kaeru’s Carnival and BBQ on the Courtyard
Saturday, August 15
11 AM–5 PM
FREE Admission

Celebrate summer at the National Museum with a day of fun—carnival games, foods, crafts, and performance for the entire family.
For event schedule, visit janm.org, or call 213.625.0414.

NEW! BBQ on the Courtyard

Buy a lunch and support JANM! $10 pre-sale (if ordered by August 12th); $12 day of event.
Contact Koji Sakai at ksakai@janm.org, or call 213.625.0414, ext. 5653.

Each plate lunch includes BBQ beef, beans, green salad, french bread, cookie, shrimp cocktail, and a drink.
Lunches must be picked up on August 15th. All proceeds to support the Museum’s educational programs and outreach.

This program is sponsored, in part, by the generous support of:

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 • Tel 213.625.0414 • janm.org