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### Check Legacy



The Redress checks built a legacy in the JA community.

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{ NATIONAL }

### 160,000 Cranes



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

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{ ENTERTAINMENT }

### Paper Heart



Comedienne Charlyne Yi takes on love in her new film.

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{ COMMUNITY }

### JACL Bi-District



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

>> **PAGE 11**

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

**80**  
YEARS

{ IN DEPTH }

## Lighting the Way Home

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

>> **page 4**

PHOTOS: MIKA ITO





## 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-Nos'." 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 Mirikitani, 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 Tuleans.

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 forbearers engrained in us. At times, these values may be in conflict or

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PHOTO: DENSHO

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Supreme court nominee Sonia Sotomayor denounces the WWII internment of Japanese Americans. JACL says she will honor the Constitution.

### Redress Legacy

What did former WWII internees do with their \$20,000 checks?

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The summer festivals originated in Japan, but the flavor is all JA.

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Two teenagers' exceed their goal in folding paper cranes in honor of internees.

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## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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

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### Imperial Visit

The recent visit of Japan's royal couple may help spur tourism in Hawaii.



### Redefined

A new calendar seeks to dispel stereotypes of Asian American men.





# Redress Compensation Checks Leave Lasting Impression



PHOTOS: DENSHO

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

**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  
Reporter 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 internees a formal apology from the U.S. government and monetary compensation — Redress checks of \$20,000 — to amend the injustices they faced.

In the decades since the passage of Redress, these checks have helped build a legacy.

Many donated their money to organizations like the JACL, invested it for their family, or used it to send their children and grandchildren to college.

Eighty-two-year-old Sam Shimoguchi said he remembered when his family received their checks. "We all cashed it — every person," said Shimoguchi, who is also a family friend of the Kodamas. "We put it into the savings account. At least in our family we never spent it. If I got \$20,000 today, it might be a different story."

Shimoguchi said the money was a substantial amount in the late 80s, so most people he knew hurried to invest or save the compensation.

"To me it's kind of unusual because at the time they [the Kodamas] received the money that was still important money," Shimoguchi added. "How could someone forget \$20,000? If someone gave me \$20,000, I'm not going to forget. I think

they're resigned to the fact that it's gone. Apparently time has run out."

## Legacy of the Redress Money

JAs 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.

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

During WWII, Okada spent three years interned behind barbed wires 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."

## Shikatanagai

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.

"I was really blindsided," Tateishi said, "by not realizing just how strongly the Nisei felt the *shikatanagai* about camp."

Asian American history books often refer to the strength of honor and *shikatanagai*, 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 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." ■



# Lighting the Way Home: Celebrating Culture at Obon Festivals



PHOTO: MIKA ITO

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*.

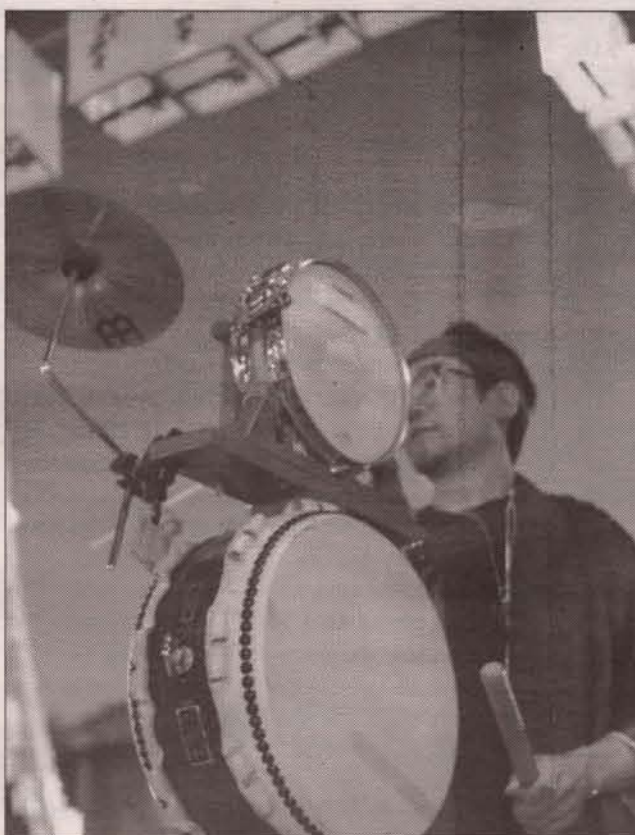


PHOTO: MIKA ITO

Lanterns traditionally light up festivities and performances.

*Obon's* origins can be tied to a Buddhist myth about a monk named Mokuren Sonjya 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. Ito 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," Ito 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 their *yukatas* and *kimonos*. Now Ito 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 Itoga 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 lead me to this temple." ■



# The Peace Crane Memorial Project: Healing Past Wrongs With Origami



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.

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 120,313 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.

"It has been amazing. I'm really happy that we did this project. It's made a difference in people's lives. That is the main thing," said Michelle, who lives in Minnesota.

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 internee stories, receiving thank you letters from former internees and their relatives.

"I learned that the experience for many of the internees 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 their 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 staffers 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 realized that many people did not know about the Japanese American Internment," Mary added. "They read about a paragraph about it [the 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 folded 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.

Michelle said she has 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](http://www.120313cranes.org).

For more information about the California Origami Peace Crane Project, visit [www.riversideca.gov/museum](http://www.riversideca.gov/museum).

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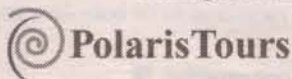
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# NPS Awards JA Internment Grants

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 interned 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



PHOTO: DON TATEISHI

The grants will help restore the Tule Lake stockade jail.

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;
- **National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.**, Mapping and Building Sites of Japanese Americans during World War II, \$18,568;
- **Tule Lake Committee**, Preserving the Tule Lake Stockade and Jail, \$40,000;
- **Hawaii Heritage Center**, Administration Building and Fire House Existing Condition Analysis Report, Honouliuli Internment Camp, \$58,600;
- **Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii**, Hawaii Confinement Sites Project Traveling Exhibit, \$43,187;
- **University of Hawaii**, Multidisciplinary Research and Education at Honouliuli Internment Camp, \$26,148;
- **University of Hawaii Center for Oral History**,

Captive on the U.S. Mainland: Oral Histories of Hawaii-Born Nisei, \$14,955;

• **University of Idaho**, Kooskia Internment Camp Archaeological Project, \$16,456;

• **Japanese American Service Committee**, Winning the Peace: An Exhibit on the U.S. Military Intelligence Service, \$74,620;

• **Twin Cities JACL Chapter**, Minnesota Japanese American Oral History Project, \$16,000;

• **Historical Museum at Fort Missoula**, Restoration of Enemy Alien Hearing Courtroom in Post Headquarters at the Department of Justice Missoula Alien Detention Camp, \$50,000;

• **United Tribes Technical College**, United Tribes/Fort Lincoln Planning Conference, \$18,919;

• **Texas Historical Commission**, An Untold Story from World War II: Japanese Confinement at Crystal City, \$34,400;

• **Topaz Museum**, Topaz Museum Interpretive Design Project, \$48,000;

• **Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project**, Stories Less Told: Video Oral Histories of Japanese American Incarceration, \$112,500; and

• **Heart Mountain**, Wyoming Foundation, Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center, \$282,253.

# National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

## N. Korean Leader Pardons APA Journalists

WASHINGTON—North Korea's Kim Jong Il pardoned journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee Aug. 4 after meeting with former President Bill Clinton. The APA reporters were detained in March and sentenced to 12 years of hard labor in June for illegal entry into the country and unspecified "hostile acts."

South Korea's *Chosen Ilbo* newspaper reported that "delicate negotiations" occurred.

The journalists' families thanked U.S. officials in a statement released following the news, saying they are "counting the seconds to hold Laura and Euna" in their arms again.

## New Stamp to Commemorate Hawaii Statehood Anniversary

HONOLULU—The U.S. Postal Service is planning to unveil a commemorative stamp for Hawaii's 50th statehood anniversary this month.

The stamp features a painting of a longboard surfer and two paddlers on an outrigger canoe.

The art was done by

Herb Kawainui Kane of Kona, who previously designed a 25th statehood anniversary stamp for Hawaii.

Gov. Linda Lingle will display the new stamp at the Hawaii Statehood Conference on Aug. 21, and it will be available nationwide that day.



## Magazine Will Cater to South Asians

WASHINGTON—Rick Khosla, an Indian entrepreneur in Virginia, is launching *Washington Masala* — modeled after *Washington Life* — to cater to educated, affluent South Asians in the area.

A lot of the \$100,000 for the first issue came from Khosla's pocket. But he believes the magazine will become self-sustaining within three months.

A poll in the spring by San Francisco-based New America Media shows that despite the poor economy, consumption of ethnic media is growing. About 150 outlets are in the Washington region.

## Japanese Tea Garden May Soon Get a New Operator

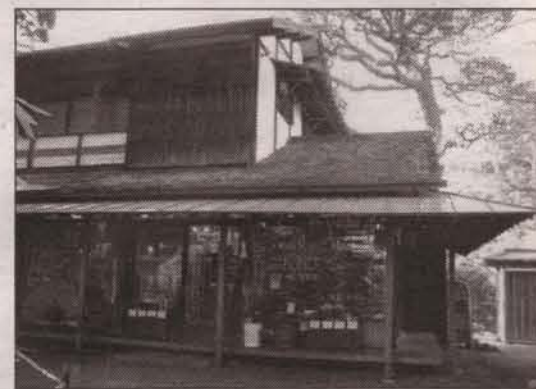
SAN FRANCISCO—The city is close to approving a new operator for the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park.

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 Schumhl, 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 Serizawa** 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



During World War II, more than 2,200 JLAs were imprisoned in U.S. camps, including women and children.

### 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 JLAs 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 JLAs 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 213/500-9346 or [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org).

## L.A. Event to Commemorate 10th Anniversary of Ito 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 Ito, 39, "galvanized the community," said Tracy Huang, the PSW JACL Mike Honda Fellow.

The Los Angeles event, sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), will feature Ito's family members and lawmakers. PSW JACL is a co-sponsor of the event.

"On the 10th anniversary of

Joseph Ito'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 Ito less than an hour after opening fire at the North Valley Jewish Community Center. Furrow reportedly told investigators that Ito 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 Ito 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 Ito's name. ■

### Remembering Ito

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

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. 90017

Info: Shukry Cattat at 213/241-0269 or [scattat@apalc.org](mailto:scattat@apalc.org)





# for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

## 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 wonkers 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 anymore.

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.*

## MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA 5 Years in the Making

BY YUMI SAKUGAWA



Last month, I signed up to volunteer for The Party.

The Party, for those of you who don't know, was a live music and dance event that took place in the heart of Little Tokyo to raise money for the Tuesday Night Café.

The Tuesday Night Café, for those of you who don't know, is a bi-weekly event that features spoken word artists, musicians, live performers and other resident artists in Little Tokyo in a public art space that everyone can enjoy for free. The Party, in addition to raising money to keep this homegrown community institution alive, was also celebrating the fact that Tuesday Night Café had existed for an entire decade.

As a volunteer for The Party, I had to help set up for the event that was taking place in the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) Plaza. Essentially, I had signed up an entire Saturday afternoon to transport foldable chairs and tables in the unforgiving July heat with complete strangers.

And strange as it may sound, I was really enjoying myself.

Why this enjoyment for unpaid labor? I was having the sort of fun I haven't had since my undergrad years at UCLA: the very particular enjoyment that comes from actively giving back to the community.

I was connecting again with the kind of folk I missed interacting with on a regular basis: super busy, active and passionate college students who squeezed every drop of their free time to run student organizations, organize campus events and lead workshops at college conferences in spite of their academic schedules.

Only this time I was spending time with the post-college incarnations: super busy, active and passionate working adults who volunteered their limited free time for community causes in addition to working nine-to-five jobs and paying their bills.

I met with recent college graduates who were volunteering for The Party because they were aspiring actors and artists who gave their time every other week to help set up the Tuesday Night Café. I met other people my age who were gathering potential volunteers for Asian Pacific Islanders in favor of gay

marriage rights.

As the event began to open its doors to the public, I saw fellow college classmates from the UCLA Nikkei Student Union who were at The Party to perform taiko. I ran into a woman who I hadn't seen in ages who was my "mentor buddy" when I was a clueless freshman who did a leadership internship with the campus Asian Pacific Islander Coalition. I saw the aunt and uncle of a close friend I made through the Nikkei Community Internship I did years ago in Little Tokyo.

In seeing so many familiar faces from the JA and greater API community, it only felt natural that I would be spending my Saturday night at this community event. I felt right at home.

As the hours of the night passed, I began recalling memories from my summer participating in the Nikkei Community Internship. This meant that four days a week I was working at the *Pacific Citizen* and on Fridays I was visiting non-profit organizations in the JA community with other college-age JAs who were in the same summer program.

This was over five years ago, and I still remember what the community leaders had told us when they looked upon our young and eager faces and probably sensed we still had so much to learn about ourselves and our communities.

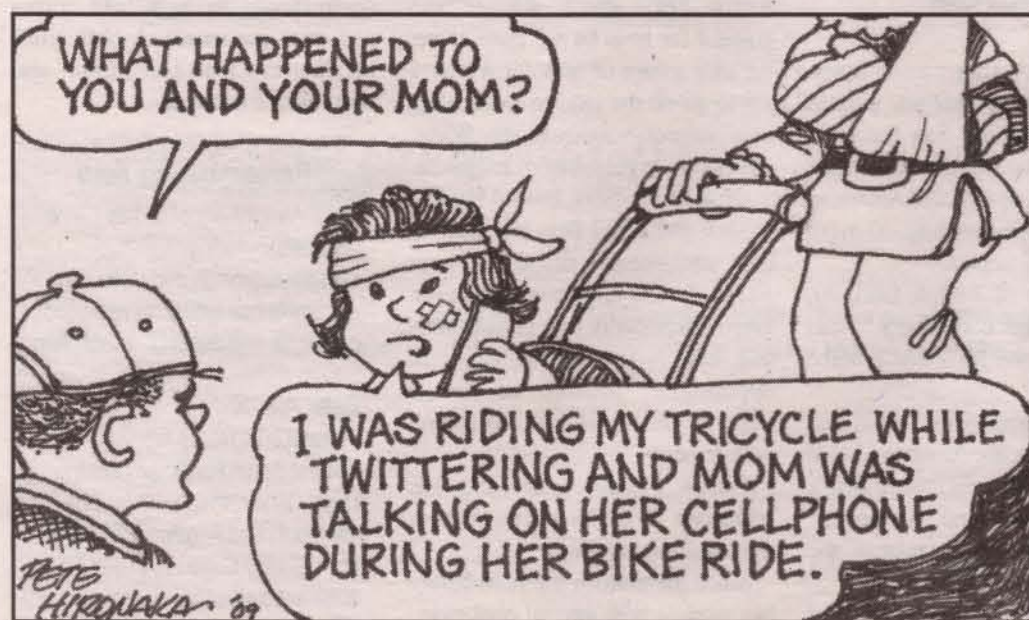
"The community," they told us again and again, "will always be there for you."

Five years later, this sentiment never felt more true. I was out of college and no longer had the luxury of joining a student organization that met within a 10-minute walk of my dorm room. But if I had the heart to do so, I could come back to the community anytime and give back for all that the community had done for me.

My volunteer night shift at The Party ended at 8 p.m. Before I left, someone asked me if I would be attending a future Tuesday Night Café event. Volunteering for the set-up meant meeting in Little Tokyo by 5:30 p.m. I thought of the ungodly L.A. traffic I would be fighting, the mere 15-mile drive that would take up to an hour to drive through.

"Of course," I said. "I'll see you there."

*Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles.*







There's no privacy for Charlyne Yi (right) and Michael Cera in the film.

PHOTO: OVERTURE FILMS

# '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 biker 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, "We 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 smacking his lips and he tasted the fart."

## Searching 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 the score 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 on-camera interviews are real, explained Yi. But the rest is lightly scripted, including the on-screen love connection between her character and Cera's character.

"We found it exciting," said Jasenovec, who was portrayed on-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. And 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 teenager, 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 said, '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 joked 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 Angeles' 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 sh--- 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 also given Yi a renewed hope in her career. She hopes to continue stand up comedy, acting, drawing and singing. ■

"Paper Heart" will open in Los Angeles and New York theaters Aug. 7. For information: [www.paperheart-movie.com](http://www.paperheart-movie.com).



## 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.

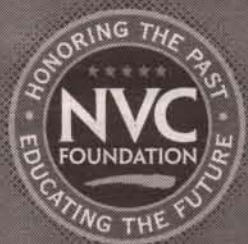
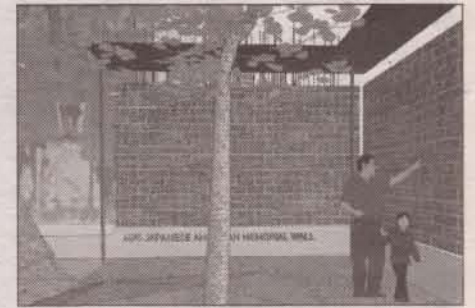
Money raised during this fundraising campaign will go toward the purchase of the property, demolition of the existing structures and expansion of the parking lot for the memorial.

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 the Issei who were 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](http://www.seattlenvc.org).



### NVC JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL WALL BRICK DONATION FORM

NVC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization.



**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

First & Middle Name or Initial	Nickname/Maiden Name (Optional)	Last Name	Camp or Camps
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

#### WORLD WAR II VETERANS

First & Middle Name or Initial	Nickname (Optional)	Last Name	Unit (Please Check or Specify)
1.			<input type="radio"/> 442nd <input type="radio"/> MIS <input type="radio"/> Other:
2.			<input type="radio"/> 442nd <input type="radio"/> MIS <input type="radio"/> Other:

#### OTHER VETERANS/ACTIVE DUTY

First & Middle Name or Initial	Last Name	Branch (Please Check)	Years Served	Wars (Optional)
1.		<input type="radio"/> Army <input type="radio"/> Navy <input type="radio"/> USAF <input type="radio"/> USMC <input type="radio"/> USCG		
2.		<input type="radio"/> Army <input type="radio"/> Navy <input type="radio"/> USAF <input type="radio"/> USMC <input type="radio"/> USCG		

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Only One (1) Person's Name Per Brick.** Please PRINT CLEARLY in the appropriate sections exactly how you want the name to appear on every brick ordered, and enclose a tax deductible donation of \$250 for each brick. Bricks can be for honorees both living and deceased. Non-World War II Veterans or those on active duty should indicate their years of service (i.e. 1954-1958) and the war served (if applicable). Please enter nicknames or maiden names in the second column. Examples: Nicknames will appear on the brick as Masayuki "Fleazy" Okazaki. Maiden names will appear as May (Nakamura) Sasaki.

**Limit of 28 total characters for first, middle, nick/maiden name and last name.**

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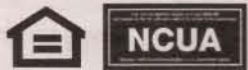
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## American Holiday Travel

### 2009 Tour Schedule

<b>EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN/GREECE HOLIDAY CRUISE</b>	AUG 22-SEPT 4
Venice, Croatia, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Santorini, Olympia. HOLLAND AMERICA Oostendam Ship.	
<b>HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	NEW TOUR SEPT 9-20
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Soukkyo, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Nikko, Tokyo.	
<b>PANA CONVENTION SOUTH AMERICA TOUR</b>	SEPT 7-23
PANA Convention - Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil. Option to Peru.	
<b>NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	WAITLIST OCT 2-9
Boston, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire. Day trips on historic trains: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Green Mountain Flyer Railroad, Essex Steam Train.	
<b>OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	WAITLIST OCT 11-23
Naha, Kagoshima/Ibusuki, Miyazaki, Nobeoka, Takachiho, Mt. Aso, Beppu, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.	
<b>CANYONLAND GETAWAY HOLIDAY</b>	NOV 8-13
Laughlin, Grand Canyon, Valley of Fire Park, Mesquite, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Las Vegas.	

#### COMING FOR 2010:

<b>HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR</b>	FEB
<b>SEDONA &amp; GRAND CANYONS HOLIDAY</b>	MAR
Early Bird Discount Ends Aug. 31, 2009	
<b>JAPAN SPRING TOUR</b>	MAR
<b>OUR NATION'S CAPITAL &amp; WILLIAMSBURG TOUR</b>	APR
<b>FUNTASTIC FLORIDA HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	MAY
<b>SOUTH AMERICA &amp; PERU HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	MAY
<b>GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR</b>	JUN

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americanholiday@att.net  
Ernest and Carol Hida

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



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

By **LISA K. HANASONO**  
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

including a raffle and silent auction that earned over \$3,500.

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 focused on the exploration of Asian American identity and empowerment, the development of membership recruitment plans, and the strategic use of new technologies to enhance communication between members and chapters.

In addition, the EDC and MDC passed a joint resolution on the need to work with other organizations that share similar visions for new legislation on immigration reform.

JACL National President Larry Oda swore in two new district governors: Toshi Abe for EDC and Sharon Ishii-Jordan for MDC.

Finally, Kristine Minami, immediate past EDC district governor, helped both districts collaborate on several fundraising projects,

### 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.*



# UC to Honor Former WWII Internees

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 whose studies were cut short when they were sent to 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



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZINA MIRSKY, UCSF

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

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](mailto:HonoraryDegree@ucop.edu) or call 510/987-0239.

## 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 community. 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 AAPI 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 AAPI issues.

The term of the fellowship will between 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](mailto:policy@jACL.org) or by fax: 202/296-8082.



## National business and Professional Directory

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

### Greater Los Angeles

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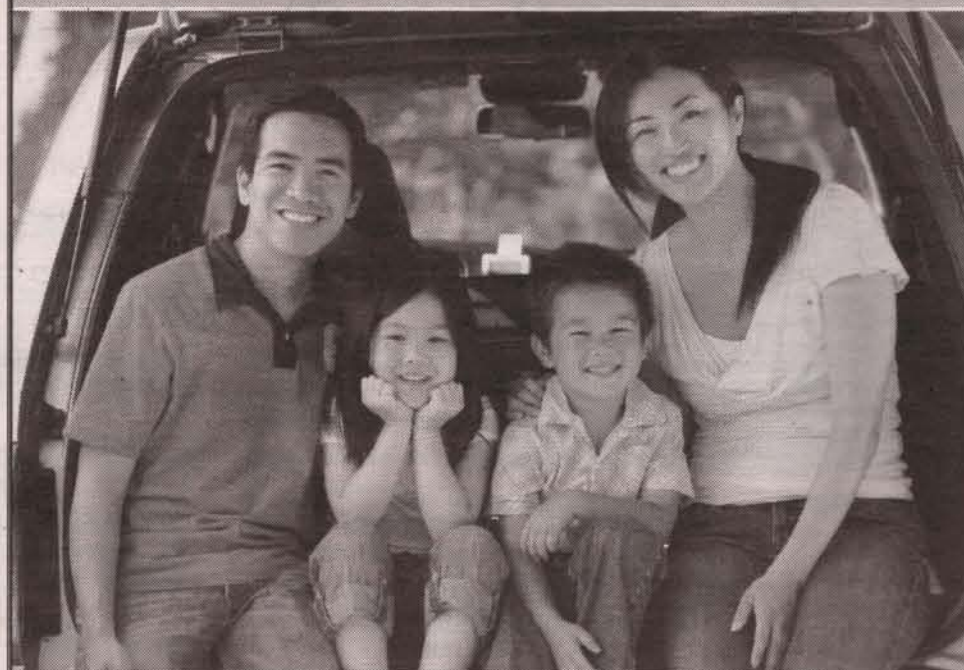
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## MORI

(Continued from page 2)

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 after all these years.

At the 2000 National JACL Convention a resolution to apologize to the Nisei Resisters of Conscience, those who protested the incarceration and refused to serve in the U.S. Army unless their families were released from the camps, passed. The JACL held an official ceremony on May 11, 2002, at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, and some of the resisters were former residents of the Tule 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 Tule Lake Committee. Roy Ikeda is chair of the Tule 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](http://www.tulelake.org)

# WWII JAs 'Could Have Used Someone Like Judge Sotomayor on Their Side'

JACL says Obama's pick for the high court would restore the rule of law.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

While Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor awaits her historic full Senate confirmation vote, the JACL has called her recent comments about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans a testament to her commitment to "help reestablish due process as was outlined in the Constitution."

"With the recent eroding of due process in detention cases surrounding the Military Commissions Act and the Patriot Act, the JACL is encouraged for the return of the rule of law rather than the furtherance of the rule of fear," said JACL National President Larry Oda in a statement.

In a July 14 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sotomayor said the high court made the wrong decision in the 1944 case *Korematsu v. United States*, in which the justices upheld the removal of over 100,000 JAs during WWII.

"It is inconceivable to me today that a decision permitting the detention and arrest of an individual solely on the basis of their race would be considered appropriate by our government," she said.

Floyd Mori, JACL national director, said JAs during WWII "could have used someone like Judge Sotomayor on their side."

"Judge Sotomayor promises to be a leader who will evoke the rule of Constitutional law," said Mori. "Her record shows a brilliant understanding of the law and she has repeatedly mentioned that the Constitution is the



Sotomayor called the decision to uproot and intern WWII JAs like the Nisei woman above 'inconceivable.'

bedrock of all law in the United States."

Sotomayor cleared one hurdle on July 28 when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 13-6 in favor of making her the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice — over nearly solid Republican opposition. She now awaits a full Senate vote.

Civil rights groups like the JACL hailed Sotomayor's record. The 55-year-old federal appeals court judge is the daughter of Puerto Rican parents who was raised in a South Bronx housing project and educated in the Ivy League.

"She merits the support of the JACL for this nomination," said Mori.

If confirmed, Sotomayor will replace Justice David Souter, a liberal nominated by a Republican president. ■



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- Aug. 28-Sep. 10** **Yamato Tour to China** — 14 days/12 nights visiting Beijing, Xi'an, Yangtze River Cruise from Chongqing to Yichang (3 nights), Hangzhou, Shanghai. **Peggy Mikuni**
- October 2-11** **Yamato East Coast Fall Foliage Tour** — 10 days/9 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Cooperstown/Baseball Hall of Fame, Williamstown, Loon Mountain, Kancamagus Highway, Boston, New York City. **Philippe Theriault & Lilly Nomura**
- October 15-29** **Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan** — 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Kagoshima, Ibusuki, Kinshima, Kumamoto, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto. **Peggy Mikuni**
- 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 where you spend the morning giving back to the children 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, Poas Volcano, Braulio Carrillo and Tortuguero Nat'l Parks, Sarapiquí, San Carlos, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge. Includes stay at a rain forest resort.
- Nov. 30-Dec. 9** **Yamato European Christmas Markets of Europe Tour** — 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Romantic Road from Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna. **Philippe Theriault**

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



## Portland Taiko: Rhythms of Change CD Release Party

PORTLAND  
Aug. 28, 8 p.m.

Award-winning Asian American drum ensemble, Portland Taiko, is celebrating the debut of their third album, *Rhythms of Change*, with a release gala at local sake brewery SakeOne, in Forest Grove. Each guest will receive an autographed copy of the CD.

### Info and registration:

Tickets are \$25, available at [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com), at the Hollywood Theatre Box Office or by phone 503/205-0715

Annual picnic sponsored by the Japanese American Service Committee, Tohkon 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](mailto:Chicago@jacl.org)

### East Meets Midwest

**SEE!** ST. LOUIS  
Sat., Sept. 6  
10 a.m.

Missouri Botanical Garden  
Featuring taiko, sumo, bonsai trees, kimono fashions, bunraku 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](http://www.mobot.org)

### Pacific Northwest

#### Bainbridge Island JA Community Reunion Picnic

Bainbridge Island, WA  
Sat., Aug. 15  
11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Battle Point Park, Bainbridge Island  
BYOB-bring your own bento!  
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](mailto: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@oregonnikkei.org](mailto:Nicole@oregonnikkei.org)  
[www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)

### Northern Calif.

#### 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

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 free wine drink ticket.  
Info: Effie Shum, 916/383-6784 ext. 135.

### Midori Kai Boutique

MOUNTAIN VIEW  
Sat., Sept. 12  
9 a.m.-4p.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 925/596-1770, Marsh Baird 510/579-1518  
[www.midorikai.com](http://www.midorikai.com)

### JACL Spaghetti Dinner

STOCKTON  
Sat., Sept. 19  
5 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.

### 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](http://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.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

### MidTones: Eclectic Open Jam

LOS ANGELES  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
9 p.m.  
Grand Star Jazz Club  
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[grandstarjazzclub.com](http://grandstarjazzclub.com)

### 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. 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](http://www.jaclsc.com) or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345.

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### National

#### JACL Gala Dinner

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
Thu., Sept. 17  
"A Salute to Japanese American Veterans"; J.W. Marriott Hotel.  
Info: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) or 202/223-1240.

### East

#### NY JACL Annual Picnic

WESTPORT, CT  
**GO!** Sat., Aug., 22  
Noon - 5 p.m.  
Takahashi Garden  
32 Mayflower Parkway  
Westport, CT 06880-8014  
NY Chapter JACL will be holding their annual pot-luck picnic at Takahashi Garden. Meet new and old friends, swim in the outdoor pool, and enjoy food and fun.

#### 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](http://nakashimawoodworker.com)  
Tel: 215/862-2272  
Fax: 215/862-2103

### 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 Odori.

#### Nikkei Community Picnic

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

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## TRIBUTE

**PAUL YASHIRO SHINODA**

April 29, 1913 - July 21, 2009



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 life-long 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 around 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 Ajifu); 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 Carpinteria Charitable Foundation Inc., PO Box 703, Carpinteria, CA 93014, for its sponsorship of the Tomol Play Area Project.

## Riverside To Host Reenactment of 1944 Korematsu Case



**CORAM NOBIS CASES:** (l-r) Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui, and Korematsu.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

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 incarcerate over 100,000 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-Haigh, 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 type of discussions take place the better," said Korematsu-Haigh, 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-Haigh.

After the oral argument, Chemerinsky and Eastman will discuss the case and the War Powers Act. Retired Justice John G. Gabbert and Judge Ben T. Kayashima, 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. ■

**History Recreated**  
Reenactment of oral arguments  
in *Korematsu v. United States*

Aug. 13 at 3 p.m.  
Court of Appeal, 3389 12th Street  
Riverside, Calif. 92501

This event is filled to capacity, but to get on the wait list, contact Paula Garcia, assistant clerk/administrator, at 951/248-0212.

'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.: bus-mgr@pacificcitizen.org.

## TRIBUTE

**GEORGE YOSHIMOTO**

February 25, 1925 - June 16, 2009

84, a lifetime resident of the Yuba Sutter area and owner/operator of Yoshimoto Trucking until retirement. Member of the Marysville Buddhist Church and Marysville Chapter JACL. Served in WWII in Italy with the 442nd RCT. Preceded in death by his wife, Fumiko Nora. He is survived by his niece, Doris, nephews, Bruce and Gary, and great nephews.

## TRIBUTE

**TOMOYE MURAOKA**

February 25, 1913 - May 6, 2009

Tomoye Muraoka, nee Nakamoto, was born 2/25/1913 in Selma, Ca. Beloved wife of the late Shiro Muraoka. She was interned at Rohwer, AK. Lived in Cinti, OH. for many years. After a short illness, she passed away 5/06/2009 in Chicago, IL with her loving family at her side.

Daughters, Tonko (Paul) Doi, Laura Muraoka (Peter Izui), son Tom (Verna) Muraoka. Grandchildren, Paula and Mitchell Doi, Nicholas and Kyle Muraoka. 2 gg and many nieces and nephews. She leaves many friends who miss her kind and gentle nature.



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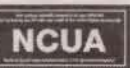
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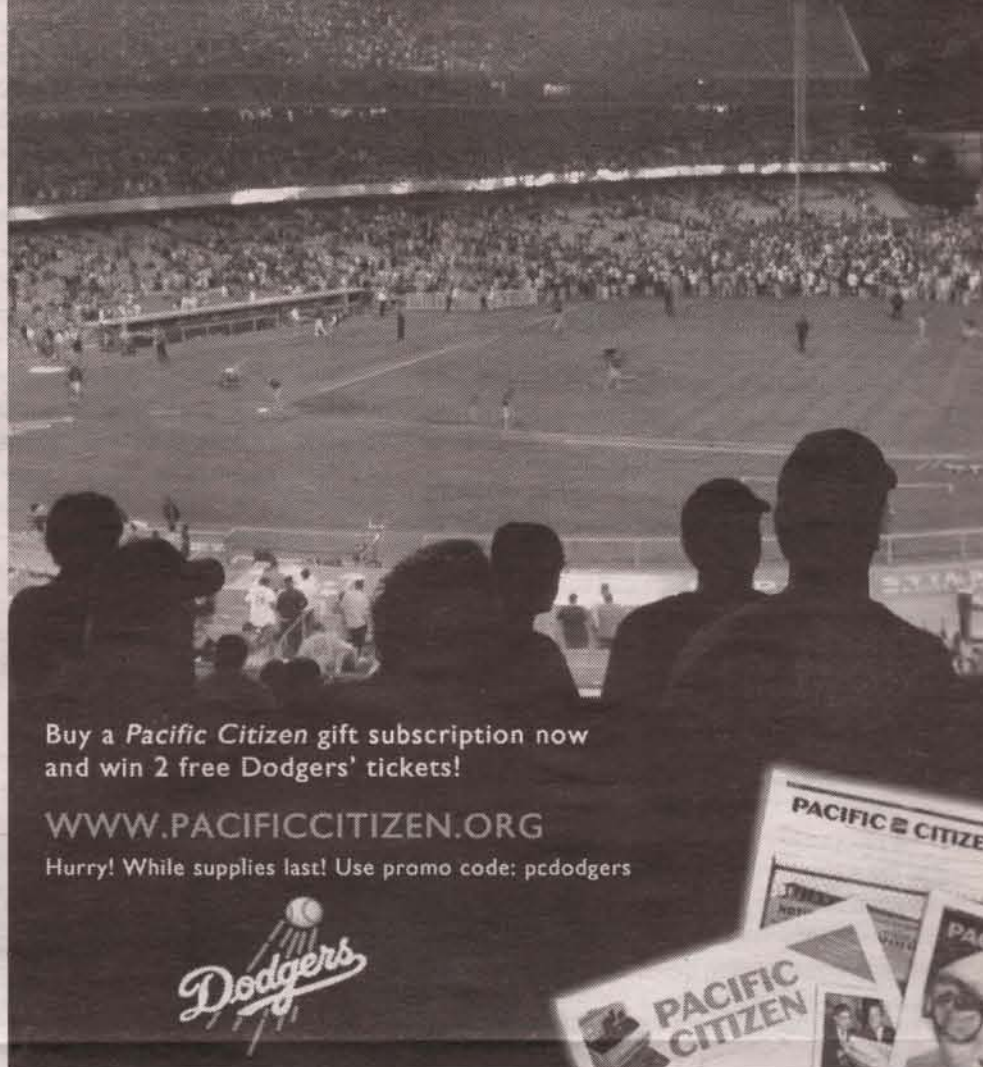
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at the Japanese American National Museum

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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](http://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](mailto: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:



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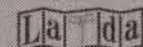
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