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**Native Rights**



A bill backed by Sen. Akaka is stirring debate about Hawaiian self-governance.

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**8 Years After 9/11**



How far has torture doctrine author John Yoo come?

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**Songstress**



Hapa singer Marié Digby talks about her new album and 'Digbyholics.'

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**JACL D.C. Gala**



Meet APA luminaries at the fundraiser honoring veterans.

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

**80**  
YEARS

{ IN DEPTH }

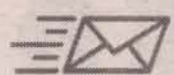
## Shedding Light on Kooskia

A National Park Service grant, one of 19, will help tell the story of hundreds of Japanese American men who lived and worked at the little known internment camp.

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PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES





## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Both Veterans, Resisters Deserve an Honorable Place in History



WWII Heart Mountain draft resisters face their first day of trial in federal district court.

The letter written by Donald Wakida ("Nisei Vets Fought to Prove Our Loyalty," *P.C.* Aug. 21-Sept. 3) seems to be an orchestrated effort by the veterans to preserve their legacy in history.

While no one questions the hardships and courage of the Nisei warriors, the veterans seem to place themselves superior to the real efforts of the draft resisters. It took a lot of courage to stand up for the civil rights of the Nikkei. For many years after WWII, the draft resisters were the theme of unmeasured derision. They were exposed to the utmost licentiousness of the JACL and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Those who aroused the Nikkei to resistance to the draft and who directed their measure through a long series of eventful

resistance, who were accused of sedition and rebellion were a part of our Nikkei legacy.

But if we must make our choice, we shall uphold both. Both deserve an honorable place in our history.

**Takasumi Kojima**  
Berkeley, Calif.

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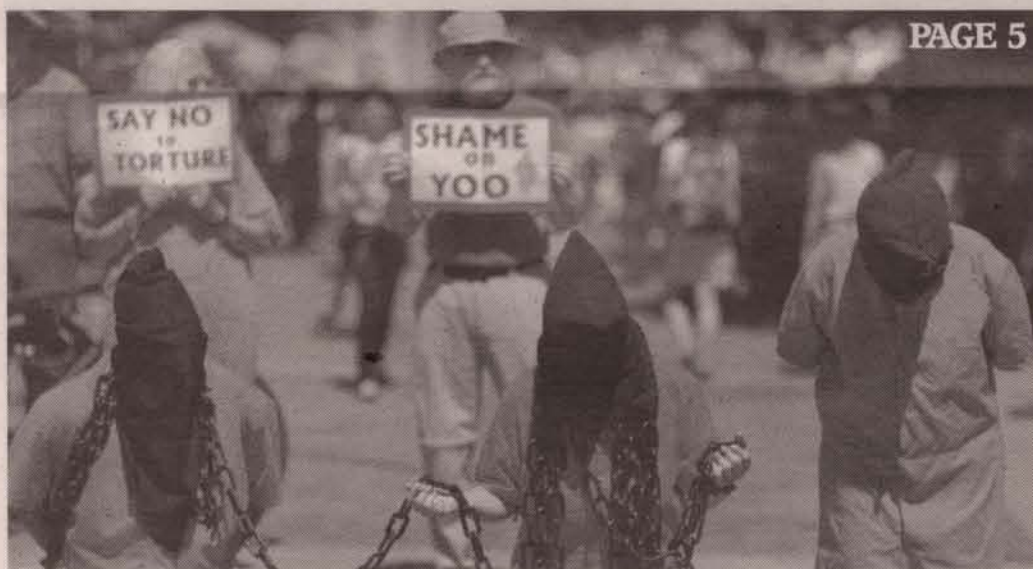
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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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PHOTO: ASADK

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PHOTO: MARY ROZZI

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Kollaboration is the premier place for So Cal APAs to showcase talent. With low turnout, will the show go on?

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# Archaeologists Hope to Shed Light on Kooskia Internment Camp

A National Park Service grant, one of 19, will help tell the story of 265 JA men who lived at the little known internment camp.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Many of the details of the Japanese American men's lives at the Kooskia Internment Camp in Idaho during World War II are now stored in Priscilla Wegars' basement.

The volunteer curator of the Asian American Comparative Collection at the University of Idaho has been researching the camp for about 10 years, gathering National Archives documents and stories from former internees. More remnants of internees' daily lives at the Kooskia (pronounced KOOS-key) Internment Camp may soon be unearthed thanks to grant money.

"I'm the only one that can tell their stories now," Wegars said during a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen*. "By comparing these archaeological records with the historical records, the picture can become more complete."

With the help of a \$16,456 grant from the National Park Service, historians and archaeologists hope to uncover more about a dark period of American history: the internment of JAs during World War II.

A total of \$960,000 was awarded to 19 different organizations nationwide to preserve confinement sites and raise awareness about the topic. The University of Idaho also contributed \$8,600 for the Kooskia Internment Camp archaeological project.

A 2006 Japanese American Confinements site grant program allows up to \$38 million for the preservation of confinement sites.

"I hope my research — and Priscilla's — will help put Kooskia back on the map of American and Idahoan history through both archaeological research and dissemination of the research findings through public outreach efforts and academic publications," said Stacey L. Camp, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Idaho.

## Preserving The Past

Other National Park Service grant recipients also hope to bring awareness to JA internment. The University of Hawaii Center for Oral History received a \$14,955 grant from the National Park Service to document personal internment stories.

"Well, I think it means that we'll be able to document a little known facet of the internment experience," said Warren Nishimoto, director of the center. "More specifically it will enable us to document the Hawaii story, which pretty much is limited now because the participants [internees] have passed on."

Over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry were interned in the United States following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Relocation centers and confinement sites were located across the country.

The United Tribes Technical College, or UTTC, in North Dakota received \$18,919 to educate the public about the internment. The money will fund the United Tribes Fort Lincoln Planning Conference.

"We look forward to bringing together a number of key experts and people who experienced internment to help us create the proper memorial and interpretation here on our campus, so others can learn from that part of history," said David M. Gipp, UTTC president. "In that sense, the grant and matching support is an investment in teaching future generations."

Three grant recipients are chapters of the JACL, including Livingston-Merced, Marysville and the Twin Cities.

"JACL worked long and hard to have this miscarriage of justice overturned and to have the 10 War Relocation Authority concentration camps designated as historical monuments and preserved," said Larry Oda, national JACL president. "The National Park Service grants are an extension of this effort to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historical confinement sites."



The largest National Park Service grant of \$282,253 went to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center. The second largest grant of \$112,500 was awarded to Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project.

## The Kooskia Men

About 265 JA males volunteered to work at the Kooskia Internment Camp in Idaho, with the first wave of men arriving in 1943. In addition to the male Japanese "aliens" at the site, Wegars' research shows 27 civilian employees, two internee doctors and a Japanese American interpreter also stayed at the camp from 1943 to 1945.

The camp recruited JAs from internment camps nationwide. One hundred and four men from the Santa Fe camp were the first to arrive. At the Santa Fe camp, promises of good medical and recreational facilities lured workers to a remote region of north central Idaho.

Kooskia camp workers could pocket about \$55 to \$65 a month, working about five days a week and eight hours day.

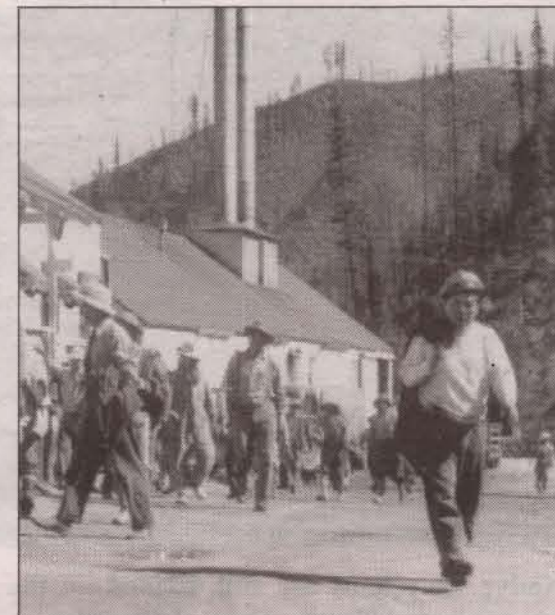
"It [the Kooskia Internment Camp] is a huge part of American history," explained Wegars. "It is unique. There was only one camp like it. This was the only one in the United States."

Internees also worked on about eight to 10 miles of what is now Highway 12. Others worked in the camp's kitchen, laundry facilities or doing construction work, among other occupations. It was an opportunity to help these men regain some self-respect after discriminatory laws and practices had stripped them of their self-worth, explained Wegars.

The Kooskia camp differed from internment camps across the country in other ways as well. No one died at the camp, but there were reports of broken bones, concussions and other injuries. Another noticeable difference: an absence of barbed wire.

But Kooskia was not a vacation destination. Upset with the medical and recreational facilities at the camp, workers successfully petitioned for better conditions. Most workers knew their rights under the Geneva Convention — a comprised set of treaties outlining the treatment of prisoners of war — and demanded a better working environment.

"Internees were so displeased with the health and safety standards at Kooskia that they composed a petition outlining their complaints, which included the absence of any medical personnel to administer first aid if workers were injured at the incredibly remote internment camp," Camp said. "It is my hope that



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

A truck transports Japanese American workers at the Kooskia Internment Camp (left).

JA men walk by buildings used to house the workers (above) during World War II.

the archaeological data recovered in the future can shed light on how the internees coped with these limitations."

Medical vials, herbal and homeopathic plants and other artifacts will help archaeologists and historians understand how these men coped at Kooskia.

Wegars was able to speak with two former internees about their experiences at the camp, but to her knowledge all of the former internees have died.

"Most of the men at the camp never wanted to talk about it [their experience there]," Wegars added. "I'm the only one who can provide details about their lives while they were there."

Kooskia internees originated mostly from California. But others arrived from Hawaii, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois, Florida and other states. Some were Japanese Latin Americans who were kidnapped from Peru, said Wegars. Toraichi Kono — Charlie Chaplin's personal secretary — was one of the more prominent workers at the camp. Rev. Hozen Seki, who founded the New York Buddhist Church, also stayed at the site.

"Today, the site remains abandoned," Camp continued. "I have yet to conduct any preliminary surveys of the site, as that will take place in July of 2010."

Camp plans to meet with Bruce Ellis, a Clearwater National Forest archaeologist, to further develop interpretive plans. Ellis said he is anxious to uncover more of the history at Kooskia.

"As a hobbyist, I'm very interested in World War II history. I'm really quite excited to work with Stacey on this project," Ellis said.

A site survey revealed Japanese ceramics in the area, which are now stored at the University of Idaho. Archaeologists hope other artifacts will glean more information about the lives of these men.

Considered a scholar on the Kooskia Internment Camp, Wegars said she has a manuscript written about the subject. She hopes to publish a book before the archaeological work begins in 2010. Until then, Wegars is actively collecting personal stories, letters, diaries and other documents about the Kooskia Internment Camp.

"I feel like I'm making a difference," Wegars said. "If family member thinks they may have a relative who was at the Kooskia Internment Camp, they should please contact me because I might have information on their relatives." ■

## For more information:

[www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/LS/AACC/KOOSKIA.HTM](http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/LS/AACC/KOOSKIA.HTM)



# Native Hawaiian Bill Stirs Public Opinion on Islands



**Native Hawaiians are still divided on the bill's impact and ability to restore their rights.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

A bill that would establish Native Hawaiian self-governance gained revived attention with the support of a new administration, spurring public opinion in the islands.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, introduced the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, commonly known as the Akaka Bill, in 2000. It is co-sponsored by Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii. The bill's creation came in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Rice v. Cayetano*.

The court voted 7-2 in favor of rancher Harold "Freddy" Rice who challenged the constitutionality of a Hawaiian-only voting restriction, which gave Native Hawaiians the authority to elect the board of trustees to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, or OHA. The agency provides educational, health, housing and other programs for Native Hawaiians. The court's ruling echoed the sentiments of the Bush administration, which strongly opposed the Akaka legislation.

Sam Hirsch, deputy associate attorney general for the Justice Department, spoke of the historical case while expressing the department's support of the Akaka Bill in the Aug. 6 hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

"As for Native Hawaiians specifically, the Supreme Court has never decided whether Congress has the authority to treat the native Hawaiian community in the same manner as an Indian tribe," said Hirsch. "Indeed in its 2000 decision in *Rice v. Cayetano*, the court expressly avoided that question, calling it 'difficult to reign.' And in the decade since the Supreme Court decided in *Rice*, no court has squarely addressed that issue." Hawaii-born President Barack Obama previously expressed his support of the bill.

Hirsch said recognizing Native Hawaiians as a sovereign entity, would acknowledge them as a distinct community. No vote was made in the hearing. Akaka said it was the 10th time the committee convened to discuss the bill.

Supporters of the bill said its passage would address past wrongs to Hawaiians. But, opponents said the legislation would give Native Hawaiians unfair race-based entitlements.

Hawaii-based attorney H. William Burgess wrote in his testimony that the Akaka Bill would encourage "Hawaiian supremacists."

"A firm rejection of the Akaka Bill by this committee would reassure the people of Hawaii that racial supremacy and separatism are not acceptable," Burgess wrote in his testimony. "That, in the eyes of government, there is only one race here. It is American."

## The Kingdom of Hawaii

To understand the sentiments expressed about the Akaka Bill requires a look at the historical relationship between Hawaii and the United States.

During the 1800s coffee and sugar plantations sprouted up in

Hawaii, which is comprised of the eight islands. Soon the concept of private landownership was introduced in Hawaii with the Great Mahele, or "Division of Lands," in 1848. The Mahele gave commoners and foreigners land ownership rights.

Iolani Palace opened in 1882 in downtown Honolulu. It was the primary residence for Queen Liliuokalani.

In 1887 the monarchy's power was limited when a group of businessmen, among others, forced the then-king to sign the document in what became known as the "Bayonet Constitution."

Taking the throne after her brother died, Queen Liliuokalani said she would proclaim a new constitution for the Kingdom of Hawaii. The announcement fueled anti-royalists. A group called the Committee of Safety, which was led by Lorrin A. Thurston, said the queen was infringing on their safety and property rights. U.S. sailors and marines were later positioned outside of the Iolani Palace.

"I Liliuokalani, by the grace of God and under the constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom, queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the constitutional government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a provisional government of and for this kingdom," wrote Queen Liliuokalani in Jan. 17, 1893.

The Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown in 1893 without bloodshed. When royalists attempted to restore the queen to the throne in 1895, she was arrested and imprisoned in her upstairs bedroom in the palace. Today docent-guided tour groups are lead through the same palace once traversed by the queen.

Nearly 100 years later the U.S. government issued an apology for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, but supporters of the Akaka Bill said the wounds are still fresh.

"The bill provides needed parity, enabling Native Hawaiians to establish a government-to-government relationship with the United States," said Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, in a written statement to the *Pacific Citizen*. "The structured process in the bill empowers the people of Hawaii to honor the needs of our state, preserve our cultural heritage, and address issues that have remained unresolved since the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii."

## The 50th State

Hawaii gained statehood in August of 1959 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Commemorative events for the 50th anniversary of statehood were subdued this year, mirroring the similar mixed feelings about the Akaka Bill. And do not expect

a victory parade if the bill passes, said Akaka Bill opponents.

"No, it [the Akaka Bill] will not stop racially-motivated lawsuits. It will not benefit most Hawaiians materially. It will not increase self-governance nor self-determination," said Ikaika Hussey, with the Movement for Aloha No Ka Aina, or MANA. "It will lead to more political control over Hawaiians being located in Washington, D.C. not in Hawaii. And it will be misinterpreted by many people as being a victory for Hawaiians, when in fact it will be most useful as a way of closing 'the Hawaiian problem.'"

About 8.5 percent of the population in Hawaii is Native Hawaiian or of other Pacific Islander descent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A Native Hawaiian is defined under the Akaka Bill as someone whose relatives resided in the islands before Jan. 1, 1893.

Opponents to the Akaka Bill said the legislation would also separate Hawaii by ethnicity.

"The Akaka Bill will be the destruction of Hawaii's social and economic foundation as we all know it," said Hawaii resident Jimmy Kuroiwa, who said he is related through marriage to Akaka. "Hawaii will become a state of us versus them by race (ethnic group)."

If passed, the bill would establish a "single Native Hawaiian" government that would negotiate assets with the state and federal government. The Hawaiian government would be similar to the federal government's relationship with indigenous people of North America, except the Hawaiians cannot "conduct gaming activities." Akaka said the bill neither permits the transfer of private businesses or lands nor permits secession from the Union.

In 1920 the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act reserved about 203,500 acres of land for Hawaiian homesteads. About 6,800 Native Hawaiian families live on those lands, according to the Akaka legislation. Approximately 18,000 people are on the waiting list. Under the legislation about 1.2 acres of state land, which Native Hawaiians believe was illegally stolen, could be at stake.

Also at stake are future Native Hawaiian programs, said Haunani Apoliona, OHA board chairwoman. She said since 2000, Native Hawaiian programs have been attacked as discriminatory and the "assaults" continue.

"In the absence of the act, Native Hawaiian programs, benefits and assets currently serving Native Hawaiians in the areas of human services, employment training, health, education, economic development, housing, perpetuation of Hawaiian language and culture, policy advocacy, protection of traditional and customary rights will remain in 'harms way,'" Apoliona wrote in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*.

Civil rights organizations like the JACL, which publishes the *Pacific Citizen*, said it is time to repay Hawaiians for the past wrongs committed.

"We have been supportive of Native Hawaii sovereignty from the beginning," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Their history is too much like Native Americans who had their land taken away and left to fend for themselves in unwanted spaces. Hawaiians deserve the dignity that is due to them as the original inhabitants of the islands."

Despite apparent divisions about the bill, some Native Hawaiians said the community is not as divided about the legislation as might be interpreted.

Native Hawaiian activist William Aila, Jr. said he is "in the middle" about the bill, explaining the legislation has been modified to gain passage. But Aila said the bill sets the foundation for correcting the injustices of the past on the Hawaiian community.

"It's not as divided as it appears," Aila said. "I think the majority of Hawaiians support the creation of a native entity. They clearly identify the injustices of the past and the need to make amends."

The Akaka Bill has never been successful in the Senate, but has passed in the House twice. If the Akaka Bill passes in the Indian Affairs Committee it will move to the full Senate. ■

*The bill provides needed parity, enabling Native Hawaiians to establish a government-to-government relationship with the United States.*

— Sen. Daniel Akaka,  
D-Hawaii (pictured above)



# How Far Have We Come Since September 11th?



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASADK

UC Berkeley protestors show their disapproval of Prof. John Yoo's views of torture post 9/11. Yoo, a former Bush administration attorney, is currently teaching a civil law class at the UC campus.

## Most Americans are looking back at the handling of the 'war on terror' with new eyes.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Almost eight years after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, the man credited with crafting legal theories for waterboarding, maintains his position on harsh interrogation techniques and warrantless wiretapping.

"To limit the president's constitutional power to protect the nation from foreign threats is simply foolhardy," wrote John Yoo in a July 16 *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece, a rare and selective breach of his routine of silence. He did not, however, respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment.

Yoo, 42, says the controversial interrogation techniques were needed to protect the country from terrorist attacks like the ones on Sept. 11, 2001 — the second date in U.S. history that lives in infamy. Eight years after two hijacked airplanes flew into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center, the sights and sounds of the attacks are still ingrained, but the way Americans are thinking about them is evolving.

"The public has moved on from the initial concern of another terrorist attack," said Larry Oda, JACL national president. The focus now seems to be how "the government has eroded our civil liberties to 'protect us.'"

Yoo, on the other hand, has remained steadfast.

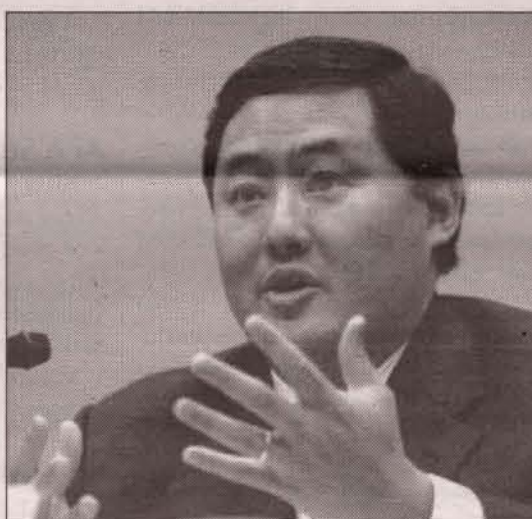
"The power to protect the nation," wrote Yoo in the same *Wall Street Journal* piece citing a quote from Alexander Hamilton, "ought to exist without limitation."

Critics have organized demonstrations at the University of California, Berkeley calling for the former Bush administration attorney to be dismissed, disbarred and prosecuted for war crimes.

Shouting "war criminal," the protesters confronted Yoo as he entered a lecture hall on the first day of class at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, where the tenured professor is teaching a civil law course.

Yoo mostly ignored the demonstrators and waited for police to remove them from the classroom before he began teaching. Several officers then stood outside the lecture hall to prevent protesters and journalists from entering.

On Aug. 27, demonstrators from groups like World Can't Wait dressed in orange prisoner suits similar to ones seen in infamous photos of Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, which was closed



*"To limit the president's constitutional power to protect the nation from foreign threats is simply foolhardy."*

John Yoo (left) in a *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece

in 2006 following reports of detainee abuse. They carried signs that read, "Shame on Yoo" and "Say No To Torture."

Yoo has come under criticism since the interrogation memos became public in 2004. The Berkeley City Council has passed a measure calling for the federal government to prosecute him for war crimes, and convicted terrorist Jose Padilla has filed a lawsuit alleging that Yoo's legal opinions led to his alleged torture.

"I think Yoo should be among those tried in a court of law for the role they played in creating a policy that allowed for torture as a 'legal' method of interrogation," said John Tateishi, immediate past JACL national director and UC Berkeley alumnus.

After Pearl Harbor, the Sept. 11th terrorist attack was only the second time Americans were attacked on home soil. Both dates, separated by 60 years, have forged an indelible relationship between two communities — Japanese Americans and Arab and Muslim Americans — united by experiences of racial discrimination.

During World War II, over 100,000 JAs were forcibly incarcerated in internment camps. Their crime was their Japanese ancestry. The parallels between the plight of WWII JAs and Muslim and Arab Americans today run almost infinitely — including FBI sweeps, *habeas corpus* challenges and civil liberties violations.

In the immediate wake of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, JACL urged the government not to react like it did during

WWII, said Tateishi, who was national director at the time.

"In the days and months following 9/11, I felt it was extremely important that the JACL be a voice for the Japanese American community because we had what I viewed as the most credible and significant perspective on both the political and public reactions taking place after 9/11," he said.

The JA community knows the impact of allowing an "anything goes" philosophy during times of war, said current JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

"The mistake of the government at that time [during WWII] has been

well heralded as one of the biggest mistakes our government has made regarding civil liberties and that lesson of history is well suited for today," Mori said.

A newly declassified version of a CIA report, revealed Aug. 24, that CIA interrogators threatened to kill a Sept. 11 suspect's children and suggested another would be forced to watch his mother sexually assaulted.

Eight years after the terrorist attacks, the Obama administration is setting strict new standards for treatment of terror suspects, as the U.S. Justice Department launches a criminal probe of past interrogation tactics during President George W. Bush's efforts to combat terrorism.

And Yoo will continue to teach law at UC Berkeley despite protests and demonstrations.

Christopher Edley Jr., UC Berkeley's law school dean, has rejected calls to dismiss Yoo, saying the university doesn't have the resources to investigate his Justice Department work, which involved classified intelligence.

Today Asian Pacific American leaders say it's important to focus on protecting and restoring civil liberties.

"We need to remember that our liberty is fragile," said Oda. "We need to be vigilant and ready to defend our rights from those who wish to control them." ■

**Online exclusive:** watch video of the UC Berkeley protest against John Yoo at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org).



## AA Community Mourns Passing of Sen. Kennedy



Senator Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., speaks before a crowd of Asian Americans in 1984 (left).

Sen. Kennedy passed away on Aug. 25 at the age of 77.

Various AA leaders and colleagues remember the late senator as a man who championed civil rights and the rights of immigrants and the poor.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian American leaders across the country are mourning the passing of Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., calling him a champion of civil rights who always fought for the rights of immigrants and the poor.

Kennedy passed away Aug. 25 after a yearlong battle with brain cancer. He was 77.

"Sen. Kennedy was the Senate's extraordinary advocate for equality. He believed in, and fought doggedly to protect the civil rights of all Americans," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center. "The immigrant community is especially grateful for his years of service and commitment, and for being one of its staunchest advocates."

Tens of thousands of mourners gathered at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library where Sen. Kennedy lay in repose in a flag-draped casket. A funeral mass was scheduled for Aug. 29 and the late senator will be buried alongside his brothers at the Arlington National Cemetery in northern Virginia.

"It is with immense sadness that our country mourns the death of a great leader, Sen. Ted Kennedy," said Rep. Mike Honda. "A vigilant guardian of civil rights, Sen.

Kennedy dedicated his life to social justice and ensuring that our nation lives up to its ideals of equal opportunity for all. He was a man of great compassion, representing the voices of the most vulnerable among us."

AAs recalled Sen. Kennedy's work in 1965 to pass the Immigration Act, a bill that lifted anti-Asian immigration policies that dated back to 1924. He also fought segregation with the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and helped pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In recent years he was the chief sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and in 2006 he helped reauthorize the Voting Rights Act. Earlier this year he continued his fight to pass long sought hate crimes legislation and immigration reform.

"Sen. Ted Kennedy's passing is heart-breaking news to all of us — to those in public service, and to everyone who believes in the promise of this country," said Rep. Doris O. Matsui. "Sen. Kennedy has carried the torch for civil rights, national service, education for the American people, and challenged us always — that we can do better."

"With Sen. Kennedy's passing, we lost a true champion in the fight for quality education, health care and civil rights for all," said Rep. David Wu. "As a member of Congress he embodied the ideal to which we all aspire. As we reflect on Sen. Kennedy's passing, I hope others inspired by his legacy take up the mantle of public service in his honor." ■

## JA Veterans Unite to Support Congressional Gold Medal

World War II Japanese American veterans organizations from across the United States came together for their second network meeting at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo recently.

As their first joint objective, the coalition wants to secure the Congressional Gold Medal for the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team. They are working on sending letters to senators urging for the legislation's passage.

Advocates who attended the event included: Aaron Baird, Schiff's staff assistant; Alton Garrett, Southern California director for Sen. Barbara Boxer; and Pat Thomas, an organizer of the successful campaign to secure the Congressional Gold Medal for the WWII Woman Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs).



442nd veteran Sam Fujikawa (right) shakes hands with retired U.S. Army Colonel William W. McLemore.

The event was hosted by the Go For Broke National Education Center. Participating organizations included the JACL.

In January, Rep. Adam Schiff introduced HR 347 to award 100th and 442nd veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal, the

highest civilian award in the U.S. The House adopted the measure in May.

HR 347 requires the Secretary of Treasury to design and produce the gold medal for the 100th and 442nd. It also allows the Treasury to produce duplicate bronze medals for sale to the public.

Boxer has introduced the companion bill, S.1055, in the Senate with cosponsors, including Sens. Diane Feinstein, Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka. ■

**On the Web:**  
[www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org)

## National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

### Seven Decades after Washington University Accepted a Nisei, his Grandson Begins Classes

ST. LOUIS—Soon after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Washington University agreed to accept about 30 Japanese American students from the West Coast, sparing them from internment camps.

One of those students was Yoshio Matsumoto, 88, who last month, made his first visit to the St. Louis campus since graduating in 1944. The occasion: His grandson, Andrew Matsumoto, is an incoming freshman. Within months of the Pearl Harbor attack the U.S. government began relocating 110,000 JAs to internment camps, where they remained throughout the war. But a few colleges and universities agreed to take on JA students.

### JA Newspaper to Close After 63 Years

SAN FRANCISCO—Northern California's oldest JA community newspaper is set to close this month after a long, steady decline in circulation and advertising revenue.

The board of directors of San Francisco-based Nichi Bei Times has said the bilingual publication will stop publishing on Sept. 10.

A group of journalists and community leaders is forming a foundation that will try to save the newspaper by turning it into a nonprofit operation supported by donations, fundraisers and grants.



### APA Students See Increase in SAT Scores

NEW YORK—While the average national SAT scores for the 2009 high school class dropped two points compared with last year, APA students saw a 13-point gain, according to a new report.

The report by the nonprofit College Board showed that students who had completed a core curriculum, taken their school's most rigorous courses and familiarized themselves with the test were among the strongest performers.

The national average was 1509. Top score is 800 in each of the three SAT sections.

### City Officials Hope to Build an APA Cultural Center

DALLAS—The city's Office of Cultural Affairs has been holding town hall meetings to discuss plans to build an Asian American Cultural Center.

Right now, the city does not know where the facility will be built or how it will be funded, according to the Dallas Observer.

A 2006 bond program set aside \$350,000 for an Asian Cultural Center Master Plan Study and a comprehensive feasibility study, which is currently being conducted by HOK, an architectural firm.

### APA Groups File Brief to Oppose E-Verify Law

WASHINGTON—A group of APA civil rights organizations has filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court to oppose a law that allows employers to use government databases to verify a person's employment eligibility.

E-Verify is a voluntary program run by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. Congress established the program on a temporary and voluntary basis because of the potential for discrimination.

The brief highlights concerns of discrimination against employees particularly those who are perceived to be foreign. Last year, Arizona enacted the Legal Arizona Workers Act, which requires all employees operating in the state to use the system. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the act.

APA organizations that joined the petition include the Asian American Justice Center and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. ■





## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Akiona Honored With Advocate Award



PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

James 'Little Man' Akiona Jr. accepts the 2009 Native Hawaiian Advocate Award on behalf of his father, James Akiona Sr.

Akiona challenged the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

In 1995, the Hawaii Supreme Court ordered the department to make opportunities available for commercial ranching on larger homestead lots as Congress intended. In 2005, then 80-year-old Akiona finally received a 300-acre homestead ranch lot.

### JA Museum Recognizes Its Outstanding Volunteers



**HONORING VOLUNTEERS:** Richard Murakami (right) accepts the Miki Tanimura Outstanding Volunteer Award from former recipient Marge Wada and Kirby Tanimura, son of the late Miki Tanimura.

Others receiving recognition included: Sande Hashimoto, Caroline Jung, Esther Abe, the Fred and Toyoko Murakami Family and Ken and JoAnn Hamamura.

### Nagao Named To East L.A. Planning Commission

Mayor Villaraigosa has appointed Kei Karen Nagao to the East Los Angeles Area Planning Commission.

Nagao holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has over seven years of experience working on community development in the non-profit sector, most recently serving as a project manager for the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation where she managed affordable housing developments.

Nagao also sits on the board of directors for the Little Tokyo Community Council and was a member of the California Planning Foundation. She also spent three years as the executive director of Southern Californians for Youth, where she directed a network of social justice youth organizations to develop policy to assist low-income youth throughout Los Angeles.

### Little Tokyo Crowns Nisei Week Queen

Dana Fujiko Heatherton was crowned the 69th Nisei Week Queen Aug. 15 in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Heatherton, 24, who represents the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute, is a compliance associate with The Capital Group, an investment management firm in Los Angeles. She received her bachelor's degree in American literature and culture from the University of California, Los Angeles.

She sits on the board of directors of the Little Tokyo Service Center and Asian Pacific Alumni of UCLA.

The first Nisei Week queen's contest was held in 1935. ■

HONOLULU—The Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation has awarded pastoral Hawaiian homesteader James P. Akiona with the 2009 Native Hawaiian Advocate Award.

The honor recognizes an outstanding advocate of Hawaiian rights.

Born and raised in Hilo, Akiona first applied for a ranch homestead in 1952. After being passed over for nearly 40 years,

## Va. Tech Gunman Talked to Three Separate Counselors

In 2007 Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus before turning the gun on himself.

By Sue Lindsey  
Associated Press Writer

ROANOKE, Va.—University counselors should have discussed and addressed the mental health troubles the Virginia Tech gunman told them he was having before the massacre, victims' relatives said.

The criticism comes after records revealed three therapists within three weeks indicated they saw no serious signs of violence in the student.

Documents released Aug. 19 contain previously unseen handwritten notes from counselors who spoke with Seung-Hui Cho — two by phone and one in person — in November and December 2005, a year and a half before the shootings. The forms were filled out based on Cho's statements about the way he was feeling. He told them he was depressed and had feelings of anxiety, but had no homicidal or suicidal thoughts. On April 16, 2007, Cho killed 32 people and himself in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

The forms don't contain evidence of any real trouble with Cho's mental state, though one counselor encouraged him to return, which he didn't.

Still, relatives said they showed he slipped through the campus counseling center cracks and that therapists didn't discuss his case.

"They definitely weren't paying attention, and that's what led to April



AP PHOTO

Virginia Tech students gathered to mourn the horrific shootings of 32 people on their campus in 2007. The gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, also killed himself.

16th," said Suzanne Grimes, whose son Kevin was wounded.

"It just sounded like he was going through a McDonald's," said Michael Pohle, whose son Michael Pohle Jr. was killed. "It just looked like he was passed through from one person to another person and there was no collaboration going on."

The files first turned up July 16, when former center director Robert C. Miller found them in his home while preparing for lawsuits filed by victims' families, which name him as a defendant.

Virginia Tech released the files after receiving permission from Cho's family, which was needed because of privacy laws.

"My mother, father and I all agree that it is the correct thing to do to release the newly discovered medical records of my brother," Cho's sister, Sun Cho, said in a letter authorizing the release.

University spokesman Mark Owczarski said with the release of the records the school was seeking to provide the victims' families "with as much information as is known about Cho's interactions with the mental health system."

Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said in a statement that his administration remained committed to openness about the mass shootings.

"We will never fully comprehend what led Seung-Hui Cho to carry out his assault," Kaine said. "His actions were by nature inexplicable, and I don't expect the questions surrounding the tragedy will ever really end."

Roger O'Dell, whose son Derek O'Dell was injured, said he hoped the records could be helpful in altering treatment of troubled individuals.

"There are lessons to be learned," he said. ■

## JACL Prepares to Honor JA Vets at Gala Dinner

### JACL thanks the Gala Dinner's Honorary Committee

The JACL will be welcoming Japanese American veterans to the nation's capital as it prepares to honor all JA vets and various supporting organizations at its upcoming Gala Dinner in Washington, D.C. Sept. 17.

The JACL will pay tribute to veterans, including the JAs who served in the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), and other branches of the Service during World War II while facing extreme prejudice and discrimination. The organization will also honor veterans of the Korean War,

later conflicts, and all others who have ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV), Go For Broke National Education Center, and the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) will be honored for their service to veterans.

Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris of the U.S. Navy, currently at the Pentagon and a member of JAVA, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The JACL also thanks its Gala Honorary Committee headed up by Honorary Chairman Congressman Mike Honda of California.

Other members of the Honorary Committee are: Former Sec.

Norman Y. Mineta, Sen. Harry Reid, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Rep. Xavier Becerra, Rep. Rob Bishop, Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, Rep. Dennis Cardoza, Rep. Judy Chu, Rep. Jim Costa,

Rep. Eni Faleomavaega, Rep. Mazie Hirono, Rep. Jerry Lewis, Rep. Doris Matsui, Rep. Gregorio Sablan, Rep. Adam Schiff, and Rep. Bobby Scott. Also on the committee are: Richard Foltin, legislative director, American Jewish Committee; Wade Henderson, president and CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; and Hilary Shelton, senior vice president, Washington Bureau, NAACP

For more information about the JACL Gala, 202/223-1240 or email: gala@jACL.org. ■





# for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

## War and Morality

The play (later made into a movie) "All My Sons," written by Arthur Miller, is about morality and social responsibility. It's about a father and his partner who ship faulty airplane cylinder heads to the Army Air Force, resulting in the deaths of American pilots. His own son, a pilot in the Pacific, commits suicide by intentionally crashing his plane when he learns that many of his colleagues have died because of what his father has done. The father later kills himself when he's found out by his family.

It's a morality play and a Greek tragedy, one that is not unlike something that might have been written by Euripides. In the end, the truth comes out and the tragedy of corruption and greed overwhelms the drama.

Dwight Eisenhower, former president and the great Army general who commanded the joint allied forces in Europe during World War II, warned of the military industrial complex in his departing speech as president. That term, "the military industrial complex," was coined by Ike and became a reality against which he warned as a danger to American democracy.

Ike's warning came 15 years after WWII. It was a war that helped bring the U.S. out of the Great Depression and turned it into the wealthiest nation in the world with its war machinery and booming war industry.

It was that industry which Eisenhower feared. As the real war ended and the Cold War began, Eisenhower understood how the real and imagined threats of a distant enemy could seep into every aspect of American life. Ironical for someone whose whole life was about war, but he understood that once the defense industry took control, they would determine much of what this country would become. Today it's clear how warranted his warnings were.

There was a time in this nation when war profiteering was illegal. There was a time in America when we were morally outraged that anyone would profit from wars, so much so that it was a serious crime if proven. Companies were actually

shut down and people — executives and CEOs — were sent to prison for profiteering.

Patriotism had an entirely different meaning then. It meant supporting the country against evil, fighting for moral causes and being willing to sacrifice one's life and well-being for the sake of what America stood for.

But that was a different time and our sense of what it means today is different, if not perverted. During the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the subsequent ill-conceived and protracted war, patriotism became defined by the right wing and Republicans and the logic of George Bush, "You're either with us or against us." It must be wonderful when logic can be so simplistic and stupid.

And one continues to read about Halliburton and Blackwater and Kellogg, Brown and Root as well as others and their involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq in either building things or destroying them and the billions each has made in the process. But they can't be faulted for doing what they do best: profiting from the war. The lack of accountability is bothersome, especially when they can't account for billions.

Blackwater? They're different from the others because that operation is made up of mercenaries — their role is to protect and kill and they do it outside the chain of command and outside the rules of war.

It's no wonder Eisenhower feared what he saw for the future of this country. A story like "All My Sons" could never be written today. There isn't the same sense of morality in America today. What was once the greed of profiteers has been transformed into a way of life in Washington.

Maybe I'm just old fashioned, but I often wonder where morality in America has gone. In today's world, who needs Euripides? We're writing our own story just fine. ■

*John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.*



## MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA Being a New Japanese American Aunt

BY YUMI SAKUGAWA



Last month, I got a text message from my friend.

It was 6:30 in the morning. "Do you happen 2 have eBay account?"

Ten minutes later, my cell phone beeped with a new message. The seemingly random query of the first text was repeated with more urgency.

"Do you have an eBay acct? There is something I want 2 bid on by 930am 4 kiyomi. Its only a few bucks. Pay u back promise. Japanese girl soft doll. Spent hours lookin and only found this one."

I did not have an eBay account and told her so. I then made a mental note to keep an eye out on the streets for a soft Japanese girl doll that was both affordable and baby friendly. I suppose this comes with the job description when you're JA and your childhood friend gives birth to a baby girl named Kiyomi and asks you to be one of the baby's several unofficial aunts and uncles enlisted from her circle of friends.

Looking out for affordable ethnic toys, agreeing to the occasional babysitting gig and providing emotional support is all part of the job.

As one of the few college friends still living close to my friend's family home, I had front-seat access to modern JA parenthood. I was invited to Kiyomi's *hyakunichimairi* — the celebration of her hundredth day of life where food was eaten in her honor and pictures were taken of her wearing an elaborate baby-sized kimono.

One the many times I came over to visit my friend, I watched her Japanese mother and grandmother drift in and out of Kiyomi's playroom, holding the baby in their arms and speaking to her gently in Japanese and English.

I listened to my friend excitedly tell me about a news article she read that described how babies can completely understand language before they are capable of speech, and therefore should have as much Japanese language exposure as possible. From that point onward, I made sure to play Japanese children's songs and read Japanese children's

books to the baby every time I babysat her.

As my friend told me about taking her daughter to the local obon festival over the weekend, a scary thought suddenly entered my head: everything I was seeing my friend do for her baby daughter foreshadows the near future of the JA youth of my generation — becoming new JA parents.

I always associated my JA peers with busy college activities: running student meetings, organizing community events, playing taiko, protesting the latest corporate un-Japanese development in Japantown.

But maybe a few years down the line, I should expect to see many of them settle down to raise a family. They would now be sleep-deprived, not from juggling extracurricular activities, but from waking up at 4 a.m. every day from the piercing cry of a new-

born JA baby impatient for another new day of playing with Totoro dolls and listening to Japanese language cassette tapes.

Whether I liked it or not, I was nearing the end of my days as a JA youth. As a brand new addition to the JA youth demographic, Kiyomi beats me by an entire quarter of a century in honoring that title.

My friend called me one night. She was overwhelmed, sleep-deprived and feeling lonely. In a heartfelt outpouring of emotion, she told me how grateful she was to have me as a friend and to have someone to depend on to watch Kiyomi when her regular babysitter couldn't watch her.

"When you have a baby of your own," my friend said, "I will do everything I can to help you just as you are helping me."

I thought about the smelly diapers, the 4 a.m. wake-up calls.

Maybe in five years, I told her. Maybe 10. ■

*Yumi Sakugawa writes from Los Angeles.*

*'Whether I  
liked it or not,  
I was nearing  
the end of my  
days as a JA  
youth.'*



# Marié Digby: From YouTube Sensation to International Stardom

The popular Hapa songstress is about to release her second album, 'Breathing Under Water.'

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Marié Digby has always aspired to be the type of musician that will sign autographs for loyal waiting fans until her "fingers are falling off." Her supporters, who have adopted the moniker Digbyholics, will attest she has lived up to that aspiration.

"The Digbyholics are my diehard fans. They are really my friends," said the 26-year-old songstress over the phone from her home in Los Angeles, Calif. "They are protective and defensive. They've created this incredible world."

The Digbyholics, who run an unofficial fan site, often know more about her tour schedule than she does. Digby recently returned to Los Angeles on the heels of an Asia tour. There she performed in Japan, the Philippines and Singapore to promote her second album, "Breathing Under Water." While Digby recovers from jetlag, the Digbyholics and others are counting down to Sept. 15 — the album's U.S. release date on Amazon.

"It was so much fun," said Digby of her Asia tour. "I have a few days to chill out and got to go to the movies. I don't think there's any vacation planned anytime soon." The 26-year-old was able to watch the movie "District 9" while back in her hometown of Los Angeles. It is a change of pace from her life on the road while promoting "Breathing Under Water."

Love songs consumed the new 13-track album, but do not expect this Japanese-Irish-American songstress to slow down for love anytime soon.

"Well, other than my dog, definitely no," laughed Digby when asked if she has a significant other. "I have met a lot of intriguing men and they inspire a lot of songs."

The 26-year-old is mum about the inspiration for her second album.

"'Breathing Under Water' is my second U.S. album. Lyrically it's the same because it's drawn from my personal experiences," Digby explained. "I reached a point in my life when I was going back and forth whether it's wrong or right to make a physical connection."

The Los Angeles-native said she was "falling for someone" when creating the album.

The singer found comfort expressing herself in songs like "Avalanche," and "Love With a Stranger" featured on her sophomore album. The former song is about a tempestuous relationship on the brink of breaking up. And "Love With a Stranger," as the title implies, is about "no-strings-attached encounters."

## YouTube Sensation

Dubbed worldwide by publications as the "porcelain beauty" for her ivory complexion, Digby is never short of admirers. She has had brushes with overzealous fans since premiering on YouTube. One man sent her hundreds of e-mails pleading with her to purchase and wear a guitar strap. Digby said she has always found comfort in the support of her family.

"My family has been so supportive," Digby said of her parents — Emiko and Matt — who live in Tokyo. "There were times when they were scared for me."

The Hapa singer joked that she could high-kick any stalker now since taking up kickboxing.

"I did take up kickboxing, and I love it," she said. "It's for mental strength too. It's a lot of fun as well. I just love using sports to get rid of extra stress."

Working without a manager for months, Digby had her hands full. Her album "Breathing Under Water" was slated for release earlier this year, but Digby said she was concerned about sufficiently promoting the album beforehand.

So, she took to YouTube again to get the word out about the album — the same site that helped launch her career as a fledgling musician. Digby first gained popularity on the video-sharing site with her acoustic versions of Rihanna's "Umbrella" and Linkin Park's "What I've Done," among others.

Using her laptop computer, Digby taped her videos in her living room and bathroom — preferring the acoustics there. Her



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY ROZZI AND HOLLYWOOD RECORDS

*'The nature of my music is very personal. It's my goal to have people relate to the lyrics'*

Marié Digby (right and above) gained popularity on YouTube after singing her acoustic version of R & B singer Rihanna's song 'Umbrella.'

home furnishings — particularly a white couch in her living room — have become just as popular as her melodic voice. Visitors to her YouTube page often comment about her infamous white couch and Misty her 10-year-old Australian shepherd dog, who makes cameo appearances. Fans comment on Digby's Web sites, writing that the intimacy and accessibility of her music is part of her appeal.

"The nature of my music is very personal," Digby explained. "It's my goal to have people relate to the lyrics."

Vince Woo from Seattle, Wash. first became a fan of Digby's after watching her sing "Umbrella," in her living room. He is now part of the Digbyholics community.

"I was lucky enough to catch her performance last year in Seattle shortly after I found out about her," Woo explained. "That night, she stayed until well past 1 a.m. to make sure she had a chance to meet everyone in line." He said Digby was visibly upset when her manager implemented a time limit with her fans.

"It is rare to see Marié upset as she is always so nice and playful, but when it comes to cutting her time with her fans short, you better watch out!" he said.

## Finding Her Voice

Digby said she was initially wary of covering other artists' songs, worrying about being pigeonholed as a cover artist. It was a concern that proved to be justified. A feature in *Glamour* magazine labeled the songwriter as "the other chick who sings 'Umbrella.'" To her relief, Digby said she has never heard from any of the artists she has covered.

"No, I haven't," Digby said. "I am kind of relieved that I haven't heard from them. If I spend too much time hearing what they say I might not do it."



The songstress has come a long way since getting her break in the music industry.

With a \$50 guitar, Digby started writing her own songs at 15. Digby's passion for music lead her to drop out of the University of California, Berkeley to pursue a career as a singer and songwriter. She knew breaking into the music industry would be tough, but Digby said she would do whatever it took.

That meant taking jobs to get her foot in the door.

"I was an intern at Island Def Jam for quite a while. My duties were making coffee and delivering odd objects. It was quite entertaining," she said.

Digby won a national Pantene-sponsored songwriting contest in 2004 and was later signed to Hollywood Records' roster. Her first album "Unfold" was No. 2 on the iTunes album chart and No. 3 on the Billboard's Digital Top 100 album chart. Despite her increased fame and success, Digby said everything is still as fresh and exciting as when she first debuted.

"Breathing Under Water" is an opportunity for Digby to break from her YouTube image and become the musician she has always aspired to be, she said.

"I pushed myself to grow," Digby said in a press release. "The acoustic thing is very comfortable to me, but I don't want to be just that. I never want to feel that I'm supposed to be that girl with the guitar and nothing else. This album gave me an opportunity to break through." ■

For more information about Marié Digby, visit <http://mariedigbymusic.com>.



# Heart Mountain Previews Interpretive Learning Center

Internees, Wyomingites bring memorabilia to the site.

Clouds drifted overhead, encouraged by a gentle wind. Seemingly without warning, the winds accelerated and a beautiful Wyoming afternoon turned cold and rainy.

Tats Misaka of Salt Lake City remembers all too well Wyoming's capricious weather patterns ranging from extreme heat to bitter cold. He was one of 11,000 Japanese Americans confined in this part of Wyoming during World War II.

LaDonna Zall of Ralston, Wyoming also remembers that period and is devoting her retirement years to collecting and archiving Heart Mountain artifacts.

Misaka and Zall were among over 100 that gathered recently to preview the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center (ILC) currently under construction between the towns of Powell and Cody.

Shirley Ann Higuchi, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board chair, began working to help support the building after her mother, Setsuko Saito Higuchi, passed away in 2005.

"It was her deathbed wish that this Center be completed ... and now the dream is becoming a reality."

Higuchi, a Washington D.C. attorney, believes the ILC can become an important educational resource and research facility that will honor all internees, not just those who were confined at Heart Mountain.

"We are making a big push to support and recognize (the achievements of) our parents and grandparents. The next six months to two years are critical," she said.

Former Secretary of Transportation and internee Norman Y. Mineta recalled the events that led to his life-long friendship with former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson. The two met as Boy Scouts.

"We didn't want to go to the 'POW' camp," Simpson remembers, but once he and Mineta interacted, their bond grew and has lasted 65 years. They continued to write to each other over the years and, by coincidence, eventually both were elected to Congress.

Mineta, a Democrat, played a key role in sponsoring the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which awarded redress to JA internees, and it was Simpson who spearheaded Republican support on the Senate side.

Douglas Nelson, HMWF fundraising chair, explained his involvement in the project. About 40 years ago while a student at the University of Wyoming, Nelson learned of Heart



Mountain, and in 1970 authored the Pulitzer-nominated "Heart Mountain: The History of an American Concentration Camp."

"When I finished writing that story, my wife Linda and I ... stood by the road and looked toward Heart Mountain. All that was here then to mark what happened during World War II was a lonely chimney on the ridge. I said to Linda as we stood there: 'No book can tell the real story. Only this place — this scene — this landscape can fully convey the deep meaning of what happened here.'"

Nelson noted that hundreds of donors have contributed dollars and scores more have donated treasured memories, artifacts, documents, photos, art work, furnishings and other memorabilia.

"We are especially grateful to those families, including many Wyomingites, who have entrusted the Foundation with objects and images and heirlooms."

Last June, the Foundation reported that it had raised \$2.6 million and was about half-way toward its \$5.2 million goal.

Recently, the Foundation was awarded a federal grant of \$283,000 from the National Park Service to continue the construction work on the Center. The Higuchi family added another \$100,000 to the campaign fund and the Nelsons increased their pledge to \$100,000.

Recent grants and pledges bring the current total to over \$3.1 million, allowing the HMWF to break ground this fall on con-

struction of the final wing of the Center's shell. Grand opening of the 11,000-square foot facility and exhibits is projected in 2011.

"While this is fabulous progress, we still have a ways to go and time for many of the people we care most about is short," Nelson added.

The event also served as Collection Day, allowing those with memorabilia to bring their items to the Center. Simpson donated a photo album he acquired personally. The album belonged to an internee.

At a banquet later in the evening, Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal said he was proud that the Center is in the state of Wyoming.

"We need to make this (Center) work." He added, "We're supposed to disagree in a democracy. But if we don't restrain ourselves, if we don't learn to live with one another, we will again have a Heart Mountain (relocation camp)."

Toward the end of the afternoon program, the rain had stopped. In the sky, a rainbow hovered above the hospital chimney, a remnant of the wartime camp. Eric Muller, a law professor at the University of North Carolina who is co-chairing the ILC program committee, snapped a photo of the rainbow.

"It's as if Heart Mountain was crying ... and now it's not," said Simpson. ■

## Vets Group to Host Santa Anita Reunion



A military police officer patrols the fence around the Santa Anita Assembly Center during World War II.

Join the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) Oct. 3 for a day at the races and a tour of the Santa Anita stables where Japanese Americans were held during World War II before being sent to permanent relocation camps.

The *Rafu Shimpō's* Horse Yoshinaga will lead the free tour along with Bacon Sakatani and Min Tonai of the JAKWV.

### JA History at the Races

Sat., Oct. 3  
Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia, Calif.  
\$29/adult

Free stable tour starts at 10:30 a.m.  
Info: Victor Muraoka: 818/368-4113 or  
v.muraoka@verizon.net

This committee will give an overview of the site's history with a map of the assembly center as it existed in 1942.

Tour highlights will also include visits by current or past luminaries of the racetrack and a stop at Santa Anita's JA monument, which Yoshinaga helped establish to inform the public about the racetrack's WWII history.

Participants will also enjoy a day at the races at the track's clubhouse area where a buffet lunch will be served.

During WWII, Santa Anita served as the largest assembly center, housing a total of 19,348 persons from Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Clara counties, according to the National Park Service. Internees lived in hastily constructed barracks and in existing stables and converted horse stalls.

The event, said the JAKWV in a statement, will be a fun and educational outing for former internees, their friends and family members. ■

## Polaris Tours Presents:

### 2009 Escorted Tours and Cruises

Oct. 22-Nov. 1	Autumn Japan "Fall Highlights"
Nov. 3-Nov. 14	The Best of Kyushu
Dec. 1-Dec. 03	Christmas in Las Vegas: Shows: Cher & The Lion King
Dec. 5-Dec. 14	South America Escape "Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires"


### 2010

Feb. 17-Feb. 25	Natural Wonders of Costa Rica
Feb. 22-Mar. 8	South Pacific Wonders: Australia & New Zealand
Mar. 15-Mar. 24	Onsen Meguri
Mar. 29-Apr. 7	Spring Japan: "Cherry Blossoms & Fuji-san"
Apr. 7-Apr. 20	Korea Highlights & Drama "Hallyu" Tour
Apr. 26-May 6	Discover Croatia
May 19-May 26	Swiss Highlights
June 8-June 10	Summertime in Las Vegas: Shows TBA
Jul. 05-Jul. 15	Summer Japan
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## Bowling for a Little Tokyo Gym



**Over \$12,000 was raised to build the long awaited recreational center, now called the Budokan of Los Angeles.**

Bowlers from across the greater Los Angeles area gathered recently in Henderson, Nevada for the first annual BoLA-Thon, a charity tournament to raise money for a recreation center in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The Aug. 15 event attracted over 250 people. Over 20 teams, with members ranging in age from five to over 50, bowled for a cause — to build the Budokan of Los Angeles (BoLA) formerly known as the Little Tokyo Recreation Center.

The event — hosted by the South Bay 76ers and the South Bay Shooting Starz — raised over \$12,000 for the BoLA project.

The BoLA-Thon was sponsored by the Sansei Legacy Group of Southern California, a group dedicated to assisting the Japanese American community by providing grants to worthy projects, events and groups.

"What started out as a team gathering has

expanded to a fully-fledged fundraiser," said Mark Doi of the Sansei Legacy Group.

The Budokan of Los Angeles, a 40,000-square-foot sports and activities center, will be located on the west side of Los Angeles Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets in Little Tokyo. The sports and activities center will host major basketball, volleyball and martial arts tournaments, and will serve as a local community center for ongoing activities.

*Budokan* roughly translates as "martial arts hall" in Japanese. The name is derived from the *Nippon Budokan*, a large arena in Tokyo originally built for judo competition during the 1964 Summer Olympics. Today it serves as a multi-purpose facility that hosts sports, entertainment and other activities.

The BoLA project is a project of LTSC Community Development Corporation, a non-profit community-based organization, which has been providing services for over 29 years to the greater Los Angeles community. ■

**For more information:**  
www.budokanoflosangeles.com

## Korean American Churches Fill Pews as Community Grows

By Amy Taxin  
Associated Press Writer

ANAHEIM, California—A fan-shaped baptismal font lies beneath a prominent chandelier, the centerpiece to a new worship center where priests hope to further expand one of the largest Korean American Catholic congregations in the U.S.

St. Thomas Korean Catholic Center of Anaheim and other Korean Catholic centers have seen their pews fill up in recent years, aided by a surge in immigration to affluent Orange County and a steady stream of converts who come to the faith after settling.

The center, which once held Mass in a former storage room, now has more than 5,000 congregants and is moving into a spacious \$10 million church in the suburbs southeast of Los Angeles.

The growing congregation includes Koreans new to the faith seeking a connection with others who share their language and culture.

"I may have lived here long enough to speak English without any problems, but there are certain times I can only use Korean to rightly express my feelings," said Roy Kim, 32, who immigrated as a teen and was baptized four years ago.

St. Thomas' expansion comes amid a nationwide rise in Korean immigration and what priests in several locations describe as an above-average conversion rate, noting many immigrants arrive in this country without strong ties to a particular faith.

From 1999 to 2007, the Korean Catholic population in the United States grew 32 percent to roughly 108,000, according to the North American Conference of Priests for Korean Ministry.

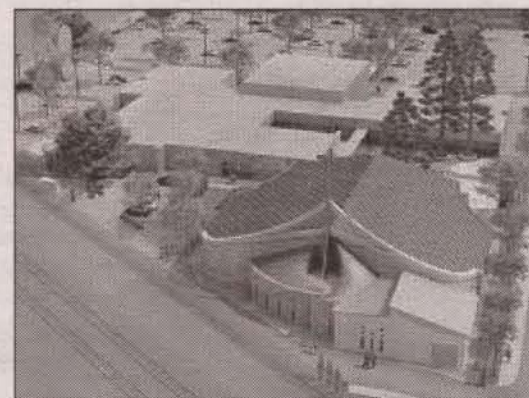
Orange County has been a hub for the Korean immigration boom. From 2000 to 2007, the county's Korean American population grew nearly 50 percent to about 83,000, outpacing the community's growth in California and the country, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

The growth has been fueled by Korean American families leaving crowded Los Angeles, and more recently, by immigrants arriving from Asia. Migration began picking up after riots ravaged Los Angeles' Koreatown in 1992, driving families to seek refuge in the suburbs.

Since then, many new immigrants have headed for suburban cities such as Fullerton and Irvine, lured by promises of tranquillity and good schools.

"The message has already spread in Korea that Orange County is a nice place to live and people are just coming here," said Ellen Ahn, executive director of Buena Park-based Korean Community Services. "As long as the Korean economy holds up, our Koreatowns in the suburbs will be much bigger and much more powerful. It will really be the hub of where Korean America resides."

The rising number of Koreans has filled the worship center at St. Thomas, making it the



St. Thomas Korean Catholic Center of Anaheim

biggest Korean Catholic church nationwide, according to a 2008 survey by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea.

When the Rev. Alex Kim arrived at St. Thomas eight years ago, the church held Mass in a cleaning product company's former storage room, used a bathtub for baptisms and held weddings without church bells. Since then, the community has grown to more than 5,000 members from roughly 4,000 — too large a group for the older site, he said.

"We had people sitting in the downstairs and upstairs balcony and crowded masses and people sitting on the stairs," said the Rev. Kim, whose new 16,000-square-foot center was dedicated recently.

Many newcomers are young people and recent immigrants who are already Catholic. But they also include new converts, the Rev. Kim said, noting the church enrolls between 50 and 60 people each year in adult education classes to become Catholics.

Most local churches see between five and 20 converts a year, said Ryan Lilyengren, a spokesman for the Diocese of Orange.

Elsewhere in the country, Koreans have also been turning to Catholicism as adults, said the Rev. Paul Lee, committee chairman of the North American Conference of Priests for Korean Ministry.

He said he attends an annual meeting of new Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington. Although Koreans comprise less than 1 percent of the U.S.

population, they represent roughly 5 percent of converts at the event, he said.

In Orange County, Korean and Vietnamese immigrants are among the fastest-growing groups of Catholics, while Mexican immigrants who grew up in the faith have also boosted churches' numbers, said Auxiliary Bishop Cirilo Flores.

At St. Thomas, parishioners raised more than half the money for the new center; a loan from the diocese covered the rest.

Cecilia Lee, 63, said she has seen the community grow over the last two decades. Lee said she converted to Catholicism in Korea after praying through the pains of childbirth and just months before she moved to the United States.

"We need something to depend on, the difficulty of the English language, the customs, and the food," said Lee, an insurance saleswoman from La Mirada.

"But Church, and God, and Jesus, is very helpful to me. My mind is very comforted." ■

## American Holiday Travel

### 2009 Tour Schedule

<b>HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR</b> Lake Akan, Abashiri, Kitami, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Lake Towada, Morioka, Matsushima, Nikko, Tokyo.	<b>NEW TOUR</b> .....SEPT 9-20
<b>NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR</b> 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>WAITLIST</b> .....OCT 2-9
<b>OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR</b> Naha, Kagoshima/Ibusuki, Miyazaki, Nobeoka, Takachiho, Mt. Aso, Beppu, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.	<b>WAITLIST</b> .....OCT 11-23
<b>CANYONLAND GETAWAY HOLIDAY</b> Laughlin, Grand Canyon, Valley of Fire Park, Mesquite, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Las Vegas.	.....NOV 8-13

<b>COMING FOR 2010:</b>	<b>HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR</b>	<b>FEB</b>
	<b>SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY CRUISE</b>	<b>FEB</b>
	<b>SEDONA &amp; GRAND CANYONS HOLIDAY</b>	<b>MAR</b>
	<b>JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	<b>MAR</b>
	<b>OUR NATION'S CAPITAL &amp; WILLIAMSBURG TOUR</b>	<b>APR</b>
	<b>FUNTASTIC FLORIDA HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	<b>MAY</b>
	<b>SOUTH AMERICA &amp; PERU HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	<b>MAY</b>
	<b>SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE</b>	<b>JUN</b>
	<b>GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR</b>	<b>JUN</b>
	<b>ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE</b>	<b>AUG</b>

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Ernest and Carol Hida



## COMMENTARY

# Power of Words

A new JACL proposal hopes to change euphemisms used to justify the treatment of JAs during World War II.

By Mako Nakagawa



Words do have power. That power can be negative or it can be constructive and become building material for establishing trust and understanding. In 1942 the government deliberately chose words to soften — even deceptively distort — the harsh treatment of Japanese Americans incarcerated in concentrations camps during World War II.

Two popular euphemistic terms are “evacuation” and “relocation.” The word “evacuation” is almost always used in conjunction with a mercy or rescue mission — such as evacuating people out of the danger zone of a forest fire. The word “relocation” simply means moving from one place to another. If the “relocation” is in context with a rescue/mercy mission, the place of the relocation is usually a temporary site where security is offered until the place of origin is once again safe.

Does the 1942 forced removal of JAs from the western zone of America and their incarceration in temporary concentration camps even remotely resemble a humanitarian act of mercy? I say absolutely, “NO.”

The government made liberal use of these euphemisms and misnomers and many of these terms continue to be used today, even in the Nikkei community. These terms, which paint a pic-

ture that is woefully off-target from history, will continue their damage unless a concerted effort is made to change these euphemisms to accurate terminologies.

The JACL’s “Power of Words” and the “Seattle Plan” proposals address this very issue.

The “Power of Words” proposal is simply a position statement supporting the need to discuss, study and identify terms that will help us replace euphemisms with accurate terminology regarding the WWII incarceration of JAs in American concentration camps.

The “Seattle Plan” simply takes the “Power of Words” proposal to its first course of action. This plan identifies two groups of terms. One group is called “Preferred Terminology” and includes the terms: forced removal, expulsion, uprooting, American concentration camps, incarceration, imprisonment, prisoner, inmates, incarcerated, temporary concentration camps and confinement.

The second group is called “Targeted Words for Replacement” and includes the terms: evacuation, relocation, relocation centers, assembly centers, internment and non-alien.

In July, the Seattle JACL, the Intermountain and the Pacific Northwest District Councils approved the two proposals. I drove home from the Ontario, Oregon Bi-district with a big smile on my face, euphoric from the enthusiastic support from the two districts. This was a great start toward encouraging national JACL to take a strong position on accurate terminology to describe the JA experience during WWII.

Our so-called “relocation” took us to a place where we became prisoners in a compound secured by armed guards, guard towers, machine guns and searchlights. Our freedom was ripped from us without the guaranteed provision of due process stipulated by the

Constitution.

“Evacuation” and “relocation” were very effective terms in



PHOTO: DENSHO

Does “evacuation” accurately describe the experience? This bus filled with Japanese American internees is bound for Tanforan.

promoting government propaganda and covering up the truth about the pain endured by so many JAs.

The time is right for us to identify terms that need to be thrown out of our vocabulary and make judicious choices of replacement terms.

This is not a new idea. This is the rebirth of an old idea. E-mails have been received from across the nation and even one from Japan. Some seek additional information, some offer ideas and strategies, some comment on terms they think should be added (or withdrawn) while some simply want their names on the list of the support petition.

If we are to respond to the call to assure we will never again repeat this sad episode in American history, we must learn the truth of what actually occurred and use accurate terminology to best describe this truth. True history is the rightful heritage and legacy for all future Americans. ■

Mako Nakagawa is a retired educator with the Seattle Public Schools. She is also a Seattle JACL member.

## What's In a Name?

Should ‘relocation’ and ‘evacuation’ be replaced? What terms best describe them?

E-mail your ideas to:  
pc@pacificcitizen.org

For a link to the  
‘Power of Words’ petition:  
www.pacificcitizen.org

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## Recording Wisconsin JACL's History



PHOTO: KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

The Wisconsin JACL hosted a luncheon recently for its senior members to record their oral histories and learn about the chapter's early years. Thirteen senior members were paired with another chapter member for individual interviews. Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, supplied the questions. Those who couldn't attend sent in their written answers. All the information gathered will be archived.

**Participants:** (front row, l-r) Yo Okabayashi, Sus Musashi, Grace Musashi, Atsuko Kusuda, Paul Kusuda and Ed Jonokuchi. (Back row, l-r) Lucille Miyazaki, Ron Minami, Ruth Minami, Miyako Mukai, Tom Suyama, Marty Suyama and Chiyo Hasegawa.



### KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2009-2010 TOURS

#### Oct 12 Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Days

\$4195 - Sapporo-Sahoro - Aino - Lake Toya - Hakodate  
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#### Oct 19 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days

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hashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Mt. Daisen-Kyoto.

#### Nov 3 SPECIAL - Fall Japan - 10 Days - \$2995

**N E W** Tokyo - Fall Colors in Nikko - Toshogu Shrine -  
Nagano - World Heritage Site Shirakawa - Kanazawa -  
Ninja Temple - Kutani Pottery - Kyoto - Meiji Village -  
Shizuoka - Mt. Fuji - Kamakura - Tokyo.

#### Nov 12 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days

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Feb 26 - Sunny Portugal - Mar 15 - Best of China  
Mar 29 - Japan "Cherry Blossoms"  
Apr 12 - Japan "Off the Beaten Track"  
May 5 - Great Lakes "Mackinac Island"  
Jun 28 - Summer Japan "Family Tour"  
Jul 20 - Niagara/DC - Aug 2 - Black Sea Cruise  
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Nov 11 - Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku

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## COMMENTARY

### Humor or Hatred?

By Christine Munteanu

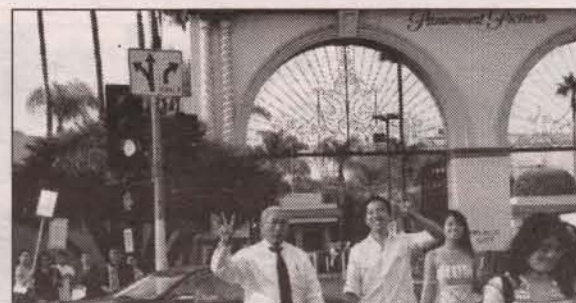


In mid-August, the JACL launched a successful campaign against a racist scene depicting a hate crime against an Asian Pacific American in "The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard," a new comedy from Paramount Pictures. The campaign and the response it generated attention to the unsettling tendency for the label of "satire" or "comedy" to exculpate its creators from accusations of racism or bigotry. This illusion of innocence is apparent in the half-hearted apologies that are often issued in these cases: "I am sorry if I offended anyone. Can't you guys take a joke?"

In the case of "The Goods," Paramount initially defended the scene, calling it an attempt at humor in an "outrageous satirical comedy." Admittedly, satire and transgressive humor could not succeed without an awareness of the morals they transgress; their effect stems from the thrill of engaging in behaviors that are socially prohibited, of breaking a taboo.

If the scene in "The Goods" was meant as satire, it was supposedly satirizing the racists; the racists and their absurd anti-Asian sentiment are supposed to make us laugh — for their anger, for their violence, for their irrationality. The problem is that this type of "outrageous" comedy only works when the acts depicted are truly outrageous and unthinkable. Unfortunately, the anti-Asian sentiment portrayed as extreme and silly in this scene is still a reality, and that is when the humor fails to be funny and instead becomes an offensive and hurtful reminder of the racism still present in American society.

Somehow APAs are one of the last minorities against



JACL National Director Floyd Mori (left) and JACL PSW Regional Director Craig Ishii led a protest of 'The Goods' in front of Paramount Pictures on Aug. 21.

whom overt racism and bigotry are still accepted as viable forms of humor. While the history of the racism against African Americans is well known among Americans, the myth of the "model minority" masks the discrimination APAs still face to this day. Racism does not occur in a historical vacuum. Admitting that you were unaware of the historical implications of the slur "Jap" does not make it less offensive.

What is most insidious about this type of "comedy" is that the guise of humor strips its victims of the ability to protest against it. So often, objections against this type of humor are met with disdain and scorn: "It's just a joke — lighten up and don't take yourself so seriously!" These reactions only perpetuate stereotypes of APAs as serious, stoic, and without a sense of humor.

Satire is ultimately an attack against human failings and social absurdities; through ridicule and shame, the satirist aims to bring about reform. In "The Goods," the only one getting attacked is the APA. When humor becomes an excuse for anti-Asian sentiment, the joke is clearly on us. ■

*Christine Munteanu is the current Ford Fellow serving in the JACL Midwest Office.*

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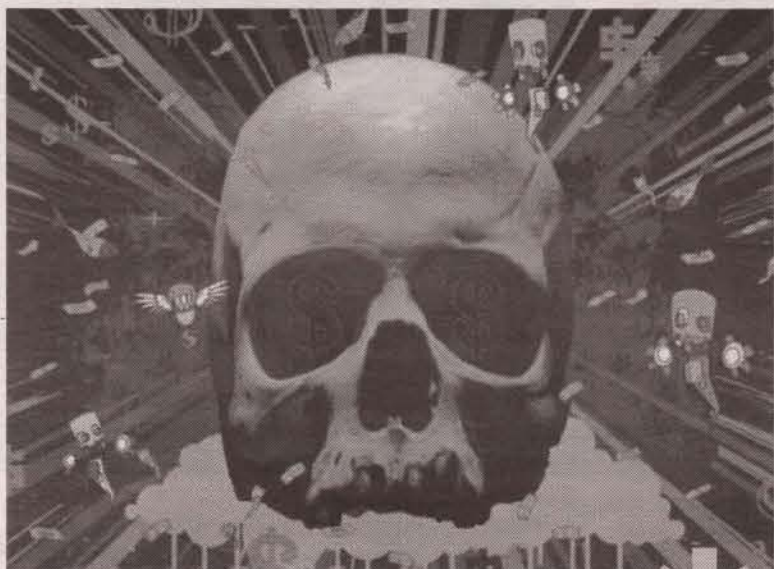
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## Glorious Excess (Dies) By Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park

LOS ANGELES, CA

until Oct. 4

Japanese American National Museum  
369 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Following his 2008 *Glorious Excess (Born)* exhibit, Shinoda returns to the Museum to unveil his latest collection of paintings and digital works, exploring society's obsession with celebrity culture, consumer addiction and fascination with excess.

### Info and registration:

For info contact Clement Hamani 213/830-5624 or [chanami@janm.org](mailto:chanami@janm.org)

## 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.

GO!

## East

### 2009 APAICS Golf Classic

Maryland

Mon., Oct. 19

The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base

The Asian Pacific American Institute For Congressional Studies (APAICS) invites you to join them for a day of golf, breakfast, awards luncheon and reception.

For info and sponsor packages: Helen Ruggiero, [Golf@apaics.org](mailto:Golf@apaics.org)  
[www.apaics.org](http://www.apaics.org)

## Midwest

### NMJACL Annual Aki Matsuri

ALBUQUERQUE

Sun., SEPT. 27

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

National Hispanic Cultural Center

1701 4th St. SW

Matsuri theme: Kado: The way of the flower ikebana: Japanese Flower arranging. Free parking, free enter-

tainment, raffle prizes. Fun for the WHOLE family. All proceeds go toward the proposed Japanese Cultural Center.

For info: Leo Gomez at: 505/291-1062, [hanayagi@spinn.net](mailto:hanayagi@spinn.net) or [www.nmjacl.org](http://www.nmjacl.org)

### Austin Asian American Film Festival

AUSTIN, TX

Nov. 12-15

Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar

The 6th Annual AAAFF will showcase 50 films, two discussion panels, multiple parties and guest performers throughout the event. Festival

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### 1st Annual Asian Health Care Leaders Conference

CHICAGO

Nov. 16-17

Hyatt Regency Chicago

This meeting represents the opportunity to connect with healthcare executives and key members of the national Asian American healthcare community and offers a dynamic line-up of topic areas and speakers.

For info: visit [www.asianhealthcare-leaders.org](http://www.asianhealthcare-leaders.org)

## Pacific Northwest

### Portland Taiko Season Finale

PORTLAND

Oregon Lost & Found, Sept. 19, 8 p.m.

Taiko Show & Tell, Sept. 20, 2 p.m.

Children's Matinee, Sept. 19, 1 p.m.

Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts  
1111 SW Broadway, Portland

Join Portland Taiko for their 15th anniversary season finale concerts.

For ticket info: [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org), PCPA box office, 800/982-2787

For group tickets: 503/288-2456

### Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association's Aki Matsuri

BELLEVUE, WA

Sat., Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bellevue College

Main Campus-Gym, R&C Buildings  
3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA

Eastside Nihon Matsuri Assn.'s 12th annual Aki Matsuri will feature tsugaru nuri (lacquerware), martial arts and the 18th Annual Koi Show.

For info: [www.enma.org](http://www.enma.org), 425/861-7865

## Northern Calif.

### Screening: On Paper Wings

EL CERRITO, CA

Sat., Sept. 12, 1-3 p.m.

East Bay Free Methodist Church

5395 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito

The Contra Costa JACL presents this film that takes a look at casualties of

the Japanese "balloon bombs" of WWII, and the impact that they have had on those living in the U.S. and in Japan.

### Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Ron Takaki

BERKELEY, CA

Fri., Sept. 18

Memorial, 1-3 p.m.

Chevron Auditorium, International House

2299 Piedmont Ave. at Bancroft Way  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2320

Reception, 3:30-5 p.m.

Ethnic Studies Library

30 Stephens Hall

UC Berkeley

Join the UC Berkeley AA Studies program and the Ethnic Studies department as they remember Ron Takaki, a world-renowned AA scholar.

### Performance: "When Dreams Are Interrupted..."

BERKELEY

Oct., 9-11

2 p.m.

1623 Stuart St.

Berkeley, CA 94703

Jill Togawa and Purple Moon Dance Project present the world premiere of "When Dreams Are Interrupted...", an interdisciplinary work inspired by memories, stories and "interrupted dreams" of the WWII internment experience of the Japanese American community in south

Berkeley. The event is free and open to the public. There is limited seating, so reservations are required.

For info and reservations: 415/552-1105, [project@purplemoondance.org](mailto:project@purplemoondance.org), [www.purplemoondance.org](http://www.purplemoondance.org)

## Southern Calif.

### PSW JACL Annual Awards Dinner

COSTA MESA, CA

Sat., Oct. 10, 5 p.m.

Hilton Orange County

3050 Bristol Street

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

The Pacific Southwest District JACL will be holding their 13th Annual Awards Dinner, "Bridging Communities: Honoring the Tradition of Working Together."

### Screening: 'Citizen Tanouye'

SAN DIEGO

Sat., Oct. 24

12:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Public

Library Community Room

9005 Aero Drive, San Diego

The San Diego JACL invites you to their free showing of the award-winning documentary, in which Torrance, CA high school students discover why an alumni receives a posthumous medal of honor from President Clinton. Space is limited.

For info and reservations: SD JACL 619/230-0314

## Nevada

### National Singles Convention

LAS VEGAS

Sept. 18-20

Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall

The 12th annual singles convention will include "Big Bash" dinner dance on Sat. evening. Entertainment, dinner and a dance for an extra \$75. \$185/full registration; hotel \$89.99/night, single or double occupancy.

Info: [www.jaclsc.com](http://www.jaclsc.com) or Yas Tokita, 702/897-8975. ■

## \*Advertise

'Go-SEE-Do' is a free limited listing for P.C. readers. Not all event submissions are listed. Don't see your event here?

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## TRIBUTE

**PAUL TAKESHI ICHINO**

February 12, 1923 - August 17, 2009

Paul Takeshi Ichino, born in Pasadena, California on Feb. 12, 1923, passed away on Aug. 17, in Long Beach, California from Colon Cancer at the age of 86. He worked in the hospital at the Manzanar Relocation Camp and then returned to Los Angeles to receive his degree from Loma Linda University, which enabled him to teach future X-ray technicians at many of the local colleges. He also worked as an X-ray technician for White Memorial Hospital, Japanese Hospital, Centinela Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital.

He also did extensive volunteer work with Downey Sister Cities and Paramount - Tepic Sister Cities.

Survived and remembered by his wife of 58 years, Junet Ichino, brother Phill Ichino, sister Margaret Stanicci, children Joyce Herron, Yoko Ichino, Laurie Ichino, granddaughter Marissa Herron and numerous friends and family whose lives were touched by him.

A private family service was held on Sunday, Aug. 23rd where his ashes were scattered at sea.

## TRIBUTE

**TOSHIO SAM MORITA**

March 26, 1921 - August 9, 2009

Toshio Sam Morita, resident of Orange, California, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2009 at the age of 88. He is survived by his loving wife Tina, daughter Luanne, stepdaughters Gwen and Maxine, sisters Sue Imamura and Tazuko Futagaki, brother Isamu Morita, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 12:00, at Celebration Christian Fellowship at 12602 Hoover Street, Garden Grove, CA.

**IN MEMORIAM**

All locations are in California except as noted.

**Amioka, Wallace Shuzo**

July 15, Mane'ohe, HI. MIS veteran. Survived by wife, Ellen M.; daughters Carol L. Price, Joanne A. Chikuma; brothers George S. Kinoshita, Ronald N. Amioka; sister Kazue Odo; six gc, three ggc.

**Sumino, Ruby Yoshiko, 77**

July 21, Camarillo, CA. Interned at Tule Lake, CA and Minidoka, ID. She is survived by her husband, Roy, daughters Christina and Julie, two gc, and brothers, James and Fred Takashima.

**Iwasaki, George, 97**

July 10, Hillsboro, OR. Co-owner of fourth-generation greenhouse business. He is survived by his wife, Tomiko; sons James (Nancy), Ron (Linda) and John (Amy); daughters Sandra and Marcia (Stan); 11 gc; brothers Akira (Mary) and Art; sisters Taka Mizote, Aya (Ed) Fujii, Dorothy and Rose (Everett) Sorensen.

**Yamamoto, Henry Hiroto, 76**

June 25, survived by wife, Miyo Toko; son, Bryan; daughters, Aileen (Bill) Doolittle, Lynda, two gc; two ggc; brother, Junichi (Satsuki); sisters, Haruko Tadamoto, Mitzi (Ed) Matsuura, Yaeko (Masaaki) Tademmaru and Chieko (Shigeyuki) Hidaka. Sister-in-laws, Sue and Ikuko Yamamoto.

'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: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org.

[www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

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## TRIBUTE

**MITSUKO MURAKAMI**

September 3, 1920 - August 11, 2009



Mitsuko "Mitzi" Murakami, age 88, of Ontario, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009 at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise. Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009 at the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, Ontario.

Mitsuko was born and raised in Bellevue, Washington to Jitsuzo and Masao Yamaguchi of Fukoka, Japan. Shortly after her marriage to Shigeo "Sig" Murakami in 1940, Mitsuko and Sig moved to Los Angeles, California. During the start of WWII, rather than relocate to an internment camp, Sig and Mitsuko and some close friends chose to move inland to Ontario, Oregon to work as farm laborers. After the war, they decided to stay in the area and farmed in the Nyssa/Ontario area for over the next 30 years until Sig started Murakami Produce Company in Ontario. Besides being a devoted housewife and mother, Mitsuko worked hand in hand with Sig to help grow his business.

Mitsuko was a member of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple and the Snake River JACL. In her earlier years, Mitsuko bowled on the Nisei Ladies Bowling Team, was a member of the Ontario Garden Club, volunteered for the

Mary Kay School and was involved in church activities for many years.

Through the years, Sig and Mitsuko have established several educational scholarships in the Treasure Valley. Shortly after Sig's passing in 2002, Mitsuko established the Murakami Family Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation which has benefited many community organizations in Malheur County.

Mitsuko's many interests included gardening (her yard was amazing for many years), taking tender loving care of her many beautiful houseplants, traveling, cooking, baking and of course, shopping. Her fondest memories have been the times spent with her family, especially the annual family vacations to McCall and the Oregon coast. Her most precious possession in her last years has been her toy poodle, "Pepe", who has brought so much joy to her life. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends and will always be remembered for her generosity and love of life.

Mitsuko was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 62 years, Sig, her sisters, Yuriko Tanegawa and Chiyeko Hayashida, her brother Kaneko Yamaguchi, and her two grandsons, Ray Ferguson and Chris Murakami, whom she missed so dearly.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, David and Paige Murakami of Ontario, her daughter and son-in-law, Janis and Ron Commesser of Ontario and her daughter, Eileen Gonzalez of Ontario; her grandchildren, Jeremy Commesser of Kuna, Kim Bean of Mountain Home, Anna, Alana, Brooke and Britney Mulvany of Ontario; great grandchildren, Tony and Kasey Gillis of Boise, Jake and Hailey Commesser of Kuna, Heather Carter of Kuna, Ashlee and Bobbi Brain of Kuna; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorial donations may be directed to a charity of one's choice c/o Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, P.O. Box 730, Payette, ID 83661.

Condolences may be sent c/o  
David Murakami  
3991 Highway 201  
Ontario, OR 97914

## TRIBUTE

**VIRGINIA H. NAKADA**

April 12, 1925 - August 5, 2009

Virginia Hatsumi Nakada - loving wife and mother, and tireless community volunteer passed away peacefully on Aug. 5, 2009 in Reno, Nevada, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Born in Sacramento, CA, on April 12, 1925, to Tomoichi and Haruko Yanagisako, Virginia earned her nursing degree from the Episcopal Hospital School of Nursing, and worked as a surgical nurse in many hospitals across the U.S. Married to James Nakada in 1952, Virginia contributed greatly to the communities that she lived in.

For many years, Virginia's positive spirit and friendly smile could be seen at the Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Village Presbyterian Church thrift store, Incline Village Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce offices, and numerous community and charity events in the Lake Tahoe area. For these efforts, she was honored by the Nevada Special Olympics, National Ski Patrol - Far West Division, Incline Village General Improvement District, Incline Village Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce, Washoe County Sheriffs Office, and the Rotary Club of Incline Village. Virginia was named Citizen of the Month by the Incline Village Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce in June 1991, and Senior of 2000 by the Rotary Club of Incline Village.

Virginia is survived by her husband, James Nakada of Incline Village, NV, son, Mark W. Nakada of Salt Lake City, UT, and sisters, Margie Kakimi and Misaye Tanabe of Monterey Park, CA, and brothers, Ford Yanagisako of



Laguna Niguel, CA, and Sam Yanagisako of Monterey Park, CA.

The family expresses special thanks to Bonni Walker and the team at Guardianship Services of Nevada, and the staff at The Seasons in Reno, NV, who provided comfort and support to Virginia for the past year.

Memorial services were held at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA, on Saturday, August 8, 2009, and at the Village Presbyterian Church, Incline Village, NV on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009.

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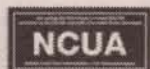
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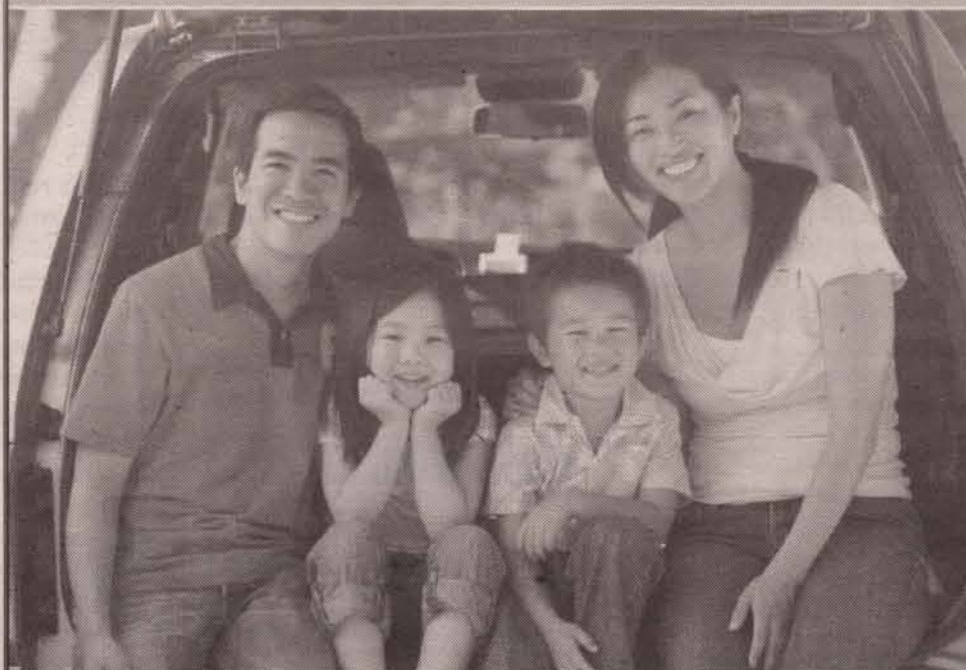
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