

# **PACIFIC CITIZEN**

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Metro's  
plans for a  
Little Tokyo  
connector  
raise  
concerns.

**>> PAGE 5**

{ IN DEPTH }

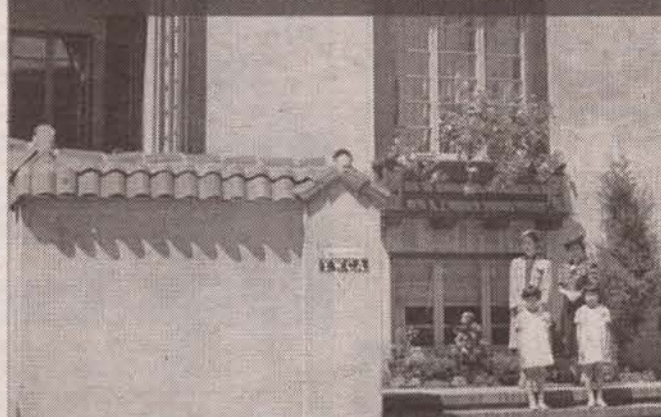
## **RESTORING POSTON**

Back then, internees made the best of their desert prison. Now, the stories they left behind have spurred cleanup and preservation efforts. **>> PAGE 3**



PHOTOS: POSTON RESTORATION PROJECT

### **OUR 'NIHONMACHI'**



Can a pre-World War II building in San Francisco's J-town be saved? Officials say its ties to the Issei community make it invaluable.

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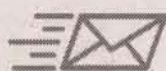
### **IN THE RUNNING**



Jennifer An, of 'America's Next Top Model' says more APAs are needed on TV.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Remember Both Sides

I am writing in memory of my Nisei uncle James Katsuki Otsuka who resisted the draft. Prior to the war, he aspired to become a lawyer and was acutely aware of the civil rights violation that was in process. I can hear his words, "Fighting in the Armed Services would have sent the message that I supported the way we were being treated at home." Given his beliefs, Uncle Jim made a very logical decision.

Standing by his ideals, his act led to years in a federal prison and the loss of his U.S. citizenship. The American Civil Liberties Union provided legal assistance to regain his citizenship by the late 1960s. However, his years of fighting the U.S. decision to intern Japanese Americans, created a dark cloud and exclusion from mainstream life. His stand was not recognized as a righteous act by the Japanese American community. It was a point of shame for our family and not discussed for years.

We need to remember both sides of the conflict. Both sides served to protect and uphold the freedoms, which we cherish as Americans. Those who fought abroad and those who fought at home were both courageous and deserve a place of honor.

JANICE McCORMICK  
OJAI, CALIF.

## Nisei Veterans Paved the Way



With reference to Donald Wakida's letter about Nisei veterans ("Nisei Veterans Fought to Prove Our Loyalty" *P.C.* Aug. 21-Sept. 3), he and the veterans at the 2000 JACL National Convention in Monterey, Calif. took issue with the vote on a resolution "to extend an apology to the draft resisters for not supporting them during the

WWII." These veterans were not attempting to orchestrate an effort to preserve their legacy. Their legacy had already been preserved in history by their performance during World War II.

However, the veterans were protesting the need for JACL to apologize to anyone, especially to the draft resisters whose actions had a negative effect on the American public to the detriment of Japanese Americans.

All of us — in and out of camp — suffered all kinds of indignities. The JACL was desperately engaged in finding any and all means to dispel the fears and suspicions of the American public.

The performance of the members of the 100th/442nd RCT and the MIS, as envisioned by the JACL, paved the way for Nisei to be accepted by the public for employment in government and business sectors as evidenced by the offices and positions — which were closed to minorities in pre-war days — held by so many Nisei and Sansei in public service today.

In my opinion instead of an apology, the JACL should take pride in the role it took during the war. It led to Redress and, without question, the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Let us not forget that Redress also included a presidential pardon for all convicted of violating the selective service laws.

LEO H. HOSODA  
ROSEVILLE, CALIF.

## Verify False Stories

Shortly before Sept. 11 this year, I was sent an e-mail telling a story, which was quite disturbing:

"On 9/11/01, a man delivering Budweiser beer to a store in a small town north of Bakersfield, Calif. came onto a scene where the Arab

owners of the store were cheering and celebrating the destruction of the buildings in New York after the plane crashes. The deliveryman reported this to his boss who immediately had all Budweiser products removed from the store and suspended further delivery of all Budweiser products to the store. After other merchants followed suit, the store was forced to close."

The e-mail message ended stating how this was a wonderful example of Americans working together to "kick ass."

Upon checking this story on [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com), I discovered this story to be false, and is circulated each year around the 9/11 anniversary. *P.C.* readers should check these stories with [snopes.com](http://snopes.com). Remembering the many false stories spread about loyal JAs after Pearl Harbor, we need to be vigilant that other groups are not similarly victimized.

PHIL SHIGEKUNI  
CIVIL RIGHTS CHAIR,  
SAN FERNANDO JACL

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Letters may be edited for length & clarity.

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Help Save Minidoka

Will we allow economic interests to determine the path of a power line through the historic site?

By Floyd Mori



The conflict of self-interest versus national interest has been with us from the foundation of this great nation.

While the values embodied in the market system of life that have governed our economy have been the catalyst for economic and material progress, we as a nation have had the wisdom to harness self-

interest when its goals have led us to devalue our natural monuments and national parks.

The Minidoka National Historic Site faces endangerment because the forces of economic development feel a need to construct a power line over the property.

The names Mathers, Albright and Ickes bare the scars of battling to preserve nature versus the interests of profit-seeking corporate America. These three pioneers have been

See MORI/Page 13



PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI

## CORRECTION

In the Oct. 2-15 issue, the photo info provided to the *P.C.* was incorrect ("JACL Holds Successful Gala"). The correct info is: (Standing, l-r) Go For Broke's Christine Sato-Yamazaki, JAKWV's Thomi Yamamoto, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and Rep. Mike Honda. (Seated, l-r) JAVA's Bob Nakamoto, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka and NJAHS' Rosalyn Tonai.

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PHOTO: VANTA EL

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# Bringing Poston Back to the Present



PHOTO: POSTON RESTORATION PROJECT

**DEBRIS:** Members of the Poston Restoration Project are racing against the clock to clean up and restore Poston, which has the largest remaining infrastructure of all 10 main WWII internment camps.

## The diverse membership of the groups involved in the Poston restoration effort sheds light on the internments camp's colorful past.

By Christine McFadden  
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

The roofs of the 16 buildings that still stand on the former site of the Poston internment camp need work. The wood is raw and exposed. The structures are vulnerable to the arid temperatures of southwestern Arizona. It needs sealant and metal roofing — not just to protect its physical history, but its unique personal history as well.

If left alone, there is a possibility that Poston, which has the largest remaining infrastructure of all 10 internment campsites, will deteriorate in just a few years.

Members of the Poston Restoration Project are doing everything they can to prevent this from happening. Funded by grants from organizations such as the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and guided by the Environmental Protection Agency, members are racing against the clock to restore this pinnacle place in Japanese American internment history.

Working toward the end goal of building preservation and the construction of an onsite multicultural museum, the diverse membership of the Poston restoration effort sheds light on the internment camp's colorful past.

## Uncovering Poston

When Dr. Ruth Okimoto, 73, became curious about the history behind the internment camp that imprisoned her for three years as a child, she uncovered a unique story behind it that eventually launched a full-scale effort toward its restoration.

"I began to wonder about how in the world did that whole thing come about, and that's when I got real curious," she says of Poston, located on Native American reservation lands near Parker, Arizona.

Okimoto obtained a research grant and access to reservation archives on the land that once imprisoned over 18,000. She uncovered an interesting relationship.

"The War Relocation Authority (WRA) were looking for a site — a deserted site, and the reservation certainly fulfilled that requirement," she says.

Her research revealed that the WRA contacted the former Office of Indian Affairs (OIA) and struck a deal during WWII. The OIA agreed to relinquish their land as an internment camp in exchange for Japanese American labor to build a canal, bringing in water to the reservation.

"She [Okimoto] discovered this connection that nobody had ever really written about," says Dr. Jay Cravath, who works for the education department of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT).

"Midlife she developed this incredible rage about this experience, for herself, for her parents, for her family, and she wanted to trace it down," he continued. "She wanted to take care of these demons, so she came out to Parker."

Okimoto met with Dennis Patch, CRIT Tribal Councilman and Education Director, who coincidentally lived in one of the former barracks.

According to Cravath, the two "had the same vision."

In 1999, CRIT set aside an initial 40 acres (now 80) of reservation for the project. Four years later, 15 former Poston detainees, including Okimoto, and 15 CRIT members met at the reservation to plan for restoration.

"They got it rolling," Cravath says.

## Restoration Efforts

Poston is broken into three separate sites separated by 1-3 miles. As of Sept. 23, all asbestos and lead-based paint had been removed from Camp 1.



**POSTON FAMILIES:** Misako Shigekawa (left) with her son Gerald (standing) and Marlene. Below brothers Jimmy (left) and Roger Hanada lived in Block 305.



However, progress on some fronts has been hindered.

In 2002, a match was lit and thrown in the auditorium located in Camp 1.

"It was still standing, and it was beautiful," Okimoto remembers. "But it burnt the wood part of it, the stage, and all of the beautiful hardwood floor. It was a real shame."

According to Poston Community Alliance Board member and archivist Dianne Kiyomoto, RD, the group is currently working on bringing back an original donated barrack to camp, located 17 miles away in Parker.

Cravath recently wrote a successful grant to the National Park Service, earning a "challenge" grant of \$25,994 to record the oral histories of former internees. This means that the National Park Service will double whatever money is contributed.

Additionally, he is hammering out the details of a memoran-

dum of agreement between the JA community and the tribes.

"There are all sorts of issues, legal ramifications and sovereignty and CRIT — they're the feistiest," he says.

## Carrying on the Legacy

Not all tribal members are as positive about the restoration as Cravath.

"There are still tribal members against doing anything with Poston," he wrote in an e-mail. "The current generation heard their parents/grandparents complaining about how good the internees got it."

According to Cravath, tribal members were told nothing by the OIA of why the JAs were relocated to their land.

"For all they knew it was like Israeli development on the West Bank," he says.

Both parties working on the project are strong advocates for the spread of education of the historical events that took place onsite.

"One thing I've tried to do is get the story out as often as possible," Cravath adds.

Kiyomoto's parents lived in Poston Camp 3, Block 305. When attempting to collect information for a family tree for her parents' 50th anniversary, she was disappointed to find that little existed.

"I searched the Internet on the subject of Poston and was very disappointed. There was very little information, and only a few government photos," she wrote.

Marlene Shigekawa's involvement in the project lies in her motivation to carry on her father's legacy. Shigekawa, the Poston Community Alliance, Inc.'s current treasurer, was born in Poston Camp 1 and her father served as the camp's chief of police.

"I feel like he did much to uphold the rights of Japanese Americans and I heard a lot of stories from both my parents and I feel like that history should not be forgotten," she says.

Okimoto decided to take a step back from the project in hopes that the younger generation will get involved in the restoration.

"I was thinking younger people should probably get involved," Okimoto said, although she continues to help by presenting oral histories of the camp.

"There is a core of people who believe the stories of those who suffered so grave an injustice need to be told, their lives honored, and the remarkable ways they survived recorded," Cravath says. ■

Christine McFadden is a Portland JACL member.

## Help Restore Poston

A donation of \$10, \$20 or more will go far. Send checks payable to 'Poston Community Alliance' to:

Marlene Shigekawa  
956 Hawthorne Drive  
Lafayette, CA. 94549-4640  
Info: [www.postonalliance.org](http://www.postonalliance.org)  
or [marshige@comcast.net](mailto:marshige@comcast.net)



# A Piece of American History in Japantown's Heart

**San Francisco's Nihonmachi Little Friends is in the final stages of raising funds to repair the historic building.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Officials with Nihonmachi Little Friends in San Francisco say that after seven years of fundraising they are nearing their goal of restoring a pre-World War II building with ties to the Issei community.

In the 1900s, California's Alien Land Law prohibited immigrants who were ineligible for citizenship from owning certain property or land. But many Japanese American immigrants found ways around the discriminatory laws.

A group of young Issei women realized their dream with the help of the community's support. Unable to own property, they turned to the YWCA to hold their property in trust.

The women commissioned prolific architect Julia Morgan in the 1930s to design their women's JA YWCA on 1830 Sutter Street, which is now occupied by the Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) childcare facility. Morgan, who is best known for her work on Hearst Castle, did the work pro bono. Many more would dedicate their services free of charge in what became a journey to preserve the legacy of these Issei women.

"Well, it's basically the legacy of racism that resulted in this particular legal dispute. In going back to the 1920s and 1930s this was the ultra racist period of California's history," said Don Tamaki, a partner at the law office of Minami Tamaki LLP. "The issue became how do you get ahead in America without owning property? You can't without taking root in the society."

The Issei women took root at the Sutter Street building for less than a decade before they were sent to internment camps, according to Dr. Gary Kono. The YWCA held their property in trust for years. But in 1996 the YWCA planned to sell the building for \$1.65 million.

The YWCA's decision to liquidate the property triggered the memories of long-time community members, who recalled the YWCA's promise. Tamaki was a part of a legal team of about 10 people, who worked pro bono to search for proof of that promise.

What he and others would find helped save the building.

## Preserving JA History

The building was the vision of young JAs who were forced to create a separate YWCA for their use. Because YWCAs were segregated, a group of young Issei set out to seek donations to build their own facility.

Those who were involved in the history of the battle, say it took the community's support to build the structure and to save it.

Many long-time community members recalled walking door-to-door to collect donations for the building.

Years later when the YWCA was facing financial troubles, officials decided to sell the Sutter Street property. But many recalled a promise to allow the Issei women to purchase the property.

A group of volunteers — including a legal

team — eventually stumbled upon YWCA board meeting minutes, which outlined the agreement to hold the property in trust for the women. In a 2002 out-of-court settlement, NLF became the owner of the YWCA building. Those involved in the fight to preserve the case hailed it as a victory.

"I think for the purposes of California history, this is an important legal fight," said Tamaki, who added that the building has stayed in community service for 80 years and should remain in community service in perpetuity.

Following the legal decision, they started a capital campaign in 2002 called the Issei Women's Legacy project to purchase and renovate the Sutter Street property. To date they have raised about \$2.1 million and need about \$100,000 to meet their goal.

"It was a pretty unusual case and one that really brought out the history of Japanese Americans in this country," said NLF Executive Director Cathy Inamasu, who has been with the childcare facility since 1975. "It brought a lot of sectors of the community together."

Inamasu explained that \$100,000 is needed to complete the fundraising goal and make needed repairs to the building. Renovations to the kitchen facility, upstairs bathroom and auditorium will be made, said Inamasu.

## Educating the Future

The Sutter Street building now houses the NLF bilingual childcare programs, which serves over 200 children annually. About 50-60 percent of the children have some Japanese ancestry, said Inamasu. There are two preschool programs and an after school program. All of the children learn about the building's Issei founders.

The significance of the building might be too complex for the young children to fully comprehend, but parents say the culturally rich curriculum drew them to the school in the first place.

"I tell you having the kids at Nihonmachi Little Friends gave us a community," said Joyce Oishi, who is also on the NLF capital campaign committee. "It really gave us this wonderful opportunity to meet parents who are interested in giving their children a warm, safe environment."

Oishi's two children attended classes at NLF. Now in middle school and high school, they return at times to give back. Her 15-year-old son Kaz recalled helping during lunch.

"You meet people you'll keep in touch with even in high school," he said. "[The] immersion is great and the food is even better. [It's a] great place to spend your childhood."

Inamasu, who has been with NLF since 1975, said NLF expects to meet its fundraising goal by the end of the year. Many hope the legacy of the Issei founders will live on forever.

"The building is really a manifestation of their vision to organize and create this building in the face of all this racism," Tamaki explained. "It is an American story of historical importance. This is a part of California history."

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS



The YWCA building on Sutter Street in San Francisco (above) was built by Issei women, occupied by Nisei and preserved by Sansei.

Now used by Nihonmachi Little Friends, the childcare facility, teaches culture, including *undokai* or 'sports day' (left) and lesson about the legacy of the Issei founders.





PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO

Metro is considering four options to connect existing transit lines. One option is the underground alternative (above), which runs between Little Tokyo's First and Alameda Streets.

## Little Tokyo Sounds Off About Metro's Expansion Plans

**Community leaders continue to meet with Metro officials to emphasize the area's historical and cultural significance.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Little Tokyo stakeholders are expressing concerns over Metro's plans to expand the city's mass transit system in the area.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or Metro, has been collecting community input about its 1.8-mile-long Regional Connector Transit Corridor project. It is a plan that would run through Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, connecting the Metro Gold, Blue and Expo Lines, and possible future transit projects.

Little Tokyo is one of the last three Japantowns left in the nation including one in San Francisco and one in San Jose.

Most residents and employees say they are in favor of improving the transportation in the area, but they are also concerned about how Metro will mitigate negative impacts during the construction phase.

"The Metro has to find ways which will in effect guarantee that businesses and institutions that reflect our ethnic heritage will not be destroyed or impacted to ruination through their proposed construction ... and work with the Little Tokyo community after construction is done to help ensure that the ethnic flavor of the community can continue and not be swallowed up by big-money interests," said Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC).

Watanabe said his opinions are personal and do not necessarily reflect of the feelings of LTSC.

Construction on the regional connector could take as long as four years, depending on which project option is pursued.

Metro officials have not broken ground yet. An 18-month environmental impact statement/environmental impact report is currently underway. It is expected to be complete by the summer of 2010.

In the interim, Metro officials are exploring four different options for constructing the regional connector: a no build alternative, a transportation system management alternative, an at-grade light rail transit alternative and an underground light rail transit alternative.

Metro officials will determine which option to proceed with depending on community input, Metro procedures and the Federal Transit Administration's guidelines.

The regional connector is intended to provide those who live and work in downtown with "more access to the light rail system." Little Tokyo is one of the communities that would be included in the project area. Others include Bunker Hill, the

Jewelry District, the Civic Center, the Toy District, the Historic Core, the Arts District, the Financial District and the Jewelry District.

Constructing the regional connector would allow passengers to travel through the downtown area without having to transfer, said Dolores Roybal Saltarelli, Metro project manager.

"The elimination of these transfers would save passengers between 12 and 20 minutes of travel time per average trip, and would reduce the need for casual passengers — those without monthly transit passes who pay for each trip individually — to pay additional fares," Saltarelli wrote in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*.

"In order for the Metro system to accommodate the anticipat-

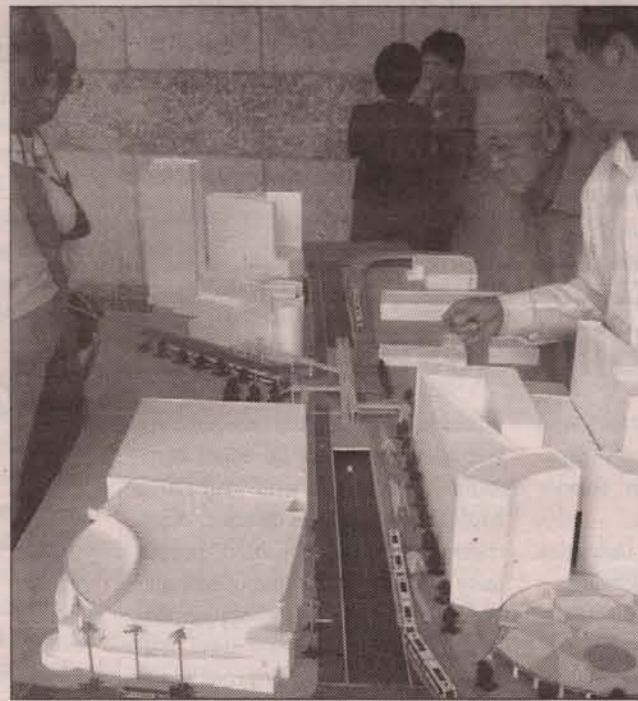


PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE TOKYO UNBLOGGED

At the Little Tokyo Community Council meeting last month, community members inspected a proposed Metro project model.

ed population growth and increases in transit users through the year 2035 and beyond, it will be important to address crowding at these stations."

Each proposed regional connector option has varying price tags. The transportation system management alternative would have an estimated capital cost of \$63 million and an operating cost of \$13.6 million. That option would provide bus or shuttle service between the 7th Street Metro Station and Union Station.

The at-grade light rail transit alternative would be \$796 mil-

lion with an operating cost of \$9.8 million. This option would go west along Main and Los Angeles Street and north along Temple Street. And the final option, the underground light rail alternative, is estimated to be \$910 million, costing \$5.2 to operate. Its route would run along Second Street, crossing into Little Tokyo.

"No option is really acceptable to us," said Craig Ishii, JACL PSW regional director.

"Little Tokyo — this is the whole community — the whole community for the most part is not opposed to the idea of public transit and is not opposed to Metro. It is only opposed to these options that are being presented. The idea is that Little Tokyo should have been involved in the process where they went from 30 [project options] to four."

Ishii said they oppose the underground light rail transit alternative because of the possible traffic congestion and loss of business during construction. The at-grade light rail transit alternative is also problematic because it sequesters Little Tokyo, said Ishii.

The JACL PSW regional board passed an Oct. 5 resolution, saying they are against all options presented by Metro, unless proper mitigations are implemented.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, also submitted a letter to Metro Chairman Ara Najarian urging him to be mindful of the regional connector's possible impact on the Japanese American National Museum, which has "unique characteristics and compelling historic significance."

Saltarelli said they are working with the community before finalizing their decision.

"The project team is conducting extensive outreach in the community to identify the best possible alternative," Saltarelli said. "We are hopeful that we can identify an alternative that minimizes the impacts on the downtown community, and provides great benefits to businesses, residents, and visitors in downtown Los Angeles and regionally for the long-term."

The next downtown-based Metro community meeting is Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Wurlitzer Building.

Stakeholders hope Metro officials will consider the historical and cultural significance of Little Tokyo.

"If the Little Tokyo community can plan and coalesce in effective ways to ensure that the community will not be destroyed in the future, then perhaps there is hope for change that results in positive ends for the city and for the Little Tokyo community," Watanabe said. "Without these guarantees and assurances, many in the community will be unsupportive of these changes." ■

For more information about the Metro regional connector: [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net).



## Colorado Group Wants a Plaque for Ralph Carr

If funds are raised, the plaque will be placed in a pullout area on a highway already named in his honor.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Colorado community leaders are continuing efforts to remember the legacy of former Gov. Ralph Carr, who opposed the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

To JAs, Carr is a hero, said Mitchie Terasaki, 91, of Denver. In the early 1940s she worked as a secretary in the governor's office under Carr's administration when he took the stance that has since earned him enduring respect.

In 1976, residents unveiled a bust of Carr — who died in 1950 — in Denver's Sakura Square. And in 2008, a section of U.S. Route 285 was named the "Ralph Carr Memorial Highway."

Now residents are hoping to raise funds to place a plaque on the memorial highway to explain Carr's legacy.

About \$10,000 is needed to place a bronze plaque at Kenosha Pass, according to Bob Wilson, a representative of the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The proposed plaque will be placed in a pullout area along the highway.

Ed Witwer, a former member of the Colorado House of Representatives who worked to have the highway named in memory of Carr, calls the memorial highway "one of the most beautiful places in Colorado."

"Every year, thousands of travelers stop their cars to get out and look

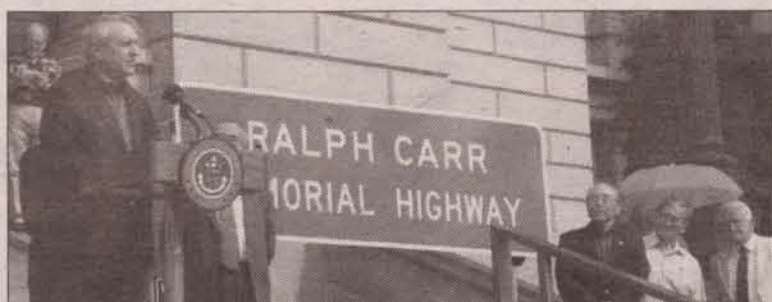


PHOTO: COLORADO.GOV

In 2008, Gov. Bill Ritter (left) unveiled the new 'Ralph Carr Memorial Highway' sign. Now, groups want more to remember Carr's legacy.

at the view. My hope is that they will read the plaque, get back in their cars, and then have an opportunity to think about and discuss Ralph Carr, his actions and his legacy," said Witwer in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*.

"By reflecting on the courageous deeds of extraordinary Americans, it reminds us once again of the principles of this great nation, which in turn makes us better citizens."

At the height of anti-Japanese sentiment during WWII, Carr called for racial tolerance and the protection of the basic rights of JAs. He also helped Terasaki get her first government job.

Carr gave a speech at a Mile-High JACL luncheon in the early 1940s when her husband, Yutaka Terasaki, was chapter president. After his speech, a then 20-something Terasaki told the governor that she had passed the civil service exam, but was having trouble getting hired.

"He said, 'My dear, give me your name and telephone number,'" said Terasaki. Later Carr's secretary called to set up an appointment for a job interview.

Many say Carr's calls for racial

tolerance cost him his political career. He narrowly lost the 1942 Senate election to incumbent Democratic Sen. Edwin C. Johnson.

"It's easy to do the right thing when it's the popular thing. But Ralph Carr stood up for the Constitution when it wasn't a fashionable — or politically safe — stand," said Witwer.

On Sept. 28, the Denver City Council voted to preserve Carr's former home located at 747 Downing Street.

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Inc. (CHUN) requested the designation "not only for its architecture and the fact that it was a governor's residence, but that Gov. Carr spoke out in defense of the civil rights of Japanese Americans," said Roger Armstrong, CHUN executive director. ■

### Ralph Carr Plaque

To donate, send checks payable to 'CDOT' to:

CDOT  
C/O Heather Copp  
4201 E. Arkansas Ave. Room 262  
Denver, CO. 80222  
Memo line: Ralph Carr

## Hate Crimes Expansion Bill Passes House

JACL, a longtime advocate, calls the progress 'long overdue.'

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

An Oct. 8 House vote put Congress on the verge of significantly expanding hate crime laws to include sexual orientation, gender or disability.

If passed, The Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, would mark a major change to laws enacted in the days after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968.

The legislation would expand hate crimes laws to include actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

Civil rights groups have come close to expanding the hate crimes bill several times in the past decade

but have always fallen short because of lack of House-Senate coordination or opposition from former President George W. Bush.

But this time it appears they may succeed. The bill was attached to a must-pass \$680 billion defense-policy bill. President Barack Obama, unlike his predecessor, has promised to sign it into law. The late Edward Kennedy was a longtime advocate of the hate crimes legislation.

The JACL, which has urged its members to support the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, calls the House vote long overdue.

"Hate crimes are something that

Asian Americans have faced and we can understand how an entire community can be affected," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Gay, transgender and disabled people have faced the same kind of hate and

*'Hate crimes are something that Asian Americans have faced and we can understand how an entire community can be affected.'*

— Floyd Mori, JACL national director

we are happy that this new law will provide protections for them."

The Senate will now vote on the bill.

Hate crimes legislation enacted after King's assassination defined hate crimes as those carried out on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. It also limits the scope of activities that would trigger federal involvement. ■

## National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

### Driver Convicted in Fatal California Bus Crash

COLUSA, Calif.—The driver of a bus that crashed in Northern California last year, killing 11 mostly elderly Hmong and Mien Americans, has been convicted of 11 counts of gross vehicular manslaughter.

Quintin Watts, 53, was driving a bus carrying 41 passengers to a casino last October when the bus left a rural road and rolled over.

Authorities say Watts apparently dozed off at the wheel, leading to the crash.

### Cornell Gets a Campus APA Center

ITHACA, NY—After a nearly decade-long fight, APA students at Cornell University now have a center on campus, according to the *Cornell Daily News*.

Located in 208 Willard Straight Hall, the Asian/Asian American Center (A3C) has officially opened as a temporary facility in the Office of Student Support and Diversity Education.

Funding for the facility mostly came from APA alumni. The university, which was originally slated to provide funding, reneged because of a budget crisis.

### Plans for Budokan Moves to Next Phase



LOS ANGELES—The dream of building a multipurpose community recreation center in Little Tokyo is one step closer to becoming a reality.

The Memorandum of Agreement phase is complete, which will allow community

leaders to start working on executing a ground lease for the site, according to project manager Scott Ito by way of "Little Tokyo UnBlogged," a community blog.

The Budokan of Los Angeles (BoLA), formerly the Little Tokyo Recreation Center, is a planned community facility that would host basketball tournaments, martial arts tournaments and other activities.

### Retired Colonel Appeals National Guard Lawsuit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.—A retired colonel is appealing the dismissal of a discrimination lawsuit she filed against the National Guard, the Army and three commanders.

Nancy Wetherill claimed discrimination based on her gender and Japanese American heritage and wants the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to hear the case.

A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit, saying she couldn't hear the case because of Wetherill's military status.

### Obama Reaffirms Promise to End 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama reaffirmed his campaign pledge to end the military's "don't ask, don't tell policy" in an Oct. 10 speech, but offered no timetable or specifics for acting on that promise.

The law was passed by Congress in 1993 and signed by President Bill Clinton. In April, the New York Army National Guard moved to dismiss Iraq war combat veteran and Arabic linguist Lt. Dan Choi for openly talking about his sexual orientation. Choi, who is Korean American, has been leading efforts to overturn the 16-year-old law.

### Residents Oppose 'Geisha' Bar

OAKLAND—Community members are outraged over a recent planning commission decision to allow "Geisha," a new restaurant and lounge to open at 316 14th Street.

Community leaders, including Dr. Diana Pei Wu of the University of California, Berkeley, have said "Geisha" reinforces racist and sexist stereotypes about APA women.

### Yale Establishes Annie Le Scholarship Fund

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A scholarship fund has been set up in memory of Annie Lee, the slain graduate student whose body was found in a university building wall on what would have been her wedding day.

Lab technician Raymond Clark III has been charged with killing Le, 24. The university also held a memorial for Le on Oct. 12. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### GLAS JACL Awards Scholarships



**GLAS SCHOLARS:** (Above, l-r) Yu-Jen Kao, Natalie Labrador, Layne Sakamoto and Kurt Ikeda. (Left) Matthew Arakaki won \$875.

At its annual **Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship and Fundraiser Dance**, the Greater L.A. Singles JACL awarded scholarships to five honor students.

**Kurt Ikeda** received a \$1,000 award. Scholarship awards of \$875 each were presented to **Matthew Arakaki, Yu-Jen Kao, Natalie Labrador** and **Layne Sakamoto**.

GLAS JACL offers scholarships to high achieving high school seniors of Japanese descent, who are from single-parent families and residents of Los Angeles or Orange County.

### Takeuchi Receives Innovation Award

**Dr. Esther S. Takeuchi** was recently honored with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to inventors.

Takeuchi, of the University at Buffalo, SUNY, received her award during an Oct. 7 White House ceremony.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation recognizes individuals or companies for outstanding contributions to the promotion of technology and the improvement of the economic, environmental or social well-being of the U.S.

### Chin is Nominated for U.S. Court of Appeals



President Barack Obama has nominated **Judge Denny Chin** for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Chin currently serves as a district court judge for the southern district of New York.

If confirmed, Chin would be the only currently active APA federal appellate court judge in the U.S. out of approximately 175 federal appellate court

judgeships, according to the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Asian American Justice Center.

### APAs Win NYC Primary Runoff

Manhattan's Chinatown could be represented by **Margaret Chin**, who beat incumbent Alan Gerson in a Democratic primary and could win the city council seat in the November election.

And **Queens Councilman John Liu** won the Democratic primary runoff for comptroller, the city's chief financial officer and one of its top three elected positions. Liu may become the first APA to hold citywide office in New York City.

### A Park Called 'Okamoto'

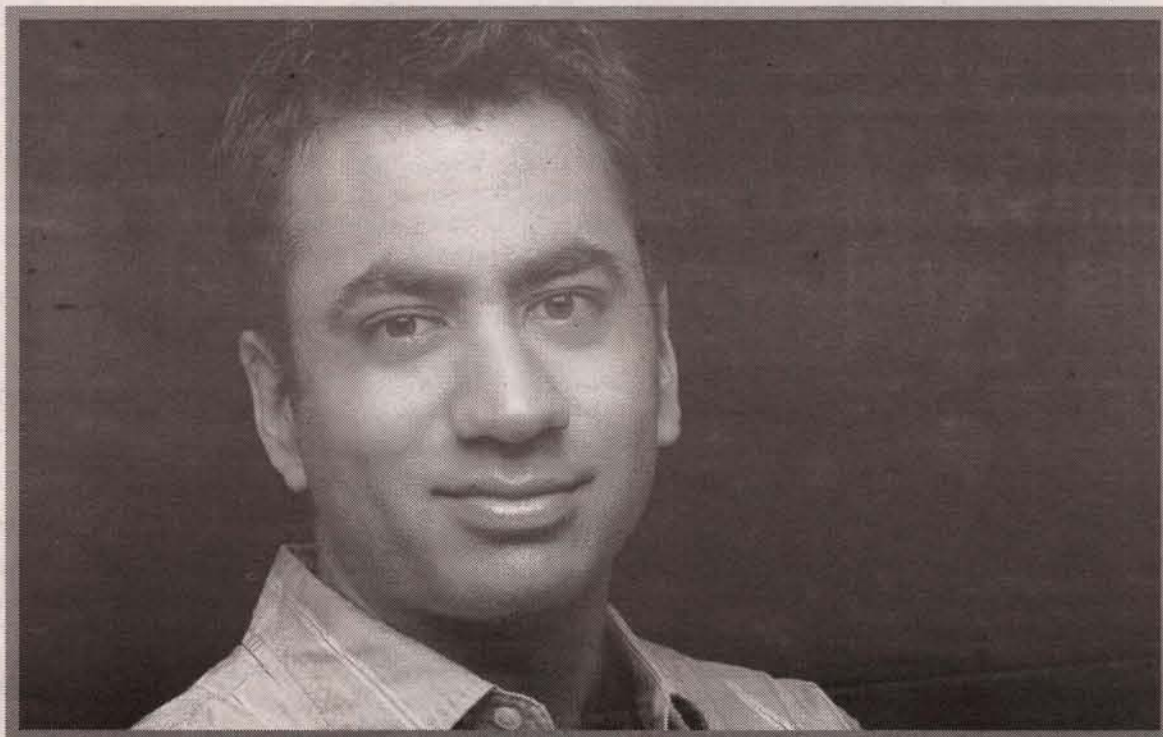
A park in Elk Grove, Calif. will be named in honor of **Pete and Sue Okamoto**, longtime residents and co-creators of the city's Veterans Day Parade.

The Cosumnes Community Service District Board voted to name a site near the corner of Mainline and Ridgerock Drives the Derr-Okamoto Park, according to the *Elk Grove Citizen*.

Pete and Sue lived in Elk Grove before their families were taken to Jerome and Tule Lake during WWII. After the war, they returned to the city and became involved in leading the Boy Scouts. ■

## Q & A With Kalpen Modi

*You asked. He answered. JACL youth members asked about job duties and health care. He says his job at the White House is a 'challenge, but a welcomed one.'*



Kalpen Modi is the White House's point person for Asian Pacific Americans.

**H**e works for the White House Office of Public Engagement, but basically you can say Kalpen Modi is the White House's point person for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Since leaving Hollywood for Washington in the summer, Modi has been hard at work (14-hour days!) tackling APA issues. He recently took the time to respond to some questions submitted by JACL youth members. — *Pacific Citizen* staff



What is the White House Office of Public Engagement and what is a typical day like at work?

— Jessica Kawamura, 24, Berkeley JACL

**Kalpen Modi:** The Office of Public Engagement is the proverbial front door to the White House; the president is committed to making sure that Americans across the country has a seat at the table, and to that effect, our office works as a team to help make sure that's the case. There are about 20 of us, each working on different issue/areas. I'm the point person for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) as well as the arts community.

There isn't really a typical day per se, but generally we arrive around 7:30 each morning. There is generally a staff meeting in the morning, after which we each take a series of meetings and telephone calls. There are different projects we have in the works as well. The day generally ends around 9 or 10 p.m.



What is the biggest challenge you've faced in your new position in the Office of Public Engagement?

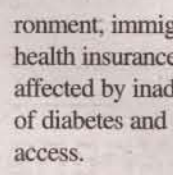
— Lisa Hanasono, 27, Hoosier JACL

**KM:** The challenges of the job have to do with all of the work that we do — serving the president in finding common solutions to the common challenges before us. There is no quick fix to the issues affecting the country; it's a challenge, but a welcomed one.

Being APA yourself, what do you think is the most pressing issue for the APA community during President



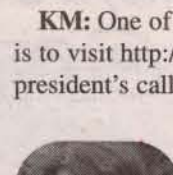
Obama's administration?  
— Megan Terasaki, 20, Gardena JACL



**KM:** Many of the issues affecting AAPI's are the same ones affecting other Americans: the economy, environment, immigration, and most of all — access to health insurance. Many AAPI's are disproportionately affected by inadequate access to health care, high rates of diabetes and cancer and issues related to language access.



President Obama's election has resonated strongly with many of America's youth. What avenues are available for APAs to get involved in the new administration? — Nate Imai, 21, Venice-Culver JACL



**KM:** One of the most direct ways to get involved is to visit <http://www.serve.gov> and be part of the president's call to service.



How do you see health care reform benefiting APAs in particular?  
— Kie Riedel, 22, Mile-Hi JACL

**KM:** Health reform will benefit AAPIs by providing stability to those who have coverage, and by providing coverage to those who don't. It will control costs, and ensure that we are not taken advantage of by insurance companies. Health reform will also get rid of 'pre-existing conditions' and eliminate gender disparities in premiums. ■





# VERY truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

## Uruguay For COPANI XV

Greeted by 155 e-mails, we came home after six nights in Uruguay, where it was blustery and rained hard Sept. 18 during the 15th Biennial PANA Convention (COPANI XV) Sept. 16-19 at Montevideo.

That evening, 200 delegates and community leaders braved the inclement weather and mingled at the Japanese embassy/residence reception hosted by Japan Ambassador Dr. Masami Takemoto. He was particularly happy to see that the Asociación Panamericana Nikkei (APN) was meeting in the Republica Oriental del Uruguay.

Sept. 20 was beautiful, clear and sunny. Locals, young and old, sat on park benches around Plaza Independencia facing the Radisson Hotel, site for APN programs, business sessions and workshops.

Uruguay is really a safe place and the people are friendly. I even dropped my ballpoint pen while ambling with my cane through the pedestrian mall (Calle Sarandí) leading to Catedral de Matriz. The young lady who saw it quickened her pace and returned it to me.

The entertainment at the welcome dinner was indeed unique for this American — a tango show with an 11-member band and two couples on the floor dazzling the audience with several pieces.

I wouldn't recognize tango music by name except for "La Cumparsita," which was composed by a Uruguayan, but sadly not rendered at the welcome. I remember it as an emotional closing number at a tango show in Buenos Aires several years ago.

Business-wise, APN announced plans to establish a Web site, create an endowment fund for operations, selected Cancún as COPANI XVI in 2011 and elected Noritaka Yano of Brazil the next APN president.

And Venezuela became the 12th APN member-nation with presence of Hiroyuki Takeuchi from Caracas.

As in the past, the delegates' assembly convened without simultaneous translation. Minutes, however, will be published in Spanish and English. But on Sept. 18, there was simultaneous translation during the three-part workshop of Japanese immigration.

On Sept. 18, Prof. Sachie Asaka from Nagoya had specialists from Brazil and Japan present papers on the legal status of the Nikkei immigrant or dekasegi in Japan, their integration and/or return from Japan.

Moderator Yoko Nishimura of Discover Nikkei in Los Angeles, updated "Nikkei Diaspora" with dissertations from Ricardo Hokama (Argentina), Cecilia Oi (Brazil), Roberto Hirose (Chile), Luis Hirata (Peru) and Lilian Keiko (Uruguay). English translation will take time.

Prof. Masato Ninomiya of University of São Paulo added to "Nikkei Identity" (again in Spanish) from Celia Sakurai (Brazil), Ariel Takeda (Chile) and Carlos Saito (Peru).

Concurrently, four other all-day workshops met: Japanese language teachers and culture in South America; Attorneys and the Uruguayan parliament; Japanese enterprises in floriculture; agronomics, and manufacturing polyethylene film in Uruguay; Noritaka Yano's "Sanwey," paper bag manufacturer in Brazil, and prospect of a trade bureau within COPANI; Young Nikkei statements from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and an hour with Carlos Kasuga of Mexico.

On Sept. 19, the youth tackled the convention theme, "Nikkei in a Globalized World." Brazil anticipates more international youth exchanges. Peru is planning a youth leadership cambio exchange at AELU next year. Argentina will host the third annual DALE international youth conference February 2010 in Buenos Aires.

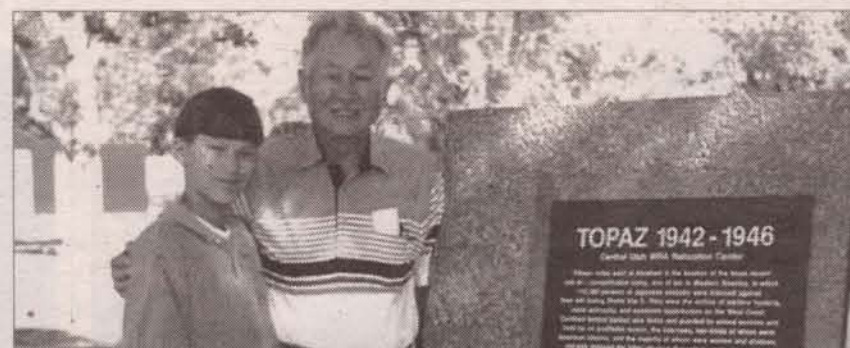
Prof. Asaka of Nagoya's Nanzan University presented her analysis on Japanese immigration to and from South America (1988-2008) through charts and listings effectively with PowerPoint video slides. She teaches Spanish at Nanzan, thus was comfortably engaged with delegates in the Q & A phase. She also has contributed her findings at previous APN conventions.

To be continued in the next 'Very Truly Yours.' ■

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

## THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN Circle of Life

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



Young Peter with his grandfather Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio.

I think it's inevitable that my children are going to make fun of me some day. It's like the circle of life.

I think of Mufasa in "The Lion King" looking on with pride while his young cub Simba is being hoisted in the air for the entire pride to see.

In real life, I wonder how long it would take for Simba to grow up, notice Mufasa's idiosyncrasies, recognize his hypocrisies and articulate scathing witty remarks at the public expense of his senior.

I dread that day.

I find it curious that each generation takes on a collective personality of its own, almost irrespective of race, class or creed. Take for example, my grandparents' generation — they bought cars with cash and rarely had a house payment. They were part of a generation that blew out and relit the pilot light every day to save gas and money. My wife recently told me that her 89-year-old grandmother takes cold showers every morning because she doesn't want to waste water, and because there's a drought. She just feels like she's doing her part to help out the community.

Several years ago for Christmas, my own grandmother gave each of us young adult grandchildren a mildly tacky Tootsie Roll piggy bank to keep all of our pennies. She prefaced the gifts with stories from her childhood about walking around Redwood Road in Salt Lake City thrilled at the chance to find a penny on the sidewalk. She wanted each of us to be thrifty and avoid being materialistic. At least that's the message I took away from grandma that Christmas.

I wonder what stories my grandchildren will tell about me? Will they find humor in the tales of a simpler time? Will they laugh when we tell them stories about dial-up Internet or life before e-mail? It wasn't that long ago that I was living in Japan and writing handwritten letters home to my parents every week.

When I think of the differences between my generation and the two generations that preceded me, I cannot help but wonder what greater forces were at play to give each generation its

own personality.

The Great Depression and the two world wars had a severe impact on the psyche of the "greatest generation" that raised the baby boomers. I don't know what shaped the baby boomers' psyche. Maybe it was Vietnam and the draft. Maybe it was the satisfaction of a two-car garage and the need to fill a home with more of the latest and greatest than your neighbors, the Joneses.

Of course this is not to say that everyone in this generation got caught up in the suburban catch-up trap. In fact, the vast majority probably did not. But that's the generation that gave rise to my generation: the generation that has been given everything.

It is too early to speculate what major events in current history will mold the general psyche of my generation. Maybe it will be the protracted recession, maybe some unforeseen political movement or event. Who knows?

It's hard to imagine anything shaking us to the core since it seems we have become so desensitized to shocking stories and events. Every day we hear news stories about fires, earthquakes, floods, diseases, genocide, human rights' violations, and two wars in the Middle East.

I see the ever-increasing household debt ratio and the increasing number of divorces among 20- and 30-year-olds and I worry we might drop the ball. On the one hand we were given everything, so we should be able to sail onward with ease. On the other hand, we've forgotten how to work for anything and we sink at the first sight of trouble.

I hope we can get it right. I hope our grandchildren will tell tales of how community-oriented we were or how we bridged the gap from the pre to post information age with grace and agility. I hope they mock us for our virtue, not our vice. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen lives in Biloxi, Mississippi. He is a Mount Olympus JACL member.





# 'America's Next Top Model' Contestant Says the Show Needs More APAs

*Model Jennifer An says APAs are underrepresented in the modeling industry and on the popular reality TV show.*

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

"America's Next Top Model" contestant Jennifer An, 23, nearly abandoned her dreams to become a model before she landed a spot on the CW TV show.

An said she wanted to be a model ever since the age of 3. In college, An mustered up the courage to pursue a modeling career, trudging from agency to agency in search of representation. The Philadelphia-native said she believed her ethnicity and height would thwart her chances of breaking into the industry.

"Although there has been much progress, Asians aren't always fully represented in the fashion industry," said the Korean American in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "Until recently I don't remember seeing really any Asian models while I was growing up."

An is one of 14 female models who initially made it on the special "under 5 feet 7 inches tall" cycle of "America's Next Top Model," or ANTM. It was the first time the competition opened its doors to vertically challenged models.

The opportunity was just what An had been waiting for.

"And when puberty ended and I was 5 feet 5 inches tall, I halfway gave up on the possibility of making it as a serious model," said An, who is the only Asian Pacific American model on the show. "Regrettably, short and Asian works against you in a lot of ways."

If the 23-year-old wins, she would score an impressive goodie bag: a six-page spread in *Seventeen Magazine*, a contract with Wilhelmina Models and a \$100,000 contract with CoverGirl cosmetics.

She would also become the only APA to hold the title in the history of the show.

## An Unlikely Model

Getting short-listed for this "short" season of ANTM was a highly competitive process. A media representative with ANTM said "tens of thousands" of hopeful models auditioned for the show.

To date, An is faring well in the competition. She won the approval of the panel of judges in photo shoots, which challenged the petite models to "accentuate their height." Despite the praise, being in front of the judges — Tyra Banks, Nigel Barker and J. Alexander — is never an anxiety-free affair.

"The toughest aspect of it is that no matter how seemingly good or bad you were at the actual shoot, you never know how the judges will respond," An said. "And it never gets easier because every time you advance, the elimination pool gets small and smaller."

The pool of models was whittled down Oct. 7 to eight aspiring models, when Ashley Howard was sent home.

Early on An caught the attention of judges like Banks, Barker and guest judge Lauren Conrad for something other than her modeling talent — a medical disorder called ptosis. Ptosis is a condition where the upper eyelid droops because the muscles are weak.

An is not the first ANTM model to openly discuss the challenges of striking a pose while coping with a medical condition. In past seasons there has been a contestant with lupus, another with Asperger's Syndrome, a burn victim and a model with retinitis pigmentosa.

Unapologetic, An followed Banks' advice and worked with her condition, but the long hours of taping often aggravated her condition.

"The more tired I become, the 'luckier' my 'lucky

eye' gets," An said.

Modeling is not the only stress in the show. Sharing a house with her competitors is a trying experience, said An.

"It's a blessing and a curse," An said. "I suppose it depends on which girls you're talking about. It's a surreal way to make friends and enemies."

Not afraid to voice her opinions to the other models, An got into a minor tiff with her fellow competitor early in this season. An confronted 21-year-old Bianca Richardson, who was eliminated in episode five, about not mixing her dirty dishes with the clean ones.

"Bianca is a disagreeable person," she said. "So, I disagree with every episode she is in. Ha."

## Overcoming Obstacles

An has escaped each competition unscathed so far. She "screamed pretty" with passion while wrapped in scarves in a shoot photographed by Banks, who created the show. Banks told An at judging, "I was super impressed with you," when she came in as runner-up for the best shot from the "Take My Photo, Tyra!" shoot.

Throughout the season the models have been taught to fake looking taller. Banks warned the girls early in the season that the fashion industry is highly critical of shorter models.

Models that typically traipse down high-fashion runways are taller than 5 feet and 7 inches, the maximum height requirement for cycle 13's ANTM. Elite Modeling considers representing models between the ages of 16 and 22 who are five feet nine inches tall to six feet tall, according to its Web site.

Despite the challenges confronting An, she said she is grateful for the experience. She said her future is "wide open" now and jokingly asked if the *Pacific Citizen* would hire her.

"It was an overwhelming and incredible experience," An said, whose favorite photo shoot was the "Make Me Tall" challenge, which was photographed by Jonathan Mannion. "I did things I never thought I would do, and I met some amazing girls that I absolutely adore."

An's family has been by her side the entire time, supporting her dream to be a model.

"They've always supported me in their own funny little way — my father calls to congratulate me after every episode."

It is important to succeed on ANTM because APAs are not equally represented in the modeling industry or on the show, said An.

"It was comforting at the time, knowing that I wouldn't be compared to the 'other Asian.' However, I do think Asians should be more strongly represented on the show."

Excitement, fright, nervousness and nausea are recurring emotions felt by An during the competition. But An is not letting her shortcomings hold her back. She encourages others to pursue their dreams with fervor, despite apparent barriers they might face.

"With anything, I think people need to know their strengths and weaknesses and find the thing they love. [People should] realize that some dreams are only dreams," An said.

"Realistically, if you're incredibly short (like me), you're going to have a tough time being a model. But if you pursue your dreams, do so with all your might." ■

ANTM airs Wednesdays at 8 p.m. (ET) on the CW.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CW



*'Although there has been much progress, Asians aren't always fully represented in the fashion industry.'*

— Jennifer An, 23





Assemblymember Mike Eng attended a training session at the Asian Youth Center in San Gabriel, Calif.

## APA Leaders Call Attention to Domestic Violence Issues

**In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, groups are trying to defeat the 'great ally of domestic abusers' — silence.**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Calling it a crime that impacts all of society, community leaders are working to raise awareness about domestic violence issues in the Asian Pacific American community.

"Domestic violence is a learned behavior. We see it cross from generation to generation," said Maria Foster, chair of the Asian and Pacific Islander Domestic Task Force.

The task force works with local government officials, law enforcement and community organizations to provide educational training, community outreach and advocacy.

In recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, APA groups from across the nation have been launching education campaigns to help bring an end to the violence.

In Washington, D.C. former "Survivor" contestant Becky Lee hosted a "Walk This Way" charity fashion show Oct. 6 to benefit Becky's Fund, a nonprofit that aids victims of domestic violence.

Lee, an attorney who works with domestic violence victims, established the organization in 2006.

Experts say domestic violence cases burden the courts and affects many innocent victims. It often leads teens to run away from the violence in their homes and abuse alcohol and drugs, said Foster.

The API Domestic Violence Task Force hosted an Oct. 1 training session at the Asian Youth Center in San Gabriel, Calif.

Assemblymember Mike Eng, D-Monterey Park, attended the event to help raise awareness on domestic violence issues.

Eng authored Assembly Bill 688 this year, which would require that all persons accused of domestic violence to have his/her case reviewed by a judge or commissioner before being released back out into society.

AB 688 is currently on the desk of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to sign or veto.

"Far too many adults and children continue to live in fear of their assailants," said Eng. "No one should have to live their life while constantly looking over their shoulder."

California State Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico, D-Newark, called silence a "great ally of domestic abusers."

"But to break the cycle of violence, victims often must go against their normal cultural behavior and speak out to find assistance. That first step of empowerment is often the hardest, but it is the most rewarding as well," he added.

In February, Torrico introduced Assembly Bill 1081 — which did not make it out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee — to set up an electronic monitoring system for domestic abusers and stalkers who violate restraining orders.

"No one should suffer at the hands of a batterer and raising awareness of domestic violence across our varying cultures will ultimately lead to safer environments for women and children," said Torrico. ■

## JACL Announces New D.C. Fellows

Two young Asian Pacific American leaders have begun their 10-month fellowships in the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Phillip Ozaki and Jean Shiraki are the JACL's new Norman Y. Mineta Fellow and Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, respectively.

The Mineta Fellowship, which is funded by State Farm Insurance, focuses on public policy advocacy for Asian Pacific Americans.

At his alma mater, the University of Illinois (UIC) at Chicago, Ozaki worked on student outreach for the Asian American Resource and Cultural



SHIRAKI



OZAKI

Center. He was also a 2005 JACL scholarship winner.

The Inouye Fellowship, funded by Eli Lilly, focuses on health care. Shiraki, a graduate of the University of Southern California, will collaborate with other APA organizations to work towards closing health care disparities.

Prior to her JACL fellowship, Shiraki's research included the analysis of potential genes for Type II diabetes. She also volunteered in southern Honduras where she worked with both Honduran and American doctors to provide medical care to rural villages. ■

## Monterey Peninsula JACL Honors Book Translator

By David Yamada  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

The Monterey Peninsula JACL hosted two Oct. 3 events honoring Takako Ishida for her work translating "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula", the chapter's history book.

Ishida visited Monterey from Hiroshima, Japan to attend both events and donated 500 copies of the Japanese edition to the Monterey Peninsula JACL.

The book, which I originally authored along with the chapter's oral history committee, was published in English in 1995.

Proceeds from the book sale will benefit the chapter's Heritage Center Project, which aims to preserve the area's JA history and provide a resource center in Monterey's historic JACL Hall to local students and residents.

Ishida has authored seven papers and participated in public panel discussions about education reforms and the role of women in Japanese education and society. She has translated three English articles into Japanese.

In attendance at the events were: Larry Oda, JACL national president; Hideyuki Mitsuoka, deputy consul-general of Japan in San



PHOTO: LARRY ODA

Honoree Takako Ishida (left) chats with Carl Niizawa.

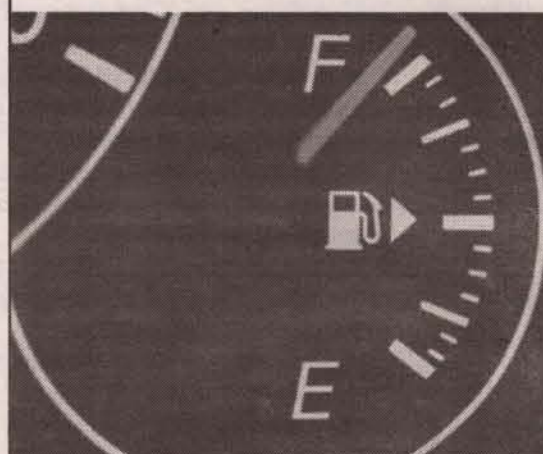
Francisco; the Hon. Ralph Rubio, mayor of the city of Seaside; and Jeff Uchida, Monterey Peninsula JACL president.

Superior Court Judge Albert Maldonado, Marina Water Board Member Ken Nishi and representatives from the various Japanese cultural and religious organizations also attended.

"What Mrs. Ishida has done has made the immigration, assimilation, and World War II experience of Japanese Americans accessible to a generation of Japanese who know little of it," said Oda. ■

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# Cambodian Americans Testify About War Crimes



PHOTO: VANTA EL

Community members talk about their experiences at the McBride Community Center in Long Beach, Calif.

**Their accounts of gang rapes, execution and starvation may be included in an international war crimes tribunal underway in Phnom Penh.**

By Gillian Flaccus  
Associated Press Writer

LONG BEACH, Calif.—The tiny Cambodian woman trembled slightly and stared blankly ahead as she told the story that has haunted her for half a lifetime: her parents and brother died in Khmer Rouge labor camps. Her baby perished in a refugee camp.

Roth Prom has wanted to die every day since and had never spoken those words so publicly until September, when five minutes became the chance for justice she has longed for silently for so many years.

"I'm depressed in my head. I'm depressed in my stomach and in my heart. I have no hope in my body, I have nothing to live for," she said.

Many of the nearly two-dozen other Cambodian refugees in the room began to weep. They know Prom's pain.

Prom, 63, is one of dozens of Cambodian refugees speaking publicly — many for the first time — about Khmer Rouge atrocities so a legal team can use their testimony in an international war crimes tribunal underway in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

From Virginia to California, refugees have spent the past few months pouring out long-suppressed memories to volunteers who fill notebooks with reports of gang rapes, execution, starvation, forced labor and brutal beatings.

The Khmer Rouge is implicated in wiping out an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians, nearly a quarter of the population, during their rule from 1975-79 under Pol Pot. People died from disease, overwork, starvation and execution in the notorious "killing fields."

Cambodians who fled their homeland decades ago relish the chance to participate in the war crimes trials unfolding thousands of miles away. The tribunal, a joint court created by the Cambodian government and the United Nations, allows Khmer Rouge victims to participate as witnesses, complainants and civil parties.

Depending on the stories, the accuracy of their memories and their own willingness to participate, survivors could be called to testify for the prosecution or defense and those filing as civil parties could be entitled to reparations. At a minimum, all filings will be archived and reviewed by those collecting testimony from survivors.

Leakheua Nou, the Cambodian American sociology professor at Cal State Long Beach organizing the U.S. workshops, said submitting evidence forms is cathartic for victims who have often kept their trauma secret from spouses and American-born children. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress and have symptoms of severe depression, including memory loss, flashbacks and suicide

thoughts.

"They have a sense of powerlessness, but they have a lot more power than they realize," said Nou, founder of the Applied Social Research Institute of Cambodia. "Most of them have not even talked about it for 30 years. They've been silent for so long."

Testimonies in Phnom Penh concluded in the trial of Kaing Guek Eav, who commanded the S-21 prison where up to 16,000 people were tortured and killed. Eav, also known as Duch, was the first to go before the tribunal and is charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes, murder and torture. More than 23,000 visitors attended his trial, which continues in November with closing arguments.

Four other senior Khmer Rouge leaders are in custody awaiting trial set for January. Any testimony submitted by the end of the year can be used by prosecutors to bolster those cases.

Grassroots organizers with backing from the Asian Pacific American Institute at New York University have been building trust within the Cambodian American communities for nearly two years but still expected many to shun the process out of fear and suspicion.

But Nou said turnout has been high, with some people even traveling from Arizona to share stories at the Southern California workshops held at a Cambodian community center.

"Before, they assumed that no one wanted to listen to them," she said. "They'll say, 'We thought that no one cared, that no one wanted to listen. But now that I know people want to listen, I have nothing else to lose. I've lost everything else already.'"

So far, the team has collected more than 100 statements from Cambodian expatriates at workshops in Virginia, Maryland, Orange County and Long Beach — home to the largest Cambodian ex-pat population. Future sessions are planned this fall in Oregon, Northern California, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

For Prom, the recent workshop in Little Cambodia was a chance to honor the memory of her loved ones — and to get justice for the brutal crimes that ruined her life and so many others. The Khmer Rouge split up her family, she was forced to pull a plow through rice paddies like an ox and her child died later in a refugee camp.

"I try to forget, but it's hard to forget," Prom told a translator who dictated it to a volunteer law student. Prom had already penciled her story on paper in the rolling script of her native Khmer.

"I want to find justice for myself and for the Cambodian people," she said. "I'm here to teach history to the next generation, so this horrific crime will never happen again."

## On the Web

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia:  
<http://www.eccc.gov.kh/english>

## JOB OPENING @ JACL PSW

**JOB TITLE:** Development Coordinator

**ANNUAL SALARY RATE:** \$14,000-15,000 (\$14/hour), Non-Exempt, No-Benefits

**STATUS:** Regular part-time

**LOCATION:** 244 S. San Pedro St. Suite 406, Los Angeles CA 90012

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

Primarily responsible for planning and implementing PSW's fundraising initiatives.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Applicants must submit a cover letter and resume by email to: [psw@jacplsw.org](mailto:psw@jacplsw.org).

**No phone calls**

Resumes should be submitted by 11/15/2009.

**FOR MORE INFO:**

visit [www.jacplsw.org](http://www.jacplsw.org)

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dba Pacific Citizen			
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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)			



# Rhode Island's Immigration Law Clinic Fills a Void

**The clinic reflects a growing need for lawyers who can help non-English speaking clients.**

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Ashley Ham Pong's first client as an aspiring attorney is a Liberian national facing deportation for criminal convictions. The seriousness of the case, and the consequences it carries, were apparent the first time she interviewed the man behind a glass window at a Massachusetts detention facility.

"I think it really makes you do your homework," said Ham Pong, 25, a third-year law student at the Roger Williams University School of Law.

Ham Pong, who is half Chinese and half Caucasian, is one of 10 participants in a new immigration law clinic at Roger Williams — Rhode Island's only law school — where students under a professor's supervision will represent detained immigrants facing deportation.

The students have their own office hours, map out defense strategies for clients and, though not yet licensed attorneys, will have opportunities to make arguments at the federal immigration court in Boston.

"We run it like a small law firm where I'm the partner in charge," said Mary Holper, a professor who runs the clinic. "They're all associates working under me." Holper previously supervised a similar program at Boston College Law School.

Law schools routinely offer clinics to give students practical experience in representing clients and help ease the transition from the classroom to the courtroom. Roger Williams offers two other clinics in criminal defense and mediation.

The decision to add a third clinic in immigration law reflects a growing interest in the hot-button issue. President Barack Obama has called the country's immigration system "broken."

And last year, Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri announced a crackdown on undocumented immigrants, requiring vendors that do business with the state to check new hires' legal working status and demanding that state police and prison officials do more to identify the undocumented for deportation.

Then Hiu Lui Ng a 34-year-old computer engineer who overstayed his visa died of advanced liver cancer while being held at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility. Ng, who was married to a U.S. citizen and had two American-born sons, had been complaining to officials about back pains for months. His death raised scrutiny of inadequate medical care and human rights violations in immigration detention.

"This is a very big issue of public policy, and there's frankly very few lawyers in Rhode Island that specialize in this," said Roger Williams law dean David Logan.

Though criminal defendants are entitled to court-appointed lawyers, the same privilege



PHOTO: ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



*"I think it really makes you do your homework."*

— Ashley Ham Pong, (left) Roger Williams (campus pictured above) law student, about representing detained immigrants.

does not extend to civil deportation proceedings. Holper said that creates an urgent need for lawyers who can help clients navigate the complex federal code of immigration law, helping non-English speakers make sense of documents that order their deportation or argue for bond for immigrants in detention.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Holper said, brought more enforcement of 1996 changes to immigration law that essentially widened the list of crimes for which a person could be deported. That, in turn, has brought more focus on detained immigrants.

At Roger Williams, students are able to make court appearances if the client does not pay them — which they can't — and if they're appearing under an attorney's supervision. Holper said she would oversee all of her students' written filings and communication with clients.

"I've always wanted to be able to navigate the American immigration system and to have a better understanding of why some people have an easier time than others at crossing borders and [are] given the option to stay," said Ham Pong to the *Pacific Citizen*. ■

## APAs Lead Tsunami Relief Efforts



PHOTO: TALIA FRENKEL/AMERICAN RED CROSS

Red Cross volunteer Shonnah-Lei Tuamoheloa holds Christian Torise, 5, near her destroyed home in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

In the sweltering Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Carson, Calif., roughly 200 people joined in a special twilight service in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that have left at least 160 dead.

Lusi Timai, 44, has been trying to reach her aunts and cousins in American Samoa since the tsunami.

"We just pray ... we just come here to pray for them," she said, clutching the cell phone she's been using to call.

The Sept. 29 tsunami, which was triggered by a 8.3-magnitude underwater earthquake, that flattened villages and swept cars and people out to sea.

Across the nation, Samoan Americans are

coming together to coordinate relief efforts.

Former NFL player Mao Tosi organized a fundraiser that collected more than \$5,000.

The Samoan Congregational Christian Church is accepting donations for the entire month of October.

About 40 percent of the country's 72,000 Samoans live in California, according to data from the 2008 American Community Survey.

Community leaders have created a network of clergy, community leaders and non-profits to harness and transport donations of canned food, water, tarps and other necessities to the affected regions.

"Somehow, some way, you're either related to somebody or you know somebody that lost a life," said Matauaina "Moe" Tali, pastor at Alaska's Revival Assembly of God. ■

### PACIFIC CITIZEN

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

#### Greater Los Angeles

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

#### Paul Jay Fukushima

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

#### Cambridge Dental Care

**Scott Nishizaka D.D.S.**  
Family Dentistry & Orthodontics  
900 E. Katella, Suite A  
Orange, CA 92667 • (714) 538-2811  
www.cambridgedentalcare.com

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

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

#### Phoenix, Ariz.

**YUKI TADANO**  
REALTOR®, GRI

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

### National business and Professional Directory

#### San Jose, Calif.

**MISAO KUSUDA, M.D.**  
Psychiatry  
20833 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 100  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
(408) 930-CALM  
(408) 930-2256

#### Oakland, Calif.

#### KITAZAWA SEED CO.

SINCE 1917  
The Asian Vegetable Seed Source for  
Gardeners, Retailers, Growers  
Request a Catalog  
P.O. Box 13220 Oakland, CA 94661-3220  
ph: 510/595-1188 fx: 510/595-1860  
kitaseed@pacbell.net kitazawaseed.com

#### Seattle, Wash.

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

Seattle, WA • (206) 624-6248  
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# JACL PSW Honors Leaders Who Worked to Bridge Communities



PHOTO: LAUREN MIYAKE

Honorees and attendees (standing, l-r) Kristin Fukushima, Kathy Masaoka, Nobuko Miyamoto, Arefa Simjee, Munira Syeda and Anbar Mahar. (Seated, l-r) Alan Nishio, Ken Inouye, Dan Kwong, Affad Shaikh and Mike Yanagita.

By Craig Tomiyoshi  
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

At its 13th annual awards dinner, JACL PSW honored community leaders and organizations that have worked to connect people from different cultures and backgrounds to achieve a common goal.

The Oct. 11 event took place at the Hilton Orange County in Costa Mesa, Calif.

George Tanaka from Union Bank served as the honorary dinner chair.

The event's theme, "Bridging Communities: Honoring the Tradition of Working Together," was inspired by the successful Bridging Communities program that was hosted for the first time this year. JACL PSW partnered with Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR) and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to build a program designed to help bring the Japanese American and Muslim American communities together through a discussion about common experiences and differences, education and empowerment and leadership training.

At the awards dinner, NCRR and CAIR, along with individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the idea of bringing communities closer together, were recognized for their efforts. The individual honorees were: Affad Shaikh, Ameena Qazi, Anbar Mahar, Arefa Simjee, Hussam Ayloush, Sharaf Mowjood, and Munira Syeda from CAIR - Greater Los Angeles Area.

Other honorees included: Kenneth Inouye, SELANOCO JACL and chair of the Orange County Human Relations Commission; Kathy Masaoka and Mike Yanagita from

NCRR; and, Dan Kwong and Nobuko Miyamoto from Great Leap, an organization dedicated to improving race relations through the performing arts.

A special award was also given to dinner emcee Alan Nishio, former professor and associate vice president for student services at California State University, Long Beach, for his long-time support of the JACL and his service to the community.

"Over the years, we have seen the impact that community leaders can make when they work together on policy issues such as health care, hate crimes and education," said Alayne Yonemoto, PSW district governor. "These honorees and their successes show that the unique bonds of friendship grounded in common experience can be incredibly powerful and create positive social change."

The district also paid tribute to Todd Sato, a dedicated JACL volunteer who passed away in June. Sato was a PSW board member and a past JACL youth/student representative. He worked closely with other community organizations including Ties that Bind, Intercollegiate Nikkei Council and Chinatown Service Center.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our good friend Todd," said Yonemoto. "He was a true leader and passionate advocate for our community and JACL, and he will be missed. Todd was and continues to be an example and inspiration for our staff and interns, and we owe much of the growth and success of our youth programs to him." ■

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

## Start Preparing for the Next D.C. Leadership Conference

JACL chapters and districts are encouraged to start identifying candidates for the 2010 JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Conference to be held March 5-9 in Washington, D.C.

Established by the JACL in 1984, the four-day leadership conference introduces attendees to the national policy-making arena.

Districts must submit applications for their approved participants to the Washington, D.C. office by Jan. 15.

JACL's seven districts are guaranteed two slots for the conference. Each year, chapter representatives submit applications to the district governors who are in charge of the selection process for their districts. District repre-

sentatives are also encouraged to submit alternate candidates. Most chapters pay the airfare for the JACL participants unless the district has made other arrangements.

Co-convened with OCA National, the conference is structured to provide attendees with an overview of federal level decision making, including meetings and briefings with public officials, key policy-makers and the media.

The conference is sponsored by State Farm Insurance with help from JACL chapters and districts. ■

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



Minidoka has 'enormous value to the understanding of what it means to be a citizen of this great country.'

## MORI (Continued from page 2)

depicted in Ken Burns' television series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" as saviors of nature.

Their major confrontations occurred against corporations that say our nation's natural beauties and historical lessons should always be sacrificed for economic development.

These leaders fought greed and won the battle on behalf of the American people.

Today, another battle is erupting in the southern region of Idaho where the power company is hoping to ignore the lessons and battles of the past in the name of expediency and economic development. The Minidoka National Historic Site is the target of a power line, which is planned to pass directly over the heart of the site.

Those who want to preserve the nature of this site — which is a remembrance of the unlawful imprisonment of American citizens who were placed there simply because of the country of their heritage — are considered an insignificant force in the game of economic

development.

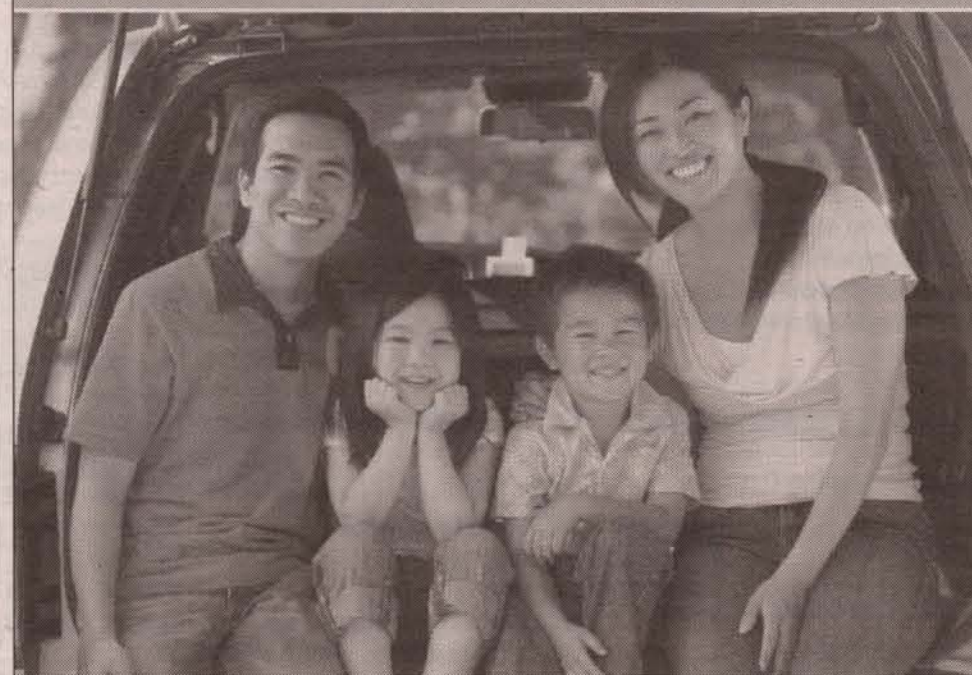
Yet the lesson for which the monument was intended has enormous value to the understanding of what it means to be a citizen of this great country. This was the reason President Clinton initially used his authority under the Antiquities Act to name this small space of land a national monument.

The JACL urges all who are involved to take a breath and look to the national heritage of national monuments and parks. Are we prepared to ignore the lessons of historical preservation or will we allow expediency and economic interests to determine the path of an ugly power line that would prove a hazard to those who would visit this historical place? We urge all to place the national interests above any short-term objective of rapidly completing a power line.

We ask JACL members and others who wish to preserve the valuable lesson that this site provides to contact the office of the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and their representatives in Congress to let them know that Minidoka should be left intact and the power line should be redirected. ■



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



## Health Plans for California JACL Members

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at

**1.800.400.6633**

or visit [www.jaclhealth.org](http://www.jaclhealth.org)





# GO SEE DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



## 'Songs For a New World'

LOS ANGELES, CA

Oct. 16-25

Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.

National Center for the Preservation of Democracy  
111 N. Central Ave.



*Yes, and ... Productions presents a musical by Jason Robert Brown and directed by Peter J. Kuo. Songs For a New World is about one moment – or rather, isolated moments in the lives of many characters – in a variety of eras.*

*Tickets are \$35 for opening night, \$25 general, and \$20 for students, seniors, JANM members and groups of 10+.*

### For tickets:

[www.BrownPaperTickets.com/78295](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com/78295) or 800/838-3006

For info: [www.YesAndProductions.blogspot.com](http://www.YesAndProductions.blogspot.com)

### East

#### 2009 APAICS Golf Classic

MARYLAND

Mon., Oct. 19

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

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

### Midwest

#### Health Screening Day

CHICAGO, IL

Sat., Oct. 24

9 a.m. – 12 noon

4427 N. Clark Street,  
Chicago, IL 60640

The Japanese American Service  
Committee will be offering discounted  
health screenings for anyone over  
age 18. To make an appointment, call  
773/275-0097 x226 (Kay) or x229  
(Sharon)

### Northern Calif.

Sakura Kai's 'Celebrating  
Generations'  
EL CERRITO, CA

GO!

Sat., Oct. 24, 1-5:30 p.m.

El Cerrito Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito,  
Help support the new Senior Center  
Building Fund and take part in this  
event which features workshops,  
food seminars, demonstrations,  
guest performances, food and craft  
booths.

\$15/general admission and \$5/children under 12.

For info:  
[ECSakuraKai@hotmail.com](mailto:ECSakuraKai@hotmail.com),  
510/621-8085

### Central Calif.

#### CCDC Installation Banquet 'Honoring the Camps'

FRESNO, CA

Sat., Nov. 14

Cocktails 5-6 p.m., Dinner 6 p.m.

The CCDC invites you to their 60th  
annual installation dinner with guest  
speaker, Lane Hirabayashi.  
\$40 to attend.

Send checks payable to 'CCDC' to  
Marcia Chung, 6522 N. Gentry Ave.,  
Fresno, CA 93711

For info: contact Marcia Chung,  
559/273-0397,  
[r\\_mchung@yahoo.com](mailto:r_mchung@yahoo.com)

### Southern Calif.

#### Riverside JACL's General Membership Meeting

RIVERSIDE, CA

Sat. Oct. 17, 12 noon

Riverside Metropolitan Museum  
3580 Mission Inn Ave.

The annual general membership  
Meeting will include a tour of the  
'Reading the Walls — The Struggle  
of the Haradas, a Japanese  
American Family' exhibit. A complimentary lunch will be provided.  
For info and to RSVP: Michiko  
Yoshimura, 951/784-7057 or Irene  
Ogata, [rogata@yahoo.com](mailto:rogata@yahoo.com)

#### The First Leadership Conference: 'Strength, Connect & Strategies for Success'

GARDEN GROVE, CA

Thurs. Oct. 22, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel

11767 Harbor Blvd.,

Garden Grove, CA

92840

The Asian American Business  
Women Association invites you to its  
first leadership conference. The  
keynote speaker is Holly Fujie, president of the State Bar of California  
and a partner at Buchalter Nemer in  
Los Angeles.

For info/to register online:  
[www.aabwa.org](http://www.aabwa.org) or Kim-Yen Huynh,  
714/791-8202.

#### Breaking the Bow: The 1st Annual Independent Asian Pacific Islander Performing Artists and Writers Festival

SANTA MONICA, CA

Oct. 22-25

Miles Memorial Playhouse

1130 Lincoln Blvd.,

Santa Monica, CA 90403

The Pacific Asian American Women  
Writers West, Mavericks of Asian  
Pacific Islander Descent and Ken  
Choy present a festival to include  
screenings, readings and performances.

For info: Ken Choy 866/841-9139  
x4123, [kne@mapid.us](mailto:kne@mapid.us)

#### The First Asian American Jazz Festival

LOS ANGELES, CA

Oct. 30-Nov. 1

Café Metropoli Oct.30-31

923 E. 3rd Street, LA, 90013

JANM Nov. 1

369 E. First Street, LA, 90012

Asian jazz artists from around the

### SOUP TO SUSHI

(a special collection of favorite recipes)

#### New Deluxe 3-Ring Binder Cookbook With Over 750 Recipes

\$25 (plus \$5.50 handling)

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

DO!

SEE!

world will appear together for the first  
time, celebrating their unique contributions to the international jazz  
scene. Headliners include Hiromi,  
Charmaine Clamor, Prelude, Mon  
David.

For ticketing and info:

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

#### Mineta, Takei to Host Personal Dialogue

LOS ANGELES, CA

Sat., Oct. 24, 2 p.m.

Japanese American

National Museum

369 East First Street,

Los Angeles, CA 90012

JA public figures Norman Mineta and  
George Takei will talk about their  
lives prior to World War II at a Oct.  
24 fundraiser hosted by Los Angeles'  
Japanese American Museum. Takei,  
is best known as Hikaru Sulu from  
"Star Trek." Mineta is the former U.S.  
secretary of transportation.

For info: 213/830-5669 or  
[www.jamn.org](http://www.jamn.org).

#### 20th Anniversary of 'Evening of Aloha'

ANAHEIM, CA

Sat., Nov. 14

4 p.m. – registration & silent auction

6 p.m. – dinner

Hilton Anaheim

777 Convention Way,

Anaheim, CA 92802

Join the Go For Broke National

### SPOTLIGHT

## MANZANAR

LIGHT and SHADOWS

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Featuring the Photos  
of Tom Clayton

Oct. 1 - Dec. 2, 2009

Manzanar National Historic Site  
5001 Hwy. 395, Independence, CA 93526  
Tel. 760-878-2194  
[www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz)

Education Center for their 20th gala  
dinner honoring Nisei veterans.  
For info: 310/222-5710,  
[EveningofAloha@GoForBroke.org](mailto:EveningofAloha@GoForBroke.org),  
[www.GoForBroke.org/EOA](http://www.GoForBroke.org/EOA)

### Arizona

#### Arizona JACL 75th Anniversary Celebration

PHOENIX, AZ

Nov. 8, 1 p.m.

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel  
The Arizona JACL invites you to join  
them in celebrating their 75th  
anniversary. National JACL President  
Larry Oda will be speaking.

\$30/person.

For info: Masako Takiguchi,  
602/956-3150, or Ted Namba,  
[Caseyfolks@aol.com](mailto:Caseyfolks@aol.com) ■

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# IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

## Hotta, Gina, 56

Sept. 28, Berkeley, CA. An award-winning documentary producer and executive producer of Apex Express, hosted on Berkeley-based radio station KPFA. She is survived by her husband Michael Yoshida.

## Kamiya, Gentoku, 88

Sept. 23, Kekaha, HI. Retired Kekaha Elementary School custodian. Survived by wife, Kay, son, Dennis, daughters, Doris Arakaki, Lorraine Kato, Jean Schnackenberg, Joy Viquelia; 12 g.c.; 2 g.g.c.

## Maruyama, Masaye, 89

Sept. 17, Renton, WA. A long-time resident of West L.A. She is survived by children John, Sherry (Hiroshi) Mishina, Rick (Patty M. Dryer).

## Matsui, Yeiki, 89

Sept. 13, Altadena, CA. An Army veteran. He is survived by sons, Dr. Thomas Kenneth, Mark Masaru (Kenna) Matsui.

## Matsumoto, Matsuye "June", 94

Sept. 6, Encinitas, CA. She is survived by her son, Harold Kazuo (Mineko), daughter, Doris Matsumoto Davis; 4 g.c.; 6 g.g.c.; 2 g.g.g.c.

## Matsumoto, Takashi, 88

Sept. 10, La Mirada, CA. He is survived by his wife, Yaye, daughters, Gale (Lloyd) Kurosaki, Anne (Terry) Komatsu, Jean (John) Schulz; 7 g.c. 2 g.g.c.

## Matsushita Fukukai, Kimi, 88

Sept. 30, Spokane, WA. Born in Idaho Falls, ID. Wife of George, sister of Kats, Kolie and Tom.

## Morishita, Rev. Jiro James, 48

Aug. 30, Los Angeles, CA. He was head minister of Tenrikyo Brotherhood Church since 1996. Also served as general manager of the Tenri Judo Dojo in L.A. Survived by his wife, Kay, children Raymond, Amy, Aya, father and 8 siblings.

## Morita, Shigemi, 93

Sept. 8, Los Angeles, CA. She is survived by her daughter Arlene (Jerry) Tanaka, 2 g.c.

## Murakami, Setsuko, 92

Sept. 12, Seal Beach, CA. She is survived by son, Richard (Chico), daughter, JoAnn (Dick) Asari, daughter-in-law, Wendy (deceased son, Gary); 7 g.c.; 4 g.g.c.

## Nakagawa, Sam Isamu, 81

Sept. 23, Fresno, CA. He is survived by his wife Barbara, son, Stanley (Wendy) Nakagawa, daughters, JoAnn Heizenrader, Julie (Mike) Nomura, Carol (Samuel) Alarcon; 7 g.c.

## Nakanishi, Eva Miyoko, 88

Sept. 4, Irvine, CA. She is survived by her sons, Dr. Mike (Margaret), Dr. Don (Marsha); 5 g.c.; 3 g.g.c.

## Nishimoto, Fumiko, 93

Sept. 11, Los Angeles, CA. She is survived by daughters, Ruby (Kinjiro) Watanabe, Margaret (Shuji) Iwanaga, Helen (Lee) Shenkman; 8 g.c.; 12 g.g.c.

## Ryono, Takeshi, 82

Sept. 3, Sun City, CA. He is survived by his loving wife, Chika, daughter Pamela, sister Kazuyo Fujimoto. ■

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

'Tributes,' which appear in a timely manner at the 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.

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CONNIE KING 1923-2009

## Locke's 'Mom' and 'Mayor' Fought Anti-Asian Land Laws

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Connie King, the honorary mayor of a historic Chinese American settlement near Sacramento, who for decades fought to reverse racist California's Alien Land Laws, died of natural causes Sept. 25, according to family members. She was 86.

King was known as a leader in the San Joaquin-Delta town of Locke, which was settled by Chinese immigrants in 1915. Residents who were forbidden by state law from owning property, built restaurants, schools and gambling halls.

In its heyday, Locke was also home to Japanese American, Filipino Americans, and Hawaiian families. The town's museum is built in an old boarding house — the original home of Sam Kuramoto and his family.

Residents eventually moved away,



PHOTO: RON CHAN

Connie King was known as a leader of the San Joaquin-Delta town of Locke.

but King stayed and in 2004 officially signed the deed to her home. After the signing, King raised her hands in the air and said, "We finally got our land! We finally got our land!"

"Connie was not only Locke's 'mom' and 'mayor,' but a true warrior. A feminist before it became fashionable and a civil rights leader," said Dr. Christina Fa, a former chair of the

Sacramento County Locke Community Advisory Committee.

Locke was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1990.

"Locke may be a National Historic Landmark. But Connie is a national treasure, for Asian America and the U.S.," said Fa. ■

## L.A. Middle School Named After Young Oak Kim



Go For Broke veterans, volunteers and staff members celebrate the dedication of the Young Oak Kim Academy.

**Kim was a WWII and Korean War hero who became the first APA Army officer.**

A new public school in Los Angeles has been officially dedicated to a Korean American war hero.

On Oct. 5, community leaders gathered at the Young Oak Kim Academy to celebrate Kim's legacy with a program and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Students from the new school paid tribute to their school's namesake in four different languages. The Young Oak Kim Academy, located at 615 S. Shatto Place, is designed to serve 810 students in sixth to eighth grades. It is the first Los Angeles Unified School District school that provides single-gender classrooms.

Kim, who passed away in 2005,

was a WWII and Korean War hero. He became the first Asian Pacific American to be commissioned as a U.S. Army officer during WWII and to command in the battlefield. His first assignment as an officer was with the celebrated 100th Infantry Battalion.

Asked by his superiors if he wanted to be reassigned, Kim said, "No. Our ancestry may be Japanese and Korean but we're all Americans."

His leadership and bravery during WWII and the Korean War earned him two Silver Star distinctions and a Distinguished Service Cross.

Kim was also the founding chairman of the Go For Broke National Education Center in 1989. Together with Japanese American veterans of the 100th Battalion, the 442nd

Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service, Kim worked to build the Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo as a lasting tribute to the heroism of the Nisei soldiers. ■

## Teacher Training Workshop

'A Tradition of Honor, World War II Nisei Segregated Fighting Forces,' presented by Go For Broke Dec. 5 at the Young Oak Kim Academy & Dec. 6 at the Center for Preservation of Democracy in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo

The workshop will introduce a teaching tool that uses Col. Kim as a real-life learning example.

For info & registration:  
www.goforbroke.org



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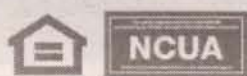
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