Seattle Mariners skipper Don Wakamatsu talks strategy for 2010.

APA groups take on feedlot and powerline to save Minidoka’s history.

Former Nisei students from the University of California, Berkeley are set to receive a belated honor over 65 years late.

Get to know Daniel Henney, the APA doctor on CBS’ ‘Three Rivers.’
Youth Represent Change

The editors and writers of the Pacific Citizen are to be commended on the Special Youth Issue. For older readers (like me) it is comforting to read about so many attractive, energetic young people who are thoughtful about the future of the JACL, APA communities and their issues. While the future may be shrouded in a haze for most of us, it is nice to know that there are capable young folks that can step up with ideas to meet the challenges we know are coming.

The youth that the PC profiled represent change. Make no mistake about that. We all must be ready to embrace those changes.

LARRY SCHETTMAN
Chicago JACL

‘Yes—Yes’ Boy

In 1939 my brother graduated from UC Berkeley and decided to enlist. He was sent to a Prewar Naval Base and was rejected.

He went back to San Francisco, where he opened an office on the edge of Japantown. Soon after, a government man told him he could still do something for his country by being an informer of any pro-Japan activities.

I told him he could still do some- thing: maybe a ‘Yes—Yes’ and a GL but my brother had the guts to protest — a real man, my brother!

ROY HASHIOKA
Riverside, IL

Fool Me Once, Shame on You

When ethnic Japanese like me were incarcerated during World War II, we obeyed the government orders without much reservation. They classified us as ‘suspects.’ I had no reason to doubt the correctness of terms like this.

But what did the political leaders themselves call these camps? A check of historic data shows an entirely different identification.

On Dec. 30, 1943, Attorney General Francis Biddle’s memo to President Roosevelt: ‘The present procedure of keeping loyal American citizens in concentration camps on the basis of race for longer than is absolutely necessary is ... repugnant.’

On Sept. 23, 1944 Secretary of Interior Harold Iken said in the Washington Evening Star: ‘We gave the fancy name of “relocation centers” to these dust bowls, but they were concentration camps nonethe­ less...’

Some consider it controversial to designate them as concentration camps on the presumption that Nazi Germany initiated them. Dachau and Buchenwald exterminated Jews by gas chambers, and more correctly should be designated “death camps.”

History tells us that the term concentration camps was first used at the turn of the century in the Spanish American and the Boer Wars. Historians define it as a place where people are imprisoned not because of any crimes they committed, but simply because of who they were. Who’s next? Muslim? Fool me twice, shame on me.

YUICHO TAZUMA
Seattle JACL

Tell Us What You Think

Write to: Letters, Pacific Citizen 250 E. 1st St., Suite #301 Los Angeles, CA 90012 or e-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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HOW TO REACH US
Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Phone: (800) 966-6157
Fax: (213) 620-1768
Mail: 250 E. First Street, Suite 301 Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF
Executive Editor
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Tokum
Assistant Editor
Lynda Lin
Reporters
Naka J. Ko
Business Manager
Keith Ikeda
Circulation
Erie Liao-Ting

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LETTERS/WHAT’S INSIDE/COMMENTARY

NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Membership Needs Your Help
JACL needs to reach its membership goals. The future is in your hands.

By Floyd Mori

If you are reading this, you are probably a JACL member. You may be a longtime member or you may be a new member. Either way, we want to thank you for your continued support of the JACL.

Tim Keide, JACL membership coordinator, recently put out a report stating that JACL has some work to do in order to reach the membership goals set for this year. We can all help with these goals and build JACL membership.

If half of the individuals reading this article would bring in just one new or lapsed member, we could go well over the top. Everyone has a family member or a friend who could benefit from a JACL membership. Although National JACL now requires JACL scholarship applicants to be JACL members, a large percentage of the scholarship recipients do not keep up their JACL membership. The same is true of past JACL fellows. Chapter leaders and family members could try to encourage past scholarship and fellowship recipients to join or rejoin the JACL. Maybe it is time for them to give back.

The position of vice president of membership on the JACL national board remains vacant. If you are interested and willing to join the national board to work on membership issues, please contact JACL National President Larry Oda, (president@jacl.org).

As we work on issues facing the JACL, with our Asian Pacific American coalition partners, we still work on issues for which JACL was established to fight 80 years ago and are still present today. In the past month alone, there were accusations of police brutality against an APA male in Virginia and in California.

Although President Obama recently signed into law improved hate crime legislation — which JACL and others have been pushing for over 10 years — racism and intolerance persist in our society. Minorities are harassed or persecuted in their daily lives at school or work. See MORI/Page 13

INSIDE
11/20-12/17

JACL Budget
National board members emphasize membership.

Saving Little Tokyo
APA leaders like Go For Broke’s Kevin Tamaki are calling for more MTA options.

Winds of Change
Minidoka supporters are now taking on a proposed feedlot and power line.

Belated Honor
Former Nisei UC students are finally receiving their honorary degrees.

Paging Dr. Henney
Daniel Murray is a new doctor on CBS’ ‘Three Rivers.’

Hey Skipper!
Don Wakamatsu jokes about starring in ‘Young Suzuki.’

Call For Calm
JACL, Muslim American groups urge for understanding after the Fort Hood tragedy.

ALSO ON
Pacificcitizen.org

U.S. Army Veteran Sirth Thong Nguyen finishes his journey across America in honor of the fallen
Minidoka Supporters Take on Feedlot, Power Line

A coalition of organizations is working to preserve the Minidoka Historic Site for future generations.

By Nalea J. Ko Reporter

Sue Hasegawa, 77, was in elementary school when her family packed up and headed to the Portland Assembly Center during World War II. They were eventually incarcerated at what is now the Minidoka Historic Site. It is one of 11 sites on the list of most endangered historic places, according to the National Trust For Historic Preservation (NTHP).

Hasegawa was the youngest of six children. They were a family of strawberry farmers who moved often to cultivate leased land.

When the order came to evacuate, Hasegawa remembers storing all of their possessions in a chicken house on the farm. She never recovered those belongings.

“We didn’t have a lot to begin with,” Hasegawa said over the phone from her home in Tornance, Calif. “We had no hourly, none whatsoever. Even when it came to toys. Maybe we were just poorer than the rest [laughs].”

At camp she occupied herself, playing games like jump rope and jackies. She said her experience at Minidoka was different than some others.

“I do remember a lot. vividly. But, you know, my reactions and feelings really aren’t the same as somebody older because to me I enjoyed it. I had fun because I was young,” Hasegawa said. “Yeah, ’cause you know, all we did was play, go to school and eat and play.”

The 77-year-old is one of about 13,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at Minidoka during WWII. Feelings about the site may vary, but most agree that Minidoka is a part of a dark chapter in American history. It is a site some are fighting to preserve in the face of potential changes in the area.

“We have been working with Senator Inouye and Secretary of Interior Salazar to find alternative routes for the impending electric line,” said Anthea Hartig, director of the NTHP. “It is a planned SOO-mile-long power line that does not impede on the nature and memory of the Minidoka campsite.”

“The animal feeding plant is still to be determined but we are very hopeful that authorities and the courts will see the hazard and nuisance of such an operation so close by.”

A coalition of Minidoka supporters — including JACL, Friends of Minidoka, local farmers, the NTHP, Idaho Rural Council, Preservation Idaho, and Idaho Concerned Area Residents For the Environment — have come together to oppose a planned confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) nearby. The coalition filed a lawsuit to appeal the Jerome County Board of Commissioners’ Sept. 25, 2008 vote to approve a permit for the CAFO near the historic site.

“We challenged the Jerome County Board of Commissioners ruling granting the permit,” explained Charlie Tebbott, the coalition’s attorney. “Tebbott is with the Western Environmental Law Center in Oregon. “The district of Idaho will hear that likely in February or March.”

It is important to prevent the 13,000-heifer feedlot from opening, Tebbott said, “to preserve the nature and character of the Minidoka site.” Also it would simply stink, he said.

“I do hope the JA community and Asian American community — and community at large — join in and do something. I think it’s important that we speak out and do something,” he said.

Hasegawa said she understands that younger generations would appreciate visiting the site. The 77-year-old has not returned to Minidoka since the day her family left and likely would never go back.

There are no family photos from her days at Minidoka and she does not clearly remember her last day at camp. She was the youngest of six children. They were a family of strawberry farmers who moved often to cultivate leased land.

“We didn’t have a lot to begin with,” Hasegawa said over the phone from her home in Tornance, Calif. “We had no hourly, none whatsoever. Even when it came to toys. Maybe we were just poorer than the rest [laughs].”

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There are no family photos from her days at Minidoka and she does not clearly remember her last day at camp. Friendships with the "gals" she went to school with are still strong. But for the most part, Hasegawa is happy to leave her memories of the camp in Idaho.

“I know it [Minidoka] isn’t rich because it never was much to begin with, you know,” she said.

To donate to the legal battle impacting the Minidoka site, make a donation to "camp preservation" at www.minidoka.org or www.jacl.org.
What does an honorary degree mean for former Nisei students like Jim Yamasaki and Cedrick Shimo?

By Christine McFadden
Special to the Pacific Citizen

For former University of California, Berkeley freshman Jim Yamasaki, getting through final exams during the winter of 1942 was the least of his worries. A Nisei from Tracy, Calif., Yamasaki was an excellent student working toward becoming the breadwinner of his family. His studies were interrupted, however, when his father’s liquor license was suspended, disabling the family business of running a tavern in Tracy. Curfew restrictions then forced him to return home.

“There were bigger problems than [the] interruption of my education ... I had no time to worry about school,” he wrote in an e-mail. Executive Order 9066 uprooted his family and confirmed his life to the horse stables of the Turlock country fairgrounds, and eventually at Gila River in Arizona. Though Yamasaki went on to have academic success, he never returned to UC Berkeley. This Dec. 13, however, he and numerous other former Nisei students who had their schooling similarly disrupted will be receiving honorary degrees for the education they were not allowed to complete.

Decreeing the Degrees

The honorary degrees are the product of Assemblyman Warren Furutani’s Assembly Bill 37, signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in October. The bill calls on University of California schools, California State Universities, and California community colleges to issue degrees to anyone who had their educations interrupted by the World War II Japanese American incarceration.

“The main motivation is that it’s under the heading of ‘unfinished business,'” tying up loose ends,” said Furutani. The assemblymember has been working toward this goal for decades.

“I’ve always thought, ‘what about those folks who were in college and then they got pulled out of college by Executive Order 9066 and were not given the opportunity to finish?’” said Williams. “For me, the motivation is that our Nisei are almost gone and this was something to correct past wrongs.”

What it Means to Them

Although Yamasaki was incarcerated, he still had education on his mind.

From inside Gila River, Yamasaki applied for a scholarship to leave camp and resume his studies elsewhere. He was accepted on a scholarship to the University of Utah, where he was subsequently drafted despite boasting the best grades in his classes among white students who were allowed to defer.

He became a 2nd Lieutenant and was transferred to the 525th, a special unit for “mulemen,” demoted to the rank of a private, and eventually was reassigned into the 1809th, a similar unit for “malcontents.” When the war ended, he received an honorable discharge.

Though Shimo is unable to attend the UC Berkeley graduation ceremony, he appreciates the degree.

“At least I got proof that I was in graduate school,” he said.

While there is no deadline for California public institutions included in AB 37 to issue the degrees, Furutani says time is of the essence.

“As you know, the average age of [Nisei’s] is 86 or 88 — there’s no deadline, but literally they’re passing away and if we don’t get this done right away, more and more are going to have to be given away posthumously.”

Christine McFadden is a Portland JACL member.

UC Honorary Degrees

Four campuses have scheduled ceremonies.

UC San Francisco — Dec. 4
UC Davis — Dec. 8
UC Berkeley — Dec. 10
UCLA — Spring 2010

Info: http://honorary.universityofcalifornia.edu

Jim Yamasaki was a freshman at UC Berkeley during the winter of 1942.

Duncan Williams, who serves as associate professor of Japanese Buddhism and chair of the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley, believes that this legislation is long overdue.

“Of course I think it [AB 37] should’ve come a long time ago,” said Williams. He noted that a number of larger universities on the West Coast have already issued degrees in years past. “In my opinion, I would have hoped and thought that the UC system ... would be a leader, but it seems like we’re at the tail end ... we ought to have done this earlier.”

With the degrees approved, approximately 400 former students or their family members — UC Berkeley had the largest population of JA pre-WWII students — will be among the first people in decades to be issued honorary UC degrees.

The ceremony will run jointly with the regular undergraduate graduation; Williams, who serves on the campus’s council planning committee and who will be reading the names of the JA graduates, hopes that the university’s undergraduates will be able to learn something from the Nisei.

“If you think about it ... the kinds of challenges that people faced back then is really a point of pride for a Japanese American family to be able to say, ‘our daughter just got into UC Berkeley,’” Williams said.

He notes that the ceremony will be especially meaningful for former seniors who were just weeks away from “all that hard work and overcoming barriers to get their college degrees.”

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

Cedrick Shimo had his graduate education at the University of California, Berkeley interrupted by a draft notice the day after the Pearl Harbor attack.

What does an honorary degree mean for former Nisei students like Jim Yamasaki and Cedrick Shimo?

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PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

Cedrick Shimo had his graduate education at the University of California, Berkeley interrupted by a draft notice the day after the Pearl Harbor attack.
The Little Tokyo Community Council voiced its concerns with the present transit options and asked Metro to create an alternative.

By Nolen J. Ko
Reporter

Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo stakeholders pressed officials to explore an alternative option in their bid to expand the light rail transit system.

About 40 people gathered at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Little Tokyo Nov. 12 for one of numerous community-update meetings. The topic of discussion: the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) plans to connect the Blue Line and Gold Line transit systems.

The nearly two-mile-long Regional Connector Transit Corridor project’s scope would include Little Tokyo as well as Bunker Hill, the Civic Center, the Toy District, the Historic Core, the Arts District and the Jewelry District, among others.

The Nov. 12 meeting followed the Little Tokyo Community Council’s (LTCC) Nov. 10 decision to urge the MTA to explore an alternative build option. LTCC represents over 90 businesses and organizations in the area.

LTCC sent a letter on Nov. 9 to the MTA, asking officials to pursue the underground emphasis option, which would run below ground at Second Street. They also emphasized protecting the Nishi Hongwanji Temple’s property. Other options encroached on the temple’s property. Community leaders expressed concern about the impact of construction that would likely take three to four years.

“We will do it as an institution that’s mission is to tell the story of the history of the Japanese here?” said Chris Komai, JANM public relations officer. “If you know anything about the history of the Japanese, you know that Little Tokyo has been constantly pushed around. And you know what, we’re getting tired of it.”

JANM sees about 100,000 visitors annually, Komai said. He said museum officials are concerned about how the construction phase would impact visitor rates, including school tour programs.

There are currently four MTA options on the table: a no-build alternative, a transportation system management alternative, an at-grade light rail transit alternative, and an underground light rail transit alternative. Project Manager Dolores Reybal-Saltarelli said MTA would explore a fifth option and continue to work with stakeholders.

“Taking a unified stance, Little Tokyo business leaders said they oppose the two build options,” they wrote. “They welcome further talk with the MTA.

“At this time, subject to the approval of the Nishi board itself, we’re open to listening to Metro’s options — below grade option as long as it does not encroach on the Nishi Buddhist temple’s property,” said Eric Kurimura, spokesperson for the Nishi Hongwanji Temple. He was not alone in expressing his apprehension.

One of the MTA’s four build options being explored is the underground light rail transit alternative. Project Manager Dolores Reybal-Saltarelli said MTA would explore a fifth option and continue to work with stakeholders.

“We have real concerns about the effects with construction and long-term disruption it would cause to this area. This part of Little Tokyo is very key to us,” explained Kevin Tamaki, with the Go For Broke National Education Center.

MTA officials said there is a need to increase the connectivity of the transit system to meet the needs of the growing population.

They estimate that by 2035, the population in Los Angeles would grow to nearly 2 million people. According to the Southern California Association of Governments, the population in Los Angeles has grown by 12.81 percent since 1990.

Without the regional connector there is a gap in the transit system. MTA officials said the connector would benefit all of Los Angeles not just downtown. It would provide a “continuous trip between the Pasadena Metro Gold Line and Metro Blue Line, and between the Metro Eastside Gold Line and Metro Expo line.”

Riders who have to transfer at Union Station because of the gap are delayed about 20 minutes and have to pay additional fees. Further reasons why MTA officials said expanding the transit system would be necessary.

The cost of each option varies. The capital cost for the transportation system management alternative would be about $63 million. That alternative would provide a shuttle service from 7th Street to Union Station. With the at-grade light rail transit alternative the price tag would be about $796 million. Its route would head westbound on Main Street and north on Temple Street. The underground light rail alternative would run along Second Street and go into Little Tokyo. The estimated cost: $910 million.

Most in Little Tokyo are in favor of expanding the transit system. But they want the MTA to implement appropriate mitigation efforts during construction as well as iron out a fifth build option.

David Yoda, who lives in Little Tokyo, said he would probably take advantage of the regional connector if it were convenient.

“I haven’t heard anything good or bad about it. I just — from time to time I read about it,” Yoda said while surveying posted MTA diagrams at the meeting. “The new Gold Line would be convenient if I wanted to go down to the eastside.”

Construction has not begun. MTA is conducting an 18-month environmental impact statement/environmental impact report. That EIS/EIR is expected to be complete in the summer of 2010.

In the interim Little Tokyo stakeholders are cautious to support the fifth option without first seeing it.

“Of course the point is though too [exploration of the fifth option. We’re not in favor of choosing the fifth option because a lot of people have said, ‘What if the fifth option is just as bad as the other two,’” said Craig Ishii, JACL, PSW regional director.

“So, we want to see what it will look like, what mitigations are going to be coming along with it.”

Ishii said he hopes any disruption that occurs to the community is within a reasonable degree.

On the Web
www.metro.net/projects/studies/connector/default.htm
JACL’s Third Quarter Deficit Places Weight on Year-End Fundraisers

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

The JACL closed out the third quarter with a deficit of $43,356, a loss in line with projections made earlier this year, said national board members at its Oct. 30-31 meeting in San Francisco.

In June, the national board revised the 2009 budget — expenses were trimmed and projected membership revenue was reduced, among other changes. But even with these adjustments, a deficit was expected.

“The budget shortfall is attributed to unbridled optimism,” said Oda.

The 2009-10 budget adopted in 2008 by the national council laid the foundation for aggressive membership goals to fund JACL programs. That was, board members say, before the economic recession gripped the nation.

“When we adopted this budget we hoped that we would be conservative in our revenue expectations and generous in our expenditure projections, when in actuality our revenue projections were too generous, and expenditure projections too conservative,” added Oda.

The economic recession has put increased pressure on the organization’s budget and cash flow.

JACL has drawn down its reserve fund to manage shortfalls in its cash flow, said Josh Spry, JACL secretary/treasurer.

But waning membership revenue continues to afflict the JACL. Each year membership declines at approximately 4 percent, said Spry.

“Membership development is a function of enthusiastic chapter programs that touch people and involve members young and old,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. “As long as we are not willing to ask people to share the joy of serving the community we will see a decline in membership.”

The vice president of membership position has remained vacant since Ryan Chin stepped down in June citing personal reasons. The search, said Oda, has been unsuccessful so far.

“The skills needed for the position or the enormity of the task at hand seems to discourage volunteers. We have gone to each of the districts and requested recommendations, but there seems to be reluctance to relinquishing their own membership chairs,” he said. “So far, the people we have approached have all declined the appointment.”

Board members are now focusing on identifying candidates for vice president of membership for the elections at the 2010 JACL national convention in Chicago, said Oda.

There is good news. JACL’s investments have risen above the draw threshold, which enabled national board members to restore investment income on the budget’s revenue side by $230,000. If there is a surplus at the end of the year, that money will replenish the cash reserves, said Spry.

“The skill we have that we may see a surplus or be within the planned budget,” said Mori. “The fact that we have been able to operate within the budget is very good in light of the severe economic recession.”

As of Sept. 30 the Legacy Fund is at $353,642 and the JACL Reserve Fund sits at $48,392. The Life Trust Endowment is at $5,790,618, the Life Trust Endowment sits at $396,550. The Bardwell reportedly refused to sign Beth Humphrey and Terence Bardwell and his wife. Humphrey and McKay do not have a military license because they were a “mixed couple.” In interviews, he said he refers inter racial couples to other justices of the peace.

Civil rights leaders and officials, including Gov. Bob Jindal, said he is hopeful year-end revenues will be realized.

“The [current] budget shortfall is due to the inputs shrinking and outputs growing, which is unsustainable in the long-run.”

— Josh Spry, JACL secretary/treasurer

Judge Resigns After Flap Over Interracial Wedding

Baton Rouge, La. — Keith Bardwell, the justice of the peace who was harshly criticized for refusing to marry an inter racial couple because he believed their children would suffer, stepped down Nov. 3 after 34 years in office.

Bardwell reportedly refused to sign House and Senate resolution 780, “Recognizing Filipinos American History Month.”

The Senate passed its own version of this bill as a Senate resolution by unanimous consent on Oct. 1 to kick off Filipino American History Month.

Sameness Marriage Backers Vow to Keep Up Fight in Maine

PORTLAND, Maine — Supporters of a voter rejected same-sex marriage law are taking heart in the 47 percent they received.

Leaders of the campaign that tried unsuccessfully to prevent the scuttling of Maine’s gay marriage law vowed to continue what they termed a civil rights struggle. But what form their effort will take is not yet known.

The vote marked another defeat for same-sex marriage supporters following last year’s Proposition 8 campaign in California that repealed court-ordered same-sex marriages. There are now five states that allow same-sex marriage — Iowa, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut.

Jury Convicts Illinois Man of Manslaughter

CHICAGO —Jurors have convicted a 33-year-old man of involuntary manslaughter in the 2007 drowning death of 63-year-old Vietnamese American fisherman Du Duy.

Prosecutors say Duy drowned after Haley shoved the fisherman into a Lake Michigan harbor. Duy could not swim. Prosecutors had sought a murder conviction. Instead Haley was found guilty of manslaughter. Haley will be sentenced Nov. 19.
Yamamoto Receives 2009 Haaheo Award

Eric Yamamoto, a law professor at the University of Hawaii, has received the 2009 Haaheo Award for his contributions to justice for communities in Hawaii and beyond.

Yamamoto is a law professor at the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law. He was co-counsel to Fred Korematsu in the successful re-opening of the leading WWII Japanese American internment case, Korematsu v. U.S.

Yamaguchi Heads Wash. State APA Commission

Long-time community leader Kendee Yamaguchi has been named the executive director of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Yamaguchi, a Samurai born and raised in Washington, was a director in the Office of Management and Administration at the White House prior to this position.

Muratsuchi is Re-elected to School Board

Torrance School Board President Al Muratsuchi was the top vote-getter among a field of seven candidates running for the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education.

Muratsuchi has served on the Torrance School Board since 2005. In addition to serving on the school board, Muratsuchi serves as a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice. He had previously served as the JACL PSW district regional director.

Former ‘Survivor’ Winner Joins the FCC

Yul Kwon, a lawyer best known for being the first APA to win the CBS reality show “Survivor” has been appointed to deputy chief of the Federal Communications Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau.

His media activities include working as a special correspondent for CNN and as a co-host for the Discovery Channel.

Chin Wins Seat in NYC’s Chinatown

New York City’s Chinatown has elected Margaret Chin as its first Chinese-American to the city council.

The downtown Manhattan neighborhood is one of the biggest Chinese communities outside Asia. Chin is a community organizer and immigrant advocate who speaks three Chinese dialects.

Golfers Win Tournament

The Foundation for Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce recently hosted an international team golf championship at Bretton Woods Golf Course in Germantown, Maryland.

David Kim won long drive in the gross division. The winning team with a score of 64 included: Chris Convey, John Tagni, David Asaki and Denny Minami.

JACL National Director Floyd Mori won long drive in the net division. The winning team with a gross score of 63 and a net score of 47 included: Mori, Warren Minami, Earl Takeguchi and Doug Minami.

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

PSW to Host First JACL Annual Convention

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL national board has accepted and selected the Pacific Southwest District’s bid to host the first-ever annual convention in 2011. Board members voted in favor of PSW’s bid at the Oct. 30-31 meeting in San Francisco.

No other chapters or districts submitted bids, according to Sheldon Anakak, JACL vice president for general operations.

The annual convention’s purpose, according to the bid, will be to conduct business on a more frequent basis and better maintain relationships within JACL, as well as with community organizations and businesses.

At the 2008 JACL national convention in Salt Lake City, the national council approved a constitution and bylaw amendment to host annual conventions. The JACL has traditionally hosted biennial conventions.

The 2011 annual convention will not be a full convention, but it will be more than the JACL’s tri- and bi-district conference, said Gary Mayeda, annual convention chair.

The convention date and location have not been set, but locations of interest include the Hyatt Hotel Century Plaza in Los Angeles and the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove.

JACLers Wanted More for the Next Generations

Florice Kuwahara donated to the JACL to improve educational programs.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Florice Kuniko Kuwahara always wanted others to have more opportunities than she had. The Tujunga, Calif. born Nisei only completed one year of her college education before she was married. She wanted more for the next generations.

So before she passed away in April at the age of 90, she included a donation of $40,000 to the JACL in her will for “educational scholarships or other leadership development programs.”

Florice, who had previously helped establish two other JACL scholarships in memory of her husband Sam S. Kuwahara, supported the JACL’s goal of civil rights, said Floyd Shimomura, her nephew.

Florice was a longtime Cortez JACL member.

“The fact that she selected your organization as one of her beneficiaries indicates that you held a special place in her heart,” wrote Shimomura in an Oct. 31 letter to the JACL. “Your selection is her way of showing her appreciation, love, and best wishes for the future.”

Florice married Sam, the manager of the Cortez Growers Association, in May 1941. The couple held off their wedding reception until the crops were harvested.

Florice, a seamstress, made her own wedding dress for reception, a “big community affair” with about 800 guests at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in Merced, said Shimomura.

The date was Dec. 7, 1941, and their happy preparations were interrupted by news that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor.

“Florice said it was the worst day of her life and her whole life changed,” said Shimomura, a past JACL national president.

The couple was incarcerated at Amache along with other Japanese Americans. Florice never had a wedding reception. But her family members say she attended the weddings of her many nieces and nephews and never mentioned her own disappointment.

As a tribute, family members plan to give a silent toast in honor of Florice at all future wedding receptions for the one she never had, said Shimomura.

The JACL began its National Scholarship and Awards Program in 1946. The program currently offers over 30 awards to qualified students nationwide.

Donors like Florice and Paul Ohtaki, who bequeathed $300,000 to the National JACL Scholarship Program, make all this possible.

Ohtaki, a businessman and Bainbridge Island Review journalist, passed away in 2008 at the age of 85.

The $2,000 “Paul and Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship” for freshmen will be one of the program’s highest awards, said David Kawamoto, JACL vice president of planning and development.

“It’s really appropriate that the National JACL Scholarship Program have a scholarship named for the Ohtakis. They were longtime supporters of JACL whose names appear on the foyer wall at JACL headquarters. They have been very generous,” said Kawamoto.
"Saturday Night Live" erupted at the Asociación Panamericana Nikkei’s fantastic Sayonara shindig amid the gauchos and tango music at Chica La Tosca in Montevideo. Post-dinner tango bursts from Uruguayan Nikkei players turned into a "carousel" when he landed in Montevideo...
Meet the New Hapa Doctor in Hollywood

Daniel Henney is establishing himself on American TV in the CBS medical drama ‘Three Rivers.’

By Naleza J. Ro
Reporter

Daniel Henney has enjoyed a successful career in South Korea for years. The Hapa actor still has a home in Seoul and says he will always have a presence in Korean entertainment.

Now he is establishing himself in the American entertainment industry with roles like Agent Zero in the film “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” and his newest venture on the CBS TV show “Three Rivers.” Despite now being thousands of miles from Korea, Henney still maintains an unwavering fan base in the country.

“I was on the set at Paramount a couple of weeks back. I walked out of my trailer to head into makeup and there was a group of people getting the daily tour of Paramount Studios,” Henney explained in an e-mail to the Pacific Citizen. “In the back two seats there was a Korean couple. As soon as I walked out they saw me and started to freak out!”

He facetiously told the couple that he was only Henney’s body double. As the trolley departed he heard them say, “Wow! His body double looks exactly like him!”

Henney said studying Korean while he was working in the country was difficult, but now he has a new language challenge to overcome: learning medical jargon.

“I’ve spent my last four years struggling through the ins and outs of learning Korean,” the model-turned-actor said. “Now that I’ve finally gotten used to speaking that language, now I have to come back here and fight my way through some of the hardest sentences I’ve ever spoken in my life! Haha.”

The Hapa actor plays Dr. David Lee on the CBS TV show “Three Rivers,” which premiered Oct. 4. Lee is a playboy surgical resident whose scrubs seem a bit tighter and his swagger is a tinge more confident than anyone else in the transplant hospital.

Struggling through words like “serum ammonia” is a challenge for Henney. However the Michigan-native has become accustomed to putting up a fight, working in the competitive industry.

Throughout his career Henney said he has fought for any role he wanted regardless of how unsuitable it might have seemed. Agent Zero, he said, was originally written as a German role. And his character on “Three Rivers,” was initially a character named David Lowe, scripted for a Latino. Henney said there are adequate roles for Asian Pacific Americans in Hollywood, if an actor is willing to fight for them.

“Whether it’s written for a Caucasian, German, Korean or whatever, I’ll compete with whomever I need to compete with to get that role,” he said.

Awkward Beginnings

Henney’s mother is Korean American and his father is British. He was born in Carson City, Mich. He got his break as a model in 2001 in Chicago, Ill. finding an “unparalleled niche” market. Shortly after Henney headed to Hong Kong and spent three years in Asia and Europe.

Since then he has appeared in almost every major fashion magazine from Allure to Vogue. Korean and American fans alike now swoon at the heartbeat, but Henney said he was not always model material.

“Didn’t we all have that phase? I was a relatively normal kid, but I ate so much. So, I was a bit on the heavy side,” Henney said.

In the sixth grade he had to get braces, which gave him a chance to display his loyalty to his much loved sports team.

“So, being the Michigan State fan that I was, I decided to make all of my braces green and white,” Henney said. “So, I basically walked around with green teeth for the following year. Real must move.”

Henney said he felt like a gremlin during puberty in Michigan, a part of the country he did not always appreciate. Growing up there he felt “trapped,” “chauvinistic” and “anthropomorphic” to get out. At the age of 18 he left. As an adult Henney would later appreciate the home life Michigan offered.

Model-Turned-Actor

Henney’s experience in the modeling industry was not snug-free. He eventually landed regular modeling gigs. And his modeling paychecks allowed Henney to pursue a long-time interest.

“I’ve been the ‘entertainer’ for my family every since I can remember,” Henney said. “SNL, ‘Saturday Night Live’ was really huge in my house, so my parents and grandparents would constantly encourage me to put on skits and little shows for them. I used to do a pretty good George Bush impression thanks to Dana Carvey.”

When he moved to New York City, 2004, he immersed himself in acting. He took three or four acting classes a week and invested all the money he made in modeling toward honing his acting chops.

“But, it wasn’t a childhood dream, and it wasn’t always something that I wanted to experience and now I’m completely addicted,” he said. Henney’s role on “Three Rivers” is not his first stint in hospital scrubs. In South Korea, Henney played Dr. Henry Kim in “My Lovely Sam Soon.” The role established his stardom in South Korea. Movie roles soon followed. Henney went on to receive the Premiere Magazine Rising Star Award for his performance in the feature film “My Fisher.”

Returning to Hollywood has not been completely smooth for Henney. He has faced some speed bumps.

“I got my first traffic ticket last week!” Henney said, mentioning that he had a clean driving record since the age of 16. “So last week I’m driving down Melrose and decided to get into the turning lane a bit too early [and] then I heard the sirens.”

“He gave me a ticket for driving on the wrong side of the road, as if I was jostling with oncoming traffic or something. Anyway, I just smiled and said, ‘thanks.’”

There are also downsides to returning to the states and working steadily. Henney said he has not had time to date, explaining that most women are not willing to date a person who is now 50 percent of the time. “Right now my dog Mango is the only girl in my life,” Henney said.

Most importantly his successful career in South Korea has enabled him to give back to his parents. In a blog post earlier this year, Henney talked about buying a new summer home for his parents. The single most rewarding part of his career is giving back to his parents, he said.

“Of course it’s nice to be able to buy material things, but the most rewarding aspect of all is just knowing that my parents are happy with the path I’ve chosen in life,” he said.

Henney’s busy schedule might not allow for much leisure time, but for now he is content with a steady role on American TV.

“I personally find that just hanging out with really good people and sharing laughs is better than any exotic vacation for me,” Henney explained. “My job itself is basically a vacation, so as long as I surround myself with the right people, I never feel like work.”

“Three Rivers” airs Sundays at 8 p.m. (ET/PT) on CBS. For more information on Daniel Henney, visit www.daniel-henney.com.
In his second season as the MLB’s only APA manager, Don Wakamatsu is looking for his team to be bigger and be better.

By Naea J. Ko
Reporter

Being the first Asian Pacific American Major League Baseball manager comes with a lot of responsibilities.

Just ask Yonsei Don Wakamatsu, who took the Seattle Mariners manager position about a year ago. His first season in Seattle was packed with hits and misses. But with spring training just around the corner, don’t expect to see Wakamatsu letting out stress on the field.

It’s simply not his style.

“Well, I think the hardest thing is, especially when I took the job in Seattle, everybody said, ‘Well are you going to be like Lou Piniella?’” Wakamatsu said over the phone referring to the former hot-tempered Mariners manager. “I think the first thing you have to know about managing is you have to be yourself—no matter who you are. And I’ve never been a real temperamental guy.”

Wakamatsu said keeping “level-headed” is also a good way to act an example for his players. He also recognizes his responsibility “to represent the Asian community.” In his first year as manager, a 39-year veteran umpire gave Wakamatsu a bit of sound advice—“Talk to guys. Don’t yell at ’em.” It’s a philosophy Wakamatsu has tried to incorporate in the dugout.

“But again, that goes back to, I think, philosophy that, you know, if you are consistent in your actions in the dugout then your players will emulate that,” Wakamatsu said. “So, obviously has been a baseball fan because he’s followed my career—but now he thinks he’s a manager along with me.”

Baseball was a pursuit his family supported. First it was an opportunity to go to college at Arizona State. Then it was pro ball with the Cincinnati Reds, where Wakamatsu was a catcher. There were few JA baseball pros to look up to as a fledgling player. Lenny Sakata, Ron Darling and Atlee Hammaker were some of the APAs Wakamatsu admired.

Looking Beyond the Game

Giving back to older and younger generations of JAs is never far from Wakamatsu’s mind. He participated in a championship Nikkei golf tournament to benefit an all-Japanese retirement home.

“Again in my position I like to be able to give back or be able to help. I think that’s part of the responsibility that’s bestowed upon me that I need to be able to do those things,” Wakamatsu explained. “And I try to do as much as I can within the confines of the schedule this year.”

Now he might inspire his children to follow in his footsteps and pursue a professional athletic career. His two sons, Jacob and Lucas, play football for their schools. Jacob’s daughter, in gymnastics. Seventeen-year-old Jacob is scouting out colleges.

“He’s a junior this year. He’s a pretty good player,” Wakamatsu said like a proud father. “I think he’s looking at both football and baseball. I’m looking to take him up to Arizona State next month. They’ve got a prospect camp. They’re going to take a look at him.”

Of course his kids are baseball fans. Wakamatsu explained, but living in Texas you almost have to play football. Wakamatsu himself played baseball, basketball and football.

If not for baseball he likely would have been an architect. With an affinity for art, Wakamatsu still finds ways to be creative in the dugout.

“Well, I was one of few coaches in the big league I think Jerry Narron [former Cincinnati Reds manager] is one, myself and now my bench coach Ty Van Burkleo, are the only guys that do the line card in calligraphy.”

Managing in Seattle can be difficult since his family is based in Texas. Wakamatsu did get to see his family when the Mariners played the Texas Rangers. After a respite at home, Wakamatsu will head to the winter meetings in Indianapolis in early December.

“But there are a lot of thoughts that are going toward next year already. I don’t know if you ever take off your manager’s hat. But it is nice to be able to unwind a little bit and watch your kids play,” Wakamatsu said.

With a year of managing under his belt, Wakamatsu said he has learned to look beyond the game. Sure there were wins this year, but most importantly Wakamatsu said he is proud of how close the team has gotten.

“You know and I’ve said this to the players—‘we’ve all played for different teams and different organizations. And the ones you remember the most are because of the relationships,’” Wakamatsu said.

“I think we accomplished a lot of things we set out to do. I mean we got a lot of things done obviously, but [I’m] awfully proud of some of the accomplishments. And I think we left a good imprint on the fans up there. They are going to be looking for bigger and better things, and so we are.”
JACL, Muslim American Groups Call for Calm After Fort Hood

As the country mourns the fallen, JACL leaders say this a time for understanding and tolerance.

By F.C. Staff and Associated Press

The Army psychiatrist accused in the Fort Hood shootings has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the military’s legal system making him eligible for the death penalty if convicted, officials said Nov. 12.

Weeks after the Nov. 5 shooting at the Texas Army base, Muslim American groups continue to call for calm amid growing speculation of backlash, said Ibrahim Hooper, national communications director for the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), a civil liberties and advocacy organization that denounced the Fort Hood shooting as a “cowardly attack.”

Media coverage on the Fort Hood tragedy continues to link Islam to the violence that occurred, Hooper added. “It paints Americans of Islamic family as potential terrorists.”

Already, Hooper says Muslim Americans are reporting cases of hate e-mail and verbal abuse.

In Florida, a Marine reservist was charged with attacking a Greek Orthodox priest he said he thought was a terrorist. Lance Cpl. Jasen D. Bruce is accused of hitting Rev. Alexis Marakis over the head with a fire iron Nov. 9. Bruce told the police he heard Marakis yell, “Allahu akbar!” — Arabic for “God is great.”

“People are very apprehensive. They’re outraged by the [Fort Hood] attack itself,” said Hooper. “They’re trying to get by when their loyalty and patriotism are coming into question.”

It’s a feeling, community leaders say, Japanese Americans should know well based on the World War II treatment of the JA community.

A day after the Fort Hood shooting, JACL released a statement condemning the attack and calling for calm.

“The World War II experience of Japanese Americans should not be forgotten so as not unjustly blame the Muslim American community for this appalling act done by one disturbed person,” said Larry Oda, JACL national president.

In the immediate wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, JACL also urged the government not to react like it did during WWII.

“Japanese Americans know well the sting, humiliation and heartache that can occur when a community is condemned for an action far from their control or their own behavior,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. “This is a time when understanding and tolerance are of prime importance.”

President Barack Obama has ordered a review of all intelligence related to Hasan, and whether the information was properly shared and acted upon within government agencies.

Thirteen died in the shooting spree at the Army base in Texas, including Pfc. Khan Xiong, a 23-year-old Hmong American from Minnesota, Xiong, who was married with three young children had been preparing to deploy to Afghanistan.

Oregon Garden Dedicated in Honor of JA Farmers

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The Harada Japanese Garden is named after Hideo Harada’s family, but it honors all.

The garden is dedicated Oct. 19 to honor JA farmers like Hideo and his brother Dick, who was among the first JAs to settle and work in Brogan.

“It meant a lot,” said Hideo, a Snake River JACL member, about the dedication ceremony that drew friends from near and far. Brogan is over 40 miles from Ontario, where Hideo now lives with his wife Ruth, but they still made the journey. Others came from further away.

At the event, childhood friends walked along the paths and took in the view.

“It was tear-jerking,” said Hideo, whose uncle and aunts were incarcerated in Manzanola.

So Hideo and Dick worked. They grew onions, potatoes and sugar beets and introduced row-cropping to the area.

Brogan leaders say the JA farmers helped build the area’s agricultural industry.

Today, onions continue to be the top crop in the county, according to the Argus Observer.

Before the JA farmers came, Brogan farmers grew crops like alfalfa, said Hideo. “There’s no money there!”

Hideo said he’s proud the garden is named after his family, but emphasizes that it’s to honor all JA farmers and laborers.

A plaque at the entrance of the garden highlights his point. It names all the area’s pioneering JA families from the Arisa to the Yoshiharas.

Photo: CHERIE CULLEN/DOD

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2010 Spending Bill Includes Funds For Honouliuli Study

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The fiscal 2010 Department of Interior and Environment spending bill includes $3 million for camp preservation projects, said the JACL.

H.R. 2996 or the “Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2010,” which President Barack Obama signed into law Oct. 30, includes $900,000 for barrack reconstruction at Manzanar and $350,000 for park boundary expansion at the Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho.

Also reported in the bill’s text are land expansions for Heart Mountain in Wyoming and a special research grant to determine the feasibility of including Hawaii’s Honolulu Oahu’s in the National Park System.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and propelled the U.S. into World War II, government officials began imprisoning residents including the JACL have been working to improve its rightful place in American history.

For the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for the 2010 fiscal year, the dream of developing Honolulu into a national historic site is now becoming a reality.

In 2007, Monsanto Corp. bought the land that housed Honouliuli. The company has proposed a seven-acre parcel for a parking lot, walking path and visitor center.


“The camp preservation funding included in next year’s budget will enable the nation to enhance its understanding of this unfortunate time in American history when civil rights were ignored,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. “Much more in terms of educational programs will be made available to students and citizens alike as facilities are developed and artifacts preserved.”

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JACL Applauds Expansion of Hate Crimes Legislation

The bill’s passage benefits the APA community, which continues to face intolerance, leaders say.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The JACL celebrated a victory in a decades-long battle to expand federal hate crimes law Oct. 28 when President Barack Obama signed the bill into law.

“We were happy to be on the frontlines working to improve the hate crimes law that now will include additional categories of impacted communities,” said JACL National Director Floyd Mori, who attended the White House ceremony.

The new law expands federal hate crimes to include gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. It also lessens limits on when federal law enforcement can intervene and prosecute crimes.

Civil rights groups have tried for a decade to expand the hate crimes law, but fell short because of a lack of coordination between the House and Senate, or opposition from President George W. Bush. This time, the bill got through attached to a must-pass $680 billion defense measure.

President Obama praised the courage of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the competitive spirit of Wat Misaka.

President Reestablishes White House API Initiative

By Pacific Citizen Staff

President Barack Obama’s decision to restore the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) is an important step in increasing access and participation in federal programs, said the JACL in a statement.

At an Oct. 14 special White House ceremony, Obama signed an executive order to reestablish the president’s advisory commission and White House Initiative on AAPI.

Despite the community’s “story of suffering and success,” the president said AAPIs continue to face many barriers.

The mission of the initiative and commission is to work with government agencies and departments to improve the health, education and economic status of AAPI communities.

Floyd Mori, JACL national director, attended the ceremony.

“The White House Initiative on AAPIs will play a key role as a liaison between the AAPI communities and the various agencies in the government,” said Mori. “This has been missing for some time, and this will give us access and impact.”

At the event, the president cited the “competitive spirit” of AAPI athletes like Wat Misaka, the National Basketball League’s first non-white player. Misaka, a World War II veteran and Salt Lake City JACL member, made the trip from Utah with his son Henry to attend the ceremony. The New York Knicks drafted Misaka in 1947.

The president also referenced the “courage and the patriotism and sacrifices of heroes like the members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team” and acknowledged Terry Shimizu, executive director of the Japanese American Veterans’ Association.

The initiative and commission will be co-chaired by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Sec. of Commerce Gary Locke.

Kim Ahuja has been appointed the initiative’s executive director.

President Obama praised the courage of the 442nd RCT and the competitive spirit of Wat Misaka.

The bill is named after Matthew Shepard and James Byrd.

“African Americans have had first-hand experience with hate violence in the brutal murders of Vincent Chin and Joseph Ileto,” said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese American, was murdered in 1982 by two out-of-work Detroit autoworkers. And in 1999 Joseph Ileto, a Filipino American postal worker was fatally shot in a Los Angeles suburb by a self-proclaimed white supremacist.

Hate crimes law enacted after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968 centered on crimes based on race, color, religion or national origin.

Some 45 states have hate crimes statutes, and the bill would not change current practices where hate crimes are generally investigated and prosecuted by state and local officials.

But it does broaden the narrow range of actions — such as attending school or voting — that can trigger federal involvement and allows the federal government to step in if the Justice Department certifies that a state is unwilling or unable to follow through on an alleged hate crime.
The AAPI Community Needs Immigration Reform Now

When people ask why JACL is working on immigration, my first thought is — how could we not?

By Kristin Fukoshima

Participating in a rally is a heady experience. Although they can be chaotic and even disjointed at times, it’s all part of the experience. The voices and the bodies are full of emotions, camaraderie and purpose — a body of individuals that comes together and moves in solidarity, for a common ideal.

In that fashion, the Oct. 13 march and press conference for immigration reform was made up of people from across all racial, ethnic, gender and class groups to march for a cause in the rain. All of us — including JACL PSW — came together for the shared belief that our communities desperately need comprehensive immigration reform.

Others from all over the nation held similar rallies to celebrate Illinois Rep. Luis Gutierrez’s intention to introduce a major immigration reform bill.

Now that the battle for health care reform was won, the AAPI community needs immigration reform. Already, people are organizing in their communities. On Nov. 18, Rep. Gutierrez will speak on a national telephonic town hall about his bill. It’s easy to participate — just call up some friends and listen in together on speakerphone.

An even easier way to begin advocating is to simply call your Congressional representative, and let him/her know you want comprehensive immigration reform.

It’s time to break the misconception that immigration reform is just a Latino issue. An issue that affects everyone, but the current system is broken and disproportionately impacts AAPI immigrants.

Once we have a bill on the table, we need to make sure our community’s voice is heard loud and clear — the AAPI community needs immigration reform now.

Kristin Fukoshima is the public policy coordinator in the JACL PSW office. She can be reached at kfukoshima@jaclpsw.org.

JACL and APA leaders met with Paramount Pictures officials over concerns of racial stereotyping in the film “The Goods” (left). Picture above (left) Bill Imada, Katie Martinelli, Guy Aoki, Adam Goodman, Craig Ishii and Floyd Mori.

Paramount Agrees to Ongoing Dialogue

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL leaders met with Paramount Pictures officials (left) on Oct. 12 to discuss the movie studio’s summer comedy that many called racially insensitive.

The meeting was the result of Asian Pacific Americans’ protest over a controversial scene in the film, “The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard,” in which Jeremy Piven’s character uses a racial slur and attacks an AAPI character played by actor Ken Jeong. The scene remained in the film.

Paramount issued a statement apologizing for the “racially demeaning language used in the scene depicted in the film.”

JACL National Director Floyd Mori and PSW Regional Director Craig Ishii met with Adam Goodman, president and CEO of Paramount Pictures, and Paramount executives Sharon Keyser and Katie Martinelli.

In the meeting, Goodman committed to ongoing dialogue and requested that more meetings be held to monitor Paramount’s performance, said the JACL in a statement.

Bill Imada, CEO of the IW Group, and Guy Aoki, co-founder of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans, also attended the meeting.

“We look forward to a close working relationship with the studio in eliminating the perpetuation of negative stereotyping of ethnic minorities. Through this dialogue, we hope to avoid the type of debacle which resulted from “The Goods,” said Mori.
Voice Your Opinion on NPS Confinement Sites Grant Program

To prepare for its next grant cycle, the National Park Service (NPS) is hosting a series of “listening sessions” to assess the first year of its grant program.

In 2009, NPS awarded 19 grants totaling $970,000 to help preserve and interpret the history of former World War II Japanese confinement sites.

Congress appropriated $1 million for the 2009 grant program, $30,000 of which went to program administration. The grants require a community match of $1 in non-federal money or in-kind donations for every $2 in NPS money.

The “listening sessions” will be a part of the NPS’ information gathering process to encourage feedback on the grant program.

NPS “Listening Sessions”
Denver, Colo.
Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-12 noon
National Park Service
Intermountain Regional Office
12715 W. Alameda Parkway
303/569-2895 (NPS) or 503/374-1947 (Little Rock NPS)

Chicago, Ill.
Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.
JACL Chicago Office
5415 N. Clark St.
Info: 773/923-1928 (NPS) or 312/728-7170 (JACL)
www.jacdcchicago.org

Seattle, Wash.
Dec. 2, 5-6 p.m.
Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project
1416 S. Jackson St.
Info: 206/943-1531 ext. 122 (NPS) or 206/520-0056 (Densho)
www.densho.org

Little Rock, Ark.
Dec. 19, 7-9 p.m.
Little Rock Central High School
NHS Visitor Center
1210 Daisy Bates Dr.
Info: 501/374-1928 (NPS) or 503/374-1947 (Little Rock NPS)

Bill is Introduced to Fight Hepatitis

APAs have a much higher rate of hepatitis B and develop liver cancer at a much higher rate than other ethnic groups.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A bill to boost funding for Hepatitis education and research would reduce the prevalence of the potentially deadly disease, lawmakers say.

Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., has introduced H.R. 3794, or the “Viral Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Control and Prevention Act of 2009,” a bipartisan bill that health officials are hailing as the first-ever to address two major causes of liver cancer.

“Chronic Hepatitis B and C are silent killers, poised to strike millions of Americans and it is time for Congress to act in a concerted effort to educate particularly vulnerable communities as well as the general public,” said Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Lawmakers say the bill, which has a price tag of $90 million in 2011, would increase the ability of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support state health departments in their prevention, immunization and surveillance efforts.

Hepatitis B and C are highly contagious blood borne viruses that cause liver disease, liver cancer and premature death.

APAs have a much higher rate of Hepatitis B and develop liver cancer at a much higher rate than other ethnic groups. With early detection, Hepatitis B is treatable and Hepatitis C can be cured.

“It is vital that minority populations receive the care they need in an appropriate and effective manner, and this legislation will help make sure that happens,” said Rep. David Wu, D-Ore., a co-sponsor of the bill.

Whereabouts

Searching for a boy born on or around Feb. 16, 1947 in the Japanese Hospital in Los Angeles.

Please contact Nyla Nakano
nylawa@comcast.net
(206) 722-5152
9369 Beacon Ave. South
Seattle, WA 98118

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REVERSE MORTGAGE
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*

Los Angeles, CA
Oct. 6-Dec. 11
UCCLA’s Powell College Library
Asian Americans created an exhibition at the Powell College Library that traces four decades of Asian Americans who have contributed to UCLA.

For Information, contact Marjorie Lee at 310/825-2974.

Midwest

Twin Cities JACL’s Holiday Party for Kids
Edina, MN
Sun. Dec. 6
3-5 p.m.
Edina Community Lutheran Church
4113 W. 54th St.
Edina 55424

Join the Twin Cities JACL for an afternoon filled with fun, magic and a visit from Santa. They are collecting unwrapped toys for Families Moving Forward, which provides short-term shelter housing for homeless adults with children; and Southside Family Nurturing Center, which works with at-risk toddlers.

Pacific Northwest

Seattle JACL’s “New Year’s Eve Gala”
Seattle, WA
Dec. 31, 8 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Nitel Veils Hall
1212 South King Street
Join the Seattle JACL as they ring in 2010 with music, food and drink. Oizono, a traditional New Year’s soup, will be served at midnight. The cost: $50 per person.

For Info: Aien Matsunofu
akami@seattlejặcal.org

SF JACL’s Annual Spaghetti-Crab Feed
San Francisco, CA
Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m.
Chris’ United Presbyterian Church
1700 Sutter Street in San Francisco
Tickets $25.00 per person or two for $45.00 and are available at the Paper Tree in Japantown.

For tickets and info: sfjalc@yahoo.com, 415/641-1697

NCWNP JACL’s Hiroshima:
Spirit of the Season
San Francisco, CA
Dec. 19, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
Hotel Nikko

Celebrate the holidays with the NCWNP JACL District as they attend the ‘Christmas at the Roazz Room’ to enjoy an evening of holiday classics by jazz fusion group, Hiroshima. Tickets $47.50 each.

For info: Pam Yoshida, pam@yoko.net. Sign-up forms available at www.jacdnwwp.org.

Southern Calif.

Poston Camp III Reunion
Las Vegas, NV
April 5-7, 2010
Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino
For info: geo@ada@yahoo.com

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IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

Freire, Gloria M., 80
Sept. 19, Cleveland, OH. A member of the Cleveland Chapter JACL, Gloria was a social worker, assistant professor and chapter leader. She is survived by her husband, Luis, sons Michael (Jurate), Charles; 2 g.g.c.

Hashi, Hiroshi, 91
Oct. 2, Los Angeles, CA. Worked for about 40 years in the publishing business and served as the editor and publisher of the Kashiwa Minichi. He is survived by his son, Dr. Marc R. Abrams, daughter Cindy Abrams, cousins and friends.

Khara, Katomi John, 74
Sept. 29, Spokane, WA. Born in Auburn, WA, John worked for the city of Spokane until his retirement in 1988. He is survived by his mother, Shizue, brothers Frank (Diane), Bob (Joy), sisters Ayako Tanaka, Mary Barker, nieces and nephews.

Kim, Joe Hideo, 89
Oct. 18, Ontario, OR. A resident of Fruitland, ID. He is survived by his wife, Nobby, children, Riki Shimshiki, Masako (Ken) Teramura, Pauline Muth (Bob).

Kino, Nancy, 73
Sept. 28, Cleveland, OH. Barry is survived by his mother, Nancy (Larry) Massaro, Apryl (Rick) Bentley, 13 g.g.c., 14 g.c.

O'Brien, Barry, 56
Sept. 20, Cleveland, OH. Barry is survived by his wife, Janice Toyota, son Ken and mother Aileen O'Brien-Muhl (Bo).

Shijo, Fusako "Effie", 70
Aug. 11, Cleveland, OH. The wife of the late Yoko, she is survived by her son, Ronald (Susan); 2 g.c.; 3 g.g.c.

Seko, Sachi Wada, 82
Nov. 10, Salt Lake City, UT. She once wrote a regular column for the Pacific Citizen entitled, “From Happy Valley.” She is survived by her son, Alan Kent Seko. According to her wishes, she was cremated and her ashes scattered.

Takemura, Herbert Show, 80
Sept. 22, Osaka, CA. He worked as a computer programmer at the Omnibus High School District. He is survived by his wife, Sumiko, sisters Mary (Rev. Jack) Tayagayagi, Martha Tasui, sister-in-law Michiko (Jack) Hira, nieces and nephews.

Tamura, Kazuma J., 80
Oct. 25, Portland, OR. A longtime farmer in Trustide, OR. Survived by son Paul (Laura), daughter Pam (Mike) Opa, 3 g.c.

Takumamoto, Masata, 86
Oct. 8, Boise, ID. A prominent potato farmer of Blackfoot, ID. He’s credited with inventing and developing many popular farm implements, including the HeadStart Potato Planter Shoe, EZ Tarp system for trucks. Takumamoto was involved in the establishment of the Minidoka Relocation Center monument in 1979.

Xiong, Kham, 23
Nov. 5, Fort Hood, TX. PFC Kham Xiong was one of 15 victims killed in the shooting at Fort Hood Army Base in Texas. He grew up in California and moved to St. Paul, MN. He is survived by his wife, Shoua Her, 3 children, parents and 10 siblings.

Yorioka, Kengo, 97
Sept. 10, Vancouver, WA. A longtime resident of Spokane, WA. He is survived by son, Richard, daughters Patricia, Kichiko Machida, Judy Wong; 6 g.c., 3 g.g.c.

Apply Now For 2010 JACL Scholarships

JACL is calling for applicants for its 2010 scholarship program. Based on the earnings of the scholarship endowment fund, the JACL awards about 30 scholarships, totaling over $50,000 each year.

The freshman applications must be submitted to the scholarship program are now available. Information and applications for the scholarship program are now available at www.jaclaz.org.

For more information, contact
David Kawamoto at 619-287-7583
dkawamoto@aol.com

Silver Pin recipients Dr. Richard Matsutani (left) and Peggy Matsutani (second from right) with JACL National President Larry Oda (right) and his wife Anne.

JACL Chapters Celebrate their 75th

Two JACL chapters have commemorated their 75th anniversaries in separate celebrations.

Arizona JACL hosted its 75th anniversary luncheon on Nov. 8 at the Sherton Phoenix Downton Hotel. About 275 guests, including National JACL President Larry Oda and over 20 JACLers from Southern California and Las Vegas, attended the event.

Oda gave the keynote speech on Japanese American history and the significance of Arizona chapter over the past 75 years. For the first time, chapter members who have actively served for at least 10 consecutive years were awarded the JACL Silver Pin.

The honorees were: Miyoko Arzba, Doris Asano, Toshiko Chavers, Nancie Hanakawa, Kathy Inouhisa, Mas Inohisa, Barbara Islanda, Jo Ann Kuma, Peggy Matsutani, Dr. Richard Matsutani, Helen Matsutani, Kaye Minato, Muriel Miyamoto, Michele Namba, Ted Namba, Akiko Okabayashi, Gledys Sallit, Joyce Shiota, Mary Toddano, Masako Takiguchi, Marilyn Tang and Selko Watkins.

On the Web: www.jaclaz.org

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL marked its milestone at an Oct. 4 gala themed, “Honoring Our Past... Defining Our Future.” Over 150 attended the celebration at the Seascape Golf Course in Aptos, CA.

Distinguished guests included: Alan Nishi, NCWNP district governor; Patty Wada, NCWNP district regional director; Jeanne Watsuki Houston, co-author of Farewell to Manzanar; Milo and Reiko Yoshino of Diablo Valley JACL; and Rev. Shousui Hanayama and his family.

Special recognition was given to senior JACLers including: George and Frances Hoshiyama, Dr. Masako Miura, Nancy Iwami, Fujuyi Iwamoto, Ray and Louise Sakaguchi, Ikuo Sato, Masako Yoshida, Tom Mine, Asako Yamashita, Ida Takahashi and Kiyoko Kamei.

Ten past chapter presidents also attended the event, including: April Oda, Yoko Umeda, Ben Umeda, Paul Hira, Tom Mine, Masae Hashimoto, Dr. Art Hayashi, Lester Aoki, Mas Hashimoto and Paul Kameko.

The Watsonville chapter was established in 1934 with 35 members led by President Tom Matsuda.

The chapter’s centennial celebration is planned for Oct. 8, 2034.

On the Web: www.watsonvillesantacruzjacL.org

DOR Events Set at Merced Assembly Center

Feb. 20, 2010 will be a historic day for the Japanese American community in California’s Merced area. A Day of Remembrance dinner and dedication ceremony will be held at the Merced Assembly Center to unveil a commemorative monument honoring the center’s former internees.

The assembly center, located at the Merced County Fairgrounds, closed in September 1942. During its operations, the Merced Assembly Center held more than 5,000 Japanese Americans from the nearby counties including: Merced, Stanislaus, Humboldt, Sacramento, Napa, and Yolo.

Former Merced Assembly Center internees are invited to the dedication and dinner. The highlight will be the unveiling of the monument, which consists of a wall listing the names of former internees, five storyboard, five benches, and a sculpture of a young girl sitting on top of timelines.

A special $84 room rate has been arranged at the Courtyard by Marriott located at 750 Motel Drive in Merced for Feb. 19 to 20. Ask for JACL rates when calling 209-725-1221.

For more information, contact
Adronice Haya,
AKWasa@comcast.net
209-526-5966

Janet Fujimoto
june127@gmail.com
209-723-6588
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