

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL



**INSIDE**  
What do your  
JACL national  
board members  
see for 2010?

YEAR  
OF  
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*Omedeto!*

# The *P.C.* is a Reflection of Our Community

By Margie Yamamoto

There's something about the New Year that always draws me back to my Japanese roots. It's not just our traditional New Year's celebration with all the special foods to ensure health, wealth and happiness, but I'm flooded with memories of my family's stories.

For years I've been working on my family's history for the benefit of our Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei generations and beyond. I began by interviewing my parents and, after they passed away, my relatives and our close friends. I thought it was going to be a simple telling of their life stories, but the more research I did, the more challenging it became.

To understand who they were, I realized I had to understand the times in which they lived and how it affected them. My father was born in Japan in 1900 and my mother in Hilo, Hawaii in 1904. In their lifetimes they experienced two world wars, the Great Depression, Vietnam, the Cold War, and more. And let's not forget the introduction of everything we take for granted: automobiles, movies, television, airplanes and computers — the list is endless. I've been lucky enough to gather some of the facts of their lives, but it wasn't until I put them into the context of history that the story gained more depth.

For example, my father never gave me a direct answer when I asked what year he immigrated to



America. After his death, a cousin in Japan told me that he came to here illegally through Mexico. He worked as a migrant laborer picking tomatoes until he reached Los Angeles to join his brother who had immigrated legally years earlier. This meant he came sometime after the 1924 Asian Exclusion Act prevented all Asians from immigrating to the U.S. During World War II, fearing deportation after the war, he told camp authorities he came in 1923. From talking to relatives in Japan, we've narrowed his actual arrival to 1925 or 1926.

I'm still trying to find out what life was like in the small fishing village where he was born. Times must have been very difficult for the family to send their two eldest sons to America. In the 1920s the cost of sending someone to America was the equivalent to the cost of building a house! Their expectations were spurred by stories of a man from their village who went to America and

came back a wealthy man.

I'm counting on the *Pacific Citizen* as a future resource as I try to put my parents story into the context of the 1930s and 40s. As the only Japanese American newspaper published uninterrupted for 81 years, it provides a peek at life in the JA community during those years, especially during the war years when other JA newspapers ceased publication. Then, just as it is today, the *P.C.* was a reflection of our community and our lives.

Last year the *P.C.* received a small grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program to begin digitizing its archives and eventually make it available to JACL members on the *P.C.* Web site. Once complete, this will be a very valuable added member benefit.

I've heard other JA family histories and know that our story is not unique. There are so many stories out there that need to be saved. My personal regret is that I didn't begin talking to my father sooner. I wish I had details about his walk from Mexico to California.

As you put together your 2010 New Year's resolutions, I hope you make saving your family stories a priority. Even if you think your children aren't interested now, they will thank you in the future. ■

*Margie Yamamoto is the chair of the Pacific Citizen editorial board. She is also a member of the New England JACL.*

## 81 Years of Covering JACL, the APA Community

By Caroline Aoyagi-Stom

It's hard to believe that 13 years have passed since I left my hometown of Toronto, Canada to begin my new job as assistant editor of the *Pacific Citizen*. So much has changed since then, but one thing has remained steadfast: the *P.C.*'s commitment to covering JACL news and the larger Asian Pacific American community.

In issue after issue the *P.C.* gives a voice to the news that affects and is important to the APA community, something mainstream media still fails at woefully. From the fight to preserve the internment camps and the battle to win a postage stamp for our honored World War II veterans, to JACL's support of same-sex marriage and the portrayal of APAs in media, the *P.C.* has been there and we are about to celebrate our 81st year.

Last year was a sad year for many fellow APA newspapers including the closure of *AsianWeek*, *Hokubei Mainichi* and the *Nichi Bei Times*. In 2010 the *P.C.* is one of the few remaining APA vernaculars left standing and one of the only national media outlets reporting APA news.

It's a situation the *P.C.* staff here does not take lightly and the proud tradition here of reporting JACL and APA community news continues in our semi-monthly print edition and our increasingly popular Web site ([www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)).

Recently you may have noticed several structural and design changes here at the *P.C.* Last year we moved to a magazine style format with an emphasis on JACL and national community



news that continue to be popular with our core readership, the Nisei and Sansei.

Meanwhile the *P.C.* Web site has moved towards an emphasis on youth-oriented, popular culture stories with an emphasis on covering entertainment news, articles that continue to be the most popular items on the site. In addition, the *P.C.* has added more new media sites such as our popular blog, *P.C. Beat*, and sites on Facebook and Twitter.

*'Ironically, in an era of decreasing advertising revenue, the P.C. in 2009 surpassed its advertising goal.'*

And as always, JACL members and subscribers can log on to exclusive areas of the *P.C.* Web site by logging on to the "My *P.C.*" section. You can even download a PDF version of the printed *P.C.* to read at your leisure.

It's really two mediums for the price of one, since the *P.C.* Web site continues to be funded solely

with funds raised by the staff here through the Spring Campaign Fund. As JACL members, part of your dues pays for the print edition of the semi-monthly newspaper but the Web site is an added bonus. And although JACL funds part of the *P.C.* budget, the *P.C.* is also responsible for

raising fifty percent of its own monies through advertising, non-member subscribers and the ever-popular Holiday Issue.

Still, some on the national board are calling for the elimination of the printed *P.C.* something that is not surprising considering the recent closure of several newspapers. But we must also keep in mind that the *P.C.* is not like these other papers, ethnic or mainstream.

For one thing, the *P.C.* is a non-profit newspaper funded not only by JACL but also by revenues raised by the limited *P.C.* staff. The *P.C.*'s unique structure of being partially funded by the dues of JACL members and our non-member subscribers has helped us survive these recent difficult times.

Ironically, in an era of decreasing advertising revenue, the *P.C.* in 2009 surpassed its advertising goal. Also our Spring Campaign, funds that help support our *P.C.* Web site and reporter, raised the most revenue ever. And our recent Holiday Issue raised more money than the previous year. All of this despite the nightmarish stories coming out of the newspaper industry.

But ultimately, whether the *P.C.* print edition continues to survive is up to our readership, both JACL and non-member subscribers. So we want to hear from you. In this issue on page 15 you'll find a coupon that will let us know that you wish to get your *P.C.* news exclusively online. This will give us a better idea of what our readership wants.

Until then, the *P.C.* staff is committed to bringing you our award winning print edition and our popular Web site now and far into the future. ■

*Caroline Aoyagi-Stom is the Pacific Citizen executive editor.*

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# The 98th Percentile

As a JACLeR, you are a member of a very elite group of leaders in the community.

By Larry Oda

Happy New Year!

I look forward to a healthy and prosperous 2010. Happily, JACL ended 2009 on a high note because we survived the market downturn. The prudent management of our budget and the recovery of the market brought our investment balances back to a point where we are able to erase our structural deficit and again distribute some of the earnings.

We begin our 81st year with high hopes and a deeper understanding of the needs of our organization. In August, Dana Nakano published a JACL needs assessment report sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which made me reflect on how the organization has evolved.

We started in 1929 as an organization that fought discrimination and worked for the community. At that time, the Nisei, as American citizens, could play a part in the political process and direct their destinies. In the earliest part of the 150-year history of our presence in the United States, there were over 400 discriminatory laws written to limit Japanese American participation in American society. Three examples of these restrictive laws are:



the 1885 amendment to the Naturalization Act of 1790 that allowed blacks to become naturalized citizens but excluded Asians; The Cable Act which caused American women to lose their citizenship if they married a Japanese immigrant; and the Alien Land Laws that prevented Issei from owning property. The effort to erase these laws and to realize other great things for our community came from the JACL, from you.

You are a member of a very elite group. According to the 2000 Census, there are approximately 1.1 million people of Japanese heritage living in the United States. Approximately 350,000 are Japanese nationals living here on a long-term or permanent basis so that means there are about 750,000 of us, JAs.

JACL now has about 15,000 members, or less than two-percent of the Japanese population in the U.S. It is through the leadership of this two-percent that virtually all of the accom-

plishments of our community have been realized. It is important for us to maintain this effort and JACL must expand your training to prepare you for leadership in the larger community.

JACL has many strengths. Besides being an effective champion for civil rights, such as: having a nationwide network of chapters; credibility and presence in the seats of government; and the expertise to develop political leaders. I've always held that JACL is a perfect training ground for those in our community with political aspirations, whether it's for adopting a policy initiatives or running for elected office.

We have excellent programs to train our members and give insight into the political process. Since 1983 the Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference has trained 300 of our members and we have now started a

Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference to engage our younger members.

You have already demonstrated your leadership by being a JACL member, and I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to become more engaged in our community and our nation. Our mission is to make a difference in the world and public service is the way for us to continue to be effective and successful.

The national board will soon begin preparing for our biennial national convention in Chicago. We will establish and prioritize programs for the upcoming year and develop the budget to accomplish these programs. This is your opportunity to influence the direction of the organization by being or directing a chapter delegate, participating in one of the operating committees, or running for a national board position.

I look forward to hearing about you and your continued successes on behalf of Japanese Americans, and the JACL. ■

*Larry Oda is the JACL national president.*

## Decade of Decision

We need to mold our organizational structure into an instrument that can meet current challenges and fill the needs of today's generation.

By Floyd Mori



In looking back at the past decade, the JACL has faced severe issues that were part of a national and international era of turbulence and instability. We could characterize this time as the "Decade of Determination" because of the determination of the members of the JACL to work through the hard times as they had done in the past. We have weathered this storm of economic recession and in doing so, it has made us aware of things that need to be done for the future.

This next decade could be the JACL's "Decade of Decision" because we will now have to make some critical decisions that will mold the structure and purpose of the JACL to serve the needs of the Asian Pacific American communities for decades to come. I believe it is time to reshape and redirect the mission of the JACL in order to capture the energy and vision of a new era of ensuring human dignity and social justice for all.

While ensuring that civil rights are at the core of chapter and national activities, maintaining equality in access of our nation's liberties and bounties is of great importance. We must not only fight discrimination, but we must build opportunities to grow and develop leadership skills that contribute to the potency of a growing ethnic diversity.

We have long spoken of the youth being our future. Now we are actually developing programs that help our youth to learn and develop leadership skills by becoming more involved. We must make a decision to work harder within our local chapters to encourage our youth to take advantage of the available programs.

Part of the motivation to become involved is centered in the understanding of who we are and from whence we have come. Understanding APA heritage is critical to the

mission of the JACL. The youth includes those who are part of the army of young professionals who are seeking to make a mark in their chosen profession.

The nature of our economic system requires us to try to make the best use of scarce resources. We will have to make some critical economic decisions regarding a major expenditure in our budget. Communicating with our membership has been an essential part of the JACL. However, we must face the reality of the high costs of printing and mailing and shift our communications more towards the internet. The internet allows us to distribute current news, happenings and features to a larger universe of readers, and thus our impact on society grows.

The JACL Web site contains much valuable information for our membership. The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper also has a Web site. Anyone who would like to receive the JACL e-mails and alerts should send an e-mail to [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org) to get on the mailing list.

Another critical decision we will face entails the structure of our governance. In a highly competitive world of scarce resources, we will need to add more professionalism to our national board that matches the commitment of those who offer to run for various offices. This can be done by adding at-large corporate and professional members to our national board to give us the financial and organizational talents needed to operate a non-profit organization in a competitive environment. We need to reach

See FLOYD MORI/Page 5

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# Happy New Year 2010

## I am pleased to report that there has been little reduction in the programs under my vice presidency.

By David Kawamoto

My wife Carol and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you the happiest of new years. And, thank you all so much for all that you do. All JACL members and chapters work for their communities in so many ways. Keep up the great work and please know that your efforts are truly appreciated.

During the last year, National JACL has faced some financial challenges. However, I am pleased to report that there has again been little reduction in the programs under my vice presidency. This is an update on several of my office's programs.

### Washington, D.C. Gala

National JACL held its third annual Gala last September. Floyd and Irene Mori along with the Washington, D.C. chapter and many volunteers helped to make this event another success for the JACL. In addition to adding needed funds, this year's event appropriately honored all of our community's military veterans.

### JACL Washington, D.C. Leadership Program

State Farm Insurance continues to generously support the JACL's most successful program. The graduates of this program are now

JACL leaders at the chapter, district and national levels. Most of the members of the current national board are graduates of the program. Among many other things, the program is a great opportunity for some of our chapter members to learn how they can become more involved in the JACL's national grassroots efforts. The 2010 program is tentatively scheduled for March 5-9. Anyone interested in attending is urged to contact his/her JACL district council.

### Masaoka Congressional Fellowship

For so many years, Dr. Tom Tamaki selflessly gave his service as chair of the Masaoka Fellowship. Being unable to find someone willing to take on the formidable task of filling Dr. Tom's shoes, this program is now under the supervision of the JACL's Washington, D.C., office. The program continues to be one of the best fellowships on "the Hill."

### Planned Giving

A form used for identifying people who have remembered JACL in any will or other testamentary document was distributed to the district governors. This form will identify future funding and help JACL with its long-term planning. The form has also proved help-



ful in educating the membership on ways they can remember the JACL in their estate planning.

### Annual Giving

Thank you so much to all our members and friends who made their tax-deductible donations to the JACL.

### Scholarships

For the last eight years, Carol and I have been honored to have voluntarily coordinated the National JACL Scholarship Program. We are extremely proud of the progress made by the scholarship program during this time. Seven new scholarships were added to the program, after only three new scholarships had been added during the previous 15 years. We added JACL involvement to the scoring criteria and increased chapter involvement with the recipients. As a result, we now see many past scholarship recipients serving on JACL boards at the national, district and chapter levels.

In 2009, Carol and I, for the second consecutive year, financed and conducted a fund-raising drive targeting JACL's scholarship recipients. We were again pleased by the generous donations from the past recipients to the scholarship endowment.

We are very grateful that the Chicago chapter — whose members are preparing to host our 2010 JACL National Convention — is evaluating the freshman scholarships for this biennium. The committee, comprised of members from the Seattle and Lake Washington chapters, evaluated the other scholarships (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative and performing arts, and financial aid) in 2009. For 2010, the Portland chapter will evaluate these other scholarships. Please join us in thanking all of these wonderful volunteers.

The Informational brochure and applications for the 2010 National JACL Scholarship Program can be found on the JACL's Web site: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

It is with great regret that Carol and I have informed the national board that we will be unable to continue our work with the scholarship program after this biennium. Even with my recent retirement, it has become increasingly difficult to find the 500 hours annually needed to coordinate this program.

We are so proud of the programs of the JACL. They educate and serve our community. A warm thank you goes out to all JACLers. Please continue to support all things JACL.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns. I can be reached at my home 619/287-7583 or via e-mail at: [dhkawamoto@aol.com](mailto:dhkawamoto@aol.com). ■

*David Kawamoto is the JACL vice president for planning and development.*

## 2009 Marked With Success, But Much Work for JACL Remains

We can and must sustain our dedication and focused efforts in the coming year to bring to fruition many more positive changes.

By Ron Katsuyama

I had the privilege of attending a Congressional Town Hall meeting for Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) in June and participating in discussions with other civil rights leaders, elected officials, and White House staff on key civil rights issues, including health care reform. It was a wonderful prelude to historically significant progress that has been made this year, and we can be proud that the JACL has been at the forefront among Asian Pacific Americans in educating and organizing efforts to advance this, and other, civil and human rights concerns.

Several pieces of civil rights legislation were passed in 2009. Among these were the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (also known as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act), compensation to Filipino veterans of World War II, and House and Senate bills that offered hope for more equitable health insurance coverage for those with low income or pre-existing conditions.

Other important government initiatives include the creation of a new White House Initiative on APIAs and funding from the National Park Service for several WWII concentration camp preservation projects, both of which can help JACL achieve its educational mission.

There were also instances of successful opposition to pending legislation



See RON KATSUYAMA/Page 13



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# Taking JACL to a New Frontier

We have the tools and the technology to help us stay better connected. Let's use them smartly to help JACL with its mission.

By Toshi Abe

I would like to first congratulate the *Pacific Citizen* for its 80-plus years of publication as the voice of the Japanese American community.

In a big way, I credit the *P.C.* for my becoming a JACL member. I was visiting my uncle in Alameda about 15 years ago and saw a copy of his *P.C.* lying on a table. I was living in New Jersey then and seeing that *P.C.* made me start thinking about how much I had missed the JA community I grew up with in San Francisco.

When I returned home, I joined the JACL and became a member of the Philadelphia chapter. Through the chapter, I became acquainted with many long-time members. And one of them, Grayce Uyehara, asked me if I would join their board. I did and after serving as their chapter president and now as the EDC governor, I have not regretted my decision one bit. So I thank my uncle's copy of the *Pacific Citizen* for motivating me to join the JACL.

I expect my two-year term will be filled with many challenging issues. As a rookie member of the national board, I quickly became acquainted at my first meeting with the many issues confronting us — from the current fight to keep an animal feedlot and high tension power line from infringing upon the Minidoka historical site to civil rights issues like the ongoing fight for equal marriage rights in many states.

I am concerned about the U.S.'s treatment of its Arab Americans. I find it frightening that in a recent report about Guantanamo the press played up the fact that one out of five detainees freed from that prison later engage in terrorist acts instead of also mentioning that four out of five do not, and that they were unjustly imprisoned for years.

I feel upbeat about the prospects for a national health insurance plan (despite the compromises made along the way) that will finally bring health insurance coverage to tens of millions of Americans who currently do without. When my wife and I travel to other countries that have national health plans, I always feel like the citizens there are better off because they don't have to worry that a major illness

See TOSHI ABE/Page 14



# Mentorship is the Key to JACL's Success in 2010

By Brandon Mita

To all my fellow JACLers, a Happy New Year! As an aspiring Asian Pacific American lawyer and activist in the community, I am continually astounded by the tremendous work and commitment by our community at the grassroots level. JACL would cease to be the empowering force that it currently is without your efforts. Now, this is not a cheap attempt to patronize, but rather, it is truly an honor to work beside many of you and I am touched to have the privilege of talking and collaborating with you during my term as national youth representative.

When I first started out in JACL as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois at Chicago, my knowledge of the organization, its history, as well as my network in the community were extremely limited. I cannot say that I would have been in the organization very long if it weren't for some wonderful people in the Chicago chapter, namely Alec MacDonald and Megan Nakano, who took it upon themselves to introduce me to local folks in the community and assist me in the creation of a powerful youth program. Later, it was Bill Yoshino and John Tateishi who took me under their wings by imparting their collective knowledge of the community and how to be an effective advocate and leader.

Having said that, I strongly believe in the power of mentorship as a tool to inspire, create, and mold young JACLers. In my discussions with youth from across the nation, the one significant factor that leads young JACLers to continue along the JACL leadership path is having one or more individuals at the chapter, district, or national level who are



willing to proactively be guides for persons like myself.

In that spirit, at the 2010 JACL National Convention in Chicago, the National/Youth Student Council is launching a program that seeks to incorporate these basic aforementioned principles of leadership and mentorship. The most critical factor is that you, as a delegate, will play an integral role in this process. In short, youth members from across the nation who sign up to attend the convention will be paired with a delegate during national council sessions. Delegates, apart from their duties on the convention floor, will have the ability to work with their assigned youth member, teach them about JACL, impart knowledge about the national convention processes, and hopefully, construct a transformative and long-lasting relationship.

Delegates will not be responsible for youth members outside of the national council sessions. However, delegates are encouraged to continue the dialogue with youth members independently. Delegates will be informed of their youth pairing prior to convention and will have the opportunity to communicate with them before the convention kicks off. Youth members will be provided with all of the same convention materials (i.e., the proposed resolutions and by-law changes, program for action and budget and election

materials) before the commencement of the convention. Delegates will have the opportunity to opt-out of this program if they so choose. More explicit details will be provided on the 2010 National JACL Convention Web site in the coming weeks.

In closing, during my time at law school, I am constantly bombarded by the echoes of peers and professors who stress the importance of relationship development and networking. In this day and age, these two principles form the building blocks of success in any profession. As a participant, either on the youth end or as a delegate, you have the power to meet some inspirational individuals and shape each other's aspirations, dreams, and futures. I hope you are as excited as I am to launch this program.

Brandon Mita is the JACL national youth representative.

## FLOYD MORI (Continued from page 3)

out more aggressively to bring needed talent to help govern, direct and raise funds for a new era of cooperative volunteerism and professionalism. This may also include broadening our membership base beyond the shrinking Japanese American demographic

It is my contention that when we refer to "American" values, these values are actually those basic values that were brought with an immigrant community. There are no stronger family and human values than those held by strong ethnic communities. From the beginning, hard work, respect for parents, strong family ties, and honesty have been the values that have caused positive growth and progress in this great nation. It is critical to understand that the modern American motivation of greed and getting ahead by any means is not what our cultural heritage teaches us. Thus keeping in touch with our roots with the inclusion of an international facet is very appropriate for the future.

These are some basic new directions that I see as necessary for a vibrant JACL in the next decade. We have begun the process of adjusting our program mix and staff direction. Now decisions have to be made to mold our organizational structure into an instrument that will yield an organization that can meet current challenges and fill the needs of today's generation. ■

Floyd Mori is the JACL national director.

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# JACL be Nimble in the New Decade

It's time to start brainstorming ways to change our founding documents to make JACL a more cost-effective organization.



By Chip Larouche

Happy New Year from the Pacific Northwest! As the newly elected governor for PNW district council, I thought I'd share some thoughts about a topic that has been on my mind for several years since I don't have any "accomplishments" to talk about yet. That topic would be whether JACL should start thinking about having a constitutional convention.

As a third generation French Canadian American, I find myself at an ethnic disadvantage on topics such as preservation of various elements of the Japanese culture. That doesn't diminish my love for all the things JACL has done in the past and the great stories and achievements that JACL has experienced over its 81 years of existence.

It has become clear to me that the JACL Constitution and Bylaws — originally written before things like the internet, cell phones and e-mail existed — may not be able to be amended piecemeal to accommodate the new business environment that JACL must put itself into to survive in the 21st century.

JACL, like many other non-profit organizations, expends a lot of energy in balancing its revenues to its expenses. The constitution lays out a fairly significant bureaucracy that worked fairly well with higher levels of membership but it seems that a smaller membership needs something a little more streamlined and flexible in order to spend more time on doing its main missions rather than going through continuous cycles of budget

preparation, budget shortfalls, and budget revisions.

How many organizations or businesses that were around before World War II are still using a regional headquarters' model? There aren't that many. How many of these organizations invest a quarter of a million dollars in their "official publication" then give that to an independent editorial board with no direct way for the organization's leadership to put their message into it? I would guess only one. JACL enjoys saying that it has 113 chapters nationwide, but an astonishing number of these are not actually represented at the conventions, even with proxies that only take minimal effort to prepare.

Every organization has to periodically evaluate its structure to see if it still makes sense, and I would contend that it's time for JACL to do that soon. Attempting to revamp the constitution and bylaws in a constitutional convention would probably be a good start. The fact that we voted to have annual conventions, with the first "new" odd-year convention to occur in 2011, might be a good opportunity to consider this idea.

My background for this kind of suggestion comes from my military experience. For three of my 21 years in the Army, I was assigned to the Base Realignment and Closure Office. Our task was to evaluate the Army base structure that worked really well supporting the Army that fought during World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam and decide how best to streamline the base structure so that fewer Army bases would more optimally support our fighting forces.

Clearly we weren't popular with communities where we closed their bases (sorry Sacramento!) but after all the pain and anxiety that comes with reorganization, the Army logistics infrastructure become much more nimble, and in most cases, the communities who lost their base were able to convert them to better and more modern uses.

I'm not saying that this is easy, and of course JACL wouldn't have Congressional money set aside for base cleanup, but clearly it probably would be useful to set aside some significant amount of time to brainstorm ways to change our founding documents to see if we could make JACL a more nimble and more cost-effective organization.

I think it's worth a try. ■

*Chip Larouche is the PNW district governor.*

# A Reality Check

Without the JACL we lose one of our civil rights stalwarts that sometimes gets taken for granted.



By Brian Morishita

When considering our ongoing struggle with declining JACL membership I sometimes thrust myself into the role of my own devil's advocate by questioning if the JACL is still needed. Is our organization a victim of its own success? Do we need to come to terms with the possibility that our decline in membership is reflective of a

diminished or non-existent need for the JACL?

These are harsh and painful questions for me to pose but nevertheless important when doing a "reality check" of our organization's future.

After short reflection I am always jolted back to the here and now where I pay attention to my surroundings whether on the local, regional, or national level. Most recently in my small community of Idaho Falls, Idaho, I witnessed a couple of events that showed me not only the need for JACL, but also how much work still needs to be done.

Because my regular barber was on vacation, I decided to go to a different barber in Idaho Falls. While sitting in the barber's chair an elderly man unknown to me expressed his opinion of the athletic skills of Seattle Mariners baseball star Ichiro Suzuki. Although not spoken in an intentionally disparaging way he nevertheless freely used the word "Jap" when referring to Ichiro.

Caught off guard and not sure of how to confront the man, any indecision on my part was resolved when this man left the barbershop immediately afterwards. On the

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Apr. 7-Apr. 20	Korea Highlights & Drama "Hallyu" Tour
Apr. 26-May 6	Discover Croatia
May 19-May 26	Swiss Highlights
June 8-June 10	Summertime in Las Vegas: Shows: TBA
Jul. 04-Jul. 14	Summer Japan
Jul. 12-Jul. 23	Alaska Cruise & Tour on Celebrity
August	The Best of Malaysia
Sep. 16-Sep. 27	Northern Japan: Islands of Hokkaido & Tohoku
Sep. 20-Sep. 27	Branson, Memphis & Nashville
Oct. 5-Oct. 17	Exotic China
Oct. 6-Oct. 20	New England Color & Eastern Canada
Oct. 21-Nov. 1	Autumn Japan & Hong Kong
Nov. 2-Nov. 14	The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Christmas in Las Vegas: Shows: TBA
Dec. 2-Dec 16	Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos

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- Mar 29 **Spring Japan Classic "Cherry Blossoms"** - 11 Days  
\$3995-Tokyo-Takayama-Nara-Kobe-Takahashi-Hiroshima-Miyajima-Inland Sea-Shodo Island-Kyoto.
- Apr 12 **New Japan Tour "Off the Beaten Track"** - 11 Days  
Fukuoka-Hirado-Amakusa-Kokura-Bullet Train-Shizuoka-Lake Kawaguchi-Mt. Fuji-Nasu-Nikko-Tokyo
- May 5 **Great Lakes Adventure** - 9 Days - \$2595  
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- Jun 6 **America Motorcoach Tour** - 12 Days - \$2395  
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- Jun 22 **Summer Japan "Family Tour"** - 10 Days - \$3695  
Under 12 \$3395-Tokyo-Nikko-Nasu-Bullet Train-Kyoto Inland Sea-Shodo Island-Miyajima-Hiroshima-Osaka.
- Jul 20 **American Heritage Tour** - 9 Days - \$2495  
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- Oct 11 Hokkaido/Tohoku - Oct 18 Otherside of Japan
- Nov 1 Fall Japan Classic - Nov 11 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku

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See BRIAN MORISHITA/Page 14

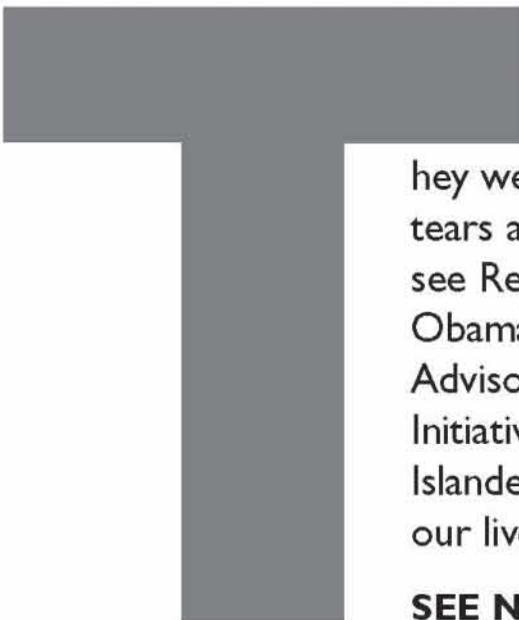


**NISEI DEGREES**

Assemblyman Warren Furutani's Assembly Bill 37 called on the University of California and California State University system to honor their former World War II students.

Frank Inami (*saluting*), represented his good friend, George Masaaki Fukui, at the UC Davis ceremony in December. Fukui met Inami in 1939 at UC Berkeley before he enrolled at UC Davis.

# THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



hey were the events that moved us to tears and made us clap our hands in joy — see Rep. Mike Honda (*right*) after President Obama re-established the President's Advisory Commission and White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Relive the moments that shaped our lives in photos from 2009.

**SEE NEXT PAGES FOR PHOTOS >>**



# NATIONAL NEWS

## LOVE & PROP. 8

The California Supreme Court's decision to uphold **Proposition 8** — which defines marriage as between a man and woman — left same-sex couples like Eileen Ma (left) and Suyapa Portillo in legal limbo. Across the nation, the battle for marriage equality continues to be waged in court rooms, making it the civil rights issue of the 21st century, activists say.



## HEY, NEWSMAKER!

APA leaders that captured national headlines in 2009



Gary Locke (right) became U.S. secretary of commerce.



PHOTO: ROBERT TURTI/VA

Eric Shinseki and Tammy Duckworth were confirmed to head up the Department of Veterans Affairs.



PHOTO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

Stuart Ishimaru became the acting chair of the EEOC.

## LING & LEE

In August, the world was relieved at the return of **Laura Ling** (below) and **Euna Lee** from their North Korean prison.



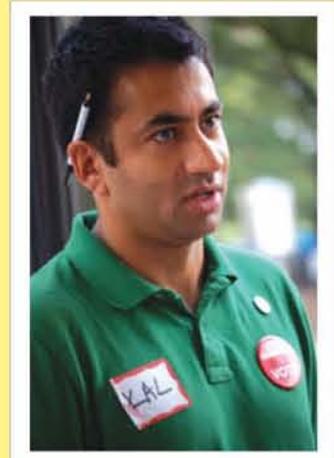
PHOTO: MICHAEL GROSS/STATE DEPARTMENT

## FREE JOURNALIST

**Roxana Saberi** (left) captured national attention in January after she was arrested in Iran. Since her return last May, she has met with many leaders including Sec. of State Hillary Clinton.

## FIGHTING HATE

JACL led the fight against Paramount Pictures' summer comedy, 'The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard,' for an anti-Asian scene. Studio executives have since met with the civil rights group proving again that comedy doesn't excuse racism.



Kalpen Modi became the associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

# NATIONAL NEWS



PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN STAFF

In a year that saw the demise of storied APA newspapers like *AsianWeek*, *Hokubei Mainichi* and the *Nichi Bei Times* (inset), the *Pacific Citizen* crossed over into its eighth decade of covering the APA community.



PHOTO: CHAD J. MCNEELEY/DOD

U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff speaks with Medal of Honor recipient George 'Joe' Sakato at the 65th Anniversary of the Rescue of the 'Lost Battalion' Tribute Dinner in Houston, Texas. In 1944 the 442nd RCT rescued the 141st Infantry Regiment in the Vosges Mountains in Northern France. For many men from both regiments, it was a reunion of a lifetime.



Homer, Marge and their famous animated children were officially immortalized on commemorative U.S. postage stamps.

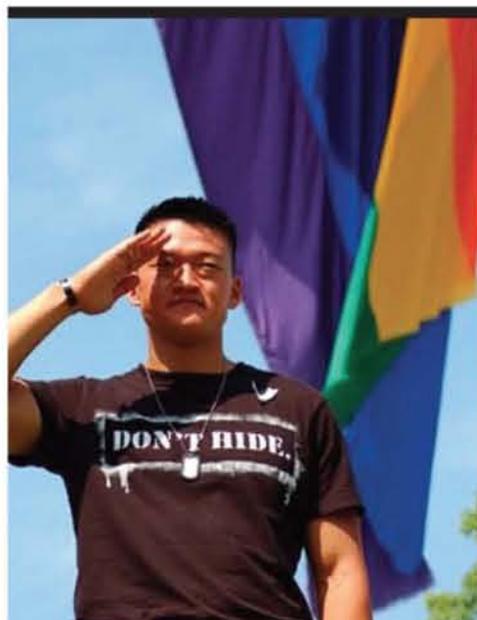
But there has still been no such recognition for the WWII Nisei veterans.

It's a fight community groups say they will continue.



## BENEFITS FOR FILIPINO VETS

After years of fighting for the same benefits as the men they fought alongside, Filipino veterans saw the passage of *The Filipino World War II Veterans Equity Compensation* provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The provision provided about \$198 million to the veterans.



## DO ASK, DO TELL

Lt. Dan Choi, an Iraq War veteran, got fired from the New York Army National Guard for saying three little words: 'I am gay.'

So Choi, 28, set out to overturn the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy.



In October, the Army allowed the first commissioned officer to be court-martialed for refusing to go to Iraq to resign.

First Lt. Ehren Watada was granted discharge 'under other than honorable conditions,' said his attorney Kenneth Kagan.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



A coalition of supporters, including **JACL**, came together to oppose a planned confined animal feeding operation and a proposed 500-kilovolt electric transmission line, which could bisect the heart of the **Minidoka Historic Site**.



The JACL held a successful Washington, D.C. Gala honoring veterans and their supporters.



At the last JACL Tri-District Conference in Fresno, Calif., the **Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial** was dedicated.

A bronze water fountain, designed and fabricated by renowned artist Gerard Tsutakawa from Seattle, stands at the center of the plaza. Inspired by the work of his father, sculptor George Tsutakawa, the Remembrance Fountain brings together the elements of heaven, earth, man and life.



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

APA community groups in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo voiced concern over Metro's plan to connect the Blue Line and Gold Line transit systems in Little Tokyo.

# IN MEMORIAM



**Judge Sandra Otaka** was a community advocate who helped overturn the conviction of Fred Korematsu. She was the first APA to be elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in Illinois.

**Ronald Takaki** was a professor emeritus of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and a prolific scholar of U.S. race relations.



**Nao Takasugi** was a longtime political leader and JACL member.

He served six years in the California State Assembly before terming out of office in 1998.

**Art Koga** was an active Honolulu JACL member. He also served as JACL secretary/treasurer on the national board from 2000 to 2004.



**Togo Tanaka** was a former journalist and businessman. His contributions as a journalist included the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper.

**Shinkichi Tajiri** was a renowned artist and sculptor who moved to Amsterdam in 1956. He was also the brother of WWII P.C. editor Larry Tajiri.



**Ruth Y. Hashimoto** was a longtime JACLer who was the first female president of the New Mexico JACL in 1954.

### NATIONAL BOARD LEADERS



JACL national board members took on challenges in 2009, including how to weather the economic downturn.



Community leaders participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial.

## American Holiday Travel

### 2010 Tour Schedule

- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL** FEB 6-14  
Sapporo, Abashiri, Lake Akan, Sounkyo, Asahikawa, Otaru, Shiraoi, Noboribetsu.  
See Five Snow/Ice Festivals. Ride icebreaker ship "Aurora".
- SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY CRUISE** FEB 7-24  
Buenos Aires, tour to Iguassu Falls, Montevideo, Falkland Islands, Cape Horn, Ushuaia, Strait of Magellan, Punta Arenas, Santiago. HOLLAND AMERICA Veendam Ship.
- JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM HOLIDAY TOUR** MAR 28-APR 9  
Fukuoka, Hagi, Akiyoshidai, Iwakuni, Miyahima, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Naoshima, Okayama, Kyoto.
- OUR NATION'S CAPITAL & WILLIAMSBURG TOUR** APR 15-21  
Washington DC, Mount Vernon, Richmond, Jamestown, Yorktown, Williamsburg.
- SEDONA & GRAND CANYONS HOLIDAY TOUR** APR 25-30  
Stay-Put-Holiday. Visit Sedona with the Sedona Trolley, Grand Canyon & ride Grand Canyon Railway, Jerome mining town, ride the Verde Canyon Railroad. Enjoy Chuckwagon Farewell Dinner.
- FLORIDA HOLIDAY TOUR** MAY 3-10  
Orlando, EPCOT Center, Kennedy Space Center, Marco Island Resort, Everglades Boat Ride, Key Largo, Miami, Miami Bay Cruise.
- SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR** MAY 13-22  
Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires. Optional to Peru - Lima, Machu Picchu. Meet local Japanese.
- SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE** MAY 28-JUN 9  
London, Tallinn, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen.  
HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam Ship.
- GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** JUN 27-JUL 6  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE** AUG 14-21  
Vancouver, Sawyer Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan.  
HOLLAND AMERICA Zuiderdam Ship.
- CANADA-NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY CRUISE** SEP 15-26  
New York City, Newport/Rhode Island, Boston, Bar Harbor/Maine, Halifax/Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saguenay Fjord, Quebec. HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam Ship.
- SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA-TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR** SEP 22-28
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** SEP 28-OCT 8  
Chiba, Mito, Aizu Wakamatsu/Higashiyama Onsen, Sado Island, Nagano, Matsumoto, Takayama, Gujo Hachiman, Gifu, Kyoto.
- KOREA DRAMA HOLIDAY TOUR** OCT 18-31  
Seoul, Jeju Island, Gyeongju, Busan, Tongyeong, Gwangju, Daejeon.
- SOUTHEAST ASIA HOLIDAY TOUR** NOVEMBER  
Bangkok, Cambodia, Vietnam.

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Ernest & Carol Hida



JACLers gathered at the last Bi- and Tri-District conferences. Pictured above the Bi-District in Cincinnati.



### Congratulations, Chicago JACL!

The Chicago chapter is the winner of the P.C.'s Holiday Issue advertising contest!  
The chapter will receive a free cruise voucher!

## 2010...YEAR of the TIGER



*PETE HIRONAKA '10*

# Whose JACL? Why am I a Member?

By Sharon Ishii-Jordan

As a new national board member in 2009 (more correctly, as a returning board member after a few years), I offer a few thoughts. In reading through the 2009 Holiday Issue of the *Pacific Citizen* and recognizing the budget concerns of a continually declining membership, I can't help but wonder whose JACL this will be in the next decade. Why am I still a JACL member?

It was not initially my choice — I was born and raised in the organization. My father, born in 1922 in Omaha, grew up half Japanese and half Bohemian (not Czech, we were told — Bohemian) and lived in a mixed community of Slavic and Japanese families long before JACL reached its roots to Omaha. After my mother's family and others relocated to Omaha post-incarceration camps, the new Japanese American community blended with the established community that had long held its social gatherings. Out of that amalgamation of Japanese and non-Japanese was born the Omaha JACL chapter.

As I grew, I realized that JACL was more than the social celebrations around Christian holidays, summer picnics, and formal dinners with speakers from the awe-inspiring "nation-



al/regional" offices. The adults sheltered us from discrimination while canvassing neighborhoods for signatures to support or rescind anti-Japanese policies and legislation and while taking awareness of the JA history to schools and other groups.

A youth chapter was established for high school and college students, affiliated with the Midwest district, since the Mountain-Plains district had no other youth chapters. I learned much more about my JA history through the district and national meetings for youth in the 1970s. Omaha's connection to the JA community across the country was through the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen*.

In my large extended multi-generational family, there was no question about whether we would become involved in JACL. There

were Japanese dance lessons, Japanese language lessons, hiding Easter eggs in the park (rain, shine, or snow), sukiyaki dinners, and scholarships. The matriarch of the family, Masako (Em) Nakadoi made sure that each niece and nephew crossed the threshold to become an "adult" member of JACL as soon as university graduation was but a memory. She and others groomed many young people for leadership positions in our chapter and district, whether we knew our names were on the ballot or not! It was our giri — our duty or obligation to serve and repay the JACL.

Today many of the Sansei have let their membership lapse, while only a few of our Yonsei (of even less Japanese heritage) have

joined JACL or even taken their turn serving in leadership. As many chapters feel the pinch of vacant leadership positions, I can't help but wonder whose JACL this is. My own children are college students and still student members of JACL, but their heritage is not Japanese at all (they are from the Philippines and Brazil). My nieces and nephews are all of mixed ethnic/racial backgrounds. Although some of these younger family members still participate in our dwindling Japanese dance troupe or attend the JACL social gatherings, they have other heritages and interests to explore.

So why am I still a member of JACL? Partly because of giri, but mostly because I recognize that no matter how much ethnic blend has occurred, there is still racial discrimination to battle, still JA history and heritage to teach, and

See ISHII-JORDAN/Page 14

## A Year of Strength

By Marcia Chung



Happy New Year! Out with the old and in with the new! Last year was quite a year in the Central Valley. We had a very successful tri-district conference in February. The Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project came together rather nicely. We were all very proud of the outcome. If you missed the tri-district, please stop by and view the beautiful fountain and storyboards located in North Fresno. It is a very peaceful and serene place to have lunch or just reflect on life.

The Livingston-Merced chapter and community members are busy working on their memorial project at the Merced Fairgrounds. It is near completion and will be unveiled Feb. 20. Save the date and let's show our support to the Livingston-Merced chapter.

At the Fresno fairgrounds, there was a granite marker that explained the fairground's use as the Fresno Assembly Center prior to the concentration camp's completion. This is now getting a makeover. I think they liked our Pinedale project so much that they wanted to have the fair site look better. Our beautification process included banners, benches, trees

and flowers, and stories of Japanese Americans from the community.

On Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. we will have the Day of Remembrance groundbreaking ceremony at the Commerce Building of the Fresno fairgrounds, followed by a catered dinner from Pardini's in the Education Building at 6 p.m. We are seeking former Fresno Assembly Center internees. They can contact Bobbi Hanada at 559/434-1662, or e-mail her at bhanada@aol.com.

According to the Chinese zodiac calendar, 2009 was the year of the ox. David Mas Masumoto's article in our local newspaper said the character of the ox was one of perseverance, with a slow, methodical pace. It was a year of hard work.

Our economy has suffered greatly and we are not out of the woods yet. President Obama has encouraged volunteerism and civic participation. This is something I feel needs to be encouraged in our younger generation. I think it has become too much about "I" or "me" and not enough about others and how "we" can help them.

Maybe this poor economy has been a blessing in disguise — families are closer — quality of life is important and life has more meaning. It's time that we help others who need our help and feel good about doing it just for the sake of it. I look forward to the New Year of the tiger (not Tiger Woods). If it holds true to the Chinese zodiac calendar then it should be strong because tigers are brave and courageous.

Gung Hee Fat Choy! ■

Marcia Chung is the Central California district governor.



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Mar. 25-Apr. 8	<b>Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan</b> 15 days/ 13 nights visiting Tokyo, Sendai, Matsushima, Niigata, Takayama, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Kyoto, Hiroshima.	Peggy Mikuni
April 2-11	<b>Linda &amp; Sumire's Taste of Japan Tour</b> 10 days/ 8 nights visiting Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima.	Linda & Sumire Gant
April 4-11	<b>Yamato Deluxe Discover India Tour</b> 8 days/ 6 nights visiting Delhi, Jaipur, Agra.	Philippe Theriault
April 12-16	<b>Yamato Exclusive Vancouver Cherry Blossom Tour with Seattle</b> 5 days/ 4 nights visiting Seattle and Vancouver.	Philippe Theriault & Lilly Nomura
May 22-29	<b>Yamato Alaskan Cruise aboard the Golden Princess</b> 8 days/ 7 nights roundtrip from Seattle to Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Ketchikan, Victoria, BC.	
June 5-13	<b>Yamato Essential Spain Tour</b> 9 days/ 8 nights visiting Bilbao, Basque Country, San Sebastian, Barcelona, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, Marbella, Andalucia, Granada.	Philippe Theriault
June 19-29	<b>Yamato Family Tour to China</b> 11 days/ 9 nights visiting Guangzhou, Guilin, Xian, Beijing.	Rich & Joanne Hong
Jun. 27-Jul. 8	<b>Yamato Hokkaido Tour</b> 12 days/ 10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Ikeda, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate.	Peggy Mikuni
July 9-15	<b>Yamato Niagara to Old Quebec Tour</b> 7 days/ 6 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Toronto, Thousand Islands, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec. There will be a 2 night optional extension to Charlevoix County for a <i>seafaring villages &amp; seafood</i> tour.	Philippe Theriault
Aug. 8-16	<b>Yamato Canadian Rockies &amp; Majestic British Columbia Coast Tour</b> 10 days/ 9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, rail to Prince George, rail to Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River, Victoria.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 14-23	<b>Yamato Tour to Ireland</b> 10 days/ 8 nights visiting Dublin, Belfast, Kilkenny, Cork, Killarney, Limerick.	Philippe Theriault & Peggy Mikuni
Oct. 6-13	<b>Yamato Exclusive Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Tour</b> 8 days/ 7 nights visiting Roswell UFO Museum, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands National Monument, Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Taos, Durango (Colorado) Narrow Gauge Railway to Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park, Gallup.	Philippe Theriault
Oct. 10-17	<b>Yamato Music Cities Tour with Collette Vacations</b> 8 days/ 7 nights visiting New Orleans, Memphis/Graceland, Nashville/Grand Ole Opry and Country Music Hall of Fame.	Sharon Seto
October	<b>Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan</b> 15 days/ 13 nights visiting Kyoto, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Beppu, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
Nov. 1-8	<b>Yamato Exclusive Southern Delights Tour</b> 8 days/ 7 nights visiting Miami, Florida, Keys, Kennedy Space Center, Orlando/Wall Disney World, St. Augustine, Florida; Savannah & Atlanta, Georgia.	Lilly Nomura
Dec. 1-11	<b>Yamato Deluxe Discover Egypt Tour</b> 11 days/ 9 nights, includes 3 nights in Cairo, 2 nights in Giza, then 4 nights Nile cruise aboard a 5-star riverboat.	Philippe Theriault
Dec. 8-11	<b>Yamato Best of Branson Tour</b> 4 days/ 3 nights including 4 shows, Branson sightseeing and visit to Silver Dollar City.	Peggy Mikuni

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## Happy New Year from the PSW District



By Kerry Kaneichi

I am very fortunate that 2009 has left us with a solid foundation that will allow us to grow as a district. Although we are in a climate where fewer people understand the relevance of community service and an economy that simply won't allow people to give their available time freely, it is satisfying to know that we are part of a district that looks beyond present day troubles.

We have youth programs that introduce high school and college-age students to the JACL and also teaches and encourages them to realize what our community means to us and how important our Japanese American history plays in our lives today.

We are extremely fortunate to have a district staff that has performed above and beyond what we had envisioned just four years ago. Craig Ishii's development from intern to college graduate to regional director has set the bar and will leave a lasting impact on the productivity and vitality of PSW JACL. We have many well-respected volunteers and staff in our district, but I wouldn't be doing anyone a disservice by acknowledging that Craig is in many ways the motivation and inspiration behind our progress for the past few years.

Our administrative assistant, Carol Saito, is our glue and foundation. I've been told many times that without Carol, the office would simply not function efficiently. We also have a great support staff with Kene Kubo, Kristin

Fukushima and Andrew Yick along with our interns Dian Sohn and Vanessa Yee, who all help to ensure that our programs, advocacy, fundraising and community relations are running smoothly.

Over the past 10 years, our district board has progressively grown younger and younger, and I have found myself to be one of the old guys on a very knowledgeable and talented board. We have individuals with 20 years of experience and those who are serving their first full term on the board. All are contributors and have the desire to make a positive impact in the JACL. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to lead so many great people in our organization.

So as we begin a new year, we are part of a district that is on a positive path. Project: Community! is in its third year and has not only expanded as a program, but it has also expanded outside of Little Tokyo with similar programs around the country. Bridging Communities is in its second year and has become a powerful networking program that inspired the theme of last year's district awards dinner. Xing: An Intersection of Community and Youth (formerly Mobilize for Little Tokyo), also in its second year, is an excellent tool to outreach to student organizations.

To support these programs, we have a solid fundraising strategy that include corporate, individual and program funding that should be successful even during these tough times. And while on the topic of fundraising, please look out for our announcements for the Bowl-A-Thon in the first quarter of the year and Oct. 9 Awards Dinner in Long Beach.

So as a tradition dictates, my JACL resolution for the new year is quite simple: to allow the district to flourish by continuing to do the great things already set in place and not screw any of this up. ■

*Kerry Kaneichi is the PSW district governor.*

## RON KATSUYAMA (Continued from page 4)

that would have compromised our existing civil rights. For example, JACL worked with other civil rights organizations in successful opposition to a Texas voter ID bill, which would have created unnecessary barriers for immigrant populations to vote. And its voice remains strong in opposing instances of bigotry, racial profiling, and dangerous scapegoating of APAs and other people of color.

While the JACL cannot claim sole responsibility for the many recent positive developments, it has, indeed, continued to be at the forefront among APAs in educating and organizing efforts to advance vital civil and human rights concerns.

However, there is still much work to do, as crucial challenges and opportunities await us in 2010. Among these is the passage of health care reform that guarantees affordable universal health coverage to all of our citizens, improve data collection concerning health disparities, and improve access to personalized, culturally and linguistically competent health care.

Continued work needs to be done on WWII camp preservation (including the halt of a proposed power line through Minidoka and oppo-

sition to a proposed large, confined animal feeding operation).

We need immigration reform that offers:

1. A pathway to citizenship.
2. Integration programs
3. Opportunities for high school graduates to attain citizenship after two years of college or military service.
4. A reduced waiting period for family reunification.

And California's Proposition 8 needs to be overturned because it denies equal protection with regard to the fundamental right to marry.

Given the JACL's opportunity to advance its mission of preparing future leaders for social and political change, promoting knowledge about the JA community's history, and protecting the civil and human rights of all of our residents, we must sustain our dedication and focused efforts in the coming year to bring to fruition many more positive changes.

As we enter into a new era of an exceedingly strong Wash., D.C. presence and annual conventions, there will be more opportunities than ever for individuals, chapters, and districts to join with JACL in effecting positive change. ■

*Ron Katsuyama is the JACL vice president for public affairs.*

## MORISHITA

(Continued from page 6)

upside I could clearly tell that the barber was uncomfortable with the man's words although he did not know how to handle the situation either.

Obviously, this man showed ignorance and insensitivity with his usage of such an offensive word. What was most disturbing to me was the thought of how many of his offspring and other relatives had demonstrated that usage of this word was entirely acceptable.

When the president of the United States was scheduled to have his speech broadcasted this past fall so that students of all grades could view and hear the speech, school districts (at least locally) were given the option to either make the broadcast available to its students or not provide the broadcast to their students. One of our local school districts opted not to broadcast the speech.

A tremendous opportunity to hear the commander in chief of our country speak on some of our most pressing issues was at hand. But the decision not to listen to the speech was unfortunately a clear case of the close-mindedness that comes from "contempt prior to investigation" and perhaps more. A very

valuable teaching lesson was lost when students were deprived of an opportunity to listen and then make up their own minds.

I hope not to be so naïve or presumptuous to think that the JACL could automatically prevent either of these incidents from ever happening. Rather, I mention these events to help illustrate the need for a strong and vibrant JACL organization and network that can help shape the conscience and direction of our respective communities and our society at large. Leading by example, education and advocacy, the JACL can help us do our share in defining a country whose strength is its diversity and its commitment and obligation to a just and equitable society. It should be our goal that the JACL help shape the collective conscience of our great country.

Whether our aim is to enlighten senior executives in the movie industry or private individuals who are misguided or misinformed in their concepts of tolerance and equality, our work is cut out for us. A strong and unified JACL provides a platform to continue our efforts to educate. It helps provide that critical mass and structure that serves as both our advocate and our guardian.

It is important that we as members of JACL become tenacious and passionate towards the recruitment

## TOSHI ABE

(Continued from page 5)

might send their families into bankruptcy. Like those countries, I am thankful that the United States is recognizing that affordable access to quality health care is a basic human right.

I advocate for JACL to increase its use of the internet to communicate more quickly with its members and supporters. This will be necessary as we market our organization in the 21st century. As we gain experience with social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, I hope that we will attract new members to join our cause.

I would also like to see more investigation of internet tools that can benefit our organization. For

of new members, the retention of our current members, and the renewal of lapsed and former members. Without the JACL we lose one of our civil rights stalwarts that sometimes gets taken for granted. Let us not delay in moving beyond endless introspection and let us transfer those thoughts to meaningful actions of encouraging and recruiting members. ■

*Brian Morishita is the Intermountain district governor.*

example, the founders of the Web site, Goodsearch.com, donate half of their revenue to help non-profit causes in two unique ways. For each search that you initiate on Goodsearch (which is driven by Yahoo's search engine) a penny is donated to the cause of your choice (there are thousands to choose from, and the national JACL is on the list).

The Web site also supports Goodshop, where hundreds of retailers participate. If you shop online — as I do at Amazon, Apple, and other retailers — the companies will donate a percentage of your purchase price (usually 1 to 2 percent) to the JACL. Some companies donate even more, for example, I recently started a home delivery subscription to the New York Times through Goodshop. As a result, the news company will donate \$17.50 to the JACL. If you don't know about Goodsearch, I encourage you to give it a try the next time you're online.

I look forward to meeting and working with the many experienced and talented people who make up the JACL. We have the tools and the technology to help us stay better connected. Let's use them smartly to help JACL with its mission.

*Toshi Abe is the Eastern district governor.*

## ISHII-JORDAN

(Continued from page 12)

still cultural knowledge that the Yonsei and Gosei seek as they explore their identities.

Whose JACL will this be in the next decade? It will be the JACL of people of all backgrounds who support civil rights, address social justice disparities, cherish the unique heritage of JAs, and honor those who have brought us this far. Today's JACL has continued its involvement in national issues, designed leadership programs, and created informative publications that support its mission and programs.

If your family or friends have not encouraged your participation in JACL, here is my challenge to you — take the first step toward supporting the organization whose mission aligns with yours. Choose your position as leaders or supporters — JACL needs both.

The coalitions with whom JACL shares ideals and the communication technology have both developed extensively since my days in the Junior JACL. We cannot continue to support the greater good in our JA community and our larger nation, and to develop leaders, without you. This is our JACL, and I welcome you to join me. ■

*Sharon Ishii-Jordan is the MDC district governor.*

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# Happy New Year!

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TRIBUTE

**FUMI TANABE**

September 18, 1928 - December 22, 2009



Fumi Tanabe, a truly sweet and generous lady, died on December 22, at the age of 81 due to health complications while traveling. She loved her family, grandchildren and friends dearly and supported them by cooking her well-known dishes such as chocolate chip cookies, fresh baked pies and egg foo yung. She always tried to attend to their unmet needs.

Fumi was born in Orting, Washington on September 18, 1928, to parents Shunichi and Ko Sasaki. She attended Orting grade school, but in 1942 WWII caused her entire family to leave their Orting farm to move to the Puyallup Fair Grounds and then to the internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho. In 1948, she married Yosh Tanabe and worked and lived on the family vegetable farm in Fife started by Yosh's parents. They had three children, Cheryl, Rick and Crystal. Since the early 1960's she has been a member of the Puyallup Valley JAFL, she served several terms as a chapter board member and was the recording secretary in 1999.

Yosh and her daughter Cheryl pre-deceased Fumi in 1992

and 2002 respectively. She leaves behind a family who adored her: Dean Hata (Yakima) husband of Cheryl with children Laurel, Kristin and Curt; Rick Tanabe and wife Jill (Federal Way) with children Courtney and Brittney; Crystal Inge and husband John (Seattle) with children Emma, Kate, Wyatt and Anna; Jim Akagi (Federal Way) her close companion for the last 13 years of her life.

Memorial donations can be made and sent to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple at 1717 South Fawcett Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402.

TRIBUTE

**PAUL YOSHIO "BUCK" HAYASHI**

August 2, 1922 - January 2, 2010

Paul Yoshio "Buck" Hayashi passed away peacefully on January 2, 2010 after a prolonged illness. Born in Tacoma, WA, August 2, 1922 and one of seven children of Yoshiaki and Ei Hayashi he joined the US Army in 1942 and served in the 442nd Infantry Battalion and was awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He entered the Navy in 1946, serving four years aboard a submarine. Then, he joined the US Marines where he completed a 30-year military career. Upon retiring from the Marine Corp. he lived in Seattle, WA. He is survived by a daughter, Linda E. Hayashi of Los Angeles; two brothers, George and Edward of Seattle and Tacoma, respectively; and several nieces and nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews.

Uncle Paul, "Soldier, Sailor, Marine and patriot, you served your country proudly and well. Semper Fi. Rest in Peace."

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TRIBUTE

**CARNEGIE "CARNEY" OUYE, SR.**

February 11, 1921 - December 20, 2009

Camegie "Camey" Ouye, Sr., born February 11, 1921, in Acampo, CA and passed away December 20, 2009, in Sacramento, at age 88. He was preceded in death by parents Kenichi and Sada Ouye; brothers Norman, Harold, Fred, and Raymond; and sister Alice Taniguchi. He is survived by wife Grace "Soupie" Ouye; son Camegie Ouye, Jr.; daughter-in-law Monica Siewert; and daughter Carey Ouye Yamanaka of Sacramento; grandson Kellen Yamanaka of Rhode Island; and granddaughter Devin Yamanaka of Sacramento; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Camey was employed at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento County for 30 years. He served as past president of the Sacramento JAFL and testified before the Redress Commission in San Francisco regarding reparations for Japanese-Americans. He was also heavily involved with the government of the Presbyterian Church for over 30 years, serving as elder and Clerk of Session at Parkview Presbyterian Church of Sacramento, as well as serving in various capacities with the Presbytery, the governing body of the Presbyterian church. He also served as a commissioner on the Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission.

A memorial service was held on December 27, 2009 at Parkview Presbyterian Church in Sacramento.

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