Ice hockey star Julie Chu is hoping for gold at the Winter Olympics.
80 Years of APA News

By Floyd Mori

The national JACL staff remains busy with the important work of the organization. Your headquarters’ staff, the Washington, D.C. office, and the various regional offices all have dedicated staff members working diligently to carry forth the programs and issues of the JACL.

Jean Shin田, of Hawaii, and Phillip Ozaki, of Chicago, are the current JACL Inouye and Mineta Fellows, respectively. They are serving in the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Each Friday a “Weekly Digest” is being put out to JACL members and other interested parties to tell the leaders within the JACL.

Membership Crisis

In reply to the national director’s report describing the membership crisis (“Membership Needs Your Help,” Nov. 20-Dec. 17, 2009), the national vice president for membership resigned after a few months in office. Why? It’s only six months to the national convention and no one has been appointed to this important position. Why? Tim Keule, the membership coordinator, has been on the job without an assistant in accordance with staff schedule. Why? There’s a need for proper prior planned program prioritization instead of the usual piece meal planning procedures.

Congratulations! The Holiday Issue (Dec. 18, 2009-Jan. 21, 2010) is full of significant JACL history that I will keep forever.

ED MITOMA
South Bay JACL

Congratulations! The Holiday Issue was a great success, again, of your past Pacific Citizen. Keep up the great stories!

DR. FRANK SAKAMOTO
Millennium Club co-chair

STANLEY N. KANZAKI
New York JACL

YOSHEE TANABE
Honolulu, Hawaii

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WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG

Want extra APA news? Check the PAC Web site for exclusives!

Toby Keith vs. the Community
The country singer stirred controversy with an alleged gesture.

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All Wong is the next big thing in comedy.

Whatever happened to Jim the Rapper?

Membership Crisis

It was President Roosevelt himself, referring to the camps, who used the words “concentration camps” in response to a question by a Mr. Francis, an L.A. Times writer. Roosevelt replied, “...it is felt by a great many lawyers that under the Constitution they can’t be kept locked up in concentration camps.” (Nov. 1944)

Therefore, please do not diminish further the apology and the pitiful $20,000 you (only these few still living in 1998) rightly received.

NAT’L DIRECTOR’S REPORT
JACL Continues Its Important Work

By Floyd Mori

The national JACL staff remains busy with the important work of the organization. Your headquarters’ staff, the Washington, D.C. office, and the various regional offices all have dedicated staff members working diligently to carry forth the programs and issues of the JACL.

Jean Shin田, of Hawaii, and Phillip Ozaki, of Chicago, are the current JACL Inouye and Mineta Fellows, respectively. They are serving in the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Each Friday a “Weekly Digest” is being put out to JACL members and other interested parties to tell about issues of concern. If you are not already receiving the “Weekly Digest”, we encourage you to sign up by sending an e-mail to: deli­ gend@jacl.org

The JACL/OC A D.C. Leadership Conference is coming up soon with participants selected from around the country. This flagship program of the JACL helps to build leadership among our members. The conference is sponsored by financial contribu­ tions from State Farm. The JACL has also recently received signifi­ cant donations from UPS, AT&T and Ford Motor Company. We thank these corporate partners and others that help provide funds to the JACL.

The Washington, D.C. JACL Gala is being planned for Sept. 16, so mark your calendars now. This event has become a major fundraiser for the JACL as well as a way to showcase our organization as we “Salute Champions” who have helped to further our goals.

In January, we heard a lot about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the tension and unrest of the country, the JACL relies heavily on local members in the various districts and chapters. We are grateful to all those who continue to join and renew their memberships in the JACL as well as to all the leaders within the JACL.

EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT

JACL MEMBERS
Change of Address

If you’ve moved, please send new information to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115

Activate 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include particulars in your change of address request (USPS Form 3575)
Pondering the Fate of Ethnic Media

Journalism newcomers and veterans remain cautiously optimistic about the future of the ethnic press and journalism as a whole.

By Niles J. Ko

As some Asian Pacific American publications decide strategically to stay afloat in a changing industry, journalism hopefuls and veterans are still worrying about the future of the ethnic press.

"It's not a secret that ethnic newspapers have been struggling to stem off financial difficulties. Changes in technology, decline in advertising and subscriptions have caused crippling effects throughout the industry. These changes have prompted nationwide layoffs, closures and bankruptcies due to economic distress.

Last year, the Hakubun Maruich, a newspaper folded after over 60 years of operation. The closure of the Hakubun Times preceded it.

Japanese American publications like Rafu Shimpo are also appealing to the public for solutions to unsecured debt. In a Jan. 20, article, staff writer Milly Hanashiro reported that the Rafu had accumulated over $500,000 in debt and needed "revenue increase of $1,000 per month."

Although the fate of print journalism seems grim, some journalists believe it's still optimistic about the future.

"I think that we're right in the middle of a kind of reinvention of journalism. I'm actually an optimist," said J.K. Yamamoto, former English editor for the Hakubun Maruich, in an e-mail. "Over the years, these ads were scaled down. Advertising overall was on the decline well before the economic downturn, but the current conditions made a bad situation worse."

Many factors contributed to the closure of ethnic publications. For the Hakubun Maruich the decline of subscriptions and advertising could not offset the rising cost of production and postal fees.

The closure of ethnic publications also ripples down and impacts companies like U.S. Asian Wire, a news distributor, by reducing its print reach.

"Although some newspaper publishers have ceased or scaled back their print operations, thankfully Hakubun Maruich, A. Nihon, Kokoro, and Nichi Butsu are still reaching and capturing audiences through their online/web presence," said Annie Yasugi-Dower, president and founder.

The Pacific Citizen, which was founded over 80 years ago, is also not exempt from some bad news.

"Last year was the first time the Pacific Citizen saw a small deficit but this was because of two budget cuts by national JACL rather than a lack of revenue from the newspaper," explained Caroline Arayagi-Dower. "In fact, unlike other publications, the P.C. saw a rise in regular advertising in 2009 and our annual fundraiser raised a record number of funds last year. I think that clearly shows that the P.C. still has a lot of community support."

The Community's Voice

For many people the ethnic media is the voice of the community. In 2008 the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism released its "Health of Ethnic Media Report," where 500 people in the field of journalism were polled. The study found that giving voice to the community and strengthening cultural pride were some of the most important goals identified by those surveyed.

"They really think about themselves as part of a community and not just as a business," Fukunishi said, who directed the study. "And I think for them — I think of ethnic media outlets or being more like community organizations like in your typical newspaper or television stations, that's a main thing as a business. That's not to say that they are all that way."

This bleak news is not completely deterring some aspiring journalists from their dreams to break into the field.

"At the moment I'm not sure about my plans, but for the past several years I have been wanting to take a shot at photojournalism," explained 21-year-old Max Nakata, a senior at Stanford University. "The fact that my newspaper are having a hard time is one of the things that is discouraging me."

Other added that his parents are discouraging him from pursuing a career in journalism because of the unstable job market. He said he would try to find a science-related job as a back-up plan while he takes a few photojournalism internships. Other students are just as flexible about adjusting their career plans.

"I've learned how to interview, how to write, and how to edit precisely," said Brianna Pang, a freshman at Stanford University. "I feel that even though many new organizations are folding off, I can still apply the skills I've learned to other fields of work."

Some students like Pang feel that the future of journalism is heading online. Whenever journalism heads, ultimately the students need to realize that the future of ethnic media depends on them, said Yamamoto.

"Having worked 25 years, almost half my life, at the P.C., and the Hakubun, I can see that the ethnic media still play an important function that the mainstream press can't fill," Yamamoto said.

"If people want ethnic publications to continue, in whatever form, they have to put their money where their minds is. Words of encouragement are fine, but what is needed is monetary support. Maybe the events of the past year will force everyone to realize that."
Historians say the World War II documents shed light on what was happening in Stockton, Calif., outside of the World War II internment camps.

By Christine McFadden
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Japanese American residents in San Joaquin County, Calif., had no idea that they were under state investigation during World War II until recently when two boxes were discovered containing government documents tracking their activities in an attempt to find them in violation of the Alien Land Laws.

The boxes, uncovered on the eighth floor of the San Joaquin County Courthouse by mistake during a move to a new administrative building contain paper dated in the mid-1940s detailing the government’s perspective on property claims made by JA families living in the area.

Lois saltsky, the clerk of the county board who discovered the unmarked boxes, presented them to the county council, legal department, and district attorney. She has spent the past five years sifting through the documents. What she found surprised her.

“I didn’t [know what they were] until I started looking through them,” Saltsky said. “I was just amazed. I know a lot of these families — many of the names were familiar to me.”

In December, the presidents of the Stockton, Lodi, and French Camp JACL chapters were invited by the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors to receive the boxes. The moment was especially significant for Stockton JACL President Aeko Yoshikawa, whose father Richard Yoshikawa was the first Asian Pacific American to be elected to the board of supervisors in 1975.

“They [the board] could have just taken the information and tossed it, but thank God the clerk of the board thought they were of significance, and rightly so,” said Yoshikawa.

Rights Violated by the Alien Land Law

According to Yoshikawa, the documents are separated into folders, with one folder enclosing the legal brief from the Oyamas vs. State of California case, a key court decision involving the California Alien Land Law of 1913.

The law prohibited people who were ineligible for citizenship from owning property in California. This caused many to purchase land under either their children’s or friend’s names in order to bypass the law. This loophole, however, led to trouble with the state.

“In 1920, they [the government] changed the Alien Land Law,” said Yoshikawa. “It said that if the land was put in somebody else’s name, the state didn’t even have to prove that the alien was trying to get around the land law, it was a presumption.”

The recently discovered documents show that the government built cases against Japanese immigrants in the county in an attempt to prove that their properties were in violation of the Alien Land Law. Among the documents discovered are bank account statements, receipts, and witness testimonies. The government went as far as to document who purchased fertilizer for farming, said Yoshikawa.

Nisei Fred Oyama was just a child when his father, Kajiro Oyama purchased six acres of land in Southern California in 1934 and two more in 1937. Kajiro Oyama, an Issei ineligible to become U.S. citizen, purchased the land under his 6-year-old son’s name.

According to Yoshikawa, during WWII, the Oyama family moved inland to Utah to avoid the internment camps. Shortly afterward, the state of California attempted to reclaim the Oyamas’ land by alleging that it had been purchased with the purpose of avoiding the Alien Land Law.

“He [Kajiro Oyama] didn’t want to go down without a fight,” said Yoshikawa. “He got a lawyer and he went to the JACL.”

Kajiro took his case all the way to the Supreme Court where the justices ruled that California violated the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause by denying his son Fred Oyama equal protection as an American citizen.

“When the Supreme Court reversed that decision, those cases that were being prosecuted here in San Joaquin County were dismissed,” said Yoshikawa.

Although the Oyama case did not overturn the Alien Land Laws of 1913 and 1920 (it would take until 1956 to do so), it proved to be an important precedent and allowed for the Oyama’s and numerous other JA families in California, namely in San Joaquin County, to keep their land.

This, said Yoshikawa, is reflected in the approximately 10 legal briefs represented in the two boxes. Several of the cases that came across were labeled as dismissed. She thinks the families targeted in these cases were most likely the ones who had the monetary resources to defend their land and fight the government’s claims. But many other families were not so fortunate.

“I’m thinking there are a lot of cases that didn’t get prosecuted where the Japanese aliens of the families... probably didn’t have the funds to launch a legal defense,” she said. “They didn’t have the resources to fight it [the state] and they probably lost their property.”

The San Joaquin County JACL chapters plans on contacting the families of those mentioned in the recently discovered cases to see if they are interested in receiving copies of the documents. The originals have been given to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., to be kept in its archives.

“There’s a lot more research that we need to do,” Yoshikawa said. “It’s bringing history back to life.”

Preserving the Papers

The Holt-Atherton Special Collections at the University of the Pacific Library recently received the contents of the two boxes, according to Michael Wurtz, University of the Pacific archivist.

The archives, which currently hold over 400 different collections ranging from The John Muir Papers to photos from Japanese internment camps, including photographs taken by Richard Yoshikawa, have never seen anything “specifically like this” before, said Wurtz.

“The wonderful aspect of this collection is it gives us an idea of what’s actually happening here in Stockton during WWII,” he said. “Whereas the material we have about Japanese American internment camps tells us an awful lot about the camps, now this will help us to understand better what was going on in Stockton while a lot of folks were in camps.”

He is beginning to sort through the documents and plans to make descriptions and inventories of the material and make the findings available for research purposes. The library is also going to make the JACL photocopies of the entire collection, said Wurtz.

Two photographs — one featuring what looks like JA students in front of a Stockton Buddhist Church, and another of a mix of APA students attending an unknown conference in Northern California — were discovered in the boxes. The photos are dated Sept. 3, 1940, and either April 27 or 28, 1940, respectively.

One of the folders also has written words by a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, a group of Canadians, “native-born” Californians who openly opposed Asian immigration. The papers document the history of California’s “Japanese problem.”

“We were really happy to receive the documents,” said Yoshikawa. “The harder thing is when you sit down and read what’s happening in these cases.”

“It’s not quite over yet,” the continued. “It makes you realize, ‘There’s a part of our history you may not like, but it’s again [about] preserving the documents. It’s a good learning experience.’”

PHOTO: MICHAEL WURTZ

Boxes (pictured above) containing historical documents reveal how JAs were investigated by state officials.
WASHINGTON—The government is funneling some efforts to assure immigrants that U.S. Census data will not be used against them, including gaps in outreach and foreign language guides that refer to the decennial count as an investigation.

With the launch of the head count weeks away, the Census Bureau’s outreach has been falling short at least a dozen major cities, such as Chicago, Dallas, New York and Seattle, according to a report released Feb. 1 by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). Many of these states are on the cusp of gaining or losing U.S. House seats based on the Census and face a redrawing of legislative boundaries that may tilt the balance of political power.

AALDEF cited the government’s refusal to give fuller assurances that Census data would be kept confidential and to suspend large-scale immigration raids during the count — as was done in the 2000 census. AALDEF said it wasn’t ringing out legal action to get stronger guarantees.

“Our concern is how much risk immigrants are putting themselves at,” said Glenn Magpantay, an AALDEF program director.

The JACL has launched a new 2010 Census page on its Web site to educate its members about the importance of the count.

The page includes a countdown clock to Census Day on April 1, a YouTube video featuring Rep. Mike Honda, as well as links and downloads for more information. The page also features a section called “Census Shortcuts,” a weekly column about the Census.

Census data is crucial for communities to receive their share of $400 billion in federal funds, political representation, and services such as transportation, schools and health care. It also monitors civil rights laws that make a meaningful difference in the nation’s well-being.

The JACL, has received a $30,000 grant from The UPS Foundation to continue its College Leadership Program.

The program brings future Asian Pacific American leaders to Washington, D.C. to learn leadership skills. The UPS Foundation also funded the program in 2009.

“The UPS Foundation is committed to funding impactful programs that make a meaningful difference to our communities, so we are proud to support the JACL’s efforts to build leadership through its College Leadership Program,” said Ken Stermad, president of The UPS Foundation.

In 2008, The UPS Foundation distributed $46.9 million worldwide through grants that benefit organizations like the JACL.

“We are very grateful to the UPS Foundation for its commitment to the community and specifically to the JACL College Leadership Program which strives to build leaders for the future,” said Floyd Morii, JACL national director.
APA Groups Press For Immigration Reform

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Calling comprehensive immigration reform imperative to Asian Pacific Americans, community leaders are urging lawmakers to pass a bill that would, among other things, reunite families separated by immigration backlogs.

"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are deeply invested in helping to pass meaningful comprehensive immigration reform legislation," said Connie Choi, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center's (APALC) Immigration Rights Project policy advocate.

One out of every 10 AAPIs is undocumented, said Choi. AAPIs also face some of the longest backlogs within the family immigration system.

In December, Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 to address the concerns of the AAPI and other immigrant communities.

AAPIs have been making their voices heard by texting "AAPI" to 69866 and connecting to the Reform Immigration For America campaign.

"Each year a thousand Japanese immigrants face a legal path to citizenship that is often a labyrinth of regulations and paperwork.

"The waiting has frustrated veterans who have already died without receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. They did not receive any benefits from their time serving in the U.S. military during World War II and the VA has no plans to provide any compensation for their service.

"The VA expects these changes will allow it to plow through the existing application pile.

Filipino WWII Veterans Still Waiting for Payments

By Associated Press

WAPAHAU, Hawaii—Guadencio Soto injured his left leg fighting to expel the Japanese military from the Philippines during World War II. Although Filipino, he was fighting under the command of the Unites States, which had colonized his homeland in the late 1800s.

Last February, the U.S. said it would pay a lump sum — $9,000 or $15,000 — to veterans like Sotio in lieu of benefits they would be able to apply for U.S. citizenship and reunite families separated as a unit.

"If my husband received that money, he would have been able to apply for U.S. citizenship and reunite my family," said Norma Sotio, his widow.

The VA expects these changes will allow it to plow through the existing application pile.

"We are committed to delivering these benefits in a compassionate and timely manner," said Willie Clark, the Western area director for the field operations office.

"Allowing families to remain as a unit and to allow a legal path to citizenship are battles that were fought for by our Asian ancestors," added Mori.

In his State of the Union speech, President Barack Obama said that America is "a nation made up of immigrants from every corner of the globe," and called for "reform to secure our borders, enforce our laws, and ensure that everyone who plays by the rules can contribute to our economy and enrich our nation."

Filipino WWII Veterans Still Waiting for Payments

By Pacific Citizen Staff

President Obama Announces 'Angel Island Day'

WASH.—President Barack Obama proclaimed Jan. 21 Angel Island Day in honor of the 100-year anniversary of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

"If there is any vindication for the Angel Island immigrants who endured so many hardships, it is the success achieved by those who were allowed entry, and the many who, at long last, gained citizenship," Obama said in a Jan. 21 proclamation.

"As the "Island of the West," the immigration station served as a detainment site for immigrants, who were mostly from Asia. One million immigrants were processed there from 1910 to 1940.

51.5 Million Allocated For Little Tokyo Building

TORRANCE, Calif.—The United States Congress approved an additional $5.1 million today toward a Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Previously $4 million was allocated to the organization. The new headquarters will be located next to the Go For Broke monument.

"On behalf of Go For Broke National Education Center, we're thrilled to receive funding from the United States Congress in recognition of the World War II Japanese American veterans' service and sacrifice," explained Christine Sato-Yamazaki, president of the national education center.

Pearl Harbor Omission Plagues Calendar

LAKELAND, Fla.—The national grocery chain Publix said it would not provide its free calendar any longer after being lambasted for omitting the attack on Pearl Harbor from its publication.

Publix made the decision to not provide its 2010 calendar to customers after a Florida radio host criticized the supermarket chain.

Kimberly Lauger, Publix spokeswoman, said the Pearl Harbor attack would be added to next year's calendar.

Hawaii Nixes Same-Sex Civil Unions Bill

HONOLULU—Hawaii lawmakers have declined to vote on a bill that would have allowed same-sex civil unions, effectively doing away with the measure.

State House leaders said a narrow majority of representatives would have voted for civil unions, but they decided to indefinitely postpone a decision on whether to grant gay and lesbian couples the same rights and benefits the state provides to married couples.

No roll call was taken on the decision to postpone the vote. The voice vote defers further action on the bill unless two-thirds of lawmakers vote to reconsider it; otherwise, Hawaii's debate on the issue is over for this year.

APA Magazine Pops Up At USC

LOS ANGELES—The University of Southern California is now publishing Asian Pacific Arts, an APA pop culture publication.

Journalist Tom Flante founded Asian Pacific Arts in 2003, which was previously based out of UCLA. Some UCLA contributors will continue to work for the magazine.
Placer County Dedicates 442nd Memorial

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Community leaders from Placer County, Calif. hosted a recent ceremony to honor their local World War II veterans from the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team. During the event, Placer County officials dedicated the first phase of the 442nd memorial. Three surviving members of the 442nd RCT attended the event.

“It’s too much,” said Frank Kageta, a Placer County resident and 442nd RCT veteran. “I didn’t do those things to be a hero or to be recognized. I don’t think heroes set out to be heroes. I never gave what I did a second thought until today and I’m honored.”

The memorial is located on Justice Center Drive near the Placer County Superior Court building.

“Placer County and the Placer County Japanese American Citizens League want to make sure the public never forgets the patriotism and dedication of the more than 100 soldiers from our county who served in the 442nd,” said Placer County Board of Supervisors Chair Rocky Rockholm.

In the first phase of the memorial construction, a 36-foot wide concrete compass was created and framed with two large granite boulders to represent the soldiers’ struggles in battle. Officials also plan to inscribe the names of Placer County residents who served in the unit.

Placer County had also named a roadway at the Santucci Center the “Go for Broke Road.” In the second phase of the project, Placer County JACL will install a six-foot tall bronze sculpture created by internationally acclaimed artist France Borka that depicts a scene from the “Lost Battalion” rescue in which the 442nd RCT famously rescued the Army’s 141st Infantry from German troops in France’s Vosges Mountains.

“This project honors our parents and friends who fought to defend our country, were unjustly interned in relocation camps, and endured the racism of the war,” said E. Ken Tokutomi, Placer County JACL treasurer and memorial fundraising chair. “Their loyalty and bravery in battle defending America is an inspiration to Japanese Americans everywhere.”

To support Placer County’s 442nd memorial, donate online at www.placerjacl.org or send a check to: Placer JACL Memorial Project 11850 Kemper Road, Suite D Auburn, CA 95603

DONATE
About Honor

As I was writing my article for the November Pacific Citizen issue that memorialized and commemoправлен our veterans — "our" meaning Japanese Americans — I was torn between paying homage to the Nisei vets who served this nation so brilliantly and courageously and reflecting on the case of Lt. Ehren Watada, who, in September 2009, was allowed to resign his commission from the Army.

The two — the Nisei vets and Watada — stand in sharp contrast to each other. The Nisei, their rights as Americans having been betrayed by their expulsion from their homes and their internment in American concentration camps, nevertheless donned the uniform of the country that imprisoned them without cause and went to war without questioning either right or wrong. They understood that what they were sacrificing by their demonstration of loyalty would some day serve as an iron-clad statement about their belief in this country.

It was a remarkable expression of faith in the country and its leadership, who had betrayed their faith but could not destroy their belief in everything this nation stood for. They were willing to sacrifice their lives if needed to fight the evils abroad to challenge the evils within our borders.

But the Nisei vets were exceptional by any definition of loyalty. Who else would be willing to sacrifice their lives to prove a point about democracy and to measure. One has to admire them, everyone of them, the Nisei vets who served this nation so brilliantly and courageously and reflecting on the case of Lt. Watada's actions.

It's no wonder many, if not most, of the Nisei vets recoiled against Watada's actions when he questioned his commander in chief and refused to obey what he believed were illegal orders in what he saw as an immoral and illegal war. It's the soldier's duty to fight and not to question. It's the oath one takes entering the service for this nation, and no one should better understand the meaning of that oath than an officer, an individual sworn to lead his/her men into battle.

But it's not that simple, is it? One could make it a simple black-and-white issue, but it's not. It never was. Because what do you do when a president and his cronies in the leadership of this country falsely evidence and fabricate situations to argue their case to attack and invade a nation? And what do you do when, one by one, the critical arguments for war fall to pieces by contrary and incontrovertible evidence.

And on top of that, when the advocates in the leadership know this was the case? It goes back to the argument I've used over and over, which is, at what point does a soldier question an order he or she knows to be immoral or wrong? Think about My Lai in America's war in Vietnam, or WWII Germany. Or look at the dictatorships in South America and the unscrupulous murders of literally thousands by military death squads under the command of mad men.

Where does morality enter into questionable orders for soldiers? It's a tough question. The forces of evil are sometimes within as well as without.

I honestly believe that to argue Watada's case is not to diminish or demean the achievements of the Nisei vets because they are not one and the same. Nor do the sacrifices of the Nisei during WWII become less meaningful just as some have argued because of Watada's actions.

Nothing any of us as JA might do can lessen the honor and respect gained by the Nisei vets. But equally, I'll always view Watada's actions as courageous and principled and honorable. I'm glad the Army finally allowed him to resign from the service because we can now put the controversy of his case behind us. Just as history has brought to light the enormous and magnificent contributions of the Nisei soldiers during WWII, I trust that history will view Watada as someone future generations can admire.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

HIS FAVORITE TEAM DIDN'T GO TO THE SUPER BOWL. BUT THIS SHOULD PACIFY HIM 'TILL NEXT SEASON.

Ema Nakano is a Kentucky-born Shim Nisei who grew up in Hawaii. She is working on her bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Washington.
Grant Imahara said science TV shows like “Mythbusters” are helping to debunk myths of geeks.

By Nanea J. Ko

Reporter

“Mr. Chips” is not just a person but a sentiment for many,ershows like “Mythbusters,” which use science and math to test prevailing myths. Shows like “Mythbusters” are, Imahara said, helping to change the perception of nerds from geeky to hip.

“When you go into engineering inevitably there’ll be a number of geeks there. I think I pretty much found my niche earlier on,” Imahara said in a phone call to the Pacific Citizen from Los Angeles, Calif. “Being someone who is good at math and science, interested in engineering, robots and science fiction, that’s not a totally uncool thing. And I think that’s really neat.”

The self-proclaimed geek has found an outlet on “Mythbusters” to use his engineering bachelor’s degree and experience working with electronics at Industrial Light and Magic (ILM), a visual effects company.

Filming of season 8 began Jan. 19, said Imahara. New episodes are set to air in March.

“Whether the Yonsei is examining myths or finding the niche earlier on,” Imahara said, “helping to debunk myths of geeks.

“While the Yonsei is examining myths about bulletproof phonebooks or hangovers, Imahara said he is aware and proud of being a role model for Japanese Americans.

“I think for me it’s about visibility. It’s about showing the community that I do care about my image and I do appreciate that I am Asian American,” he said.

“I know where I came from and really celebrate that fact by being involved in the community.”

Engineering a Dream

Growing up in Southern California Imahara experienced racism firsthand in elementary school. On Pearl Harbor day he recalled being chased on the playground because of his ethnicity. One thing Imahara said he was not teased about was being a geek.

“When Imahara was 4 years old his parents bought him Legos, igniting his passion for engineering. All things mechanical fascinated Imahara, who had a knack for taking apart household items. “My sort of operating task was to sort of go through the house and find anything that I could pry apart the remote control, grandfather’s watch, my toy cars and anything,” he explained, adding that certain items were off limits.

“I would try to take it apart to see how it worked inside. It’s been an obsession of mine for a long, long time.”

It was an obsession that would lead Imahara to study engineering at the University of Southern California. But after two years of attending college he began to question his choice of major.

Screenwriting at the famed USC School of Cinematic Arts was more appealing to him. However, as an engineering student Imahara was barred from the class. Instead a counselor told Imahara to see production sound professor Tomlinson Holman, who created the TESX sound system.

“So I ended up working for Tom for a year as his research assistant and after that I ended up going back to engineering, rediscovering my love of electronics and going back to complete my degree,” Imahara said, also archived the Pacific Citizen as a part of his work-study program with USC’s Asian Pacific American Students Service.

From college Imahara would land a job at ILM, working in the special effects model shop. There Imahara lived out a childhood dream when George Lucas started working on the “Star Wars” prequels.

“On one day they pretty much came in and said, ‘Look we’re going to need to update the R2-D2 fleet. Do you think you could get on that right away?’” Imahara said excitedly.

“And for me I grew up in the ‘80s. This was my era. I had the ‘Star Wars’ beds sheets. I had all the action figures and all the toys. Really it was a dream come true to be able to work on the R2-D2.”

At ILM he also worked on films like “The Lost World: Jurassic Park,” “Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines,” “Van Helsing,” and others. But explaining his job to his mother was sometimes difficult to explain.

“She couldn’t tell her friends exactly what I did. All she could say was, ‘Well he works in movies.’ Now when she explains what I do all she has to say is, ‘Oh yes he’s on Mythbusters on the Discovery Channel,’” Imahara said about his mother who lives in Hawaii.

This season promises to be as explosive as the last. A “Mythbusters” episode will examine if popular TV reruns will get even sicker. The “Mythbusters” team conducted experiments on the show for its season premiere. The Mythbusters will return to debunking myths on TV in March.

The Mythbuster

Imahara’s robotics and engineering background came in handy again when he joined the cast of “Mythbusters.” In the name of science Imahara has tested myths like the beer-before-squirt theory, a belief that if people drink beer before squirting a water gun they will get even sicker. The “Mythbusters” team constructed bedrooms in the workshop for Imahara and Tory Belleci, another cast member. Then the experiment began.

“The idea is that we are drinking alcohol for science, for our show, which sounds like a good idea in theory,” Imahara explained. “But in practice you realize the whole point is to get a hangover and test how bad the hangover is if you drink beer only or mix your liquor.”

Other myths tested on the show include an episode where Imahara dropped a room into a room from the ceiling in his underwear. The stunt was conducted to test under what conditions someone could enter a room undetected by an infrared heat sensor. Imahara ended up twisting his ankle on a safety net below.

Aside from that incident, Imahara said there have been no major injuries incurred by the cast despite dangerous gadgets used set. When he is not setting off explosions on TV Imahara enjoys relaxing at home.

“After a day of blowing stuff up I just want to come home and eat, maybe watch a little TV and go to sleep,” Imahara said, mentioning that he films yearround.

His busy filming schedule makes it difficult to travel to Hawaii to see his mother, which is something they have learned to work around.

“So, I only get to see her once or twice a year. But in between times she can turn on the Discovery Channel and it’s like having me there,” Imahara said. “She actually turns on Discovery Channel and inevitably there’ll be some marathon, or they will show an episode some time in the day. And she can hear my voice and it’s like I’m at home.”

Although his production schedule keeps him busy, Imahara said it is important for him to stay connected to the APA community and not lose sight of trailblazers before him.

“The great thing is that I’m not the first Japanese American, was on that show. So, it was great for me as a kid to see an Asian American face on TV doing something cool. It’s great for me to be able to carry on that tradition.”

Grant Imahara said science TV shows like “Mythbusters” are helping to debunk myths of geeks.
By NaIea

The game of Hockey

The U.S. women’s ice hockey team has been training since early September in Blaine, Minn. The opening ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympics are slated for Feb. 12. Two days after, the team will take on China in their first game. Preparing for the Olympics is a mental and physical challenge, said Chu. Off the ice the team lifts weights. Meditation sessions are also a part of Chu’s Olympic training regimen, something she is still working to perfect.

“For me I think it’s just my nature because meditation is something that doesn’t come that easily for me,” Chu said. “Sometimes like 30 seconds into it, my mind is on everything else but the moment. But I think when you’re playing on a team and you’re always in a large group, you have to be easy-going, you have to be flexible.”

Good nutrition is also vital when training for the Olympics. To perform at her highest potential Chu must control her sweet tooth. “It is a personality trait that earned her the nickname ‘Saint Chu’.”

“I think that we have to find ways to eat and fuel our bodies that are going to help us perform the best. Because I’m the first to say that I’ve got a sweet tooth. I like French fries, I like burgers — I like all that,” she said. Chu said when the team is not training or fighting their cravings, the players sleep.

The Role Model

Chu deferred her senior year of high school to join the national team in 2000. Her decision proved to be worthwhile. In college Chu played ice hockey for Harvard University. She earned the silver medal in the 2002 Olympics and the bronze medal in 2006. Chu is also a three-time World Champions gold medalist.

“[Laughs] I kind of pass them on to my parents and hopefully they’ll be able to arrange them nicely somewhere,” Chu explained about where she stores her cache of awards. “If it was left up to me — I’m not that organized, so it would probably end up in a box somewhere.”

Being the first Asian Pacific American athlete on the national team, Chu is mindful that younger girls look up to her. The Chinese American has spoken out against performance-enhancing drugs. “I’m not the biggest player out there. I’m definitely not the strongest and my photo probably bounces twice before it actually makes it into the net,” said the 5-foot-8-inch Olympian. “But I just think that I want to at the end of the day be able to look in the mirror and know that I gave it my all, and I didn’t need anything else beyond my natural abilities to get there.”

For any ice hockey hopefuls, Chu said young women should not be afraid of playing a sport that is male-dominated.

“Do not be afraid to try a sport where you know you might be the only girl on a boy’s team depending on where you live,” Chu explained. “And at the core of everything, have fun.”

As the Winter Olympics draw near, Chu has not forgotten how her brother once watched her proudly when she was a novice player.

“I was really fortunate to have my brother — we’re about four years apart. And he really, from a young age, really took me under his wing,” Chu explained about playing in the same ice ring with her brother. “So they [his high school team] would be on the boards watching and they’d all be raining him saying, ‘Hey Chu, your sister is better than you!’

It was not true, said Chu, but her brother always received his teammates’ jeers with a big smile. “It was something he was proud of. He wasn’t ashamed that his sisters played hockey,” she said.
JACL Criticizes Statement By Ohio Lt. Gov.

JACL, calling for an apology from Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher for a statement he made criticizing Japan for excluding American car sales in a Japanese incentive program similar to the “cash for clunkers” program in the United States.

Ronald Katsuyama, JACL vice president for public affairs, called Fisher’s statement “both misleading and unnecessarily inflammatory.”

“In this troubled economic time with high unemployment, the JACL is concerned that simplistic accusations of unfair trade practices against Asian countries can induce anti-Japanese sentiment at home and worse, violence against our Asian American residents,” said Katsuyama in a Jan. 12 letter to Fisher.

JACL wants Fisher to retract his accusations and, in future discussions about foreign trade issues, “engage in more balanced, informative and productive discussions.”

In a Jan. 7 press release, Fisher said Japan’s “cash for clunkers” program created barriers for American cars.

“The exclusion of American cars from Japan’s domestic market is outrageous and the Japanese should take immediate steps to make U.S. cars eligible,” said Fisher.

Amid high anti-Japanese sentiment in 1982, two out-of-work Detroit auto workers murdered Vincent Chin, whom they mistakenly believed to be of Japanese descent.

JACL is commenting on comments made by U.S. politicians that suggest American manufacturers should be able to sell their products in Japan without facing unfair trade practices. The JACL is concerned that leaders who cannot accept Japan as a world leader should engage in more balanced, informative and productive discussions.

Commentary
Waiting For Marriage Equality

While the world waits for the district court’s decision on Califo’s Proposition 8, the right to marry is about human dignity.

By Lia Shigemura

It’s been many years since I served as JACL national program director. I dedicated myself to the JACL and its mission, but I left when I came out as a lesbian. After years of being homophobic “jokes” and comments at all levels of the organization, I knew that the good standing and respect I had earned at JACL would be at risk if I were true to myself.

Since that time, JACL has evolved on the inclusion of sexual orientation within its purview. In 1994, I sat with the first San Francisco City Council to support the courageous stand of the Hawaii chapter and the national board for the equal rights of same-sex couples to be married, even as JACLers questioned whether the discrimination against gays and lesbians should concern Japanese Americans.

I said then that JACL stood on the shoulders of the brave Nisei generation and leaders like Min Yasui, Fred Korematsu and my own pioneering Nisei father, the late James Y. Shigemura. He was part of the Territorial Legislature of Hawaii and the first legislature after statehood. He served as a Hawaii district court judge. During his lifetime of public service, he participated in many of the critical votes for equality that we Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei take for granted.

In 2004 when the opportunity first arose, my spouse Helen Zia and I were married in San Francisco in a ceremony performed by Deputy City Assessor Donna Konkle and witnessed by former JACL staff member Carol Hida. We held a wedding reception with our families and friends to celebrate our marriage. Although we had already been “domestically partnered” for 12 years, our domestic partnership filing never garnered much interest, let alone celebration. My father, then 88 years old, had his judicial robes and solemnized our marriage — just as he had done at my brother’s wedding.

Sadly, our 2004 marriage was invalidated by the courts. Then in 2008, the California Supreme Court determined that “limiting the designation of marriage to a union ‘between a man and a woman’ is unconstitutional” and discovered that it is sweeter and healthier to have the same protections, privileges and responsibilities as everyone else.

Now that we know, what we’ve been fighting for was (!(the civil liberties of all people. I hope that the JACL has continued to stand for the fundamental values and human dignity for all.

I learned about the continuing fight for equality from JACL and the many leaders who spoke out about anti-miscegenation laws, the Equal Rights Amendment, the death penalty and the civil liberties of all people. I hope that the JACL has continued to stand for the fundamental values and human dignity for all.

Lia Shigemura was JACL national program director from 1982 to 1986.

Southeast JACL Honors WWII Heroes

Doi was in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Nisei unit charged with saving the Texas unit. In all, more than 800 Japanese American soldiers were killed or wounded in the rescue.

“Just like we had to save them, we had to save them,” Doi said.

“I appreciate them coming to get us,” said Estes.

We honor the brave men and women who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the many soldiers who lost their lives in the rescue.
So Cal Edison Sponsors JACL Fellowship

With generous support from Southern California Edison, the JACL Pacific Southwest District has named Kristin Fukushima as the new Mike Honda Fellow.

The fellowship focuses on JACL's advocacy and public policy awareness, programming, education and coalition building between partner community organizations. In addition to working on public policy issues relevant to the Asian American community, Fukushima will also implement programming to engage youth in community and policy.

These programs include JACL's Bridging Communities, Mobilize for Policy, Mobilize for Little Tokyo, and Project Community Programs. All these programs are designed to create a new generation of advocates for the community and civil rights.

Fukushima recently graduated from Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. where she studied sociology and Asian American Studies. Kristin has previously worked with FSW as the West Los Angeles JACL intern and through the Nikkei Community Internship.

Southern California Edison (SCE) has a long-standing tradition of enhancing the community through its corporate giving, and is particularly supportive of organizations that are deeply rooted in the community like the JACL.

The fellowship is named in honor of Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., for his ongoing public service and commitment to civil rights issues in the AAPI community.

"We are very pleased to have this opportunity to support JACL and this fellowship program to promote civic engagement and leadership development for the Japanese American community," said Erwin Furukawa, SCE vice president of customer programs and services.

On the Web www.jaclpsw.org

JACL Meets With the Secretary of Interior

'I am on your side on this issue,' said Ken Salazar about preserving Minidoka.

By Phillip Ozaki

To enhance the organization's work in preserving World War II Japanese American concentration camps, JACL National Director Floyd Mori recently met with Sec. of Interior Ken Salazar to encourage continued support for the JACL's preservation initiative.

He was accompanied by Shirley Tang, immediate past president; Phillip Ozaki, JACL's Mineta Fellow; and Shirley Higashiguchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Foundation.

The meeting was held in the secretary's office at the Department of Interior. Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service (NPS), and special assistant Neal Kemink accompanied Salazar in the meeting. Jarvis, a longtime friend of the JACL, reviewed the JACL's involvement in the initiative to include the camps in the NPS.

Salazar expressed his support for this initiative and related his membership in Sen. Daniel Inouye on the topic of the World War II treatment of Japanese Americans.

An urgent issue that was brought to the secretary's attention was the proposed construction of a power line over the Minidoka National Historic Site in Jerome, Idaho. A 200-foot tower has been proposed to run directly over the present historic site. The government has fast-tracked the power line because of the urgency to use federal government stimulus money and to provide an alternative source of electric power.

The JACL has been working to have this power line redirected away from the Minidoka site to preserve its educational and historic value. Salazar agreed with the historic significance of the site and said, "I am on your side on this issue."

He committed to working with JACL in resolving the problem.

Another significant topic discussed was the need to provide funding for Public Law 109-441, which authorized the federal government to provide $36 million in matching funds for concentration camp preservation.

JACL promoted the bill, which was carried by then Congressmen Bill Thomas and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006.

Last October, President Barack Obama signed legislation that would grant $3 million for the camp preservation program — $200,000 for bunker recreation at Manzanar, Calif. and $350,000 for the park boundary expansion at Minidoka. In December NPS held feedback sessions for the JA concentration sites grant program.

JACL leaders were encouraged by Salazar's willingness to continue working with the JACL and the community in preserving WWII JA history.

Every president since Gerald Ford has taken executive action to remember or preserve the American concentration camps, a deeply rooted narrative in JA history.

Phillip Ozaki is the JACL Mineta Fellow.
The National Park Service is holding question and answer sessions about its grant program that seeks to preserve the sites of former World War II internment camps and their histories.

The deadline to apply for the Japanese American Confinement Site Grant Program is March 4.

Those interested in applying for the grant program may meet with NPS staff at the Q & A sessions. NPS has already held sessions in key areas like Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

If selected for funding, eligible grant applicants this year may also receive up to two grant awards.

Grants can be used for projects, including plans and construction of interpretive centers, trails, wayside exhibits, and other facilities, research of site histories, oral histories, school curriculums on internment history, as well as the purchase of non-federal land at five of the sites — Heart Mountain, Honolulni, Jerome, Rohwer, and Topaz.

Locations eligible for the grants include the 10 War Relocation Authority camps set up in 1942. Also eligible are more than 40 other locations in 16 states, including civilian and military-run assembly, relocation and isolation centers.

Last year, the NPS awarded 19 grants totaling $970,000 to non-profit organizations, educational institutions and state and local governments working to preserve the confinement sites and their histories.

On Oct. 30, President Barack Obama signed Public Law 111-88, increasing funding for the program to $3 million, three times the amount appropriated for the first year of the program.

Congress established the grant program in 2006 under Public Law 109-141 and authorized up to $38 million over the life of the grant program to identify, research, protect and acquire historic internment sites.

Topaz Museum Hold Meetings to Discuss Architectural Plans

The Topaz Museum is currently sharing space with another museum in Delta. The proposed new site will allow the museum to have a place of its own to tell the whole history of Topaz. Topaz Museum officials are holding these meetings to gather community feedback. The initial building designs — created by Shah Kawasaki Architect and West Office Exhibition Design — are being displayed and discussed at the meetings.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

NATIONAL/COMMUNITY

FEB. 5-18, 2010

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JACL D.C. Fellows: D.C. Experience was Inspiring

Two young Asian Pacific American leaders who recently completed their Washington, D.C. fellowships with the JACL are hailing their experiences as inspirational.

Shirley Tang, the 2009 JACL Inouye Fellow who worked in the JACL’s Washington, D.C. office, said her fellowship experience has inspired her to continue advocating for “the individuals who lack a prominent voice at the decision-making table.”

“A as a fellow, I had the opportunity to attend council meetings to discuss legislation that will eliminate health disparities, drafted talking points and support letters, and had the opportunity to share the countless stories of individuals who were affected by the current health care crisis,” said Tang about her tenure. “My advocacy efforts focused on eliminating health disparities within minority populations, increasing access to affordable quality health care services, and ensuring linguistically and culturally appropriate services.

“As a fellow, I had the opportunity to attend council meetings to discuss legislation that will eliminate health disparities, drafted talking points and support letters, and had the opportunity to share the countless stories of individuals who were affected by the current health care crisis,” said Tang about her tenure. “My advocacy efforts focused on eliminating health disparities within minority populations, increasing access to affordable quality health care services, and ensuring linguistically and culturally appropriate services.

“In a city filled with politicians scratching each other’s backs and groups with not-so-special interests, getting anything done is not easy and certainly not pleasant. But people from all over the country are here — conservatives and liberals, youth and old, searching for truth,” said Sakakihara.

Since completing his fellowship, Sakakihara has returned home to California where he plans to become involved in political campaigning. Tang has secured a position on a commission in Washington, D.C.

Become a JACL Fellow

Several JACL fellowships are available and open to college graduates interested in working for the APA community. The fellowships run for 10-12 months. College graduates with a commitment to the JACL are invited to check out fellowship opportunities at www.jacl.org.
Fresno
DOR Dinner and Groundbreaking
Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m.; dinner 5 p.m.
Dinner: $55 general admission; $25 for youth (under 25) or Nisei veterans
Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chateau Ave.
Breakground at the site of the former Fresno Assembly Center where community leaders are working to build a memorial to help educate visitors about the historical significance of the site.
Over 5,000 JAs were temporarily housed at the Fresno Assembly Center from May through October 1942. To purchase dinner tickets, call Travis Nishi at 559/282-7379.

Merced
Merced Assembly Center Memorial
Feb. 20, monument dedication, 3 p.m.; dinner immediately follows
$40 per person
Merced Fairgrounds
901 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
The ceremony to honor the 4,500 JAs once incarcerated at the fairgrounds will be dedicated. Benches and storyboard surrounds the monument, which features a sculpture of a young girl sitting on top of suitcases.
John Tateishi, immediate former JACL national director, will keynote the gala dinner.

Independence
Manzanar Groundbreaking
Feb. 12, 1 p.m.
Manzanar National Historic Site
A ceremony will be held Feb. 13 for the Manzanar National Historic Site's barrack groundbreaking.
Info: NCRR, 760/878-2194

Los Angeles
Korenuto u. United States
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 E. Central Ave.
The Little Tokyo event commemorates the large-scale rights cases of Fred Korematsu, who in the 1960s successfully had his wartime conviction (for defying evacuation orders) overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Los Angeles
Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust
Feb. 16, 2 p.m.
267/235-9426
Speakers Ellen Somekawa, executive director of the Japanese American National Museum, and Mike Honda, accepting this year.

San Jose
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
National Museum of American History
The Shifting Grounds of Race: Black and African American Community Relationships in post-WWII California
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
Caribbean Auditorium
National Museum of American History
14th St. & Constitution Ave., NW
Award-winning playwright Phillip Kan Gotanda and historian Dr. Scott Kusche take the stage to talk about their latest work—Gotanda’s “After the War,” a play about Japanese American internment. The Shifting Grounds of Race, Black and Japanese Americans in the Making of Multicultural Los Angeles.
Info: www.nps.gov/la

STOCKTON
DOR and Dedication of the Study Room
Feb. 20, 9:30-12 noon
Seating will be limited to the first 100 guests
University of the Pacific Library
3601 Pacific Ave.
Academic parallelists Gordon Chang, Nelson Nagai and Shon Sotomayor will discuss the history of Stockton’s Japanese American Community. The discussion is followed by the dedication of the study room.

CHICAGO
Heroes
Feb. 2, 2 p.m.
Chicago History Museum
1601 N. Clark St.
Award-winning biographer Alton Takiyama-Chung will present her original five-page-manuscript profile, “Heroes,” about two brothers in their journey from basic training to fighting with the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

MASSACHUSETTS
CAMBRIDGE
Remembrance Intermittent: The Images and Words of Minoru Okabe and Michi Nishikawa Wadyn
Feb. 20, 3-5 p.m.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MIT Building 26E, Room 117
Featuring Elena Takiyama-Cron, associate professor of women's and gender studies at Wellesley College and co-editor of Forbidden: Her Own Story: The Life and Art of Minoru Okabe. The program will include a short documentary film on Michi Wadyn followed by discussion and light refreshments.
Info: www.ncrr.org

PHILADELPHIA
Anti-Asian Violence in Philadelphia Schools
Feb. 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Merion Friends Meeting
615 Montgomery Ave.
Merion, PA.
Speakers Ellen Somekawa, executive director of the Japanese American National Museum, and Mike Honda, accepting this year.

Washington, D.C.
After the War: Japanese American and Afro-American Community Relationships
Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
National Museum of American History
Liberties Public Education Program
CCLPEP Grant Priorities Announced

Finding a Buried Past

Day of Remembrance events happen every year, but their significance still resonate.

Throughout the month of February, community organizations will be holding Day of Remembrance (DOR) programs, in commemoration of the U.S. presidential executive order No. 9066 and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. For fourth and fifth generation JAs like myself, it is a less a day of remembrance and more an opportunity to find a buried past—a past that is now approaching 70 years.

So for me, this a time to learn more about my family’s past, and doing so has been like finding hidden treasures in the attic.

I’m still in awe to know that the grandmother I used to take walks with at Keiro Nursing Home is the same woman who was a renunciant the Tule Lake Segregation Center. As a preschooler, I used to visit her every Sunday up until her passing, but I was never made aware of her troubled past until I became older.

When I was in seventh grade, my English teacher assigned me an oral presentation about a personal hero. I asked my mother for suggestions and she told me to talk about my grandmother. At the very moment I asked, "Why?" My mother subsequently took me up to the attic.

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When I was in seventh grade, my English teacher assigned me an oral presentation about a personal hero. I asked my mother for suggestions and she told me to talk about my grandmother. At the very moment I asked, "Why?" My mother subsequently took me up to the attic and set a film on Michi Wadyn followed by discussion and light refreshments.

As DOR programs take place across the country, I, along with other Americans, will be taking that trip back up to the attic to find our buried past.

Katie Nishimura, 17, is a student at Temple City High School in Temple City, Calif.

CCLPEP Grant Priorities Announced

Funding priorities for California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) have been announced. The CCLPEP is a state-funded program administered by the California State Library.

Applications in three categories will be considered: (1) Gathering Nisei Stories—capturing and preserving the stories of interned JAs; (2) Preserving and Sharing the Experience—producing a informational book about the Japanese American internment experience and its collecting and preserving internment documents and works; (3) Site Preservation—preserving internment camp accommodations, center, and other similar endangered landmarks.

The deadline for grant applications is Feb. 26. The maximum grant amounts vary by project type—$450,000 is available in this grant cycle.

The CCLPEP was created as the result of the passage of the 1996 California Civil Liberties Public Education Act, an initiative sponsored by then Assembly Member Mike Honda.

The program’s purpose is to sponsor public educational activities and development.
TRIBUTE

JOHN KASHIWABARA

John Kashiwabara passed away Jan. 16, 2018 in Long Beach, CA. He was born Nov. 30, 1921 in Florin, Los Angeles, CA. A memorial celebration will be held Feb. 5, 2010 at 3:00 pm at the Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach.

Dr. John was one of Long Beach's greatest supporters and sports fans. He was a family practice physician and surgeon, in private practice from 1954-1990, and was heavily involved in Long Beach sports at the high school, community college, and collegiate levels from 1954 until his death.

He was an active member of Downtown Lions Club of Long Beach, Yokosaki Sister Cities, Long Beach Century Club, Japanese Gardens at CSULB; President of Port of Long Beach, Long Beach Unified School District, Boys & Girls Clubs of Long Beach, Japanese American Citizens League (Long Beach); Charter Member of CSULB’s 4-aters Athletic Association & Long Beach City College Foundation; Board Member of Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, California State University System, National Conference of Christians and Jews (now called CCEJ), American Red Cross (Long Beach), & numerous other organizations.

John is survived by his brother Ken; sister-in-laws Masako Kashiwabara & Mary Kashiwabara & brother-in-law George Ishimoto; nieces Annette Kashiwabara Inoshita (Mary Ishimoto), Michelle Farrell (Wayde), Karen Bell (Robert), Linda Quan (Paul), Diane Ishimoto (Larry Inoshita), and nephews Donald Ishimoto (Ben), 11 great-nephews and great-nieces. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Long Beach Community Foundation, John Kashiwabara Endowment, 400 Oceanfront Suite 800, Long Beach, CA 90802 (562-435-9333).
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