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PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



{ IN DEPTH }

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

80 Years of APA News



Congratulations on the beautiful Holiday Issue (Dec. 18, 2009-Jan. 21, 2010). I find it full of significant JACL history that I will keep forever.

ED MITOMA
South Bay JACL

Congratulations! The Holiday Issue was the greatest of all your past *Pacific Citizens*. Keep up the great stories!

DR. FRANK SAKAMOTO
Millennium Club co-chair

Membership Crisis Camps

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 Koide, 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 poor past picayune planning procedures.

STANLEY N. KANZAKI
New York JACL

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 those few still living in 1988) rightfully received.

YOSHIE TANABE
Honolulu, Hawaii

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JACL Continues Its Important Work

By Floyd Mori



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 about civil rights. This is an ongoing struggle. Some of us remember the tension and unrest of the 1950s and 1960s. Recently, a Japanese American friend who obtained a Harvard law degree in the 1980s, told me about the harassment and racial discrimination he felt while in school. Now in 2010, things have improved for Asian Pacific Americans and other ethnic groups, but there is still work to be done. Some of our JACL members continue to experience prejudice and racism. The important work of the JACL must go on into the future.

Being a grass roots organization with chapters throughout 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. ■

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 Shiraki, 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: dcdigest@jACL.org.

The JACL/OCA 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 contributions from State Farm. The JACL has also recently received signifi-

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

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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 Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

As some Asian Pacific American publications devise strategies to stay afloat in a changing industry, journalism hopefuls and veterans are still voicing concerns about the future of the ethnic press.

It is no secret that ethnic newspapers have been struggling to stave off financial difficulties. Changes in technology, decline in advertising and subscriptions have caused ripple effects throughout the industry. These changes have prompted nationwide layoffs, closures and bankruptcies due to economic distress.

Last year the *Hokubei Mainichi* newspaper folded after over 60 years in operation. The closure of the *Nichi Bei Times* preceded it.

Japanese American publications like *Rafu Shimpō* are also appealing to the public for solutions to amassed debt. In a Jan. 20 article, staff writer Mikey Hirano Culross reported that the *Rafu* had accumulated over \$350,000 in debt and needed "revenue increases of \$12,000 per month."

Although the fate of print journalism seems grim, some journalism professionals are 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 Jon Funabiki, journalism professor at San Francisco State University. "I think it's a difficult time, but I also think it's a time for new opportunities."

Funabiki's aunt and uncle were *Pacific Citizen* editors during World War II.

Others echo Funabiki's optimism.

"Well, we will still continue on," said Gwen Muranaka, *Rafu* English editor, during a phone interview.

"I mean there's no question that the newspaper is going to continue," said Muranaka. "But I think the message we wanted to get out to the community is that like every other newspaper in the country, we're facing some pretty difficult times."

The Future of Ethnic Media

A study conducted last year by officials with New American Media, or NAM, found that ethnic media has expanded its

reach to more readers.

The study showed that "ethnic media now reaches 57 million African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans," an increase of about 16 percent since 2005.

But some have said that JA newspapers are not seeing the same growth.

"Japanese American press are not seeing the same pickup that other ethnic presses are seeing, because immigration from Japan is limited, and the advertisers know that," said Ken Abiko, with the *Nichi Bei Times*, in a 2009 NAM article. "However, the ethnic media's financial troubles do not signal a diminished need for their services."

For ethnic publications like the *Nichi Bei Times* financial woes began before the economy took a nosedive. Other newspapers also saw a decrease in ad revenue before the economic downturn.

"When I first started at the paper in the late 1980s, full-page ads from companies like AT&T and JAL [Japan Airlines] were common," wrote J.K. Yamamoto, former English editor for the *Hokubei Mainichi*, 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 *Hokubei Mainichi* the decline of subscriptions and advertising could not offset the rising costs of production and postal fees.

The closure of ethnic publications also trickles 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 *Hokubei Mainichi*, *AsianWeek*, and *Nichi Bei* are still reaching and capturing audiences through their online/web presence," said Leslie Yngojo-Bowes, 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 Aoyagi-Storn. "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 this 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 300 people in the field of journalism were polled. The study found that giving a 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 so much as a business," Funabiki said, who co-directed the study. "And I think for them — I think of ethnic media outlets as being more like community organizations than like your traditional newspaper or television stations; that's mainly there as a business. That's not to say that they are all that way."

The 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 Masaru Oka, a senior at Stanford University. "The fact that many newspapers are having a hard time is one of the things that is discouraging me."

Oka 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 tries out a photojournalism internship. 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 news organizations are laying off workers, 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. Wherever journalism heads, ultimately the readers 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 *Hokubei*, I can see that the ethnic media still serve 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 mouth 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." ■

Documents Tell Government's Side of Alien Land Law Cases



PHOTO: JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

The Oyama family took their case to court when the state seized their land during World War II. Kajiro Oyama, the head of the family, obtained a lawyer and sought the help of JACL.

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 papers dated in the mid-1940s detailing the government's perspective on property claims made by JA families living in the area.

Lois Sahyoun, 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 sorting through the documents. What she found surprised her.

"I didn't [know what they were] until I started looking through them," Sahyoun 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 trashed 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 Oyama 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 so 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,"



PHOTO: MICHAEL WURTZ

Boxes (pictured above) containing historical documents reveal how JAs were investigated by state officials.

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 she 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 for-

tunate.

"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 plan 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 works by a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, a group of Caucasian, "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 start reading what's happening in these cases."

"It makes you mad," she continued. "It makes you really mad. 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." ■

Gaps Emerging in Census Outreach to Immigrants



JACL launches new 2010 Census Web page.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—The government is fumbling 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 in 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 ruling 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 Short Stories,” a weekly column about the Census.

Census data is crucial for communities to receive their share of over \$400 billion in federal funds, political representation, and services such as transportation, schools and health care. It also monitors civil rights laws like the Voting Rights Act. One uncounted person could cost up to \$1,300 each year for the next decade.

The Census officially began last month in parts of rural Alaska. Most of the nation will receive their forms by mail the week of March 15. ■

Visit the page now: www.jacl.org/public_policy/census2010

JACL Receives Grant from The UPS Foundation

The JACL has received a \$30,000 grant from The UPS Foundation to continue its Collegiate 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 in our communities, so we are proud to support the JACL's efforts to build leadership through

its College Leadership Program,” said Ken Sternad, 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 Collegiate Leadership Program which strives to build leaders for the future,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. ■



Angst Still Felt at South Philly High

Students and community organizers want school district officials to take responsibility for the oversight that, they say, caused recent attacks.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Nearly two months after racial attacks erupted at South Philadelphia High School, students and community leaders say school officials are refusing to take accountability for the incidents.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, or AALDEF, said the district and school showed “deliberate indifference,” to the attacks. On Jan. 19, AALDEF filed a civil rights complaint with the United States Department of Justice against the Philadelphia School District and high school.

School officials trace the problem back to an incident where two Asian Pacific American students allegedly attacked a disabled African American student. But APA community organizers say the tension between students began about a year ago when five to six APA students were chased into a subway station and allegedly assaulted.

Students reached out for help by calling community organizations. They described routine harassment at school: milk being thrown at them, assaults in the cafeteria and bathrooms, money being stolen, and more.

Requests to install security cameras and to hire a bilingual security officer were made after that incident, said APA community leaders. It was not until after the highly publicized Dec. 3 attacks, they said, that those requests were addressed.

On Dec. 3 about 30 APA students were attacked again throughout the day and after school. Seven students required hospital treatment. Ten students — four APA and six African American — were suspended.

Dissatisfied with the school district officials' handling of the situation, about 50 APA students boycotted school for about a week. They took to the streets holding signs that read, “Grown-Ups Let Us Down,” and “It's Not a Question of Who Beat Whom, But Who Let it Happen.” Philadelphia Schools Supt. Arlene Ackerman said at a Jan. 7 meeting that the blame game needed to stop and explained that the incidents could be gang-related, which was never suggested before.

The continued lack of accountability is not helping to heal wounds, said community leaders.

“If you're going to deny it or try to sweep it under the

rug, how are you going to actually work to fix it?” said Ellen Somekawa, executive director of Asian Americans United, or AAU.

Following the Dec. 3 incident, students created a list of security and “climate” demands for district school officials, intended to help foster a safe learning environment. More security cameras and security officers have since been installed at the school. But some students said they still feel uncomfortable there.

The school district did not respond to requests for a comment.

About 70 percent of South Philly High students are African Americans, 6 percent White, 18 percent APA and 5 percent Latino. Reports to the local media by Latino students suggest that not only APA students were targeted.

The tension erupted in violence. Students trolled the hallways, said community leaders, looking for APA students to attack.

Community leaders said it is not important who attack whom, but who allowed the attacks to occur.

“What we've been at pains to talk about is that we are saying that these are racial attacks, but we're really focusing on the fact that they are racial attacks because they're targeting Asian immigrant students,” said Somekawa. We're not saying they are racial attacks because the attackers were African Americans.”

Others agree with Somekawa. “I think it's more complicated than black on Asian,” said Kay Kyungsun Yu, chairwoman of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR). She is a member of the 50-person Task Force For Racial and Cultural Harmony, which is implementing the SPIRIT program at the high school. The aim of the program is to end violence and racism at school.

To address lingering concerns about the climate at South Philadelphia High, PCHR officials held a public hearing Jan. 28. About 11 hearings will be scheduled throughout the year, which are planned to help “address intergroup violence” at Philadelphia public schools.

Despite remaining concerns, there is an important lesson, students said, to be learned from the eruption of violence that occurred Dec. 3.

“The incidents have made me [understand] how irresponsible and powerless the authorized people at my school and in the school district are,” said 17-year-old Duong-Nghe Ly, who is Vietnamese American. “What they've done is just to refuse the responsibilities toward all the problems that have existed in the school district for so many years.” ■



Rep. Mike Honda speaks about comprehensive immigration reform at a rally on the West Capitol Lawn.

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) Immigrant Rights Project policy advocate.

One out of every 10 APAs is undocumented, said Choi. APA families 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 con-

cerns of the APA and other immigrant communities.

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

“Comprehensive immigration reform is something that is very close to the JACL in that many of the battles fought by newer immigrants today are the battles the Japanese immigrants faced many decades ago,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

“Allowing families to remain as a unit and to allow a legal pathway to citizenship are battles that were fought for by our Issei 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 Associated Press

WAIPAHU, Hawaii—Gaudencio Sotio injured his left leg fighting to expel the Japanese military from the Philippines during World War II. Though Filipino, he was fighting under the command of the United 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 pensions it had promised Filipino soldiers during the war but reneged on paying.

Since then, more than 11,000 surviving veterans now in their 80s and 90s received this much delayed monetary recognition of their service and sacrifice. But thousands of others are still waiting to receive their money as the federal government wades through a backlog of applications.

This bureaucracy moved too slowly for Sotio, who died Jan. 10. The 84-year-old applied for his benefits on Feb. 20 — just days after the law authorizing the funds went into effect. His death came before the Department of Veterans Affairs was able to rule on his claim.

“My husband said, ‘If the others are receiving, maybe I’m going to receive too,’” said Norma Sotio, his widow. “It’s one year already. If my husband received that money maybe he enjoy.”

Part of the problem is that 40,000 people applied for the benefit when the VA had been expecting only half that number.

To cope, the VA added seven additional claims processors to its Manila field office.

The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, which has over a century of documents for military ser-

vicemen and women, has also increased its staff to deal with the claims, and is now handling 800 lump sum payment queries a week, or twice as many as when the program started.

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.

Ineligible applications may be slowing claims processing. The department has so far had to deny nearly 8,000 claims, mostly from people who hadn’t served. Some were from veteran widows, children and other next of kin who aren’t eligible. Some people filed more than one application.

Some 16,000 claims are still being reviewed. The VA has distributed \$136 million, or over two-thirds of the money, to date. It’s prepared to ask lawmakers for additional funds if it appears it will exhaust the allocated amount. Veterans have until Feb. 16 to file.

More than 250,000 Filipinos served alongside U.S. soldiers to defend the Philippines from the 1941 Japanese invasion. The U.S. military assured Filipinos they would be able to apply for U.S. citizenship and qualify for full U.S. veterans’ benefits if they served. But one year after Japan’s surrender, the Rescission Act of 1946 declared that Filipinos were not in active service for the U.S. military during the war.

This stripped Filipinos of their status as U.S. veterans and denied them the benefits they were promised.

The waiting has frustrated veterans who have already spent most of their lives pushing the government to fulfill its promises. ■

National Newsbytes

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.

Called the “Ellis Island of the West,” the immigration station served as a detainment site for immigrants, who were mostly from Asia. One million immigrants were processed at there from 1910 to 1940.



\$1.5 Million Allocated For Little Tokyo Building

TORRANCE, Calif.—The United States Congress approved an additional \$1.5 million toward a new Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles’ Japantown.

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 again 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-based radio host criticized the supermarket chain.

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

Calif. Immigrant Men More Likely To Be Employed

LOS ANGELES—A report says that Latino and Asian immigrant men in California are more likely to be employed than their U.S.-born counterparts.

The study on immigrant contributions released Jan. 26 by the California Immigrant Policy Center showed 84 percent of Latino and Asian immigrant men of working age were employed compared with 78 percent of U.S.-born Latino and Asian men. Immigrant women were less likely to be employed than their U.S.-born counterparts.

The report was conducted by USC’s Program for Environmental and Regional Equity. It used American Community Survey data from 2005 to 2007. The data predates the economic slowdown, which some studies say has hit immigrants hard.

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 Plate 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 F.C. "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 in 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."

DONATE

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



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- 利害の抵触に関する条件を満たす

詳細は www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov をご参照ください。2010年2月12日までの申請期間中、オンラインで申請書に記入・提出できます。今すぐお申し込みください!

[WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov](http://www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov)

政治本来のパワーを 人の手に戻そう





for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

About Honor

As I was writing my article for the November *Pacific Citizen* issue that memorialized and commemorated our veterans — “our” meaning Japanese American — 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 own 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 do it by the thousands even after they had lost all the privileges afforded by the democracy they were about to defend? It was an extraordinary gesture by any measure. One has to admire them, every one of them, for having done so.

Individual valor by Americans was seen throughout World War II, but one has to look long and hard to find such an incredible unit valor as was demonstrated by JA soldiers who served during WWII.

How could one *not* admire these vets and all they accomplished?

And then there is Ehren Watada.

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 unjustified and immoral war. He understood that a

soldier's duty is 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 falsify 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 *knew* 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 unmerciful 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 dishonor 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 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 controversies of his case behind us. Just as history has brought to light the enormous and magnificent contributions of the Nisei soldier during WWII, I trust that history will view Watada as someone future generations can admire. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

COMMENTARY

Public Disclosure: My ADHD

BY EMA NAKANO



Had I known five years ago, perhaps I wouldn't be in school at the age of 29.

Let me set the record straight: I am Japanese American and I have Attention Deficit Disorder. Officially, the diagnosis is listed in my medical record as, “ADHD, PREDOMINANTLY INATTENTIVE TYPE [314.00AN].”

For as long as I could recall, learning was a struggle. I was rather quiet and awkward so flying below the educational problem-child radar was easy and I was great at creating entire worlds in my head while daydreaming in class.

In my early 20s, I returned to college full time and struggled immensely. By struggling, I mean I had to spend hours (literally, hours upon hours) studying with absolutely no results. By struggling, I don't mean I got a 94 percent on an exam and cried over it. Instead, I had to repeat Math 098, Math 120 and flunked out of Math 122 in community college. I also flunked out of my general chemistry class. The first year I was in an actual university, I had a GPA of 1.9.

Eventually, I went to see my doctor because I was unsure if I had “mental” issues and was honestly wondering if I was a bit “slow” upstairs. It also didn't help that mental health issues were never discussed openly in my family. Mental health was not even a term that existed in my household, so I was never aware that my educational struggles actually would be attributed to such issues. Had I known five years ago, perhaps I wouldn't be in school at the age of 29.

When I learned about my diagnosis, it literally felt as though a curtain had been opened in front of my eyes. I think that I may have actually embodied the term “elation” complete with rays of sunshine! My doctors helped me with managing my medication and when I found the right dosage, it felt as though I had upgraded from an old ratty television set to a 90-inch high-definition plasma TV screen.

Let me make it clear though: the diagnosis has helped, but it has not changed the fact that I still struggle with concentrating and that I compare myself to other Asian Pacific American students. I struggle with my older age in a university where I am roughly 10 to 12 years older than my classmates.

I don't disclose my diagnosis to anyone at school with the exception of a few close friends, mainly because abuse of ADD/ADHD medication in many universities. How else do you think students stay up if they aren't filling up on Red Bull?

I still struggle, because at the age of 29, I am unable to drive due to my inattentiveness.

However, I'm not throwing a pity party here. I received a full ride with the University of Washington's Husky Promise program, in which my tuition is covered in full.

Since my diagnosis last February, I've been on Dean's List for the first time in my life and have been able to raise my GPA each quarter. It is not easy for students who have ADD/ADHD but I also feel it is more difficult for APA students, especially with the reality that many families still misidentify mental health issues as personal weakness.

I hope that my public disclosure as a JA with ADD/ADHD will let others in a similar situation that they are not alone and that it is actually possible to go from a 1.9 GPA to the Dean's List with a lot of hard work and medical support. ■

Ema Nakao is a Kentucky-born Shin Nisei who grew up in Hawaii. She is working to receive her bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Washington.





The Discovery Channel's "Mythbusters" (pictured above) will return to debunking myths on TV in March.

He's Bringing Geeky Back

Grant Imahara said science TV shows like "Mythbusters" are helping to debunk myths of geeks.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Electronics ace Grant Imahara said he does not just play a geek on TV, he is a geek.

Imahara is part of the cast on the Discovery Channel's "Mythbusters," which uses 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. And this season promises to be as explosive as past seasons, literally. Imahara said viewers could expect to see an episode where the cast members bulletproof a car with phone books.

Whether 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 Pacific 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 technique 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 THX 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, who also archived the *Pacific Citizen* as a part of his work-study program with USC's Asian Pacific American Students Services.

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.

"So, one day they pretty much came in and said, 'Look we're going to need to update the R2-D2 fleet. And do you think you could get on that right away?'" Imahara said excitedly. "And for me I grew up in the 70s. This was my

era. I had the 'Star Wars' bed 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 the 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.

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-liquor theory, a belief that if people drink beer before liquor 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 to test how bad the hangover is if you drink beer only or mix your liquors."

Other myths tested on the show include an episode where Imahara dropped 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 on 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 yearlong.

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 maybe 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.

"But the great thing is that I'm not the first one [role model]. When I was growing up I was a huge 'Star Trek' fan," Imahara said.

"And George Takei, a 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 (pictured above) once archived issues of the *Pacific Citizen* while at USC.



COOL AS ICE

Hockey forward Julie Chu’s ability to stay cool on the ice under pressure earned her the nickname ‘Saint Chuey.’

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Julie Chu could not help but envy the hockey players across the ice rink when she strapped on ice skates at 8 years old to learn figure skating with her sister.

A couple of months after her ill-fated figure skating lessons, Chu would begin her ice hockey career. It was a journey that would eventually lead her to the Olympics three times with the United States women’s hockey team.

“Two months later we’re like, ‘Well, we really don’t want to do this one,’” Julie Chu said during a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen* about wanting to play ice hockey like her brother, Richard. “And they [my parents] didn’t even bat an eye. They went to the local hockey shop and suited us up in equipment. And ever since then it’s been history, and I’ve been loving it every moment.”

The 27-year-old and the 20 other ice hockey players will head to Vancouver on Feb. 7 after training in Colorado.

Her brother Richard will also trav-

el to the 2010 Winter Olympics to cheer for Chu in her third Olympic appearance. Also supporting her off the ice in Vancouver will be her mother, father and sister. They are some of her staunchest supporters, who got tattooed with the Olympic rings in honor of Chu.

With a sizeable contingent rooting her on, Chu said competing in the Olympics for the third time is slightly less stressful because she knows what to expect.

The U.S. women’s ice hockey team is comprised of six Olympians and 19 world champions. Younger players like Hilary Knight, will bring the energy to the ice, said Chu. And Chu’s easygoing nature will help calm the nerves of first-time Olympians. It is a personality trait that earned her the nickname “Saint Chuey.”

“In 2002, my first Olympics, I was going in a little bit blind. I can kind of head into these games being like, ‘OK, we’re going into this awesome competition, this great event,’” Chu explained about being emotionally overwhelmed during her first Olympic experience.

“And I’ve been fortunate enough to have already have gotten an opportunity to do it. Now hopefully I can kind of be a calming force.”

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 regiment, something she is still working to perfect.

“For me I think it’s just my nature because meditation to be honest doesn’t come that easily for me,” Chu said.

“Sometimes like 30 seconds into it, my mind is on every other thing 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 easygoing, 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.

“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’ll be 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 shots probably bounce 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 draws 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 rink with her brother. “So they [his high school team] would be on the boards watching and they’d all be razzing him saying, ‘Hey Chu, your sister is better than you!’”

It was not true, said Chu, but her brother always received his teammates’ jests with a big smile. “It was something he was proud of. He wasn’t ashamed that his sisters played hockey,” she said. ■

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JACL Criticizes Statement By Ohio Lt. Gov.

JACL is 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 irresponsibly 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-Asian sentiment at home and worse, violence against our Asian Pacific American residents,” said Katsuyama in a Jan. 12 letter to Fisher.

The JACL wants Fisher to retract his accusatory statements 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 “erected barriers” for American cars.

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

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

“... the JACL is concerned that simplistic accusations of unfair trade practices against Asian countries can induce anti-Asian sentiment at home and worse, violence against our Asian Pacific American residents.”

Ron Katsuyama

American Holiday Travel

2010 Tour Schedule

JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM HOLIDAY TOUR Fukuoka, Hagi, Akiyoshidai, Iwakuni, Miyahima, Hiroshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Naoshima, Okayama, Kyoto.	MAR 28-APR 9
OUR NATION'S CAPITAL & WILLIAMSBURG TOUR Washington DC, Mount Vernon, Richmond, Jamestown, Yorktown, Williamsburg.	APR 15-21
SEDONA & GRAND CANYONS HOLIDAY TOUR 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.	APR 25-30
FLORIDA HOLIDAY TOUR Orlando, EPCOT Center, Kennedy Space Center, Marco Island Resort, Everglades Boat Ride, Key Largo, Miami, Miami Bay Cruise.	MAY 3-10
SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires. Optional to Peru - Lima, Machu Picchu. Meet local Japanese.	MAY 13-22
SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE London, Tallinn, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen. HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam Ship.	MAY 28-JUN 9
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.	JUN 27-JUL 6
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE Vancouver, Sawyer Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan. HOLLAND AMERICA Zuiderdam Ship.	AUG 14-21
CANADA-NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY CRUISE New York City, Newport/Rhode Island, Boston, Bar Harbor/Maine, Halifax/Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saguenay Fjord, Quebec. HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam Ship.	SEP 15-26
SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA-TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR Chiba, Mito, Aizu Wakamatsu/Higashiyama Onsen, Sado Island, Nagano, Matsumoto, Takayama, Gujo Hachiman, Gifu, Kyoto.	SEP 22-28
JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR	SEP 28-OCT 8
KOREA DRAMA HOLIDAY TOUR Seoul, Jeju Island, Gyeongju, Busan, Tongyeong, Gwangju, Daejeon.	OCT 18-31
SOUTHEAST ASIA HOLIDAY TOUR Bangkok, Cambodia, Vietnam.	NOVEMBER

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Ernest & Carol Hida

COMMENTARY

Waiting For Marriage Equality

While the world waits for the district court’s decision on Calif.’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 hearing 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 testified at the Salt Lake City national convention to support the courageous stand of the Hawaii chapter and the national board for the equal rights of same-sex couples in Hawaii to be married, even as some JACLers questioned whether 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 retired 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 Kotake and witnessed by former JACL staff member Carole Hayashino. 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, donned 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 we were legally married a second time. Soon, a hate-filled “Prop. 8” campaign again took away the rights of same-sex couples to marry like anyone else by claiming that my marriage to Helen would lead to polygamy, child molestation, bestiality, the end of the human race and a host of other demonic evils. However, Helen and I were already married and we remain one of 18,000 same-sex couples to have a legal marriage in California.

Currently there is a federal civil rights lawsuit challenging the marriage ban against couples like us, and one



Lia Shigemura (left) and Helen Zia (right) at their wedding.

day discriminatory laws like these will be struck down, just as Jim Crow and other such laws were. Some anti-equal marriage people claim that domestic partnership and civil unions are the same as marriage (except, I’m ashamed to say, in my home state of Hawaii, where even the right to have civil unions has even been attacked). As a still-legally married lesbian, I can definitively say that domestic partnership and marriage are not the same.

My wife Helen and I were domestic partners and are now married — and marriage is altogether different. Not just for us, but for our extended families who were also brought together through our marriage. My father in Honolulu became the in-law to Helen’s brother Hoyt, who had lived near dad for more than a decade. After our wedding, Dad began to stop by and give fruit from his yard to his new in-law.

Our niece Emily has known me as Auntie Lia from the time she was an infant, but after Helen and I were married in 2004, she hugged me and said, “Auntie Lia, now you’re really my auntie!” For her, marriage had a powerful meaning that transcended years of love and relationship. I cried when my Auntie Nesan, then in her 90s, sent Helen and me a loving congratulatory wedding card. Her embrace of our marriage meant the world to us.

Before our nuptials, we didn’t grasp just how much marriage strengthens the bonds of family and its safety net in a myriad ways. How could we know, when we’ve had to sit in the back of the bus all our lives? We have now tasted the water at the fountain marked, “heterosexuals only,” and discovered that it is sweeter and healthier. Now that we know, we want our marriage and our family to have the same protections, privileges and responsibilities as everyone else’s.

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 I’ve known will continue 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

World War II veterans Michael Doi and Bruce Estes were recently honored by the Southeast JACL for their heroism in the famed battle to save the “Lost Battalion” over 65 years ago.

“The bombing came in every morning like breakfast,” said Estes. “There was no escaping it.”

He was one of about 200 from the 141st Company, First Battalion who had been surrounded by Germans. They became known as the “Lost Battalion.”

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.

“We just knew we had to save them,” Doi said.

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

After WWII the two men settled in Georgia.

Since the reunion, a friendship has blossomed between Doi and Estes and their families. Estes said he is looking forward to the next JACL event. ■



(L-r): Craig Ishii, Carol Salto, Daphne Ng, Kristin Fukushima and Kene Kubo.

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, programing, education and coalition building between partner community organizations. In addition to working on public policy issues relevant to the Asian Pacific 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

PSW 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 APA 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

Mark Your Calendar for the 2010 JACL Gala

The JACL has announced the proposed date of Sept. 16 for its annual gala dinner in Washington, D.C.

The JACL has held its "Salute to Champions" awards dinner in Washington, D.C. for the past four years. Past honorees include Sens. Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka as well as former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta.

"The honorees for the past JACL Gala events held in Washington, D.C. are true champions who have helped the JACL to continue its work in leadership development and civil rights," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We look forward to another outstanding Gala in the fall. We invite all to put it on your calendars to join with the JACL on Sept. 16 in Washington, D.C." ■

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 confinement sites, 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 JACL Inouye Fellow; Phillip Ozaki, JACL Mineta Fellow; and Shirley Higuchi, 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 Kemkar accompanied Salazar in the meeting. Jarvis, a longtime friend of the JACL, reviewed the JACL's involvement in the initiative to include the campsites into the NPS.

Salazar expressed his support for this initiative and related his mentorship under Sen. Daniel K. 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 signifi-



PHOTO: RYAN KOZU

cance 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 \$38 million in matching funds for confinement site preservation.

JACL promoted the bill, which was carried by then Congressman 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 — \$900,000 for barrack reconstruction at Manzanar, Calif. and \$350,000 for the park boundary expansion at Minidoka. In December NPS held feedback sessions for the JA confinement 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.

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NPS to Host Q & A Sessions

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 incarceration 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 lands at five of the sites — Heart Mountain, Honouliuli, 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 109-441 and authorized up to \$38 million over the life of the grant program to identify, research, protect and acquire historic internment sites. ■

Q & A Sessions

Seattle, Wash.
Feb. 11, 3-7 p.m.
Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project
1416 S. Jackson St.
Info: Tom Leatherman, 925/943-1531, ext. 122

Denver, Colo.
Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-noon
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
RSVP recommended
Info: Kara Miyagishima, 303/969-2885

San Francisco, Calif.
Febr. 12, 3-7 p.m.
Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC)
1840 Sutter Street, Suite 201
Info: Tom Leatherman, 925/943-1531, ext. 122

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."

"I was an active advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for health care reform issues and policy," 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 coalition 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, a graduate of the University of California, Davis. "The stories I collected from frustrated individuals, who struggled with obtaining timely and quality health care due to language access and cultural barriers, were far too similar to the personal stories of many of my family and community members and were personal motivation for me to become a more vigilant advocate."

Sakakihara, the JACL Masaoka Fellow, worked in the office of Rep. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, and the White House.

"I come away from this tremendous experience with a great level of respect for the staff here, who live and breathe politics and policy, trying to change the world one constituent letter or stakeholder meeting at a time," said Sakakihara, a Harvard Law School graduate.

"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, careerists and true believers, pragmatists and idealists — trying to improve lives and make America a healthier, greener, safer, more respected, and more prosperous place to live."

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 opportunities 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.

Topaz Museum Hold Meetings to Discuss Architectural Plans

The Topaz Museum is hosting a series of meetings in the San Francisco Bay Area to gather public input on fundraising plans for its proposed new building complex in Delta, Utah.

Museum officials are raising funds to build a 5,000-square-foot permanent museum in Delta, Utah, about 15 miles from the site of the World War II internment camp.

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. ■

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DOR CALENDAR LISTING

CALIFORNIA

FRESNO

DOR Dinner and Groundbreaking
Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m.; dinner 5 p.m.
Dinner: \$50/general admission; \$25 for youth (under 25) or Nisei veterans
Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Ave.

Break ground 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 559/298-7379.

MERCED

Merced Assembly Center Memorial
Feb. 20, monument dedication, 3 p.m.; dinner immediately follows
\$40 per person
Merced Fairgrounds

900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
The memorial to honor the 4,669 JAs once incarcerated at the fairgrounds will be dedicated. Benches and storyboards surround 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. 13, 1 p.m.
Manzanar National Historic Site
U.S. Highway 395, six miles south of Independence, Calif.
Free and open to the public
A ceremony will be held Feb. 13 for the Manzanar Historic Site's barrack groundbreaking.
Info: www.nps.gov/manz or 760/878-2194

LOS ANGELES

Korematsu v. United States
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 E. Central Ave.
The Little Tokyo event commemorates the landmark civil rights case of Fred Korematsu, who in the 1980s successfully has his wartime conviction (for defying evacuation orders) overturned through a writ of coram nobis.
Dale Minami, the lead counsel on Korematsu's coram nobis legal team will keynote the event.
Info: NCRR, 213/284-0336; JACL PSW, 213/626-4471 JANM, 213/625-0414

SAN JOSE

Redress/Reparations: Unfinished Business
Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin,
640 N. 5th St.
This event will focus on the plight of the Japanese Latin Americans who were forcibly brought to the U.S. during WWII and incarcerated in concentration camps, but excluded from reparations under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Guest speakers include Rep. Mike Honda. A short candlelight procession through Japantown will be held to honor former internees.

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 panelists Gordon Chang, Nelson Nagai and Shan Sutton will discuss the history of Stockton's Japanese American community. The discussion is followed by the dedication of the study room.

CHICAGO

'Heroes'

Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
Chicago History Museum
1601 N. Clark St.
Award-winning monologist Alton Takiyama-Chung will present his original one-man performance piece, "Heroes," about two brothers in their journey from basic training to fighting with the 100th Battalion/442nd RCT.

MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBRIDGE

Remembering Internment: The Images and Words of Miné Okubo and Michi Nishiura Weglyn
Feb. 20, 3-5 p.m.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MIT Building E25, Room 117
Featuring Elena Tajima Creef, associate professor of women's and gender studies at Wellesley College and co-editor of Following Her Own Road: The Life and Art of Miné Okubo. The program will include a short documentary film on Michi Weglyn followed by discussion and light refreshments.
Info: www.nejatl.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 Asian Americans United; Xu Lin, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation; Wei Chen, South Philadelphia High School student, Cliff Akiyama, moderator.
Info: Cliff Akiyama, 267/235-9426

WASHINGTON, D.C.

After the War: Japanese American and African American Community Relationships in post-WWII California
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
Carmichael Auditorium
National Museum of American History
14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Award-winning playwright Philip Kan Gotanda and historian Dr. Scott Kurashige will take the stage to talk about their latest work — Gotanda's "After the War," a play about postwar Japantown in San Francisco and Kurashige's latest book, The Shifting Grounds of Race: Black and Japanese Americans in the Making of Multiethnic Los Angeles.
Info: www.apa.si.edu

COMMENTARY

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 that led to the World War II incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. For fourth and fifth generation JAs like myself, it is 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 trouble-filled 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 to a JA camp experience event, and I indeed found my own personal hero. Sure, I can read textbooks accounts of what happened, but nothing compares to the resonating effects that come from DOR

events. The struggle of the camps, the scorn of the war — these events capture all of it.

Last year, I attended a four-day remembrance event at Tule Lake. There, I heard stories from my father, uncles, and others at the pilgrimage.

My grandparents had the unique experience of having their citizenship stripped, despite the fact that both were born in the U.S. Both were branded as "No Nos" after refusing to answer, to the satisfaction of the authorities, the "loyalty" questionnaire given to JAs in the camps.

Then there's the story of the Hasegawas — one brother was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the other brother a Tule Lake renunciant. Torn apart for 50 years, the brothers and their families came together at the pilgrimage.

At community events like DOR, I am able to listen to the voices of WWII's victims. Ultimately, I can come to understand them and their endeavors. I believe DOR events are essential event to attend because textbooks do not produce the same effect as spoken word. The greatest leaders did not captivate their audience with written words alone. Likewise, we cannot fully understand camp until we hear the stories in their originality. The Day of Remembrance

allows people to learn the past, embrace the present, and work towards the future.

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

'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.'

CCLPEP Grant Priorities Announced

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

Applications in three categories will be accepted this year. The categories are:

- Gathering Nisei Stories — capturing and preserving the stories of internees
- Preserving and Sharing the Experience — expanding access to information about the Japanese American internment experience and/or collecting and preserving internee documents and works

- Site Preservation — preserving internment camps, assembly centers, and other similar endangered resources.

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

The CCLPEP was created as the result of the passage of the 1998 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, 2010 in Long Beach, CA. He was born Nov. 30, 1921 in Florin, 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, Yokkaichi 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 49ers 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 Isozaki (Marty Isozaki), Michelle Farrell (Wayde), Karen Bell (Robert), Linda Quan (Paul), Diane Ishimoto (Larry Inoshita), and nephew Donald Ishimoto (Bev); 11 great-nephews and great-nieces. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Long Beach Community Foundation, John Kashiwabara Endowment, 400 Oceangate Suite 800, Long Beach, CA 90802 (562-435-9033).

TRIBUTE

BEN KOMATSU

May 23, 1923 - November 20, 2009

Ben Komatsu, 86, of Phoenix, Arizona, passed away on November 20, 2009. He was a native Arizonan and 2nd generation Japanese American. Ben served in the 442nd Battalion as an MIS interpreter during the occupation of Japan and spent much of his life farming in Glendale, growing some of the sweetest corn in the valley. He was sincere, gentle-hearted, and humble. He instilled in his family the traditional Japanese values of hard work and humility along with the American value of education. He realized his dreams of having grandchildren, whom he dearly loved, walking on the Great Wall and seeing the pyramids in Giza. Ben is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mae, his brothers Jimmie and George, sons Glen (Joyce), Ken (Emma), daughter Ellen (Tad), and grandchildren Kessler, Emi, Eric, Alexa, and Alana. Services were private. Contributions/donations can be made to Hospice of the Valley or Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation, 2601 Airport Drive, #230, Torrance, CA 90505.

TRIBUTE

KATSUTO TAKEI

Birth date - December 12, 2009

Katsuto Takei passed away on December 12, 2009. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the UC Berkeley School of Optometry. He was a longtime resident of Stockton, CA, with his wife, Bessie Takei, who predeceased him in 2003. He is survived by his daughter, Patricia Okamoto (Allen) of San Francisco, CA, sons, Dr. Russell Takei (Linda) of San Leandro, CA and Dr. Glenn Takei (Janice) of Arcadia, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. A private memorial service will be held at the Buddhist Church in Stockton, CA.

TRIBUTE

HELEN KAZUYE TANIGUCHI

Helen Kazuye Taniguchi of Boise, Idaho passed away on January 19, 2010, with her family at her side. Helen is survived by her husband George; children Ken (Holly), Joy (Jim), Michi, and Don; grandchildren Matt (Danielle), Caiti (Devin), Zak, and Emily; and Tomo. A private family service was held on January 30.

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