



PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



{ IN DEPTH }

WAITING FOR A STAMP OF HONOR

The fight continues for a postage stamp in honor of Nisei war heroes. >> **PAGE 3**



Calif. colleges
seek Nisei
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Family members are searching for Fredric H. Yamamoto.



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Far East Movement is moving on up in the music industry.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



One of the options Metro presented was a below ground plan.

Support the Regional Connector

As a longtime visitor to Little Tokyo, I have seen how bad the traffic and parking can get in the downtown area. In fact, this traffic has become a major barrier to myself and other Japanese Americans who wish to attend events in Little Tokyo.

The Downtown Regional Connector will help alleviate this problem.

All construction, whether it is construction of the Budokan of Los Angeles or the Nikkei Center or a new light rail line, will require mitigation.

My concern is that if the JA community does not show strong support for the underground option, the MTA will likely go with the at-grade option. By opposing both options, the JACL is standing in the way of solving one of Little Tokyo's biggest problems.

JAMES FUJITA
via e-mail

An Open Letter to John Tateishi

In your column entitled, "About Honor," (Feb. 5-18) I find it interesting that you would spend the first six paragraphs of your column praising the Nisei vets, believing that this sets up the comparison to Ehren Watada with this group of incredible heroes. This makes as much sense as spending several pages talking about the greatness of President Abraham Lincoln, then comparing that to the courage of President Richard Nixon. This kind of logic leap is a bit too wide for many of us.

In your article, you mention that Lt. Ehren Watada was allowed to resign his commission from the Army in September 2009. It is interesting, however, that you did not mention that Ehren Watada was actually discharged from the U.S. Army "under other than honorable conditions." I suppose that

was an inconvenient truth for you to mention.

You can continue forever to try to make Ehren Watada look honorable, and with many, you will succeed. However, for the vast majority of people who have served in America's armed forces, there will never be anything honorable about abandoning your soldiers as they prepare to deploy into combat, in violation of an oath that some of us hold very sacred.

CHIP LAROUCHE
Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

Tell Us What You Think

Write to: Letters, *Pacific Citizen*

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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More Web exclusive stories about the APA community at the click of a mouse.



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Ghost Hunter Joe Chin was once bitten by a ghost.

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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League.

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Campaign to Honor Nisei Veterans Won't Be Stamped Out



George Fujimori (above) served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II and now volunteers at the Go For Broke Monument.

Supporters say despite rejection they will continue to work toward honoring Japanese American World War II veterans.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Nisei veteran Jimmie Kanaya remembers how Issei parents would watch their children go off to fight in World War II from behind barbed wire fences.

Many, he said, displayed a blue-star flag in their front windows, waiting in vain for their children to return. When they did not, a flag with a gold star was placed in their windows.

“There was no way to fight back at being termed a ‘yellow Jap’, but to enter combat and be willing to give our all for the sake of our family, reputation and our country,” Kanaya explained about serving in WWII. “Some 800 young men in their prime gave their all so that those of us who survived can return to our rightful place in our society, heads held high and without shame or remorse.”

Over 30,000 Japanese Americans like Kanaya served in WWII. The Japanese American WWII Veterans Commemorative Stamp Campaign has been pushing for years to honor JAs like Kanaya with a commemorate postage stamp.

It has been a long wait for Kanaya and other Nisei veterans. The latest proposal for a Nisei veterans stamp was rejected. The reason: the U.S. Postal Service’s Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee’s policy against honoring separate military sub-branches, units or divisions.

Instead the committee, which works on behalf of the postmaster general to evaluate stamp proposals, suggested creating a stamp honoring the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. But some supporters of the Nisei vets stamp disagree with creating a stamp to honor the memorial.

“It’s not a military memorial,” said Gerald Yamada, Nisei veterans stamp project liaison for the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). “So just to take a Japanese American memorial and say, ‘Let’s convert this into a military memorial’ I think diverts the purpose for the memorial

itself and it takes away from the internees.”

Although it has been years since the campaign for a Nisei veterans stamp began, supporters said they would continue to fight indefinitely to honor the JAs who served in the war.

“The grassroots campaign to honor these veterans from our community will continue for as long as it takes. We have actually been a campaign for about six years total,” explained Wayne Osako, co-chair and coordinator of the campaign. “Stamp campaigns are typically a very long process. We must be prepared to just keep going until the Postal Service says ‘yes.’”

Preserving a Legacy

Since the proposal for a Nisei vets stamp has been turned down, supporters are now focusing their efforts on changing the U.S. Postal Service’s (USPS) informal policy against issuing stamps for individual units, branches or divisions.

The strategy is to appeal to the postmaster general, who overrules the advisory committee, to stop using this informal policy, said Yamada. He is scheduled to make a presentation to the National Military Veterans Alliance on Feb. 22, outlining the strategy and asking for its members’ support.

“If the alliance agrees to it, then hopefully they’ll sign on to the letter (on their letterhead) and send a letter into the post master general,” Yamada added. The letter will be copied to the president, secretary of defense and secretary of veterans affairs.

Some said the USPS policy unfairly excludes Nisei veterans. Ken Akune, 86, who served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in the Pacific said he has seen stamps honoring individuals, military branches, units and divisions. He questioned why a Nisei veterans stamp could not be made.

Akune said he could imagine what he would do with such a stamp.

“It would be nice to pass it out,” he said.

Others are also thinking about the significance of having the commemorative stamp.

“Getting a Nisei veterans stamp will mean so much to us, especially the WWII veterans, who are dying at a very fast pace,” said Grant Ichikawa, an MIS veteran. “To me, every time someone pastes the stamp on an envelope, he or she

would be saying ‘thank you’ to the Nisei WWII veterans.”

Although the Nisei veterans continue to wait for a stamp, sailors from War World I were honored by the USPS. On Feb. 4 the USPS issued the ‘Distinguished Sailors’ stamps to commemorate the service of William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy and Doris Miller. Proponents of the Nisei vets stamp said the same should be done to honor the JAs.

“The [Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee] has in the past supported similar stamps which honor veterans groups: Hispanic Americans: A Proud Heritage (1984) and Buffalo Soldiers (1994),” Osako said, adding that the stamp committee altered its policy in 1994.

The JACL is also supporting the campaign’s decision to change the USPS policy, explained JACL National President Larry Oda.

“The NVSC [Nisei Veterans Stamp Committee] argument is that the World War II Nisei soldiers served in different branches of the military, and their accomplishments are unmatched in history and are encouraging our coalition partners to support the effort,” Oda explained in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. A resolution to consider supporting the memorial stamp was on the February agenda for the JACL National Board meeting. The agenda item was removed at the request of the resolution author, Oda said, and asked to be postponed and reconsidered at the convention.

About 50,000 stamp proposals are submitted to the stamp committee annually. Osako said he resubmitted a Nisei veterans stamp proposal Oct. 23. Supporters said they are prepared to continue the campaign indefinitely.

“I think what it may eventually, hopefully take is for the postmaster general to say, ‘No we can’t use this informal policy.’” Yamada continued, “Even though the proposal has been turned down, there’s no prohibition to resubmitting it.”

Veterans like Kanaya said they would like to see a stamp created not to honor any particular units, person or event, but to honor Nisei veterans who served during a trying time in the United States. While the campaign continues, Kanaya is already planning on what he would do with his stamps.

“I would purchase it and cherish it as a memento of a very trying period in my lifetime,” he said. ■

Bringing Back Mas Arai

The reluctant sleuth in Naomi Hirahara's mystery series is back in 'Blood Hina.'

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

PASADENA, Calif.—Author Naomi Hirahara said her father's history was her inspiration for the popular Mas Arai mystery series, but the rest of the protagonist's characteristics were fictionalized.

Born in California, her father Isamu (or Sam) moved to Hiroshima as a baby. There he survived the atomic bomb, being only miles from where it dropped. He returned to California after World War II and worked in gardening.

Parts of his life mirror the background of the fictional character Mas. And when her father read about the mystery series' leading character the similarities did not go unnoticed.

"And I gave one to my dad and my dad read it and he goes, 'Oh my gosh! *Kora!* Hey, this is me!' I go, 'Dad you took me to track — you know I was writing about a character like you,'" explained Hirahara, breaking into a smile.

Also a Japanese American gardener, Mas is more introverted than her father, Hirahara explained. When Mas is not trimming lawns in Los Angeles, he is involved in sometimes bloody and dangerous mysteries.

Mas the reluctant sleuth returns again to solve another mystery in Hirahara's latest book in the series, "Blood Hina." The book is slated for release March 2.

It is the fourth book in what is likely to be a seven-series set, said Hirahara. In the story, Mas is on the case again after his best friend's soon-to-be wife reports that her Japanese dolls are missing from her home. The elderly gardener sets out to help his friend, but gets mired in a case involving all the elements of a mystery book: drugs, murder and deception.

Years after the first mystery book was penned, Hirahara said she has fallen in love with the characters of the book. Fans and book reviewers also have an affinity for the characters. But they have different ways of showing their attachment to the books.

"I think he [my father] is puzzled and doesn't quite know what to make of it," Hirahara explained about her father's reaction to the series. "I know when I was leaving one time... he stood on the porch and he goes, 'Hey, my friends are wondering when the next one is coming out.'"

Meet Mas Arai

The process of researching, writing and publishing her first mystery book in the series took about 15 years. When Hirahara sought feedback about her first book "Summer of Big Bachi," people advised her not to write about the JA experience.

"Even some other people mentioned, well you should write about, you know, the dominant culture — the white culture — because that's the only way you could get a best selling book." Hirahara added, "But I think I wanted to write something that I would like to read, something that wasn't readily available."

Not heeding their advice, Hirahara published her first book in 2004. It was nominated for the Macavity Award and took the *Chicago Tribune's* 10 best mysteries and thrillers award. Her second book, "Gasa-Gasa Girl," was also on the



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

Hirahara didn't expect her mystery stories about a Japanese American gardener to become serialized, but fans wanted Mas.

Southern California Booksellers Association's bestsellers list. Hirahara explained that when she began writing "Summer of the Big Bachi" she did not expect it to become serialized. But fans wanted Mas.

Carnations, gladiolas and bird of paradise flowers are the backdrop for the latest novel, which is partially set in Los Angeles' flower market. Each book starts with a clue. This book's clue: a *Hina Matsuri* doll, or Girls' Day doll. Hirahara explained that she wanted to incorporate the Japanese dolls into the stories.

"So, this is the Girls' Day doll that my relatives sent to my mother when I was four," Hirahara said, pulling out a tattered case containing two intricate, slightly worn *Hina* dolls wrapped in plastic. "I don't know I was just looking at the dolls and I was thinking it would be fun if I did something with them," Hirahara added about the dolls, which were sent to her as a child from relatives in Japan.

Incorporating JA culture into her books was important for Hirahara. Her characters reflect the JA California experience. Some of the dialogue portrays characters speaking in broken English and Japanese, which Hirahara said has been controversial.

"I think because I lived in that kind of [bilingual] household I wanted to reflect that," she explained. "That's probably the most controversial aspect of my books. ... I mean some people have said, 'Well isn't it kind of disrespectful for like my character to speak in dialect?'"

"You have to kind of make decisions that are right for your characters in the story and just work from there."

Born in Southern California, Hirahara worked as a reporter and editor for the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper. There she worked in the heart of downtown Los Angeles next to areas like Skid Row and the flower market, which would serve as the setting to her mystery books years later. Hirahara said there is something more magical about creating nonfiction compared to working in journalism.

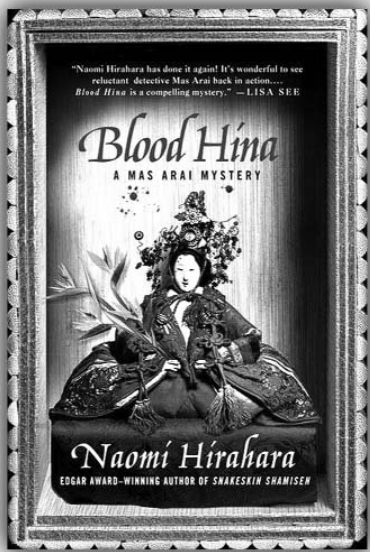
"It just so happened. I think my alter ego is like this crotchety old man [laughs]," Hirahara said about writing from the male perspective of Mas. "But I'm kind of glad to write it from a male perspective because I think for so long when you looked at a woman writing Asian American literature it's more like Amy Tan and you usually wrote from a female point of view."

Hirahara is doing research for her next mystery book, which is likely to involve baseball and "more contemporary issues." Not ready to part with Mas, she hopes to publish more mystery books in the future.

"You know I know they're elderly and realistically probably some of them should be passing away," Hirahara explained. "But there's no way I would do that. I mean I shouldn't say that because who knows what happens in the future. I think in that way that's what's wonderful about fiction and writing a mystery series character. Some of it can be like a fantasy in some ways." ■

On the Web

www.naomihirahara.com



'Blood Hina' is slated for release March 2.



PHOTO COURTESY DRALA IMAGES



PHOTO COURTESY ELLEN YAMAMOTO

Fredric H. Yamamoto, 56, pictured above in happier times with his sister Ellen Yamamoto, is believed to have taken an inflatable kayak out on Lake Washington (left) the day he disappeared.

Family Members Search For Answers in Mysterious Disappearance

Fredric H. Yamamoto was last seen Sept. 29 in his hometown of Bothell, Wash. The 56-year-old is believed to have taken an inflatable kayak out on Lake Washington.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Missing-person fliers with Fredric H. Yamamoto’s smiling photo are no longer hanging at the local Safeway store his neighbors said he frequented. It was one of the only places neighbors said the “quiet” Yamamoto went to when he left his rented Bothell, Wash. townhouse. He disappeared, they said, as if he had gone to the market and never returned.

In October Yamamoto’s abandoned car was located by a security guard at Denny Park and eventually towed and impounded on Oct. 14.

Snohomish County Sheriff Department officials searched the vehicle Nov. 20, finding no signs of foul play. One thing recovered of interest was an empty, inflatable kayak bag. The discovery suggested to his family that Yamamoto, 56, had paddled off in a kayak on Lake Washington. A kayak or paddle has not been found.

A private investigator hired by the family continues to canvass the area with fliers, but Yamamoto’s acquaintances and family said there are many unanswered questions in his disappearance nearly three months later.

“I wish I knew. It would sure answer some questions,” said Sharon Martin, a residential property manager, when asked about Yamamoto’s whereabouts. “I hope he didn’t decide to end his life. I really hope that he went off with somebody, maybe met somebody at that park and they took off and went someplace. That would be nice. At least he wouldn’t be gone forever.”

Martin manages the 81-unit Park Lane Townhouses where Yamamoto resided for about four years, she said. She had no reason to be concerned about Yamamoto’s well-being until the month of October.

“There was never any thought about him in October when he wasn’t around. It just didn’t occur to me to be concerned,” Martin explained. “My daughter lives in the same building as him and she came over maybe the middle of October and she said, ‘Mom there’s something wrong.’”

Her daughter’s suspicions would prove to be well founded.

Yamamoto’s Disappearance

By all accounts, Yamamoto’s daily life is as big of a mystery as his disappearance. Yamamoto was raised in Tokyo, Japan

with his sister Ellen. They were “American military dependents,” she said. Yamamoto later graduated from the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, Calif. where his parents eventually retired. Yamamoto later moved to Washington State. His sister, who lives in California, described him as a “skilled photographer” and “accomplished classic/rock guitar player.”

“Fred did not leave a letter or any messages, so I can’t say it’s a suicide or accident,” Ellen Yamamoto said in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. “The last time we spoke he was upbeat and there was no indication anything was wrong.”

Yamamoto’s sister hired a private investigator on Nov. 16 after traveling to Washington State when word of his disappearance surfaced. His family was notified when Yamamoto did not pay his November rent.

Martin also called the Snohomish County Sheriff Department to open a missing person’s case.

“Let me tell you about Fred,” Martin said. “He was a total loner. Very much a stay-at-home and not-bother-anybody type of guy. Absolutely one of the nicest people you’d ever want to meet.”

Yamamoto always paid his rent three months in advance, giving Martin a check a few weeks before the day it was due, she said.

“[On] Sept. 28 he came in and he sat down to write out his rent check and he handed it to me and it was for one month. And he said, ‘This is all I can do.’ And I said, ‘Well, that’s fine,’” said Martin over the phone. The change in Yamamoto’s pattern of payment “shocked” Martin.

Other than that Martin did not notice anything out of the ordinary until her daughter, who had last seen Yamamoto in September coming back from the grocery store, said something was awry.

“You know because he was so quiet and kept to himself, the majority of the people around him didn’t even notice he was gone,” Martin said.

She tried contacting Yamamoto’s family in California, but could not reach them with the old contact information on file. A maintenance man entered Yamamoto’s unit during the first week of November to check on him.

“Apparently the towing company sent him a letter,” said Georgia Kearns, the private investigator hired by Yamamoto’s sister. “They posted a notice on the person’s door. That’s how the landlady found that notice and said ‘Good grief, obviously something’s wrong. Fred didn’t take a trip.’”

Search for Answers

The 56-year-old is believed to have taken an inflatable

kayak out on Lake Washington the day he disappeared. Kearns said she intends to continue passing out posters in the lake area in the hopes of shedding light on Yamamoto’s disappearance.

“Anytime when someone goes missing and — a family member turns up missing — if there’s something we could do in terms of increasing public awareness we should do that,” said Karen Yoshitomi, JACL Pacific Northwest regional director.

“It’s also a support to the family as well as knowing efforts are being made to at least try and bring some closure. I can’t image how difficult it might be not knowing.”

His sister Ellen said she was devastated when she heard about her brother. She appeared on the local TV news stations as cadaver dogs searched the park on Nov. 21 where his car was found.

Martin said she never saw Yamamoto with a kayak or heard him mention camping, hiking or kayaking.

“The lake is maybe 10 miles from here,” she explained. “Why would he pick that place? It’s like way off the beaten track. It just seems strange to me that he would find this little park that’s kind of like in a residential area and unless you had a map and really knew what you were looking for — why would he pick that place?”

The towing company that impounded Yamamoto’s car said they found a map in his car, explained Kearns.

“The guy at Mac’s Towing told me that on the seat of the car were hand-written instructions on how to get to that park,” Kearns added, “And so he said, to him, it seemed to him like probably Fredric was planning on meeting someone, who had given him instructions on how to get there on the phone. Well, we don’t know that. He could have MapQuest-ed it.”

She said they could not determine how Yamamoto got those instructions until the sheriff’s department analyzes his computers, which were retrieved from his townhouse.

Yamamoto’s family was scheduled to return to his townhouse to clear out his belongings, Martin said, at the end of December.

Most who knew Yamamoto want more attention paid to a man who often went unnoticed in his life.

“It’s very hard to stop looking when there’s so many unanswered questions and you don’t feel like the police are doing much and they feel like it’s a closed case and that he just drowned,” Kearns said.

“It’s such a tragedy for the family. The not knowing.” ■

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Snohomish County Sheriff Department’s tip line at 425/388-3845.



The pilot program will help Asian Pacific American students learn about their ethnic history.

Educators Want Ethnic Studies in High Schools

The pilot program will help minority students better understand their roots, supporters say.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

San Francisco educators and students are pushing for the creation of ethnic studies courses in high schools, despite the school district’s budget constraints.

Organizers with the Campaign for Ethnic Studies hope the San Francisco Board of Education implements the proposed ethnic studies pilot program for ninth graders.

If approved, the pilot program would be established in five high schools — which have not been identified — during the 2010-11 school year.

The estimated price tag is \$300,000. But students, educators and city officials say the cost is an investment in San Francisco’s future.

“I think this is really important for the students, but also for the school culture in general,” explained Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, associate professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, or SFSU. “I mean ethnic studies really fosters hope and I think that’s something that has been missing for a long time.”

At a Jan. 12 board meeting supporters of the ethnic studies pilot program wore red to show their solidarity. They urged the Board of Education to consider creating a culturally sensitive curriculum in high schools.

A resolution will be introduced Jan. 26 in support of ethnic studies being included in the core curriculum, explained board commissioner Sandra Lee Fewer.

The details concerning the ethnic studies courses will be ironed out most likely in the committee meetings, she said.

“It will probably go through two committees, especially in the budget committee is where the deep discussion will take place,” Fewer said.

“[In] San Francisco we have to cut like \$100 million in the next two years, so that means it’s about 20 percent of our overall budget. What the superintendent is doing now is looking at the classes that ninth graders take currently and how are we funding those classes.”

She said they would need to find “innovative” ways to fund the proposed courses.

The Birth of Ethnic Studies

The push to create ethnic studies programs at a collegiate level began across the country in the 1960s. But the longest campus strike took place in 1968 at SFSU, according to its Web site. Students with the Third World Liberation Front led the protest carrying signs that read, “Power to the People.”

Protests continued on campus for months. Their efforts would not be in vain. The following year the College of Ethnic Studies was created.

High school students said they want to see ethnic studies courses — like those offered at SFSU — implemented in public high schools.

“While studying U.S. history in the eleventh grade, I didn’t see myself reflected in the curriculum,” explained 17-year-old Harriet Hu, who is a senior at George Washington High School. “Ethnic studies will stray away from the Eurocentric curriculum, and truly engage students so they can start learning about their own history.”

The aim of the proposed ethnic studies courses is to “develop students’ self-respect, their respect for their families and communities.” The curriculum will touch on topics like the Japanese American internment, the Black Panther Party, imperialism, and other topics.

It is an opportunity to help students identify with their ethnic heritage and encouraged them to pursue higher education, said educators.

“A lot of the students have told me over the years — and I’ve been working with the school district for almost two decades — and students say, ‘Oh they don’t care about us,’” Tintiangco-Cubales explained. “They’ll often say things, referring that schools don’t always reflect who they are. And ethnic studies is about that. It’s really about trying to create a relevant education.”

Diverse Curriculum

Tintiangco-Cubales, who is also the director of the Pin@y Education Partnership, has been a part of other ethnic studies pilot programs in the district. Some high schools in the district, such as George Washington High School, have current ethnic studies classes.

The proposed lesson plan for the ethnic studies pilot courses, which were presented at the Jan. 26 Board of Education meeting, would reflect the diverse ethnic make up in the school district. About 10 percent of students are white and the rest are students of color, Fewer said.

“The San Francisco Bay Area is a hugely diverse region, which is reflected in many of the public schools,” explained Mitzy Valdez. “Unfortunately, this diversity is not exactly reflected in the curriculum offered in the schools.”

Three hundred and eight signatures have been collected for a petition in support of creating an ethnic studies pilot program in the school district. Supporters said expanding ethnic studies to five more high schools is necessary to engage students in their education and their future.

“I just think even for those of us who are of color that are born and raised in San Francisco sometimes we aren’t learning this through our families or even through oral history,” Fewer said. “I think if we’re going to send children, students out into the world and the larger community that this is a really important foundation for them to have.” ■

National Newsbytes

By *Pacific Citizen* Staff and Associated Press

U.S. Wants Out of Suit Over Detainee's Death

PROVIDENCE, R.I.— The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement wants a judge to dismiss a lawsuit that accuses the federal government of being responsible for the August 2008 death of a detainee being held at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility on grounds that staffers at the jail are contractors — not government employees.

Hui Lui “Jason” Ng, a 34-year-old computer engineer from New York with a wife and two young sons, was accused of overstaying a tourist visa. He was taken into custody and died of advanced liver cancer that went undiagnosed until days before his death. He also was diagnosed with a spinal fracture.

Documentary Focuses on Nisei Former Internee



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash.—A documentary film profiling former internee Fumiko Hayashida, who was famously photographed clutching her child during the World War II evacuation of Japanese Americans, is currently being screened online.

Lucy Ostrander’s film, “Fumiko Hayashida: The Woman Behind the Symbol,” features Hayashida. The 15-minute film is currently viewable on the Bainbridge Japanese American Community’s Web site (www.bijac.org) under “Education.”

Panel Recommends Against Gay Marriage Repeal

CONCORD, N.H.—A House committee that deadlocked a year ago over legalizing gay marriage voted Feb. 9 against repealing New Hampshire's five-week-old law allowing the unions.

The Judiciary Committee also voted to recommend that the House kill a proposed constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between one man and one woman. The vote was 12-8 on both measures.

New Hampshire became the fifth state to legalize gay marriage on Jan. 1, joining Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts and Vermont.

University Considers Adding Asian Language Program

BOULDER, Colo.—University of Colorado regents are considering adding a new degree programs at the Boulder campus: a doctorate in Asian languages and civilizations.

The College of Arts and Sciences will be seeking approval for a doctoral program in Asian languages and civilizations, with specialties in Japanese or Chinese, in what CU officials say will be the first program of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region.

Convicted Chinese Spy Get 15 Years

SANTA ANA, Calif.—A Chinese-born engineer who has been convicted of espionage and other federal charges was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Dongfan “Greg” Chung, 74, was convicted last summer of economic espionage, acting as a foreign agent, conspiracy and lying to federal agents.

The government accused Chung of using his 30-year career at Boeing Co. and Rockwell International to hoard 300,000 pages of sensitive documents in his home, including information about the U.S. space shuttle and a booster rocket.

Affirmative Action Ban Advances in Utah House

SALT LAKE CITY—Lawmakers moved quickly to place a ban on affirmative action in the Utah Constitution, despite little evidence the practice is being used or has caused problems.

A resolution that would prevent local governments, state agencies and public colleges from discriminating or providing preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin sailed through a legislative committee only two days after it was made public.

To amend the constitution, the resolution would have to be approved by a two-thirds vote in the state House and Senate and be signed by Gov. Gary Herbert. Voters also would have to approve the measure this fall. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JAVA Honors Shinseki

Sec. of Veterans Affairs **Eric K. Shinseki** has received the Courage, Honor and Patriotism Award from the **Japanese American Veterans Association** (JAVA) in recognition of his 44 years of leadership in the U.S. Army and in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

JAVA President Robert Nakamoto said Shinseki is “our ultimate role model.”

Tennis Aces at Longwood Cricket Club

Dr. Yutaka Kobayashi of Wellesley, Mass. and his partner, Larry McDonnell of Potomac, MD, won the bronze ball (third place) in doubles at the U.S. Tennis Association’s (USTA) Men’s 85 National Grass Court Championship held at the Longwood Cricket Club. At the USTA Men’s National Clay Court Championships, they repeated their third place win in doubles.

Kobayashi, a former Topaz internee and retired biochemist, won the bronze ball in singles.

Hawaii JACL Honored With Civil Rights Award

The Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights awarded its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends Award to the **Hawaii JACL** for its mission to protect the civil rights of JAs and all victims of injustice and discrimination. The award celebrates King’s life and vision.

Eagle Scouts’ Honor



PHOTO: AMY HAYASHIMOTO LAREAU

(L-r) **Rev. Gerald Sakamoto, Hirasawa, Tan, Matsumoto, Doi and Sugano.**

Troop 611 from the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin in San Jose, Calif. awarded five of their own the highest rank in scouting, the Eagle Scout Award. **Jeffrey Doi, Kenneth Matsumoto, Robert Sugano, Kyle Tan** and **Garrick Hirasawa** joined the more than one hundred Troop 611 Boy Scouts who recently became Eagle Scouts.

Knicks Honors Misaka

Former New York Knicks player **Wat Misaka** was recently honored by the basketball franchise at a game in Madison Square Garden. Misaka was the first non-white person to play in the National Basketball Association. Misaka was drafted in 1947.

Lewis Suzuki Day

Mayor Tom Bates of Berkeley, Calif. has issued a proclamation declaring Jan. 19 “**Lewis Suzuki Day**.” The proclamation was made at the Jan. 19 city council meeting.

Suzuki is an 89-year-old JA watercolor artist who has lived in Berkeley since 1962.

APAs Take the Bench

The Senate has confirmed **Judge Jacqueline Nguyen** and Los Angeles attorney **Dolly Gee** to federal district judgeships in the Central District of California.

Judges **Edward M. Chen** and **Lucy H. Koh** were also nominated by President Barack Obama to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. ■



Noriko Uno, who passed away in August, is pictured here with her husband Peter (left) and son Jeffrey.

Lawsuit Seeks Acceleration Fix For More Toyotas

Noriko Uno’s 2006 Camry suddenly accelerated despite her attempts to stop, according to the suit.

By **Greg Risling**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES—A lawsuit filed Feb. 4 against Toyota Motor Corp. seeks to expand the automaker’s recall of millions of vehicles to fix sticking accelerators, saying the death of a Southern California Japanese American woman could have been prevented if her car had a brake override system.

The lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of the family of Noriko Uno, who was killed in August in San Bernardino County when her 2006 Camry suddenly accelerated on a residential street despite her attempts to stop.

The suit cites dozens of complaints of unexpected acceleration made to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Uno’s death could have been prevented had Toyota not blamed the accidents on driver error, said Garo Mardirossian,

the family’s attorney.

“Now we are finding it’s not human error. It’s the vehicle,” he said.

Uno, 66, who ran a family restaurant, died after her car went onto a center median, struck a telephone pole and then hit a large tree. She was traveling at up to 100 miles per hour, Mardirossian said. She was wearing her seat belt and even pulled her parking brake in an attempt to slow down or stop.

“There is no way my mom would be going 90 to 100 mph, no reason,” said Jeffery Uno, 34, who said his mother didn’t like to drive on the freeway. “It makes no sense for her to willingly go that fast.”

Uno’s accident occurred the same day when a fiery crash of a 2009 Lexus ES 350 killed California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Saylor, 45, and three members of his family in Santee. An inquiry into the crash led to the recall.

Mardirossian, wants Toyota to retrofit 2002-06 model year vehicles that are not equipped with a mechanism that overrides the accelerator if the gas and brake pedals are pressed at the same time.

While such override systems are not required, some automakers do put them in their vehicles, Mardirossian said.

“Our goal is to get the message out to get these cars fixed and make them safe,” he said.

Toyota recently recalled nearly 4.6 million vehicles to fix accelerator pedals that could get stuck. The only Camry models included were from the 2007-10 model years.

Mardirossian said adding a brake override system would be a “simple fix,” without having the automaker to install heavy machinery. He couldn’t estimate how much it would cost.

Uno’s husband, Peter Uno, held a picture of his wife at a news conference announcing the lawsuit and had a message for Toyota executives.

“Bring back my wife,” he said. ■

Bone Marrow Donor Needed For Natalie Nakatani



By Pacific Citizen Staff

Community leaders are taking to the streets and the world wide web to help find a bone marrow match for an 8-year-old Asian Pacific American girl stricken with leukemia.

Natalie Nakatani, 8, of San Francisco, Calif., has just a few weeks to find a suitable donor to save her life, according to support-

ers. Nakatani, who family members describe as “joyful” and “artistic,” suffered a relapse recently.

Her greatest chance for a bone marrow match is from those of Asian descent.

Nakatani’s supporters range from friends and neighbors to celebrities like actress Alyssa Milano and director Kevin Smith — who both called on their Twitter followers to help save Nakatani.

JACL and the Diablo Valley chapter sent out an e-mail blast encouraging JACL members to get tested.

Bone marrow drives have been scheduled across the U.S. But for those who cannot attend, easy to

use at home kits can be requested from DKMS, the world’s largest marrow donor center. ■

Order an at home kit:

<https://www.dkmsamericas.org>

HELP NATALIE

Natalie’s Hometown Drive

Feb. 20, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

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1 Corritone Ct

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Natalie’s UC Berkeley Drive

Feb. 22

12 noon-6 p.m.

Pauley East, MLK Student Union

For a complete schedule:
www.hopefornatalie.com



VERY

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BY HARRY K. HONDA

Being Japanese American in 2050

OVER THE HOLIDAYS, it was surprising to find emanating from Illinois an online petition on petitiononline.com to preserve Little Tokyo addressed to Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry. It had garnered over 6,500 signatures. Has California’s statewide undertaking of preserving the three Japantowns in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose widened its horizon? And why not!

Looking through a 1993 bound volume of the *Pacific Citizen*, one headline caught my eye, “Is the JA community disappearing? Or is the choice up to us?” by Dr. Lane Hirabayashi for the Holiday Issue. He was then coordinator of Asian American Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Now, he’s at the UCLA Asian American Studies department as the George and Sakaye Aratani professor of Japanese American internment, Redress and community.

You may agree with Lane on that issue. He wrote: “While I always appreciate data on the current rates of Asian American intermarriage, as a person of Japanese and Norwegian ancestry, I had a serious objection to UCLA Prof. Harry Kitano’s assertion that ‘the Japanese American community ... thriving today will be no more in 2050 in the face of the rising rate of intermarriage’ (as I reported in the 1993 article, “Diffusion of JA Community Seen by 2050.”)

“Simply put, Dr. Kitano seems to assume that the survival of Japanese American culture and community revolves around the purity of Japanese ‘blood’ down through the generation ...

“Now, contrary to this view, most contemporary social scientists agree that culture is learned. In turn, learning has to do with exposure within the family context as well as in institutions where the values, norms, and typical practices of a given group are enacted, whether this be a school, church, club, interest group, or even a ‘slo pitch league’.”

Upon leaving San Francisco State where he had been teaching for a decade, he and wife Marilyn moved to the Rockies and found time to go to Denver to meet members of the JA community.

Lane was pleased, for instance, to be scholarship chair and run the Japanese Community Graduation Program, which dates back to 1945. He was also pleased to see the awards going to 24 scholarship win-

ners, many who were half or part-Japanese.

Community activist and teacher Mrs. Carolyn Takeshita and consultants drew plaudits for a project attended by 94 students, many of JA descent from across the city, between ages 8 and 14, at Westmont Elementary School near Denver. The outcome would be her book, “Kids Explore America’s Japanese American Heritage” (1994).

Similar programs often tagged, *Kodomo no Tamé Ni* (For Sake of the Children), are still sponsored by churches and JACL chapters..

Lane concludes: “In short, rather than intermarriage rates, our own perceptions, choices, and actions will play the deciding factor in whether the JA communities still exist in 2050 or whether it will indeed have vanished.” Preservation means having a choice worth saving.

Fifteen years have passed since his essay ran in the 1993 Holiday Issue. Your grandkids and mine will be around to evaluate the legacy planted by our Issei who came in good number to America after 1885.

THE 2009 Holiday Issue was a grand cavalcade of JACL’s 80 years. Yet nothing appeared from the *P.C.s* between Oct. 1929 and March 1942. Our microfilm of that era is very poor, although Vol. 1, No. 1 (Oct. 13, 1929) was copied.

In the *P.C.* monthly dated January 1942, JACL National Secretary Mike Masaoka’s appeal in wake of Pearl Harbor, “Let this be our vow for 1942: To Serve America,” voiced some strong themes.

“We stoutly and vociferously insisted that we were all 100% Americans and that we only wanted a chance to prove it ... We cannot let America down ... We are pledged to her preservation and perpetuation.

“We must rally every American ... For this great task, we must be prepared to pay the supreme price, if need be, that the dignity of mankind may be consecrated for all eternity....

“For their preservation for future generations of humanity, anything which we are called upon to do is not too high a price ... Let this be our vow for 1942.” ■

Harry Honda is the Pacific Citizen’s editor emeritus.

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

Reset The Default

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



We need to make it easy to keep ourselves healthy. Just say no to the refills.

Five years ago this summer, I packed my bags and moved to the fabled city of New York to prove to myself that if “I can make it there, I can make it anywhere.”

To this day, one of my absolute favorite things about life in The City is the seemingly endless variety of dining possibilities. I cannot even come close to naming my top 10 favorite restaurants in New York — let alone fabricate a list of must-try-restaurants — there are simply too many to consider.

Yet, despite the variety of great dining establishments, one thing is standard among them all: you will pay for your drink refills. Pretty much anywhere else in the country, you can count on free refills with your meal when you order a soda. Not so, in the City That Never Sleeps.

When I was in college, my friends and I would joke that our server’s tip would be based on the urgency in which our glasses were refilled. If we had to ask for a refill, forget about it, that tip (in theory) would take a nosedive. So when I moved to New York, I had to regulate my fluid intake to one glass of soda per meal or get stuck paying \$2 again and again for my Coca-Cola Classic. Plus who needs the additional calories? It was an unwelcome change at first, but a change I would become accustomed to, and even enjoy.

Flash forward to 2010 in a new city, and ironically, I miss the stingy approach to soda refills. When my wife and I go out for dinner, servers would often without asking bring me a new drink and take away my half full glass. Sometime later during the meal, it might happen again. As I feel fuller and sometimes sicker, I ask myself, “Geez, how much soda did I drink?”

It’s the curse of the free refill.

There are several points that can be emphasized from this simple illustration. The most obvious one deals with being healthy. Yes, it can be said that New York City leads the nation in healthy initiatives like: early smoking ban, trans-fat ban, and posting calorie content on menus so consumers can make informed (albeit sometimes guilt-ridden) decisions.

Another point is that we should make it as easy as possible to keep ourselves healthy. I’m not suggesting the practice of charging for refills is motivated by an altruistic health drive. Rather, I’m saying we should take advantage of these types of scenarios to make it easier on ourselves to make and meet our fitness goals.

Let’s be honest, how many of us set New Year’s resolutions to become more fit? So, let’s do something to make it easier: just say no to that free refill.

Reaching a little deeper into this illustration, I think we should make other hard decisions easier in our lives as well — whether it’s physically, mentally, financially or even socially.

We need to reset the default.

It might be as simple as refusing a free refill or changing the default setting on our IRA or 401K to automatically deduct at the beginning of the month, not just at the end with the leftovers.

To steal a concept from economists Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, we need to simply “nudge” ourselves to make the best decisions for ourselves by resetting the default to stop ourselves from getting in our own way to becoming the people we have already resolved to be in 2010. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is living in Biloxi, Miss. He is a Mount Olympus JACL member.





Members of the Far East Movement say they avoid arguments on tour by cracking jokes, having fun and throwing snowballs laden with rocks at each other.

Far East Movement is Moving On Up

Radio hits like ‘Girls on the Dance Floor,’ have propelled the rap group into the spotlight.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

It is hard to forget the astronaut helmets and monkey suit that are part of the Far East Movement’s stage act. To make sure that people remember the music, the four Asian Pacific American musicians said they network with fans directly online, sometimes feverously typing backstage before a performance.

Networking with their community of fans was critical to the performers success early on, when they occasionally performed to audiences of about 15 people. There were more people on stage than in the crowd, they said.

On their recent world tour, the Far East Movement, or FM, performed to thousands. In Brazil, over 1,000 concertgoers danced to FM’s beats, vibrating the foundation of the packed airplane hangar. It’s a stark difference from their early performances where audience members would throw fruit at the stage. Now the members of the rap group throw their bodies into the audience and crowd-surf with the support of their fans.

Prohgress, J-Spliff, Kev Nish and DJ Virman are learning that there are other perks to having the radio hit “Girls on the Dance Floor” and a growing fan base. But sometimes the pluses of fame are completely due to mistaken identity.

“We do get perks by people thinking we are the Jabbawockeez. Where ever we go people are always like, ‘Hey, you guys better bring it! Can you guys play basketball as well as you can dance?’ And we’re like, ‘What are you talking about?’” said Prohgress about being misidentified as the first season winners of MTV’s “America’s Best Dance Crew.”

Making party music is their forte, so they will leave the dancing to the Jabbawockeez.

“We have no rhythm,” Kev Nish said over the phone. “We make dance music strictly because we can’t dance. So, we’d rather stay behind the DJ booth and watch the people dance.”

Fresh off the Party Rock Tour with LMFAO, FM is back in Los Angeles to fine-tune their next album. They are working with the Stereotypes’ producers for their third album, which showcases their “new sound.”

And after years of working to make it in the music industry, they say there is no time for girlfriends or distractions.

“I mean don’t get us wrong,” said Kev Nish or Kevin Nishimura, who is of Chinese and Japanese descent. “Shout out to all the beautiful ladies out there. We’ve got to stay focused right now.”

Although their work schedules are hectic, touring around the world has opened their eyes to new musical influences, said Kev Nish. Seeing an APA hip-hop group perform in other countries sometimes prompts an unanticipated response. Children on the streets of Brazil slanted their eyes with their fingers when they saw FM.

“You know what was actually cool about that was the fact



PHOTO: GARRICK FUJII

(L-r) J-Spliff, DJ Virman, Prohgress and Kev Nish.

that a lot of these kids... they were actually trying to communicate and that was all they knew [laughs],” said Prohgress, who is Korean American. “Maybe next time when they see some Asian faces they’ll start playing some music or something.”

In the United States fans occasionally react with surprise when they see the faces behind the radio hit. On YouTube, viewers comment that they did not realize the group’s members are APA, which does not surprise the FM musicians.

“For awhile there just weren’t a lot of Asian American musicians,” J-Spliff explained, a Korean American born as Jae

Choung. “I think the cool thing about the generation right now is that they really aren’t seeing race as much anymore.”

L.A. Grown Musicians

The FM members are high school friends. Prohgress went to Palisades Charter High School where J-Spliff also attended. Kev Nish attended Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. Their love of music would lead them to form the group “Emcee’s Anonymous.” A song titled “Far East Movement” would entice the group to adopt the new name. Longtime friends, the musicians said they avoid arguments by focusing on their music.

“The only thing on tour I’ve ever seen anybody argue about was purely NBA 2K10.” Kev Nish said about the video game. “They had a battle going on between Virman and Pro and all you could hear was, ‘No! Pass the ball!’”

The occasional snowball fight also releases any aggression, especially for Kev Nish, who is known to reinforce his with rocks.

“Ever since Virman joined the group when ever we go touring or traveling or anything there’s never a dull moment. We’re always cracking jokes or throwing snowballs with rocks in them,” J-Spliff said shortly before their Colorado performance at the X Games.

Their shared vision also keeps them focused.

“This is a life-long journey,” Prohgress said, adding that he would be dead if he did not pursue music. “[There’s] no plan B, no plan C, no plan D. Nothing but the music and staying focused with it.”

As their fame grows, keeping up with fans is difficult. The key, they said, is to stay humble. But the FM members said that they have not reached the level of success they would like. Until then, their love of music fuels them.

“We always hear from more established people in the industry and they always say the second you get comfortable or the second you feel like you’ve made it, you haven’t and you really limit yourself,” Kev Nish said. “[There] never is reason, there’s barely rhyme. You do it purely out of love and like J said passion.” ■

On the Web:
www.fareastmovement.com

Calif. Colleges Seeking Nisei Students



Members of the Pasadena City College's Triple J Club in 1940.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

California universities and community colleges are continuing efforts to grant honorary degrees to their former Nisei students who were forced to discontinue their education because of World War II.

Many are still searching for potential honorees.

Pasadena City College (PCC) in Pasadena, Calif. is seeking honorees as part of the California Nisei College Diploma Project.

Dorothy Fukutaki Potter, a PCC librarian and alumni, found her father's name on the college's 1942 roster. Edgar Fukutaki was just weeks away from graduating from PCC (then known as Pasadena Junior College) before his education was interrupted by Executive Order 9066, the president's order to incarcerate over 100,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps.

"Dad did get his [Pasadena Junior College] diploma while in camp," said Fukutaki Potter in a statement. "But he and other Nisei students did not have the opportunity to march in the graduation ceremony. They never got to experience this rite of passage."

This June, PCC officials are hoping to make up for a six-decade-long missed opportunity by honoring Edgar Fukutaki with his honorary degree.

Over 100 Nisei PCC students were affected by Executive Order 9066, according to the college.

California State University, Fresno has gathered a preliminary list of 77 names of former students who may be eligible for honorary degrees. CSU Fresno officials are searching for Nisei students who were enrolled the fall of 1941 to the fall of 1942. Local JACL chapters and districts have been helping in the search effort.

Sacramento City College (SCC) is also searching for its former Nisei students as a part of its diploma project.

The California Nisei College Diploma Project is the result of Assembly Bill 37, a bill introduced by Calif. Assemblyman Warren Furutani and signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The California Community College, California State University and University of California systems are all involved. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CSU Fresno Student Affairs:

559/278.2541;

PCC 626/585-7315 or

www.pasadena.edu/pccnisei;

SCC:

www.scc.losrios.edu/scc_nisei_diploma_project.xml

PHOTO: LIZ CHASTNEY



'For ice dancing, you have to be very talented but it won't be enough,' said Chris Reed (right) about competing in the Winter Olympics with his sister.

JA Siblings Dancing For Olympic Gold

Chris and Cathy Reed had little chance of competing for the U.S., so they turned to different nations.

By Rachel Cohen
AP Sports Writer

WARREN, New Jersey—If the ice dancing teams from Japan and Georgia share the rink during Olympic warmups, watch out. Some fierce trash-talking is bound to break out.

The three Reed siblings burst into laughter at that image. Joking aside, they'll feel only pride when they finally appear on their sport's biggest stage.

Cathy, 22, and Chris, 20, will represent Japan in Vancouver; their mother is Japanese, and they have dual citizenship. Allison, 15, will skate for the former Soviet republic of Georgia, the home country of partner Otar Japaridze.

In all their years of ice dancing, the New Jersey natives have never before competed against each other.

"It's amazing how it all worked out," Cathy said.

When she was 13 and Chris was 11, they didn't seem destined for the Olympics. Both competed in singles figure skating and enjoyed the sport, but the Reeds were hardly prodigies — they never advanced beyond local events.

"My jumps, my spins were just not working," she said.

It might have ended there, except a coach suggested ice dancing. Cathy had done ballet growing up, but Chris had no background in dance; football and karate were his sports of choice. At first, he just thought ice dancing was skating.

"What is this?" he thought. "This is so easy."

Not really. Chris was much shorter than his older sister at the time, so their lifts were more like him briefly throwing her in the air.

But the sport certainly proved more natural to the Reeds and before they knew it they were finishing 10th at junior nationals.

In 2004, the pair just missed qualifying for nationals, and their family had a decision to make. Should they go all in on this skating dream?

The chance to work with coaches Nikolai Morozov and Shae-Lynn Bourne meant the kids would have to be home-schooled.

Their improvement was quick and dramatic under their new coaches: The Reeds won their division at nationals in 2006. They had the right personalities for the sport, Morozov said.

"For ice dancing, you have to be very talented but it won't be enough," he said. "You have to work really, really hard and be really, really patient."

Even with their newfound success, the Reeds had little chance of competing internationally for the United

States because of the country's depth in ice dancing. That's when the opportunity to skate for Japan arose.

Singles figure skating is very popular — and successful — there, but ice dancing isn't. The Reeds found themselves in the perfect middle ground at the time: good enough to almost immediately be the top team in Japan, yet not good enough that U.S. officials would try to block the move.

The family briefly lived in Japan before Allison was born and would visit relatives there every summer. Cathy and Chris are working to improve their Japanese, but it's easy to get rusty when they can't practice often in the U.S.

They hope to increase the popularity of ice dancing in Japan, where they are often asked in interviews which elements fans should pay attention to. They try to explain that there isn't really the equivalent of a jump or spin, that what's important is the overall impact of the performance.

But being the best team from Japan didn't guarantee a spot at the Olympics. The Reeds had to finish in the top 17 at last year's world championships for the country to earn a berth.

They took 16th.

Allison, the third Reed sibling competing in Vancouver, got a far earlier start in ice dancing than her brother and sister since she followed them into it. She was already an elite ice dancer by the age of 11, but had one problem: She didn't have a partner.

Her height — or lack thereof — had a lot to do with that. In a sport where the partners must look right together, she was just too short at 4 foot 10 inches. She tried about eight potential partners and none panned out.

Then she found out Japaridze, who also trained in New Jersey, was seeking a new partner.

Within days of the tryout, she was back to home-schooling. In September, the new pair went to an Olympic qualifying event in Germany that would determine the final five teams in Vancouver. They won the fifth and final spot.

In less than a year, Allison went from not having a partner to going to the Olympics. The ice dancing competition is scheduled to begin Feb. 19.

Like any fan of the Olympics, their mother, Noriko, has seen the symbol of the five rings countless times. The reality that her children were heading to Vancouver hit home when she returned from the European championships with Allison, and Cathy and Chris had received their official Japan Olympic gear.

"It just came out perfect," Noriko Reed said. "It's amazing how things can change in your life." ■

On the Web

<http://www.ice-dance.com/reeds/www.vancouver2010.com>

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Will Auther (center) won the 2008 Min Yasui Oratorical Competition.

Who Will Be the Next Min Yasui?

Guidelines and procedures for the 2010 JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition are being distributed to help JACL district governors and chapter presidents to identify participants for the speech competition that culminates at the upcoming Chicago national convention.

JACL chapters are being asked to identify high school students, age 16 or older, or full-time undergraduate college students to compete at JACL district council competitions. The winners will advance to the finals at the July 2 national convention, where they will present their three to five minute presentation in front of an audience of convention delegates and attendees.

The topic of this year's competition is: Our 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, inspired and motivated a nation with a simple word, 'change.' As our nation still faces economic turmoil, wars abroad, as well as damaged health care and immigration systems, 'change' has never been more welcomed. What can the Asian

Pacific American community and the JACL do to inspire and create change to meet the needs of America's current socio-political landscape?"

The deadline for JACL district councils to submit the names of their finalists to national JACL is May 15.

The oratorical competition is named in memory of Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist who tested the constitutionality of the curfew orders imposed against Japanese Americans after the Pearl Harbor attack. During the 1980s, Yasui served as an articulate voice for the JACL's successful campaign for Redress.

The competition was established to encourage and reinforce communication skills among young JACL members. Finalists will be given roundtrip airfare to Chicago, two nights lodging and attendance at the youth luncheon where the winner will be announced. ■

For more information or to download forms: www.jacl.org

COMMENTARY

Are the Benefits of Chapter Scholarship Programs Worth It?



By Brandon Mita

The most common complaint I've heard from chapters and chapter presidents is that they have this scholarship program, which gives out considerable sums of money to academically gifted high school, undergraduate, and graduate students each year.

As a chapter board member you've diligently organized your scholarship committee to recruit donors and advertise to potential applicants. You've put in countless hours working with your board's legal counsel to ensure that your accounting is in order.

On top of that, your chapter has paid a pretty penny to host a modest but generous luncheon. And because fundraising is an implicit function of your role as a board member, you have the burden of personally financing a table at the luncheon.

So what's the complaint? The biggest concern is that chapters expend all of this time, effort and money with little turnaround from its scholarship recipients. In other words, students graciously receive their awards, take a couple of photos with the amazing donors, eat the free food at the scholarship luncheons, and then conveniently, are never heard from again.

I've heard the argument that JACL should reward these young, talented individuals and expect nothing in return. I can accept this argument based on the fact that the JACL is a charitable organization. Charity means giving to those in need. Students are needy. As a student myself about to finish law school, I'm staring at \$150,000 of debt and a terrible job market.

On the other hand as a JACL national board member, I see that membership numbers continue to decline. As a membership-based non-profit, without members we don't have money. Without money, we can't run programs. Logically, it behooves us to go out and get more members.

In my role as national youth representative, I see the organization doing a couple of things in order to solve this dilemma: 1. Have an effective strategy towards tapping into the existing Japanese American youth/student population; or 2. expand the JACL membership base by reaching out to other Asian Pacific American communities.

Now, you're probably asking, "Okay, how can we do that? What do scholarship awards have to do with your argument?" In reality, all of the things I have discussed

here are interconnected.

Here's a novel idea, if your chapter's scholarship committee is flexible and the donors' intent allows for it, convert one or two of your existing scholarships into awards. These awards would be given to student/youth organizations that have contributed significantly to their on-campus and local communities. Moreover, these awards should not be limited to JA student organizations.

Not only do student organizations benefit in receiving funds to continue their programming initiatives, but chapters can also attain exposure to a broader APA community, and thereby, build stronger coalition ties. We learn about their issues as student organizations. They learn about ours.

Moreover, this is the perfect recruitment strategy to inject a greater youth presence into the JACL. All too often, I hear that chapter members don't know what kind of programming to offer younger folks. Well, that problem can be resolved here by recruiting these young, talented individuals who are already engaged in some great activism.

As a personal anecdote, I am one of the founders of Howard University's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, which was formed last year as the university's first APA organization. Funding for student organizations at Howard is based on an organization's number of members. I'm sure you can guess that there are not too many APA students walking around at

Howard. We receive a little over a \$100 in funding for the entire year.

Talk to some of the students at Howard and you'll hear about some of the great events we put on each semester that incorporate APA identity, Black/Asian conflict, undocumented immigration, hate crimes, etc. We have the ideas, the passion and the contacts to put on these events, but not the money.

I'm sure I speak for most student leaders when I say that student organizations would greatly appreciate more funding to put on bigger and better programs. Moreover, it would be nice to be recognized by community organizations like the JACL. Most importantly, if a community group were to give my student organization a monetary award, I would be inclined to participate and be more proactive in that community organization's programming

and issue initiatives.

My last and final argument is a quick and dirty analogy relating to the stock market. A common technique in risk management is to diversify your portfolio. Relating that back to JACL, we've been opening ourselves up to tremendous risk by investing solely in scholarship recipients and hoping that they come around and join JACL. So, why not diversify?

I know you may have more concerns, and I want to address them all. I'm willing to work with any chapter that is amenable to this idea and willing to implement it. Please feel free to contact me at youthrep@jacl.org with any of your questions. ■

Brandon Mita is the JACL national youth representative.

'Here's a novel idea, if your chapter's scholarship committee is flexible and the donors' intent allows for it, convert one or two of your existing scholarships into awards. ... Moreover, this is the perfect recruitment strategy to inject a greater youth presence into the JACL.'

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Keam (center) with Phillip Ozaki, JACL Mineta fellow (left) and Jean Shiraki, JACL Inouye fellow.

Keam Keynotes Washington, D.C. JACL Installation

Mark Keam, the newly elected delegate for the 35th District in Virginia’s House of Delegates, was the keynote speaker at the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter installation. Keam, who attended the event with his wife Alex and children Brenna and Tyler, edged out John Hyland to become the first Korean American in the legislature. He previously worked for the Federal Communications Commission, the Small Business Administration, and Verizon Communications. In 1988, while attending the University of California, Irvine Keam was chosen by John

Tobe, a Washington, D.C. JACL to be a D.C. intern. “He is an outstanding young Asian American leader, and we expect even bigger things from him in the future,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. Mori installed the Washington, D.C. JACL board officers, with Michelle Amano continuing to serve as chapter president. A past president’s pin was awarded to Emily Ihara, who served with Amano as co-president during the past term of office. ■

First JA D.C. Summit Focused on Camp Preservation

The JACL worked with other national historic preservation organizations to preserve World War II confinement sites at the first Japanese American Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The Feb. 3-4 summit was themed, “Preservation, Interpretation, Education.” Three million dollars has been set aside in the federal budget for grants to assist in the preservation and restoration of national JA confinement sites. The JACL has been advocating for more funding by meeting with Sec. Ken Salazar from the Department of Interior, and Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service.

Key speakers included former Sen. Alan Simpson and former Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta. Simpson first met Mineta at a Boy Scouts meeting at Heart Mountain. Members of Congress who attended a Capitol Hill reception hosted by Rep. Mike Honda included: Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. and Reps. Norm Dicks, D-Wash.; Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo.; Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii; Judy Chu, D-Calif.; and Walt Minnick, D-Idaho. The JACL, Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, Japanese American National Museum and the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition sponsored the summit. ■

COMMENTARY
Power of Words, Part Two

The purpose of the JACL proposal, which seeks to replace euphemisms used to describe the World War II JA experience, is education.



By Mako Nakagawa

Part one of the “Power of Words” dealt with the need to take a hard look at the terminology used to describe the incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. I focused on two specific terms — “evacuation” and “relocation.” Now I wish to focus on two more terms “concentration camp” and “internment camp.”

Concentration Camps

Some people have said using the term “concentration camp” to describe where Nikkei were incarcerated during WWII, is harsh. I totally agree. But the Nikkei experience within the camps can be accurately described as harsh. I also agree that the Nikkei WWII experience cannot be compared to the Nazi camps in Europe. The brutality in the Nazi camps deserves the distinction of being designated as “slave labor camps”, “death camps” and “killing centers.” The term “concentration camp” was used as a euphemism to mask the horrifying reality of the Nazi-run death camps. I propose we not shy away from the term “American concentration camps,” or the terms “Nazi death camps” and “killing centers.” Quite simply, that is what they were.

Internment Camps

The Geneva Conventions legitimize the “internment” of citizens of a country who are present in another country in a time of war

between those countries. My father was an Issei, a citizen of Japan, and thus ineligible to become an American citizen. He was initially interned at the Missoula, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) camp. The term internment is properly used in his case — and for more than 17,000 other people of Japanese ancestry — were interned at DOJ camps like the one in Missoula. But for the many other Japanese Americans incarcerated in camps run by the Army and the War Relocation Authority, the term “internment” is a misnomer. Civil rights activist Edison Uno had championed the term “American concentration camp” as early as April 1974. I strongly urged JACL to take the action in erasing euphemisms and replacing them with honest and accurate terms. PNW prepared a resolution for the Oct. 30-31 national board meeting, but the outcome did not meet our hopes and expectations. It was announced that an old resolution regarding euphemisms already exists. Resolutions considered duplicates in subject matter are generally rejected by policy practice. Of course, we are anxious to secure a copy of the old resolution. Perhaps we can add strategies to expedite the educational aspects of the resolution and seek the approval of the national council at the JACL national 2010 convention. With two districts already officially supporting our “Power of Words” resolution, and interest from a number of other districts, we are very hopeful that a clear, strong and effective measure can be launched in Chicago. The focus of the “Power of Words” proposal is education. Some may want to learn why terms are considered euphemisms and may decide to begin using different words. Then again, they may not — it’s their choice. If your chapter or district wants to support the “Power of Words” proposal, please bring it up at your meetings. E-mail me at mako@clearwire.net. I will send you a copy of the proposal and related material. ■

Mako Nakagawa is a retired educator with the Seattle Public Schools. She is also a Seattle JACL member.

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April 3-9	Yamato Deluxe Discover India Tour 8 days/ 6 nights visiting Delhi, Jaipur, Agra.	Philippe Theriault
April 12-16	Yamato Vancouver Cherry Blossom Tour with Seattle 5 days/ 4 nights visiting Seattle and Vancouver.	Philippe Theriault & Lilly Nomura
May 22-29	Yamato Alaskan Cruise aboard the Golden Princess 8 days/ 7 nights roundtrip from Seattle to Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Ketchikan, Victoria, BC.	Philippe Theriault
June 6-16	Yamato Essential Spain Tour 9 days/ 8 nights visiting Bilbao, Basque Country, San Sebastian, Barcelona, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, Marbella, Andalucia, Granada.	Philippe Theriault
June 19-29	Yamato Family Tour to China 11 days/ 9 nights visiting Guangzhou, Gullin, Xian, Beijing.	Rich & Joanne Hong
Jun. 27-Jul. 8	Yamato Hokkaido Tour 12 days/ 10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Ikeda, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate.	Peggy Mikuni
July 9-15	Yamato Niagara to Old Quebec Tour 7 days/ 6 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Toronto, Thousand Islands, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec. There will be a 2 night optional extension to Charlevoix County for a <i>seafaring villages & seafood</i> tour.	Philippe Theriault
Aug. 8-17	Yamato Canadian Rockies & Majestic British Columbia Coast Tour 10 days/ 9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, rail to Prince George, rail to Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River, Victoria.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 14-23	Yamato Tour to Ireland 10 days/ 8 nights visiting Dublin, Belfast, Kilkenny, Cork, Killarney, Limerick.	Philippe Theriault & Peggy Mikuni
Oct. 6-13	Yamato Exclusive Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Tour 8 days/ 7 nights visiting Roswell UFO Museum, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands National Monument, Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Taos, Durango (Colorado) Narrow Gauge Railway to Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park, Gallup.	Philippe Theriault
Oct. 10-17	Yamato Music Cities Tour with Collette Vacations 8 days/ 7 nights visiting New Orleans, Memphis/Graceland, Nashville/Grand Ole Opry and Country Music Hall of Fame.	Sharon Seto
Oct. 16-30	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan 15 days/ 13 nights visiting Kyoto, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Beppu, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
Nov. 1-8	Yamato Exclusive SouthEast Tour 8 days/ 7 nights visiting Miami, Florida, Keys, Kennedy Space Center, Orlando/Walt Disney World, St. Augustine, Florida; Savannah & Atlanta, Georgia.	Lilly Nomura
Nov. 29-Dec. 9	Yamato Deluxe Discover Egypt Tour 11 days/ 9 nights, includes 3 nights in Cairo, 2 nights in Giza, then 4 nights Nile cruise aboard a 5-star riverboat.	Philippe Theriault
Dec. 8-11	Yamato Best of Branson Tour 4 days/ 3 nights including 4 shows, Branson sightseeing and visit to Silver Dollar City.	Peggy Mikuni

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COMMENTARY

Working For Immigration Reform



(L-r) JACL's Phillip Ozaki texts for immigration reform along with the the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum's Kanav Bhatheja, Stephanie Soares and Melati Kaye.

To get CIR passed in 2010, we need support from every part of JACL.

By Kristin Fukushima

The immigration system is broken. It is so broken, in fact, that the only way to move forward in fixing the system is by creating an entirely new system — comprehensive immigration reform.

In the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, 63 percent of AAPIs are foreign-born. And we suffer the longest backlogs.

The JACL, recognizing the need for reform in the APA community has made immigration reform a top policy issue. In fact, JACL is working on this issue on both coasts, and on every level (local, regional, national), with the aim of passing comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) in 2010.

Nationally, JACL is part of a nationwide campaign known as the Reform Immigration For America (RI4A). Here on the West Coast, that means participating in a subgroup of RI4A known as the California Table. The CA-Table, a multiracial collective of 50-plus organizations, is a statewide mobilization of immigrant advocates. So far, JACL has participated in press conferences, marches, rallies, legislative visits, town hall meetings, community forums, and much more. There is always an event to attend, so anyone interested should definitely contact me.

In addition to work with RI4A, we have also recently formed a Los Angeles AAPI Immigration Task Force on the West Coast, which JACL co-chairs.

On the East Coast, Phillip Ozaki, JACL's Norman Mineta Fellow, is also working on the RI4A campaign and collaborating with other APA organizations on immigration issues. Most recently, this has meant participating in a blogging campaign for the National AAPI Week of Action, which JACL was involved in on both coasts.

For the campaign, Phillip coordinated blogs from various JACL staff and board members, which you can check out at: www.apaforprogress.org/blogs/jacl4progress.

Phillip also coordinated a national text messaging campaign, utilizing the JACL National Youth Student Council's Facebook group. About 100 JACLers texted "AAPI" to

the number "69866" to join a mobile network supporting AAPIs' stake in immigration reform.

"Our generation is wired on text messaging," said Phillip. "Texting is the fastest way to reach someone, and a great tool to spark interests and get younger community members involved."

New technology and the internet have changed community organizing, and make it easier for us to reach out to the youth in our community.

An issue JACL faces in our work on CIR is the continuous framing of immigration as a "Latino issue." There is an ongoing lack of AAPI voices, faces, and perspectives in the debate, so our issues are often overlooked. It is critical that we ensure our community and its issues are inserted into the discussion, and that our concerns are addressed in legislation.

That is why JACL is involved with AAPI-focused immigration coalitions in addition to our work with RI4A. These AAPI coalitions provide a space for the AAPI community to discuss and address specific immigration issues unique to their ethnic community as well as the wider AAPI community.

With JACL working on immigration from both coasts, we are that much more effective. However, to get CIR passed in 2010, we need support from every part of JACL. Phillip and I encourage chapter leaders to engage members in the discussion. It's easy to get involved — you can blog, write an op-ed, put something in your chapter newsletter, or sign up to receive updates by texting "AAPI" to "69866." JACL staff members are ready and willing to help out in any way, by providing materials, workshops, or any other kind of support.

There is a National Mobilization Day march in Washington, D.C. on March 21, with similar events across the country. We need to make sure the AAPI and Japanese American voices are heard in the debate. This is our issue too. ■

Kristin Fukushima is the public policy coordinator in the Pacific Southwest District Office. Phillip Ozaki is the current Norman Mineta Fellow in the Washington, D.C. office. Want to get involved? Contact Kristin at kfukushima@jaclpsw.org or Phillip at jacl.minetafellow@gmail.com.

GO.SEE.DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



Art of Gaman

WASHINGTON, D.C.
March 5-Jan. 30, 2011

For the second time, the Smithsonian Institution is mounting an internment camp exhibit. ‘The Art of Gaman’ exhibition will be held at the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery. It is based on a book by Delphine Hirasuna’s, a San Francisco JACL member. The exhibition is expected to draw upwards of 200,000 visitors.

For information
www.americanart.si.edu or 202/633-7970

Northern Calif.

Festival of Children’s Stories
SAN FRANCISCO
Feb. 28, 1:30 p.m.
Palace of Fine Arts Theater
3301 Lyon Street
The children of Nihonmachi Little Friends, a community based non-profit child care organization, will present their annual theater production and auction, ‘Dowa no Omatsuri: A Festival of Children’s Stories.’
\$25/advanced; \$30/at the door; \$10/youth (5-17)
Info: nlfchildcare@yahoo.com or 415/922-8898

Central Calif.

DOR Dinner & Groundbreaking
FRESNO
Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m.; dinner 5 p.m.
Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Break ground at the site of the former Fresno Assembly Center where community leaders have been working to build a memorial.
Dinner tickets (\$50/general):
Travis Nishi at 559/298-7379

Historical Landmark Unveiling
MARYSVILLE
Feb. 27, 11 a.m.

Marysville Buddhist Church
125 “B” Street
The Marysville JACL and the Arboga Assembly Center Committee will dedicate the Arboga No. 934 plaque. John Tateishi, immediate former JACL national director, will keynote.
Info: arbogaassemblycenterproject@yahoo.com

Merced Assembly Center Memorial Dedication
MERCED
Feb. 20, 3 p.m.
Merced Fairgrounds
900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
The memorial to honor former incarceratedees will be dedicated. John Tateishi, immediate former JACL national director, will keynote the gala dinner (\$40/general).

Dawn’s Light: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi
SACRAMENTO
Feb. 20, 1 p.m.
Secretary of State’s Auditorium
1500 11th Street
A play about University of Washington college student Gordon Hirabayashi, who chose to courageously say, ‘no’ to the curfew, evacuation and WWII internment, pre-

mieres. \$15/general; \$10/students under 18
Info: www.nctor.org or 916/685-6747

DOR Dedication
STOCKTON
Feb. 20, 9:30-12 noon
University of the Pacific Library
3601 Pacific Ave.
Panelists Gordon Chang, Nelson Nagai and Shan Sutton will discuss the history of Stockton’s JA community. The study room will also be dedicated. Seating will be limited to the first 100 guests.

Southern Calif.

Korematsu v. United States
LOS ANGELES
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
Japanese American Nat’l Museum
100 E. Central Ave.
The Little Tokyo DOR event commemorates the landmark civil rights case of Fred Korematsu. Dale Minami, the lead counsel on the legal team will keynote.
Info: NCRR, 213/284-0336; JACL PSW, 213/626-4471 JANM, 213/625-0414

Riverside JACL Installation
RIVERSIDE
Feb. 27, 12 noon
Riverside Marriott
3400 Market Street
The Riverside JACL’s program will include a special performance by PISA (Pacific Islander Student Alliance) from UC Riverside. PISA was established to promote the cultures of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia through the art of dance and music.
Info: Irene Ogata iogata@yahoo.com or 951/784-7057

Ventura County JACL Installation
NEWBURY PARK,
Feb. 28, 12 noon
Tomodachi Restaurant
771 North Wendy Drive
Artist Wendy Maruyama will speak at about her latest project, ‘Executive Order 9066,’ which deals with recreating the names of WWII internees.
Info: Anne Chilcott 805/492-0146 or venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com

Arizona

Security vs Freedom
TEMPE
March 6, 8 a.m-4 p.m.
The Arizona Historical Society Museum
1300 N. College Ave
Arizona JACL and the Arizona Historical Society presents ‘Security vs Freedom: What is America Willing to Give Up?’, which examines how terrorism should be dealt with. Workshop also features panel discussions about post Sept. 11th issues.

\$20/general admission
Info: Megan Gately
mgately@azhs.gov or 480/929-0292 ext.137

Exhibition Baseball Game
TEMPE
March 2, 6:30 p.m.
Winkles Field
201 S. Packard Dr.
Watch an exhibition baseball game between Meiji University in Japan and Arizona State University. \$5 special.
Info: Ted Namba at
Caseyfolks@aol.com or Jim Shee at Jim_Shee@yahoo.com

Chicago

‘Heroes’
CHICAGO
Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
Chicago History Museum
1601 N. Clark St.
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.

National JACL Convention
CHICAGO
June 30–July 4
Swissotel
323 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601-9722
Join other JACL members from across the nation in this biennial convention hosted by the Chicago JACL. Activities include workshops, special speakers and banquets.
Register: \$250/before June 10; \$200/youth ages 25 and under before June 10.
Info:
www.jacl.org/news/2010ChicagoJMT
EMP033009/home.html

New Mexico

Japanese Cultural Festival
SANTA FE
March 13, 10 a.m.-5p.m.
Santa Fe Community Convention Center
201 W. Marcy Ave
The 6th annual Japanese Cultural Festival will feature music, taiko, food, martial arts, a silent auction and workshops.
Info: www.santafejin.org or 505/471-9022

Massachusetts

Remembering Internment:
CAMBRIDGE
Feb. 20, 3-5 p.m.
Mass. Institute of Technology
MIT Building E25, Room 117
Featuring Elena Tajima Creef, 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.

Info: www.nejacl.org

Philadelphia

Anti-Asian Violence in Philadelphia Schools
MERION
Feb. 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Merion Friends Meeting
615 Montgomery Ave.
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

New Jersey

Installation and Graduate Recognition Luncheon
CHERRY HILL
March 27, 12 noon-4 p.m.
Maggiano’s Little Italy
2000 Rt. 38, Ste 1180
The keynote speaker will be the ambassador and consul general in New York, Shinichi Nishimiya. \$40/member; \$45/non-member; \$20/children.
Info: Cliff Akiyama
cliffakiyama@yahoo.com or Scott Nakamura, drnakams@hotmail.com

Washington, D.C.

JACL’s Salute to Champions
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sept. 16
The National JACL Gala Awards Dinner is an annual fundraising event that seeks to honor individuals and organizations that have championed the causes of the JACL.
Info: www.jacl.org

After the War
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Feb. 20, 2 p.m.
Carmichael Auditorium
Nat’l Museum of American History
14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Playwright Philip Kan Gotanda and historian Dr. Scott Kurashige will talk about their latest work — ‘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

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TRIBUTE

Amy Hashiguchi-Kawaoka

August 21, 1927—December 20, 2009



Amy Hashiguchi-Kawaoka, a resident of Gardena, Calif., left this earth to enter Heaven to be with Christ on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009 at the Torrance Memorial Medical Center after her courageous battle with an ongoing illness.

She was born on Aug. 21, 1927 in Sunnyside, Calif., in the county of San Diego. She is survived by her son, Alan Kawaoka; daughter, Beth Edwards; brothers Henry, James, John and Bill Hashiguchi; and sister Betty Inahara. She was preceded in death by brothers Leo, Roy, Fred Hashiguchi and her son Christopher Kawaoka.

Services were held Jan. 10 at Rice Mortuary in Torrance, Calif. She will be missed by all the lives she touched.

Attend the Manzanar School Reunion



The Manzanar school reunion will be held Aug. 9-11 at California Hotel in Las Vegas, said Hank Nakano, reunion committee chair.

Buses will be available from Los Angeles, Gardena, Venice and the San Fernando Valley.

Reunion events will include a slot tournament at the Main Street Station Casino and a banquet. Rangers from the Manzanar National Historic Site will also provide the latest information on park activities. ■

Reunion

Aug. 9-11
California Hotel,
Las Vegas
For reservation: Sam Ono, 310/327-5568 or samono@earthlink.net
For info: Lillian Kawasaki, 562/754-8850 or lilliany@aol.com; Cherry Uyeda, 818/981-2629; Henry Nakano, 714/871-8178; Kanji Sahara, 310/539-3733, k.sahara@worldnet.att.net

Veterans’ Group Calling For Scholarships Applicants

The Japanese American Veterans Association has increased the dollar amount and number of scholarships it will be awarding this year, according to Calvin Ninomiya, JAVA scholarship chair.

The awards will be \$1,500 each, said Ninomiya. The deadline is April 21.

To be eligible, applicants must be graduating high school students related lineally to a veteran of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team or the Military Intelligence Service.

Japanese Americans who have or are serving in the U.S. armed services are also eligible. And relatives of JAVA members can also apply.

Each applicant must submit an essay on the topic, “What winning a JAVA scholarship award will mean to me.” Applicants must also provide documentation that they have been accepted to an accredited college or university.

JAVA’s 2010 scholarship program has been augmented by three new scholarships including: a scholarship fund in Col. Douglas Ishio’s name and scholarships from the estate of Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin and in memory of Teru Kamikawa Matsui. ■

For more information or to download forms: www.javadc.org

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Gerald Fukui
President

Professor Helped Established Asian American Studies



Lucie Cheng, the former University of California, Los Angeles’ director of the Asian American Studies Center and a pioneering social scientist, passed away Jan. 27 in Taipei, Taiwan from cancer.

Under her leadership, the Asian American Studies Center developed its Master’s Degree program. Cheng served as the first permanent director of the center from 1972-1987 succeeding then interim director Harry Kitano.

Cheng also helped establish the university’s first endowed chair in Japanese American Studies.

After she retired from teaching, Cheng worked as a publisher and journalist for two newspapers in Taiwan, including the *Lipao Newspaper* founded by her father, Cheng She-Wo. In 2006, Cheng established the Cheng She-Wo Institute for Chinese Journalism at Shih Hsin University. ■

IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

- Naramura, Aiko, 86**, San Francisco, Jan. 14; wife of late Jack Hoichi; survived by children, Katherine (Walter) Dillon, May Deshamais, Glenn (Maria Teresa) Naramura; and Irene Naramura; 3 gc.

Takei, Katsuto, 94, Stockton, Dec. 12; 2009 survived by daughter Patricia Okamoto (Allen); sons Dr. Russell Takei (Linda) and Dr. Glenn Takei (Janice); 4 gc; 1 ggc.

Fujii, Larry Noboru, 89, Boise, Idaho, Nov. 27; 2009 survived by wife, Miyo; son, Ken; daughter-in-law, Anna Riggs; 2 gc.

Sugano, William “Bill,” 70, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 27; 2009 respected commercial office interior designer.

Harada, Yosh, Chicago, Ill., Oct. 4; 2009 Chicago JACler; Earlier this year, Harada received the Japanese American Community Service Award.

Hanamura, Harvey, Riverside, Sept. 7, 2009; predeceased by wife, Kiyo; survived by sons, Michael and Steven.

Morihiro, George, 85, Oct. 25, 2009; predeceased by wife, Elsie (Urakawa); parents Gunjiro and Tsuru; and brother Fred; survived by son, Alan (Kim); sisters Patricia Kihara, Sally Kinoshita; 2 gc.

Ono, Kazuo “Shorty,” 88, Oct. 12, 2009; survived by wife, Kiyo Nagai; children Leslie (Bill) Wittman, Stuart (Allison), and Kevin (Joel); sister Emi “Amy” Hirasawa; 2 gc.

Ishisaka, Ted Minoru, 90, Los Angeles, Calif., July 18; 2009 he was the father of Cynthia A. Tanaka, Sanders M. and Phyllis Ishisaka (past JACL Cincinnati chapter president); also survived by 5 gc; 3 ggc.

Fukuhara, Terri, Honolulu, Haw., Nov 28, 2009 beloved wife of fame MISer Harry Fukuhara.

Izumi, Seizo, 96, Seaside Dec. 20; 2009 he was preceded in death by his wife, Kimi. He was a long-time member of the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple.

Takisaki, Raymond Jiro, 85, Seattle, Wash., Dec. 10, 2009; survived by wife, Louise Kashino; daughters Phyllis Campbell and Ann Wentzke; sons Tom, Greg and Walt; brother Jim; sisters Mary Yuasa and Agnes Havlis; 10 gc; 1 ggc.

Fukaye, Mitsugu, 83, Oxnard, Dec. 26, 2009; preceased by son David; survived by his wife of 56 years, Lily; sons Larry (Denise), Rodney (Sharon), Gregory (Cathy) and Brian (Jean); 7 gc.

Horiuchi, Edwin Hajime, 85, Seattle, Wash., Dec. 28, 2009; survived by sons, Mark (Kassie), Grant (Nancy); daughter, Nicole (Gus Pecoulas); 6 gc; brother, Lucius (Maynard) and sister, Stella (Kiyo) Hashimoto; nieces and nephews.

Watanabe, Marnelle, 91, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 25, 2009; survived by children David, Donna and Carol Starrett; 3 gc; 1 ggc.

Nakamoto, Albert Masaru Jr., 87, Pearl City, Haw.; survived by wife, Yaeko; sons Gary, Wayne and Eric; daughters Linda Nakamura and Cynthia Nakamoto; brother David; sister Alice Yano; 8 gc; 4 ggc.

Nishida, Jitsuo, 81, Hilo, Haw., Jan. 20; survived by wife, Hamako; daughters, Arlene Terry, Lori Taketa, Cori Lee Rapozo and JoAnn; sisters, Peggy Hamano, Molly Yamaguchi, Carol Honma and Betty Sanehira; gc and ggc.

Oishi, Robert Haruo, 76, Honolulu, Haw., Jan. 13; survived by wife, Elaine; son Stanton; daughter Elna Ward; brother Noboru; sisters Grace Kagawa and Akiye Oishi; 2 gc.

Okubo, Shigeru, 85, Kaneohe, Haw., Dec. 30, 2009; survived by wife Shirely T.; son Wesley S.; daughter Sharyn I. Tabios; 5 gc; 3 ggc.


Oshiro, Edward Y., 87, Honolulu, Haw., Jan. 5; survived by wife Ruth; sons Edmund and Jon; daughter Lynn Ikeda; brother Roy; sisters Masako Hiyaue, Lily Watts, Bette Wong, and Mabel Scales; 2 gc.

Sugihara, Roy S., 78, Commerce City, Colo., Jan., 18; survived by daughters Sharon Farr (Craig), Sharla Sugihara (Chanh); sister Mary Maxell; brothers Tom (Alice), Frank (Elaine) and Floyd (Ruby); 1 gc.

In Memoriam appears on a limited, space-available basis at no cost. Tributes appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch. For info: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org

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