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Is Toyota's safety recall bringing back Japan-bashing?



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No pain, no gain for 'The Biggest Loser' cousins.

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

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## A PAPERLESS P.C.?

JACL national board members, staffers are debating about a timeline for the newspaper to become all-digital. >> **PAGE 3**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Not About Honor

The article by John Tateishi regarding Watada ("About Honor," Feb. 5-18) is an affront to those who have honorably served in the United States military.

Watada accepted a commission in the U.S. Army and was separated from service discharged "under other than honorable conditions." He had used a legal maneuver to get released from his commitment.

I am proud to have served in the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer [and] a disabled veteran. I do not want this individual to get any favorable recognition for his cowardly action.

**Howard Okamoto**  
1000 Club Member and Past Philadelphia JACL president

## Pass On the Stories

Thank you for the [Feb. 5-18] edition of your paper. The amount of history is phenomenal. The Alien Land Law story ("Documents Tell Government's Side of the Alien

Land Law Cases") and the commentary from the high school student (Katie Nakano's "Finding a Buried Past") were excellent.

In 1942, I was 10 years old when evacuated from Santa Barbara to Tulare Assembly Center.

We as a family spent a year and a half in low-level jobs in Ohio and Illinois until we were cleared to come back to California. Through the *P.C.*, I read about professional jobs and the baby boom. Nisei and Sansei were getting professional type jobs. The future looked brighter for me.

Please continue the good work and pass on the stories about our ethnic community and more.

**Kay Aiko Willis**  
Santa Barbara, Calif.

## Write to Us

Write to: Letters, Pacific Citizen  
250 E. 1st St., Suite # 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
or e-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

## Important Commentaries

Thank you for printing the two commentaries in your Feb. 5-18 issue. Ema Nakano's public disclosure about her ADHD ("Public Disclosure: My ADHD") and Lia Shigemura's personal story about the importance of marriage for same-sex couples ("Waiting For Marriage Equality") reminds us that civil rights is important because of how it impacts individuals and families. Both women's moving stories contribute to understanding and empathy for issues some of us are not familiar with. They show how laws such as the Americans With Disabilities Act and efforts to legalize same-sex marriage represent our core values of respect and honor for all human beings.

**Amy Iwasaki Mass**  
Contra Costa JACL

## A Digital Debate — Let's Hear from the Membership



By Caroline Aoyagi-Stom  
Executive Editor

In this issue you will read our feature story: "Thrusting the *Pacific Citizen* into the Digital Age," an in-depth look at the controversial issue of if and when this newspaper should get rid of its print edition and go all digital. Reporter Nalea J. Ko does an excellent job of investigating the issue from the board perspective.

But what has been missing so far in this contentious debate is you, the JACL membership and our non-member subscribers who read the *P.C.* issue after issue. We want to hear from you: do you believe it's time to cease our print edition and go all digital?

Reporter Ko outlines the facts but there are some I would like to highlight. So far the *P.C.* editorial board and staff have pushed for a cautious and exploratory approach to this issue. In fact you can read the editorial board's 2010 Media Plan on the *P.C.* Web site ([www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)). The Feb. 13 national board resolution calls for a timetable and plan for the move to an all-digital format, hopefully by 2014.

Each year the *P.C.* staff raises half of its revenue (\$200 K) through advertising, the Holiday Issue, non-member subscriptions and fundraising. This covers the costs of the printed *P.C.* The other half of the *P.C.* budget comes from membership dues, monies that largely cover staff salaries.

So far no revenue has been generated through the digital *P.C.* and both ethnic and mainstream newspapers have not yet been able to develop significant revenue streams from their digital versions.

So what is the rush to go all digital? It seems that some board members hope to help balance the national budget by eliminating the *P.C.* print version. Ironically by eliminating the printed *P.C.*, the JACL saves no money since it would also eliminate the \$200 K in revenue raised through the printed *P.C.* The only way national JACL can save monies is to eliminate *P.C.* staff positions.

But this is not to say that the *P.C.* has not made great strides in embracing a digital format. In the past couple of years we have developed a database Web site where there are special features for our members and subscribers. You can even download the entire

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'Embracing Change'  
June 30-July 4  
**17 weeks**  
SEE PAGE 5 FOR REGISTRATION FORM

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# Thrusting the *Pacific Citizen* into the Digital Age

**Most JACL board members and staffers agree that the *Pacific Citizen* will eventually become an all-digital publication, but opinions vary about when the transition should occur.**

By Nalea J. Ko,  
Reporter

JACLers and board members voiced their concerns about ostracizing readers if the *Pacific Citizen* went to a Web only format as was proposed at the recent national board meeting.

The National Board of Directors at the Feb. 12 meeting approved a resolution, directing the *P.C.* staff — with the help of the *P.C.* editorial board — to create a plan to transition to an all-digital newspaper.

The motion was made by National JACL Secretary/Treasurer Joshua Spry, and was seconded by PNW District Governor Chip Larouche. It passed with district governors Sharon Ishii-Jordan (MDC) and Toshi Abe (EDC) in opposition.

The plan is slated to be presented at the April 9-11 national board meeting.

At the Feb. 12 meeting National Director Floyd Mori introduced a plan, "The Future For JACL Budgeting," which outlines that the *P.C.* needs to move to the Web and cease the print edition.

The plan also indicates that the print copy of the *P.C.* is not the preferred medium for the "targeted demographic of the JACL." According to the proposal each chapter would likely be responsible for downloading a PDF of the electronic *P.C.* and distributing copies of the issue to members.

It was also proposed that the *P.C.* office and staff relocate to San Francisco, Calif. to free additional funds.

"It needs to be understood that the *P.C.* now accounts for over 20 percent of the JACL's total budget and 30 percent of the revenues derived from membership," Mori explained in an e-mail to the *P.C.* "Critical staff positions in youth, education, and development, which are all at the heart of the JACL programs of the future, have been cut." He did not specify which positions, but said cuts were made over the past 10 years.

"Budgetary considerations," he said, are the reason the transition needs to be addressed sooner than later.

Some question the statistics outlined in Mori's plan which uses yet to be approved numbers from the 2011-2012 proposed budget. Eight other revenue sources currently contribute to the JACL budget, other than membership revenue, said Margie Yamamoto, *P.C.* editorial board chair. She added that the JACL's total revenue in 2009 was \$2,088,621 and the *P.C.*'s total budget was \$412,284, which amounts to 19.7 percent of the JACL budget.

The *P.C.* also raises about 50 percent of its budget through fundraising, advertising and subscriptions. There are about 800 non-member subscriptions to the *P.C.*, which brings in about \$32,000 a year. If the print edition were eliminated there is a possibility these funds would need to be refunded. The *P.C.* is also incorporated in the JACL's constitution and bylaws as the "official publication" of the organization. Should the print edition be eliminated, the bylaws would need to be amended.

Members and district governors, among others, are also concerned about how eliminating the 81-year-old print edition will impact long-time JACLers.

Spry motioned to create a plan to move the *P.C.* to a Web only format by 2014, but Mori said the budget needs to be fixed sooner.

"The demographic of the future is our younger generation to whom the printed media is a relic of the past," Mori explained. Reading the news via the Internet is more convenient for some.

"I have become comfortable with reading my news via the Internet," said Marilyn Takahashi Fordney, 72, an Oxnard, Calif. resident. "It helps retain our trees, so that we can breathe better and not use paper."



**Some fear a rush to move to an all-digital *P.C.* format would alienate more than half of JACL members who are age 70 and over.**

But others said the decision should be further researched before eliminating the print edition forever. It is unclear without conducting a survey how the majority of members would like to receive their news.

"I am disappointed and concerned that the JACL is seeking to completely eliminate the print edition of the *Pacific Citizen* in an effort to reduce costs for the organization," Ishii-Jordan said. "Given the demographics of the organization and the long-standing loyalty of a number of members, who do not own a computer and/or do not feel comfortable accessing or reading digital news, it is amazing that the JACL would consider such a move."

Jim Nagae, Portland, Ore. member said his 88-year-old mother does not have a computer and would not read the digital version of the *P.C.*

"I think the *P.C.* provides a link for her to others of her generation as well as providing other general news involving other Asian Americans beyond her immediate neighborhood," Nagae said, mentioning that his mother was currently reading the *P.C.*'s story about Fred Yamamoto, a missing Japanese American from Washington State.

Tim Koide, membership coordinator, said at the national meeting that over 50 percent of the JACL members are over the age of 70. These members, said some board members, prefer the print edition.

National President T. Larry Oda said even though the "futurists" think print is dead, there should be a hard copy of the *P.C.* as long as half of the membership were born before 1940.

The *P.C.* staff has conducted an informal poll over the last few months to better understand members' needs. Out of about 100 readers who returned a survey to the *P.C.*, more than half indicated as of March 2 that they would prefer the print edition rather than an electronic version.

Milo G. Yoshino, Diablo Valley chapter member, also administered an informal phone poll of about 12 people to see if members would prefer reading their news online.

"If my limited and informal poll is any indication of what could happen, we could lose as much as 20 percent of our membership," Yoshino said. "That would translate to a loss of 3,000 members, which in turn represents over \$200,000 of lost membership revenues."

JACL has not conducted a survey of its members to determine their preference.

"Although I agree with Floyd's premise that the organization cannot afford much longer to subsidize the *P.C.* at the level we are currently doing, we need to investigate what the actual impact is on the members who rely on this publication," Larouche said.

Others also question how stopping the press on the print edition would actually save JACL money. The print edition — including the Holiday Issue, Veterans' and Scholarship issues — is some of the *P.C.*'s primary means of raising revenue.

"Unfortunately, if the print edition ceases we will no longer be able to provide our special issues either, including our popular Holiday Issue and Veterans' Day Issue," said Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, *P.C.* executive editor. "It's just not feasible both from a staffing and printer's perspective."

The *P.C.* editorial board passed a New Media Plan Feb. 6 at their annual board meeting and it was presented to the national board Feb. 12 but the national board did not adopt the plan. There are now two media plans examining the future of the *P.C.*

The editorial board's plan outlined that, "newspaper online advertising only accounted for 9.7 percent of the total newspaper ad revenue in the third quarter of 2009." Yamamoto said at the national board meeting that moving the *P.C.* to the Web would come at a cost despite conflicting claims.

Most understand that journalism will one day move to an all-digital format, but they question the rush of moving the *P.C.* to the Web only format before 2014, which was initially suggested by Spry.

"Committing to a specific timeline for the transition to an all digital *P.C.* at this time, when the future of newspapers is in such a volatile state, would be both dangerous and short-sighted, according to Paul Niwa, a professor of journalism at Emerson College in Boston," Yamamoto explained.

Niwa, a member of the *P.C.* editorial board, said there is not one example in ethnic media or mainstream media of a newspaper successfully going to an all-digital format. He added that the *P.C.* is an opportunity for the members to communicate with the JACL leadership, in contrast to a newsletter, which is the voice of the leadership.

"Well of course this is a newspaper for members," Niwa added, "And by giving up the newspaper, we're cutting off the dialogue that members can have with their leadership. And I think that's maybe why the leadership of JACL wants more control of this newspaper. It's more of an issue of does the leadership want this dialogue with their members?" ■

# Orange Chicken and Spam Musubi: The Growing Weight of APAs



Students at Stanford University indulge in Asian American fare for lunch.

**APAs have among the lowest statistics of obesity globally, so what's to blame for growing waistlines?**

By Christine McFadden  
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

Stanford University sophomore Julia Chang scans the dining hall for food after spending her winter break at home in Taiwan. Eyeing the pizza, hamburgers, french fries, and other foods oftentimes found in American university dorms, she realizes that she's not hungry.

"I just remember coming back from Taiwan this year and not being able to eat anything," Chang said. "It was so unappealing compared to what my grandma made [at home]."

In comparison to the abundance of fresh vegetables, seafood, tofu, and lean meat she was accustomed to in Taiwan, Chang finds the discrepancy between American food — even Asian American food — large and the transition back to consuming it a necessary, yet difficult, one to make.

Once back in America, Chang is one of many Asian Pacific Americans who find themselves eating larger portions of unhealthier food and gaining weight as a result.

"After a while, I get used to it [American food] and I start eating more, and then I have to work out in order to not get fatter."

While APAs have among the lowest statistics of obesity globally, recent percentages

show that the disparity between overweight and obesity levels of APAs in comparison to other Americans is shrinking.

## Asian Vs. Asian American Food

According to the Office of Minority Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the portion of APAs over 18 years of age who were defined as overweight (having a Body Mass Index, or BMI, of 25 or greater) in 2007 was 29.2 percent, whereas Non-Hispanic Whites were 34.5 percent, with a ratio of 0.8 between the two.

The number of "low-income Asian and Pacific Islander children in California" who were considered overweight rose from 7 percent to 15 percent, more than doubling from 1994 to 2003, according to *Medicine News* today.

In addition to poverty, several accounts of the discrepancies between the types and portions of traditional Asian cuisine and both American and Asian American food pointed toward possible explanations as to why this number has so drastically increased.

Chang, who lived in Taiwan for four years before moving to America, has since returned to Taiwan every summer. She notes that, in her experience, the largest differences in foods between the two countries have been the ingredients.

"Most of the food in Taiwan comes from natural whole ingredients that are purchased in open air markets," Chang recalled. "They have

real chickens that are slaughtered there and the farmers bring their produce straight from the countryside, whereas in America, I feel that this [food] is a lot more processed."

In terms of AA food, she believes that the central distinction from authentic Asian food comes from both how the food is made and a lack of vegetables in the ingredients.

"Recently, I noticed I've been gaining a little more weight because I've been eating at Wilbur more," Chang said of an Asian food-themed dining hall at Stanford. "I don't think it [Asian food at Wilbur] comes from completely natural ingredients. I'd eat a lot of Wilbur food and then I'd get a lot fatter. I can feel it; things are fitting a lot differently."

Kenny Kao, a Stanford University sophomore who has lived in both China and Taiwan for a number of years before moving to the states for school, agrees that AA food is made in a style that is less healthy than traditional Asian cuisine. He singles out the amount of sugar in AA food as one of the main differences between the two.

"American food in general I think has a lot more calories and is a lot more greasy — more fried stuff," Kao said. "The more traditional Asian food, whether it be Chinese food or Japanese food or Taiwanese food, has a lot more that's boiled or cooked."

High school senior Natalie Rojas, who lived in Japan for 11 years before moving to Portland, Oregon, points out that the size of the portions of food served in America as the major disparity between the dishes she was familiar with.

"When I was in Japan, I was skinny," Rojas laughed. "You know how big the bowls are here; I can't eat all of it. When you're here [in America], you want to eat more because there is more." She remembers that, in Fukuoka, Japan, the food came in not only smaller portions, but with more variety. "Even though it's little, you feel like you're eating a lot."

In addition, she cites that the type of "fast" food available in both countries is dissimilar. In Japan, when Rojas needed to find a quick bite to eat, she could turn to premade bento boxes or palm-sized *Onigiri*. In America, she feels that there are more prevalent, less-healthy options.

## Breaking Down the Obesity Statistics

Within APA subgroups, the Department of Health and Human Services lists Filipinos as having the highest obesity statistics amongst adults 18 year of age and over from 2004 to 2006, at 14.1 percent. "Other Asians & NHOPI [Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander]" clock in second, at 12.5 percent, followed by Japanese at 8.7 and Asian Indian at 6.0.

Why the difference in Polynesian statistics? Biologically, the answer lies both in genetics and lifestyle. According to *Life, the Science of Biology*, certain groups of people can develop "particular alleles of genes involved in digestion, absorption, and energy storage that result

in greater-than-average efficiency in converting food energy into energy reserves, such as fat."

These genes, called "Thrifty genes", increase fat storage and lower metabolism, and are hypothesized by many to be the reason why Polynesians are more heavy-set than other Asians.

However, college student Elise Timtim, a native of Honolulu, Hawaii, believes that cultural influence — in addition to eating habits and socioeconomic status — plays a large role in why she sees Pacific Islanders as larger than other Asian groups on the whole.

"In my experience, Hawaiian women are simply less affected by popular pressure to be thin and 'beautiful' as defined by the media," said Timtim, who is Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian and Filipino.

Statistics show that APAs rank higher than Non-Hispanic Whites in another aspect of health that can result in obesity: physical inactivity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists 38.9 percent of APA adults in 2007 as engaging in "Inactive Physical Activity" in comparison with 34.7 percent of Non-Hispanic Whites.

Despite the numbers, both Chang and Kao report working out more in America. Converse to Timtim's cultural insight on Hawaiians, they attribute the stereotypical American cultural pressure of girls staying skinny and guys bulking up as the reason why physical activity may be increasingly popular among APAs. In other examples, physical fitness can sometimes dispel the assumption that Pacific Islanders are larger due to inactivity and lifestyle.

Numerous college and NFL football teams actively recruit Pacific Islander players. Arizona University is known to traditionally recruit Samoans, among them quarterbacks Willie Tuitama and George Malauulu. The University of Oregon consistently sports players of Polynesian descent on their roster.

"There have been at least two or three on every team I've seen the last several years," said University of Oregon Athletic Program employee Garrett Gilliland. "They were mostly linebackers." One of the finalists for the Heisman Trophy this year — and the current number one NFL draft pick — defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh, has roots in Jamaica and Cameroon.

Regardless of genetics, being obese or overweight is a serious health risk, increasing the chance of acquiring type 2 diabetes, developing high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, and the likelihood of having a stroke, among other life-threatening diseases.

Between the years of 2003-04, the National Healthcare Disparities Report recorded that APAs were 1.4 times more likely to access outpatient exercise counseling. With APA obesity among children on the rise, it is even more important that this number increase. Physical education is one of the main emphases for Michelle Obama's recently initiated campaign against childhood obesity.

"I exercise because it's good for me; I enjoy being healthy," Kao said. "Life is harder if you're not as healthy. That's the way I see it."

## IN BRIEF: National Board News

Missed the JACL national board meeting? Read a summary of action taken below.\*

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### New V.P. of Membership, IPC Member are Confirmed



LIN

David Lin, a JACL 1000 Club Life and Millennium Club member, has been confirmed as the new JACL vice president for membership.

Lin was appointed by Larry Oda, JACL national president, to fill the post left vacant since Ryan Chin stepped down last February. He was unanimously confirmed by the JACL national board at its Feb. 13 meeting in San Francisco, Calif.

He will serve as vice president for membership for the remainder of the biennium.

"I view this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me personally to make a small contribution to JACL," said Lin. "I am also very grateful to President Oda and the entire national board for placing their trust in me to lead this very important area of JACL."

He has worked closely with the JACL to develop a strong corporate partnership with AT&T, according to the JACL in a Feb. 24 press release.

On Feb. 13, Lin met with the national board.

"I shared with them that my initial plan is to begin working with national membership coordinator Tim Koide to identify areas for membership growth and retention improvement. I also told them that I don't believe there is a silver bullet to solve the membership issues JACL has been facing for years, but it would require concerted, focused efforts among national, district and chapter leadership," said Lin. "I am very excited about tackling this tremendous challenge and look forward to the opportunity of working with my fellow JACLers."

Lin, a Harvard Business School graduate, is the executive director of external affairs at AT&T in Bedminster, New Jersey.

"The appointment of David Lin to membership vice president fills out our board and gives us a unique perspective from someone who has a tremendous amount of experience from the business and non-profit worlds to move the JACL into the 21st century," said Oda.

The national board also unanimously confirmed John Moy, a Washington, D.C. JACL member, as a new member of the JACL's Investment Policy Committee.

Moy will serve a three-year term.

### 'Power of Words' Proposal is Endorsed

A resolution to change euphemisms used to describe the World War II Japanese American experience, was unanimously endorsed by the national board to go forward for a vote at the National JACL convention in Chicago.

The "Power of Words" resolution introduced by PNW District Council, states that words like, "evacuation," "relocation" and "internment camp" do not accurately describe the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

If adopted by the national council, the resolution would authorize actions to promote the use of correct terminology and empower the JACL Education Committee to help promote the substitution of the new terminology in all published documents,



Members of the national board met recently on Feb. 13.

in future publications and in teacher training.

### JACL Chapter Dissolves

The Sawtooth JACL chapter in Idaho has dissolved because of low membership, according to Sawtooth JACL Chapter President Don W. Morishita in a letter to Brian Morishita, IDC district governor.

"Unfortunately, we were never able to sustain an active membership greater than twenty given people to remain in good standing with the national JACL," wrote Don W. Morishita in the letter.

At the 2006 national JACL convention in Salt Lake City, the national council did not pass an IDC-backed resolution to reduce the minimum number of members needed to keep chapters in good standing, according to the letter.

Most former Sawtooth chapter members are joining other local chapters. ■

\*This is not a complete summary of events at the Feb. 13 national board meeting.

## 2010 JACL National Convention

June 30th – July 4th • Swissôtel Chicago

# Embracing Change

**Welcome** to the 41st JACL National Convention, hosted by the Chicago chapter. Come for the meetings, stay for the fun and excitement in our world-class city.

By the 4th of July weekend, the city will be lush with flowers and the lakefront and public parks will be alive with activity. The Convention Committee is hard at work planning fun adventures for conventioners and their families. The newly renovated Swissôtel is an ideal venue located in the heart of the city — steps from Millennium Park, Michigan Avenue, Navy Pier, and countless attractions.

This year's Convention theme, "Embracing Change," recognizes that in order to remain relevant in today's ever-changing society, the JACL must have the creativity and flexibility to adapt to new circumstances while still remaining committed to its original mission and values. Though we will continue to honor and reflect upon our past, we hope to formulate a vision of our organization's future, deliberate the issues that affect us, seek to revitalize our membership, and inspire the youth who become our future leaders.

The exciting workshops we've planned include:

- Multi-racial Identity
- API Health Disparities
- Social Networking
- Seatbelt Safety (State Farm)
- U.S. – Japan Relations
- Preserving Family History
- Building API Political Power
- Pan Asian Advocacy & Coalition Building

Workshops are subject to change.

#### Convention Hotel

**Swissôtel Chicago** Phone: 888.737.9477

Contact the hotel directly to make reservations and ask for the JACL Convention rate of **\$169 per night** for single and double occupancy rooms. Rate applies up to 3 days before and 3 days after the Convention.

**Book early!** Reservations must be made by June 10 to guarantee the JACL Convention rate.

### Registration Form

A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, by email at [chicago2010@jacl.org](mailto:chicago2010@jacl.org), or by calling 773.728.7170.

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##### Information

Contact: email [chicago2010@jacl.org](mailto:chicago2010@jacl.org), call 773.728.7170 or visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) and click on the 2010 JACL National Convention link.

#### Registration Packages

Packages include Individual Events

	Before 6/10	After 6/10
Convention Package	\$250	\$300
Youth/Student Package (for ages 25 and under)	\$200	\$250

#### Individual Events

Sayonara Banquet	\$120	\$150
(Student Members)	\$100	\$125
Welcome Reception	\$60	\$75
Awards Luncheon	\$60	\$75
Youth Luncheon	\$60	\$75

#### Optional Events

Credit Union Luncheon	\$65	\$65
(Credit Union Members)	\$30	\$30
A Night at Club Chicago	\$30	\$30
Youth Entertainment	\$20	\$20

#### Windy City Activities

Limited availability, so sign up early.

Devil in the White City Tour	\$70	\$80
Absolutely Segway Tour	\$65	\$75
Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri		
Architecture Walking Tour	\$15	\$25
Art Institute of Chicago Tour	\$30	\$40
Trolley Tour	\$25	\$35
Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Sat		
Supernatural Chinatown Tour	\$45	\$55
Horseshoe Casino	\$30	\$40
Buddy Guy's Legends	\$55	\$65
Museum Campus Visit	\$75	\$85
Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> 9a <input type="checkbox"/> 1p		
Chicago Cubs Baseball	\$45	\$55
Architecture River Cruise	\$30	\$40

#### GRAND TOTAL



PHOTO: THIENY NGUYEN

Students from UC San Diego and other schools on Feb. 26 demand officials make more efforts to combat racism.

## APA Leaders Call For Policy Review After Racial Incidents at UC San Diego

After the controversial 'Compton Cookout' party, a noose was found on campus.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

The JACL is calling on University of California, San Diego officials to clearly reject racial intolerance and review internal policies on hate incidents after an off-campus party mocking Black History Month ignited racial tension.

The February party organized by some students reportedly urged people to dress as ghetto stereotypes and promised there would be chicken, watermelon and malt liquor. The controversial event snagged national headlines, launched a university investigation and ignited debate about racial tolerance at a campus where 2 percent of the student population is African American.

Some believe that attention was focused on the wrong issue.

"Instead of being outraged over the party, I believe people need to realize that there are deeper problems that need to be addressed, rather than treating the symptoms as they pop up. Simply put, I am outraged that people are expressing outrage over a party rather than [expressing] outrage over the underlying cause," said Grant Fukui, 19, an undeclared freshman at UC San Diego.

In general, said Fukui, fraternity parties "regularly feature racist and sexist themes" similar to the so-called "Compton Cookout" party.

"I believe that the 'Cookout' was a symptom of widespread insensitivity," added Fukui.

In a Feb. 23 statement, the JACL and the JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) expressed outrage at "the shocking lack of judgment and racial insensitivity displayed by the students who organized and par-

ticipated in this event." It also called for a review of internal policies on racism and hate.

The Associated Students president pulled funding from a student-run TV station after The Koala — a campus media outlet with a reputation for being offensive — came out in support of the party, called black students ungrateful and used a derogatory term for African Americans during a program.

On Feb. 25, a noose was found dangling from a light fixture on the seventh floor of Geisel Library.

A University of California statement said a student admitted she and two other people were responsible. The statement did not identify the students or their race or include a motive.

In a Feb. 26 news conference, Fox said the student has been suspended but declined to discuss her motive or other students involved.

"It was heartbreaking to see that an issue like this could hit so close to home. I am outraged that such behavior could still occur today," said JACL NY/SC Youth Chair Kimberly Shintaku, a UC San Diego alumnae and current staff member.

In response to the incidents, campus administrators

held a "teach-in" against intolerance Feb. 24. The same day, hundreds of students from UC San Diego and other universities staged a campus protest, demanding that officials make more efforts to combat racism.

The school has also launched a campus-wide "Battle Hate" campaign.

"The month of February, Black History Month, should be a time to embrace our diversity, not mock it," said Shintaku. ■



PHOTO: THIENY NGUYEN

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### WA Legislature OKs Internment Camp Degrees

OLYMPIA, Wash.—The Washington state Legislature has passed a measure that allows honorary degrees to be granted to students who were interned during World War II.

The measure was approved unanimously by the House Feb. 28 and now goes to the governor. The Senate passed the measure earlier last month.

The degrees may be conferred by state universities or colleges upon people who were students at those institutions in 1942, but did not graduate because they were ordered into a camp. A representative of a deceased person may also request an honorary degree.

### Preservation Projects Included in the 2011 Budget

WASHINGTON—In addition to the \$3 million for camp grants funding, President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget includes funding initiatives for camp preservation.

Budget requests include preservation projects like the Bainbridge Island Japanese

American Memorial at the Eagledale Ferry Dock site, among others.

JACL has been advocating for camp preservation projects to raise awareness about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"The JACL met with Sec. of the Interior Salazar and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, to request this funding," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We will continue to work with Sens. Inouye and Feinstein as well as Congressman Honda to assure these items remain in the budget as it moves through Congress."



PHOTO: RYAN KOZU

### Duckworth Rejects Lt. Governor Offer

CHICAGO, Ill.—Iraq war veteran Tammy Duckworth doesn't want to be Gov. Pat Quinn's running mate as lieutenant governor.

Quinn said Duckworth told him Feb. 23 she is keeping her job as assistant secretary at Washington's Veterans Affairs Department. Duckworth said she asked that her name be withdrawn from consideration, although she had kind words for Quinn.

### Poll Shows Minority Advocates and Constituents Differ on Immigration

WASHINGTON—A new Zogby survey found that U.S. minority voters and advocacy groups have differing opinions about illegal immigration.

Contrary to advocacy groups, 57 percent of Asian Americans said, "Immigration is too high." Many advocacy groups said illegal immigration is caused by limits on legal immigration, according to the survey.

In contrast most minority voters said a lack of enforcement is to blame for illegal immigration: 65 percent of Asian Americans, 61 percent of Hispanics and 70 percent of African Americans.

The survey, which was commissioned by the Center for Immigration Studies, was conducted for about 18 days beginning Nov. 13.

### Lawsuits Accuse Chinese American Assoc. of Fraud

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The Chinese American Mutual Association has been accused on fraud and breach of contract in a lawsuit filed by former members' relatives.

They said that their parents paid more than \$15,000 in a span of about a decade, thinking that the association would assist with funeral expenses.

Nonprofit officials collected money although, allege the former members' relatives, they never intended to pay death benefits.

### RI Judge to Hear Arguments in Detainee Death Suit

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—A judge is scheduled to hear arguments soon regarding the death of an immigration detainee in Rhode Island.

Hui Liu "Jason" Ng died of liver cancer in August 2008 in custody of Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility, where his family said he was abused before his death. He was detained for overstaying his visa.

His family sued the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The agency says it's not responsible. ■

## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Yonsei Becomes Youngest Member of Washington, D.C. Chapter Board



**Jack Tobe**, 13, has become the youngest member of the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter board of directors.

Tobe, a Yonsei, attends community events with his father, **John Tobe**, who currently works for the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

"What I see all the time when my dad takes me to JA events, is the lack of kids," said Tobe. "What I hope to accomplish as a JACL board member is to get kids more involved in the JACL."

### Liu is Nominated to the Ninth Circuit

If his nomination to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is confirmed **Goodwin Liu**, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley, would be only the fifth Asian Pacific American federal appellate court judge in U.S. history and the only active judge on the Ninth Circuit.

Currently, there are no APAs serving in the Court of Appeals, according to the **Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (APABA)**.

President Barack Obama nominated Liu, 39, to the post on Feb. 24. **Judge Denny Chin** has been nominated to the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court in New York, but has not been confirmed.

### JACler Inducted into the Huntsman World Senior Games

**Hachiro "Huch" Aoki**, 82, was entered into the Huntsman World Senior Games Oct. 7, becoming the first APA to receive the honor.

The JACL member won World Senior Games gold medals for golf, cycling and triathlons.

### APA Searching For Blood Cell Match

**Tomoko Hazley** was diagnosed with leukemia over a month ago and is searching for a blood cell match to extend her life expectancy.

APAs and other ethnic minorities are critically needed to register with the National Marrow Donor Program. Those between the age of 18 and 60, who are healthy, can register as a donor. Free, home test kits can be ordered with the Asian American Donor Program.

### Shiu Named 'Caregiver of the Year'

**Patricia Shiu**, with the U.S. Department of Labor, was designated "Caregiver of the Year" by Caregiver.com.

Shiu, whose sister battled cancer, received the recognition for her legal and legislative advocacy for caregivers.

### Nikkei Selected to Asian Health Care Leaders Association

**Dennis Sato**, a former Marin County JACL president, was selected to the national board of the **Asian Health Care Leaders Association**, a leadership organization focused on increasing the representation of APAs in health care.

Sato was nominated by the president and CEO of the Henry Ford Hospital and Health Network.

### Igasaki is Appointed to U.S. Dept. of Labor Review Board

**Paul Igasaki** has been appointed chairman and chief judge of the U.S. Department of Labor's administrative review board.

The review board rules on appeals from decisions related to whistleblower laws, wage and hour decisions, immigration matters, equal employment situations and a variety of other matters.

Igasaki was named by Sec. Hilda Solis to lead the five-member board.

Igasaki has served as deputy chief executive officer for Equal Justice Works. He also served as the JACL Washington, D.C. representative. ■

PHOTO: NALEA J. KO



Mike Murase says Americans are 'fed a constant diet of xenophobic, jingoistic diatribe about Toyota.'

## The Danger Behind Toyota Woes

Wall-to-wall media coverage of the Japanese car company's woes signals a new wave of Japan-bashing, some say.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Mike Murase says his 2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid is the best car he has ever owned. And like many other Toyota owners, he received a notice from the car company recently that instructed him to take the floor mats out of the car and place them in his trunk until further notice.

He's heard the news stories about the potential hazard of the floor mats and the sudden acceleration problems, but Murase, a non-profit administrator from Culver City, Calif., has remained steadfast about his car.

"It is reliable, economical and a comfortable ride."

Amid the Congressional hearing and growing concern about the safety of the cars, some Asian Pacific Americans see the wall-to-wall media coverage of the Japanese car company's safety issues as a signifier of a new wave of Japan-bashing.

"It [Japan bashing] has already begun," said Larry Shinagawa, a professor and director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland.

"It's a quality control issue," he said about Toyota. And over the years there have been similar examples of quality control issues with American car companies that have not received the same treatment.

"Why is it that? And what is the subtext?" said Shinagawa. "It's race-baiting. We should call spade and spade."

In February, the California State Assembly adopted a "Buy American" policy for all future vehicles bought for its fleet.

The policy's most vocal proponent, Assemblyman Ted Lieu, said he wants to encourage other state agencies to

only buy vehicles that are at least 50 percent manufactured in the United States.

But Toyota makes more of its cars and trucks in the U.S. than it imports there. Last month it had 14 percent of the U.S. market, third behind General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co.

Some say the days of irrational fears of Japanese products that emerged during its economic boom of the 1980s are long gone. Toyota, Honda and Sony are some of the most-trusted brands in America.

But the revival of terms like "Buy American" evokes memories of a darker time in American history when a Detroit man named Vincent Chin in 1982 was mistaken to be of Japanese descent and beaten to death by two out-of-work autoworkers.

Murase remembers the case vividly. He flew to Michigan after Chin's murder and took part in community gatherings and protests. Some fear of a revival of this type of racial scapegoating.

"To the extent that many Americans are fed a constant diet of xenophobic, jingoistic diatribe about Toyota, 'the Japanese car maker,' I think it does feed into the stereotyping of a whole nation, and unwittingly associates Asian American people to the negligence and arrogance of a profit-motivated corporation," said Murase.

GQ's Web site, for example, recently drew a parallel between the reversal of fortunes of Toyota and golfer Tiger Woods, whose image has been tarnished by extramarital affairs.

The Japanese too have periodically worried about the revival of Japan-bashing, when U.S. politicians and automakers accused Japan of unfairly blocking access to its market and stealing American jobs.

"I think the Americans are going overboard," said Hiroyuki Komiya, 40, a Tokyo restaurant employee. "Maybe it's Japan-bashing because the trouble at Toyota, which has the world's No. 1 share, is a big opportunity for its American rivals." ■



# for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

## Merced Memorial

On Feb. 20, I had the pleasure of attending the dedication ceremony of the Merced Assembly Center Memorial on the county fair grounds where the temporary camp existed back in the early days of World War II.

Under the authority of the Wartime Civil Control Administration, the Merced site was home to 4,669 Japanese Americans, who were imprisoned there from May 1942 until September, when they were shipped off to Amache in the desolate plains of Colorado.

According to the ceremony program notes, construction on this particular site began on March 26, 1942. That was a little over a month after FDR issued E.O. 9066 and just five days after Congress passed PL 77-503. Just five days! The program notes go on to tell the story how, working 24 hours a day in 12-hour shifts, the construction of the entire compound took only 11 days to complete.

The notes continue: "The work of the Merced community in the building of the assembly center was viewed as 'wholehearted cooperation given the United States by the citizens and authorities of Merced County,' according to the *Merced Sun-Star*."

Two things I'm struck by: the "wholehearted cooperation" of the citizens and authorities of Merced to get the prison built in just 11 days. Eleven days to build a compound that would house 4,669 people. Granted, this was not some upscale housing project but was one that did little more than put a roof over people's heads and a place to sleep. But still, only 11 days to construct a compound that large? One wishes government could be even half as efficient today.

I'm also left wondering at the enthusiasm with which the Merced community dove into this project to rid itself of its Japanese population. Or did they not know what the compound would be used for? Not likely.

The other thing that struck me as soon as I read the notes was the fact that they began the work on the site so soon after FDR's executive order turned the authority over to the military. In other words, within one month after E.O. 9066, the Merced site and over 20 like it were being constructed up and down the West Coast. What this really means is that the plans for all

of this were drawn much earlier, as were the designs of the 10 concentration camps.

I know from research I had done starting in the 1970s that plans for such camps — both the temporary so-called assembly centers and the concentration camps — had been discussed and designed at least two years before war with Japan broke out. Talk of a mass removal of the Japanese population from the West Coast area had been discussed, and the architectural plans that were used to build all the sites had been designed much earlier. It's inconceivable that the government could have developed these plans within a matter of weeks.

The implications are sobering if not chilling: our fates in some ways were determined long before the bombs fell on Pearl Harbor. Whether the bombs fell or not, there was somewhere in government some nefarious plan to remove the entire Japanese population from the West Coast areas. Pearl Harbor gave the government the perfect excuse to implement what otherwise would have been a problematic constitutional policy. But the attack put aside any constitutional considerations and cast a dark shadow over the entire episode.

The dedication of the Merced memorial is significant in many ways, not least of which as a reminder to the citizens of Merced now and in the future of one of the darkest chapters in the constitutional history of this country. Its educational value is inestimable, and the cooperation and enthusiastic support of the local governing bodies of Merced is evidence of that. Americans throughout the country now know what a horrible mistake and injustice the internment was, only because we fought so hard to educate them through the Redress campaign.

The memorial in Merced — the culmination of two years of hard work and a labor of love — will stand forever as a testament to future generations of the greatness of a nation that acknowledged a past wrong and had the courage to make it right. ■

*John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.*

## Sashimi Sickness



By Ema Nakao

I am Japanese American and I have never eaten sashimi. People find it astonishing that I have never, ever had a piece of *maguro*, *tako* or *uni* in my life.

My severe allergy to seafood and shellfish has been a lifelong medical condition in which even tiny amounts of fish or shellfish protein cause immediate swelling and itching of my mouth, lips and tongue, wheezing and itching all over my body.

Actual ingestion of any seafood and shellfish meat results in a severe allergic reaction called anaphylactic shock, which is pretty much swelling up from the inside and choking to death if proper medical help is not received in time.

Over the years, I've heard many statements about my condition including, "Oh, I feel so sorry for you!"

I often remind people that I'm a pretty good cook when it comes to creating a variety of fish-less Japanese meals. And sushi and sashimi is just a small part of traditional Japanese cuisine. But on a recent trip to Japan, it was impossible to eat out due to the high risk of cross contamination, so I ate all my meals at my grandmother's home. Even then, I was called *ohimesama* ("the princess") of the house because I was unable to help out with washing the dishes that once contained fish meals.

These severe allergies lead me to play Russian roulette when I eat out at a restaurant or purchase Japanese food items. Many restaurant servers or chefs do not understand the potentially deadly effects of a food allergy. Persistence once saved my life. At a local ramen shop, I asked the server numerous times to ensure that bonito *dashi* was not in the ramen soup stock. Before my first bite, a subtle scent of fish hit my nose and after speaking to the chef, I found out that the bonito was indeed in my miso ramen.

Had I been unaware, it would have been yet another potentially deadly click on the Russian roulette game. These incidents remind me that I should maintain a long distance friendship with Japanese restaurants.

Luckily, my father is an excellent chef and has been very aware of my allergies after I, at the age of three, landed in the hospital after suffering from my first anaphylactic episode. Many hearty and filling meals can be created by replacing bonito *dashi* with *wakame* (seaweed) or mushroom *dashi* in soups and stews. I've learned to substitute fish with tofu, chicken, beef or *natto* and even *konnyaku* can lead to a great variety of traditional meals. Every New Year, I make *ozoni* using *kombu dashi*.

Translation problems have also been a problem, especially when the ingredients are not fully disclosed or are improperly translated. When the Japanese ingredient label on a food product is covered up by the English label, I have to peel off the top label and read the Japanese ingredients at the store to ensure I don't consume any seafood by accident. This worked for many years until one day I bought a container of *miso* that failed to disclose its bonito content. I had a reaction after the first sip and sat patiently with my Epinephrine injection kit to see if my allergic reaction was going to get worse or subside.

After this incident, my father began making me a batch of *miso* soup paste each year. He grinds the soybeans by hand, purchases the fermenting bacteria at the local tofu shop and mails me a batch of *miso* when it has properly fermented. I am so very lucky to have a father that has been able to provide me with such great guidance in learning how to cook traditional Japanese meals as while eating. ■

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







PHOTO: MITCHELL MASSETH/NBC

Cousins Koli Palu (left) and Sam Poueu have each lost more than 70 pounds so far on this season of "The Biggest Loser."

## 'The Biggest Loser' Cousins Weigh in on Cultural Habits

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Before Koli Palu appeared on NBC's "The Biggest Loser," he made a bet with his brother not to cry on TV. Nearly two months after the first episode aired, Palu has become emotional on more than one occasion, and for good reason.

The 29-year-old first weighed in at 403 pounds. Everyday contestants like Palu are challenged at "The Biggest Loser" ranch to change their bad eating habits and laziness. As of week six, he has not only shed over 70 pounds, but also lost the bet with his brother.

But Palu said this is the happiest he has ever been.

"Koli's brother Joe told him that Koli needed to pay him \$100 for every time he cries on TV [laughs]," explained 24-year-old Sam Poueu, Palu's cousin and "gray" teammate on the show. "As of right now Koli is broke."

Palu and Poueu joined 10 other family teams of two for the heaviest cast ever on "The Biggest Loser," which premiered Jan. 5. Together the Polynesian cousins weighed 775 pounds at the start of the season. Poueu has also lost over 70 pounds since the last episode aired. To beat out their competitors for the \$250,000 prize, the gray team will need to sweat like never before.

The contestants weighed in at home before they stepped on the treadmill at "The Biggest Loser" ranch.

Getting on the scale shirtless in their hometowns in front of their family and friends was daunting at first, they said. But seeing their weight publicly displayed in bright lights helped the cousins kick off their journey to a healthier lifestyle.

"I had not gone swimming for years because I was too embarrassed to take my shirt off. The home weigh-in was more of a realization that I was obese," Palu said, who was inspired to audition for the show after watching former Tongan contestants Sione and Filipe Fa.

"It was very embarrassing at the time, but it was definitely the push I needed to start this journey."

### No Pain, No Gain

When not on the weight loss show, Palu and Poueu both work in Rohnert Park, Calif. doing security. They also coach

football. Their late-night security shifts have made it difficult to work out and eat right, they said. And being overweight in their Polynesian family was never out of the norm.

Poueu is one of 105 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Gout, diabetes and hypertension run in the family. The weight loss show was not the only wake up call for them. Days before leaving to the ranch, Poueu's uncle died.

"He had battled weight issues through all of his life, like many Polynesians do. He had gotten severely sick and really depressed," Poueu said about his uncle who had diabetes and gout, among other health issues. "Three days, honestly, three days before we arrived on the ranch I walked into him lying dead on the floor."

Being on the show, Poueu was not able to attend the funeral. And due to the confidentiality of the show, the cousins are allowed limited access to the outside.

He did not have time to grieve the loss of his uncle until week four on the show when the gray team won a challenge and a coveted phone call home. For the challenge Palu and Poueu were strapped into a cage, which was dangling from a crane 120 feet above ground. They had to pull themselves to the top.

"That challenge that Sam just spoke about was our hardest challenge to date," Palu continued, "And when they told us that we could win a phone call home, Sam and I just geared up. We wanted nothing else more than to win and talk to our parents and our loved ones."

Losing weight on national television has inspired some of the gray team's family to head to the gym as well.

Palu's sister Lesieli and mother Seini do a "Biggest Loser" challenge at home. Others are not as receptive to the gray team's weight loss goals.

"My grandmother when she's seen pictures of me she says that I'm sick now. She thinks I'm sick now because I'm losing weight," Palu explained, who is of Tongan descent. "But all my cousins are having to reassure her that I'm healthy, that I'm not sick, I'm healthy. I think it's just changing the mindset of our culture that bigger isn't always better."

Both said they are tired of hearing other Polynesians blame their culture for being obese.

"You know I'm sick of people using the culture as an excuse," Poueu said, who is Tokelauan, Samoan and Tongan. The way

we treat our bodies, especially as Polynesians it's just horrible. The foods that we eat and everything it just doesn't make any sense."

"After getting to where we are right now — Koli can tell you personally this is the happiest either of us has ever been in our lives. The happiest!"

They hope to become role models for other Polynesians. It is a demographic that is prone to diabetes. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which was released in 2007, show that Asian American Pacific Islanders "are at a particularly high risk for type 2 diabetes and its complications."

### Life After 'The Biggest Loser'

The process of losing weight on national television is a difficult, personal and emotional journey, they said. But there are pluses to becoming a reality TV star.

"Tell the single ladies we'll be out in a little bit," Poueu said jokingly. Since they are not allowed Internet access, the cousins had not been able to read the adoring comments some female admirers post online.

"For Sam this isn't a new thing. He's always had girls after him even when he was obese. This is probably new for me," Palu said. "Sam's quote of his life is, 'I love me some me.'"

Palu joked that his cousin was going to start a spin-off show called, "The Season of Sam," and create T-shirts reading, "I Heart Sam." Spin-off show or not, the gray team has a renewed appreciation for life.

Looking back at their journey, the cousins said they would never go back to being obese.

"Koli can tell you I was a wreck prior to coming here," Poueu said, adding that he used to drink nearly every day of the week. "He was that guy that got me home safely every night. And was there to clean up my mess, and now it's an opportunity here at the ranch to realize my mess and clean it up myself."

With the weight loss and new fame, the cousins said they would never be the same after appearing on "The Biggest Loser."

"It's crazy because producers and every one they tell you, 'You'll notice that there is life before the "Biggest Loser" and then life after,'" Poueu explained. "I can already see that that's going to be a major factor in my future." ■

# Metro Board Agrees to Explore Alternative Build Option in Little Tokyo



J-Town stakeholders like JANM said business could be impacted by Metro expansion plans.

## MTA will study the fully grade-separated alternative, which will pass under First and Alameda Streets.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Los Angeles' Little Tokyo stakeholders voiced their support of a new alternative option in the bid to expand the light rail transit system in the area.

The fully grade-separated alternative, or third build option, was created in response to community concerns. On Feb. 25 the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors approved adding the alternative to the Regional Connector Transit Corridor project, MTA's plan to connect the Blue Line and Gold Line transit systems.

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

The Feb. 25 meeting followed the Little Tokyo Community Council's (LTCC) Feb. 18 meeting where members voiced their approval of exploring an alternative build option. LTCC

represents over 90 businesses and organizations in the area.

Last November, LTCC sent a letter to the MTA, asking officials to pursue the underground emphasis option, which would run below ground at Second Street. They also emphasized protecting the Nishi Hongwanji Temple's property. Other options encroached on the temple's property. Community leaders expressed concern about the impact of construction that would likely take 3 to 4 years.

"What will it do to us as an institution that's mission is to tell the story of the history of the Japanese here?" said Chris Komai, public relations officer for the Japanese American National Museum at a community meeting last November. "If you know anything about the history of the Japanese, you know that Little Tokyo has been constantly pushed around. And you know what, we're getting tired of it."

JANM sees about 100,000 visitors annually, Komai said. He said museum officials are concerned about how the construction phase would impact visitor rates, including school tour programs. The new third build option is, however, favored among most.

"This third build alternative — which is an all underground alternative — is pretty much

acceptable to all the parties involved including the folks at the museum," said Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC).

In addition to the third build alternative, MTA has put four other options on the table: a no-build alternative, a transportation system management alternative, an at-grade light rail transit alternative and an underground light rail transit alternative. Project Manager Dolores Roybal Saltarelli said MTA would designate a "locally preferred alternative in the fall."

Taking a unified stance, Little Tokyo business leaders said they favor the third build alternative.

"JACL-PSW is in strong support of further exploring the third build alternative," explained Kristin Fukushima, JACL-PSW public policy coordinator. "The PSW board earlier passed a resolution stating our opposition to the original build options proposed, as we found both to be inadequate and damaging to the community."

Most are in favor of the newly introduced alternative, but hope the proper mitigation efforts are implemented to minimize the impact to businesses and residents.

"There are concerns," said Chris Aihara, executive director of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. "I think it's an important step that we have made. I think there's agreement that the underground alternative is the most viable option."

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

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

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

Eastside Gold Line and Metro Expo line."

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

"The study is a work in progress and is being developed with the community," Saltarelli said. "Impacts will be identified. Through the efforts of the project team and the community, mitigation measures will be developed."

The cost of each option varies. Saltarelli said the underground emphasis alternative is estimated to cost \$1.27 billion and the fully underground alternative \$200 to 300 million more. The Regional Connector is expected to receive some funding from the 2008 voter-approved Measure R, the half-cent sales tax increase.

MTA will study the fully grade-separated alternative, which will pass under First and Alameda Streets and create a proposed station between Spring Street and Broadway.

The transportation system management alternative would provide a shuttle service from 7th Street to Union Station. With the at-grade light rail transit alternative the route would head westbound on Main Street and north on Temple Street. The underground light rail alternative would run along Second Street and go into Little Tokyo.

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

"I think long term it's going to be great," said Joshua Morey, of J. Morey Company. "But I'm sure it's going to affect our business."

Construction has not begun. MTA is conducting an 18-month environmental impact statement/environmental impact report. That EIS/EIR is expected to be complete in the summer of 2010. The new third build option will be added to the draft EIS/EIR for analysis.

"Although it is still unclear what the full impact of the new third build option will be, the third build alternative appears to be the best option at this point." Fukushima said. ■

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**AOYAGI-STOM**

(continued from page 2)

printed version as a PDF file. We have our blog, "P.C. Beat," and you can find us on many social networking sites including Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and YouTube.

So right now our readers already have the option of receiving an all digital P.C. But the fact of the matter is, many of you have told us you prefer your printed copies. This is not surprising since, as Reporter Ko points us, more than half of our membership is over the age of 70, a generation that continues to prefer the printed medium. But even some of our youth members (7 percent of the JACL membership) continue to want the printed P.C.

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The bottomline is, the digital debate should include our membership and subscribers not just board members. So, what do you think? ■

**Merced Memorial Honors JA Internees**



Mia Furuichi-Fong was the model for the bronze statue named, 'Little Girl Sitting on Suitcases.'

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

A new memorial now stands in Merced County, Calif. to remember the thousands of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated there during World War II.

More than 150 former Merced Assembly Center internees and their families gathered at the Merced County Fairgrounds Feb. 20 to dedicate the plaza with the statue of a little girl sitting on top a pile of suitcases. One of those former internees include Rep. Mike Honda, who was sent there as an infant.

The event took place a day after the 68th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of over 100,000 Japanese American families.

"It is neither a day to celebrate, nor a day to mourn. Rather, it is a day for reflection, dialogue and education of Americans on a very important event in our nation's history," said Honda in a Feb. 19 statement about the Day of Remembrance.

During World War II, over 250 buildings were set up at the fairgrounds to imprison local Japanese Americans from Merced, Livingston, Turlock and other surrounding areas.

More than 4,600 JAs were incarcerated in unroofed barracks at the Merced County Fairgrounds, beginning in 1942, after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Sherman Kishi and his family were forced to leave

their Livingston grape farm behind for a black-tarred barrack. They arrived at the Merced Assembly Center on May 13, 1942 — Sherman's 17th birthday.

"I still remember it vividly. All barbed wire fences and the buildings we were allowed to go to with their watchtowers and soldiers," said the longtime JACL Livingston-Merced member.

To memorialize the fairground's unique past, a local committee — which includes the Cortez and Merced JACL chapters — raised \$250,000 for the project, with a \$25,000 grant from the National Park Service.

The bronze monument depicts a young girl sitting on top of a stack of suitcases.

The plaza replaces an old plaque that Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Calif., had said was an inadequate memorial. Last year, Cardoza's HR 129 — a bill recognizing the memorial site at the Merced County Fairgrounds — passed.

At the DOR dinner following the dedication, Honda and John Tateishi, immediate former JACL national director, were both given standing ovations for their presentations.

"This memorial will not only honor the former internees, but will also be a lasting reminder to the community that this happened to," said Robert Taniguchi of the Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee. "It will serve as an educational tool that will make people aware they must be vigilant to uphold the basic rights granted by our Constitution."

The Merced County Fairgrounds is located at 900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. ■

*This memorial will not only honor the former internees, but will also be a lasting reminder to the community that this happened to...*

— Robert Taniguchi



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## JA Man Accuses Chevron of Allowing Harassment



Sanei John Suzuki said racial slurs are intolerable.

**JACL and other Asian American groups have been writing letters in support of John Suzuki.**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A longtime employee of Chevron Corp. in Northern California is accusing the multinational energy company of allowing a supervisor to harass him and call him a "stupid Jap."

John Suzuki, 57, who worked for over 35 years as a technical patent liaison in Chevron's Law Department, said he was forced to take an early retirement because Chevron officials allegedly refused his doctor's recommendation to transfer him to a different department, according to a Feb. 19 press release from Suzuki's attorney John Ota.

Suzuki also charges his former supervisor Alan Klaassen of threatening him and calling him a "stupid Jap."

"I don't normally try to publicize my case, but this case was so outrageous to me," said Ota, "and Chevron's hypocrisy so extreme that I thought people should know about it."

Suzuki, a Sansei Berkeley JACLer, said he is filing a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. And according to the press release, he wants Chevron to conduct a fair and thorough investigation of his charges. He wants to return to work in a different department and he wants Chevron to fire Klaassen if an investigation reveals that he used a racial slur against Suzuki.

Last August, Suzuki alleged that Klaassen waved his fist in his face and falsely blamed him for problems in the work. Klaassen, said Suzuki, also called him a "stupid Jap."

His work relationship with Klaassen was fine until 2006, Suzuki wrote in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "And then it changed and I don't know why."

Doctors had diagnosed Suzuki being at high risk of

having a heart attack, according to press release, after he had at least two episodes of severe chest pains following incidents in which Suzuki said Klaassen harassed and threatened him.

Suzuki said his cardiologist and primary care physician advised him that severe stress had led to a permanent heart arrhythmia — a heart rate or rhythm disorder — and advised him to reduce his stress levels to avoid a heart attack.

His doctors put him on medical leave and, according to Suzuki, told Chevron that he could return to work only if he were moved to a different department.

In a Jan. 4 letter, Dr. Bruce L. Nemirow, who had been treating Suzuki in individual out-patient psychotherapy, said that Suzuki "would likely experience clinical symptoms of acute stress, depression and anxiety should he return to this former work assignment."

When Suzuki told Klaassen and a manager, Frank Turner, about his doctor's recommendations, he said they laughed at him and told him that he would be fired if he did not return to his department.

To avoid possibly losing his retirement benefits, Suzuki said he had to take an early retirement in February.

Chevron officials told the *Pacific Citizen* that they are conducting an investigation.

"Chevron is committed to equal employment opportunity. Chevron takes all claims of discrimination seriously. We are in the process of conducting a thorough investigation of this matter and will take appropriate corrective action for any substantiated allegations," said Sean Comey, a Chevron media adviser.

Chevron hired attorney Susan Kumagai to investigate Suzuki's charges, according to Ota's press release. Her investigation reportedly concluded that Suzuki's charges were unsubstantiated, and according to the release, Chevron informed Suzuki of this on Feb. 16, but refused to provide a copy of the report.

"In this day and age, everybody, from the CEO down to the janitor, knows that you can't use racial slurs in the workplace," said Ota. "Surely a supervisor in Chevron's Law Department has to know that using a racial slur is wrong. I am disturbed and appalled that Chevron's lawyers have tried to deny and cover up such an extreme and inexcusable matter."

Under California law, Chevron should have separated Suzuki from Klaassen, said Ota.

Asian Pacific American organizations have been contacting Chevron to express their concerns.

"We find such reported behavior appalling, as 'Jap' is a racial slur and should not be tolerated by Chevron management," said NCWNP regional director Patty Wada in a Jan. 22 letter to Chevron chief executive officer John Watson.

What is important to him, said Suzuki, is "the principle of the matter — racial remarks like this cannot be tolerated." ■

## IDC JACLers Mark Day of Remembrance



(L-r) Lt. Gov. Brad Little, Micki Kawakami and Pat Takasugi.

For the ninth consecutive year, the Idaho Office of the Governor hosted a Day of Remembrance proclamation signing ceremony at the newly remodeled Idaho Statehouse. Attendees included former internees, representatives from the Boise Valley JACL, Boise Valley JACL Youth Council, Snake River JACL, Idaho Japanese Association, National Park Service, and the Ontario High School Japan Club.

Lt. Gov. Brad Little commented on the historical achievements of the 442nd RCT. Former JACL IDC Gov. Micki Kawakami and Idaho State Rep. Pat Takasugi provided brief comments as part of the program. ■



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<b>CANADA-NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY CRUISE</b> New York City, Newport/Rhode Island, Boston, Bar Harbor/Maine, Halifax/Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saguenay Fjord, Quebec. HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam Ship.	SEP 15-26
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PHOTO: ELIZABETH BERNSTEIN

### JA Bar Association Pays Special Tribute to Nisei Veterans

Nisei World War II veterans were honored at the Feb. 19 Japanese American Bar Association's 34th annual installation dinner at the Center at Cathedral Plaza in Los Angeles.

The WWII Nisei veterans who were honored included: Sam Fujikawa, Mark Edward Nakazawa, "Toke" Yoshihashi, Manabi Hirasaki, Robert Ichikawa, George "Jim" Makino, Ken Miya, Ocean Miyake, Don Seki, Jim Yamashita, Ken Akune, George Fujimori, Yoshihito Fujimoto, Jun Fukushima, James Hamai, Norman Hashisaka, Toshiro Hiraide, James O. Ito, Ralph Kaneshiro, James Murata, Hitoshi Sameshima,

Yonekazu Satoda, George Yamaguchi and Harry Honda, editor emeritus of the *Pacific Citizen*.

District Court Judge Jacqueline Nguyen administered the oath of office to JABA's new officers: Diana H. Nishiura, president; Alison S. Matsumoto, president-elect; Andra Mori and James M. Toma, vice-presidents; Ann E. Hashisaka, secretary; Kenneth T. Tanaka, treasurer; Katherine M. Hikida, immediate past president.

Nguyen is the first Vietnamese American jurist, first appointed to the California superior court in 2002 and unanimously confirmed in 2009 by the Senate to the federal bench in California's Central District. ■

### UCLA Seeks WWII Students



Bob Naka (pictured above) is scheduled to receive an honorary degree.

The University of California, Los Angeles is seeking to right a historic "wrong" by bestowing honorary degrees to its former Japanese American students who were forced to abandon their education during World War II because of the government's forced removal and incarceration.

UCLA is searching for its students from the early 1940s to honor in a May 15 ceremony.

Some of the former students, most now in their 80s and 90s, are expected to attend the ceremony, and family members will receive diplomas on behalf of others who are unable to attend. Still others will receive diplomas by mail. Many former students are deceased.

Approximately 700 University of California students were affected by the WWII directive, more than 200 attended UCLA. The UC Board of Regents voted last July to suspend its moratorium on honorary degrees in order to recognize the students forced from UC classrooms.

"It's never too late to join with others throughout the nation in recognizing that the mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was wrong," said Don Nakanishi, who is chair of UCLA's honorary degree task force, professor emeritus and director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

The keynote speaker at UCLA's honorary degree event will be Calif. Assemblyman Warren Furutani, who carried legislation in the Assembly calling on California's higher education institutions to extend honorary degrees. The UCLA ceremony is the fourth of the UC campuses to bestow these honorary degrees. ■

Send information to help identify former Nisei UCLA students who were unable to graduate to Patricia Lippert: [tricial@support.ucla.edu](mailto:tricial@support.ucla.edu) or 310/794-8604.

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## APA Leaders Criticizes Report on Racial Violence



Asian American students shielded their faces at a Dec. 9 school board meeting.

**The report on South Philly High doesn't assign blame for the incidents between African American and Asian American students.**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A long-awaited report has concluded that race and ethnicity "were contributing factors" in a series of violent incidences at South Philadelphia High School between African American and Asian Pacific American students.

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

The report, released Feb. 23, was commissioned by Philadelphia Schools Supt. Arlene Ackerman and performed by retired federal Judge James T. Giles. It focused solely on the violent incidents that took place Dec. 2 and 3 and, critics say, was based on interviews with only some administrators, witnesses, and victims.

Helen Gym said in a Youngphillypolitics.com blog post that the report did not provide a resolution for the "widespread violence" at the school.

"The investigation was based on interviews with only a fraction of student victims and witnesses and contained vague

innuendos that served to distract from the main question: could the school/district have done anything differently to avoid or minimize the assaults?" wrote Gym, an Asian Americans United board member.

Recommendations were made in the report to hold students accountable for their behavior.

APA community organizers said the tension between students began about a year ago when five to six APA students were chased into a subway station and allegedly assaulted. Students reached out for help, according to organizers. They described routine harassment at school: milk being thrown at them in the cafeteria, kids assaulting them in the cafeteria and bathrooms, money being stolen from them in the bathrooms, and more.

Giles' report graphically describes some of the violent outbursts and concluded that the Dec. 3 incident was triggered by rumors. On that day, some African American students walked from room to room in search of APAs. When a group of APA students entered the lunchroom, they were attacked. One student suffered a broken nose that required two surgeries.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed a federal civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice. ■

## House Gives Boost to Native Hawaiian Government

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Congress has moved closer to allowing Native Hawaiians to establish their own government despite objections from the state's governor.

By a vote of 245-164 on Feb. 22, the House passed a bill that gives Native Hawaiians the same opportunity provided to Alaska Natives and 564 Indian tribes — the chance to govern their own affairs in partnership with their state and the federal government.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, introduced the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, commonly known as the Akaka Bill, in 2000. It is co-sponsored by Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii. The bill's creation came in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Rice v. Cayetano*, in which the court voted in favor of rancher Harold "Freddy" Rice who challenged the constitutionality of a Hawaiian-only voting restriction.

It's been 117 years since the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. Hawaii's senators

and representatives say the legislation would partially make amends for the downfall.

But the legislation goes beyond securing the right to self-governance for Native Hawaiians. The reconstituted government will eventually negotiate terms for acquiring land that's in a trust the state oversees. Those lands make up one-quarter of Hawaii's mass and are worth billions of dollars.

Prospects for the legislation have never looked brighter with President Barack Obama hailing from Hawaii and giving his backing. The White House has issued a statement reiterating his support.

"(He) looks forward to signing the bill into law and establishing a government-to-government relationship with Native Hawaiians," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

Hawaii's congressional delegation has long championed the legislation, but it has yet to clear both chambers. There is no timetable for consideration in the Senate.

About 240,000 people on the islands identify themselves as Native Hawaiians. ■



Sen. Daniel Inouye is committed to running for a ninth Senate term.

## Inouye Faces Little Opposition For Ninth Senate Term

By Herbert A. Sample  
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU-Democrats may be jittery about holding their majority in the U.S. Senate, as some incumbents retire and others face stiff Republican opposition in November, but they can count on 85-year-old Daniel Inouye, who in seeking a ninth six-year term representing Hawaii.

The venerable War World II hero faces no established Republican or Democratic challenger, as of yet.

In an announcement that was no surprise, Inouye told 2,000 supporters at a Feb. 17 \$200-a-plate Waikiki fundraiser, "I'm asking you to just give me another opportunity to continue this work. I can assure you of one thing, I'll do my damndest."

The third-longest serving senator in U.S. history had, as of Dec. 31, amassed a war chest of \$3.2 million even without marquee opposition.

At one point, Republican Gov. Linda Lingle's name was bandied about as a potential Senate candidate, particularly after her strong re-election victory in 2006. But she repeatedly has said she will not seek another office until she finishes her final term as governor.

Which leaves the GOP, so far, with a 44-year-old social worker named John Roco, who has never before sought elected office.

State Republican Party chairman Jonah Kaauwai, admiringly calls Inouye "the godfather" of Hawaii politics and acknowledges he will be difficult to beat. Yet he insists the senator's time has come and gone.

"He's a necessary evil because we depend on him fiscally even though all of the money that he brings into Hawaii is pork," Kaauwai said.

That's something Inouye is proud of, describing himself as "the No. 1 earmarks guy in the U.S. Congress."

But the senator actually grabbed the second highest amount of total earmarks — worth \$392.4 million — in fiscal year 2010 appropriation bills, about \$105 million less than Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., according to Taxpayers for

Common Sense, a Washington D.C. watchdog organization.

While Inouye at times is criticized for his earmarking prowess, those dollars gain him support among voters and influential power brokers, regardless of party affiliation, said Neal Milner, a UH political scientist. Still, Milner added, earmarks only explain part of the senator's enduring appeal.

Inouye lost his right arm during WWII, and decades later was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service. He got his political start in the territorial Legislature. He later was elected to the U.S. House and in 1962, to the Senate.

Inouye became an icon symbolizing both the social and political upheaval of the mid- to late-1950s that led to statehood, and the increase in the political power of Japanese Americans, resulting in near-total Democratic control over Hawaii's politics since statehood in 1959, Milner said.

Inouye himself says he wants a ninth term because he can help pull the country out of its current economic doldrums.

"In my capacity as chairman of the appropriations committee, I would be called upon to play some role," he said in an interview.

Hovering over discussions about Inouye's latest campaign is his age and health.

He appears spry though diminutive. He frequently uses a cane — the result of a fractured knee suffered in 2008 while practicing the tango before wedding his second wife, Irene Hirano Inouye.

"Obviously, time slows people down," said Dante Carpenter, interim chairman of the state Democratic Party. "But by the same token, he seems to not have lost a great deal of speed in his step and his brain obviously is perking on all cylinders."

The senator said longevity has its benefits. "If you know anything about Washington, with my seniority and with my chairmanship of the committees, I think it will make a little difference," Inouye said. "I would think that at this stage, I can be of greater assistance to the people of Hawaii." ■

## TRIBUTE

**George Muneichi Yamasaki**

July 13, 1904 - February 13, 2010



On Sat., Feb. 13, 2010, George Muneichi Yamasaki, passed away peacefully at home in Auburn, Calif., at the age of 105 years.

He was born in Osaka, Japan, July 13, 1904, to Zenkichi and Kikuyo Yamasaki, and came to the United States at the age of 13 to join his father in Auburn, Calif. He married Shigeyo Fujitani in 1926, and celebrated 81 years of marriage before her death in 2007.

He is survived by his seven children, Jean Kaneko, Tomiko Yabumoto, Ray Yamasaki (Irene), Evelyn Umeda (Herb), Betty Nishikawa (Eddie), Don Yamasaki (Chere) and Edith Yamasaki (Robert), 14 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

He attended Edgewood School, a one-room school house, located on Mt. Vernon Road in the Edgewood district of Auburn.

In 1917, he joined his father growing fruit trees for sale to orchards throughout California, and together they started a fruit tree nursery. In 1926, he and his wife Shigeyo expanded the nursery to include ornamental plants, landscape construction, rock walls and bonsai. Except for the three years spent at the Tule Lake Internment camp during WWII, he lived in Auburn, Calif.

In 1953, Yamasaki Nursery was moved from Bean and Kemper road to Highway 49 and New Airport Road where his sons Ray and Don joined their parents in the family business.

George's artistic talents and achievements in land-

scape are evident throughout the region in both public and private Japanese gardens including the Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Colony Memorial in Gold Hill, the Placer Buddhist Church in Penryn, the Sacramento Buddhist Church, and the San Francisco Japanese Community Center Garden.

George has received many prestigious awards and recognitions in his lifetime including: Japan Agricultural Society's Award — for work in agriculture, nursery, landscape and bonsai; Circle of Sensei Award — from the Golden State Bonsai Federation to honor individuals for the teaching of the art of bonsai and to the cultural understanding of the art form; Japanese Counsel General Keiro Kai Award — "A Day of Respect for the Aged" award given to centenarians.

He had a passion for bonsai and *suiseki* (the Japanese art of stone appreciation). He enjoyed gathering and collecting native conifer specimens from the Sierras and would train and shape them into magnificent bonsai. One of his most prized living works of art was a native Sierra juniper that he shaped for years which was prominently displayed in the California State Capitol for the Queen of England's visit in 1983 to California; which he fondly named the Queen's Tree.

As a founding member of both the Sacramento Bonsai Club and the Sierra Bonsai Club of Placer County he shared his talents with many through bonsai demonstrations and classes.

George and his wife enjoyed travelling, and visited throughout the contiguous United States. He also travelled internationally to Canada, Mexico, Italy, France, Switzerland, Korea and took many trips to Japan.

He will be remembered for his devotion to his family. He loved to have his house full of his grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family is thankful for all the time and experiences he shared and will greatly miss his presence.

Funeral service was held Sat., Feb. 20, 2010, at 1 p.m., at the Placer Buddhist Church, 3192 Boyington Road in Penryn, Calif.

Private family burial services was held at the Auburn Cemetery.

## TRIBUTE

**George Fukui**

May 25, 1921 - December 18, 2009



George Fukui passed away on Dec. 18th, 2009 after a brief illness. Despite being put in internment camps, he later served in the Army during World War II. He worked as a research scientist for 34 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Yuri Fukui. He is survived by his daughters Tenley Fukui and Lisa Fukui. Donations may be made to the University of Connecticut Foundation.

## TRIBUTE

**Hugo Kaji**

September 23, 1921- February 15, 2010



Hugo Kaji was born in Livingston, California on September 23, 1921. He passed away on February 15, 2010 at the age of 88. He will always be remembered for his wonderful smile, good nature and hard work.

Hugo was a 1939 graduate of Livingston High School. When World War II broke out, he was evacuated with his family to the Merced Assembly Center and then sent to the Amache Relocation Center in Colorado. After being allowed to leave, he moved to Chicago where he worked while attending Greer College and then completed his education in Long Island.

Hugo was drafted into the U.S. Army, received basic training in Infantry Weapons at Camp Blanding, Florida and qualified as a sharpshooter. He served in Germany as Replacement 159th Infantry, then the 401st Field

Artillery, followed by the 1st Armored and 3rd Ordnance Median Maintenance Company as an automotive instructor. Hugo proudly served his country, completing his service as a Staff Sergeant and Section Chief.

After the war, Hugo returned to Livingston to assume responsibility for the family farm. He worked briefly in Chicago where he met and married his wife, Marion. They returned to Livingston in 1951 where he resumed farming, established Hugo Kaji Trucking and raised a family.

Hugo is survived by Marion, his devoted wife of 60 years, siblings Lily Hirata, Hubei Kaji and wife, Martha, Snow Shoji and husband, Arthur, his four children (spouses), Jeanette (Anthony Ishii), Naomi (Michael Nakata), Devonna (James Johnson), Melvin (Sherry Kaji), and his nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**William Kajikawa, Father of Arizona State Sports, Dies at 97**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

William (Bill) Kajikawa, a World War II veteran and legendary coach at Arizona State University, passed away Feb. 15 from pneumonia, according to family members. He was 97.

During his 41-year career at ASU, Kajikawa coached football, basketball and baseball. He was inducted into the Arizona Basketball Hall of Fame in 1968 and the ASU Hall of Distinction in 1982.

"Above all he was an educator," said his daughter Christine Kajikawa Wilkinson, ASU senior vice president and secretary of the university.

Kajikawa, a longtime Arizona JACL member began his coaching career at Arizona State in 1937.

During WWII, Kajikawa served with distinction in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from ASU in 1937 and 1948, respectively. Kajikawa received an honorary doctor of laws degree from ASU in 1989. In 1995, ASU named the Sun Devil football practice field The Bill Kajikawa Practice Facility.

"Most people who live to be 97 would have outlived their friends and family," said Wilkinson, but hundreds of people attended her father's service and memorial. Cards continue to pour in. ■

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