

Why it's
important to
get counted.
PAGE 11

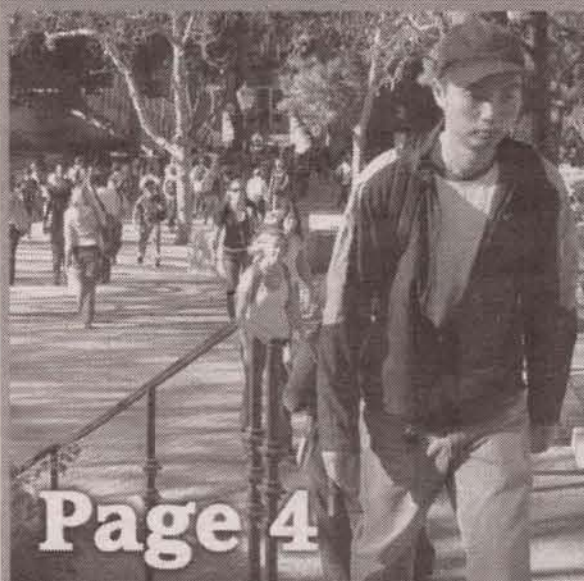
United States
Census
2010



MARCH 19-APR. 1, 2010

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



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Depression, suicide are rising
among APA students.



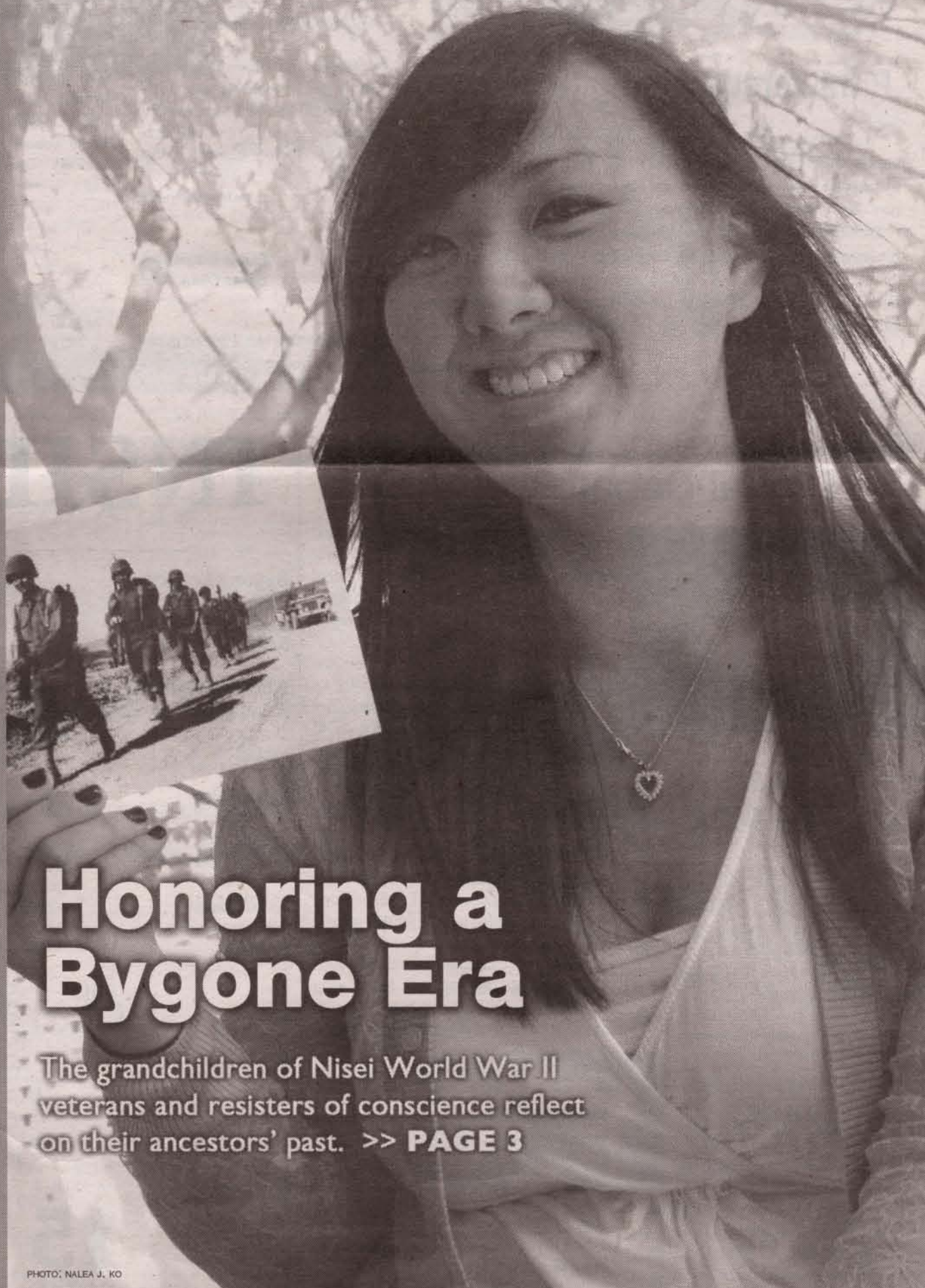
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Yonsei Joshua Morey recently
opened shop in Little Tokyo.



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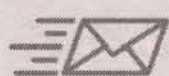
A film on civil rights leader
Richard Aoki premieres.



Honoring a Bygone Era

The grandchildren of Nisei World War II
veterans and resisters of conscience reflect
on their ancestors' past. >> **PAGE 3**

PHOTO: NALEA J. KO



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

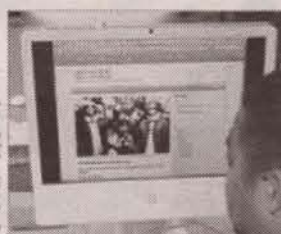
Thrusting the Pacific Citizen into the Digital Age

Small JACL board members and staff 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

JACL's and board members agreed that sometime down the road the Pacific Citizen will eventually become an all-digital publication, but opinions vary about when the transition should occur.



The P.C. staff has announced its plan to move the paper to an all-digital format. The staff of about 12 people is set to launch the new website in the next few months. The new website will be a more user-friendly version of the current one, with a focus on making it easier to read and navigate. The staff is also working on creating a mobile app for the paper, which will allow readers to access the content on their smartphones and tablets.

Print Versus All-Digital P.C.

As a younger member of the organization but not a Y-generationer, I see advantages in both Web and print newspapers. Web articles can be e-mailed and stored much more easily and is "green" while print newspapers don't require computers and are easier to pick up and read.

Therefore, I don't think going all-digital is the way to go in the near future, especially considering the Pacific Citizen readership and revenue that the print P.C. brings in. As with most newspapers, I think you'll be forced to straddle the line until you can build a sustainable business model around Web ad revenue, which may or may not happen.

Eugene Kaneko
San Diego JACL

Don't Stop the Paper

I've been a JACL member for many decades and [have] been reading the P.C. I enjoy reading the paper. Please don't stop the paper!

Dorothy Takato
Dublin, Calif.

Handling a paper P.C. issue forces me to read it or at least browse through all the pages including the ads.

Not only do I have to share the family P.C., there is the JACL Bulletin and lots of other e-mails to read and or delete, so it would not be a good idea to get P.C. issues as digital only.

Please keep on sending the paper issues.

Elaine O'Kennedy
Santa Clara, Calif.

I am 95 years old, a retired minister, and do not have a computer, so if [the] Pacific Citizen goes paperless

we will miss it. Although we lived in places where no Japanese lived, we kept our interest in the Japanese community via the P.C.

Rev. and Mrs. Sadaichi Asai
Claremont, Calif.

Without your news in writing, I will lose contact with Japanese news from all over. I do not have a computer and don't intend to get one. I do not know how to use one. Since all the Japanese newspapers have stopped publishing, there's no way of reading news from other places and events going on. Please continue publishing [and sending] your P.C. through the mail.

Akiko Shiroyama
Visalia, 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

SPRING CAMPAIGN

The Digital Debate Continues



Should the Pacific Citizen stay the same, offering both a printed and digital version, or go all digital?

That's the question we posed to our readers, both JACL members and subscribers, less than two weeks ago. The resounding answer thus far: keep P.C. the way it is.

Soon after the article, "A Paperless P.C.?" appeared in the March 5 issue, the letters and survey responses started pouring in. So far more than 90 percent of you want to see the printed P.C. continue.

Wow. Even the P.C. staff was surprised at how clearly and quickly the responses have come in.

But we need to hear from more of you. So far many of the responses have come from California, Utah and Nevada. Now we need to hear from our readers in the Midwest, the East Coast, Hawaii and internationally.

With national JACL currently looking to find ways to cut their biennial budget, the issue of the printed P.C. going to the wayside is not going to disappear. If you want to see your printed P.C. continue, you are going to have to keep speaking up.

So continue sending in the surveys and letters and ask your friends and chapter members to do the same. Call your board members — at the local, district and national levels — and tell them that you want to continue receiving the printed P.C.

The bottomline line is, your JACL membership guarantees you a printed P.C. In fact part of your annual membership dues pays for this paper. The other 50 percent is raised by the P.C. staff through advertising, the Holiday Issue and non-member subscriptions.

If you look at the P.C. budget, many agree that it's a bargain. For about \$250,000 in JACL membership dues you get a semi-monthly newspaper and a staff of four. Can you think of any other JACL program that gives you a tangible benefit for that price?

The digital debate is likely to continue at the upcoming Chicago convention in July. That's because the national board must make a constitutional and bylaw amendment in order to change the P.C. from a printed P.C. to an electronic newspaper.

So if you are going to be a delegate at the Chicago convention and you want to see your printed P.C. continue, you need to vote against any bylaw amendment. Even if you don't plan to attend, make sure you tell your chapter representatives, district governors and national board members that you want your P.C. to stay the same.

And if you want the P.C. to go all digital make sure your voices are heard too.

The bottomline is, the digital debate

See AOYAGI-STOM/Page 15

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Are incidences of the mental disorder increasing? **PAGE 4**

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The remains of pioneering Chinese immigrants get a dignified burial. **PAGE 6**

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WWII female pilots get a

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Black Panther

Richard Aoki talks about fighting the power in a new film. **PAGE 9**

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2010 JACL National Convention
"Embracing Change"
June 30-July 4
15 weeks
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JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

Honoring a Bygone Era

The grandchildren of Nisei World War II veterans and resisters of conscience reflect on their ancestors' past.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

World War II stories were not a popular topic of discussion between Stacy Toyota and her grandfather who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Toyota, 26, said her grandfather Minoru received the Purple Heart when he returned from the war, but in later years he rarely talked about his service.

It was not until his funeral service in the summer of 2009 that Toyota saw his military awards again.

"It's really sad. A lot of people didn't even know he had them except our very close family," Toyota said recalling her 89-year-old grandfather's funeral service. "People who attended said, 'I didn't know he had a Purple Heart.'"

Approximately 14,000 Japanese Americans like Minoru served in the 442nd RCT and 100th Battalion while their families were incarcerated in internment camps. They earned 9,486 Purple Hearts, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses and 21 Medals of Honor.

Others fought for their freedom in another way.

Over 300 Nisei protested the United States draft during WWII. For this, many were imprisoned and ostracized.

The JACL derided the resisters' efforts at the time, calling them "cowards" and "hooligans." Years later at the 2000 JACL national convention in Monterey, Calif. the resisters apology resolution passed with 64 ayes, 32 nos and four split votes. The decision angered many, especially veterans — some quit the JACL.

This July marks the 10th anniversary of JACL's apology to Nisei draft resisters of conscience. For some JAs, the apology is still a contentious subject. Officials from veteran's groups like the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) and Go For Broke declined to comment.

For some descendants of veterans, however, sentiments about WWII are from a bygone era.

"I think it's hard, and in some ways, not really my place to say since it was a different time then, and I can never truly understand the context without living it," said Kristin Fukushima, whose grandfather Paul Shigeyuki served in the Military Intelligence Service.

"As both a grandchild of a veteran and a staff member at JACL, I'm glad JACL issued an apology. Issuing an apology should not be seen as a sign of disrespect to veterans, but rather be a step towards healing the divide in our community," said Fukushima, JACL PSW public policy coordinator.

Crusaders of World War II

When filling out the U.S. loyalty questionnaire, Nisei draft resisters of conscience said they were loyal to the U.S. and would serve in the military.

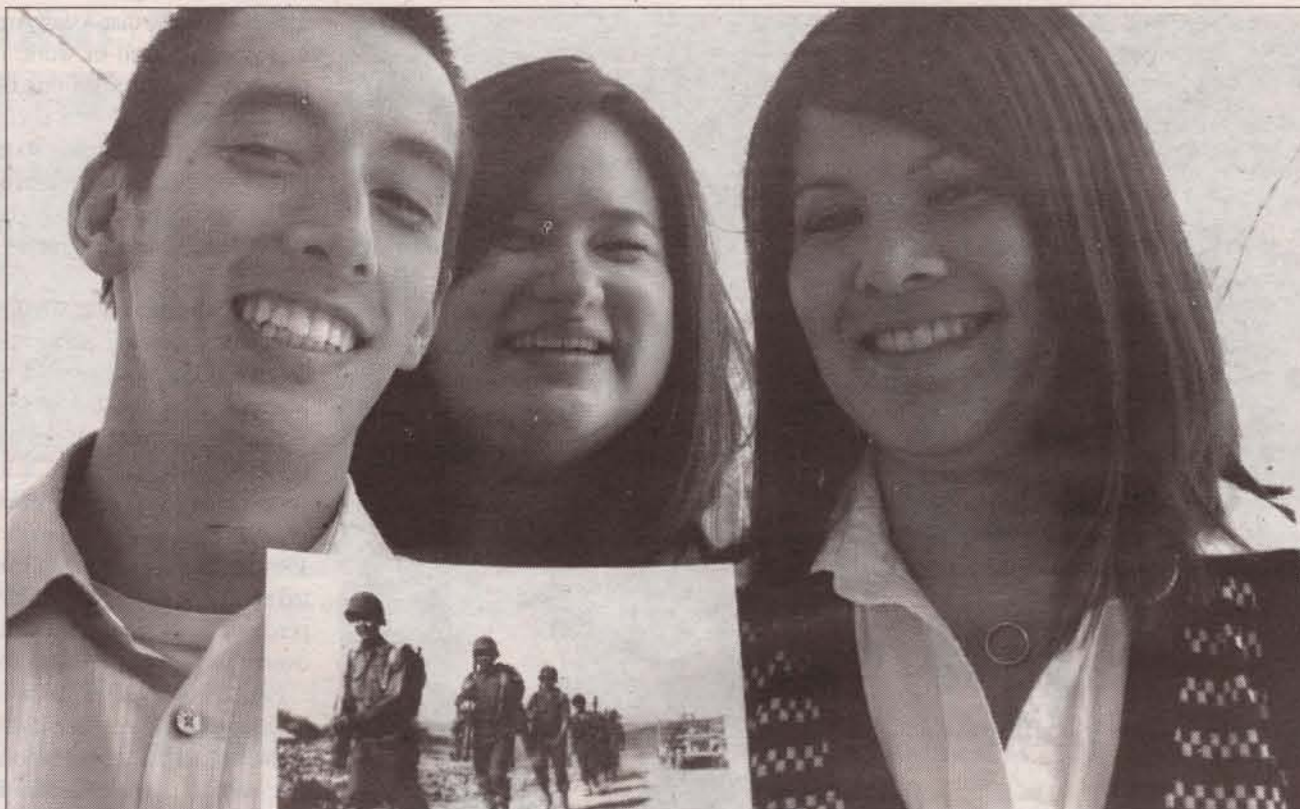
They would only serve in the military, however, with two stipulations: if their full constitutional rights were restored and their families were released from internment camps.

Resisters of conscience are sometimes confused with "No-No" boys, who said they were not loyal to the U.S. and would not serve in the military.

Three hundred and fifteen resisters of conscience were tried and 282 were sentenced to prison. The Fair Play Committee led resistance to the draft at Heart Mountain. There, about 85 were imprisoned for refusing the draft.

"I was one of the organizers of the Fair Play Committee at Heart Mountain," said 93-year-old Frank Emi. "I felt just as strongly. I knew I was in danger of being prosecuted, but I felt the government was so wrong that I had to speak up."

With a wife and two children, Emi was not eligible for the



(L-r): Siblings Patrick, Kristin and Diana said they are proud to be the grandchildren of a distinguished World War II veteran.

Yoshi Kubo (left) was a resister of conscience with the Tucsonians, a group that continued to meet regularly ever since 1947.



draft. But he said he felt strongly about fighting the injustices committed against JAs. For his work as a resister, Emi was sentenced to four years in prison and served 15 months.

Emi's children are aware of his work as a resister, but he has "never sat down and talked about camp life" with his grandchildren.

Children and grandchildren of Nisei resisters said that is common.

"My dad was not a quiet person," said Dan Kubo, 61, whose father Yoshi was a draft resister at the Amache internment camp. "And he didn't say all that much about it openly because it was a very contentious subject in the community in general — in the Nikkei community."

Kubo's daughter, Etsuko, said she hopes the JA community can discuss the sacrifices made by veterans and resisters without causing a rift.

"There was an underlying thing about our family being a little bit different, and I never quite understood what that was until we found this out about him," Etsuko, 32, said.

"I would hope that we could figure out a way to not make this divisive. It seems like there are plenty of other things going on to be divisive about and this would not be one of them."

The Apology

In 1947 President Harry Truman pardoned the resisters of conscience. JACL's apology followed decades later, opening old wounds.

"The U.S. government's oppressive treatment, the unfair choices forced upon Japanese Americans, and the tremendous sacrifices left many scars on our community," explained Andy Noguchi, a Florin JACL member who helped organize the 2000 national JACL resolution.

At that convention, veterans lined up at the microphone to air out their feelings about apologizing to the resisters of conscience. But since there was a time limit set on the debate, many did not get to speak.

"It was clear the veterans were angry about the presentation of the resolution. In 1943, they were offended that they were willing to sacrifice their lives to prove a point about JAs and the resisters, regardless of their principled stand, were not, according to the vets," said John Tateishi, who was the JACL national director at the time.

"Had someone on their side understood parliamentary procedures, they easily could have extended the debate and voiced their opinions," Tateishi said. He added that veterans tore off their nametags and left the convention.

In letters to the editor that appeared in the *Pacific Citizen* following the convention, many alleged that resisters were merely camp bullies. Some left JACL as a result or set out to reverse the mandates of the resolution.

Two years after the JACL resolution passed in 2000, a ceremony was held for the resisters of conscience. It was a ceremony that was mandated by the resolution. Over 300 people gathered for the May 11 ceremony at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California.

Many who sacrificed their lives to serve in WWII did not agree with JACL's apology to resisters.

"We were put into internment camps for one reason: the U.S. military and the U.S. government did not trust us, believing we would be sympathetic to Japan, our enemy during WWII," said Grant Ichikawa, a WWII veteran. "I will ask: What did the draft resisters accomplish by resisting draft? What was the reason for JACL apologizing to the draft resisters?"

Other veterans agreed.

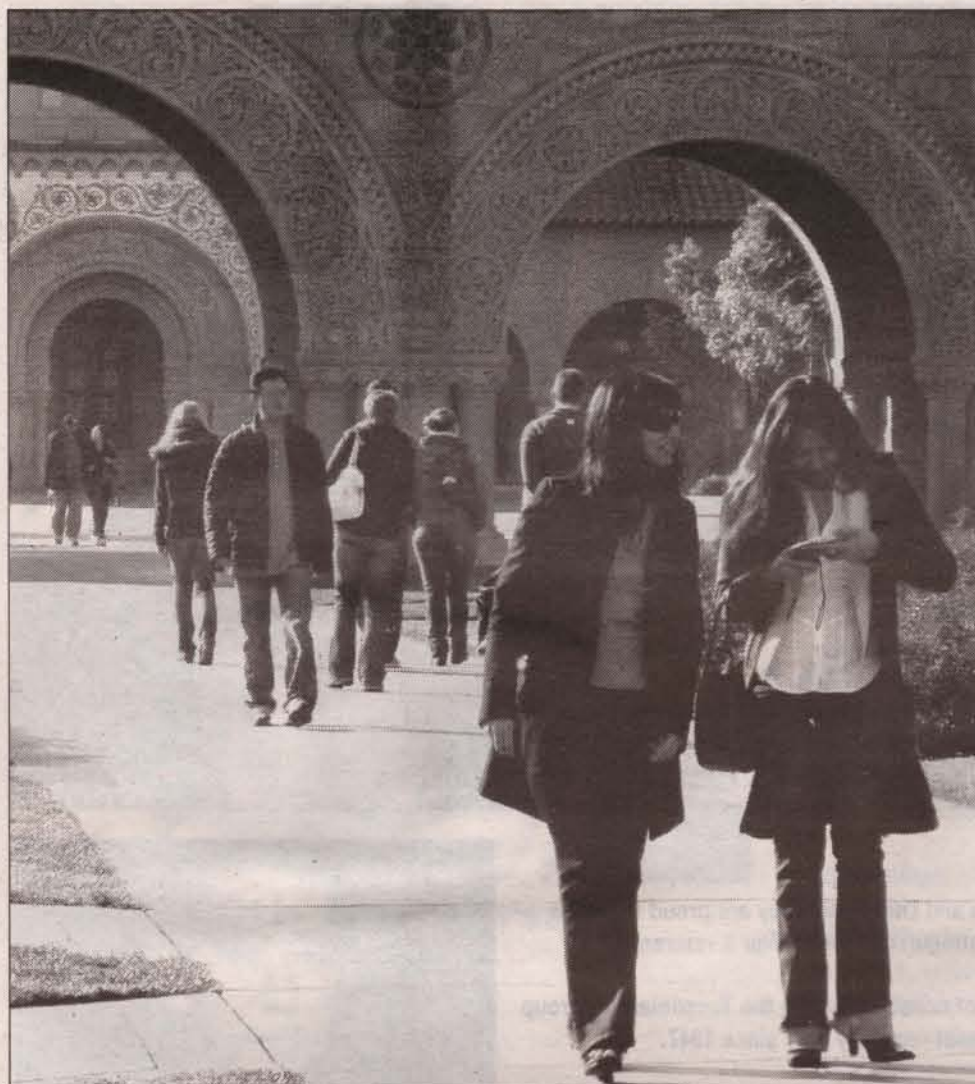
Junwo "Jim" Yamashita, who served with the 442nd RCT, said he hoped the anniversary of JACL's apology does not eclipse the fact the over 100 JAs sacrificed their lives so the "JACL, *Pacific Citizen*, the Nisei resisters and the rest of us can live in America today with our heads held high."

Ten years after the JACL issued an apology to resisters feelings are just as strong as they were then. Some veterans say their opinions about the resisters and JACL's apology would likely never change.

"It's kind of a never ending situation and it will probably die with those of us who are in our late 70s," said Sam Shimoguchi, a JACL member and Korean War veteran. "When we pass away then the whole thing will just [laughs] fade away, I think."

Toyota said as the grandchild of a Nisei veteran she is proud of grandfather, but also understands the resisters' efforts.

"As a descendant [of a veteran] I don't feel like I have to choose sides. My grandpa was always like, 'Whatever you think.' He always encouraged us to do what we want," said Toyota. ■



Colleges like Stanford University are working to raise awareness on mental health issues.

Growing Rate of Depression, Suicide Among APA Students

Asian American women ages 15 to 24 lead in the highest suicide rate, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

By Christine McFadden
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Students at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif. were shocked last year when three of their classmates committed suicide almost consecutively. Junior Brian Go, senior Jackson Ho-Leung Wang, and graduate student Long Phan ended their lives within a three-month period and left the campus searching for answers. Wang was within days of his graduation.

Their deaths brought attention to a persistent problem currently on the rise: student suicides. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported that Asian Pacific Americans are more likely to commit suicide than the average American.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) lists suicide as the third highest cause of death among the 15-to-24 age group in America. Although overall past statistics have shown that suicide rates among APAs are not significantly higher than other minority groups, recent studies reveal that APA students are at high risk.

In both Japan and America, Asian men have higher suicide rates than women. However, Dr. Eliza Noh, an assistant professor at the California State University, Fullerton whose

research expertise involves APA suicide, points out that this is because men tend to use more violent methods of killing themselves. Women are still at risk with a higher rate of depression.

In researching suicide among APA women, Noh conducted interviews with 42 women from across the nation who either attempted suicide or experienced suicidal depression. The majority of women were in the age range of students. In her research, she was able to identify several common influences that led to their depression.

Facing Pressures to be a 'Model Minority'

One major factor is the concept of the "model minority" — a term first coined in the mid-1960s by University of California, Berkeley sociologist William Peterson. The "model minority" originated from Japanese Americans "doing really well in spite of the fact that they had been interned and had gone through a lot of discrimination during World War II," said Noh.

"The reason for this was that Japanese Americans had the right cultural values that allowed them to do well," she continued. "And then it just became applied to Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans. The

idea is basically that Asian Americans do well in school, do well in work, have few social problems, and they do this through the right cultural values."

According to Noh, this socially constructed stereotype has become internalized in many APA households, causing higher family expectations and therefore hitting APA students twofold.

Noh, who attended Columbia University, remembers hearing about neighboring East Coast schools like Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) having high numbers of student suicides.

"At Cornell, they have a lot of gorges — people jumped off [the] gorges," she said.

According to *New America Media*, from 1996 to 2006, of the 21 students who committed suicide at Cornell, 13 were APA. This 61.9 percentage is significantly higher than the overall percent of APA students, which is 14.

From 1964 to 2000, the average number of MIT undergraduate student suicides was nearly three times that of the national campus average, with 21.2 students out of every 100,000 committing suicide in comparison to 7.5, with 11.7 as the national overall average.

However, national suicide rates in 2004 show Asian/Pacific Islanders suffering from similar suicide rates to other minorities such as Hispanics and Non-Hispanic Blacks, with 5.8 suicides per 100,000 in comparison to 5.9 and 5.3, respectively. The numbers for Asian/Pacific Islanders has increased.

"I don't experience a lot of stress myself, actually, but for everybody it's different," said Stephen Ge, a Chinese American MIT sophomore. "The only thing in common with everybody is the work; that's what most people are stressed out about. I think people usually deal with it pretty well. I've never actually had negative stress too much, but people are still stressed out for sure."

Ge can only recall hearing about one suicide happening during his time thus far at MIT, though he has heard of past suicides and sees daily reminders of maintaining mental health with signs posted in dorms and near elevators.

In Palo Alto, Calif., a recent string of suicides at Henry M. Gunn High School — ranked number 67 by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the nation's "Best High Schools" — has caused some to speculate that high levels of stress and expectations are what contributed to the deaths, in addition to suicide contagion (suicide clusters or imitative deaths) and many other factors. In the past eight months, three students and one prospective student have taken their own lives.

"Asian Americans take up 30 percent of the school and we've had four suicide cases," said Stanford University sophomore Heming Yip, who graduated from Henry M. Gunn High School in 2008. "I'm not sure anyone can or should draw any conclusions from that."

Yip was voted "Most Stressed" in high school, receiving perfect to near-perfect scores on all of his standardized tests. He is currently attending one of the nation's top-tiered universities. Yip falls under several cat-

egories specified by Noh as major contributors to suicide. However, he has never faced depression or ever once contemplated ending his life.

"I'm not the type to internalize stress. I'm just very vocal and expressive about stress, which is how half the school knew about it," he explained.

Although he acknowledges that, in general, APAs seem to be subject to more academic stress than other racial groups, Yip does not recall his APA friends at Henry M. Gunn High School (two of whom landed perfect 2400 SAT scores) being subjected to exceptional amounts of stress.

Despite some evidence pointing toward APA students' suicide rate falling within the vicinity of other minority students, Noh said that the statistics are sometimes misleading.

"If you look at the rates, it looks like Asian Americans aren't at risk," she says. "If you look at the rates in a different way — what proportions of Asian American students died in suicide, leading cause of death, specific age and gender groups — I think it's really important to look at the factors within their own context."

APA women aged 15 to 24 lead in the highest suicide rate amongst all ethnic groups, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. Noh's older sister committed suicide while in college.

The Road to Recuperation

Noh also noted cultural barriers as a factor behind suicide. Many APA women often avoid seeking clinical help and sometimes prefer alternative methods of healing. In addition, she pointed out heredity, (studies show that depression runs within families), religious beliefs (some rituals — for example, *Seppuku*, the act of a Samurai killing himself to avoid shame — permit suicide, although she said the majority of Asian communities see suicide as a weakness), and regional/socioeconomic demographics as all factors related to suicide and depression.

Although national figures and numerous factors behind suicide may show a grim outlook for APA students, Noh encountered several successful methods of recovery among the women she interviewed. While several chose to take medication and enlist in clinical help, the majority turned to alternative forms of recovery.

"A lot of women kept journals and they thought that to be very therapeutic," said Noh.

Other methods included spiritual recovery, traditional herbal medicine and acupuncture, and partaking in social or cultural activities as creative outlets and as methods of "venting their pain."

At MIT, Ge said that abundant extracurricular opportunities on campus such as dance and sports help students to relieve stress and "focus on something other than academics." MIT additionally eases its grading system for beginning students, not differentiating between pluses or minuses, capping units, and recording first semester classes only if they are passed.

"Definitely [during the] first year, it helps people," said Ge. "It takes off a lot of the pressure. I think it definitely helps." ■

GET HELP

Students facing depression or contemplating suicide can call:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255 (TALK)
1-800-784-2433 (SUICIDE)

Asian LifeNet Hotline
1-877-990-8585

JACL's Chicago Convention Goes Online

By Lary Schectman

In a few quick months, hundreds of Japanese Americans will be heading to Chicago for the 41st JACL national convention. Whether you will be attending as delegates, supporters, family or friends, you will all be guests of the Chicago JACL chapter.

To help in your preparations, the convention committee has gone live with a new Web site loaded with information that can make your registration easier and your visit to Chicago more interesting and enjoyable. Simply visit www.jacl.org and click on the "2010 JACL National Convention" icon.

For those who have been to Chicago before you will know that the city has more to offer than can be experienced in a few days. So, here's an idea: Why not plan a mini-JACL vacation? The convention hotel (Swissôtel Chicago) is offering a special JACL convention room rate for three days before and three days after the convention!

For those visiting for the first time, Chicago's magic lies in its mix: sophisticated yet friendly, bustling streets adjacent to long stretches of green parks and sparkling blue Lake Michigan, and a stunning summer array of things to do. A seemingly endless assortment of restaurants, shops, and nightlife will all be near the convention hotel, ready to match every taste and every budget.

Come and discover why so many visitors fall in love with the city every year. Whatever your mood may be you will find the trip to Chicago worthwhile. At the convention, the JACL national council will be electing new leaders who will have to face the challenges of the changing Asian Pacific American climate, nationally known speakers will describe current APA issues and workshops and plenary sessions will discuss topics of the



Go to www.jacl.org and click on the '2010 JACL National Convention' icon.

day. Yes, it will be an important, busy time for the JACL.

Or, maybe your vision includes a deep-dish pizza, or a Chicago Cubs game, or a night at Horseshoe Casino, or a free Millennium Park concert. Yes, there's that, too.

Coming to Chicago for the JACL national convention can be seen as an opportunity to visit this destination city. But, it can also be a little intimidating to plan. The new convention Web site can help to make this a little easier for you with information about the convention schedule, transportation, convention events, suggestions for Windy City activities and easy ways to register.

There will be more ideas and information on the Web site as we move closer to the June 30 welcome mixer, so be sure to check it out often at www.jacl.org and click on the "2010 JACL National Convention" link.

Come to Chicago to support the important work of the JACL, and stay for the fun of a world-class city. ■

Lary Schectman, past-president of the Chicago JACL, is currently chair of public relations for Chicago's 2010 National JACL Convention Committee.

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attend the JACL National Convention

By Floyd Mori



The Chicago JACL is busy with plans for the 2010 JACL national convention, which will be held June 30-July 4.

The JACL will change from its biennial conventions to yearly conventions after the Chicago convention. The 2010 convention will be the last of the biennial format, which has been a part of the JACL for

many years. We encourage you to make plans now to attend this historic convention in Chicago.

Ron Yoshino is the chair of the Chicago convention. Megan Nakano is the chapter president. JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino, and Christine Munteanu, the current JACL Ford fellow, are both heavily involved in the planning process with the convention committee.

During World War II, Chicago offered an opportunity for resettlement to Japanese Americans who were displaced from their homes by the unjust incarceration. Many migrated to Chicago to find jobs and housing, ultimately making it their home. Today approximately 27,000 Japanese Americans now reside there.

JACL delegates who are attending the convention and representing the various chapters will be busy with the work of the JACL. We encourage the delegates to bring family and friends to join in the convention events and enjoy the big-city atmosphere of Chicago. Boosters are always welcome at the business sessions as well.

During the early history of the JACL, members looked forward to attending the conventions to see old friends and make new ones. Even those who were not delegates brought their families for the social aspect and fellowship. We encourage the delegates and convention boosters to renew this

See MORI/Page 10

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, or by calling 773.728.7170.

Name _____
Last First MI
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____
Email _____
JACL Chapter _____
Vegetarian Meals Yes _____ No _____
Special needs _____

Payment Method

Check or money order:

Please make payable to JACL National Convention and mail to:

JACL National Convention
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640

Credit Card (check one):

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Name on Card _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Information

Contact: email chicago2010@jacl.org, call 773.728.7170 or visit 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

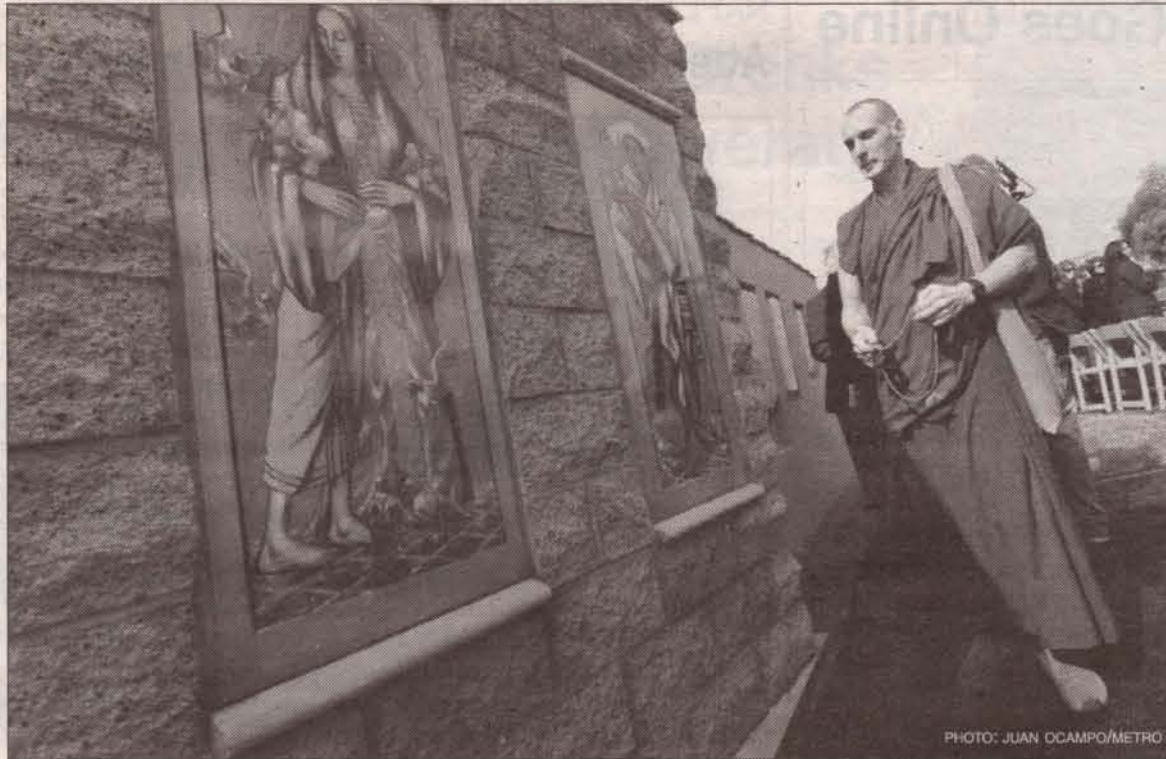


PHOTO: JUAN OCAMPO/METRO

Evergreen Cemetery's memorial wall was dedicated March 8 to right a historic wrong, officials say.

Final Resting Place For Pioneering Chinese Immigrants

Remains of early Chinese pioneers will be re-interred in a Los Angeles cemetery where they were excluded from centuries ago.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A memorial wall was unveiled March 8 in honor of the poor Chinese immigrants whose remains were discovered in unmarked graves during construction in Boyle Heights, Calif.

Five years after the discovery, city officials have announced that the remains and artifacts found buried in a racially segregated area outside of the Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights, Calif. would be reburied within the cemetery's gates next to the historic Chinese shrine.

"Today, I am pleased that we are honoring these early laborers who helped build Los Angeles by righting a historic wrong," said Ara Najarian, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) board chair, in a statement.

The ceremony marked the end of centuries of marginalization traced back to the late 1800s when Chinese sojourners, who came to the United States in search of better lives, faced racial discrimination in life and death. The unearthed remains were likely poor railroad workers who were prevented from reuniting with their families in China and starting new families in the U.S. because of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

In the late 1870s, early Chinese pioneers were buried in a nine-acre public indigent graveyard or Potter's Field run by the city and later bought by the county. Those who died penniless were buried for free, but records show Chinese Americans were charged \$10 per burial.

In 1923, when Potter's Field faced overcrowding, city officials asked the Chinese American community to exhume the bodies of their loved ones for a compensation of \$2 each.

Angi Ma Wong called the wall and the dedication

ceremony "simple, respectful, dignified as well as inclusive."

Her husband's great grandfather Yee Hay was buried at Evergreen in 1916. His remains are believed to be undisturbed in the Chinese section of the Potter's Field.

But until now, the fate of the 128 sets of bones and artifacts were the subjects of debate among residents, community members and the MTA. Some believed they should be reburied and given access to a peaceful resting place that was denied to them for centuries. Others believed the artifacts needed to be studied in order to learn more about these early American settlers.

"If reburied, the whole history would be lost. I think

we should let the bones speak for themselves," said CharSwang Ngin, chair of Cal State, Los Angeles' anthropology department.

The MTA launched a next-of-kin outreach campaign and set up an ad hoc committee to deal with the sensitive issue of the remains and artifacts. The committee, made up of members from the Eastside and Chinatown communities, recommended re-interment.

Wong attended almost every monthly ad hoc committee meeting for three years as an interested member of the community.

"It was a fascinating journey traveled together with the committee and diverse members of the community," she said. "Every voice was heard

and each idea was considered and voted upon. Ultimately, it was democratic, uniquely American and the result of the spirit of cooperation and compromise that was pervasive throughout the decision process."

Wong's uncle James Lee developed the Chinese wording that surrounds the central plaque of the wall.

The re-interment process will take months, according to MTA officials, to obtain coffins and granite markers for each grave. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGI MA WONG

Yee Hay was buried at Evergreen in 1916.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Texas House Veteran Ousted in GOP Primary

AUSTIN, Texas — Republican Rep. Betty Brown of Terrell has lost her bid for re-election after an 11-year run in the Texas House.

Brown, who gained notoriety last year for suggesting Asian-descent voters should adopt names that are "easier for Americans to deal with," lost to insurance consultant Lance Gooden in the GOP primary on Tuesday night.

Brown was a close ally of former House Speaker Tom Craddick. She was on the outs with House Speaker Joe Straus, who defeated Craddick last year.

University of Illinois Announces New Asian American Program

CHICAGO, Ill.—The University of Illinois at Chicago will begin offering a new Asian American studies program beginning this fall.

Undergraduates can now earn a minor in Asian American studies, a program that looks at the experiences of AAs. Courses offered in AA studies can be applied toward a undergraduate minor degree.

"We are interested in making visible the history and the place of Asians and Asian immigrants in America, especially the contributions they made to American society," said Chiang.

Ft. Wayne Store Apologizes For 'No Burmese' Sign

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The owner of a Fort Wayne business that posted a sign barring Burmese people from entering has apologized, but it may not be enough to get the business off the hook with civil rights groups.

Ricker Oil Co.'s coin-operated laundry could still face an investigation from Fort Wayne's Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

At issue is a sign an employee posted on the business' door that said, "For sanitary reasons, there are no Burmese people allowed." Fort Wayne is home to about 5,000 Burmese.

Health department spokesman John Silcox said there are "ongoing issues about what can and can't be tolerated" with newly arriving immigrant groups.

APALC Report Finds Need For Health Care Interpreters

Los Angeles, Calif. — Officials with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center say a new report finds that more healthcare interpreters are needed in the Los Angeles, Calif. area.

The report called, "Walking the Talk: Investing in Healthcare Interpreting Programs," utilized data from a healthcare study conducted by the UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research.

Minority Births on Track to Outnumber White Births

WASHINGTON — Minorities make up nearly half the children born in the U.S., part of a historic trend in which minorities are expected to become the U.S. majority over the next 40 years.

In fact, demographers say this year could be the "tipping point" when the number of babies born to minorities outnumbers that of babies born to whites.

Broken down by race, about 52 percent of babies born in 2008 were white. That's compared to about 25 percent who were Hispanic, 15 percent black and 4 percent Asian. Another 4 percent were identified by their parents as multiracial.

Asian Funeral Fund to Pay Back Thousands

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Thousands of mostly Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants are hoping to get back money they deposited in a bankrupt organization that was supposed to help them pay for their funerals.

San Jose City Councilman Kansen Chu told a crowd of anxious policyholders on Sunday that the Chinese-American Mutual Assistance Association reached a settlement with the state Attorney General's office.

But frustration set in when Chu said the association might not have enough cash to fully reimburse all the approximately 8,000 policyholders.

The association collected dues for 19 years. After 10 years, policies could be worth \$15,000. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

First APA Housing Network Wins HUD Recognition



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved the nation's first network of housing counseling organizations dedicated to serving APAs facing foreclosures.

The **National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD)** is now an intermediary for HUD and will support a national network of non-profit community-based organizations in 10 states providing services in more than 10 languages.

Bostick Becomes Third Three-Star JA

The Army has promoted **Thomas P. Bostick** to lieutenant general making him the third Japanese American in active duty wearing three stars, according to the **Japanese American Veterans Association**.

At a March 11 ceremony at the Pentagon auditorium, Bostick's wife Renee and his son Joshua, pinned the third star. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., U.S. Army chief of staff, hosted the event.

Bostick's father is African American and his mother is a native of Japan.

Campaign For Justice Receives Cesar Chavez Award

Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans (CFJ) will receive the Cesar Chavez Social Justice Award March 20 for their work with the U.S. government's Latin American rendition program.

CFJ has worked for over 15 years to shed light on the forcible removal of Japanese Latin Americans.

JACL Engagement



The **Seattle JACL** installation banquet was held Feb. 20 at the Waterfront Marriott with one surprising announcement.

Sheldon Arakaki, JACL national vice president of operations, proposed to **Kayomi Wada**, vice president of the **Puyallup Valley JACL**.

About 400 guests were present as Wada accepted Arakaki's proposal.

President Obama Announces Key Admin Post

President Barack Obama has nominated **David K. Mineta** as deputy director for demand reduction for the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Mineta is the deputy director of the California-based Asian American Recovery Services, Inc. (AARS), a health organization that provides substances abuse treatment to APA communities.

USC Alumni Association Honors First APA Justice

The **University of Southern California APA Alumni Association** will honor California Supreme Court Justice **Joyce Kennard** at its April 9 Asian Pacific Alumni Association Scholarship and Awards Gala.

Kennard is the first APA to serve as a justice in the Calif. Supreme Court. Other honorees include U.S.-Japan Council President **Irene Hirano-Inouye**, attorney **Christine C. Lee** and filmmaker **Ken Ochiai**. ■

Female WWII Aviators Honored With Gold Medal

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

A long-overlooked group of women who flew aircrafts during World War II were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on March 10.

Known as Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs, they were the first women to fly U.S. military planes.

About 200 of these women aviators, mostly in their late 80s and early 90s and some in wheelchairs, came to the Capitol to accept the medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress.

Among them was Maggie Gee, who was 20 when she edged out thousands of other female pilots to fly from Texas to the East Coast in AT-6 single engine planes.

"It's something about being alone," she told the *Pacific Citizen*. "It was the feeling of disassociation with the Earth. It felt like up there all your problems were gone."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hugged and thanked Gee for her service at the event, said Dwayne Chung, Gee's nephew.

Gee, who is of Chinese American descent, is the subject of a recent children's book, "Sky High: The True Story of Maggie Gee."

Thirty-eight WASPs were killed in service. But they were long considered civilians, not members of the military, and thus were not entitled to the pay and benefits given to the men. When their unit was disbanded in 1944, many even had to pay their own bus fare home from their Avenger Field base in Sweetwater, Texas.

They were afforded veteran status in 1977 after a long fight.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civil-



Among the Congressional Gold Medal honorees was Maggie Gee, one of the few APA World War II pilots.

ian medal in the country.

The JACL is also urging lawmakers to pass legislation to award World War II Nisei veterans the Congressional Gold Medal. ■

JACL Connects to College Students

JACL staff members have been hosting workshops on Anti-Asian sentiment on the East Coast.

The workshop titled, "When Hate Hits You," covers the history and causes of hate crimes directed at Asian Pacific Americans.

It draws distinctions between hate crimes and hate incidents and presents real life scenarios where the students take part in determining how to effectively respond.

The workshop also allows students to share personal accounts of where they have witnessed or been victimized in a hate related incident and discuss stereotypes, media portrayals and negative perceptions of APAs.

In commenting on various segments of the workshop, one participant responded, "The workshop raised topics I've never thought about and incidents I've never known about such as Vincent Chin."

Another responded, "I don't usually hear about incidents or actual crimes that happen in my city or in other cities. It is shocking that it occurs, so learning the basis of what hate crimes are and how to deal with them is useful."

On Feb. 27, JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino and Christine Munteanu, the current JACL Ford Program Fellow, led a workshop on Anti-Asian senti-

ment at the 5 College Pan Asian Network (SPAN) Conference at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The SPAN is comprised of Hampshire College, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Amherst and UMass.

Yoshino and Patty Wada, JACL NCWNP regional director, presented the same workshop at the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference (ECAASU) at the University of Pennsylvania March 6.

Among the 50-plus students attending the two JACL workshop sessions at the ECAASU Conference were nine Philadelphia students from Bodine and Central High School who were intent on learning more about hate crimes in the wake of recurring attacks on APA students at South Philadelphia High School.

Several of these students invited the JACL to present its workshop at the Philadelphia Immigrants Cultural Conference in April.

In the coming months, the JACL will present workshops at Notre Dame and at the Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference at Ohio State University in April.

JACL has also been invited to present workshops at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University in October. ■



VERY truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

80th Anniversary Afterglow

WE SAID LAST MONTH, "Nothing appeared from the *P.C.s* between Oct. 1929 and March 1942" and proceeded to run just a part of Mike Masaoka's appeal in wake of Pearl Harbor from the monthly *P.C.*, dated January 1942. So, let us continue in the afterglow of JACL's 80th anniversary.

1929-Oct. 29 (Vol. 1, No. 1): One of the purposes of this publication is to give the new Japanese American citizens an appropriate medium through which they can express themselves. — Iwao Kawakami, editor

1932—November (Vol. 4, No. 60): The question of the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to the stars and stripes seems to be a favorable topic these days. It seems silly to us to be discussing such a matter when there is no alternative. As long as we profess to be American citizens, our duty and loyalty is with the United States. All who think otherwise should renounce their citizenship. — Asayo Kuraya, editor

1933—April (Vol. 5, No. 65): Depression has aggravated racial animosity. And because of low wages, Filipinos have gone on strike (in Yakima Valley) against Japanese farmers. Those who are out of [work] become envious of those who are able to make a living. — *Jottings Here and There*.

1935—March (Vol. 7, No. 82): Fantastic story of Calif. Japanese secretly drilling for war, so a headline read. Rep. Dockweiler, from Los Angeles, addressed a congressional committee: "There are 25,000 armed Japanese ready to take the field in case of war," referring to a Mar. 15 report in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. National JACL followed with two prompt denials. Brawley JACL received credit for eliciting the prompt denial.

1935—April (No. 83):—A greater interest has been seen on the part of the (Nisei) discharging their civic duty and registering to vote as a direct result of the anti-Japanese legislation in the present Sacramento session (i.e., anti alien bills.)

1937—June (No. 109): Rare swords were given to National JACL, each said be 400 years old, to be presented to congressmen instrumental in passage of the Oriental Veterans Act in 1934: Sen. Gerald Nye, and

Rep. Clarence Lea, Rep. Bertrand Gearhardt, and former VFW California state commander Edward Neron.

1937—July (No. 110): Watsonville JACL float, Liberty Bell, wins first prize, \$100 cash, in Fourth of July parade. Five acres of gladioli were used to construct the bell, 17 feet high. Float was designed by William Shirachi and Tom Matsuda.

Close to 10,000 persons clicked the turnstiles of Playland, Seattle's fun resort, at Seattle JACL's fourth annual Japan Day, according to general chairman Takeo Nogaki.

Rivalries continued apace in Li'l Tokio's (sic) Nisei queen contest to decide which five girls will hold court at the second annual JACL Second Generation Festival Week. Of the five leading candidates, one will be picked queen, according to last year's queen Renko Oyama.

TO THOSE WONDERING, in the wake of the front-page question, "A Paperless *P.C.*?" (March 5-18), my initial thoughts are: we can expect a storm of more opinions between now and JACL's national convention (June 30-July 4, 2010) in Chicago.

The answer will be what the chapter delegates (each chapter has two delegates but one vote, which can be split half & half) decide at the convention (national council) and not before that. What a big headache!

I never thought we'd abandon the print format.

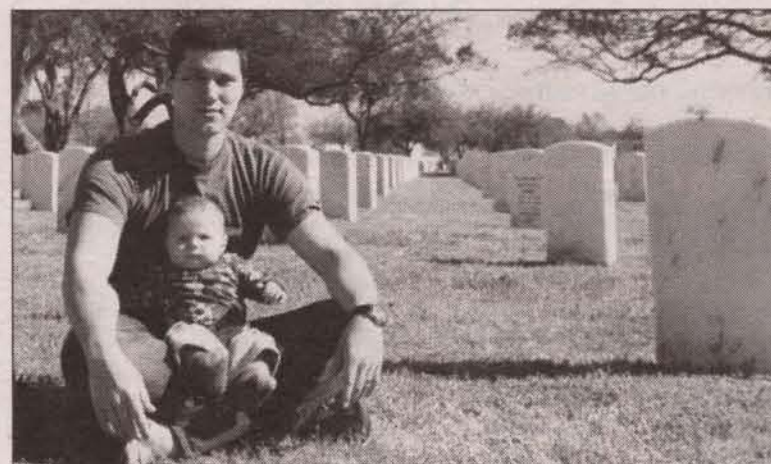
The JACL would better serve the Nikkei community and everyone else with the "printed word" (the *Pacific Citizen*), in view of the sudden situation in San Francisco and the *Rafu Shimpō* pondering what it should do.

Furthermore, the *P.C.* Holiday Issue is also a genial "fundraiser" for JACL chapters filling up one full-page with season's greetings. The ad income (in my time) was such that the percentage was 50-50 for a full page. The chapters can tell you what the percentages are now. *Very Truly Yours* has no idea, having been away from the hustlings now for eight years. ■

Harry Honda is the *Pacific Citizen's* editor emeritus.

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN In Line With Our Duty

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



Peter Frandsen with his son William.

As most people can attest, visiting an ordinary hospital can be unsettling for a myriad of reasons. The halls are quiet. The floors are unnaturally clean and shiny. And there is a particular smell that is unique to antiseptic cleaning agents.

Last month, I had the opportunity to provide dental care at my local Veterans Affairs hospital. To visit a VA hospital is something that is indeed unique and sobering.

To enter this particular hospital, I had to drive down a long, slender road with large, quintessentially Southern trees lining the way. I passed tombstones that spread out to fill the lawn. In other words, before I even entered the hospital I was confronted with a reminder of the departed men and women who have honorably served our country.

Upon entering the facility, I was again presented with a reminder of the needs of this often overlooked and forgotten patient population.

Since the controversy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center just over three years ago there's been a substantial amount of media attention on the medical treatment of our war fighters: soldiers, airmen, Marines, and seamen, past and present. There have been allegations of neglect and dilapidation.

Since that time, I assume that it has become easier for Sec. Eric Shinseki to acquire the much needed funding to care for these troops.

Yet, is that enough?

It is enough to say, "No news is good news," and carry on with the assumption that others will bear the silent burden?

I recently read an article by Dahlia Lithwick, in *Newsweek*, presenting the idea of a creation of special courts for veterans. These courts would team up with mental health professionals, assign mentors, and find alternative solutions to incarceration.

She even cites efforts by Sens. John Kerry and Lisa Murkowski to fund more of these "veteran courts," which have been deployed in roughly 22 cities and counties.

I do not doubt that special legal and mental health attention would aid the growing problem of re-socialization of our veterans. But the fact remains: levels of homelessness, suicides, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) have increased veterans when compared to their civilian counterparts. In fact, the Department of Veteran Affairs reported that veterans age 20 to 24 have a suicide rate that is four times higher than civilians in the same age bracket.

So what is to be done?

We are not all healthcare providers or mental health specialists. Even though the Department of Veteran Affairs is an extremely large department — second only to the Department of Defense — the work to be done is enormous.

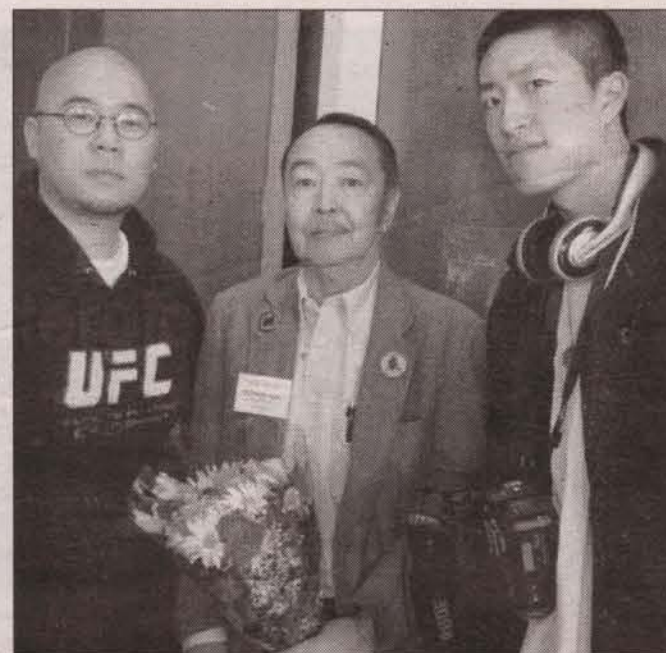
We have many Japanese American war veterans among our JACL ranks. We have many talented individuals with specialized skills. We are a community of people who are seeking opportunities to serve. We are politically minded citizens who do not shy away from sending letters to our Senators and representatives. We must find a way to direct our efforts to assist Sec. Shinseki in his prodigious task of caring for our veterans.

If we don't, then who will?

Let us not wait for another tragedy like the Walter Reed controversy to spark our emotions to act. Let's act now. ■

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





PHOTOS COURTESY BEN WANG

(L-r, top): Mike Cheng, Richard Aoki and Ben Wang kept in contact with each other after their first meeting at a Berkeley cafe. Aoki would call the filmmakers to discuss current political issues or invite them to any upcoming political events.

The Japanese American Black Panther

Richard Aoki was called 'the toughest Oriental of West Oakland', but his kinder side is featured in a new documentary.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

An interview about eight years ago with a Black Panther Party member changed the lives of two Chinese American fledgling filmmakers.

Ben Wang, 27, and Mike Cheng, 28, did not know it at the time, but Richard Aoki would eventually allow them to make a documentary about his life as a field marshal for the Black Panther Party in the 1960s.

It is a story about a Japanese American growing up on the tough streets of West Oakland, Calif., which Aoki had not allowed other filmmakers to document before.

Wang and Cheng were college students at the time — writing an article for a student newspaper at the University of California, Davis — when they were given the opportunity to interview Aoki.

"I still remember going home that night in awe of everything that Richard had been through and telling myself that if I was gonna' be serious about struggling for freedom, justice, and equality, I needed to step up my efforts and dedication," said Wang in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "I've tried to do that ever since, and that first meeting with Richard was the catalyst."

Aoki was not immediately keen on the idea of making a documentary about his life when asked during his first meeting with the two Chinese American college students.

Months later he agreed to allow Wang and Cheng to create what would become "Aoki," a 94-minute documentary that will be screened at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival March 20.

"I don't know what specifically changed Richard's mind, but on the day he called me to say he'd be willing to let Ben and I film a documentary on his life, he said, 'If any of my life's experiences can be useful to the next generation I'm willing to share them,'" said Cheng.

But Wang and Cheng needed to learn how to make a film first.

A Civil Rights Activist

Born in San Leandro, Calif. in 1938, Aoki was a Sansei who was incarcerated during World War II with his family at Topaz. In the film "Aoki," he talked about getting into a fight with another child over a candy bar while at camp.

The Aoki family would later move to West Oakland where he would earn the title as "the toughest Oriental of West Oakland."

After his military service, Aoki returned to his old neighborhood where he attended Merritt College. There he reunited with his long-time friend Huey Newton, one of the founders of the Black Panther Party. Newton would invite Aoki to join the Panthers. Later Aoki became a gun toting "soldier for the people."

But filmmakers Wang and Cheng said there was a different side to Aoki. Despite the gritty stories Aoki shared with them about the civil rights movement in a 2002 interview, it was his willingness to always make time for "youngsters" that surprised them.

"When I first met Richard I was surprised with how generous he was with his time to two young students who he had never met," Cheng explained. "Here was an elder who didn't have to give us the time of day, but he took us under his wing and always made himself available whenever we wanted to consult him about various issues or ask him for his advice."

Aoki shared his "old war stories" with them, talking about his involvement with the Third World Liberation Front strike and the Black Panthers. Aoki was a civil rights activist and Panther field marshal, distributing weapons to other Black Panthers.

He taught fellow Panthers how to dismantle a gun, something he learned while in the U.S. Army. Meanwhile Aoki kept a low profile, aware of how the Bay Area police department was targeting Panthers.

"He always said there was a direct correlation between leaders appearing on the front pages of newspapers and ending up being assassinated," Cheng continued. "It would've been nice to have had more pictures of him but at the same time the fact that Richard had the discipline to keep a low profile ... is part of what makes him such a remarkable person."

Behind the historical photographs of Aoki clad in black sunglasses and beret, was a man with a "razor sharp wit," said Cheng.

"One funny moment that I recall was his argument with a

childhood friend of his over who was the better ping-pong player." Cheng added, "We didn't have the cameras rolling at the time but the entire argument and trash talk was hilarious."

The conversation ended with Aoki challenging his friend to head over to the recreation center to settle the argument over a game of ping-pong. The off-camera moment occurred two months after Aoki suffered a stroke.

The Final Cut

Filming for "Aoki" began in 2004 with the help of a small grant that funded equipment and production costs. The remaining funds for "Aoki" came out of the filmmakers' pockets.

Using a Sony HC-1000 camcorder, Wang and Cheng interviewed well-known civil rights activists like Kathleen Cleaver, Yuri Kochiyama, Bobby Seale, Elbert "Big Man" Howard and Douglas Daniels, among others.

The two students learned about filmmaking as they went. Wang would learn editing and filming techniques, which he would later teach to Cheng.

Wang and Cheng initially thought they would tell Aoki's story like a shorter music video to appeal to a younger audience. But they soon learned that would not work.

"As first-time filmmakers without a lot of knowledge or any experience with the documentary format, we were initially really leaning towards something with faster cuts and non-stop hip-hop music throughout," Wang said.

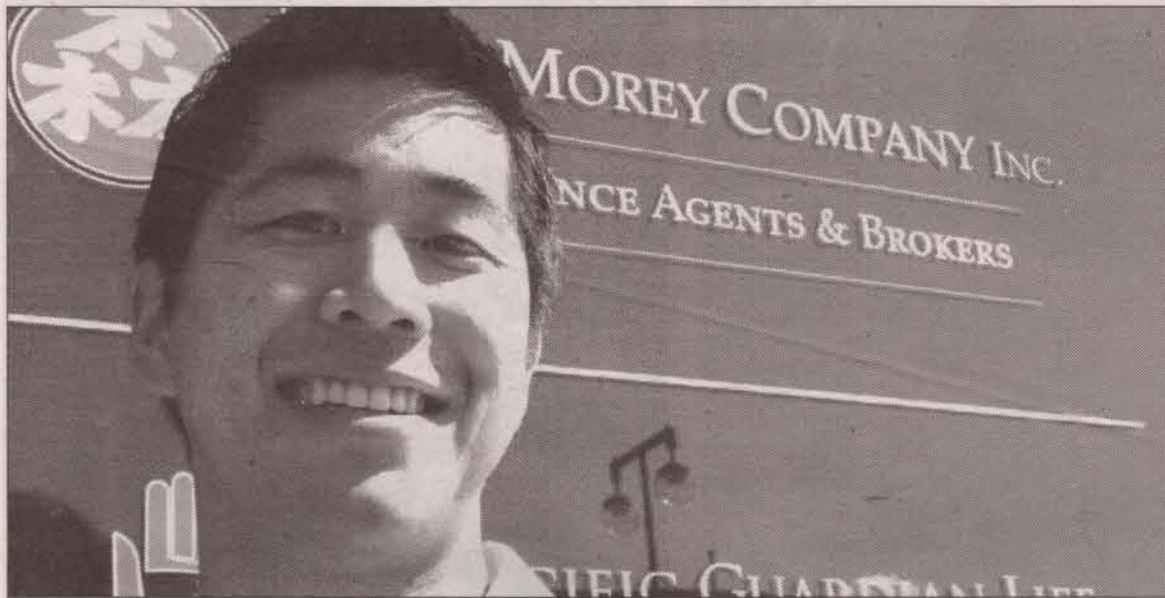
"I think we started out wanting to approach the film from that perspective because we wanted to have it in a style that would interest and appeal to younger audiences," Cheng added. "As time went on in the process we realized the flashy quick-cut approach didn't really allow us to tell Richard's story in the nuanced and expanded manner that we felt his story deserved."

Aoki died last March, but the filmmakers were able to show him a rough cut of the film in 2008 at the EastSide Cultural Center in Oakland. They said he was pleased with the outcome.

The filmmakers said they hope sharing Aoki's story with others would ensure that his struggles were not in vain.

"Richard has had a huge influence on my life as a friend and mentor, ultimately that means more to me than the fact that I was able to document his life," Cheng said. ■

On the Web: <http://aokifilm.com>



Yonsei Joshua Morey opened shop in Little Tokyo following a three-generation family tradition.

A Family Legacy in L.A.'s Little Tokyo

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

John Morey, 61, can still recall filling rice bags in his youth with his three other brothers at his family-owned rice wholesaler shop in Little Tokyo.

After immigrating from Japan, his grandparents Bungoro and Fugino Morey founded one of the first businesses called the Asia Company, a general store, on First Street in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

During World War II the family lost their business when they were incarcerated at Camp Amache in Colorado. At the war's end, the family returned to Japantown to open a rice wholesaler shop called Morey and Company. John Morey's father George left the rice business in the mid-1960s to work in insurance sales.

"To us it was just a natural thing that we move back in our own community," explained John Morey, of the J. Morey Company, in a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen*. "Our next generation of J. Morey Company is coming on board. So Josh is down in Little Tokyo."

Now a new generation of the Morey family has set up shop in Little Tokyo. John Morey's son Joshua Morey opened six months ago a branch of the family insurance business, J. Morey Company. It is a personal and commercial insurance company. Their other family-run offices are established in San Jose's Japantown and in Anaheim, Calif.

The L.A. office is blocks away from where the first Morey shop once operated.

"There's a legacy and I feel like it's an honor. I feel really tied to this area."

Little Tokyo Roots

The first reported business in L.A.'s Japantown opened its doors in 1885. It was a restaurant run by Kame, a former mariner. By 1908, according to information on the Little Tokyo Business Association's Web site, there were over 40 businesses in the area.

When WWII broke out, some Japantowns across California, and elsewhere, disappeared. There are three Japantowns left in California including those in San Jose, L.A. and San Francisco.

The J. Morey Company is not the only family owned business with historical roots in L.A.'s Little Tokyo. Businesses like the Aihara Insurance Agency and Fugetsu-Do bakery, among others, have been a part of L.A.'s Little Tokyo for decades.

"It's certainly good to have the J. Morey Company setting up their offices here. Who knows maybe that would help start a trend," said Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC).

Joshua Morey said he wanted to return to Little Tokyo because of its rich history and to have a sense of community.

"Honestly, I wanted to move back here because partially I really want to get involved in the Japanese community," Joshua Morey said as his neighbor Yoshi Seki, a first generation JA, pressed his face against Morey's office window and greeted him.

Joshua Morey joking opened the office's front door saying to Seki, "Hey, you got a problem?"

It's that type of community interaction among JAs of different generations that attracted him to the area, he said. He hopes more JAs of his generation move in the area, too.

"I think — and this is just coming from a guy who has just been here for about six months — but I think a lot of Japanese Americans need to move back in," Joshua Morey said. "Japanese Americans can understand the American culture and the Japanese culture. They can bridge the gap between the Japanese business owners."

Many JAs who work in L.A.'s Little Tokyo said they would also like to call the area home like their ancestors once did.

"If it were to be an actual physical living home for Japanese Americans again I think that would be really great because it would be connected to our history, our culture and heritage," said Kristin Fukushima, JACL-PSW public policy coordinator.

Morey and Fukushima said they hope the recreational center, or Budokan, will bring in more JAs to the area.

Japantown's Future

Joshua Morey recognizes that today's Little Tokyo is different from when his great grandfather first set up shop. JAs are spread out throughout California, he said. They do not need to travel to the area for Japanese foods and products. But he said the history and culture of Little Tokyo are unique to Los Angeles.

"You go to Japantown and you feel like you're entering into a bit of Japan in your own city. I think if you lose that there's no reason to come down here," Joshua Morey said.

Despite being forced from their business years ago, John Morey said his grandparents and parents were never bitter about having to leave Little Tokyo. He said they would be proud that a new generation of the Morey family is rediscovering L.A.'s Japantown.

"I think both my grandparents and parents would be tickled. I think they would be very appreciative and proud of him," John Morey said. "I think it would really make them happy." ■

JACL Calls for Fellowship Applicants

JACL is accepting applications for the 2010 Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship, a program that allows an up-and-coming Asian Pacific American leader to serve in the Washington, D.C. office of a U.S. senator or a member of the House of Representatives.

The fellow will receive a stipend to cover living expenses plus roundtrip airfare. The fellowship period will be for six to eight months. The exact dates will be worked out with the schedule of the selected fellow, the Congressional office, and the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Any student who is a college senior or currently enrolled in a graduate or professional program is encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated a commitment to APA issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. U.S. citizenship and membership in the JACL is required. Past JACL participation and leadership are considered in the judging. Student/youth memberships in the JACL may be obtained for \$25 a year.

The application deadline is April 15.

The JACL established the Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The purpose of the fund is to develop leaders for public service by providing opportunities for the fellows to work for a member of Congress.

The program was administered by Dr. Tom Tamaki for 20 years and is now handled by the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Applications may be sent via e-mail to policy@jacl.org or by fax to the JACL Washington, D.C. office at 202/296-8082.

The chosen applicant will be announced by June 1. ■

For forms and information: www.jacl.org

MORI

(continued from page 5)

practice.

As the JACL has found it necessary in recent years to rely more heavily on corporate donations, we are now seeking corporate partners for the convention. We ask for your help in this effort. Anyone who has strong corporate contacts is encouraged to contact JACL staff members.

The national board elections will take place at this convention as well. We request anyone who is willing and able to run for office. Contact a JACL staff or board member for further information.

We are grateful to David Lin for stepping up as the JACL's new vice

president for membership. And we thank everyone who has served on the national board this biennium.

Although change is often difficult to accept, annual conventions will be an asset to the JACL. They will allow for more continuity in handling issues. There will be more opportunities to build relationships, network and make new friends.

Fundraising is a major consideration because corporate sponsors prefer the yearly schedule. We anticipate that the annual conventions will be a benefit to the JACL and hope everyone will grasp the concept with full acceptance.

Visit the JACL Web site at www.jacl.org to register for the 2010 JACL national convention.

See you in Chicago! ■

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West Los Angeles JACL is Seeking Scholarship and Internship Applicants

The West Los Angeles JACL chapter is seeking candidates for its 2010 scholarship and internship programs.

Each year, the chapter awards a college scholarship to a top area high school senior and a scholarship to a student in medical school.

Candidates for the high school scholarship must have at least a 3.6 grade point average. The winner will be chosen based on academics as well as school and community involvement.

Tyler Oyakawa, a Santa Monica High School graduate who is now a freshman at the University of California, San Diego, was awarded the chapter's \$1,000 scholarship last year.

In addition, the chapter awards the \$2,500 Chiyo M. Hattori Memorial Scholarship to a student pursuing a career in medicine. The scholarship is named in honor of a long-time chapter supporter.

Candidates need to have been accepted or are already enrolled in an accredited medical school.

Dean Sasaki of Fountain Valley, who is in his third year of medical school at UCLA, was the recipient of last year's scholarship. The application deadline is April 15.

The internship program is designed to give the participant an

opportunity to work with the JACL at the district and chapter levels. The intern will develop leadership, program planning and networking skills while helping the organization carry out its mission of civil rights advocacy.

The intern will work under the supervision of the Pacific Southwest District (PSW) staff at its office in Little Tokyo. Duties may include work involving public policy, community preservation and civil rights issues, as well as assisting the West Los Angeles JACL implement new programs.

The internship period is flexible, though designed to be full-time for two months. Interns should be 18 or older, preferably a college student or a recent college graduate. Last year's intern, Kristin Fukushima, helped the PSW staff with public policy matters and also helped design its Web site: <http://westlajacl.wordpress.com>.

Upon completion of duties, the intern will receive a \$1,500 stipend. The application deadline is May 14. Selection will be made in early June.

For an application to either the scholarship or internship, send an e-mail request to: westlajacl@yahoo.com.

Apply For Fellowships With APAICS

Fellowship opportunities are available with The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), a non-profit, Washington, D.C.-based educational organization that empowers APAs to fill the political pipeline.

The application deadline for all fellowships is April 30.

The nine-month program provides APAICS fellows with the opportunity to be placed in either

the executive or legislative branches of government as well as federal agencies, or non-profit organizations in the Washington area.

Fellows will be assigned specific projects in their placement offices.

"Not only is it a great way to network, one gets to work on relevant policy issues," said Meina Banh, a current APAICS fellow.

COMMENTARY

Get Counted in the 2010 Census

By Phillip Ozaki and Carla Pineda

Another decade has gone by, so that means it's Census time! The JACL is making extraordinary efforts to make sure everybody in our community gets counted.

Over \$400 billion in federal funding is at stake. One person left out is equal to a loss of \$1,300 in his/her neighborhood. Everyone deserves a piece of the pie so make sure to get your forms in at the beginning of April. Historically, minorities have been undercounted including Asian Pacific Americans, and the JACL hopes to prevent that in 2010.

The image of Japanese Americans is usually of the Nisei, Sansei and beyond who have been in the country for many generations. However, 2000 Census data indicates that only about one-third of respondents fit this image and are full Japanese. Another one-third are of mixed descent. The last one-third are newer immigrants called Shin Issei and Shin Nisei.

In order to get a complete and accurate count of the JA and APA communities, we must learn about the special needs of each sector of the population.

Mixed-Race Ethnicity

If someone is full Japanese or another Asian group, he or she can simply check off the correct box or write it in, but what if someone is mixed race? Mixed individuals are able to check more than one category in response to the race question. This allows, for example, a person who has a Caucasian parent and a Japanese parent to check both boxes. Japanese Latin Americans can check off the Hispanic box as well.

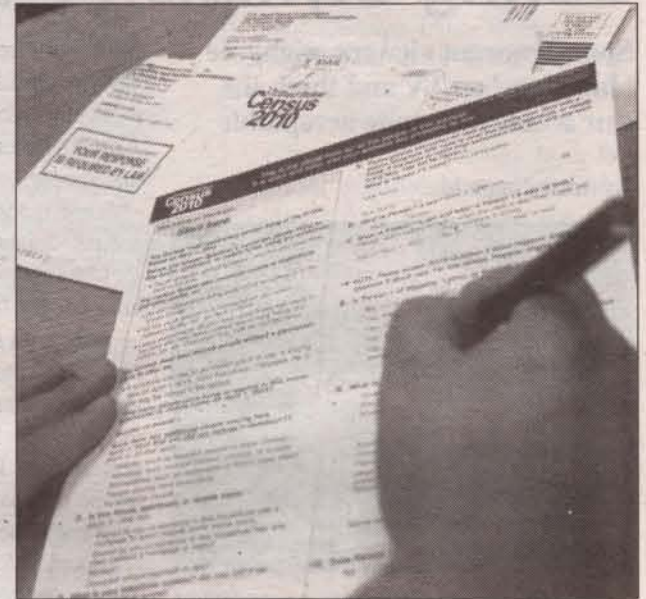
Head of Household Matters

Counting a household is different from counting the individuals in it. This prevents an undercount of minority populations. The Census only counts mixed-race households if the person of color completes the form as Person No. 1. Regardless of who makes more money or the decisions in your household, the person of color should be listed as Person No. 1.

Disconnected Identity

Some mixed-raced people may identify more with one part of their race than others and fill out their Census form in a way that is harmful.

Imagine someone filling out their form as only Caucasian when in fact they are one-eighth Japanese. Then, the portrait of the Japanese and entire American



community becomes skewed. It is important for mixed-raced people to check off all appropriate boxes even if they do not identify with each category.

There are more concerns for our community, including:

- Counting the elderly — some may forget to fill out their forms or forget that it's a Census year. Please remind our seniors.
- College students — Those living away from home are counted at school and not at home. Students studying abroad are not counted, while foreign students studying in the U.S. will be counted.
- The economic crisis — Local funding has decreased for Census outreach. In California, the 2000 Census budgeted \$25 million, but the 2010 Census only has \$2 million. We need to depend on community organizations and individuals to help out.
- Transient housing — Many families and children may change their living situation. Generally, a person is counted where he or she lives and sleeps most of the time during the year.
- New immigrants — Some may be unaware of the Census or need language assistance. Translated materials in almost every Asian language can be found at: www.fillinourfuture.org.

For more information about the 2010 Census, contact the Census Bureau (www.census.gov) or the JACL Washington, D.C. office at: 202/223-1240, census@jacl.org or www.jacl.org.

Phillip Ozaki is the JACL Mineta Fellow and Carla Pineda is a 2010 Census intern in the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

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Amache Project Summer Internship

The University of Denver Amache Project is seeking a high school or college student who had family at the Amache camp in Colorado to intern for a one-month field course in historical archaeology and museum studies at Amache. Stipend or partial tuition waiver will be available to the student chosen for the internship. To request an application or for more information contact:

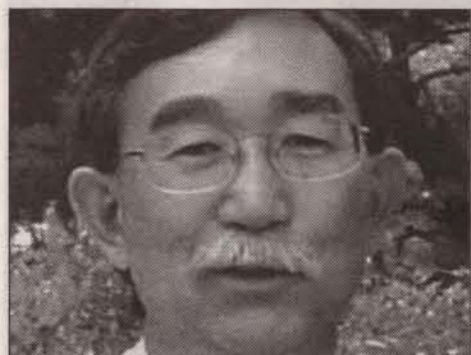
Dr. Bonnie Clark
bclark@du.edu or
303.871-2875 or visit:
<https://portfolio.du.edu/amache>

COMMENTARY

'Japadog' Racial Slur Breaks During Olympic TV Coverage

Some ignorant viewers might see 'Japadogs' on TV and think the slur is cute and quite acceptable

By Andy Noguchi



"Japadog", a Japanese style hotdog stand in Vancouver promoted by a Japan-based company, garnered widespread American media due to NBC's Winter Olympic TV coverage, including on Sacramento station KCRA 3, on Feb. 28. Complaints about the racial slur "jap" started popping up around the country, including at the Northern California and National JACL offices. The Florin JACL has taken up this issue.

"Jap" is a racial slur used to attack and dehumanize Japanese and other Asian Pacific Americans, often justifying actions including locking up 120,000 innocent people in internment camps during World War II. If anyone has any doubts about the racial slur, they can even look it up in Merriam-Webster's dictionary.

You can also ask many Japanese Americans today (throwing in the Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Hmong, Thai, and Cambodian Americans, too) and they've been targeted with this slur, as well as "chinaman", "chink", "gook", "slant eyes", and any number of other epithets. I know my wife and I, as well as our college-age daughter, grew up with those insults.

Whether people intend harm or not, it makes no difference. This is how such slurs

have been used and continue to be used. They're insulting and need to stop. Do you think that an "N" dog would be OK for African Americans? Slurs are racism, pure and simple.

Some ignorant viewers across the country seeing "Japadogs" on TV might now think they're cute, exotic, and chic — quite acceptable. Maybe like the sushi craze of the 1990s — only with a serving of racism on the side. No, thank you. Shove the "Japadog" down the disposal and hold the racism.

The Florin JACL contacted KCRA TV3 to protest the "Japadog" broadcast. We might not be able to control what a foreign company names itself, but we can certainly talk to our local TV stations about spreading racial slurs in our community.

To KCRA's credit, News Director Anzio Williams promptly took the "Japadog" news clip off their Web site, discussed the offensive nature of this term with his producers, and contacted other NBC affiliates around the country. Williams mentioned the story had originally been shared by an Orlando, Florida NBC reporter working in Vancouver.

We are also taking up this issue directly with the "Japadog" company. Being from Japan, they might be clueless about JAs. Either way, no one should be making a buck off of other's misery, at least not without a fight that is.

Additionally, we are contacting other JACL chapters around Northern California and the nation about this racial slur attacking our families and community.

"Dropping a dime" to your local NBC affiliate to remove this free news clip publicity from their Web sites might be a good step in other locales, too. What do you think? ■

Andy Noguchi is the Florin JACL and the NCWNP district civil rights co-chair. He may be contacted at andynoguchi@hotmail.com.

CSU Searches for Former JA Students

Six California State University campuses are searching for 250 Japanese American students who during World War II were forcibly removed from CSU campuses. University officials hope to award these Nisei students honorary Bachelor of Humane Letters degrees as part of the CSU's Nisei Honorary Degree Project.

The CSU campuses are: Fresno, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo and Pomona — which was a branch of San Luis Obispo during those years. CSU Dominguez Hills is assisting in the search for students, and will host a ceremony at its campus if there are Los Angeles-area Nisei who cannot travel to their former campuses.

The campuses are working with local JA community organizations to help locate their former students using lists that they have compiled from old registrar's records, yearbooks, alumni and library records.

An Honorary Nisei Committee of prominent Japanese Americans has been formed to support the search effort.

A new Web site, www.calstate.edu/nisei, has also been launched to provide application forms for the Nisei students and/or their families.

"By awarding these degrees, the California State University hopes to help heal the wounds of injustice suffered by these Japanese Americans, to honor their academic intentions and to welcome them back to the CSU as alumni," said Charles B. Reed, CSU chancellor.

The CSU project is a result of Assembly member Warren Furutani's Assembly Bill 37, which called on the CSU, University of California and the community colleges to award the degrees. ■

For more information: nisei@calstate.edu



JACL, OCA Leadership Conference Held In D.C.

JACL and OCA leaders from across the U.S. recently attended the Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference to learn about current national public policy issues in the Asian Pacific American community.

The March 5-9 event featured speakers like Dr. Phil Tajitsu Nash and Bruce Yamashita, a former officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves who won a legal case against institutional racial discrimination. Former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and Rep. Mike Honda were also featured speakers.

Lawmakers who addressed the participants included Sen. Daniel Inouye, Reps. Mazie Hirono, Madeleine Bordallo, and Judy Chu, and Eni Faleomavaega and David Wu.

Participants also visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism where Warren Minami explained the history of the memorial.

The four-day conference is sponsored by State Farm. Leslie Moe-Kaiser and Art Ruiz of State Farm attended the conference and made presentations. ■



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Jun. 27-Jul. 8	Yamato Hokkaido Tour 12 days/ 10 nights visiting Sapporo, Sounkyo, Kawayu Spa, Kushiro, Ikeda, Obihiro, Lake Toya, Hakodate.	Peggy Mikuni
July 9-15	Yamato Niagara to Old Quebec Tour 7 days/ 6 nights visiting Niagara Falls, Toronto, Thousand Islands, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec. There will be a 2 night optional extension to Charlevoix County for a <i>seafaring villages & seafood tour</i> .	Philippe Theriault
Aug. 8-17	Yamato Canadian Rockies & Majestic British Columbia Coast Tour 10 days/ 9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, rail to Prince George, rail to Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River, Victoria.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 14-23	Yamato Tour to Ireland 10 days/ 8 nights visiting Dublin, Belfast, Kilkeny, Cork, Killarney, Limerick.	Philippe Theriault & Peggy Mikuni
Oct. 6-13	Yamato Exclusive Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Tour 8 days/ 7 nights visiting Roswell UFO Museum, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands National Monument, Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Taos, Durango (Colorado) Narrow Gauge Railway to Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park, Gallup.	Philippe Theriault
Oct. 10-17	Yamato Music Cities Tour with Collette Vacations 8 days/ 7 nights visiting New Orleans, Memphis/Graceland, Nashville/Grand Ole Opry and Country Music Hall of Fame.	Sharon Seto
Oct. 16-30	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan 15 days/ 13 nights visiting Kyoto, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Beppu, Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
Nov. 1-8	Yamato Exclusive Southern Delights Tour 8 days/ 7 nights visiting Miami, Florida, Keys, Kennedy Space Center, Orlando/Walt Disney World, St. Augustine, Florida; Savannah & Atlanta, Georgia.	Lilly Nomura
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Dec. 8-11	Yamato Best of Branson Tour 4 days/ 3 nights including 4 shows, Branson sightseeing and visit to Silver Dollar City.	Peggy Mikuni

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A Place For Miné Okubo

The artist's alma mater is raising funds to build a gallery for her collection.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Riverside Community College needs to raise \$500,000 to build a facility to house a Miné Okubo collection that scholars say is the largest and most complete body of materials on the Japanese American experience during the mid-20th century.

In 2005, RCC paid \$2.2 million to purchase the Citrus Belt Savings and Loan Building, a historic 10,000-square-foot facility located at 3855 Market Street in Riverside, Calif. It is investing an additional \$4 million towards the creation of a gallery and archives through use of redevelopment funds from the city of Riverside.

Boxes of Okubo's personal items were donated to RCC after her passing in 2001 at the age of 88.

The collection includes photographs, paintings and sketches that have never been exhibited.

It's the largest repository of Okubo's papers and artwork in a single location, RCC officials say.

The Nisei artist and community activist is perhaps best known for writing and illustrating the groundbreaking 1946 book, "Citizen 13660," the first account of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. It is still being used in many college curricula today.

Okubo was a "fiercely independent" native of Riverside, Calif., who never forgot her roots, her niece



Seiko Buckingham told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Okubo attended Riverside Junior College from 1930-33. She went on to the University of California, Berkeley to earn her bachelor's and master's degree in fine arts in 1935 and 1936, respectively.

During World War II, she was incarcerated at Topaz and assigned the number 13660.

"She had an affinity for RCC," said Buckingham. The Okubo collection includes letters to the *Pacific Citizen* and the JACL.

Almost a decade after her death, RCC officials hope preserving and showcasing Okubo's collection at future events — including a 2012 celebration of what would have been her 100th birthday — will shed light on this little known part of Okubo's legacy. ■

To Donate

Send donations to:
Riverside Community College District Foundation
C/O: Miné Okubo Initiative
4800 Magnolia Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506



Issei from Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL recite the Pledge of Allegiance as new U.S. citizens in 1952.

COMMENTARY

A Stamp to Honor the Patriotism of all JAs

By Mas Hashimoto

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter continues to support the Nisei veterans of World War II's proposal for a U. S. Postal Service commemorative stamp. We believe the MIS/100th/442nd/WACs/nurses and other Nisei who gallantly served during WWII are worthy of consideration. We are grateful to the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) for considering the Nisei veterans WWII stamp proposal.

A commemorative stamp, the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism ("Memorial to Patriotism"), has been proposed by the CSAC, and the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL believes a stamp honoring the patriotism of all Japanese Americans is equally worthy of consideration.

In 2009, our Northern California, Western Nevada Pacific District's resolution (below) was tabled by the JACL national board in consideration of "one more effort" to secure approval for the Nisei veterans WWII stamp.

The last "WHEREAS" in this resolution must be deleted as it is no longer true.

Here is the resolution to the JACL national board:

WHEREAS, a commemorative stamp honoring the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism is being considered by the United States Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, an opportunity to have a stamp commemorating the Japanese Americans may be passed over if silence is our response, and

WHEREAS, the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism commemorative stamp provides the opportunity to educate the greater population of the United States of America about the unjust incarceration of loyal Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II, and

WHEREAS, such an injustice should never happen again, and

WHEREAS, the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism's commemorative stamp would enable the stories of loyalty, heroism, and strength of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and internees to be known throughout our nation, and

WHEREAS, our support of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism commemorative stamp in no way changes or compromises our support for a Nisei Veterans of World War II stamp, and

*WHEREAS, the organizers of the Nisei Veterans of World War II do not wish to stand in the way of a

National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism stamp;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Board of the Japanese American Citizens League supports the proposal for a United States Postal Service commemorative stamp honoring the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and instructs all District Councils and chapters to support the effort nationally to secure the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism stamp.

The offer of a "Memorial to Patriotism" stamp is magnanimous, generous, thoughtful, and respectful of our heritage.

For years, we heard and witnessed *kodomo no tame ni* ("For the Sake of the Children"). Our Issei grandparents and parents struggled so hard for us to succeed. The older Nisei, too, were very much "trailblazers." We are the beneficiaries of their everyday survival — of the early economic hardships, discrimination, the depression, imprisonment ("internment"), military war record, and the re-settlement after the war.

Now, it is our turn to return the kindness with *Ojii-chans and Obaa-chans no tame ni* ("For the Sake of our Grandfathers and Grandmothers"). It will be our expression of gratitude to all who helped us along the way — including Walt and Milly Woodward, Ernest Besig, Gov. Ralph Carr of Colorado, and you can name many more.

A resolution in support of the "Memorial to Patriotism" stamp proposal will be presented to the JACL national council in Chicago for approval. We believe every JACL member and every Nisei veteran will support a stamp proposal that embraces: 1. our early Issei heritage; 2. our imprisonment (internment stories); 3. MIS contributions; 4. 100th/442nd RCT gallantries; and 5. our wonderful and talented Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei and Hapa generations, too. One stamp couldn't tell of our contributions to this nation.

Perhaps the date of issue and celebration will be on the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, on Aug. 10, 2013, at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism site in Washington, D.C.

Your support for this worthy consideration is very much appreciated. Please write to the stamp committee:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Suite 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432 ■

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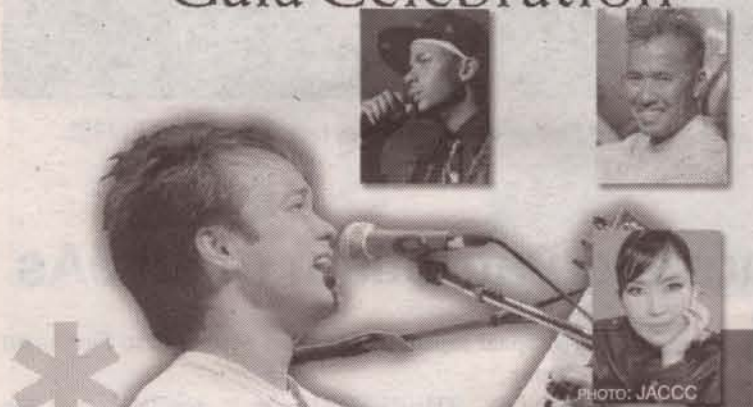


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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*

30th Anniversary Gala Celebration



JACCC 30th Anniversary

LOS ANGELES

March 30, 7 p.m.

Japan American Theater and JACCC Plaza
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Celebrating 30 memorable years as an anchor institution in the Little Tokyo community, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center will present its anniversary gala featuring taiko legend Kenny Endo, jazz piano virtuoso Keiko Matsui, five-time Grammy winner Daniel Ho and Japanese music superstar Jero.

For information:

JESSIE KIKUCHI 213/628-2725 EXT. 142

East

Art of Gaman

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 5-Jan. 30, 2011

GO!

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

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

Installation and Graduate Recognition Luncheon CHERRY HILL, NJ

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The keynote speaker will be the ambassador and consul general in New York, Shinichi Nishimiya.

\$40/member; \$45/non-member; \$20/children.

Info: Cliff Akiyama

cliffakiyama@yahoo.com or Scott

Nakamura, drnakams@hotmail.com

JACL's Salute to Champions WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sept. 16

The National JACL Gala Awards Dinner is an annual fundraising event that seeks to honor individuals and organizations that have championed the causes of the JACL.

Info: www.jacl.org

Takayanagi Speaker Series on Immigration BOSTON, MA

April 1, 2:30 p.m.

Campus Center, Ballroom C
100 William T Morrissey Blvd.
Come join the discussion with Ali Noorani about the status of immigration reform, Congress the Administration, and immigration advocacy.

Info: (617) 287-5650 or
www.iaas.umb.edu

Midwest

National JACL Convention CHICAGO, IL

June 30-July 4

Swissotel

323 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601-9722

Join other JACL members from across the nation in this biennial convention hosted by the Chicago JACL. Activities include workshops, special speakers and banquets.

Register: \$250/before June 10; \$200/youth ages 25 and under before June 10.

Info: www.jacl.org/news/2010ChicagoJMTEMP033009/home.html

Pacific Northwest

The Way Back Home PORTLAND, OR

March 27, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dolores Winningstand Theatre
1111 SW Broadway

"The Way Back Home" was inspired by Portland Taiko's own personal experiences and stories from the local Vietnamese community that were woven into their 2007 production. The performance explores the theme of home while showing the full artistic range of Portland Taiko.

Info: www.portlandtaiko.org

65th Annual NVC Installation Banquet SEATTLE, WA

March 20, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rainier Golf and Country Club
11133 Des Moines Memorial Dr
Save the date for the 65th Annual Installation Banquet of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee

with keynote speaker Dow Constantine of the King Co.

Info: www.seattlennvc.org

SEE

N Calif. W Nev.

Meet Maggie Gee BERKELEY, CA

April 18, 3 p.m.

Eastwind Books of Berkeley
2066 University Ave.
Come meet the Author of "Sky High: The True Story of Maggie Gee," as well as Maggie Gee herself.

Info: Eastwind Books of Berkeley
(510) 548-2350

Contra Costa JACL 75th Anniversary BERKELEY, CA

April 11, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hs Lordships Restaurant
199 Seawal Dr.

Join the Contra Costa Chapter of the JACL for a luncheon and program to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. The keynote speaker is Steven Okazaki, Academy Award-winning filmmaker (*Days of Waiting*-1990, *White Light/Black Rain: the Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*-2007).

Info: Esther Takeuchi
ektake@aol.com

Pacific Rim Street Festival SACRAMENTO, CA

May 23, 10 a.m.

Old Sacramento and
Westfield Downtown Plaza
The Annual Pacific Rim Street Festival's theme is "paper" for 2010.

The Festival will be held in Old Sacramento, and will feature, entertainment, food and many hands-on paper crafts for children and adults.

Info:

<http://www.pacificrimstreetfest.com/>

CSM APA Film Festival SAN MATEO, CA

March 20, 1 p.m.

CSM Building 03, Theatre
1700 West Hillsdale Boulevard
The afternoon screening will feature films that the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) sponsored. The evening program starts at 7 p.m. and features "Colma: The Musical" (a sing-a-long version).
For info go to the event calendar on: www.collegeofsanmateo.edu

JAWAUCB Luncheon OAKLAND, CA

April 24, 11:30 a.m.

Yoshi's Restaurant
510 Embarcadero

The luncheon program will include honoring Congresswoman Doris Matsui, California's Fifth District, as Alumna of the Year. Five U.C. Berkeley student scholarships will also be awarded. This year's keynote speaker is the Honorable Joni Hiramoto, Superior Court Judge, Contra Costa County.

Info: Gloria Imagire (916) 427.8447
or: www.JAWAUCB.org

Pacific Southwest

World Premiere of "No-No Boy" SANTA MONICA, CA

March 27 - April 18

Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd.

Ken Narasaki's stage adaptation of John Okada's ground breaking novel "No-No Boy" will have its world premiere. The same artistic team produced "Innocent When You Dream" (Critic's Choice LA Times, Pick of the Week LA Weekly).

Info: www.nonoboy2010.com

Tanoshii Fun Camp Registration GARDENA, CA

April 24, 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Gardena Valley JCI 2nd Floor
1964 West 162nd St.

Come register for the youth camp, which is sponsored by the South Bay of the JACL and the Gardena Valley JCI. The mission of the Tanoshii Fun Camp is to "promote the legacy of the Japanese American culture and heritage to our youth."

Info: Ray Shibata
TanoshiiFunCamp@gmail.com or
(310) 376-6624

DO!

Japanese Cultural Festival SANTA FE, AZ

March 13, 10 a.m.-5p.m.

Santa Fe Community Convention Center
201 W. Marcy Ave

The 6th annual Japanese Cultural Festival will feature music, taiko, food, martial arts, a silent auction and workshops.

Info: www.santafejin.org or
505/471-9022

Poston Camp III Reunion LAS VEGAS, NV

April 5 - 7

Golden Nugget
129 Fremont St.

Save the date for the next Poston Camp III Reunion to be held in Las Vegas.

Info: geoad48@yahoo.com

Change the Story of Women! "V-Day Filipinas 2010"

LOS ANGELES, CA

April 25, 4 p.m.

Aratani Theater
244 S San Pedro St

Come see Tia Carrere, Becca Godinez, Jennifer Paz, Lea Salonga, and Tamlyn Tomita in "V-Day Filipinas 2010." V-Day promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise funds and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.

Info: JACCC (213) 680-3700 or
www.jaccc.org

Arizona JACL Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Luncheon PHEONIX, AZ

April 25, 11:30 a.m.

Pheonix College Culinary Cafe
3310 North 10th Ave

Come Join the Arizona Chapter JACL for their 49th Annual luncheon for the Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship with speaker Tom Ikeda, executive director of Densho.

Info: Megan Ishikawa
(480) 225.2530

"Hidden Legacy" Tribute to Teachers of Japanese Traditional Arts in WRA Camps LOS ANGELES, CA

April 24, 3 p.m.

Koyasan Buddhist Temple
342 East First St

This unique program will feature performances and discussions with Japanese Cultural Arts teachers (Odori, Biwa, Shamisen, Koto), who taught in the WRA Camps during WWII.

Info: Gavin Kelley
(213) 628-2725 ext.133 or
Kelley@jaccc.org

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'Go•SEE•Do' is a free limited listing for P.C. readers. Not all event submissions are listed.

Don't see your event here?

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Contact the P.C.:

(800) 966-6157

or busmgr@pacificcitizen.org

SPRING CAMPAIGN

Help Keep Community Stories Alive

By Jason Chang

I am the *Pacific Citizen*.

When I was a child I can remember reading the issues of the *Pacific Citizen* that my grandparents received as members of the JACL. In recollection, it was the pictures that left the most lasting impression.

Photographs of Asian Pacific Americans from around the nation told stories of their lives and showed me how our Japanese culture was being celebrated.

You see, where I grew up we had a very small Japanese American community, and outside of my family, I had very few Asian influences. I was so busy integrating myself into mainstream America that I never realized the vast knowledge and history that was right behind the loving eyes of my grandparents.

Only now that I've grown up, am I truly curious about our history — my history.

Never did I ask about the people in those old *Pacific Citizen* articles. I simply read the articles and looked at the pictures as if they were happening somewhere far away.

As my grandparents, John and Mary Kashiki, have aged, they have become more forthcoming about their lives, describing in graphic detail the trials and triumphs of being Japanese in America, living through the World War II internment, serving in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and their reintegration into mainstream America.

I nearly let the finest JA history lesson slip through my fingers.



In many fortunate ways, hindsight is the reason I want to be involved in the JACL and why stories told in the *Pacific Citizen* are so important to this and future generations of JAs.

As we delicately balance burying past injustices and the melting of ourselves into modern America, it's the remembrance that remains so important.

Regardless of our geography, it's

the stories in the *Pacific Citizen* that teach us about our history, where our families have been and how each of share a common bond.

The Spring Campaign is underway and I encourage you to participate. Through your generosity we can continue to tell the stories of JAs and share the historical importance of our posterity with our future.

Help keep alive the stories that document our present and preserve our history.

We are all *Pacific Citizen*. ■

Jason Chang is the Central California district representative on the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board.

P.C. Spring Campaign:

Keeping Community Stories Alive

Help support the *Pacific Citizen* by donating today!

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AOYAGI-STOM

(Continued from page 2)

needs to be decided by our JACL membership, not by a select few board members. JACL is a grassroots organization, just as it always has been.

Both Lynda Lin, assistant editor, and I have always said we would be happy to go all digital if that is what the membership and readers want. But so far you have clearly stated your preference for both the print and digital versions.

In this issue we are launching our annual Spring Campaign fundraiser with the theme: "Keeping Community Stories Alive."

That is what we are trying to do here at the *P.C.* so if you can, please give generously.

Thanks for your support.

Caroline Aoyagi-Stom
 Executive Editor

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**Opting into the paperless P.C. program means you will no longer receive the print edition.*

TRIBUTE

Kinji Hiramoto

September 7, 1921 - February 25, 2010



Kinji Hiramoto, a life-long Lodi, California resident, passed away on February 25, 2010. He was 88. Kinji was always an active member of the Lodi Buddhist Church. He served several terms as president, and was a Dharma School teacher for many years. He was also a member of the Lodi Japanese American Citizens League, where he was awarded distinguished service honors for his outstanding service over the years.

Kinji still found time to be an avid sports fan and rooted for the S.F. Giants, Sacramento Kings, and the S.F. 49ers. Golfing was a real favorite, and he was a mem-

ber of the Mokuyo-Kai Golf Club in Lodi. He also enjoyed photography, playing his harmonica, and volunteering for many civic and church activities in Lodi.

Kinji is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Terry Hiramoto; his children and their spouses, Stacie Hiramoto (Ken Koyama) of Sacramento, CA, David Hiramoto (Nora Fong) of Los Altos, CA, Patti Hiramoto (Wayne Komure) of Monterey, CA, and Lorel Hiramoto (Adrienne Perry) of San Mateo, CA; grandchildren, Tadao Koyama of Santa Cruz, CA, Kazuo Koyama of Sacramento, CA, Jennifer Hiramoto of West Covina, CA, and Kenneth Hiramoto of Santa Barbara, CA; siblings, John Hiramoto (Ruby) of El Cerrito, CA, Yukiye Onizuka of San Jose, CA, Masako Fujikawa (Hiroshi) of Lodi, CA, Keiko Hiramoto Hess (Claude M.) of El Sobrahte, CA, and Edward Hiramoto of Berkeley, CA; and 22 nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at the Lodi Buddhist Church. Kinji will be dearly missed by all his family and many friends.

TRIBUTE

Ray Toshio Matsubara

February 25, 1929 - February 14, 2010



Ray Toshio Matsubara entered into Nirvana on February 14, 2010 at the age of 80. Ray was born on February 25, 1929, in Isleton, CA to the late Ichizo and Sumie Matsubara. He is survived by his loving wife of over 54 years June

Katsuno (Nakahara), children Jill (Don) Bimbaum, grandson David, Denise (Cary) Lapidus, granddaughters Callie and Casey; Dale (Tammy) Matsubara; Wendy Bartlett, grandsons Kory, Jarod (JT) and Kendal. He is also survived by brothers George Matsubara; Jean (Kiyo) Matsubara; Donald (Fumi) Matsubara, sisters-in-law Carol (Robert) Setoguchi; Frances Nakahara; brother-in-law Kazuharu Omoto and many nieces and nephews as well as aunts and cousins. Ray was preceded in death by son-in-law Ken Bartlett; brother-in-law Eddie Nakahara; and sister-in-law Yuri Omoto.

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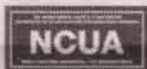
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