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APA leaders continue to press Census participation.

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Nicole Scherzinger is dancing with Hawaiian feet.

Page 10
Goalkeeper Amy Tran wants to conquer field hockey.

Diluting JA History
The new Texas board of education social studies curriculum teaches students the World War II internment was not racially motivated. >> PAGE 3
Reflecting on Lt. Ehren Watada

I compliment John Tateishi for his difficult article ("About Honor," Feb. 5-18, 2010). I related to his words of "... was torn between paying homage to the Nisei vets ... and reflecting on the case of Lt. Ehren Watada ..." But it is not hard to understand that many would be offended.

This may be an over simplification ... but couldn't we consider the saying that goes something like "... we're talking or comparing apples and oranges"?

To: Letters, Pacific Citizen

By Hugh Burleson

Paper or Perish?

We all can help maintain this newspaper by contributing to this year's Spring Campaign.

By Hugh Burleson

Close readers of the Pacific Citizen (I hope that is most of us) will have noted that from the start of the year our JACL leaders have emphasized themes and issues that grow out of the current recession and raise problems for this organization, especially tight finances and the long, steady decline in membership.

As a JACL member since 1953 ("piggy-backing" originally on my Japanese wife's membership), I am a permanent student at the JACL's "PC University," learning so much about this community by faithfully reading the PC for information and background on Japanese American and the broader Asian American history and concerns. Kinnie and I maintained our membership even while serving overseas in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s to ensure that we would always get our Pacific Citizen.

That's mainly why I readily agreed to become "the new boy on the block" on the PC editorial board this year. Though I'm not Nisei but actually Kynesi (ninth generation in America), I am in the same age group as many Nisei and over the years have counted many Nisei as close friends. Our generation perhaps gets nostalgic over the smell of printer’s ink rather than from the whine and clicks of computers and electronic printers. We may favor keeping files or clippings of the PC, as they do become inaccessible when a computer is down or in other such modern emergencies.

And a copy of the PC, simply fits more comfortably under the arm than any electronic device.

So, like the Nisei, I tend to react with alarm when anyone says the PC must go online only to save the cost of the print edition. "Hey," we call out, "let's look at the implications, the consequences and the math on that again?" The PC is the one that means the JACL has for reaching every JACL member. Reading through it month in and month out purveys to each of us what the JACL is all about, why we keep renewing our membership and why we gladly contribute to the PC's Spring Campaign each year.

A digital-only PC would mean cutting

See SPRING CAMPAIGN Page 11

I Want My Print PC.

I would prefer ... to keep the printed PC at least for a few more years.

From my experience, my contemporaries (ages 70 and up), whether Nisei or Caucasian, mostly do not have computers. I have one, but prefer to do my reading in a comfortable chair.

Fujiko Kitagawa Arizona JACL

I enjoy having the print version of the PC. I leave it in the family room and read an article or two when I’m relaxing. I’m on my computer to e-mail Word documents, reports, spreadsheets, databases, etc.

The PC is a strong link and information source to the Asian community. I would hate to lose it.

Etsuko Ookaki Portland JACL

I donated my computer about 25 years ago. It gave me more time. Without the PC, it would be useless for me to be a member.

Tom H. Takekushi Tri-Valley JACL

I will quit JACL if you go paperless.

Akira Hirota Berkeley JACL

I like the paper as is. Please don’t go paperless! I get other newsletters digital and it just isn’t the same.

Write to Us

Write to: Letters, Pacific Citizen

250 E. First St, Suite # 301

Los Angeles, CA 90012

or e-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org

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Hugh reads with his granddaughter Amaya.

By Floyd Mori

Utah Boys

When I was asked to be the speaker for the Utah JACL Day of Remembrance (DOR) program this year at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, it was my privilege to accept. The event honored two "Utah Boys" who have become prominent members of society.

Over the years, I have attended and spoken at many DOR programs as the JACL national director, this was a special evening with two old friends, Wat Misaka, who had a scholarship established in his honor, and Judge Raymond Uno, who received the 2010 Human Rights and Social Justice Award.

As a young boy growing up in Utah’s Salt Lake Valley, I enjoyed sports. Since I reached my full growth at age 12, I was
Texas Board of Education Accused of Diluting History

The JACL issued a response to the board after a member emphasized that the Japanese American internment was not prompted by racism.

By Nala J. Ko
Reporter

Japanese Americans say Texas Board of Education members are trying to “dilute” history following their decision to approve changes to the social studies curriculum.

On March 12, board members voted 10 to 5 to approve changes to the curriculum standards. Conservatives on the board won approval for curriculum amendments to correct what they called a liberal bias.

The changes to the high school curriculum standards pertaining to the Japanese American internment during World War II were amended to add “the regulation of some foreign material.”

Board member David Bradley wanted to emphasize that German and Italian Americans were incarcerated as well, to demonstrate that the internment was not racially motivated.

About 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps during WWII, many lost their homes and businesses. Japanese American leaders say if these curriculum changes make it into school textbooks, students are at risk of learning factually flawed material.

“At stake is the revision of history into something that is factually incorrect and politically colored,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. “Racism and bigotry were one of the main factors that motivated the evacuation of Japanese Americans.”

JACL issued a response March 19, saying “the racially based exclusion of Japanese Americans during WWII differed significantly from the experience of German and Italian Americans.”

Bradley, a Republican who works in real estate, did not respond to the Pacific Citizen’s requests for comment. But board member Mary Helen Berlanga said Bradley likely stressed the change to “downplay” the historical mistreatment of minority groups like JAs.

“They’re rewriting the story the way they want kids to learn it. It’s really an indoctrination. It’s their ideology,” said Berlanga, who is a Democrat and also an attorney.

Rewriting American History?

The Texas board members’ decision has garnered national media attention. The three-day long meetings to amend the curriculum standards were not short of heated debates.

Berlanga walked out March 11, the second day of meetings, accusing conservatives on the board of “rewriting history.” “Such statements seem bizarre and without merit,” explained Jonathan Saenz, an attorney with Free Market Foundation.

Berlanga said other curriculum standards have been “massacred” by conservative board members.

Members like Bradley questioned the constitutionality of the separation of church and state, saying he would provide $1,000 to a charity if constitutional evidence of such a notion were found. Bloggers have taken up Bradley’s offer by posting the First Amendment.

For Jen Wang, a Texas native and co-creator of Dagmar.com, the amendments to the curriculum standards were not a surprise.

“I am a proud Texan and I do feel like growing up there really did shape me in so many ways,” Wang explained. “But this makes me feel very ashamed and very worried.”

Wang received most of her education (from second grade to high school) in Texas where high school prep nilies and football games were preceded by Christian prayer.

“Those forces have always been at work,” Wang added. “When I took seventh grade Texas history it was only later that I realized, ‘Oh, wow! It’s really racist.’”

Berlanga said it’s important for students to learn about the mistakes the U.S. government has made to ensure that historical wrongs are never repeated.

“You learn from your mistakes and other people’s mistakes. You learn history, you find out what’s happened, you go, ‘Oh, I don’t want that to ever happen again . . . I’m so glad things have improved.’” Berlanga, “I think they need to know the truth. I think kids need to know the truth.”

Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, said students also should learn about wrongs committed against JAs.

“The Texas amendment will dilute the significance and raced-based cause of the Japanese American incarceration if their intent was to somehow equate it with the treatment of Germans and Italians,” Yoshino said.

Berlanga said she disagreed with Bradley’s push to amend the curriculum with regards to the JA internment.

“But the truth of the matter is you can’t even compare them. I mean I think the Italian American internment was something like 1,500 people that were confined. And for the German Americans I think it was more like 11,500 or something like that,” she explained.

A JACL representative will submit a statement in response to the amendments while the board is accepting public comments. Accomplishments by the 442nd Regional Combat Team, he said, are also going to be recommended for inclusion in the curriculum standards, among other things.

George Hirasaki, chapter president of the Houston JACL, said he will always speak out against the curriculum amendments.

“I hope to set the record straight,” he said. “We’ve already been in contact with the Japanese Memorial Foundation. They wanted [us] to come through our chapter to correspond to the appropriate parties.”

The curriculum standards will be posted in a state register for 30 days while public comments are collected. A final board vote will be made in May. Others like Berlanga hope to postpone the matter until January when a new board is in place.

If approved, the curriculum standards in Texas could find their way into textbooks across the nation, experts say.

“Texas has long been a huge influence on the national textbook market simply because of the size of the market here,” explained Dan Quinter, communications director with the Texas Freedom Network.

“The textbook market in Texas is so big — I mean let’s just put it this way: unlike Vegas, what happens in Texas doesn’t stay in Texas when it comes to textbooks.”
Making Sure Asian Pacific Americans Count

By Nalea J. Ko

As Asian Pacific Americans have numerous concerns about filling out the 2010 Census, but employees say they are working to diminish those fears through education.

Asian Pacific Americans have numerous concerns about filling out the 2010 Census, but employees say they are working to diminish those fears through education.

By Nalea J. Ko

Employees with the U.S. Census Bureau say many Asian Pacific American groups were underrepresented in the 2000 Census, and they are helping to roll out the “most diverse media campaign” in history to ensure accurate representation for 2010.

The U.S. Census Bureau has created advertisements in over 131 Asian languages to help educate people. Census surveys are also available in 32 different languages.

It is important to reach the diverse Asian Pacific American communities, Census Bureau employees say, because many APA groups were underrepresented in the 2000 Census and consequently “suffered from a lack of social services.”

“When I used to work in the Long Beach office as a recruiting assistant, it was well noted that the Cambodian community was dramatically undercounted in the 2000 Census,” explained Kerry Kaneichi, assistant manager for field operations at the Inglewood local census office and the PSW JACL district governor. “The Census Bureau recognized this and took steps to obtain an accurate count in the Asian and Pacific Islander community.”

Many started working for the Census Bureau particularly to ensure certain communities are accurately accounted for in 2010.

“That was the reason why I’m doing the community outreach,” said David Kawamoto JACL national vice president of planning and development, who is also a Census Bureau work crew leader. “An independent study showed that in the 2000 Census the Asian American community and the Japanese American community were very underrepresented by the numbers.”

The results of the Census will determine congressional representation and how federal money totaling over $400 billion will be distributed, among other things.

Counting Asian Americans

Other than language barriers, those working with the Census Bureau face many challenges in gathering Census data in APA communities. Paul Watanabe, a member with the Census Bureau’s Asian Advisory Committee, said the APA communities are particularly hard to count because they are the most diverse of any racial groups and are very “mobile.”

Many have also expressed concerns about the confidentiality of the survey, which has also been questioned in the past. A 2000 study by William Seltzer and Margo Anderson revealed the Census Bureau’s involvement in the World War II internment of JAs.

The study showed “misuse of otherwise benign population data systems to assist in the perpetration of major human rights abuses.”

But Seltzer and Margo stressed that their findings should not discourage people from participating in the Census, which they called the “least threatening” way of collecting population data. Officials echoed Seltzer and Margo’s sentiments, saying the 2010 Census information cannot be shared with any government agency except under the Patriot Act.

“I think there are legitimate concerns to be raised,” Watanabe said. “And again in fact you’re right that there has been — and Japanese Americans know full well — that there have been instances in which Census information has been shared.”

He said, however, what happened during WWII is not a comparable situation to what could occur in 2010. Title 13, protects the privacy of census participants’ information with established penalties in place.

Census employees also take an oath to ensure the privacy of information collected. They are barred by law from sharing information on Census surveys with others, including government agencies such as the Homeland Security Department.

“All other common challenge is a fear of government. All data that is collected on behalf of the Census is kept safe and confidential,” Kaneichi. “Your information is protected by Title 13 of the U.S. Code and any violation is a fine up to $250,000 and/or up to five years in prison. We take this very seriously and your personal information will not be shared with any other government agency or court.”

APA groups were not only undercounted in the 2000 Census, but some said they were not properly accounted for in the 1990 Census. More than 2.5 percent of APAs were undercounted in the 1990 Census, according to information from the Asian American Justice Center.

The high immigration of APA groups makes collecting Census data difficult, but Census employees said it is important to maximize participation in 2010.

“Considering how undercounted everything was that’s my main concern as a JACL member,” Kaneichi explained. “It’s not just our members who are filling out the questions, we need everybody to encourage all their friends.”

All paper Censuses should have been returned via mail by April 1. A follow-up letter will be sent to all persons who did not submit a paper form.

“And if that has not been received by the end of April, the process will begin by which enumerators will be sent out door-to-door to try to get a full return,” Watanabe said.

The first official Census count, Watanabe said, must be made available by the year’s end to reapportion congressional seats.

In addition to determining how over $400 billion will be dispersed, the Census results will impact community services and the number of representatives from each state to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is estimated, Kaneichi said, that each person counted or missed represents about $1,400 each year for 10 years. More important than the monetary apportionment determined by the Census, Watanabe said, is the redistricting that follows from that reapportionment.

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“All right down to the local level Census data is utilized in general for purposes of apportioning smaller political bodies and the redistribution that follows from that reapportionment,” Watanabe said.

“Counting Asian Americans — not only in the states and legislative districts where they reside, but in the local jurisdictions in which they reside — is critical, it’s crucial.”

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On the Web:
http://2010.census.gov
JACL Announces Collegiate D.C. Leadership Program

The JACL is now accepting applications for its Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference to be held June 10-13. The program, which is patterned after the JACL/JAOC Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference, is limited to Asian Pacific accredited college or university student leaders and advocacy organizations. The conference will also offer leadership training and workshops.

The deadline for applications is May 7.

"The intent of the program is to provide student leaders with information, training and networking opportunities," said Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director who is coordinating the program. "We hope this program provides the participants with additional motivation to be active and involved at their campuses and in their communities."

Download the application at: http://jac1.org/youthleadership.htm

For more information:
Bill Yoshino 773-728-7170 or midwest@jac1.org

Nominations Open for Nat’l Board, Resolutions Being Accepted

Nomination guidelines and application forms for JACL national board officers are available online on the JACL Web site.

Eight new national board members will be elected and sworn in at the JACL National Convention in Chicago. Each elected member will serve a two-year term.

The deadline to apply is April 2. Candidates who file after that date will be subject to additional requirements and must run from the floor of the convention.

The convention will also allow chapters to present JACL resolutions. Resolutions are final declarations of an organization’s opinion, policy or position.

They provide an opportunity for the grassroots to suggest issues the JACL should address. Resolutions may be submitted by any chapter in good standing or by a district youth/student representative. The deadline is May 2.

Submit a resolution to:
JACL Pacific Southwest District Office
Attn: Resolutions Committee
244 S. San Pedro St, Suite 4-6
Los Angeles, CA 90012.

For forms and information:
www.jac1.org

JACL National Convention
June 9th - July 4th - Seaside, Oregon

Registration Form
A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, by email at 2009JACL@jac1.org, or by calling 773-728-7170.

Name ________________________________
City ________________________________
State ________________________________
Zip ________________________________
Phone ________________________________
Handicap ________________
Resident Member ________________
Affiliate Member ________________
Industries ________________
Mail to:
JACL National Convention
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640

Credit Card Information
American Express/Visa MasterCard/Discove r
Card Number ________________________________
Expiration Date ________________________________
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Convention Hotel
Seaside Seaside Ocean Inn
Book early! Reservations must be made by June 10th to guarantee the JACL Convention rate.

Registration Packages
Package Includes Individual Events
Before 6/10 After 6/10
Convention Package $250 $300
Youth/Student Package $200 $250
Individual Events
Supper Banquet $50 $150
Elected Officers $150 $150
Welcome Reception $50 $75
Arrows Luncheon $60 $75
Youth Tour $50 $75
Optional Events
Credit Union Luncheon $55 $55
Credit Union Members $30 $30
Night at Club Chicago $150 $150
Youth Entertainment $20 $20

Information
Contact: email chicago2010@jac1.org
www.jac1.org/jclounge.htm or visit www.jac1.org and click on the 2010 JACL National Convention link.

2010 JACL National Convention: Windy City Activities and More

By Ron Yoshino

The Chicago Convention Committee has been working for the past two years to provide an exciting convention in 2010. The convention is being held at the Swissotel from June 30 to July 4.

The Swissotel was chosen as the convention hotel for many reasons. The event center where the_rooting and meal functions are scheduled is brand new—it was opened less than a year ago. All of the guest rooms have been recently refurbished and have views of the Chicago skyline.

The hotel is centrally located within walking distance of Michigan Avenue, Navy Pier, Millennium Park and Grant Park. Michigan Avenue is called the "Magnificent Mile" and, in the opinion of many Chicagoans, has the finest shopping in the country. Navy Pier joins out into Lake Michigan and provides tremendous views of the skyline and offers numerous tourist attractions. Millennium Park has the "Cloud Gate" sculpture, often called the "bean," and it also has Pritzker Pavilion where free concerts are regularly scheduled during the week of the convention on Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons.

Taste of Chicago is also scheduled during convention week. It is an annual festival held in Grant Park and provides food from some of Chicago's finest restaurants as well as music from internationally known artists.

The major convention events are the welcome reception on Thursday, the Sayonara banquet on Friday, and the youth luncheon on Saturday.

The welcome reception will provide an opportunity to make new friends and become reacquainted with old friends. The reception will have various food courts featuring famous foods from Chicago.

The awards luncheon provides an opportunity to honor achievements by various JACL chapters and JACLers from around the country. The Sayonara banquet is the highlight of the convention. The program will include a keynote speaker and the Japanese American of the Year Award.

The Youth Luncheon will include the presentation of the Youth Vision Award.

The convention committee has also planned a number of optional activities. These optional activities include the Credit Union Luncheon on Friday afternoon, the youth concert on Saturday evening, and "A Night at Club Chicago" also on Saturday evening. The Credit Union Luncheon features the activities of the National JACL Credit Union. The youth concert will feature Cynthia Lin, Oak and Gorski, and a spoken word artist. Lin is a singer/songwriter working on her third album. Oak and Gorski is a folk-rock group famous for a cappella harmonies and acoustic guitar.

A Night at Club Chicago will feature the Greatful Crane Ensemble as well as Chicago artists Keith Uchima and Steve Hashimoto. The Greatful Crane Ensemble includes producer Soji Kashiwagi, pianist Scott Nagatani and vocalists Keiko Kawa shima and Kurt Yanoshko. They will be traveling from Los Angeles to perform in Chicago for the first time. A Night at Club Chicago will be set in a 1950s Chicago Night Club and feature music from that era.

Earlier this year, an exhibit titled "Presidio and Postwar" was on display at the Presidio in San Francisco. It was prepared by the National Japanese American Historical Society and featured 17 panels and an 11-minute video. It is the story of Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II. This exhibit, along with 15 additional panels prepared by the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) in Chicago, will be on display at the convention on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning.

Workshops are scheduled for Friday morning. We are currently planning eight workshops including: Asian Americans in Politics, Preserving Family Histories, Multi-Racial Identity, Social Networking, U.S.-Japan Relations, API Health Disparities, Pan Asian Community Alliance Building, and Life Events and How to Prepare for Them. For those people who do not attend the business sessions, our committee has planned a variety of "Windy City Activities." They include a Segway tour on the Lakefront, a Chicago Cubs baseball game, an architecture river cruise, an Art Institute tour, an evening at Horseshoe Casino, a supernatural Chinatown tour, a museum campus tour, an evening at Buddy Guy's Legends, a trolley tour, an architecture walking tour, and a Devil in the White City Tour.

For more information about the convention, please go to our Web site at www.jac1.org and click on the "2010 JACL Convention" icon. You can register for the convention online or by completing the form in this issue of the Pacific Citizen.

Ron Yoshino, a past president and current treasurer of the Chicago JACL is chair of the 2010 JACL national convention. He has also served on the JACL national board and the national credentials committee.

Oak and Gorski, a folk-rock group, made up of Ken Oak (right) and Ed Gorski will perform at the youth concert.
Justices became appeals court judges to give up great careers elsewhere to go on the Supreme Court. Before they turned 40, though, Senate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley has the qualifications. Five of the nine current Supreme Court justices became appeals court judges before they were 45. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy were nominated to appellate judgeships before they turned 40, though Senate Democrats blocked Roberts’ nomination near the end of George H.W. Bush’s presidency.

Young judges appointed to the bench in the mid-1980s remain powerful forces on appeal courts in Chicago, Cincinnati, Richmond, Va., and San Francisco. And five of the nine current Supreme Court justices became appeals court judges before they were 45. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy were nominated to appellate judgeships before they turned 40, though Senate Democrats blocked Roberts’ nomination near the end of George H.W. Bush’s presidency.

But Heather Gerken, a Yale law professor and former law clerk to Justice David Souter, said she believes conservatives committed to core constitutional values.

We think it is wonderful that many consider Professor Liu has the intellect, temperament, collegiality, and fairness to be a Supreme Court justice.

—Wendy Wen Yun Chang, NAPABA judiciary committee co-chair

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Liu’s March 24 hearing was postponed amid debate over the health care reform bill. The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), which announced that it would hold a judiciary hearing viewing party in Los Angeles, Calif., also postponed the event.

“We think it is wonderful that many consider that Professor Liu has the intellect, temperament, collegiality, and fairness to be a Supreme Court justice,” said Wendy Wen Yun Chang, NAPABA judiciary committee co-chair. “This nomination is a major stepping-stone in increasing Asian Pacific American participation on the federal bench.”

If a fight over Liu’s nomination emerges in the Senate, Republicans will likely label him a liberal judicial activist, while Democrats will defend Liu as a moderate committed to core constitutional values. They will talk about his impact on the 9th Circuit, but the real focus will be on something else.

“The bigger concern is that he’ll wind up on the Supreme Court,” said Curt Levey of the conservative Committee for Justice.

Both parties have done this dance before. Democrats charged Republicans with delaying for more than a year Sonia Sotomayor’s confirmation as an appeals court judge in the late 1990s because they saw her — correctly, it turned out — as the high court’s first Hispanic justice. Sotomayor was 43 when President Bill Clinton nominated her to the appeals court. Last May, Obama picked her for the Supreme Court.

Republicans charged Democrats repudiated them in kind after President George W. Bush nominated a leading conservative lawyer and a Hispanic, Miguel Estrada, to the appeals court in Washington in 2001. Estrada’s nomination was 39 when nominated and three weeks shy of his 41st birthday when he withdrew his nomination after waiting more than two years.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

In an era when appeals court experience is virtually a prerequisite for the Supreme Court, experts say if Goodwin Liu is confirmed for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, he could become the first Asian Pacific American chosen for the Supreme Court.

“I can easily imagine him as a high court nominee,” said Erwin Chemerinsky, a Liu supporter and dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine. The 39-year-old legal scholar, Rhodes Scholar, former high court clerk and current assistant dean and law professor at the University of California, Berkeley has the qualifications.

Young judges appointed to the bench in the mid-1980s remain powerful forces on appeal courts in Chicago, Cincinnati, Richmond, Va., and San Francisco. And five of the nine current Supreme Court justices became appeals court judges before they were 45. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy were nominated to appellate judgeships before they turned 40, though Senate Democrats blocked Roberts’ nomination near the end of George H.W. Bush’s presidency.

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APAs in the News

Former JACL National President Honored By NJAHS

Lillian Kimura, the JACL's first female national president, was honored by the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) March 27. Kimura said about 200 people were in attendance as she and others who had "given their life's work for the benefit of others" were recognized. Former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi was the keynote speaker and honoree. "It was great to be honored with Gov. Ariyoshi, Brenda Wong Aoiki and Mark Ima," Kimura said, about receiving a certificate for her work with JACL and the YWCA.

JCCCW CEO Announced

Clarence Moriwaki has been selected as CEO of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW). "Clarence brings administrative and fundraising skills to the JCCCW, but more importantly, he is truly dedicated to Japanese and Japanese-American heritage and culture," said Lori Matsukawa, board president, in a press release. Before being named CEO of JCCCW, Moriwaki was president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Exclusion Memorial Committee.

APA Principal Among State's Best

Steven Iswee, Main East High School principal, was named Illinois High School Principal of the Year. Iswee has worked at Maine East High School for three years. Prior to that he was principal at Warren Township High School. Colleagues said the recognition could not have gone to a more deserving candidate. Womans of the award are selected from 21 regions in the state, and receive $1,000.

Kabuki Artists Receive Grant

Kabuki artists Gakuuye Nakamura and Lea Yamaguchi were among the 23 teams of artists who received a grant from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA), apprenticeship program. ACTA officials have been supporting folk and traditional artists since 1999. Participants work with ACTA staff throughout their apprenticeship.

First JA Lomita City Manager Announced

Samei Dawn Tomita will become the first female and Japanese-American Lomita city manager April 5. She has been working for the city for 45 years in different capacities. Tomita is also a member of the Lomita-Torrance Airport Rotary and the city's Historical Society.

Two APAs Designated Schoolmasters of the Year

Educators Andrew Ishibashi and Candace Lee were named Schoolmasters of the Year, an award sponsored by the California Schoolmasters Club. Ishibashi is the principal of Lowell High School. Lee is site manager of the National and Francis Scott Key Child Development Center.

NVC Scholarship Awards Announced

Three scholarship recipients were named at the Nisei Veterans Committee installation luncheon March 20. Honor students Eric Ingram, Tana Watanabe and Andy Akada were selected to receive a scholarship from NVC.
Texas Madness

Every now and then I read something in the news that I find incredulous. Not appalling. There are ways
seems to be more than enough of that. During the first years, I read most of the news of the administration's policies appealing almost on a weekly basis.
But I'm talking about incredulous. Like, "you gotta be kidding me" incredulous.
It was recently reported in the New York Times as well as other papers that the Texas Board of
Education has proposed amendments to their curriculum standards to suit their ideological and religious views.
Their main objective is to rewrite history from a conservative point of view, which some may not necessarily
find objectionable, but the problem is that
they base their version of history not on facts. They are neither historians nor economists nor sociologists
and speak with no authority other than the fact that they happen to sit on an elected board. They have no expertise in any of the subjects they deem themselves to be such experts on.
Their most striking re-write of history as far as I am concerned is in the insistence that when textbooks read by students in Texas describe the World War II internment, they include the fact that Germans and Italians were also interned just to prove the point that the internment wasn't based on a racist policy.
The only problem with that is that the government's policy was racist. For the government to have forced women and children and the elderly into prisons and to have imprisoned an entire ethnic population without any evidence of wrongdoing constitutes racism plain and simple.
To add Germans and Italians in the history of the internment has some legitimacy, but only if the textbooks explain that those arrested and placed in detention were there because the government had evidence against them, such as supporting the bomb and other fascist groups here in the U.S.
During the Redress campaign in the 1980s, representatives of both groups talked to me about including them in our Redress efforts, but I rejected their requests/demands because their reason for being imprisoned were so completely different from ours. I knew if there were concrete evidence against just one from their group, just as there was evidence against just one JACL member, they would have seriously jeopardized our case for Redress. There were even some members of Congress who questioned why I hadn't included these two other groups and thought I was being racist by this exclusion. Ah, the trials of foolish men!
But the current effort of the Texas Board of Education has much more in mind than just the internment issue. In some ways, that's only a small part of what they've conjured up in their proposals.
It comes as no surprise that they insist there is nothing in the Constitution that dictates the separation of church and state in the governance of the nation. Board member David Bradley of Beaumont (yes, he of the "Jag Road" issue), even goes so far as to say there is nothing that literally dictates the separation of religion from the secular in the Constitution. They seem to want Christianity acknowledged as a founding principle in every aspect of government in America, and in this regard, they even seek to minimize the role of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Constitution, in American history because he was an advocate for the separation of church and state.
With over 100 proposed amendments, the Texas board wants to ensure that students learn about right-wing activist Phyllis Schlafly, and the NRA, among other things. They want Republicans to be given equal credit for passage of civil rights legislation in the 1960s, pointing out that some Republicans voted for civil rights too, ignoring the fact that the strongest resistance came from Republicans.
All of this would be laughable if it weren't so dangerous. If they get their way, an entire generation of kids growing up in Texas will get a skewed, twisted version of history. That's bad enough, but if textbook publishers cave in to this version of history — Texas is one of five states textbook publishers pay attention to — and other states adopt textbooks written for Texas schools, just imagine the consequences.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

Questions on Aging

It's a place they go to die," my Japanese friend Charity said when I asked her what she thought of nursing homes for the elderly.
The nuclear family is an often sought-after goal in many American families: mom and dad, a kid or two and maybe a pet. You don't see the aging parents in the picture at all. Is it a cultural difference or is it perhaps how American independence (regardless of ethnicity) is defined once you reach adulthood?
Is it really OK to place your parents in a nursing home if they become a "burden?" What constitutes being a burden? Do elders who live with their families tend to live longer?
Having wrangled some of these issues in my mind, many questions have arisen about the type of facilities that senior care centers may provide for Asian Pacific American seniors. Dietary differences in the APA community differ greatly. My parents would certainly be horrified at eating a standard American breakfast of eggs, toast and sausage links on a daily basis. Knowing that breakfast croissants or donuts do not appeal to them is already an issue.
Language barriers are another issue. Will the elderly be able to communicate and be understood if English is the only language a senior center provider can speak? Even now, my father has difficulty obtaining a Japanese translator during hospital visits and I still have to translate for him on occasion. Do the cost of "ethnic" nursing homes cost more? I don't even know, but I suspect they do.

With my own parents (who are separated) nearing the age of retirement, I think about my own situation as the only child. I also think about how to go about balancing the need for that typical American standard of independent living as an adult, and the Japanese tradition of caring for your elders and parents.
What do I do?
Do I follow what is common in American society where placing elders in nursing homes is acceptable? Will doing so provide me more time for myself and less time for care giving? Is it worth it? Is there a certain point in care giving when declining health may mean specialized medical care in a nursing home is absolutely necessary?
The realization that I have been raised between two contrasting cultures will soon come to a turning point where I must one day decide if I will continue to do what my family has done for generations in Japan or do what is normal in American society with aging family members.
In my head, it is a difficult decision but it is even more difficult realizing that as an only child with separated parents that it will never be possible to have both parents living under one roof.
My grandmother in Hokkaido cared for my grands while the day of his death last year and refused to place him into a care facility. Now, my cousins and uncle are caring for her in turn, all under one roof. There is something comforting knowing that perhaps once I am in need of care, that my future family will perhaps do the same in return.
Without a doubt, I will return to Hawaii to be with my parents because I cannot imagine placing them into a care facility, yet I often think about the constraints of living between a traditional American and Japanese life.

By Emu Nakao

Ema Nakao is a Kentucky-born Shinto girl who grew up in Hawaii. She is working to receive her bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Washington.
Nicole Scherzinger: Dancing With Two Hawaiian Feet

The former Pussycat Dolls gained fame with her melodic voice, but now she is showcasing her dancing skills on "Dancing With the Stars."

By Nala J. Ko

The new season of "Dancing With the Stars" premiered March 22, and contestants like singer Nicole Scherzinger are already feeling the burn from the rigorous dance rehearsals. Scherzinger — who is of Hawaiian, Filipino and Ukrainian descent — said she has "Hawaiian feet" that are not pretty to begin with, and now she has blisters on top of blisters.

Scherzinger has a hectic schedule: morning interviews with the media, a workout or run, dance rehearsals and late-night recording studio sessions. For her first routine on "Dancing With the Stars," Scherzinger and dance partner Derek Hough performed the Viennese waltz.

One might think the former lead Pussycat Dolls would have an advantage over fellow cast members like actress Shannon Doherty, reality star Kate Gosselin and NFL star Chad Ochocinco. But Scherzinger said in an early morning phone interview with the Pacific Citizen that she is nervous about everything on the dance show despite being confident on stage.

Pacific Citizen: I heard you had a little mishap during one of your dance rehearsals. Did you really accidentally kick your partner Derek Hough?

Nicole Scherzinger: [Laughs]. I didn’t kick, Derek in the face. We were just rehearsing a routine for dancing before. I’m a professionally trained singer, confused as a professionally dance experience coming from a theatrical background going to be the Viennese waltz.

I was doing a tum. My turn was at the end of our dance because Derek and I had a very rough start. We were butting heads. We had a lot of work to do. But now I think we’ve become each other’s best friends, and the chemistry is great.

PC: Are you feeling nervous about the show?

NS: I’m extremely nervous. I’ve never done this style of dancing before. I’m a professionally trained singer, not to be confused as a professionally trained dancer. I definitely have dance experience coming from a theatrical background going to musical theater school.

But this whole style of dancing is foreign to me. And it’s a whole other technique behind it. It’s like learning how to walk again almost.

PC: Why did you decide to do the show?

NS: My family is definitely most important in my life and that’s another reason why I’m doing the show. [laughs] because I know that they are such huge fans of the show. My mom, my dad and my sister are coming. Then I think through out the show some of my aunts are coming down and my nana (Hawaiian for "grandmother") is coming, and I’m really excited.

PC: I understand you were raised in a strict Catholic family in Hawaii and then later moved to Kentucky. Has your family always been supportive of your dreams?

NS: [Laughs] They called it "Hellywood." They’re very funny, my family. They’re like, "We’re praying for you out there in Hollywood now. I don’t know if I should say that [laughs]."

But that’s my family. My family is so supportive. They’re so awesome. I’ve always known since I was a little girl that I’ve wanted to sing. And I was singing Whitney Houston [sings] since I was like 5 or 6 years old. They just always supported me.

PC: Do you get to visit your family in Wailau, Hawaii, during the show or is your schedule too hectic right now?

NS: I don’t have too much down time. I miss being home. I want to go back. When I go back the first thing I do is go to Tanioka’s. They get the bomb poke. I think they have good mammau there. Actually, I love my local food. I go home and the first thing I do is grill Hawaiian for "eat." And then I go to my aunt’s, papa’s, or my mom’s to just hang out with my family and just chill out.

PC: It seems like you really still embrace the Hawaiian culture even though you live full time in Los Angeles, Calif.

NS: I have to; it’s my foundation. You’ve got to stay grounded. For me, God and my family are the most important things and they just keep me grounded. Out here in my job and I enjoy it. And I’m really grateful for it every day. But you just always have to have the right frame of mind, and never lose perspective on what’s most important in your life.

PC: Did you face any challenges getting work because you are a mixed-race artist?

NS: Definitely, especially because I started out in theater and a lot of people didn’t understand what my nationality was or what race I was. So, they were a little confused on how to cast me or what my place was. But it was really confusing at first because people wanted me to be like the Puerto Rican girl, the sidekick, the Puerto Rican best friend. I’m like, ‘I’m not Puerto Rican. You’ve got to find a girl who’s really Puerto Rican and [she’ll] be much better at this.’ [laughs]."

PC: Did you always want to be a singer?

NS: Yes. Since I was a little girl. My nana is a singer and she has the most beautiful voice in the world. And I grew up in a very musical family. My mother, growing up would dance the hula and Tahitian with her family.

My mother taught me hula when I was really young. I can dance it like my cousin [laughs]. And then when I moved away from Hawaii and grew up on the mainland that’s when I started to go to performing arts school, learning more about music and theater and dance.

PC: You are training every morning for "Dancing With the Stars" and working late at night on your album. What do you do when you have time to relax?

NS: I don’t have too much down time. But I like to listen to music or maybe watch funny movies, really goofy movies or romantic comedies. If I’m having a wild night then I’ll have a game night where I play a bunch of board games [laughs]. I like Cranium. My family likes to play cards.

PC: There are videos on YouTube of you being trailed by the paparazzi with Formula One racecar driver Lewis Hamilton. Do you ever get tired of the media attention?

NS: I think sometimes it’s frustrating because your anonymity is gone. ... I try to stay out of [being] in front of the cameras. You know what I mean? I try to just keep to myself and do my work. When it happens it happens and you just have to try to handle it with the best grace as possible.

PC: Looking back, did you ever feel like giving up on your dream?

NS: I remember when I first got here [Los Angeles] and I was doing acting and music and stuff. I got a lot of rejection and I didn’t understand why because I worked so hard. And I was like, "Well, what am I doing right?" But you know I just continued to stay positive. My family gave me a lot of strength. And I just continued to work and work and I never stopped.

PC: What helped you persevere?

NS: For anybody out there wanting to break into the industry — first of all if this is the life that you want to choose [laughs] make sure it is because it’s got to be for the right reasons. It’s my love, my passion. ... Don’t give up and stay true to yourself. I’m still the same Nicole. Just be you, stay true to who you are and just shine your own light.

PHOTO: JOAN SCHMIDT
A Field of Dreams

Amy Tran’s prowess in field hockey has provided her with opportunities that her father never had in his native Vietnam.

By Nalca K. Jo

Goalkeeper Amy Tran’s parents have attended nearly all of her field hockey games around the world. They’ve cheered her on from Europe to China. At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games her mother, Susan, talked to a Patriot-New reporter in Pennsylvania about tearing up during the National Anthem.

Playing field hockey has allowed Tran, 29, to get a college scholarship and travel the world. These were opportunities her father Phap, a Vietnam War veteran, wanted for his two daughters.

Tran’s father left Vietnam after the war, and got back on his feet when he thinks about his travels across the world to root on his daughter and the U.S. women’s field hockey team.

“He laughs today because he’s traveled through Europe following me play hockey, and he’s traveled all over the world,” Tran said in a phone call to the Pacific Citizen in Chula Vista, Calif. “He just keeps a good perspective on it. He helps show my sister and I how lucky we are.”

Her parents, however, have not been in attendance while Tran has been competing in the nine-game Audi World Cup Qualifier in San Diego, Calif, which ends April 3. They are busy planning a wedding in Pennsylvania for Tran and her fiancé, Mark. Over 100 people are expected.

A week after the qualifier, Tran plans to wed in her grandmother’s church and hold a reception in Fort Indiantown Gap, where her parents met years ago.

“I think it would be easier for me to separate field hockey and my personal life,” Tran said. “The wedding is just something to look forward to, so I don’t feel a lot of pressure.”

Since the start of the qualifier, the U.S. team has defeated Belgium, France and Mexico.

Field Hockey Goals

While attending Northern Lebanon High School Tran, who had played soccer since the age of 7, took up field hockey. She joined the team initially because it was the only sport offered that was similar to soccer. Now she is considered one of the top women’s goalkeepers in the world.

Her abilities in field hockey helped her land a scholarship to the University of North Carolina, where her sister Katy also attended and played field hockey. Earning a college degree, Tran said, was an opportunity not available for her father.

“It was really important for him that my sister and I get that opportunity,” Tran explained. “When I started playing hockey, he really pushed us because he knew scholarships were very prevalent for females in athletics during that time. So, he was really excited when I got a scholarship to play hockey in college.”

After hearing Vietnam, Tran’s dad found a job and a place to live with the help of a Pennsylvania family. The family sponsored him and found him a job as a refrigerator technician. He would later marry the daughter from that same family.

“It’s kind of funny,” Tran continued about her father. “When he came over, my mom’s family sponsored him and so they sort of helped him find a job, helped him buy a car and got him on his feet. And he wanted to try and do that for others in the same situation.”

Growing up Tran had about four different foster kids living with her family at different periods of time. It was important, she said, for her father to give back to others the way he was once helped.

“As much as he’s proud of his Vietnamese heritage I think he’s more proud of being American, how far he’s come and how different his life is from his life in Vietnam,” Tran said adding that her father took the family back to Vietnam, where they saw the hut he lived in.

As much as Tran’s parents are proud of their daughter, they have had concerns about her playing field hockey.

Concerned about on-field injuries, Tran’s mother pushed her to become a goalkeepers. That position requires a helmet and extra padding, which appeared mother. Tran, however, made an independent decision about her other field hockey accomplishments.

“My dad really disliked most of my piercings,” Tran said about multiple facial piercings and long dreadlocks she once had. “He hated the lip ring the most. And my mom really disliked the dreadlocks.”

Tran eventually shaved her head and gave her mother the dreadlocks, which they unsuccessfully tried to donate to Locks of Love.

“I actually liked my hair shaved the best I think. But with the wedding I kind of grew it out a bit.”

Aside from her new hairstyle and upcoming wedding date, Tran is focusing on the World Cup qualifier and basking in the California weather.

“My family and my fiancé have really been supportive and kind of taken over all the stressful, detail, organizational things. So it’s been really easy on me (laughs),” she said about the wedding. “The past week they actually have stopped asking me questions about it and have just been really supportive about committing to the team and our success.”

Working as a team towards a common goal is something really special,” the goakeeper said.
off our dialog with older readers, many of them who helped found the JACL or have sustained it through decades of hardship. The current leadership has earlier seen us lose many Nisei members when they adopted new stances and policies on controversial issues. In the midst of efforts to build up JACL membership, what would be the consequences of MORI (continued from page 2)

one of the tallest players on the junior high school basketball team. I used to listen to the University of Utah basketball games on the radio and was impressed to hear of a Japanese American by the name of Wat Misaka, a star on the university’s basketball team.

Wat was born and raised in Ogden. He played basketball at Weber Junior College and later at the University of Utah. He was a member of the team when they won the NCAA championship in 1944. He came home from that tournament to find a letter informing him that he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

After serving two years in the Army, he returned to the University of Utah where his team won the National Invitational Tournament Championship at Madison Square Garden in New York City, after which the New York Knicks drafted him in 1947 as the first non-white player in what is now the NBA. A documentary film of his life, "Transcending - The Wat Misaka Story", was recently made by Bruce Hurleson, a Lake Washington JACL member, is the PWN district representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

The current leadership has earlier seen us lose many Nisei members when they adopted new stances and policies on controversial issues. In the midst of efforts to build up JACL membership, what would be the consequences of

again giving the oldsters the cold shoulder by ending the print edition?

I hear commercial newspapers and organizational papers are not seeing their online-only incarnations fair well. If that proved true of the P.C., too, dropping the print edition might ultimately turn out to mean dropping this whole JACL down a black hole. We all can help out by kicking into this year’s Spring Campaign and being ready to do so next year, too. I’m in no way a budget man, but I suggest we do more thinking outside of the box and tap our many brainy members for fresh ideas without getting mesmerized by tables on assets and expenses and their “immutable” conclusions.

Hugh Hurleson, a Lake Washington JACL member, is the PWN district representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

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The Health Care Dystopia

By James Kumpel

As a health care research analyst since 1997, I have seen a fair number of attempts to overhaul or improve the health care system with mixed results. Since the “HillaryCare” debacle of 1993 led to the most dramatic ousting of political leaders in nearly 40 years, it is understandable that health care has been viewed by many as a political hot potato, if not exactly a third rail.

Our health care system is, indeed, broken in many ways. The complex 2,700-page health insurance legislation—constructed over the last year by Congressional Democrats—passed in a series of procedural machinations over the objections of the majority of the American people (according to most major polls).

For the 32 million Americans expected to be covered four years from now (half under Medicaid and half under subsidized private plans), this legislation will mean more people earning $250,000 or more, the IRS will collect higher taxes, and a run on emergency rooms by newly covered beneficiaries unable to wait for a doctor’s visit.

Ironically, a less costly approach considered by the Obama administration was “Plan B,” an expansion of Medicaid that would have covered half as many lives as this legislation at about one-quarter the price tag.

The cost-benefit analysis would have been instructive: 16 million new covered lives would cost $250 billion, while the next 16 million lives covered under this legislation would have an incremental price tag of $600 billion.

Alternatively, merely capping non-economic damages under tort reform would save the government nearly $5 billion per year, which could immediately fund a tripling of the disease management and wellness industry (which would address the chronic diseases that drive 75 percent of health care costs).

But, alas, adding 32 million covered lives to a rickety care delivery system that does not coordinate care or increase incentives for prevention, wellness or lower cost settings feels like adding more decks to the Titanic.

James Kumpel, CFA, is a managing director and senior health care analyst with Madison Williams and Company, a New York-based financial services firm.

JACL announced Sen. Lindsey Graham’s stereotypical remarks.

Lindsey Graham Blasted for ‘Liquored Up on Sake’ Remark

A South Carolina senator is being criticized for using “racially tinged rhetoric” during a radio interview about health care reform on March 15.

While being interviewed for the “Keven Cohen Show” on WVOX, Columbia, Sen. Lindsey Graham said Speaker Nancy Pelosi had Democratic lawmakers “liquored up on sake” to make a “suicide run” to pass reform, according to Rep. Mike Honda, who criticized the comments.

“As a Japanese American who was interned along with my family during World War II, I am personally disheartened that Senator Graham chose to use racially tinged rhetoric to express his opposition to health care reform,” wrote Honda for the Huffington Post.

Graham later told Fox News, “I don’t know whether it’s sake or moonshine but no sober person would do this.”

The JACL also denounced the South Carolina senator’s stereotypical choice of words.

American Holiday Travel

2010 Tour Schedule

SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE
Lincoln, Oslo, of Peterberg Helen, Stockholm, Copenghagen
HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam ship
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Haless stay)
Takayama, Koyam, Hiroshima, Naha, Taipei, Hongkong, Shanghai
HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam ship
CANADA-NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY CRUISE
Vancouver, Ely, Haitham, Halifax, Charlottetown, Sydney, Nova Scotia,
HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam ship
SOUTH-CALIFORNIA-TAHITI HOLIDAY TOUR
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ANNOUNCEMENTS
JACL Marches for America

By Phillip Ozaki

“Hey Floyd, can we get a giant JACL banner?” I urged my boss, Floyd Mori, as I envisioned how I wanted to represent the JACL at the March for America. Two weeks later, we were marching down the streets of Washington, D.C. with a massive crew of 200,000 others, demanding comprehensive immigration reform in 2010.

As the JACL Mineta Fellow, I had two goals for JACL’s involvement in the March for America held on March 21. First, I wanted JACL to contribute to the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAP) presence at the march. Busloads of AAPs from across the nation joined our local groups at the pre-rally as our AAPI elected officials spoke about immigration. Rep. Judy Chu, shared her family’s immigration story. Her grandparents immigrated from China at a young age. Today, Rep. Chu has become the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress and a champion for immigration reform.

My second intention at the march was to expose the crowd — which was heavy with Latino Americans — to the diversity of our AAPI groups, especially the JACL. Three days before the march, I organized an AAPI poster-making party. We made posters that read, “Reform Immigration Now” not only in English, but also in Korean, Urdu, Chinese, and Tagalog.

As we marched to the National Mall, I thought that our JACL signs really stood out.

The last goal I had for the march was simply to have a good time. Part of the reason I hosted the AAPI poster-making party was to give everyone a chance to have fun. It was an energizing event building up to the march.

To share your family’s immigration story and why you support comprehensive immigration reform, please e-mail minetafelow@jjac.org.

Judge Dolly Gee was sworn in March 19 as the first Chinese American woman to the U.S. district court.

A Brilliant Shattering of Glass

By Katie Ling Nakano

When Helen Gee was a garment worker, her young daughter asked her how to sew. Helen refused to show her “I want you to grow up to have a better life,” she said.

On March 19, Helen watched as her daughter’s better life unfolded at the U.S. courthouse in downtown, Los Angeles. Her daughter, Dolly Maizee Gee, was sworn in as the first Chinese American woman U.S. District Court judge. Helen also assisted in the swearing of the newest member of the U.S. district court.

I was among the fortunate ones to watch this historic event. As an Asian Pacific American woman, I felt an immediate bond to her. Although we are the same height, there exists this quiet fearlessness about Dolly that seems to make her tower over me in the courtroom. Her colleagues, friends, and other family members were all there. The emotions permeated throughout the room and even spilled into the adjacent empty courtrooms.

The place was packed. Throughout the series of proceed — the opening of court, the call of calendar to the bench, the calling of a partner to the bar, the swearing of judges — Helen swallowed her emotions and let her tears flow. She quietly sat at her desk making history through her writings and court rulings.

Helen’s accomplishments didn’t stop there. Her mother’s job as a garment worker inspired her to pursue a career in labor law, where she ably represented a wide spectrum of workers and workers’ unions.

She went on to help establish the Multicultural Bar Alliance, and later co-founded the Asian Pacific American Bar Association. This is the woman that once confided to my mother, “My personality is not one that naturally gravitates toward positions of leadership.”

As introduced by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Audrey B. Collins, Dolly is a woman “adored and beloved by all her clients, truly a brilliant, successful trial lawyer.”

At the ceremony, her peers described her unreplaceable efforts to bring together diverse sectors of the community to find common ground. Judge Gee received a standing ovation during her emobing. She emitted a strong-hearted, yet kind aura as she sat with her fellow judges.

During the induction ceremonies, Circuit Judge Mary Schroeder of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals recalled the name of Florence Allen, the first woman to serve as an Article III federal judge. When President Calvin Coolidge appointed her to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1934, Judge Allen was not allowed membership into the male-only judicial fraternities of that era, and so instead she quietly sat at her desk making history through her writings and court rulings.

Today, that desk remains a figurative shrine in the courthouse of the 9th Circuit, in memory of the woman that first pierced the glass ceiling of the federal judicial system.

And in that legacy, Dolly — the daughter of a garment worker and a World War II veteran-tuned-engineer — a former student activist, one-time cosponsor for the UCLA Women’s Team, noted labor lawyer and proud community worker, pierced another glass ceiling on behalf of a whole new generation of women in the judicial system.

March 19 remains indelibly etched in my memory. It was a day that I witnessed a brilliant shattering of glass.

Katie Nakano, 17, is a student at Temple City High School in Temple City, Calif.
The 41st Manzanar Pilgrimage

April 24, 2010
Manzanar Historic Site/U.S. Highway 395

Each year over 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds attend the Manzanar National Historic Site pilgrimage, which commemorates the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

For information:
232/662-5102 or www.manzanarcommittee.org

West Valley JACL will host a
Tule Lake Pilgrimage

July 2-5

The Tule Lake Committee has first 300 persons who register. Attendance will be limited to the

Pilgrimage Details

Registration forms for the July 2-5 Tule Lake pilgrimage are now available.

The pilgrimage will focus on the young adults who were segregated at Tule Lake, especially the ‘No-No’s’ and those who renounced their U.S. citizenship.

The Tule Lake Committee has welcomed the stories of Tule Lake’s dissidents, hoping to learn more about the experiences of those who were marginalized and eliminated from the post-war Japanese American narrative.

“Stories about legitimate and courageous acts of grassroots civil disobedience were shunned in favor of stories that enhanced an image of Japanese American loyalty and cooperation,” said Hiroshi Shimizu, who chairs the pilgrimage committee.

The committee is again offering free registration to those incarcerated at Tule Lake who are 80 years and older.

Attention will be limited to the first 300 persons who register.

By Bob Nakamura

Washington State Sen. Paul Shin introduced Senate Bill 6467 or the “Internment Camp University of Washington Honorary Degree Bill” with efforts from Gail Nomura, associate professor at the University of Washington, and a handful of former Japanese American internees who testified about their experiences before the Washington State Senate and House.

On March 12, Gov. Chris Gregoire signed the bill into law, making it a historical success. The ceremony was uplifting and heart-warming.

These former UW students had their education abruptly terminated and had to deal with others treating them like second-class citizens. These experiences left huge, empty holes in their hearts.

My mother and her family settled in the Kent Valley area of Washington State at the turn of the century, circa 1915. My father’s family immigrated to California at approximately the same time. My parents were both incarcerated in camps during World War II like the former University of Washington students. After their release, they both settled in Denver, Colo.

Some of these former students volunteered for service in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service.

I am a retired U.S. Army soldier. My last duty assignment was Fort Lewis, Wash. After completing an overseas tour of duty in Germany, I couldn’t have asked for a better stateside assignment than my mother’s native state.

While living here in Washington State, I’ve met a few former internees some of them former UW students. Because of their sacrifices, opportunities have opened up for us including post secondary studies and managerial-level civilian and military career opportunities.

The honorary degrees help correct a long-time wrong. This one simple act brings a sense of closure for at least for one piece of the historical past.

Bob Nakamura, the Olympia JACL chapter president, is a retired U.S. Army Finance Corps non-commissioned officer. He can be reached at sgtnakalbob@yahoo.com.

Send comments to the Citizen’s Curator.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB NAKAMURA

Washington Honorary Degree Bill for Nisei Degrees Brings Closure

Tule Lake Pilgrimage

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The committee is again offering free registration to those incarcerated at Tule Lake who are 80 years and older.

Attention will be limited to the first 300 persons who register.

Pilgrimage Details

Registration is $995/person; $325/students and those on fixed incomes.

Registration deadline is April 30.

On May 1, fee increases to $450.

For info: www.tulelake.org or Hiroshi Shimizu at hshimizu@qwest.net or 415/596-2279
TRIBUTE

James Kumaki
March 20, 1922 - March 9, 2010

James Kumaki, 87 years, died March 9th.

Masami Oda
April 11, 1913 - March 3, 2010

Masami "San" Oda Age 96, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2010. He is survived by his wife Kazuko Oda, sister Mary Ota, sons Gary Oda (wife Judy), Dennis Oda, Edward Oda (wife Lois), daughters Janet Sonoda (husband Tom), Caroline Ouchida (husband David), and Ron Ouchida, Alison Sonoda, Colleen Oda, Roger Oda (wife Valerie), Michael Sonoda (wife Marie), Kevin Oda, Lindsay Oda, great-grandchildren Jordan Yu and Kaylee Yu. He was preceded in death by brothers Hige Oda (wife Taya), and Korki Oda (wife Masayo). He graduated from U.C. Berkeley Business Haas School in 1935, worked pre 1942 as manager Japanese Farmers Cooperative San Luis Obispo, California, retired from Trainmobile in Berkeley, California. He was a member of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, Contra Costa JACL, Nisei East Bay Golf Club, and was a member of the same Saturday night poker group for over 45 years. He loved golf, poker, family, friends and his Cal Golden Bears Sports Teams. He was a kind, gentle, empathetic and generous person who will be missed. Funeral services will be held at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

JA Vets to Attend Miyamura School Dedication

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans is coordinating a Sept. 3-5 group trip to Gallup, New Mexico to attend a high school dedication in honor of Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura. The Hiroshi Miyamura High School, located at 660 S. Boardman Avenue, was named after the Korean War Medal of Honor recipient in 2007 and opened in 2009, according to school district officials.

Hershey Miyamura
High School Dedication
Sept. 4
Gallup, New Mexico
Train Info: Depart LA, Sept. 3 at 6:45 a.m., return Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. $65/person round trip. Make checks out to JAKWV and mail to: Cary Kay Miyagishima, 4499 Via Mariscal #202, Los Angeles, CA 90042. For info: JAKWV President Thomi Yamamoto, 213/387-9033, Sam Shimoguchi, 310/922-6688.

JA Vets to Attend Miyamura School Dedication

The veterans group has reserved 40 seats on Amtrak for the trip. Miyamura High School is nick-named “the Patriots.” The school colors are purple and silver to match Hershey’s Purple Heart Medal. According to the Medal of Honor citation, Miyamura, who was a corporal in the U.S. Army’s Company H, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, showed “indomitable heroism and consummate devotion to duty” in an April 24, 1951 battle.

TRIBUTE

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March 20, 1922 - March 9, 2010

James Kumaki, 87 years, died March 9th.
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