

NFL star Scott Fujita talks family, Super Bowl win.



Highlighting community heroes
for APA Heritage Month.



Turlock Assembly Center gets a rightful historical marker.



The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Kurt Suzuki of the Oakland A's talks about his heritage.

PAGE 8



END OF AN ERA?

The national board endorses a budget with a proposal to move the *P.C.* from its historic home to San Francisco. >> **PAGE 3**





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Racism in Texas History Books

I believe that the state of Texas public school history textbooks to be racially based against the Nisei ("Texas Board of Education Accused of Diluting History", April 2-15, 2010). When the 442nd RCT saved the Lost Battalion it was big news all over the nation. About 8,000 Nisei casualties happened in order to save less than 150 white boys from Texas. The Texas government declared these Nisei to be "honorary Texans" (political semantics for honorary white boy ... real persons, no longer the enemy). The teachers are trying to bury this Nisei victory. Please do not let them. We must sue.

Margaret S. Okagawa
Denver, Colo.

P.C. Readers Voice Their Support

Why don't you just increase our dues to cover the cost of printing the paper? Nobody would complain, we'd all understand it's the price of getting the printed paper. Kind of like subscribing to *Newsweek* magazine!

My parents are in their 80s, and while they use the computer for e-mailing their children and grandchildren, they most likely would not read the *P.C.* if they had to go back to the bedroom where the computer is, in order to read it.

We members want the printed *Pacific Citizen*, so please just charge us for the real cost of it.

Patricia Tashiro
Detroit JACL

As a JACL member for more than 50 years, I am just used to reading the *P.C.* as a newspaper at my leisure. Besides, I need to spend less time in front of a computer, especially if it is to just print out newsletters.

The *P.C.* today is a far better

newspaper than in the past in terms of content, layout, graphics and general interest. You are all doing a great job, and I would hate to see the demise of a print *P.C.* that is offering much more readable material.

Richard Kushino
Twin Cities JACL

Please keep the printed *P.C.* Like Harry Honda, editor emeritus said, chapters make some money when selling Holiday Issue ads. Mile-Hi JACL depends on the Holiday Issue money to keep our chapter functional. And my wife and I like to read the *P.C.* when we retire in the evening.

Dr. Frank Sakamoto
Co-Chair Millennium Club

Write to Us

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Los Angeles, CA 90012
or e-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org

SPRING CAMPAIGN

Proposed JACL Budget Could Imperil the *P.C.*

By Margie Yamamoto



Most business budgets — and I have dealt with many of them over 40 years of working with non-profit and for-profit enterprises — are not usually something you'd want

to write (or read) about.

However, the JACL budget I witnessed being voted on in San Francisco April 9-10 at the national board meeting was a striking exception.

In short, the budget committee recommended balancing the budget by moving the *Pacific Citizen* office from its facility in Los Angeles to the JACL national headquarters in San Francisco.

Were the numbers the committee presented in justifying such a move complete and clearly defined, and were there were no other sensible alternatives available, this could possibly comprise a workable solution. However it is fraught with pitfalls. And the budget that I witnessed being presented was far from justifiable. Absolutely vital information such as the specifics of moving expenses, lost rental income, diminished advertising revenue, new personnel training costs, and other critical

expenses were not well developed and documented.

How would such a move affect the *P.C.*? Well, first let's consider the importance of the *P.C.* to JACL. For many of our chapters it is our primary membership recruitment tool. It is the only medium of communication that ties our members together. Perhaps most importantly, it is the national publication that exposes our work on an ongoing basis to such vital constituencies as universities, museums, human rights institutions, and government organizations. In other words, the *P.C.* is absolutely central to our existence and its influence is felt across the broad

See YAMAMOTO/Page 11

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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SEE PAGE 5 FOR REGISTRATION FORM

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Divided National JACL Board Passes Biennial Budget, Includes Dues Increase and Proposed *P.C.* Move

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

In a nearly split vote the JACL national board passed a biennial budget that includes a proposal to increase membership fees and a possible *Pacific Citizen* move from its historic location in an effort to balance the budget.

The JACL national council will vote on the budget at the July convention in Chicago after a feasibility study is conducted to determine if moving the *P.C.* from Los Angeles to San Francisco is fiscally prudent.

The board voted 8 to 6 on April 10 to pass the 2011-2012 budget, which includes dues increases for several membership categories. Board member Brian Morishita, IDC district governor, later said he meant to vote against passing the budget which would have resulted in a tie 7 to 7 vote.

Membership dues are proposed to increase by \$5 per person, \$10 a couple, \$25 for Thousand Club members and \$25 for Century Club members, according to David Lin, vice president for membership and services. The last membership dues increase occurred in 2004.

Larry Oda, national president, said the board recognizes an increase in expenses and a decline in membership revenues. "Raising dues is just one of the methods we are proposing to meet expenses," he said.

Other budget proposals include relocating the *P.C.* office and five staffers from Los Angeles, its home for the past six decades, to the San Francisco JACL headquarters. The board also proposed cuts to travel expenses and leaving open positions vacant.

The proposal to relocate the *P.C.* could, according to the different estimates provided by various board members, save nothing or between \$15,193 and \$55,607.

Those figures take in to account estimates of a higher cost of living in San Francisco, moving work and personal property, interruptions in publication and a loss of advertising revenue, among other things. Currently more research is being conducted to solidify costs.

Some board members said the move would not save any money.

"The Pacific Southwest District is a huge supporter of the *Pacific Citizen* and staff, and the proposal before us didn't convince us that this is the correct answer to a long-term cost saving solution," said Kerry Kaneichi, JACL PSWD governor, who voted against passing the budget, along with a majority of the district governors.

"I am not convinced that there was enough thought into delivering us accurate data to make an educated decision, nor am I convinced that this move will save any money."

The idea is to eliminate the *P.C.*'s occupancy fees (which includes maintenance and utilities) of about \$55,000 a year by moving the paper and staff to the JACL-owned headquarters in San Francisco. Logistics of configuring the headquarters space and removing current tenants would also need to be worked out.

"This proposal to move the *P.C.* caught us

by surprise," explained Executive Editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, who is currently on maternity leave. "I can tell you in my discussions with the staff that no one is currently willing to move."

Since the *P.C.* recently signed a five-year lease extension at its current location in Little Tokyo, the proposal is to have the PSWD office move into the vacated space. Another option is to break the *P.C.*'s lease and absorb possible penalties for early termination.

PSW's office lease of about \$19,800 annually expires at the year's end making the office space swap doable, said some board members.

Kaneichi and Sharon Ishii-Jordan, MDC district governor, suggested an alternative plan to the one passed by the board. That plan would require PSW and the *P.C.* to share the same office space in Little Tokyo. But some board members said that alternative suggested by Kaneichi and Ishii-Jordan would not balance the budget.

"No, I didn't think any of the proposals that were brought forth — the alternatives that were brought forth — I didn't think any of them were workable," said David Kawamoto, JACL national vice president of planning and development. "They sounded like they would help a little, but it didn't really balance the budget the way closing an office did."

Others programs have and will be impacted by these budgetary decisions, said Joshua Spry, JACL national secretary/treasurer. Vacant positions will not be filled, he explained, such as the director of public affairs and youth director.

"Well it's a matter of when we created the budget, when we first started this process we had a \$300,000 deficit," explained Spry about moving the *P.C.* to San Francisco. "For the past two years we've had a \$200,000 and \$60,000 deficit for those past few years. ... With a realistic revenue lines and realistic program costs this is the only thing that can really get our budget to balance."

Board members said it was also a tough decision to pass the budget with proposals to increase membership dues, especially considering those on fixed incomes.

"A decision to increase membership dues is never an easy one to make, especially for the reason that we understand many of our members are on fixed incomes and we truly appreciate the support we've received over the years," Lin said.

Those that voted to adopt the budget said other "tough decisions" were made.

"I've seen a lot of the downsizing of the organization and it makes sense that the *P.C.* should experience the same thing," said Brandon Mita, JACL youth representative, "And not that it's a tit-for-tat, but it's that how can we continue the programs that are impor-

JACL National Board Votes

Joshua Spry, Secretary/Treasurer	Yes
David Kawamoto, V.P. for Planning & Development	Yes
Kimberly Midori Shintaku, National Youth Council Chair	Yes
Brandon Mita, Youth Representative	Yes
Marcia Chung, CCDC District Governor	No
Toshi Abe, EDC District Governor	No
Brian Morishita, IDC District Governor	Yes
Chip Larouche, PNW District Governor	Yes
Kerry Kaneichi, PSW District Governor	No
Sharon Ishii-Jordan, MDC District Governor	No
Alan Nishi, NCWNP District Governor	No
David Lin, V.P. for Membership & Services	Yes
Sheldon Arakaki, V.P. for General Operations	Yes
Ron Katsuyama, V.P. for Public Affairs	No

tant to this organization that maintain that civil rights function."

Aoyagi-Stom said the *P.C.* has always been impacted by budgetary decisions.

"In 2009 the *P.C.* budget was cut twice, reducing our budget by 8 percent. In past years the *P.C.* has always made sure we really take a look at our expenses and revenues and that's why for the past several years we have come under budget," Aoyagi-Stom explained.

Others say their offices were relocated without interruption, and the *P.C.* should not be different.

"We recently moved our D.C. offices to a new location without any noticeable disruption, and the move involves about the same number of personnel as the *P.C.*," wrote Floyd Mori, national director, in an e-mail to the *P.C.*

The proposed *P.C.* move to San Francisco should not effect the distribution of the 81-year-old paper, added some board members.

"The people who print the paper, and the people who distribute the paper aren't moving," wrote Chip Larouche, PNW district governor, in an e-mail.

But some board members said JACLers, in addition to having their dues increase, should expect to see an interruption in their newspaper service if the San Francisco move goes through.

"When the *P.C.* moved from Monterey Park to Los Angeles in 2005, a distance of only eight miles, two issues of the *P.C.* were interrupted," said Margie Yamamoto, *P.C.* editorial board chair. "A move of this distance and magnitude could affect at least four to six issues."

A disruption in newspaper service does not sit well with some readers.

"I think it's wrong," said Richard K. Matsuishi, Arizona chapter board member, who said he enjoys reading the *P.C.* in its entirety. "I think the cost involved in moving and relocation — well, I don't think the staff will probably go. So, they'd have to hire new staff and the cost of living is higher. I think over the long run it's not going to save any money."

An interruption in publication would also mean a loss in advertising revenues. The *P.C.* raises about 50 percent of its budget through non-member subscriptions, fundraising, advertising and the Holiday Issue, a fundraiser that grosses almost \$110,000.

The *P.C.*'s Holiday Issue could also possibly be disrupted since the proposed timing coincides with the Holiday Issue production in December. JACL chapters receive about \$30,000 in commissions from the special publication.

Balancing the Budget

This is not the first time the national JACL has discussed moving the *P.C.* to the San Francisco headquarters. At the 1996 national convention a resolution was passed to investigate the possibility of moving *P.C.* from L.A. to headquarters. In 1998 Floyd D. Shimomura, former national JACL president, compiled a feasibility study to determine the costs and benefits of moving the *P.C.* and staff to San Francisco.

He concluded that the *P.C.* could be "squeezed into the second floor" of the national headquarters with a net savings of about \$10,000 a year in rent and utilities.

Shimomura said then that the savings would be "too slight to justify losing our historic JACL 'presence' in Southern California."

"I am aware that JACL has grave financial issues and moving the *P.C.* to headquarters is a reasonable concept," Shimomura explained. "However, more planning and coordination needs to be done in implementing such a move or the *P.C.* could collapse."

Michelle M. Yoshida, JACL legal counsel, will conduct a feasibility study, exploring the costs and savings.

The national board must submit a budget to the national council within 90 days of the July convention, according to the JACL constitution and bylaws.

"These are very dire straits for JACL financially and I feel that the board was under the gun to get the budget passed," said Marcia Chung, CCDC district governor, who voted against the proposed budget. "The main push was for the *P.C.* to move to San Francisco, and I felt there was not an accurate feasibility report to back this proposal of cost savings."

Others also question why a feasibility study was not conducted before the vote.

"Yes, had a feasibility study been conducted before the vote, the national board would have had the benefit of a complete, impartial picture of effects of the move and the short-and long-term fiscal implications," said Yamamoto.

Morishita said he voted in favor of moving the *P.C.* to another city only in error.

"After the meeting I learned that I had mis-cast my vote in favor of the moving to San Francisco," he explained. "I erred in thinking that the stay in Los Angeles option that was being displayed on the screen was what I had voted for."

But Morishita said he is confident that the national council will make the correct decision in July.

The JACL national Council will have the final say in approving the proposed budget at the Chicago convention in July, including the proposed moving of *P.C.* and the dues increases. ■

Former APA Gang Members Erase Tattoos, Their Past



'Well, it's a big burden off my back. I just feel at peace now because I don't have to look back at them. I don't have to look at my body, and just still see part of my past, you know.'

Julio Lee (left), a former member of Rebellious Soldiers, has now had several tattoos removed through the Clean Arms for Community program.

Former APA gang members like Julio Lee can start new lives free of gang tattoos with the help of Clean Arm For Community.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Each tattoo on Julio Lee's body tells a different story. At 16, he got inked for the first time on his back with his nickname "Chino" in old English print. The name represents his mixed Mexican and Chinese heritage. But for Lee, now 20, it was also his gang moniker.

Other tattoos are reminders of a life of drugs and violence. A faded mark on his left shoulder reminds Lee of an ex-girlfriend. On his finger is a washed out tattoo that pays homage to his former gang, the Rebellious Soldiers.

Each tattoo, he said, reminds him of a past he would rather not relive.

"I was involved in a lot of violence," Lee explained. "Drive-by shootings, fighting, robberies, you name it. I've seen people get killed right in front of me."

With the help of Clean Arms For Community Lee applied for a free tattoo removal service.

Since 2009 the nonprofit has administered about 64 laser removals within the prison system in Southern California. They work in an empty cell.

After about eight treatments Lee's tattoos are fading, so too is his former image.

"Well, it's a big burden off my back. I just feel at peace now because I don't have to look back at them," Lee said. "I don't have to look at my body, and just still see part of my past, you know."

Writing a New Story

Lee's story was one of a boy who was homeless at 5 with his mother, sleeping on park benches. Vowing to never be without money in his pocket, Lee joined a gang at about 14. He spent nearly every day drinking, smoking marijuana and crystal methamphetamine.

At 17, Lee landed in the Southern Youth Center Reception Center and Clinic (SYCRCC) on a two-and-a-half year prison term for robbery. His stay there would help him erase past

memories of a gang life.

Finding his Christian faith, Lee decided — despite jeers from fellow inmates — that he would leave the gang life for good.

"I think it was a reason why I had to get incarcerated ... it all comes down to when I do tell my story behind why I got my tattoos removed I can advise those who are seeking to find a new path on which direction to go," Lee said.

Officials with Clean Arms say Lee also encouraged others to leave the gang life and remove their tattoos.

"Julio was really a source of leadership, he was a source of hope, he was a source of positivity for the other kids," said Taizo Shibayama, director of Clean Arms. "He's showing us that he's putting in his work to turn his life around. And we're doing everything we can to help him out."

As of March 2009 about 230 youth were in SYCRCC, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. About 1,640 were in facilities across California.

As of December 2008, nine percent of those imprisoned are APA.

Laser removal service is free to ex-gang members and troubled young men who want to remove visible tattoos that could prevent them from starting a new life.

To be eligible for the program ex-gang members and others must write an essay about why they want to remove their tattoos. They must also agree to participate in gang prevention and rehabilitation classes. In return for their clean arms, participants must also do community service.

For every hour of community service they get \$20 worth of laser treatment. Lee's tattoo removal treatments on his arm, Shibayama said, would have cost about \$350 per treatment.

Shibayama said he thinks the tattoo removal services help participants show others that they have the motivation to improve their lives.

"I just recently became a client of Clean Arms For Community where they are helping me not just to get rid of my old bad life tattoos but also to not think of who I was once," said Art Santana, who was in a gang in Anaheim, Calif. "As the tattoos are getting faded by the laser so [too are] the thoughts of my past life."

With an annual budget of \$60,000, Clean Arms is looking to build partnerships and expand its services. Eventually,

Shibayama said organization officials want to also offer job placement, therapy and other services. They also want to start offering tattoo removal services for young women in Los Angeles and Orange County, Calif.

Dreams for the Future

For now the organization is helping young men like Lee have a chance at a future.

"Now that I'm out [of the gang], I don't want to relive that life again and I don't want to end up going back because I know actually where it's going to end me up," Lee said. "It's going to end up with me in three places: back in jail for a worse crime, handicap or six feet below the ground."

Lee is now working two jobs, one as a short-order cook and the other as a delivery driver at a 99 Cents Only store. He is now living in a halfway house away from his old neighborhood and bad influences. Lifting his shirtsleeve to reveal a now-faded tattoo on his upper arm, Lee talks about dreams to be a racecar mechanic or driver.

"Julio loves the racing industry, so I was like, 'Hey I got to take you to the Long Beach Grand Prix,'" said Shibayama with a smile.

Officials with the Formula Drift Holdings donated 15 tickets to Clean Arms for troubled youth.

"We feel that often young people lose their way and it is the responsibility for all of us to help them find a way back," explained Jim Liaw, Formula Drift Holdings president and CEO. "These tickets are not just to promote what we do or just about providing entertainment but maybe it can inspire."

Clean Arms was a big opportunity, Lee said. It not only helped him remove a part of his past, he said, but it is helping him move forward.

"Every time I told my story about how I got my tattoos and what I used to do behind it, I wasn't embarrassed but I was ashamed," he said. "I was ashamed of it because I couldn't believe that I used to do those types of things. I look at it now and I'd be like, 'What was I doing?'"

Lee's mom is taking notice of his change as well.

"Wow, she's like shocked and surprised. She's proud. I know she's proud." ■

Information: www.cleanarms.org

JACL Calls on USC to Issue Nisei Degrees



Instead of degrees for its WWII-impacted JA students, the Los Angeles-based private university awarded honorary alumni status.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL national board has passed a resolution urging the University of Southern California to award honorary degrees to its former Nisei students who during World War II were forced to discontinue their education because of the internment.

Over 100 USC Japanese American students were affected by with WWII internment, university officials have said. In 2008, the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association honored their former Nisei students during an April 25 scholarships and awards gala.

The university also awarded honorary alumni status to WWII-impacted Nisei students.

But the JACL national board resolution, passed unanimously at the April 9-10 meeting in San Francisco, Calif., calls the honorary alumni status "inadequate reparations."

"The passage of this resolution is important to all Nisei students who attended USC and was forced to leave the institution due to Executive Order 9066," said Kerry Kaneichi, JACL Pacific Southwest district governor.

Nisei students suffered extraordinarily because USC was the only West Coast university that refused to release their transcripts, which resulted in a disruption in their higher education studies, he added.

Many California universities and community colleges have either already awarded Nisei honorary degrees or have announced plans to host such ceremonies after the passage of Assembly Bill 37, which called on California State University, University of California and community colleges to award these degrees.

The JACL national board resolution calls on USC to "act with a particular priority on issuing honorary degrees to former Nisei students."

"We believe that USC's refusal to issue honorary diplomas is unjustified and hope that with the added backing of National JACL, these students will finally receive their honorary diplomas," said Kaneichi. ■



Project: Community! 2010 taking a group shot in the JACCC Plaza

JACL PSW Announces Project: Community! 2010

The JACL Pacific Southwest District has opened up registration for Project: Community! 2010. This high school summer program runs from Jun. 22 to Aug. 24. Participants will meet every Tuesday night from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo.

For 10 weeks this summer a group of 15-20 students will attend interactive workshops led by JACL staff and various community leaders. Workshops will focus on developing leadership skills, identity, grassroots organizing, and the preservation of the Little Tokyo. Applications for this program are available online at www.jaclpsw.org or upon request.

All application materials must be post marked or e-mailed to the program coordinator Vanessa Yee at vyee@jaclpsw.org by May

21. Participants will be notified of acceptance in early June.

Since its inception in 2008, Project: Community! has strived to create a space for high school youth to learn more about themselves and their roles within the Little Tokyo community.

JACL PSW recognizes the importance of youth as the future of the community. The district carries out a variety of youth initiatives including: leadership development at high school and collegiate levels, and stimulation of youth engagement through public policy and community organizing.

Project: Community! was made possible through the generous support of AT&T. ■

On the Web

www.jaclpsw.org

Constitution & Bylaw Amendment Forms Now Available

To participate as a voting member of the JACL national council, each chapter must be in compliance with all credentials guidelines.

Constitution and bylaw amendment forms are now available online at www.jacl.org.

The deadline is April 24 for preliminary review and May 1 for submission to the national director.

The JACL national council will take up the amendment proposals at the Chicago national convention June 30 to July 4. This year's convention theme is "Embracing Change."

All documents can also be found through a

link on the JACL homepage and the 2010 convention Web site.

In order to participate as a voting member of the JACL national council, each chapter must be in compliance with all credentials guidelines. Chapter fees are due 60 days prior to the first business session on May 2. Proxy and delegate forms are due to headquarters by May 1.

At the 2008 national convention in Salt Lake City Convention, national council required each chapter in good standing to file 990 or 990-EZ forms by May 15.

If a chapter failed to file a 990 form in 2008, then a 2009 990 needs to be filed prior to the convention. ■

Floor Nominations Still Available for JACL Nat'l Office

The national JACL nominations committee is seeking members who are interested in running for a seat on the national JACL board of directors.

Since the initial filing deadline has passed, those still wishing to run for office must do so from the floor of the convention.

The term of office shall be two years covering the 2010-12 biennium.

Positions include national president, secretary/treasurer, vice president for general operations, vice president for planning and development, vice president for membership, vice president for public affairs, national youth/student council chair and national youth/student council representative.

A description of duties can be found in the JACL constitution and bylaws.

The process and procedures for those who wish to run from the floor can be found in the nominations and election guidelines, which is available at the JACL's Web site: www.jacl.org.

Those running from the floor will be subject to additional requirements.

Every even-numbered convention year, the JACL holds its election of national officers. This year, the national convention will be held from June 30 to July 4 at the Swissotel in Chicago, Illinois. This year's theme is "Embracing Change."

For more information on the national convention, visit www.jacl.org. For more information on running for national office, contact Kent Kawai, nominations committee chair: mkawaiusa@netscape.net. ■

2010 JACL National Convention
June 30th - July 4th - Swissôtel Chicago

Embracing Change



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.

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Convention Hotel

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

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		Before 6/10	After 6/10
Convention Package	\$250	\$300	Devil in the White City Tour	\$70	\$80
Youth/Student Package (for ages 25 and under)	\$200	\$250	Absolutely Segway Tour	\$65	\$75
			Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri		
Individual Events			Architecture Walking Tour	\$15	\$25
Sayonara Banquet	\$120	\$150	Art Institute of Chicago Tour	\$30	\$40
(Student Members)	\$100	\$125	Trolley Tour	\$25	\$35
Welcome Reception	\$60	\$75	Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Sat		
Awards Luncheon	\$60	\$75	Supernatural Chinatown Tour	\$45	\$55
Youth Luncheon	\$60	\$75	Horseshoe Casino	\$30	\$40
Optional Events			Buddy Guy's Legends	\$55	\$65
Credit Union Luncheon	\$65	\$65	Museum Campus Visit	\$75	\$85
(Credit Union Members)	\$30	\$30	Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> 9a <input type="checkbox"/> 1p		
A Night at Club Chicago	\$30	\$30	Chicago Cubs Baseball	\$45	\$55
Youth Entertainment	\$20	\$20	Architecture River Cruise	\$30	\$40
			GRAND TOTAL		



PHOTO: ANDRE NGUYEN

Civil rights activist Yuri Kochiyama (above) at Black Panther Richard Aoki's memorial in 2009.

Shining a Light on APA Leaders

Is there an Asian American equivalent of Malcolm X or Martin Luther King, Jr.?

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Asian Pacific Americans say, unlike other ethnic communities, there is not one prominent APA leader, but many unsung heroes to be recognized for their work.

While there is not an APA equivalent to Martin Luther King, Jr., APAs say many community leaders have made lasting contributions worthy of recognition and respect.

These are the community leaders who need to be honored during APA Heritage Month in May.

"We have them all around us," JACL National Youth Representative Brandon Mita said about APA leaders. "We just need to realize that leadership doesn't always have to equate to the front page of the *New York Times*."

APA Heritage Month started in 1978 as a weeklong celebration after former Reps. Norman Mineta and Frank Horton introduced a resolution, followed by similar bills supported by Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga.

In 1992 the event expanded to what is now APA Heritage Month.

"Norm Mineta fought hard when he was in the Congress to establish May as the month in which this country would celebrate its APA citizens, and it's our responsibility now to make the most of it," said John Tateishi, former JACL national director.

The nationwide celebration is about "the recognition that Asian Pacific Americans are an integral part of the fabric of this country," said Dale Minami, a partner at the San Francisco, Calif. law office of Minami Tamaki LLP.

"That we're not just foreigners as we are perceived by some ignorant people. That we have a long and valuable history here, contributing to the growth and the diversity and the greatness of America."

Unsung Heroes

When asked to name the most prominent APA leaders, most readily list trailblazers like Minami, Richard Aoki, Yuri Kochiyama, and many others.

A Malcolm X level civil rights figure does not exist in the APA community, many say, but APAs have made significant contributions to many walks of life.

Contributions like Aoki's involvement with the Black Panther Party, Kochiyama's civil rights efforts and Minami's work on the historical Korematsu case, among many others.

Others rose from Japanese American internment camps to serve their country in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion or fought for freedom from home like the resisters of conscience.

"Does any immigrant, ethnic, or racial group in the U.S. or in other countries have extraordinarily recognizable and influential social justice leaders like Martin Luther King or Malcolm X?" said Don T. Nakanishi, director and professor emeritus of the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Of course not. It isn't just Asian Americans. However, that doesn't mean that there haven't been APAs who have provided unprecedented leadership, vision, and insights. There have been," Nakanishi added.

Mita echoed Nakanishi's sentiments.

"Unlike the African American community ... the API [Asian and Pacific Islander] community has not forged bonds as one entity," Mita said. "This is not to say that there will never be a figurehead like Martin Luther King or Malcolm X, but at the moment, I haven't seen anyone that has emerged to be such an individual."

Let the Celebration Begin

To celebrate APA Heritage Month, APA groups nationwide are planning events to honor those who have paved the way for future generations.

"I think that every community should be recognized for their history and contributions," said Tricia Sung, chair of the

Friends of the National Archives Southeast (FNAS) APA Heritage Month Committee in Georgia.

On May 1, FNAS and other community partners including the Southeast JACL are planning the "We Are America: Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S. South," which will feature speakers like Reps. Joseph Cao and Mike Honda.

The event takes place at the National Archives in Atlanta. It is one of many celebrations planned nationwide to highlight contributions of APAs in politics, the community, the arts and more.

"In terms of folks that I really appreciate I would have to say the APA parents that have come before us," said Sung. "And in many cases those are the unsung heroes."

APA Heritage Month is not only a time to honor those that have made strides in politics or civil rights, but other fields as well.

"There are many who have made significant contributions in a unique way to the APA community," said Sonya Kuki, a South Bay JACL member and *Pacific Citizen* editorial board youth representative. "One who I've always admired was Patsy Mink, former U.S. representative from the state of Hawaii who championed women's rights specifically with regards to athletic opportunities."

Kuki added that she also admires Sen. Daniel Akaka and Cleveland Browns linebacker Scott Fujita, who was adopted by JACL members Rod and Helen Fujita.

In addition to honoring leaders, some APAs say there must also be support for organizations that give the community a voice.

"It's really important for us to support not only Asian American organizations but the Asian American media," Minami said. "And community newspapers are really a significant part of creating the cohesion that allows us to fulfill our potential as an ethnic minority, as Asian Americans. It reminds us of who we are, it connects us together and I think it allows us to have a voice." ■



VERY truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

Formation of National JACL

WE JUST PASSED the “birthday” when JACL was founded — April 6, 1929 — in San Francisco at Japantown’s Reformed Church. During my five decades editing this publication, no one at the national JACL level took special steps to celebrate JACL’s birthday.

As this column gleaned past records, we shall conclude by showing milestones that led to the formation of JACL.

As a Nisei, we all can thank our lucky stars that the Issei had emigrated to the U.S., married and planted their roots in America despite the problems, prejudice and discrimination that faced Asians in general, more jarring in their time.

Now to the milestones:

Fall 1918 — Seven spirited Nisei professionals and businessmen in San Francisco form the American Loyalty League (predecessor to JACL) to assert their American birthright. The seven — Tom Yatabe, DDS; Tom Okawara; Tokutaro “Terry” Hayashi DDS; his brother Hideki Hayashi, DDS; Kay Tsukamoto, Peoples Laundry; Harry Suzé Suzukawa, North American Mercantile Co.; and George Kiyoshi Togasaki, WWI veteran, Mutual Supply Co. Were they dreamers? (*Italics indicate excerpts from Bill Hosokawa’s “JACL in Quest of Justice”, Chapter One.*)

1920-1929 — “American Loyalty League” or ALL chapters (16 in California) had little to do with Issei community; they even avoided use of “Japanese” in its organizational name. They did join the Japanese Association of America to fight anti-Japanese prejudice and discrimination.

Jan. 1921 — The New Americans Conference in Honolulu called by Japan-born preacher Rev. Taki Okumura was to hasten “Americanization” of Nisei in Hawaii and to develop community leaders. Conferences met annually until 1941.

Sept. 21, 1921 — The Seattle Progressive Citizens League organized by attorney Clarence T. Arai, began with 14 Nisei; Shigeru Osawa served as president until 1928, when Arai was elected president.

May 1923 — The California Citizens’ League

Federation, comprised of ALL leaders, met in San Francisco annually through the 1920s. It became a “political wedge” against anti-Japanese discrimination; Dr. Tom Yatabe, 27, was chosen federation president.

Sept. 1, 1923 — ALL, known as the “central organization,” launches a relief drive for Tokyo earthquake victims; urges Nisei with dual citizenship to renounce their Japanese citizenship, as provided by amendment to Japanese law.

Nov. 28-29, 1924 — As JAA revitalizes the dormant ALL chapters, Dr. Yatabe in San Francisco urges Nisei to create/promote better understanding between Japanese and American people, and register to vote. The California Citizens League Federation dwindled to six chapters in 1926; and by 1929 Fresno was the lone active chapter.

April 1928 — Clarence Arai, 27, of Seattle Progressive Citizens League consults with Takizo Takimoto, JAA general secretary, and Nisei leaders at the San Francisco Japantown YMCA to lay the groundwork for a permanent national organization.

Oct. 1, 1928 — San Francisco New American Citizens League organized to prepare again a federation of Pacific Coast Nisei representatives; Saburo Kido, 26, was elected president.

April 5-6, 1929 — National JACL is organized at Japanese Reformed Church. Delegates from nine organizations adopted “Japanese-American Citizens’ League” (sic) as its name; *Nikkei Shimin Kyokai* in Japanese.

Delegates — San Francisco: Saburo Kido, Dr. Henry Takahashi, George Togasaki, Takeo Okamoto, Jhosey Aoki, Tamotsu Murayama, Fumi Kawahara Goda, Saiki Muneno, Jerry Isonaka, Charles Yonezu, Takashi Koga; San Jose: Kay Nishida; Newcastle: Tom Yego, Louis Oki, Sam Sunada; Stockton: Miya Sannomiya Kikuchi, Masaru Kuwada; Fresno: Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe, Hisashi Arie; Los Angeles: Yone Kuwahara Sugahara; Brawley: Lyle Kurisaki, Ryoichi Okamoto; Portland: Charles Yoshii; Seattle: Clarence T. Arai.

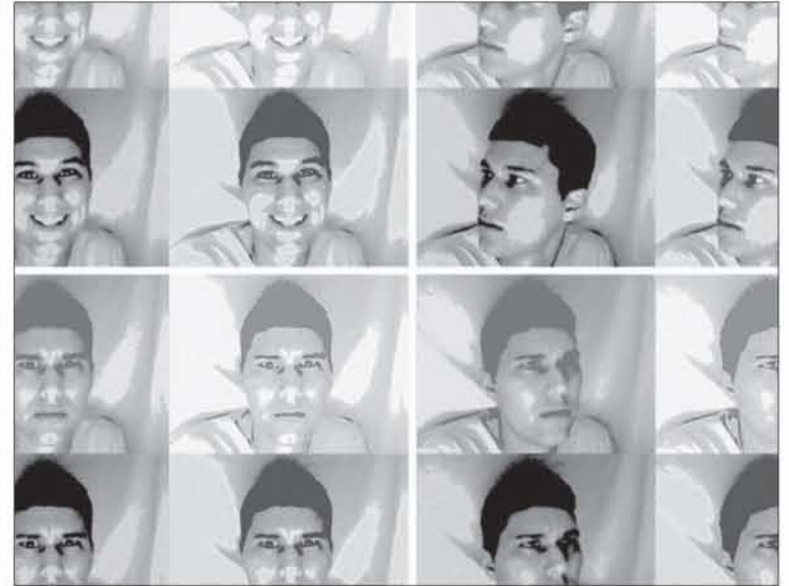
Let’s call them the “artists” of JACL. ■

Harry Honda is the Pacific Citizen’s editor emeritus.

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

The Death of Objectivity

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



The gloomy day has arrived. Objectivity has taken its last breath. Raise your glass in memory to what once was. Here comes subjectivity to reign in the absence of rational observation and sound decision-making.

The rise of modernity has slain objectivity.

One of coming of age quandary is this: Is this how it always was or are things getting worse? Many great young protagonists from Holden Caulfield to Gene Forrester or Scout Finch have all struggled with the cold reality of becoming an adult. The unfortunate generation behind me will face it sooner than they should. Good luck, you won’t stand a chance.

Maybe I am exaggerating. Maybe the young’uns will have a chance after all. But it is going to be a lot harder, and here’s why.

The preponderance of information we Modernites must digest is constantly being pushed through narrowing prisms — relative to who is talking and what they want you to believe. How can any of us make sense of what we read, hear or see? Plus, who doesn’t have an ulterior motive these days?

Just turn on any 24-hour news network and read their ticker at the bottom of the screen filled with inevitable question mark statements that push a subtle agenda, one tick at a time. With the right and left looking at the same sets of data and drawing insanely opposite conclusions, how are we supposed sort through the mess?

And it’s not just limited to the news media. Should I drink Coke or Pepsi? From what the advertisements tell me, I must choose one or the other. Should I buy Huggies or Pampers? Surely one must be better than its competitor.

I mean, Yankees or Red-Socks? LeBron or Kobe? Politics, sports, advertisements, you name it — who among us is equipped enough to break through the noise?

I wish there were a study that would illustrate how many times you have to hear a particular “truth” before you believe it. For instance, if you heard Rush Limbaugh say it, read it on Redstate.com, and then was forwarded an e-mail from your work buddy, then it must be true. Of course, the same could be said about MSNBC sound bites, a Huffington Post link, or a Facebook status update.

Repeating half-truths over and over again does not make them any more true.

I would like to believe that there was once a day when rationality, honesty and objectivity ruled. But sadly, like Holden, I should come to terms with the reality that I live in.

I guess it’s on us, my peers and I, to rummage through the information mess and create order among chaos to spare younger generations from losing their innocence. I can only imagine that I’m not the first coming-of-age to seek that resolution.

Wish me luck. Wish us all luck to break through prisms of relativity and dig up our old friend, objectivity. ■

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



Major League Baseball's Japanese American Catcher

The Oakland A's Kurt Suzuki gears up for a new season and he discusses his Japanese heritage and hometown of Hawaii.

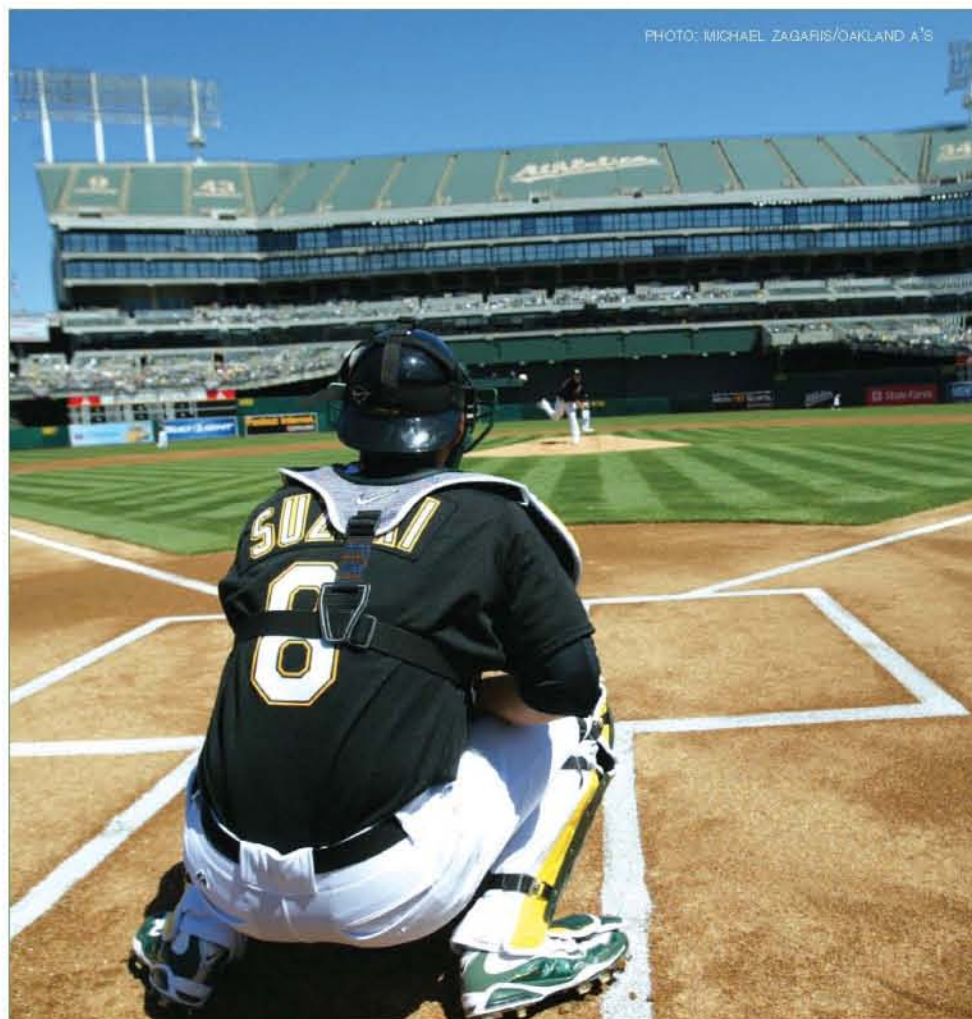


PHOTO: MICHAEL ZAGARIS/OAKLAND A'S

Kurt Kiyoshi Suzuki says he's proud to represent his home state of Hawaii.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Twenty-six-year-old Kurt Kiyoshi Suzuki has played with the Oakland A's since 2007, but he has never forgotten where he got his start.

The A's catcher says he is proud to know every time he steps on the diamond that he is representing the state of Hawaii.

"Yes, being from a small state and doing what I'm doing, makes me proud and shows me how fortunate I am," he said. "It's great to carry that Hawaiian name with me."

Suzuki, who is Japanese American, is from Hawaii where he attended Henry Perrine Baldwin High School.

The A's catcher said he wears a puka shell necklace under his jersey to remind him of his hometown of Wailuku on the island of Maui.

"I've worn it since I left the island to go to college and haven't taken it off since," Suzuki explained of heading off to college at California State University, Fullerton.

"It might be superstitious, but mostly it

just reminds me of home."

Suzuki wore that puka shell necklace April 5 when the A's kicked off the 2010 season against the Seattle Mariners. The two teams will play seven games during the first 10 days of the season.

Growing up in Hawaii as a JA has influenced Suzuki beyond his choice of on-the-field attire, he said.

"I think it gave me a little bit more of a laid back and relaxed attitude and the ability to really just have fun and enjoy life," Suzuki explained about how the island culture influenced him. "Hawaii is a much different place."

His Japanese heritage has also, he said, affected his demeanor in life on and off the diamond.

"Off the diamond, it definitely leads to being closer with my family," Suzuki said. "We spend a lot of time together over the holidays, so it's helped me become more family oriented."

Suzuki is regarded as one of the top catchers in the American League. He earned the nickname "Kurt Klutch" in college where he was awarded the Johnny Bench Award.

While playing for the A's, Suzuki's skills have also garnered acknowledgment. In 2009 Suzuki increased his batting

average to .274 and hit 15 home runs. Suzuki was batting .249 in 2007 with 39 RBIs.

In addition to hitting seven homeruns and 42 RBIs in 2008, Suzuki was able to travel with the team to Japan.

"It was cool to experience professional baseball in Japan and the culture too," he explained. "It was interesting seeing how the way of life differed over there. It was a fun trip and the food was great."

His teammates and coaches also unofficially named Suzuki MVP last year. For his work on and off the field, Suzuki's teammates and coaches also named him as the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Award recipient in 2009.

Setting an example for others, the 26-year-old stepped up to the plate when a former college baseball player needed help.

He raised over \$61,000 for the Jon Wilhite Recovery Fund. The fund benefited Jon Wilhite, who was injured in a fatal car crash that killed Angels' pitcher Nick Adenhardt and two others.

"Anytime you are in the spotlight you feel like a role model." He added, "When kids look up to you, you have to make sure to carry yourself in the right way, and that you provide good examples for them."

Suzuki said his parents were always supportive of everything he did including base-

ball. He offered words of encouragement for younger JAs:

"Just keep working hard and never give up," he said. "There are no limits if you have a good attitude. ■"

Jordan Iserson contributed to this story.



PHOTO: KRIS WILSON

'Anytime you are in the spotlight you feel like a role model,' said Suzuki.

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'I'm excited about the move to Cleveland — it opens up a whole new part of the country for us to explore,' said Scott Fujita (top, center), who recently signed with the Browns.

CELEBRATING SAINTHOOD

In the afterglow of a Super Bowl win, NFL star Scott Fujita talks about his future with the Cleveland Browns and reflects on his family history.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

On the field of Sun Life Stadium after the New Orleans Saints' historic Super Bowl win, confetti rained down on linebacker Scott Fujita as he celebrated the victory with his wife, Jaclyn, and their two-year-old twin daughters, Isabell and Delilah.

It's a moment crystallized in time for the NFL star.

"It's still tough to describe exactly what it feels like to have won the Super Bowl. What I do know is that for the first few weeks following the game, I felt like my feet never touched the ground," said Fujita.

After the parades and celebrations came the news: the Saint became a Brown — the Cleveland variety. After four years in New Orleans, it's a move that he calls "bittersweet."

Fujita, 30, the son of Ventura County JACLers Rod and Helen Fujita, recently caught up with the *Pacific Citizen* via e-mail to talk about his Super Bowl win and his Japanese American family legacy, including an honorary degree from UC Berkeley for his late grandfather, Nagao Fujita, a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran.

***Pacific Citizen:* What have your family members said to you about your Super Bowl win?**

Scott Fujita: My family is incredibly proud, and Jaclyn and I were so glad to be able to share this whole experience with them. And they deserve it too! They have all been such loyal supporters, changing their shirts and hats as I move from team to team, so they deserve to relish the moment as well.

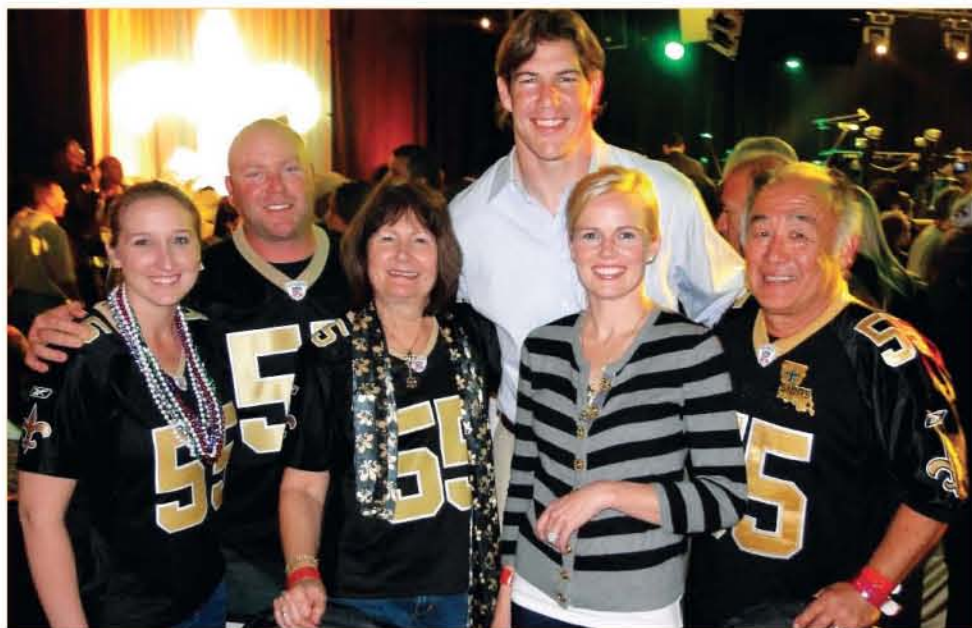
My grandfather [Nagao Fujita] would also be extremely proud. He was a great football player and fan, and like me, was a very ambitious and goal-oriented person. He would be thrilled that I've accomplished so much as a

man, as a father, and as a football player.

***P.C.:* You're Cleveland bound! Describe your best personal memory with the Saints, and your expectations for the Browns next season.**

Fujita: It's definitely bittersweet to be leaving New Orleans, but we'll keep our home there and will visit often. I'm excited about the move to Cleveland — it opens up a whole new part of the country for us to explore. For us, playing in the NFL is about the experience as well ... not just playing the games.

I hear there's a pretty good sushi spot in Cleveland called Sushi Rock. In fact, the



The post-Super Bowl party was a family affair. Scott (back row) celebrated with (l-r) his soon-to-be-sister-in-law Stephanie, brother Jason, mom Helen, wife Jaclyn and dad Rod.

Browns ordered it in when I was on my free agency visit, so they definitely did their homework.

***P.C.:* How do you keep Isabell and Delilah plugged into the Japanese culture that you grew up in?**

Fujita: We've gotten used to living so far from home. But the one thing about playing football is that there are always games to be played, and people always want to come to games. Despite the distance, we probably still see our families more than most people, and that keeps the girls in touch with their roots.

***P.C.:* I understand you have a copy of your father's apology letter from President George Bush for the World War II JA incarceration. What does the letter mean to you?**

Fujita: Years ago I made a copy of the letter my dad received from the president. Now it's on my computer, so it travels with me wherever I go. Basically, it gives me a stark reminder of where my family has come from and what they've been through. It also reminds me how fortunate I am, and that I really have nothing to complain about.

***P.C.:* You have a strong UC Berkeley tradition in your family. The UC system is awarding honorary degrees to WWII JA students and/or their families who were forced to discontinue their education because of the internment. What do you think this honorary degree would've meant to your grandfather, who also attended Berkeley?**



JAs from across California arrived at Stanislaus County's Turlock Assembly Center in 1942.

Memorial to be Dedicated at Former Turlock Assembly Center Site

At the height of anti-Japanese sentiment during WWII, JAs from all over California were taken to Turlock, making it difficult for organizers to find former internees for the ceremony.

By Christine McFadden
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

When Kayla Canelo, a master's student of history at California State University, Stanislaus, learned that an area in her county historically significant to Japanese Americans was lacking a monumental marker, she immediately took action.

The Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, which once housed 3,692 JAs at its peak population when it served as the Turlock Assembly Center during World War II, is currently without any trace or proof of the people who called it "home" for a large portion of 1942. Relocated JAs were incarcerated in the assembly center between April and August; post-war, the area was used as a rehabilitation center for the Army.

"So many children grow up near former assembly centers and have no idea whatsoever

of their history," wrote Canelo in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "This is definitely a history that needs to be remembered."

A Small, Dignified Ceremony

In January 2008, Canelo enrolled in class on JA internment taught by history professor Dr. Nancy Taniguchi in which she heard numerous personal internment stories from visiting former internees. There, she learned a history relevant to Stanislaus County that had only thus far been passed onto her through her grandfather rather than formal education in school.

Concurrently, a project in the neighboring Merced County was underway to remember the site of the Merced Assembly Center led by the Merced Assembly Center Commemoration Committee. When encouraged by Taniguchi to take on a similar project for Turlock, she agreed. After attending one of the Merced monument meetings, she called

classmate David Seymour the next day.

Canelo and Seymour then contacted the Cortez JACL about support and donations. With the help of one key donor who contributed \$3,000, they raised \$4,000 toward the monument.

"I had known for years that Turlock was an assembly center," Seymour said. "I had always thought: 'I wonder if there is anything to mark that?'"

The money was enough to purchase what Cortez JACL president and Merced Assembly Center Commemoration Committee member Ed Nakade describes as "a very modest cement block with a plaque" from a "shoe-string budget."

Nakade, who helped Canelo but maintains that it was a "one-woman show," had family members who were incarcerated during WWII. He was born after the war. Originally from Vacaville, Calif., he assumed that his family was placed in the Sacramento Assembly Center.

"The Nisei really didn't talk about it and so I assumed that that was where we went," he said. "It was later on when I was working on the project and I mentioned it to my mom and she said, 'Oh that's great, that's where we were.'"

Nakade was able to find his mother in the Turlock records. After being sent to Gila River in Arizona with the other Turlock internees, his family settled in Stockton, Calif.

The monument's base will be installed at the north gate of the Stanislaus Fairgrounds April 19. The monument itself will be installed April 20, according to Canelo. In addition to the monument, a ceremony is scheduled for May 1 at 11 a.m. at the site. According to Canelo, the Stockton Taiko will be performing, former internees will be sharing their stories, and Taniguchi will serve as the keynote speaker.

"We wanted a small, simple, and dignified ceremony and I really feel that is what we are accomplishing," Canelo said.

Rallying for Support

The Turlock Assembly Center is largely different from the Merced Assembly center in that most of the JAs incarcerated in Merced eventually returned to that same county after the war. Conversely, Turlock housed internees

from all over California — from Tracy to the Bay Area — making it difficult to locate people to attend the ceremony.

"Everyone from Merced is from Merced," said Seymour. "But everyone from Turlock is not from Turlock. They didn't stay in the area when they got out of camp. It's a matter of tracking a few of them down."

Due to the widely dispersed population of the former Turlock internees in addition to the aging population of the Nisei, both Seymour and Nakade are concerned that many will either be unaware of the ceremony or be unable to attend. Invitations have been sent out to people who donated to the project and the team is still working on researching the names and contact information of former Turlock internees.

Nakade hopes that the ceremony will attract more donations to build a storyboard to enhance the plaque embedded in the concrete. Many of the former assembly center sites up and down the West Coast, which during WWII ranged from barracks to makeshift rooms out of horse stables, already have monuments accompanied by storyboards and descriptions.

"As a historian I would really like to conduct oral history interviews and document the stories of former internees," Canelo said. "It is so important that their history is remembered."

Canelo is not a Japanese American, nor is she related to anybody who is JA. After starting her Turlock Assembly Center monument project, she became a JACL member.

"It's really inspirational that Kayla would take this on," Nakade said.

Seymour shared similar sentiments: "I can't rave about her enough; she's on top of everything."

Canelo's ultimate goal for the project is to educate people about the Turlock Assembly Center and the JA internment in general, especially the younger generations who may not know as much about the history of this time period.

"We need to protect our civil liberties for the future," Canelo said. She also hopes that the monument meets the expectations of former internees. "I hope they are pleased to know that we are remembering their history and educating the future generations through it." ■

Turlock Dedication
May 1, 11 a.m.
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YAMAMOTO

(Continued from page 2)

spectrum of JACL programs.

But the consequences of such a move cannot be seen on the pages of a budget, they go much deeper. First of all, consider the publishing disruption. When the *P.C.* made the easy move from Monterey Park, Calif. to Los Angeles, a distance of just a few miles, two editions of the paper were missed. There's no predicting the amount of turmoil resulting from a 400-mile move to San Francisco, where new facilities, new vendors, new systems, and even perhaps new staff will have to be dealt with.

And speaking of staff, I should pay a tribute here to the *P.C.*'s most valuable resource: its people. In its 81 years of publication, the editors and staff of the *P.C.* have been the driving force behind its success.

Today the paper is written and produced by an award-winning team of professionals with at least 27 years of combined journalism experience. Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, our executive editor, is joined by assistant editor Lynda Lin and reporter Nalea J. Ko, all three solid, dedicated pros. They are supported by Eva Lau-Ting, circulation, and Kene Kubo,

business manager. Because most have families well-established in the L.A. area, there looms the possibility of a decision not to move with the *P.C.* Should that happen, the paper will face a profound loss of professional experience, knowledge of institutional history, and technical know-how, not to mention the new and innovative approaches that this team uses to deliver the news to you. These assets take years to develop, and could conceivably comprise a huge loss to JACL — operationally as well as fiscally.

'I hope the national council will carefully consider other options that will assure us the continued presence of a P.C. in Los Angeles, offering the quality and content that JACL members expect and deserve.'

I fully recognize that we are facing tough financial times at the JACL, and that changes need to be made. But I strongly feel, as a long-time member (and former JACL employee) as well as one who has worked in and around journalism for my entire career, that the disruption to the *P.C.* to the degree advocated by the budget committee's

proposal — not to mention the yet-unidentified attendant costs — is not the answer to balancing the budget.

I hope the national council will carefully consider other options that will assure us the continued presence of a *P.C.* in Los Angeles, offering the quality and content that JACL members expect and deserve. ■

Margie Yamamoto is the Pacific Citizen's editorial board chair.

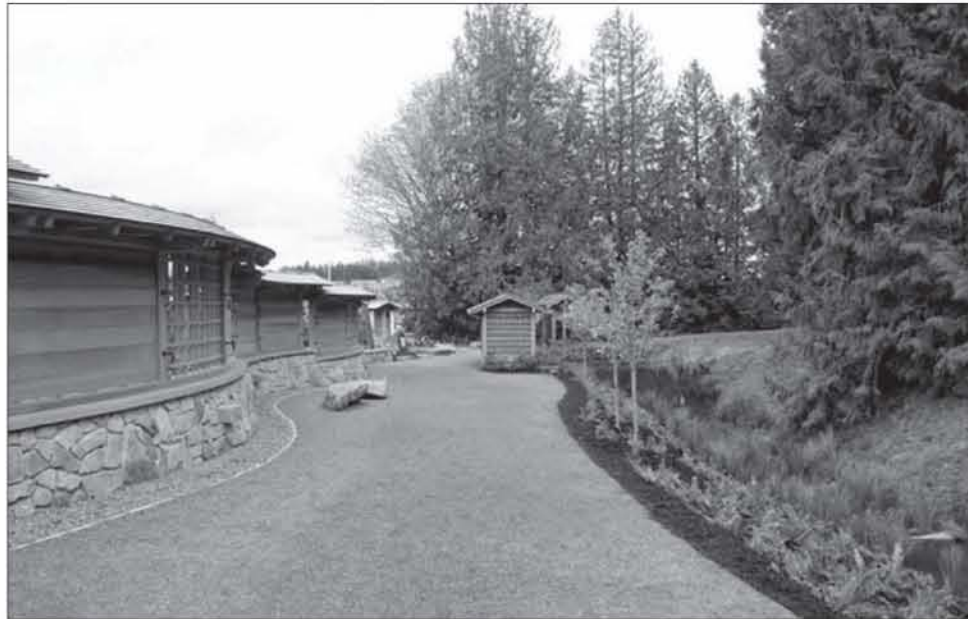


PHOTO: DALE GOODWIN

The Bainbridge Island Memorial (above) was recently dedicated.

Dedication Held for Bainbridge Island WWII JA Memorial

The Nidoto Nai Yoni memorial honors the first group of JAs to be forcibly removed after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

March 30 is ingrained in Fumiko Hayashida's memory as the day in 1942 that she along with over 200 other Japanese Americans were forced to evacuate their Bainbridge Island homes for desolate internment camps.

"You can never forget," said Hayashida, a 99-year-old Bainbridge Island native who 68 years ago was forcibly taken to the Eagle Lake Ferry Dock with her husband and two young children by her side. She was just 31 years old and pregnant with her third child.

"I was so scared," said the Seattle JACL member.

Hayashida was among the first group of JAs to be evacuated and incarcerated after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and launched the U.S. into World War II.

On the 68th anniversary of the Bainbridge Island evacuation, the memorial "Nidoto Nai Yoni" was dedicated to JAs who were uprooted and incarcerated. It was an "open house" for

the over 1,800 individuals who have contributed to the memorial wall, said Frank Kitamoto, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC), a non-profit organization that has been raising funds for the memorial.

Construction of the wall and landscaping has been completed, said Kitamoto. Now committee members are working with a design team to help determine how we can best memorialize being the first JA community to be forcibly removed during WWII, he added.

Hayashida, who participated in the groundbreaking ceremony last year, could not attend the dedication because of a hurt leg, but she was there in spirit.

A 150-foot pier will be built above the water in addition to a 4,000-square-foot interpretive and learning center. The project has a total estimated cost of \$6 million.

In May 2008, Bainbridge's memorial was designated as a satellite unit to the Minidoka memorial.

Nidoto Nai Yoni means, "Let it never happen again."

"We should all remember," said Hayashida. ■

On the Web:
www.bijac.org

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Comedian Apologizes for Filipino Remarks

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Adam Carolla, the comedian and radio shock jock who once enraged the Asian Pacific American community by mocking Asian accents on-air, has done it again. This time, APA leaders are saying his recent apology for making disparaging comments about Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao is not enough.

In addition to his April 4 apology on Twitter in which Carolla said he "crossed the line", an "official apology" to Pacquiao and the Filipino community was posted April 5 on Adamcarolla.com.

"I think Manny's a great fighter, and was humbled this morning when I saw that Manny had accepted my apology halfway around the world," he said, adding the boxer has been invited on his podcast show to accept the apology in person.

In a recent podcast, Carolla said Pacquiao "prays to chicken bones" and the Philippines is "nothing but Pacquiao and sex tours".

But now, the Filipino American community is demanding an apology from Carolla and CBS radio.

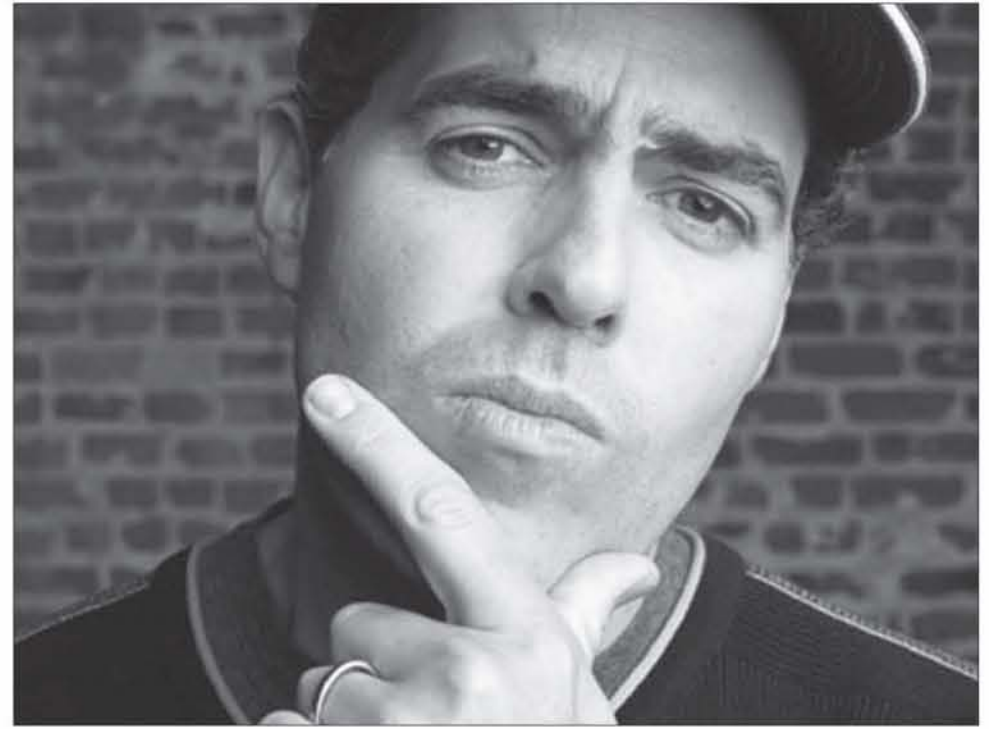
"While I appreciate Mr. Carolla's apology, I will fully believe it is genuine if I notice actual change and an end to his unnecessarily racist jokes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders," said Kevin Nadal, a psychology professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"In a recent podcast, Carolla said Pacquiao 'prays to chicken bones'..."

Nadal started an online petition demanding a public apology from the comedian. This isn't the first time Carolla has gotten in trouble with the APA community.

In 2006, Carolla was criticized for satirizing the Asian Excellence Awards by dubbing over the acceptance pieces with a series of "ching chongs."

The problem now isn't just about Mr. Carolla. It's now a systemic issue, where people feel it is okay to insult people of color, particularly Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders because there are no repercussions for doing so," said Nadal. ■



In 2006, Carolla was criticized for satirizing the Asian Excellence Awards.

JACL Asks Ohio School to Change 'Oriental' Nickname



East High School's Web site hawks items including hoodies emblazoned with 'Oriental.'

APA leaders say East High School's moniker is 'steeped in racism.'

By Pacific Citizen Staff

East High School in Akron, Ohio needs to change its nickname, "the Orientals", because the term is offensive to Asian Pacific Americans, said the JACL.

The term "Oriental" is "steeped in racism, colonialism and xenophobia, conveying a pejorative depiction of Asian people and culture that was used to justify their exclusion and segregation from mainstream American society," according to the JACL in an April 5 statement.

Interest groups from across the U.S. have been fighting to change racially offensive school mascots — mostly referencing Native Americans — like the Arcadia High School Apaches in Arcadia, Calif.

APA leaders say the continued use of the term "Oriental" perpetuates a history of anti-

Asian sentiment and discrimination.

East High School's mascot is Chang the dragon. School officials did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* requests for comment.

Anti-Asian sentiment has led to APAs being barred from citizenship, prohibited from buying land and forced to attend segregated schools. Some of the most egregious examples of institutionalized racism against include the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned immigrants from China from entering the country, and the forced incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

East High School in Rochester, New York also shares the nickname "Orientals," and publishes a newsletter entitled, "The Orient Express", according to its Web site.

Claiming school tradition or ignorance of its offensive nature does not change its racist history or erase the symbolism of its use, said the JACL. ■



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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
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COMMENTARY

Fighting Piracy on the High Seas



Off the Horn of Africa aboard the *USS Anzio*, an Asian American Naval officer works to preserve the freedom of merchant vessels.

By Lt. Janelle Kuroda

Four bells ring out over the 1MC: "Reveille, reveille, reveille. All hands heave out and trice up. Reveille."

It's Navy speak — "1MC" is the ship's loudspeakers. "Heave out" and "trice up" means get out of your hammocks and tie them up. The saying was originally adopted when sailors used hammocks.

Another day begins in the Gulf of Aden. I try to stretch my arms, but they hit the rack above, and I'm reminded that I'm at sea. The gentle rocking of the ship begs me to linger in my rack a little longer. However, I know we're now at the most dangerous part of the day — the pirates normally strike in the early morning. I wash up and head to the Combat Information Center. Moments later, the tactical action officer (TAO) makes an announcement over the 1MC:

"*USS Anzio*, this is the TAO with a situational update: we're just received a distress call from a merchant vessel 80 nautical miles away, reporting two suspicious skiffs (small boats) shadowing her. *Anzio* is coming to full power and closing the position. Now set: Counter-Piracy Condition Bravo." [Navy speak: "Condition Bravo" is a type of readiness specifically for counter-piracy for the *USS Anzio*.]

The engines rev up and the ship surges forward. My adrenaline rushes — perhaps today we will catch some pirates! I grab my cover and head up to the bridge. On the bridge, the officer of the deck briefs me. It appears that the suspected pirates are about to attack a merchant vessel. The master is following instructions to deter the suspected pirates, but he is worried about the safety of his crew, who could be held hostage for months if his vessel is successfully pirated.

I discuss the legal implications with the TAO, Rear Adm. Scott Sanders and the commanding officer, Capt. Frank Olmo. Another Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 member, the Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Dae Jo Yeong, is closer to the merchant vessel and can arrive on-scene in a shorter period. Rear Adm. Sanders directs the ROKS Dae Jo Yeong to close in on the pirates and I advise on appropriate rules of engagement. The suspected pirates are captured and their weapons destroyed.

Fueled by instability in Somalia, piracy flourishes where there is little else to offer.

In response to a request for assistance from the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia, the United Nations (UN) issued several UN Security Council resolutions that allow warships to suppress and deter piracy and armed robbery both on the high seas as well as in Somali territorial waters.

In addition to CTF 151, there are currently warships from the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and a variety of independent nations such

as Japan, China, Russia and India combating piracy in the 1.1-square million miles of water in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin.

As the CTF 151 staff judge advocate, I review rules of engagement and provide counsel on the implementation of counter piracy guidance to seven coalition navies. In

order to coordinate the safety of merchant vessels, face-to-face meetings are held between coalition vessels and independent nations to ensure the most effective use of patrol assets.

This collaboration at sea proves to be successful, as less than .001 percent of transiting ships become victims of piracy. While the number of piracy attempts has increased over the past year, the number of successful attacks has been reduced by 40 percent over the same time.

The final four bells of the day ring out over the 1MC: "Taps, taps, lights out. All hands turn into your racks and maintain silence about the deck. Taps."

Today was a successful day in the fight against piracy, but at sea, the work never ceases and we're back on patrol. I'm proud to be a part of an exciting mission, sailing the seas onboard the *USS Anzio*, dedicated to preserving the freedom of merchant vessels and their crew to safely sail the seas. ■

Lt. Janelle Kuroda is a Judge Advocate General for the U.S. Navy.

*I'm proud to be a part of an exciting mission, sailing the seas onboard the *USS Anzio*, dedicated to preserving the freedom of merchant vessels and their crew to safely sail the seas.'*

Nisei Recalls Life Behind Barbed Wire

Frank Kajikawa has launched his own campaign to educate people about his World War II experiences at Minidoka.

By Thao Nguyen
The (Crystal Lake) Northwest Herald

HUNTLEY, Ill.—When Frank Kajikawa was 15, the official notices of removal appeared on the telephone poles in his town.

Kajikawa, an American-born citizen of Japanese heritage, lived with his parents and five sisters in a small farming community in the suburbs of Tacoma, Wash., an area with a significant Japanese American community. His parents were first-generation Japanese immigrants who made their living working on a friend's farm.

"Like everybody else, they came here in hopes of finding a better life," Kajikawa said.

Now 84, Kajikawa was a high school freshman when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Soon afterwards, he and his family were sent to Minidoka. The camp consisted of 44 blocks of barracks that could hold about 10,000 people. The presence of guards also was a daily reality for the inhabitants.

"I was green behind the ears; I didn't know what was going on," Kajikawa said. "It wasn't until we arrived at the camp that I understood we were prisoners of war."

As he has gotten older, Kajikawa said he has begun to realize the need for his story to be told. Although there are volumes of books dedicated to World War II, Kajikawa said he felt that the history of Japanese internment camps was a rarely covered subject.

"This is a part of American history, and it should not be forgotten," he said. "As long as I'm alive, it will be told. We need to let young people know that what hap-

pened to us should not have happened to anybody under our Constitution."

As part of his campaign to educate people about these internment camps, Kajikawa gives talks about his experiences growing up during the war and living in Minidoka. He already has presented his story at an AARP meeting but plans to ask the superintendent of the local school district and the director of the Huntley Area Public Library for permission to share his history with even more people.

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the Secretary of War and U.S. armed forces commanders to declare military areas in which any or all persons they deemed necessary could be excluded.

"I knew that we were in a very dire predicament because we looked like the enemy, but we were not the enemy. We were American citizens, too," Kajikawa said.

Kajikawa was later drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned to the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

After two years in the Army in which he spent time guarding German prisoners in Italy, Kajikawa enrolled in college. He finally settled in the Chicago area near the rest of his family and worked in VA hospitals for nearly 31 years before retiring in 1994.

In 1989, President George H.W. Bush signed H.R. 2991 issuing a formal apology to the 82,000 living survivors of the internment camps. He also granted each one \$20,000 in monetary redress and allocated additional money toward educating the public about the camps.

"I may forgive my government for what it's done to me, but I will never forget," Kajikawa said. "I want to remind people that they should not let hysteria rule them. I hope that what's happened to us will never happen to anyone else." ■

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Tule Lake Pilgrimage

Tulelake, CALIF.

July 2-5

The Tule Lake Segregation Center

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

For information:

415/566-2279 or www.tulelake.org

East

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

GO!

Art of Gaman

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 5-Jan. 30, 2011

For the second time, the Smithsonian Institution is mounting an interment camp exhibit. "The Art of Gaman" exhibition is based on a book by Delphine Hirasuna, a San Francisco JACL member.

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

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

Festival of Nations

SAINT PAUL, MN

April 29-30, May 1-2

Saint Paul RiverCentre

The Festival of Nations is designed to bring Americans of all backgrounds together to take pride in the richness of diverse cultures in our community. Info: 651/647-0191 ext. 308 ask for Katey Martin

or kmartin@iimn.org

Mame Daiko Performance

CLEVELAND, OH

May 22

Asian Town

Payne Avenue and E. 30th Street
Cleveland Asian Festival

Come see a performance from Mame Daiko, sponsored by the Cleveland JACL, at the Cleveland Asian Festival.

Info: 216/556-2277

or Mame.daiko@gmail.com

Intermountain

Nihon Matsuri Street Festival

SALT LAKE CITY, UT

April 24

Come join the fun with artist demonstrations of a tea ceremony, calligraphy, doll making, and martial arts; performances of odori, singing, and taiko; a fashion show; displays of ikebana, bonsai, paintings, dolls and

historic photographs and more.

Info: 801/723-4043 ask for

Nihon Matsuri

or info@nihonmatsuri.org

N Calif. W Nev. Pac.

Berkeley JACL Scholarship Awards Luncheon

BERKELEY, CA

April 18, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Berkeley City Club

2315 Durant Ave.

Join the Berkeley JACL in honoring their 2010 scholarship recipients with guest speaker Margaret Fujioka.

Info: 925/932-7947

The 33rd Annual Nikkei Matsuri

SAN JOSE, CA

April 25

The festival is a full day of fun for all ages and includes food booths hosted by community groups, performing arts on two stages, cultural arts and arts and crafts vendors. Admission is free.

Info: 408/ 241-0900 or

www.nikkeimatsuri.org

Vicki Ragasa's Spring Fashion Collection

SAN JOSE, CA

April 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The West Valley JACL will host a spring fashion collection by designer Vicki Ragasa of Oyako, LTD.

Info: Contact Pam Yoshida at 408/390-3744 or pam@yo-koo.net

SEE

Turlock Assembly Center Dedication

TURLOCK, CA

May 1, 11 a.m.

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds

900 N. Broadway

A dedication ceremony will be held at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds for the Turlock Assembly Center.

Info: Kayla S. Canelo at 209/658-6681.

Morgan Hill Haru Matsuri Festival

MORGAN HILL, CA

April 18

Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center

16450 Murphy Avenue

The festival will open with Sandoshin Taiko and close with a performance by San Jose Taiko.

Info: 408/779-9009

Florin JACL Multicultural Forum

SACRAMENTO, CA

May 8

Rizal Community Center

7320 Florin Mall Dr

Come join the Florin JACL for a screening and discussion of *Crossing the Line Multicultural Comedians*.

Cost: \$8 for general admission \$5 for students, seniors and members.

Info: Walter Kawamoto
waltertk@yahoo.com

Pacific Southwest

Arizona JACL Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Luncheon

PHOENIX, AZ

April 25, 11:30 a.m.

Phoenix College Culinary Cafe

3310 North 10th Ave

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

Info: Megan Ishikawa at 480/225-2530

JAKWV Portugal-Spain Trip

LOS ANGELES, CA

Nov. 4

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans is planning a 12-day trip to Portugal and Spain. Those on the tour will depart from the Los Angeles International Airport.

Cost: \$3,599 per person (including airfare).

Info: Victor Muraoka at 818/368-4113 or

v.muraoka@verizon.net

DO!

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.

Info: www.nonoboy2010.com

Riverside JACL Scholarship Dinner

RIVERSIDE, CA

May 16, 5 p.m.

First Christian Church

Come join the Riverside JACL for its annual scholarship potluck dinner.

Info: Michiko Yoshimura
951/784-7057

JACCC's 27th Annual Children's Day Celebration

LOS ANGELES, CA

May 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro St

The day is kicked off with the Chibi-K: Kids Fun Run, then the street is closed for the San Tai San: 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament, followed by the Asian Pacific arts and crafts.

Info: Janet Hiroshima

213/628-2725 ext. 128 or

email: childrensday10@jaccc.org

Strolling in Yukata

PHOENIX, AZ

May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Ro Ho En Japanese Friendship Garden
1125 N. 3rd Ave.

Join in for a relaxing evening and a leisurely stroll through beautiful Ro Ho En wearing your yukata or happi coat with geta or zori. Tickets avail-

able through April 20 (includes admission, light meal and entertainment).

Cost: Pre-sale \$10

Info: JFG Office 602/256-3204 or Masako Takiguchi 602/956-3150

Herzig-Yoshinaga Discussion

CARSON, CA

May 1, 1 p.m.

CSU Dominguez Hills

1000 E. Victoria Street

Join Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga in discussion on her essay, "Words Can Lie or Clarify: Terminology of the World War II Incarceration of Japanese Americans."

Info: Don Hata 310/316-4894 or dhata@csudh.edu

Pacific Northwest

Scenes of Childhood:

Sixty Years of Postwar Japan

SEATTLE, WA

April 12-21

Seattle Center Pavilion

305 Harrison St.

Come see the unveiling of 100 historic photographs that focus on the daily lives of Japanese children, dating from the end of the World War II to the present.

Info: Consul Akihiro Fujimori at 206/682-9107 or

fujimori@cjapanesea.org

Portland's Japanese American Historical Plaza: 20 Years

PORTLAND, OR

July 30

Tom McCall Waterfront Park

1020 SW Naito Pkwy

Join the Oregon Nikkei Endowment in celebrating its 20th year with an exhibit honoring the award-winning Japanese American Historical Plaza, and a festive re-dedication event.

Info: Nicole Nathan at 503/224-1458 or Nicole@oregonnikkei.org

Portland Taiko 2010

Benefit Banquet

PORTLAND, OR

May 5, 6 p.m.

Wong's King Seafood Restaurant

8733 SE Division St

Join Portland Taiko for their Annual Benefit Banquet. The party starts at 6 p.m. with a no host bar, silent auction, mystery prizes, a private taiko performance and more.

Info: Michael Griggs 503/288-2456 or info@portlandtaiko.org

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TRIBUTE

Gumpe Honda

January 27, 1927 - March 31, 2010

Gumpe Honda, died on March 31, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the age of 83 years old. He was born and raised on Terminal Island, California and was interned in Manzanar. He lived and worked in Chicago until he retired in Las Vegas.

He was a member of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Las Vegas

Buddhist Sangha. He is survived by wife Tomico; sons Russell (Kinuko), Michael (Linda), and Richard; and grandson Bobby.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Palm Mortuary on Cheyenne. For any donations please send to Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha 3536 N. Connell Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89129.

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IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

Akamine, Francis Paul, 64, Hilo, HI.; March 7; U.S. Navy veteran; survived by wife Chun "Soo"; mother Barbara Takata; and sisters Pat Sasaki, Sandra Arrowood and Pianta. A retired supervisor with the Big Island Office of Public Defenders and Navy veteran who served in the Vietnam War.

Borg, Lavern Gerald "Gerry," 84, Sunset Beach, CA.; March 14; U.S. Marine Corps veteran; survived by wife, Jane; sons, Axel, Scott (Terry), Eric (Kathy) and Lane (Mary); 7 gc; 1 ggc. Following service in the Marines in WWII he graduated from UC Berkeley and continued serving in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps.

Diaz, Norma Haruko, 69, South El Monte, CA.; April 7; survived by her father, Kiyoshi; brothers, Donald and Bill; daughters, Dede and Kimi; 3 gc; and many relatives here and in Japan; preceeded in death by mother, Mary; and brother Richard. She was very involved in supporting the Bando Mitsuhiro Kai.

Matsuda, Ruby, 83; March 31; survived by her daughters, Judy (Dan) Matsui, and Elaine (Jeff) Hirashima; 6 gc; 3 ggc; brother, Kiyoshi (Mary) Sakaeda; and sister, Veronica Ohara.

Kato, Mitsu, 89, Cincinnati, OH.; January 30; survived by sisters Ruth Takeuchi, and Sue Sugimoto; brothers Masao, Toshio, and Tak.

Fuchiwaki, Ben Kazuo, 94, Arroyo Grande, CA.; March 11; MIS veteran; survived by his wife Haru Kobara Fuchiwaki; son, Ron (Becky) Fuchiwaki; daughter Debbie Fuchiwaki; granddaughter Pattie (Jason) Pfau; 3 ggc; sisters, Marie Masushige and Lilly Kakita; and sister-in-law Iso Fuchiwaki. After graduation from high school he moved to Arroyo Grande where he farmed for many years.

Fujimoto, Kikuo, 83, Pearl City, HI.; March 7; MIS veteran; survived by wife, Frances; daughter, Kay; brothers Katsuji, Berg, Yoshiki, Toshi, Tsuyoshi and Francis; and sister Laura Gomes.

Kanazawa, Gilbert, 56, Houston, TX.; March 3; U.S. Coast Guard veteran; survived by mother, Teiko Kanazawa Murphy; step-father, Carter Murphy; sister, Ellen Kanazawa, and her husband, Benjamin Miller; brothers, Lt. Col. Tyle Kanazawa (USAF, ret.) and Jody Kanazawa; step-sister, Barbara

Murphy; niece, Crystal Henderson, and her son, Blaise.

Mayemura, Mary Jane, 97, Los Angeles, CA.; March 8; survived by her daughters, Masako Tomota, Kay (Ron) Wilinski and Ruth Okimura; brothers, Ben Horiguchi and Tad Horiguchi; 12 gc; 14 ggc; 2 gggc.

Murakami, Masako "Masa," 90,



Seattle, WA.; January 29; survived by the families of Kazuo Murakami, Shizuko Nobuyama, Hideo Harada, Toshi Terayama, and Sumi Matsumoto. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family, all of whom operated the Higo Variety Store.

Nagao, Richard Chiyoto, 88, Lihue, HI; Feb. 15; a banana farmer, hotel maintenance technician and heavy-equipment operator; survived by his wife Shizuko; sons Robert, Lighten and David; daughters Melani, Cynthia, May Sato, Lani Nagao Tadaki and Angela Agustin; sister Eleanor S. Izutsu; 15 gc; 4 ggc.

Nakamura, Jimmy Aiji, 85, Los Angeles, CA.; Feb. 12; Toni Fumiko Nakamura, 83, passed away on Feb. 19.; survived by his son, Jay Anthony Nakamura; sister, Susie Kirita.

Nishimura, William Y., 86, Seattle, WA.; Feb. 26; MIS veteran; survived by his wife, Irene; daughter, Susan; son, Bruce (Shirley); and sister Mary (Ben) Seike. Bill was born on July 7, 1923 to Kisaburo and Riyu Nishimura in Seattle and was the youngest of 8 children. During WWII he was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service as a staff sergeant.

Okamura, Sueko "Sue," 96, Watsonville, CA.; March 19; survived by daughter, Eileen (Marvin) Byers; sons, Kevin and Mickey; brother, Tom Mine; sister, Tee Yamamoto; 1 gc; 2 ggc; preceded in death by husband, Harry.

Okazaki Harry J., 78, Gardena, CA.; March 16; survived by his beloved wife, Jean Okazaki; sons, Duane (Paula), Derek (Belinda), and

Scott Okazaki; 2 gc; brother, Hachiro; sister, Irene (Hideki) Nakamura.

Pang, Margaret, 85, Honolulu, HI.; February 6; survived by children and 3 gc. She was an educator and authority on Chinese music, language, history and culture. In 1982 she was selected as a "Living Treasure" by the Hawaiian Chinese History Center.

Reynoso, Soledad, 78, Chino, CA.; March 6; survived by her siblings, Rodolfo, Conrad, Arturo, Carmencita, and Celia; daughter Cynthia; 4 gc. She was born in the Philippines, and moved to Los Angeles after graduating for the Far Eastern University. In 1991 she started working with the Asian American Drug Abuse Program's fiscal unit for 11 years.

Serikaku, Gordon Soichi, 89, Honolulu, HI.; Feb. 22; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Angeline "Angie"; sons, David and Mathew; daughters, Gordean and Donna; brother, Sojin; sisters, Nancy Zukemura and Grace Higa; 10 gc; 14 ggc.

Tamekazu, James Minoru, 67, Ventura, CA.; April 2; U.S. Air Force veteran; survived by wife, Pearl; daughters, Audrey Tamekazu, Diane (Lyndon) Duggs; 2 gc; mother; brother; 3 sisters; and numerous nieces and nephews; preceeded in death by father; and brother.

Wada, Walter W., 91,



Columbus, OH.; March 7; survived by his long-time companion, Margaret Nishikawara; children, Warner, Margaret, Patricia, Suzanne; and 7 gc. He received his PhD in 1950 from the University of Michigan and worked for 12 years as a nuclear physicist for the U.S. Navy's Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C.

Yamazaki, William Toshi, 92, Wooster, OH.; March 5; survived by wife of 68 years Sue Harano Yamazaki; a son, Russell (Jane); daughters, June (Delbert) Craner and Nancy (Scott) Leavenworth; 1 gc. ■

FUJITA

(Continued from page 9)

Fujita: I'm proud to be a Berkeley grad, and I'm proud to be the grandson of a man who went to law school at Berkeley and became one of the first multi-lingual attorneys in the state of California.

My father was recently contacted about 'walking' for my grandfather at a graduation ceremony in Berkeley this summer. I'm hopeful that we'll all be able to attend. While I sense this would be meaningful for my grandfather, I really think it will be even more meaningful for us.

P.C.: So over the years, there has been a lot of focus on your Japanese ethnicity. You take it all into stride. What does it mean to you to be Japanese American?

Fujita: I know a lot has been made over the years about the 'white guy with the Japanese name who thinks he's half Japanese.' I think people can overanalyze what that means, for better and for worse. I think my grandmother said it best when she exclaimed that we all get to choose who we are. We do. No one else can define us. I've always felt blessed to be a part of this family, and I'm proud to be able to share their story.

P.C.: Since President Obama's election, there has been talk of us being a 'post-racial' nation. Do you think we're there yet?

Fujita: This country is in no way beyond racism. Unfortunately, in some respects, I think Obama's election actually ignited even more racism in some marginalized corners of society. But, by and large, I think the election is an incredible testament to how far we've come. I'll never forget how proud I was to be able to walk to the precinct with my wife and daughters and cast that ballot, in what was such an historical and monumental occasion. Whether you were a supporter of Obama or not, it's hard to refute how meaningful that election was. But the election was just one part of the deal ... now he's got to start to

deliver.

P.C.: Where do you see yourself in five years?

Fujita: Five years from now, I see myself making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in the morning for my girls, driving them to school, and coaching their soccer team. At that point in my life, I'm pretty sure my football responsibilities will be limited to Cal football games on Saturday afternoons following two or three pitchers of beer at the Bear's Lair on campus.

P.C.: Have you had a chance to fire up Juanita Fujita [the family motor home] for a road trip?

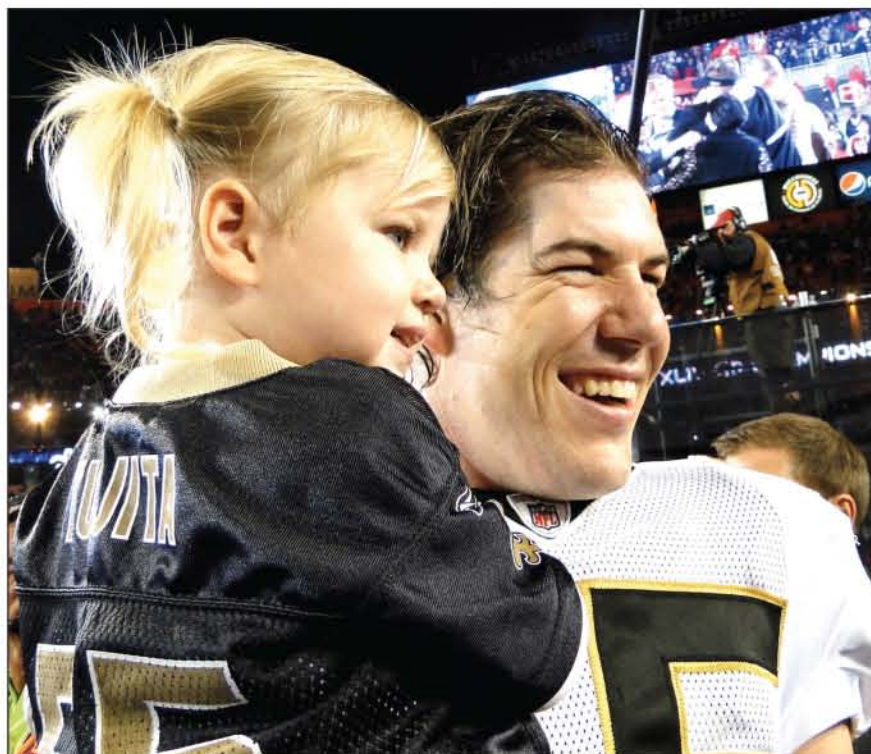
Fujita: Juanita is somewhat dormant right now. Traveling with twin two year-olds isn't exactly a walk in the park. We're going to take her out for a big camping trip this summer, perhaps to Oregon. Wish us luck.

P.C.: Have you visited Gila River, where your dad was born?

Fujita: I've always wanted to visit Gila River and the campsite. A few years ago, just after our daughters were born, we actually planned to stop off at Gila River as we were making our way through Arizona. We decided against it because the girls were only 6 weeks old, and our two dogs were traveling with us at the time. But it's definitely on my to-do list.

P.C.: Tell us something about yourself that (most) others don't know.

Fujita: Most people might be surprised to hear I have a slight case of OCD [Obsessive Compulsive Disorder]. Not clinically diagnosed or anything ... I just know I've got something. I'm a



Scott Fujita celebrates his Superbowl win with his daughter Delilah.

very meticulous planner and a total neat freak. Ask my wife ... I drive her crazy with it sometimes!

P.C.: And share with us some important lessons you've learned from your parents that you carry with you today.

Fujita: The best gift my parents ever gave me was the love and support I needed to chase my dreams without fear. That's what I hope we can provide for our daughters. I want them to know they can do anything. ■

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