

CANDIDATES FOR JACL NAT'L OFFICE ANNOUNCED. **PAGE 5**

PACIFIC CITIZEN

May 7-20, 2010

www.pacificcitizen.org

The national newspaper of the JACL

Yosh Uchida
the judo
master.
PAGE 10



APAs in Arizona's Immigration Fight

JACL, APA groups join in the fight against
the 'racial profiling' law. >> **PAGE 3**



do i look
illegal?

Minh Bui, a 20-year-old student from San Diego, Calif. became a naturalized citizen in 2000.

BRAVO'S TOP HOST



PHOTO: JAMIE TRUEBLOOD/BRAVO

Kelly Choi
dishes about
her favorite
childhood
dish and 'Top
Chef Masters.'

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PHOTO: SHELLEY LONGORIA

Taiko is
a family
affair.

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DRUM BEAT



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Goodsearch

I just donated 50 cents to the JACL by simply purchasing an item online through Amazon.com. How did I do this? By simply going to Amazon's Web site through Goodsearch at www.goodsearch.com and hundreds of companies will donate a percentage of their sales to JACL. I encourage your readers to help JACL through these difficult economic times by utilizing the service provided by Goodsearch.

Another way to generate donations for JACL is to perform an internet search from Goodsearch. One penny is donated for each search that is initiated at Goodsearch.

Go to goodsearch.com and select JACL as your cause or charity of choice and then remember to use it for searches and for online shopping.

Oh, what did I buy? I bought a toaster for \$50.

Toshi Abe
EDC Governor

To Move or Not to Move?



I'm writing this with regards to the budget crisis and the proposed move of the *P.C.* to San Francisco. For the amount of money you think you'll save, it doesn't justify the move. Margie Yamamoto says it correctly when she points out all of the costs associated with the move. ("Proposed JACL Budget Could Imperil the *P.C.*", April 16-May 6)

For the amount of money you think you'll save, I have a better idea. Why don't you come up with a fundraiser that all the chapters can organize and raise enough

money so individual dues [increase] and moving to San Francisco won't be necessary? After all, aren't we all in this together?

Also, as a last resort, make the *P.C.* a monthly issue instead of bi-monthly. Keep the vacant positions frozen, too!

Philip Nagata
Lodi JACL

* * *

I won't be making a donation until I hear a decision on your [the *Pacific Citizen's*] move to San Francisco. ("Divided National JACL Board Passes Biennial Budget, Includes Dues Increase and Proposed *P.C.* Move", April 16-May 6)

If the move happens, no donation and I won't be renewing my JACL membership. Don't abandon Los Angeles.

Harry Tanikawa
Marina-SCAN JACL

Digital vs. Print

My four proposals as it relates to print vs. digital, etc:

1. Cut cost by cutting the size of the *P.C.* (i.e.) *New York Daily News*, if practical.

2. Generate interest with editorial and/or op ed section(s).

3. Hire ad seeker ... students, senior citizens etc., looking for extra bucks. In lieu of salary compensate by 10 percent of total ad revenue

4. Continue with print vs. digital survey. Give each what they desire. One problem, what to do with non-respondents?

For the record I vote for print.

Stanley N. Kanzaki
New York JACL

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SPRING CAMPAIGN

Print *Pacific Citizen* is a Cherished Tradition



By Sonya Y. Kuki

Between the some odd hours spent staring at a computer screen for roughly eight hours a day at my 9-to-5 job and extra time spent, no

less, on Facebook and other social media outlets online, I know I can't be the first person to ponder: will someone one day invent a computer screen protector that simultaneously emits the much-needed, doctor-recommended Vitamin D that I need?

Sitting at a computer for an extended period of time, which was the relative norm during my recent college days, has suddenly emerged as a challenge in my young adulthood. After a routinely rough drive home from work in the joy that is Los Angeles traffic, I breathe a sigh of relief as I walk through my door.

I kick off my shoes at the door, a habit I've inherited from my Japanese background, of course. For a second I relax on my plush couch and wish I could almost drown in it. I look over to see that my roommate has placed my much-anticipated *Pacific Citizen* on the coffee table for me. I smile.

While some may say that our generation, those of us in our teens to early 20s, rely heavily on the convenience of the internet especially to deliver media to our very fingertips, it could be argued that this is the very reason young adults, like

myself, cherish the publication in its original paper form. It provides a refreshing read.

Without having to worry about our battery power for our laptop or iPad, the *P.C.* affords us the ability to take the paper to read at the coffee shop on Saturday morning, while working out at the gym in the evening, or to simply enjoy on the beach on a nice, summer day. Much the way I prefer a magazine in traditional print format often for travel, I prefer the *P.C.* in the way I've always known it.

See KUKI/Page 11

2010 JACL National Convention
Chicago
8 weeks
SEE PAGE 5 FOR REGISTRATION FORM

P.C. Spring Campaign:

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CORRECTION



A photo of Bob Nakamura (above, left) was incorrectly identified in his commentary "Wash. Bill for Nisei Degrees Bring Closure" in the April 2-15 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

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

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APAs Join Fight Against Arizona’s ‘Racial Profiling’ Immigration Law



Asian American groups in Chicago took to the streets May 1 to demand immigration reform and denounce Arizona’s SB 1070, which leaders have called ‘mean-spirited and misguided.’

Activists say the new law that criminalizes being undocumented will affect all communities of color.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

On a lonely Phoenix street in April, a police officer pulled behind Jim Shee’s parked BMW and asked to see his “papers.” Shee, 70, who had pulled over to the side of the road to check text messages on his cell phone, responded, “I hope you mean my registration and license.”

The police officer said Shee was being questioned because he was “suspicious.” It’s typical, said the Arizona JACL member — in April, he was pulled over twice in less than two weeks.

“DWB,” said Shee, who is of Chinese and Spanish descent. “It’s ‘driving while brown’ ... when he saw me all he saw was brown.”

Shee, a community activist, has joined an Asian Pacific American coalition to fight a controversial Arizona immigration law that makes it a state crime to be undocumented in the United States. The coalition is part of a larger national movement spurred by the April 23 signing of SB 1070, which opponents say will result in racial profiling.

“Congress and President Obama need to pass comprehensive immigration reform to keep rogue states like Arizona from introducing mean-spirited and misguided legislation like this,” said Eun Sook Lee, executive director of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), an APA civil rights group that took to the streets May 1 along with millions of other Americans nationwide to demand immigration reform.

‘The worst case of racial profiling since World War II’

APA groups say immigration reform, although commonly framed as a Latino issue, is needed in the APA community. Nationwide, there are currently 1.5 million undocumented Asian immigrants living in the U.S.

The JACL, in a statement, called SB 1070 “the worst case of racial profiling since World War II” with national director Floyd Mori comparing Arizona’s new immigration law to the WWII treatment of Japanese Americans who were targeted by law enforcement because of their shared heritage with the country that attacked Pearl Harbor.

The Arizona JACL has introduced a resolution calling for SB 1070 to be overturned. The resolution, which cites similar anti-Asian and anti-immigrant sentiment during the 1920s, will be voted on at the June 30-July 4 JACL national convention in Chicago.

Under the new Arizona law, immigrants unable to produce documents showing that they are allowed to be in the U.S. could be arrested, jailed for up to six months and fined \$2,500. Currently, many U.S. police departments do not ask about people’s immigration status unless they have run afoul of the law in some other way.

The law’s supporters say it’s necessary because of the federal government’s failure to secure the border. Arizona is home to an estimated 460,000 undocumented immigrants, according to the *Associated Press*.

But critics contend it encourages racial profiling and is



unconstitutional.

“Fighting SB 1070 is critical for APAs in Arizona as this civil rights violation impacts all communities,” said Ted Namba, Arizona JACL civil rights chair.

A referendum drive and lawsuits have emerged as potential roadblocks to Arizona’s tough new immigration law. But APA leaders fear the larger impact of the law. Oklahoma and Texas lawmakers have announced plans to introduce tough immigration measures in their states similar to Arizona’s.

“Arizona is setting a terrible precedence in the civil rights arena with SB 1070,” said Namba.

Unifying Communities of Color

The law, which takes effect in late July or early August, is being criticized as an attack on communities of color. In a piece for the *Huffington Post*, Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., said SB 1070 “establishes a dangerous precedence in normalizing racial

and ethnic profiling.”

Proponents say the new law does not promote racial profiling. Sen. Russell Pearce said opponents are using racial profiling as a cover for their true concern — deportation.

“This is not about profiling. They’re worried about the laws being enforced,” said Pearce, who sponsored the bill.

APAs leaders disagree.

“It is about racial profiling,” said Dr. Rudy Guevarra, an East Valley, Arizona resident and Asian Pacific American Studies professor. “If you fit the look, you’re going to be a target.”

Guevarra said enforcement of the law would affect every community including APAs. In particular Filipino Americans, who often have Spanish surnames and are oftentimes mistaken as Latinos, will be affected and subject to law enforcement harassment, he added.

Activists have also pointed out parallels to another bill recently signed into law, which prohibits a Tucson Unified School District’s ethnic studies program from promoting resentment towards a certain ethnic group. The ethnic studies program allows students to take history and literature courses that include information about the influence of a particular ethnic group. The district denies that the program promotes resentment.

“This is a step backwards in terms of civil rights and human rights. We’re going backwards in terms of human rights in the 21st century,” said Guevarra.

Boycotts of Arizona have been coordinated to protest SB 1070, but many agree that the fight lies ahead with Congress in Washington, D.C. It’s a fight that has so far unified many different communities of color and bridged generations of activists.

As the JACL Norman Mineta Fellow Phillip Ozaki, 23, has been working to pass comprehensive immigration reform in Washington, D.C. On May 1, he also attended an immigration reform event.

It’s not only a job, its personal for Ozaki, who is of Filipino and Japanese descent.

“The fact is that all of us were immigrants who came to the U.S. at one point and such a core group of our American fabric should not be harassed and demonized,” he said. “One thing I do take personally is the new racial profiling law in Arizona. Anyone whose skin color is brown — whether immigrant or eighth-generation-American — now has to worry about freedom being taken away.” ■

PHOTO: SHELLY LONGORIA



Taiko players with the Orange County Buddhist Church's Daion Taiko (above) say they are about 50 members strong and growing.

Making Taiko a Family Affair

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Patricia Fukuma was attracted to the rhythm of the taiko drums she heard in the 1990s at the University of California, Los Angeles. It sounded like a heartbeat, she said.

The 50-year-old has now been playing taiko for about four years. But that taiko beat still inspires her to thump her fingers on the steering wheel while driving in her car and tap her drumsticks, or *bachi*, while walking around the block.

"It's something as a family we're able to do together," Patricia Fukuma said. "My daughter always says I'm out of rhythm. ... I'm not very good at all, I just have a lot of fun."

"My mom seems to like adding extra beats, or *kara karas*, kind of randomly," said 13-year-old Nina Fukuma, Patricia's daughter, about her mother's taiko skills.

The Fukumas — including mother, daughter and father — all play taiko for the Orange County Buddhist Church Daion Taiko group. The group was formed in 1978 by a "dozen adults and children" by Sharon Koga with the Kinnara Taiko group.

In addition to performing at obon and *hanamatsuri* festivals the taiko group has also played at the Susan G. Komen Race For the Cure in 2009, among other events.

Patricia Fukuma said there are now about 50 taiko players in their group. "We're a close family," she said. They practice every Sunday.

Despite their different skills levels, the Fukumas say taiko has brought the family together.

"Unlike a symphony orchestra or a band, it's something that everyone no matter what age or skill level can enjoy doing together," explained 48-year-old Brian Fukuma. "If you can tap your pencil on a desk while listening to some music piece, then you can learn to play taiko."

Let The Beat Go On

Taiko in the United States is generally believed to have widely spread during the Asian American movement. Today's estimates put the number of U.S. taiko groups in the hundreds.

Grandmaster Seichi Tanaka is called the "father of taiko." He formed the San Francisco Taiko Dojo in 1968, the first taiko group in the U.S.

Groups like the San Francisco Taiko Dojo attract the young and old with a belief that, "it's very important that taiko not be exclusive."

"I think taiko is interesting and appealing to such a wide demographic because essentially anyone can play or learn to

play," said Kevin Suda, 23, who plays with Taiko Project. "It is a means of expression, collective and individual empowerment, and simply a great way to let loose energy that you may or may not know you have."

The inclusive nature of taiko attracted other players who also started banging on taiko with their families just like the Fukumas.

"Well, both my parents played. My dad was my first teacher. That's how my mom and dad actually met," said 21-year-old Tomomi Hongo who performs with Progressive Taiko and Taiko Project. "I was never forced to play. It's something that I took interest in. I can't imagine my life without taiko."



(L-r): Nina and Patricia Fukuma, Eiko Tabara, Megumi Fukuma Yee with dog Aki, and Brian Fukuma.

Hongo's father, Etsuo, became involved in taiko at local obon festivals in Tokyo. He says taiko is his life and work.

Other younger taiko players say they enjoy performing for the social benefits.

"Seeing friends early in the morning on Sundays and being able to socialize and play music together," Nina Fukuma said about why she plays taiko.

Many say they are also drawn to taiko because it is a way to experience firsthand Japanese American culture.

Elizabeth Ishida started playing with Kyodo Taiko as a freshman at UCLA. Mark Honda created Kyodo Taiko in 1990, which is regarded as the first collegiate taiko group in the U.S.

The college taiko group marked their first large-scale performance in 1992 on the 50th anniversary of the JA internment. Players paid homage to former UCLA students interned during World War II.

Ishida, a Hapa 23-year-old, said she had never seen taiko on TV or in-person before hearing Kyodo Taiko perform at

UCLA.

"It was just amazing. I remember that I was sitting there, and it was the energy that attracted me to want to find out more information," Ishida continued. "I think music in general it attracts people from all different ages. I think that especially since taiko is growing so fast right now."

There is no one reason, Ishida said, why she enjoys playing taiko. It is something she simply loves doing. Others say they play to have a renewed connection to their JA identity.

Chris Terada, who performs with Daion Taiko with her 11-year-old son, said the performances are a cultural experience.

"It's great to have that connection...I think being from a family that was in Manzanar, during that whole generation you kind of didn't want to have that much association with your heritage or just being Japanese," Terada said. "You kind of wanted to just blend in. Now there's a resurgence with being Japanese."

Taiko is also not only a cultural tradition, Terada said, but a great stress relief.

"It's amazing energy that you get from it," she said. "When you play taiko you get this synergy."

Patricia Fukuma, who plays with Terada, has a similar synergistic connection to taiko. She joined Daion Taiko through her church after her family saw performers play at the annual hanamatsuri and obon events.

After morning service one day they stopped by a taiko booth where a six-week introduction class was being offered.

"I came to church earlier and heard the taiko drums. One day they had an open enrollment," Patricia Fukuma explained. "I thought I'm going to sign up for this. And then I was hooked."

Taiko is now a part of the Fukumas' lives.

"We own the *bachis*, *tabis*, and the *yukatas*," Brian Fukuma continued. "And, lots of tape for our homemade drums. Band-aids for blisters, too."

Taiko for Brian Fukushima is more than a performance art, it means producing a "dynamic sound together as one."

"Not only practicing together with the group ... but also at home where we bang away on our homemade drums," he explained. "[It's] amazing what dynamic sounds can be generated with some plastic tubs and lots of strong tape."

Taiko, Brian Fukuma said, has helped their family enjoy something together collectively.

"When everyone plays in harmony and focus, there is nothing that produces a more resonating sound than that of the taiko drums," he said. "You not only hear the music, but can feel it right down to your core." ■

See You in Chicago

By Larry Oda



I'll see you in Chicago for "Embracing Change." This year's convention theme reminds us that we must have the creativity and flexibility to adapt to new situations while remaining committed to our mission and values. The pace of change in the world is accelerating and though we continue to honor and reflect upon our past, we must extend our view to formulate a sustainable vision for the future of our organization.

Convention gives us the opportunity to deliberate on issues that affect us, share ideas to revitalize our membership and inspire those who will become our future leaders.

The convention committee has arranged for workshops and speakers to educate and inspire our delegates and boosters. There are a whole assortment of tours and activities that that will introduce folks to the rich history of the Windy City.

The legacy we have been given is one of perseverance, sacrifice and accomplishment. We are here today because of the truly extraor-

dinary leadership that guided our community to success and achievement. This is a legacy that is on our shoulders.

The JACL and those we represent are affected by the events and changes in the political and economic environment, and in the rapidly changing demographics in our country. We embrace these changes as an opportunity to set a course that adheres to our historic mission and effectively achieves our goals. We recognize the need to thoughtfully and continuously assess and adapt our organizational structure and programs while fostering new generations of leadership to meet the challenges of promoting equality and social justice within our ever-changing society.

Conventions are much more than the dreary business of the organization and I hope that more of you will take advantage of the educational and cultural experiences that are available to convention attendees. I am impressed by the opportunities created by our convention committees to bring our famous leaders, innovative minds and experts in some diverse fields — celebrities, if you will — to talk to us over the course of convention.

Convention is an opportunity to put a finger on the pulse of the organization, to find out what it's doing, and how well. Delegates have the opportunity to actually adjust the future direction of JACL.

Our chapters and individual members have been busy this past biennium and our awards

See ODA/Page 11

JACL Announces Nat'l Board Nominees

JACL is set to elect its next slate of national leaders. The candidates' statements below were submitted by JACL nominations committee.

Although the regular filing period has passed, candidates can still run for office from the floor of the convention. Those running from the floor will be subject to additional requirements. Procedures can be found in the nominations and elections guidelines downloadable at www.jacl.org.

Candidates can run from the floor for all national offices including: vice president for general operations, vice president for public affairs, vice president for planning and development, secretary/treasurer, national youth council chair and youth representative. There are currently no candidates running for these offices.

A description of duties can be found in the JACL constitution and bylaws. The term of office will be for the 2010-12 biennium.

The JACL national council will elect its officers at the June 30-July 4 JACL national convention in Chicago.

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



David Kawamoto

I am currently serving as the JACL national vice president for planning and development. I am a member of the San Diego JACL and reside in San Diego with my wife Carol. We have two sons, Kevin and Keith.

I received a bachelor's degree in public administration from San Diego State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego.

I worked for the U.S. District Court, with the U.S. Pretrial Service Agency for over 22 years and retired in February 2008. Since retiring, I have worked as a substitute teacher. I also did temporary work for the 2010 Census.

Since 1973, I have served my chapter, district, and national in various capacities. I served as chapter president from 1991 to 1993 and 2003 to 2005. I served two consecutive terms as PSW district governor from 1995 to 1999 and as vice president for general operations from 2000 to 2004. I serve on the board of the San Diego JACL Federal Credit Union and co-chair the National JACL Scholarship Committee.

I helped the Nikkei Student Union at the University of California, San Diego establish their Annual Day of Remembrance commemoration. I serve on the board of governors for both the 100/442/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation and Kiku Gardens, a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) approved senior housing facility.

I bring a lifetime of experience and leadership to effectively serve JACL. To me, leadership is balancing the wants and needs of our organization with our ability to financially carry out the goals defined by our program for action. I ask for your support in electing me to be your next national president.

CANDIDATE V.P. OF MEMBERSHIP



David Lin

At present I hold the office of JACL vice president of membership upon being appointed by the JACL national board in February 2010.

I am a member of the New York JACL and a resident of Hillsborough, New Jersey with my wife Jean and two sons Patrick and Kenneth who are both attending my alma mater, Rutgers University. I graduated from there with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a master's degree in computer science and a master's of business administration. I am also a graduate of an executive education program from the Harvard Business School.

As a career AT&T executive, I have held several leadership positions and am now the executive director, external affairs responsible for building relationships with Asian Pacific American community-based groups.

When I received the JACL appointment I took immediate steps towards working closely with national staff and district council governors towards increasing membership. Previous to this, I represented AT&T as corporate sponsor since 2005 in sponsoring various JACL national and district council events.

I have been active in various APA organizations holding leadership and advisory positions. In my community too I serve as trustee of Hillsborough Education Foundation and Hillsborough Library Advisory Board.

With all my educational, professional, business and community involvement I will bring a wealth of experience and leadership to the position I am running for and I look forward to the opportunity of serving the JACL.

Let me close by stating a belief I hold: Leadership is having the vision to seize an opportunity in the guise of a problem; the ability to work with others as a team to develop solutions to the problem; and the skills to implement the plan to successfully solve the problem. ■

2010 JACL National Convention

June 30th - July 4th - Swissôtel Chicago

Embracing Change

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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

Swissôtel Chicago Phone: 888.737.9477
Book early! Reservations must be made by June 10th to guarantee the JACL Convention rate.

Registration Packages

Packages include Individual Events

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

Individual Events

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

Optional Events

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

Windy City Activities

Limited availability, so sign up early.

	Before 6/10	After 6/10
Devil in the White City Tour	\$70	\$80
Absolutely Segway Tour	\$65	\$75
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Architecture Walking Tour	\$15	\$25
Art Institute of Chicago Tour	\$30	\$40
Trolley Tour	\$25	\$35
Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Sat		
Supernatural Chinatown Tour	\$45	\$55
Horseshoe Casino	\$30	\$40
Buddy Guy's Legends	\$55	\$65
Museum Campus Visit	\$75	\$85
Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> 9a <input type="checkbox"/> 1p		
Chicago Cubs Baseball	\$45	\$55
Architecture River Cruise	\$30	\$40
GRAND TOTAL		



JA Groups Appeal to Texas Board of Education

The Texas Board of Education is soliciting public comments about changes to its social studies curriculum, which waits final approval later this month.

By Nakea J. Ko
Reporter

Japanese American organizations are calling on the Texas Board of Education to further amend changes previously made to its social studies curriculum that they say will “dilute” history.

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

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

To demonstrate that the internment was not racially motivated, board member David Bradley wanted to emphasize that German and Italian Americans were also incarcerated.

About 120,000 JAs were forced into internment camps during WWII, many lost their homes and businesses. And some organizations say that the forcible removal of JAs during WWII should not be “concealed from students.”

“Americans need to know this information — fully documented in the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration — so this experience will not be inflicted again on any racial group,” said Robert Nakamoto, president of the Japanese American

Veterans Association.

JACL officials also issued a response March 19, saying “the race-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 retelling 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.

Nakamoto agreed that students should learn about wrongs committed against JAs. He said people should not be afraid to voice their concerns anytime there is an attempt to misrepresent the truth.

“Students should be provided with the facts so they can develop into leaders, equipped with accurate information, on which [an] important decision can be made,” Nakamoto explained. “I encourage all *P.C.* readers, their families and friends to write to the Texas Board of Education.”

A link to the curriculum standards has been posted on the Texas Education Agency Web while public comments are collected. A final board vote is expected May 21.

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

Send public comments to the Texas Board of Education at rules@tea.state.tx.us, or view the social studies curriculum standards at www.tea.state.tx.us

Chin is First APA Confirmed Outside of the 9th Circuit

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press



The Senate has voted 98-0 to confirm Judge Denny Chin to the New York-based appeals court making him the only Asian Pacific American currently serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The Senate voted 98-0 April 22 to confirm Chin to fill an opening in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second

Circuit.

Chin is the first APA federal appellate court judge to be nominated and confirmed outside of the Ninth Circuit, according to a statement from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

“He is an extraordinary judge and a true trailblazer in our community,” said Joseph J. Centeno, NAPABA president.

President Barack Obama nominated Chin last October.

Chin, who was born in Hong Kong, has been a U.S. district court judge for the Southern District of New York since 1994.

“Born to a working class Chinese American family, Judge Chin has lived the American dream and is a great example to all Americans,” said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center. “We are extraordinarily proud of his achievement of this important legal milestone.” ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

S. Idaho Judge to Decide Feedlot Dispute



PHOTO: RYAN KOZU

JEROME, Idaho—A southern Idaho judge will decide whether plans can go forward for a massive animal feedlot a mile west of a national historic site where Japanese Americans were interned during World War II.

Fifth District Court Judge Robert Elgee heard arguments

April 23 concerning the feedlot that’s part of a dairy already approved by Jerome County Commissioners. However opponents who are seeking to protect the former Minidoka internment camp are challenging it.

Neighbors and officials with the Minidoka national monument have protested the feedlot, citing the potential for odor and flies.

It’s unclear when Elgee will make his decision.

Police Adds Patrols Following Attacks on APAs

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco police are boosting foot patrols in neighborhoods where Asian Americans have been attacked recently.

Police Chief George Gascon said that the 32 extra officers would be deployed around transit stops in the Bayview and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods. They will remain in place for at least the next month.

Gascon says the added officers will help reassure APA residents in the aftermath of multiple attacks along Muni’s T-Third Metro line, including one that left an 83-year-old man dead.

Gascon has downplayed race as a factor in Bayview crime, saying blacks and Latinos are victimized more frequently than APAs.

May is APA Heritage Month

HONOLULU—President Barack Obama has proclaimed May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Obama is calling upon all Americans to learn more about the history of APIs, and to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Obama says that during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the country celebrates the immeasurable contributions these diverse peoples have made to the nation.

UC Riverside to Create Korean American Studies Center



YOUNG OAK KIM

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—A research center for Korean American studies will be established at the University of California, Riverside.

The announcement comes after the university and the Overseas Koreans Foundation signed an agreement April 12. About \$2.7 million will be provided by the foundation for the creation of the Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies.

It will be one of a few nationwide centers focused on the history of Korean Americans and Korean American identity, among other things.

JA Organization Honors Navajo Code Talkers

WASHINGTON—The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation honored the Navajo Code Talkers in an effort to raise awareness about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

The event held April 26 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian to recognize three code talkers: Keith Little, Samuel Tso and Peter MacDonald, Sr.

Code Talkers are credited with saving many lives during WWII. They worked to translate military information into their native language, making it impossible for other military powers to decode. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACler Receives 2010 Jefferson Award

Yoshiko “Edith” Ichiuji was honored with the Jefferson Award for her work in Pacific Grove, Calif. with JACL and the Salvation Army. Ichiuji has been a member of JACL since 1949. She has also devoted her time to arrange toy, food and clothing drives and help feed the homeless. The American Institute established the Jefferson Awards for Public Service. Five others were also honored.

French Camp JACL Awards Scholarship

Amy Komure received the 2010 JACL scholarship award at the 62nd Annual French Camp JACL installation luncheon. Komure is a baccalaureate at Franklin High School in Stockton, Calif., where she maintains a 4.8 GPA. She hopes to become a physician. About 60 members were present for the award ceremony and installation of 2010 board members.

JA Teen Wins Competition at 4-H Contest



Fifteen-year-old **Lysa Emiko Walterhouse** won the State Level 1 Citizenship Competition at the 63rd Annual Tennessee 4-5 Congress. Walterhouse, whose parents **Douglas and Mineko** are French Camp JAClers, competed against ninth and tenth graders. The Cordova, Tenn. resident won a \$500 college scholarship and an engraved silver bowl.

Calif. Gov. Appoints JA to County Superior Court

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed **Robert G. Yabuno** to the San Bernardino County Superior Court, along with two others. Since 1991, Yabuno has been a lead deputy district attorney for the county’s attorney office. Judge James C. McGuire previously held the position.

JA Groups Name ‘Women of the Year’

Four Japanese American community leaders were named “Women of the Year,” by the **Downtown Los Angeles JACL** and the **Southern California Japanese Women’s Society**. **Grace Shiba, Marilyn Nobori, Nancy Kyoko Oda and Katsuko Teruya Arakawa** will be honored May 16 at the Kyoto Grand Hotel for their work in the community.

Fresno JACler Named Superintendent

Wendy Tukloff, assistant superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District, was hired as superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District. Tukloff, a Fresno JACL member, will begin her new position July 1. Tukloff received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. She also earned a PhD from California State University, Fresno and the University of California, Davis.

Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award Announced

The **Berkeley JACL** chapter honored **Ann and Ken Yabusaki** with its Pioneer Award. Since joining JACL, the Yabusakis have helped revitalize the Civil Rights Committee and form the Civil Right Coalition of the East Bay. The Pioneer Award was established in 1996 with the intent of recognizing those committed to serving the community and Berkeley JACL.

Las Vegas JACL Scholarship Winners Awarded

Two students were named as this year’s **Las Vegas JACL** scholarship winners. **Brianne Isa** and **Kelsie Matsuura** each received a \$1,000 scholarship. ■

Hawaii Lawmakers OK Civil Unions, Send Bill to Gov.

Gov. Linda Lingle has not said whether she will sign or veto the bill.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

A bill allowing same-sex civil unions is headed to the governor after the state House of Representatives gave it final legislative approval April 27. The House voted 31-20 in favor of the measure, HB 444, which passed the Senate in January.

Gov. Linda Lingle has not said whether she will make civil unions law or veto the bill. The measure grants gay and lesbian couples the same rights and benefits that the state provides to married couples. If it's signed into law, Hawaii will become one of six states — the others are California, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington — to grant essentially all the rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.

Five other states and the District of Columbia permit same-sex marriage: Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Civil union supporters wearing rainbow-colored lei cried, jumped and screamed for joy outside the House chamber at the Hawaii Capitol.

Disappointed opponents wearing red “iVote” buttons as a threat to legislators this election season quickly departed, with only a few lagging behind.

“Civil unions are a step down the very slippery slope toward legalizing same-sex marriage,” said Rachel Nakasaki, a Christian who joined other members of religious groups in fighting civil unions.

The bill was written so that civil unions would be available to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples to avoid claims of discrimination.

“The passing of HB 444 by the legislature was an acknowledgment by the legislature that the LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender] community is no less than anyone else and are entitled to basic civil liberties,” said Shawn Benton, president of the Honolulu JACL,



PHOTO: STEFFEN OESER

Bills on same-sex marriage and civil unions in Hawaii has drawn protestors on both sides of the issue for years.

which joined with Lambda Legal and the ACLU of Hawaii in co-sponsoring a picnic to celebrate the passing of HB 444.

Lingle has previously said she wouldn't take a position on the issue until a bill passed the Legislature and reached her desk. If she were to veto the bill, the House lacks the two-thirds majority needed to override her. The Aloha State has been a battleground in the gay rights movement since the early 1990s.

A 1993 Hawaii Supreme Court ruling nearly made Hawaii the first state to legalize same-sex marriage before voters in the state overwhelmingly approved the nation's first “defense of marriage” constitutional amendment in 1998.

The measure gave the Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples. It resulted in a law banning gay marriage in Hawaii but left the door open for civil unions. ■

Bill Would Authorize Heart Mountain Study



A hospital complex is one of the remaining structures onsite.

The ‘critically needed’ study would include the possibility of the National Park Service managing the site.

Congressional legislation would have the National Park Service study future options for managing and preserving a former Japanese American internment camp in Wyoming.

The former Heart Mountain Relocation Center is between Powell and Cody. The bill, H.R. 3989 or the “Heart Mountain Relocation Center Study Act” would

authorize a study and collect public input on options for long-term management of the 123-acre site, which held more than 14,000 JAs during World War II.

The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands expressed support for H.R. 3989 at an April 27 hearing, according to the *Powell Tribune*.

The resource study would include the possibility of the site being taken over and managed by the National Park Service as a National Historic Site.

Wyoming U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis is sponsoring the bill. She said the preservation of Heart Mountain could help people learn from the internment era.

The Park County Commission, the Powell and Cody chambers of commerce, the Park County Travel Council and the Wyoming Business Council have submitted letters of support for the study, according to Lummis.

The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation has been leading efforts to preserve the site.

In a letter to subcommittee chairman Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta — who was incarcerated at the site as a boy — called it a “critically needed” study. ■



for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

Wingnut Rebellion

In February, the Harris Poll published the results of a survey they conducted on Americans' attitudes toward President Obama. This poll was prompted by a book by John Avlon (of the conservative Manhattan Institute think tank) titled "Wingnuts: How the Lunatic Fringe is Hijacking America", in which Avlon describes how the extremes on both the left and right are shaping the political debate in this country.

Sparked by Avlon's conclusions, the Harris polling organization did a national survey to determine whether the specter of Avlon's views are credible.

Asking questions based on Avlon's thesis, the results were interesting, and after disaggregating the various cohorts to get a clearer picture of regional differences and political party differences, the conclusions one can draw from this survey are shocking.

First, the numbers.

Among Republicans, 67 percent think Obama is a socialist; 61 percent believe he wants to abolish the right to bear arms; 57 percent think he's Muslim; 55 percent think he has done things that are unconstitutional; 45 percent think he is foreign born and therefore ineligible to be president; 45 percent believe he is a domestic enemy as stated in the Constitution; 41 percent believe he's anti-American; 38 percent believe he's doing many things Hitler did; 24 percent think he may be the anti-Christ.

There are other items, but you get the picture. It's important to note that this wasn't a survey of right-wingers or some oddball group among Republicans. These results were from the rank and file of the GOP.

What's remarkable is that these are comments about the character of the man. But on what basis? Because of his determination to pass health care reform (seen as socialist), it's not surprising that 67 percent of Republicans consider Obama a socialist. And those who think he's Muslim forget that they criticized his 20-year affiliation with the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.

Where the other opinions derive from is anyone's guess because they're certainly not based on fact or any policies enacted by this president. Like so much else by what Avlon calls the wingnuts, these opinions derive from some convoluted and bizarre thought

process.

But what's equally disturbing is that it's not just Republicans who contribute to the poll numbers. Democrat respondents also share these beliefs, although not nearly in such large numbers. For example, while over half the Republicans surveyed believe Obama is Muslim, 15 percent of Democrats share this belief and the same percentage believe he is foreign born and not eligible to be president; 8 percent believe he is doing many things that Hitler did, and 6 percent believe he is the anti-Christ.

It should be noted that Tea Party supporters play a major role in promulgating the anger suggested by the Harris poll, but that anger doesn't appear to be simply because of the policies of the Obama administration.

Because the criticisms of Obama are so personal, one can only construe that the focus of this criticism is about Obama the man, the nation's first black president, and is the root of much of the anger. In a separate poll of Tea Party supporters, Louis Harris notes that 77 percent of Tea Party supporters "are solidly negative about Barack Obama as a person" and that it "would be a vast mistake not to conclude that many of the Tea Party supporters are anything but hostile to the notion that a black, no matter how qualified, should ever serve as president of the United States."

The numbers certainly seem to point in that direction.

But there are paradoxical forces at work here: with a growing acceptance of, and tolerance toward, people of color by the general public, there also seems to be a growing resentment among segments of the public to seeing people of color gain their place in American society.

This reaction may be inevitable with change, but it's unsettling nevertheless. If their anger at Obama is rooted in their racism, and if they feel this free to spew out their anger so vehemently at the president, one wonders how that kind of racism and resentment manifests against others.

And therein lies the issue. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



Teaching Japanese to a JA



By Ema Nakao

“What day is tomorrow?” “Ashita wa kinyoubi desu” (tomorrow is Friday).

A few weeks ago, I was helping a good friend with her Japanese class. It was an ironic moment — we are both Japanese, yet I was teaching her the native language of our culture. I explained nuances that would help her with recalling the kanji in days of the week: “Kinyoubi (Friday) is easy to remember because it has the kanji character for “kin” (gold), and you get paid on Fridays.”

It was then that I had confirmation of the long lasting effects of the internment that persists to this very day. My friend, whose father was born in an internment camp, never learned how to speak Japanese from his own parents. It was decided during their time in the camps, that English was the only language their family would speak due to community backlash and the post-war paranoia.

A few quarters ago, I interviewed several Japanese American friends for an Asian American history class. I found a similar pattern among many of my JA friends whose families were placed into internment camps: Japanese language fluency was lost during and after the internment period, which then led to future generations (namely my friends) who now have no fluency.

Although many of my friends' families have received monetary compensation and an apology for their time in the internment camps, there is something to be said about there being no amount of money or enough apologies to compensate for the loss of language skills that have affected generations upon generations. You really can't return a language back to someone.

I was lucky. Japanese was my first language. My father insisted that I attend the McCully Japanese Language School in Honolulu from my elementary to mid-high school years. At the time, I hated it because I did not understand why I was forced to go to language school after already spending all day at school! To this day, I still recall whining to my parents about having to learn Japanese when everyone speaks English in America. Now I understand why.

I've tested out of the one-year language requirements in college and in high school. I've helped with a few translation and transcription projects. I can travel to Japan without anyone knowing that I was born in the United States. But more importantly, I'm able to help my parents and friends to bridge English and Japanese together either by grilling my friend on proper enunciation of Japanese words or helping my parents understand English in difficult areas such as their healthcare and the occasional tax form.

While it is easy to fluidly transition between English and Japanese in conversation, there is something special about being bilingual — understanding certain words and phrases that have an innate essence that cannot be translated or conveyed.

Ultimately, I feel as though I am in a secret club whose members understand cultural idioms, literal word plays and the history of kanji characters that are tied to their meaning.

For now, I just hope that my tiny part in helping my friend learn the language of our culture will spark enough interest for her to one day become sufficiently fluent so that she can understand the loss that can never be compensated. ■

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



PHOTO: ISABELLA VOSMIKOVA/BRAVO

Kelly Choi says in her childhood Sundays were spent cooking with her mother and father in the kitchen.

Kelly Choi Dishes About ‘Top Chef Masters’

The Bravo TV show host talks about her favorite childhood dish and the delight of challenging great chefs to odd cooking challenges.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Kelly Choi gained recognition in the culinary scene with the TV show “Eat Out NY.” There she featured New York eateries and cooked in kitchens with the chefs. Although self-described as “very shy” it was not Choi’s first on-camera gig. The Korea-born former model was previously a VJ for MTV Korea.

Now she is back to host the second season of “Top Chef Masters.” The show challenges 22 well-established chefs to concoct creations to win \$100,000 for the charity of their choice. Episodes air Wednesdays on Bravo TV.

We caught up with Choi on her day off at a park where the conversation quickly turned to a familiar, savory subject: food.

Pacific Citizen: You hosted and produced ‘Eat Out NY’ and now you’re celebrating the second season of ‘Top Chef Masters.’ How did you land the Bravo gig?

Choi: Bravo literally — some executive called me out of the blue one day. I didn’t have a manager or anything, no agent, no nothing. Someone had been watching my show I guess in New York and said basically, ‘Hey, I’m a producer of Bravo can you go out and meet the producers of “Top Chef” tomorrow?’ So, I was like, ‘Yes, said and done.’

P.C.: How has your life changed, if at all?

Choi: Not much. ... I guess just in terms of recognition there’s more on a national presence because people love ‘Top Chef Masters.’ But day-to-day it’s still, you know, my humble life that I try to live [while] enjoying great food with great people.

P.C.: Hosting ‘Top Chef Masters’ you are responsible for assigning these chefs with odd challenges, like making a dish from snacks at a gas station. Are you ever anxious or uncomfortable with having to divvy out these strange tasks?

Choi: Never anxious or uncomfortable. Totally excited. Even that one where I was giving them that challenge I was in the gas station waiting, waiting and waiting for the Lexus to pull up with the chefs and just dying laughing inside. There’s a little bit of, ‘They’re probably going to hate me for doing it.’ ... I just love their reactions when I first tell them.

P.C.: Off camera do you ever solicit cooking tips from the chefs?

Choi: No, there’s no time for cooking tips. But when you’re pacing and eating you just by default, I’m sure, learn stuff.

P.C.: Can you think of a recipe for an easy dish that the culinarily-challenged can make?

Choi: Totally. Well, one thing that I used to eat all the time when I was little was just get a big hot bowl of rice — make sure that it’s hot — and melt a couple of packs of butter. I used to do this all the time — couple of packs of butter, some sesame oil, a little bit of soy sauce and then mix it up and then add the raw egg.

It’s [a] quick and easy lazy man’s risotto. ... I could eat it with literally anything. Any sort of Asian side dish or something pickled, something spicy or some kimchi.

P.C.: You are constantly sampling and filming food. What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Choi: I love going to green markets and just any sort of market in general. Every time I hear of a new one, I love to just look at all of the stuff and totally geek out about ingredients that I haven’t seen.

P.C.: Have you always been a foodie?

Choi: Yeah, always. Very much so. My parents had a grocery store when I was growing up. I always worked in that. So, I was surrounded by food constantly like stocking, you know, putting prices on cans and working [as] the cashier.

P.C.: Is there a particular dish that reminds you of your childhood?

Choi: Yes, there’s actually one that I still to this day ask my mom to make when it’s fall. I ask her to make this really great squash soup. It’s a small, Asian squash. I just very much remember always asking her to make that. And she would make lots of different things like fried rice. I’d always ask for that and *Chapchae*, which is this vermicelli like potato noodle dish that she’d make often.

P.C.: Growing up in a Korean American family did you learn to love spicier foods?

Choi: Love, love spicy, especially Korean [because] there’s a lot of spiciness [and] garlic. ... I have to be careful. If I’m going to eat that I have to be like end of the day, going to stay home, not shoot, and meet other people and chefs and be very close to them.

P.C.: On ‘Top Chef Masters’ you have probably been

able to eat the most mouthwatering dishes. But what are your favorite guilty pleasures?

Choi: I don’t know if anything is really [a] guilty pleasure anymore because I just eat it if I want it. I’ve definitely come to find — just over the years and being around food all the time — that if you want it you’ve just got to have it because there’s nothing that substitutes for that.

P.C.: How do you maintain your model figure when you’re sampling and tasting all of these delicious dishes on TV?

Choi: I think people get confused by eating good food with gorging. And it doesn’t really — it’s not necessarily the same realm and honestly it’s just not an issue for me. I don’t have problems with my weight. I’ve always been small-framed. You’ve just got to enjoy it.

P.C.: There aren’t very many Korean American hosts on national TV. Do you feel an obligation to be a role model?

Choi: I haven’t really thought of it that way. I mean I suppose of course that that would be that case. Yeah, I try to do the best hosting or whatever that I can. I just do the best that I can, and if I happen to be a role model to Korean Americans then fantastic.

P.C.: Did you always want to be on TV in some capacity?

Choi: I’m actually — I was and still am very shy. ... People would always tell me like, ‘Oh, you should be a model. You should be on TV. You should do this.’ And I think for a really long time I ran away from it because my parents raised me very Korean, meaning doctor or lawyer and that’s it [laughs].

So, any sort of artsy thing or anything like that was — especially by my dad — was pretty discouraged. But luckily my mom had a pretty strong sense of the arts and loved movies, and loved music. ... Through her I was able to still continue modeling and go to art classes.

P.C.: Being in the national spotlight people will of course post negative and positive comments online. Do you ever read the negative ones?

Choi: You know I don’t because I think that everyone has an opinion and whatever their opinion is it’s their business. It’s not mine [laughs]. So I figure I’ll just try to stay clear of it. I just try to put my head down, and do my work the best that I can. I don’t read those things, no. I mean the attention — whether it’s ‘good or bad’ — is good at the end of the day. I can’t complain. ■

San Jose's 'Humble' Judo Master

Yoshihiro Uchida, who started teaching judo at San Jose State University in the 1940s, still attends judo practice every day.



By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Yoshihiro "Yosh" Uchida said he first took up judo at 10 because the Issei feared their children were growing up without any Japanese culture.

He said Japanese parents encouraged Nisei to take up sumo, kendo, judo or ikebana, among other skills.

Uchida, out of financial necessity, chose judo.

"My brothers and I chose judo because kendo cost too much!" Uchida said afflicted with laryngitis, communicating through transcriber Jan Masuda Cougill. "With the full body regalia [it was] about \$100 for kendo and only \$5 for a judo gi. Our family chose judo!"

His choice would not only impact his future, but judo itself.

Officials with the San Jose State University, or the SJSU, police school asked Uchida to teach judo in 1940, where he continued working until being drafted during World War II.

When he returned from the war,

While attending SJSU Uchida was drafted in the Army while working as a lab technician. His parents were interned in Arizona, and the Uchida brothers were sent to Northern California relocation centers.

In the Army, Uchida would use his judo skills to confront an aggressor head-on. It was 1942 at Camp Crowder in Missouri when a "huge Oklahoman" disrupted Nisei soldiers resting on their lunch break and called them "Japs."

"Many of us lying in bed were flipped off," Uchida said. "I took that as an insult and challenged him to a fight. He laughed at me and most figured he would hurt me. But knowing judo helped because as he wrapped me around I threw him, and he was shocked. I was a hero in the barracks."

After four years of service in the military Uchida returned to the university where he started a judo program for potential police recruits.

The 130-pound judo instructor again used his training to silence a confrontational assailant at the university. On the first day back at his SJSU judo class, Uchida had a class of 28 students. All were WWII veterans. They had "no love" for Uchida's "Asian features," after having served in the war, he said.

"One of the students, a burly veteran of Guadalcanal asked, 'what were you going to teach us?'" Uchida said recounting the day. "I said 'judo.' He replied, 'guys like you we used for bayonet practice.'"

Uchida was instrumental in having the Amateur Athletic Union, or AAU, recognize judo as a sport. In the following years Uchida was also the first U.S. Olympic judo coach when the sport was recognized in 1964.

The judo master celebrated another milestone April 1: his 90th birthday. He and his wife Mae, whose birthday is May 7, are having a joint birthday party.

Decades after starting the judo program at SJSU, Uchida is still a fixture every day in class. Uchida also accompanied the SJSU judo team to Myrtle Beach, S.C. April 1 and 2 for the USA Judo National Championships.

"The judo program at SJSU is under my name and I feel that I'm still responsible for the development of the team and it makes me go to work," Uchida said about why he finds time to attend every practice.

"It gets me out of the house, and offers me opportunities to speak with the students, work on their judo and encourage them to finish school."

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Sep. 22-Oct. 1	Branson, Memphis & Nashville
Oct. 5-Oct. 17	Exotic China
Oct. 6-Oct. 20	New England Color & Eastern Canada
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The student picked Uchida up, swung him around and slammed him down on the mat.

"I knew I had to win this battle or there wouldn't be a judo program," Uchida explained. "When he let me down, I slammed him very hard, and the class was astounded ... I turned around and told the students 'this is judo' and we had no more incidents after that."

That is how, Uchida said, judo started at SJSU.

With all his success in the world of judo, Uchida has also made his mark in the Japanese American community.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Uchida said his Caucasian friends and the community looked down upon JAs.

"Being a Japanese American was a struggle because when I returned from the service to San Jose, Calif. I was married with a daughter. And [I] had difficulty getting jobs or finding apartments," he explained. "However I fortunately had many good friends who helped me with housing on their family farm and numerous job opportunities."

The Nisei, he said, wanted to show the San Jose City Hall that JAs were an important part of the community.

"I believe it was the pride of the Nisei to come together, clean up Japantown and make it a vibrant place where future Japanese Americans could come to gather and

also help Japantown businesses to grow," Uchida said.

Uchida started Uchida Enterprises, using money he made from medical labs opened in the 1950s and later sold to Unilab. With 78 other investors Uchida created the San Jose Nihonmachi Corp, which funneled millions in to the revitalization of Japantown in San Jose.

The Uchida name also carries on at SJSU.

Today the same building with the SJSU judo *dojo* is named Uchida Hall. He was also inducted in the SJSU Sports Hall of Fame.

But Uchida, who is often described as "humble," says he hopes to be remembered mostly as a man with an "open mind always trying to do something good."

"We are on this earth for a short period of time and we want to leave a better world for the future generations," Uchida said.

When not on the judo mat Uchida says he enjoys his leisure time.

"Unfortunately because of my macular degeneration, I can't easily read anymore so I tend to listen to news talk radio and watch the news on TV," Uchida said. "I still enjoy doing lunch and dinners with friends, providing they drive me home."

The 90-year-old said he hopes to remain active in the SJSU judo program as long as he is able. ■



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- Oct 11 Hokkaido/Tohoku - 11 Days - \$4295 - Sapporo-Sounkyo
Sahoro-Ainu Shiraoi-Lake Toya-Hakodate-Aomori-Lake Towada-Hachimantai-Matsushima-Sendai-Tokyo.
- Oct 18 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days - \$4195-Tokyo
Niigata-Japan Sea -Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Mt. Daizen-Osaka.
- Nov 1 Fall Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" - 11 Days - \$3995-Tokyo
Takayama-Nara-Kobe-Takahashi-Miyajima-Hiroshima
Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Kyoto.
- Nov 11 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - 12 Days - \$4395 - 4 Days
Okinawa-Nagasaki-Kumamoto-Beppu-Ashizuri-Takamatsu-Osaka.

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Chicago's Magnificent Mile is lined with fun activities for JACLers.

ODA
(Continued from page 5)

committee will reveal their selection for JACLer of the Biennium, and their choice for JACL chapter of the year. There are a number of outstanding members and chapters that have been doing great things for our community and our nation. Come to the convention and see what others have accomplished.

Conventions are heady times. For delegates, the experience of participating in governing the organization is an obligation that is very rewarding. You have a hand in determining the direction and focus for the organization for the coming biennium, and the future.

The convention committee has planned many interesting and

insightful activities for delegates and boosters. The concurrent Young Professionals Conference will provide an opportunity for national youth and student council members to gain an understanding of some interesting and provocative subjects.

Part of our mission is to prepare our future leaders and the Young Professionals Conference promises to provide attendees an opportunity to contribute to the future well-being of our community.

Early bird registration ends on June 10 and a complete list of individual events is available online at www.jacl.org. I will see you in Chicago. ■

Larry Oda is the JACL national president.

522nd Veterans Honored for Liberating WWII Death Camps

Gen. David Petraeus said the liberators gave Holocaust survivors the ‘greatest gift of all — their lives and their freedom.’

Four Japanese Americans World War II veterans of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were among the 121 veterans who participated in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Day of Remembrance program in Washington, D.C.

The April 13-15 event marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps where some 6 million Jewish people were killed during WWII.

522nd veteran Dr. Susumu Ito, of Wellesley, Mass., helped liberate Jewish prisoners at the notorious Dachau concentration camp while his own family was imprisoned in a southeastern Arkansas internment camp.

“I mentioned the similarity of this ethnic injustice to the rounding up of Jews into Nazi concentration camps,” said Ito about the WWII JA interment. “However, the living conditions were vastly different for the interned Japanese, over half of them being U.S. citizens.”

At the event, Gen. David Petraeus



522nd veteran Virgil Westdale (left) shares a private moment with Gen. David Petraeus at the Holocaust Museum.

recognized Ito, a New England JACL member and professor emeritus of cell biology at Harvard Medical School, and the liberators for their heroism.

“All of us here today and all those watching around the world want to assure you that you have written an extraordinary chapter in the history of mankind, that you have left huge footsteps and a clearly marked path of accomplishment, sacrifice, service, and compassion,” said Petraeus, who presented Ito with the souvenir coin of the commander of the U.S. central command.

522nd veterans Eddie Ichiyama, Nelson Akagi and Virgil Westdale also attended the event.

On March 12, 1945, following the defeat of the Germans in the Vosges forests of northeastern France, the 522nd was detached from the 442nd RCT and assigned to the 7th Army for the invasion of the German homeland.

The 522nd arrived in Munich in April 1945 and liberated Jewish inmates at the nearby sub-camps located at places like Horgau, Leihfield and Bad Tolz, part of Dachau. ■

American Holiday Travel

2010 Tour Schedule

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Waitlist Only)	JUN 27-JUL 6
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Nara.	
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE	AUG 14-21
Vancouver, Sawyer Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan.	
HOLLAND AMERICA Zuiderdam Ship.	
CANADA-NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY CRUISE	SEP 15-26
New York City, Newport/Rhode Island, Boston, Bar Harbor/Maine, Halifax/Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saguenay Fjord, Quebec.	
HOLLAND AMERICA Eurodam Ship.	
SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA-TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR	SEP 22-28
JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR	SEP 28-OCT 8
Chiba, Mito, Aizu Wakamatsu/Higashiyama Onsen, Sado Island, Nagano, Matsumoto, Takayama, Gujo Hachiman, Gifu, Kyoto.	
KOREA DRAMA HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 18-31
Seoul, Jeju Island, Gyeongju, Busan, Tongyeong, Gwangju, Daejeon.	
SOUTHEAST ASIA HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV 8-21
Bangkok, Cambodia, Vietnam.	
NEW ORLEANS HOLIDAY TOUR (New Tour)	NOV 30-DEC 4
Stay in French Quarter, City tour, New Orleans Schools of Cooking & dinner, Garden district & Plantation	

Coming For 2011	
EGYPT-NILE RIVER HOLIDAY TOUR	JAN 15-25
HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR	FEB
WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE	MARCH
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR	APRIL
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUNE

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Ernest & Carol Hida

KUKI
(Continued from page 2)

Departing from my college years and entering a new life of adulthood proved to be a dramatic one for me. One in which I realized that it was difficult to be without constant awareness of the surrounding world, and that the obligation to be a responsible and conscious adult lingered closely.

I found the P.C. to be extraordinarily helpful in helping me to fully adjust to this new attitude. What I believe the P.C. to be — for many others and myself — is a central location to access information directly relevant to our community

like entertainment, sports, politics or legal reform.

The ever-evolving state of being Asian Pacific American in the United States is an experience we all share. The challenges we encounter, the obstacles we overcome and the success we accumulate, are perhaps achievements of an individual or a particular organization, however champions our entire group's cause. It is the progress we hope, want and strive to see.

The P.C. channels the energy I seek to inspire me. Through its existence, it allows for us to establish a connection among the masses and be uniform in spirit as APAs. It is no wonder, with the symbolism that the

P.C. embodies, that I cherish each issue that arrives, wholeheartedly.

I plan to support the P.C.'s Spring Campaign. The P.C. has become a vital element in my life and I depend on it as I would any other source I trust to keep me informed. Without the P.C., the unifying force across all APA demographics would surely be weakened. And with such potential for progress, we simply cannot afford to be without it. I hope you feel the same. Please continue to support the P.C. Even a little goes a long way. ■

Sonya Kuki is the youth representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

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JACL representatives said the school's name was 'steeped in racism, colonialism and xenophobia.'

Ohio High School to Drop 'Orientals' Nickname

The Akron Board of Education is changing the district's anti-discrimination policy.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

An Ohio school superintendent says he is updating the district's anti-discrimination policy to drop the "Orientals" nickname for sports teams.

Akron Supt. David James said East High School will have a new name for its teams when a newly renovated building opens next fall.

This came after the JACL called for a name change saying the term "Oriental" is "steeped in racism, colonialism and xenophobia."

James is changing the district's anti-discrimination policy to prohibit the use of any name or symbol that stereotypes groups based on sex, race, ancestry or

national origin or that could create a racially hostile or discriminatory environment.

"We plan to review the current policy to add guidance for name selection of teams and mascots," said James in a statement to the *Pacific Citizen*.

In 1900s, four Akron high schools opened and were named for their general location: North, South, East and West. Each school acquired a nickname: North became known as the home of the Vikings; South, the Cavaliers; West, the Cowboys; and East, the Orientals, according to the Akron Public Schools website.

The school has used a dragon mascot on football helmets.

East High School in Rochester, New York

also shares the nickname "Orientals," and publishes a newsletter entitled, "The Orient Express," according to its website.

'We plan to review the current policy to add guidance for name selection of teams and mascots.'
-Supt. David James

University Garden Rededicated in Honor of JA Builders

Volunteers built Cal State Dominguez Hills' Japanese Garden as a welcoming gift to the university.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A university garden built by Japanese American gardeners in the 1970s was rededicated May 1 in honor of the JA builders and volunteers who have been involved in the garden's maintenance and restoration for over three decades.

At the rededication of the Shinwa-En Japanese Garden on the California State University, Dominguez Hills campus, Bill Ota remembered working on the garden with his father Ralph Kiyoshi Ota.

"I feel a special connection with our campus garden mostly because I helped build it as a young man 30 years ago," said Ota, 56, "and especially now in memory of my father and all those Nisei gardeners and nurserymen that have volunteered their time to make the garden a gift to CSU Dominguez Hills."

The Shinwa-En Japanese Garden was dedicated Nov. 19, 1978 to welcome CSU Dominguez Hills to its permanent campus in Carson, Calif.

Landscape architect Haruo Yamashiro designed the garden with materials and expertise donated by local gardeners and businesses. Many of the gardeners' sons helped build the garden and have continued to volunteer their time towards the garden's ongoing restoration and maintenance.

"I wanted to continue what he started," said Neil Sugimoto, 57, about his late father Chester Sugimoto. "My father is part of the garden and now so am I."



PHOTO: CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS

(L-r) Dennis Yamashiro, Neil Sugimoto and Bill Ota all volunteer their time to preserve the garden.

Sugimoto, a High Desert JACL member, said the garden is the last project they worked on together.

Last summer the Pacific Coast Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association restored the garden with donated materials.

Tom Philo, chair of the Friends of the Japanese Garden, a campus organization dedicated to preserving the site, said volunteering to build gardens like Shinwa-En was the JA community's proof of their allegiance to the United States after World War II.

"The accepted view is that in the postwar years, gardening and landscaping provided those men a decent living while allowing them to keep low profiles and relative anonymity," said Philo. "But I think their custom of donating Japanese gardens in public spaces said something else as well. It proved both citizenship and good citizenship, and let them create a share of the world — one that was centered around them and one in which they shaped what happened." ■



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Winner of 2010 JACL Oratorical Contest to Win Tickets to Japan

The winner of this year's Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition will receive two round trip tickets to Japan, said the JACL.

All Nippon Airways (ANA) has donated flight and hotel arrangements.

The competition is open to high school students, age 16 or older, or full-time undergraduate college students who are JACL members. District finalists will present their 3-5 minute presentation in front of an audience at the JACL national convention in Chicago.

Contestants will answer the questions: What can the Asian Pacific American community and the JACL do to inspire and create change to meet the needs of America's current socio-political landscape?

The oratorical competition is named in memory of Minoru Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist who tested the constitutionality of the curfew orders imposed on Japanese Americans after the Pearl Harbor attack.

During the 1980s, Yasui was an articulate voice in leading the JACL's successful Redress campaign.

The JACL 41st national convention takes place June 30-July 4 at the Swissotel. ■

For more information or guidelines: www.jacl.org

Dates Set For Manzanar High Reunion

This year's Manzanar school reunion is set for Aug. 9-11. Buses will be available from Los Angeles, Gardena, Venice and the San Fernando Valley.

Activities will include a mixer with John Dahlem of the California Interscholastic Federation, who will report on his research of the 1944 football game between Manzanar High School and Big Pine High. Former team members are encouraged to attend.

A banquet honoring Henry Fukuhara famed watercolorist, teacher and former Manzanar inmate, will also take place during the reunion. Fukuhara passed away Jan. 31 at the age of 96.

Rangers from the Manzanar National Historic Site will also provide the latest information on park activities. ■

August 9-11
California Hotel, Las Vegas
For reservation or application form: Sam Ono 310/327-5568 or samono@earthlink.net

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National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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(L-r): Jan Yanehiro, Wendy Shiba, Princess Takamado and Judy Sakaki.

JA Leadership Delegation Report

By Jan Yanehiro

Futenma and Toyota: two hot button issues members of the 2010 Japanese American Leadership Delegation faced on a recent trip to Japan.

Irene Hirano Inouye, president of the U.S.-Japan Council, led the 13-member delegation, which returned from Japan on March 6.

In an exclusive meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, the issue of where to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa was brought up. Hatoyama wanted delegates to assure the American people that he would definitely make his decision by the end of May.

Approximately 4,000 Marines are based at Futenma. Residents have raised concerns of noise and air pollution and public safety. In 2006, the U.S. and Japan agreed to move the base to Camp Schwab in Nago, but many Okinawans want the base moved permanently.

Prime Minister Hatoyama shook every member's hand and told me that he lived in the Bay Area and met his wife in San Francisco and seemed proud of the fact that she worked at Macy's in the jewelry department.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos met with the delegation at the U.S. Embassy and he too commented that the issue of Futenma was an important one. He will meet with Pentagon officials and Sen. Daniel Inouye in Washington, D.C. to discuss this issue.

For Americans, the Toyota recall is a company issue and some would say, a public relations issue. In Japan, the question of associating the company with the country came up several times.

At a meeting with the Kansai Economic Federation one of the first questions to our delegation was how Americans viewed Toyota. The Kansai member asked if we hated the Japanese because of Toyota.

We also had tea with a princess. Since our visit with Princess Hisako Takamado took place during the Girl's Day celebration, her home in Tokyo was filled with the traditional Japanese dolls.

Princess Takamado served green tea with Japanese sweets. She said Japanese youth are so content with life in a safe country that they are reluctant to study abroad. Her first daughter studied in England, but her second two are "refusing" to do so.

Another discussion centered on Japanese people who are citizens of other countries. There are some 2 million Japanese in Brazil, more than 1 million in the U.S., and just about 100 in Uruguay. The Princess felt that if you have just one drop of Japanese blood, you are part of Japan.

U.S. Consul General Ed Dong in Osaka arranged one of the more meaningful meetings about challenges Japanese women executives face in moving up the corporate ladder. Other delegates included: Charles Allcock, Tracey Doi, Stuart J. Ishimaru, Dayne Kono, Duane Kurisu, Colbert Matsumoto, Moni Miyashita, Jill Nishi, Janet Nuzum, John Okamoto, Judy K. Sakaki and Wendy Shiba. ■

Jan Yanehiro is a television broadcaster, author and director of the school of multimedia communications at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Nisei Fund to Award Scholarships to Southeast Asian Students

To mark its 30th anniversary, the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative (NSRC) Fund will award \$50,000 in scholarships to Southeast Asian high school seniors in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

The scholarships will be awarded during a May 16 ceremony in Arlington, Virginia.

The scholarships are available through a fund created by Nisei whose college educations were abruptly halted during World War II when they were forcibly removed from the West Coast and confined in internment camps.

With the help of academic and religious groups, thousands of internees were able to leave camp and compete their college education.

In 1980 the fund was created to "repay a kindness" to help other students in need.

The founders selected Southeast Asian refugees and

their families because of their shared experience of displacement and disruption of education due to war — in this instance, the Vietnam War.

Each year the NSRC Fund selects a different region of the U.S. with a significant Southeast Asian population to award scholarships. The Washington, D.C. area — including Virginia and Maryland — was selected for 2010.

Including this year's awards, over 600 students and nearly \$600,000 in scholarships have been granted since 1980. From the 100 applications received, 39 students of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian ancestry will receive either \$2,000 named scholarships or \$1,000 general scholarships. ■

On the Web
www.NSRCFund.org

GO SEE DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



'442-Live With Honor Die With Dignity'

Los Angeles, Calif.

May 20, 12:30 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.

Filmmaker Junichi Suzuki, whose 2009 film 'Toyo's Camera: Japanese American History During WWII' was an epic ode to JA history, returns with a new documentary about our heroic Nisei soldiers. Suzuki and actor George Takei will be in attendance. Theatrical screenings begin July 25.

For information:

213/680-3700 or www.jaccc.org

Info: MinidokaPilgrimage@gmail.com

N Calif. W Nev. Pac

Eden Township Chapter Bazaar SAN LORENZO, CA

July 12-13

Eden Japanese Community Center
701 Elgin Street

The Eden Township JACL is hosting this fundraising bazaar. Enjoy teriyaki chicken and rib combo dinners, udon, curry and more. There will be games for children and bingo for adults.

Info: Ron Sakaue at 510/276-0752 or Ed Oda 510/538-6380

Florin JACL Multicultural Forum

SACRAMENTO, CA

May 8

Rizal Community Center
7320 Florin Mall Dr

The Florin JACL fwill be screening "Crossing the Line Multicultural Comedians." A discussion will follow.

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

Info: Walter Kawamoto
waltertk@yahoo.com

Berkeley Methodist United Church Food Bazaar

BERKELEY, CA

May 30, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Berkeley Methodist United Church
1710 Carleton Street

Enjoy homemade Japanese cuisine, a silent auction, arts & crafts, entertainment and game booths.

Info: 510/848-4680

www.gbmg-umc.org/bmuc

Tule Lake Pilgrimage

Tulelake, CA

July 2-5

The Tule Lake Segregation Center This pilgrimage will focus on the "No-Nos" and those who renounced their U.S. citizenship.

Info: 415/566-2279 or

www.tulelake.org

Pacific Southwest

Little Tokyo Culture Camp Workshop

LOS ANGELES, CA

May 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro St.

The Ties That Bind Committee is holding the "Hows and Whys to Doing a Culture Camp" workshop to teach participants how to institute programs to teach Japanese American youth about their heritage and culture.

Info: Bill Watanabe at 213/473-1607

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
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.

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

JAKWV Portugal-Spain Trip LOS ANGELES, CA

Nov. 4

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans, or JAKWV, 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

Riverside JACL Scholarship Dinner

RIVERSIDE, CA

May 16, 5 p.m.

First Christian Church
4055 Jurupa Ave.

Join the Riverside JACL for its annual scholarship potluck dinner.

Info: Michiko Yoshimura
951/784-7057

Legacy Series: Daniel Dae Kim LOS ANGELES, CA

May 15, 7 p.m.

National Center for the Preservation of Democracy

111 N. Central Avenue

Free/CAPE members, \$10/guests

The Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment announces its first

Legacy Series with special guest

Daniel Dae Kim, star of ABC's "Lost"

Info: www.capeusa.org/panel

Beate Sirota Gordon Lecture LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

May 16, 2 p.m.

JA National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum

100 N. Central Ave.

\$27/museum member, \$30/public

The only woman to play a role in the writing of the Japanese Constitution, Beate Sirota Gordon, will speak about her memories in advocating for equal rights.

Info: www.janm.org or 213/625-0414 ext. 2249

JAKWV & JAVVMC Annual Memorial Day Service

Pacific Northwest

LOS ANGELES, CA

May 29, 11 a.m.

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro St

The Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee and Japanese American Korean War Veterans are hosting this memorial jointly for the first time to honor those that gave their lives to serve in war.

Info: Min Tonai at 818/591-1269 or tonaim@pacbell.net

Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Day Service

SEATTLE, WASH.

May 31, 10-11 a.m.

Lake View Cemetery

1554-15th Ave. East

Pay tribute to our veterans with the Nisei Veterans Committee by celebrating their heroism on Memorial Day.

Info: www.seattlencv.org

Portland's Japanese American Historical Plaza: 20 Years

PORTLAND, OR

July 30

Tom McCall Waterfront Park
1020 SW Naito Pkwy

The Oregon Nikkei Endowment celebrates its 20th year with an exhibit honoring the JA Historical Plaza.

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

Lake Washington JACL Founders Day & Installation Banquet

RENTON, WASH

May 8, 12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Tea Palace

2828 Sunset Lane, NE

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Lake Washington chapter's founding. Special tributes will be made to chapter founder John Matsumoto and others.

Info: 425/277-8600

125th Anniversary of Kanyaku Imin

HONOLULU, HI

June 5, 2-9 p.m.

Iolani Palace

364 South King St.

\$15/general public, \$13/military;

free/children 12 and under

The ceremony honors WWII JA veterans. Take a complimentary tour of the palace.

Info: kanyakuimin@gmail.com

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or busmgr@pacificcitizen.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

APAICS Golf Classic ARLINGTON, VA.

June 28, 9 a.m.

Amy Navy Country Club
1700 Army Navy Drive

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies invites you to the 2nd Annual Golf Classic.

Info: Rosemary Hoffmann at 703/683-7500 or

RHoffmann@epiphanyproductions.com

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 con-

vention 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

Intermountain

Mame Daiko Performance CLEVELAND, OH

May 22

Asia Plaza

2999 Payne Avenue

Cleveland Asian Festival

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2010 Minidoka Pilgrimage TWIN FALLS, ID

JUNE 24-27

The Seattle JACL, Nisei Veterans Committee and Friends of Minidoka invite everyone to the pilgrimage. In addition to the pilgrimage, a symposium on civil liberties will be held at the College of Southern Idaho.

Register: \$300/before June 4; \$250/children ages 12 and under.

SEE!

GO!

TRIBUTE

Masami Oda

April 11, 1913 - March 3, 2010



Masami "Sam" Oda born in Berkeley April 1913, age 96, peacefully passed away in his sleep March 3, 2010, after a brief illness. 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 Lester), grandchildren, Russell Ouchida (wife Hsiao-Wei), Joanne Sonoda-Yu (husband David), Ryan Ouchida, Alison Sonoda, Colleen Oda, Roger Oda

(wife Valerie), Michael Sonoda (wife Mariel), Kevin Oda, Lindsay Oda, great-grandchildren Jordan Yu and Kara Yu. He was preceded in death by brothers Hike Oda (wife Taye), and Kanki Oda (wife Masayo). He graduated from U.C. Berkeley Haas Business School in 1935, worked pre 1942 as manager Japanese Farmers Cooperative San Luis Obispo, California, retired from Trailmobile in Berkeley, California. He was a member of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, Contra Costa JACL, East Bay Golf Club, and was a member of the same Saturday Night Poker Group for over 50 years. Sam loved golf, poker, family, friends and his Cal Golden Bears Sports Teams. He was a gentle, kind, empathetic and generous person who will be missed by all. A memorial service was held Saturday, March 13, 2010, at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Bob Uyeyama, Leader Taught Internment Lessons to Youth

By Pacific Citizen Staff



A World War II veteran and Florin JACL leader, who devoted his time to educating younger generations about the Japanese American internment experience, died April 24 of a heart attack at the Manzanar pilgrimage in Lone Pine, Calif. He was 75. Uyeyama was leading a walking tour with other former internees when he collapsed. The former Jerome and Rohwer internee also talked about his internment experiences as a docent for the California Museum of History. "He selflessly dedicated much of his retired life to sharing this vital lesson with the younger generation of

Americans," said Andy Noguchi of the Florin JACL. Uyeyama was an Air Force veteran who worked for 36 years in the Sacramento County Clerk's Office and Superior Court, according to his obituary in the *Sacramento Bee*. With the Florin JACL, he served as treasurer and fundraising chair. "Bob connected with thousands of young people through his stories of boyhood camp adventures that opened their minds to the reality of how the government can even turn against its own people during a time of crisis, imprisoning thousands of innocent men, women, and children," said Noguchi. He was also an accomplished musician who sang in a barbershop quartet and played the piano and organ. Funeral services were held May 2 at Carmichael Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Sacramento. He is survived by wife Masako, son Jason, sisters Ruth and Carol and brothers Jack, Bill, Stan, David, Dan and Pete. ■

Victoria Manalo Draves was First APA Gold Medal Olympic Diver

By Pacific Citizen Staff



Victoria Manalo Draves, a groundbreaking athlete who became the first Filipina American woman to win two gold medals for springboard and platform diving at the 1948 Summer Olympics in London, has died. She was 85. Draves died April 11 in Palm Springs, Calif. from complications of pancreatic cancer, said Lyle Draves her husband and coach. "She had form," said Lyle Draves about her diving.

"She like was sliver going into the water." Draves, whose father was Filipino and mother was English, took gold in the three-meter springboard and the 10-meter platform competitions. She began competitive diving in San Francisco when she was about 17. She faced racial discrimination from other divers about her Filipina heritage, said her husband, but she persevered and toured around the world with Buster Crabbe's "Aqua Parade." In 1969, Draves was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. She is survived by her husband, sons, eight grandchildren and Consuelo Sessions. "Vicki was the first girl Olympic champion," said Lyle Graves. "Winning an Olympic medal ... you can't get much higher than that." ■

Minidoka Pilgrimage Set For June 24-27



PHOTO: RYAN KOZU The 2010 Minidoka Pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland to the former internment site near Twin Falls, Idaho will take place June 24-27. Participants will visit the grounds of the Minidoka National Historical Site and attend a memorial service to honor former internees and Nisei soldiers who were killed in action during World War II. In 2001, 73 acres along the North Side Canal, near the

entrance, was designated a National Historical Monument. President George Bush, in 2008, signed into law "The Wild Sky Wilderness Act", which changed the status from U.S. National Monument to National Historic Site and added the *Nidoto Nai Yoni* (Let It Not Happen Again) Memorial on Bainbridge Island, Wash. During WWII, nearly 13,000 Japanese American internees were forcibly removed from their homes in Washington, Oregon and Alaska and incarcerated in Minidoka. The annual pilgrimage commemorates this tragic history. The deadline to register is June 4. ■ For information: www.minidokapilgrimage.org or MinidokaPilgrimage@gmail.com

TRIBUTE

Matao "Matt" Shigio

June 17, 1923 - April 18, 2010



Shigio, Matao "Matt", 86, San Francisco, CA; April 18, MIS veteran; survived by daughter Dianne (Keith) Harada; sons Randall (Linda) and Roderick. Grandchildren Jeffrey, Gregory and Andrew Harada and Lauren Shigio. Preceded in death by wife Toshiko (Tanaka) Shigio; sisters Mary Asamoto and Toshiko Ito; brothers Shigetoshi and Shiro.

About our Obituaries Section:

In Memoriam appears on a limited, space-available basis at no cost. Tributes appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch. For info: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org or (800) 966-6157

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