APAs in Arizona’s Immigration Fight
JACL, APA groups join in the fight against the ‘racial profiling’ law. -> PAGE 3

Kelly Choi dishes about her favorite childhood dish and ‘Top Chef Masters.’ -> PAGE 9

Taiko is a family affair. -> PAGE 4

Minh Bui, a 20-year-old student from San Diego, Calif., became a naturalized citizen in 2000.
**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 you 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 does (increased 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!

**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 sections.

3. Hire ad seeker to... 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

**Write to Us**

Write to: Letters, Pacific Citizen
250 E. 1st St., Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

or e-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org

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**LETTERS/SPRING CAMPAIGN**

**Print Pacific Citizen is a Cherished Tradition**

By Sonya Y. Kukui

Between the same hours spent starting 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? Siting 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, a second I relax on my plush couch.

I kick off my shoes at the door, a habit I’ve inherited from my parents, and sit down at my laptop, (before the device was even invented). I work until late into the night and then fall asleep on the couch. 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, sunny, 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

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**CORRECTION**

A photo of Bob Nakanuma (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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**JACL MEMBERS**

**JACL MEMBERS**

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**JACL MEMBERS**
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 over 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 Shee, who is of Chinese and Spanish descent, "It's "driving while brown" ... when he saw me all he saw was brown."

Shoe, 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 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.

"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.

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.

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Making Taiko a Family Affair

By Nakea 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 been playing taiko for about four years. But that taiko beat still inspires her to thump her fingers together, “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-kara, kind of randomly,” said 13-year-old Nina Fukuma, Patricia’s daughter, about her mother’s taiko skills.

The Fukumas—one 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 Kinjutsu Taiko group.

In addition to performing at obon and hanami 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 widespread during the Asian American movement. Today’s estimate puts the number of U.S. taiko groups in the hundreds.

Grandmaster Seiichi 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 be inclusive.”

“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 Takomori 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 it.”

Hongo’s father, Etsu, became involved in taiko at local obon festivals in Tokyo. He says taiko is his life and work. Older 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 in 1990. She 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 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 your 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 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 hanami 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 theico and, and the yosei to,” 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 habs 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.”
I'll see you in Chicago for “Embracing Change.” This year's convention theme reminds us that we must have the creativity to formulate a sustainable vision for the future of our organization. This convention gives us the opportunity to deliberately 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 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 extraordi

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**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 filling 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. I have two sons, Kevin and Kaishi.

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 103/442/MIS/World War II Memorial Foundation and Kiku Gardens, a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) approved senior housing facility. I bring a wealth of experience and leadership to effectively serve JACL. To me, leadership is balancing the needs and wants 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 disguise 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.

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**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 to formulate a sustainable vision for the future of our organization. This convention gives us the opportunity to deliberately 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 will introduce folks to the rich history of the Windy City.

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**JACL National Convention**

**MAY 7-20, 2010**

**See ODA/Page 11**
Chin is First APA Confirmed Outside of the 9th Circuit

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. Nanooki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center. "We are extraordinarily proud of his achievement of this important legal milestone."
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 its (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 other five are California, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington — to grant essentially all the rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.


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 “Vote” 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 legalization of same-sex marriage,” said Rachel Nakasui, 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 entitled to basic civil liberties,” said Shawn Benton, president of the Honolulu JACL, 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, HR 3980 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 the measure 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 sponsor of 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.
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 has done things that are unconstitutinal; 24 percent think he’s Muslim; 23 percent think he’s Muslim; 23 percent think he’s a socialist; 21 percent think he’s a domestic enemy as stated in the Constitution; 21 percent think he’s a domestic enemy as stated in the Constitution; 21 percent think he’s a domestic enemy as stated in the Constitution; 21 percent think he’s a domestic enemy as stated in the Constitution; 21 percent think he’s a domestic enemy as stated in the Constitution.

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 the man” 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 certain temperamental shift 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 kani in days of the week: “Kinyoubi (Friday) is easy to remember because it has the ‘kani’ 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 McCullary 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 kani 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.
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 joined New York eaters 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 create curries to win $100,000 for the charity of their choice. Episode airs 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.

**PE:** Howard 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.

**PC:** 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.

**PC:** 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.

**PC:** Can you think of a recipe for an easy dish that the culturally-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 bowl of rice — make sure that it’s hot — and make 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 picked, something spicy or something kimchi.

**PC:** Are you 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.

**PC:** 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 stockling, you know, putting prices on cans and working [at] the cashier.

**PC:** 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 Chapulines, which is this wormy kind of potato noodle dish that she’d make often.

**PC:** Growing up in a Korean American family did you learn to love spicy 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.

**PC:** 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.

**PC:** 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 going. 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.

**PC:** 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 that way. I mean I appreciate 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.

**PC:** Did you always want to be on TV in some capacity?

Choi: I 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, knowing 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.

**PC:** 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.

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, or jiu-jitsu, among other skills.

Uchida, out of financial necessity, chose judo.

“My brothers and I chose judo because it was too expensive,” Uchida said with a laugh.

Uchida said he 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 at the university where he started a judo program for potential police recruits.

The 130-pound judo instructor joined the 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 the enemy.

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

“Judo program at SJSU is under my name and I feel that I’m part of the team and it makes me go to work,” Uchida said about why he returns to the university where he started the judo program.

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 hit 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.

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

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

“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 farms and numerous job opportunities.

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

“Today the same building with the same people sits,” Uchida said.

He also helped Japantown businesses to stay in business.

“Unfortunately because of my muscular 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 lunch and dinners with family, 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.

By Nalae J. Ko

Official with the San Jose State University, 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, 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.

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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 American 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 internment. "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 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 footprints 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.

The 522nd arrived in Munich on April 15 and liberated Jewish inmates at the nearby sub-camps located at places like Horgen, Leibfeld and Isid Teitz, part of Dachau.

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

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Sonya Kuki is the youth representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.
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 by dropping 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 and baseball helmets.

East High School in Rochester, New York, also shares the nickname “Oriental,” and publishes a newsletter entitled, “The Orient Express”, according to its website.

Ohio representatives said the school’s name was ‘steeped in racism, colonialism and xenophobia:”

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 Kyosaburo 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 who 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.

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 Minneci 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 following 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 Minneci 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 Tabooh 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 internee, 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 310/227-5566 or samono@earthlink.net

Nisei Fund to Award Scholarships to Southeast Asian Students

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

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 continue their college education.

In 1986 the fund was created to "bypass a hurdle" 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, 59 students of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian ancestry will receive either $2,000 named scholarships or $3,000 general scholarships.

On the Web www.NSRCFund.org

JA Leadership Delegation Report

By Jan Yanehiro

Princess and Toyota two hot button issues before the 2010 Japanese American Leadership Delegation faced a recent trip to Japan.

From Hiroko 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 everyone’s hand and told us 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 Kamai Economic Federation one of the first questions to our delegation was how Americans viewed Toyota. The Kamai 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 tea with Japanese sweets. She said Japanese youths 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 was “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 Alfocci, Tracey Doi, Stuart Ishihara, Dayne Kono, Diane Kurian, Coltebt Matsumoto, Mbay Miyoshi, Bill Nilait, Jami Numan, John Oikom, Judy K. Sakaki and Wendy Shiba.

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

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center

June 28, 9 a.m.

JACL's Salute to
attendance. Theatrical screenings begin July 25.

Join other JACL members from
The Asian Pacific American Institute
for Congressional Studies invites you
to the 2nd Annual Golf Classic.

The only woman to play a male in the
writing of the Japanese Constitution,
K. Kids Fun Run, then the street is
closed for the San Tan. 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament.

For information:

Info: Rosemary Hoffmann at
703/683-7500

Info: www.jaccc.org

**East**

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

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.jaccl.org

APNCS Golf Classic
ARLINGTON, VA

June 28, 8 a.m.

Army 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
703/683-7610 or
hoffmann@skyphoeniproductions.com

**Midwest**

National JACL Convention
CHICAGO, IL

June 30-July 4

Swans Ballroom
325 E. Wacker Drive

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

Register: $295/Adult June 16; $295/Youth ages 22 and under before June 10.

Info: www.jaccl.org/events/2010chicago

Intermountain

Mama Dai's Performance
CUMBERLAND, OH

May 30, 7 p.m.

The Seattle JACL, Nisei Veterans Committee by celebrating their heroism on Memorial Day.

Info: www.mamadai.com

Pacific Southwest

Little Tokyo Culture Camp Workshop
LOS ANGELES, CA

May 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon

JACC Plaza

The only woman to play a male in the
writing of the Japanese Constitution,
K. Kids Fun Run, then the street is
closed for the San Tan. 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament.

Info: MinidokaPilgrimage@gmail.com

Info: www.jad.org/news/2010Chicago

2010 Minidoka Pilgrimage
TWIN FALLS, ID

JUNE 24-27

The Seattle JACL, Nisei Veterans Committee by celebrating their heroism on Memorial Day.

Info: www.jad.org/news/2010Chicago

RIVERSIDE, CA

May 16, 12 p.m.

First Christian Church
4055 Juniper Ave.

Join the Riverside JACL for its annual scholarship potluck dinner.

Info: Sue Phelan
951/784-7057

Legacy Series: Daniel Dae Kim
LOS ANGELES, CA

May 17, 7 p.m.

National Center for the Preservation of Democracy
111 N. Central Avenue

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.capeci.org/panel

Beate Sirota Green Lecture
LOS ANGELES, CA

May 16, 2 p.m.

JA National Museum's Taiko Drumming Ensemble
100 N. Central Ave.

Info: www.jamuseum.org

JACC's 27th Annual Children's Day Celebration
LOS ANGELES, CA

May 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

JACC Plaza

200 S. San Pedro St.

The day is dedicated to the children of the

Info: MinidokaPilgrimage@gmail.com

N Calif. W Nev. Pac

Eeon Township Chapter Bazaar
SAN LDEFNDes, CA

July 15-16

Eeon Japanese Community Center
701 Eigh Street

Eeon Township JACL is hosting its fundraising bazaar.

Info: Ron Sakaue at 910-276-3052 or
   Ed Oda 510-536-3300

Florin JACL Multicultural Forum
SACRAMENTO, CA

May 19, Community Center
7320 Florin Mall Dr.

Florin JACL will be screening Crossing the Line Multicultural Communities: A discussion will follow.

Cost: $10/adults, $5/students, seniors and members.

Info: Walter Kawamoto
warkow@yahoo.com

Berkeley Methodist United Church Food Bazaar
BERKELEY, CA

May 30, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Berkeley Methodist United Church
1710 Center Street

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

Info: 510/444-4800

www.gpmu.org/bazaar

Tule Lake Pilgrimage
TULSA, OK

July 2-5

The Tule Lake Segregation Center celebrates its 70th anniversary with an exhibit honoring the JA Historical Plaza.

Cost: $1,599 per person (including airfare).

Info: Victor Minakawa at 619/308-4143
or v.minakawa@eroganetz.net

Riverside JACL Scholarship Dinner
RIVERSIDE, CA

May 16, 5 p.m.

First Christian Church
4055 Juniper Ave.

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Info: Sue Phelan
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Info: MinidokaPilgrimage@gmail.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

LOS ANGELES, CA

May 29, 11 a.m.

JACC Plaza
244 S. San Pedro St.

The Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee and Japanese American Koreans are hosting this memorial service for the first time in honor of those who gave their lives to serve in war.

Info: Min Tora at 817-925-1266 or
   toram@pacbell.net

Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Day Service
SEATTLE, WASH

May 31, 10 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.nisivets.org

Portland's Japanese American Historical Plaza: 20 Years
PORTLAND, OR

July 30

Toms McColl Waterfront Park
1020 S.W. Naito Pl.

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

Info: Nicole Nathan at 503/224-4458 or
   nico@oregonnikkei.org

Lake Washington JACL Founders Day & Installation Banquet
RENTON, WA

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

Topaz Manor
2821 S. Central Ave.

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

Info: 425-277-9600

125th Anniversary of Kanyakuni
INAHONBURI, HI

May 6, 2 p.m.

Kanyuki Palace
364 South King St.

$1/General public, $10/military

Get the listing of events for Kanyakuni.

Info: kanyakunimrl@gmail.com

Advertise

Contact the PACIFIC CITIZEN office for a limited listing for PC readers. Not all event submissions are listed.

Don't see your event here? Don't worry! We may have listed it.

Listed events are limited to the first 400 on a first-come, first-served basis.

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OBITUARIES

Masami Oda
April 11, 1913 - March 3, 2010

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 at 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 internees also talked about their internment experiences as a docent for the California Museum of History.

“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 Caminah Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Sacramento.

He is survived by wife Makiko, son Jason, daughters Ruth and Carol and brothers Jack, Bill, Stan, David 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.

Minidoka Pilgrimage Set For June 24-27

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 Nidokha Nat Torn (Let It Not Happen Again) Memorial on Bannister 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

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