Vashon Island’s Vanishing History
The Mukai farmhouse, and the family’s history, face an uncertain future on the real estate market. >> PAGE 3

16-YEAR-OLD CEO
Sunmee Huh created search engine Good50 for senior internet users. >> PAGE 4

HONORING 442
Junichi Suzuki debuts his new film on the Nisei vets. >> PAGE 9

(L-R) Masahiro Mukai, his mother Sato and B.D. Mukai in a 1916 photo.
A Matter of Simple Economics
As a means of clarification, I would like it known that no one is against the Pacific Citizen (PC) newspaper. It has served us well for decades. The possibility of going to a digital format in the future is primarily a matter of simple economics. With the financial problems besetting the JACL and the inability to fill staff positions because of a lack of funds, it is a major concern to spend around 20 percent of the total budget for the JACL on the newspaper.

While the arguments for or against the printed newspaper could go on and on, it remains a fact that the budgetary problems of the JACL are difficult. That is the main reason for the changes which are being requested regarding the PC. If finances were not an issue, there might be no problem spending one fifth of our budget on the newspaper. However, it is absolutely necessary that the JACL find ways to reduce costs, and spending that much money on the newspaper is not feasible nor sustainable for the future.

Floyd Mori
National Director, JACL

Editor's Note: The PC. received 10 percent of the JACL revenues in 2009 and is set to receive the same in 2010. In 2009, the PC. received $205,073 from the national JACL budget of $2,148,865. In 2010, the PC. is set to receive $256,744 from the national JACL budget of $2,610,798. In 2011 and 2012 the PC. is slated to receive 9 and 8 percent of JACL monies, $317,465 in 2011 and $198,412 in 2012 out of a total budget of $2,541,218 and $2,401,541 respectively. The PC. continues to raise 50 percent of its operating budget through advertising, non-members and fundraising, the only national JACL program that is required to do so.

Memorial to Patriotism Stamp
I understand that the Northern California Western Nevada JACL District is sponsoring a resolution for a commemorative stamp in support of “Memorial to Patriotism” to be presented to the JACL National Council in Chicago for approval. (Mas Hashimoto, "A Stamp to Honor the Patriotic of All JACL," March 29–April 1)

This is well and good, however, I hope this “Memorial to Patriotism” stamp proposal is in format.

To this day, many in the American public are not aware of the distrust faced by the Americans of Japanese ancestry following the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor and can’t believe that those living along the West Coast were forcefully evacuated for four years to internment camps scattered throughout the United States.

In my opinion, the above should be the “Memorial to Patriotism” stamp to be adopted in the resolution to be presented before the JACL National council in Chicago.

Leo H. Hosoda
MIS Veteran, WWII and Korean War
JACL 1000 Club Member

Spring Campaign
Celebrating Superpowers: Supporting the Pacific Citizen

By Lisa K. Hanasomo

For over 25 years, I have silently embraced a deep and dark secret: I have a superpower. No, I can’t fly like Superman. Despite my best efforts, I cannot magically heal people or go back in time. As a child, I was not exposed to radioactive materials like the Incredible Hulk, nor was I bitten by a venomous spider like Peter Parker. Rather, I was born with this somewhat unconventional superpower. I can fall asleep on command in virtually any context.

Although my personal superpower is not particularly impressive, it has helped me in a variety of tough situations like living in loud college dormitories, enduring long and noisy plane rides, and avoiding the hazards of insomnia. While my superpower is not very noteworthy, I’ve come to discover that the Pacific Citizen has harnessed two extraordinary superpowers that have made a profound impact in the lives of thousands of people: connectivity and amplification.

These two superpowers make the PC. a viable and vital news source for Asian Pacific Americans around the world.

Circulating Connectivity
For over 80 years, the PC. has diligently served as a communications super hero by connecting all APA communities. By picking up the latest copy of the PC. individuals around the country are instantly linked to key APA issues and news. People may not live in an area with a large APA population, but they can remain connected to other APAs and APA communities by actively reading the PC.

In addition to uniting individuals and communities, the PC. has exercised its “connectivity superpower” between generations. I’ve listened to many readers who have explained how the PC. has helped family members from different generations relate to each other and see Hanasomo/PC Issue 11

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Vashon Island's Mukai Farm Faces Uncertain Future

After 10 years of managing the property, a nonprofit group has placed it on the real estate market.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

The Mukai farmhouse and fruit processing plant, a historic Puget Sound Island landmark that served as the backdrop for a Japanese American family to pioneer strawberry farming, is on the real estate market.

So too, some community members fear, is the site's history. Listed at $799,000, the nearly five acres of land located on 107th Avenue SW on Vashon Island includes the farmhouse, cold press fruit processing plant and additional outbuildings. The Mukai family, who built the farmhouse in 1928, lived and worked there for over six decades.

It's one of the most historically significant sites for Japanese Americans in all of Washington state, according to the listing description. For Mary Matthews, owner of the processing plant and founder of Island Landmarks, a nonprofit preservation group that purchased the farmhouse in 2000, the Mukai family legacy transcends local history.

"The Mukai farmhous tells the story of the Japanese American immigration experience," said Matthews. "It's about a family who had absolutely nothing, overcame overwhelming odds — couldn't even become citizens — to achieve the American dream."

Now the future of the King County landmark is uncertain and at risk of being lost forever. It's a common parlance in the battle for historical preservation — the threat of human experience simply slipping through the cracks. But it's a reality Matthews has struggled to come to terms with after a decade of trying to preserve and interpret the site. Financial difficulties, she said, forced her to place the property on the market.

"I do feel very, very sad about it," said Matthews, who now lives in Texas. "I can't help but feel angry too. I wish we could have gotten more help."

Currently, there are no offers on the table for the property, said Marc Wurzburg, the listing agent. "However, there are a few different groups currently researching the property."

Citing confidentiality reasons, Wurzburg declined to name the groups. But Matthews said the Vashon-based Puget Sound Zen Center has been interested in purchasing the property.

Milton M. Mukai, 75 of Seattle, is hesitant to sound too alarmed, but he can't help but think history is in jeopardy — namely, his history. Milton was born on the Vashon Island property.

"For selfish reasons, I would like to have the place preserved," said Milton. "I'm not getting any younger. I would like to see that done in my lifetime."

Matthews had the same vision when she first moved to Puget Sound in the 1990s to work for the King County Historic Preservation Office. She began researching the history of the Mukai farmhouse and revealed a rich history of triumph and tragedy.

"It's just unbelievable history once you get into it," said Matthews.

Matthews had the same vision when she first moved to Puget Sound in the 1990s to work for the King County Historic Preservation Office. She began researching the history of the Mukai farmhouse and revealed a rich history of triumph and tragedy.

"It's just unbelievable history once you get into it," said Matthews.

For years, Matthews said she searched for another nonprofit organization to take over the property. She knocked on the doors of museums and universities, but one way or another, nothing worked out.

"No one would take it."

All the while, Matthews paid for the property's expenses — including taxes and insurance — out of her own pocket.

On nearby Bainbridge Island, the Niko To Nisut Memorial, which was designated a unit of the Minidoka National Historic Site in 2006, recently received an NPS grant of nearly $200,000. But Vashon Island's Mukai farmhous has more intact buildings to tell the JA immigration story, said Matthews.

"It's very tragic," she said.

And like most preservation cases, time is of the essence. The house needs a new roof, crucial in the rainy Pacific Northwest.

Historic Seattle, in partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) has proposed working with the Zen Center, to acquire and rehabilitate the Mukai farmhouse and garden and make arrangements via CLC to provide opportunities for the public to visit, said Kathleen Brooker, executive director of Historic Seattle.

"It can be purchased by anyone," said Milton Mukai, "but it has to stay historic, which means you can't alter the appearance of it."
Summee Huh, who created Good50 while on winter break from high school, said she enjoys visiting her grandfather Sam Auh after school.

Summee Huh created the elderly-friendly search engine Good50 last year with her 82-year-old grandfather in mind. Now she is hoping to help other grandparents.

By Naelon J. Ko

Chang Huh has been collecting newspaper clippings for about six months to document his 16-year-old daughter’s accomplishments. He is building a collection of local and national articles on his daughter Summee Huh from The Washington Post, AARP and The Gazette, among others. The media attention came when Summee Huh created the search engine Good50 after witnessing her grandfather’s troubles with browsing the internet.

“No, we cut out the newspapers. Some of our neighbors and friends just save the copy, and then they send it to us,” Chang Huh said. “It was like a big thing in our neighborhood.”

Summee Huh saw how her 82-year-old grandfather, Sam Auh, enjoyed browsing the online job postings on his laptop. But the small font on some web pages and numerous advertisements made it difficult to navigate the internet.

“My family was at my grandfather’s house and he was using his preset search engine on his laptop,” Summee Huh explained over the phone from her grandfather’s home in Maryland. “He was looking for a university or something and he couldn’t really tell the difference between the advertisements and the actual results.”

Her grandfather, who suffered from a stroke and has failing eyesight, was also struggling to read the small fonts on the search engine websites.

Summee Huh found a solution to his problem: bigger fonts.

Good50 made its debut in January after Summee Huh labored on the site for about two weeks while on winter break from her Maryland-based high school. Her 13-year-old sister Dahlia served as the unofficial web design consultant and her youngest sibling, Chris, was sometimes asked for his opinions.

The Google-powered site is geared to older users, and Summee Huh said she enjoys visiting her grandfather Sam Auh after school.

The Teen Entrepreneur

When Summee Huh is not studying in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Richard Montgomery High School in Maryland, she serves as CEO and founder of Good50.

Managing the site is equivalent to a part-time job, she said. Job duties include answering e-mails from people nationwide at nursing homes or libraries who are curious about using the search engine.

As well as being useful for older users, Good50 is also “health-friendly,” she said. It features a “low vision version” of the search engine with a black background to help those of all ages with poor eyesight. Visitors can zoom in on search content by using a key command (Ctrl + at Apple +).

These features were designed to alleviate Computer Vision Syndrome, which the American Optometric Association indicates is related to computer use.

Summee Huh took some computer classes in middle and high school. With a limited knowledge about computer programming, Summee Huh utilized online resources and books to help her develop Good50. She also enlisted the help of her friends and family.

“In school I like a media production class, so sometimes I take what I learn in school and apply it with the web design or color scheme,” said Dahlia Huh. “We just sort of do everything together.”

Summee Huh said her friends also help out with her business venture by testing new online features.

“Well, they’re supportive,” Summee Huh said. “I just call them up and like, ‘Hey, can you test if this new thing works?’”

Chang Huh said he is proud of his daughter because they created the search engine not for the potential monetary benefits but to help their elders.

“I think it’s wonderful actually because they did it for their grandfather and grandmother,” Chang Huh said of his father-in-law who enjoys perusing job openings online.

“I don’t think he’s looking for a job to work actually because he has all kinds of health problems. He has a stroke, he had hip surgery, open-heart surgery and he fell from the bus. You can imagine he has been through a lot,” said Chang Huh.

Aside from her work on Good50, Summee Huh said she is a typical teenager.

“I think I’m pretty regular,” Summee Huh explained. “I do IB program, I take a lot of advanced classes. In my free time, I play tennis, run and do everything.”

The high school junior went to the prom in May. She also enjoys playing tennis and piano. College is also on her mind.

Summee Huh is looking at local colleges to attend and study medicine.

Although she does not want to pursue a career in computer programming or web design, she said her experience creating Good50 has real-world applications.

“Well, I’m probably going to go into medical,” she said. “But I think computers are really useful for everything. Any knowledge that anyone can apply to any job.”
Shedding Light on the World War II Nisei Linguists

Two exhibits at the JACL national convention in Chicago will tell the stories of the Japanese language specialists.

By Karen Kasenoto and Jane Konmorato

They looked like the enemy, and they spoke the language of the enemy. They used their special knowledge to defeat the country that held their families behind barbed wire internment camps. They went into combat knowing that they might have to face a cannon, an umbrella, or even a brother on the battlefield.

These soldiers were the Japanese language specialists of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). In the words of the Presidential Unit Citation, the MIS "participated in every major battle and campaign in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations" during World War II and in the occupation of Japan.

Consisting mainly of American-born children of Japanese immigrants, MIS soldiers served as frontline interrogators and translators in wartime, and as a bridge between the occupation forces and the Japanese people in the postwar period.

The exhibition was intense, the linguists overcame their feelings to serve the land of their birth. Having lived with discrimination at home, interning the incarcerated immigrants, MIS soldiers served as frontline interrogators, interpreters and translators in wartime, and as a bridge between the occupation forces and the Japanese people in the postwar period.

The effectiveness of the MIS and its Nisei linguists came at great personal cost. Having lived with discrimination at home, including the incarceration of their families, they were asked to risk their lives to defeat their parents' and grandparents' country.

The MI story was little known in the past, and even families of MIS veterans often have little information on what their fathers or uncles did during the war.

This year's JACL national convention will feature two self-guided exhibitions on the MIS. "Prejudice and Patriotism: The Story of Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service, 1941-1952" is a traveling exhibit on loan from the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc., of San Francisco.

"Prejudice and Patriotism" presents the overarching history of the MIS and its Japanese American soldiers, as well as that of the IA Conventions on the West Coast.

"Winning the Peace: The Story of Chicagoans in the Military Intelligence Service, 1941-1952," focuses on the MIS veterans who eventually settled in the Chicago area. The recollections and voices of these veterans drive the narrative, emphasizing the human side of war and its aftermath. This portion of the exhibition was made possible with grant assistance from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Local community groups worked together for nearly two years to bring these combined exhibitions to Chicago audiences.


Through the efforts of these organizations, and with the showing of "Prejudice and Patriotism" and "Winning the Peace" at the JACL national convention, this little-known story will surely gain its rightful place in military history.

Karen Kasenoto is the manager of the Japanese American Service Committee's Legacy Center Archives and Library.

Jane Konmorato is the creator of "Winning the Peace," and principal of Konmorato & Klink.
Texas History Curriculum, Arizona Ban on Ethnic Studies Seen as Attacks on Education

A JACL education committee member calls for an emergency resolution to address the impact on how the World War II JA incarceration will be taught.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

The Texas State Board of Education has adopted a social studies and history curriculum that critics say waters down the teaching of the civil rights movement and the history of the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

The new standards were adopted May 21 after a final showdown by two 9-5 votes along party lines, after Democrats' and moderate Republicans' efforts to delay a final vote failed.

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

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

JACL leaders said the curriculum changes would teach students factually flawed material.

"While some Texas politicians may want to set their educational standards back to the dark ages to satisfy their own political ideology, the rest of the nation should not be subject to their backward curriculum changes," said Larry Oda, JACL national president. "The alterations and fallacies adopted by the Texas Board of Education are inaccurate and offensive to our communities."

Larry Oda
JACL national president

The alterations and fallacies adopted by the Texas Board of Education are inaccurate and offensive to our communities. - Larry Oda, JACL national president

The standards will also be used by textbook publishers who often develop materials for other states based on guidelines approved in Texas, although teachers in the Lone Star state have latitude in deciding how to teach the material.

Education experts say the actions taken by the Texas Board of Education and a new Arizona law that bans ethnic studies are a cause for concern.

Actions Gov. Jan Brewer signed a bill May 11 banning ethnic studies in public schools.

The law, which takes effect on Dec. 13, bars courses that are designed for a particular ethnic group, promote overthrow of the U.S. government, foster resentment toward a particular race or class, or advocate ethnic solidarity instead of the treatment of pupils as individuals.

Greg Marutani, a JACL education committee member, said he hopes there will be a "thoughtfully crafted emergency resolution" introduced at the June 9-11 JACL national convention in Chicago "that will make this matter one of the top three issues that the national council will address and mobilize the chapters with background information about both state actions."

Arizona state legislators could soon take up a new bill that would zero out in migrant children within the public schools.

HB 2281 prohibits schools from offering courses at any grade level that caters to specific ethnic groups. In a separate bill, SB 1077 would compel teachers and administrators to determine the legal status of students and their families, along with an estimation of the costs associated with educating those children.

In Texas, the American Civil Liberties Union has urged the state Legislature to place more control over the board.

At least one lawmaker vowed legislative action to "rein in" the board.

"They have ignored historians and teachers, allowing ideological activists to push the culture war further into our classrooms," said Rep. Mike Villarreal. "They fail to understand that we don't want liberal textbooks or conservative textbooks. We want excellent textbooks, written by historians instead of activists."

Hawaii Study Finds Civil Unions Have Little Economic Impact

HONOLULU—University of Hawaii researchers predict little impact on Hawaii's economy if same-sex civil unions are permitted.

The study was released May 24 by economics professor Summer La Croix and Kimbeerly Barnett with the UH Economic Research Organization. The report finds that visitor arrivals and spending is likely to slightly increase as a result of same-sex couples traveling to Hawaii to enter into and celebrate their civil unions. They say tax and fee revenues also could rise.

Calif. Assembly Bill to Ensure APA Data Collection Fails Passage

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—A bill that would have required state agencies to collect data reflecting the diverse groups of Asian Pacific Americans living in California.

"Having this measure die in the judiciary committee is truly disappointing to not only me but all the advocates, researchers, and community leaders who worked so hard on this issue," said Assemblyman Mike Eng.
APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Go For Broke’s Sato-Yamazaki is Honored by JAVA

Christine Sato-Yamazaki, outgoing president of the Go For Broke National Education, was honored by JAVA for her work to collect Nisei oral history stories.

At a May 26 luncheon Sato-Yamazaki received the JAVA Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award.

JA Wins 79th Annual California Book Awards

Stan Yagi won the gold medal at the California Book Awards for the book “Whenever There’s a Fight,” which he co-wrote with Elaine Ellison. The book looks at the Japanese American history, touching on the World War II incarceration.

The award ceremony has been held since 1931 to honor writers and publishers.

Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Foundation

Founders Awarded

The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco awarded Tomoye Takahashi and Martha Suzuki with the 2010 Spring Conference of Decoration.

Takahashi and Suzuki are the founders of the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation. They have been recognized in the past with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for their commitment to promote Japanese culture and history.

Riverside JACL Announces

2010 Scholarship Winners

Nine scholarship recipients were honored May 16 by the Riverside JACL. The community is invited to support the scholarship winners: Katherine Homma Lipow, Benjamin George Hamada, Bryan Douglas Kano, Benjamin Takao Baker, George Steven-Ryuji Way, Chandelle Anne Guillame, Samantha Rae Houts, Naomi Elisa Walker and Yokio Stanley Shingaki.

APA Ex-Judge to Direct

Indiana Disciplinary Commission

A former southern Indiana judge has been named the executive director of the Indiana Disciplinary Commission.

The Indiana Supreme Court has approved G. Michael Witte as the director of the agency that investigates and prosecutes alleged attorney misconduct.

Witte was the first APA to serve as a judge in the state of Indiana. He was elected to the bench in 1985 and served through 2006.

Stockton JACL Scholarship Recipients Announced

Six high school students will be awarded scholarships June 13 through the Stockton JACL.

The scholarship program includes the Eliezer Bumbargar Scholarship, George and Amy Matsumoto Scholarship, Union Bank of California Scholarship, Bisa Family Memorial Scholarship, Dobama Family Memorial Scholarship and Stockton JACL Chapter Scholarship.

Amy Konumire, Nicole Dau, Gordon Wong, Jenna Kamagawa, Grant Ogas and Brandon Sawaki are slated to be honored at the Stockton scholarship luncheon. The event will be held at the King’s House Restaurant.

Recipients will receive scholarships from $300 to $1,000.

JAVA Awards Memorial Scholarships

Six school graduate students were named as the winners of the third annual JAVA Memorial Scholarship competition.

The five awardees with 4.0 grade-point averages are: Kyle T. Ichikawa, Rachel S. Seeman and Sherilynn K. Tamagawa.

Each scholarship recipient will receive $1,500.

Calif. Bill to Honor Internment Challenger Passes Assembly

On Jan. 30, California schools will be encouraged to spend the day recognizing Fred Korematsu’s accomplishments and the importance of preserving civil liberties.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

California lawmakers united May 20 to honor a man who challenged the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

The state assembly unanimously passed a bill designating Jan. 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in California.

The measure, AB 1775, encourages California schools to spend the day recognizing Korematsu’s accomplishments and the importance of preserving civil liberties.

Korematsu’s daughter, Karen Korematsu Haigh, of San Rafael, Calif., said in an e-mail message that she was proud to be the unanimous Assembly vote. She said she hoped for similar support from the state Senate, so that “my father’s legacy will continue and the lessons of history will never be forgotten.”

Korematsu, who died in 2005, was arrested in Oakland in 1942 after refusing to enter an internment camp. His case led the U.S. Supreme Court to examine the legality of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of about 120,000 JAs.

In 1944, the high court ruled against Korematsu, saying that the need to protect against espionage outweighed his rights. Forty years later, a federal court judge in San Francisco formally vacated Korematsu’s conviction, and in 1998 President Bill Clinton presented him with the Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award.

Dale Minami, a member of Korematsu’s legal team that helped vacate the conviction, said the Nisei trailblazer “never asked for honor or public acclaim when he defied the government orders aimed at Japanese Americans during World War II — he just wanted to be treated like an American.”

“And for this state which led the efforts to incarcerate Japanese Americans to now honor Fred is statement about the injustice of the imprisonment,” added Minami.

“We have made great progress in the areas of civil rights and equality, but we are constantly challenged to uphold these ideals,” said the bills co-author, Mary Hayashi, D. Hayward. “When these trials come, we are able to be inspired by the courage of people like Korematsu.”

The legislation is one of two bills in the Legislature this year seeking to grant a special day of recognition to Californians. The other would honor Ronald Reagan, the former president and governor.

Donations Needed to Establish Wat Misaka Scholarship

Utah JACL chapters are working to establish an endowed scholarship in the name of Wat Misaka, a Utah native who was the first Asian Pacific American to be drafted into the National Basketball Association.

So far the chapters have raised about 88 percent of the required funds for the scholarship.

They are seeking donors to recognize the impact that Misaka has made nationally and internationally.

The chapters’ Day of Remembrance event at Weber State University raised funds for the scholarship as well as honored Misaka and Judge Raymond S. Uno, the first minority judge in Utah.

At the event, Weber State University student Calvin Pingree was presented with the first Wat Misaka Scholarship. Pingree will have the opportunity to travel to Japan and experience the culture. Both Misaka and Uno attended Weber State and found success through different paths.

Misaka won basketball championships at the high school and college levels and was drafted by the New York Knickerbockers in 1947.

John Patterson, Ogden chief administrative officer, on behalf of Mayor Mathew Godfrey, proclaimed Feb. 20, 2010, as “Wat Misaka Day.”

Uno, a former JACL national president, received his doctorate in law and master’s degree from the University of Utah and at 46 became the first minority judge in Utah. Uno was awarded the 2010 Human Rights and Social Justice Award by Susan Yoshimura, Wasatch Fiest North JACL president.
Things Amiss in America

Things have gone badly amiss in this country. Civility, the veneer that keeps society in check from its own bumptiousness, has given way to hostility and rudeness; intelligence is too often replaced by stupidity, manners by arrogance, tolerance by ignorance.

A vice president yells “Go f— yourself!” to a colleague during a debate in the U.S. Senate, this once-hallowed chamber, and then brushes it aside as a momentary lapse. Politics in Washington have become so partisan that the opposition party, the Republicans, vow to oppose any meaningful legislation put before them by the president with a kind of animus that signals a level of disrespect that is astonishing. The institution of Congress is so deeply divided that it’s become a war zone, with civility and collegiality things of the past.

Then it’s no surprise that there is a kind of disregard and animosity that broods contempt and disrespect at our nation’s leaders as never before. Tea Party supporters and others opposed to health care reform shout angrier at members of Congress walking to the Capitol to cast their votes on the health care bill, shouting Congressman John Lewis, legendary hero of the civil rights era, with racist slurs and profanities. It’s bad enough that they call a member of the U.S. Congress the N-word, but even worse that no one in their mid-60s found it objectionable. It was like a chorus of the ugliest.

Rush Limbaugh, the darling of the Right Wing and one of America’s more popular radio personalities, says of our president right after the 2008 elections, “I hope he fails.” Tea Party supporters adopt Sarah Palin as their champion, a self-promoted former governor who resigned from the obligations of her office because she didn’t want to be a lame duck (and how lame is that?) and who reckons she knows foreign policy because, as she stated early in the 2008 campaign, she could look from her perch and see Russia across the Bering Strait. Palin and Limbaugh epitomize something inherently wrong with the country: an angst of bitterness that blinds them and their admirers to the dangers they present to this democracy.

And that danger is manifested in Arizona’s recent immigration law, one of the worst statutes enacted in this country in over half a century. The bottom line on SB 1070 is that it’s racist and is an open invitation for racial profiling. And if anyone is foolish enough to argue the point, just how many non-Latinos or non-Asians do you think will be stopped as suspected undocumented immigrants? How many Canadians, who constitute a large number of undocumented visitors to this country in or on European with expired visas living here illegally? If this law isn’t intended to target Latinos, I don’t know what it is.

If this wasn’t bad enough, other states like Michigan and Virginia and others are watching the legal consequences of the Arizona law with an eye to adopt similar statutes. The two Republican primary candidates here in California are tripping over each other to convince their party’s voters which of them more strongly agrees with the Arizona law.

Two recent surveys found that Americans approve of the Arizona law in numbers hovering at around 60 percent, with close to 50 percent of Democrats in favor of the law. This kind of public sentiment favoring such a blatantly racist bill would have been unthinkable five or ten years ago. Blame it on tough economic times. Or call it for what it really is: unabashed racism not unlike bills southern states enacted during the ugly Jim Crow days.

What’s happened in Arizona seems to have unleashed a space of reactions all over the country. Politicians and candidates for public office seem to think it’s okay now to show their true colors on the immigration and other issues. There seems a lack of concern about supporting policies based on racial profiling, and if legalized racial profiling is okay, then what comes next?

If letting the basest instincts in our society run loose is okay, then we’re in for bad times. And this broad acceptance and welcoming of the Arizona law by other states and political leaders — is this showing the nation for what it really is?

First they came for you and then they come for me. It’s a parable told over and over. It’s time we stopped it.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.
Junichi Suzuki Focuses on the 442nd RCT

"442: Live With Honor, Die With Dignity" documents the travails of Japanese Americans during World War II.

By Nalea J. Ko Reporter

Steve Shimizu was at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii when the bombs dropped in 1941. About two years later he enlisted in the military and served in the 100th Battalion with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In Biffontaine, France, Shimizu was injured when shrapnel hit his arm. The 90-year-old recounted that combat wound and other war memories in the film "442: Live With Honor, Die With Dignity."

"This is something that is a new experience for me. They came to interview me. I guess they got to know me a little better," Shimizu said about participating in the documentary. "It happened to be there in the right place. And even my friends say, 'How did you get into the picture?'"

Fittingly wearing an F Company shirt, Shimizu sat in the front row during the May 20 screening of the "442" film in Los Angeles, Calif. Other veterans were seated throughout the audience, wearing blue and red hats emblazoned with Go For Broke insignia.

Shimizu was one of six Japanese American veterans who returned to France in 2009 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres. The "442" filmcrew was also there, documenting the veterans' journey to the French town with the street Rue du 442 Regiment American named in their honor.

Directed by Junichi Suzuki, the documentary features interviews with Japanese American veterans who served in the 442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service and 100th Battalion.

The theatrical release begins July 25 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's Aratani/Japan America Theatre. In July the film will also be released in Japan.

Those who are a part of this documentary say viewers will likely be moved by the veterans' stories about the JA experience during WWII.

"Any human being watching that film will be profoundly moved, maybe even angered to understand that we acted in irrationality, so hysterically," said actor George Takei who was interviewed in the film. "Director Suzuki did a fantastic job."

Recapturing War Stories

The "442nd" film is the second part in a trilogy about the JA experience in the wake of Pearl Harbor. The 2009 film "Toyo's Camera" was the first in the series. An aim to raise awareness about the injustices committed against JAs lead Suzuki to make the film.

"Most Japanese Americans must be proud of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team," Suzuki said. But he added that most Japanese people do not know about Japanese American history, which was one reason he made the film.

Suzuki's crew followed the veterans from their trip in Europe to commemorate the liberation of Bruyeres and back to their homes. Veterans like Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Inouye shared their personal experiences serving in WWII. Inouye talked of the combat wound that took his arm.

George Kanatani, who also traveled to Bruyeres, recalled for the film being a fellow 442nd soldier in battle. Others like Nelson Akagi, who served with the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, recounted liberating Dachau.

For those who watched young JA men and women go off to serve during WWII, the film is a reminder of the sacrifices made by Nisei soldiers.

"The greatest irony is that the most decorated unit of the Second World War, and certainly American history, came from the most vilified community in America — Japanese Americans, who were feared and suspected of being traitors, saboteurs," said Takei.

Takei was interned at Camp Rohwer as a child with his family. The actor said he remembers seeing JAs leave the internment camp to serve in the war, but he was "too young to really understand."

The 442nd RCT became known as the most highly decorated unit in American history. Over 30,000 JAs served in WWII, which is remembered as the deadliest war in history.

Some of those veterans shared their combat stories in the "442nd" film. They were stories that some veterans had not previously shared with their families.

"One of the veterans talked about a machine gun splitting the head of the person he was talking to right in front of him. I mean it is that kind of horror that they experienced," Takei said. "But because of that they changed America. I enjoy the America I do today because of their incredible heroism."

Shimizu said the film crew spent about three and a half days at his California home, which he shares with his wife Dede. At a recent reunion in Las Vegas, Shimizu told his veteran friends commented that they had seen him in the "442nd" film.

"It's kind of really new and I was really honored that he has so much of my film in there," Shimizu explained.

Now Shimizu plans to show the film to his son Craig and granddaughter Ellen.

"My son is coming to see the documentary. He's in Cleveland. My granddaughter also," Shimizu said. "Really they're going to be excited."
Idaho JACLer Organizes Ceremony to Honor Japanese Railroad Workers

With the help of Idaho community members, Hero Shiosaki honored the grave site of three laborers that had been unmarked for over 100 years.

By Nakan J. Ko Reportet

It was 1906 when six Japanese members of a railroad crew in eastern Idaho were fishing for trout with dynamite and were surprised in the act.

Ara resident Ward Reynolds' account of the incident ran in a 1996 article in the Pacific Citizen by Howard Moon. Reynolds explained that a "local deputy game warden" approached the Japanese men while they were fishing.

Sixteen days after the drowning incident the first body was discovered in Marysville, Idaho. "Later on about a week later they discovered another skeleton, but in the three weeks of more that it had been in the river they could not identify him," Shiosaki added. "And then a third one they did not identify because he was never recovered.

The men's deaths were noted with the word "Japs" in the Ashton Cemetery plat book, according to Moon's article. A headstone would not be placed at their grave site until 2010.

Some Idaho residents like Reynolds, whose account was reported in Moon's article, felt a "sense of sorrow for unnecessary deaths of strangers in their community." The three men who drowned were later identified as H. Iishi, S. Makita and S. Matsu. Their names have now been inscribed on a headstone donated by Perry Hawker with the Hawker Funeral Home in Blackfoot, Idaho.

"Well I went to the Hawker Funeral home here," Shiosaki explained. "And he told me he had a stone marker for a war veteran whose name was spelled incorrectly and we could have that. All we'd need to do was have the proper names sandblasted on the good side." JACL covered the cost of $180 to sandblasted the gravestone.

Shiosaki, who learned of the incident through his friend Glade Lyon, said he sympathized with the Japanese railroad workers who were "just trying to get some fish to eat," when they were surprised by the game warden.

"In those days you probably couldn't fish spots to buy fishing poles or anything else," Shiosaki explained. "They resisted to dynamiting because they were part of the crew that was dynamiting the rocks.

Before the ceremony Shiosaki said he would honor the men at the event by talking about his experiences growing up as a Japanese American, including his service in the 42nd Regimental Combat Team.

For Shiosaki the decision to honor these men with a grave marker and ceremony during Memorial Day weekend was simple.

"Don't you think it's important that people wherever your community is knows of the history?" Shiosaki said when asked why he organized the event. "Well, that's why I'm doing it."

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JACL Marches in Protest of Ariz. Immigration Law

Despite ongoing protests, national polls show strong support for the new law.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Supporters and opponents of Arizona’s tough new crackdown on illegal immigration held separate rallies in Phoenix, drawing thousands of people from around the United States.

Marchers filled a 5-mile stretch of central Phoenix May 29, demanding that the federal government refuse to cooperate with Arizona authorities trying to enforce the new law.

Members of the Arizona Asian Pacific American coalition endured swirling heat to march in the protest. Among them was a contingent of JACLers dressed in aloha shirts.

“I feel that SB 1070 is unjust and will result in racial profiling,” said Kathy Nakagawa, Arizona JACL chapter president who marched alongside her daughter Willis Eago, 14. “My daughter and I wanted to be part of this national march because of its significance in sending a message of protest and resistance against this law.”

The JACL and a coalition of civil rights groups have filed a class action lawsuit challenging Arizona’s new law requiring the police to demand “papers” from people they suspect are not authorized to be in the U.S. The lawsuit charges Arizona’s new immigration law with invading racial profiling, violating the First Amendment and interfering with federal law.

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 convention in Chicago.

The new law requires that Arizona police conducting traffic stops of questioning people about possible legal violations ask them about their immigration status if there is “reasonable suspicion” they are in the country illegally.

Critics of the law say it unfairly targets minorities and could lead to racial profiling. Proponents insist racial profiling will not be tolerated.

Community activists say the law will affect Asian Pacific Americans. About one-eleven undocumented immigrant is from Asia, according to the Asian Law Caucus. Two-thirds of the APA population in Arizona are foreign-born, with Indian, Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese Americans comprising the largest APA ethnic groups.

“We need to all support each others,” said Christine Iijima Hall. “All people of color are at risk to be stopped and asked for our ‘papers.’”

Supporters said they are standing with Arizona for trying to enforce immigration laws because the federal government has failed to do so.

Since Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed SB 1070 on April 23, more than two-thirds of the calls and letters she is receiving are from supporters, according to her staff.

National polls have shown strong support for the new Arizona law. A survey done early this month by the Pew Research Center shows 59 percent of Americans approved of the law and only 32 percent disapproved. Other polls showed similar or greater support.

HANASONO
(Continued from page 2)

share stories, this special newspaper is something that APIs of all generations have embraced and enjoyed.

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In addition to connecting API communities and generations, the P.C. has played a key role in amplifying our voices on a national level. The P.C. is special, because it features our perspectives, our experiences, and we contribute to the amplification of dozens of old newspaper societies, it continues to present our stories, histories, and experiences. Recently, the P.C. was awarded a second grant from the California Civic Libraries Public Education Program (CCLPEP), which will aid in the digital archiving of dozens of old newspaper issues. In completing this project, the P.C. will ensure that our parents’, grandparents’, and great-grandparents’ voices will be preserved for many generations to come.

I’ve come to see the P.C. as more than a top-tier national newspaper; it is a vital publication that has used its superpowers of connectivity and amplification for the betterment of APIs for more than 80 years.

However, the P.C. needs your help to continue to publish outstanding news stories that feature our voices, concerns, and issues.

Please celebrate the P.C.’s special superpowers and show your support of its incredible staff by donating to the 2010 Spring Campaign. Every contribution helps.

Lisa K. Hanasono is the Midwest district representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.
JACL's decision to join in litigation against SB 1070 will not be the easiest path, but it's the just course.

By Ron Katsuyama

JACL has just entered a new phase in its history as a civil and human rights organization.

Following a week of intense reflection and discussion, the national board voted on May 17 in favor of signing on as a plaintiff in a class action suit that challenges the constitutionality of Arizona's Senate Bill 1070 (SB 1070), scheduled to go into effect July 28.

Historically, most of national JACL's activities have been related to education around civil rights issues, and becoming a plaintiff against SB 1070 also serves our civil and educational mission. Public controversy associated with this law centers on racial profiling, and our JACL members can provide the court illuminating case studies attesting to the totality of racial profiling in the guise of national security.

Although SB 1070 is known by its proponents in the "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act," this law will lead to a number of civil and human rights violations, including an increase in racial profiling.

Among its controversial provisions, it directs police, based upon "reasonable suspicion" during the course of their lawful duty, "to determine the immigration status of the person," and requires that lawful immigrants provide proof of authorized status or be detained for criminal trespassing, even if the sole reason for detention is status verification.

Supporters of SB 1070 claim that racial profiling will not increase. After all, the law states, "a law enforcement official ... may not consider race, color, or national origin in implementing the requirements." However, we cannot always count on the best intentions and judgments of police officers to avoid actions based on widespread stereotyping associated with immigrant populations or people of color.

Consider, for example, the parallels between Executive Order 9066 and SB 1070. EO 9066, signed by President Roosevelt Feb. 19, 1942, did not specify exclusion based on race. However, the implementation of this order by Lt. Gen. DeWitt involved the incarceration of 120,000 individuals of Japanese descent living on the West Coast.

SB 1070 explicitly bans racial profiling. But what criteria independent of perceived race or ethnicity will create "reasonable suspicion" that someone is an unauthorized immigrant? No safeguards exist to thwart discriminatory practices and, therefore, law enforcement officers could stop someone and investigate their immigration status because of "reasonable suspicion" that he or she is an unauthorized immigrant. Furthermore, no demographic information need be documented and, therefore, racial profiling would be difficult to detect.

An additional concern is the nature and quality of training provided to help local police officers and sheriff deputies enforce immigration law. A lecture to Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies by Kris Kobach, a law professor at the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law, who helped draft SB 1070, is a disturbing example of such concern.

In discussing factors that justify "reasonable suspicion," Kobach cites examples such as "speaks English extremely poorly," and "the individual avoids making eye contact with the officer, and this, of course, can give rise to reasonable suspicion, not only in the immigration context, but in other law enforcement contexts as well.

Such statements and other factors on Kobach's list are unlikely to challenge prevailing stereotypes about immigrant populations, and those stereotypes will determine who will be questioned and detained regarding their immigration status.

One may argue that we need not worry before the fact that law enforcement officers will engage in racial profiling in the application of SB 1070.

A second major concern with SB 1070 is its creation of separate, state criminal offenses. Supporters of SB 1070 have claimed that it only mirrors federal laws that are not being enforced. In truth, SB 1070 changes certain violations, such as the failure to provide proof of authorized status, solicitation of work by an unauthorized immigrant, or unauthorized employment from civil to criminal offenses. As the "Supreme Law of the Land," federal law supersedes state law; and this is another basis for overturning SB 1070.

The decision to join in litigation against SB 1070 will not be the easiest path for JACL. However, if JACL is committed to remain a vital organization, true to our mission, deserving of leadership among our nation's premier civil and human rights groups, and a source of inspiration and pride in furthering democratic ideals, then we must take the just course. We must act with courage and conviction at a critical time in our history.

Ron Katsuyama is the JACL vice president for public affairs.

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Placer County JACL to Hold Fundraiser

Proceeds will go toward the building of a Nisei veterans memorial.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The cost to build a Placer County, Calif. memorial in honor of World War II Japanese American soldiers has increased because of the high cost of bronze and the still stagnant economy, according to Ken Tokutomi, Placer County JACL treasurer.

“We had envisioned a project that would generate the needed funds by Veterans Day 2010,” said Tokutomi. “Now we realize that Memorial Day 2011 is more realistic.”

Fundraising for the project, which has mostly consisted of donations from the local area, has already realized over $10,000 with another $15,000 in pledges.

Plans to build the bronze statue at the roundabout of the Bill Santucci Justice Center in Roseville were announced last year. The sculpture, “Recuerdos of the Lost Battalion,” depicts a member of the 412th Regimental Combat Team rescuing a wounded soldier of the 36th Texas Division. The high cost of bronze has raised estimates for the project from $110,000 to $130,000.

“I believe there is money out there, but people are concerned about the state of the economy, their jobs, and their investments,” said Tokutomi.

Sculptrist artist Henk Brokadorf has funded the project, which will be unveiled at a June 24 fundraising screening of “Value With Honor”, the Toku Takemitsu’s independent documentary film about the WWII Nisei veterans.

The Sacramento and Plinio JACLs have also signed on as chapter sponsors of the memorial project. Placer County JACL is also working with local school officials to set up an educational component to the memorial.

“Just who is a statue if no one knows what it stands for?” said Tokutomi. A total of 101 JAs from Placer County served with the 442nd RCT during WWII.

Nominations Committee Still Seeking Candidates for National Offices

It’s important for the JACL to have a robust slate of candidates for national offices.

By Kent Kawai

Two years every even year the JACL national council elects its national board to serve two-year terms. The national nominations committee is charged both with the responsibility to seek out members to serve on the board and to conduct the election process.

This year at the JACL’s last official biennial convention in Chicago, the national council will be electing the next national board. However, unlike previous conventions, there are only two people who filed prior to the deadline to run for national office.

The nominations committee has been working hard to find people who are willing to serve the JACL. As of right now, the nominations committee has had at least three individuals who may be running from the convention floor. However, that still leaves a few national offices open with no candidates.

Currently, the youth/student representative office is open with no candidates. For anyone interested in running for any of the youth/student offices, please contact the current national youth/student chair at youthchairs@jaci.org or the youth representative at youthrep@jaci.org.

We need people to run for national offices. It is important that an organization, we have a robust slate of individuals for the national council to choose from. A contested office allows voting delegates the opportunity to decide which candidate would be best for the job. It is part of the democratic process and it should not be left to one person to decide who should fill that vacancy. This is your organization and you should have a choice in the way and direction that the JACL is run.

For a member to run from the floor of the convention, they must first completely fill out the “Candidate’s Application Form”, which can be downloaded from the JACL website, www.jacl.org.

In addition to the application form, the individual must obtain the signatures of the majority of chapter presidents and/or chapter delegates before submitting their application. Interested individuals can mail or email completed applications and required documentation to JACL National Headquarters at 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, e-mail a copy to jacl-nCNP@msn.com, or hand deliver it on the day of the nominations committee meeting on June 30 at 1 p.m. in the St. Moritz Room.

Once the application has been submitted there is a $500 cap on all campaigning expenses. Please make a copy of your completed application and required documentation and keep them with you until the nominations committee has had time to review it prior to the nominations process at convention.

Please keep in mind that each individual who wishes to run for national office must attend the convention and the nomination process, the candidate’s forum and the district caucuses on July 1.

The elections are scheduled for early Saturday morning July 3 with the oath of office scheduled for later that day. For more information, please refer to the nominations and election guidelines, which can be downloaded from the JACL website.

Contact your nominations committee representative to inform you of your intent to run from the floor. They are: Bob Taniuchi, CCDC; Stanley Kazumi, JCD; Paul Fisk, JDC; Matthew Toshima, MDC; and Patty Wada, NCNWNP.

For more information, contact the current national youth/student representative at the national youth/student representative’s office.

Kent Kawai is the chair of the nominations committee.

Twin Cities JACL Helps Kick Off APA Heritage Month

Members of the Twin Cities JACL, Education Committee represented the Japanese American community at the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month that kicked off May 3 in St. Paul.

Sally Sudo, committee chair, and Cheryl Hirta-Dulas showcased a display on the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MILS) at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling during World War II. They also presented a MILS curriculum guide developed by the Twin Cities JACL to help teachers fulfill a requirement for grades 4-8 on Minnesota history.

JUNE 4-17 2010

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13
JAS Honor Quakers

Los Angeles, Calif.
June 5, 7 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
369 East First Street

At the height of anti-Japanese sentiment after the Pearl Harbor attack, the Quakers, openly supported Japanese Americans through their American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). A special public program, 'Quakers: Friends of the Japanese American Community', commemorates the AFSC's support of JAs during World War II.

For information: AFSC at 213/489-1000 or www.afsc.org
Judd Masami Sato
December 24, 1919 - March 28, 2010

Judd passed away on March 28, 2010 at the age of 90. He lived a long, happy and full life. He was born on December 24, 1919 in Watsonville, California, the son of Etsu and Tokutaro Sato, immigrants from Shizuoka, Japan. He grew up on an apple and strawberry farm and graduated from Watsonville High School in 1939. During the evacuation of Japanese Americans during World War II, he and his family were placed in Postoak, Arizona. Later, he went to the University of Marquette in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he studied business. It was then that he met the love of his life, Toshi Harada. They married in 1948 and lived in Chicago where he worked for the Hilman Corporation. They moved to Berkeley, California in 1950. Judd then worked for Durabelling, Inc., as the general manager and co-owner until he retired in 1984.

Judd was an avid golfer who played on courses throughout California, Hawaii and even Japan. He enjoyed working with wood and built most of the furniture in his two homes as well as for the homes of his children. He and Toshi loved to travel and would take the family on month-long road trips driving across the United States and Canada. He spent his retirement years building and vacationing in their dream house on the coast.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Toshi. His children and their spouses, Dr. Judith K. Sato (Steven Gallegos) of Glendale, CA, Kreyne Sato (Laura) of Lafayette, CA, Perry Sato (Lol) of Danville, CA, grandsons Russell and Kirk Sato; his sisters and their spouses, Haruno Achi (Koji) of Hayward, CA, Hikiko Mitsuhashi of Berkeley, CA; sister-in-law Kemie Sato Honda (AkI) of El Cerrito, CA, and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his brothers Noboru, Yoshitomo, and Shiro ‘Nick’, and brother-in-law Kiyoshi Mitsuhashi.

Judd will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his commitment to providing a strong foundation for his children so that each was successful in reaching their respective goals, and his love of life. We will greatly miss him.

A private service was held on April 2, 2010. A celebration of Judd’s life was held on April 17, 2010 attended by many of his friends and family.

Screening of Watada Documentary Set for June 19

The Watada family and Oscar-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock are slated to attend.

The Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress and the Asian American Veterans Organization is hosting a June 19 screening of “Lt. Watada,” a documentary on the first commissioned officer to refuse deployment to Iraq.

Special guests at the Little Tokyo screening will include Ehren Watada’s father and stepmother Bob Watada and Rosa Sakurakoshi, as well as his mother Carolyn Ho and filmmaker Freida Lee Mock.

“Lt. Watada” is an in-depth look at Ehren Watada’s case from his inspiration to join the Army after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to his 2007 court martial trial, which ended in a mistrial.

In 2006, Watada refused his order to deploy to Iraq. He was charged with “missing a movement” and “conduct unbecoming of an officer,” and faced up to eight years in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

Mock, an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker best known for “Maya Lin: A Strong Vision” was inspired to make this film after reading an article on Watada in the New York Times.

“The story piqued my curiosity about how a very prominent officer, highly praised by his commanders would come to face a court martial, a felony conviction, a dishonorable discharge and years in prison,” said Mock.

Our Nisei Pioneers Have Stories to Tell

By Floyd Mori

Japanese American young people would do well to look into their own history and learn more about the early Nisei (those born in the U.S. of immigrant parents from Japan) pioneers who paved the way for a better life for those who would come after them. They would find that they are the posterity of some pretty amazing people. There are many untold or little known stories of outstanding people who made a significant difference. Just surviving could be a challenge, but they accomplished some remarkable endeavors in their lifetimes.

We honor the last, the brave souls who made their way to a new land. They tried to overcome discrimination and prejudice as they made their way in hostile environments where they did not speak the language. They worked diligently and made progress in their livelihoods. They had families, homes, jobs, farms and businesses.

The oldest Nisei, their American-born children who were becoming young adults in the 1920s, faced issues of discrimination daily and became pioneers in many facets of life. These young men and women began to assert themselves as leaders in their communities. They formed groups within the Japanese communities to fight for civil rights for their people. Thus, the JACL was formed in 1929 from some of these earlier groups.

Then with the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Navy of Japan on Dec. 7, 1941, life changed in an instant. The relatively comfortable lives of the Japanese American community were building coming crashing down as 120,000 people who were mostly citizens of the U.S. living on the West Coast—were forced into concentration camps in remote and desolate areas of the country. Most lost everything. Americans of Japanese ancestry throughout the nation were immediately treated with suspicion, racism, bigotry and hatred.

Although many of the early JACL leaders have passed on, some are still with us. They deserve our extreme gratitude for all they have endured to make a better world for us. Being one of the younger Nisei (most of my contemporaries are seniors), I have had the privilege of knowing a number of these early leaders personally. There were people like Clarence Arai, James Sakamoto, Saburo Kido, Mike Masaoka, Edison Uno, Bill Marutani, Hank Tanaka, Pat and Lily Okura, and many, many others.

There are many such stories still waiting to be told. People live quiet lives of dignity, but their families and others often do not know of their past experiences. I encourage young people within the JACL to ask their grandparents and great grandparents to share their personal stories with them if they have not yet done so. There is still much to learn.
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2010 Tour Schedule

GRANDPARENTS&GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Seattle Only)
JUN 27-JUL 6
Tokyo, Hakone, Arashiyama, Kyoto, Hiroshima

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE
Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, Ketchikan, Sitka, Anchorage

MOUNT RAINIER CRUISE
SEP 15-26
Seattle, Tacoma, Mount Rainier National Park, Port Angeles, San Juan Islands

CANADA-NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY CRUISE
SEP 22-30
Halifax, St. John’s, Sydney, Charlottetown, Bar Harbor, Boston, New York City, Toronto, Quebec, Cruise to St. John’s

SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA-TAHO MAHOLY CRUISE
SEP 29-OCT 7
San Francisco, Oakland, Napa, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Salt Lake City, Vancouver, Alaska, British Columbia, Canada

JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR
OCT 18-31
Tokyo, Nagano, Matsumoto, Kanazawa, Kanazawa, Hakone, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto

KOREA DRAMA HOLIDAY TOUR
OCT 28-NOV 4
Seoul, Jeju Island, Busan, Incheon, Korea

SOUTHEAST ASIA HOLIDAY TOUR
NOV 6-23
Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Phuket, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam

NEW ORLEANS HOLIDAY TOUR
(NEW TOUR)
NOV 30-DEC 4

Coming For 2011

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FEB

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