

APA groups call for injunction on Arizona's immigration law. **PAGE 6**

PACIFIC CITIZEN

July 2-15, 2010

www.pacificcitizen.org

The national newspaper of the JACL

Oak and Gorski
frontman Ken Oak
to headline JACL
youth concert.
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REFLECTING ON A CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY

Philadelphia JACler Ed Nakawatase was just 20 when he joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to fight Jim Crow laws. **>> PAGE 3**

PHOTO: HIRO NISHIKAWA

ARTIST IN MOTION



After 70 years of painting, Lewis Suzuki is still prolific with his art.

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DREAMER

Singer David Choi, of YouTube fame, talks about life with adoring fans.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.C.'s Best Asset: Its Readers

Loyal subscribers of the *Pacific Citizen* are a great group of active, civic-minded individuals who care about the Japanese American community. To reach out to this group, Densho:



The Japanese American Legacy Project (www.densho.org) is doing a one-time mailing of its annual report to *P.C.* subscribers later this month.

Please read the report and let me know what you think of Densho's efforts to document JA history and to create educational materials about the World War II incarceration. For the one-time use of the *P.C.* mailing list, Densho will provide revenue to the *P.C.*, a needed and valued publication for the JA community.

I encourage friends and family to get a yearly *P.C.* subscription. More subscribers mean more people become aware of JA issues AND higher subscription and ad revenue for the *P.C.*!

Tom Ikeda
Executive Director, Densho
tom.ikeda@densho.org

Reader Supports Printed P.C.

As a Thousand Life Trust member of JACL, I am opposed to eliminating the printed version of the *Pacific Citizen* for the following reasons:

The *P.C.* is the only printed periodical that I read cover to cover because it gives me time to relax and read it at my leisure. Online issues will not allow me to do this as I would have to sit at a computer, which is not relaxing at all to me.

From what you indicate, the advertising in the *P.C.* covers almost half of the cost of printing and if you went online you would not receive the revenue you do now. It seems illogical to do away with the printed version and go online when there is no assurance that it will reduce the cost of the *P.C.*

If the *P.C.* goes online, I will not read it and I will miss the information it provides.

Richard K. Matsuishi, D.D.S
Bd. member, Arizona Chapter



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Thank You S.C. Donors!



Thanks to all our Spring Campaign donors, this year's annual fundraiser raised a record \$63,560 so far and we are still receiving contributions! This year more than 750 individual donors gave, some as large as \$1,000 and others as much as they could. The *Pacific Citizen* staff would like to thank all our donors and we have listed our Wall of Fame donors (those who gave \$150 or more) below and on our website

(www.pacificcitizen.org). All of our donors will receive thank you letters soon in the mail.

This year's Spring Campaign, with the theme "Keeping Community Stories Alive," will help fund the *P.C.* print and website. The JACL continues to have financial difficulties and the *P.C.* budget continues to be cut each year. As a result, it has been difficult to meet our budget targets but with your continuous support we hope to continue providing you with our popular print and website.

Again, thank you for your continued support of the *Pacific Citizen*.

Caroline Aoyagi-Stom
Executive Editor

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E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel:(800) 966-6157
Fax: (213) 620-1768
Mail: 250 E. First Street, Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

Executive Editor
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom

Assistant Editor
Lynda Lin

Reporter
Nalea J. Ko

Business Manager
Vacant

Circulation
Eva Lau-Ting

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National Director: Floyd Mori

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Philly JACLeR Recalls His Civil Rights Work, 50 Years Later

Japanese American Ed Nakawatase said he feels ‘lucky’ to have participated in the civil rights movement with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

It has been nearly 50 years since Ed Nakawatase dropped out of college to join a nonviolent civil rights group in Atlanta, a decision that has “completely” impacted his life.

Nakawatase, now 66, was a 20-year-old student at Rutgers in New Jersey when he headed to Atlanta after learning about students who fought against segregation by conducting sit-ins.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, was formed after four black students in North Carolina organized a sit-in at a “whites only” lunch counter.

Other students like Nakawatase dropped their schoolwork to join SNCC soon after.

“I don’t think I had ever been farther south than Washington, D.C. actually,” Nakawatase explained. “I’d never been to the South, I’d never been to Atlanta. I didn’t know anybody in SNCC. It was crazy.”

Nakawatase said he was one of the only Asian Americans in the SNCC when he joined in 1963. He worked as an intake person at SNCC’s Atlanta office.

In April members of SNCC held a 50th anniversary conference at North Carolina’s Shaw University. More than 1,100 people were in attendance, according to estimates.

From his home in Philadelphia, Nakawatase trekked to the conference with others from Asian Americans United, or AAU. He serves as the board president for the organization.

Nakawatase said he was probably one of the only surviving SNCC members of Asian descent at the conference, aside from his friend Tamio Wakayama. He said the large turnout was likely because it would be the last time SNCC activists celebrate an anniversary.

“At 50 years, you know, you probably may not have another reunion,” Nakawatase explained. “So I suspect people kind of were responding — at least I know I did — that that was probably going to be the last time.”

Joining the Civil Rights Movement

Nakawatase, a Sansei, was born in the Poston internment camp where his parents were incarcerated following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was raised in Seabrook, New Jersey.

Camp life was not a popular dinnertime conversation topic for his parents. And Nakawatase said he was too young to remember being interned.

“It was just a matter of fact,” he explained about the rare times when his parents discussed their internment. “That’s where I was born. It was in Arizona. It was hot. It was dusty, dry, that sort of thing.”

Nakawatase said he did not experience any “searing, confrontation” discrimination firsthand before his time with SNCC.

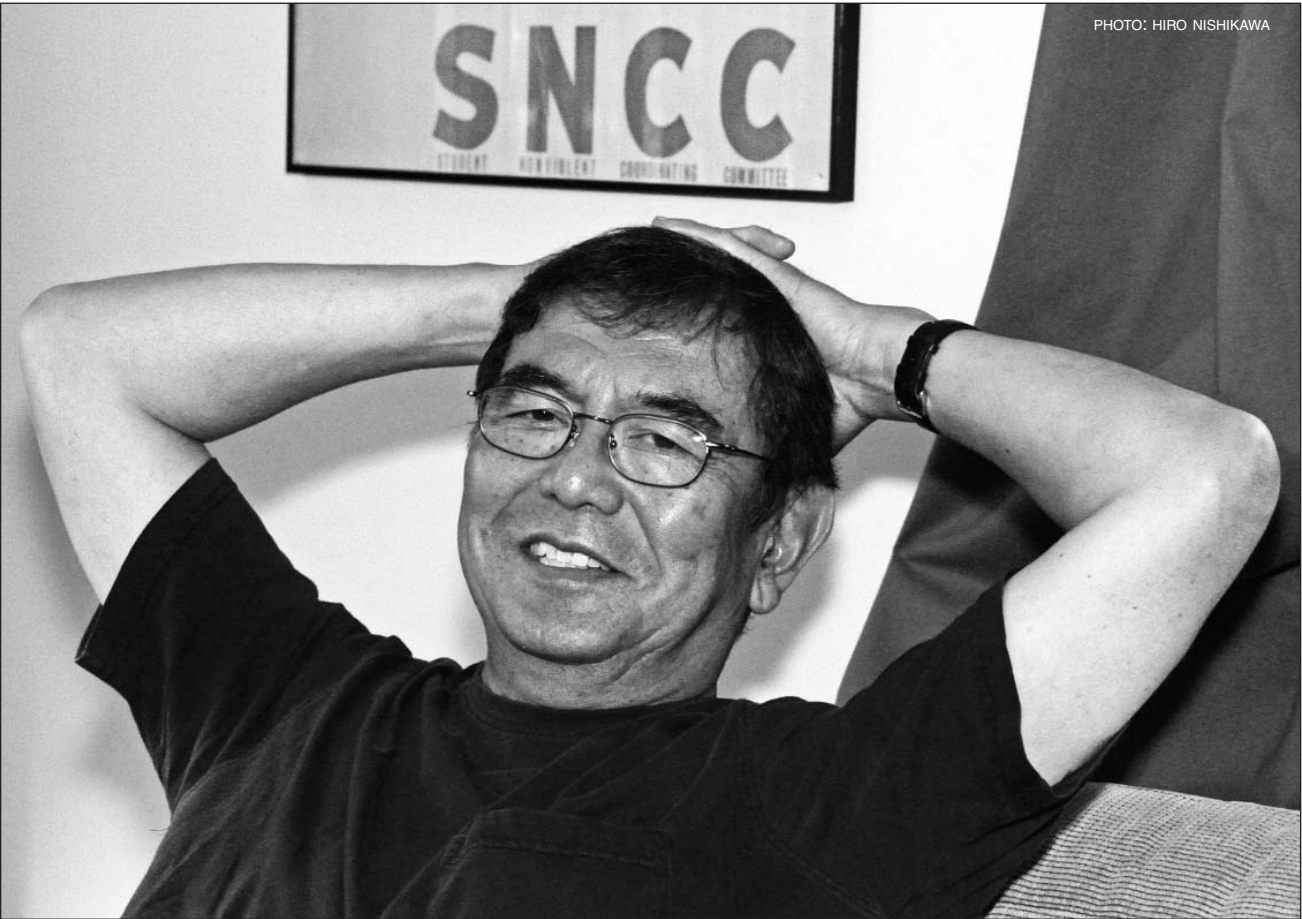
“You got some sense of discrimination and racism that wasn’t used quite that way,” Nakawatase said. “You used to talk about racial discrimination, it wasn’t thought of so systematically.”

The spring of 1963, Nakawatase said, was an explosion of direct action in the civil rights movement. Images of black civil rights protestors confronted by law enforcement and segregationists were plastered across the pages of publications nationwide. Jails soon overflowed with protestors.

“There was a lot of media coverage at that time,” Nakawatase explained. “The movement was just inherently dramatic and the cause was just.”

Other SNCC members were also drawn to the civil rights movement after watching the sit-ins on TV.

“I remember turning on the TV one day and watching a group of young black and white kids my age,” said Wakayama, who worked as a SNCC photographer in the early 1960s.



‘I grew up in an age where you thought this country was the very best, very democratic, and we don’t do anything wrong. The time at SNCC was when I became disabused of a number of those things.’

— **Ed Nakawatase**, about his time working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the 1960s.

“They were calmly sitting at a lunch counter while Coke was poured down them.”

Wakayama said he related to their struggle, being a Japanese Canadian who was interned at Tasne internment camp. Just like Nakawatase, Wakayama left college to join SNCC.

Despite Nakawatase’s impulsive decision to leave college, he said his parents gave him “no grief” about joining SNCC. But they could not have been too pleased, Nakawatase said, when they received a call from their jailed son.

“I made a call from jail like a day or two before Christmas,” Nakawatase added. “That’s probably not the most encouraging sort of thing. But I came home a little bit after Christmas.”

After a reception for the vice president of Kenya, Nakawatase and some SNCC members decided to grab a cup of coffee from a nearby Toddle House restaurant.

“We quickly learned that it wasn’t integrated,” Nakawatase explained. “It was one of those situations where we were in there, and they wouldn’t serve [us]. And a decision was made on the spot that we’re not leaving.”

Nakawatase said he learned from his experiences with SNCC that political activism could lead to change. He said after his jail time, the restaurant chain became integrated.

Nakawatase was not the only non-black SNCC member.

“I was in the SNCC office and I was the only Asian there for awhile,” Wakayama said. “I went back to Canada for the holidays to organize the Friends of SNCC on Canadian campuses and to see my mother. When I came back Ed was there. I was a little bit disturbed that my unique status as the only Asian was disturbed.”

Being one of only two Nikkei in SNCC had certain advan-

tages, Nakawatase said.

“You’re unique obviously. There’s only one of you. It wasn’t anything to be fearful about. It was pretty safe in the black community actually.” He added, “The white community was [laughs] much more dangerous actually.”

Nakawatase saw racism firsthand in Georgia. On one occasion, a segregationist looked at Nakawatase and said, “they even got these foreigners.” Another heated incident occurred when Nakawatase was traveling with an interracial group of people in a car. They escaped harm when confronted by outraged Southerners.

After spending about a year and a half in Atlanta, Nakawatase returned to college. He remained politically active, protesting the Vietnam War, working on the Redress movement and fighting for Native Americans’ rights.

Looking back at his time with SNCC, Nakawatase said he is proud to have been part of the civil rights movement.

“I mean it was a great thing. It raised my consciousness,” he said. “It made me understand a lot more about the country.”

Today Nakawatase serves as the board president for AAU, which has been involved in issues such as the violent attacks at South Philadelphia High School, among other things.

“I grew up in an age where you thought this country was the very best, very democratic, and we don’t do anything wrong.” Nakawatase continued, “The time at SNCC was when I became disabused of a number of those things. But it wasn’t like it made me cynical about change, quite the opposite.”

“I mean I was just part of this great movement. But it did show the power of social movement.” ■



Lewis Suzuki, 89, said he has traveled all around the world, capturing scenic locations with his brush strokes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FUMI SUZUKI

Lewis Suzuki: A Lifetime of Paintings

JACLer Lewis Suzuki said after 70 years of painting he has only one regret: that he should have painted what pleased him and not what would sell the best.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Lewis Suzuki started taking art classes in elementary school as a child in Japan. The 89-year-old has been painting for over 70 years.

His brush strokes have captured locations such as China, Japan, Mexico, California and the Philippines, among other locales. Some of his best paintings, he said, were created on location.

But his failing health has made it difficult to travel lately, Suzuki said.

“All my life I’ve been going to art school,” Suzuki said, laughing. “Until seven years ago even when I lived in Berkeley here — seven years ago my kidney failed, and I’m on dialysis. So I got kind of weak.”

Suzuki had attended night classes every Tuesday night at the Richmond Art Center before his health failed.

The 89-year-old said today his eyesight is also worsening due to glaucoma. Suzuki, however, can still see his colorful paintings. But he worried about how possibly losing his sight in the future would effect his ability to paint. That was before he read an article about a blind artist.

“He kept painting even though he was blind, with another artist helping him paint, sitting next to him,” Suzuki explained. “I said, ‘Oh, my gosh. If he could paint in total blindness, I better start painting.’ I started painting with more encouragement then I did last first part of this year.”

Now the Japanese American paints in his art space Suzuki Studio, which is located in Berkeley, Calif. There his paintings are on display and can be viewed by appointment.

Painting For World Peace

Suzuki’s mother and five siblings moved to Japan from the United States after his father died. In Japan, Suzuki said he won prizes in his prefecture for his art talents. He also attended the

Kawabata Art Academy.

One day in 1939 on a train ride, Suzuki met a man that would influence him to move back to the U.S.

Suzuki said he has forgotten the man’s name, but his message is still clear decades later.

Showing Suzuki photos of atrocities committed by the Japanese in Nanking, the man asked him if he could “cut off an innocent citizen’s head,” if he were forced into the Japanese military.

His mother’s financial responsibilities in Japan also persuaded Suzuki to move to the U.S.



Lewis Suzuki painted ‘Smoky Mountain’ in the Philippines.

“I was in Tokyo, and then I heard my aunt and uncle talking that if I go to art school maybe my younger brother and sister can go to high school,” Suzuki said. “So, I decided to come to the United States because I heard that in the United States you could go to school by working.”

His fellow train passenger also introduced Suzuki to Edo Mita, who helped the artist when he eventually arrived in Los Angeles, Calif.

Suzuki went on to take classes at the Otis Art Institute and later moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Japanese embassy. There he also attended classes at the Corcoran School of Art.

“I was working for the Japanese embassy in Washington, D.C.,” Suzuki said. “On January 1, I went to New York. Two months later I got a job with the Office of War Information.”

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Suzuki had to leave his job at the embassy. He headed to Camp Savage in Minnesota, where there was a Military Intelligence Service language school.

“Once I got there they said, ‘Gee, you can’t even defend yourself. You cannot even use a pistol.’”

The painter never went overseas.

Suzuki later became involved in political activism, creating paintings like “No More Hiroshimas” for the American Friends Service Committee. He said some of his best selling paintings have been ones of the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge and Chinatown, among others.

After seven decades of painting, one regret Suzuki has is that in his younger years he painted more to make money than for enjoyment.

Suzuki said he has now started to create pieces that he enjoys painting.

“One of my paintings that I have called ‘Smoky Mountain’ which I painted in 1990, I decided to paint something that I really wanted to paint,” Suzuki said of the painting depicting Filipino residents picking through a rubbish dump.

“That’s one of the times that I decided to paint something creative.”

Suzuki said painting is not only a source of enjoyment, but an outlet to further political causes such as world peace.

“People look at my paintings and they all say, ‘How hopeful you see that world,’” Suzuki said. “I feel that one day we could live in peace. Not in my time, but one day.”

Suzuki is working on a painting of a Filipino fishing boat. He said he will be 90 this Thanksgiving.

Watching the U.S. Open that was held in Monterey, Calif. reminded Suzuki of when he used to paint there in the 1950s and 1960s.

“I felt like, ‘Gee I wish I could make it again,’” he said.

His daughter Fumi tells him that she will take him on location to paint, but Suzuki laughs when asked if he will travel again.

“Oh, [laughs] not anymore,” he said. ■

JACL 2010 Convention Youth Concert to Feature APA Talent

When the city lights fill the darkening Chicago skyline, the JACL will bring out some of the Asian Pacific American community's best performing talent. Youth participants will be able to get up close and personal with outstanding musicians and one of the most premier APA spoken word artists. You don't want to miss this!

The youth concert takes place July 3 in the Alpine Ballroom of Chicago’s Swissotel. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the concert will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

CYNTHIA LIN



Though Chicago-born singer/songwriter Cynthia Lin spent much of her youth on the stage, it wasn't until her college years that she found her vocal freedom. She released her debut EP “Blue and Borderlined” in January 2005, which was featured on NPR's Open Mic

ROCK OUT WITH JACL

July 3
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\$20 at the door

series. Lin has toured solo nationally and has become a fixture on the APA college scene. Lin was the main producer and arranger on her second album “Doppelganger” released in November 2007 to critical praise.

OAK AND GORSKI

In 2004, Ed Gorski and Ken Oak meet at the El Rey theatre in Los Angeles, both checking out different bands. Two months later, they played their first acoustic show together in Hollywood. A year later Oak and Gorski quit their jobs, released an album and booked a national tour.

Oak and Gorski are about to embark on their 10th national tour of colleges and venues. Described by *Billboard Magazine* as “soulful” and “calming”, Oak and Gorski have sold over 30,000 albums independently. They are currently finishing demos for their fourth studio album to be recorded in Nashville this July.

ANIDA YOEU ALI

Anida Yoeu Ali, a performance artist, writer and global agitator, is a first generation Muslim Khmer woman born in Cambodia and raised in Chicago. Her interdisciplinary performances use Butoh to examine the poetic potential of the body and collective healing.

Since 1998, Anida has toured over 300 colleges and venues with the spoken word ensemble, I Was Born With Two Tongues, and the



Billboard Magazine describes Ken Oak (left) and Ed Gorski as ‘soulful’ and ‘calming’. Together Oak and Gorski have sold over 30,000 albums independently.

multimedia collective Mango Tribe. The Tongues’ pioneering live performances and critically acclaimed debut CD, “Broken Speak”, ignited a new generation of APA voices.

She is also a founding member of Young Asians With Power!, Asian American Artists Collective-Chicago, the National APIA

Spoken Word & Poetry Summit, and MON-SOON fine arts journal. Her artistic work has been the recipient of grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Endowment of the Arts and Illinois Arts Council. From Copenhagen to Ho Chi Minh City, Anida lectures, exhibits and performs internationally. ■

2010 JACL National Convention
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Swissôtel Chicago Phone: 888.737.9477
Book early! Reservations must be made by June 10th to guarantee the JACL Convention rate.

Registration Packages

Packages include Individual Events

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

Individual Events

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

Optional Events

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

Windy City Activities

Limited availability, so sign up early.

	Before 6/10	After 6/10
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‘Please do not minimize the facts about the internment of Japanese Americans,’ said Sandra Tanamachi representing the Japanese American Veterans Association during a May 19 public hearing.

Texas Textbooks Will Retain 442nd, Internment History

Japanese American World War II history will be included in high school level textbooks.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The Texas State Board of Education has approved the inclusion of information about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in its 5th grade textbooks, according to a June 2 e-mail from board chair Gail Lowe. Information about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans will also be included in textbooks at the high school level, said Lowe in the e-mail to the Japanese American Veterans Association. The Texas State Board of Education's controversial social studies and history curriculum was adopted May 21. 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.” JACL leaders said the curriculum changes would teach students factually flawed material. “The alterations and fallacies adopted by the Texas

Board of Education are inaccurate and offensive to our communities,” said Larry Oda, JACL national president. JA veterans groups sent petitions to board of education urging them to not distort facts pertaining to the JA experience during World War II. At a May 19 public hearing in Austin, Texas JA leaders urged board members to retain history in the textbooks. Donna Fujimoto Cole of the Japanese American Memorial Foundation testified along with Glen Gondo and Linda Toyota, of the JACL. Sandra Tanamachi represented JAVA. “Please do not minimize the facts about the internment of Japanese Americans,” said Tanimachi during her testimony. “In Section 113.41c, TEKS 7G, I encourage you to give recognition to the heroic deeds of the 442nd and the MIS, so that they can stand side by side with the Tuskegee Airmen, the Flying Tigers, and the Navajo Code Talkers...” The Texas board of education has legislative authority to adopt the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each subject of the required curriculum. These standards are used in the Texas public schools. Texas is the second largest textbook purchaser, following California. ■

Civil Rights Groups Call For Injunction on Arizona’s Immigration Law



By Pacific Citizen Staff

The coalition of civil rights groups that filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona's new immigration law is now asking a federal court to block the implementing of SB 1070 while the case is being litigated. “We seek a preliminary injunction to head off numerous harms that are imminent if SB 1070 goes into

effect,” said Julie Su, litigation director for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. The court is expected to rule on the injunction request before SB 1070 is scheduled to go into effect July 29. In May, the JACL and other civil rights group filed a 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. 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 lawsuit charges Arizona's new immigration law with inviting racial profiling, violating the First Amendment and interfering with federal law. “We feel it our duty and obligation to stand with our friends in the civil rights arena to challenge the constitutional validity of this new law,” said Larry Oda, JACL national president. ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

APA Civil Rights Organizations Announce New Shared Brand



LOS ANGELES—Four Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations have reorganized under a new name, the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice. The four affiliating organizations are: the Asian American Institute (AAI), Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), Asian Law Caucus (ALC) and Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). The four groups will adopt their shared identity in stages over the coming years, said Tuyet Le, AAI executive director. Each organization will continue to be based in its home city: AAJC in Washington, D.C., APALC in Los Angeles, AAI in Chicago and ALC in San Francisco.

A Proud Day For Japanese Americans



(L-r) Clayton Kiyonaga, Catherine Kiyona, Jack Kiyonaga, Devin Ichikawa, Terry Shima, Marty Herbert and Alan Ueoka.

WASHINGTON—On May 31 a contingent of Japanese American Veterans Association members participated in the National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. Some spectators stood and salute, others shouted “442nd,” “Go For Broke,” and “Nisei.” Dr. Ray Murakami, a member of the JAVA parade contingent, said those responses are indicative of the American public’s respect for Japanese Americans’ contributions to national defense. To JAVA members, this march is symbolic of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team march down Constitution Avenue on July 15, 1946.

JANM Celebrates 25th Year

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo marked its 25th anniversary its annual gala dinner, “25 Years & Beyond: Celebrating the Spirit of Our Community”, with special recognition to the museum’s founders. Bruce Kaji was the museum’s founding president who headed a Little Tokyo enterprise to build a museum. Among those who signed the museum’s incorporation papers in 1985 were: Col. Young Oak Kim, Y.B. “Buddy” Mamiya, George Aratani and Toy Kanegai.

Report: Education Level of APA Workers Obscures Employment Picture

WASHINGTON—APAs with bachelor’s and advanced degrees experience higher unemployment rates than their white counterparts, but APA high school dropouts have a much lower unemployment rate than similarly-situated white Americans, a new Economic Policy Institute report finds. In the study, “Hidden Disadvantage: Asian American Unemployment and the Great Recession”, EPI researcher Algernon Austin revealed that the overall unemployment rate for APAs 25-years-and-older was roughly the same as that for whites in the fourth quarter of 2009. However, the share of workers who hold bachelor’s degrees and advanced degrees is higher among APAs than among white Americans, by 10.4 and 10.6 percentage points, respectively. ■

APAs
in the
News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Arizona Chapter Member, Masako Takiguchi
Receives Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays

Past Arizona JACL President **Masako Takiguchi** received the Order of the Sun, Silver Rays from Consul General Junichi Ihara from the Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles on May 24.

Takiguchi was recognized for her years of consistent dedication in developing ties between Japan and Phoenix.

She helped establish the sister city relationship between Himeji and Phoenix in 1976, was a charter member of the Arizona Matsuri Steering Committee in 1984 and worked on the committee that first started planning the Japanese Friendship Garden, RO Ho En in Phoenix which opened in 2002.

Obama’s Brother-in-law to Head
Smithsonian Program



President Barack Obama’s brother-in-law, **Konrad Ng**, will serve as acting director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program this summer.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa Academy for Creative Media announced that Ng, an assistant professor and a scholar of Asian American cinema and digital media, will manage the Asia Pacific American Program while the

Smithsonian searches for a permanent director.

Ng was a scholar-in-residence at the program last fall.

Side to Receive Community Volunteer Award

Mile-Hi JACL’s **Kimiko Side** on July 22, will receive the **Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award**, which recognizes community volunteerism.

Side will receive a cash award of \$2,000 designated to the nonprofit of her choice. She will also receive a proclamation from Mayor John Hickenlooper.

Inouye is the Longest Serving U.S. Senator



Daniel Inouye of Hawaii is now the nation’s longest serving U.S. senator ever.

Inouye, who was first elected to the Senate in 1963, inherited the title after Democrat Robert Byrd of Virginia passed away June 28 at the age of 92.

Inouye says his new status is very special to him, his family and friends.

Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii praised Inouye for being the first and only Japanese American to serve in the Senate.

JACLER Receives OCA Golden Circle Award

Kayomi Wada, Puyallup Valley JACL, recently received the OCA’s “Golden Circle Award” for trailblazing activities to get Asian American Studies at the University of Washington-Tacoma campus.

Another Puyallup Valley JACLER, **Elizabeth “Liz” Dunbar**, who is executive director of the Tacoma Community House, recently received the “Partner in Justice Award from OneAmerica in recognition of her work with immigrants.

Koh Becomes First Korean American
Confirmed to be U.S. District Court Judge

The Senate has unanimously confirmed **Lucy H. Koh** to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, making her the first Korean American U.S. District Court Judge in U.S. history and the first Asian Pacific American Article III judge in the 160-year history of the Northern District of California.

Magistrate Judge Edward M. Chen, whose nomination to the Northern District of California is still pending, was the first APA judge to serve on the court. ■

If Vetoed, Hawaii Civil Unions
Bill Could Face Override

Gov. Linda Lingle has until July 6 to make a decision on HB 444.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

If Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle vetoes a bill that would allow same-gender couples to form civil unions, some legislative leaders say there are enough votes to override it.

State Senate President Colleen Hanabusa said she believes there are sufficient votes in her chamber to override a Lingle veto in July.

A two-thirds majority of House members, or 34, is required to override a veto.

House Majority Leader Blake Oshiro said he doubts there are enough votes in his chamber for an override.

“I think the votes that were 31 in favor are pretty firm, and the votes that are opposed are pretty firm,” said Oshiro, a main sponsor of HB 444. “So at this point, I don’t anticipate us taking further action on that.”

Lingle has until July 6, when by law she must sign or veto the measure, or allow it to become law without her signature. She said she will take until then to decide the fate of the civil unions legislation.

The governor said she is “still considering everyone’s point of view” on the civil unions issue, which she called the most difficult of the measures still before her.

Proponents are hopeful Lingle will support civil unions.

We don’t need to be loved and accepted by everyone, and it is an impossible burden to expect us to appeal to the public’s support in such a way,” said Valerie Smith, who was married to Nathalie Sowers in British Columbia. “However, if the bill passes, we’ll at least have the confidence in knowing that anyone’s ‘disapproval’ remains just that - a sentiment - without any real power over our lives.”

Lingle’s office has been deluged with almost 20,000 letters, faxes, e-mails and phone calls - the majority opposed to HB 444, according to the governor’s staff.



A same-sex marriage proponent shows her support for Hawaii’s civil unions bill.

Francis Oda, chairman of Hawaii Family Forum, which opposes the measure, said his group would continue to urge its members to send e-mails and letters, and make telephone calls, to the governor’s office.

“We’re gratified and hopeful for an eventual veto,” he said.

Five states already grant essentially all the rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself. Five other states and the District of Columbia permit same-sex marriage. ■

Minnesota JA Veterans Group
Honors Fallen Heroes

The Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota (JAVM) held its annual memorial service at Fort Snelling National Cemetery May 24 to pay tribute to the men and women who served their country.

Keynote speaker and Twin Cities JACL board member Dan Motoyoshi acknowledged the courage, integrity and determination of the JA soldiers during WWII.

“Not only do we owe veterans for the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans, but we also owe Japanese Americans for the civil liberties that we experience,” said Motoyoshi. “If they hadn’t taken a stand and done the right thing who would have?”

After a moment of silence to honor deceased JA veterans, Edwin Bud Nakasone and John Takekawa read an honor roll call of 56 names.

Sam Honda, JAVM vice president and event chair, coordinated the decoration of the veterans’ gravesites with flowers after the service.

“Our first memorial service was in 1998,” said Honda. “And we are fortunate to have the help from the Fort Snelling National Cemetery staff.”

JAVM Secretary Kathy Ohama Koch has maintained the list of local JA veterans, primarily from the World War II era, since the organization was formed in 1991. ■



Sam Honda, JAVM vice president, distributes flowers to decorate veterans’ gravesites.



for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

Zen and the Art of Being JA

It was around 2005 that I received an invitation to speak at the University of Kentucky to give two different speeches: one titled “The State of Civil Liberties in Post-9/11 America,” and “How Japanese Values Inform Japanese American Behavior.” It was the first title that initially caught my attention but the second that prompted me to accept. Being completely immersed in post-9/11 matters for so long — supporting and protecting Muslim and Arab communities and challenging Bush administration policies that curbed civil liberties — the invitation offered a momentary respite from such pressing matters.

The idea of a philosophical discussion about being JA interested me. Our cultural values are who we are and dictate our behavior. It’s what “being Japanese” is all about. It’s what differentiates us from others as much as does the way we look. I was curious to know how the topic would interest a University of Kentucky audience.

My faculty host for the day, Marro Inoue, was a young scholar from Japan who had taught at UK for several years. Over breakfast, we talked about the audience, and as we explored the topic of that day’s program, I became fascinated by how we each viewed Japanese cultural values and how separated our worlds were from each other.

All my life, I had thought we were so closely tied to Japan by culture. After all, it was because we were Japanese that we were imprisoned during WWII, but it was the values instilled in each of us that helped get us through the travails of camp and the post-war years. Concepts like *meiyo*, *giri*, *gaman*, *shikataganai*, and so many others were the cultural cornerstones which guided us through our difficult times and through life. And above all else, *meiyo*, honor, was the guiding principle. Nisei soldiers, as they left for war, were either told or understood the one dictate of their lives: do not bring shame upon the family name. That was an absolute even through my generation.

Our cultural values do in fact guide our behavior. We hand down from one generation to the next that it’s important to respect our elders, that education and family are important in life, that we respect authority, that when life is unfair, we suck it up and carry on without complaining, that it’s important not to impose or make others uncomfortable by our needs. And above all else,

honor.

As I talked about all of this with Marro that morning, what I discovered was that this sense of honor we hold so sacred isn’t regarded in the same way among younger Japanese today and that many of the other values have gone through similar changes. Like the language, we continue to maintain *Meiji* values here while Japan has undergone transformations that leave us in an empty cultural wake. “Empty” is perhaps too harsh a word here; “vacuum” is probably more accurate. In any case, like the Japanese language we speak here (i.e., those few among us who actually can speak Japanese), our cultural values have been suspended in time.

We are further separated from Japan than perhaps even we realize. The connections between us and our Japanese brethren (used loosely) in the ancestral homeland are at best tenuous: our Meiji Japanese isn’t quite the same language they speak, our values are similar but different, our customs are different. And we are so completely American that our true homeland is here within the shores of this country.

This is all very true, but then, how come I find myself cheering for Japan’s teams during sporting events so long as they’re not playing the U.S.? Like in the Baseball Classic or World Cup? Maybe because I understand and feel a close affinity with them culturally? Or maybe because they look like me and I understand something of the impulses that drive them on the field?

Maybe, for the moment, I can suspend who I am as an American and celebrate who I am as Japanese because I can find some intuitive identity with those on the field of play. What they do matters to me and it’s easy to cheer for them even though they play for the flag of another country. For that moment, I feel my oneness with them.

Doing so doesn’t make me less American as some pea-brained racists might think. If anything, it gives deeper meaning to my being American.

And just think: during the World Cup, I can cheer for my American team and for Japan’s team. And for England’s as well, because my son was born there.

Hantai? No, I don’t think so. It’s all good. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate former national director.



Translators and Technology



By Ema Nakao

Technology is so advanced now that the ability to have live video conversations using a cell phone

is possible. Yet, I find it ironic that the accessibility for basic services that ESL speakers and immigrant families need are still enormous. Issues they face include understanding detailed instructions written in English on how to obtain various interpreters for government/medical/social services, computerized methods to pay for bills online, and 10 year olds serving as interpreters in the hospital because a translator was unavailable for their parents.

About two weeks ago, I had requested a Japanese speaker from the social security administration through the interpreter services department to call my father for an interview regarding retirement and benefit issues. Then, my father called and said that the social security department had an English speaking Japanese American who called him and interviewed him in English. The Japanese-speaking interviewer was unavailable, he said, so an English speaking JA was provided instead. Honestly, I did not understand the logic of having a person of the same ethnicity calling him, because it did not matter in this situation. I would have been happy with anyone of any ethnicity just as long as they were able to speak the language I had requested.

Back in Seattle, 2,600 miles away, I was furious, yet understood the United States most likely does not have a sufficient number of bilingual speakers in certain languages or perhaps the demand exceeds the availability. According to a doctor friend I spoke with in Honolulu, he said that Tongan translators were difficult to obtain for his patients, so he personally took the task to learn basic Tongan on his own time.

I sometimes wonder how many other children of immigrant parents inadvertently become responsible for taking on the job as a translator, interpreting serious issues at a young age and continuing to do so as adults. Then, I realize, my parents DO understand English to a certain extent — how else did they make a living in America? But sometimes, it’s the little things that occur in daily household living with advancing technology that is confounding, hilarious and at the same time, mildly ironic.

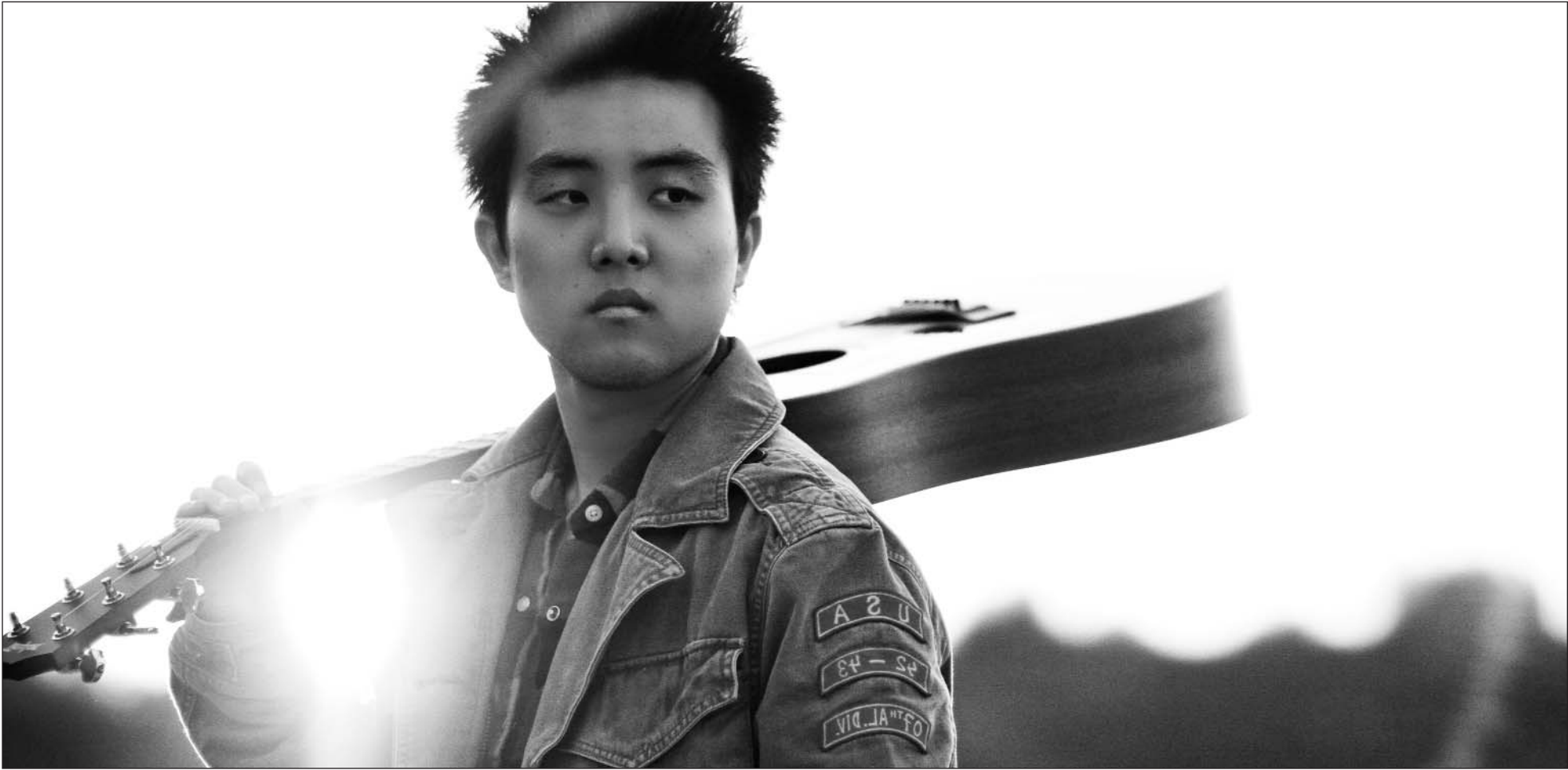
Venting to a second generation Vietnamese friend, we stumbled upon a strange and invisible topic that we have dealt with for a number of years: the automated telephone system. More often than once, we have both heard our parents hit random numbers on the telephone, spelling and speaking their names louder and louder in sheer frustration: “Nakao. N-A-K-A-O. NAKAO!”

On my last visit to see my parents in Honolulu, I had been delegated the task by my father to call the cable company about a service question. He had attempted to call the cable company, but did not understand the detailed directions the phone system was saying in English. I called the cable company myself, and realized the difficulty second language speakers face.

The fast, mechanical voice in various computerized accents that differ from company to company are often difficult to understand, there are awkward pauses for customers to speak to a phone system that cannot recognize ethnic accents, the various numbers to press — an overall frustrating and useless experience. Fluent English speakers hate these systems as it is, and these phone systems are more than a mountain to scale for second language speakers.

Although an entire ocean separates us, I have no problems in helping my parents in translating and mailing documents with detailed explanations for what they are signing. I have no problems in calling the cable company to do a call back to Seattle for an account in Honolulu. And I definitely hope the fundamental backbone in bridging the immigrant community with advancing technology will be eventually recognized by the appropriate parties in American society. ■

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



'I do everything myself,' said David Choi, 24, about writing, singing and promoting the songs on his new album.

David Choi Talks Fame Via YouTube

For the independent singer/songwriter, promoting his second album hit an online snag — suspension.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

If David Choi needed any reassurance that his YouTube fans loyally follow his video uploads then it likely came after the suspension of his channel.

Soon after his channel was suspended May 31, fans posted comments on Twitter and YouTube to defend Choi.

The outpouring of support prompted the creation of a petition and “RIP David Choi's Music YouTube Channel” Facebook page.

One might think Choi was a political prisoner or deceased with the flurry of “Free David Choi Music” tribute videos, tweets and wallpaper circulating online after news broke about his troubles with YouTube.

About a week later the 24-year-old returned to YouTube with a new video for his 300,000-plus subscribers.

“I'm just kind of getting back into the swing of things. It's been crazy [laughs],” Choi said July 7, after the suspension was lifted from his account.

The suspension, Choi said, came because he did a cover of “What Wonderful World.” Covering other artists' songs, in addition to creating his own music, is something Choi said he did since his first YouTube post.

Singing cover songs like Katy Perry's “California Gurls” and Lady GaGa’s “Telephone,” Choi said he had to be careful because “technically you're not supposed to do covers.”

“I do a lot of covers,” said Choi, who is Korean American. One of the cover songs got a strike on YouTube, he added.

“Three strikes on YouTube and you're out. I just had to get the publishers to retract the strikes.”

YouTube users must agree that content submitted online, “will not contain third party copyrighted material, or material that is subject to other third party proprietary rights.”

Many other artists who were discovered on YouTube like

Justin Bieber have sung other musicians’ songs as well.

Other YouTubers also cover Choi’s songs, which makes him feel honored, he said.

The freezing of his YouTube account came at a time when the independent artist needed his channel to promote his sophomore album “By My Side,” which was released May 18.

“I mean it sucks that my channel got suspended right after my release,” he said. “It's one of the most important times.”

Being an independent artist without a label, Choi relies on websites like YouTube to publicize his music.



Choi said before singing he only wanted to become a songwriter and producer.

“I do everything myself,” Choi explained. “I don’t have a big corporation behind me or anything doing things for me. So it's a lot of work.”

The benefit to being an independent artist without a label, Choi said, is having more control of his work.

Choi said he never wanted to be a musician, but it happened because of YouTube.

“Before I got the music bug I played video games all day. I was one of those people who was addicted to StarCraft,” he said.

Prior to joining YouTube in 2006, his talents were recognized in 2004 when he took the grand prize in David Bowie's Mash-

up contest.

Later his writing chops helped him get signed as a staff writer. At 19, Choi entered a workshop for American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)/Warner Chappell. There a music representative pulled him aside to hear more of his work.

“I never dreamed of doing this,” Choi said. “It was never a dream of mine. It was never a goal to become a musician/artist. It was always to become the best songwriter and producer that I could become.”

The first time Choi performed in front of a large crowd he was “freakin’ nervous.” Over the years that nervousness has dissipated a little, but Choi said he still gets stage fright.

And techniques to get rid of that fright have not worked for him.

“No, nothing really works. I’ve tried a bunch of stuff,” Choi explained, saying he even tried taking calming mouth drops.

Most of his videos are created in his bedroom in his parents’ home. Viewers might never know that Choi who sings on camera regularly does not consider himself to be “outgoing.”

Choi also prefers to stay mum about the inspiration for his love songs like “That Girl,” featured on his second album.

“I just don't like to [talk about it] because it's weird and uncomfortable,” the 24-year-old said about disclosing who inspired his songs. “You're already vulnerable with your songs [by] just putting it out there. So like digging deeper into that is kind of — it's kind of uncomfortable.”

With adoring admirers sending Choi gifts by mail, he is likely not short of inspiration for his love songs.

“I don't think I could tell you what the strangest thing is,” Choi said about quirky gifts, like women's underwear, he receives from fans. “It's kind of rated XXX.”

All of his fans’ gifts are kept in a box, Choi said.

The inspirational feedback he receives from fans Choi keeps in mind while creating new videos. It fuels him to keep posting on YouTube despite the recent suspension of his account.

“The feedback I get, ‘Oh, it made me happy today.’” Those kinds of things kind of put a purpose behind everything I do,” Choi said. “So that's kind of why I do it.” ■

Army Tries to Improve Ties with Native Hawaiians

A council of Native Hawaiians has been formed to ease tension, but some are not convinced.

By Audrey McAvoy
Associated Press Writer

The people of Waianae believe the first Hawaiians were created in Makua, a lush valley about 30 miles from downtown Honolulu. The valley is also home to three large heiau, or ancient stone platforms used for worship. So it's no surprise many Native Hawaiians consider the valley to be sacred.

The Army, though, sees Makua as a prime spot for soldiers to practice firing live ammunition.

These widely divergent perspectives illustrate the gulf between the Army and Hawaiians that have contributed to an often antagonistic and deeply distrustful relationship between the two.

Now the Army is trying to narrow the gap. In a series of firsts, the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii commander hired a liaison for Hawaiian issues, formed a council of Hawaiians to advise him, and brought Army and Hawaiian leaders together to sign a covenant in which both sides vowed to respect and understand one another.

"Instead of going back and rehashing the past, I'm trying to make a fresh start, trying to make that relationship positive, make things better down the line," said Col. Matthew Margotta.

But the Army did not invite several



Hawaiians embroiled in ongoing disputes with the Army to join the council or sign the covenant, prompting critics to question how effective these initiatives will be.

"You want to work together but you only want to work with people who don't disagree with you. How good is that?" said William Aila, whose uncle was ousted from Makua during World War II and who is fighting for the Army to return the valley.

The military took control of Makua in 1943 when Hawaii was under wartime martial law. Authorities told residents to leave, and the Army and Navy began using the valley for bombing practice.

The explosions damaged homes and the community's church and cemetery. Interviews for a 1998 oral history commissioned by the Navy showed residents were embittered by the

destruction and the takeover that severed their families, who had once fished and farmed in Makua, from the land.

Today the Army still controls Makua under a lease with the state that expires in 2029.

In recent years, the Army and Hawaiians have clashed over the Army's restrictions on access to sites in the valley. The Army cites safety for the limits, though Hawaiians say they've

long visited these sites and understand the risks.

Frustrations also mounted in 2003 when the Army's planned burn of brush raged out of control and scorched more than half of the 7-square-mile valley.

Elsewhere in the islands, Hawaiians and the Army have butted heads over the appropriate use of lands at Schofield Barracks, which is home to several thousand soldiers in the 25th Infantry Division, and Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island.

In May, several Hawaiians objected when an Army contractor leveling land for a new Schofield training ground unearthed an ancient bone fragment. They had opposed the construction of the training ground precisely

because they feared human remains would be found if the soil was disturbed.

Hawaiian tradition says bones must stay in the ground until they're dissolved so the deceased can complete his or her journey to the afterlife.

Margotta says the covenant, signed in March, will contribute to better relations by committing future commanders to partner and cooperate with Hawaiians. This should impose some consistency even as leaders rotate posts every two to three years.

"There have been commanders out there who have embraced the Hawaiian community and partnered with them and worked with them. And there have been others who have been not so inclined," Margotta said. "We wanted to codify it for successive generations."

Aila isn't optimistic. He wasn't invited to join the advisory council or to sign the covenant even though he has long clashed with the Army over access to Makua and, more recently, the treatment of human remains found at Schofield last month.

"It's great for PR," he said, "to give the impression that things are hunky-dory here in Hawaii. But it doesn't reflect the reality on the ground."

Annelle Amaral, the Hawaiian liaison for U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, said she didn't invite people to join the council who have "site specific" concerns. She instead gathered Hawaiians who represent fields including education, business, and religion. ■

Schools Struggle to Meet New Race Labeling Rules

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Washington school districts are struggling with a new federal requirement to gather more specific information on the ethnicity of their students, a policy that encourages officials to guess when parents don't supply race information.

Federal Way Supt. Tom Murphy calls the new policy for the 2010-11 school year bizarre.

For years, parents have been asked to identify the race and ethnicity of their children, but now the federal government has changed the rules, eliminating the choices of "unknown," "multiracial," or "declined to answer."

The forms are more specific now, with dozens more choices if a child is Latino or Asian Pacific American. Parents may check as many boxes as they want if a child is multiracial. Schools are now required to attempt to fill in the blanks when families don't return forms asking for information.

Educators like Elaine Akagi, of the Seattle JACL, said new practice would become an example of racial profiling.

"Whomever is asked to 'guess' the child's ethnicity would have to rely on their personal experiences and opinions to make the determination. Names no longer identify ethnicity, nor does appearance. So what would be the basis for the 'best guess'?"

School districts across the state have called

the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to complain about the policy or to ask for guidance and training, said agency spokesman Nate Olson.

Murphy asked in his letter if someone at OSPI or the U.S. Department of Education could provide a rubric that would help his staff visually recognize the difference between a Hmong and a Vietnamese student or between a Fijian and a Samoan.

In her response to Murphy, Robin Munson, OSPI's director of student information, said school staff would not be expected to visually make these distinctions and should feel free to use the categories of "other Asian" or "other Pacific Islander."

She noted that OSPI has provided training materials and additional guidance to help with observer identification and that asking kids what they are is preferable to guessing.

OSPI officials have said school districts won't be punished for not supplying complete information about their students.

"It's risky trying to determine anyone's ethnicity just by appearance," said Akagi. "Especially if the child is multiracial. I understand the reasoning behind trying to disaggregate the information, and I'm hoping it will be explained to parents why the information is being requested." ■



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JACL Collegiate Training Builds Campus Leaders

From June 10-13, the JACL hosted a successful 2010 Collegiate Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Fourteen students traveled from all over the nation for workshops and seminars on Asian Pacific American public policy issues and leadership trainings.

The conference, which is sponsored by the UPS Foundation, trains college-age students to be stronger leaders in the APA community.

Speakers included J.D. Hokoyama, president and CEO of the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), a Little Tokyo-based leadership development organization, and Frank Wu, newly named dean of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

During a special lunchtime presentation Piyachat Terrell, national director of programs for the Environmental Protection Agency,

spoke about environmental justice and APA youth opportunities with the EPA.

In a session called “Lessons from History: 9066 to 9/11”, Jean Kariya, a former World War II internee talked about her personal wartime experiences. And Fahed Al-Rawaf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) recounted his community’s experience during 9/11.

Bruce Yamashita, a Japanese American lawyer and a former U.S. Marine Corps Reserves officer, told participants about his successful racial discrimination case against the Marine Corps. He used clips from “A Most Unlikely Hero”, a documentary about the case, to highlight the story.

JACL fellows Christine Muntaneu and Phillip Ozaki also conducted workshops on multiracial and ethnic identity and campus organizing, respectively. ■

East Coast Casinos Target Asian American Market



To attract more Asian Pacific Americans, casinos have changed their marketing plans.

Operators have hired marketing consultants to draw in new customers. Some say their actions are predatory.

By Randall Chase
Associated Press Writer

DOVER, Del.—As they add card games to their acres of slot machines, casinos in Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are targeting Asian Pacific American gamblers by focusing as much on buffet tables as on gaming tables.

The newfound attention to details is part of an open play to pull customers from Atlantic City, N.J., and tribal casinos farther north, and it has advocacy groups objecting about the racial implications.

Following the lead of high-end casinos in Las Vegas, operators such as Dover Downs and Delaware Park are hiring directors of APA player development, expanding dining areas and menus, and considering foreign-language advertising in newspapers and on billboards.

“It is a demographic that does not tend to play slot machines,” explained Andrew Gentile, chief operating officer for Delaware Park, in Wilmington.

But they do like to play baccarat and Pai Gow, a version of poker based on an ancient Chinese tile game, said Ed Sutor, president and CEO of Dover Downs Inc.

APA gamblers in the region typically have had to travel to Atlantic City or to tribal casinos in Connecticut to play their favorite games, often arriving on buses from major metropolitan areas such as Boston, New York and Washington.

Now, casino operators in Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia will compete for many of those players, especially from the Baltimore-Washington area, likely spelling more bad news for Atlantic City’s ailing casinos but possibly bolstering the growing gaming industry in surrounding states.

“There’s no secret that if you go to Las Vegas and you go to some of the upscale hotels ... you will find that those hotels cater to the Asian market,” said Frank Fahrenkopf Jr., president of the American Gaming Association, a trade group that lobbies on behalf of the gaming industry.

After the MGM Grand opened in Las Vegas in 1993, officials reworked an entrance based on the company’s trademark lion after learning some APA gamblers considered the open mouth of a lion to be bad luck, Sutor noted. He also said some casino elevators don’t have buttons for the fourth floor because four is considered an unlucky number in some APA cultures.

John Finamore, head of regional operations for Penn National Gaming, which is adding table games at its casinos in Charles Town, W. Va., and near Hershey, Pa., said there are roughly half a million APAs in the Baltimore-Washington market who can now gamble closer to home. The company has hired an APA consultant to help with its marketing plans and is adding a noodle bar and expanded Asian food offerings at Charles Town.

Tim Fong, a psychiatry professor and co-director of the gambling studies program at the University of California, Los Angeles, said gambling has long been popular in many Asian countries, including China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines.

“It’s just in the culture,” he said.

Not everyone is excited about more gambling opportunities for the APA community in the mid-Atlantic region.

“The fundamental thing is that these businesses are predatory,” said Ellen Somekawa, executive director of Asian Americans United, a Philadelphia advocacy group that has been fighting plans to build a casino near the city’s Chinatown neighborhood. “We’re concerned that it will have a harmful effect on the APA community and all the communities in Philadelphia.”

Fong said not all APAs like to gamble, and that he does not believe that the casino industry is preying on the APA population.

But he noted that studies have shown the rate of gambling addiction among APAs to be higher than in the general population, which he said may be partly attributed to the lack of services targeting problem gamblers within the community.

Fong pointed to the APA outreach initiative started by the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling in 2006 as a model that officials in the mid-Atlantic might want to consider as their states plunge into table games.

“It’s an unmet need,” he said. ■

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COMMENTARY

Remembering Dr. Robert E. Emerson

At Manzanar during World War II, Dr. Emerson encouraged me to finish what I started.

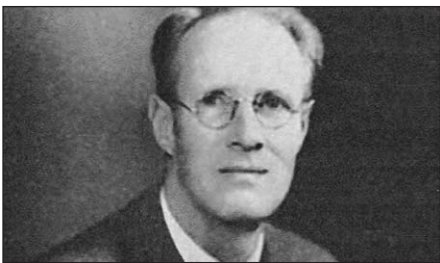
By Toshiko Nakamura Wilkinson

I didn't know very much about him. He came to Manzanar every once in awhile in his vintage Packard touring car with the top down. I heard that he saved, scrounged and borrowed gas coupons to make the trip from his home in Pasadena, Calif. I also knew that he taught botany at the California Institute of Technology. Officially he was overseeing the experimental guayule farm, a desert plant from which sap could be extracted to make a rubber-like substance.

When we met, my parents were present. Dr. Emerson was very tall and lean. He had wispy hair and wore glasses. He came right to the point. He wanted me to go back to school. My parents were appalled. Send me back to UCLA? The West Coast was still off-limits to the Japanese and people could still be hostile. Dr. Emerson explained that quite a few students who were already attending universities in the Midwest and East.

At this time, I'd already been interned for nearly three years. Of course we all practice gaman, which was so pervasive in the Japanese culture. I felt edgy and ready to jump out of my skin. Dr. Emerson came by whenever he could and finally convinced my parents that it was time for me to go.

By this time, I knew a little more about Dr. Emerson. He was the great-grandson of Ralph Waldo Emerson's brother. He was a New Englander imbued with the Yankee



Nakamura Wilkinson (top, second from left) was forced to discontinue her education at UCLA because of the WWII internment. Emerson (left) convinced her to finish what she started.

spirit — hard work, fair play, help those who need it, and dig and plant.

I'm sure there was much groundwork to be done — special permit to return to the West Coast, reenrollment at UCLA, living accommodations and transportation. When the time came for me to leave it was not easy. I was leaving my parents and my sister. I was leaving a place I had known as home for three years.

Ruth Blandin, a very good friend, and her dad were good enough to drive me to Dr. Emerson's home.

When I got out of the car, Mrs. Emerson was working in the garden. She walked toward me and extended her slightly muddy hands. I've never had such a handshake before or since. It started as a connection that would last for many years. The whole family welcomed me. I basked in their warmth and kindness for a few days and then it was time for Westwood and my dorm.

Dr. Emerson never told me that he was a Harvard graduate or that he

attended the University of Berlin where he earned his doctorate. He did not mention that he was in the midst of research having to do with photosynthesis.

Soon after the war ended, the Emerson family moved to Urbana, Illinois where he continued his research.

I was devastated to hear that on a Feb. 19, 1959 the plane, which was taking Dr. Emerson to a conference at Harvard, plunged into the East River. He was only 56 years old.

Mrs. Emerson and family moved to Lincoln, Massachusetts. I kept in touch with her over many years until an accident ended her life.

It was a brief encounter in terms of the time we spent together, but it was unforgettable. Dr. and Mrs. Emerson left an imprint on me and influenced me in profound ways. Perhaps it is his Yankee, no-nonsense voice still speaking to me, "Don't waste my time or yours, finish what you started!" ■



(L-r) Melissa Tanaka, Mika Matsumoto, Carly Meglio, Carly Yamaichi, Kelli Hashimoto, Melissa Wilcox, Alyson Yamaichi, Daren Matsuoka, Kirk Akimoto, Timothy Wang and David Santo.

JACL Chapters Present Scholarship Awards

Three JACL chapters have awarded scholarships to students from their local schools.

At its June 5 dinner, Puyallup Valley JACL honored young scholars Kaila Yoshitomi and Eric "Kirby" Ingram with scholarship awards.

Both Yoshitomi and Ingram have 3.95 grade point averages at Cleveland High School and Mercer Island High School, respectively. Both recipients will attend the University of Washington in the fall.

Twin Cities JACL's scholarship awards this year totaled \$9,000. The recipients were: Laura Cosmos Ramstad (Tom Ohno Memorial Scholarship); Joel B. Morehouse (Dr. George Hayano Memorial Scholarship); Anne Maruyama Walli (Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship); Leila Lari (Kimi Hara Memorial Scholarship); Laura Halberg (Susan Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship); Madeline Thompkins (Dr. Norman Kushino and Kay Kushino Memorial Scholarship); Tom Edwards (Earl K. and Ruth Tanbara Memorial Scholarship).

The San Jose JACL awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships to 12 high school seniors this year.

The recipients were: Daren Matsuoka (Kenji and Shizu Sakauye



Puyallup Valley JACL President Elsie Taniguchi (left) presents scholarship awards to Kaila Yoshitomi (center) and Eric 'Kirby' Ingram.

Scholarship); Tim Wang (George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship); Melissa Wilcox (Kenji Sakauye Memorial Scholarship); David Santo (Phil Matsumura Community Scholarship); Mika Matsumoto (Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship and San Jose JACL Chapter Award); Kelli Hashimoto (Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship); Melissa Tanaka (Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Vocational Scholarship); Carly Yamaichi (San Jose CYS Scholarship); Alyson Yamaichi (San Jose JACL Chapter Award); Kirk Akimoto (San Jose CYS Scholarship); Tomomi Yuasa (Karl Kinaga Memorial); and Carly Meglio (Ada Y. Uyeda Memorial Scholarship).

Members of the San Jose JACL scholarship committee were: Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, Joyce Oyama, and Sharon Uyeda, chair.

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Oct. 21-Nov. 1	Autumn Japan & Hong Kong
Nov. 2-Nov. 14	The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Christmas in Las Vegas: Shows: TBA
Dec. 2-Dec 13	Ryoma-Den Japan Tour

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Support JACL’s NPS Program

The JACL’s program “Passing the Legacy: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in the Western United States” has won a matching grant from the National Park Service in the amount of \$151,790.

The grant will help fund projects in a dozen states, and an educational outreach program to engage youth in preserving confinement sites through art, conversation, and community service.

These projects will preserve the heart and legacy of the Japanese American community and empower JA youth for future leadership roles.

To ensure the quality execution of this program and to secure future funding, the JACL needs your financial support. ■

For more information or to donate: www.jacl.org or 415/921-5225.

Preservation Work to Begin at Tule Lake Segregation Center

Fundraising has been completed to begin preservation work on a World War II-era historic structure located within the Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark area, according to the Tule Lake Committee.

Since 2007, the Tule Lake Committee sought to raise funds to match a \$197,000 Save America’s Treasures grant, a Congressional earmark that was given to stabilize and preserve the last of six historic structures in the 33-acre Segregation Center National Landmark area.

That fundraising challenge was met when the California Cultural and Historic Endowment (CCHE) approved a grant award of \$138,000.

The Tule Lake Committee had previously raised \$59,000 in matching funds, an amount that includes a \$25,000 preservation grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and the generos-

ity of many individual donors.

With the matching funds, the Tule Lake Committee can focus on the next major project - fundraising to restore the iconic jail located in Tule Lake’s infamous stockade area.

The CCHE was established by an appropriation from Proposition 40, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002.

This year marked the fourth and final round of grant-making for the CCHE, expending the residual funds from this innovative historic preservation program that has helped preserve the diverse history of California’s people and historic sites.

Members of the Tule Lake Committee’s preservation team are: Roy Ikeda, Hiroshi Shimizu, and Barbara Takei. ■

On the Web:
www.tulelake.org

Final Push in Senate For Congressional Gold Medal



By Pacific Citizen Staff

A bill that would grant World War II Japanese American veterans Congressional Gold Medals is on the verge of passing the Senate, according to the JACL.

The bill, which passed in the House of Representatives last May, needs a few more co-sponsorship from senators by the July 4.

JACL is calling for community members to call their senators to urge for support of S. 1055.

Once passed, the bill will collectively grant Congressional Gold Medals to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the U.S.

For their bravery in battle during WWII, the three Nisei units were awarded 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, over 4,000 Purple Hearts. ■

Call For Support

Here is a list of target Senators who are likely to co-sponsor by July 4. Call their offices and ask them to support S. 1055. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121 for your senator's phone number.

- Alabama - Sen. Jeff Sessions
- Arizona - Sen. John McCain
- Arkansas - Sen. Blanche Lincoln
- Delaware - Sens. Thomas Carper and Ted Kaufman
- Florida - Sens. George LeMieux and Bill Nelson
- Iowa - Sen. Chuck Grassley
- Kansas - Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts
- Kentucky - Sens. Jim Bunning and Mitch McConnell
- Massachusetts - Sen. Scott Brown
- Maine - Sen. Susan Collins
- Mississippi - Sen. Roger Wicker
- Missouri - Sens. Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill
- Montana - Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester
- Nebraska - Sens. Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns
- Nevada - Sen. Harry Reid
- New Hampshire - Sen. Judd Gregg
- New Mexico - Sen. Tom Udall
- New York - Sen. Charles E. Schumer
- North Carolina - Sens. Richard Burr and Kay Hagan
- North Dakota - Sen. Kent Conrad
- Ohio - Sen. George Voinovich
- South Carolina - Sens. Jim DeMint and Lindsey Graham
- South Dakota - Sen. John Thune
- Tennessee - Sens. Alexander Lamar and Bob Corker
- Utah - Sen. Orrin Hatch
- Vermont - Sen. Patrick Leahy
- Virginia - Sen. Jim Webb
- Wyoming - Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso

Leaders Push for JA Marker in Venice, Calif.

The ad hoc committee needs help from former internees who remember the exact location where JAs were told to gather before being taken to camp.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Phyllis Hayashibara wants the corner of a busy intersection in Venice, Calif. to be remembered for its World War II legacy.

It was April 25, 1942 on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln boulevards that Japanese Americans from the Venice area were ordered to gather and wait for buses bound for Manzanar.

It was a brief moment in time that has faded from consciousness, so Hayashibara is pushing for a marker to be placed at the intersection to remind community members about the WWII JA internment.

“Because this history is so obscure, we want to make sure it’s recognized,” said Hayashibara, a history teacher at Venice High School.

Hayashibara is part of an ad hoc committee made up for community members who want this part of history remembered.

The northwest corner is currently occupied by a carwash.

As part of the effort, Hayashibara’s students sent in letters of support urging Councilman Bill Rosendahl to support the Japanese internment memorial.

Her students also attended a city council meeting and wrote to the other 14 council members to gather support.

So far the biggest challenge has been to find former internees who either have documentation or remember that they were instructed to gather at that corner, said Hayashibara.

“We want to make sure the marker will be in the right place,” said Hayashibara, whose parents and grandparents were incarcerated at Rohwer.

“It’s a well-traveled corner with lots of foot traffic. People from this area should know about this history.” ■

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



Cleveland Obon Festival

EUCLID, OH

July 24

Cleveland Buddhist Temple
1573 E. 214th St.

It's that time of the year for obon festivals. Come join the Cleveland JACL chapter in celebrating the obon festivities at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Bring your friends and family to join in on the obon festival and dance.

Info: Call 216/556-2277 or e-mail cleveland@jacl.org

East

440/775-4435 or raebihara@aol.com

Annual Asian MBA Leadership Conference and Career Expo
NEW YORK, NY

Aug. 26 – 28

Jacob Javits
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655 W. 34th St.

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Info: Register for tickets online at www.asianmba.org

GO!

Midwest

JACL/CJAF Scholarship Luncheon

SOLON, OH

July 25, 12:30 p.m.

Shinano Restaurant
28500 Miles Rd.

The 2010 JACL and CJAF graduation celebration and scholarship luncheon recognizes all 2010 high school and college graduates. Come attend and honor your graduate!

Cost: \$18 per person; \$15 per student

Info: Call Aiko Edbihara at

JACL Community Picnic
SUMMIT COUNTY, OH

Aug. 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Summit County Metro Park
Bring your family and friends to enjoy the outdoors for a fun day and a picnic. There will be games, relays, prizes for children, food, hiking and more!

Cost: Donation onsite to CJAF scholarship and community service activities.

Info: Call 216/556-2277 or e-mail cleveland@jacl.org

Super Senior Luncheon

St. Louis Park, MN

July 3, 12 noon

Grand City Buffet
8912 Highway 7

If you are 75 or older (75 in 2010) you will be our guest free of charge. Nikkei Project, TCBA and JACL members, spouses, relatives and friends under 75 are welcome to join

us.

Cost: Buffet lunch is \$11

Info: Call Todd Tsuchiya at 952/975-0047 or e-mail

ttsuchiya@comcast.net

N Calif. W Nev. Pac

Diablo Valley Scholarship Luncheon

PLEASANT HILL, CA

July 11, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

El Tapatio Restaurant
40 Golf Club Road
Come and meet the 2010 Diablo Valley JACL and Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki Endowment college scholarship recipients at the annual scholarship luncheon.

Cost: \$20 per person

Info: Call Tomoko Roudebush at 925/817-8177 or e-mail tomoko-roudebush@yahoo.com

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Golf Tournament

SAN JOSE, CA

Sept. 13, 11 a.m.

San Jose Country Club
15571 Alum Rock Ave.

Attend the third annual golf tournament fundraiser for the building fund.

Cost: \$175 entry fee

Info: Call 408/293-9292 or e-mail sjbc@sjbetsuin.com

Pacific Southwest

LEAP

Leadership Annual Awards
LOS ANGELES, CA

July 22, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Omni Los Angeles Hotel
251 S. Olive St.
This gala dinner celebrates the leadership and accomplishments of individuals and organizations that exemplify the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics mission to achieve full participation and equality for Asian Pacific Americans through leadership, empowerment and

policy.

Info: Call 213/485-1422 or e-mail leap@leap.org

TN Party: Annual Benefit

LOS ANGELES, CA

July 31, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro Street
Tuesday Night Project (TNP) will celebrate its 12th year of bringing together thousands of people to live performances. Everyone is welcome!

Cost: \$15 presale, seniors and students; \$20 general admission; children 12 and under are free.

Info: Visit <http://www.tuesdaynight-project.org/party>

AADAP Annual Benefit Concert
LOS ANGELES, CA

Aug. 28, 6 p.m.

Aratani/Japan America Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.

Please join the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, or AADAP, in celebrating 38 years of service at the 17th annual benefit concert Showtime 2010. Showtime 2010 is also proud to present Tim Be Told, a pop-rock quintet.

Info: Call 323/293-6284 or visit www.aadapinc.org

AAJA's J Camp

LOS ANGELES, CA

July 30 – Aug. 4

Loyola Marymount University

Forty-two high school students from across the country will be selected to participate in the five-day program to sharpen their journalism skills.

Info: Nao Vang at 415/ 346-2051 X 102 or programs@aja.org

SEE!

Hiroshige: Visions of Japan
PASADENA, CA

June 4–Jan. 17

Norton Simon Museum

411 W. Colorado Blvd.

See an exhibition of nearly 200 prints by Utagawa Hiroshige, one of the most celebrated artists of his time.

Cost: \$8/ general admission; \$4 for seniors

Info: Call 626/449-6840 or visit www.nortonsimon.org

Seventh Annual Asian Heritage Awards

SAN DIEGO, CA

July 10, 6:30 p.m.

USS Midway Museum

910 N. Harbor Drive

You're invited to celebrate the Seventh Annual Asian Heritage Awards and gala dinner honoring achievement in the

Asian and Pacific Islander community.

Cost: \$125 per person; \$1,250 per table

Info: Call 619/408-9928 or visit event@AsianHeritageSociety.org

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18-year-old Hapa is a Doctor in Training

Brandon Sklar is one of two Asian Pacific Americans participating in a new University of Colorado medical program.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

For 18-year-old Brandon Sklar, the comparison is too easy to resist: he is the real life Doogie Howser, MD.

Of course Sklar has two years on the fictional teenage doctor from the 1990s television character, but in August the Grandville High School graduate will start a rigorous, eight-year program at the University of Colorado, Denver.

"It really is all still surreal to me," said Sklar to the *Pacific Citizen*. "Six months ago I couldn't have imagined being accepted into medical school being only 18. I don't want to say that I got lucky to be accepted into this program, but I am truly blessed to be a part of it."

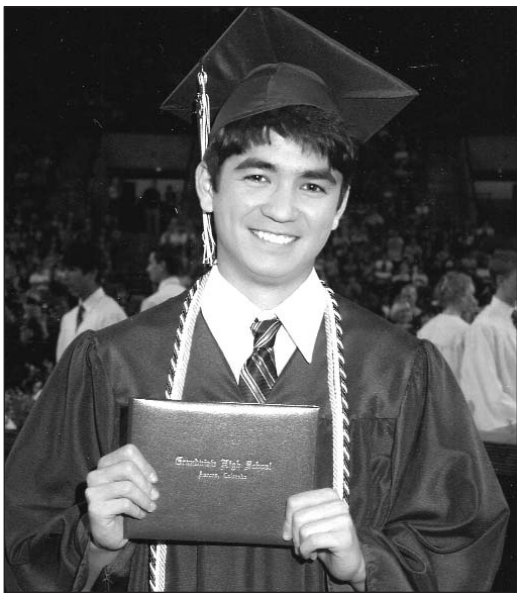
As one of the 10 students across Colorado participating in the university's new Health Professions Program, Sklar will receive financial support for his early commitment to become a physician. Sklar, who is of Filipino, Chinese and Caucasian descent, is of the two Asian Pacific American students in the program.

Students will receive \$40,000 in scholarships for their first four years at the university's Denver campus, and an additional, unspecified sum for their following four years at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

It's an academic path that will include intensive

'It really is all still surreal to me.'

Brandon Sklar, 18 years old



seminars, summer research labs and a specific focus on building a career in medicine.

According to program officials, the joint program between the university's College of Liberal Arts and its School of Medicine is meant to encourage a new generation of diverse, home-grown physicians.

"We're trying to do whatever we can to increase representation from a number of different groups — educationally and financially disadvantaged

students and rural students.

"Part of that is because we're seeing a growing population in the U.S. of underrepresented minorities," said Charles Ferguson, an associate professor in the university's Department of Integrated Biology and the director of the scholarship program. "The second real important goal there is to keep them in Colorado. A lot of our students go out of state to go to medical school and often times don't come back."

For Sklar, who was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, the appeal of becoming a doctor became clear on a family trip to the Philippines, where his mother was born and much of his family still lives.

"To travel to the Philippines and look out of my car window on the highway and see large areas of slums where poverty runs rampant, it really gave me a priceless perspective that helped me to never take anything that I have for granted again, health care being one of them."

Sklar hasn't started the program yet, but already the heckling from friends and family members has already begun. They jokingly ask for deals on various health care procedures from the aspiring doctor.

Doogie Howser didn't have it that bad.

The recent high school graduate can't wait for college life.

"I look forward to literally everything!" he said. "I am really excited to room with the other kids in the program who have similar passions as I do, the same kids I will get to know over the next 8 years of my life (and maybe longer than that)." ■

AWIB Scholarships Available

Asian Women in Business will award \$2,500 scholarships to female Asian Pacific American students who demonstrate a commitment to scholarship, leadership, community service and/or entrepreneurship.

Candidates must be female of Asian descent or Pacific Islander ancestry.

Candidates must a U.S. citizen or permanent resident enrolled full time in an accredited four-year undergraduate institution in the U.S. with a minimum of 3.0 grade point average at the time of application and award. Applicants must also have demonstrated leadership roles in a community or have a record of entrepreneurial achievement.

Semi-finalists will be required to provide their official college transcript. All application materials must be postmarked by Aug. 1.

Semifinalists will be notified in September and winners will be notified in November.

Founded in 1995, AWIB is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist APA women entrepreneurs. ■

For more information:
www.awib.org or 212/868-1368

American Holiday Travel

2010 Tour Schedule

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

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AMERICA'S CANYONLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR	MAR 31-APR 7
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR	APRIL
DANUBE RIVER HOLIDAY CRUISE	JUNE
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUNE

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