

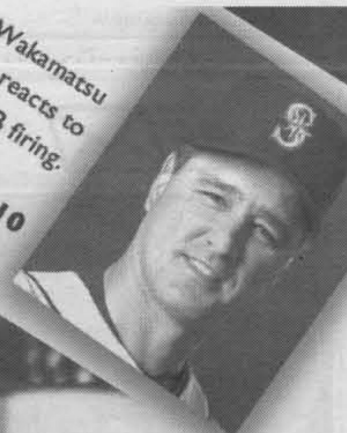
Calif.'s Prop. 8 Upheld Until December. >> **PAGE 5**

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

AUG. 20-SEPT. 2, 2010 [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

The national newspaper of the JACL

Wakamatsu  
reacts to  
MLB firing.  
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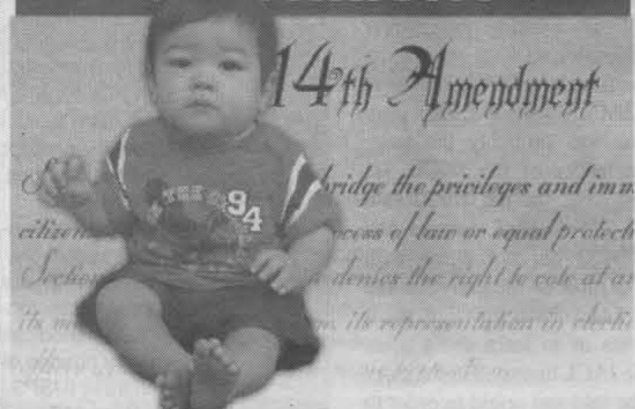
## GOLD MEDALS FOR HEROES

World War II Nisei veterans are poised to  
receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

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PHOTO: SEN. DAN INOUE COLLECTION

### BIRTHRIGHT



#### 14th Amendment

Will the much  
debated  
birthright  
amendment  
affect APAs?

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### FASHION PROJECT



Ivy Higa and  
Andy South  
are vying for  
top honors on  
'Project  
Runway.'

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Pacific Citizen's Digital Archives

Thank you for your important efforts in making available all the past issues of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper ("Readers Can Now Access *Pacific Citizen* Archives" Aug 6-19).

"Knowledge is power," comes to mind. May we all keep learning from the past.

**Edith Kawamoto Frederick  
Gilroy JACL**

## Respect For Ehren Watada

In regards to Edgar A. Hamasu's letter to the editor in the June 18-July 1, 2010, issue of the *Pacific Citizen* ... well said.

I am a former U.S. Marine and

Vietnam veteran and I remember disagreeing with the accusations from some veterans that Lt. Ehren Watada disgraced veterans of Japanese American descent. How so? One should only feel disgraced by one's own actions — not the actions of another ... same race or not.

If Watada read something that

made him believe the war in Iraq was illegal and or immoral, I respect him for making his stand... like the Nisei incarcerated at Tule Lake. I admire the courage exhibited in both circumstances.

**G. H. (Fuji) Fujiwara  
Detroit, Michigan**

\*\*\*

## More Attention For Evacuees

There are those of us who evacuated voluntarily. Not much has been in print about their experiences. I finished UCLA on Jan. 28, 1942, and on the 29th the evacuation orders were posted on the telephone poles in our neighborhood on the outskirts of Hawthorne, Calif.

Mayor Raymond V. Darby of Inglewood gathered five families and encouraged us to evacuate on our own. He had a relative in Longmont, Colorado. So it was that my family traveled by train to Longmont. My father, however, had been taken by the FBI and sent to a detention camp in the San Fernando Valley. We were able to rent a house on the outskirts of the city of Brighton. While waiting for Bekins Storage to bring our

belongings, the neighbors posted a sign saying they would not accept us.

So it was that we ended up on a farm owned by a German family in Fort Lupton. With an active JACL we felt fortunate to be in that location, so far from the war hysteria of the Hearst newspapers.

In 1943 I visited Amache Relocation Center in Granada, Colorado. What an insufferable dusty and windy place! I got a taste of camp life. The other wartime story worthy of mention is the University of Nebraska's invitation for 65 evacuees to continue their studies there.

**Tak Fujimura  
Los Alamito, Calif.**

## WRITE TO US

Send signed letters with your name and contact information to:

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Letters

*Pacific Citizen*

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## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Remembering Mike Masaoka



**By Floyd Mori**

The exhibit, "Go for Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts," which honors JA soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the Military Intelligence and Language Services, and the JA women in the Women's Army Corps who served valiantly during World War II at a time when they were looked upon as the enemy, is open to the public at Ellis Island.

Eric Saul, a noted historian who has done extensive work in telling the JA story, is the curator of the exhibit. He has dedicated the

exhibit to Mike Masaoka.

The JACL was formed in 1929 by the Nisei to combat discriminatory influences and law. Mike became an early leader of the organization. Mike was born in Fresno, Calif., on Oct. 15, 1915. He was the fourth of eight children born to Issei, Japanese immigrant parents. When he was a few years old, his father moved the family to Salt Lake City, Utah. Mike attended West High School and the University of Utah where he was a champion debater.

After graduating from college in 1937, Mike became a leader in the JACL after organizing the Intermountain District Council. At the age of 25, Mike was named the national secretary and field executive, which began a long history with the JACL.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan, the Japanese immigrants and Japanese

Americans faced increased discrimination. Mike was sent by the JACL to Washington, D.C. to work for the abolition of internment camps and mitigate the

effects of relocation. He encouraged cooperation with the government. He worked for the reinstatement of JAs into the military. The result was the creation of a segregated unit

of JAs which became the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Mike joined the unit which served with distinction in Italy and France during WWII.

After returning from military service, Mike became the JACL Washington representative and worked to reform immigration and naturalization laws. He later played a role in the proceedings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians from which the Civil

Liberties Act of 1988 became law, which allowed for Redress. His JACL friends formed the JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship in his honor.

Mike met his wife Etsu Mineta when she was incarcerated with her family at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. They were married in 1943 before leaving for Washington, D.C. Mike passed away in 1991 after suffering with heart problems. He is survived by his wife Etsu and granddaughter Michelle Amano of Maryland. Etsu will be one of the honorees at the JACL Gala in D.C. this year.

Mike was probably the best-known leader of the JACL. He worked hard for the JACL, but he was not without enemies and critics who did not agree with him. As most of the early leaders of the JACL have now left us, it behooves us to learn about them and the JACL history. The JA story must be told and retold in order to guarantee the liberties which we enjoy today. ■

**RELATED STORY:  
'Dedication Held  
For "Go For  
Broke" Exhibit'**

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## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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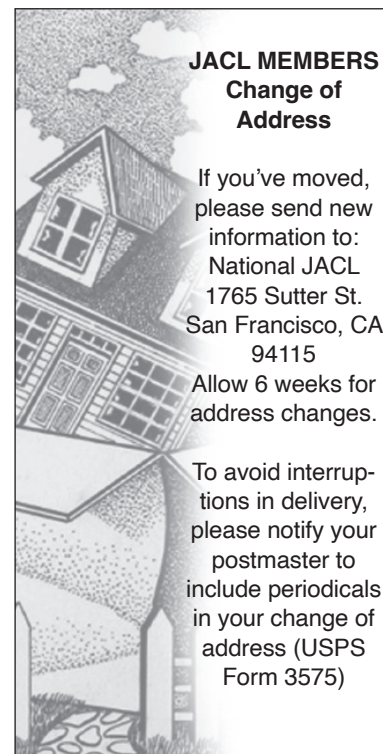
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# 'Long Overdue' Congressional Gold Medal Passes the Senate



World War II veterans Hershey Miyamura (pictured left with President Dwight Eisenhower) and Sen. Daniel Inouye would both receive the Congressional Gold Medal if the bill passes.

**Community groups and veterans' organizations say they are confident as the Congressional Gold Medal legislation moves to the House.**

By Nalea J. Ko and Lynda Lin

Behind the barbed wire fence at Heart Mountain, Frank Kageta dreamed of joining the U.S. Army. He tried to volunteer for service, but his parents protested, so Kageta waited patiently for the Army to call while World War II raged on in distant lands.

"All the while I kept calling the Army," joked the Rocklin, Calif. resident, now 90. "[The Army] wasn't for everyone, but it was for me."

Kageta was drafted in 1943 and almost immediately shipped off to combat with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. His many medals and commendations are tucked away in a box. He's most proud of his combat citation. Soon, he may be able to add a Congressional Gold Medal to his collection.

"That's a high honor. That's big time," said Kageta, a Placer County JACL member.

Japanese American veterans like Kageta who fought during World War II will receive what some are calling long-overdue recognition, after the Congressional Gold Medal bill passed in the Senate.

The legislation passed unanimously in the Senate on Aug. 2 with 73 co-sponsors.

The bill recognizes the sacrifices and heroism of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, or MIS. It is Congress' highest civilian honor.

Over 30,000 JAs served in WWII despite being classified as "enemy aliens" and incarcerated behind barbed wire after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is known as the deadliest war in history.

Among the JA soldiers were war heroes like Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor recipient and now the Senate president pro-tempore who is third in line for presidential succession.

"I am humbled and appreciative of the honor bestowed

upon our unit by the U.S. Senate," said Inouye in a statement to the *Pacific Citizen*.

In 1943, when the U.S. Army dropped its ban on Japanese Americans, Inouye — then a student at the University of Hawaii — enlisted in the Army.

With the 442nd RCT, Inouye served in Italy and France. While leading an attack, Inouye was shot in the chest above his heart, but the bullet was stopped by the two silver dollars he had stacked in his shirt pocket.

"I fought and bled alongside many gallant and brave men who gave their lives in defense of our great nation and my only regret is that more of them are not around to share this high honor," he added.

"It's long overdue," said Craig Uchida, board chairman of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation board, which is one of 22 WWII veterans' organizations and nonprofits in the National Veterans Network. "The MIS in particular, their stories haven't been heard that much. It's way past overdue."

JACL has been working to pass the Congressional Gold Medal bill since it was first introduced in the House in 2009. The bill was later amended to include the heroic deeds of the MIS.

"The JACL is extremely pleased that the Gold Medal bill passed," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "In Washington, D.C. our fellows Jean Shiraki and Phillip Ozaki went door-to-door in the Senate and visited over 50 offices. And we feel it's a lot of their effort that helped to bring many of the senators to vote yes on the bill. We're happy for the bill. We're happy for the veterans. We look forward to some ceremonies and celebrations that will commemorate this."

He added: "The bill going back to the House should have no problem at all. It's a matter of finding the time and formality to do it, so for all practical purposes the bill is on its way to the president for signature."

About 6,000 JAs served in the MIS during WWII. They were tasked with conducting classified intelligence operations. Their contributions to the war included intercepting radio transmissions, interrogating enemy prisoners of war and translating enemy documents, among other things.

"These brave Japanese Americans enlisted in the Army and fought for their country even as many of their family members and friends were sent to internment camps. This

recognition of their service and patriotism is long overdue," said Calif. Sen. Barbara Boxer, who introduced the bill in the Senate.

It was not until the Freedom of Information Act passed in 1974 that their contributions were brought to light.

Due to the secrecy of the MIS, some say their sacrifices and heroism has been overlooked. Many hope to continue raising awareness about JAs who served in WWII.

"With the passage of this bill, we hope that it will further increase awareness of their contributions to generations of Americans about their bravery, service and sacrifice," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, chair for National Veterans Network.

The 100th Battalion/442nd RCT is known as the most highly decorated unit for its size during WWII. Soldiers received 4,000 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor, seven Presidential Unit Citations, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 560 Silver Stars, 15 Soldier's Medals and 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, among other honors.

"After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese Americans, these brave men who enlisted to fight to protect our nation were faced with segregated training conditions, families and friends relocated to internment camps, and repeated questions about their combat abilities," said Rep. Adam Schiff, who introduced the bill in the House.

"Man for man they were the most highly decorated combat units of the war. I can't imagine a group more deserving of Congress' highest honor," he added.

Thirty thousand dollars from the U.S. Mint Public Enterprise Fund will be used to create the gold medal. After the medal is awarded in honor of the JA veterans it will be on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Duplicate bronze medals will be made available, and some are already planning their orders as the bill moves to the House for approval.

"We're 99 percent there," said Uchida.

For veterans like Kageta, it's never been about glory.

"At the core of the whole thing is the idea that we've made it a little bit better for everybody else," he said. "It's a privilege that people are still trying to understand what happened to us." ■



# Arguments to Repeal Birthright Citizenship is a Case of Déjà-Vu for Many JAs



**Today's arguments to repeal birthright citizenship for U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants smack of the same racist arguments presented in the 1940s.**

By Nalea J. Ko and Caroline Aoyagi-Stom

In the 1940s the group Native Sons of the Golden West launched a concerted effort to deny all Japanese U.S. citizenship. They also sought to deny citizenship to their U.S.-born children.

Their efforts failed but now some Republicans are resurrecting the idea some 60 years later. In July, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said he plans to propose an amendment to repeal birthright citizenship and he's being joined by some leading Republicans. Their plan would require changing the 14th Amendment which grants citizenship to U.S.-born children.

"There is a problem," Sen. John Boehner said on NBC's "Meet The Press" on Aug. 8. "To provide an incentive for illegal immigrants to come here so that their children can be U.S. citizens does, in fact, draw more people to our country. I do think that it's time for us to secure our borders and enforce the law and allow this conversation about the 14th Amendment to continue."

Proponents believe there's an immigration problem in the U.S. that needs to be addressed. And the 14th Amendment, they say, has been misrepresented from its original purpose of granting citizenship to freed slaves.

But Asian Americans believe the proposal is unrealistic and counterproductive.

"It's not a serious proposal," said Bill Ong Hing, law professor at the University of San Francisco. "But to say to change the constitution is basically impossible. So they have a better chance of passing some other law than they do of amending the constitution."

The Obama administration has spoken out against a constitutional amendment. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says that it is "just wrong" to reconsider the 14th Amendment.

An estimated 340,000 babies were born to undocumented citizens in 2008, according to an Aug. 11 report by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group in Washington. The report also found that more than four percent of U.S.

adults are undocumented.

Those who oppose repealing birthright citizenship say the constitutional amendment proposal is likely just a tactic to deter comprehensive immigration reform.

"They want to just incite more anti-immigrant sentiment. That's probably the best way of putting it," Hing added, "It's impossible to happen, so they just want to put it out there to incite more anti-immigrant sentiment."

For many Japanese Americans, the current debate about birthright citizenship sounds all too familiar. In the early 1940s the JACL, NAACP and the ACLU formed an unprecedented coalition to fight against the efforts of the Native Sons to deny citizenship to the Nisei and their children.

In *Regan v. King*, the Native Sons were attempting to repeal the 1898 Supreme Court ruling in favor of Wong Kim Ark — a Chinese American who won the right to hold property and vote — a ruling that helped to establish the principle of birthright citizenship.

Americans of Japanese ancestry were being confined behind barbed wire internment camps during World War II and the Native Sons cited racist arguments in their efforts to change Amendment 14. Leading the JACL efforts at the time was JACL National President Saburo Kido.

In a June 1942 *Pacific Citizen* editorial, Kido writes about the Native Sons: "This group has attacked all the basic civil rights of the American citizen of Japanese ancestry, including the right of franchise and even the right of citizenship. Today if anyone is a fifth columnist, it is the pseudo-patriot who hides behind the cloak of patriotism and the flag and creates race hatred and stirs up disunity."

After several rulings against the Native Sons, in May 1943 the High Court refused to review *Regan v. King* thus killing their case.

"It's our position that immigrants are very key to our economy, to our way of life as Americans. That is the engine of the American dream. [That] is why immigrants come here," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "So the birthright movement I think is very shortsighted ... we're all immigrants except Native Americans and Native Hawaiians."

"It's actually foolish to think that this birthright that has been with us since this country began should be repealed. So we are concerned. We hope that people who understand this will express their voice that immigrant birthright is something that is as American as anything can be."

Now six decades later some groups are trying to pick up

where the Native Sons left off.

The heightened talks of making a constitutional amendment have some undocumented citizens questioning the future.

"I just couldn't imagine, immigration or hospital officials in delivery rooms, asking for residency papers from the parents," said Jong-Min, who is undocumented, and agreed to be interviewed under partial anonymity.

"Regardless, the number of illegal immigrants would skyrocket, and not because of the sole reason of having undocumented parents, but due to the rigorous requirements of such a bill," he said.

Many say repealing birthright citizenship would primarily target U.S.-born children with undocumented parents. More than one million Asian Pacific Americans are undocumented, explained Meredith Higashi, staff attorney with the Asian American Justice Center. About two-thirds of the APA community is foreign-born.

"The denial of citizenship to a segment of the population born within this country is completely counter to the principles enshrined in the 14th Amendment — the cornerstone of American civil rights — by its framers and upheld by the Supreme Court numerous times," Higashi said.

APAs are hopeful that the process to make a constitutional amendment would make this proposal nearly impossible.

A constitutional amendment would require two-thirds support from the House and Senate, Hing said. Three-fourths of the state legislatures would also have to approve such an amendment. The possibility of getting that type of support to alter the 14th Amendment is something some lawyers question.

"That level of consensus on the issue of repealing birthright citizenship is not there, and it is even more unrealistic as a legitimate proposal if legislators were to consider the burdensome and complicated repercussions proof-of-citizenship measures would have on all Americans," said Higashi.

Professor Greg Robinson believes the Native Sons in the 1940s were driven by "a fundamental motivation of white supremacy."

He adds, "While today racial equality is widely accepted, and public anxieties about immigration no longer center on Asians, it is worth remembering why the principle of birthright citizenship is valuable and the consequences of abolishing it unpredictable. ■"



# Calif.'s Proposition 8 Upheld Until December

**Celebration over a judge's decision to overturn the voter-passed initiative was short-lived.**

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

California's Ninth Circuit Court has extended a stay on same-sex marriages until it reviews a district judge's ruling that a ban on such marriages is unconstitutional.

This is the latest turn in the legal battle over California's voter-approved ban of same-sex marriages. Just days before, some Asian Pacific Americans were celebrating Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's Aug. 4 decision to overturn Proposition 8 citing its unconstitutional violation of same-sex couples' civil rights.

"The court case and the language of the judge's decision I think was beautiful," said Eileen Ma, who attended a West Hollywood rally to celebrate the overturning of Proposition 8.

Marriage equality proponents were hopeful that same-sex marriages would be allowed starting Aug. 18.

But in an Aug. 16 brief order, Ninth Circuit judges Sidney Thomas, Edward Levy and

Michael Daly Hawkins, extended the stay.

The panel requested the first briefs to be filed in September and for the appeal to be heard in court in December.

Proponents of Proposition 8 argued that a stay of Walker's order was required "to avoid the confusion and irreparable injury that would flow from the creation of a class of purported same-sex marriages."

"We are confident we do have standing to seek the appellate review here, and we realize this case has just begun and we will get the decision overturned on appeal," said Jim Campbell, an Alliance Defense Fund lawyer who is part of the legal team defending Proposition 8.

But APA civil rights groups, including the JACL say the fight for equal rights must continue.

"Any union of a couple that is based on love, mutual respect, sacrifice and commitment should be afforded the same legal rights," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Discrimination against any group of people has no place in our society."

JACL is a longtime supporter of marriage equality. In 1967, the JACL was an amicus to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of  *Loving v. Virginia*, the landmark case that struck down anti-miscegenation in 17 states.



Same-sex couples are cautiously optimistic after Prop. 8 ruling.

down anti-miscegenation in 17 states.

In 1994, the JACL became the first non-lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender group after the ACLU to support marriage equality.

California voters passed Proposition 8 as a state constitutional amendment in November 2008, five months after the California

Supreme Court legalized same-sex unions and an estimated 18,000 same-sex couples already had married.

Currently, same-sex couples can legally wed only in Massachusetts, Iowa, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Washington, D.C. ■

## U.S. Joins Hiroshima A-bomb Memorial for 1st Time

**Nagasaki marks the anniversary with no U.S. presence.**

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

HIROSHIMA, Japan—A U.S. representative participated for the first time Aug. 6 in Japan's annual commemoration of the American atomic bombing of Hiroshima, in a 65th anniversary event that organizers hope will bolster global efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

The Nagasaki bombing commemoration was held three days later but with no U.S. representative in attendance.

The site of the world's first A-bomb attack echoed with the choirs of schoolchildren and the solemn ringing of bells as Hiroshima marked its biggest memorial yet. At 8:15 a.m. — the time the bomb dropped, incinerating most of the city — a moment of silence was observed.

Hiroshima's mayor welcomed Washington's decision to send U.S. Ambassador John Roos to the commemoration, which began with an offering of water to the 140,000 who died in the first of two nuclear bombings that prompted Japan's surrender in World War II.

Mayor Tadatosh Akiba is also hoping that President Barack Obama will visit Hiroshima, an idea that Obama has said he would like to consider but that would be highly controversial and unprecedented for a sitting U.S. president.

"We need to communicate to every corner of the globe the intense yearning of the survivors for the abolition of nuclear weapons," Akiba told the 55,000 people at the ceremony.



The U.S. participated in the commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima for the first time this year. Pictured above is the Hiroshima Peace Arch Dome.

Along with the U.S., nuclear powers Britain and France also made their first official appearance at the memorial, as well as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Altogether, 74 nations were represented.

China, which sent a low-ranking official in 2008, was not participating. Officials said Beijing did not give a reason.

Hiroshima was careful to ensure that the memorial — while honoring the dead — emphasized a forward-looking approach, focusing not on whether the bombing was justified, a point which many Japanese dispute, but on averting any future nuclear attacks.

Roos said the memorial was a chance to show resolve toward nuclear disarmament, which Obama has emphasized as one of his administration's top objectives.

"For the sake of future generations, we must continue to work together to realize a world without nuclear weapons," Roos said in a statement.

The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty's 190 member countries in May adopted a plan to speed up arms reductions and take further steps toward banning nuclear arms in the Middle East.

The nuclear treaty recognizes five atomic-weapon states — the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China. India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea have also developed nuclear weapons but are not party to the treaty.

About 140,000 people were killed or died within months when the American B-29 "Enola Gay" bombed Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. Three days later, about 80,000 people died after the United States also bombed Nagasaki.

Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II. To this day, the bombings remain the only time nuclear weapons have been unleashed.

The United States decided to drop the bombs because Washington believed it would hasten the end of the war and avert

the need to wage prolonged and bloody land battles on Japan's main island. That concern was heightened by Japan's desperate efforts to control outlying islands such as Iwo Jima and Okinawa as the Allies closed in.

Concerns that attending the anniversary ceremony would reopen old wounds had kept the U.S. away until this year.

Former President Jimmy Carter visited Hiroshima's Peace Museum in 1984, years after he was out of office. The highest-ranking American to visit while in office is House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who went in 2008. Roos also visited Hiroshima soon after assuming his post last year.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters in Washington that Obama believed "it would be appropriate to recognize this anniversary" by sending Roos to the annual memorial.

At Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park Aug. 6, leftist groups in trucks blared anti-U.S. slogans to the crowds.

"The bombing of Hiroshima was totally unnecessary," said one group. "U.S., take your nukes and go home."

Still, Obama remains a popular figure in Japan — Obama T-shirts are on sale at the Peace Park's museum — and many would welcome a visit.

Katsuko Nishibe, a 61-year-old peace activist, said she welcomed the decision to send Roos, but added that she thought it was dangerous to think that the bombing of Hiroshima was justified.

"We have a very different interpretation of history. But we can disagree about history and still agree that peace is what is important. That is the real lesson of Hiroshima." ■



## Calif. Senate Passes Fred Korematsu Day Bill



Korematsu's (center) legal team successfully vacated his WWII conviction in 1983.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A bill that would honor civil rights icon Fred Korematsu with his own special day is now even closer to becoming a reality.

In a unanimous vote of 34 to 0 the California Senate passed AB 1775, the Fred Korematsu Day bill on Aug. 9. The bill now heads back to the Assembly for concurrence before its final stop on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk in August or September. The Assembly had earlier passed the bill with another unanimous vote of 64 to 0.

When Korematsu and his family were forcibly sent to the World War II internment camps, Korematsu fought his incarceration in 1944 but eventually lost his case. In 1983, with the help of various community attorneys, he brought his case once again before the Supreme Court and won. Bill supporters believe Korematsu's fight to restore his civil rights has relevance in today's post-9/11 environment.

"The incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent did not happen in ancient history; it happened less than 70 years ago," said Assemblymember

Warren Furutani, sponsor of AB 1775. "The decision to overturn his conviction in 1983 is a milestone for modern civil rights because it sends a message that even during times of real or perceived crisis, we must protect our fundamental civil liberties."

AB 1775 would encourage schools in California to teach students about Fred Korematsu's civil rights

story. If the governor signs the bill the first Fred Korematsu Day would be celebrated on Jan. 30, 2011 — the late Korematsu's birthday. If the bill passes, the Fred T. Korematsu Institute of Civil Rights and Education at the Asian Law Caucus plans to roll out relevant curriculum in K-12 schools on each Korematsu Day.

"My father's experiences around the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and his subsequent redemption shape how we discuss civil liberties today," said Karen Korematsu. "Honoring my father on Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on his birthday keeps his legacy alive."

■

### LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN

Letters supporting Fred Korematsu day can be mailed to:

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

or faxed/emailed to Leilani Aguinaldo Yee, Assemblymember Warren Furutani's office, 916/319-2155 or Leilani.yee@asm.ca.gov.

## Inouye Mourns Loss of Best Friend Stevens



Inouye (right) called his friendship with the former Alaska senator, who was killed in a plane crash, 'a very special one.'

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye says he has lost his brother.

The island Democrat made the statement Aug. 10 in a Washington news release following the announcement that former Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska had been killed in a plane crash about 325 miles from Anchorage.

Stevens, a Republican, was Inouye's best friend in the Senate.

Inouye called their friendship "a very special one." He says when it came to policy, he and Stevens disagreed more often than not, but they were never disagreeable with one another — always positive and forthright.

Inouye says he and Stevens worked together to ensure the noncontiguous states of Hawaii and Alaska weren't forgotten by the lower 48. ■

# National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Dismissal of Former South Dakota Guard Colonel's Suit Upheld

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.—The federal appeals court has upheld the dismissal of a discrimination lawsuit against the South Dakota National Guard, the Army National Guard and three commanders.

Nancy Wetherill claimed discrimination based on her gender and Japanese American heritage.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier dismissed the lawsuit last August, saying she couldn't hear the case because the alleged conduct was military in nature and a civilian court couldn't decide it.

Wetherill said she was unfairly denied benefits despite being the only Asian American female officer in the South Dakota National Guard and the only female to have reached her rank.

### Hawaii Lawmaker Plans Resolution to Ban N-word

HONOLULU—A Hawaii state lawmaker intends to introduce a symbolic resolution banning the N-word after he heard talk radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger say it on air.

Rep. John Mizuno has said the resolution wouldn't have the effect of law, but he hopes it would send a message that the word is hateful and offensive.

Mizuno said he felt compelled to create the resolution after he heard Schlessinger say it was OK to use the N-word, which Mizuno argues shouldn't be listed in the dictionary or acknowledged in society.

The resolution would be considered by the state Legislature when it returns to the Capitol in January.

### Duckworth Earns Fixed-wing Aircraft License



SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth can fly again.

Duckworth was a helicopter pilot in Iraq when she lost both her legs and partial use of one arm in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in 2004. The Illinois Army National Guard said Duckworth has earned Federal Aviation Administration certification to

pilot fixed-wing aircraft.

Guard officials say Duckworth completed about six months of training before receiving the certification on July 19 in Virginia. Duckworth says the license "fills in the gap in my life that has been there since the day I was shot down."

### California High Court Upholds Affirmative Action Ban

SAN FRANCISCO—California's highest court has upheld the state's 14-year-old law barring preferential treatment of women and minorities in public school admissions, government hiring and contracting.

In a 6-1 ruling, the state Supreme Court rejected arguments from the city of San Francisco and Attorney General Jerry Brown that the law, known as Proposition 209, violates federal equality protections.

Opponents of the ban say it creates barriers for minorities and women that don't exist for other groups, such as veterans seeking preference.

### Asian Americans Intervene in Georgia Voting Rights Lawsuit

LOS ANGELES—The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) has intervened in *Georgia v. Holder*, a lawsuit to approve the State of Georgia's new voter verification procedures. The matter is pending in federal court in Washington, D.C.

The lawsuit seeks to overturn an objection by the Department that the state's voter registration procedures are flawed and discriminatory.

Georgia also asks the court to declare unconstitutional the enforcement provision (Section 5) of the Voting Rights Act.

The intervention was filed on behalf of Marvin Lim, a naturalized citizen in Georgia who registered to vote but was told just days before the 2008 election that he could not vote. ■



# APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

## Oregon Nikkei Endowment Receives a \$20,000 Grant

**Oregon Nikkei Endowment** has received a \$20,000 grant from the **Oregon Community Foundation** to fund the remodel of the current community room. This is the first grant Oregon Nikkei Endowment has received from the foundation in its 20-year history.

## Winners of Midori Kai Grants Announced

**Midori Kai, Inc.** has announced the recipients of its 2010-11 grants: **Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco**, **Japanese American Museum of San Jose**, **Yu-Ai Kai** (Keiro Kai event), and the **Ed Iwasaki Memorial Fund**.

Every two years, Midori Kai, Inc, a professional women's organization in the Bay Area, conducts a grant program for organizations that are consistent with their mission statement.

Grant recipients will be honored at the Sept. 11 Midori Kai Boutique at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple Gymnasium.

## New Nisei Week Queen is Crowned



**Lani Kume Nishiyama**, a 24-year-old student, has been selected Nisei Week Queen 2010.

The Nisei Week queen is considered as the goodwill ambassador representing the Japanese American community in Southern California. The queen and her court will visit Nagoya, Japan, Honolulu, Seattle, San Francisco and numerous local events during their one year term.

Nishiyama was recommended by the **West Los Angeles JACL** and **Venice Japanese Community Center**.

Nishiyama is currently pursuing an acting career and is a student of the Wayne Dvorak Acting Studio.

## JACL Summer Interns Complete Assignments in D.C.



(L-r) Bonny Tsang, Rebecca Tien, JACL National Director Floyd Mori and Bruce Kung.

The **JACL's** summer intern season has ended for college student interns from the Environmental Protection Agency. **Bruce Kung**, **Rebecca Tien**, and **Bonny Tsang** are completing their assignments at the **JACL Washington, D.C.** office. The students were positioned in the JACL through the EPA to work on environmental issues.

Kung and Tien were fellows in the International Leadership Foundation program and Tsang an intern for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

## Okamoto, Ma to Receive OCA Awards

OCA San Mateo is honoring JACLer **Steve Okamoto** and San Francisco Assemblywoman **Fiona Ma** at its Sept. 11 fundraiser and awards gala.

Honorees are being recognized for their leadership in the APA community. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN YOSHITOMI

Issei pioneers like Tatsumi Taketa (*second from left*) gained access to American society through sawmill work.

# PNW Mill Workers, Descendents Sought For Historical Site Interpretation

## Mill operations in Thurston County employed many Japanese Americans.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Before World War II Issei mill workers lived and established roots in the Puget Sound area, but left behind a little known legacy, according to a historian who is searching for their descendents to reconstruct the area's early Japanese American history.

"There is an opportunity here to tell a much more interesting story than one just about a mill," said Edward Echtle, a Tacoma-based historian who is working with the Thurston County Historic Commission to place an interpretative marker near the site of the old mills in the county.

Echtle, 45, is hoping to interpret a former mill operation in the McIntosh area, near the present-day city of Tenino, as a typical representation of the many now-vanished mills throughout the region.

The mill operation, called the Albert Perry Mill, the AP Perry Mill or the Green River Lumber Company, employed many JA immigrants.

McIntosh was typical of the numerous mills around Thurston County, said Echtle, but the other mills were spread all over the county. Usually they were located along a lake or a creek to float the logs up to the mill.

Today, the site along Rural Highway 507 has few physical reminders and even less personal accounts of its rich past.

It was typical in this time period to use Issei labor, said Echtle, especially when the Exclusion Law

slowed down Chinese immigration.

During the day, Issei men would work inside the mills stacking lumber and running logs through machines, among other labor-intensive jobs. At night, they would retreat to their onsite temporary homes, oftentimes with families. Mill owners allowed families onsite because workers with families were less likely to strike, said Echtle, who grew up near the area.

Seasonal millwork allowed most Japanese immigrants the opportunity to gain their first foothold in American society, added Echtle, whose previous achievement included getting an interpretative marker to recognize the history of Olympia's last Chinatown.

The Thurston County marker will be dedicated next year. Until then, Echtle is hoping to interview descendents of mill workers to get personal accounts of the JA experience.

The 1910 and 1920 Census show that many of these Issei mill workers established roots and started families.

"They had hard lives, and despite everything, were able to establish themselves ... it's important to track down these [descendents] to get these personal stories recorded and archived," said Echtle. "It's not just a marker about this mill, it's representative of how pervasive the immigrant labor force was in the area."

■

**Contact Edward Echtle with more information about the Thurston County saw mills:**  
[echtle@harbornet.com](mailto:echtle@harbornet.com) or 360/485-2396.

# Dedication Held For 'Go For Broke' Exhibit

Sixty-five years after the end of World War II, a new exhibit on New York's Ellis Island has been unveiled in honor of Nisei soldiers.

The exhibit, "Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts," at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum was dedicated Aug. 8.

It includes 150 rare photographs collected from government agency archives and private collections from Hawaii and mainland America.

Eric Saul, the curator, dedicated the exhibit to JACL leader Mike Masaoka and Chet Tanaka, who worked with Masaoka in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"This is a wonderful tribute to the veterans on the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II," he said. "Their history is one of the great stories in American history."

Many WWII veterans attended the Aug. 8 dedication. Among the attendees were Navy Chaplain Lt. Commander John M. Miyahara, JACL National Director Floyd Mori and Robert Nakamoto, president of the Japanese American Veterans Association



George Takei greets Terry Shima of the Japanese American Veterans Association at the dedication.

(JAVA).

In his keynote address, Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague talked about the history of the Hawaii National Guard, which included many Japanese Americans.

The exhibit opened to the public July 5, and will be open seven days a week throughout the summer at Ellis Island. ■





# VERY

## truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

## Mixed-Race Identity



(L-r) Hugh Burleson, Jeff Itami and Harry Honda discussed mixed-race identity during the workshop.

OF THE TEN workshops at the “Embracing Change” themed JACL convention in Chicago, “Multiracial Identity” was presented by Christine Munteanu, the Ford Fellow at the JACL Midwest Office, engaging high schoolers, collegians and JACLers on multi-ethnic identity.

Our focus on Nikkei Identity began 18 years ago as the *P.C.* editor, speaking on “Japanese Americans: Who Are They?” at a one-day conference on the “Darkling Plain of Postwar U.S.-Japanese Relations” at the University of Notre Dame.

Seattle-born Dr. Francis Kobayashi followed, relating his experience being a Japanese American. He finished high school at Minidoka. A Notre Dame graduate, who also taught there, he often spoke to classes on constitutional law about WWII evacuation and interment.

NIKKEI IDENTITY has other faces in Hawaii, Canada and around the world as we found meeting Nisei from Latin America. Listening to workshop participants speak with respect to status of their parents’ birthplace, childhood experiences, cultural bias, cultural knowledge, political awareness, gender, etc. — assured this was going to be a fast two-hours.

Being a prewar Japanese-Japanese Nisei growing up in Little Tokyo, we always asked which prefecture your parents came from or discovered their parents came from Korea or China. Eurasian children were called either *ai-no-ko* or Hapa.

The workshop then proceeded to individual conflicts (1) ethnic v. race, (2) ascribed v. self-identification, (3) acceptance by coworkers, (4) context, and as a reporter I always asked an American Indian, which tribe. This candid swapping of stories almost had me to suggest we drag our chairs up front in a circle. It would have been more fun.

“Dimension of identity” delved into how one labels him or herself where one multi-ethnic child/person socializes with another multiracial child/person. Another area where Christine’s gentle ways and answers deserved to be recorded.

WHEN SURVEYING THE history of mixed races in America, a handout would have been welcome. The Cable Act (1922) was anti-miscegenation. The act provided “any American woman who married a person ineligible for citizenship would automatically lose her United States citizenship,” as phrased in “Bamboo People” by author Frank Chuman.

Suma Sugi was JACL’s first lobbyist in

Washington, D.C., collaborating with the League of Women Voters. The Cable Act was repealed in 1935. It was one of two legislative resolutions adopted at the first National JACL Convention in Seattle in 1930.

The other was to enable Oriental veterans of World War I to obtain naturalization, promised but denied because they were not of the “white race.” JACL sent its second lobbyist, Tokutaro Nishimura Slocum, to secure citizenship for the Issei veterans in 1934. Japan-born, adopted by the Slocum family in North Dakota, honorably discharged as sergeant major with 82nd (Rainbow) Division, he received a certificate of naturalization but it was cancelled in 1923 by the U.S. Immigration Service.

A fire-breathing orator as Chuman remembers, “Tokie” campaigned tirelessly and with meager JACL aid rallied the American Legion, VFW, DAV and Spanish American War Veterans to have Rep. Clarence Lee (Calif.) and Sen. Gerald Nye (N.D.) sponsor the bill granting naturalization privileges to nearly 500 Orientals, mostly Issei, veterans. The bill passed; and was signed in 1936.

AS PART OF mixed-race Japanese history, the “one drop rule” refers to Col. Bendetsen’s twist on “persons of Japanese ancestry” for exclusion and evacuation in 1942.

From Michi Weglyn’s “Years of Infamy”, Maryknoll Father Hugh Lavery in Los Angeles wrote “Colonel Bendetsen showed himself to be a little Hitler.” Telling him that Maryknoll had an orphanage with children of Japanese ancestry, that some were half Japanese, others one-fourth or less, he asked, “Which children should we send?” Bendetsen said: “I am determined if they have one drop of Japanese blood in them, they must go to camp.”

Such history seems ripe for print. The first Nisei born in California were two children of John Henry Schnell and his Japanese wife of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm in 1869-70. It might conclude with a recent *Japan Times* review of the film documentary, “Hafu,” about mixed children in Japan, a term that could well supplant “Hapa.”

P.S.—Christine revealed her father was Romanian, her mother from Japan. Both met at Michigan, where they were students. ■

*Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.*

## THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

# The Gems of Leadership

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



It has been a full year since it happened. I was shipped off to an undisclosed location with 325 other strangers to learn the tenets of leadership. It was a painful and long five-week course that was relentless and tiresome. And while I met maybe the best friend I’ve met in years, I have to ask myself, am I a better leader after attending that training program?

Can leadership even be taught? Or is it inherent?

My buddy and I have been talking about this ad nauseam. As wise 27 year olds, we didn’t have the answer. But it did seem like the leadership training was a ridiculous amount of hoopla without a whole lot of production.

Leadership is an amorphous entity that is as difficult to pin down as it is to swallow a New Year’s *mochi* ball whole without chewing. And trying to define it may be as equally dangerous.

In “The Audacity of Hope,” President Obama described himself as a blank screen on which people of vastly different political stripes project their own views. Trying to define leadership can also often be full of similar projections.

If we value strength, then we believe our leaders should be strong. If we value humility, then we want our leaders to be humble. Even the leadership of the ancient Machiavelli sounds fresh: is it better to be feared or loved?

So the next line of logic is: do great leaders become great because they represent the qualities that we as followers deem important or do great leaders exude qualities that we followers come to value as important?

If either is the case, the question remains, can leadership be taught?

This question has come to mind numerous times as I have read “The Promise: President Obama, Year One,” by one of my all-time favorite columnists Jonathan Alter. His coverage and access to the administration’s principles give a masterful look at the leadership qualities of arguably one of the most important leaders in a generation. Speaking with members of the administration who worked for previous presidents as well, Alter illustrates, almost with awe, the deft execution of leadership by our chief executive.

Admittedly, I am still an ardent supporter of President Obama. I say “still” because I know that the glow of his campaign has all but died out, but I still marvel at Obama’s leadership 18 months later as I did during the historic 2008 campaign season.

As I read the accounts from inside the Obama administration and take an intimate look at the processes and decisions that President Obama has initiated and instated in his early presidency, I have come to admire him even more.

I can’t help but wonder: is it because I value intellect, modesty, self-confidence, decision-making, and President Obama’s myriad other standout traits or is it because I dream of incorporating those values into my own personality?

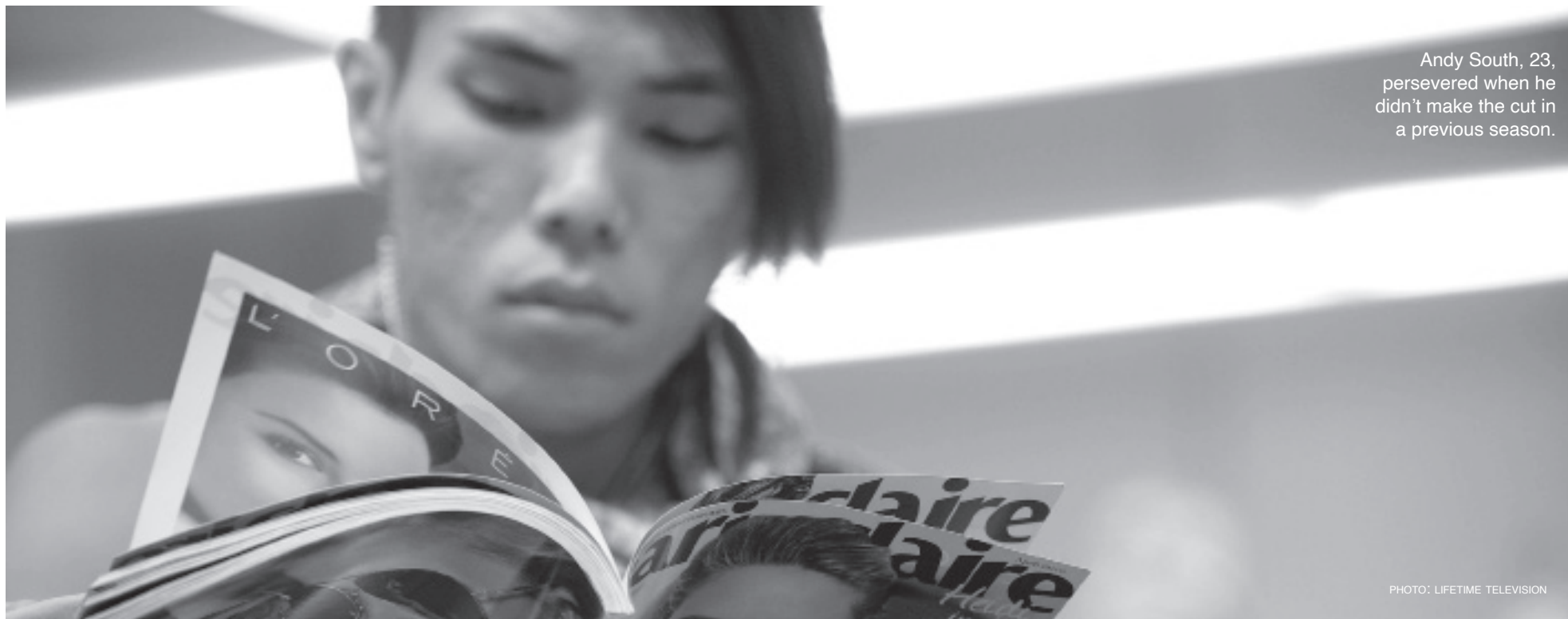
And yet there are those who also value these traits and believe he is an awful president.

Leadership is a tricky business, but then again so is being a follower. Take a close look at the leaders around you. Evaluate what it is that you admire and what it is that drives you wild. If you can detail those, it might help you specify what traits you can aspire to apply in your own life because we can always hope to change ourselves for the better.

And that’s one of the hidden gems of leadership. ■

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





Andy South, 23, persevered when he didn't make the cut in a previous season.

PHOTO: LIFETIME TELEVISION

## A Second Chance for Two APA 'Project Runway' Contestants

**Designers Andy South and Ivy Higa say they've auditioned for the reality show before, but season 8 was a big break to showcase their talent.**

**By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter**

Another designer might have given up their fashion dreams after being rejected from the reality show "Project Runway." But not Andy South.

When the Laotian American was turned down after auditioning some two years ago it was a discouraging experience, he said.

The 23-year-old rebounded after that escapade and started a fall clothing line in his name. With new designs in hand, he said it was the perfect timing when the show's representatives asked him by phone to audition again.

"This year I wasn't planning on auditioning at all, and just by chance I got a phone call that I was recommended," South said about his second chance on the Lifetime reality show. "I just took that as a sign."

He was "stoked," to say the least, when he finally got a your-on-the-show call from "Project Runway" while driving home after a night out in his hometown of Hawaii.

"It just seems like such a long time," South said. "So to finally get the call, was like, 'Oh, my gosh they're calling!'"

South is one of 17 designers who appear on season 8 of the popular reality show. Fresh from traveling and still clutching their luggage, the larger-than-normal cast was quickly weeded out when the judges issued their first challenge: re-design a fellow contestant's garment in five hours.

"I mean you just never know what to expect, especially watching the previous season," said Korean American Ivy Higa, who auditioned two times before landing a spot on season 8. "But I mean five hours! I mean come on that's kind of insane [laughs]!"

A pair of white and black patterned pants from fellow designer Peach Carr was given to Higa to be reinvented for the first challenge. The judges scored Higa's design as one of the worst.

"It was just to the point where it kept going on and on and on," Higa explained about defending her design on the runway in front of the judges. "I'm like, 'Look, this is what it is. I like it. If you don't then I'm sorry.' I guess I've never been one to be a wallflower."

But Higa was saved from elimination and watched stage-side as the dreadlocked designer McKell Maddox was sent

packing for her reinvention of a blue men's shirt.

"I was surprised with the first challenge," South said about another designer's creation that also got the Tim Gunn stamp of approval. "I thought that McKell's dress was actually really cute. That was just kind of a shocker for me. But then it just kind of reminded us that you never know how it's going to go."

Higa and South are still in the running to win "Project Runway" and \$100,000 from L'Oreal Paris, a feature in *Marie Claire* magazine and a \$50,000 technology package. The winning designer will also have an opportunity to sell their creations on Piperlime.com.



PHOTO: LIFETIME TELEVISION

Ivy Higa, 30, hails from Hawaii.

But with each elimination the competition heats up, South said. In the latest episodes that have aired to date, designers have been tasked to create outfits from party supplies and creations for "the Marie Claire woman."

Designing on cue was one of South's phobias going in to the competition, but once the competition began he had a different fear to conquer — sleep deprivation.

"The filming schedule is very intense on top of being in a competition," he said about surviving on four to six hours of sleep a night. "I started out just drinking tea, eventually I had to cut into the coffee. I absolutely had to survive on coffee [laughs]."

The New York-based competition is a change for South

who is from the small town of Waianae on the island of Oahu. It is an area where residents prefer T-shirts and flip-flops, to couture, South said.

"To think that I would want to pursue a career in fashion is kind of just like, 'Well how does that make sense?'" South said. "But I was always creative, so once I found a school, I found out that there were programs that were geared toward fashion."

He created his first piece, a dress out of mulberry paper, in high school for a project on the history of paper.

Slimming down from his previous 220-pound frame pushed South to pursue his fashion dream, he said, although the designer says he was always confident. Later South worked as a custom gown designer.

"That's kind of what helped me to stay afloat. On top of that I was also working part time as a personal assistant," South explained.

Higa, 30, also hails from Hawaii. The two islanders found comfort in speaking Hawaii's pidgin to each other, Higa said.

She grew up on the Big Island of Hawaii where she had to "suppress" her passion for fashion.

"You know like coming from very conservative Asian parents, your parents are always telling you when you're growing up that you should either major in medicine or law or business," said Higa.

As a child of the 80s and 90s, the 30-year-old admits to some past fashion faux pas in the past.

One fashion crime was her first creation, which was an eggplant-colored vest with a matching purple floral skirt for her eighth-grade banquet.

The outfit, she joked, is now "probably somewhere in fashion hell."

Having honed their talents, their appearance on "Project Runway" has now increased their fame. South said people from the Laotian and Hawaii communities are proud that "one of their own" is pursuing his dreams.

Although he is remaining mum about the show's outcome, South says he plans to use his appearance on the show as a platform to help high schoolers in his hometown of Waianae. There he hopes to participate in leadership camps to encourage younger Hawaii residents to pursue their dreams, too.

"A huge thing of what I believe in is giving back and never forgetting where I'm from," South explained. "I do plan on going back and talking to the students and you know kind of opening their eyes to the bigger picture of what you can accomplish after high school, outside of Waianae."

"You can always leave and come back. Just because you leave doesn't mean that you have abandoned anything." ■



# Wakamatsu Stays Above Seattle Mariners Fray

All stories by Associated Press

SEATTLE—Less than two years ago, new Seattle Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik called his hiring of Don Wakamatsu “the crown jewel” in remodeling the team.

He recently got rid of the jewel.

Zduriencik fired the first Japanese American manager in Major League Baseball just a week after he had proclaimed “Don’s our manager.” The decision came hours before a game, following a rare series win for the team, and with just weeks left in a season lost long ago.

“I was a little surprised by the timing,” Wakamatsu said in a telephone interview, a little more than a day after the last-place Mariners, who haven’t been to the playoffs since 2001, fired him and three coaches. “But I thought there was probably a move coming.”

The 47-year-old Wakamatsu said he’s not bitter about anything — even though he lasted only one great season and about half of a terrible one.

Wakamatsu, who was still in Seattle, thanked the Mariners for giving him his first job as a MLB manager — he had not managed above Double A before. He thanked his coaches. He thanked Seattle’s fans. He even thanked the media.

He also said he can’t wait to get home to the Dallas-Fort Worth area and watch his sons play American football starting late this month.

First he’ll stop this week in Hood River, Oregon. His birthplace is still home to his grandparents, James Wakamatsu and wife Ruth. Now in their early 90s, they were

hardworking fruit growers in Oregon’s Willamette Valley before the Japanese Americans were sent to a World War II internment camp. As a child, Wakamatsu lived in the barracks in which his grandparents were once interned.

He can take more time on this trip.

“The organization makes the decision to move on, and I respect that. I respect that they gave me the opportunity,” Wakamatsu said.

“My whole thing is that I will have a measure of disappointment in not being able to (win).”

Wakamatsu declined to discuss the events that turned him from a first-year wonder into a second-year dismissal, saying “I really don’t want to get into any of that stuff.”

The Mariners expected Wakamatsu to lead them into the playoffs following a winning season in 2009. But they were a divided mess this year, with only 44 wins in 114 games in mid-August.

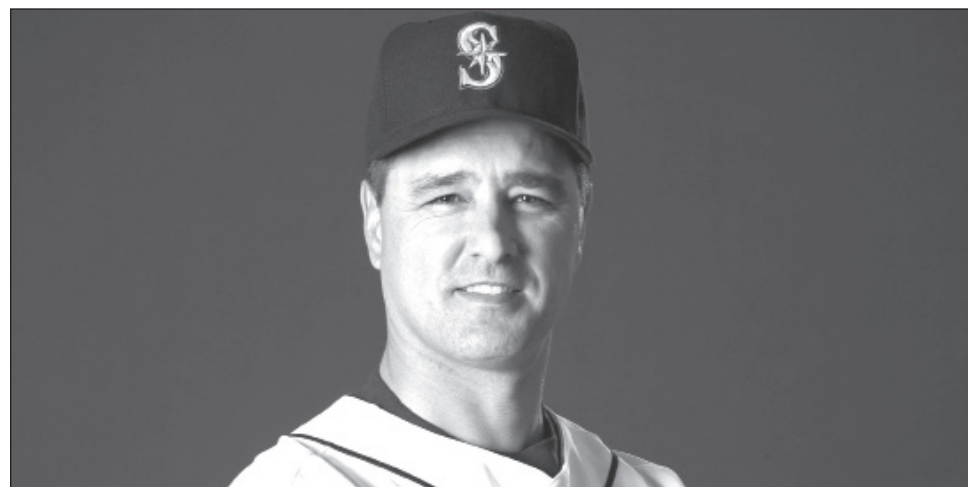
Wakamatsu thinks he will get another chance in the big leagues.

“There will be opportunities in the future, and I look forward to that,” he said.

The Mariners hired him in November 2008 as a relative unknown, a former bench coach and third-base coach in Texas and bench coach for Oakland.

His task was to reverse the culture and performance of a team that in 2008 became the first to lose 100 games with a \$100 million payroll.

He succeeded in 2009. Ken Griffey Jr. bonded with Wakamatsu and transformed the team’s previously fractured, bickering clubhouse. Griffey even had ties made with



Wakamatsu, 47, was the first Japanese American manager in the MLB.

Wakamatsu’s likeness for the team to wear on a midseason road trip.

Seattle went from a 61-101 win-loss record to 85-77. Fans gave the team a roaring send off on that season’s final day. Griffey and Ichiro Suzuki even got carried from the field on teammates’ shoulders.

“That connection with the fans was pretty special,” Wakamatsu said. “That moment, that time, will probably sit with me for the rest of my life.”

The vibe was fleeting. Griffey had a second left knee surgery in two offseasons. Then he turned 40. And instead of going out grandly with that moment last October, he returned for one more farewell season with Seattle.

That proved to be destructive — and may have helped cost Wakamatsu his job.

The manager watched Griffey slip to a .200 hitter with no homers before he finally

benched him. Griffey was offended, feeling he deserved better treatment as a player of his stature. He retired in early June, driving home to Florida without saying goodbye to most in Seattle.

Those weeks irreparably divided the team into factions — those, among them prominent veterans, aligned with Griffey, and those loyal to Wakamatsu. It was effectively 2008 again inside the clubhouse.

The Mariners won only six of 28 games in July, tied for their worst month ever. Now Triple-A manager Daren Brown is Wakamatsu’s interim replacement.

“I understood,” Wakamatsu said. “It all comes back to the manager and wins and losses, and it’s unfortunate.”

“There’s a lot of disappointment, certainly on my part. The club was not playing up to the expectations of what should be the caliber of baseball here in Seattle.” ■



The 19-year-old turned pro with two years left in high school.

## Fujikawa Wins First Mainland Event

GORDONSVILLE, Va.—Hawaii teenager Tadd Fujikawa has won for the first time on the mainland with a nine-shot victory in the eGolf Professional Tour’s season finale.

Fujikawa closed with a 4-under 68 for a nine-shot victory in the eGolf Tour Championship. He earned \$25,000 and finished among the top 20 on the mini-tour’s money list. That means the tour will pay for his entry to Q-school on the PGA Tour.

Fujikawa, 19, turned pro with two years left in high school.

He first became known in 2006 as the youngest player at the time to qualify for the U.S. Open at Winged Foot. A year later at age 16, he tied for 20th in the Sony Open on the PGA Tour. ■

## Hawaii’s Kolten Wong Named MVP



HONOLULU—University of Hawaii baseball player Kolten Wong has been named the Most Valuable Player of the Cape Cod Baseball League after playing for the Orleans Firebirds this summer.

Wong finished third in the league with a .341 batting average. He had 22 stolen bases, 19 runs, 11 RBIs, six doubles and three home runs.

The Kamehameha graduate is a two-time first-team all-Western Athletic Conference honoree. Wong won WAC Tournament MVP honors in May. ■



## UH to Study its Athletics Program

HONOLULU—The University of Hawaii-Manoa will embark on a yearlong, campus-wide effort to study its athletics program as part of the NCAA Division I athletics certification program.

The university completed its first certification self-study in 1996.

The following year, the NCAA Division I membership voted to change the frequency of athletics certification from once every five years to once every 10 years.

Hawaii completed its second certification self-study in 2002. ■



## Seabrook to be Honored by Japan's Foreign Ministry



Many JAs found jobs at Seabrook Farms during WWII.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC), a museum that has worked to tell the story of local Japanese Americans who settled in the area during World War II, is being honored by the Japanese government.

SECC has been selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as a recipient of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for 2010 for areas served by the Consulate General of Japan in New York.

Also being honored by Japan's Foreign Ministry is The Northeast Council of Teachers of Japanese (NECTJ), a non-profit organization that works to promote K-12 Japanese language education in the Northeastern United States.

The commendations are given to individuals and groups for outstanding achievements in international fields, and their contribution

to promoting friendly relations between Japan and other countries.

For more than 16 years, SECC has served New Jersey by preserving and disseminating the records of Seabrook's unique multiethnic community, including assisting in various academic research and educational projects.

In particular, the museum has helped to chronicle the history of Seabrook Farms during WWII where many JAs found work after being confined in internment camps because of their ancestry.

Many JAs today continue to call the area home.

"In particular they have contributed to promote understanding of history and culture of the Japanese Americans who resettled in Seabrook after their internment during World War II," Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The center also contributed to promoting friendship between Japan and the U.S., by supporting the cultural and social events with Japanese organizations in the community as well as receiving the Japanese people and organizations who visit the community."

SECC will be honored Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m., during the annual joint JACL Seabrook Chapter/SECC and SECC Volunteers Appreciation Dinner. ■

For more information: 856/451-8393 or [www.seabrookeducation.org](http://www.seabrookeducation.org)



Grant Ichikawa, a Korean War veteran, stops at the Korean War Memorial.

## JA Veteran Groups Take Part in Korean War Armistice Day Ceremonies

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) recently took part in the Korean War Armistice Day Commemoration and Memorial Ceremonies at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in the nation's capital.

The program began at 10 a.m., the date and time the armistice was signed at Panmunjon, Korea, to mark the cessation of hostilities in the Korean war 57 years ago and was sponsored by the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Coordinating Committee.

Speakers included Douglas M.D. Joo, PhD, President of the *Washington Times* Foundation, and Ambassador Duk-soo Han of South Korea.

Military attaches from the 21 embassies which participated in the United Nations forces and representatives of national veterans organizations, including JAKWV and JAVA, presented wreaths. Grant Ichikawa, JAKWV life member, represented JAKWV and Terry Shima represented JAVA.

JAKWV is a national organization representing some 5,600 Japanese Americans who served in and during the Korean War. It is dedicated to perpetuate the experiences of JAs in the Korean War.

In 1997 the group built a memorial to honor the JAs killed in the Korean War, numbering 256, at the Japanese American National War Memorial Court in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. In 2001, JAKWV built and dedicated a memorial at Imjin Gak, Paju-City, Kyonggi-do province, Korea, "to foster friendship and understanding between the Korean people and the Japanese American community."

The Korean War Veterans Memorial, located on The Mall near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated on July 27, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the Armistice.

The memorial consists of 19 statues representing all branches of service and an ethnic cross section of America with 12 Caucasians, three African American, two Hispanic, one Asian and one Native American. ■

## Silicon Valley JACL to Host Basketball Tournaments

Swish! Fast breaks, screens, jump shots and more are in store as the Silicon Valley JACL gears up to host their first youth basketball tournament over Labor Day weekend.

Over 90 teams and 900 athletes will be gathering in the Bay Area from Los Angeles, Sacramento, East Bay, San Francisco and the South Bay.

But the tournaments are not just for the youth; the young at heart will also have an opportunity to show their skills. An adult tournament will be held Aug. 28-29. Men and women divisions will compete the weekend before the youth tournament.


Silicon Valley JACL's vision is to bridge generations and is the newest chapter in the JACL. SVJACL sponsors and participates

in events which promote intergenerational interaction and promote a multicultural membership.


These basketball tournaments are an opportunity to gather athletes and their families to play in a competitive tournament with good sportsmanship while creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship. But it's not just about playing basketball — it will be just as fun to sit in the stands and mingle with friends and family.

The Basketball Tournament Committee members are: Jeff Yoshioka, Alan Takeda, Steve Yoshioka, Keith Uyeda, and Gail Sueki. ■

For more information:  
[SiliconValleyJACL@dnsalias.net](mailto:SiliconValleyJACL@dnsalias.net)



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Nov. 28- Dec. 8	Yamato Deluxe Discover Egypt Tour 11 days/ 9 nights, includes 3 nights in Cairo, 2 nights in Giza, then 4 nights Nile cruise aboard a 5-star riverboat.	Philippe Theriault
Dec. 8-11	Yamato Best of Branson Tour 4 days/ 3 nights with 4 shows including Shoji Tabuchi and Mike Ito of the Baldknobbers, Branson sightseeing and visit to Silver Dollar City.	Peggy Mikuni

\* \* \* \* \*

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# Becoming Japanese American

## COMMENTARY



Christine Munteanu (left), Ford fellow, leads a workshop on identity and multiracial issues at the recent JACL national convention in Chicago.

By Christine Munteanu

I am part of the Japanese American population not often represented in the JACL. As a Shin-Nisei from the East Coast, I grew up removed from the legacy of the World War II incarceration and the Japantowns that anchor the Japanese American communities further west.

My understanding of what it means to be JA stemmed from the community of Japanese ex-pats temporarily settled in the suburbs of New Jersey and the experiences we shared: Japanese language school on Sundays; summer trips to Japan to visit relatives; weekly gatherings to pick up our orders of fresh fish from a Japanese home delivery service.

I struggled to navigate the space between what it means to be Japanese and what it means to be American, and how being biracial affected both those identities.

During my past year with the JACL, I was introduced to an entirely different portion of the JA community, and learned to integrate the narrative of the JACL's history and advocacy work into my framework for understanding my own identity. I was particularly grateful for the opportunity to pilot the Project: Community! program in the Chicago region, and to work with the Yonsei and Gosei who will shape our community's future.

In Chicago, the challenge of the Project: Community! program was to unite a dispersed population of JA high school students and make them feel personally connected to a community from which they may be culturally, socially or emotionally removed. Our sessions focused on fostering a sense of community and pride among these young JAs who may have limited opportunities to explore their cultural heritage on their own.

One of the most meaningful moments of the program

took place during our first session on "Identity." The students stood in a circle as I read off various statements, and moved into the center of the circle to "find common ground" if they heard a statement that applied to them.

My original objective for the activity was to showcase breadth of experiences that encompass JA identity. Yet as I read statements such as "You participate in Japanese cultural festivals," "You have ever felt singled out because of your race," and "You have been asked where you are really from," I saw the students come together as one over and over.

What I anticipated being an exercise in diversity turned into a very visual demonstration of community. The students expressed a strong sense of solidarity after this activity, and an appreciation for finally feeling like they were part of a group where they were no longer in the minority.

Over the rest of the program, which lasted from February to May with two to three sessions held each month, the students learned more about the history of our community and its current issues. Most importantly, the students had the chance to connect with their peers and establish the relationships that will form the foundation of our community's future. It was personally rewarding to guide the students as they explored their identity and felt empowered to claim their own place in the community as JAs.

This past year as the Ford Fellow has been exciting and challenging, and I am grateful for the opportunity to renew my fellowship for the upcoming 2010-2011 year. I look forward to continuing to learn about the community and build upon the youth programming we have established in Chicago over the past few months. ■

*Christine Munteanu is the current Ford Program Fellow.*

## New England Conf. for AAs Seeks Papers and Topics

The Asian Americans in New England Research Initiative (AANERI) Conference Planning Committee is now seeking paper presentations and roundtable discussions for the second AANERI Conference.

The goals of the conference are to highlight research on the AA experience in New England, to support and encourage further scholarship on the experience and to build a stronger network of scholars and individuals.

Papers on a variety of topics will

be presented in traditional research panels dealing with AAs in New England. Roundtables will provide opportunities to examine specific areas of interest in a less formal and interactive setting.

Roundtable topics may include teaching on AA studies or visualizing the AA experience through films, performances and other media.

AANERI was established by the Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston to facilitate studying

and documenting AAs in New England.

To submit papers for the conference, please provide a title and a brief abstract of the paper that is no more than 200 words. Roundtable topic submissions should include a brief description of the topic also no more than 200 words.

Also include a brief CV and e-mail to: paul.watanabe@umb.edu.

For information: Paul Watanabe, director, Institute for Asian American Studies, UMass Boston, 617/287-5652. ■

## After a 10-Year Hiatus, Chibi-no-Gakko Relaunched



Community groups help sponsor the program that educates school-age kids about JA culture.

After a ten-year absence, Chibi-no-Gakko — a cultural program for school-aged children — was successfully relaunched by several local Japanese American community groups.

Sponsored by the SELANOCO Chapter of JACL, Project Kokoro of the Orange County Buddhist Church and the UCLA Paul I. & Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, Chibi-no-Gakko held its first summer camp since 2000 recently at the Orange County Buddhist Church. The successful relaunch of the program included 20 participants ranging in age from 5 to 11 years old.

The theme of the session was the Issei pioneers and the children learned how to make character *bentos*, *onigiri*, woodblock printed *hachimaki*, Japanese stencil prints, *washi* vases, and *sumiye* bamboo. Each participant also put together a resource binder of materials.

All classes were taught by local credentialed teachers, and college student counselors provided assistance and mentorship. Part of the program included a field trip to Little Tokyo and a guided tour of the Japanese American National Museum.

Participants also attended the Heritage Source book fair with a presentation by Shig Yabu and Willie Ito featuring "Hello Maggie!" and "A Boy of Heart Mountain". The authors did a book signing and character drawing for all the children who participated.

Supporters of the program include: Union Bank, Heritage Source, Shig Yabu, Willie Ito, Pacific Southwest District JACL and the Japanese American National Museum. The UCLA Paul I. & Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies provided funds to help relaunch the program. ■

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## Does Japan Still Need The JET Exchange Program?



By Tomoko A. Hosaka  
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO—Every year for the past two decades, legions of young Americans have descended upon Japan to teach English. This government-sponsored charm offensive was launched to counter anti-Japan sentiment in the United States and has since grown into one of the country's most successful displays of soft power.

But faced with stagnant growth and a massive public debt, lawmakers are aggressively looking for ways to rein in spending. One of their targets is the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, or JET.

JET's origins and historical context make it unique. Having long pursued policies of isolation — with short bursts of imperialism — Japan was looking for a new way to engage with the world in 1987, at the height of its economic rise.

The country's newfound wealth was viewed as a threat in the U.S., where anti-Japanese sentiment ran high. At the same time, Tokyo wanted to match its economic

power with political clout. JET emerged as one high-profile solution to ease trade friction, teach foreigners about Japan and open the country to the world.

Under the program, young people from English-speaking countries — mostly Americans — work in schools and communities to teach their language and foster cultural exchange. They receive an after-tax salary of about \$41,400, roundtrip airfare to Japan and help with living arrangements. More than 90 percent of this year's incoming class of 4,334 will work as assistant language teachers.

Word about possible cuts began filtering through JET alumni networks several weeks ago, and members of the New York group mobilized quickly, starting an online signature campaign. Former JET — as the alums are known — Steven Horowitz, now living in Brooklyn, is devoting his website [jetwit.com](http://jetwit.com) to rally support. Another alumnus in Florida launched a Facebook page.

Their message to Tokyo is that Japan's return on investment in the program is priceless. Japan, they say, cannot afford to lose this

key link to the world, especially as its global relevance wanes in the shadow of China. And the program, they argue, not only teaches the world about Japan but also teaches Japan about the world.

"There has been a benefit from the program that you can't measure" said New York native Anthony Bianchi. "People used to freak out when they'd see a foreigner. Just the fact that that doesn't happen anymore is a big benefit."

Of the more than 52,000 people who have taken part, many are moving into leadership at companies, government offices and non-profits that make decisions affecting Japan, said David McConnell, an anthropology professor at The College of Wooster in Ohio and author of a book about JET.

"The JET Program is, simply put, very smart foreign policy," he said.

But many taxpayers are asking if the program is worth the price — and criticism of JET has become part of a larger political showdown about how much government Japan can afford.

The organization that oversees JET, the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, has drawn the ire of lawmakers as a destination where senior bureaucrats retire to plush jobs. The practice, known as "amakudari," or "descent from heaven," is viewed as a source of corruption and waste.

Kumiko Torikai, dean of Rikkyo University's Graduate School of Intercultural Communication and the author of several books on English education in Japan, says JET has outgrown its usefulness and needs an overhaul. ■

## Korean American Boy Plans North Korea Trip to Pitch Peace Idea

By Cara Anna  
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING—A 13-year-old Korean American plans to visit North Korea soon and perhaps meet leader Kim Jong Il to pitch his idea for a "children's peace forest" in the demilitarized zone.

Jonathan Lee, who was born in South Korea and lives in the U.S. state of Mississippi, was scheduled to fly to Pyongyang from Beijing with his parents, the family told *The Associated Press*. They said North Korean officials in Beijing gave them visas Aug. 11.

Jonathan said he expects to meet with North Korean officials and will propose the children's peace forest, "one in which fruit and chestnut trees would be planted and where children can play."

The DMZ that has separated North and South Korea for more than a half-century is one of the most heavily guarded areas in the world. Combat-ready troops stand guard on both sides, and the land is strewn with land mines and laced with barbed wire.

"We know, it sounds crazy," said Lee's mother, Melissa. "When he first said, 'I think we need to go to North Korea,' I looked at my husband and said, 'What?' It was a radical idea."

The United States does not have diplomatic relations with the North and it and the international community have imposed strict economic sanctions over the regime's nuclear weapons program. In less than a year, North Korea detained four Americans for illegal entry, and one is still in prison there.

The U.S. State Department cautions on its website that foreigners visiting North Korea may be arrested or expelled for engaging in unsanctioned religious or political activity and for unauthorized travel or interaction with locals.

The family's expected visit comes during high tensions on the Korean peninsula. The sinking of a South Korean warship in March was blamed on the North,

and military drills were held recently between South Korea and the United States in response. The North repeatedly has denied attacking the South's warship.

The Lee family said they applied this summer to go to North Korea as a "special delegation" and that North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations in New York gave permission for their visit.

It was impossible to get comment from North Korea, which normally makes statements through its state-run news agency.

"It's supposed to be safe, but I'm a little nervous. It's a communist country," Jonathan said. "I've watched lots of documentaries. It's supposed to be really clean and stuff."

His mother said the family told the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. An embassy spokesman, Aaron Tarver, said in an e-mail he was checking with embassy officers about it.

Reports by *South Korea's Yonhap* news agency say Jonathan met former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung three years ago and suggested planting chestnut trees on the Korean peninsula and that he went to see the then-ailing former president again last year.

In a letter Jonathan hopes to give to Kim Jong Il, he wrote that Kim Dae-jung talked with him about his "sunshine policy" of peaceful coexistence with the North.

"He promised he would take me with him the next time he went to the DPRK, but sadly he passed away last year," the letter says. "I'd like to carry on his dream."

The idea for the visit to the North startled Jonathan's father, Kyoung Lee, who was born and raised in South Korea and now lives with his family in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

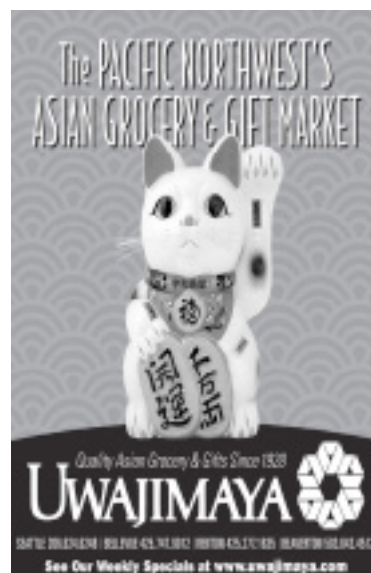
"When growing up, I was always taught, don't talk to or associate with any North Korean people, so this is kind of shocking for me that my son wants to go in," Kyoung Lee said. ■

Associated Press Writer Sangwon Yoon in Seoul contributed to this report.

*'It's supposed to be safe, but I'm a little nervous. It's a communist country ... I've watched lots of documentaries. It's supposed to be really clean and stuff.'*

— Jonathan Lee

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# GO.SEE.DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



PHOTO: SHINOBI STUDIOS

Far East Movement brought down the house at last year's event.

**NEW YORK**  
Aug. 28  
Webster Hall  
125 East 11th Street

**LOS ANGELES**  
Sept. 5  
Cerritos Center for  
the Performing Arts  
12700 Center Court Drive South

Viral and social media stars unite in this two-part, bi-coastal concert featuring desktop favorites like hip-hop sensation Far East Movement, Wong Fu Productions and Kevin Wu AKA KevJumba. Ryan Higa, of NigaHiga YouTube fame, hosts both events.

Info: [www.internationalsecretagents.com](http://www.internationalsecretagents.com)

## EAST

**National JACL 'Salute to Champions' Gala**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
Sept. 16

**GO!**

**J.W. Marriott Hotel**  
**1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW**  
**\$200/person; \$2,000 table of 10;**  
**\$1,500 table of 10 for non-profits**

The gala is an annual fundraising event that seeks to honor individuals and organizations that have championed the causes of the JACL. This year's honorees include Sen. Dianne Feinstein, journalist Roxanna Saberi, community leader Etsu Mineta Masaoka, actress Christine Toy Johnson and corporate partner Eli Lilly.  
Info: 202/223-1240 or [gala@jacl.org](mailto:gala@jacl.org)

**JACL Potluck Picnic**  
**WESTPORT, CT**  
Aug. 21, noon-5 p.m.  
**Takahashi Garden**  
**32 Mayflower Parkway**  
New York JACL invites all members and friends to its annual potluck picnic. Vi Takahashi has opened her home for the picnic. Bring your swimming gear and enjoy the pool.  
Info: 203/227-8901 or [vtakahashi@aol.com](mailto:vtakahashi@aol.com)

**NEW HOPE, PA**

**Japanese Zen Scroll Exhibit and Sale**  
Oct. 1 opening reception, 5-7 p.m.; Oct 2-3, 1-4 p.m.  
**Nakashima Woodworkers**  
**1847 Aquetong Rd**  
Free and open to the public  
Lecture: "Friendship: Collecting and Evaluating Zen Art" with an introduction by Mira Nakashima.  
Info: 215/862-2272

**Taiko Workshop**  
**BROOKLINE, Mass.**  
Aug. 21 & 22  
**Brookline Ballet**  
**1431 Beacon St.**  
Cost: \$20/early bird  
Asian Sisters in Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE) is presenting these one-day Taiko workshops for Asian American women of all ages. Use your voice, mind and body to learn some cool rhythms on *gomikan taiko* (trash can drums) No experience necessary.

**Exhibit: Under the Skin: Tattoos in Japanese Print**  
Through Jan. 2  
**BOSTON, Mass.**  
**Boston Museum of Fine Arts**  
**465 Huntington Ave.**  
Tattooing became an important feature of Japanese urban popular culture in the early 19th century. This exhibit explores the social background, iconography, and visual splendor of these tattoos

from the streets of 19th-century Japan to 21st-century tattoo shops all over the world.  
Info: [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

## MIDWEST

**Cincinnati JACL Potluck Dinner**  
Aug. 22, 4-6 p.m.  
**Hyde Park Bethlehem Methodist Church**  
**3799 Hyde Park Avenue**  
The Cincinnati/Dayton Taiko and the Sakura Ladies chorus provide the entertainment at this annual event ending with Bon Odori.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

**Lecture: 'Moving Images: Photography and the Japanese American Incarceration'**  
**SEATTLE**  
Sept. 23  
**Elliott Bay Book Company**  
**1521 Tenth Ave.**  
**FREE**  
Jasmine Alinder, a professor and author of 'Moving Images', will talk about the role of photography in the WWII JA incarceration. Topics of discussion will include famous photographers like Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams. A book signing will follow.  
RSVP: [events@densho.org](mailto:events@densho.org) or 206/320-0095

**13th Annual Japanese Cultural Arts Event**  
**BELLEVUE, Wash.**  
Sept 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
**Bellevue College, Main Campus**  
**3000 Landerholm Circle SE**  
Cost: admission & parking free.  
Fees for some workshops.  
Japan comes to Bellevue for a weekend with this Aki Matsuri for all ages. Highlights include martial arts demos, puppet shows, tea ceremonies and 75-plus exhibit booths. And if there is time, drop by and say hi to Hello Kitty.  
Info: 425/861-7865 or [www.enma.org](http://www.enma.org)

## NOR. CA. WESTERN-NEVADA-PACIFIC

**Asian Health Care Leaders Assoc.'s Creating Your Unique Career Path**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA.**  
Oct. 7, 2:30-8 p.m.  
**The Westin San Francisco**  
**Market Street**  
**50 Third Street**  
Cost: \$55/professional members; \$25/student members; \$75/non-members  
Health care professionals can gain insight from panelists at the forefront of their profession like keynoter Don Tamaki, of Minami Tamaki, LLP, who will race in America's health care system. Dennis Sato, Marin County JACLER and health care administrator, chairs the event.  
Info: [www.asianhealthcareleaders.org](http://www.asianhealthcareleaders.org)

**Exhibit: Distillations — Meditations on the Japanese American Experience**  
**BERKELEY, CA.**  
Through Sept. 18  
**Art & Consciousness Gallery**  
**John F. Kennedy University**  
**2956 Pablo Ave., 2nd floor**  
Four Sensei women artists — Reiko Fujii, Lucien Kubo Shizue Seigel and Judy Shintani — draw from personal, family, and collective narratives to explore the complex legacies of the JA experience through collage, assemblage, glass, painting, photography, word, found objects, installation, video and performance.  
Info: 510/647-2041 or [www.jfku.edu/gallery](http://www.jfku.edu/gallery)

**Ryuhō Hamano**  
**Calligraphy Exhibition**  
**HONOLULU**  
Through Sept. 3  
**Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii**  
**2454 S. Beretania St.**  
Renowned calligrapher Ryuhō Hamano showcases his latest exhibition in the gallery to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the beginning of large-scale Japanese migration to Hawaii in 1885.  
Info: 808/945-7633

**Honoring Our Nikkei Roots: A Journey into the Past**  
**WATSONVILLE, CA.**  
Aug. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Watsonville Buddhist Temple**  
**423 Bridge Street**  
Akira Nagamine will present his fascinating WWII story about being sent to a unit manning the defenses in Manchuria as part of the Japanese army. His wife Hideko will aid in the storytelling. Professors Alice Yang and Alan Christy will also give tips on family oral history projects.  
RSVP before Aug. 24: Dr. Janet Nagamine 831/662-9748 or [jmnagamine@gmail.com](mailto:jmnagamine@gmail.com)

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

**Asian American Music Festival**  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Oct. 15-17  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**369 East First Street**  
Cost: \$30-\$160  
Last year's Asian American Jazz Festival is being expanded to include hip-hop, pop and world music. Promoters are calling this an 'evolution'. Headliners include Jake Shimabukuro, Shing02, Kero One, and more. Songstress Charmaine Clamor is back and ready to enchant again.  
Tickets & info: [www.asianamericanjazzfestival.com](http://www.asianamericanjazzfestival.com)

**Play: Mysterious Skin**  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Sept. 15-Oct. 10  
**David Henry Hwang Theater**  
**120 Judge John Aiso St.,**  
Cost: \$60 opening night;

**\$25-\$35 general**  
Based on the Scott Heim novel about a boy who believes he was once abducted by aliens, East West Players decidedly pushes the envelop with a play with "graphic language and nudity," so mature audience members only, please. Scott Keiji Takeda, a recent Pepperdine University grad makes his professional theater premiere.  
Tickets & info: 213/625-7000 or [www.eastwestplayers.org](http://www.eastwestplayers.org)

**AADAP Concert: Changing Lives and Saving Families**  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Aug. 28, 6-9 p.m.  
**Aratani Japan America Theatre**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**  
Cost: \$40/person  
Laugh at comedian Paul Varghese, the "funniest comic in Dallas" sway to rock/pop/soul sounds of Tim Be Told and feel good that your dollars go towards helping the Asian American Drug Abuse raise critical funds to help families affected by substance abuse.  
Tickets & info: [www.aadapinc.org](http://www.aadapinc.org) or 323/293-6284

**Aki Matsuri Boutique**  
**LOS ANGELES**  
Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Venice Japanese Community Center**  
**12448 Braddock Dr.**  
Free entrance with door prizes  
Annual fundraiser to benefit the West Los Angeles JACL scholarship programs, internship program with PSW, Miss Western LA Queen for Nisei Week, and chapter newsletter. Featuring new items from jewelry, designer clothes to Asian-themed gifts, art, books and more.  
Info: 310/390-6914 or [www.westlajacl.wordpress.com](http://www.westlajacl.wordpress.com)

**PSW Awards Dinner**  
**LONG BEACH, CA.**  
Oct. 9, 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. dinner  
**The Grand**  
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**WHEREABOUT**

Seeking any information about T. Ishikita (maiden name) who originally resided in Los Angeles. She was once married to Daisuke Sakamoto, and had two children Nobuko and Taka (Frank) Sakamoto. Her last known location was Gardena, CA, where she remarried and started a new family.

Please contact: McLean (Mac) Takaki  
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## TRIBUTE

**Frank Y. Takahashi**

Laid to rest on August 21, 2010  
Green Hills Memorial Park, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



Frank Y. Takahashi passed away at home on August 15, 2010 in Napa, California. Frank was born on December 28, 1918, in Ocean Park, CA.

Frank was the eldest son of Taisuke and Kinuko Takahashi (both deceased). He was pre-deceased by his sister, Mary Takeda, and brother, George Takahashi.

Frank graduated from UCLA in 1940, earning a degree in finance. He was recruited by the Okura Import and Export Company in New York, where he worked as an accountant until drafted into the U.S. Army. Frank served in the Army Signal Corps and worked as a photographer for the Press Corps for two years. He was discharged in 1942 and interned at Manzanar Relocation Camp, where he taught accounting.

After the war, Frank moved to Chicago, IL, and earned a master's degree in accounting from Northwestern University. He met Hannah Okamoto at a church function and the two were married on June 12, 1948. After becoming a CPA, Frank founded the successful accounting firm, Gale, Takahashi and Channon in 1951. The company grew to become one of the larger accounting firms in Chicago. Before his retirement, Frank merged the firm with Ernst and Young.

Frank and Hannah moved to Napa, CA in the fall of 1983, where they lived for 27 years and pursued their various passions and hobbies. Frank became a gentleman farmer, overseeing his acres of vineyard. He also enjoyed spending time cultivating his many bonsai trees, golfing, working in his garden, and fishing at every opportunity. Frank was also able to spend precious time with his children and grandchildren at their Napa home and vineyards.

Frank was actively involved in the Napa Valley Symphony as treasurer, and was also a member of the Napa Valley Bonsai Club, the SIRS 136 Chapter and the Napa Valley Tomodachi Club.

He is survived by his wife, Hannah, his sons, Jim (Deer Park, CA) and Robert (Lisa) (Seattle, WA) and his daughters, Frances (San Francisco, CA), Joan (Charles) (Los Gatos, CA) and Mary (Karl) (Los Altos, CA) and his grandchildren, Ian, Jon, Catlin, Bonnie, Siena, Andrew and Abby.

Family gatherings were held in Napa and in Los Angeles.

Donations can be made to Napa Valley Hospice at 414 S. Jefferson St., Napa, CA 94559; the Napa Valley Symphony at 1100 Lincoln Ave. Ste. 108, Napa, CA 94558; or Queen of the Valley Medical Center at 1000 Trancas St., Napa, CA 94558.

## Civil Rights Lawyer Who Fought For Family Medical Leave Law Dies at 41

Joannie Chang, a civil rights attorney who worked on the nation's first paid family medical leave law, died July 31 of stomach cancer. She was 41.

Chang who gave birth to twin daughters June 29, was diagnosed while she was pregnant, her partner Luna Yasui told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

In addition to working for the Asian Law Caucus and San Francisco's Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, Chang worked with labor advocates to

pass a law that allows employees to take six weeks of leave each year, with partial pay, to care for an ailing family member or newborn child.

State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles, gave Chang a state commendation award in 2002.

Chang is survived by Yasui, daughters, Ayumi and Yuuki Chang-Yasui, parents Sakae and Bilin and brothers Steven and Thomas. ■

## Takahashi Market Owner Dies at 89

Kenge Takahashi, a World War II veteran and longtime owner of Takahashi Market in San Mateo, Calif. died July 28. He was 89.

The family has run the market for over a century. Located at 221 South Claremont Street, Takahashi Market offers Japanese and Hawaiian specialties.

Issei Tokutaro Takahashi started the business as a horse and buggy operation before opening a general merchandise store to cater to San Mateo's growing Japanese American population.

During WWII Kenge Takahashi and his family

were incarcerated at Topaz. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the segregated 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team.

He was a JACL Thousand Club member.

Takahashi was preceded in death by his wife Sachiko, brother Noboru and sisters Tsuya and Masa Oida. He is survived by his children Gene (Phyllis), Norma (Charles), Jack (Karrie) and Anne (Wilbur); grandchildren Stacy, Bobby and Samantha; nephew Yukio Oida; and cousins Shig (Best) and Moto (Tazu). ■





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