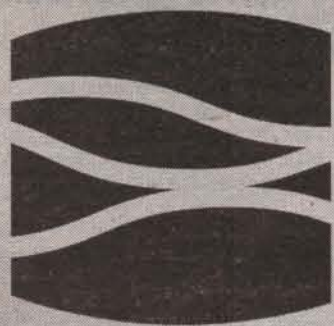


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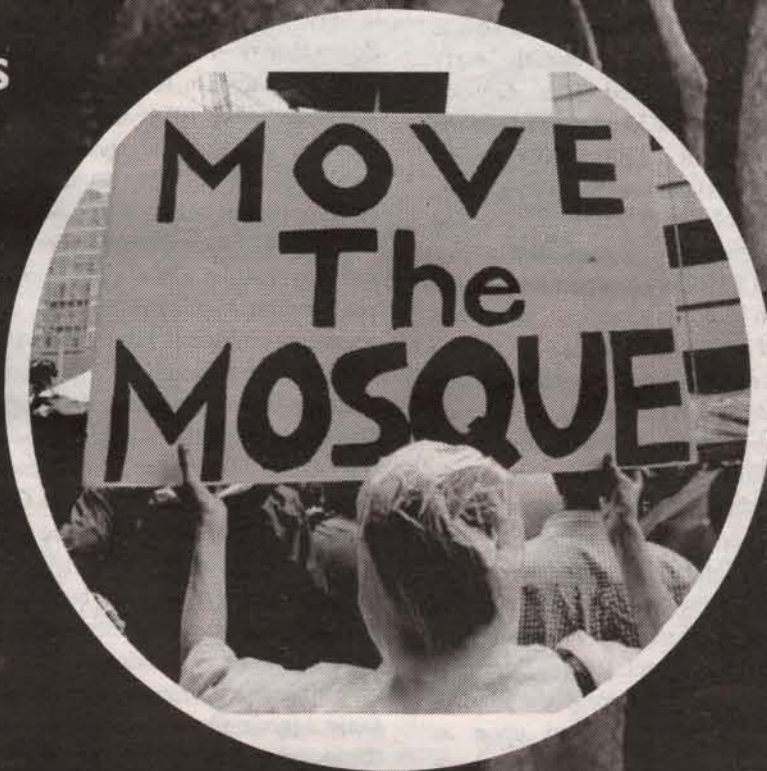
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NYC MOSQUE & JA INTERNMENT

## PARALLEL EXPERIENCES

Labeled as conduits  
for 'enemies' in  
different eras,  
Islamic centers and  
Japanese Buddhist  
churches share a  
common path.

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**Waiting for Justice**  
Gulf Coast APA community  
still waiting for claims.



**PAGE 5**

**Flowering History**  
Richmond, Calif. once thrived  
with JA flower nurseries.

**Reality TV**

Inside  
'K-Town,'  
the 'Jersey  
Shore'  
spinoff.



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Keep Fighting For JA Vets Stamp

Let us maximize our effort for a JA commemorative postal stamp. It should be for a first-class postal denomination, as other values are not used as often. But we are running out of time. Regular mail is going out of style and commemorative stamps will not have of much use as a commemorative strategy. The longer we wait the less it will be worth. If possible, our people should discuss this with the Postal Planning Committee and jointly agree on an action plan as soon as possible.

Ed Mitoma  
South Bay JACL

## Thanks to Scholarship Committee Volunteers

On behalf of the National JACL, Scholarship Committee Chair Carol Kawamoto and I would like to thank the Chicago JACL and the Portland JACL for their significant assistance with the 2010 national scholarship program.

Chicago JACL volunteers who evaluated the freshman applications were: Pat Harada, Joyce Morimoto, Ellie Olin, Lisa Sakai, Ron Yoshino and Pat Yuzawa-Rubin.

The Portland JACL volunteers who evaluated the undergraduate, graduate, law, and creative and performing arts applications were: Chip Larouche, Setsy Sadamoto Larouche and Sandra Tashima.

JACL thanks all of these volunteers for their time and effort. The assessment process

is challenging when there are so many talented students submitting scholarship requests. We would like to acknowledge all of the applicants, with best wishes for the successful completion of their academic pursuits.

David Kawamoto  
JACL national president

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## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Time For Changes

By Floyd Mori



When I became heavily involved in the workings of non-profit organizations and government by beginning work for the JACL in Washington, D.C. five years ago, I saw that there were reasons to make changes in the JACL. After I became national director, I proposed modifications whereby we would become "The New JACL." We have since added several programs, and there have been changes made.

One of the suggestions I proposed — which was met with opposition — was to change the name from the Japanese American Citizens League to something more inclusive. It should help us better reach out to other communities and make more people feel welcome in our ranks. Membership should be encouraged to anyone who shares our views and interests. The JACL membership numbers have been dwindling or rapidly decreasing for years. Something needs to be done.

Although there are a great many potential JACL members among Japanese Americans, many have never heard of the JACL or are not interested in joining. It has not been easy to convince large numbers of the children and grandchildren of former JACL leaders to join. By the same token, our new younger members have difficulty trying to interest their parents into becoming members. If a

fraction of the potential members would join the JACL, we could easily quadruple our membership rolls.

Since it has been almost impossible to significantly increase membership through trying to appeal mainly to JAs, it could be beneficial to reach out more aggressively to those who are not of our same background. A number of our strong JACL leaders are not JAs.

Leaders within the Asian Pacific American community have been attempting to be of assistance to the Vietnamese and other APAs who were adversely affected by Katrina and now by the BP oil spill. We find that these newer immigrants are facing many of the same trials and challenges that the early Japanese immigrants faced 80 or 90 years ago. The reason that the JACL was organized in 1929 was to fight the discrimination and racism JAs had to endure on a daily basis. These groups of newer immigrants could benefit by joining our organization. They are in need of advocacy, support and even a way to obtain health insurance — which the JACL should be able to provide.

The tragic events of 9/11, which happened nine years ago, have resulted in various attacks — both physical and verbal — against Muslims and Arab Americans. This treatment continues and shows that racism and prejudice continue toward people who look different from what some consider the mainstream. Our physical characteristics as JAs and APAs cause many people to look at us as perpetual foreigners. Recent European immigrants who may not speak the English language are regularly looked upon as being more American than JAs whose families have been in the United States for generations.

See MORI/Page 10

## FROM THE MIDWEST

# Teaching the Internment

By Bill Yoshino

As our nation's classrooms fill with students marking the beginning of another school year, we can thank Donna Cole, Linda Toyota, Glen Gondo, Dr. Abbie Grubb and Sandra Tanamachi for their efforts to make it possible for students in Texas to learn about the heroic exploits of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Earlier this year, the Texas Board of Education proposed wide-ranging changes to its curriculum standards. The revised standards, which were adopted in May, were a clear effort by a majority of the Texas Board to leave a conservative imprint on content that would be taught in Texas schools.

For the next 10 years, nearly 5 million Texas students will now be encouraged to question the legal doctrine of the separation of church and state, notwithstanding a number of Supreme Court decisions that have banned school sanctioned prayer, and they will be given a more positive portrayal of Sen. Joseph McCarthy and his dogged pursuit of communist infiltrators during the 1950s.

When the national JACL learned the proposed changes would equate the Japanese American experience with the wartime experience of German and Italian Americans, we immediately objected. We objected because unlike the German and Italian American experiences, JAs were subjected to a policy of mass exclusion based on race rather than a policy of individualized scrutiny based on a potential for acts of sabotage where there would be a semblance of due process. We didn't want the Texas Board to mix apples and oranges with claims they were the same, ignoring race prejudice as a primary cause for the incarceration.

As much as we've focused on the Texas curriculum standards, it's worth noting that research of state

See YOSHINO/Page 10

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# Parallels Between Ground Zero Mosque Controversy, JA Internment

**Labeled as conduits for 'enemies' in two different eras, Islamic centers and Japanese Buddhist churches share a common path.**

**By Christine McFadden  
Correspondent**

In the heart of New York City, a friendship exists between two people of what many would consider to be completely opposite backgrounds.

One is Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the driving force behind the construction of Park51: the proposed area for the construction of a mosque two blocks away from Ground Zero. The other is Rev. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki of the New York Buddhist Church.

"[He is] a very decent person," said Nakagaki. "A really balanced person."

The two have been friends for over 10 years. Rauf has even attended a couple of Nakagaki's peace ceremonies honoring those who died in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Despite the two men being of different faiths and ethnicities, the two have a lot in common. Both are part of the Interfaith Center of New York, a non-profit organization dedicated to religious tolerance through education, mutual understanding, and cooperation. And both are the leaders and representatives of religious groups targeted by the government at some point in history as perceived threats to national security.

For Rauf, the struggle to retain his previously approved building rights to Park51 is still a battle, while Nakagaki's temple was previously targeted by racial discrimination decades ago.

While coming from two very separate roads to arrive in the same place, Rauf and Nakagaki have found common ground in advocating for tolerance in a nation not always accepting of people who bear resemblance to what many call the "enemy race." Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the attack on the World Trade Centers, both religious groups in America have been the victims of wartime hysteria and fear.

Nakagaki sees the current hysteria as the "same hysteria that happened to the Japanese Americans too," with the nation taking a negative standpoint "but never seeing the positive side of this."

Although Rauf may still be facing lawsuits and extreme opposition, many members of the Buddhist and Japanese American community have voiced their support, knowing that they were in similar shoes just short of 70 years ago.

"Whether it's the controversy in Florida around the Koran burning or the Ground Zero mosque issue, simple ignorance of the Muslim American community has led to wholesale identifications of Muslims with terrorists or with anti-Western sentiments, where, in fact, Muslims have been good neighbors and Americans for decades, much like Japanese American Buddhists had been in the years leading up to Pearl Harbor," wrote Duncan Williams, associate professor and Shinjo Ito distinguished chair

in Japanese Buddhism at the University of California Berkeley, in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*.

"We must extend this fundamental principle to our Muslim neighbors in this time when they are facing similar biases due to racial and religious ignorance and discrimination."

## Repeating History

Among those targeted by government intelligence agencies such as the FBI as threats to national security following the Pearl Harbor attack were Buddhist and Shinto leaders, many of whom were immediately arrested without question.

One of the leaders was Rev. Hozen Seki, the founder and head minister of the Buddhist Church of New York, active since 1938 as New York's first center for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and Nakagaki's current temple. The church resides in New York's Upper West Side, about 45 minutes by subway away from Ground Zero. Seki was taken to various camps in New Mexico, Idaho and Maryland along with other German and Italian aliens, despite the majority of discrimination against Japanese brewing on the West Coast.

"He was arrested," said Nakagaki. "All the Buddhist community leaders [were]."

The church was taken care of by lay people until Seki returned after the war.

"In the case of Muslims after 9/11, there was a similar pattern of unwarranted arrests by government intelligence agencies even though, thankfully, without any mass incarceration," said Williams. He points out a clear spike in the anxiety about national identity and national security in times of warfare, especially after America is attacked on its home turf.

"Since the 19th century, national identity has oscillated between the notion that America is a Christian nation and the notion that America is religiously free," he said. "The broader bias and profiling against Muslim Americans or Arab Americans again brings up the question of how national identity is so often linked to race and religion."

In Rauf's case, his religion is often linked to the much smaller group of extremists responsible for the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks — a connection made by former House speaker and potential 2012 Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich. In August, Gingrich referred to Rauf and his supporters as radical Islamists comparable to Nazis on Fox News.

"It's a small group of terrorists who did the flying of the airplanes that destroyed the World Trade Centers," said Lillian Kimura, JACL's first female national president and a New York resident. Kimura additionally pointed out that, incidentally, the Trade Center was designed by a JA: Minoru Yamasaki of Detroit.

"The argument itself feels very strange. [It's] not logical," said Nakagaki. "A lot of Muslim people live here too. It's not all of a sudden there's a mosque here. New York itself is a very mixed area. [There are] many different religions here."

He labels the sentiments against building



PHOTO: GLYPHOTOGRAPHY

Protesters on Aug. 22 rallied in New York City in opposition to development plans of Islamic Cultural and Prayer Center that became known as a Ground Zero Mosque.

the mosque as a "kind of racism in a way" and believes that the supporters should make more noise.

"Most New York people basically support the efforts," said Nakagaki, although a recent poll cited in *Newsweek* showed opposition to the mosque among New Yorkers is 52 percent.

He believes that the construction of the mosque would be a good model for the interfaith community, bringing up the possibility of erecting additional religious centers around the area. The proposal for Park51 already includes interfaith programming as well as an interfaith board.

## 'Anger is Not Overcome by More Anger'

On the other side of the country at the Buddhist Church of Oakland, Calif., Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge draws a distinction between the type of discrimination endured by Buddhists and Muslims.

"... The current discrimination is based on religion, whereas the internment during World War II was racially based," he wrote in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "As far as I know, there were Christian Japanese in the camps as well."

The Buddhist Church of Oakland, founded in 1901 as one of the first JA Buddhist temples in America, was boarded up during WWII. Luckily, it survived relatively unscathed.

Bridge does, however, acknowledge that many Buddhists ministers specifically were considered dangerous because of their connections with Japan.

"I have heard stories of some who were forcibly removed from their homes and families in the night, never to be heard from until after the war was over," he said. "But perhaps this was more related to their status in society than to their religion *per se*."

He hopes that the example of Japanese internment can be a lesson learned and remembered for the present, believing that fear and hatred will not solve anything. Bridge cited a quote from the Dhammapada, an important Buddhist text: "Anger is not overcome by more anger; anger is only overcome by the absence of anger."

Bridge additionally called for greater knowledge and appreciation of Islam in this country, recognizing that his own knowledge of Islam is limited.

Aileen Yamaguchi, current president of the New York JACL, is no stranger to Islam. Although Presbyterian, she has taken a course on and owns her own Koran.

"The reason why people are hot and heavy about not wanting this community center to be built in the Ground Zero area is that they forget that it's an isolated group of Muslims who did the destruction," Yamaguchi said. "The Imam who owns the building is suggesting that it would be a community center and that there would be space available for all religious groups. That often is forgotten in this anger of the people who don't want anything of the Muslim faith near Ground Zero."

Previously incarcerated in Granada ("Amache") War Relocation Center in Colorado, Yamaguchi is additionally no stranger to discrimination. She equates the Muslim extremists with the JA "No-No Boys" in the fact that neither faction represents the entire, diverse group.

Williams echoed America's diversity by quoting a speech made by President Barack Obama in which he stated: "Whatever America may have once been, it is no longer a Christian nation," continuing to say that America is a Buddhist nation, an Islamic nation, and even a nation of non-believers. Williams went on to cite an incident he remembered as a pinnacle representation of acceptance and mutual understanding between people of different ethnic backgrounds but similar endured experiences.

"In Hawaii, right after 9/11 one very elderly Nisei lady took it upon herself to go to the local Muslim mosque in Honolulu and offered to keep guard," Williams said. "She had remembered the vandalism and venom directed towards Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor."

"This spirit of remembering that the fabric of American society is secured by our caring for each other in times of need and national crisis can be an inspiration to all of us." ■



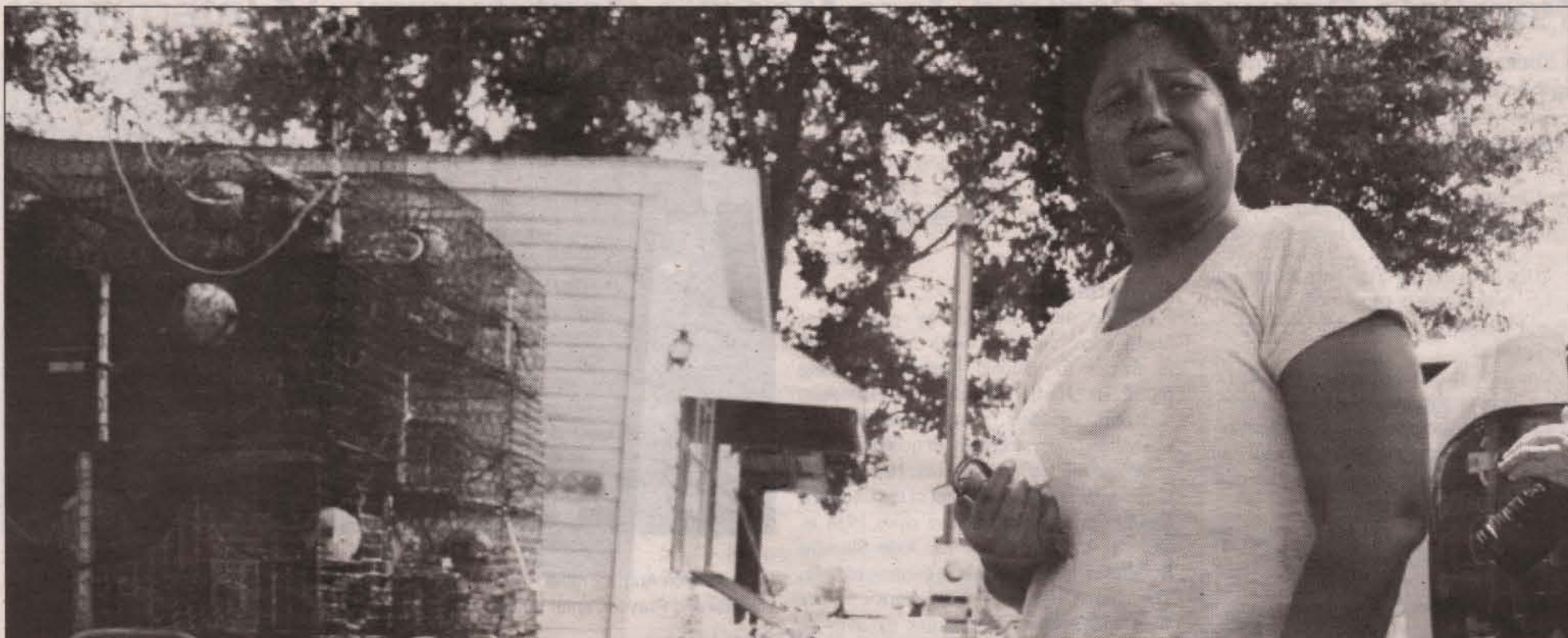


PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

Crabber captain Siriporn Hall (above) at her Alabama home, where her crab pods and boat have sat on her front lawn for months.

## Asian American Fishermen in Limbo After the Gulf Oil Spill

**BP claims administrator Kenneth Feinberg promises a more 'generous' and 'efficient' claims process nearly five months after the Gulf Coast oil spill.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Thirty-nine-year-old Tuan Dang says he has waited patiently since May to go back on the Gulf waters to shrimp or to receive a call from the oil clean up program.

Every day in August Dang says he has called BP to check on the status of his application with its Vessels of Opportunity program. Be patient, he says they told him. But Dang says he eventually lost hope.

"I give up. There were many many nights that I had to sleep with my phone close to my ear," Dang said at a Mississippi town hall meeting about worrying that he will miss a work opportunity.

"What if you happen to miss a call, your name is rolled all the way back to the end of the list is what I heard."

Administrators announced Sept. 15 that the Vessels of Opportunity program, which allowed displaced fishermen to help with the clean-up efforts, would end in three states. About 3,500 vessels are estimated to have been put to work through the program.

Once hopeful of work opportunities, Dang says every day he would prepare his boat for work by unloading his nets and coolers on the dock.

Now Dang's optimism has faded.

"I was well prepared to work. But now I give up. So I put everything back," says the Vietnamese American shrimp.

Dang says his compensation from BP has decreased each month from \$5,000 a month to his last payment of \$1,070.

Before the BP claims processing system transitioned to the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) on Aug. 23, \$400 million claim funds were paid within about four months.

In its five weeks of management, the GCCF has paid \$400 million to over 30,000 claimants.

Kenneth Feinberg, GCCF administrator, said Sept. 25 that he is implementing a more expedited claims processing system.

"Over the past few weeks, I have heard from the people of the Gulf, elected officials, and others that payments remain too slow and not generous enough," Feinberg said in a press release. "I am implementing new procedures that will make this program more efficient, more accelerated and more generous."

Other changes to the GCCF claims processing system include "clustering claims by industry."

A more efficient system could not have come sooner for crabber captain Siriporn Hall. Mounting bills and decreasing compensation checks are consuming her thoughts these days.

"So I have to buy groceries everyday to feed four people and three dogs. My light bill last month was \$300 to \$400," Hall said, who is Thai American.

April 27 was the last day Hall says she worked. Hall's boat sits on her front lawn in Alabama. Crabber pods are stacked, lining the edges of her front yard.

The 59-year-old, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998, says she is resilient but tired of fighting to survive.

"I've had enough. I don't want to fight," Hall explained outside of a town hall meeting in Alabama. "I want to retire."

Hall's concerns about her lack of work opportunities and mounting bills are not uncommon in the Gulf Coast fishing

community.

To help with the mental health care of the Gulf Coast fishing community, BP provided \$52 million for the region. Of that amount, \$24 million was split between Department of Mental Health in Mississippi and Alabama.

The Florida Department of Health received \$3 million and Louisiana received \$15 million. Another 10 million was provided to the Substances Abuse and Mental Health Services.

"We appreciate that there is a great deal of stress and anxiety across the region and as part of our determination to make things right for the people of the region, we are providing this assistance now to help make sure individuals who need help know where to turn," said BP President Lamar McKay in a released statement.

Mental Health officials in the Gulf region say the funds are crucial because many affected fishermen do not readily seek the services they need to deal with the stress of being out of work.

The funding, they say, will help with providing early mental health intervention.

"Many of the individuals affected do not typically take the initiative to seek mental health services. It is vital for us to take a proactive approach," said Ed LeGrand, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

In addition to mental health issues, community advocates say many fishermen have faced other challenges with their claims.

"There are cases where people are very satisfied with their claim ... but I believe the majority of people are still struggling with their claims," said Cindy Nguyen, executive director with the Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training.

"And many of them have literally accepted whatever is offered to take care of their family."

Dang's sentiments about his compensation are no different from other fishermen.

Discouraged by the dwindling compensation checks he receives each month, Dang says he would rather be earning his income.

"I'd rather be out there shrimping instead of collecting money. I'm not happy with the monthly payments that they send me," Dang said.

"I'd rather be out there working, making my own money instead of waiting for them." ■

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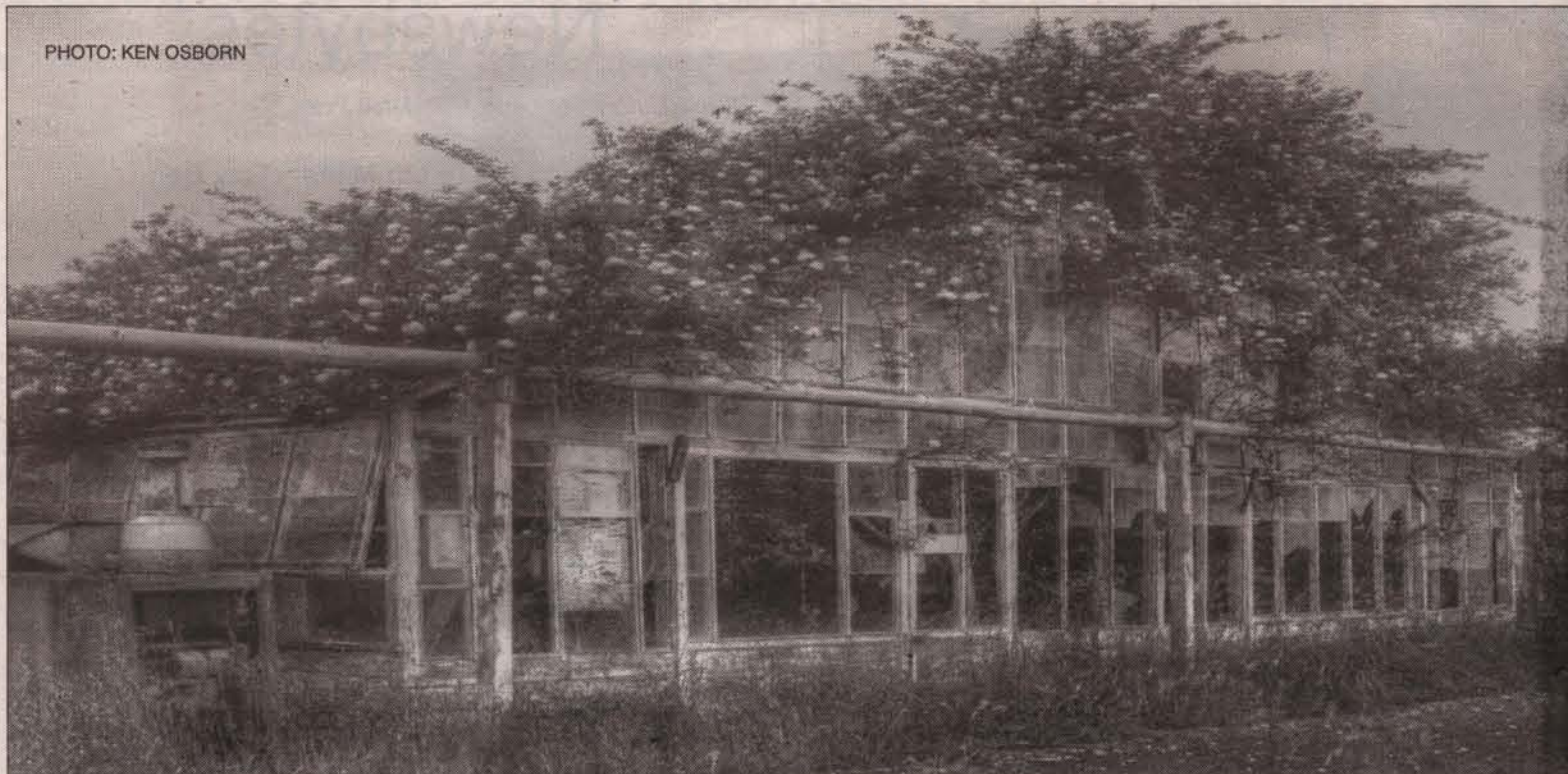
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# The Blossoming of Richmond's Japanese American Flower Community

PHOTO: KEN OSBORN



**A new exhibit at the Richmond Art Center documents the story of the hardships and triumphs of the Nikkei flower communities in Northern California.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Charlotte Sakai's family was in the flower business for nearly a century, but she says growing up in the 1950s she did not consider herself a handy worker in the Sakai Brothers nursery.

Sakai says her nose was always in a book. She would later find a career outside of the nursery as a librarian. Now retired, Sakai can still remember the tedious task of arranging and bunching roses in her family's flower packing shed in Richmond, Calif.

The only child of Sam Sakai, the founder of the Floral Trade Council and president of the California Flower Market board, she was surrounded by flower growers in her youth. Sakai's relatives, the Oishis, lived across the street and specialized in growing carnations.

But the Japanese American family that had laid its roots in Richmond in the early 1900s would close its greenhouses due to financial pressures in the 21st century.

Today the once flourishing flower nurseries are considered by some as a blight on the community. With shattered panes of glass and peeling paint, the greenhouses are in disrepair from neglect.

"He would be very depressed about it. I'm glad that he doesn't see it like the way it is now. He's

never seen it like the way it is now," Sakai said about her father who died in 2008. "To see it so shabby and broken and everything, it's really sad."

Despite the shabby buildings, flowers are still blooming through the broken panes of glass in the abandoned greenhouses. The juxtaposition of the decaying structures with the blossoming flowers is a sight some photographers wanted to capture.

"It was dusty, there was broken glass, there were aphids swarming. You come back and you have these bugs all over you," said photographer Matthew Matsuoka. "But at the same time it was beautiful."

To ensure that the story of these JA flower growers does not go untold, photographers like Matsuoka have captured the beauty of the dilapidated site in a new exhibit at the Richmond Art Center. The "Blossoms and Thorns" exhibit, which is co-sponsored by the Contra Costa JACL, features photos and artifacts from the Richmond nurseries.

Organizers hope the exhibit raises awareness about the struggles and resiliency of the Nikkei flower community. "You see in those flowers, you recognize your ancestors who survived something very difficult. Not just survived, but blossomed and still showed their beauty," Matsuoka said. "It's not just the Japanese Americans, but anybody who's gone through hardship recognizes that story."

Nikkei floriculture in the Bay Area began in about 1884 with the arrival of the Domoto Brothers, according to research conducted by Donna Graves, a historian and

co-curator of the exhibit. The Domotos later mentored other Issei in the flower growing business.

Under the Domotos' direction what would become the California Flower Market was formed.

The Sakai family traces its roots in Richmond back to 1906 when the family purchased two and a half acres of land to start growing carnations. Later the Sakai family acquired roses from the Domoto brothers, says Sakai.

As the business and family grew, more acreage was acquired and renovations were made to the greenhouses. But the Sakai business would be interrupted abruptly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Before the Sakai family left to be interned in Rowher, Ark. they leased their property to another grower. They entrusted their belongings to neighborhood friend, Clara Heinemann.

"So she stored a lot of the family belongings in her home because we couldn't take it," Sakai said about Heinemann. "You could only take what you could carry. She said she did it because she knew what happened to the Germans during World War I."

Heinemann kept the Sakais' property safe until they returned to Richmond. But the lessee, Sakai says, did not want to return the land.

"And so he said to my uncle, 'Well, none of the whites are going to work for you. They're going to all quit,'" Sakai said. "So my uncle Tetsuma said, 'Go ahead let them. We'll get our own workers.'" The Sakais then recruited workers from the other internment camps.

They returned to Richmond to resume their nursery operations.

But Sakai says other nursery owners were not so lucky.

"Other people they had a lot of vandalism or whatever, the glasses were broken and they had to start from scratch. It was tough for a lot of people," Sakai said. "The Sakais were very fortunate, but other people had it very hard."

The Sakai nursery would face more challenges in the 1970s and 1980s when rising heating costs and competition from South American flower growers put added pressure on nursery owners.

By 2004 the Oishi and Sakai properties were the last operating JA nurseries in Richmond, according to Graves' research.

"The prices were sort of undercutting what they could sell locally here," Sakai said. "So we couldn't compete. So eventually it resulted in the closing of the

nursery."

The Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency purchased about 14 acres of land including the Sakai and Oishi properties in 2006. The agency plans to clean up the site and build the Miraflores Housing Development, says Natalia Lawrence, the agency's project manager.

However the Sakai and Oishi homes and two greenhouses, Lawrence says, will be preserved.

For those who remember the once flourishing nurseries, it is hard to forget their former grandeur.

"Oh, man. Those were such good memories to me," Graves said who started researching the Richmond JA community about 10 years ago. "Walking into the greenhouses, especially on the Oishi property because they were carnation growers, you would walk in and there would be this smell. This cinnamon, spicy sweet smell."

Sakai, who resides in El Cerrito, Calif., still has some relatives living in her old neighborhood. But she does not want to visit her childhood home because it is not how she remembered it.

"It's sad. I don't want to go there. It's too depressing," she explained.

But Sakai says she supports the photography exhibit, which features photos of her family home and greenhouses. She hopes others visit the exhibit and learn of the story of the Nikkei flower growers like her family.

"Part of the reason I supported that exhibit is because a lot of Japanese know about the story of the internment and what life was like," Sakai said adding that others are unaware of the JA experience.

"That's what I want, to share that story." ■

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# Congress Honors JA WWII Veterans



**The bill now awaits the signature of the president.**

**By Associated Press and P.C. Staff**

HONOLULU—Ronald Oba grew up saluting the U.S. flag and saying the Pledge of Allegiance in school, like millions of other American boys.

But he was labeled an “enemy alien” after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, because his ancestors came from the same land as the attacking planes.

To prove his loyalty, Oba joined the Army as soon as President Franklin D. Roosevelt allowed Japanese Americans to enlist. His segregated unit — the 442nd Regimental Combat Team — soon became the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history for its size and length of service.

Congress passed a measure Sept. 23 that would award a Congressional Gold Medal to Oba and others who fought, even as their countrymen viewed them with suspicion and distrust. Many wore the uniform while their families spent the war in detention camps back home.

The House passed the legislation by voice vote one month after the Senate approved it. The measure now goes to President Barack Obama for his signature.

“These men served the nation at a pivotal moment in our history, displaying their heroism and courage on two fronts: abroad in the fight against an absolutist fascism and at home in the face of the intolerance of racial injustice,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the bill’s chief sponsor in the House.

The honorees would include

some 6,000 JAs who served as translators and interpreters against Japan, often on the front lines with Marines and soldiers fighting from island to island across the Pacific.

The elite medal has been given selectively since 1776, when George Washington was awarded the first. Other honorees include the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison, Rosa Parks and the Dalai Lama. The Tuskegee Airmen, the first group of black fighter pilots, received the medal in 2007.

Oba is grateful, saying the medal would spread awareness about the veterans.

“We appreciate our legacy being carried on,” Oba, now 87, said in an interview at the Honolulu clubhouse for 442nd veterans. “Finally, they’re recognizing our contribution during World War II.”

Just outside the clubhouse is a memorial listing the names of nearly 800 JA soldiers killed in action. A plaque spells out the unit’s motto — “Go for broke” — a Pidgin expression meaning “give it your all.”

A large granite map shows where the 442nd, which absorbed the previously established JA unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion, during the war, pushed its way through Italy and France. The area covers the Vosges Mountains, where the unit suffered 800 casualties maneuvering through fog and dense forest against hidden German machine guns to rescue the trapped “Lost Battalion” of the nearly all-Texan 36th Division.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, who took a break from college to enlist and lost his right arm fighting in Italy, said he didn’t help draft the bill because he would be honored by it.

But the Hawaii Democrat said

the medal would give the veterans “a jolt of joy.”

“Keep in mind, there were some who volunteered from behind barbed wires. We in Hawaii volunteered knowing that we were ‘enemy aliens.’ And that’s not easy,” Inouye said.

The senator hopes the award will come soon because the youngest unit members are in their mid-80s and only about a third are still alive. Inouye recently turned 86.

“It was very emotional to listen to Congressman after Congressman extol the valor of the Japanese American soldiers during World War II in spite of the fact that their families were incarcerated behind barbed wire for no reason other than their race,” said Floyd Mori, JACL national director, who attended the recent House vote.

“Many referred to the similarity of then and today’s hatred aimed at loyal Muslim Americans. We thank the veterans, and we commend the Congress for the unanimous support of a measure that provides a great lesson that patriotism is beyond color and ethnicity.”

The Gold Medal would be given to the Smithsonian Institution, which would make it available for research and display it in places associated with the units. The legislation authorizes the Treasury to make bronze duplicates.

“The Japanese American veterans of World War II are absolutely deserving of this recognition with the nation’s highest civilian honor,” said David Kawamoto, JACL national president. “Their patriotism during difficult times is exemplary. This honor is long overdue but welcome. We are very happy that this bill has passed so overwhelmingly.” ■

## National Newsbytes

**By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press**

### Republicans Block Bill to Lift Military Gay Ban

WASHINGTON—Senate Republicans have blocked an effort to repeal the law banning gays from serving openly in the military.

The partisan vote was a defeat for gay rights groups who saw the provision in a defense authorization bill as their last chance any time soon to overturn the law known as “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

Democrats fell short of the 60 votes needed to advance the legislation, which authorized \$726 billion in defense spending including a pay raise for troops.

### Inouye Gets Hawaii Democratic Nod for Senate



HONOLULU—U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, the longest-serving member of the U.S. Senate, has been nominated by Hawaii Democrats to seek a ninth term.

The 86-year-old senator won the state’s Democratic primary with 89 percent of the vote in early returns.

Inouye will face Cam Cavasso, who won the Republican primary, in November’s election. Cavasso defeated two opponents with 69 percent of the vote in early returns.

Inouye has been a senator since 1963, and he’s the chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

### Senator Talks About Losing Home to Foreclosure

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The woman who became the first Hmong member of a state legislature when she was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2002 said she has lost her home to foreclosure and has been living with relatives across the street.

Mee Moua said the experience has nothing to do with her decision not to seek re-election this fall.

Property records show Moua’s parents bought the house atop a hill on the eastern edge of St. Paul in 2005 for \$800,000. Moua’s name is not on any financial papers associated with the house.

Moua’s Senate career will end Jan. 1.

### Arizona Voters to Decide on Affirmative Action Ban

PHOENIX—Arizona voters will decide in November whether to ban state and local governments from discrimination or preferential treatment based on race, ethnicity and sex.

The state constitutional amendment doesn’t use the term “affirmative action,” but there is no disputing that is what Proposition 107 is aimed at eliminating. Such programs generally give preferences to minorities.

Opponents argue that Arizona eliminated affirmative action years ago and now only has programs that help qualified people succeed in their fields.

Voters in four states have approved similar measures in recent years.

### 53 Charged in Bank Fraud, Identity Theft Ring

NEWARK, N.J.—Federal authorities in New Jersey say they’ve broken up a large-scale identity theft and fraud ring that stretches from the insular Korean American enclaves of northern New Jersey to U.S. territories in the Pacific.

Fifty-three people, many of them Korean immigrants living in New York and New Jersey, are charged with helping people fraudulently obtain credit cards, bank accounts and loans using illegally obtained Social Security numbers.

Authorities say the ringleaders operated a scheme to buy Social Security cards from brokers who fraudulently obtained them from Asian immigrants—mostly Chinese nationals—working in American territories, including Guam, American Samoa and Saipan. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### JACL Announces New Masaoka Fellow



Misha Tsukerman of San Francisco, Calif., is the JACL's new Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow. He will work in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii.

Tsukerman is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles where he studied history and Asian American Studies.

He is also a part of the Center for Progressive Leadership's New Leaders Fellowship.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was established in 1988 to honor Masaoka for a lifetime of public service to the nation and the JACL.

### Kokuho Rice Creator to be Honored

Community leader and philanthropist George Okamoto, Sr. and Nomura and Company was honored by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) at its Sept. 25 event, "Tabemasho: From Generation to Generation."

After World War II, Okamoto and his wife Mary started Nomura and Company, which in partnership with Koda Farms, introduced the first medium grain rice variety grown in the United States in 1962 called Kokuho Rose.

"Tabemasho: From Generation to Generation" is a celebration of how food has played an important role in the community.

### Naval Officer Honored by New York Mets

A Navy judge advocate was honored at the first Japanese Heritage Night with the New York Mets recently at Citi Field in New York City.

Lt. Janelle Kuroda, volunteer income tax assistance program manager at the Office of the Judge Advocate General's Legal Assistance Policy Division in Washington, D.C., received a Mets Military Service Spirit Award on behalf of all Japanese American service members.

Kuroda has served with Multi-National Forces-Iraq in Baghdad, served as legal advisor to the commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia in Bahrain, and as the legal advisor to the Combined Maritime Forces multinational counterterrorism mission.

### JACL's Okamoto Receives OCA Award



Steve Okamoto (right) receives the award from Martin Jung, OCA San Mateo president.

OCA San Mateo honored Samuel So, Assemblymember Fiona Ma, and JACL's Steve Okamoto at its Sept. 11 gala.

The event, themed "Embracing Our Diverse Community," celebrates APA leaders.

### Steelers' Ward Named to Presidential Commission

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward has been named to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Ward, is in his 13th season with Pittsburgh.

The commission coordinates with government agencies to get Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders involved in federal programs for business, agriculture and economic development. ■

## Calif. to Honor Fred Korematsu With His Own Day



Civil rights icon Fred Korematsu (center) will now be honored with his own day.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—A man who challenged the World War II internment of Japanese Americans will be honored in California every year under a bill signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The governor on Sept. 23 signed Assembly Bill 1775, legislation designating Jan. 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in California.

Korematsu, who died in 2005, was arrested in Oakland in 1942 after refusing to enter an internment camp. His case led the U.S. Supreme Court to examine the internment order's legality.

"Fred Korematsu was an ordinary man who did an extraordinary thing during a time when his constitutional rights were violated, and as a consequence, changed the course of history," said Assemblymember Warren Furutani, author of the bill. "The Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Con-

stitution will provide an important teaching moment for California and its students."

Korematsu, an American citizen of Japanese descent who lived in California, refused to comply with the military exclusion order that led to the incarceration of more than 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in concentration camps during WWII. He was arrested and convicted of violating the exclusion order, which affected his ability to obtain employment long after those incarcerated were allowed to leave the camps.

Although Korematsu's conviction was upheld in 1944 by the U.S. Supreme Court, he along with a pro bono legal team comprised of young JA and Asian American attorneys petitioned for a writ of error *coram nobis* in 1983 to overturn his conviction.

Judge Marilyn Hall Patel overturned Korematsu's conviction, and her decision acknowledged that:

"A grave injustice was done to

American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II."

"After my father's conviction was overturned in 1983, his focus and mission was education," said Karen Korematsu. "He believed it was important to teach about his struggle for justice and the Japanese American incarceration so that the mistakes of history would not be repeated in the future. The significance of this day will enable students of today and tomorrow to learn and discuss the lessons of American history relevant to the current discussions of the Constitution and our civil liberties."

AB 1775 enjoyed broad support from organizations including the JACL, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education and the Muslim Public Affairs Council. ■

## APA Students Attacked at a Philly High School

Community leaders say the recent attacks are not isolated and likely racially motivated.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Officials say two Asian Pacific American teenagers were attacked Sept. 17 at their South Philadelphia high school.

Philadelphia School District officials and police say the freshman boys were beaten by a group of students at Bok High School.

The boys, who are 14 and 15, required hospital treatment.

Most of the assailants fled after the attack but one 14-year-old boy was caught and charged with assault.

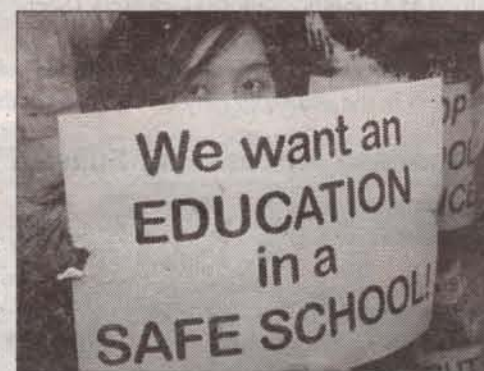
School officials learned students

designated September as "freshman day" — a day for hazing ninth graders. Officials say they don't believe race was a key factor in the attacks.

But APA community leaders say race is a factor in a school district that has gained notoriety for attacks against other APA students earlier this year.

In December about 30 Asian students were injured last year in a string of racially motivated beatings at another Philadelphia high school, sparking a weeklong boycott.

"For the district to say that it wasn't racial seems awfully premature. It feels an awful lot like they're normalizing violence," Helen Gym, a member of Asian



Americans United, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

The Bok High School attack was not isolated either. In May, an APA teenager was chased and punched on the street by a group of about 15 African American youths.

"Frankly, we feel like we are starting to revisit the same troubling issues we encountered all last year," Gym said. ■





# VERY

## truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

### Masaoka Family Scholarship History

PROMPTED BY THE national JACL scholarship theme in the last issue, my *P.C.* chronology pinpoints to June 19, 1946, when the scholarship was announced. However, the *P.C.* that particular week (June 22) had no story of a scholarship.

Rather it was in a four paragraph item: "Memorial Service" (page 5) at the Japanese Church of Christ, Salt Lake City, for Pvt. Ben Frank Masaoka, killed in action during the campaign to rescue the "Lost Battalion" (October 1944). Co-chair Shake Ushio of the memorial service said a scholarship fund in memory of Pvt. Masaoka had began with \$50 to be donated annually from Genevieve Russell of Pasadena.

So much for the genesis of JACL scholarships. For details, we checked the index to Mike Masaoka's autobiography, "They Call Me Moses Masaoka" — yet no indication about a scholarship *per se*.

We then focused on the same index for Ben Frank and learned he had quit his job in Idaho to enlist in the 442nd and went overseas as a rifleman, Co. B 100th Bn. (Five of the six Masaoka brothers saw combat action with the 442nd).

Before going into the thick woods of Vosges Mountains to rescue the "Lost Battalion," Mike tells of receiving a ring Ben had created by carving a hole in the middle of a 25 cent piece, beaten into a ring with whatever crude tools he was able to find. Ben (older than Mike) then left on patrol, ran into a German ambush when Nisei started to pull back. One of them saw Ben fall from an apparent shot in the head. They were unable to retrieve his body.

The next day before sun-up, Mike and buddy Joe Itagaki from Hawaii picked up their carbines and ammo for an unauthorized two-man operation. Moving past the battalion command post, they questioned everyone there. After a futile search for the rest of the day, company records listed Ben Frank Masaoka as "missing in action."

Two years later a body presumed to be Ben was located in a grave in the Vosges where the 442nd had not been. The remains were brought back and re-buried at Arlington National Cemetery (Section 13, Grid L31, Grave 6683-17.)

IN CHAPTER 11, "Memorable Victories" of 22 chapters in the autobiography co-authored with Bill

Hosokawa, are 50 lines (p. 214-15) regarding two California Alien Land Law cases: Sei Fujii (*Kashu Mainichi* publisher) and Haruye Masaoka (mother), the latter in cooperation with Pasadena realtor William Carr and member of American Friends Service Committee.

The five Masaokas contracted to buy land with money from Ben's GI death benefits to build a house for their mother. Under the Alien Land Law this was illegal. The state could seize the property. The Masaokas filed suit against the state in 1948, despite the fact that U.S. Supreme Court had earlier invalidated Alien Land Laws in the Fred Oyama case. James Purcell of San Francisco, their lead attorney, explained the Oyama case pertained to the citizen son but not to Issei aliens.

IN MARCH 1950, the state court held California's Alien Land Law to be "unconstitutional because it violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States, both as to the alien mother and citizen sons."

In reality, Mrs. Masaoka wasn't interested in a house, preferring to move about, visiting her children. She used the money from Ben's death benefit to fund a memorial scholarship each year that became the first postwar scholarship for a worthy Japanese American going to college. The money was only \$250, "in many cases the difference between going to school or having to stay out a year," Mike observed.

The first two winners who split the first award became doctors of medicine. (One I remember well was Dr. Harry Abe of Long Island, New York.) Mike further mentions other early beneficiaries. Kaz Oshiki of California, who became the administrative assistant to Rep. Robert Kastenmeier of Wisconsin and Cherry Tsutsumida of Arizona, who became the highest ranking Nisei woman in civil service as administrator in what was then the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare. (She later was executive director for the Japanese American National Memorial Foundation in Washington.)

Today, there are scholarships of various kinds in the JACL program distributing tens of thousands of dollars each year to promising JA students. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

### THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

## A Legacy Worth Remembering

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



Young Peter with his grandfather Shake.

Another summer has passed, marked by its season finale: the Labor Day Picnic. My wife and I concluded our summer by packing our bags, driving 30 long hours through the dead, dry brush of the Texas desert, and settling into our quaint new (to us) home on the Wasatch Front in beautiful Bountiful. We were home for the Labor Day Picnic.

Since my grandfather Shigeki Ushio and his brother Jim built their two homes on one giant lot, my mother and her siblings basically grew up with their cousins. Long rooted in the tradition of grand picnics, these cousins have carried on the Labor Day Picnic, even as the number of attendees of my grandparents' generation quietly dwindles.

With dental school and my residency on the East Coast and in the South, respectively, it has been at least five years since I last gathered with my cousins, second cousins, aunts and great-aunts to relish in summer's last gala.

In my long absence, I have since added a wife and a baby to my company, as have many of my peers. So while some things profoundly change in individual lives, the atmosphere was without variance: the same smiles, the same menu, the same character of the mood persisted. I can't help but think that my grandfather was peering down from above and reveling in the revelry.

Something about the passing of one thing, even just a season onto another, always makes me nostalgic.

At another picnic in another time when I was a kid, I distinctly remember my grandfather catching a bee with his chopsticks right off my grandmother's famous fried chicken! For years and years, I thought my grandpa was as cool, if not cooler, than Mr. Miyagi himself.

Last year, I told my grandmother about this epic event. She chuckled at my naivety, and told me how Papa had picked up a dead bee when no one was looking and held it up to the amazement of all his grandkids. And while my childhood adoration was deflated, my adult adoration evolved. I suddenly had a new respect for the well-played prank and wit that I hardly comprehended as a child or even as a young adult.

Who knew my grandfather would leave seemingly divergent legacies of greatness on this one grandson who bears his name with pride? Legacy is one of those words that connote greatness of some sort, so it's odd when regular people think and talk about their legacy. It's really weird when anyone talks about his or her own legacy.

Yet, it's equally preposterous to suggest that ordinary people can't have a legacy. Equally fictitious is the idea that young people can't have a legacy. Maybe it's because I can still claim to be in my 20s (for a short time yet), but people don't get to be the president of the United States in their 40s without having a meaningful 20s.

Of course, we can't all be famous, world-leaders, but we can most definitely positively effect our surrounding environments: physical, social and otherwise.

If I could give one piece of advice to the youth, it would be to start working on their legacies now. Of course, that sounds slightly egotistical, but then again what isn't during your young adulthood?

That being said, a true legacy is built on the way people remember how you treated them, how you buoyed them in a moment of weakness, how you inspired them beyond their own limitations, how you amplified their optimism — not on those things you did for yourself.

The ironic thing about a legacy, it that the more you seek to build others, the more your own legacy grows. And that is definitely a legacy worth pursuing. Just ask my grandfather and his peers whose lives were rigorously devoted to the promotion and advancement of those around them. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen lives in Bountiful, Utah. He is a member of the Mount Olympus JACL.

### Japanese Ambassador Fujisaki Visits Great-Great Grandfather's Seattle Art



In his first visit to Seattle in over a half-century, Japan's ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro Fujisaki visited the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington's Japanese Language School Sept. 16 to see his great-great grandfather Prince Hirobumi Ito's calligraphy art. In 1901, Ito, Japan's first prime minister, visited Seattle and wrote in Japanese on a nine-foot by two-foot sheet of rice paper, "Isshi Dojin Tengai Hirin" which translated into English means "Strive For Brotherhood Among All Mankind."



# Welcome to 'K-Town'

A casting call for a 'Jersey Shore' spinoff reality show with an all-Asian American cast generates headlines nationwide.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

It was not long after producers posted a casting notice online for attractive and colorful Asian Americans to be in a "Jersey Shore" spinoff reality show that the negative comments flooded the blogosphere.

But it was not the critics who lambasted the "K-Town" reality project that stunned the show's creators. It was the volume of online scuttlebutt that surprised producer Eddie Kim.

"People from all across the world have been messaging us via Twitter, Facebook and e-mails," said 31-year-old Eddie Kim, addressing the buzz generated online about the new all-Asian American reality show. "I mean we had over 3,000 applications coming in. Just how wide-reaching the talk has been — be it good or bad — that's what surprised me more than anything."

Inspired by the gelled, fist-pumping cast of the popular MTV show "Jersey Shore", Eddie Kim, Eugene Choi and Mike Le decided earlier this year to create "K-Town."

Mike Le, who is the vice president of Tyrese Gibson's production company Headquarter Entertainment, presented the idea to his boss.

Eddie Kim says the producers held two casting sessions quietly. But after Gibson posted a message on Twitter about the "K-Town" project, it was difficult to keep mum about the reality show.

"I mean he has over a million followers on his Twitter," Eddie Kim said about the effect of Gibson's tweet. "Next thing you know it's picked up on the *New York Post*. It's gotten on the *New York Times*. It ended up on 'Chelsea Lately.' And then it was on 'SNL' within a matter of a week. And then, 'We're like, Oh my God. It's blown up everywhere.'"

Other spinoffs of "Jersey Shore," such as a Persian and Russian version of the reality show have also been rumored to be in development.

With all of the publicity circulating in the media about the Asian American reality show, the third open casting call in Los Angeles drew about 200 to 300 reality hopefuls from across the country.

Eddie Kim says the show's creators originally thought they would cast Hollywood archetypes like the "nerd" or "hot girl" for the "K-Town" reality show. But instead, Eddie Kim says, they gravitated toward people with the most interesting backgrounds.

"And so we ended up casting eight of the most colorful, lively personalities amongst Asian Americans that you could find," Eddie Kim said.

Not all of the online gossip was praiseworthy of the all-Asian American reality show spinoff. Some of the criticism came after the "K-Town" cast was announced.

The cast of characters includes hairstylist Jasmine Chang, former beauty queen Jennifer Field, bodybuilder and X-rated

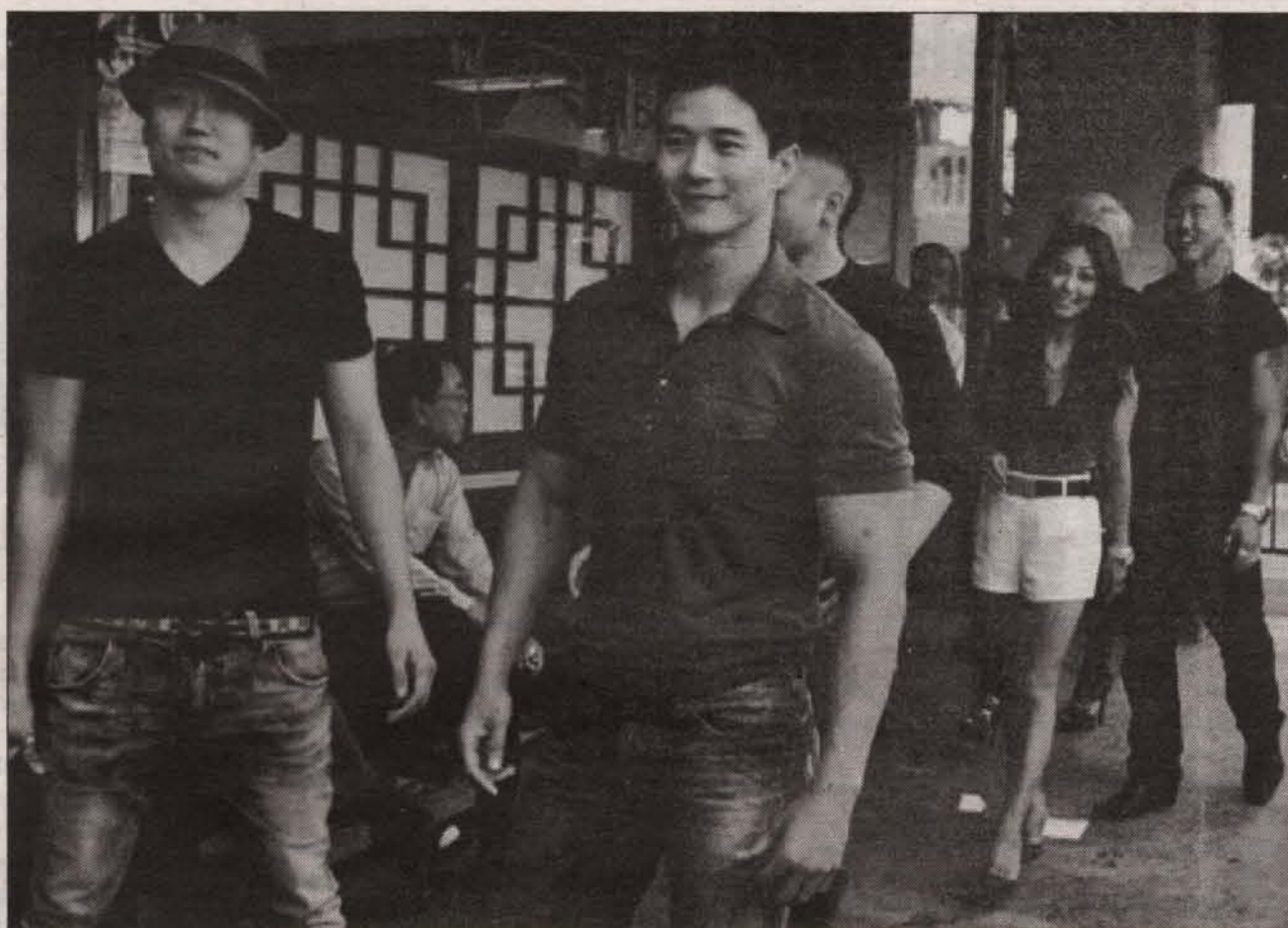


PHOTO: K-TOWN REALITY SHOW

The show features 'colorful, lively personalities', said a 'K-Town' creator.

model Peter Le, former exotic dancer Scarlet Chan, bartender Violet Kim, nightclub promoter Young Lee, entrepreneur Joe Cha and salesman Steve Kim.

The occupations of cast members like Peter Le, who is being dubbed the Situ-Asian, also drew criticism online.

From within the Asian American community, critics questioned how "K-Town" would better Hollywood's representation of minorities. The show's producers say they can understand the criticism.

"I figure that they are reacting from a standpoint of fear given the history of Hollywood's portrayal of Asian Americans," Eddie Kim said. "You know that's understandable."

The show, as the names implies, centers around the culture in Los Angeles, Calif.'s Koreatown. The majority of the cast is from Los Angeles. But not all of the cast members, however, are from Koreatown.

Although centered around Koreatown, Eddie Kim says he hopes people outside of the Asian American community can relate to the show as well.

"Well first of all the story of this is that these are eight people ... who just happen to be Asian, who just happen to be in the setting of Koreatown," Eddie Kim said. "So, my hope is that, yeah they get a taste of Asian culture. But then moreover they realize — white, black, Latino, whoever else are going to watch this — are going to be like, 'Whoa, they're just like me.'"

Staying true to its MTV inspiration, "K-Town" appears to have its share of drunken party scenes, with the occasional karaoke outing.

But Eddie Kim says viewers expect to see more than just Koreatown debauchery.

"We're interested in portraying multi-dimensional personalities. We're interested in portraying the human element, you know we want to explore their lives, their backgrounds,

their families," Eddie Kim said.

"We're not interested in showing only the good side or the bad side. So we will be showing as real as possible who these people are."

The show's trailer has been released online, but the show's creators are still in discussion about when and where the show will air.

Producers are in the process of meeting with networks. Eddie Kim says he hopes a major network will nab the show.

"There are a number of networks that have outreached to us even before us outreaching to them," Eddie Kim explained.

"But you know I hope it'll be on a major network. And I feel pretty hopeful about that given the fact that this has been blown up everywhere." ■

## PACIFIC National business and CITIZEN Professional Directory

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

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*'So, my hope is that,  
yeah they get a taste  
of Asian culture.  
But then moreover  
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whoever else are  
going to watch this —  
are going to be like,  
'Whoa, they're just  
like me.'"*

— Eddie Kim,  
producer



# JACL Gala Salutes Women Champions

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL celebrated the strength and legacy of extraordinary women at its Sept. 16 Washington, D.C. Gala, themed "A Salute to Champions."

Taking the stage to accept her award, Christine Toy Johnson thanked her own personal champions — her mom and dad, of course — and shared her moment in the spotlight with the other honorees.

"I am deeply humbled to be in the presence of these incredible women and all of you," said Toy Johnson, an award-winning screenwriter, playwright and stage and screen actress, about her co-honorees journalist Roxana Saberi, JACL stalwart Etsu Masaoka and Calif. Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Speaking to the *Pacific Citizen* by phone days after the event, Masaoka called her award "a distinct honor."

Masaoka has been a part of the JACL for as far back as she could remember. She met her husband Mike Masaoka, famed JACL leader, at the 1941 JACL national convention in Monterey, Calif. For decades, the husband and wife team helped create what author Bill Hosokawa called the JACL's "Golden Era" in his 1982 book "JACL: In Quest of Justice."

"For years, [Mike] Masaoka worked out of a tiny rented apartment in Washington with his typewriter on the dresser and Etsu was his secretary, his girl Friday, confidante and consultant as well as wife," wrote Hosokawa.

Even without her husband by her side — he

passed away in 1991 — Masaoka is still a constant presence at national JACL events.

"It's very important," said Masaoka about her longtime involvement in the JACL. "It goes to show what can be done. [JACL] is an inspiration to young people to do the best they can."

An acknowledgement "from such an incredible organization" inspires her to work harder, said Toy Johnson. In 2008, she and her husband Bruce Johnson completed their documentary about Wat Misaka, the first person of color to be drafted into what is now the National Basketball Association.

"Transcending — the Wat Misaka Story" has been critically acclaimed, but more importantly it has shed light on an incredible story about a Nisei from Utah who in 1947 was the New York Knicks' first draft pick.

"From day one, by hook or crook we wanted to get the world to acknowledge his rightful place in history," said Toy Johnson.

Misaka, a Salt Lake City JACL member, and his wife Katie also attended the gala.

For 100 days last year, Saberi fought for freedom during her incarceration in Iran. She was accused of espionage. Since her release, Saberi, 33, has traveled all over the U.S. to talk about her experiences in Iran, human rights and her new book "Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran."



Roxana Saberi (center) receives her award from National JACL President David Kawamoto (left) and National Director Floyd Mori.

"I was honored to receive this award from an organization that has been helping give a voice to Asian Americans and others who face injustices," said Saberi in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*. "JACL has played a direct role in my life since I was a teenager and received a JACL college scholarship, and when I was imprisoned in Iran last year, the organization called for my release. I realize that there are many people who are deserving of this award, so I am deeply humbled and grateful."

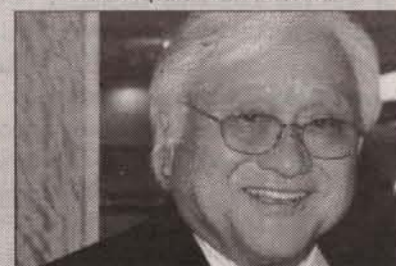
Feinstein, who was unable to attend the event, was honored for her support of camp preservation including urging Tule Lake to be designated a national landmark. Pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly was also awarded for its outstanding support of the JACL.

At the gala, the JACL national board also presented a JACL Diamond Pin to Larry Oda, who served as national president for the past four years. ■

## ON THE SCENE

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, president pro tempore of the Senate and Gala honorary co-chair greeted the audience.

Distinguished guests included: Norman Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation; Larry Echohawk, assistant secretary of the interior over Indian affairs; Rep. Mike Honda; Stuart Ishimaru, Equal Employment Opportunity commissioner; and Paul Igasaki, chair and chief judge of the administrative review board at the U.S. Department of Labor.



HONDA

Past JACL national presidents in attendance were: Floyd Shimomura, Lillian Kimura, Floyd Mori, and Larry Oda.

Sponsors included: Eli Lilly, AT&T, State Farm, Comcast, Southwest Airlines, UPS, U.S. Navy, Norman and Deni Mineta, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Aratani Foundation, David and Carol Kawamoto, Larry and Anne Oda, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and Pfizer.

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## Future Uncertain as DREAM Act Dies

The future of many undocumented students, including many APAs, continues to be in limbo.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—The chance for hundreds of thousands of young people to legally remain in the U.S. evaporated Sept. 21 when Republicans blocked a defense spending bill in the Senate.

Democrats failed to get a single Republican to help them reach the 60 votes needed to move forward on the defense bill and attach the DREAM Act as an amendment. The vote was 56-43. Arkansas Democratic Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor voted with Republicans. Majority Leader Harry Reid also voted to block the bill in a procedural move that allows the defense bill to be revived later.

The DREAM Act allows young people to become legal U.S. residents after spending two years in college or the military. It applies to those who were under 16 when they arrived in the U.S., have been in the country at least five years and have a diploma from a U.S. high school or the equivalent.

Several young people who would have benefited from the legislation watched the vote from the gallery, some wearing graduation caps and gowns. Many sat stone-faced when the vote tally was read.

"I was kind of speechless. It's something

that hurt, but we are not stopping. They only gave us a chance and more time to get even bigger," said Diana Banderas, who graduated from high school in May and plans to go to community college after earning the money she needs to attend.

"There are an estimated 65,000 students who graduate from high school every year without legal immigration status, including many Asian Americans," said Stewart Kwok, president and executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). "These students face the constant fear of deportation from the only country they know and often encounter insurmountable difficulties in pursuing higher education or military service."

Reid, D-Nev., said Republicans were "putting partisan politics ahead of the best interests of the men and women who courageously defend our nation" by blocking the bill, which would have authorized \$726 billion in defense spending, including a pay raise for troops.

Sen. Dick Durbin, the majority whip, said repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and passing the DREAM Act were a matter of justice and fairness.

"We do not in this country hold the crimes and misdeeds of parents against their children," Durbin, D-Ill., said in reference to the DREAM Act. He has been trying to pass the legislation for about a decade.

Congress has failed to take up a comprehensive immigration bill the past two years. ■



## Heart Mountain Conference Examines WWII Camp Aftermath

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

CHEYENNE, Wyo.—Japanese Americans who were interned at a northern Wyoming camp during World War II are helping decide how a new interpretive center at the site will depict life behind barbed wire.

Historians made presentations Sept. 22-24 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles to examine how the Heart Mountain Relocation Center north of Cody affected the people held there.

Built to resemble a group of barracks that once stood at Heart Mountain, the interpretive center is set to open next August.

"If you were to go by there, the building is completely up and you see the structure from the outside. But on the inside we still need to complete the actual museum pieces and the artifacts that need to be on display," said Shirley Ann Higuchi, the daughter of Heart Mountain internees and chairwoman of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board of directors.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, JANM and the Japanese American studies program at UCLA hosted the recent conference. Organizers of the center say they want it to send a message: Never again should the government round up citizens without due process.

"We're trying as hard as we can to listen to analysis and evaluation and description of that episode in our history so that we can treat it fairly and in a balanced and up-to-date fashion," said Doug Nelson, vice chairman of the Heart Mountain foundation board. "It's an important learning opportunity."

Nelson and others say the gathering was timely amid outrage over a planned Islamic center in New York near ground zero. They see a recurrent theme of Americans casting a wary eye on fellow citizens who have



For some, the long train ride from the West Coast to Heart Mountain in Wyoming took a physical toll. An elderly woman in this 1943 photo is helped off the train.

done nothing wrong.

"It's kind of the same thing," said Tak Hoshizaki. "And yet the mosque near ground zero might be symbolic — if it does go in — might be symbolic of what America stands for, freedom of religion."

A retired scientist, Hoshizaki, 84, spent a year and a half at Heart Mountain. He said he still meets people who don't know that the government forced 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry into camps during World War II.

The interpretive center, while remote, could attract many of the 3 million people each year who visit Yellowstone National Park, 60 miles to the west, Hoshizaki said.

One of dozens of internment camps nationwide, Heart Mountain's peak population was close to 11,000. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation hopes to raise \$5.3 million for the interpretive center; it has collected \$4.6 million so far. ■

## APAs Call for Confirmation of Judicial Nominees

The Senate Judiciary Committee has recommended Judge Edward M. Chen and professor Goodwin H. Liu for federal judgeships, prompting leaders from the Asian Pacific American community to call upon the full Senate to confirm them before breaking for the midterm elections.

In a Sept. 10 statement, the JACL urged the APA community to tell Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to hold votes on these nominees before the Senate adjourns Oct. 8.

"It is imperative to have both Judge Chen and Professor Liu confirmed as soon as possible, especially when Judge Chen has waited longer than any other judicial nominee for a confirmation vote," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "Both are highly qualified and have been endorsed by their bar association peers. It is critical for all of us to immediately contact their Senators to urge a vote to be taken and to

cease the delay tactics that have gone on too long and have become overly political."

Originally nominated to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California last August, Chen has waited longer than any other judicial nominee for a confirmation vote. Liu was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on Feb. 24.

The Senate returned both nominations to President Barack Obama in August, per Senate rules. Obama renominated both Liu and Chen Sept. 13.

"Now that Judge Chen and Professor Liu have been voted out of committee, the Senate needs to confirm them before it breaks for the midterm elections," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC). ■

On the Web: [www.confirmnow.org](http://www.confirmnow.org)

## Ship Honors Nisei Marine Scientist

The Bell M. Shimada will sail waters on the West Coast to study marine life.

In a brief but distinguished career as a fisheries biologist, Bell M. Shimada made a lasting contribution in the early study of Pacific tuna stocks. Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) paid tribute to Shimada by commissioning their latest research vessel in his name.

The Bell M. Shimada is a 208-foot, state-of-the-art research vessel that will study a wide range of marine life and ocean conditions along the West Coast.

"I hope the Shimada ship is a lasting testament that no life is too short, no career too brief, no contribution too small, to make a difference," said Julie Shimada about her father's legacy.

Shimada died in a 1958 plane crash at the age of 36 during a research trip prior to taking a new job as the director of a new Bureau of Fisheries' Eastern Pacific Tuna Investigations. He left behind his wife Rae and young children Julie and Allen, a current NOAA fisheries biologist.

A native of Seattle, Shimada entered the University of Washington's School of Fisheries in 1939. During WWII, he served in the Military Intelligence Service in Guam and at the U.S. Army headquarters in Tokyo.

After the War, he received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLEN SHIMADA

Bell M. Shimada, pictured here circa 1952, was passionate about his work.

University of Washington.

According to Allen Shimada, the ship's commissioning was a high honor not only for Shimada, but Rae, who was a secretary with the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the predecessor agency to National Marine Fisheries Service.

"However, I think [his] story is only one of the many young Nisei who volunteered out of the camps for the military or government service and who rightly belong to 'The Greatest Generation'," said Allen Shimada, a Chicago and Washington, D.C. JACL member. ■



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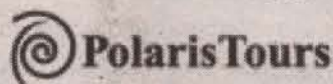
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| Dec. 2 - Dec. 4   | Christmas in Las Vegas:<br>Shows: Cirque du Soleil KA & Barry Manilow<br>Hotel: Aria Hotel & Casino at City Centre |
| Dec. 2 - Dec. 13  | Ryoma-Den Tour: Tour Based on Sakamoto Ryoma   |
| Feb. 22 - Mar. 8  | Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos  |
| Feb. 28 - Mar. 10 | Legacy of the Incas-Peru, Machu Picchu, Nazca Lines  |
| Apr. 4 - Apr. 13  | Spring Japan-"The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"   |
| Apr. 13 - Apr. 27 | South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites  |
| Jun. 7 - Jun. 9   | Las Vegas in Summertime: Shows: Celine Dion  |
| Jul. 25 - Aug. 3  | Summer Japan: Highlights for the Whole Family  |
| Aug. 10 - Aug. 17 | Great Pacific Northwest:<br>Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Whistler   |

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## American Holiday Travel

### 2010 Tour Schedule

**JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** SEP 28-OCT 8  
Chiba, Mito, Aizu Wakamatsu/Higashiyama Onsen, Sado Island, Nagano, Matsumoto, Takayama, Gujo Hachiman, Gifu, Kyoto.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA HOLIDAY TOUR** NOV 8-22  
Bangkok, Cambodia, Vietnam.

**NEW ORLEANS HOLIDAY TOUR** (New Tour) NOV 30-DEC 4  
Stay in French Quarter, City tour, New Orleans Schools of Cooking & dinner, Garden district & Plantation

### 2011 Tour Schedule

**EGYPT-NILE RIVER HOLIDAY TOUR** JAN 15-25  
Cairo, Giza, Luxor, Nile River Cruise, Kom Ombo, Aswan, Abu Simbel.

**HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR** FEB 6-13  
Sapporo, Lake Shikotsu, Shirai, Otaru, Asahikawa, Sounkyo, Abashiri.  
See 5 Snow/Ice Festivals. Ride icebreaker ship "Aurora".

**AMERICA'S CANYONLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR** MAR 31-APR 7  
Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Zion & Bryce Canyon, Monument Valley, Lake Powell, Las Vegas. **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS OCT 1, 2010**

**JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR** MAR 29-APR 7  
Tokyo, Kofu, Mt Fuji, Lake Kawaguchi, Shizuoka, Magome/Tsumago, Gero Onsen, Takayama, Kyoto.

**GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** JUN 26-JUL 5  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Nara, Kyoto.

**ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE** JUL 16-23  
Vancouver, Sawyer Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan.  
HOLLAND AMERICA Zuiderdam Ship.

**SOUTH AFRICA HOLIDAY TOUR** AUG 4-15  
Cape Town, Wine Country, Kruger National Park, Table Mountain, Johannesburg, Livingston, Victoria Falls-Zambia.

**REFLECTIONS OF ITALY HOLIDAY TOUR** SEP 5-14  
Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Florence, Venice, Lugano-Switzerland, Lake Como, Milan.

**HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR** OCTOBER

**OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR** NOVEMBER

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# Miyamura H.S. Dedicated in Gallup

A Japanese American veterans group attended the ceremony in honor of the Nisei Medal of Honor recipient nicknamed 'Hershey.'

By Harry K. Honda

GALLUP, N.M.—Again the Japanese American Korean War Veterans Association (JAKWV) and the city of Gallup gathered family and friends recently to dedicate the new Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura High School at the eastern side of the city of around 25,000.

A portion of the grade 9-12 school is still under construction, the city's second high school taking the place of former Gallup Junior High and the seventh in McKinley County in northwestern New Mexico.

Miyamura High is nicknamed "Patriots." School colors are purple and silver to match Hershey's Purple Heart medal. The 6-foot-5-inch bronze statue of Miyamura in uniform, that graced the entryway to the Gallup McKinley County School's administrative office last year, has been placed at the school.

The JA group of 40 from Los Angeles arrived by Amtrak after an overnight 12-hour trip to be greeted by Miyamura at the train station. Among the photographers clicking away at the scene was Bacon Sakatani, of West Covina, Calif., for the JAKWV newsletter. He was among the very few who drove to Gallup. Sam Shimoguchi and Carl Miyagishima had arranged the Amtrak ticketing.

At the luncheon, Miyamura formally welcomed the party and introduced his family at El Rancho Hotel on Historic 66 Highway. The young lady in Air Force blue at the head table, Lt. Marisa Miyamura, who graduated last year from the U.S. Air Force Academy, is the daughter of Hershey and Terry's son, Mike.

Three Gallup Express minivans transported the California visitors to the school site located at 620 S. Boardman Avenue, for the highlight program emceed by school principal Frank Chiapetti.

Civic officials presenting scrolls and certificates were state Sen. George Muñoz, Gallup Mayor Harry Mendoza and spokesperson Jim Dupont for Sen. Jeff Bingham.

Gallup seldom finds so many JA faces in their midst. It was a great day, many observed. By 5 p.m. it



PHOTO COURTESY PAT SHIMOMURA

A bronze statue of MOH recipient Hershey Miyamura is currently displayed at the high school.

was time for Southland visitors to leave and catch the 7 p.m. Amtrak back to Los Angeles.

Five years ago, some JA Korean War veterans from Los Angeles came to Gallup in 2005 to dedicate a pillar describing Miyamura's heroic actions in the Korean War. The pillar was placed at the city's Veterans Memorial Plaza.

The heroic Miyamura story began when he disembarked from a troop ship at San Francisco in April 1953. After 28 months in a Chinese Communist prisoner of war camp, Miyamura returned home and news of his actions defending the mountaintop post single-handedly covering the withdrawal of his men and being credited with killing over 50 enemies became public. He was recommended for the nation's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He remembers being ill and nervous, being the first of seven to receive the medal from President Eisenhower on Aug. 7, 1953, at the White House. But his wife, Terry, fully enjoyed the trip to Washington.

Hershey, 85, so named by his grammar school teacher who wouldn't pronounce Hiroshi, has been honored by his hometown with a park, a school and an overpass east of downtown. His father came here in 1906 to work in the coal mine and later ran a café near the Santa Fe station. ■

## Compton, S.F. Colleges Seek to Award Nisei Degrees

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Two California colleges are continuing efforts to locate and honor former Nisei students who had their education interrupted by the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

Compton Community College will be holding an Oct. 16 graduation ceremony to honor approximately 40 former students.

In 1942, what was then known as Compton Junior College, attracted JA students from the South Bay area and other parts of Los Angeles.

Former students and family members will be coming from all over the country to receive their belated honorary degrees, according to Michael Odanaka.

The California Nisei College Diploma Project is also trying to locate former City College of San Francisco (CCSF) JAs whose studies were halted due to the signing of Executive Order 9066.

Before WWII, over 200 Nisei attended CCSF, formerly known as San Francisco Junior College.

AB 37, authored by Assemblyman Warren Furutani, became law last October. The bill requires the trustees of the California State University system and the board

of governors of the California Community Colleges to grant honorary degrees to all people of Japanese ancestry whose educations were interrupted because of their forced incarceration during WWII.

In July 2009, the University of California Regents unanimously agreed to suspend a 37-year-old moratorium on granting honorary degrees.

Since its signing into law, AB 37 has helped to identify close to 900 former students and has allowed Nisei to achieve their dreams of a college degree some 68 years later.

The CA Nisei Project, a program of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, offers support to the three California college systems and conducts outreach to community organizations and individuals in an effort to honor former internees.

Anyone who knows of someone who may be eligible to receive an honorary degree from City College of San Francisco or from the other California institutions of higher education are asked to contact project coordinator Jeffrey Chu at 415/567-5505 or caniseiproject@jccnc.org. ■



## Honolulu JACL to Honor Champions of Same-sex Rights

In recognition of their exemplary courage and commitment to justice in the fight for civil unions and same-sex equality, Honolulu JACL will present Rep.



OSHIRO

Blake Oshiro and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii with its 2010 Distinguished Service Awards. The awards will be given at the chapter's annual general membership luncheon Oct. 2.

Oshiro introduced and championed House Bill 444 in the state legislature, which sought to legalize civil unions. He is the representative for the 33rd district in the state House of Representatives, comprising the areas of Waimalu, Pearlridge, Aiea, Halawa and Red Hill.

In his April 29 House floor remarks Oshiro said: "There comes a time when we need to do our job and not simply worry about keeping our job. Today, we are presented with the chance to right an injustice."

On Feb. 12, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii approved a resolution in support of equal rights for same-gender couples, as a matter of civil rights, equal treat-

ment, and affirmation of human dignity and worth for everyone.

The mission has established 36 temples statewide and the Buddhist Study Center. The mission seeks to establish a deeper understanding of Buddhism while working for social issues as a related purpose of religious groups.

"The actions of Rep. Blake Oshiro and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission reflect and honor the mission of the JACL. We are proud to recognize their courageous efforts towards equality for all," said Shawn Benton, Honolulu JACL president. ■

### Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony

Oct. 2, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

Manoa Grand Ballroom

\$35/JACL members and seniors; \$45/non-members

Table sponsorships available.

For more info: Shawn Benton

at 808/524-7575 Ext. 4 or e-

mail [honolulu@jacl.org](mailto:honolulu@jacl.org);

[www.jaclhawaii.org](http://www.jaclhawaii.org)

## S.J. JACL to Hold Luncheon for Historic Building

The San Jose JACL is hosting an Oct. 23 Centennial Celebration Luncheon fundraiser to help renovate the historic Issei Memorial Building, a living monument to the local Japanese American history.

The memorial building needs to be renovated in order to continue its service as a home for non-profits and a meeting place for community groups and private parties.

The San Jose JACL is the caretaker of the 100-year-old memorial building.

The event's featured speaker will be Norman Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation. Before

he rose to political prominence as mayor of San Jose, Calif. and congressman, Mineta ran his insurance business from an office in the Issei Memorial Building.

In conjunction with the luncheon, a benefit drawing and silent auction will be held to raise additional funds.

San Jose JACL leaders are searching for individuals with ties to the memorial building. Those who were born at the Issei Memorial Building during its Kuwabara Hospital era should contact the chapter to become an honorary guest at the luncheon. ■

### Fundraiser Luncheon

Oct. 23

Holiday Inn

1740 North First Street

San Jose, Calif.

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

\$60/luncheon reservation

NBC 11's Mike Inouye and

San Jose Taiko will round out

the afternoon's program.

For more information on

reservations and sponsorship

opportunities: 408/295-1250

or [sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net);

[www.sanjosejacl.org](http://www.sanjosejacl.org)

## Bridging Communities Seeks Internship Applicants

To bring its Bridging Communities program to other parts of the country, the JACL is accepting applications for paid internship opportunities in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

The Bridging Communities program seeks to bring Japanese American youth, the National Park Service, and youth in other communities of color together to understand and preserve history, build identity, and apply that knowledge to the present.

Through partnerships with these groups, the JACL hopes to cre-

ate dialogue and understanding between different communities who share similar histories and struggles. In collaboration with the National Park Service, participants will tie these experiences to the Japanese American World War II concentration camps.

Duties include but are not limited to forming and planning the program, outreach and recruitment and budgeting.

For a full job description or more information, contact the program coordinator of the corresponding city. ■

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Oct 18 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 11 Days - \$4195 - Tokyo

Niigata-Japan Sea -Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate-Kinosaki-Matsue-Izumo-Mt. Daizen-Osaka.

Nov 1 Fall Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" - 11 Days - \$3995- Tokyo

Takayama-Nara-Kobe-Takahashi-Miyajima-Hiroshima Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Kyoto.

### 2011 Preview

Jan 29 - Mexican Riviera Fun Cruise

Feb 24 - "Twin Cities" - London & Paris

March 14 - Best of China

March 29 - Japan "Cherry Blossoms"

April 6 - Orient Deluxe with Viet Nam + "4-day Cruise"

Apr 21 - Discover Korea "Drama Highlights"

May 15 - Mediterranean Cruise - "Celebrity Equinox"

June 6 - USA Bus Tour - Pacific Coast

June 28 - Summer Japan Classic "Family Tour"

July 10 - Alaska Cruise

Aug 16 - USA Bus Tour -National Parks + "Heart Mt.

Learning Center Grand Opening"

Sep 4 - Discover South America

Sep 25 - New England "Fall Foliage"

Oct 10 - Hokkaido/Tohoku

Oct 17 - Uranihon "Otherside of Jaapan"

Nov 1 - Japan Fall Classic

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



## Asian American Music Festival LOS ANGELES, CA.

Oct. 15-17

Japanese American National Museum  
Tateuchi Democracy Forum,  
369 East First St.

An eclectic lineup of Asian Pacific American virtuosos will take the stage in this three-day, multi-cultural celebration. Headliners include ukulele legend Jake Shimabukuro and international songstress Charmaine Clamor (pictured above). This is being dubbed an "evolution" of last year's Asian American Jazz Festival, so easy listening will be accompanied with the groundbreaking lyrics of hip-hop artist Shing02 and others.

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

## EAST

**One Nation Working Together  
March & Rally**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
Oct. 2, starting at 10 a.m.  
U.S. Capitol to Lincoln Memorial  
'One Nation' is a social movement of individuals and organizations committed to putting America back to work. Meet up with other JACLers at 10 a.m. at the U.S. Capitol grounds (mall side) and march in unity to the rally site.  
Info:  
[www.onenationworkingtogether.org](http://www.onenationworkingtogether.org)

**Play Reading: 'Shikatanai'**  
NORTHAMPTON, MA  
Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Smith College  
Earle Recital Hall  
FREE

A dancing grandma, a procreating couple, and a secretive father/son farming duo are among the themes in this full-length play by young Hapa Yonsei playwright Kendra Arimoto, a former JACL scholarship winner. It's being touted as "something created by Kafka and Sartre's lovechild," but also reflects Arimoto's lifelong effort to put her family's history of incarceration on stage.  
Info: [www.kendraarimoto.com](http://www.kendraarimoto.com) or [karimoto@smith.edu](mailto:karimoto@smith.edu)

TaKeTiNa Workshop

**CONCORD, MA**  
Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Concord Masonic Temple  
58 Monument Square  
\$90/person  
What is TaKeTiNa? It's a body-based group rhythm practice involving stepping, clapping and singing. Elaine Fong leads the group on a rhythm journey to healing.  
Info & registration: Elaine Fong  
617/842-8565 or [enf1234@att.net](mailto:enf1234@att.net)

## MIDWEST

**Roger Shimomura's  
'Minidoka on My Mind' Exhibit**  
STILLWATER, OK.  
Through Oct. 8  
Oklahoma State University  
Gardiner Art Gallery/Bartlett  
Center for the Visual Arts  
FREE

The free exhibition at the Gardiner Art Gallery explores artist Roger Shimomura's inner thoughts about Camp Minidoka. The World War II relocation center in Hunt, Idaho was where Shimomura and his family were incarcerated from 1942 to 1944. The exhibit features images that are "scraped from the linings" of his mind.  
Info: [teresa.holder@okstate.edu](mailto:teresa.holder@okstate.edu)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

**Land of Joy and Sorrow Exhibit**  
YAKIMA, WA

**Opens Oct. 2**  
Yakima Valley Museum  
2105 Tieton Dr.  
The exhibition traces the story of the Japanese families who settled in the Yakima Valley and made a new life in a new land.  
Info:  
[www.yakimavalleymuseum.org](http://www.yakimavalleymuseum.org)

## CENTRAL CALIF.

**JACL Fall Golf Classic**  
DINUBA, CA  
OCT. 15, 1 p.m.  
Ridge Creek Golf Course  
3018 Ridge Creek Dr.  
Four-man scramble sponsored by the Fresno JACL. Each player in the foursome rotates playing the Golden Ball. Scoring is combined between the Golden Ball and the next best score per hole. If you lose the Golden Ball your team is disqualified.  
Info & registration: 559/392-6942, [jasonchang329@gmail.com](mailto:jasonchang329@gmail.com) or [jaclfresno.com](http://jaclfresno.com)

## NOR. CALIF./WEST/NEV./PACIFIC

**"Nikkei Dogs and Musubi!"**  
Scholarship Dinner  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m. dinner  
7 p.m. bingo  
Buddhist Church of Florin  
7235 Pritchard Road  
\$10/person; \$6/youth ages 4-12; free for youth under 3  
Sample a dozen Japanese toppings on Japanese style hot dogs and Musubi. It's all you can eat. All classic hot dog toppings are available for the non-adventurous palate. Salad, drinks and dessert are included. Florin JACL's event is a fundraiser for scholarships and awareness-raising youth programs.  
Info: [www.florinjac.com](http://www.florinjac.com) or [andynoguchi@hotmail.com](mailto:andynoguchi@hotmail.com)

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

**PSW Awards Dinner**  
LONG BEACH, CA.  
Oct. 9, 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. dinner  
The Grand  
4101 E. Willow St.  
PSW JACL's fundraiser, "Reflecting On Our Legacy, Creating New Milestones" recognizes its community leaders including Iku Kiriya, Debbie Nakatomi, Tad Nakamura and chapter honorees.  
Info: 213/626-4471 or [www.jaclpsw.org](http://www.jaclpsw.org)

**Riverside JACL's "Stand Up for Justice" Screening**  
RIVERSIDE, CA.  
Oct. 23, 12 noon  
First Christian Church  
4055 Jurupa Ave.  
This 30-minute docu-drama is based on the true story of Ralph Lazo, a 17-year-old Mexican American student who joined his Japanese American friends at Manzanar.  
RSVP: Michiko Yoshimura  
951/784-7057 or [my141@sbglobal.net](mailto:my141@sbglobal.net)

## MORI

(Continued from page 2)

This was brought to the JACL recently as we were asking for a member of a U.S. Senator's staff to represent the senator. The staff member who contacted the JACL office seemed pleased that they were able to send the legislative assistant in charge of *foreign affairs* to attend, as if they thought that was most appropriate.

The JACL has been around for over 80 years. Many of our parents and grandparents came to this country more than 100 years ago. The JACL has had its own headquarters building in San Francisco since the 1970s. Our greatest membership base is in the state of California, and we have chapters scattered throughout the country. Yet because of our name, Japanese American Citizens League, and perhaps the way we look, people still assume that we

are more foreign than American.

There has been some strong opposition to changing the JACL's name, and most want to keep the acronym of JACL. We can still be known as the JACL, but it may be time to let the letters stand for something else. While it was anticipated that we would at least try to keep something referring to "Asian American" in the name, that is not necessary. It might be wise to change the JACL meaning to Joint American Citizens League or possibly something using the word "justice". There are options, which would need to be discussed and reviewed before a change would be implemented. It then may be necessary to explain that the JACL was formerly known as the Japanese American Citizens League. That would be okay.

Although we are and will remain interested in our heritage, we are, after all, Americans first and foremost. ■



## YOSHINO

(Continued from page 2)

curriculum standards by Christine Munteanu, JACL Ford program fellow, indicates that 23 states do not include any mention about the internment/incarceration in their curriculum standards. But for the initiative of individual teachers, students in the following states will receive no instruction on the incarceration: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

As you might expect, California has a comprehensive curriculum standard on the internment, as do Washington and Minnesota. Perhaps it's not surprising with the legacy of two concentration camps that the Arkansas standards are comprehensive in their treatment of both the internment and Asian American history. Portions of the Arkansas standards make mention of the Korematsu case and the 442nd RCT, as well as the Gentlemen's Agreement, the Chinese Exclusion Act and Angel Island.

It's also interesting to note that many of the Southern states such as Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia,

Arkansas and Tennessee include the internment in their standards, while states such as Oregon, Colorado and Idaho that have direct links to the internment, do not. As much as we railed at Texas for failing to make a distinction between the treatment of JAs and German and Italian Americans, both Arizona and Georgia also fail to make that distinction.

Part of our interest in having Texas get it right on the internment has to do with the influence the state wields with textbook publishers. However, if we are to overcome the learning deficit about AA history and the internment, we must also take the basic step of persuading all the states to include this material in their curriculum standards, and even more, to remind school districts, teacher development programs and teachers that this material must be taught.

After all, our experience is as rich as that of any immigrant group, and it has much light to shed on the impact of contemporary events such as the aftermath of Sept. 11, the Patriot Act and even the current controversy surrounding the building of an Islamic cultural center in lower Manhattan. ■

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest regional director.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Hara, Jane Kazue, 91

Seal Beach, Calif.; Aug. 27; preceded in death by husband William Iwao Hara, a Terminal Islander and survived by children Robert S. (Belinda) Hara, Lorraine K. (Roger) Johnson, Donald K. (Jan) and William K. (Diane) Hara; grandchildren, Carrie K. Miura, Kristen L. (Jason Jarrell) Johnson, David A. Hara, John Paul (Shelli) and Michelle Zentgraf.

## Hirahara, Akira, 88

Montebello, Calif.; Aug. 31; the Nisei was born in Madera, Calif.; World War II veteran survived by wife Kikuno; son Grant (Teresa) Hirahara; grandchildren Caitlyn and Bradford Hirahara; sisters Fusae Masukawa, Fumiko Akutagawa and Yoshiko Eddow; brothers-in-law Ted (Alice) and Shigeru (Ann) Hamachi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

## Kita, Kyoko, 84



Wheat Ridge, Colo.; Sept. 10; traditional Japanese art and cultural tradition teacher who in 1986 founded the Colorado Branch of Sogetsu style ikebana. Survived by sisters and a community of beloved colleagues and friends.

## Matsui, Gail Midori, 53

Stockton, Calif.; Aug. 11; professional photographer and owner of Gail Matsui Photography who as past French Camp JACL president helped photograph, design and produce several of the books in the JACL/CSU Sacramento Oral History project.

## Nakamura, Mitsuru, 85

Aug. 31; born in Seattle, Wash.;

survived by wife Etsuko and children Nadine (Marc) Constans, Steve (Karen) Nakamura, Larry (Deb) Nakamura, Tracy (Kim) Nakamura, Joyce (Tyler) Beams; sisters, Mary Warren, Sachi (George) Wong, and brother Jim (Myndee), 13 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

## Okamoto, Toru Tom, 83



Santa Ana, Calif.; Sept. 12; survived by wife Eiko; sons Douglas and Donald; daughters Donna and Doris (Raymundo Gomez); grandsons Zachary and Nicholas Gomez; brothers Yukio (Miyoko) and Iwao (Kazuko); many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

## Ozaki, Molly, 83

Sept. 14; predeceased by husband Yoji Ozaki and survived by children Julie (Ken) Modaff and Janis Matsuo; brother Ernest Michio Matsunaga, and sister Setsuko Nishi; and grandchildren Matt, Dan and Jamie Modaff and Dana and Tyler Matsuo.

## Sakahara, Grace Sumiye, 88

Anaheim, Calif.; Sept. 22; preceded in death by husband Frank Shigeto Sakahara and survived by children Ronald I. (Annie K.) Sakahara and Jane R. (Sam S.) Tanahara; grandchildren, Garrett M. Sakahara, Jason K. (Tiffany) Tanahara, Liane Y. (Abel) Tanahara-Chacon; sister, Alice Y. Umeda; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

## Sakamoto, Masako, 92



Laguna Hills, Calif.; Sept. 18;

survived by children Dick (Irene) Sakamoto and Betty Nakatsuka; grandchildren Dr. Ned (Carole) Nakatsuka, Dr. Tod (Christie) Nakatsuka, Kent (Tina) Sakamoto and Kurt (Laura) Sakamoto; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

## Shimizu, Hiroshi, 88

Miliani, Hawaii; Aug. 20; former metallurgical engineer and certified life underwriter survived by wife Fukiko; daughters Karen Shimizu and Janis Cassida; brothers Jim and Masaru; sister Ida Tateoka; and three grandchildren.

## Takahashi, Nancy Natsuye, 96

Torrance, Calif.; Aug. 16; survived by children Betty (Tak) Yamashita, Kent (Hideko) Takahashi; Carole (Rodney) Sekimoto; grandchildren Carrie (Joe) Barger, Dale (Michelen) and John (Jennifer) Yamashita, Adrienne and Aaron Takahashi, Leigh (Lena) and Steven (Trilla) Sekimoto, Allison (Graham) Smith.

## Tanaka Iwasa, Elsie Tamako, 82

Payette, Idaho; Sept. 5; survived by husband Dr. George Iwasa, five sons and daughters-in-law; grandchildren.

## Uriu, Masashi, 84

Torrance, Calif.; Aug. 28; a Nisei born in San Jose, Calif.; World War II veteran survived by wife Christine; children Karen (Mitsu) Nakamura, Mark (Beverly O'Mara) Uriu, Candice (Steve) Yokomizo, Marcia and Kevin (Goril Lynghaug) Uriu; stepchildren Craig, Neil, and Gwen Muranaka, Elaine (Keawe) Rillamas, Jane (Michael) Lebbin, Ronald, Mark, and Rick (Mariellen) Taniguchi.

## Watamura, Masayo, 88



Los Angeles, Calif.; Sept. 13; survived by son Roy Mamoru, Jr. (Vicky) Watamura; daughters, Ann (Wilbur) Fukuzaki, Pat (Lynn) Kaneshiro and Carol (Jerald) Nasu; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. ■

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