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Sansei Mark  
Takai serves his  
home state of  
Hawaii and the  
U.S. overseas.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Keep JACL Acronym

My opinion is that we must keep the name JACL. I agree with Helen Kawagoe, past national JACL president, that we just keep the initials J.A.C.L. and everyone can still join JACL.

**Dr. Frank Sakamoto**  
JACL Nat'l 1000 Club Chair

## JACL Name Change Acronym Changes

This letter is in regards to the recent letter to the editor written by Helen Kawagoe, former national JACL president, who wrote in response to the possibility of a name change for the Japanese American Citizens League or JACL.

NAACP and OCA no longer use their full names. Often when people hear the words for which the JACL letters stand, they assume it is an organization only for Japanese Americans. A name change is not necessary, but we could do a better job of inviting people and making everyone feel welcome to join the JACL. The JACL definitely needs to work on ways to increase membership.

**Floyd Mori**  
JACL Nat'l Director

I concur with national director Floyd Mori in his column "Time for Changes" that appeared in the Oct 1-14 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. Mr. Mori points to an example that recent European immigrants are more prone to be looked upon as more American than a Japanese American. Herein lies a problem. Although we cannot change our appearance, we can discontinue referring to ourselves as hyphenated Americans. Mr. Mori concludes on page 14, "... we are, after all, Americans first and foremost".

What if we place American before all Japanese acronyms such as AJ (American Japanese) or AJCL (American Japanese Citizen League). What if we assume Asian American (AA) to mean American Asian (AA) as an inclusive term. Not

too innovative since native or indigenous Americans have used American Indian for many years.

These acronym changes may attract a diverse membership to JACL and assist our younger generation. Surely, JACL in 1929 sounded awkward and all name changes are initially difficult, but being difficult does not make it impossible.

**Roy M. Takeuchi**  
Stockton Chapter

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## A Misquote?

Please tell me that the following statement ("Parallels Between Ground Zero Mosque Controversy, JA Internment," *Pacific Citizen*, Oct. 1-14 issue) is a misquote, typographical error, and not a dangerously uninformed president of the New York JACL:

"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."

A disturbing and shocking statement if made by the leadership

of the JACL to compare "Muslim extremists" to "JA No-No Boys", particularly on the heels of the JACL's Power of Words initiative to stop the distorted narrative about the JA WWII experience.

Such a comparison is a damaging invective that has historically divided our community and caused irreparable harm to people who had the courage to stand up for their constitutional rights by saying "No" to the injustice of their incarceration.

Demonizing the protestor has been a tragic long-term consequence of the trauma perpetrated upon our people. Please tell me that this is not the stance of the leadership of the JACL.

**Satsuki Ina**  
JACL member since 1962

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Letters will be subject to editing.

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# The Transformation



By Floyd Mori

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a conference in Bentonville, Arkansas that was presented by Walmart for participants from the various minority communities. It was titled as the "Stakeholder Summit." I have to admit that I learned a great deal and concluded that Walmart is in a genuine process of looking outward towards the customers and the communities in which they reside. This is a marked change from the attitude of turning their backs on

their critics and doing business as they only knew how to do. They have discovered that in dealing in a national and global marketplace there are more considerations than having to deal with a homogenous rural marketplace.

As Walmart has moved into more urban and suburban communities, diversity and cultural sensitivity have become more of an issue. While they have been criticized in the past for low wages and few benefits, the growth of their labor force, which numbers some 1.4 million associates in the United States alone, has motivated the company to become more competitive in workers benefits. Today, they indicate that their employees have an average wage above the minimum and in many cases higher than union wages. We were also informed that all of their employees, both full-time and part-time, have health benefits. The rumor mill has them paying

subsistence wages.

While I found that there were holes in their presentation regarding the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, I would say that there is genuine intent in addressing the overall issue of giving more balanced marketing and employment effort towards a more diverse company. AAPIs were lacking in employment numbers and few could be found in higher levels of management in the company. The fact that many urban and suburban areas have an increasing proportion of AAPI populations seems to have not been addressed. Marketing materials lacked AAPI faces but did display African American and Hispanic people.

Now, why do I even mention this monumental change in business strategy by this company with obvious rural roots? While some of the initial values of the rural farming culture have been maintained, they have discovered new opportunities to expand their influence into the urban and suburban culture. This means a

necessity to become more diverse. Their global thrust amplified their need to become more culturally sensitive. There are many familiar retail names that have fallen by the wayside because they have not been able to adjust to changing markets, names like Woolworth, Kress, and Montgomery Ward.

I mention this because the JACL can be a Walmart but could also be a Woolworth. While we can retain some core values, we have to look at the diversity within the community which we serve. We have to reorganize, retool, and retrofit the old in order to survive in this new millennium.

We have begun the process of bringing in new ideas and strategies. We need a Stakeholders Summit that builds upon what we have that is good, but eliminates that which has been holding us back. Our vision has to be forward and we need to bring in leaders who are not afraid to implement what may seem to be radical new ideas. We have a lot in our heritage of which we can be proud, but success is in how we handle the shift into the future. ■

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# 'Tag Project' Exhibit Connects Generations with WWII Internment History

Inspired by her own family history, artist Wendy Maruyama sought to recreate all of the identification tags used during the forced evacuation. The sheer numbers of tags has been shocking to some.

By Christine McFadden  
Correspondent

The black and white photos taken by prolific photographer Dorteia Lange depict Japanese American families waiting by train tracks to be shipped off to concentration camps. They are sitting on the tops of their few suitcases with solemn expressions.

All are pinned with matching identification tags that display their name, an identification number, and the isolated camp they are headed toward. The photos with the tags are haunting snapshots of life pre-camp. For artist Wendy Maruyama, they are both haunting and compelling.

Maruyama, the head of the furniture design and woodworking program at San Jose State University has been a Fulbright scholar to England, so she is no stranger to artistic endeavors. But her most recent project is literally a massive undertaking. After making the decision to research her family history, Maruyama, a Sansei, simultaneously found the launching point for her "Tag Project": a mission to replicate all 120,000 tags worn by the internees during World War II.

She began by replicating 1,011 tags from the internees from her hometowns of San Diego and Chula Vista. From there, Maruyama made the commitment to making all 120,000 tags, looking to reflect and educate the public on the sheer scale and numbers of those incarcerated.

Maruyama's family was directly affected by the WWII incarceration: her mother's family took the option to leave the West Coast rather than be shipped to concentration camps, but still lived the lives of displaced peoples — "invisible internees," as Maruyama called them. They had "equally sad and horrible stories about their experiences."

"The 'Tag Project' started at my mother's dining room table and it was here that she and my aunt shared their stories," she reflected. "Unfortunately my grandparents never talked about their experiences but I feel fortunate that I was able to hear the stories through my mother."

The project, now traveling around the nation, has since sparked more dialogue about the internment while bringing generations of JAs together.

## Tale of the Tags

"I remember seeing photos and seeing the Nisei and Issei at the train station with these tags," said Robert Ito, a Sansei San Diego JACL board member. "[I] always wondered what it was." After hearing Maruyama present her project to the San Diego JACL board in 2008, he knew he had to get involved. "I just totally embraced it."

Utilizing his expertise in grant writing, Ito volunteered in 2008 to take the lead in writing a grant application for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Earlier this year, the 'Tag Project' received news that it had won the \$25,000 grant.

"I knew that it was going to resonate with whoever read it [the grant proposal]," he said.

Both of Ito's parents were incarcerated at Poston and his father volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His mother is currently involved with helping string the tags.

The tags, still in the making, have traveled to high schools, colleges, and art galleries across the country: from Tennessee to Tule Lake, from Madison to Manzanar.

The process of making the tags began with a phone call



PHOTO COURTESY WENDY MARUYAMA

Volunteers like Ethan Okazaki, 9 — here working on Topaz tags — are helping keep the WWII evacuation story alive.

from Maruyama to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles to verify the exact dimensions of the tag from their collection.

"These tags are no longer made in this size so I had 120,000 tags custom made to replicate the exact size of the original," she said. "I then created rubber stamps of the print that was on the tag."

All of the names on the tags are authentic, drawn from the online National Archives and Records Administration ([add.archives.gov](http://add.archives.gov)). Jean Saito, a Shin Nisei graduate student at San Diego State University and recent volunteer for the "Tag Project," is currently involved in crosschecking the names on the tags with the electronic database.

"The whole project really intrigued me," Saito said. "[I'm] making sure we don't miss anybody's names, just double-checking."

Sansei volunteer Tami Joplin first encountered the "Tag Project" at an exhibit at the Escondido Center for the Arts.

"I must have looked like a crazy person examining the work after that, since I started going all around it, over and over, reading all the tags to see if I could find my mom's name, or my grandmother's, or my aunt's or any of my uncles ...," said Joplin.

Joplin brought her mother, Connie (Yahiro) Striklen, a week later to see the tags; what she saw moved her and inspired her to sign up to volunteer.

"Sometimes my mom and I would work on the tags at my house, and we would laugh, talk, and discuss the names of the people on the tags," she said. "Even saying each name in our heads was a way of honoring those who were in the camps."

## Making Tags

To make a tag, a volunteer ties a string to the end of the tag, makes a print from the recreated stamp, writes in the name of the former internee, makes another stamp of the ID number assigned to each internee, and finally writes in the camp name. The tags are then scrunched up, dyed with

coffee, and dried with some old-fashioned San Diego sunshine to achieve the aged look. The tags are then bundled into groups of 48 and weaved into strands.

Because the camps are so large, Maruyama can only work on one camp at a time. Thus far, the tags for all of those interned in Gila River, Poston, Manzanar, Rohwer, Minidoka, and Tule Lake have been completed; currently, Maruyama is working on Heart Mountain and Amache.

At the various events and schools the tags are taken to, Maruyama says that the size and dimensions of the tags has sometimes been "overwhelming."

"... Suddenly the number of Japanese Americans who were removed from their homes in 1942 [has] some physicality to it: the visual weight and sheer numbers of tags was shocking to some," she said.

Since initiating the project, Maruyama has experienced a seemingly exponential growth of volunteers ranging from people in their 90s down to "8-year-olds who were 'tag runners', taking tags from station to station" at volunteer events.

Many young volunteers immerse themselves in the "Tag Project" as a means of respecting their family's history.

"The project is one way that I am honoring and recognizing my grandparents, my grandparent's friends, my friend's grandparents and parents," wrote volunteer Kaity Sakurai, a senior at San Diego State University, in an e-mail. Sakurai's grandparents were incarcerated in Crystal City, Texas. "We cannot forget all the hard work and sacrifices that our ancestors have done to get us, Yonsei, decent lives."

## Traveling Tags

In addition to bringing generations and communities closer together, the "Tag Project" has helped to open up dialogue about the incarceration.

"Initiating the conversation was not directly one of the goals of the project, but certainly it has created an environment of young people working alongside older JA internees and hearing their stories," reflected Maruyama.

"I wanted to learn more about what happened ... I just love to listen to their stories," said Saito.

In addition to relating stories of the past, the "Tag Project" has helped some to draw comparisons between the JA incarceration and the present. According to Maruyama, some viewers of the massive amounts of tags draw "parallels to 9/11 and the persecution of Muslim Americans, or even the recent controversy with the Arizona immigration laws."

According to Maruyama, the tags will make their complete debut in 2012 at the new SDSU Downtown Gallery. They are currently based at the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

Following the SDSU Gallery unveiling, one of the camps' tags will make its way to Boston alongside a work project of Maruyama's called "E.O. 9066", a woodworking series started when she was awarded an artist-in-residency position at the State University of New York at Purchase. Following Boston, all of the tags will head south to Charlotte, N.C. to be shown at Queen College. Maruyama then hopes to take the project to two more venues on the West Coast.

After the tour, she is looking to send each group of tags to their respective camp interpretative centers. Because not all of the camps have centers, Maruyama hopes that camps such as Tule Lake can use the tags in performances or displays during their pilgrimages.

"It was good — healing, even — for my mom to be with others who had experienced the relocation experience, and to easily chat with them while working on the tags," said Joplin.

"She doesn't live with any Japanese people, and hadn't talked about that part of her life for many years," Joplin continued. "That alone was a very valuable experience." ■





Kimiko Nishitsuji, 16, was spurred into activism after a football player taunted her with names like 'queer' and 'freak.'

## Asian American Youth, Leaders Urge a Stop to School Bullying

**Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth and allies have come together to stop the bullying of students.**

**By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter**

Thousands of YouTubers responded by creating anti-bullying videos when news headlines broke nationwide of teens committing suicide after allegedly being harassed because of their sexual orientation.

One campaign called the "It Gets Better Project," motivated lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) supporters to create YouTube videos. Those supporters include President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, comedienne Kathy Griffin, singer Ke\$ha and Kermit the Frog, among other big names.

Kristel Yoneda, 27, says memories of being taunted in high school with homophobic slurs like "dyke" inspired her to create an "It Gets Better" video.

"I had seen on the news all these stories about these teens committing suicide. I had remembered all the hell that I had gone through in high school. I thought, 'you know, I have a camera. Why don't I document how I feel?'" Yoneda said via telephone from her workplace in California about growing up in Hawaii.

It was the deaths of teens like Justin Aaberg, Billy Lucas, Cody Barker, Asher Brown, Seth Walsh, Raymond Chase and Tyler Clementi that spurred Yoneda to voice her concerns on YouTube. These teens, who were perceived to be or identified as gay, were allegedly bullied and tormented before their deaths this year.

The reported bullying of these suicide victims included alleged harassment in school, online and at home.

Yoneda explained that she assumed her friends and old high school classmates from Hawaii would view her video to better understand her experience as an LGBT teenager who was bullied.

But the Japanese American says she was surprised when she received e-mails from bully victims after posting her video on Facebook.

"I think most of the people contacted me through e-mail and then they would tell me basically how they saw my video and what they thought of it. Then they would tell me their stories. A lot of their stories were way worse than mine," Yoneda explained. "It's kind of sad to think that there are so

many people out there suffering."

Yoneda essentially became an online counselor to the bully victims who contacted her. The 27-year-old corresponded with those who "needed someone to talk to or needed a friend" because they had previously endured bullying as a result of their sexual orientation.

While some praise campaigns such as "It Gets Better," others say LGBT youth need to know how to make their situation better now.

"I think for young people they want to make sure that it's not prolonged or put off until a future date, of things getting better," said Rev. Jonipher Kwong, director of API Equality-LA.

Kwong was the moderator of a Nov. 9 panel, which took place in San Gabriel Valley, Calif. Those on the three-person panel discussed bullying of LGBT students in schools and ways to combat harassment.



**Kristel Yoneda, 27, says memories of being taunted in high school inspired her to create a 'It Gets Better' video.**

"There's no shame in it, both exposing the bullies and the violent behavior that goes on," Kwong said. "I think that's the other part that we as Asian Pacific Islanders need to be cognizant about is that sometimes out of fear of causing shame on our family we don't talk about these issues."

"I think the shameful part would be that if we were to live a life or a lie."

The panel, which included two Asian American youth, discussed the various laws that protect LGBT students in California.

Laws such as the Safe Place to Learn Act and the Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act are designed to provide a safe learning environment for students.

But students like 16-year-old Kimiko Nishitsuji, who was also on the panel, know that bullying often goes on despite legislation.

Nishitsuji created a video on YouTube to discuss her bullying experience in middle school in 2005. A football player started taunting her with names like "queer" and "freak," Nishitsuji explained. The taunting continued.

When the news broke that another youth had committed suicide, the Hapa teen organized a candlelight vigil to raise awareness about bullying in school.

"To be honest it really pissed me off that bullying played a role in ending six young lives," said Nishitsuji, who is the president of the GSA Network club at Gabrielino High School, about creating a vigil. "So I called a friend who also lives in the San Gabriel Valley late at night and kept pestering her to help [with the vigil]."

Nishitsuji and about 25 others held signs with the images of teen suicide victims at the Oct. 8 vigil.

Some LGBT community leaders say bully victims can make their situation better immediately by reaching out to friends, parents and officials in their schools.

"Things can get better now," said Daniel Solis, program manager of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, or GSA Network. "Students everyday in schools all over the country are standing up for themselves and making change in their schools. You don't need to wait until you get out of school to safely be yourself."

The GSA Network has created a program called "Make it Better" to help combat bullying of LGBT students.

Some 200,000 California high school and middle school students reported being harassed because of their perceived or actual sexual orientation, according to a 2004 study conducted in 2004 by the California Safe Schools Coalition.

The study is in part based on a 2003 survey conducted in partnership with the GSA Network.

Yoneda says the presence of social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace could create a "scary environment" for bullying victims. But she hopes others find comfort in hearing her story on YouTube.

"I mean really the people that really treated you like crap they're really not going to matter. I mean that's not just for gay kids getting bullied that's for anybody," Yoneda said. "It's hard to see that when you're in high school. But life gets so much better." ■



# JACL Membership Increase Needed to Help Repair Deficit



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

JACL national board members tackle the budget deficit at the recent meeting at headquarters.

**The JACL national board meets at headquarters to discuss, among other issues, the budget deficit.**

**By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter**

SAN FRANCISCO—Members of the JACL national board say a boost in membership is crucial to increase revenues and offset its growing deficit.

The national board met Oct. 30 at the JACL headquarters to discuss, among other items on the agenda, the \$44,436 budget deficit. That figure represents JACL's deficit this year as of Sept. 30. JACL's deficit is projected to grow to \$91,715 by the year's end, based on revenue and expenditure projections in the fourth quarter.

The plan to resolve JACL's budget deficit centers on increasing revenues. Some board members say raising membership numbers is one of the primary solutions to resolving JACL's budget woes.

"While we have sustained strong corporate partnerships, new memberships and renewals have lagged," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "A major focus on membership would be a major element of increasing needed revenue."

The time to increase revenues is running out as the New Year looms, other board members say.

"In our present situation, there are a number of things that we can do to solve the deficit," explained newly appointed Nat'l JACL Treasurer/Secretary Larry Oda. "The board is faced with a dilemma because there really may not be enough time to raise the kind of revenues to fill the budget gap by Dec. 31. And the only expense item that we can cut that will be close to the amount we need is the one resource that accomplishes our programs, which is personnel."

Possibilities of JACL staff furloughs and reduction to employee hours were discussed among board members. But no future action was approved at the national board meeting.

"The *Pacific Citizen* and all of our offices have made significant sacrifices and increased contributions to sustain the JACL," said David Kawamoto, JACL national president, "Their efforts and devotion are truly appreciated. It would be ignominious for the JACL to make staff cuts."

Board members underscored the importance of boosting membership numbers. JACL staff members are working to lure in new members and renew the membership of those who have lapsed in paying their dues to the organization.

"The present plan to diminish JACL's budget deficit is to

increase revenues," Kawamoto explained. "Vice President of Membership David Lin and membership coordinator Phillip Ozaki are working with the chapters to reenlist lapsed members and to recruit new members. We also hope that our membership will generously support our upcoming Annual Giving program."

Lin says there was a backlog of some 1,050 lapsed members that were identified.

"We normally notified them, I think, a couple of months prior their membership expiring. But for one reason or the other we're still trying to figure out the backlog of I guess

lapsed members," Lin explained at the national board meeting in October.

The backlog of lapsed membership, Lin explained, is likely a result of not notifying those individuals.

"So far we've probably not been doing that. That's why we have a backlog," Lin said.

Lin explained that renewal letters would be sent to former JACLers whose membership has lapsed, welcoming them back to the JACL family.

"Hopefully once we send out the renewal letters, we'll have the chapter to do the follow up, calling those people up to make sure they know," Lin added, "So hopefully between the letters and between the phone calls we'll take care of that problem. As a long-term measure [we'll] figure out what is the cause of the problem."

As of Sept. 30, \$580,562 was received in membership income, and an additional \$364,193 would need to be raised to make budget for the year. Other JACL programs that create revenue streams into the organization include grants, fundraising events, the *Pacific Citizen* and public support, among other things.

In addition to bringing in new JACL members and renewing lapsed membership, some board members offered other options to offsetting the budget deficit.

"In the short term, we can try to generate an infusion of cash through a successful Annual Giving Campaign, borrow from our investments, or carryover the deficit to next year," Oda explained. "Receiving an additional \$50,000 from Annual Giving is a long shot; borrowing from our investments is my least favorite option, and carrying over the deficit to succeeding budgets is delaying the inevitable and also unpalatable."

Oda added that other solutions to resolving the budget deficit include using funds from an investment account.

"For our succeeding budgets, I see a general fund revenue reduction of \$200,000," Oda continued, "While this may be 10 percent of the overall budget, we will have to reduce the general fund contributions to the affected line items at a much higher percentage to make up the \$200,000."

Some board members say they hope that other options will be explored to resolve the budget deficit instead of implementing budget cuts that would affect JACL staff members.

"I have had to cut staff and staff has voluntarily taken a cut in salary. Any further burden to staff in order to balance the budget is unacceptable to me," Mori explained. "Staff have been stretched too thin as it is." ■

## Please Give Generously

Since 1929, the JACL has done so much for our community. And, it continues to be a significant presence in Washington, D.C., and other communities throughout the country. Our hardworking staff members are a visible and influential force.

The JACL has expanded its programs and outreach during the last year. Due to cost cutting measures, we have done so with a diminished staff. However, the cost of providing these services continue to rise.

The *Pacific Citizen* will have its annual Holiday Issue. We know that many JACL chapters ask their members to donate ads for this fund raising effort. Also, we know that you are likely giving to other community organizations. But, please keep the JACL in your thoughts and recall all that the JACL has accomplished and what it means to each of us.

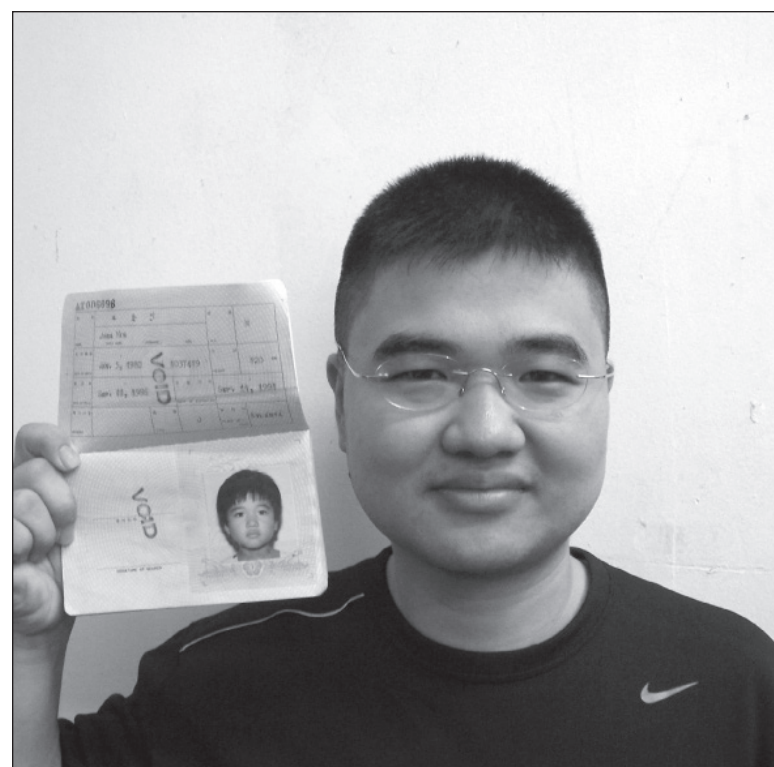
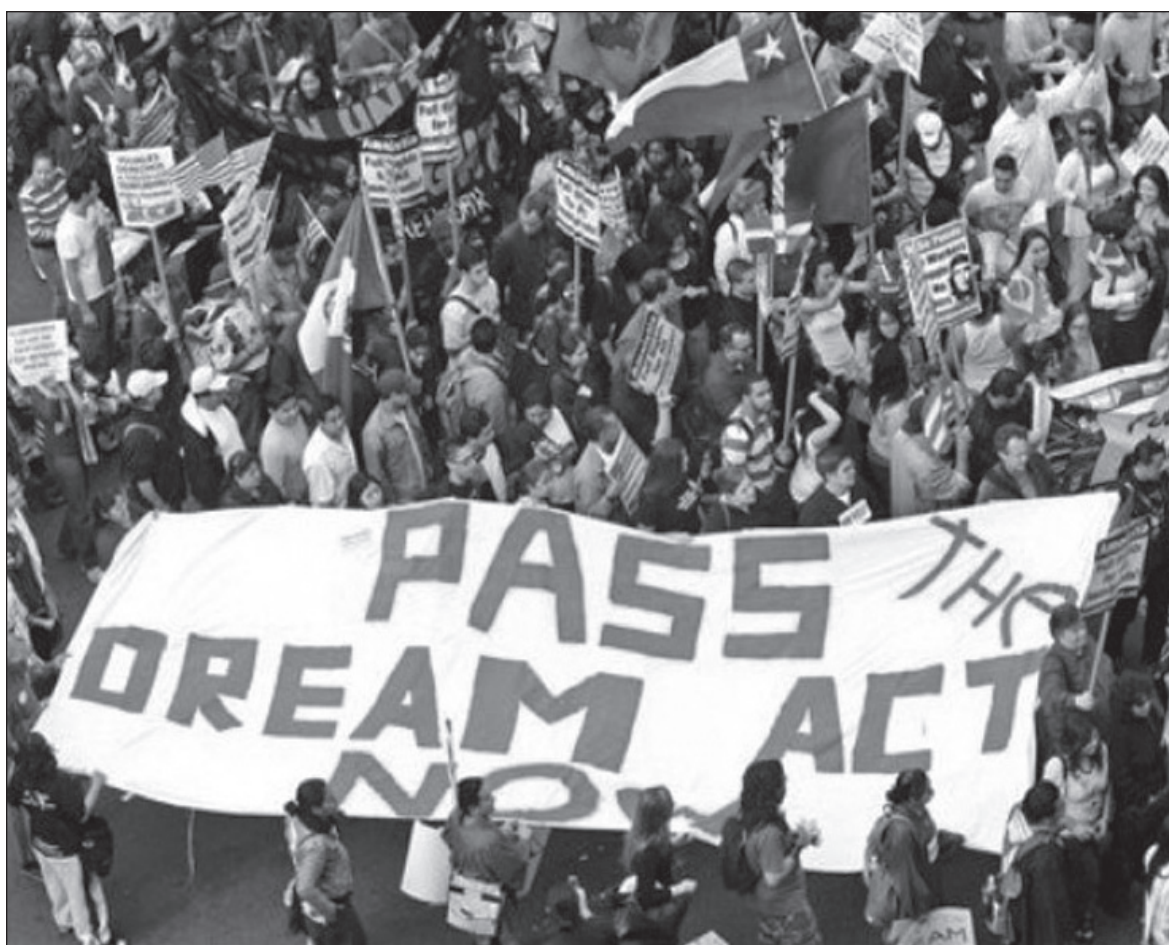
In the next week or so, you will be receiving a letter from the JACL reflecting on our numerous accomplishments from the last year and asking you to again support us. This year, we ask that you dig deep into your pockets and contribute what you can reasonably afford. We would truly appreciate it if each member would consider increasing their tax deductible Annual Giving donation.

With the thoughtful and generous support of our membership, the JACL will continue its fine work. Thank you so much for all that you do and thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**David H. Kawamoto**  
JACL National President



# Dreams Lost: APA Students in Limbo as DREAM Act Dies Again



Students (left) show their support for undocumented students like Jong-Min (pictured, above) who are stuck in limbo. Hopes that the DREAM Act would pass this year were dashed once again.

**A San Francisco undocumented student gets some reprieve from a U.S. senator, but the hopes of others are still daunting.**

By Brianna Pang  
P.C. Contributor

Steve Li, an undocumented City College of San Francisco student, sits in a detention center in Arizona, but thanks to a last minute reprieve from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein his deportation to Peru has been delayed.

But for other similarly undocumented Asian Pacific American students, living life under the radar, largely in hiding, continues.

Ju, a 21-year-old Bay Area university student, who asks that his last name not be used, dreams of one day working in the nonprofit sector serving immigrant communities. New York resident Jong-Min, a 30-year-old grocery worker, still clings to dreams of becoming a federal judge seven years after graduating magna cum laude.

But for students like Ju and Jong-Min, hopes for a better future will likely fall short of the American dream.

The DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act was first introduced almost a decade ago and this year, once again, it was shot down by the House of Representatives.

The act would provide a pathway for undocumented minors to become permanent residents, but amnesty will not be granted to just anyone. The 2009 version of the Senate bill contains several requirements, including: proof of residence in the U.S. for at least five years; proof of arrival prior to age 16; graduation from a U.S. high school; and arrival in the U.S. between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of the bill enactment.

Undocumented students would also have to prove "good moral character" in order to be granted "conditional status." And lastly, the student must also either complete two years in college or serve two years in the military within six years in order to apply for legal permanent resident status.

Ju and Jong-Min both fit all the criteria. Yet, as the DREAM Act continues to face an uncertain future, both still

struggle with basic American liberties. Unable to obtain a driver's license, work legally, or participate in social aid programs, both are left to obtain under-the-table jobs.

## A Reprieve for Some

Li was 12 when he left his home country of Peru to join his parents in the United States who had obtained tourist visas. The family had fled to the South American nation from China in the 1980s to avoid persecution, according to a spokesperson from the Asian Law Caucus.

Once in the U.S., the family applied for political asylum from China, but their application was denied several years ago. Sadly, the family's legal status was left hidden from their son, Steve.

"This is a good example of what happens when Congress does not pass the DREAM Act," said Sin Yen Ling, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus, who is representing Li, 20.

Li was scheduled to be deported Nov. 15 but federal immigration officials have now delayed his deportation. The delay is likely because Sen. Feinstein is looking into whether to introduce a private bill that would allow Li to stay in the U.S. on a temporary basis.

"As an original co-sponsor of the DREAM Act, I believe it would be unjust to deport Mr. Li before we get a chance to vote on this bill, which would allow students like him to attain U.S. citizenship," said Feinstein to the Associated Press.

That's good news for APA students in similar circumstances.

## Still in Hiding

Although Ju's identity is still hidden from federal ICE officials, his story is eerily similar to Li's. In South Korea Ju recalls a family riddled with financial problems. In the end bankruptcy and divorce were the result.

He would end up in the U.S. with hopes of a better life. Armed with tourist visas, the family tried to apply for permanent residency status but was denied.

Like Li, Ju says his undocumented status was only revealed to him during his senior year of high school. At the

time his life was that of a typical teenager: working hard on AP classes, joining student government, and playing high school varsity basketball. His undocumented status was revealed finally when it was time to apply for college.

"I couldn't apply for financial aid, and I couldn't get very much money to pay for college," Ju said.

Now a college junior at a Bay Area university, Ju currently works odd jobs to make ends meet while working on a political science degree.

Jong-Min sees his own story in Ju and Li's recollections. Jong-Min was 1 years old when his parents brought him to the U.S. They arrived on student visas and stayed long after the expiration dates. After five attempts to apply for permanent residency status in the past 20 years, all they have received are denials.

It wasn't until Jong-Min tried to apply for a hospital residency program in hopes of becoming a nutritionist that he learned of his undocumented status.

It was his mother who finally admitted that there was no greencard waiting for him at home.

"A lot of people don't realize how difficult it is," said Jong-Min recalling his struggle to gain legal status. "When you come to the U.S. at such an early age, your status depends on your parents' status. If sometimes, they don't give you the correct legal status, then that's it. It's over."

He added: "When you find out at 17 or 18, you have to apply by yourself. You have to restart the process, go back to your home country, and reapply there. And at that point, the chances of you getting a visa is very slim because you've overstayed a visa as a child."

And once you leave the U.S., all undocumented students are barred from re-entering the country for 10 years.

It's a long road that Jong-Min has chosen not to go down. Instead, he continues to work odd jobs just to survive while tucking away his dreams of attending law school.

For many undocumented students, depression is common. And often, APA students are forced into hiding, afraid that others will learn of their undocumented status.

"I kept my undocumented status a secret because I was ashamed," Ju said. But, "I want to let the public know that this issue is not just a Latino issue. It also affects many Asian American people." ■



# Sansei Lawmaker Serves the U.S. Abroad, Hawaii at Home

**In February, Mark Takai left his seat at the Hawaii State Legislature to serve in Kuwait with the National Guard. Now newly re-elected, he's ready to tackle issues at home.**

**By Christine McFadden  
P.C. Correspondent**

Erik Takai waits eagerly with his grandchildren at the airport for his son's arrival. While many parents in surrounding terminals may have been greeting their children back from vacation, Erik is awaiting a homecoming of an entirely different kind.

"We waited — I don't know how long — for hours," he remembers.

As the time passes, Erik's grandchildren fall asleep. Finally, around 11 p.m., his son, Mark, returns; it has been seven months since Erik's grandchildren have seen their dad, who deployed to Kuwait with the National Guard in February.

"They were really jubilant," he said. "They could see their dad again."

Mark Takai, a Sansei from Hawaii, is a member of a select group of honorary people. Takai has not only served his country abroad, but also dually represents Hawaii's 34th House district as a representative for the Pearl City and Aiea communities, located in Oahu on the somber Pearl Harbor shores.

This year, Mark is one of 63 state legislators who are simultaneously in the United States service — either in their respective states' reserve or National Guard. Takai, a member of the Democratic Party, is the first Hawaii lawmaker to temporarily leave his seat to serve.

"Clearly, the most difficult challenge that I had being deployed was being away from my family," Mark said. "I have two young kids. However, the experience was something that I'll never forget. It was by far the best job I ever had."

## Dedicated Abroad and at Home

Erik's wife Naomi remembers hearing the news that her son was to be deployed overseas and experiencing mixed feelings.

"[The] feeling of being proud that he can serve for his country, and yet, feeling ..." she trails off, laughing nervously. "... [it was] hard to let him go and serve. We were proud of him, very proud."

Erik experienced the same mixed emotions.

"There was a little bit of apprehension until we found out where he was going," he said. "At least it wasn't as bad as Iraq or Afghanistan. We sent him off with our blessing. [We were] really proud of him that he could serve and get back to the community. We always taught our kids to do that in one way or another."

A Hawaii Army National Guard major and 29th brigade combat team's civil affairs officer, Mark has been called to active duty twice. Previously, he served as deputy state surgeon on active duty from May to November 2005.

Most recently in 2009, Mark was called to serve in the 29th brigade combat team

as base operations officer at Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

Mark originally enlisted in the National Guard in 1999 as first lieutenant, working as their preventive medical officer when "there was no threat of deployment." Coming out of high school, Takai was in the United States Naval Academy but didn't make it — he cites one of the reasons he joined the Guard was to fulfill "a long time personal desire to be in the military."

"The National Guard gives me the freedom to be in the military and at the same time to continue what I'm doing outside," he said.

Initially elected in 1994, Takai has sustained a nine-election winning streak, winning in every subsequent election and totaling his political career to 16 years and counting. He has held a number of titles within the Hawaii's House, working as current coordinator of the Hawaii state legislature's military appreciation package. Previously, he has served as chairman of both the House Committee on Higher Education and Committee on Culture and Arts. He was vice speaker of the House in 2005 and 2006.

When he found out he would be going to Kuwait, Mark faced the challenge of leaving his representative seat empty.

"It was a very tough decision because leaving my legislative seat temporarily to serve in the Middle East meant that our district would not have the representation in the legislature," he said.

However, Mark enlisted the help of some fellow representatives while abroad.

"We did the best we could. I had an excellent staff during the time," he said. "I worked with our other area representatives and my senator to make sure that our constituents were served."

Sen. David Ige and Reps. Roy Takumi and Blake Oshiro all assisted in Mark's legislative duties.

Mark got off active duty in September 2009, serving a total of seven months in Kuwait. Upon his return, he found that, similar to many veterans, his outlook on life had changed. Specifically, Mark found himself comparing the challenges faced by Americans in contrast to the numerous everyday challenges faced by people living in the Middle East.

"I think there's a better appreciation of the military. [There's] better appreciation and understanding for the challenges that the countries in the Middle East face." Exposed to the history and politics of Kuwait, Mark was also able to garner a deeper understanding of international relationships in the Middle East.

"I think those types of things you don't understand until you really get there and are able to talk with the people who have lived there for many years."

After returning from his first deployment, Mark initiated a nationwide survey to record all of the legislators serving simultaneously in the National Guard or the Reserve. Beginning in 2006, Takai has conducted the survey every year since. While this year's statistics reveal 63 current legislators who also serve, that number has fluctuated throughout recent years.

While there is no state or national law



**'The National Guard gives me the freedom to be in the military and at the same time to continue what I'm doing outside,' said Mark Takai.**

prohibiting legislators from active duty, a revised directive from the Department of Defense in 2008 maximized the number of days a lawmaker could be on active service to 270.

## 'If it does happen, I will gladly go'

Mark and his wife, Sami, have two children: Matthew and Kaila, both in elementary school.

Mark's father was 5 years old when he came to America; his grandparents immigrated to Hawaii after being recruited in Japan to work on a sugar plantation. Living in Hawaii during World War II, they escaped the Japanese American incarceration on the mainland West Coast.

Mark is the first of his immediate family to be in the service. One of his father's uncles served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII and was captured as a prisoner of war in Germany, not coming home until after the war was over.

Throughout his time in office, Mark has made significant steps in the fields of education and military relations. The representative currently holds a plethora of jobs, including national chairman of the National Network of Legislators in the Military, chairman of the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites Task Force, state coordinator of the USA for Military Families, and board member of Hawaii's Joint Venture Education Forum. He worked to increase Federal Impact Aid for the Hawaii Department of Education between 2003-2007, ultimately gaining a significant \$27.8 million increase in allotted funds.

"He's always looking for ways to get more money for education," said Erik.

Takai additionally serves as coordinator for the Hawaii Medal of Honor, an honor he created that is awarded to those killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom

and Iraqi Freedom. He also created a non-profit called Hawaii Supports Our Military, which was officially founded after his return. One of their largest current projects is to build a memorial tribute to Hawaiians lost in the Middle East.

"We have a WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War memorials [in Hawaii]," he said. "We don't have one for the Persian Gulf War or the current wars. Hawaii lost over 260 people."

Erik calls his son a very dedicated person.

"He really works at it," he said. "Whenever there is a hot issue, he always does a poll and finds out how the voters feel in the district." Naomi describes her son as a "very strong, family-oriented individual."

"I think being the oldest in the family, he actually was a natural-born leader," she said.

Mark is the oldest of four children, with one brother and two sisters. Aside from being a family man, committed representative, and dedicated national guardsman, she also describes a fun side to her son.

"He's a 'Disney person'," she said. "He and his wife are 'Disney people.'" According to Naomi, Mark has visited Disney theme parks both domestically and internationally. The Takais recently returned from a family reunion in Orlando, where they spent time at Disney World.

"It's fun," Naomi laughs. "It kind of grows on us, too."

As for the possibility of future deployment, Mark states that the rotation cycles in place sends new teams approximately every five years.

"Whether or not we'll be deployed again is not the question," he said. "The question will be what position I sit in and whether I will be deployed with the unit."

"But if it does happen, I will gladly go," he added. "That's what we do. My duty as a member of the Hawaii National Guard requires me to go. I will go." ■



## That Darn Old Number Two

We are a nation of laws. We are governed by what is enumerated in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, and accordingly, any person who steps upon our shores is protected by the laws that emanate from those two documents. These are what distinguish America from most other nations in the world.

As I've traveled across the country speaking about the internment, about redress, about the post-9/11 madness, about civil liberties, about empowerment and civil action, my comments are normally based on issues surrounding the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. The message and the stories are powerful and compelling, primarily because they're based in these two remarkable documents.

We're all familiar with the Bill of Rights, one of the most sacred documents in this democracy of ours. The right to free speech, the freedom of religion, the right to bear arms, the right to due process, and so on.

The authors of that document had a unique understanding of human frailties and clearly understood the temptations and demands of tyranny. Every single article of the Bill of Rights is dead-on in describing those things that give any individual a true sense of freedom from tyranny or dictatorships. The document is like a look into the soul of man. Brilliant.

Except for the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms.

Intended for a different time and for different circumstances, it's the one definition of a freedom that's gone totally bonkers in today's world. That particular right has reached a point of such absurdity that one wonders – or at least I do – what in the world goes on in the minds of those who insist on its necessity.

Listen to this for an example:

In 2001, the year for which I'm able to find complete stats for my purpose here, the combined populations of Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Denmark approximately equaled that of the United States. In that same year, 2001, the combined number of gun-related deaths in those countries was one hundred and twelve. In the United States, thirty-two thousand.

Let me put that in more visual terms: the world 112, the U.S. 32,000.

To put that in more specific perspective, in 2009, there were a total forty-two (42) gun-related deaths in Great Britain. Exact

numbers aren't available for the U.S. for that same year, but estimates range between 25,000 and 30,000.

Stunning figures, both for the smallness of the number in Great Britain and the staggeringly huge number in the United States.

So what, I keep wondering, is it about America and the gun advocates that makes it such a point that we need firearms. It seems that owning a pistol is a macho thing, or it's something needed for protection, as some say.

Many psychologists interpret the desire to own guns as macho in a real sense, defining it as compensation for what some individuals subconsciously feel is a lack of manhood in other, more meaningful, ways.

It's what I sometimes refer to as the Corvette syndrome, another compensation image drummed up by shrinks, who don't limit that image to Corvettes.

To me, what's so telling is that I find it impossible to make a blanket statement that the Bill of Rights and all of its enumerated rights are perhaps the closest testament ever written on the integrity of freedoms of individual rights. It's my own hang up of course, but that darn Number Two just doesn't sit right.

Somehow, try as I might, I just can't understand how any individual could believe that it's necessary to own an assault rifle that has a rapid fire capability and is clearly intended to kill. Now that's making up for a whole lot of manhood inadequacies!

There's a reason why so many millions seek our shores. The motif of noble refuge is captured in Emma Lazarus' words, etched on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ..."

What an amazing sense those coming to America must feel when they learn those words and understand their meaning. And what they must feel as they learn about the Bill of Rights and the kinds of freedoms and protections of their freedoms that become their right.

And to learn that they can practice any religious belief they want, or speak freely, or to live free of the madness of dictators. And to know they no longer have to look over their shoulder.

Except for that guy with an assault rifle.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



**VERY**  
truly yours  
BY HARRY K. HONDA

## Elections Roundup

IT'S GOING TO BE FUN to find this column after the Nov. 2 elections in view of the multi-millions spent to have people to get out and vote. We in California have been hobbled by the ever-constant political ads on television and in the media focusing on this tornado.

My week away from the Los Angeles inundation of electioneering eased into a sifting of pages in The Wall Street Journal and The Economist, two publications that serve as adequate source of what's happening around the country. Checking with Michael Barone and Grant Ujifusa's "The Almanac of American Politics" also helped.

In INDIANA, three races for House seats (if the Republicans win two) will be "a better gauge on election night" – a signal the GOP has the "momentum to grab the 39 net seats needed to regain control of the House," the WSJ notes. The three races are in Districts 2 (northern chunk around South Bend), 8 (Evansville and southwestern counties) and 9 (Madison in southeastern counties).

Incidentally, Hoosier JACL (1976) based in Indianapolis is the youngest of ten Midwest District Council chapters: Chicago 1946, Cincinnati 1946, Cleveland 1946, Dayton 1949, Detroit 1946, Omaha 1947, St. Louis 1946, Twin Cities 1946, and Wisconsin/Milwaukee 1945.

Dr. Tom Yatabe (1897-1977), co-founder of the American Loyalty League in 1918, the JACL in 1929, and as Midwest-Eastern regional director in 1944 with national director Mas Satow (1908-1977), launched the national network of Japanese Americans east of the Rockies, unmatched by other Asians in America.

In NEVADA, voters faced an initiative to end state election of judicial members, putting the responsibility in the hands of the legal elite. More than 30 states limit the choice to the governor candidates by a nomination committee comprised of lawyers and the bar association. Voters are then asked whether the judges should be retained.

In CALIFORNIA, two Asian Americans were on the ballot for the Supreme Court among three. It was "a Yes or a No" for Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye for chief justice and for Justice Ming W. Chin as associate justice. A third Asian American, Steven Suzukawa sought another term as associate justice in the second appellate

district. They all won.

In CONNECTICUT, Independents prevailed, according to polls, for the open U.S. Senate seat. Politicos saw this to be "crucial to congressional races around the country." The WSJ-NBC poll found Independents preferred a GOP in control in Congress.

The battle in DELAWARE for the U.S. Senate seat occupied by Vice President Joe Biden was a most closely watched race because of the Tea Party fuel for the Republican hopeful.

Estate tax has been a hot issue in WASHINGTON state, FLORIDA, GEORGIA and MISSOURI among farmers and landowners. During the Bush administration

Congress passed a law lowering the tax gradually, ending this year. It now appears a Democratic Congress is unwilling to extend the repeal favored by the GOP.

Redistricting battles waged in 16 states. Top targets were WISCONSIN, INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO and TEXAS, especially where House seats are concerned. In most states, the party that controls state government draws the boundaries.

In CALIFORNIA, if "Prop. 20" draws more votes in favor over "Prop 27," a bipartisan 14-member committee will draw the district borders next year. "Prop. 27" eliminates the 14-member commission idea and retains redistricting authority as is within the legislature. Prop. 20 won. After the 2010 Census is certified, will CALIFORNIA lose one House seat?

Voters in 37 states chose new governors, most ever in a single year and most will have tremendous influence over the redrawing.

In SAN FRANCISCO, "Prop. B," requiring all city employees to contribute up to 10 percent of their income to their pension and to pay half of the health-care premiums of their dependents, is opposed by every incumbent official except its sponsor: public defender Jeff Adachi. If that wins, "then it can happen anywhere," the WSJ article warns. It didn't pass, but Adachi aims to try again.

Our readers have scanned the papers by now on how Asian Americans fared in the House elections. In the Senate, Dan Inouye, as expected, was re-elected for the eighth time. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

*'Voters in 37 states chose new governors, most ever in a single year and most will have tremendous influence over the redrawing.'*





PHOTO: CHRIS HASTON/NBC

**'I was the only overweight one, which made it harder because you know typically Asians aren't usually overweight,' said Ada Wong, 27, about her upbringing.**

## 'The Biggest Loser' Chinese American Contestant Gives the Inside Skinny

**Contestant Ada Wong says before losing weight on 'The Biggest Loser' she used to move through life dragging her feet, now she feels like she is skipping.**

**By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter**

Before losing weight Ada Wong says she used to think any potential suitors who approached her were only enticed by a bet made with their friends. That was before the Chinese American landed a spot as a contestant on NBC's "The Biggest Loser."

Weighing in at 258 pounds at the start of the show, Wong says she used to feel unhappy and insecure in her own skin.

"I felt ugly and felt like no one would ever like a fat person. I don't know all my friends are thin. So when we go out why would they walk up to me when they could just go up to my friends?" Wong said about going out with her friends during a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen*.

A boyfriend is not something the 27-year-old says she had in the past when she was heavier. Now slimmer, Wong says she is more confident.

But you will not find Wong on the dating circuit yet because she is focusing more on her weight-loss journey and winning "The Biggest Loser" title.

"I'm still working out eight hours a day and I don't get out much," Wong said breaking into a laugh. "But when I do, I'm more confident and people approach me. Yeah, so it's nice to see that difference."

Wong is seeing a difference in her waistline as well. As of her seventh week on the show, she has shed 54 pounds. The reality TV contestant is also working on emotional issues tied to a traumatic event that used to weigh on her.

As a child Wong witnessed her younger brother drown in a kiddie pool. The memories of the horrible incident have faded, but the trauma had not been dealt with until recently.

"I was the only one there, so I think I always felt like they blamed me for it," Wong explained about her parents. "They would say things like it was my fault."

Shortly after the incident her parents had another son, who

later died of sudden infant death syndrome. A third son was eventually born. But when Wong was 16 she was involved in a car accident while driving her younger brother, Sam. Fortunately there were no fatalities. Still Wong felt the sting of her parents' disapproval after totaling the car.

"When my dad walked through the door he slapped me over the face and said, 'What are you trying to do, kill another one?'" Wong added. "So I've heard comments like that throughout my whole life. So that's why I always felt re-



PHOTO: TRAE PATTON/NBC

**As of her seventh week on the show, Wong had shed 54 pounds.**

sponsible or I felt cursed as a child because they would say bad things started happening after you were born, just things like that."

Wong says she learned that her weight issues were tied to her emotional problems. After revealing her skinnier self to her family and friends, Wong had a conversation with her parents to talk about unresolved issues. Now she said they have moved passed their differences. But it was a long journey to a healthier lifestyle.

Growing up being the only overweight person in her family was difficult, Wong says.

"I was the only overweight one, which made it harder because you know typically Asians aren't usually overweight," Wong explained. "So I think just being in a culture where people weren't overweight I felt like I was — I mean they

were definitely not accepting of it and I was just being criticized a lot more."

Having watched "The Biggest Loser" since the first season, Wong says she finally mustered up the courage to audition for the show. Within a couple of weeks the show's officials called her back and brought her to Los Angeles, Calif. for the premiere.

But she would find out that getting on the show was not so easy. On episode one Wong says she was told to go to Los Angeles for another interview. Instead Wong was surprised to find out that she would have to compete against two other people to land a spot on the show. Her challenge: to complete a 500 step-up competition.

With her brother by her side, Wong came in first in the challenge. She was whisked off in a limo to the ranch to compete against 20 other contestants. Staying in the ranch, however, meant she would have to sweat like never before.

On a typical day at the ranch Wong would go for a hike alone early in the morning before breakfast to clear her mind. Then she would head to the gym with the other contestants. In addition to her workout regimen, Wong also was tasked with completing other challenges.

Since being on the show, Wong has played tennis with Anna Kournikova, learned cooking tips from Aussie chef Curtis Stone and trained with Marines in Camp Pendleton, among other things.

Being on the show has helped Wong make a lifelong change. When Wong was heavier she says she used to move through life dragging her feet, now she feels like she is skipping.

Before appearing on "The Biggest Loser" the 27-year-old says she was unhappy and felt pressure from her parents to be perfect.

"I felt like I was never meeting expectations. I couldn't get straight As, and I wasn't thin. I wasn't the doctor or I wasn't the lawyer," Wong explained. "When my parents talked to me they're always like, 'You should be like so-and-so's daughter.' I felt like I was never going to be the person that someone would compare me to."

Wong says now she sees that her parents are proud of her. Maybe now, she says, they can brag about their daughter to other parents. "Yeah, maybe [laughs]," Wong said. ■



## Hearing Starts Over Arizona Immigration Law

Among the provisions at issue is the requirement that the police must question the immigration status of people they have reason to suspect are in the country illegally.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, on Nov. 1, signaled it was ready to toss out the provision of Arizona's law that criminalizes the failure to carry immigration papers showing lawful residency in the United States. But the three-judge panel didn't tip its hand over which way it was leaning on other provisions of the state law that touched off a national furor when Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed it April 23.

The federal government filed a lawsuit soon after to invalidate the measure.

U.S. Deputy Solicitor Gen. Edwin Kneedler argued that the provisions in question violate laws making immigration enforcement the exclusive domain of the federal government.

A coalition of Asian Pacific American groups have also filed a friend of the court brief, urging the court to keep in place an injunction blocking the core provisions of SB 1070, Arizona's racial profiling law. The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) and a coalition of civil rights groups filed the amicus brief Sept. 30 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, citing the serious harm if the blocked sections of SB 1070 were to go into effect.

Among the provisions at issue is the requirement that police — when enforcing other laws — must



question the immigration status of people they have reason to suspect are in the country illegally.

"It's how the state wants to use its people," said Judge Carlos Bea, appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush. "The state can turn over an illegal to federal officials."

Arizona's legislature passed the law after years of complaints that the federal government hasn't done enough. Its passage ignited protests, with thousands taking to the streets of Phoenix, complaining that the law would lead to racial profiling.

The JACL has called SB 1070 "the worst case of racial profiling since World War II" with national director Floyd Mori comparing Arizona's new immigration law to the WWII treatment of Japanese Americans who were targeted by law enforcement because of their shared heritage with the country that attacked Pearl Harbor.

The law prompted lawsuits from the U.S. Justice Department, civil rights groups and other opponents

seeking to throw it out.

Bea opened the hearing by sharply questioning Arizona's lawyer John Bouma about previous court rulings that upheld the supremacy of the federal government in deciding immigration matters. Bouma responded that Arizona was not seeking to change federal immigration policy.

"All Arizona is saying is, play by the rules," Bouma said. "Arizona is bearing the brunt of the federal government's failure to enforce it."

Judge John Noonan, appointed by President Ronald Reagan, and Judge Richard Paez, appointed by President Bill Clinton, rounded out the appeals panel, which has no deadline to act.

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the federal courthouse in San Francisco before the hour-long hearing. Opponents of the law in this politically liberal city outnumbered supporters.

Afterward, Arizona's governor Jan Brewer said she intended to appeal any adverse ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. ■

## National JACL Kicks Off 2011 Scholarship Program

The Nat'l JACL is ready to launch its Nat'l Scholarship Program for 2011. Each year, the organization awards approximately 30 college scholarships totaling over \$60,000. Awards are available for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law or the creative/performing arts. There is also a scholarship for those in need of financial aid in this time of rising tuition costs.

A scholarship program brochure and applications for 2011 can be found on the Nat'l JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org), and clicking on "Youth" on the menu bar. The Nat'l JACL Scholarship Program requires that all applicants be a student or individual member of the JACL. JACL membership under a parent will not fulfill this requirement. Applicants may submit their membership registration with their application.

The freshman applications must be submitted to the applicant's chapter by March 1, 2011. Each JACL chapter is then asked to screen the applications and forward the "outstanding" applications to: "2011 JACL Nat'l Scholarship Program," c/o Salt Lake City JACL, 975 East 400 South, Apt. 10, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102. There is no limit on the number of applications a chapter may forward for consideration. The forwarded applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2011, to be considered for the awards.

Applications for the other scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and financial aid) are to be sent by the applicant to: "2011 JACL

Nat'l Scholarship Program," c/o Portland JACL, P.O. Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286. The applications for these categories must be postmarked by April 1, 2011, to be considered. It is requested that chapters inform their respective communities of the Nat'l JACL Scholarship Program, which can be an opportunity to boost membership and stimulate interest in the JACL.

Membership in the JACL can be made via the Nat'l JACL website or by calling 415/921-5225. Any questions regarding the scholarship program may be directed to National JACL Vice President Jason Chang at [vpp-d@jacl.org](mailto:vpp-d@jacl.org) or Regional Director Patty Wada at: [jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com](mailto:jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com). ■

## Twin Cities JACL Receives Grant

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee has received a \$4,500 grant from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation to train the next generation of speakers to give presentations on the JA experience during WWII.

The chapter's speakers bureau was created in 1995 to respond to requests from schools and community groups for speakers on the incarceration and the Military Intelligence Service Language School.

"Until now, our speakers have primarily been Nisei with first hand knowledge and experience; however, our numbers are dwindling," said committee chair and former internee Sally Sudo. "Therefore, training the Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei generations on how to make presentations on this topic is vitally important, especially in light of events that have occurred post-9/11, and we are grateful to receive support to carry out this project."

The TC JACL Education Committee will be organizing training workshops that will include historical background information, as well as examples of presentations by those currently on the speakers bureau. For more information, contact Sally Sudo at [ssudo@comcast.net](mailto:ssudo@comcast.net).

The Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois was established in 2009 to support charitable, scientific, literary and education organizations, including, but not limited to, those organizations providing social services for the Pan-Asian community in the Midwest. ■

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# APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff



## Seattle City Council Honors Al Sugiyama

The Seattle City Council has presented a proclamation recognizing the lifetime work of **Alan "Al" Sugiyama**, co-founder of the Asian Family Affair newspaper in 1972.

In 1979, Sugiyama established the Center for Career Alternatives (CCA), a place where disadvantaged adults

and youth in King and Snohomish Counties could go for free education, employment and career training.

"He has served more than 26,000 high-risk youth in King and Snohomish Counties by finding innovative alternatives to transition kids into productive and fruitful lives," said Councilmember Bruce Harrell.

## JA Promoted to One of the U.S. Navy's Highest Ranks

Navy officer **David M. Boone** has been promoted to rear admiral, becoming the 43rd military officer of Japanese descent and the 100th military APA officer to achieve the rank of admiral or general.

Boone currently serves as director of the shore readiness division on the chief of Naval operations' staff and vice commander of Navy installations in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for managing the policy and resources for 74 naval installations worldwide, ensuring that the fleet, fighters and their families are supported from the shore.

Boone and his wife, Meg, have five children, including three who were adopted from Japan, China and Korea.

## JACL Welcomes New Mineta Fellow

**Leslie Toy**, of Sacramento, Calif., has been named the JACL's Norman Y. Mineta Fellow. She has been serving as the new Mineta fellow in the Washington, D.C. JACL office since September.

Toy received her bachelor's degree in molecular and cell biology and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Toy has also worked with the Oakland Children's Hospital's autism intervention program. Prior to her fellowship, Toy served in the San Francisco JACL headquarters as an Active Choice intern.

The Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship focuses on public policy advocacy as well as programs of safety awareness in the APA community. The fellowship is named in honor of Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation, and is funded by State Farm Insurance.

## Mineta Appointed to Monterey County Judgeship

**Elisabeth K. Mineta**, a former sole practitioner of her own law office, has been appointed to a judgeship in the Monterey County Superior Court. Mineta, 50, of Salinas, has been a legal research attorney for the Monterey County Superior Court since 2005 and held the same position from 1988 to 1999, according to the governor's office.

Mineta earned a juris doctorate degree from Santa Clara University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

## Tani Ikeda is Named a Visionary

**Tani Ikeda** has been named one of Utne Reader's 2010 Visionaries for co-founding ImMEDIATE Justice, a summer program created for young women in South Central and East Los Angeles that teaches media literacy and sexual health through filmmaking.

Participants learn to write, direct, and film their own sex-ed videos with a "for youth by youth" philosophy.

## Oakland Elects First APA Woman Mayor

**Jean Quan** has been elected Oakland's next mayor, becoming the city's first female mayor and the first APA woman to lead a major U.S. city.

Quan, 61, replaces outgoing Mayor Ronald Dellums, who chose not to seek a second term.

Quan, an Oakland native and former school board member, also won despite losing out on key endorsements from the Bay Area's two largest newspapers, the *Oakland Tribune* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ■

# Hawaii Positioned to Pass Same-Sex Civil Unions

By Mark Niesse  
Associated Press

HONOLULU—Hawaii voters opened the way for same-sex civil unions to become state law next year, with an election that gave victory to a pro-gay rights gubernatorial candidate and rejected many church-backed candidates.

The state House and Senate retained the Democratic majorities that approved a civil unions bill this year before it was vetoed, and Democratic Gov.-elect Neil Abercrombie has said he will sign a similar law if passed by the Legislature.

The move would make Hawaii, long a battleground in the gay rights movement, the sixth state to grant essentially the same rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.

"I'm hopeful, but I would never want to call any shots until the final vote is taken," said Majority Leader Blake Oshiro, who is gay. "While I remain optimistic, there's still a lot of work to be done."

Oshiro retained his office by defeating a candidate who made

## Korematsu Center Joins Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality

Seattle University School of Law's Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality has joined on an amicus brief in support of marriage equality.

The brief was filed before the 9th Circuit United States Court of Appeals. The three-judge panel will hear the case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, in December.

*Perry v. Schwarzenegger* involves the federal constitutionality of Proposition 8, a 2008 California ballot initiative that prohibited the recognition of same-sex marriages in California.

In August, Judge Vaughn Walker ruled that Proposition 8 violated the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The amicus brief argued that Proposition 8 should be subject to heightened review because gay men and lesbians, like other protected minority groups, are "politically powerless."

The brief argues that gays and lesbians face the same kind of discrimination that other protected minorities face.

The Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality works to advance justice through knowledge and advocacy. ■



PHOTO: JENNIFER BORISS

civil unions a major issue with a campaign flier showing two men kissing. Only one incumbent lawmaker who backed civil unions lost election Nov. 2 despite efforts by opponents of civil unions who held large rallies to show legislators their feelings earlier this year.

Hawaii has figured prominently in the national gay rights movement's efforts since the early 1990s when the state Supreme Court nearly legalized gay marriage.

The 1993 ruling would have made Hawaii the first state to allow same-sex couples to wed, but it didn't take effect while voters were given a chance to decide. They responded five years later by overwhelmingly approving the nation's first "defense of marriage"

constitutional amendment.

The measure gave the Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, and it resulted in a law banning gay marriage in Hawaii but left the door open for civil unions.

Five other states and the District of Columbia now permit same-sex marriage.

In April, the Hawaii Legislature passed a bill that would have conferred the same state rights of marriage to committed gay partners, but it was vetoed by Republican Gov. Linda Lingle in

July.

Now for the third straight year, the civil unions issue will likely get a lot of attention when the Legislature convenes in January.

After the Nov. 2 election, civil unions supporters picked up at least one vote in the Senate and lost a vote in the House, which is still four more votes than the 26 needed for a bill to pass, according to Equality Hawaii, which advocates for the legislation.

"In many ways, this election was a referendum on the bill," said Alan Spector, co-chair for Equality Hawaii. "This election has shown that equality wins elections. There's no reason for us to believe that we can't pass the bill again." ■

## PACIFIC CITIZEN National business and 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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## PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

|                 |   |                                   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Feb. 13-17      | <b>Cunard Valentine's Day Mexico Getaway aboard the Queen Victoria</b><br>4 days/3 nights, roundtrip from the Port of Los Angeles/San Pedro visiting Ensenada.  |                                   |
| Feb. 21-Mar. 2  | <b>Yamato Discover Egypt Tour</b><br>11 days/9 nights, visiting Cairo, Giza, Luxor, Nile cruise visiting Aswan and Abu Simbel.  | Philippe Theriault                |
| Apr. 4-10       | <b>Yamato's Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour</b><br>7 days/6 nights, visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington D.C., Mt. Vernon.  | Philippe Theriault / Lilly Nomura |
| Apr. 7-21       | <b>Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan</b><br>15 days/13 nights, visiting Tokyo, Sendai, Niigata, Takayama, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Kyoto, Hiroshima/Miyajima.   | Peggy Mikuni                      |
| April           | <b>Yamato Britain &amp; Ireland Tour with Collette Vacations</b><br>14 days/12 nights, visiting London, Stonehenge, Bath, Cardiff, Blarney, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Dublin, Wales, Gretna Green, Edinburgh, York, Coventry & Stratford-Upon-Avon. | Sharon Seto                       |
| May             | <b>Yamato Essential Spain Tour</b><br>11 days/9 nights, visiting Bilbao, San Sebastian, Barcelona, Cordoba, Seville, Andalusia, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol/Marbella, Granada, Madrid.   | Philippe Theriault                |
| July            | <b>Yamato Boston &amp; New York by Rail Tour</b><br>6 days/5 nights, visiting highlights in Boston as well as visiting Concord & Lexington and New York City.   | Philippe Theriault                |
| Sept. 26-Oct. 5 | <b>Yamato Eastern Canada Tour</b><br>10 days/9 nights, visiting Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, overnight train to Moncton, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton and Halifax.   | Philippe Theriault                |
| Oct. 1-13       | <b>Route 66 with Balloon Fiesta with Trafalgar Tours</b><br>13 days visiting Chicago, St. Louis, Branson, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Albuquerque (Balloon Fiesta), Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Los Angeles.                        | Sharon Seto                       |
| Oct. 17-26      | <b>Yamato Korean Drama Tour</b><br>10 days/8 nights, visiting Seoul, Mt. Seoraksan, Gyeongju, Jeju Island, DMZ.   | Grace Sakamoto                    |
| Oct. 17-31      | <b>Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan</b><br>15 days/13 nights, visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto, Tokyo.  | Peggy Mikuni                      |
| Oct. 31-Nov. 14 | <b>Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations</b><br>15 days/12 nights, visiting Cairns (Great Barrier Reef) & Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Mt. Cook Nat'l Park, Queenstown, & Milford Sound, New Zealand.                            |                                   |
| November        | <b>Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour</b><br>10 days/8 nights, visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Romantic Road from Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.  | Philippe Theriault                |

\* \* \* \* \*

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## COMMENTARY

# Ending Discrimination in the Workplace



By Greg Matsunami

This month marks the 65th anniversary of the closing of Manzanar. So now seems as good a time as any to reflect on what internment has meant to us as Japanese Americans, and how that experience may have shaped our thoughts about discrimination and equality under the law.

While fewer and fewer Issei and Nisei who actually lived in the camps are still alive, many of us in subsequent generations remember the stories we've heard from our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles about living in places like Santa Anita Park and Rohwer, Arkansas during the war.

Even six decades later, we understand the humiliation and injustice that was thrust upon us, as our families were summarily rounded up and incarcerated without due process of the law.

As I think about this period in our history, it's terrible to think that discrimination continues today. What makes it even more unfortunate is that it's legal. I refer to the plight of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, whose lives and livelihood are often at risk because of who they are, not what they did.

Specifically, I think about a person's right to hold a job without the federal protection of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would guard against workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Taking this to a personal level, let me recount a story from early in my working career, when just one month into a new job, I read a note in my personnel file that read "Too effeminate." It was written by one of the people who'd interviewed me while I was being recruited out of grad school. I knew that there were prolonged discussions about my hiring, but had no idea that the possibility of my being gay was the issue at hand.

That was 1987. Flash forward 23 years and it may shock you to know that discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation or gender identity is still not protected in a majority of states. In fact, in 29 states, it is still legal for a person to be fired just for being gay or because your boss

thinks you are.

Even worse, it's legal to be fired in 38 states, irrespective of performance and without cause, if you're transgendered. Even though we would all like to believe that employment decisions are based on merit, that our performance on the job drives hiring, firing and promotion decisions, we must realize that may not always be the case.

Some of you may know that Congress is once again considering an Employment Non-Discrimination Act, as it has in every session of Congress since 1994. With the results of the recent mid-term elections, we face a reduced chance that such a bill will be passed by both houses of Congress in the next session and proceed to President Obama's desk for signature.

Our best hope is that this lame duck session can make a move before the year's end and finally extend equal protection — as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment — to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in their workplace.

What I'm asking from the JA community and the JACL membership is to remain mindful of the discrimination we faced 65 years ago and continue to stand up for

*'... it may shock you to know that discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation or gender identity is still not protected in a majority of states.'*

the fair treatment of all Americans. Without the protection that ENDA would provide, hardworking and responsible LGBT people could be subject to irrational firing or be passed over for promotion based on whatever prejudices exist in their workplace. Or they could be thrown out by narrow-minded employers, just as we were pushed out of our homes, farms and small businesses in the 1940s.

Modeled after Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act,

ENDA would protect employees, without creating preferential treatment or quotas for LGBT individuals. Furthermore, this bill would require no change of practice from small businesses, religious organizations or the military, and does not require that domestic partner benefits be provided to the same-sex partners of employees.

The days of this lame duck Congress are limited, and they have lots of issues to consider before adjourning at the end of the year. To help bring this vote to the floor, you can call or write your Congress person and senator to let them know that their constituents care about this issue.

I urge you to support equality for all people within and outside of our community. Through organizations like the JACL, we have a significant voice in the political dialogue and can help the advancement of social justice on various fronts. ■

*Greg Matsunami is a member of the JACL West Los Angeles chapter and a steering committee member for Asian Pacific Islanders for Equality — Los Angeles.*



## COMMENTARY

# Using the Right Words to Describe the Nikkei WWII Experience

By Mako Nakagawa

It has been over three months since the JACL national council passed the Power of Words (POW) resolution at its July national convention in Chicago. It was amazing to have 80 chapters voting for the resolution and only two chapters voting against it. As a devoted proponent of the POW proposal from its inception to the day it passed the national council, I was absolutely delighted.

Clearly, the movement to make our language more accurate and true to what really happened to the Nikkei people during WWII has gained momentum over the years. We thank a lot of people who paved the way for this successful vote.

The POW resolution, passed by the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, identifies government euphemisms used to “sugarcoat” the injustice of the wartime incarceration.

There has been a flurry of activity on the terminology issue since the JACL convention. Discussions are taking place in homes, social organizations, schools and governmental agencies. We seek to encourage continued conversations with a wide range of people, hopefully conducted with mutual respect and open minds. Primarily we are interested in effecting change in the schools by

introducing the WWII incarceration experience with more authenticity.

We believe the effort to look more critically at the terms used to describe the WWII incarceration experience will significantly improve the educational process.

Government-created euphemistic language led some people to actually believe that Japanese Americans were being protected and even pampered in the camps. The use of inaccurate terms can distort facts. Use of accurate terminology in describing the Nikkei experience is vital in preserving the true history so that we can be vigilant in our resolve to protect our democratic way of life.

An interesting note — some people consider the term “concentration camp” a euphemistic term for the Nazi camps in Europe. Many use the term “death camps”, “killing centers” or “exterminations sites” for those camps. These last three terms absolutely do not describe the American concentration camps.

We need many more articles on the subject of terminology in many more media outlets. However, in a few short months, we are pleased with the amount of attention the issue has already received. In addition to the several newspaper articles, the following actions were taken:

- The chairperson of the national JACL

POW ad hoc committee, the national JACL director, and the national JACL president met with leaders of the national American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League and discussed the POW resolution.

- The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, the UCLA Asian American Studies, and the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), sponsored a conference in Los Angeles in which Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and I presented our position on the terminology issue. It was well received.

- The JACL Pacific Northwest District produced a brochure that was distributed at the Heart Mountain conference. It was a well-designed brochure that was quickly depleted from the tables by enthusiastic attendees. Many mentioned that the brochure was a good tool to get the word out to others.

- JANM has invited Herzig-Yoshinaga and I to return for another session on the terminology issue.

- Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed the Korematsu Bill, which recognizes Fred Korematsu, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This bill became a terminology issue when a JA woman wrote to the governor urging him to veto the bill as it deleted the reference to “concentration camps”.

- A number of organizations have agreed to have their names put on a list of “endorsers of the Power of Words resolution”.

- Planning has begun for an “all camp” summit some time next year to gather a consensus on the terminology used to describe the WWII JA experience.

When the national JACL ad-hoc committee gets rolling, we can expect much more action. Many of us are hoping to see a significant increase in better educational practices being utilized in the schools. The excitement grows. Please help us keep the ball rolling.

Let the legacy of our WWII concentration camp experience be that it never happens again to any group of people. *Nidoto nai yoni.* ■

*Mako Nakagawa is a retired educator with the Seattle public schools.*

## Power of Words (POW)

**POW preferred terms:** forced removal, incarceration, American concentration camps

**Targeted terminology:** evacuation, relocation, internment, Japanese internment camps

**Identified euphemisms:** non-alien, assembly centers, relocation centers, pioneer communities

**Misnomers:** internment, interned, internee (Correctly applied only when referring to suspect alien residents who are citizens of a country with which we are at war.)

**For more information:**  
<http://pnwjacj.org/POW-1.htm>

## JACL Chapters Raising Funds to Honor World War II Generation

JACL chapters from Placer County, Sacramento and Florin are raising funds for a larger than life size bronze monument to complete a memorial in Roseville, Calif., dedicated to Japanese Americans who served in World War II: the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Designed by Placer County artist France Borka, this monument will stand nearly nine feet tall on a granite base centered in a 36-foot diameter inlaid compass rose at the memorial. The sculpture commemorates the “Rescue of the Lost Battalion” showing a soldier of the 442nd helping rescue a wounded soldier of the 36th Texas Division from a long battle against the German army.

The sculpture will be completed and installed next spring. Only half of the \$160,000 fundraising goal has been collected, according to campaign officials.

Last December Placer County completed the first phase of this memorial and dedicated “Go For Broke” Road in honor of the motto of the 442nd, the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the U.S. military.

The memorial will ensure that future generations remember the significance of this period in history, when many JAs were interned while their brothers fought bravely — and many died — in testimony to their loyalty to our country. The JACL sponsors also plan to work with educators to develop educational materials for students to learn

the significance of this era in our history.

A foundry in Sacramento is currently working on enlarging the scale model — known as a maquette — to full size. The first six of 88 limited edition maquettes have also been produced. Three will be available for donors who contribute at least \$8,000.

Donations of \$1,000 will be acknowledged with a bronze medallion designed by the artist. Paving bricks can be inscribed for \$300 donations to honor a WWII veteran or other person they specify. Business sponsorships of \$2,500 will be identified (with logo optional) on a plaque at the memorial.

Organizations supporting this project include the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), the JACL Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific (NCWNP) District, Nisei Post 8985 VFW in Sacramento, Placer Buddhist Church, and the Go for Broke National Education Center in Torrance, Calif. ■

**To sign up for e-mail updates, or donate securely online: [www.placerjacj.org](http://www.placerjacj.org)**

### To donate to the Placer County Memorial

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# GO.SEE.DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*

PHOTO: LEWIS SUZUKI



## Lewis Suzuki Art Opening

BERKELEY, CA

Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, Dec. 11-12, Dec. 18-19

Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios

2547 8th St., No. 24A

Lewis Suzuki, a well-known Japanese American watercolor artist who is turning 90, will show his work for four weekends after Thanksgiving. In addition to his colorful watercolor paintings such as 'Smoky Mountain,' he will show earlier work like 'No More Hiroshimas.'

Info: 510/849-1427 or lewis.suzuki@yahoo.com

## EAST

### Roger Shimomura's 'An American Knockoff' Exhibit

NEW YORK, NY

Oct. 28-Dec. 11

Flomenhaft Gallery

547 W. 27th St. Ste. 200

In his latest series of ironic self-portraits "An American Knockoff," or "a counterfeit in one's own country," Roger Shimomura kicks butt again. The enemies vanquished by his esthetic karate strikes are still Asian stereotypes, but in this round they are represented by a mob of Disney characters, World War II-era comic book Japanese in kimonos and more.

Info: Call 212/268-4952 or visit [www.flomenhaftgallery.com](http://www.flomenhaftgallery.com)

### JACL/OCA Leadership Summit

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 5-8, 2011

Cost: Applicants are responsible for travel costs.

The annual State Farm JACL/OCA Leadership Summit is a three-day event that gives 30 emerging leaders of the JACL and OCA an opportunity to learn firsthand about the current public policy issues facing our communities.

Info: Call 202/223-1240 or e-mail [jshiraki@jacl.org](mailto:jshiraki@jacl.org)

Washington, D.C. JACL's Mochitsuki WASHINGTON, D.C.

GO!

Dec. 11, 12 noon to 2 p.m.  
North Bethesda Middle School  
8935 Bradmoor Dr.  
Cost: \$15/Adult bento; \$3/children's lunch  
Please join your JACL friends for mochitsuki/mochi-making demonstrations, a crafts sale, children's activities and conversation with friends!  
Info: Call 301/279-3128 or e-mail [Donna\\_Hollingshead@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Donna_Hollingshead@mcpsmd.org)

## MIDWEST

### JACL Midwest District Council Meeting

SOUTH BEND, IN

Dec. 3-5

Ramada Plaza Downtown

213 West Washington St.

Cost: \$84/ Room rate per night

Join the JACL Midwest District for its council meeting. Meals will be on your own, with a restaurant lunch and dinner arranged for Dec. 4. There is no registration fee for the meeting.

Info: Call 574/232-3941, or e-mail [Bill\\_Yoshino@JACLMRO@aol.com](mailto:Bill_Yoshino@JACLMRO@aol.com)

### Cincinnati JACL Holiday Party

DAYTON, OH

Dec. 5, 2 to 6 p.m.

Wright State University

3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.

Bring a potluck dish to share at the Cincinnati JACL's holiday party at Wright State University. Gift exchange is optional. Entertainment books are also available.

Info: [www.cincinnati.jacl.org](http://www.cincinnati.jacl.org)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center Exhibit Opening

PORTLAND, OR

Dec. 8 to May 30

Oregon Nikkei

Legacy Center

121 Northwest Second Ave.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment's celebration of its 20th year anniversary culminates with the opening of the exhibit "Taken: FBI," which is about the families who were taken into custody by the local authorities, and then imprisoned by the FBI and Department of Justice after Pearl Harbor.

Info: Call 503/224-1458 or visit [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)

### National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

Anniversary

SEATTLE, WA

Nov. 28 to Dec. 5

Commemorate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during Crystal Cruises 20th anniversary. Join Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Hershey Miyamura and his wife, Terry, as we honor Japanese American veterans.

Info: Contact Eiko Yamamoto at 800/627-8726 ext. 1222 or e-mail [eiko@worldviewtravel.com](mailto:eiko@worldviewtravel.com)

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

### Third National Asian American Theater Conference

LOS ANGELES, CA

June 16-26, 2011

Proposals are now being accepted from theater companies and individual artists from around the country for the Third National Asian American Theater Conference and Festival. Apply today to be a part of APA theatrical history!

Info: Visit [www.caata.net](http://www.caata.net) for guidelines

### JACCC's 'On the Veranda Lecture Series'

LOS ANGELES, CA

Nov. 21, 1 to 3 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center  
244 S. San Pedro St.

Cost: \$20/General admission; \$15/JACCC members

JACCC presents this season's first "On the Veranda Lecture Series, Traditional Japanese Printmaking Ukiyo-e." Two master printers from the Adachi Institute in Japan will conduct a woodblock print workshop, recreating the image of historic Japanese artworks.

Info: Call 213/680-3700 or visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org)

### Japan America Society's 102nd Anniversary Dinner and Gala

COSTA MESA, CA

April 2, 2011

The Westin South Coast Plaza

686 Anton Blvd.

The Japan America Society of Southern California is pleased to announce its 102th Anniversary Dinner and Gala celebration.

Info: Call 213/627-6217 or e-mail [JAS102Gala@jas-socal.org](mailto:JAS102Gala@jas-socal.org)

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

### Nihonmachi Little Friends 35th Anniversary & Sushi Social

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Nov. 19, 6 p.m.

Japantown

1830 Sutter Street

Cost: \$75/Suggested donation

Nihonmachi Little Friends will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a sushi social. The evening will feature the unveiling of the newly-renovated Noh stage in the Tateuchi Auditorium, a special performance by award-winning artists Brenda Wong Aoki and Mark Isu.

Info: Call 415/922-8898 or e-mail [nlfchildcare@yahoo.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@yahoo.com)

### JCCNC Healthy Community Discussion

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

JCCNC

1840 Sutter Street

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Info: Call 415/567-5505

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## William Hohri, Redress Plaintiff, Dies at 83



William Hohri (picture, above) visited Block 10 of Manzanar.

William Minoru Hohri, a writer, civil rights activist and lead plaintiff in the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) class action lawsuit, passed away on Nov. 12. He was 83.

Hohri, a former Manzanar inmate during World War II, is best known for spearheading the NCJAR class action lawsuit, filed on March 16, 1983, which sued the United States government for \$27 billion for injuries suffered as the result of the WWII exclusion and incarceration of Japanese Americans in U.S. concentration camps. Hohri's group spelled out "22 causes of action" for compensation and sought \$10,000 for each cause of action, which came out to \$220,000 per person.

Although NCJAR was not

specifically named in the Redress bill, a clause was inserted, which stated that anyone who accepted Redress payments could not sue the government for the same claim.

The court disallowed NCJAR's lawsuit on technical grounds on Oct. 31, 1988, two months after the Redress bill was signed. Many felt NCJAR's near successful lawsuit had influenced Congress to pass the Redress bill.

The idea to form NCJAR evolved when Seattle community leaders contacted Hohri, who was working for Redress from Chicago. The core Seattle leaders included Frank Abe, Frank Chin, Chuck Kato, Ron Mamiya, Mitch Matsudaira, Henry Miyatake, Tomio Moriguchi, Shosuke Sasaki, Karen Seriguchi, Emi

Somekawa and Kathy Wong.

Years later, Hohri self-published "Resistance," a book profiling the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee.

Sansei Frank Abe, who produced the award-winning documentary on the draft resisters titled "Conscience and the Constitution" and helped organize the first Day of Remembrance, said, "Like the Heart Mountain resisters he admired and chronicled, William stepped up to organize Japanese America and go to court to challenge the injustice of selective incarceration based solely on race. He was a leader, a lead plaintiff, an author and an artist, and he will be deeply missed."

In addition to his Redress contributions, Hohri, during the 1970s, worked with Nelson Kitsuse through the United States Methodist churches to support the national movement to seek a presidential pardon for Iva Toguri, who had been tried, convicted of treason and served a 10-year prison term for being "Tokyo Rose."

Hohri is survived by his wife Yuriko, two daughters, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A celebration of Hohri's life will be held Nov. 21, at Fukui Mortuary in Los Angeles. ■

### TRIBUTE

#### Edward Ayao Endow

November 23, 1914 - October 13, 2010



Edward "Ed" passed away on October 13, 2010 in Stockton after a brief illness. He was 95 years old.

He is survived by Bernice, his wife of 58 years, sons Jon (Joanne), Curt (Irene), Tom (Suzie) and Pete (Phyllis) and his sister, Nori Imagawa. He was preceded in death by his son Edwin (Debra). He was a loving grandfather to Robert, Katelyn, Kevin, Nicholas, Zachary, Karli, Davis and Julia.

Born in Ogden, Utah, Ed was raised in Stockton and

graduated from Stockton High. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, and received his degree and license in pharmacy from the University of California, San Francisco, in 1939. He joined the U.S. Army prior to WWII, was stationed at Fort Sill during the war and, upon being honorably discharged, was sent to Rohwer, Arkansas, as part of the internment of the Japanese Americans. He returned with his family to Stockton where he was a trusted pharmacist to the Stockton community for over 50 years, initially with Owl Drugs on Main Street and then as owner of Parkwoods Pharmacy. He retired in 1993 to enjoy his family and spend more time on his hobbies including traveling, fishing and rooting on the University of the Pacific athletic teams. He attended the Calvary Presbyterian Church and was an active supporter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the University of the Pacific.

A private service was held. At Edward's request, please no koden or flowers.

### TRIBUTE

#### Yemiko Maruyama

Yemiko Maruyama, 84, of El Cerrito, Calif., October 5, 2010; Oakland-born; survived by brothers Masami (Midori, pre-dec.) and Michael (Alice); sister Mitzi Maruyama; sister-in-law Kazuko Maruyama; nieces and nephew; grand-niece and grand-nephews. Family services were held at the Chapel of the Chimes, Piedmont, CA.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Abe, Hiroshi K. "Ko," 90,** Nyssa, ID; Nov. 14; funeral services are pending.

**Fujihara, Yoshimi "Blackie," 87,** Pearl City, HI; Oct. 13; he was a retired heavy equipment operator with Hawaiian Cement; survived by sons, Vernon, Randy (Rozi), Ronald (Ann); daughters, Evelyn (Glen) Shimabukuro, Janice (David) Lau, Lisa (Jody) Yamamoto; 11 gc; 10 ggc.

**Fujita, S. Neil, 89, Greenport, NY; Oct. 23;** he was a well-known graphic artist and painter; Fujita enlisted in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1943; he is survived by sons, Kenji, David and Martin; brother, Hisao; 6 gc.

**Izumo, Koto, 92,** Los Angeles,

CA; Nov. 14; preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Akira; survived by sister, Yone Yorimoto; children, Gary (Judy), Joanne (Patrick) Justus and Patricia; 7 gc; 1 ggc.

**Kiyohara, Akira, 81,** Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 12; he was a veteran of the Korean War; survived by wife, Ruby; sons, Keith (Majken) and Kerry (Mimy); daughter, Tammy (Dale) Matsubara; siblings, Tak (Aiko), Lefty, Ron and Mary (Lucky) Yamaga; brother-in-law,

Roy (Terry) Nakawatase; sister-in-law, Sachiko Nakawatase; nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

**Mayeda, Richard Shiro, 89,** Gardena, CA; Nov. 6; he was a member of Nanka Wakayama Kenjinkai; survived by wife, Yasue; daughters, Frances Yoshie and Arlene Masue; sister Kimiko (Ichiro) Ishibashi; 1 gc.

**Miyasako, George Joroshi, 85,** Fountain Valley, CA; Nov. 7; predeceased by wife of 55 years; survived by five children; several siblings; 6 gc. ■

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## ARC Acquires Wakamatsu Colony



The American River Conservancy (ARC) has purchased the 272 acre Gold Hill Ranch, site of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, a mile south of Coloma and the Marshall Gold State Historic Park.

The historic colony site was first settled by Japanese colonists from Aizu Wakamatsu in Fukushima Prefecture in July 1869. The Wakamatsu Colony site is said to be the first Japanese colony in North America and contains the gravesite of Okei Ito, the first Japanese woman buried on American soil. It is also the birthplace of the first naturalized Japanese American and is the only settlement established by samurai outside of Japan.

In establishing this colony in western El Dorado County, some 40 miles east of Sacramento, the Wakamatsu colonists were the first to introduce traditional Japanese horticulture to California including: silk worm farming, the cultivation of tea, rice, citrus, peaches and other stone fruit varieties, paper and oil plants and bamboo products.

The Wakamatsu site was purchased by ARC for \$3.2 million.

The National Park Service recently placed the Wakamatsu Colony site on the National Register of Historic Places at a level of "National Significance." Bills authored by Rep. Tom McClintock and Sen. Barbara Boxer have been introduced in the House and Senate respectively that would aid in the management of the ranch as a public park.

"Seeing the two parties working together in this manner makes me proud to be an American," said Fred Kochi, president of the Gold Hill Wakamatsu Colony Foundation Board.

The vision of ARC and its project partners is to create a public park at the Wakamatsu Colony site that protects Okei's gravesite, establishes a memorial garden, creates trails and a house museum within the historic farmhouse, and develops a demonstration and production farm that displays the valuable contributions that JAs have made to California agriculture and to the United States as a nation of diverse peoples.

The Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American Historical Society, the Consul General of Japan, and others were prominent partners in helping to secure the site. ■

For more information and to donate to ARC: [www.arconservancy.org](http://www.arconservancy.org)

## California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Grant Priorities Announced

Funding priorities and the grant schedule for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) for fiscal year 2010-11 have been announced. CCLPEP is a state-funded program administered by the California State Library.

First priority for funding will be gathering first-person Japanese American World War II internment accounts. Because of the importance of gathering these stories before they disappear, grant proposals that target this area will receive priority consideration over other types of grant proposals.

Applications will be available Dec. 6 on the CCLPEP website. The application deadline is Jan. 21, 2011.

Projects in this first category include:

- Audio or video recordings of exclusion, detention, internment, and military service;
- Publication of written works such as journals, memoirs, and eBooks or other digital media;
- Documentary films that include oral history interviews;
- Other works about the JA internment experience;

Secondary priorities for funding will be in the broad category of "Preserving and Sharing the Experience." These types of grants will be for projects that expand access to information about the JA WWII internment experience, including collecting and preserving internee documents and works.

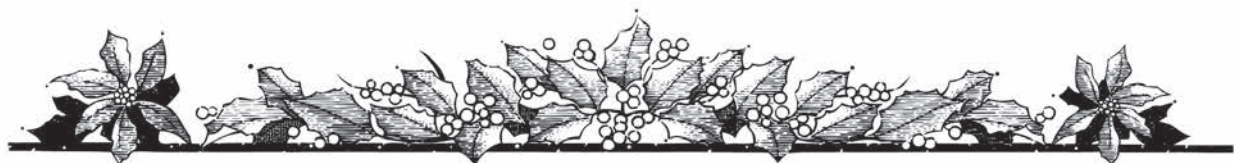
Projects in this second category include:

- Other types of documentary films;
- Published research or works of fiction based on the JA internment experience;
- Exhibits related to the internment experience;
- Websites or smartphone applications related to the JA internment experience;
- Photographs related to the JA WWII experience;
- Works of art and written documents created while in internment camps;
- Site preservation;
- Virtual experience/augmented reality projects examining the impact of the exclusion, detention, and internment of Issei, Nisei, and Sansei on subsequent generations;
- A grant request for a proposal (RFP) to develop and design a 15th anniversary print and digital report and archive catalog of CCLPEP projects.

The maximum grant amount is \$25,000. A total of \$450,000 is available for this cycle of grants.

The CCLPEP was created as the result of the passage of the 1998 California Civil Liberties Public Education Act, legislation sponsored by then Assemblymember Mike Honda to sponsor public educational activities and the development of educational materials to ensure the WWII JA internment will be remembered. ■

For more information about CCLPEP: <http://CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov>



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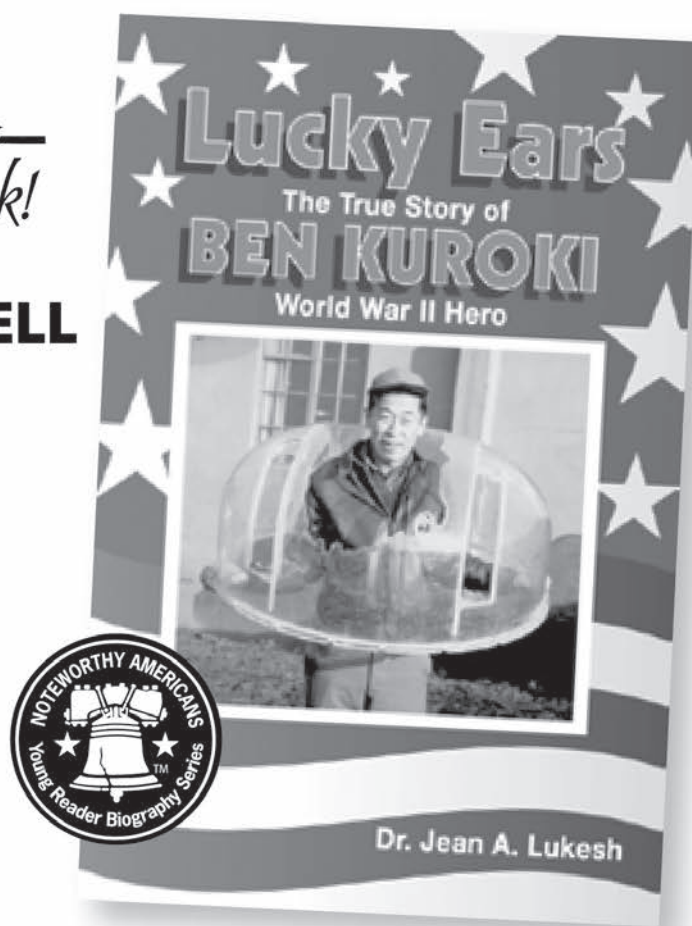
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Ben Kuroki's latest recognition was **The Audie Murphy Award** November 6, 2010 in Washington DC  
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