NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Thank You For Your Commitment to JACL

I hope that each of you will join me in resolving to help our JACL maintain its place as the leading Asian American civil and human rights organization.

By David K. Kawamoto

The first five months of my presidency has really been an interesting experience. Though I have been active with the national JACL board for much of the last decade, I have still found JACL’s difficult financial situation to be very trying. However, I am elated with the work of our past national president, Larry Ota, volunteered to serve as our national secretary/treasurer. His background and experience have proven so valuable to our organization.

I am very pleased with the continuing efforts of the JACL’s many volunteers. I don’t have the space in this article to mention all of our volunteers but I’d like to mention some of the ones I’ve worked closest with.

Our convention committees in Los Angeles and Seattle are working hard to make the upcoming national conventions the first class affairs to which we’ve all grown accustomed. The investment policy committee meets regularly to supervise the national JACL investments and assure their safety and functionality. Vice President for General Operations Gail Shoji is working on many projects including overseeing the progress of the conventions and the JPSW office move into shared space with the Pacific Citizen.

Vice President for Public Affairs Ron Katayama has worked on many projects including addressing the highly objectionable literature of a museum in Hawaii, which estimated among other thing that the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans was justified.

Vice President for Planning and Development Jason Chang and NC&WNP Regional Director Patty Wada have worked hard in taking over the administration of the national JACL scholarship program.

Vice President for 1000 Club and Membership Services David Lin and JACL Membership Coordinator Phillip Ooki instituted a drive to reclaim lapsed members. They are also working on a membership recruitment plan.

As I have outlined in previous messages, the JACL’s primary income comes from the membership dues and donations. Unfortunately, the national attrition of our membership base has led to decreased membership revenues. This attrition has also resulted in the diminution of the annual donations received. Additionally, the attrition is probably responsible for other lost income because of decreased attendance at fundraising events.

The JACL has suffered from a decrease in revenues, I feel it is very important to point out that JACL has also decreased its expenses. However, it is becoming more and more difficult to make cuts to the national JACL budget to keep up with the decrease in revenues.

I know that each of you share my concern for the fiscal health of our organization, so please let me again remind you of the need for each of us to find ways to help our organization.

In this new year, I hope that each of you will join me in resolving to help our JACL maintain its place as the leading Asian American civil and human rights organization. This help may be in membership recruitment, increase in membership level, annual giving donations, fundraising, or even your original ideas on ways to help. I personally am pleased to report that several of my friends accepted my invitation to join me as a Millennium Club member of the JACL.

Thank you all for your support of all things JACL. I wish you all the happiest New Year.

David Kawamoto is the JACL national president.

PACIFIC CITIZEN CHAIR

Keep the P.C. Strong

The strength, health and well being of the JACL and the P.C. are very much intertwined.

By Judith Aono

The year 2010 was a very interesting and challenging year for the Pacific Citizen. From the feedback I’ve received, readers are enjoying it even more and finding the P.C. to be doing a great job of meeting their needs and expectations.

If you think about how diverse the JACL membership is — how separated we are by generation, experiences and even geography — you get an idea of how amazingly fortunate we are that we have the P.C. to tie all these separate yet inter-related groups together. The P.C. keeps us informed about what’s going on all around the U.S. — and not just in the Japanese American community, but other Asian Pacific American communities also.

The P.C. continually covers stories that support the program for action and helps spotlight discrimination or unfair treatment of APAs throughout the U.S. It finds interesting ways to cover programs and activities about historic preservation of buildings, areas and even the historic record of people who have made or changed the states quo.

It has done all these things, year after year, and 2010 was no exception — without missing a beat despite a maternity leave, the absence of a business manager and the challenges of limited finances for travel.

I think the most amazing thing about the P.C. is that the P.C. has the look and feel of something produced by a large organizational staff with vast resources, when the opposite is true. The staff is very small and so are the resources. But they are highly talented, and even more, they are the most committed and loyal newspaper staff you ever knew.

They are engaged in the present, keeping us updated and knowledgeable about what is going on around us. They are also aware of the value of knowing what happened in the past and they are preserving the historic editions of the P.C. from 1929 through the present by applying for grants and finding sources to allow all the old editions to be scanned and digitized so that this great record of JACL’s past doesn’t just turn yellow and disintegrate away on some dusty shelf.

And most important they are investing in the future by creating their website, which since its launch in 2005 has continually received more than 550,000 hits per month. Please visit the website (www.pacificcitizen.org) — it’s amazing. All the things that there is not enough space for in the print edition of the newspaper can be featured on the website.

I happen to like this and also check out the website — the best of both worlds.

I truly appreciate how the JACL membership stood up to support the P.C., especially at the last national council meeting. I believe this vote of confidence from the membership — which showed that they like what the P.C. is delivering and want it to continue — was very much appreciated by the staff.

The strength, health and well being of the JACL and the P.C. are very much intertwined and I hope we all continue to work hard to support them and keep them both strong and able to continue to do the good work we expect from them.

Judith Aono is the Pacific Citizen editorial board chair.
Floyd Mori is the JACL national director.
GENERAL OPERATIONS
Serving the JACL

To realize some process improvements, I will be proposing a change to the timeline for the review and approval of the program for action.

By Gail Sueki

Since being elected as your national vice president for general operations at the convention last July, I have focused on monitoring the consolidation of JACL office space in Los Angeles, following the progress of our first annual national convention, and the updating of personnel policies including the review of the national personnel manual.

As approved at the last JACL national convention, as part of cost saving measures, the PSW district office will be consolidated with the Pacific Citizen office. P.C. Executive Editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom and PSW Regional Director Csiaj Inah have worked together to combine the offices. I participated in a meeting in Los Angeles to discuss the transition, layout, new PSW phone system, as well as timeline. I continue to monitor the transition that is scheduled to be complete in late-January.

Plans for the 2011 national convention are progressing. Please read the interview with convention chairperson, Gail Mayeda, in the 2010 Holiday issue of the P.C. In addition to the business sessions, Sayosa Banquet and community workshop day, I am working on my goal to provide learning tools and opportunities for delegates to take back to strengthen their chapters.

IDC Governor Brian Morishita and Vice President for Planning and Development Jason Chang are working on an exciting fund development presentation. National JACL Membership Coordinator Phillip Ozaki and Vice President for Membership David Lin will build upon the momentum from renewing lapsed members to provide more membership recruitment tools. We are fortunate to have individuals who will share their expertise with JACL members. I will continue to work with them to develop tools to present at the convention.

As vice president for general operations, I chair the national personnel committee. The function of the committee is to oversee all aspects of personnel administration and make recommendations to the national board. The committee will focus on staff performance reviews, reviewing the personnel manual and other procedural processes. To be better prepared for this task, I have started a list of people willing to offer advice and assistance in this area. If you have a background in human resources or know of someone who would be willing to be a resource, please send me their contact information and area of expertise.

To realize some process improvements, I will be proposing a change to the timeline for the review and approval of the program for action (PFA). Currently, the PFA is approved at the same national council meeting as the budget. This does not allow the budget to accurately reflect the aim and purposes of the national council as outlined in the PFA.

PFA Chair Brian Morishita and I propose presenting the program for action at the odd year conventions: if the national council approves and prioritizes these initiatives, the budget can then be developed based on those priorities and voted upon at the even year conventions.

I wish you a Happy New Year, and I look forward to continuing to serve with you this year.

Gail Sueki is the vice president for general operations. She can be reached at: vpoperations@jacl.org

MEMBERSHIP
Get Engaged in Reinvigorating the JACL

We need to focus on membership renewal and recruitment activities through personal interactions.

By David Lin

As we begin the New Year, I want to wish you and your family a healthy, productive and prosperous 2011 and welcome to the New Year's issue of the Pacific Citizen!

As many of you know, we launched an aggressive membership renewal campaign last October to bring more than 1,000 lapsed members back into the JACL family. It's a challenging proposition, but the good news is that we have the full support of the national board and we are getting all the districts participating in this effort.

And the preliminary results are encouraging.

I also believe that this is a great opportunity to get all of you engaged in achieving our common goal stabilizing the declining membership trend and reinvigorating the JACL. Another goal I hope we can also realize is the development of a chapter infrastructure and for ongoing membership recruitment and retention, which will serve as the building block for JACL's growth and vitality.

During the election cycle at the last national convention, I shared with you my philosophy in addressing the declining JACL membership. In addition to the focus and support from the national board, the district councils and the chapter presidents, we also need to engage as many JACL members as possible — in membership renewal and recruitment activities — through one-on-one personal interactions. I believe that there are no better ambassadors for the JACL than our own loyal members and elected officers to talk about the value propositions and benefits of being a member of the JACL family.

Looking forward, I see there are three membership imperatives that we must work on and execute well in order to have a successful 2011:

1. Continue our focused effort on renewing lapsed membership. As I mentioned earlier, we are in the midst of a membership renewal campaign.

As a matter of fact, we need to focus on this effort continuously to ensure 100 percent retention of our current members. This is one area that I know we can do well given the commitment and dedication you have all demonstrated.

2. Targeted recruitment and retention of Japanese American youths. We have several excellent programs targeting youths such as the scholarships, fellowships and Project Community!, to name a few. Through these programs, we've got great opportunities to introduce JACL youths to the JACL.

What we need to do is to overcome the challenge of retaining them in the JACL family and keeping them engaged as they progress through different stages of life.

3. Leverage JACL population concentration for chapter formation and growth. Florida and Texas are two states where there is a significant JACL population. We have an opportunity to capitalize on this census statistic and translate it into membership growth for the JACL.

We all know that running a successful membership program is a marathon that requires endurance, perseverance and lots of hard work. Much of the hard work requires one-on-one personal interactions in order to be effective. Looking at where we are at, we clearly have much work ahead of us. However, I am confident that we can accomplish this with the dedicated national board and committed members like you.

In closing, I thank all of you for placing your trust and confidence in me and electing me to this position. I am extremely honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve the JACL, and I look forward to having the opportunity of continuing my contributions to the JACL in 2011.

David Lin is the vice president for membership.
YOUTH

Creating a Strong Network of Young Adults

The national youth/student council envisions a community of students and young professionals motivated for equality.

By Devin Yoshikawa

This past year the national youth/student council has been busy evaluating our role within the Japanese American community and formulating a strategy to make a larger, more meaningful impact on the broader Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

We started this biennium by developing a vision, mission, and goals. The council envisions a community of students and young professionals motivated for equality, solidarity, diversity and community preservation. Our mission is to address AA/AAPI issues through empowering young adults and creating an avenue for involvement. By laying this groundwork we could now start setting goals as to what we wanted to accomplish to benefit the organization and our community.

We are only a quarter way into this biennium, and I am amazed by what we have already achieved. First, we restructured the council in a way that provides flexibility and leverage to retain and attract experienced, passionate, and driven council members to help our cause. By doing so, we have been able to focus on the organization’s key demographic — the college students and young professionals — when promoting JACL and its programs.

Secondly, we have embarked on a campaign to involve more young adults in our organization’s leadership ranks, culminating in an increase in youth chapter delegates for the 2011 national convention. We intend to accomplish this goal by sparking interest within our target demographic, creating a strong network of young adults, encouraging leadership development, and igniting their passion for advocacy.

Given the current state of our organization and the importance placed on young individuals, I believe that we are poised to achieve our goals and exceed the expectations set forth. I am blessed with the opportunity to serve our community and organization within my current capacity, and it’s truly an honor and privilege to work with a group of such motivated and passionate young adults. For these reasons I am looking forward to a busy and successful 2011.

Matthew Farrells

YOUTH

Excited and Optimistic About 2011

Youth can expect to be engaged and thoroughly enjoy what the JACL will have to offer.

By Devin Yoshikawa

Aside from the convention, the NY/SC anticipates hosting events throughout the year in various districts. Youth can expect to be engaged and thoroughly enjoy what the JACL has to offer. Aspects of the 2011 convention and regional NY/SC youth summits will focus on the retention and recruitment of youth members. It is a privilege to continue organizing fun and meaningful events for JACL youth to be a part of. I look forward to connecting with each and every JACL youth and interesting many new members to join.

The JACL has a very unique opportunity as a civil rights organization to advocate for solutions addressing the many contemporary social justice issues currently afflicting our communities. As the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, the JACL has led the way in speaking out regarding all initiatives affecting people of color. I am extremely proud to be a part of the JACL as we embark on 2011. Thank you to Southwest Airlines and State Farm for your continued support.

Devin Yoshikawa

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Which Version of History Will Stand?: Why the JACL is Needed

To ensure a deeper understanding and appreciation of our community’s history, the personal stories of JAs must continue to be told.

By Ron Katsuyama

The JACL national board was recently informed by Clyde Nakayama and Pacific Northwest District Governor Chip Larouche of a fund solicitation letter sent from the Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM) in Honolulu, Hawaii. It reads: “Sadly, the words ‘Remember Pearl Harbor!’ are now in danger of having little or no significance ... In today’s high school curriculum level American history text books, double the attention is given to the internment of Japanese Americans compared to the deadly attack on our forces in Hawaii.”

This letter is disturbing for two reasons. First, its information is false. Second, it trivializes the abrogation of Constitutional rights and disruption of lives associated with the World War II incarceration of JAs.

I wondered why such erroneous statements would be the central message of a solicitation letter. Discussions with Trisha Nakamura and David Forman, leaders of the Honolulu JACL, soon revealed a broader issue. Members of their chapter have, for three years, attempted to correct misconceptions associated with a PAM exhibit. "The Niihau Zero Incident.

This exhibit tells a fascinating story of a Japanese pilot who crashed landed his plane on Dec. 7, 1941, after an attack on the Kaneohe Naval Air Station. A Nisei resident is said to have aided the pilot as he threatened other residents while trying to recover his confiscated military papers. Unfortunately, this incident is often interpreted as providing evidence of the likelihood of disloyalty of JAs to the United States and, therefore, justifying President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 and the subsequent incarceration of almost 120,000 JAs living on the West Coast.

Although particular events associated with "The Niihau Incident" are open to various interpretations, the historical record remains clear. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that the "broad historical causes which shaped these decisions [E.O. 9066 and the incarceration of JAs] were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

The ease with which internet search engines recover "information" has magnified the disparities between official records and historical evidence, on the one hand, and popular beliefs, on the other. For example, a search for "Niihau Incident" yields dozens of articles which all repeat the same unsubstantiated view of history, that the 1941 events at Niihau are linked to the JA WWII incarceration.

Conscientious journalists will resist distorting facts or inserting narrow, subjective interpretations to enhance the interest of their readers, and discriminating readers will distinguish between story-telling dominated by artistic license and objective narrative of events. However, in my internet search I discovered that priority is given to short articles presented in a story-telling fashion, which does not provide all the factual information contained in original source material (e.g., Congressional reports and historical documents even less accessible to the general public). Unfortunately, some readers of such articles as well as those who view the PAM exhibit about the Niihau Incident may develop a narrow, distorted view of the JA WWII incarceration without an understanding of its broader, historical context.

To ensure a deeper understanding and appreciation of both our community’s history and the U.S. Constitution and America’s tradition of civil liberties, the personal stories of JAs must continue to be told, and the JACL must help preserve these messages along with examination of its current implications. Toward this end, the JACL continues to support educational projects, including teachers’ workshops, development of educational materials, and programs for youth.

Further, a task force was recently convened to examine recent developments, including the PAM solicitation letter and its museum exhibit. Following recommendations by its members — Trisha Nakamura, David Forman, Greg Marutani, Patty Wada and I — the JACL seeks to address the PAM presentation and to correct associated historical biases. While this task requires considerable effort over time, the JACL will continue to be adaptive in effectively implementing its core mission.

Ron Katsuyama is the vice president for public affairs.
Looking Ahead: 2011 — A Year to Celebrate!

I am very proud that JACL played such a significant role in getting the Congressional Gold Medal legislation to become law.

By Chip Larouche

In 2011, it will be time to celebrate an event that occurred in 2010. On Oct. 5, President Barack Obama signed legislation to grant the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Several Nisei veterans and key Japanese American leaders, including JACL’s National Director Floyd Mori, were present for the White House signing to recognize the dedicated service of these heroic units during World War II ... and most of you already knew that!

What you might not know is that a new organization has been formed called the National Veterans Network (NVN), which is a coalition of several Japanese American and civic organizations that will be managing the enormous task of having a great celebration for our veterans and their families and friends some time next year — probably in the fall — when the units will be presented with their Gold Medal. There will be some fundraising and sponsorship opportunities, and everyone is certainly encouraged to visit their website: www.nationalveteransnetwork.com.

The design process for the Congressional Gold Medal with the U.S. Mint has already begun. The U.S. Mint will likely commission several designers to produce designs that reflect the contributions of the 100th, 442nd and MIS. According to the NVN, the first set of designs can be expected in late February, followed by a process to select a preferred design that best represents the significance of the 100th, 442nd and MIS. The design approval will probably occur around Jane with production of the medal and replicas expected around August.

My wife Setsy, commander of the Oregon Nisei Veterans, and I were privileged to attend a “preaward” ceremony with Sea. Rtn. Wyden, senior Senator from Oregon. He presented copies of the legislation that was signed by the president, the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore to 12 surviving veterans of these units.

I was especially moved by a part of his speech when he said, “They stood up for our nation when our nation shamefully did not stand up for their families ... and embarrassingly it took the government almost 50 years to say, ‘We’re sorry’, and even longer to say, ‘Thank You!'”

I am very proud that JACL played such a significant role in getting this wonderful legislation to become law, even though it will take almost another year for the preparation and logistics to occur before these historically exceptional military units finally get their medals presented.

I would ask each of the readers of the Pacific Citizen to look into your communities and take steps to make sure that all eligible veterans know about this honor. I would also ask that you encourage your local heroes to attend the festivities in Washington, D.C. when they occur. I also encourage all of you who are friends or family members of these veterans to not only contribute to the fundraising efforts in your own way, but also try to make it to Washington, D.C. to be part of the celebration and to say thank you in person to these revered veterans. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and both Setsy and I plan to be there when it happens. We hope to see many of you there too, hopefully in numbers so large that we give the organizers lots of challenges to figure out how to accommodate all of us! Happy New Year!

Chip Larouche is the Pacific Northwest district governor.

Assessments and Visions for JACL

How else can JACL meet the challenges it currently faces in this depressed economy?

By Toshi Abe

Last year I mentioned how a website like Goodsearch.com can be used to generate extra funds for non-profits like the JACL simply by initiating searches from the Goodsearch website. JACL is registered on Goodsearch, so a donation will be generated for our organization if you select JACL from the list of charities and non-profits found on the site and then use the site as your search engine.

Additionally, you can shop at any of the hundreds of companies by simply going to Goodsearch first and then selecting the internet store of your choice. Usually, a store will donate 1 to 2 percent of the purchase price to your charity. Searches generate a donation of about a penny a search.

How did we do last year on Goodsearch? I suspect that only a handful of JACLers were involved, but we do expect a check for about $170 or so to be sent to the JACL for our searching and shopping activities. Every little bit helps. I'm hoping that we can attract more JACL members and friends to check out Goodsearch. It’s literally a painless way to contribute.

Goodsearch is just one of many examples of ways technology can help us in big and small ways. We saw further increases in mobile technology this past year. How many of us now have iPads or other tablet computers now? Institutions are using these tablet computers to store and retrieve their important documents.

Maybe we are coming around to a truly paperless society. And where are these documents kept? Not on a local server or computer, but on remote servers that can be accessed anywhere you have an Internet connection. Software is also remotely available so that an expensive software package that you once had to own in order to use can now be used for a fee online, which can frequently save your business money.

We are also frequent users of Wikipedia. This well-known Web site has a huge following, so I was disappointed when I recently viewed JACL’s Wikipedia page. I found inaccuracies in the article, but what was also upsetting were the disparaging remarks made by the playwright Frank Chin in reference to JACL leaders during the forced evacuation of our community during World War II.

Even the Wikipedia staff noted that the JACL page had multiple issues that needed to be addressed. We should take the lead in cleaning up our section on the Wikipedia site.

How else can JACL meet the challenges it currently faces in this depressed economy? We now operate contrary to what a reduced staff — we’ve been unable to hire staff to fill positions that have been open now for years. Can we bring about some financial stability by emulating other non-profits and operating a small business like a JACL store to promote and sell JACL themed merchandise?

I’ve heard some good suggestions from our vice president of planning and development, Jason Chang, and I look forward to working with him and other board members to see how to best bring this about.

Looking at our endowment, would we be able to make a purchase of a property to provide office space for our staff, saving rent in the process and also generating profit by renting some space to other groups?

Finally, I salute our youth who are contributing more of their time and talent to JACL and really making their mark. JACL’s support of its youth is paying off and our reward will be the development of competent citizens and leaders in all levels of society.

I think our national youth and student council leaders, Devin Yoshikawa and Matt Farnel, are really doing a fantastic job bringing about increased awareness of JACL and the role that youth can play in the schools they attend and the communities in which they live.

Toshi Abe is the Eastern district council governor.
Photos are real life events frozen in history. They immortalize heroics during war, frame passages of long awaited pieces of legislation and capture the sheer pride of being a part of history. Relive the moments that defined 2010 before they become iconic images for generations to come.

SEE NEXT PAGES FOR PHOTOS >>
At the Chicago national convention, JACL delegates voted overwhelmingly to continue opposing Arizona’s immigration enforcement law.

For over three months, oil gushed into Gulf waters, killing sea life and vital fishing jobs. In the aftermath, the local APA communities were especially impacted. P.C. Reporter Nalea J. Ko traveled to the region to bring back stories of heartbreak in the Gulf Coast.

When the Texas Board of Education voted to approve a series of controversial amendments to the curriculum standards excluding JA WWII history, community leaders appealed — and won.

The JACL national council voted down a resolution that would have endorsed a commemorative stamp proposal for a national memorial instead of Nisei veterans. Opponents say they believe efforts to honor Nisei vets with a special stamp have not been exhausted.

In 2010, community leaders like Gary Locke (pictured) and the JACL worked to ensure everyone in the APA community gets counted in the Census.
Health plans for students and young professionals 2011 rates starting at $125/month!

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Happy New Year!

Our commitment of over 50 years only gets stronger for future generations.
Bob Naka gets ready to receive his UCLA honorary degree over six decades later.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

A measure that would have granted Hawaii’s gay and lesbian couples the same rights and benefits that the state provides to married couples was vetoed by Gov. Linda Lingle.

In California, 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals punted the Proposition 8 case — which restricts marriage to a man and a woman — to the California Supreme Court.

A lawyer representing community groups filed an appeal of the judge’s decision in favor of a county permit to build a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) near the historic site. The fight to save history continues.

Justice was restored with the passage of AB 37, authored by Assemblymember Warren Furutani.

In 2010, the ceremonies for Nisei honorary degrees continued across California college campuses. (Below) Toshio Matsumoto receives his cap.

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

The governor on Sept. 23 signed Assembly Bill 1775, legislation designating Jan. 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in California.
New memorials now stand at the former Merced and Turlock Assembly Centers (right) to remember the thousands of JAs who were incarcerated there during WWII.

JACL honored APA women, including journalist Roxana Saberi, at its National JACL ‘Salute to Champions’ Gala. “Every person’s actions count. When enough people call out together for change over a continuous period of time, they can make a difference,” said Saberi.


JACL called on UC San Diego officials to review internal policies on hate incidents after an off-campus ‘Compton Cookout’ party mocking Black History Month ignited racial tension.

A portrait of former U.S. Transportation and Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta was installed at the Smithsonian Museum.

JACL successfully campaigned to have Akron, Ohio’s East High School change its racist nickname from ‘Orientsal’.

Yoshinosuke Kurita is a business owner in Weller Court.

Little Tokyo Partners, the owners of Little Tokyo’s Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens and Weller Court in Los Angeles, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, raising questions about the future of the JA enclave.

The Fukushimas’ grandfather served in the MIS during WWII.

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of JACL’s decision to mend community ties and apologize to the WWII resisters.

Hiroshi Miyamura High School is dedicated in Gallup, New Mexico.
Frank Emi, a Japanese American who helped lead draft resistance at a World War II internment camp died Dec. 1 at a hospice in West Covina, Calif. He was 94.

When the government decided to draft JAs in 1944, Emi and six others formed the Fair Play Committee, which argued that JAs shouldn’t have to fight for freedom abroad when they were denied it at home.

Emi and six others were convicted of conspiracy and he was imprisoned for 18 months. All were exonerated or pardoned in 1945. — Associated Press
Happy New Year!
On behalf of the Pacific Southwest District, I hope that 2011 brings everyone success and happiness.
Over the past few years, JACL PSW has been developing programs to revitalize the organization and ensure that JACL remains the leading Asian and Pacific Islander organization that our children and grandchildren will be proud to be a part of when they think of civil and human rights, cultural education, community preservation and youth empowerment.
Our youth development programs — now a staple of the JACL PSW — are still going strong. Our staff and interns, led by our regional director Craig Ishii, have devoted countless of hours to create and develop ways to keep high school and college age students engaged, motivated and educated about our heritage and community. We worked with over 100 students throughout Southern California in 2010 and we hope to more than double that in 2011.

To remain in the forefront of our organization, we have recognized that the next generation of JACL begins now. Many of our chapters have been very successful with outreach to local college campus organizations and community groups. Our district board consists of a few “old timers” like myself, but we have also been able to encourage many new faces — experienced professionals and leaders from partner organizations — to strengthen and diversify our leadership.

We have been able to increase our district’s visibility beyond our immediate community.
Looking ahead to the not so distant future, JACL PSW will be hosting the national JACL 2011 convention July 7-10, 2011. Traditionally, national JACL conventions occur every other year, so this will be the inaugural convention conducted on an odd numbered year. We are looking forward to showcasing what our district is all about.

We will be participating in a concurrent conference with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJA/CLA), a major organization with a similar mission and a supporter of JACL PSW.

There will also be opportunities to attend a Hollywood movie studio, shop in Beverly Hills and visit the landmarks around Hollywood Boulevard and Little Tokyo. We hope that you will be able to attend and participate in the first annual JACL national convention, meet up with friends around the country and have a great time.

I hope that you will be inspired by how our programs are developing and encouraging our future leaders. JACL PSW is driven and motivated by what the future holds. All of us in the JACL PSW hope that you will join us in continuing to make this organization the leading resource for generations to come.

Kerry Kaneichi is the PSW district governor.

By Brian Morishita

At the 2010 national JACL convention vice president of membership David Lin, former member coordinator Tim Koide and I hosted a membership workshop.

Between 15 and 20 members were in attendance. Given the criticality of this topic it was a bit disappointing that more members did not attend. Nevertheless, those who did attend were highly engaging and thoughtful with their comments, which is reflective of the acumen necessary for a meaningful workshop.

The format of the workshop was an interactive presentation that included some ideas on how to mobilize chapter members for a membership campaign. It also included some tactical approaches that could be used by chapters to recruit new members and retain current ones including contact scenarios and suggested interface verbiage. But more importantly it was an opportunity for all in attendance to share lessons, best practices and ideas from their own chapters.

Obviously none of us had all the answers to overcome our membership struggles. Nor was there any single answer that could resolve the difficulties in maintaining our membership. Clearly, a collectively developed “solution” will require a creative, energized bevy of solutions from which a chapter could pick and choose.

To avoid oversimplification of the problem it is important to recognize that membership retention and recruitment are not the responsibility of just a single or a few members. It is also the output of a group of members such as a chapter’s board to develop a membership campaign custom fit for its own chapter. One way a chapter could do this is to create a membership program action plan. This plan would identify activities that reach out to current and prospective members, associate attainable goals with these activities, highlight responsibilities and assignments, and be executable by the chapter.

Our presentation at this workshop was intended to help chapters with developing an action plan. It is important to remember that the presentation was just a start and needs further development to better assist chapters. Either at the district or chapter level some additional brainstorming and dialogue could help put together a membership action plan that is both substantive and realistic. The synergy from these types of discussions at the district level would be great, but I believe the chapters need to customize to their needs a formalized path forward.

Finally, it is important for all of us to recognize that what resonates with a current or potential member might be significantly different from that of another current or future member. With the evolving nature of issues, needs, the JACL organizational structure, and its changing membership sensitivity and acuteness awareness of member needs both in a dynamic and static sense are critical. To craft this properly and to accurately dial in on this I hope that additional membership workshops will be held. Certainly the national convention and district meetings along with other similar events would be excellent venues for doing this.

Brian Morishita is the Intermountain district governor.
Polaris Tours
Presents:
2011 Tour Schedule

Apr 4-Apr 13
Spring Japan – “The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms”

Apr 12-Apr 24
South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites

Apr 29-May 12
Country Roads of Southern Italy & Sicily

Jun 7-Jun. 9
Las Vegas in Summertime: Shows, Celine Dion

Jul 17-Jul. 26
Summer Japan: Highlights for the Whole Family

Aug 10-Aug 17
Great Pacific Northwest; Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Whistler

September:
Gems of Malaysia

Oct 11-Oct 20
Legacy of the Incas – Peru, Machu Picchu, Nazca Lines

Oct 11-Nov 20
Autumn Japan: Majestic Fall Colors

Nov. 3-Nov. 13
Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku

Nov 29-Dec 13
Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos

Dec 18-Dec 20
Holiday in Las Vegas: Show, Cirque du Soleil “Mystère”

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Polaris Tours

PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

Feb 26-Mar 3
Yosemite Discovery Forest Tour (31) day/night visits Caro, Guia, Luas and Nile Cruise featuring Arabian and Arabian seaside.

April 4-10

April 5-15
Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Daito, Kamikita, Honshu, Hokkaido, Kita, Hokkaido. This one-day visit is 91 day/night visits Tokyo, Tendo, Ninga, Tokuyama, Kita, Honshu, Hirose, Japan.

April 10-12
Pacific Express (21) day/night visits Crystal Symphony from Los Angeles sailing to San Diego, San Francisco, Augusta, Seattle and Victoria (BC).

Apr 29-May 2
London, St. Petersburg, Reykjavik, Iceland.

May 6-15

July 8-13
The featured event speaker is Miami University professor Jon Yamashiro. Payments should be made to CINNACI JACL by Feb. 27.

July 9-19
Panama Discovery (31) day/night visits Crystal Symphony from San Francisco, visiting to Victoria (BC), Sitka, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan.

Aug 30-Sep 5
Tour the southern coast of Alaska.

Sep 26-Oct. 5
Yosemite Discovery (31) day/night visits Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton.

Oct. 1-13
St. Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Dallas, Portland, Portland, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego.

October 17-26

October 27-31
Dayton/JACI Installation (31) day/night visits Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego.

Nov. 14-22
Dayton/JACI Installation (31) day/night visits Austin, San Antonio, Bandara (dado dand) and Fort Worth.

December 3-12
Dayton/JACI Installation (31) day/night visits Pugay, Harseburg, Philippine Thawaii, Dikolosfheis D St, Neuroehnlenben, Gerinn Hafenkreis, Salzburg, Vienna.

* * *

www.pacificcitizen.org

Go See Do
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fred Korematsu Day Celebration
BERKELEY, CA
Jan. 30, 1-5 p.m.
University of California, Berkeley/ Wheeler Auditorium

The Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Rights and Education is organizing the first Fred Korematsu Day celebration with keynote speaker Rev. Jesse Jackson. Other special guests include spoken word artist Beau Sia and Karen Korematsu, California Assemblyman Warren Furutani and Marty Block.

Info: www.korematsuinst.org or 415/848-7727

EAST

The 2011 Justice In Action Award
CHELSEA PIERS, NY
Pier 60
Feb. 8, 6 p.m.
Award recipients include A.B. Cruz, III, of the Scripps Network Interactive, and Lillian Kimura, JACL’s first female national president.

Info: events@aaldef.org or 212/968-5932

MIDWEST

Cincinnati/Dayton JACL Installation
CINCINNATI, OH
March 6, 4-6 p.m.
Kyoto Japanese Seafood Buffet
12140 Royal Point Dr.
Cost: $5/person
The featured event speaker is Miami University professor Jon Yamashiro.

Info: 513/683-2628

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Arizona Matsuri Festival
PHOENIX, AZ
Feb 26 – 27, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Heritage and Science Park
115 North Sixth St.
This two-day celebration features colorful displays of authentic Japanese arts, crafts and entertainment. This year the festival celebrates Phoenix sister city Himeji in Japan.

Info: www.azmatsuri.org

CENTRAL CALIF.

Lodi/Stockton JACL Installation
STOCKTON, CA
Jan. 23, 1 p.m.
Stockton Buddhist Temple
2820 Shimizu Drive
$15/members; $20/non-members
The event also will feature Cindy Fang’s short film ‘A Crossroad Called Maranzan.’

Info: May Saiki at 209/465-8107 or Aeko Yoeihika at 209/463-6060

Tri Chapter JACL Installation
APTOAS, CA
Jan. 25, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Seascape Golf Course
610 Clubhouse Dr.
$35/person; $20/children
The Watsonville-Santa Cruz, Gilroy and San Benito County JACL chapters will be hosting this luncheon. JACLer Dale Nannle, lead lawyer for the Korematsu case, will address the topic: ‘Why Fred Korematsu?’

Info: Marcia Hashimoto 831/722-6859 or hashi79@abcglobal.net

* * *

include prime rib, salmon and rotiserie chicken.

Info: http://sites.google.com/site/wjacd
In Memoriam

Adachi, Yoshiho Kelly, 90
Cincinnati, OH; Nov. 16; he was the husband of Mary Sugimoto Adachi for over 69 years; father of Michael, Kellene and Patrick (Robyn); 5 gc; 3 ggc.

Aoki, Takashi Raymond, 70
graduated from Garfield High School and worked for the Boeing Company until his retirement in 2000; prior to his employment with Boeing, he worked at the U.S. Postal Service and served in the U.S. Army; he is preceded in death by his parents and brothers; survived by his sisters, Lucille and Shirley.

Atagi, Harvey, 61
Riggins, ID; Nov. 14; he died in a tragic car accident; preceded in death by his parents Archie and Mickey; survived by his wife Diana; daughter Jennifer (Dave) Slusher; many nieces and nephews; 2 gc; 2 ggc.

Ankawa, George, J.
Seattle, WA; Oct. 16; he was incarcerated at Minidoka camp; after serving in the U.S. Army, he moved to Chicago, IL.; survived by his sisters Mary Yamasaki and Doris Hathy; devoted grandmother of Megan.

Date, Maybel Chiyoko, 88
Hilo, HI; July 22; beloved wife of James; loving mother of Andrew; dear sister of Charles and Betty; many nieces and nephews; 3 gc; 1 gcg.

Eto, Hajime "Jim," 66
Watsonville, CA; Dec. 1; he and his family were incarcerated in Poston, Arizona during World War II; his dear friends Fred and Betty Oda remember Jim and his wife Mary as excellent ballroom dancers; the foursome attended many JACL dances throughout Northern California; preceded in death by his wife Mary; survived by sons Derek and Stanley Etoz, daughter-in-law Lori Etoz, grandson Sean Etoz.

Hashigawa, Wataru, 88
Camarillo, CA; Dec. 10; he was married to wife Teruko for 53 years; a proud strawberry farmer; he started Hasegawa Farm, Inc with his father and siblings; survived by Teruko; daughters, Karen (Edward) Glynn and Susan (FM) Josie; sons Kenneth (Veronica) and Glenn; brothers, Tomoyuki and Norito (Joyce); sisters, Miyako (George) Tachiki and Katsuyo (Taka) Tanaka; 4 gc.

Inaba, Tatsuhiko Joe, 94
Nampa, ID; Dec. 10; he was the last surviving member of the Wapato Nippon Baseball team; preceded in death by his parents and younger brother Frank; survived by wife Matsuko; son Brian; daughter Janne (Phil); 5 gc; 4 ggc.

Kemikawa, Yoshio Lefty, 95
Rockwood, TN; Sept. 27; survived by three brothers and five sisters; son Paul (Christy); grandson Jordan.

Kiyasu, William Sadao, 87
San Francisco, CA; Nov. 20; he attended UC Berkeley for two years but was forced to leave after the evacuation order for Japanese Americans; he was the first recipient of the NIH Fellowship in pediatric hematology under the late Dr. Louis K. Diamond; took residency training at Boston Children Hospital and SF General Hospital; he is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kikue; daughters, Miriam and Emily (Matthew); sons Crawford (Salma) and Charles (Mats); sister, Yuki (Akira) Nose; sister-in-law, Lil Kiyasu; many nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

Mayeda, Jack, 79
Manhattan Beach, CA; Dec. 1; he taught high school in Othello, WA; elementary school in Seattle, was vice principal at Portola Valley Middle School, assistant principal of students at San Mateo High and administrator at the San Mateo Adult School; survived by daughter Stacy, son-in-law Hsin-Kai Lin; brother, Buster; sisters Ruth Kyono and Mary Mills; nieces and nephews; 2 gc.

Morimoto, Sam S., 90
Chicago, IL; Dec. 8; beloved husband of Edith; loving father of Richard (Joyce), Judy (Wayne) Matsuyama and Robert (Ani); dear brother of Mary (Tom) Nakazaka; Helen (late Sid) Sakane and Alice (late Sab) Nakamura and the late Bill Morimoto; 6 gc.

Morinaga, Kazuo (Kaz), 88
Ontario, OR; Dec. 26; he was incarcerated with his family at Tule Lake and then Heart Mountain; survived by his wife of 61 years, June; son, Glen (Susan); daughter, Beverly (Ron); daughter Bonnie (Jim); 13 gc; 14 ggc.

Morikawa, Gordon Keith, 57
Cincinnati, OH; he was a professional photographer; dear father of Tristan; son of Toki and Fred.

Nakanishi, Betty, 84
Chicago, IL; beloved wife of Toshio; loving mother of Susan (Mark) Mitsunaga; dear sister of Mary Yamasaki and Doris Hathy; devoted grandmother of Megan.

Ogawa, Yoshinori "Yosie," 91
Nampa, ID; Dec. 21; he was a member of the Nampa Elks and the Boise Valley JACL; survived by his four daughters Iris (Ivan) Davis (Fran) Hasabe, Janis (Jerry) Ogawa and Tyris (Peter) Thomas; five brothers, Todd (Ida), Mas (Judy), Tak (Emmy), Tom and Kenny (Yuka) numerous nieces and nephews; 1 gc; 2 ggc.

Otani, Mary Gueyko, 84
Parma, ID; Nov. 7; Mary was born in California and emigrated to Japan; she survived the bombing of Hiroshima during World War II and returned to the United States in 1946; survived by her three brothers, Bill Chikugo (Betty), Shigeru (Kiyoko) Taniguchi; three sons, John, James and Charlie (Dawn); 2 gc; 2 ggc.

Takayama, Yoichi, 88
Chicago, IL; beloved wife of Fred; loving mother of Susan (Mark) Mitsunaga; dear sister of Mary Yamasaki and Doris Hathy; devoted grandmother of Megan.

Takizawa, Yoneo 89
Watsonville, CA; Dec. 1; he and Curtis.

In Memory of
CPL. YOSHIHARU AOYAMA
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