



PACIFIC CITIZEN

Actress Lynn Chen is the co-creator of 'Thick Dumpling Skin', a blog that raises awareness about body image issues.

ASIAN
AMERICANS
& EATING
DISORDERS

MORE-THAN SKIN DEEP

Starting a dialogue about the growing epidemic. **PAGE 3**



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Apathy and young Japanese Americans.



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Tomi Kobara's life on canvas



Q&A

Cheryl Burke of 'Dancing with the Stars'

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TALK BACK



Poston Girl Scouts' Story is Important

I enjoyed reading about Marian Masada and the Poston Girl Scouts ("Finding Poston's Girl Scouts", Feb. 4, 2011). This is an important part of Girl Scouts history. Next year, [the] Girl Scouts will celebrate 100 years and the story of the Poston Camp troop and Marian's efforts is a moving tribute to the memories and friendships the girls shared six decades ago. Were there other Girl Scout troops in other camps? I'd like to learn more. Thank you for a great story!

Debra Nakatomi
via Pacificcitizen.org

Saving Amache

My parents and grandparents were imprisoned at Amache. I visited the site for the first time in 2006. It is good that more of the water tank was found ("Historic Structure is Found in Good Condition at Amache", Feb. 18, 2011). History must be preserved so that 50 years from now people will not deny that such things happened.

Floyd Shimomura
via Facebook.com/pacificcitizen

* * *

Ariz. Immigration

Unbelievable amounts of money have been generously spirited from taxpayers to support foreign nationals by both the federal and state governments ("Ariz. Gov. Countersues Federal Government on Immigration Law", Feb. 18, 2011). Do not believe they don't receive Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, low income housing. U.S. citizens and legal non-citizen immigrants

should be ushered to the front of pension lines and public benefits. Explain to me why we have veteran's soldier's homeless, single mothers with children and pensioners living on the streets. Yet illegal alien mothers who intentionally slipped past the border or entered America by plane or ship pregnant ... are allotted low income housing?

'Britannicus'
via Pacificcitizen.org

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Day of Remembrance Events are a Good Reminder



By Floyd Mori

Many of our JACL chapters recently held Day of Remembrance (DOR) events to commemorate the signing of Executive Order 9066 and its rescinding which happened on Feb. 19 many years apart. It was a dark day in history when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed E.O. 9066 in 1942, which gave the military commander the authority to remove people from their West Coast homes. The order was used only on those of Japanese ancestry and affected more than 120,000 people.

During the late 1970s I was able to introduce a resolution in the California State Assembly which paved the way for the first Day of Remembrance events held in California. It was a privilege to be in the Oval Office when President Gerald R. Ford rescinded E.O. 9066 in 1976. In the mid-1980s a small gathering was held in a home, which I believe was the first DOR event held in Utah. It was a

happy occasion when President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

In spite of its humble beginnings, the DOR events held by JACL chapters everywhere have become major JACL events. These various activities throughout the nation are good reminders to the public that this travesty of justice occurred to U.S. citizens and should never be allowed to happen again. We must not forget our history, and others need to be reminded of it.

Since my schedule was to be in California during February, I was able to accept invitations to attend the DOR events at Merced on Feb. 19 and in Fresno on Feb. 20, along with David Kawamoto and Larry Oda, national JACL president and secretary/treasurer, respectively. Gail Sueki, vice president of general operations, also attended the event in Merced, which was the one year anniversary of the monument erected at the Merced Fairgrounds to commemorate the assembly center in which internees were temporarily housed in 1942. Jason Chang, vice president of planning and development, was at the Fresno event in his home area. Consul General of Japan Hiroshi Inomata and Congressman Bob Costa were also present. Bob Taniguchi and Judge Dale Ikeda, along with many others, were instrumental in erecting impressive monuments and presenting good programs.



The Sugiyama sisters from Santa Rosa, Calif. were incarcerated at Merced during World War II.

Last year I was asked to speak at the DOR event held by the three Utah JACL chapters which honored two old friends, Wat Misaka and Judge Raymond Uno. Wat, who received a Weber State University Recognition with a scholarship established in his honor, was the first non-white player in what is now the NBA.

He was a leading college basketball player at Weber and the University of Utah before being drafted in 1947 by the New York Knicks.

Ray, who received the 2010 Human Rights and Social Justice Award, has long been a champion of civil rights in Utah as well as the first Asian American judge in the state. He has also served as a na-

tional JACL president.

Special DOR events are held throughout the nation. The Washington, D.C. JACL chapter celebrates DOR in conjunction with the Smithsonian.

This year they held a screening of the film, 442, which is a depiction of the experiences of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Battalion which served so honorably during World War II.

We owe much to these brave JA soldiers who showed the world the patriotism and loyalty of the JAs.

Everyone who has helped to organize and present the JACL DOR events is to be commended.

Thanks also to all who attended, and thank you for your support of the JACL. ■

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Asian Americans Weigh In on Body Image Issues

Some health professionals say eating disorders and body image issues affect people across cultural, ethnic and socio-economic boundaries.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Jessica Chu, 22, says her eating disorder was at its worst during her senior year of high school. Born and raised in New Jersey, Chu began to restrict her caloric intake to see weight loss results.

First she started eating three apples a day. Then she only ate an apple a day to see better results, she says. At 5-foot-4 Chu's lowest weight was 100 pounds.

"I think I managed my whole one-apple-a-day thing for three months or something before I just drank water," Chu explained. "I did that for two weeks and I remember just lying on my floor and not having any strength to change into my pajamas, and just crying because I was so helpless."

"But I was getting so many compliments."

Chu's experience with an eating disorder and negative body image issues is not unlike many others nationwide. Some 10 million females and 1 million males in the United States are struggling with anorexia or bulimia, according to the National Eating Disorders Association. It is a soaring statistic in the country, say health professionals.

"There's been an 18 percent increase in hospitalizations over a five-year period," said Lynn S. Grefe, president and CEO of the National Eating Disorders Association. "I know for a fact that eating disorders exist in all populations, and males too. It's hitting males, too."

A study in 1996 titled "Ethnicity and Body Dissatisfaction: Are Hispanics and Asian Girls At Increased Risk For Eating Disorders?" looked at about 900 girls in Northern California middle schools. The study found that of the leanest 25 percent of those polled, Asian American girls reported greater body dissatisfaction when compared to Caucasian girls, according to the Office on Women's Health.

"I think that eating disorders are a biological-based illness. They don't travel alone. People are born with a genetic predisposition," Grefe explained. "So whether you are Asian American, or whatever you are, if you have those traits that high anxiety, that perfectionist tendency and then something triggers you, then you take out how you're feeling in your behaviors with food."

Others are giving a voice to Asian Americans struggling with body image issues and/or eating disorders. Actress Lynn Chen and *Hyphen* magazine publisher Lisa Lee started the submissions-based website Thick Dumpling Skin.

The duo talks about their struggles with body image and weight on the forum. They also invite others to share their experiences. The aim is to create a community for Asian Americans to discuss the "unhealthy quests, past and present, for the 'perfect' body."

"We want people to know that they're not alone in their struggle with body image and food, first and foremost," wrote Chinese American Lee, who co-founded the website. "As Lynn mentioned, people and even organizations that are supposed to be helping people don't think body image is something that Asian Americans struggle with, which is completely absurd. Secondly, we want people to feel safe and open to share their stories."

Korean American writer Ellen Oh, 43, took to her computer to write on the website about her experiences with her weight.

"Something about the Korean community that I find really appalling is the constant and intense focus on weight," Oh explained. "I was never bigger than a size six, never weighed more than 110 pounds, which for an athletic

5-foot-3 girl should have been fine. But all I ever heard from anyone was how fat I was."

Oh said her relatives and even strangers in the Korean American community, told her she was fat.

"I developed a terrible complex because of this and I ate to console myself," Oh said. "And then I would step on the scale, freak out and literally starve myself for days. It took years of working on my self-esteem to finally overcome my complex."

Lee, 26, shared her story of struggles with body image on National Public Radio and in a story featured in *Hyphen* magazine, which eventually led to the creation of Thick Dumpling Skin.

"I have always been conscious of how I was bigger than other kids my age," Lee explained. "I remembered comparing the size of my thighs to my friends and seeing the difference. And of course, who can forget the relatives that always called you fat to your face?"

Chen, who is known for her roles in the movies "White on Rice," "The People I've Slept With" and the upcoming film "Surrogate Valentine," also shares her personal battle with body image issues and food on the forum.

"For most of my life I struggled with binge eating. It wasn't until I became an actress that I tried to combat that constant weight gain with dieting, and eventually, anorexia," Chen said. "Nowadays, thanks to many years of hard mental work, I've forged a peaceful, balanced relationship with food and my body."

Some Asian Americans say they feel greater cultural and familial pressures to be thin.

Lee says she believes that, "Asian American women face the desirable stereotype of the petite, fragile Asian women from everyone, including people within their own community."

A 1995 paper written by Christine Iijima Hall, an Arizona JACL member, found that among Asian women "the rate of eating disorders is quite low."

"What it talks about is that Asian women do not have as many eating disorders as American white women do," Iijima Hall explained, an administrator with Maricopa Community Colleges. "But that the body image issue is still — may not be weight related — but there are other body image issues that Asian American women have."

However according to body image research an "inaccurate perception of weight among thin women and a desire for thinness" was found to be increasing among Asian Americans.

Some say resources tailored for Asian Americans with body image issue and eating disorders are lacking in the health industry.

"Lynn and I started Thick Dumpling Skin because we couldn't find any resources specifically for Asian American women," Lee said. "It really wasn't a surprise to us because body image has always been a silent issue, sometimes even something that we just joke about to brush it aside."

Others are instead turning to the internet to discuss body image and eating disorders.

"I was brought up to never air my dirty laundry in public and to basically 'save face' whenever I could," Chu explained. "When I was at my worst and such, I found so much information and guidance and support online."

Although Chu says she believes recovering from her eating disorder may be a life-long process.

"I think you will always have an eating disorder," Chu said. "I don't think you can ever fully 'recover' mentally."

"I have the worst body image perception of myself. I do think I'm fat and I'm actually trying to lose 20 pounds by like April." ■

WEB INFO

For information on getting help with an eating disorder, call 1-800-931-2237 or visit www.nationaleatingdisorder.org. Or share your story on www.thickdumplingskin.com.

Cultural Disconnect Among Japanese American Youth



PHOTO: LAUREN KANEGAWA/BOOKS & PEOPLE

Lauren Kanegawa's grandparents didn't talk much about their WWII internment experience.

More Japanese American youth are saying they know little about their family history.

By Christine McFadden
Correspondent

High school senior Lisa Shimomaeda, a Yonsei from Portland, Oregon, has heard little about her family's history.

"My grandparents were never ones to talk about the hardships they went through in World War II," she said. "It is my personal belief that because they grew up striving to fit into American culture they never really had their children or grandchildren connect to their ancestry."

In eighth grade for a class project, Shimomaeda was able to piece together some information surrounding her grandmother's time spent at Minidoka, Tule Lake, and Heart Mountain from old pictures and a short autobiography.

She considers herself "kind of" interested in her family's history during WWII.

Shimomaeda is one of many Japanese American youth across the country that has limited knowledge about her history and culture. With previous generations of JAs able to unite under similar experiences such as the WWII incarceration or shared initiatives such as the redress campaign, many say there is a growing disconnect with today's youth stemming from both a lack of interest in their roots and lack of a common cause.

In an informal survey conducted by the *Pacific Citizen* of JA high school and college-age youth in Northern California, 67 percent stated that they were interested in their family's JA history, but currently know "a little." Approximately 17 percent said that they were not interested and 50 percent acknowledged that older generations in their family were reluctant to tell them about their family's history.

While many Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei

are looking to find out who they are, a large portion have not been exposed to their history, either through formal education or through their elders.

Stanford University's co-founder and first director of its Asian American Studies program, Gordon Chang, believes that JA youth are generally becoming less interested in their culture and history.

"The reason may be that there are now more fourth and fifth generation JAs and they are removed from immigration experiences and WWII," Chang said. "Most seem to have grown up pretty much among whites."

"There are many exceptions to this generalization, though, and there are definitely JAs who are very interested in their history and culture," he continued. "I just see fewer of them these days."

Assimilated

What is openly shared in some families may be considered too painful to talk about in others.

Kristi Miesko Fukunaga, a Yonsei high school sophomore from Portland, Oregon, says that while her grandparents from both sides have told her "a little bit" about her family history, "one of my grandpas doesn't really like talking very much, so he is of course reluctant to talk about it."

Connie Masuoka, a Sansei Portland JACL board member echoes this sentiment.

Her father "has always been a little sketchy about his family's history as though he was a little embarrassed by it."

But in Matthew Farrells' family, the experience has been different. Farrells, who hails from Bloomington, Minnesota, recalls being brought to a lot of the JA community events like picnics and sukiyaki dinners as a child with his mother. Farrells is JACL's current national youth chair, but his brother has no association with JACL. Both brothers are Yonsei and Hapa.

He attributes this difference to separate paths taken in their education. While Farrells

made the decision to take Japanese language in high school, thus spurring an interest in Japan and Japanese culture. His brother did not.

Taking Japanese "led slowly to interest in more about who I was, my family, heritage," he said.

"I think it's a lot of what Yonsei and Hapa deal with these days," he said. "We're so integrated in our predominantly white schools and communities from an early age that we really have to be conscious about informing these young students about their history and their identity at an early age."

However, a recurring pattern in American schools seems to be a lack of information taught surrounding JA history, often failing to inform students adequately at any age.

Schools Get An 'F'

Chang believes that schools do an inadequate job of educating students about JA history, specifically about the WWII incarceration.

"There is very little about WWII internment," he said. "I'm about the only professor on campus who knows anything about it." He taught the first Asian American history course at Stanford in 1972, but the Asian American Studies program was not an official department at Stanford until 1997.

Chang sees a connection between the amounts of education received about JA history and the amount of interest JA youth have in their history and background. He does not believe that most JAs know much concerning their family history.

"It would be good to have more attention devoted to the history," he said. However, he noted that this is not an exclusive problem amongst the JA community.

"I generally find though that many Asian American students, not just JAs, are less interested in their histories than before," he said.

Many young JAs like Kianna Kiyoko Green, an 11th grader from Portland, Oregon, have had to find their own way to connect to the JA culture. She did not learn about JA history in her formal education. Only when she joined a youth group did she learn about the WWII incarceration through participating in various activities like the Minidoka pilgrimage in 2008.

"My grandparents died when I was in elementary school, so I did not get the opportunity to talk to them about our family history," Green said. "I was able to learn from talking with some of the older generation that were at the Minidoka Pilgrimage."

Green has been studying Japanese language and culture since kindergarten and says that most of her JA friends are similarly interested in their history and culture. But she considers herself and her friends to be part of the minority.

"I feel like I am in a very select group of JA youth who have more exposure to JA history," she said. "I have cousins who live in Arizona who don't have any JA friends or classmates, and they have no connection to JA history and are very apathetic."

Recruiting the Next Leaders

The cultural apathy among JA youth makes membership recruitment more difficult for historically JA organizations. Most like the JACL, are struggling to overcome the uphill battle of replenishing a formerly ardent Nisei and Sansei membership — united by WWII experiences and the battle for redress in the 1980s — with Yonsei and Gosei youth.

JACL National Director Floyd Mori echoes the sentiment that older generations of JAs contribute to their children's loss of roots.

"When you go back a couple generations and it was somewhat invoked to be American and not to be Japanese because of World War II, I think that is a past attitude," Mori said. "Young people today are trying to determine who they really are because I think a generation or so forgot who they were and put that aside."

JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino says the recruitment of younger members is but also a challenge.

"I think because students or young folks have so many opportunities to become interested in any number of different events, it becomes a challenge because there's a lot of competition ... for their time and for their interest," he said.

Shimomaeda works two jobs and is currently enrolled in five Advanced Placement (AP) classes at school. She attended one youth group meeting last month with her local JACL chapter, but found that it was more than she could balance.

To appeal to younger generations, JA groups like the JACL are implementing more youth programs that are increasingly geared towards a younger demographic.

Project: Community! Cultural Camp offers educational sessions during the summer for children ages 7 to 9. The sessions include activities ranging from cultural crafts to storytelling to talking about intolerance and bullying.

"We think that 7 to 9-year-old kids have to deal with these sorts of things," said Yoshino about bullying. "This is just an effort to let them know about how to deal with stereotypes, racial slurs, that kind of thing."

Another new JACL program currently in the development stages is called Heritage Academy, which is aimed at middle school youth with the goal of developing "cross-cultural understanding."

Farrells believes that the JACL is at a crossroads in history where it's changing its focus.

"We don't really have those unifying issues or common goals," he said, referring to unifying post-World War II or during the fight for reparations. "We do, but it's not as specific as redress or getting specific legislation passed."

"Those young people that are exposed to the World War II experiences — they're amazed," said Mori. "They marvel at what happened. I think they become very curious about it. The problem is, many are not exposed. Many of their grandparents are gone ... and those grandparents did not talk about it to their children, and so there were a couple of generations where it was kind of lost." ■

How Tomi Kobara Found Art

Nisei Tomi Kobara says through the process of doing art she found her passion for oil painting.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Tomi Kobara did not immediately seek out a career in art, but instead it came to her. A painter, who she remembers as S. Kawashima, was peddling his artistic wares and came knocking on the door of her California home decades ago.

The Japanese American was busy being a mother of four at the time. Kobara, now 84, purchased paintings from the elderly door-to-door vendor before they fell into friendly conversation over tea about art and other things.

Soon he was teaching Kobara *sumi-e*, or black ink painting, each week. The lessons would plant a seed for what would blossom into a life-long passion of art.

"They put a brush in my hand and we did some strokes and I thought, 'Wow! Where have I been?'" Kobara said of taking art classes for the first time. "It was a good fit. You know how it is when things happen, and you just know it's right? Well that's how that whole thing was."

In about her 50s, Kobara enrolled in college art classes in Northern, California. The "free thinking" atmosphere of the 1960s and younger generation were a change from being a housewife, Tomi Kobara explained.

"It was in the 60s. It was a tough time," Kobara explained over the phone from her home in Hawaii. "I was in school with all these people [laughs] that were using four letter words. Oh, my God. It was an eye-opener for me."

With a group of other female artists, Kobara toted her paintings to galleries in Carmel, Calif. in the 1970s, hoping to have some exhibited. After being rejected from other galleries, Kobara finally found a location that would showcase her work.

"So we all ran back to the gallery and my paintings are all in the window!" Kobara said of seeing her artwork in the window of a gallery for the first time. "So we celebrated and I just ran up, and down the street busting my buttons."

Kobara eventually moved from the West Coast to Hawaii in 2000. But her work is still being shown at the Winters Fine Art Gallery in Carmel, Calif., the same gallery that once showcased her early work.

Relocated in Hawaii, Kobara got in contact with the Windward Artists Guild, to meet new people and join an art club. The group has grown over the years since its inception in 1960. Some credit Kobara, among others, with helping to save the organization.

"It stayed alive and did a little along the way, but as soon as Tomi arrived she was an alarm clock. [She] encouraged her CPA husband [Rod Kobara] to become the treasurer," said Rev. Donald K. Johnson, who is the president of the organization. "It's happy history after that."

The guild now has about 170 members, Johnson says. But members are struggling to find a community center.

About \$400,000 to \$600,000 is needed, Johnson says, to help the guild have an art center for its members.

"Even a barn in the country would help where we could have an ongoing venue. If we had a property in Kailua or Kaneohe, we could make it work," Johnson explained. "But with Tomi's encouragement, we live with hope."

On the eastern side of Oahu in Hawaii is where Kobara made her new home. There, the 84-year-old is currently



Artist Tomi Kobara (above) discovered her passion for painting while she was raising her young kids. Now her work is displayed in art galleries nationwide such as her painting entitled 'Big Catch II' (pictured, left).

working in her outside studio on a grey, subdued painting with "inner light" that was inspired by Buddha ceramic figurines.

Other works of art by Kobara are featured in the February 2011 issue of the magazine *American Artist*. Works such as her 1996 painted landscape titled "Old Hawaii," are featured in the magazine.

"She knew she was going to get the article," said Katie Hennessy, Kobara's daughter. "So when it happened it was so beautiful. She cried. We all cried."

Another portrait of Kobara's daughter, who is also named Tomi, is featured on the art issue's cover.

"She painted those from photographs, so it wasn't like, 'Oh, pose for me.' It was more integral to our daily life," said the younger Tomi Kobara. "I was very fortunate to be someone she painted."

Many of Kobara's paintings feature Japanese American cultural images and inspirations from her days in Poston, among other things.

Fifteen oil paintings titled "Family Portrait" depict imperfect chipped, but beautiful rice bowls that represent her family members.

Before her days as a housewife and mother, the elder Kobara grew up in Hollister, Calif. where her father, J. T. Obata, farmed. During World War II the Obata family was labeled "enemy alien" like 120,000 other JAs nationwide. The family was interned at Poston.

Upon being released from camp, her family returned to their home in Hollister, Calif. where a neighbor had taken care of the farming duties during the war.

"My brother and I we worked in a cannery to make ends meet. So it was hard. The discrimination was terrible. We just kept our heads down and just worked," Kobara explained. "It was rough in Hollister because so many casualties happened to the local boys."

"So you can understand it, but you can't understand it."

Kobara married at the age of 24 and moved from her hometown. Years after marrying and having children, Kobara's love of art flourished.

Today the 84-year-old still has art tools gifted to her by her late friend the door-to-door artist who taught her *sumi-e* painting techniques while she simultaneously tended to her young children.

"So that probably left something in my mind and heart about art probably," Kobara explained. "It probably, in the back of my mind, was the influence that I went to school and finally decided that was what I wanted to do, was to paint."

Today Kobara's oil paintings can be seen in galleries, in art collectors' caches and in her family's private collections.

"Everything I've painted was either taken by my family or sold through the gallery," she said. "I have four children and a lot of grandchildren. I don't have stacks and stacks. That's my problem."

Now she can add national magazine cover to that list of exhibitions where her artwork has been shown.

"When this article came out and knowing it covers a big territory of distribution, I felt very humble. I felt like, my God, people know how I work," she explained breaking into a laugh. "I just think, 'Well, I'm not a private person anymore [laughs].'" ■

Hawaii's Gov. Signs Civil Unions Bill Into Law



PHOTO: ED MORITA

Rep. Blake Oshiro (left) hands a pen to Gov. Neil Abercrombie to sign the civil unions bill into law Feb. 23.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed same-sex civil unions into law Feb. 23, granting gay and lesbian couples the same state rights as married partners.

"The legalization of civil unions in Hawai'i is long overdue," said Abercrombie. "People have worked long and hard for this day. This is a prime example of exercising civic courage. It is about doing what is right, no matter how difficult, no matter how much opposition," said Abercrombie in a statement.

Civil unions in the Rainbow State would start Jan. 1, 2012, making Hawaii the seventh state to permit civil unions or similar legal recognitions for gay couples. Five other states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage.

The new law comes after 20 years of court fights, protest rallies and passionate public debate in a state that has long been a gay rights battleground.

The Democratic governor's signature makes it the first law he's enacted since he was elected in November.

Just seven months ago, former Republican Gov. Linda Lingle vetoed a similar bill because she said it was same-sex marriage by another name.

But civil unions have been heading toward passage since Abercrombie defeated two gubernatorial candidates who opposed them, and only one state

legislator who supported them lost re-election.

Hawaii, already known as one of the nation's premier locations for destination weddings and honeymoons, could see an influx of gay and lesbian visitors hoping to have their partnerships solemnized on sandy, windswept beaches, according to tourism businesses.

For Hawaii JACler Gary Okabayashi, 65, the absence of a civil unions law in the state makes him feel, he says, like a second-class citizen.

"I have a partner and we've been together for over 33 years," Okabayashi explained. "We think civil unions is a matter of civil rights."

Arguments over civil unions and gay marriage have long divided the state, which nearly became the first in the nation to legalize gay marriage in 1993 because of a state Supreme Court ruling.

But voters overwhelmingly passed the nation's first "defense of marriage" constitutional amendment five years later, which resulted in a law banning gay marriage but leaving the door open for civil unions.

Since then, 29 other states also have enacted defense of marriage amendments.

Opponents of civil unions say the partnerships could lead to same-sex marriage, likely through a court challenge based on the argument that gay couples aren't truly being treated equally unless they're allowed to marry. ■

Filipino American WWII Vets Seek Equal Benefits

By Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Filipino Americans who fought for the United States during World War II are hoping their long battle for equal veterans benefits will soon end in victory.

In January, Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough, introduced legislation that would grant Filipino and Filipino American veterans the same benefits enjoyed by other U.S. military veterans.

If passed, Speier's bill would provide benefits to about 10,000 veterans in the U.S. and another 40,000 who live in the Philippines.

"We should be considered complete American veterans, not second-class veterans," said veteran Regalado Baldonado, a retired electrical engineer.

Speier said not providing full veterans benefits to Filipino soldiers who fought for the U.S. is the "grossest case of discrimination and inequality."

"It's actually embarrassing" Speier said. "What happened to these heroes was absolutely a case of breach of contract."

Roughly 200,000 Filipinos fought against the Japanese during WWII when the Philippines was a U.S. commonwealth. They were considered U.S. nationals.

When the war ended, the Filipino soldiers were promised vets benefits such as health care, pensions and college money. But Congress rescinded the offer in 1946.

Two years ago, survivors each received a one-time payment of \$15,000 as part of the federal stimulus bill, but Filipino American veterans say the fight has never been about the money.

"You can't use money to compensate for humiliation," said Ago Pedalizo of the L.A. group Justice for Filipino American veterans. "This is about dignity, about recognition." ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

APA Hoteliers Disrupt Feinberg Hearing

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Shouting "He lies," more than a dozen Asian Pacific American hotel owners from Florida's Gulf Coast walked out of a meeting disrupting BP claims czar Ken Feinberg testimony before a critical House panel digging into his handling of the \$20 billion Gulf Coast Claims Facility.

More than 85 percent of the 700 APA hotel owners in Florida have not received any payments from Feinberg, forcing many of them on the brink of foreclosure, Pensacola hotelier Nash Patel said.

Nash and leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference met with Feinberg but have had no success in having their claims resolved despite promises from the lawyer whose firm earns \$850,000 a month to administer the BP money.

Obama Signs Temporary Extension of PATRIOT Act

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has signed a three-month extension of key surveillance provisions of the PATRIOT Act.

The law extends two areas of the 2001 act. One provision allows law enforcement officials to set roving wiretaps to monitor multiple communication devices. The other allows them to ask a special court for access to business and library records that could be relevant to a terrorist threat.

A third provision gives the FBI court-approved rights for surveillance of non-American "lone wolf" suspects — those not known to be tied to specific terrorist groups.

Lawmakers will soon start debating a multiple-year extension of the provisions, which have drawn fire from defenders of privacy rights.

Hawaiian-Language Greetings Begin at Airport

HONOLULU — The Honolulu airport is starting to broadcast a Hawaiian-language greeting to arriving visitors.

The airport has begun playing the 40-second welcome message, recorded in Hawaiian and English, every 30 minutes. The message can be heard throughout the airport over its public address system.

When translated, the message welcomes visitors and residents, asks them to travel safely and encourages them to enjoy their stay.

Hawaii Tourism Authority President Mike McCartney said the messages support the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language and its integration into the visitor experience.

Suit: Los Angeles Officials Wrong to OK Memorial Building

LOS ANGELES — An advocacy group says Los Angeles officials failed to obtain proper approvals when they allowed work to begin on a memorial to war heroes at a downtown site recognized as the city's historic birthplace.

The City Project said in an opening brief that the memorial to Congressional Medal of Honor recipients at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument threatens Native American and Chinese American historic sites.

The brief filed on behalf of Indian organizations and community groups also says the monument diminishes much needed public park space. The case is set to go to trial on March 11.

Utah House Approves Arizona-style Immigration Law

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah House has approved an Arizona-style immigration enforcement law after heated debate.

Republican Rep. Stephen Sandstrom of Orem says House Bill 70 will discourage illegal immigrants from coming to Utah and reduce crime. The bill passed now goes to the Senate.

Sandstrom revised the bill after concerns about an estimated cost to local governments of \$5 million to \$11 million annually.

Now, law enforcement has discretion when checking the immigration status of people stopped for class B and C misdemeanors. Felonies and class A misdemeanors would still require a check.

Democratic House Minority Leader David Litvack of Salt Lake City says the law would not drive down crime and would pave the way for racial profiling. ■



Craig Ishii (left) has been integral in developing youth programs for the JACL. Last summer, he announced PSW's plan for the 2011 convention with Gary Mayeda, convention chair, looking on.

JACL PSW Regional Director to Step Down April 30

JACL leaders call Craig Ishii a 'bright light' for the organization.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Craig Ishii, the JACL Pacific Southwest regional director credited with implementing new civil rights and youth programs including Project: Community!, will be stepping down April 30.

"This is a good time to move on," said Ishii. "Together with my staff, district board and in partnership with national JACL, we developed a number of programs in the Pacific Southwest district that built youth leadership and created change on a number of issues highly pertinent to the Asian and Pacific Islander community. I'm excited to see what opportunities I might take on in the future."

In April, Ishii will also mark his fourth year of service to the JACL. He was hired in 2007 as PSW regional director after graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles with undergraduate degrees in history and economics.

"I started in my position as regional director almost immediately after finishing my undergraduate degrees at UCLA, so working with JACL was definitely eye-opening and a great learning experience for me," he said. "During my tenure at JACL, I've met countless community mentors, and was constantly inspired by the work of the other organizations and the people around me."

"One of the most incredible things about working with JACL is all of the amazing people you meet along the way. We met some of the most inspiring young people who will one day do great things in the community, although we provide mentorship to them, they in-turn remind us why the work we do is so important," he added.

JACL leaders call Ishii "a bright light" for the civil rights organization.

'His refreshing ideas and vision to have our district move beyond the standard objectives given to us have strengthened JACL and made us better volunteers.'

— **Kerry Kaneichi, JACL PSW district governor**

"He has shown vision and commitment to the JACL and the Japanese American community. He has been a rare talent who has gained the respect of young and old alike," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "He is a 21st century pioneer in the mold and character of the founding fathers of the JACL."

During his tenure, Ishii helped launch several new programs including Project: Community!, a program to empower high school students that has been expanded to other regions in the U.S., and Bridging Communities, a collaborative effort with the Muslim American community to increase awareness and promote understanding through educating youth.

Ishii said the biggest accomplishment of his time with the JACL has been contributing to a movement of young people engaging with the Japanese American community.

"Leadership development can sometimes be a misleading name because we're not really 'developing' leaders as if they're machines, instead we're just discovering them and providing them an avenue to be involved."

At UCLA, Ishii was an active member of the Nikkei Student Union, for which he served as internal vice president and board president. He also served as the Frances Kitagawa Fellowship intern sponsored by the Venice-Culver JACL and an intern with the Little Tokyo Service Center

under the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Internship Program provided by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

"Over the past four-plus years, Craig Ishii has been integral in the development of our youth programs and the increased participation in the Pacific Southwest District. His refreshing ideas and vision to have our district move beyond the standard objectives given to us have strengthened JACL and made us better volunteers," said Kerry Kaneichi, PSW district governor. "All of us in the Pacific Southwest district will miss Craig's leadership as regional director and wish him the best while pursuing his future endeavors." ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

APALC's Julie Su is Appointed as California's Labor Commissioner

California Gov. Jerry Brown has appointed longtime APALC litigation director **Julie A. Su** as chief of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

Su has worked at APALC since 1994, when she joined the organization on a Skadden Fellowship, and she served as lead counsel in a federal lawsuit in 1995 to hold garment manufacturers and retailers liable for utilizing slave labor to manufacture their clothing.

Japanese American Bar Association Announces Dinner Featuring Justice Cantil-Sakauye

The Japanese American Bar Association, formerly known as the Japanese American Bar Association of the Greater Los Angeles Area, is hosting a March 4 installation and awards gala featuring newly appointed California Supreme Court Chief Justice **Tani Cantil-Sakauye**.

This will be Cantil-Sakauye's first public Southern California appearance as chief justice.

Chu Becomes New Chair of CAPAC



Rep. **Judy Chu** is the new chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus replacing Rep. **Mike Honda** who stepped down from the position after leading CAPAC for seven years and an unprecedented four Congresses.

Chu is the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress, and the twelfth APA to serve in the 111th Congress.

Lieu Wins South Bay State Senate Seat

Former Calif. Assemblyman **Ted Lieu** won an easy victory for a state senate seat. He will become the 25th Democrat in the Senate.

Lieu, 41, served in the Assembly from 2005 until he was termed out last year. He lost a primary bid for state attorney general last year.

APAICS Announces Gloria Chan as New President and CEO

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies has announced the hiring of **Gloria Chan** as president and CEO of the organization.

Chan spent over four years working on Capitol Hill advocating on behalf of APA communities. Most recently, she served as the executive director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Chicago's 47th Ward Elects First APA Alderman



Ameya Pawar has been elected as the first APA alderman of Chicago's Northwest Side.

Only about 5 percent of 47th Ward residents are APA.

Pawar, 30, is a programming assistant at Northwestern University's Office of Emergency Management. Pawar whose parents came from India was born in Chicago.

During the campaign, Pawar worked on developing an iPhone application he hopes will be able to let people send pictures of potholes, graffiti and other problems directly to city officials.

Boy Scouts of LA Honor 3M Founder

The Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America raised \$350,000 by honoring Ming Hsieh, founder and CEO of 3M Cogent Systems.

Hsieh and a classmate co-founded Cogent, Inc. in 1990, a company that designs AFIS systems for law enforcement, governments, civil agencies and commercial businesses around the world. ■



VERY

truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

Oshogatsu Part 2

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of 'One Oshogatsu that the Bunny (2011) Battered' (Feb. 4-17, 2011), in which Harry K. Honda quotes from a year-end letter he received. The letter's author remains unnamed.

Relatively unscathed, but ... continuing the missive from last month, if you please, and not telling from whom:

"I go home, catch up with e-mail and things I have to do on the computer, read the newspaper or magazines and then off to \$5-buck Pizza Rose Park where I help my son, Sean, at ... taking care of the books, paying bills, making deposits, buying supplies and not so much rolling dough [like] I used to. I call myself the CFO (chief financial officer), just to give myself a fancy title like I read in *Fortune*, *Bloomberg Business Week* and others.

"For an octogenarian, I still do a lot of crazy things. I still shovel the snow by hand and do the long driveway, backyard, sidewalk (including my neighbor's) now for 50 years (this is my substitute for going to the gym, but the neighbors probably think I'm crazy), play doubles tennis and play basketball in a league (as long as the younger guys on the team in the 30-year-and-above let me).

"I love to read, but the stack of magazines and books over three feet high tells me I don't have as much time as I used to have to read. I've dropped some of my subscriptions, but now they have

tempting rates for *valued subscribers* as low as \$10 for monthly magazines that used to cost \$24 per year.

"I withdrew from my rather active political life but still support minority, civil and civil rights, civil liberties and human rights causes as much as possible morally, quietly and consistently.

"The \$5.5-million-dollar Heart Mountain, Wyoming Concentration Camp Interpretive Learning Center, located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming (where I was incarcerated with my family for three years and lost my father on Jan. 21, 1943) is a commitment project for me that will be dedicated Aug. 20, 2011. The mission is to make sure that the massive

deprivation of constitutional and human rights taken away from the people of Japanese ancestry during World War II will never be duplicated in this country against any race, religion or people."

"In between, I work on my special and personal projects." We may learn when year 2012 comes.

Perhaps, some readers may know by now the originator of this letter. This letter was not mentioned over lunch in Gardena last month (the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California installation of officers with Kiyo Fujimoto, retired adult school principal for L.A. Unified School District, who was asking if I was planning to cover the Heart Mountain event and politely I said "no").

Here we conclude the letter from my last column:

"Otherwise, life is a mad scramble with family, grandchildren, and the woes of city, state, federal and global problems sucking the life out of all of us. I am forever the optimist and I am sure we will survive [to be] even stronger and more blessed than we ever were.

"This capsule missive doesn't say it all but just lets you know I'm still kicking around and my family is doing well under the circumstances. As we enter the year of the rabbit. ... I hope the past year was a pleasant and fruitful one and the coming year is a smooth, tranquil and positive year for all of us."

Our comment: We like holiday greetings to be informative, the late Barry

Saiki, then in Tokyo, bought space in the *P.C.* Holiday Issue and pretty much let us mainlanders know about his year at work and about Nisei life in Japan.

Today, e-mail has made the effort almost expense free. But the short notes snuggled inside some beautiful cards are gems. Some have thoughtfully mentioned the deaths in the family. One came from Noriko in Seattle with a clipping reporting that Budd Fukei, a Nisei journalist-publisher, had passed away in early November. He was 92 years old. He was a longtime *P.C.* contributor. ■

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

'Perhaps, some readers may know by now the originator of this letter. This letter was not mentioned over lunch in Gardena last month ...'

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

The People are Calling

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



PHOTO: RYAN JANEK WOLOWSKI

Americans rally in New York's Times Square for peace in Egypt Feb. 4.

It's only March and 2011 is shaping up to be quite an unusual year. Who knows what the rest will bring.

People from Egypt to Libya are calling on their leaders, and they want to be heard. Power is slipping from the oily iron fists of the Middle East. The story of the brave, daring Egyptians is incredible and awe-inspiring. I was too young to remember the fall of the Berlin Wall. But I will always remember this predominantly peaceful uprising as the time I kept checking the internet between patients at work anxiously awaiting the news of another dictator bowing to the collective call for openness and democracy.

Of course, there will be detractors: the skeptics, the paranoids, the "Glenn Becks" of the world, but for the most part, people across the world celebrated the victory of the people. I, for one, was filled with wonder and respect for the brave citizens of oppressed nations.

We can only hope that what follows in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya and others will honor the audacity of this new-age revolution. What a historic year 2011 is shaping up to be.

In the U.S. — the birthplace of modern democracy — protests have a different vibe. Many false comparisons between Egypt and the Middle East with Wisconsin and the like have been made. They are similar in the sense that people are exercising their inherent right to expression. Yet, the mortal peril of the one greatly out-strips the tepid difference in opinions in the other.

This is not to say that the people of Wisconsin are not brave or that their motives are not noble. Indeed they probably are. Without picking sides or winners, I will say that the protests on both sides allow the respective leaders of both camps to draw whatever conclusions they please in order to fit their pre-sculpted world view.

The newly elected Republican majority in Congress was basically elected to "create jobs" and "fix the deficit." What is their first order of business? They choose to waste the federal dime on a largely symbolic and hugely impractical measure

to vote to repeal the Affordable Health Care Act, an endeavor (if the repeal were passed) the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) states could cost upwards of \$210 billion.

Somehow in our modern political theater, people inside and outside the Beltway have found ways to rationalize the thought that their absurd beliefs actually "represent" the people. For example, Sarah Palin's anti-anti-obesity campaign reeks of this sort of nonsensical behavior. Who in their right mind would fight a childhood obesity campaign that promotes healthy lifestyle, especially when studies show that up to 1 in 5 teens, and even close to 1 in 3 minority teenage girls are obese?

We need to embrace openness. And by openness, I mean open primaries. We need a systematic conversion to middle, away from the ever-widening chasm that is our current system.

California recently opted for the open primary in state races. We need to adopt a similar format for federal lawmakers too. In an open primary, all contestants run against all other contestants; the top two winners go on to the general election, be it two Republicans or two Democrats. By the very design of this system, candidates will trend towards the center to attract the most number of voters, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof. This would be in stark contrast to our current circus where party members try to out-right or out-left their opponents in the scramble to have the most braggadocio.

We the people need to call on our leaders to represent us. We cannot allow our leaders to call us out selectively, as puppets, to justify their predetermined course of action. Taking to the streets is not enough any more. They can manipulate that too.

We need openness. We need open primaries. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is a Mount Olympus JACL member.

Dancing With Cheryl Burke



PHOTO: ADAM LARKEY/ABC

Cheryl Burke has penned the book 'Dancing Lessons,' which talks about the ups and downs she faced on and off the dance floor.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

In nine seasons of doing ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," Cheryl Burke has waltzed, rumbaed and jived on national television with celebrities. But dancing in the spotlight on television soon brought the paparazzi's attention.

Photos of Burke in a bikini on the beach were accompanied by bloggers' comments that the healthy dancer was gaining weight. Gossip has also circulated online about Burke allegedly dating some of her partners on the dancing show.

Now the 26-year-old dancer is sharing the lessons she has learned on and off the dance floor in her new book aptly titled "Dancing Lessons."

Burke, whose mother is Filipino and father is Russian Irish, grew up in the Bay Area of California. She started dancing ballet at the age of 4. About six years later her mother, Sherri, introduced her to ballroom dance.

However Burke's life was not always filled with music and rhinestone-encrusted costumes. In Burke's book she talks about the traumas in her life such as being in a physically violent relationship and being molested as a child by a family friend who lived in their home.

Burke called the *Pacific Citizen* to talk about the lessons she has learned and her hopes to encourage other sexual abuse victims to tell their stories, too.

Were you hesitant to open up about your personal life?

Burke: I was. I thought about it long and hard. But at the end of the day that's part of my journey, that's part of who I am. I find I can talk about it. I think that's a good thing and I should be encouraging others with similar experiences to talk about it. Because I feel like it's really helped me kind of heal through all the trauma.

Do you think that you've fully healed from the trauma of being sexual abused or is it a life-long process?

Burke: I'm not saying I'm healed. It's definitely a work in progress. I feel like I've definitely been pro-active in healing. I see my therapist every single week. I think it's really important to have that, especially if someone doesn't want to see a therapist, I encourage talking to someone you trust like a friend or family member.

Have people said your story has helped them?

Burke: Oh, my gosh! Absolutely! I'm getting hundreds and hundreds, almost thousands of e-mails.

You testified as a child against the man who molested you. How did it feel to speak out against him?

Burke: I think at age 5, I was confused and I didn't know the reason why necessarily he was going to prison. But now that I look back, what he did was completely out of line. Not only did he affect my life, but he also affected a lot of other girls' lives as well. He's a molester. He did something completely wrong.

In 2006, you joined 'Dancing With the Stars.' Do you ever think about what your life would be like if you didn't take that opportunity?

Burke: Absolutely. I think everything is meant to be for sure. My ex-partner and I weren't getting along. We were also romantically involved. But at the end of the day things just didn't work out. I think it just came at the right time. I always look back and say, "If that didn't happen, what would I be doing?" I'd probably still be in New York teaching. But I think having "Dancing With the Stars" really helped me have a voice.

Are you dating anyone at the moment?

Burke: No, this last year I've been single. I've been really working on myself. I've taken this time to write the book, and to really just figure out who I am and enjoy my own company for once.

Do you ever miss your privacy?

Burke: I mean at times. But I'm not always constantly, every second I leave my house being followed. There are moments where I can even just go back home, to my parent's home. It's just when I'm on the show and I'm constantly on television is when it gets crazy.

You talk about the behind-the-scenes moments on 'Dancing With the Stars' in your book. I didn't realize some of the celebs are so reluctant to wear the costumes and do the dances.

Burke: Oh no, especially for the guys. I think they have insecurities when it comes to the costumes. So it's really hard for them [laughs] to be able to accept all the rhinestones, the glitz and the glamour. I think the girls love it. But I think the guys have a hard time wearing the tighter pants and the Cuban heels.

What did it feel like when gossip publications posted pictures of you in your swimsuit, saying you were fat?

Burke: Well it was hurtful. I think the worst part of it was that I was still in a season of "Dancing With the Stars." I had to pretend it didn't affect me, when it really did. When someone is not fat and you're calling that person fat it's sending the wrong message. And it can be dangerous and harmful to other people, especially kids.

Did it make you want to do any crash diets?

Burke: You know I thought about starving myself at first because when someone lashes out at you, you think about the most extreme way where you can lash back in a way. Did

I still feel good? Yes. But I wasn't at my fittest, which I knew. But at the end of the day I didn't lose the weight because of the media. I think it came off naturally because of me exercising and eating clean.

Have you learned to stay away from places where there are paparazzi?

Burke: Yeah, I mean of course. There are certain places where if you want to avoid the paparazzi don't go to those certain places. Just stay home and invite your friends over.

You've talked about a man following you in a truck in your book. Has that happened again?

Burke: It hasn't been as crazy. There was a point where I was always in the media. But there was that one time I did notice a paparazzi guy in his car.

I heard that you had to Google some of your 'Dancing With the Stars' partners. Do you still do that?

Burke: It depends on who it is. Absolutely. I don't really know a lot about the celebrity world. I know more now that I've been in it for the last five years. But especially in the beginning and especially sports figures. I'm not so familiar with those people [laughs].

Do you Google yourself?

Burke: No. I try not to Google myself because that's when you see all the bloggers blog about the negative stuff about you. I've learned my lesson.

I know your mother introduced you to ballroom dance. Does she still dance?

Burke: My mom dances for fun when she can. She's really busy. She actually helps manage my studios. But my mom loves to dance. That was another reason why I got into dancing because her and my dad started dancing socially just for fun. It's something that she always wanted to do for fun. But in the Philippines she came from a very poor family, so they couldn't afford to support her doing dancing.

What do you think about these new dance shows cropping up on television?

Burke: It means a lot because at the end of the day I don't think dancers have gotten enough credit in the past. I think having all these reality shows about dance has been remarkable for the business, especially for the two dance studios that I own. The business has been going great.

What do you want to do in the future? Do you hope to stay on 'Dancing With the Stars' as long as possible?

Burke: I mean you never know what happens. Not necessarily [laughs]. When I'm 60 that probably won't happen. I definitely want to stay in the television scene, but I still want dance to be a part of my life. And I could possibly do other things like come out with a talk show and talk about other stuff that I've experienced now that I've been open with my life. Maybe I'll help other girls or other people be open and help them reach their dreams and goals in life. ■

1882 Project Seeks Congressional Recognition for 130 Year-Old Injustice



The Chinese Exclusion Laws placed increasing restrictions on Chinese immigration.

The group is seeking recognition by the U.S. government, which passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882.

**By Joseph Craig
Correspondent**

A civil rights injustice more than one century in the making has sparked several Asian Pacific American groups to take steps seeking recognition for the social wrongs that have haunted Chinese descendants for nearly 130 years.

Collectively known as the 1882 Project, the group is seeking recognition by the U.S. government, which passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The act initially imposed a 10-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration due to the then-widely held belief that Chinese immigrants were causing a spike in unemployment of Caucasian Americans.

Kimberley Goulart, a public affairs representative for the 1882 Project in Washington, D.C., said that Congress has never acknowledged the civil rights violations of the act, something the 1882 Project is looking to rectify in the coming months.

"The first item is to get acknowledgement from Congress," said Goulart. "In fact, that's the main goal of the 1882 Project

— getting acknowledgement of the act that violated the civil rights of Chinese Americans. We're looking to get introduced to the House no later than March of this year."

Only a few months old, Goulart said the 1882 Project, which is named after the year the initial act was passed, is a collaboration of APA groups including the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Committee of 100, the National Council of Chinese Americans and the OCA.

Goulart said that while the group is formed primarily of APA groups, the project has taken the human rights violations of several other groups in working towards this common goal.

"The 1882 Project is a Chinese organization that has rallied around the violations of civil rights of not only Chinese people, but also the broader exclusion of all Asian

American groups and Native Americans, too," Goulart said.

Chair of the 1882 Project Michael Lin, explained that the act had a major historical impact on other communities in the U.S. outside of the Chinese Americans.

"Even though this act was strictly against Chinese, it also impacted other Asian Americans later on," Lin said. "During the second World War, the act was repealed because the United States needed an ally in the form of China and got rid of it in order to appease them."

"However, they used the act as an outline for the internment of Japanese Americans at the same time the act was being repealed, even though there was no real link between the timing of these two actions."

Lawmakers are also calling for an apology.

Rep. Mike Honda, the outgoing chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, called the anti-Chinese law "a shameful chapter in our country's long history of exclusion."

"The great thing about humanity is that we have the opportunity to learn from our mistakes," said Honda, who was incarcerated as a child during World War II because of his Japanese ancestry.

"Chinese were used as cheap labor to do the most

dangerous work laying the tracks of our transcontinental railroad to strengthen our nation's infrastructure, only to be persecuted when their labor was seen as competition when the dirtiest work was done."

Although the Chinese Exclusion Laws generally refer to the initial act that was passed in 1882, many revisions were placed upon the Act in 1884, 1888, 1892, 1902 and 1904 that placed increasing restrictions on Chinese immigration and naturalization. This series of actions has spurred the 1882 Project to seek recognition for the actions that were taken.

Lin said that even though the actions were designed to punish Chinese immigrants seeking work within the United States, the 1882 Project is seeking only to gain recognition for the violations that occurred against those living in the United States.

"We want to make this clear that we're not looking for Congress to make an apology to China," Lin said. "This has nothing to do with foreign relations. That can get really complicated and messy. This is only for the Chinese people that were already living in the United States."

While recognition from Congress will be the first step the 1882 Project will be seeking, Lin said the group is not seeking monetary compensation for the violation of Chinese American civil rights but instead, the ultimate goal of the group centers around the educating of others of the act.

"The exclusion from the Act lasted more than 60 years, however, we don't want to minimize its impact by placing any sort of dollar amount and asking for money from Congress," Lin said. "What we really want is a way to educate others about this injustice. We feel that education needs to be sustained and that this needs to be taught in textbooks in K-12 education and to make sure that everyone's protected going forward, but we need resources to do so."

One set of resources the group has been thankful for is pro bono legal counsel that has come from what Lin refers to as "one of the best law firms in the nation", Covington and Burling, who Lin said helps ensure that the efforts of the group meet legal requirements.

This support from non-APA groups is indicative of what Lin said the 1882 group is about. He said that while the recognition of the act is strictly for the violations that were committed to Chinese Americans living in the United States, the violations themselves could have far-reaching ramifications.

"We're doing this to remind everyone that until these fundamental issues are recognized by everyone, the threat of it happening once again is still out there," said Lin. ■

Leaders Mark 40th Anniversary of Seattle Central

The 1971 protest is credited with sparking the local Asian American civil rights movement.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Student leaders who originally led the 1971 protest for more Asian Pacific American representation at Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) recently reunited to mark the 40th anniversary of the historic event often credited with sparking the APA civil rights movement in the greater Seattle area.

The March 2 event held on the SCCC campus, themed "Seize the Time ... Again," was a retrospective on one of the first APA-led civil rights demonstration in the Pacific Northwest.

In 1971, the Oriental Student Union (OSU) led demonstrations at SCCC, closing the district's administration building to protest the lack of APA administrators at the multi-ethnic college. After the demonstrations, SCCC went on to hire Frank Fujii as a department head, Peter Kosi as minority affairs director and Peter Ku as a campus president.

For former OSU leader Al Sugiyama the historic event



PHOTO: BEN YORITA

The Oriental Student Union pressed for APA representation.

is still relevant today because civil rights and "respect" for APAs are still ongoing issues.

"Progress has been made, but it's like pushing a big rock up a hill. As soon as you stop, it stops and if you let it go, it will roll back over you," said Al Sugiyama, who was a 21-year-old pre-education and history major at SCCC in 1971.

Formed in 1970 and led by Sugiyama and former Black Panther member Mike Tagawa, OSU modeled itself after the

Black Student Union.

Feeling that SCCC administrators were not responding to their demands, OSU members staged a Feb. 9, 1971, sit-in and took over SCCC offices more forcefully on March 2, 1971.

At the time, there were no APA administrators at SCCC despite APAs making up about 10 percent of the student population in 1970, according to Sugiyama, now a public affairs consultant who was the first APA to be elected to the Seattle school board.

The college district, made up of three campuses, refused OSU's request to immediately hire five APAs as administrators saying past APA candidates were over-qualified, according to Sugiyama, a Seattle JACL member.

OSU's protest helped kickstart the local APA student movement using ideologies originally developed by Black Power organizations.

Other speakers at the March 2 event included Y. K. Kuniyuki, former University of Washington Asian American Studies lecturer.

"Young leadership has to understand that you can not rest, the struggle is not over," said Sugiyama. ■

WWII Internment Campsite in Idaho Gets More Land

The Minidoka national historic site expands to protect original location of the former internment camp.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

More than 60 years after it was used to incarcerate thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II, the site of the former Minidoka internment camp is being expanded as part of federal preservation efforts.

The National Park Service (NPS) has purchased 138 acres to add to the existing 300-acre historic site. The Conservation Fund and Idaho's congressional delegation announced Feb. 17.

This newly protected property was the former site of the internment camp's fire station, water tower, military police headquarters, barrack blocks 21 and 22 and portions of adjacent blocks, according to The Conservation Fund.

Rick Wagner, realty officer of the parks service, said the acquired land holds extensive historic value.

"We've got a small piece of a very big picture," he said.

The NPS will begin to reestablish residential block 22 on its original location, starting with the relocation of a barracks building and a camp mess hall donated by Jerome County from the county fairgrounds.

During World War II Minidoka originally spanned 33,000 acres and held more than

9,000 Japanese Americans behind barbed wire for more than three years.

More than 120,000 JAs were rounded up and sent to camps like Minidoka under Executive Order 9066 signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942, just weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Conservation Fund purchased the 138 acres in 2008 from a private owner and held it until recent federal legislation allowed the parks service to buy it late last year for \$380,000. The federal agency designated the prison as a national monument in 2001.

"The story of Minidoka is an important chapter of our collective American history," said Wendy Janssen, superintendent of Minidoka. "It is a site that addresses the violation of civil and constitutional rights and the fragility of democracy in times of crisis — a story that continues to have relevance and meaning today."

Ann Barrett, media relations manager for The Conservation Fund, said a historic barracks building and a camp mess hall have been donated by Jerome County and will eventually be relocated to the site.



Every year, the Minidoka Pilgrimage attracts hundreds of visitors to learn more about the site's WWII history.

The NPS planned to add a visitor site for education purposes, and to restore the fire station and other buildings. A landscape architect was hired to restore some of the sites' historic irrigation systems and waterways.

The site was once in danger of being lost. "[The land] would have been sold," he said. "There's absolutely no doubt it would have gone to a private buyer and changed greatly."

John Herrmann acquired the parcel of land when the camp closed. The family notified

the service when they planned to sell the property, Wagner said.

Asian Pacific American groups like the JACL are applauding the preservation effort.

"The joint efforts to support legislation on behalf of Minidoka will allow the National Park Service to more fully tell the story of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "The JACL is proud to have worked in partnership with The Conservation Fund and the National Park Service to preserve this important lesson in history." ■

Park Service to Hold Meetings on Internment Camps

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—The National Park Service is holding public meetings this month to get input on internment camps in Hawaii during World War II to help it determine the best way to preserve these sites and share their history.

Preliminary studies have identified 13 sites in Hawaii where people were confined for varying lengths of time between the 1941 start of the war and the war's end in 1945.

Meetings are due to be held through March on all six islands where the camps were located: Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and the Big Island.

Honouliuli Gulch on Oahu, which held 1,200 people between 1943 and 1945, was the largest camp in Hawaii.

The service plans to evaluate the significance of the sites and consider a range of preservation alternatives. ■



During World War II, Honouliuli held about 3,000 Japanese Americans.

Hawaii Japanese Americans Mark Day of Remembrance at Honouliuli

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCCH) in collaboration with the Honolulu JACL, Monsanto Hawaii, and the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJCCC) presented the 2011 Day of Remembrance and the second Honouliuli Pilgrimage Feb. 27.

More than 200 people attended the event titled "Honouliuli National Historic Site: Dream or Reality?" at the new Monsanto facility in Kunia.

The all-day event featured updates on the status of the site, a keynote speech by acclaimed historian Gary Okihiro, breakout sessions on various Hawaii internment-

related topics, the debut of the new Hawaii internment wayside exhibition and a visit to the Honouliuli campsite.

"It is important to reflect on the past as we pave the path to our future," said Jane Kurahara, DOR coordinator. "The event helped to commemorate this important part of American history while looking forward to the possible recognition of Hawaii's internment camps as National Historic Sites."

One of the event highlights included the first public scoping session for the National Park Service (NPS) Special Resource Study (SRS). The main goal of the SRS is to

determine the suitability/feasibility of the historic WWII confinement sites in Hawaii becoming a unit of the NPS.

Preliminary studies have located 13 sites in Hawaii where individuals were confined.

Day of Remembrance events are held annually around the country on or around Feb. 19 to commemorate President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the mass incarceration of all JAs during WWII.

In Hawaii DOR is held between Feb. 19 and March 1, the latter date marking the anniversary of the opening of the Honouliuli detention camp in 1943. ■

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2011 TOURS

- Mar 29 Japan "Cherry Blossoms" - \$3995** - Tokyo-Bullet Train Nara-Maiko-Okayama-Bitchu Takahashi-Miyajima-Hiroshima-Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Kyoto
- Jun 6 USA Bus Tour - Pacific Coast - \$2345** - LA-Monterey-San Francisco-Wine Country-Redwoods-Eureka-Oregon Gold Coast-Portland Rose Festival-Seattle-Whale Watching-Bend-Crater Lake-Mt. Shasta-Tahoe-Yosemite-LA
- Jun 28 Summer Japan "Family Tour" \$3895 - Child-11-\$3595** Tokyo-Bullet Train-Kyoto-Nara-Maiko-Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Miyajima-Hiroshima-Osaka
- Jul 10 Alaska Family Cruise - ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Aug 16 USA Bus Tour -National Parks & Heart Mt. Dedication \$2445-LA-Mesquite-Salt Lake-Jackson-Tetons-Yellowstone-Cody- includes Heart Mt. dinners-Mt Rushmore-BlackHawk Casino-Arches-Monument Valley-Grand Canyon-Laughlin**
- Sep 7 Discover South America - \$4595-** Buenos Aires-Iguassu Falls-Sao Paulo-Rio de Janeiro
- Sep 25 New England \$1999-"Foliage Boston-Vermont-Maine"**
- Oct 10 Hokkaido/Tohoku - \$4195** - Sapporo-Sounkyo-Sahoro-Ainu Shiraoi-Lake Toya-Hakodate-Aomori-Lake Towada-Hachimantai-Matsushima-Sendai-Tokyo
- Oct 18 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" \$4095** - Tokyo-Niigata-Japan Sea Cruise-Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate-Kinosaki-Tottori-Matsue-Izumo-Osaka
- Nov 1 Japan Fall Classic - \$3995** - Tokyo-Bullet Train-Nara-Kobe Okayama-Bitchu Takahashi-Miyajima-Hiroshima-Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Kyoto
- Nov 9 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - \$4295** - 4-days Okinawa-Nasasaki-Beppu-Ashizuri-Kochi-Takamatsu-Osaka
- Nov 30 Christmas in Branson - \$1795** - Kansas City-Truman Library-4-days in Branson-7 Shows-Sightseeing too.

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Oregon Congressman Expresses 'Regrets' After Being Urged to Get Psychiatric Help

After reports of erratic behavior and a staff defection, David Wu says he is getting medical help.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

On a national morning news show, U.S. Rep. David Wu said he is seeking medical help after reports emerged that the Oregon Democrat's erratic behavior prompted senior staffers to demand he check into a hospital for psychiatric treatment.

On the Feb. 22 "Good Morning America" show, Wu told George Stephanopoulos mental health is an important issue.

"I got the help I needed then. I'm continuing to consult medical help," said Wu, 55, the first Chinese American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senior staffers were reportedly so alarmed over the Oregon Democrat's erratic behavior just days before the November election that they demanded he enter a hospital for psychiatric treatment.

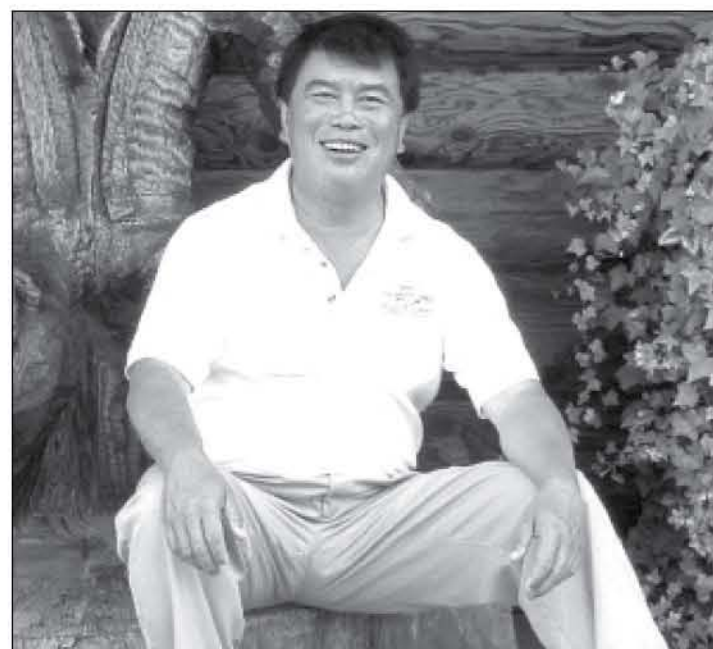
The Oregonian, citing interviews with a number of anonymous staff members, reported on its website that Wu was increasingly unpredictable on the campaign trail and in private last fall, and had several angry and loud outbursts and sometimes said "kooky" things to staff and potential voters and donors. A similar report was carried on the *Willamette Week* newspaper's website.

Wu also confirmed that he was acting as his own campaign treasurer after losing an employee who served in that position.

His office also provided a statement Feb. 18 with the congressman saying he hasn't always been at his best with staff and constituents and that he has sought professional medical care.

"Some of my stress was derived from a very tough campaign, but I was also dealing with raising two children alone and the death of my father," Wu said in the statement. "I fully acknowledge that I could have dealt with these difficult circumstances better."

On Oct. 30, Wu's staff members, who at the time were in the middle of a difficult re-election campaign, organized a meeting with the congressman at his campaign headquarters with a psychiatrist joining by



Congressman David Wu, pictured here on the campaign trail, was re-elected to a seventh term in November.

speakerphone.

"This is way beyond acceptable levels and the charade needs to end NOW," wrote Lisa Grove, a senior and long-serving campaign pollster, in an e-mail to colleagues the day of the meeting. "No enabling by any potential enablers, he needs help."

Wu was defiant and left the meeting, saying he was going to a movie, sources told *The Oregonian*.

The newspaper said its account was based on interviews with multiple sources that worked for Wu in his congressional office and his campaign. The people interviewed talked on the condition they not be named, and *The Oregonian* said their stories were consistent and backed up by e-mails.

After the Oct. 30 meeting, the campaign essentially shut down, the newspaper said. While no public announcement was made, Wu did not have another formal campaign event until he emerged on the night of Nov. 2 after winning a seventh term.

Since the election, Wu has lost at least six staffers, including his longtime chief of staff, Julie Tippens, and communications director, Julia Krahe, both in Washington, D.C. *The Oregonian* earlier reported that Wu also has lost nearly the entire political team that has been with him for more than a decade, including chief fundraiser Lisa Kurdziel.

Wu, who was born in Taiwan, was first elected to Congress in 1998. ■

Japanese American Volunteers Needed to Take Health Survey

Researchers at the University of Vermont College of Medicine are calling for volunteers to participate in a survey to promote the best quality of end-of-life cancer care among Japanese and Japanese Americans.

The objective of this anonymous survey is to determine if there are any differences in end of life cancer care among JAs and Japanese people living in the U.S. and Japan, according to Masanori Mori, a New York JACL member and a clinical fellow in the division of hematology and oncology at the University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Japan and second-leading cause of death in America.

The survey will help shed light on ethical dilemmas due to cultural variations in end-of-life preferences.

The research survey is being conducted with the

sponsorship of Mitsui USA-Japanese Medical Society of America (JMSA) and with the support of the New York JACL and the Eastern District Council.

Currently, 370 responses have been received in the New York area. Researchers are looking for more JA volunteers to take part in the survey. Respondents must be 20 years or older to participate. The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

The data of subjects will be kept in a confidential form. The results of this survey study may eventually be presented or published and information may be exchanged between medical investigators, but confidentiality will be maintained. ■

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QBxB779>

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Twin Cities Marks Day of Remembrance



PHOTO: CONNIE TSUCHIYA

Leanna Sako, representing Poston in honor of her grandparents, lights the candle held by Ani Tobin, representing Jerome at the Feb. 12 event at the Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The Twin Cities JACL observed Day of Remembrance this year by sponsoring a community program themed, "Looking Forward by Looking Back."

Over 200 attended the Feb. 12 program that featured 17 youth lending their voices to the stories of those who lived during the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. While slides of historic internment photographs were shown, students recounted internees' personal experiences, which were taken from various sources including "Remembering: Voices of the

Internment," a compilation of memories from local chapter members.

Following the reading, candles were lit in honor of former internees while Emily Tani-Winegarden read "A Story To Tell," by her grandmother Yoshi Uchiyama Tani, who was incarcerated at Minidoka.

Program committee members included: Sally Sudo (chair), Janet Maeda Carlson, Lil Grothe, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kirihaara and Carolyn Nayematsu.

Funding was provided by a grant from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois. ■

'The Sisters of Manzanar' to Benefit Fresno Memorial

Proceeds from the May 1 West Coast premiere of the one-act opera, "The Sisters of Manzanar," will help the Fresno Assembly Center Memorial honor the sacrifices of the Central Valley Japanese Americans incarcerated at the Fresno County Fairgrounds during World War II.

The JACL Central California District Council is sponsoring the performance at the Warners Center for the Performing Arts in Fresno, Calif.

The benefit performance will also feature a keynote discussion with actor George Takei and participation from the opera's composer, Paul Stuart, followed by a VIP reception with the artists and celebrities.

"The Sisters of Manzanar" tells the internment story through the experiences of sisters Lana and Amy (Miwako Isano) when their family is sent to Manzanar.

A committee of community volunteers and dignitaries under the auspices of the CCDC-JACL has been working for several years to create a lasting memorial at the fairgrounds sharing the local story of internment.

The Fresno Assembly Center Memorial, which is located near the Commerce Building at the Chance Street entrance, is two-thirds complete. Design architects are working to incorporate the names of all 5,344 former internees. The goal is to complete the project Oct. 5 in time for a formal dedication on opening day of the Big Fresno Fair.

During WWII, thousands of loyal JAs from the Central Valley and Amador County were incarcerated

at the site in 1942 when it served as an assembly center for five months. Internees were later moved to permanent camps across the United States.

"With the involvement of so many amazing artists, celebrities and volunteers, the beautiful setting of the Warners Center, and the enthusiastic support of the Warners board of directors, this will be one of the most memorable performances in Fresno for a long time to come," added Paul Saito, chair of "The Sisters of Manzanar." ■

TICKET INFORMATION

May 1, 2 p.m.

\$25/general seating (\$30 after April 10)

\$40/preferred seating and VIP reception (\$45 after April 10)

VIP reception will immediately follow at 4:15 p.m. Free tours of the Fresno Assembly Center Memorial site, the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial and the Shinzen Japanese Garden will be offered the day before the performance.

Ticket purchases by check, should be made payable to "CCDC-JACL," and mailed to the California Opera Association, P.O. Box 9741, Fresno, CA 93794. Tickets can also be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/158238

Info: 559/225-6737 or www.calopera.org

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Jul. 17-Jul. 26	Summer Japan: Highlights for the Whole Family
Aug. 10-Aug. 17	Great Pacific Northwest: Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Whistler
Aug. 30-Sep. 13	Gems of Malaysia
Oct. 11-Oct. 20	Legacy of the Incas - Peru, Machu Picchu, Nazca Lines
Oct. 11-Oct. 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: Shows: Cirque du Soleil "Mystere"

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HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR	FEB 6-13
Sapporo, Lake Shikotsu, Shirai, Otaru, Asahikawa, Sounkyo, Abashiri. See 5 Snow/Ice Festivals. Ride icebreaker ship "Aurora".	
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR	MAR 29-APR 7
Tokyo, Kofu, Mt Fuji, Lake Kawaguchi, Shizuoka, Tsumago, Gero Onsen, Takayama, Kyoto.	
AMERICA'S CANYONLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR	MAR 31-APR 7
Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Zion & Bryce Canyon, Monument Valley, Lake Powell, Las Vegas.	
GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUN 26-JUL 5
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Nara, Kyoto.	
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE	JUL 16-23
Vancouver, Sawyer Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan. HOLLAND AMERICA Zuiderdam Ship.	
SOUTH AFRICA HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 4-15
Cape Town, Wine Country, Kruger National Park, Table Mountain, Johannesburg, Livingston, Victoria Falls-Zambia. EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS JAN 31, 2011.	
REFLECTIONS OF ITALY HOLIDAY TOUR	SEP 5-14
Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Florence, Venice, Lugano-Switzerland, Lake Como, Milan.	
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR)	OCT 7-14
Boston, Main, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Day Trips on 3 Historic Trains, Boston City Tour, Casco Bay Cruise in Maine, Visit Sugar House & Mystic Seaport, Enjoy Lobster & Seafood Dinner Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino.	
HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 9-20
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Shirai, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Oirase Valley, Oodate, Hirazumi, Geibikei, Matsushima, Tokyo	
OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV 7-16
Naha, Ishigaki Island, Taketomi Island, Yufu Island, Onnasan.	

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



Frank Taira Exhibition
SANTA BARBARA, CA
March 3 to May 29
Sullivan Goss — An American Gallery
7 East Anapamu St.

Sullivan Goss gallery opens its first exhibition from Japanese American artist Frank Taira, which features a self-portrait from 1957, paintings from the 1950s to the 1970s, and Taira's experiments with abstraction. His work reflects his journey as a marginalized minority trying to personalize modern art.

Info: www.sullivangoss.com

EAST

Raising the Bar: Asian Women Leading in the Legal Profession
NEW YORK, NY
March 15,
6 to 9 p.m.

GO!

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
767 Fifth Ave., 25th Floor
 In celebration of Women's History Month and in recognition of the accomplishments of Asian women in the legal profession, join Asian Women In Business for a thought-provoking and frank dialogue on the advancement of Asian women in the legal field. Juju Chang, News Anchor, ABC "Good Morning America" will moderate the panel.
Info: 212.868-1368 or www.awib.org/events

Graduate Recognition/ Installation Luncheon
VILLANOVA, PA
March 19, 12 noon
Azie on Main Restaurant
789 E. Lancaster Ave
Cost: \$40/members; \$45/non-members
 Join the Philadelphia JACL for its graduate recognition and installation luncheon at the Azie on Main restaurant. The event will feature guest speaker Terry Shima, executive director of JAVIA
Info: Cliff Akiyama 265.235-9426

or Scott Nakamura 610.265-5434

CCDC

Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
OWENS VALLEY, CA
April 30, 12 noon
Manzanar National Historic Site
U.S. Highway 395
 Each year, hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former internees attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage. The event is sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee. Participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic site.
Info: 323.662-5102 or blog.manzanarcommittee.org

NCWNP

Diablo Valley JACL Bowling & Installation Luncheon
CONCORD, CA
March 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Diablo Lanes
1500 Monument Blvd.
Cost: \$27/per person
 Join the Diablo Valley JACL for bowling and its installation luncheon. The luncheon will be held at El Tapatio and will feature guest speaker Karen Mitchoff, Pleasant Hill Council member.

Info: Emily Teruya 510.530-7127 or e-mail chibi500@hotmail.com

CSM Asian Pacific American Film Festival
SAN MATEO, CA
March 19, at 7 p.m. and
March 20, at 1 p.m.
College of San Mateo Theater
1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd.
\$5/per person; \$3/students and seniors

Join the college of San Mateo Ethnic Studies for the CSM Asian Pacific American Film Festival. The film festival will be featuring "A Village Called Versailles" directed by S. Leo Chiang and "The Oak Park Story" directed by Valerie Soe and Russell Jeung.
Info: www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/events

Asian Heritage Celebration
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
May 21, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Civil Center/Little Saigon District
Larkin and McAllister Streets
 The largest gathering of Asian Pacific Americans in the nation is back and bigger than ever. The seventh annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration, produced by the Asian Week Foundation, will feature a Mah Jong section, more arts and crafts selections and Filipino American jazz.
Info: www.asianfairsf.com

The 29th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
March 10 to 20
Bay Area Theaters
 The long and resounding legacy of Japanese cinema means the San Francisco Film Festival will always have a prominent presence. The festival features Dave Boyle's "Surrogate Valentine," among other films.
Info: www.caamedia.org

PNW

Portland Taiko's 2011 Season
PORTLAND, OR
April 30
Portland Center for the Performing Arts
1111 SW Broadway
Cost: \$65/season tickets
 Portland Taiko has crafted an innovative blend of taiko and dance expression informed and enriched by long honored Japanese traditions. This year the company brings their big drums and big sound to the stage in three 2011 season concert premieres: Ponta & The Big Drum running April 30, May 1, 7 to 8; Drums@Work, Drums@Play running June 17 to 19 and their season finale Beat Salad: U-Pick running October 1 to 2.
Info: www.portlandtaiko.org or e-mail info@portlandtaiko.org

PSW

Girls' Day Celebration
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 6, 1 p.m.
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Cost: \$10/general admission; JACCC members free
 This year's Hinamatsuri (Girls' Day) features hands on crafts, hinaningyo display and kimono demonstration led by the L.A. Kimono Club, where Madam Akutagawa will show audience members the proper way to wear a kimono.
Info: 213.628-2725 ext. 133 or www.jaccc.org

UC Riverside's Critical Ethnic Studies Conference
RIVERSIDE, CA
March 10 to 12
University of California, Riverside
900 University Ave, University Village 204B
 More than 1,000 scholars from around the world will attend the UC Riverside Critical Ethnic Studies Conference. The theme is "Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide," which represents the formation of ethnic studies that emerged from social movements of the 60s and 70s.
To register: cesa.ucr.edu

"Manzanar Fishing Club" Film Screening
LONG BEACH, CA
March 9 to 13
Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center
 "The Manzanar Fishing Club" is coming to "The Fred Hall Show," in Long Beach. There will be a preview of the documentary film on the Japanese American internees who used to sneak out of the World War II relocation camp at Manzanar to fish the trout-filled waters of the Eastern Sierra.
Info: www.fernout.com

FACES Summit and Expo
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 20, 12 to 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
369 E. First St.
Cost: \$24/first two delegates; \$15/subsequent delegates; \$10/artists
 FACES Summit and Expo is a dialogue for the Asian Pacific Islander community and its supporters. Following the summit, an expo will be held. Organizations will provide literature and food will be offered at the tables for one-on-one meetings.
Info: Ken Choy at summit@mapid.us or call 424.558-0997

Japan America Society of Southern California's 102nd Anniversary Dinner & Gala
COSTA MESA, CA
April 2, 3 p.m.
Westin South Coast Plaza
686 Anton Blvd
 The Japan America Society of Southern California will commemorate 102 years of

promoting strong relationships between the Japanese and Americans at its 102nd Anniversary Dinner and Gala Celebration, as well as its first Annual JAS High Tech Fair. The dinner and gala will be honoring Dr. Kazuo Inamori.
Info: www.jas-socal.org or 213.627-6217

The Manzanar School Reunion
Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 8 to 10
California Hotel
12 East Ogden Ave
 Manzanar School Reunion will host a 2011 Manzanar School Reunion. Everyone who attended schools in Manzanar as well as those interested in Manzanar are encouraged to attend the reunion. Buses will be leaving from Los Angeles, Gardena, Venice and San Fernando Valley.
Info: Grace Anderson at 818.889-4291 or grace.oda.anderson@gmail.com

UCLA Nikkei Student Union Culture Night
LOS ANGELES, CA
Royce Hall at the University of California, Los Angeles
340 Royce Dr.
 This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Nikkei Student Union's Culture Night. The performance includes the renowned Kyodo Taiko, NSU Modern hip-hop dance team, traditional Japanese Odori dance and a play about the Nikkei experience.
Info: NSU.CNProducers@gmail.com

Super Taiko Concert
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 5, 2 p.m.
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Cost: \$20/general; \$25/door
 Former kodo soloist Shuichi Hidano and Hiroyuki Hayashida will perform. Also featured in the concert will be odaiko (big drum) expert, Jun Takada and the Taiko Center of Los Angeles.
Info: 213.680-3700 or 626.484-5184

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IN MEMORIAM

Adachi, Emiko, 86



Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 11; survived by her children, Alan Y. (Nancy) and Mark M. (Yuka) Adachi, Mari (Randy) Tamura; 5 gc.

Hayashibara, Claude Takemi, 68, Kailua, HI; Feb. 9; he is an Air Force veteran; survived by son Keoni; daughter Malia Whitaker; brother Alvin; sister Carole Ho; 2 gc.

Hayashibara, Kimiko, 93, Kailua, HI; Feb. 6; survived by son Alvin T.; daughter Carole K. Ho; sister Betsy Suyeoka; 5 gc; 5 ggc.

Hiura, Kimiko, 100, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 23; survived by her children, Lloyd (Naomi) and Dr. Robert Hiura, June (Dr. Fred) Fujihara, Pauline (Harry) Kunimune, Dr. Clarence (Grace), Paul (Beverly), Dr. Daniel (Lynn), and Dr. David (Janis) Hiura; 19 gc; 30 ggc; 1 gggc; and sister, Shizuno Toyoshiba.

Ikei, Mitsue, 86, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 10; survived by sons Jesse and Wallace; daughters Gainor Miyashiro and Jo Ann Shito; brothers Seiko and Thomas Nakadomari; sisters Asano Shimabukuro and Mildred Williams; 9 gc; 6 ggc.

Kamikubo, Shigeyuki, 89, Gardena, CA; Feb. 13; survived by his son, Bruce (Pinchie) Kamikubo; daughter, Christine (Fred) Miller; granddaughter, Cynthia (Jason) Chu; sisters Misako, Sachiko; sister-in-law Tomoko Kamikubo; brother-in-laws Toshiyuki (Amy) Shinden and Eizo (Hisae) Minamoto.

Kubo, George Masao, 91, Los

Angeles, CA; Feb. 15; survived by his sister, Rowena (Nobuo) Ichihara; sister-in-law, Kiku Kubo; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Maruyama, Aiko Patsy, 73, Torrance, CA; Jan. 4; survived by her children, Helen Junko and Stanley Masanori Maruyama; daughter-in-law Martha Alicia Maruyama; grandson, William Masanori Maruyama.

Matsuno, Jiro, 78,



Long Beach, CA; Feb. 15; survived by his beloved siblings, Shigeko (Mits) Hazama, Irene Matsuno, Nancy (Eddie) Mino, Gary (Gerry) Matsuno; also survived by 9 nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Ota, George Masaichi, 87, Pahala, HI; Jan. 24; he served in the Army during World War II; a retired field supervisor with the former Kau Sugar Co.; survived by wife Sadame; son Craig; daughter Vivian Flores; brothers Albert, Herbert and Gary; 4 gc.

Tajima, Ted, 88, Altadena, CA; Feb. 20; he was a JACL member; he was drafted into the Army, after World War II; he taught Japanese to counter-intelligence agents; he later retired as a English and journalism teacher from Alhambra High School; survived by daughters Elaine Tajima, Pam Praeger, Linda Tajima, Wendy Tajima; brother, Calvin; and 3 gc.

Takata, Earl, 86, Arlington Hgts, IL; Jan. 15; a Purple Heart recipient and a World War II Army veteran; survived by his wife of 58 years, Laurie Takata (née Janowick); children, David Takata,

Janice (Tom) Rossi, Gary Takata, Cheryl (Craig) Blaum, Christine Takata, Jay (Sue) Takata and Jennifer Takata; 18 gc; 1 ggc.

Tanabe, Bill Masanori, 79, Mission Viejo, CA; Jan. 26; interned at Minidoka, Idaho during WWII; later graduated from the University of Washington with a mechanical engineering degree; worked many years for Boeing, Mattel Toys and Hughes Electronics; survived by his loving wife, Nancy; daughters, Linda Ingham and Sandra (Paul) Creager; son, David (Vickie) Tanabe; sister, Chizuko Shigio; 9 gc.

Teramura, Kazuo, 88,



Sherman Oaks, CA; Feb. 15; a former internee of Tule Lake Relocation Camp; survived by wife, Flora; children, Douglas, Nancy (Gregg) Hayata, Janice (Felly), and Sharon (Nathan Tanaka); grandchildren, Bradley, Michael, Kara and Shaun; siblings, Shizue Yoshioka, Chiyoko (Toshio) Adachi and Emiko Ajifu.

Watanabe, Ronald "Ron", 60, Torrance, CA; Feb. 17; survived by his wife, Irene; daughter, Jennifer; parents, Masao and Grayce; brothers, Cliff (Shari) and Bob (Chiemi); nieces and nephews, Wendy (Ryan) Kita, Sean Ueno, Kaycie, Kristin and Ryan Watanabe.

Yamada, Tsugio, 86, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 10; an Army veteran and member of the 100th Infantry Battalion; survived by wife June Y.; sons Stuart H. and Craig M.; daughters Lynn A. and Mona A.; 3 gc. ■

TRIBUTE

Reiko Miyamoto Nakawatase Gaspar

January 19, 2011

Reiko Miyamoto Nakawatase Gaspar, veteran educator in the Philadelphia school system, died on Wednesday morning, January 19, 2011 after an extended illness. She was 70 years old and a resident of Philadelphia.

Reiko was born in Fukuoka-Ken Japan, to Aiko Miyamoto (née Hamashima) and the late Yoshitora Miyamoto. After the death of her father in 1941, she returned with her mother to the United States where they were later interned in Poston, Arizona. Her mother later married Kenzo Nakawatase.

Reiko graduated from Bridgeton High School Class of 1959 and later American University in Washington, D.C. in 1963, where she earned a bachelor's degree in International Relations. She later received a master's degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She was raised in Seabrook with a brother, Masaru Edmund, and a sister, Hisako Lenore (Wurtzel).

In 1964, Reiko began her distinguished career as an elementary teacher in the Philadelphia school system. She started in west Philadelphia where she was an early supporter and founding member of the then beginning teachers union. She became, over the years, a highly lauded faculty member of the Civic Center Museum serving, entertaining and educating students from all over the city of Philadelphia until she was forced to retire in the early 1990s because of colorectal cancer.

As a committed educator, Reiko was also a person of many interests. She was a knowledgeable fan of classical music and the Philadelphia Orchestra and a devotee of drama and the musical theater as well. She was active in a number of civic organizations, serving as president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in the 1980s and was a major figure in the restoration of the Japanese House in Fairmont Park and the development of its educational component. She had been a member of the Pan-Asian coalitions in the city and had been an active member of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

Reiko was married for over 39 years to Gusztav Gaspar, a violinist and music teacher in the Philadelphia public school system. She is survived by her daughter, Ilona, her mother, and her two siblings.

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Scholarships Available for Cultural Program to Japan

The deadline to apply for the 2011 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage (NYCH) Program is March 11.

Scholarships are available for up to four participants who applied for the program through the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC).

They must also be 18 years of age and older and have completed a minimum of one semester of college studies. Accepted applicants must be able to attend a pre-trip workshop in preparation for their one-month stay in Japan.

There is no prerequisite for any level of Japanese language skills.

The NYCH program is also sponsored by the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Los Angeles, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW) in Seattle and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) in Honolulu.

Each cultural center will also choose up to four college

students to participate in the study abroad program.

Participants will be chosen based on their application, essay and interviews to be held March 24-30.

The NYCH program, in cooperation with the Kobe YMCA Language School (Hyogo Prefecture, Japan) is designed for Nikkei youth to gain a better understanding of their ancestral and cultural background while discovering Japan in a unique and exciting way.

This program will allow participants to immerse in Japanese culture through Japanese language and writing classes, introductory classes in traditional Japanese art forms, and late afternoon and Saturday excursions exploring different parts of the Kansai region while using and practicing their Japanese language skills daily with their home stay families.

For more information and to download the application, visit the website at www.jcccnc.org/programs/nyss.htm or call Aya Ino at 415/567-5505. ■

Study Says Asian Americans are Not Viewed as Ideal Leaders

In the workforce Asian Americans are often seen as great workers, but not great leaders.

Asian Pacific Americans are widely viewed as "model minorities" on the basis of education, income and competence, but they are perceived as less ideal than Caucasian Americans when it comes to attaining leadership roles in U.S. businesses and board rooms, according to researchers at the University of California, Riverside.

Researchers have found that "race trumps other salient characteristics, such as one's occupation, regarding perceptions of who is a good leader," said Thomas Sy, assistant professor of psychology at UC Riverside and the lead author of the study.

The peer-reviewed paper, "Leadership Perceptions as a Function of Race-Occupation Fit: The Case of Asian Americans," appears in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

This study is the first on APAs and perceptions of leadership, and may explain why fewer APAs advance to senior positions of leadership than their education, experience and competence would



suggest, Sy said.

"We've been taught that if you have greater education, skill and experience you will succeed," Sy said. "That falls apart when it comes to Asian Americans."

The study found that even when APAs were perceived to be more technically competent — such as APA engineers versus Caucasian American engineers — they still were perceived to be less ideal leaders than were Caucasian Americans.

"The stereotype in the workforce is that Asian Americans are great workers, not great leaders," Sy added. "In the Western world,

the ideal leadership prototype is charismatic, which is associated with Caucasians. Asians are perceived as competent, intelligent and dedicated, but lack the perception of charisma needed to be viewed as strong leaders."

APAs represent approximately 5 percent of the U.S. population and are projected to account for 9 percent of the population by 2050. However, they account for only .3 percent of corporate officers, less than 1 percent of corporate board members and about 2 percent of college presidents, despite their higher representation in business and professional occupations. ■

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