

MARCH 18-31, 2011



PACIFIC CITIZEN

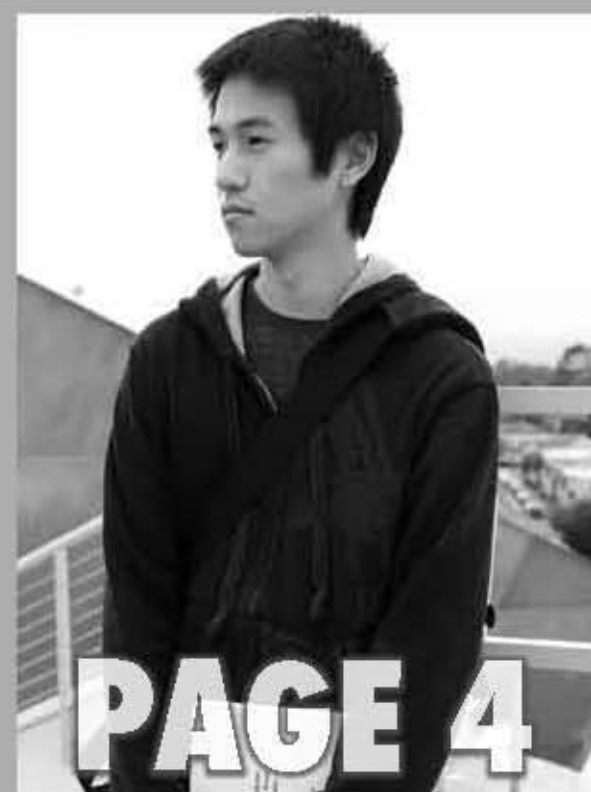
AFTERMATH:
JAPAN
EARTHQUAKE &
TSUNAMI

RACISM AMID TRAGEDY

On the web, cries of 'Remember
Pearl Harbor!' sound out. **PAGE 3**

Two days after
Japan's catastrophic
earthquake and tsunami,
a woman stands in the
middle of the rubble
looking at her city
submerged under water.

AP PHOTO: TADASHI OKUBO-THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN



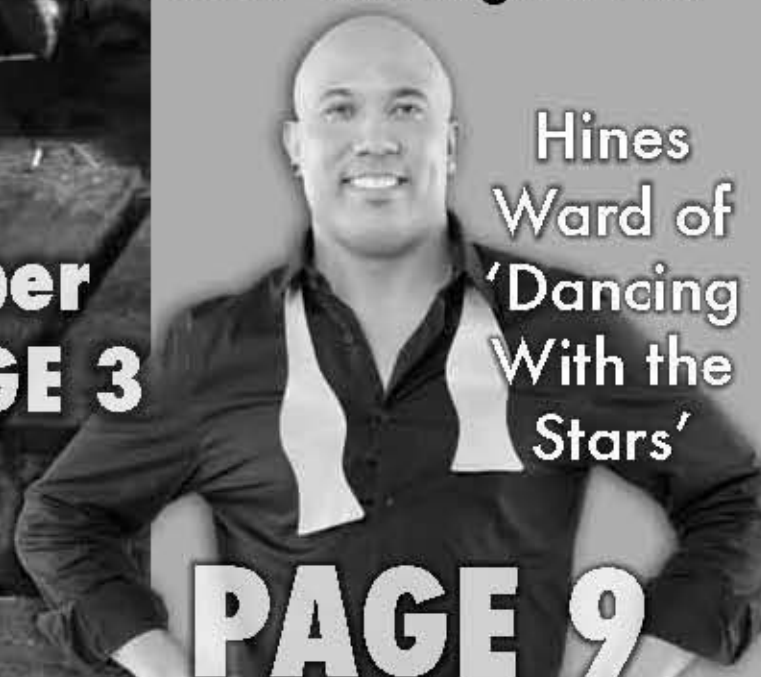
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Ward of
'Dancing
With the
Stars'

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Week to Remember

By Floyd Mori



While waiting for a flight to California on March 11, I heard the news of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As some of my immediate family members reside in Tokyo there was immediate cause for concern.

Jean Shiraki, of the JACL Washington, D.C. office, had left recently to visit relatives in Japan. Reid Tateoka, a JACL leader from Utah, is living in Sendai where he serves as a mission president for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most were heard from throughout the day and reported that they were okay.

Japan is to be commended for their preparation for disasters but

no one could be completely prepared for a catastrophe of this magnitude. We can be grateful that the loss was not worse, but it was an unbelievable calamity for which we are all saddened. Our hearts go out to the victims of this terrible disaster.

Friday was filled with phone calls from JACL and other community leaders, as well as communication with the White House, Japan embassy, and others who were concerned and anxious to help. We are overwhelmed with the outpouring of care and support.

On March 12, I gave brief remarks at the funeral for Surinder Singh, a Sikh gentleman who was fatally gunned down while taking a walk in a Sacramento suburb with his friend, Gurmej Atwal, who was also shot but survived. They were likely targeted because of their appearance. Sikhs are often mistaken for Muslims and have been victims of violence since the Sept. 11 attacks. A candlelight vigil was held

the night before at which over 600 people attended.

David Unruhe, JACL NCWNP district governor, attended the funeral as well. Our thanks to Andy Noguchi, civil rights co-chair, and Marielle Tsukamoto, Florin JACL chapter president, for their leadership. The incident is being investigated as a possible hate crime.

The NCWNP district also held a "Bridging Communities" event at JACL headquarters under the direction of Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director, March 12. This program, sponsored by AT&T, has been successfully held in the PSW district under Craig Ishii, PSW regional director, and is also being conducted in other areas. It brings together Japanese American and Muslim American youth to further understanding of each other's culture and build leadership.

On March 10, a congressional hearing was held on the "radicalization" of Muslims in the United States. Rep. Peter King of New York stated: "I remain convinced that these hearings must go forward, and they will ... to protect America from a terrorist attack."

The JACL and others in the civil rights community are concerned that these hearings will bring focus unfairly to the thousands of innocent Muslim Americans and others who are law abiding members of society but may be looked upon as terrorists.

There are similarities to the experience of JAs during World War II when many community leaders were immediately imprisoned following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. To represent the JA community and the JACL, I was interviewed by CNN International, NHK, the *Washington Post* and other media sources regarding the hearing and the JA experience.

The JACL continues to have relevance as it did in the past. However, the organization is having difficulties caused largely by our declining membership.

If you are reading this, you are one of the most interested members of the JACL. If you could personally secure a new member for the JACL or are in a position to gift a membership or make a donation, it would be very helpful. Thanks for your support of the JACL. ■

SPRING CAMPAIGN

Pacific Citizen has Something for Everyone

By Judith Aono

A lot of what I've come to know about JACL, and how it operates, is "JACL folklore."

That's what I call the knowledge and those interesting little tid-bits of information that are passed from one long-time member to a newer member — it's the stuff that isn't written down anywhere and sometimes it takes a long time to figure it out.

And that's exactly the category I'd place the *Pacific Citizen* Spring Campaign in. When I first joined JACL and I got the letter asking for money to provide additional support for the *P.C.*, my first thought was that I already give them money through my JACL dues. Why are they asking for more?

That was when I was a new member and didn't know much

about the JACL or about the *P.C.*

Now I have a much better understanding about the *P.C.* and exactly what it provides to me and to everyone who gets to read it. When I get my *P.C.*, I stick it in my purse and carry it around, reading it whenever I get a break in my schedule. I read it waiting at the DMV, doctor's office, or even when I'm in a really long line at Costco.

I read everything in it because I'm a news-junkie but I definitely enjoy some things more than others. I'm always amazed at the variety and diversity of the different stories and interviews they carry in each edition. *P.C.* covers current news stories — often stories that the mainstream media either covers only minimally, if at all.

P.C. tells the stories about the men and women who worked tirelessly to advance the economic

and social rights of JAs, and I'm glad that their stories are not lost, but continue to exist in the historical records of the *P.C.*

And then there are also articles about the entertainment industry. Interestingly, these articles get the most feedback — either the person really loves the entertainment stories or they don't like it at all.

But that's what's really great about the *P.C.*; they have something for everyone. They truly do their best to reflect the needs and wants of their entire readership.

Add to that the *P.C.*'s program to digitize the old back editions so all this history won't fade and crumble away but will be available to anyone who wants to learn more about the JA historical experience.

And finally with a nod to the future and an acknowledgement of the power of the internet — *P.C.* has been developing and expanding their web-based news content. This online capability allows the *P.C.* to expand some stories from the print version, carry some there wasn't room for in the print version, and provide updated information on developing stories.

But when you consider all these creative and innovative

initiatives, along with, and most importantly, the quality of the writing, the quality of the printing and layout, and the quality of the total product, it's obvious that it takes more funding than what is allocated and available from the JACL membership dues allocation and the advertising dollars.

'JACLers have, throughout the history of the P.C., donated additional money to allow the paper to become an ever better resource.'

JACLers have, throughout the history of the *P.C.*, donated additional money to allow the paper to become an ever better resource — they have shown their support for what the *P.C.* does and is doing, by sending an additional donation to the Spring Campaign.

If you enjoy the *P.C.* and you are able to, please do make a donation to the Spring Campaign. ■

Judith Aono is the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board chair.

Correction

In the article "Finding Poston's Girl Scouts" that appeared in the Feb. 4-17 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, Jane Oka's parents each earned \$16 per month, not the \$156 per month that was stated. The *P.C.* apologizes for the error.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Amid Rescue Efforts in Quake-hit Japan, Racist Comments are Rampant on the Web

On social media sites, cries of 'Remember Pearl Harbor' sound out while Japanese Americans continue to grapple with the tragedy.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Days after Japan's devastating earthquake, bodies are still washing up along the coastline, crematoriums are overwhelmed and rescue workers are running out of body bags. But as the nation struggles with the grim reality of a mounting humanitarian, economic and nuclear crisis after a tsunami, some Americans are using the power of social media to unleash insensitive and racist jokes about the tragedy.

In a March 13 post, a blog promoting the need for a University of California, Santa Cruz Ethnic Studies Department posted a collection of racist status updates and tweets gathered from Facebook and Twitter including references to "payback" for Japan's World War II attack on Pearl Harbor.

"If you wanna feel better about this earthquake in Japan, google 'Pearl Harbor death toll,'" tweeted Alec Sulkin, a scriptwriter for the Fox animated television show 'Family Guy.'

Sulkin has since deleted his comment on Twitter and has apologized for his "insensitive tweet."

Hateful rhetoric is rampant on the web. Comedian Gilbert Gottfried continues to make lewd jokes about the disaster on his Twitter page and rap star 50 Cent reacted to backlash from his tsunami jokes by tweeting, "Hate it or love it. I'm cool either way 50 cent."

Racist comments like these, the UCSC Ethnic Studies Department argues, show why Ethnic Studies is needed.

JACL national director Floyd Mori is also blasting the comments.

"I think comments such as these not only inflame prejudices of the past but cause misinterpretations of the real facts of this major catastrophe," said Mori. "It's unfortunate that people have to stoop so low to try to make a name for themselves and get their seconds of notoriety on social media."

In a March 12 statement, the JACL expressed "deep concern for and condolences" to the people



AP PHOTO/THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN, TADASHI OKUBO

A woman wrapped up in a blanket stands in the middle of rubble, looking at the city submerged under water in Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture March 13, two days after the catastrophic earthquake-triggered tsunami hit northeastern Japan.

of Japan affected by the massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami, including friends and family and members of the JACL Japan chapter.

Organizations like the Japan-America Society and the JACL are encouraging concerned citizens to donate to the relief effort.

The official death toll from the March 11 double tragedy in Sendai has been raised to about 4,300, but the Miyagi police chief said that more than 10,000 people are estimated to have died in his province alone, which has a population of 2.3 million.

Millions of people are homeless without water, food or heating in near-freezing temperatures in the northeast devastated by an earthquake and the wave it spawned. Meanwhile, a third reactor at a nuclear power plant lost its cooling capacity and the fuel rods at another were at least briefly fully exposed, raising fears of a meltdown. The stock market plunged over the likelihood of huge losses by Japanese industries including big names such as Toyota and Honda.

News and images of the magnitude 8.9 earthquake and tsunami in Sendai rattled the nerves of many Japanese Americans both in the U.S. and in Japan.

Hours after the earthquake struck, in a hotel room in downtown Tokyo, New England JACL member Ken Oye said the occasional aftershock continues to shake the building.

"No buildings were collapsed, no glass was shattered. No wounded on the street not in Tokyo," said Oye who was in Japan as a member of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation.

Oye and other prominent JAs from the delegation, including Irene Hirano-Inouye, were heading by bus back to a hotel when the earthquake struck.

"The bus was rocking and rolling," said Oye. "You could see construction cranes on top of buildings swaying back and forth almost like leaves of grass in the wind."

In San Francisco, Seiko Fujimoto is tensely waiting for a phone call from her daughter Takeno Suzuki, 27, who lives and works in Sendai.

"I'm still scared. I don't know what to do," said Fujimoto.

Suzuki, who lives in Sendai with her husband and two young children, managed to get in touch with one of her friends to say the family was okay, but Fujimoto has yet to hear directly from her daughter.

"I want to hear her voice. I want

to hear my nephews' voice," said Tad Chiyo, Suzuki's older brother. "I need to hear her voice to go on with my day and stop worrying."

Friday's double tragedy has caused unimaginable deprivation for people of this industrialized country — Asia's richest. In many areas there is no running water, no power and four- to five-hour waits for gasoline. People are suppressing hunger with instant noodles or rice balls while dealing with the loss of loved ones and homes.

"People are surviving on little food and water. Things are simply not coming," said Hajime Sato, a government official in Iwate prefecture, one of the three hardest hit.

The pulverized coast has been hit by hundreds of aftershocks since, the latest one a 6.2 magnitude quake that was followed by a new tsunami scare. As sirens wailed, soldiers abandoned their search operations and told residents of the devastated shoreline in Soma, the worst hit town in Fukushima prefecture, to run to higher ground.

Japanese officials have refused to speculate on how high the death toll could rise, but experts who dealt with the 2004 Asian tsunami offered a dire outlook.

"It's a miracle really, if it turns

out to be less than 10,000 (dead)," said Hery Harjono, a senior geologist with the Indonesian Science Institute, who was closely involved with the aftermath of the earlier disaster that killed 230,000 people — of which only 184,000 bodies were found.

According to public broadcaster NHK, some 430,000 people are living in emergency shelters or with relatives. Another 24,000 people are stranded, it said. ■

Relief Efforts

The JACL has joined forces with Direct Relief International in an effort to support relief and recovery efforts in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami.

One hundred percent of donations, which will be managed by Direct Relief International, will be dedicated to relief efforts.

To make a donation, visit www.jacl.org and click on the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund link. Also checks may be made out to Japan Relief and Recovery Fund with a notation of JACL in the memo line and mailed to Direct Relief International, 27 South La Patera Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93117.

Asian American Studies on the Chopping Block

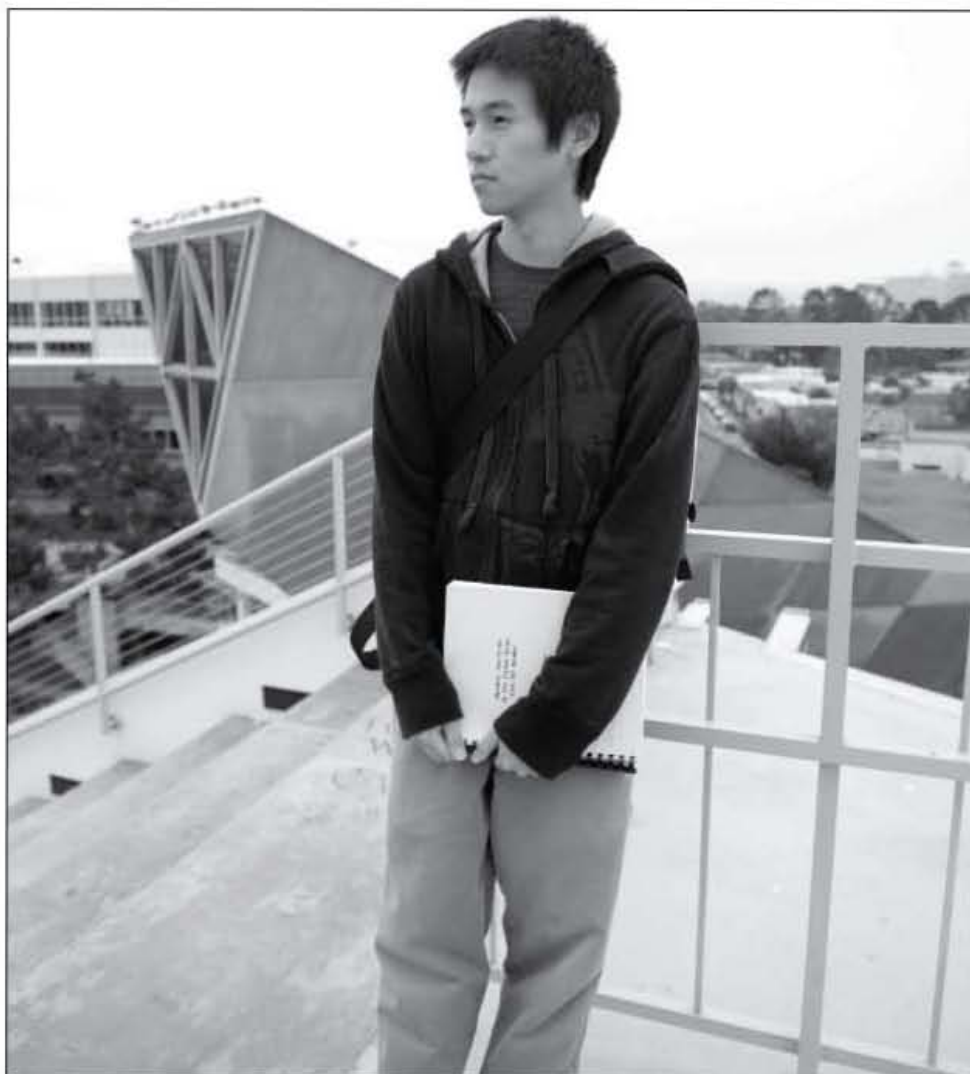


PHOTO: JALREX KAN/EDAW/3POO/45 IN STILL LIFE

In the face of budget woes, Asian American Studies, which is often credited with helping students find their identity, is being cut from universities across the nation.

An area of study that was once on the rise is now facing a decline, putting the availability of Asian American Studies in jeopardy.

By Christine McFadden
Correspondent

Rachel Gounder, a senior majoring in Asian American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, might be one of the last students at UT to graduate with a degree in her field.

A proposed budget bill currently sits in the Texas Senate threatening to cut the UT budget by a staggering \$65 million for the 2012-13 year, netting a loss of \$3.5 million for the college of liberal arts and the potential elimination of the Asian American Studies department, according to ABC News.

Gounder, who is South Asian, participated in a march to the Texas State Capitol.

"There's definitely a group of students who are very passionate about these budget cuts and don't want to see it happen," she said.

But Gounder believes that the program is as good as gone. She cites an e-mail sent to students by the dean of the college of liberal arts affirming budget preservation for other programs on the chopping block, such as Mexican American and African American Studies, but without any mention of Asian

American Studies.

"We're definitely being cut," she said. "Which is sad — we're a growing center."

Gounder is lucky to have the opportunity to graduate with an Asian American Studies degree, as UT is certainly not alone in facing threats to their ethnic studies departments. Cal State, Los Angeles faces the suspension of their Asian and Asian American Studies Department, and schools such as the University of Pennsylvania have previously faced large cuts to their program.

These cuts reflect a step back from the previous push in decades past to establish Asian American Studies programs, classes and departments. An area of study that was once on the rise is now facing a slippery slope of decline, putting the availability of Asian American Studies for future generations in jeopardy.

"Ethnic studies as a whole is really important because our country claims to be this melting pot of cultures and it's important to learn the components of it," said Gounder. "When you cook food, you need to know the parts of the recipe."

Future Generation Unable

to Study Their Past

Generations of young adults throughout the United States now face the increased potential of not having the option to major or minor in Asian American Studies.

Gounder initially wanted to go into medicine, but after enrolling in more Asian American Studies classes, she declared it as a minor and eventually a full major. She currently serves as a UT student liaison for the department.

"It helped me form my identity," Gounder continued. She is currently hoping to go to law school and focus on immigration law.

Gounder's serendipitous experience may not be repeatable for future generations.

Depending on which college Misha Stone chooses, she may not have this opportunity to major or minor in Asian American Studies.

"If I entered a school and discovered that the Asian American Studies program was no longer offered, I'd be upset," said Stone, who is from Maryland. "I would feel cheated as though the school lied to me and would never stop asking 'what if' questions in relation to the program."

According to Madeline Hsu, director of the Asian American Studies program at UT, Austin, the program has been growing steadily since 2006, with a current core faculty of nine.

The newness of the program is a double-edged sword — it's growing but it is also easier to cut, said Hsu.

Over the span of three years, the UT department has been cut by about 27 percent, according to Hsu, with the budget falling by about 30 percent and the department decreasing down to one lecturer.

"If UT is going to be fulfilling its mission to train its students to be leaders in Texas, I think you need to be aware of the place of Asians in the United States," she said. "This is a multiracial society and you need to be able to understand across the board what is going on."

At Cal State Los Angeles, Dean James Henderson announced in 2010 the possible future suspension of the Asian and Asian American Studies program due to a failure to meet the program goals set at its inception, according to the *University Times*.

Only 12 and 10 students at Cal State Los Angeles are currently pursuing a major and minor, respectively. The objective is to have at least 50 students enrolled in the major.

"We simply don't have the number of majors or the minors because it's a very small program," said ChorSwang Ngin, founder and former director of the Asian and Asian American Studies program.

In response to the possible future suspension, faculty and students have organized a grassroots protest movement and a march, according to Ngin.

"They're not suspending the program. The question is how long this will last," said Ngin. "For the moment, I think we've won the battle — so far, at least it appears to be."

Students Fight Back

In 2008, through grassroots efforts led by APA and minority organizations at the University of Pennsylvania, students successfully fought a budget cut to the Asian American Studies program.

"The Penn administration soon learned

that we were not going to sit passively and allow our program to be cut, nor would we allow any other minority program's funding to be cut," said Rahima Dosani, a UPenn alumnus.

On the opposite side of the country, Arizona State University celebrated its first semester officially offering Asian Pacific American Studies as a major/minor last fall, previously only offering a certificate program.

An effort that began in the 1970s, it took until 2010 for the major/minor to become officiated by the administration. Currently, ASU has the only APA Studies degree program in Arizona and is only one of two in the Southwest (with the other being in Texas).

"We would of course have liked to have the major/minor option earlier," said Kathy Nakagawa, director of ASU's APA Studies. "There are students who graduated with the certificate who really would have liked the degree option. There were some factors that made it difficult in terms of a change in administration, reorganizing within the university and economic considerations."

There are currently 10 students enrolled as minors, but currently no majors. Nakagawa expects that number to grow as more people learn about the degree, and APA classes have mostly been fully enrolled.

"I think our program is needed during this kind of odd moment in Arizona history," said Jeffrey Ow, an ASU lecturer in the APA Studies department, referring to the anti-immigration laws and debates over having ethnic studies taught in the high schools.

The success stories of some schools' Asian American Studies programs, such as ASU, are surrounded by dilemmas that other schools face when ethnic programs are the first to go on the budget cut chopping block.

Ow believes that keeping the humanities alive is essential to fighting the corporatization of schools and producing well-rounded citizens.

"Universities are trying to create diploma mills: trying to have stellar scientists or stellar businessmen who know their craft, but aren't necessarily human in the sense that the humanities try to aspire to," he said.

Dosani stressed that Asian American Studies programs help APA students to address the "model minority myth" and understand the need for social support programs in addition to helping unite different sectors of the APA community.

"The existence of a scholarly and academic avenue with which to learn about APA history is fundamentally important to the Asian American community," she said. "It legitimizes the APA experience and allows us to weave threads and formulate bonds across what can appear to be very disparate cultural groups."

Entering students with expectations of Asian American Studies may be disappointed to learn that their opportunity to learn more about APA history is shrinking.

"If a college does have an Asian American Studies department, then I expect the quality to be superb like all their other fields," said Stone, who is on track to be in the graduating class of 2016 when she enters college. "No single studies department should be lacking in quality from all the others." ■

AAs on Raising Awareness About the "T" in LGBT

Some in the transgender community nationwide say more resources and visibility are needed.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Growing up in California, Aiden Aizumi did not always feel comfortable with the role he was born into. Adopted from Japan with his brother, Stefen Lawrence, Aiden Aizumi grew up in Arcadia, Calif.

He was born as a girl in Japan, and named Ashley Akemi. But in 2008 he would openly express his desire to transition to a male.

"I never really related to being a girl, or having a female body," Aiden Aizumi explained. "While everybody around me was becoming really proud and comfortable with their body, I was becoming more uncomfortable. I think I learned a lot from being raised socially as a woman, but I never felt like one."

But before Aiden Aizumi, 22, came forward about his desire to transition to a male, he struggled in his own skin.

Aiden Aizumi's mother, Marsha, says she knew from a very young age that her child was different. There were signs throughout his childhood, she says, when he refused to conform to society's gender norms.

"He was very much a tomboy," Marsha Aizumi explained. "The first couple of years when he was young I dressed him as a ballerina and fairy, but after that he refused. Anything that he chose was masculine."

Twenty-two-year-old Aiden Aizumi says he was always a "little anxious" growing up. But in high school he found it difficult to leave the house. His mother says he faced cruelty at high school, where he played varsity golf.

The bullying and harassment began after he came out as a lesbian in high school, Marsha Aizumi said.

"As he came out to his peers he started dressing a lot more masculine. So he became a target I think for bullying and harassment at that time," Marsha Aizumi said. "Then a lot of physical violence started to enter our lives. At that point I just didn't know what to do."

As a high schooler Aiden Aizumi was diagnosed agoraphobic with panic attacks.

"I was always really masculine and never really was into make-



PHOTO: MARSHA AIZUMI

up and boys, and doing my hair," Aiden Aizumi said, who almost did not finish high school. "I struggled to find friends who were OK with me being a masculine girl and also a lesbian."

About three years ago, Aiden Aizumi opened up about his desire to transition. He has since had "top surgery," or chest reconstruction surgery and takes testosterone.

The mother and son are writing a book together to share their story with others. They are hoping their book "Two Spirits, One Heart" will be picked up by a publisher.

Their story is one others in the transgender community can relate to.

"Adults really need to understand what it's like for children. Because transgender children know from a really young age usually," said Rev. David Weekley, an Oregon resident who is transgender. "When I grew up, which was back in the '50s and '60s, it was really different of course. There have been some changes."

Legislation is being introduced nationwide to protect people like Aiden Aizumi. In Nevada, lawmakers are considering a bill to expand the state's hate crimes law. The bill, SB 180, would make stiffer penalties for crimes against transgender people.

In Hawaii legislators are considering a bill that would protect against bullying, cyber bullying and harassment within the schools because of a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

"The Hawaii Safe School Act (HB 688) would be an important piece of legislation because



PHOTO: MARSHA AIZUMI

Aiden and Marsha Aizumi have actively participated in LGBT community events.

The two (pictured left) were among a crowd of about 100 that gathered March 4 in California to protest Arcadia Mayor Peter Amundson's decision to invite a representative from Focus on the Family, a conservative Christian group, to the Annual Community Breakfast.

it would be the first time our governor, Legislature, and Board of Education united to affirm the Department of Education's role in proactively addressing bullying and harassment of students in our public schools," said Kim Coco Iwamoto, a Hawaii Board of Education member who is also transgender.

Other protections are being implemented across the nation in the hopes of curbing discrimination, violence and bullying against transgender people. On March 9 the Boston City Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Transgender Civil Rights Bill.

The resolution states its support of protecting transgender individuals from discrimination and violence.

"In California we're very lucky that we have a strong community advocacy for a lot of changes. The rest of the country is very different," said Drian Juarez, program

manager of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's Transgender Economic Empowerment Project.

Juarez says the transition process can often be complicated and confusing.

"Sometimes trans people cannot get to the level of transition that they'd like," Juarez explained about barriers people face in the process of transition. "That again becomes another barrier."

More resources are needed to support the transgender community, said Rev. Jonipher Kwong, director of API Equality-LA. Also educational awareness work is needed to dispel common misconceptions about the transgender community, he says.

"Just the terminology itself is so ambiguous in the API community's eyes," Kwong added. "Quite honestly I'm Chinese and I don't even know how to say transgender in Chinese [laughs]."

Others agree.

"I think it's very hard to navigate through resources if you don't live near L.A. or San Francisco," Aiden Aizumi said. "Even living here I feel that it's hard sometimes to find the right doctor or to be safe at school."

Marsha Aizumi says talking about transgender issues can be even more difficult in the Asian American community, but it is essential.

"I think Asian people are very private," Marsha Aizumi said. "It's hard for us as Asians to talk in a group. I'm a Sansei, so I'm much more open. But I feel like even at that it's hard."

Without the support of his friends and family, Aiden Aizumi says his life would have been different.

"I don't think I would be able to be as happy and fulfilled without them, or it would be a lot harder to get there," Aiden Aizumi explained. "I'm extremely blessed." ■

Asian American Leaders Say Hearing on Muslim Extremism Scapegoats a Community

The treatment of Muslim Americans today is reminiscent of the World War II Japanese American internment, they say.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Citing parallels to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans, Asian Pacific American leaders are speaking out in support of Muslim Americans amid the tearful testimonies, angry recriminations and political theater of the Congressional hearing on Muslim extremism in America.

In a statement, JACL blasted the March 10 hearing for scapegoating a community based on religious affiliation.

"One of the most shameful chapters in our country's history remains the Japanese American internment during World War II. Sadly, the parallels between the treatment of Japanese Americans and the backlash endured by South Asian, Arab, Sikh and Muslim Americans in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, have been drawn before, and are all the more pertinent today. To question the loyalties and beliefs of a single community simply based on religion or race divides and alienates all Americans," said the JACL in the statement.

After the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, the JACL was the first Asian Pacific American group to publicly support the Muslim American community citing parallel experiences after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, which propelled the U.S. into WWII.

"As Asian Americans, we are extremely disappointed with the targeting of a particular

community within the halls of Congress," said the JACL in the same statement.

Rep. Peter King said he called the hearing because Muslim community leaders need to speak out against terrorism and work with police and the FBI.

"There's an elephant in the room and nobody wants to talk about it. We talked about it today," King said after the four-hour session. "I remain convinced that these hearings must go forward — and they will."

But the conversation — a government examination of one religion in the U.S. — was fraught with distrust and political pandering that reflect the nation's ongoing struggle against terrorism, nearly a decade after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Rep. King's intent seems clear: To cast suspicion upon all Muslim Americans and to stoke the fires of anti-Muslim prejudice and Islamophobia," said Rep. Mike Honda in an op-ed piece in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

During WWII, Honda and his family were incarcerated at Amache in Colorado along with other innocent JA families. The move was "based on race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."

Rep. Judy Chu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, echoed the criticism about the hearing.

"The Homeland Security Committee's witch hunt for Muslim radicals is a 'guilt-by-association' conviction in the trial of the public arena, and it reinforces negative and potentially dangerous prejudices about the American Muslim community," said Chu in a statement.

At the hearing, the families of two young



PHOTO: ASTERIX611

Asian American leaders led an inter-faith protest against Islamophobia in New York City's Time Square March 6.

men blamed the Islamic community for inspiring young men to commit terrorism.

"We have to know our enemy, and it is radical Islam in my judgment," said Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas.

On the other side of the argument, one of the two Muslims in Congress wept while discussing a Muslim firefighter who died in the attacks.

Rep. Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress, cried as he discussed Mohammed Salman Hamdani, a Pakistani American paramedic who died responding

to the World Trade Center attack.

"This committee's approach to this particular subject, I believe, is contrary to the best of American values and threatens our security, or could potentially," Ellison said.

After the hearing, the White House repeated its position that America should not practice guilt by association.

"And we also believe that Muslim Americans are very much part of the solution here and not the problem," White House spokesman Jay Carney said. ■

Obama Nominates Gary Locke to be Ambassador to China

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Hoping to make China more friendly to American business, President Barack Obama on March 9 nominated as his top envoy to Beijing Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, the first Chinese American to serve in that diplomatically and commercially important assignment.

Locke is well-versed in the Chinese trade policies that have frustrated American businesses trying to sell their products in the huge and growing Asian power. He's led delegations of U.S. companies on dozens of trade missions abroad, including to China, where U.S. exports were up 34 percent last year.

"When he's in Beijing, I know that American companies will be able to count on him to represent their interests in front of China's top leaders," Obama said as he announced Locke's nomination.

Underscoring the critical nature of the relationship between the U.S. and China, Obama was flanked by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and chief of staff Bill Daley, a former Commerce secretary, at the ceremony in the White House Diplomatic Room.

Locke drew on his compelling family history in accepting the nomination. His father, who was born in China and moved to



the U.S. as a teenager, died in January.

"I know that if he were still alive, it would be one of his proudest moments to see his son named as the United States ambassador to his ancestral homeland," said Locke, as his wife and three young children looked on.

If confirmed by the Senate, Locke would replace Ambassador Jon Huntsman, who leaves China in April.

Locke, a soft-spoken 61-year-old, is popular in China, say those who have traveled with him to the country. He has built a relationship with many Chinese leaders during more than 20 trips there over the past 20 years.

As ambassador, Locke will be tasked with managing the U.S. relationship with a country Obama frequently cites as America's chief

economic rival. Administration officials, including Locke, have pushed China to reform policies that restrict the ability of American companies to export to China, and have strongly condemned Chinese efforts to undervalue its currency in order to make its goods cheaper.

The U.S.-China relationship stretches well beyond economics. The U.S. needs Chinese support on a range of foreign policy matters, from nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea to peacekeeping efforts in Sudan. Complicating the relationship is China's poor record on issues including human rights and intellectual property theft. Particularly on human rights, the Obama administration has struggled to strike the right tone in making clear China must do better without voicing

strident disapproval that would anger the Chinese.

The White House said there was no timetable for replacing Locke, who is the first member of Obama's cabinet to leave the administration.

Locke developed a strong relationship with businesses during his two terms as governor of Washington, which is home to several high-tech companies, including Boeing and Microsoft.

Both companies, their executives and others connected to them made substantial donations to Locke's statewide campaigns: Microsoft and donors that connected to it gave at least \$90,000, almost all for Locke's 2000 race, and Boeing and people linked to it donated at least \$30,000, with most of that also for Locke's re-election campaign.

Locke reported holding up to \$250,000 worth of Microsoft stock in a financial disclosure statement he filed after his Cabinet nomination; he divested the stock after being confirmed for the Cabinet.

Microsoft and Boeing both have a strong interest in America's economic relationship with China. In January, Boeing finalized a \$19 billion deal to sell 200 airplanes to China. Microsoft has advocated for greater enforcement of intellectual property rights in China, estimating that only one in 10 customers using Microsoft products in China is actually paying for them. ■



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

'Sucker Punch' is Steve Shibuya's first major film credit. He co-wrote the script with director Zack Snyder over a period of about 10 years.

'Sucker Punch' Co-Writer Steve Shibuya on Fighting Inner Demons

Steve Shibuya is one of several Asian Americans who worked behind-the-scenes on the new film 'Sucker Punch.'

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Steve Shibuya knows firsthand about the journey to fight one's inner demons. The Japanese American grew up in California with parents who were uprooted from their homes during World War II when they were declared "enemy aliens."

As a result of their WWII experiences and cultural influences, it was a home environment where feelings and emotions were not openly discussed, Shibuya says.

Growing up without an outlet to discuss his feelings complicated coping with a childhood tragedy involving the drowning of a family friend.

His life experiences were perhaps fodder for the "Sucker Punch" script that he co-wrote with long-time friend, Director Zack Snyder.

The idea for the script was born from the creative mind of Snyder whose credits include the films "300," "Dawn of the Dead," and "Watchmen," among others.

"He has told me dreams that he's had before and they're pretty wild," Shibuya said breaking into a laugh in a Los Angeles, Calif. coffee shop. "This came from some dark place inside of him."

The two met while attending the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where they also went to school with Chinese American Larry Fong, who was the director of photography in "Sucker Punch."

Shibuya is one of several Asian Americans who worked behind-the-scenes to create "Sucker Punch," which is set for release nationwide March 25. Others include Chinese American editor William Hoy.

On screen, the Asian American talent includes Actresses Vanessa Hudgens, who takes on the role of Blondie, and Korean American Jamie Chung, who plays Amber. Hudgens and Chung are among the five young women who make up the flick's ensemble cast.

The movie centers around the story of Babydoll, played by actress Emily Browning, who embarks on a journey to

confront her inner demons and seek redemption.

"Sucker Punch is a movie about escape, both literal and figurative," Snyder said in a release. "It shows how the mind can create an almost impenetrable barricade against the real world, and to what lengths we're willing to go, what sacrifices we're willing to make, to get out of a difficult situation."

Babydoll attempts to escape her reality of being institutionalized through her mind. In the action film, the group of scantily clad, gun-toting friends sets out to escape the institution. Some critics online, however, are calling the



PHOTO: WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

Actress Jamie Chung is part of the cast of the action flick 'Sucker Punch,' premiering March 25.

film a "male fantasy."

But Shibuya says the film's underlying message will likely be relatable to everyone.

"You're going to see these women and you're going to connect with them," Shibuya added. "Everyone goes through the same journey if they want to fight their inner demons. Nobody wants to go there. I didn't think, 'Oh, OK. A woman looks at it differently.' Everybody is afraid to do it. Man or

woman."

Shibuya and Snyder first started working on the "Sucker Punch" script about ten years ago, he said. The movie "Sucker Punch" is his first major film. During the development of the script, Shibuya juggled being a stay-at-home dad and working on the script.

"We started ten years ago. My daughter is five," Shibuya explained. "So there was a lot of time, she would take a nap for two hours and I would start writing, like crazy. I would just be writing until I heard her screaming and waking up."

While Shibuya's wife, Ulli, worked as a make up artist, Shibuya says he was a Hollywood househusband. The couple met while working on a commercial about 11 years ago. It is a switch on traditional gender roles that also inspired the creation of a reality show "Househusbands of Hollywood."

"I feel thrilled, Steven never gave up on his dream and I am happy to see him succeed after many years of hard work," said Ulli Shibuya.

As a househusband, Shibuya says he took his daughter to "mommy and me" classes where he sometimes experienced "weird looks." All the time, Shibuya balanced changing dirty diapers with writing "Sucker Punch."

"I feel like I was a pioneer. I do," Shibuya said smiling. "I see guys with kids all the time now. But five years ago there wasn't a lot."

With the premiere of the film approaching reality is starting to sink in that Shibuya can shed his role of househusband to become a full-fledged Hollywood screenwriter.

Shibuya has already made plans to bring his parents to see "Sucker Punch." He credits them for his success.

"One thing about my parents is that it is really because of their sacrifice that I'm able to even be here," Shibuya explained. "Just going to camp, losing everything ... all that suffering they did gave me the chance to literally be free, to run and really explore this world. This world that they never really feel a part of."

Shibuya says although the script was about 10 years in the making, he never gave up on seeing his vision come to fruition on the big screen.

"I never had a plan B. I don't know if that's a good thing," Shibuya said. "Fortunately for me, 'Sucker Punch' came because if that didn't come I don't know [laughs] where I'd be right now." ■



for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

The 800-Pound Gorilla

Okay, let's get the 800-pound gorilla in the room out of the way. In terms of the JACL, that gorilla is the word "cooperation."

I should preface this by laying my cards on the table. I grew up in Los Angeles very critical of the JACL, even though I really didn't know how much it did for the JA and APA communities. But I did know about the 1942 decision and that was enough. I was young, and like most people my age, I was judgmental and naïve.

I eventually joined the JACL and, eventually, became the chair of the national redress committee and then a full-time lobbyist for redress in D.C. I found myself facing a hostile and often angry public. I didn't mind because I was confident that I knew more than most people about the internment but also knew I still had some blank spots in my knowledge of what happened and why.

One of those was the JACL's advice to cooperate with the government orders to "evacuate."

An important point to remember: the JACL never sought the responsibility of serving as a communication link between the JA community and the feds once restrictions were imposed on JAs. It was the government that chose the JACL to represent the JA community because of its chapter network throughout the coastal states and, more importantly, it was an organization made up of that generation described by Curtis Munson as "pathetically loyal" and eager to demonstrate that loyalty. It wasn't just the JACL but the entire Nisei generation that Munson characterized.

It was a little more than two years after launching the redress campaign that I was living in D.C., lobbying the Congress. I had gotten to know Mike Masaoka and probably befuddled him more than anything else. He advised me on matters from time to time, and sometimes I took his advice and sometimes I didn't. I was a greenhorn in D.C. and here was Mike, by then a 30-plus-year veteran of Washington politics. I'm sure it seemed to him that he was friendlier to me than I was to him, but it didn't seem to faze him. For me, it was that 800-pound gorilla always in the room whenever we met.

And finally one day, while having lunch with him at his favorite restaurant, I asked him what in the world possessed him and Sab Kido to recommend cooperation. He said that he and

Kido were separated in one meeting with the feds, and he was told that the removal process was going to happen whether we cooperated or not. He was warned that if there was resistance, there would be bloodshed, that soldiers would be armed with live ammunition and bayonets, and Army tanks would be involved and used if necessary.

When he and Kido met later, they found that they were both told the same thing: that there would be bloodshed if there was resistance.

As he recounted those meetings, Mike said that the agents were not offering friendly advice but

were threatening. Both Kido and Mike had heard the same threats and discussed what their options were. He told me he thought about it for a couple of days and felt we had to resist being forced from our homes. But what if, in resisting, a woman or child or one of our elders got killed? Could we risk that? Wasn't the JACL's responsibility to keep the community safe?

And then he asked me what I would have done, given that situation. I told him I would have resisted and would have

advised resistance. He replied, more to himself than to me, that he wished many times that that's what they had done, but still, what if there had been bloodshed as the agents had threatened? Then what?

Over the years, I've had dealings with the government in Washington: with members of Congress, with representatives of the Justice Department, with White House staff. While it wasn't under the same conditions that confronted JAs after Pearl Harbor, in the 1980s we were losing a bitter trade war with Japan and the mood of the country was often ugly.

I know what it's like to be on the short end of arguments with Justice Department lawyers, enough to give me some insight into what Masaoka experienced. It's easy when the reality isn't staring you in the face to be macho, but it's very different when you know you're holding an empty hand.

How do you decide when you're given two horrible options in a no-win situation by a hostile inquisitor? Tell them to go to hell?

Of course it's easy to say, and it's easy to criticize. You've never been there. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

*'Of course it's
easy to say,
and it's easy
to criticize.
You've never
been there.'*

Student Conflict Common in Philly Schools



PHOTO: HARVEY FINKLE

By Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—A commission investigating racially motivated attacks against Asian American students in Philadelphia has found conflicts among all types of groups are widespread in the district.

The report was released March 1 by the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. It calls for school officials to reduce language barriers and implement clear and consistent

policies for resolving conflicts. Its recommendations are advisory only.

The commission based its report on testimony from 11 public hearings it held after about 30 Asian students were assaulted at South Philadelphia High School in December 2009.

The school district agreed in December to state and federal oversight for the next two and a half years to address the anti-Asian violence.

District spokeswoman Jamilah Fraser says officials will review the report. ■

Reward Offered in California Shooting of Two Sikh Men

Florin JACL offers support and asks police chief to make the investigation a top priority.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

ELK GROVE, California—The Florin JACL chapter is decrying the recent shooting of two Sikh men — one of them fatally — on a sidewalk in a Northern California suburb.

In a letter to Elk Grove Police Chief Robert M. Lehner, Florin JACL asks that the investigation into the possible hate crime shootings be made a top priority.

"As a law enforcement leader, we know you are familiar with the rise in bigotry, hatred, and violence against innocent Sikh, Muslim, and Arab Americans after 9/11," the Florin JACL states in their letter. "Our Sikh, Muslim, and Arab American neighbors, friends, and co-workers need the fullest protection of the law especially when an entire people can be wantonly targeted, not for any individual wrong-doing, but for their religion, dress, or ethnicity."

The letter goes on to explain that the current targeting of these communities is similar to the Japanese American experience during World War II when they were targeted after the Pearl Harbor bombings simply because of their race.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is currently offering a \$5,000

reward in this case. The executive director of the council's Sacramento Valley chapter noted that Sikh men in beards and turbans are often targeted by those who mistake them for Muslims.

"The Muslim community offers its condolences and support to the Sikh community in this time of sorrow," Basim Elkarra said.

The reward for information leading to a conviction in the March 4 shooting in Elk Grove comes as police cautioned there was no evidence it was a hate crime. However, Police Chief Lehner said there was no other apparent motive.

"The obvious Sikh appearance of the men, including the traditional Dastar headwear and lack of any other apparent motive, increasingly raise that possibility," he said in a statement.

Authorities said 65-year-old Surinder Singh was pronounced dead at the scene, and a second man, identified as 78-year-old Gurmej Atwal, has been hospitalized in critical condition.

Singh was a truck driver who had worked in both India and Libya before moving to the United States about five years ago, his son Harvinder Singh, told the *Sacramento Bee*. He had recently survived his fourth heart attack.

Atwal moved to the U.S. from India in 2001, and the family settled two years later in Elk Grove, according to his son, Kamaljit Atwal.

"He is quite a gentle man," he said. ■



PHOTO: ABC

The Super Bowl MVP wants to help Asian Pacific American and biracial youth build self-confidence.

Steelers' Hines Ward to Turn On Razzle Dazzle for 'Dancing With The Stars'

The popular TV dance competition is an opportunity for the Super Bowl MVP to raise awareness about biracial discrimination.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

Hines Ward has his eye on the prize: a mirror ball trophy that would ease the pain of walking away from Super Bowl XLV empty handed.

"It would be a great consolation," said Ward, the Pittsburgh Steelers' all-time leading receiver, about winning "Dancing With The Stars."

Forget about the Steelers' Feb. 6 Super Bowl loss to the Green Bay Packers and the NFL's labor strife, Ward is devoting himself to dance and he has new mirror ball cufflinks to prove it.

"Football comes naturally," said Ward, who is of Korean and African American descent.

Ballroom dancing? Not so much.

For days now, Ward has been spending up to six hours a day trying to perfect his posture and footwork for the March 21 premiere. His decision to compete on the popular ABC television dance show is just another chance for Ward to expand his fan base and spread the word about his pet projects.

He wants to help Asian Pacific American and biracial youth build self-confidence.

For Ward, 35, it comes from a personal place.

"I've been teased," he said about growing up biracial in the Atlanta area. "The black kids didn't want anything to do with me because I wasn't black and the white kids didn't want anything to do with me because I wasn't white. There was no race to fit into, so I tried to act white or I tried to act black instead of being myself."

"Kids need an outlet, a place to belong. For me it was sports," he said.

Now, Ward is trying to find his place in the ballroom, and he's bringing along a strong work ethic.

To celebrate his 35th birthday on March 8, Ward's "Dancing With The Stars" partner Kym Johnson cut his practice time down to four hours, so Ward could go to the Georgia State Capitol to receive an honor from the House of

Representatives.

"I've been having a blast," said Ward by phone from Atlanta where he was — what else — practicing. "I can dance. I can cut a rug, but ballroom dancing is different."

Just ask teammate James Farrior who was quoted in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* lightheartedly calling Ward "the worst dancer on the show."

It's a normal reaction for football players, said Ward about the ribbing. He describes himself as more of a jokester than a dancer, but he's in it to win.

"It'll be great to prove that I can do ballroom dancing."

And if he does win, Ward plans to bring the coveted mirror ball trophy to the locker room.



PHOTO: ABC

'He learns so fast and is 200 percent dedicated,' said Kym Johnson, about her dance partner.

"No doubt! I'll take it everywhere with me. I'll sleep with it, take it out with me to dinner, go on a date with it ..." he said with a laugh.

Luckily, the statistics work in his favor. Professional athletes have fared well on the dance show, but APAs have dominated including past winners like Kristi Yamaguchi, Apolo Anton Ohno and Nicole Scherzinger. A win from Ward could create a dynasty of APA dancers on "Dancing With The Stars."

Early predictions, however, have not been as kind. Many have singled out reality TV star Kendra Wilkinson as a frontrunner in the competition.

The predictions don't faze the NFL veteran. He may not be the favorite, but his strategy is to slip in under the radar and

wow the judges with "razzle and dazzle."

"I don't put pressure on myself. I just give it all I've got."

"Hines is wonderful to teach," said Johnson. "He learns so fast and is 200 percent dedicated."

That's because his work ethic was instilled early.

Ward was born in Seoul, South Korea to a Korean mother and an African American father serving in the U.S. Army. In Korea, mixed race children are shunned by mainstream society. Ward was just one years old when he moved to the Atlanta area. His mom, Young-He Ward, struggled to raise her son in a new country without the benefit of being fluent in English.

Ward "took that sense of sacrifice and determination and embodied that in his heart and soul," according to his website.

"I have the best of both worlds," he said about being biracial. "I don't look at it as a hindrance."

In 2006 after winning his first of two Super Bowl rings, Ward and his mother traveled back to South Korea to form the Helping Hands Foundation to help combat biracial discrimination among children. His trip was greeted with much acclaim. It's all part of a larger plan, he said. The more Koreans embrace him the more they will open their hearts to mixed race children.

"We're making progress little by little."

Last year, President Barack Obama appointed Ward as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to help improve the APA community's health, education and economic status. In this role, he has used his celebrity status to inspire APA youth.

On March 21, he hopes to inspire "Dancing With The Stars" judges with a little of his razzle and dazzle. He's doing it for his mom too, who will be in the audience maybe even waving a Terrible Towel in honor of her son.

"She was a little shocked," said Ward about his mom's reaction to his "Dancing With The Stars" decision. "But she's been really supportive."

His game plan leading up to the first performance is simple, "Just be myself."

To prepare, Ward watched past episodes to soak up technique.

"Emmitt Smith and Warren Sapp were just having fun ... I want to take the same approach." ■

'The Slants' Fights to Trademark Their Name



By Pacific Citizen Staff

A Portland, Oregon-based Asian Pacific American dance rock band is battling the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office over the band's name: The Slants.

Saying the name may "disparage or falsely suggest a connection with persons ... or bring them into contempt, or disrepute," the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has denied the band's trademark request for the second time.

Band members say they have turned the word "slant," a long held racial slur against Asian Pacific Americans, on its head to create a source of ethnic pride and empowerment.

"Slant" is an outdated, generational term," said bassist Simon Young. "For us, and the other Asian Americans we've encountered, it is a positive statement of pride. We've had great success with it. Every week, we get e-mails and comments from Asian Pacific Islander youth who say that we help encourage them to be proud of and explore their heritage."

Formed in Portland, Oregon in 2006, the Slants — self-described as "Chinatown dance rock" — includes Young, vocalist Aron Moxley, guitarist Johnny Fontanilla and Tyler Chen on drums.

The band is appealing the Trademark Office's decision saying the APA community — not a governmental office — should decide if a word is disparaging.

"This battle is important to us because it's more than just about the band. It's fighting for the right for all underrepresented communities and groups to have the power to discern for themselves as to what is appropriate within their own social culture rather than a government entity that might have little, if any, connection with them at all," said Young.

Band members, currently on tour across the U.S., say they are active in the local APA community and have not encountered resistance on their name.

"I have met so many young fans who say that they were ashamed to identify as being Asian before they found The Slants," said Chen. "Our band and band name have become a rallying point for Asian American youth to finally feel safe to embrace their ethnic heritage!"

In a Feb. 17 statement the band quoted community activist Mari Watanabe defending the name.

"The name is being used in a self-referential manner, carrying a message that promotes Asian culture. This use does not disparage Asian identity; it celebrates it," she said.

The band's website also addresses the controversy of the name.

"Although we aren't a socio-political band, we do feel strongly that Asians should be proud of their cultural heritage, and not be offended by stereotypical descriptions. Stand proud, stand strong — it is why our strongest

support comes from the Asian community itself!" according to The Slants' website.

The use of the word, "slant," has been used without criticism in other instances and events, band members argue, including The Slant Film Festival in Houston, Texas and Jeff Adachi's 2006 documentary "The Slanted Screen" about racism in Hollywood.

The Trademark Office considered these examples and said The Slants' "arguments have been considered but are found unpersuasive," according to the band.

"With the way that laws are written, it's conceptually possible that a non-Asian band would have a better chance to get the name trademarked than us," said Young.

The Slants are working with their attorney to generate more support from the APA community and appeal the Trademark Office's decision. The Slants can still keep its name, but a federal trademark would "provide significant benefits, including access to the federal courts, nationwide protection, and, in certain cases of infringement, the possibility of attorney fee awards," said Spencer Trowbridge, the band's attorney.

"We want people to be informed as to what is happening, to show unilateral support from the API community, and to show the absurdity of the situation. I hope that the Trademark Office will see this and reconsider their decision," said Young. ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

City Establishes First Fred Korematsu Day



PASADENA, Calif. — City council members unanimously passed a resolution to recognize Jan. 30 as Fred Korematsu Day, making Pasadena the first city to pass such a resolution.

The city council passed the resolution Feb. 28. Champions of the cause included Connie Castro of the ACLU, Mark Furuya of the Japanese American Bar Association and Wendy Anderson of Southern California's Cherry Blossom Festival.

California's former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed on Sept. 23 the

statewide bill of the same matter.

Official: Riders Say NYC Bus Crash Driver Swerved

NEW YORK — Passengers and witnesses to a New York City crash that sheared the top off a bus and killed 14 people — who were mostly Asian Pacific American — told investigators that the driver's account was inaccurate.

They said the driver's account of getting clipped by a tractor-trailer didn't match up to what they felt and saw before the vehicle slid off the road and into a sign pole.

Driver Ophadell Williams had told police that his World Wide Tours bus was hit just as it crossed the New York City line early March 12 on a trip from the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut.

The bus was one of scores that travel daily between Chinatown, in Manhattan, and the Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun casinos in southeastern Connecticut.

Many of the passengers on the bus were Chinatown residents. They ranged in age from 20 to 50, officials said.

Jury Recommends Life for Former Gang Boss

LOS ANGELES — A jury has recommended life in prison instead of the death penalty for the former boss of a Los Angeles street gang, who was convicted of eight murders and 10 attempted murders.

The Superior Court jury made the recommendation on March 7 for 37-year-old Marvin Mercado. A judge will sentence him on March 30.

Prosecutors said Mercado led the Asian Boyz gang in the mid-1990s and was involved in several shootings in the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys.

Mercado fled the country and eluded authorities for more than 10 years before being arrested in the Philippines and brought back for prosecution.

Gambling Isn't Coming to Hawaii Anytime Soon

HONOLULU — All proposals to bring some form of gambling to Hawaii have busted out.

The legislation included ideas for a standalone casino in Waikiki, bingo on Hawaiian Home Lands, shipboard gambling, slot machines or a multistate lottery.

None cleared its committee before March 4, the deadline for non-budget bills to advance for a vote in their originating chamber.

Hawaii and Utah are the only states that don't allow any gambling.

Japanese Refurbish U.S. City's Friendship Doll

SPOKANE, Wash. — An exchange of "friendship dolls" with Japan more than 80 years ago has turned into an enduring tie for a Spokane museum.

The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture has a doll named Miss Tokushima that is one of 44 dolls still accounted for. They were created by Japanese artisans and sent to the United States in the 1920s in return for thousands of blue-eyed American dolls that were sent to Japanese children by a missionary.

Miss Tokushima recently returned to Spokane from an eight-month trip to Japanese museums where she was displayed with one of the American dolls named Alice. ■

Quinn Signs Chinatown Redistricting Legislation

By Associated Press

CHICAGO — A bill that protects minority groups and adds public input to the legislative redistricting process is law.

Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation March 7 that's designed to protect minority groups — defined by race or language — in districts where they might not have a majority

population.

The bill was pushed by Chicago's Chinatown leaders who say thousands of Asian voters in the area are divided into three state Senate districts, four state House districts and three congressional districts.

Consultant Theresa Mah of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community says that

dilutes voting power.

Redistricting is a politically charged process done once a decade based on U.S. Census numbers.

Data for 2010 is in lawmakers' hands.

The bill, which immediately takes effect, also requires statewide hearings on redistricting. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Goodwin Liu Fighting for Confirmation



Goodwin Liu, a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley, is going before the Senate Judiciary Committee for the second time to fill a vacancy on the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Liu was nominated to the same post last year, but failed to get a floor vote. President Barack Obama again nominated Liu, who again is going before the committee.

Republican Senators are using Liu's liberal speeches and academic writings to make the case that he is not fit for a lifetime appointment to the bench.

Liu has sterling credentials that earned him the highest rating from the American Bar Association and there have been no allegations of impropriety to disqualify him from serving.

UC Berkeley JA Women Group to Honor Alumna

Wendy Tokuda, an award-winning TV newscaster, will be keynoting the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley's (JAWAUCB) 21st annual luncheon April 9.

Tokuda is also an author of children's books, and co-founder of Students Rising Above, a non-profit organization dedicated to guiding and supporting low-income, first-generation college students through college.

Dr. Joyce N. Takahashi, UC Davis emeritus adjunct professor, will also be honored.

Manoa Scholarship Honors Retired Professor

The University of Hawaii at Manoa's architecture school has created a new scholarship in honor of former associate professor **Leighton Liu**, who retired last year after 40 years at the school.

The Leighton Liu Endowed Scholarship will support an outstanding second-year architecture student who demonstrates design excellence.

The scholarship was established with \$35,000 in donations from friends and alumni.

Liu started at the school as an instructor in 1971. Most recently, he served as supervisor of a workshop, uniting traditional hand and digital construction techniques.

Ng Leaving Dodgers to Join Torre with MLB



Kim Ng, vice president and assistant general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, has accepted the job of senior vice president for baseball operations at Major League Baseball. She will report to Joe Torre, the newly named executive vice president for baseball operations.

She said she hasn't abandoned hopes of becoming the first female general manager in baseball.

Ng, 42, was entering her 10th season with the Dodgers, and was the first woman

to interview for a general manager's job in 2005, when Ned Colletti got the position.

CAPAC Gets New Staff Members

New staff members have been named for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. **Gene F. Kim** has been named the executive director and **Andy Wong** the assistant and coordinator.

Kim spent the past two years working with a national network of APA elected officials as the director of communications and program development for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

Wong was formerly the founder and director of API Equality, a Chinese for Affirmative Action initiative to promote support for LGBT acceptance and equal rights in the APA community. ■

Choices Abound in S.F. Mayor's Race

Three Asian American candidates are vying for the top spot in a city where nearly one-third are Asian Americans.

By Robin Hindery
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—The race to become the next mayor of San Francisco has begun to take shape with a list of eight serious contenders that reads like a who's who of city politics.

The candidates vying to fill the vacancy left by Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom include three Asian American elected officials competing in a city that is nearly one-third Asian American but has never elected an Asian American mayor. The number of candidates is expected to grow in the months leading up to an Aug. 12 deadline.

Adding to the unpredictability, the Nov. 8 election also will be the first test of the city's ranked-choice voting system in a competitive mayor's race, and the first time mayoral candidates can take advantage of new public financing rules offering a hefty boost of taxpayer money to participants who surpass certain fundraising thresholds.

Political experts and campaign insiders say these factors will help keep some lesser-known hopefuls competitive and encourage a shift away from cutthroat campaigning by rewarding candidates who form strategic alliances.

"San Francisco politics is somewhat of a blood sport, but this mayor's race is going to show the culture starting to turn," said Steven Hill, a political reform advocate who ran the successful



San Francisco's interim mayor Edwin Lee has inspired other Asian Americans to seek the city's highest office.

citywide campaign for ranked-choice voting in 2002. "You win by finding common ground with opponents and building coalitions, and you don't win by getting into a 'me-against-you' situation."

Though San Francisco is home to the largest percentage of Asian Americans of any county in the continental U.S., it never had an Asian American leader until Edwin Lee was appointed interim mayor in January. The appointment energized the Asian American community, and turnout in November is expected to be high.

Some observers predict the three Asian American candidates — state Sen. Leland Yee, Board of Supervisors President David Chiu and Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting — may form their own slate on the ballot, whether they intend to or not.

"It is likely that the three Asian American candidates will split the vote on the first counting of rank-choice voting, but the candidate who can skillfully garner the second and third preferences from

Asian American and other voters throughout the city will prevail," said Don Nakanishi, director emeritus of the UCLA Asian Studies Center.

The structure of ranked-choice voting will help ensure that Yee, Chiu and Ting don't cancel each other out as they compete for that powerful voting bloc, said Jim Stearns, Yee's campaign consultant.

"Now, multiple candidates from the same community can inspire additional commitment, enthusiasm and turnout in that community, and ultimately benefit the top vote-getter with the second- and third-place votes of the other candidates," he said.

The math could get more complicated if Lee yields to mounting outside pressure and decides to try to hold on to his position.

He has so far insisted he's not interested in staying beyond his interim term and instead hopes to resume his former role as city administrator. ■

Hawaii's Daniel Akaka Decides Against 2012 Run

By Mark Niese
Associated Press

HONOLULU—With a tiny campaign war chest and indications that powerful Democrats wouldn't support a re-election bid, Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii announced he would step down after his term expires next year.

The 86-year-old Democrat — the only U.S. senator of Native Hawaiian or Chinese ancestry — has become the seventh senator to recently decide against running in 2012.

"It was a very difficult decision for me," he said in a statement. "However, I feel that the end of this Congress is the right time for me to step aside."

Akaka, the third-oldest member

of the Senate, previously said he intended to run again. But his campaign account had just \$66,000 in cash on hand at the end of 2010, far short of the amount he'd likely need to organize and mount a successful run at another term.

Democrats hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, including two independents who side with them. But they must defend 21 of the 33 seats on the ballot next year, and face a struggle to retain control.

Former Republican Gov. Linda Lingle, who left office in December, has said she would consider a campaign for the seat, and former U.S. Rep. Charles Djou, who lost re-election in November, also has been mentioned as a possible GOP candidate.

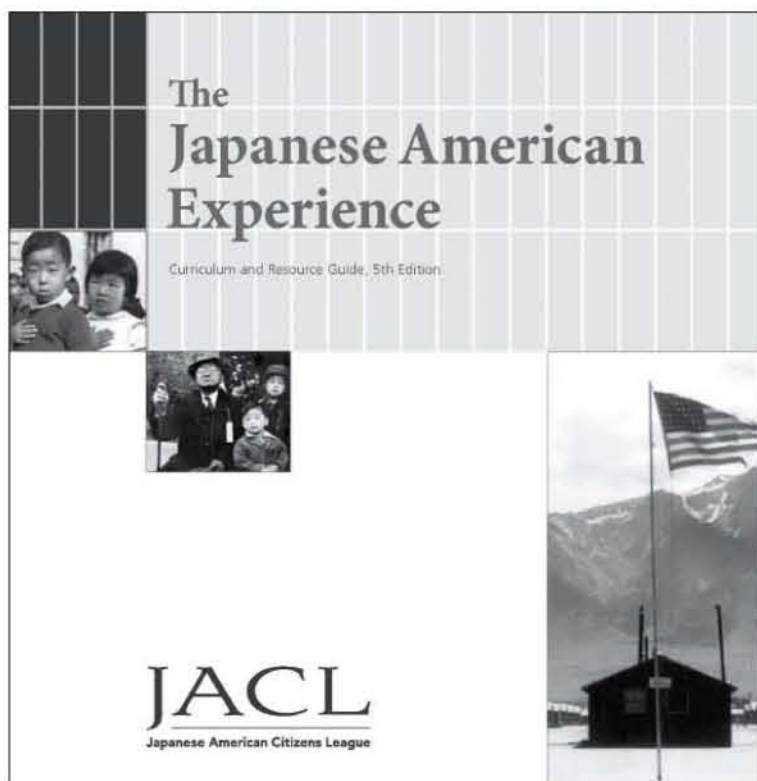
Sen. Patty Murray, chair of the

Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), said Akaka would be missed. But she added that Democrats will "absolutely" keep the seat.

"With a heavily leaning Democratic electorate and their native son up for re-election as president of the United States, we are confident the people of Hawaii will continue to have two Democrats serving them in the United States Senate," she said.

Akaka suffered a major defeat in December when he failed to get a full Senate vote on legislation granting Native Hawaiians the right to form their own government. The measure, known as the Akaka bill, had been the senator's priority for the last 11 years, but its progress has stalled indefinitely. ■

Revised JACL Curriculum Guide is Now Available



JACL has released the fifth edition of its acclaimed curriculum guide on the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Entitled "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience," the guide has been an important resource for teachers and educators in promoting a greater public understanding of the tragic wartime treatment of JAs.

A new section on the post-Sept. 11th experience of Arab and Muslim Americans has been added to the curriculum guide. This new section draws parallels between the aftermath of Sept. 11th and the impact that the Pearl Harbor attack had on the JA community.

The new chapter also contains a summary of other historic events where civil liberties were compromised including the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, the assault on *habeas corpus* rights during the Civil War, the Red Scare and Palmer Raids in 1919.

The curriculum guide also provides a chronology of important dates in JA history and lesson plans for teachers, including new activities related to the incarceration and the Constitution. ■

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Available for \$25/copy plus shipping from the JACL headquarters or the JACL Midwest office. For JACL chapters and educators, the guides are \$10/copy plus shipping.

For more information:
JACL Midwest office
at 773/728.7170 or
Midwest@jacl.org



442nd RCT veterans were recognized and honored at the Wisconsin JACL inaugural luncheon. (L-r) Sus Musashi, Lt. Aaron Greisen, Tom Suyama, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, and Bill Yoshino.

Wisconsin JACL Honors Its Own

At its inauguration luncheon, the Wisconsin JACL honored local heroes and future Congressional Gold Medal recipients Tom Suyama and Sus Musashi of the famed World War II 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

At the event, Aaron Greisen, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Wisconsin National Guard, talked about the Congressional Gold Medal bill, which collectively honors members of the 442nd, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service.

New chapter officers were also sworn in by Sharon Ishii-Jordan, JACL Midwest district governor.

Members of the Wisconsin JACL board for 2011-

12 are: Lynette Jarreau, Masaru Danshita, Margaret Igowsky, Nancy Jonokuchi, Irene Bridgeford, Carole Shiraga, Dave Suyama, Bill Suyama and Sherri Fujihira.

Three members received Silver Pin awards — Masaru Danshita, Kevin Miyazaki and Irene Bridgeford — for 10 or more years of service.

Carole Shiraga was recognized for her years of volunteer service and being inducted into the Holiday Folk Fair Wall of Fame.

The member of the year award went to Marty Suyama. ■

JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference Applications Available

Applications are being accepted for the JACL Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference on June 9-12. Sponsored by the UPS Foundation, this intensive three-day leadership development program introduces Asian Pacific American student leaders to the national policy-making arena.

The application deadline is May 6.

Eligibility is limited to APA students who are full-time college freshman, sophomore or junior students attending an accredited college or university.

Participants will be briefed on legislative issues affecting the APA community and examine the role APA civil rights organizations play in affecting public policy. Participants will also have the chance to meet and work with student leaders who represent colleges and universities throughout the country, learn ways to effectively address issues and

create positive social change on their own campuses.

Last year, 14 students from across the country met with a diverse group of APA leaders from various fields, including Frank Wu, dean of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law; Bruce Yamashita, who led a successful legal case against the U.S. Marines Corps for racial discrimination; and U.S. Rep. Mike Honda.

Representatives from leading APA and civil rights organizations including Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP), South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) briefed participants

on public policy issues affecting the APA community by representatives. ■

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

June 9-12 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Washington, D.C.

To download the application: www.jacl.org
For more information:
Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director
at 773/728-7170 or
midwest@jacl.org

JACL Accepting Masaoka Fellowship Applications

The popular program will place the fellow in a Washington congressional office.

JACL is now accepting applications for the 2011 JACL Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship. The 2010 Masaoka Fellow, Mike Misha Tsukerman, is currently serving in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.

"We encourage young members of the JACL who are college graduates to apply for this fellowship which offers a unique experience in the nation's capital," said National JACL President David Kawamoto.

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

field executive, national legislative director of the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the JACL Washington, D.C. representative.

For a period of six to eight months, JACL Masaoka fellows are placed in the Washington, D.C. congressional offices of members of the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives.

The fellowship develops leaders for public service.

Information and applications can be found on the JACL website: www.jacl.org.

Applications are due May 2 and should be submitted to the JACL Washington, D.C. office via e-mail to: policy@jacl.org.

The announcement of the selected fellow is expected to be made by June 15. ■

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Young Nisei students at Manzanar High School strived for normalcy. Pictured here are members of the Manzanar High girls' league.

Manzanar High School Reunion Set for August

The Manzanar High School reunion will be held Aug. 8-10 at the California Hotel in Las Vegas.

Former Manzanar High School students as well as those interested in the history of Manzanar are encouraged to attend. Buses will leave from Los Angeles, Gardena, Venice and the San Fernando Valley.

Event highlights include a tribute to William Hohri, Manzanar School class of 1944 and lead plaintiff in the National Council for Japanese American Redress class action lawsuit, who passed away in November at the age of 83.

Artists Margaret Chula and Cathy Erickson will also discuss their book, "What Remains, Japanese Americans in Internment Camps." The book features poetry by Chula and representations of quilts created by Erickson inspired by the

lives of Japanese Americans who were falsely imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II.

Manzanar committee members are: Grace Anderson, Grace Deguchi, Cabby Iwasaki, Rosie Kakuuchi, Ray Kawahara, Toshiko Kubota, Shig Kuwahara, Kats Marumoto, Henry Nakano, Dorothy Oda, Joe Ozaki, Kanji Sahara, Wilbur Sato, Jane Tochi, Cherry Uyeda and Seigo Yoshinaga.

FOR RESERVATIONS

Grace Anderson 818/889-4291 or
grace.oda.anderson@gmail.com

For more information:

Cherry Uyeda 818/981-2629;
Henry Nakano 714/871-8178; or
Kanji Sahara 310/539-3733 or
saharakanji@gmail.com

Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for Apr. 30

"Champions of Civil Rights" is the theme for the 42nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 30, sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee.

The pilgrimage will start at noon at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles.

Each year, over a thousand people from diverse backgrounds attend the pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust imprisonment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans in 10 American concentration camps. Manzanar was the first of these camps to be established.

This year's speaker will be Alisa Lynch, chief of interpretation, Manzanar National Historic Site, now in her 10th year of service at Manzanar.

The afternoon program, held at the Manzanar cemetery site, will begin with a performance by UCLA Kyodo Taiko. The program will conclude with the traditional interfaith service and *ondo* dancing, led this year by the UCLA Nikkei Student Union's *odori* dance group.

The pilgrimage continues that evening with the popular Manzanar At Dusk (MAD) program from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium.

MAD participants will have the

opportunity to interact with former internees to hear their personal stories and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues. MAD is co-sponsored by the Lone Pine Unified School District, Lone Pine High School, and the UCLA Nikkei Student Union.

The Manzanar Committee also announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles.

Bus reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For information or to make a reservation, call 323/662-5102 or 42ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org

The non-refundable fare is \$40 per seat. Pilgrimage participants should bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Water will be provided at the site. ■

MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

APRIL 30

Daytime program and Manzanar At Dusk, free and open to public

For more information:

323/662-5102 or
42ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org

Manzanar Committee's official blog:
<http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org>

Willamette University to Honor JA Students Incarcerated During WWII

Willamette University will dedicate a

bench, stone and plaque to 10 Japanese American students who were incarcerated during World War II.

The university's President M. Lee Pelton will be on hand to make the dedication.

The ceremony will take place April 1 at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Mark O. Hatfield Library, along Mill Creek and near the flowering cherry tree sheltering the commemorative bench.

Participants will include United Methodist Church bishop Robert Hoshibata and Dean Nakanishi, Willamette alumnus and Seattle-area teacher whose research project documented the

Following the dedication, a free concert in Rogers Music Center will feature Oregon's fifth poet-laureate, Lawson Inada, and the multi-generational Minidoka Swing Band, including vocalists Hank Sakamoto and Nola Bogle.

All 10 students forced to leave Willamette for government camps were American citizens complying with Executive Order 9066.

In 1981, a congressional commission called the act a "grave injustice" and concluded that the order was a result of "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." ■

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

April 1

1:30 p.m.

Mark O. Hatfield

Library

Lawson Inada and the Minidoka Swing Band will perform a free concert after the ceremony.



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June 20-30	Yamato Summer Tour to Japan - 11 days/9 nights visiting Tokyo, Takayama, Nagoya, Hiroshima/Miyajima and Kyoto.	Peggy Mikuni
July 8-13	Yamato Boston & New York by Rail Tour - 6 days/5 nights visiting highlights in Boston as well as visiting Concord & Lexington and New York City sites.	Philippe Theriault
July 8-19	Crystal Cruise Inside Passage Discovery - 13 days/12 nights aboard Crystal Symphony, roundtrip from San Francisco, sailing to Victoria (BC), Sitka, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan.	Sharon Seto
September 13-19 <i>NEW DATES</i>	South Dakota, The Black Hills & Badlands with Collette Vacations - 7 days/6 nights, featuring a one hotel stay in Rapid City for the 6 nights, visiting Keystone, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer, Deadwood, Pine Ridge and Badlands.	Sharon Seto
Sep. 26-Oct. 5	Yamato Eastern Canada Fall Foliage Tour - 10 days/9 nights visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton.	Philippe Theriault
Oct. 1-13	Route 66 with Balloon Fiesta with Trafalgar Tours - 13 days/12 nights visiting Chicago, St. Louis, Branson, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Albuquerque (Balloon Fiesta), Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Los Angeles.	Sharon Seto
October 17-26	Yamato Korean Drama Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Seoul, Mt. Seorakson, Gyeongju, Jeju Island, DMZ.	Grace Sakamoto
October 17-31	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto, Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
Oct. 31-Nov. 14	Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations - 15 days/12 nights visiting Cairns (Great Barrier Reef) & Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Mt. Cook Nat'l Park, Queenstown, & Milford Sound, New Zealand.	Collette Escort
Nov. 13-21	The Heart of Texas with Collette Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting Austin, San Antonio, Bandera (dude ranch) and Fort Worth.	Sharon Seto
December 3-12	Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.	Philippe Theriault

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The 28th Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival
CUPERTINO, CA
April 30 and May 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cupertino Memorial Park
Stevens Creek Blvd

Come and enjoy the 28th Annual Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival where there will be delicious Japanese and American food, outdoor entertainment by taiko drum groups, classical Japanese dancers, martial art schools and musical groups, large koi fish display and more!

Info: www.cupertinoyokawa.org, or call 408/940-5287

EAST

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 JAVA.
Info: Cliff Akiyama 265/235-9426 or Scott Nakamura 610/265-5434

The Premiere of Kashu-Juku

Noh Theater
TOWSON, MD
March 19, 8 p.m.
Stephens Hall Theatre
8000 York Rd
Cost: \$15/Presale; \$20/at the door

Encounter the unique theater form developed and preserved since the 14th century! Kyoto-based Kashu-Juku Noh Theater is led by Katayama Shingo of the Katayama Noh family. Kashu-Juku will perform noh and kyogen plays (in Japanese with English subtitles).
Info: Call 410/704-2787 or visit www.tuboxoffice.com

IDC

The 'Testament to Topaz' Art Exhibit

SALT LAKE CITY, UT
March 18 to April 2
Pioneer Theatre Company
300 S. 1400 E.

In a special collaboration with the Topaz Museum, Pioneer Theatre Company's Loge Gallery will present "Testament to Topaz," a collection of internees' art from the Topaz Internment Camp. The exhibit will run in conjunction with PTC's production of the play "The Diary of Anne Frank." Admission is free.

Info: Call 801/581-6961

NCWNP

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

California of the Past: Stories of Japanese American Internment
SAN LEANDRO, CA
April 10, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

San Leandro Main Library
300 Estudillo Ave.

San Leandro Library presents a screening of "California of the Past," digital stories of Japanese American internment during WWII. Included are stories of relocation, a young girl's experience as a nurse's aide, a son's memory of his father's carvings in camp, stories by cartoonist Jack Matsuoka, Kathryn and Karen Korematsu about Fred T. Korematsu. Reception to follow presentation.

Info: Call 510/577-3991 or e-mail asilveira@sanleandro.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

Sharon Inahara Art Exhibit Opening
CORVALLIS, OR
April 4 to 8

Fairbanks Gallery
220 SW 26th St.
Artist and photo stylist Sharon Inahara will exhibit eight large painted and silkscreened canvases with compelling quotes pertaining to the incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese American citizens during WWII. This series also acknowledges the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion.
Info: Call 541/737-5009

PSW

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

Poston Camp III Reunion
LAS VEGAS, NV
April 25 to 27
Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino

129 E. Fremont St.
Come to the 15th annual Poston Camp III reunion where the atmosphere will be casual and low-key with an emphasis on renewing old friendships and sharing memories. Chartered bus rides are available by calling Sammy Nakagawa at 559/638-9510 (Central California), Babe Karasawa at 562/947-1146 (Los Angeles) or Michi Himaka at 619/660-9865 (San Diego).
Info: To register contact Wendy Tsutsumi at 408/259-8285.

Shen Yun Performing Arts Performance
PASADENA
April 28 to 29, 7:30 p.m. and April 30, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Civic Auditorium
300 E. Green St.
This performance brings together

storytelling and choreography featuring both Chinese and Western instruments. Shen Yun Performing Arts has achieved tremendous growth in popularity since its founding five years ago. Performances are also scheduled in Orange County.
Info: Call 800/880-0188 or visit www.ticketmaster.com

A Lecture on Japanese Folktales
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 22, 6:30 p.m.
The Nibei Foundation
11570 Olympic Blvd.
Cost: \$10/ General admission
Author and illustrator Sunny Seki of the San Gabriel Valley will lecture about Japanese folktales through illustrations. Through this seminar, you will rediscover Japanese folktales as they bring back a time and heritage that has almost vanished. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m.
Info: Call (310) 479-6101 ext 134 or e-mail japanstudies@nibel.org

A Reading of 'The Last of the Nisei Cougars'
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 27, 1 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
369 E. First St.
Fifty-year-old Nisei widow Sashi Hirano hasn't been with a man since her husband passed away 30 years ago. Then a 19-year-old Korean adoptee Dennis Johnson unexpectedly enters her world. This new comedy, written by Philip W. Chung and directed by Jeff Liu, is about finding love at any age.
Info: Call 213/625-0414 or visit www.janm.org

MIDWEST

Roger Shimomura Art Auction
LAWRENCE, KS
March 17 to April 9, 5:30 p.m.
Lawrence Arts Center
940 New Hampshire St.
Cost: \$40/ Presale; \$50/At the door
This exhibition will feature original art from approximately 150 artists, including featured artist Roger Shimomura. His paintings, prints, and theatre pieces address sociopolitical issues of Asian America and have often been inspired by diaries kept by his late immigrant grandmother. The live auction begins at 7:30 p.m.
Info: Call 785/843-2787 or visit www.lawrenceartscenter.org

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Yonamine, 'Nisei Jackie Robinson,' Dies at 85

By Jaymes Song
AP Sports Writer

HONOLULU—Wally Kaname Yonamine, the first American to play professional baseball in Japan after WWII and a former running back with the San Francisco 49ers, has died. He was 85.

His son, Paul Yonamine, told *The Associated Press* that the two-sport standout died Feb. 28 at a Honolulu retirement home after a bout with prostate cancer.

"Most people remember him for his accomplishments on the diamond, but our family, we have a great deal of respect for him for what he's done off the diamond," Paul Yonamine said.

The outfielder was known as the "Nisei Jackie Robinson" for breaking into Japanese baseball and building ties between the countries in a highly sensitive period after World War II. Facing a language barrier, he was sometimes met with hostility, including rock throwing, for being an American and his aggressive style of play.

The Maui-born Yonamine played professional football for the 49ers in their second season in 1947, three years before the team joined the NFL. It was a time when many Bay Area residents of Japanese descent were returning



PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLY YONAMINE FOUNDATION

Wally Yonamine made a name for himself in Japanese baseball, making the All-Star squad seven times.

home after being incarcerated in internment camps during WWII.

Yonamine, who inked a two-year deal worth \$14,000, is believed to be the first player of Japanese ancestry to play professional football. But he was released after one season after hurting his wrist while playing baseball in the offseason.

In Japan, Yonamine played for the Yomiuri Giants and the Chunichi Dragons, helping transform how the game was played in Japan where it was a more passive style of game then, with no players sliding hard into

second to break up a double play like Yonamine did in his first game to the shock of the fans.

With a .311 career batting average, the seven-time All-Star won three batting titles and was the 1957 Central League MVP before serving decades as a manager and being inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1994.

After baseball, Yonamine and his family ran successful pearl stores in Tokyo and the Los Angeles area.

Yonamine is survived by his wife Jane; daughters Amy Roper and Wallis Yamamoto; and son Paul. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Furumizo, George Tsuyoshi, 85, Ewa Beach, HI; Feb. 18; he was a retired United Airlines airframe and powerplant mechanic; he was also an Army veteran; survived by wife, Dolores "Dee"; sons, Glen and Dave; 1 gc.

Hashimoto, Harry Haruki, 86, Koloa, Kauai; Feb. 13; a Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Yayoi Y.; sons, Harlan and Ross; daughter, Nan Starling; brothers, Jerry, Wilson and Stan; sisters, Ruth Cofer, Carol Chiba and Karen Ibara; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

Higa, James Jensei, 86, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 23; he was an Army veteran; survived by wife, Yoshiko; son, Wendell M.; daughters, Natalie A. Yabusaki and Jamie M. Lee; brothers, Zensuke, Robert, George, Richard, Ronald, Harry and Michael; sisters, Alice Howe, Mabel Higa, Lorene Ono; 9 gc.

Hinazumi, Ann Nobue, 86, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 14; she was a homemaker; survived by husband, Shigeru; sons, Jay, Ross and Dean; daughter, Kate Takahashi; sisters, Masako, Lynette and Lucille Takemoto, Jean Yanaga, Takako Miura, Lillie Tsuchiya and

Elaine Burkhart; 4 gc.

Okada, Mitsuto, 81, West Covina, CA; Feb. 25; he was a Korean War veteran; survived by his wife, Kiyoko Okada; children, Warren Tetsuji (Karen); Mae Mineko (Ed) Tsuji; sisters, Kozue Kubo, Sueko Ueda and Akie Kawano; many nieces and nephews; 2 gc.

Murase Masataka, Andrew, 20, Feb. 21; survived by his mother and father, Cheryl Murase and Daryl Sadakane; a celebration of his life was held on Feb. 26.

Siu, Fred Choy Kwai, 86,



San Francisco, CA; March 10; he was a World War II veteran; survived by his wife, Amelia; daughter, Christine; son, Victor; daughter-in-law, Susie; daughter, Pauline; 1 gc.

Taiji, Fujiko, 78, Montebello, CA;

Feb. 26; survived by daughters, Patricia (Robert) Wendorf and Debra (Kevin) Quock; many nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

Takaya, Roy Katashi, 89,



Camarillo, CA; Feb. 25; during World War II, his family was sent to Amache camp; he ministered at Bethany Congregational Church, the Union Church of L.A. and the Japanese American Christian Chapel; after marrying his wife, Miyeko, in 1949 they served Free Methodist churches.

Yamaki, Martha, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 21; she was a long-time community activist; in 1981 she was appointed to the Rent Adjustment Commission; survived by husband, Ken; sons, Michael and Clifford; daughters, RoseMary and June; sister, Mary Jane Roalizo; nieces and nephews; 4 gc. ■

TRIBUTE

Kazuko Oda

March 4, 2011



Age 92, passed away peacefully in her sleep at home in Berkeley, California on Friday, March 4, 2011. She is survived by her sister Teruko Inouye; brother Nike (Grace) Mitsui; sons, Gary (Judy) Oda, Dennis Oda, Edward (Lois) Oda; daughters Janet (Tom) Sonoda, Caroline (Lester) Ouchida; grandchildren, Russell (Hsiao-Wei) Ouchida, Joanne (David) Sonoda-Yu, Ryan Ouchida, Allison Sonoda, Colleen Oda, Roger (Valerie) Oda, Michael (Mariel) Sonoda, Kevin Oda, Lindsay Oda; great-grandchildren Jordan Yu and Kara Yu. She was preceded in death by husband, Masami "Sam" Oda by almost exactly one year.

In 1945, Kazuko and Sam and four of their children relocated from the Topaz Utah Japanese American Internment Camp to Berkeley. They raised their family in the same house built for the Oda family in 1922. She retired as Thousand Oaks Elementary School cook in Berkeley, California. She was a member of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and Contra Costa JACL. Kazuko was a gentle, kind, empathetic and generous person who will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 2 p.m. at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, California 94704.

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JACL/OCA Leadership Summit Focuses on Anti-Bullying



Participants of the 2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit discussed anti-bullying issues and leadership development at the March 5-8 event in Washington, D.C.

As the theme and main policy area of focus, anti-bullying issues were discussed in a panel led by Michael Lieberman, of the Anti-Defamation League; Mou Khan, of South Asian Americans Leading Together; and Amy Berman, of the Department of Justice.

Participants also met with Congressional staffers to present their policy agendas on anti-bullying legislation.

Sponsored by State Farm, the three-day leadership summit brings together 30 participants from the JACL and OCA to take part in intensive training in Washington, D.C. Designed to introduce participants to the political process and enhance leadership skills, the summit provides participants with the opportunity to meet with Asian Pacific American leaders in Congress, the administration, as well as partners from the Washington, D.C. social justice community.

Other highlights included attending a briefing with

Reps. Mazie Hirono, Eni Faleomavaega, Madeleine Z. Bardallo, Colleen Hanabusa, and key staff members from Sen. Harry Reid's and Rep. Mike Honda's offices.

State Farm awarded \$35,000 to the JACL for the 2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit.

This year's participants were: CCDC: Leslie Hamamoto and Jody Hironaka-Juteau; EDC: Mari Masuko and Kazuo Uyebara; IDC: Jinny Kim and Jennifer Ungvichian; MDC: Michio Murakishi; NCWNP: Alan Teruya and Devin Yoshikawa; PNW: Mariko Newton, Linda Tanaka, and Mackenzie Walker; PSW: Kathryn Hirayanagi. Additionally, Harry Budisidharta, who is the JACL Mile Hi chapter president in Denver, attended as an OCA representative.

"As a past participant of the Washington, D.C. Leadership Summit, I know firsthand how valuable the State Farm program is in energizing and motivating our community's leaders," said David Kawamoto, JACL national president. "This program would not be possible without the continued support of State Farm. The JACL is so appreciative of having State Farm as our community partner." ■



(L-r) Terry Shima, Dr. Norman Ikari, Jake Shimabukuro, Grant Ichikawa and Kyoko Ikari.

Shimabukuro, Ukulele Musician, Recognizes Nisei Veterans

Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro paid tribute to World War II Nisei veterans with his Feb. 8 performance at the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria, Virginia.

At the evening program entitled, "Go For Broke," the Honolulu native, who said he is a great supporter of the WWII heroes, performed the "Go For Broke Song" in front of a sold-out audience.

Shimabukuro's introduction of WWII veterans Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Dr. Norman Ikari (442nd Regimental Combat Team) and Terry Shima (442nd RCT) resulted in a prolonged standing ovation.

Shimabukuro, 35, is a fifth generation Japanese American who recently performed for Queen Elizabeth. ■

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