RECOVERY IN JAPAN

HELPING THE HELPLESS
JACL, Japanese Americans step up fundraising efforts.

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Casinos target Asian Americans.

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Father-daughter duo on "The Biggest Loser."

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Don't Forget About Books

In regards to the Pacific Citizen article “Cultural Disconnect Among Japanese American Youth” in the March 4-17 issue, I would like to remind your readers that there is another way to learn about Japanese American history besides learning it in school and talking to your elders. It's called “books.”

The titles range from books appropriate for small children to young adults and adults to books by historians to the report of the Commission on “Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians,” as well as oral histories and books of photographs. Books make nice graduation gifts, too.

J. DEGUZMAN
San Fernando Valley JACL Board Member

JON I. TAKATA
Thornton, Colorado

Civil Discourse on Immigration

While I welcome a vigorous debate on immigration, I also feel that we should be committed to a civil discourse informed by thorough research and evidence (“Ariz. Immigration” letter, March 4-17).

Federal social services require citizenship. Moreover, we must remember that immigrants—sanctioned and undocumented—are significant contributors to our economy. They are consumers, and thus pay taxes, and toil in some of the most grueling, unsafe jobs with little to no avenues for social mobility.

Our economy, unfortunately, is dependent upon maintaining an underground and exploited labor market. I am proud that the JACL has taken a courageous stance on immigration reform and is fighting against demonization of all immigrants.

J. DEGUZMAN
San Fernando Valley JACL Board Member

Payback Comments are Distasteful

These comments, especially in regards to the Pearl Harbor attack, are because of fear and lack of information (“Amid Rescue Efforts in Quake-hit Japan, Racist Comments are Rampant on the Web”, Pacific Citizen, March 18-31).

I personally overheard a person say, “Japan’s a rich country—let them just help themselves!” shortly after the earthquake and tsunami.

Franklin Roosevelt was an active participant in the events leading up to Pearl Harbor.

In the book “Day of Deceit” by Robert B. Stinnett, many of the attacks leading up to the attack are clearly defined. The attack was really not a surprise—not to Roosevelt anyway—and this should be known to all.

Comments such as “payback” are not right.

JON I. TAKATA
Thornton, Colorado

SPRING CAMPAIGN

Warm Spring Thoughts

As I sit at my desk writing during the last week of March, I see freshly fallen snow on the ground outside my window. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I live, spring can arrive painfully late.

I am a product of the Midwest, and my life here is a result of Japanese American history, as my father’s family chose to settle in the Midwest after the war, rather than return to their former home and life in Tacoma, Washington. My mother arrived later from her native Hawaii, and for some reason found the aforementioned weather agreeable enough to stay for the past 56 years.

Milwaukee is not unlike other cities away from the West Coast, in that our JA community is a small one, and our JACL chapter is shrinking as our Nisei members age. On a recent trip to California, I was reminded

JACL MEMBERS

Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to: National JACL 1765 Sutter St. San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicity in your change of address (USPS Form 3575).
American donors have dipped into their pockets to help those in need following the devastating earthquake that struck Japan.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Fundraising efforts for Japan have revved up nationwide as the nuclear crisis in the country intensifies. Donations from American donors for the Japan earthquake and tsunami disasters totaled over $161 million on March 25, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

American Red Cross has raised about two-thirds of the total donations collected. The surge in donations comes two weeks after a 9.0 earthquake struck Japan, which generated a tsunami. To date about 10,668 are reported dead and some 16,574 people are missing, according to Japanese police.

The inundation of news coverage on the tragedy is overwhelming to some Japanese residents. "I barely want to watch the news due to the sadness of the tragedy," said 34-year-old Kumi Sone Mendoza, a Japanese American living in Tokyo. "Every day since the quake I read the news and my heart is breaking."

The sadness of the tragedy is overwhelming to some Japanese residents. "I barely want to watch the news due to the sadness of the tragedy," said 34-year-old Kumi Sone Mendoza, a Japanese American living in Tokyo. "Every day since the quake I read the news and my heart is breaking."

Making recovery efforts more complicated is the developing nuclear disaster in Japan that seems to worsen by the day. The stage is set for a nuclear plant in Japan that seems to worsen by the day. The stage is set for a nuclear plant in Japan that seems to worsen by the day.

The JUSA joined forces with other student organizations for a three-day event to raise funds for the disaster in Japan. A total of $8,000 was raised and 2,000 paper cranes were made in an effort to help.

Members of the Olympia JACL chapter in Washington state held two events to also raise awareness about the recent devastation in Japan.

"This has a huge impact for us as Japanese Americans simply because Japan is part of our heritage, ancestral, and cultural awareness that we recognize and are very proud of," said Bob Nakamura, the president of the Olympia JACL. Nakamura says over $1,200 was raised, which will go to Direct Relief International.

The JACL partnered with Direct Relief International to create the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund. Direct Relief International as of March 24 raised more than $1.9 million.

"The immediate need is cash in order to purchase the needed supplies," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We looked a little bit further to determine what supplies they were sending and who they were helping. Their target has been the disabled and elderly and they have supplied fuel, personal items, food, and blankets."

Fears and anxiety over the crippled nuclear plant in Japan are now spreading across the world as other countries report finding traces of radiation.

"I think it’s far less serious than Chernobyl," said Naj Meshkati, a nuclear power plant safety expert at the University of Southern California, on March 23. "Because in the case of Chernobyl that started with an explosion of the reactor. Then there was no containment dome to keep the radioactive material inside. In this case the reactors have not exploded, thank God."

The 1986 accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine is considered the worst nuclear plant disaster in history.

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Students at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, Calif. will hit the stage on April 1 to perform in hopes of raising funds for Japan.

"The students and I wanted to take the opportunity to find a way in helping. What better way to help them than to provide music for a fundraiser," said Charles Gray, band director.

Fundraising efforts continue nationwide as fears of contaminated tap water swirl in Japan. The news sent Japanese residents to the stores and vending machines in search of bottled water.

"Unfortunately I followed the Chernobyl accident and I was very disappointed with the international community’s response to that and everything."

Radioactive water seeped into two workers' boots and burned their legs at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant on March 24. Nuclear experts say power plant workers are putting their lives at risk by saving the plant.

Some say this nuclear accident is more than one country can handle and the international community needs to step in to help.

"Where is the international atomic agency in this situation?" Meshkati said. "Unfortunately I followed the Chernobyl accident and I was very disappointed with the international community’s response to that and everything."

"In this situation we see international atomic agencies really missing in action here."

(Top) A mother feeds her baby at an evacuation center in Yamagata March 24. Hundreds of thousands remain homeless, squeezed into temporary shelters without heat, warm food or medicine and no idea what to call home.

In Little Tokyo (left), Japanese Americans step up fundraising efforts for earthquake and tsunami victims.
The Japanese Americans of the Jet Age

To compete with Japan Airlines, Pan American World Airways in the early 1950s amassed a fleet of jets and hired Japanese American "Nisei stewardesses."

By Helen J. Ke
Reporter

Former Nisei stewardess Moe Takeda (photographed here in 1959) sits in the engine of a Pan American airplane that had been diverted in Osaka, Japan during a snowstorm.

The Nisei stewardesses, as they were known, were part of a tradition that began in 1955 when Pan American World Airways, the first American airline to fly to Japan, recruited Japanese American Nisei flight attendants to fly on their new flights to Japan.

At the time, Pan American was the only American airline that flew to Japan, and the decision to hire Nisei stewardesses was seen as a way to attract Japanese travelers to the airline.

The Nisei stewardesses were a mix of Japanese Americans who had grown up in Japan and those who had grown up in the United States. They were chosen for their ability to speak Japanese and communicate with Japanese travelers.

The Nisei stewardesses were often described as being aloof and formal, but they were also known for their efficiency and professionalism.

The job of a Nisei stewardess was not an easy one. They had to deal with language barriers, cultural differences, and the high expectations of Japanese travelers.

Despite these challenges, the Nisei stewardesses were a success, and they helped to make Pan American a popular choice among Japanese travelers.

Today, the Nisei stewardesses are remembered as an important part of Pan American's history and as a reminder of the contributions that Japanese Americans have made to the airline industry.
Asian Americans Aim for ‘Ya es hora’-Style Citizenship

By Amy Taxin
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Inspired by a highly publicized Latino naturalization drive, Asian Americans are fanning out to help immigrants across California — and eventually the country — become U.S. citizens.

Asian American advocates say getting more immigrants to naturalize is crucial to flex the political muscle of the state’s fastest-growing ethnic group and give the community a louder voice. And it has become even more pressing since the country ramped up immigration enforcement, making citizenship a requirement to get more government contracts and to avoid deportation if convicted of a crime.

The task is daunting. In California — home to a third of the country’s Asian population — dozens of languages are spoken, in addition to dozens of dialects, and myriad often-competing Asian-language media outlets reach diverse segments.

“The task is daunting. In California — home to a third of the country’s Asian population — dozens of languages are spoken, in addition to dozens of dialects, and myriad often-competing Asian-language media outlets reach diverse segments.”

“Everything we have to do is multiple in terms of the amount of resources and effort,” said Karen Wang, vice president of programs at the Los Angeles-based Asian Pacific American Legal Center, which is spearheading the drive.

The campaign — which started last week with a workshop in the San Gabriel Valley’s sizable Chinese and Vietnamese communities — is modeled after the “Ya es hora” citizenship campaign launched by a close-knit partnership between community groups, Spanish-language media giant Univision and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Wang said she has often fielded questions about why AA advocates can’t mount a similar campaign, which led her group to draft a plan to create a naturalization network.

Under the program, AA advocates will host six large-scale workshops across California to offer free assistance in multiple languages filling out naturalization forms.

California is home to about 5 million Asians who account for about 13 percent of the state’s population.

Advocates hope to eventually expand the effort to other states with large Asian communities such as Texas, Georgia, Nevada and Ohio, said Karen Narasaki, president of the Washington-based Asian American Justice Center, an APALC affiliate.

Asian immigrants are already more likely to naturalize than Latinos and more than 60 percent become U.S. citizens within a decade of getting a green card, according to 2005 statistics from the Department of Homeland Security.

But advocates say many still need help with forms that are closely scrutinized by immigration officials, especially older immigrants who may have difficulty with English.

Peggy Santis, a 59-year-old Thai immigrant who became a citizen recently said having someone help fill out the paperwork makes a big difference.

The insurance agent from Anaheim applied to naturalize last year after living in this country for decades when she realized she felt like an American.

“Everything we have to do is multiple in terms of the amount of resources and effort.”

“It is better to become a citizen.”

— Peggy Santis, 59-year-old Thai immigrant

Renewed Call for Confirmation of Edward Chen

Chen, a magistrate judge, has waited longer than any other judicial nominee for a confirmation vote.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

President Barack Obama’s pick for a judgeship in San Francisco has cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee for the fourth time giving Asian Pacific American leaders hope that Edward Chen will be confirmed over a year after his initial nomination.

The committee voted 10-8 along party lines March 17 to recommend the confirmation of Chen, a magistrate judge whom Obama first nominated to the U.S. district court in August 2009.

Facing Republican opposition, Democratic leaders have not brought Chen up for a Senate floor vote. Obama has re-nominated him twice.

Asian Pacific American leaders are renewing their call for a Senate confirmation without additional delay.

“Judge Chen is eminently well-qualified to serve as a U.S. district court judge, and we urge the Senate to give him the up-or-down vote that he rightly deserves,” said Paul O. Hirose, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

Chen has waited longer than any other judicial nominee for a confirmation vote. The seat that he has been nominated to is classified as a “judicial emergency.”

“The American people deserve true access to justice, and our judicial nominees should not be forced to live in limbo,” said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

Born and raised in Oakland, Calif., Chen was part of the famed Fred Korematsu legal team, which successfully overturned Korematsu’s World War II conviction.

In 2001 Chen was appointed as a magistrate judge in the Bay Area, and has presided over criminal and civil trials.

Republican opponents continue to question his work with the American Civil Liberties Union, where he served as a staff attorney.

In 2007, the Bar Association of San Francisco named Chen “Judge of the Year.”

His other accolades include the Bay Area Asian Pacific American Law Students Association Conference, Unity Award, Minority Bar Coalition and Building Bridges Lifetime Achievement Award, among others.

He has also served on the board of directors for the Chinatown Community Development Corporation and the Asian American Bar Association.
By Molly Serizawa

I grew up with a mom and grandparents who uphold traditional Japanese customs so I recognized that my Japanese American ethnicity was integral to my family, although I largely took it for granted.

Up until the summer of 2009, when I participated in JACL PSW’s “Project Community!” just before my freshman year of college, I didn’t really know what it meant to be a JA. Or what it meant to be a part of that community.

This may sound sentimental since I’ve been involved with the JA community from childhood, participating in everything from Camp Minski, OSU summer camp, Wakaba Japanese School, Yonsei 12 basketball team, Nikkei Federation Young Stars Youth Leadership Program, to serving as a teacher’s assistant and tutor in my high school’s AP Japanese program.

Admittedly, I could not acknowledge why it was important to continue my pursuits in college, other than the fact that I enjoyed the Japanese program. I could pursue my own leisure, as the opportunities were available. Of course, looking at the big picture and reflecting on the impact of my activities and involvement with the JA community and continuous study of the language, it seems obvious that it had a much greater bearing upon me than just a hobby.

But I didn’t actually realize this until I participated in “Project Community!” To say it was a life-changing experience would be an understatement.

Just one week after the program ended, I was bound for Reed College (Portland, Oregon), where there was no Japanese language program and hardly any JA. Something in me had changed during Community Project. Towards the end of the program while my group was working on our final mural project — our theme was “Little Tokyo Past, Present, and Future” — it suddenly dawned on me what I would be leaving behind.

There I was, surrounded by students and community leaders who were working on a mural design of a growing tree that represented Little Tokyo — symbols of the generations who have contributed to the development of Little Tokyo and our community. And yet I was about to start the growth of my own tree of knowledge of the importance of the JA community when it was just about to bloom.

What came to life in me was the realization of my true passion and sense of obligation to my community.

More than a year later, I have since transferred to a school with a Japanese language program and JA students because I felt an acute cultural disconnect from the community I call home. If it wasn’t for “Project Community!” I really didn’t know when or if I would have realized how much the community meant to me.

What struck me most about the program was the talented, passionate and determined individuals who came together to learn more about the JA community and ensure its perpetuation. The most intriguing part of the program was that our counselors — who spoke about the need and importance of youth involvement in the further development of the community — were not just talking the talk, but walking it.

The counselors were young and actively working in the community, providing a reliable and positive example. Never before had I seen such genuine passion for the community as I did there, especially in my mural project group. I was fortunate to have Craig Itoh and Kristen Palmersheim as my group counselors who, for me, embody what it means to be a JA youth working in the community.

As the next generation, it’s our responsibility to continue our ancestors’ efforts so that we can procure a future that is as inspiring and beneficial for generations to come.

Molly Serizawa is currently a sophomore at Scripps College.
The viral YouTube video was posted shortly after the Japan earthquake.

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—A student who posted an Internet video of her grade against the Asian population at the University of California, Los Angeles, said March 18 that she is leaving the school, despite the university’s decision not to discipline her.

In a statement to the Daily Bruin campus newspaper, Alexandra Wallace said she has chosen to no longer attend classes at UCLA because of what she called “the harassment of my family, the publishing of my personal information, death threats and being ostracized from an entire community” in the wake of the three-minute video.

“In an attempt to produce a humorous YouTube video, I have offended the UCLA community and the entire Asian culture,” Wallace said in the statement, her second apology.

Wallace suggests in the video that people façon about Asians frequently talking on their mobile phones while they try to study. At one point she mocks them saying, “Ohhh. Ching chong long ting ting tong.”

Wallace takes down the rant shortly after posting it March 13, but it had already gone viral and sparked a strong reaction at UCLA, where at least 37 percent of the school’s 26,000 undergraduates are Asian, 32 percent are white, 16 percent are Hispanic and 4 percent are black.

Wallace could not be reached for further comment.

Crash Highlights Chinese American Gambling Market

By Associated Press

NEW YORK—At age 75, Moo Ling Ng is hard of hearing and often lonely — a resident of Manhattan’s Chinatown who finds a way to fill his days: by gambling.

About 30,000 Chinese New Yorkers like Ng per week board discount buses that take them from Chinatown to casinos outside the city — buses like the one that crashed on a return trip from a Connecticut casino, killing 15 passengers.

“I go almost every day; it’s exciting, and I have company,” said Ng, who takes a bus to a casino hours away.

The crash is illustrating how casinos around New York in many ways treat the city’s Chinese Americans as their bread and butter, a population with an ancient gambling tradition that will reliably find over money.

“If you run a casino, Chinese business is a major part of the business,” said Peter Yee, assistant executive director for behavioral health services at the Hamilton Madison House, which offers Chinese-language treatment for compulsive gambling. “There’s no other population that is exclusively targeted by the gambling industry like the Chinese.”

Yee noted that Chinese children grow up seeing some form of gambling “as part of everyday ritual.”

“We incorporate it in all major celebrations, and it’s for money — playing cards, dice, pai gow,” he said.

Mohegan Sun, the casino in Uncasville, Connecticut, from where the doomed bus was returning last month, caters especially to Chinese American gamblers; its website has a Chinese-language section offering gaming and bus promotions. The casino estimates that a fifth of its business comes from ethnic Asian clients.

The typical gambling package includes a round-trip bus ticket, plus cash bonuses subsidized by casinos, some of which also offer meal coupons.

On any given weekday in New York, about 4,000 seats are sold on dozens of such buses, and 6,000 on weekends, Yee said.

More than 90 percent of the passengers come from Chinese communities, drivers told The Associated Press.

Each passenger on the ill-fated bus paid $15 for the 200-mile round trip to Mohegan Sun, said Matthew Yu, operator of Sunflower Express, the ticket agency that coordinated sales.

The World Wide Travel bus left Manhattan for Mohegan on March 11 and started the return trip just before 4 a.m. local time March 12. The journey ended when the bus flipped on its side just a few miles short of home and slid into a sign pole, shearing it in two and leaving a mess of bodies and twisted metal on Interstate 95.

“People are scared,” said Yu, holding his head in his hands as he sat in his tiny, windowless office up two flights of stairs from Canal Street, Chinatown’s main drag.

Another company, Sky Express, charges $12 for a round trip, with a free $60 casino bonus.

Ng celebrated his birthday March 11 by taking to Mohegan a World Wide Travel bus that left about six hours before the one that crashed. Patrick Kennedy, an unemployed car service chauffeur, was also on the trip.

On March 14, Kennedy was at the bus stop, greeting Ng.

“Me and you — we made it back!”

“Then we gave each other the thumbs up in front of a bus operated by Dwayne Smith, a driver for World Wide.

“Some people go almost every day,”

Smith said, although only a handful of people showed up for the March 15 trip, which was canceled.

Right behind the World Wide bus was another one, run by Sky Express and leaving for Connecticut’s Foxwoods casino at 1 p.m. and returning around midnight, driver Marvin Ha said.

Many Chinese American gamblers are elderly, looking for company and entertainment. Others are immigrants with few friends or family in the United States.

And some are men at risk of losing their homes, jobs and families to accommodate their pastime, Yee said.

As a result, Yee said, when gambling becomes a problem, people don’t seek treatment “until they are totally lost — until they lose their homes, their jobs, their families.” Others, he said, commit suicide.

Three years ago, Mohegan donated $25,000 to Yee’s program, he said.

Wallace took down the rant shortly after posting it March 13, but it had already gone viral and sparked a strong reaction at UCLA, where at least 37 percent of the school’s 26,000 undergraduates are Asian, 32 percent are white, 16 percent are Hispanic and 4 percent are black.

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The Sendai I Will Never Forget

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN

The year was 2003. The season was transitioning from spring to summer and the location was a tiny private beach tucked away by a 45-minute hike through the woods. The town was Miyako in the Iwate prefecture of northern Japan.

My friends and I had spent the afternoon relaxing on that beach, basking in the beauty of this secluded town on the eastern shore of Tohoku. We had purchased and grilled an obscene amount of yakitori skewers, passed the time playing the ancient Japanese chess, shogi, and telling stories.

It was a month or so away from completing a two-year mission for my church, which was based in Sendai, and I wanted to freeze time. I didn’t want Miyako or Hiroshi or Sendai or any of the other quintessential rural (rural) towns to ever change. They were quaint and perfect, like a step back in time. I guess I didn’t want my life to change either. For that moment, everything was still and perfect.

The destruction of these cities has been emotionally wrenching. Watching YouTube videos of Miyako washing away and looking at pictures of the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in those cities have been devastating. I think of the people I knew, who were likely going about their regular lives, and it pains my heart.

Listening to early reports about the Sendai airport being underwater, I thought of all the times we would drive to the airport to pick up fresh, new missionaries. Watching the news footage of rice farms being washed away with the force of the tsunami waves, I remembered the many hours I spent on buses and trains traveling across Tohoku marveling at the serenity and beauty of those rice farms.

I used to love the springtime when you could get off your bike and take a picture in front of the rice fields filled with water and capture both the mountains and their reflections in your picture.

Now pictures tell a different story.

Sendai will always have a special place in my mind and in my heart. With this tragedy, I hope that it will find its way in the hearts and minds of the international community as well.

Stunning, unbelievable events like this immediately bring to mind similar horrific events that we, as an international community and as individuals, have endured. We are forced to remember and relive the emotions of tragedies like the earthquakes in Indonesia and Haiti, Sept. 11th and Katrina. It is also easy to quickly compare and contrast the extent of destruction, support and reaction to these various tragedies.

In this, I find great pride in being a Japanese American.

Watching the news stories, reading e-mails from friends and relatives in Japan and listening to interviews on the radio, I am stunned by the strength of the Japanese character. The lack of looting, the commitment to community, the goodness of strangers looking and caring for one another is inaudible in the highest degree.

On the brink of despair, this Japanese ethos is incredible. Even as the international community rushes to bring aid to Japan, the Japanese character is aiding the rest of the world by teaching the rest of us how to deal with tragedy.

We must not let them down. While many of us in the Japanese American community would love to jump on the next plane to Japan to help in any way possible, sadly, it is not realistic. But, there are other ways to help, and we must use any avenue possible to solve the wounds of this catastrophe.

Many people have given money to the Red Cross and donated through their church groups or non-governmental organization of choice. This too will help. We must not let up in our efforts to help our Japanese brothers and sisters regardless of how many generations separate us from the motherland. Please make a phone call or get online to find ways to help.

Even as the media ture their cameras towards the next sensational story, we must not forget to care for those in Japan. The way in which we, as individuals, react to tragedies like this will define our own characters.

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is a Mount Olympus JACL member.
The Biggest Loser' Father and Daughter Race to the Finish

Kaylee and Moses Kinikini say it has been a blessing to be together throughout their journey on 'The Biggest Loser.'

By Nae K. Ko
Reporter

Kaylee Kinikini says she had never been kissed before appearing on 'The Biggest Loser' reality show. Now in the twelfth week of the weight loss show the 20-year-old has lost 94 pounds and her former boyfriend is another story. Her transformation physically and mentally has kicked-started her dating life.

"Right now I don't have a boyfriend. But I am dating a lot," said in a phone call to the Pacific Citizen while driving a car. "There could be a boyfriend in the near future." [Bangla]

The 20-year-old's new dating life is not hurting her father, Moses Kinikini, who also appears on the NBC show. With the show's new trainer Cara Castronova teaching contestants like Kaylee Kinikini to be in shape, Moses Kinikini says his daughter can likely find her match.

"If you're going to date my daughter, you don't have to worry about me, her dad," Moses Kinikini explained laughingly. "You better worry about Kaylee because I think she'd beat the crap out of my guy. She's a force. Daddy will always worry. But I know that my daughter can hold her own. She's Tongan."

Being Tongan, Moses Kinikini says food was always an integral part of their lives. If he said, had a saying that Tangelos can't eat until they are full, they eat until they're tired. Real eating habits and a sedentary lifestyle took a toll on Moses Kinikini.

At the show's start he weighed 440 pounds and his daughter was 235 pounds. Moses Kinikini says he is 475 pounds at his heaviest. He suffers from sleep apnea and high blood pressure among other ailments.

"I was in a lot of pain. No matter what I did, I just didn't feel good," Moses Kinikini said. Then ten weeks of just doing the exercises and eating right. I went from a 90 percent chance of getting diabetes to a one percent chance of diabetes.

The 47-year-old dropped 347 pounds on the show. He lost the weight even despite a leg injury that sidelined him for about two weeks. But the Idaho resident who was a garage door installer did not give up and instead took to shadow boxing to stay in the game.

The father and daughter duo are shedding weight to win 'The Biggest Loser' title and the $250,000 prize.

But Moses Kinikini says he needed a diet plan and exercise for more than just the cash prize.

"Erin is losing $5,000 for a year. Erin is doing well," Moses Kinikini explained. Maybe $1,000 was a million dollars. I guess it might be a little more exciting about it. It's really about being with my family. Being with them as long as I possibly can. "The Biggest Loser" has given me my life back. I will be forever indebted for that.

In preparation for the finale Kaylee Kinikini, who lives in Brigham Young University in Idaho, says she has been working out about seven to eight hours a day. While on the 'Biggest Loser' each contestant are challenged by the four trainers to push their bodies to the limit. Contests often win so hard that they run out of time.

"The gym [Bangla] it's pretty good," Kaylee Kinikini said. "But I get to say sometimes it does smell a lot. You can definitely smell the sweat and all the body odor [Bangla]. Sometimes it can be pretty messy."

More challenging than the workouts is the competitive nature of the show, says the Kinikinis.

"Less than half of the contestants remain in the competition as of week 15. The show started out with 22 contestants. Those who have been eliminated are still working for the $200,000 at-home prize. However, some of those who have been eliminated needed to be on the show, one says.

Many fans posted comments online discussing the Red team for voting of Arturo Wisdom who started the show at 567 pounds. Trainer Bob Harper pleaded with contestants to consider Wisdom's health and not the competition. These instances of strategic game play were maintained at times for contestants like Moses Kinikini.

"You know you're cramped in there with everybody doing these things and it is a place," he said. "There was about a two-week time frame that I was allowing it to affect me more often. I just needed to let that go and really focus on what I was there for and what I needed to do rather than what everyone else is doing."

The Kinikinis say they are blessed to have experienced together 'The Biggest Loser.'

"There was a time during the auditions process that Kaylee Kinikini said her emotional distress nearly threatened her chances of being censored on 'The Biggest Loser.'"

"I knew my dad wanted this so bad. I was so pleased and so kind of shocking back," Kaylee Kinikini said about being told by a producer to drop her guard. "I knew I needed to open up and just be real."

Like everyone else on 'The Biggest Loser' Kaylee Kinikini eventually showed her emotions on camera. For others it was not as difficult to cry on.

"I think that within the first video they realized how to make me cry," Moses Kinikini said with a laugh. "All they had to do was just ask me..." I'm so sad. So you think you're wife would be proud of you?"

"Oh, my goodness! Really what does that have anything to do with the things that we just talked about," they said. "They know that I talked about my wife, my girls or my family, the emotions would come out."

Watching 'The Biggest Loser' as a fan with his wife, Moses Kinikini says he used to cry at home hearing the contestants stories. It's often put his family before his heart. But Moses Kinikini says being on 'The Biggest Loser' has taught him to also take care of himself. He now hopes his story will inspire others to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

"I'm not going to give up a piece of chocolate cake or a donut or a hamburger. I will eat it a lot less often and definitely not as much," Moses Kinikini says. "This is actually what I hope to be able to teach my family, that you let enjoy being Tongan. Let's celebrate being Tongan and our culture. But let's be smarter at what we eat."

'We have the Kinikinis say they are happy to have made the journey together. I can't imagine doing it with anyone else. I can't imagine being the best for my dad,' Kaylee Kinikini explained. "That's something I can have and no one else can have, not even my mom can have that."
Hawaii Braces for Downturn in Travelers From Japan

The state has close ties to Japan where a quarter of their residents consider themselves full or part Japanese American.

By Jaynee Song
Associated Press

HONOLULU—A tsunami spawned by the deadly earthquake in Japan caused tens of millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and boats in Hawaii after the waves roared ashore last month.

Now the islands are bracing for another hit — a loss in travelers from Japan.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie predicted the economic consequences will be severe for this tourism-dependent state that is already dealing with a projected shortfall of nearly $1 billion over the next two years.

"It's going to be terrible. It's going to be huge," he said. "It's something that we have to come to grips with." Hawaii is the top U.S. destination for the Japanese, hosting more than 1.2 million of the 16.6 million total outbound tourists last year. Visiton from Japan poured about $1.9 billion into Hawaii in 2010, or about 17 percent of the state's overall visitor revenue.

The Japanese are instructed in the Aloha State for their affection of shopping and dining. They also embrace Hawaiian culture and offset American visitors most, spending about $40-1 on a per-person, per-day average. Each day, there are 13 direct flights from Japan to Hawaii, bringing in anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 tourists.

The tragedy is being followed closely here and has prompted residents, businesses and government leaders to respond with widespread fundraising efforts in this state, which has close ties with Japan. The first Japanese immigrants arrived here more than a century ago to work on the sugar cane fields with their children and grandchildren.

Today, about a quarter of the state's population, or 296,000 residents, identified themselves as being of part or full Japanese descent, according to the 2000 Census. The fundraising efforts include concerts to donations accepted at banks in a new statewide campaign called "Aloha for Japan." Telephone service providers are offering free phone calls to Japan, and the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific fleet is also helping in relief and rescue operations.

"This market is very important to us," said Mike McCartney, president and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. "For us, first of all, we're most concerned about their well-being. More than dollars and cents, that's No. 1." Hawaii has already experienced the cancellation of several groups from Japan, resulting in the loss of thousands of visitor arrivals.

H.I.S. Hawaii, a travel agency that handles about 490,000 of all Japanese travel to Hawaii, saw new bookings plummet by half and cancellations tripling in the first three days after the March 11 earthquake, said Naomi Hashimoto, the company's assistant general manager.

However, the cancellation rate dropped to less than 10 percent starting March 15 and H.I.S. is hopeful that the market will bounce back soon when peace is fully restored in Japan and life returns to some degree of normalcy.

Tomoko Murata, a 58-year-old woman from Hikidaza, Japan, considered canceling but went ahead with her Hawaiian trip only because she was traveling with a group of co-workers. Murata, who was shopping in Waikiki on March 15, said she didn't share her family's concern about leaving Japan because she felt she had some guilt about leaving Japan and being so far from home during a tragedy.

"We can help, because we're far," she said in Japanese. "It's a feeling that we're here having fun on vacation and there are people who have suffered..." Murata has experienced sharp declines in the number of Japanese travelers after past tragedies, from the deadly 1995 Kobe earthquake to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Unlike other countries that try to move on and return to normal as soon as possible following a tragedy, travel industry officials say the Japanese tend not to travel or at least postpone in sympathy.

Newlyweds Takashi and Mami Hashimoto of Tokyo were determined to make it to Hawaii for their honeymoon after being married a day after the earthquake.

"We just barely were able to (have the wedding)," Mami Hashimoto said. "We had it in Yokohama. There were some friends who weren't able to make it. But most did..." The couple considered canceling their trip but decided to go because they didn't want to damage the area and the places they were. They also acknowledged that it's difficult to fully enjoy their vacation, knowing the devastation back home.

McCartney said an analysis and plan to address the possible downturn will be completed in the next seven to 10 days.

"We're looking at the different scenarios, various markets and various alternatives, but our focus at this moment is offering them support," he said.

JAVA Offers Scholarships

The Japanese American Veterans Association is calling for candidates for its 2011 scholarship program.

Eight $5,000 scholarships are being offered, two more than last year, according to Er Ray Murakami, the new scholarship program chair.

The deadline is April 30. Winners will be announced at the June 18 JAVA luncheon.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a graduating high school student this year, and must be related directly to a person who served during World War II in the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service, or associated units.

The applicant may also be a Japanese American who has served or is serving in Armed Services. Those related to a regular member of JAVA may also apply.

Applicants must also submit an essay on the subject "What winning a JAVA scholarship award will mean to me" and provide proof of enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution.

The program honors the memory of Osvald Shively, Douglas Isake, Sama Phil Isako and Kyoko Tama-Tutaki, for whom scholarship funds have been separately established.

Again this year, there will be a special scholarship honoring Ken Takahashi Motozuma. A separate scholarship has been created for Mary Rosado.

Nearly established funds also memorialize Joseph Ishijji and Grant Miyahara. [www.javadc.org]

Report Stresses Asian Americans Need Hepatitis B Education

Over half of people afflicted with the virus are Asian American.

Early identification of chronic Hepatitis B Virus infection is crucial for Asian Pacific Americans who account for over half of 1.5 million people in the U.S. afflicted with the virus, according to a new report by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Many APIs with Hepatitis B don't know they have the virus, according to the report, which was presented to the White House March 14 with recommendations on how 23 federal agencies and offices can improve the everyday lives of APIs.

The report address problems uniquely facing APIs such as linguistic isolation, bullying, and other civil rights issues.

"We've made a lot of progress," said Sec. of Commerce Gary Locke, the White House Initiative co-chair. "A lot of innovative thought went into this report to the president." The report was submitted to the White House during a gathering of two groups created under the executive order establishing the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the President's Advisory Commission and the federal Interagency Working Group, which includes representatives from almost every federal agency.
Little Tokyo’s Challenger Monument Ships Off for Repair

The monument honors Ellison S. Onizuka, the first Japanese American in space.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A space shuttle monument in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo is on its latest mission.

After 21 years of being exposed to the elements in Little Tokyo’s Weller Court, the Space Shuttle Challenger Monument is on assignment in Hawthorne, Calif., to be refurbished by its creator, Isao Hirai, of the Scale Model Company.

On March 22, the 12-foot-tall model of the ill-fated Space Shuttle Challenger was hoisted off of its base and transported to the Scale Model Company site to get a much-needed facelift.

“I’m happy the Orbiter is in good shape,” said Hirai.

Cracks in the base of the monument will be repaired, light fixtures will be replaced and the monument will receive a fresh coat of paint.

Hirai spent about eight months creating the monument, originally installed in 1990. He sketched the design and made the calculations to make the 2,000-pound monument structurally sound. Now, it’s back in the studio where it was created and Hirai is glad to see it again.

“My baby,” he said with a laugh.

The monument honors the legacy of the Challenger’s crew. On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle exploded 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts aboard, including Ellison S. Onizuka, the first Japanese American in space.

The Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Board was formed to honor the astronaut’s memory in Little Tokyo.

“I met Ellison the year before the accident. I was really impressed with the type of person he was,” said Herb Omura, of the memorial board.

“I didn’t want people to forget.”

The memorial board is planning a fundraiser to help offset the cost of the $70,000 refurbishment project.

Onizuka was grand marshal of the 1985 March Week Parade. In addition to the memorial, the street in Weller Court, formerly named Weller Street, was renamed in the astronaut’s honor.

The project will be rededicated June 24, on what would have been Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka’s 65th birthday.

In his memory, the board also created the Space Science Day Conference and the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Lecture Series, an annual lecture program and hands-on workshops at El Camino Community College in Torrance, Calif.

On the 25th anniversary of the Challenger tragedy, Onizuka’s sister-in-law Linda described him as “humble.”

“I once asked him if he was afraid to go into space,” said Linda. “He said he wasn’t because the reward was always worth the risk. He even mentioned that sitting on the space shuttle was like sitting on a ticking time bomb until the rockets separated, but he always felt as though it was worth it.”

The Space Shuttle Challenger Monument hovers above Weller Court just moments before heading for repairs.

Twin Cities JACL Participates in Social Studies Conference

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee participated in the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies spring conference held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minn., on March 4.

Over 150 social studies educators attended the conference themed, “Not Your Typical ‘Standards’”.

Judy Murakami and Sally Sudo manned the informational booth, and distributed complimentary copies of JACL publications including, “Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience.”

Janet Menda Carlson, a retired college professor, and Carolyn Nayaritani, former executive director of the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence at the University of Minnesota, led a breakout session titled, “Lessons Learned from the Japanese American Internment and Still: Community Resources for Educators.”

Carlson compared the hate crimes and responses in the aftermath of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks to the events after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

Nayaritani discussed ideas on how to integrate the JA WWII experience into the Minnesota social studies academic standards.

Mile-Hi JACL Hosts Teacher-Training Workshop

The Mile-Hi JACL Education Committee sponsored a recent teacher-training workshop at the University of Denver focusing on the World War II Japanese American experience. A panel of speakers discussed the impact of the WWII incarceration on JAs.

 Incoming Mile-Hi Chapter President Sherry Shimazaki also provided updates on newly introduced legislation in Colorado since the passage of Colorado’s anti-immigration bill and the “ban” on ethnic studies in the state’s schools.

 Ongoing Mile-Hi Chapter President Gaye Iwamoto and the education committee were instrumental in making the workshop possible. Committee members include Kathy Namata, of the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado; Bonnie Clark, of the University of Denver; Linda Takahashi-Rogers, of the Asian Education Advisory Council; Richard Hamai, of the Mile-Hi JACL; and Leslie Sakato.

A Day of Remembrance commemoration was held at the university the next day. Dr. Gina Mumma-Wenger spoke about the history of art education in the WWII JA concentration camps. Mumma-Wenger said many of the children’s artwork reflected the trauma they suffered as a result of living in camps surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire fences.

Instead of teaching, camp teachers were encouraged to test the children’s loyalty toward the United States, according to Mumma-Wenger.

There was an inherent irony in teaching incarcerated JA students about American democracy and Dr. Jon Fielder Ziegler, a speaker at the event.

During WWII, many young JAs started to exhibit disciplinary problems caused by the loss of traditional social order, added Ziegler, winner of the Adele Melton prize for his book “The Schooling of Japanese American Children at Relocation Centers During World War II.”
Students Ask USC to Issue Honorary Degrees

The Los Angeles-based private university has honored its WWII-impacted JA students, but not with honorary degrees.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Japanese American students at the University of Southern California who were unjustly uprooted from their homes and universities during World War II have a new ally — a coalition of current USC students in support of former Nisei students. The project is to honor these JA students who were unable to continue their education because of wartime hysteria.

"What hits home is imagining your own degree being taken away from you and what emotional impact that has on you," said Kikuchi.

In 2008, the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association honored their former Nisei students during an April 25 scholarships and awards gala. The university also honored the students during a football halftime show. But many California universities and community colleges have either already awarded Nisei students with honorary degrees or have announced plans to host such ceremonies after the passage of Assembly Bill 37, which called on California State University, University of California and community colleges to award these degrees.

Knowing that the last step hasn’t been taken to issue honorary degrees at USC has motivated the coalition of students to act, said Kikuchi.

The student group has spearheaded a petition to support the initiative to grant honorary degrees to former Nisei students.

"The student group has spearheaded a petition to support the initiative to grant honorary degrees to former Nisei students," which will be delivered to university president C.L. Max Nikias.

Setsuko Nishi, a former USC student whose education was interrupted by WWII, said honorary degrees for Nisei students would be "symbolically significant."

Many Nisei were in the transitional age between high school and college when WWII broke out. To be denied a rite of passage like receiving a college degree and graduation is traumatizing, said Nishi, who went on to earn her doctorate degree in psychology at the University of Chicago.

"For those who didn’t finish their education or for those who had a particularly bad experience [because of the internment] this may be healing," said Nishi about the honorary degrees.

Last April, the JACL national board unanimously passed a resolution calling on USC to “act with a particular priority on issuing honorary degrees to former Nisei students.”

"I think it’s important because USC is a distinguished school, and people view USC with such high regard on a state, national, and international level that this project can only help USC gain even greater respect," said Kikuchi.

Honorary Degrees

- Help identify former Nisei students who were unable to graduate because of the internment.

Santa Ana College
Send information to Mark Liang: liang_mark@sac.edu or 714-564-6840.

UC Davis
Send information to Stephanie Kang at kangs@uchastings.edu.

Universities Seeking Nisei For Honorary Degrees

Two California universities are seeking former Japanese American students to recognize with honorary degrees.

Santa Ana College’s spring commencement is slated for May 20. Twenty-two JA students who had their college studies interrupted because of World War II have been identified.

"It’s never too late to right a wrong," said Erlinda J. Martinez, Santa Ana College president. "This is our college’s opportunity to honor those former students who didn’t have the chance to finish what they started at Santa Ana College. We want to honor their sacrifice and present them with their long overdue diplomas.”

Similarly the UC Hastings College of the Law will confer honorary degrees to its former Nisei students May 15.

Maui WWII Internment Camp Sites are Part of Research

The two sites are among 13 in Hawaii that will be part of a resource study.

By Associated Press

WAILEA, Hawaii—The National Park Service has identified two sites in Maui as former Japanese internment camps.

Park officials say the Kahului Maui building in Wailuku and the Horizons Academy of Maui in Haiku lie on areas that held Japanese Americans during World War II. The two sites are among 13 statewide to be part of a resource study.

A Park Service spokeswoman says in Maui, there is little left from the camps. But officials are holding a series of meetings across Maui to gather the community’s input on how to preserve their history.

Congress recently instructed the National Park Service to carry out the study. Internment camp sites have been found on all six Hawaiian islands.

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Oct. 11 - Oct. 20 Autumn Japan: Majestic Fall Colors
Nov. 3 - Nov. 13 Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku
Nov. 29 - Dec. 13 Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos
Dec. 18 - Dec. 20 Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows Cirque du Soleil “Mystere” 2012
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Mako Nakagawa to Keynote Manzanar Pilgrimage

Mako Nakagawa, a community activist working to eliminate the use of euphemisms to describe the World War II Japanese American experience, will be the keynote speaker at the April 30 Manzanar pilgrimage.

Each year, over 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds attend the Manzanar pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust WWII imprisonment of over 110,000 JAs in 10 American concentration camps located in the most desolate, isolated regions of the United States.

Manzanar, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley, was the first of these camps to be established. During WWII, Nakagawa, 74, was incarcerated at the Payagoog Assembly Center in Washington, then at the Manzanaka concentration camp in Idaho, and ultimately at the Crystal City internment camp in Texas.

The “Power of Words” resolution is part of a movement within the JA community to identify and address the use of euphemistic language to describe the camps and the JA experiences of WWII.

“Use of accurate terminology in describing the Nikkei experience is vital to preserve the truth of this episode in history so that we can be vigilant in our resolve to protect our democratic way of life,” said Nakagawa, president and CEO of Mako & Associates. “The Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution failed us in our time of need. Let the legacy of our experience be that it never happens again to any group of people.”

In addition to the daytime program, the pilgrimage will continue that evening with the popular Manzanar At Dusk (MAD) program at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium.

Bus transportation to the pilgrimage is still available from Los Angeles. Pilgrimage participants should bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks. Water will be provided at the site. Both the daytime program and the MAD event are free and open to the public.

Pilgrimage

April 30

An air-conditioned bus will depart at 7 a.m. from the St. Francis Xavier Chapel Japanese Catholic Center (formerly the Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center), 22 South Heath Street in Los Angeles. Bus reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Manzanar At Night

5-8 p.m.
508 South Main Street (US Highway 395), in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

For more information: 323/662-5102, 42ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org or http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org

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effects on politics and economics in the region. Ken Oye, an MIT associate professor of political science and engineering systems, was in Tokyo during the earthquake and will provide an eye-witness account of the event. He will also discuss his perspective as a political scientist and author of articles on Japan’s nuclear policies.

Info: 781-237-0258 or visit www.wellesleyfriendsmeeting.org

The 5th Annual New York Asian American Student Conference NEW YORK, NY April 16, 9:30 a.m.
NYU Kimmel Center 60 Washington Square S.

This year’s Annual New York City Asian Student Conference, “Emerging Profiles,” will be a place to emerge different perceptions of Asian Americans, to realize the changes as well as the similarities of many views.

Info: Visit www.nycascc.org

May 26th to 28th

The 6th Annual Japan Festival SALT LAKE CITY, UT
April 30, 11 a.m.

Japantown Street 100 South (between 200 West and 300 West)

The festival will begin with opening ceremonies and feature live entertainment on two stages during the day. The Nikko Matsuri Festival committee has arranged for performances and workshops by two Japanese artists, including shibori artist Miwako Mori and performance artist Takashi Nishino. The popular anime contest will be held on stage as well.

Info: www.nihonomatsuri.com

The Chinese for Affirmative Action’s Celebration of Justice SAN FRANCISCO, CA
June 9, 6 p.m.
Empress of China Restaurant 938 Grant Ave

The Celebration of Justice is CAA’s largest fundraiser of the year where civil rights, LGBT rights, and political leaders gather to honor extraordinary individuals. It’s also a fun setting where old friends can reconnect.

Info: www.caaast.org or call Brian Fong at 415/274-6760 ext. 131

Kimochi’s 40th Anniversary Gala ‘Night Blast!’ SAN FRANCISCO, CA
May 14, 6 p.m.
Hotel Nikko San Francisco 222 Mason St.

The evening will honor co-founders and original organizers of Kimochi, Inc., Steve Nakajo, executive director, and Sandy Ouye Mori, retired development director. A live auction will be hosted by Rick Quan, KGO-TV. Proceeds from the event will benefit the work of Kimochi.

Info: www.kimochi-inc.org or call Steve Nakajo at 415/931-2294

Sachiko Fashion Fundraiser for Nihonmachi Little Friends SAN FRANCISCO, CA
April 8 to 10
Kabuki Hotel’s Kyoto Suite 1625 Post St.
Sachiko, a 21-year-old fashion designer, will present a special three-day fashion show to benefit Nihonmachi Little Friends’ programs and building fund.

Info: 415/922-8898 or www.nifhcildcare.org

Tattoos in Japanese Culture SACRAMENTO, CA
May 7, 2 to 4 p.m.
Asian Community Center 7275 Park City Dr.

Cost: $5/donations

Why are tattoos so popular among persons of all ages, especially with artists, musicians, and actors? John Marshall, an internationally known textile artist of natural fibers and fashion designer, will lead a lively discussion on the role tattoos have played in Japanese culture since earliest times.

Info: 916/427-2841 or jpcal21@yahoo.com

The 26th Annual Shinnzen Run and Walk FRESNO, CA
April 23, 6 a.m.
Woodward Park

The JACL Fresno Chapter is pleased to announce this year’s run and walk! The event is open to runners and walkers of all ages and will benefit the Central California Nikko Foundation, the Shinnzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park, and the Fresno JACL Scholarship Fund.

Info: www.proratecgroup.com or 559/434-1662

The Free Film Screening of ‘Vincent Who?’ SAN ANTONIO, MN
April 3, 2 to 4 p.m.
Hennepin County Library 12601 Ridgedale Dr.

In 1962 at the height of anti-Japanese sentiments, Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit by two white autoworkers who blamed him because they were out of work. This documentary features interviews with key players at the time.

Info: Call 952/647-8800 or visit www.vincentwhofilm.com

Annual Cherry Blossom Festival LOS ANGELES, CA Saturday, April 2
Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo The 10th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival is around the corner! Join in the festivities and experience a festival that brings together the Southern California community.

There will also be a booth where attendees can donate to the American Red Cross to help Japan.

Info: Visit www.cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org
IN MEMORIAM

Furukawa, John Mutuo, 88, Nagata, Grace Miyako, 88, Mission Inn located in Riverside, Calif.; she later married art student. Shigematsu; her family was interned at Heart Mountain during WWII; she was survived by her daughter, Takie, Jeanne and Seiko Buckingham; 9 gc; 9 ggc.

Tokunaga, Sumio, 84, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 18; he was a retired crane operator with Cahuenga Sugar; survived by wife, Moto; sons, Nolan (Marie), Lee (Diane); daughters, Terri Orta, Hsiao (Mike) Somo, Chiyonari Hishinuma; 3 gc.

Takahara, Berta, 95, Dallas, Texas; March 9; she was the youngest daughter of Dr. Kinya and Ura Takahara; predeceased by her parents; sister, Mary, brothers, Henry, William, Woodrow and Theodore; survived by many nieces and nephews and friends.

Uchizono, Taro, 89.

March 10; she is survived by her husband, Tom; daughters, June, Susan and Cynthia; brothers, Richard and Roy Nakao; sister, Mae Okawara; 2 gc.

Kanamori, Lynne Kuroi, 56, March 22; she is survived by her husband, Glenn; brother, Kevin (Susan); sister, Janet (Kont) Fujinuma; daughter, Cheryn.

Kawamura, Wallace T., 89, Honolulu, HI; March 4; he was a U.S. Army vet; he served during WWII with the 442nd RCT; he is survived by his wife, Mary; son, David (Dan) Pavan; 3 gc.

Nakamoto, Toyoko "Toggle," 89, Los Angeles, CA; March 29; she is survived by her children, Cathy (James) Rogers and Dale (Sod); sister, Shigeko Taira; many nieces and nephews; 3 gc; 2 ggc.

Takaezu, Toshiko, 88, Honolulu, HI; March 9; she was a Japanese American ceramic artist; her work is on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among other places; she is survived by two brothers and four sisters.

Tanaka, Yoshi Okubo, 103, St. George, Utah; Nov. 9, 2010, she co-founded an art gallery at the Fountain Valley, CA; March 22; he was a U.S. Army vet with the 442nd RCT; predeceased by wife, Estela; brothers, Jiro (Toy) and Shiro (Minnie) Uchizono; sister, Ruko (Iguchi); sons, Stanley (Sharon), Dr. Rodger, and Craig (Karen); many nieces and nephews; 6 gc; 1 ggc.

TRIBUTE

George Yoshito Masunaga
September 2, 1914 - March 3, 2011

George Masunaga was born on September 2, 1914, in Fort Lupton, Colorado, graduated from Brighton High School and the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy in 1934. He served as a chemist for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad before doing a tour of duty with the U.S. Army during WWII. He served as a civilian pharmacist at the Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. George and his brother, Jess and John, operated several drug stores in the Denver metro area.

In 1968, George married Mary Funakoshi of Fort Lupton. Although they did not have children of their own, they are beloved by many who call them, Uncle and Auntie. George is survived by his wife, Mary, a sister, Mary Fujimoto and brother, John Masunaga. He and Mary attended Mile Hi Chapter JACL meetings regularly until his last illness. He was a mentor to all; quick with stories, laughter and shared a wealth of the history of JACL and of life.

He was a Milliennium and Thousand Club member, active in the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy, Simpson Methodist Church, Japanese Association of Colorado, Japan America Society, the Nisei Post (VFW) Colorado and the Colorado Pharmacists Society. Funeral Service was held at 11:00 a.m., March 8, 2011, Simpson Methodist Church, 6001 Wolf St., Arvada, CO 80003.

George Yoshito Masunaga
May 14, 1921 - February 3, 2011

Shig learnt in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Japan during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1954. Shig graduated from the University of Utah in 1958. He worked for the Civil Service and became a supervisor for production management of the F-16 fighter plane. He retired from the Civil Service in 1980. He was active in the Mount Olympus chapter of the JACL and served a term as president. Shig is survived by his wife, three sons, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

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TRIBUTE

Shig shares a wealth of the history of JACL and JACLand of life.

Air Force Base and became a supervisor for production management of the F-16 fighter plane. He retired from the Civil Service in 1980. He was active in the Mount Olympus chapter of the JACL and served a term as president. Shig is survived by his wife, three sons, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

In Memoriam is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes, which honor the memory of your loved ones with original copy and photos, appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20 for a column inch.

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