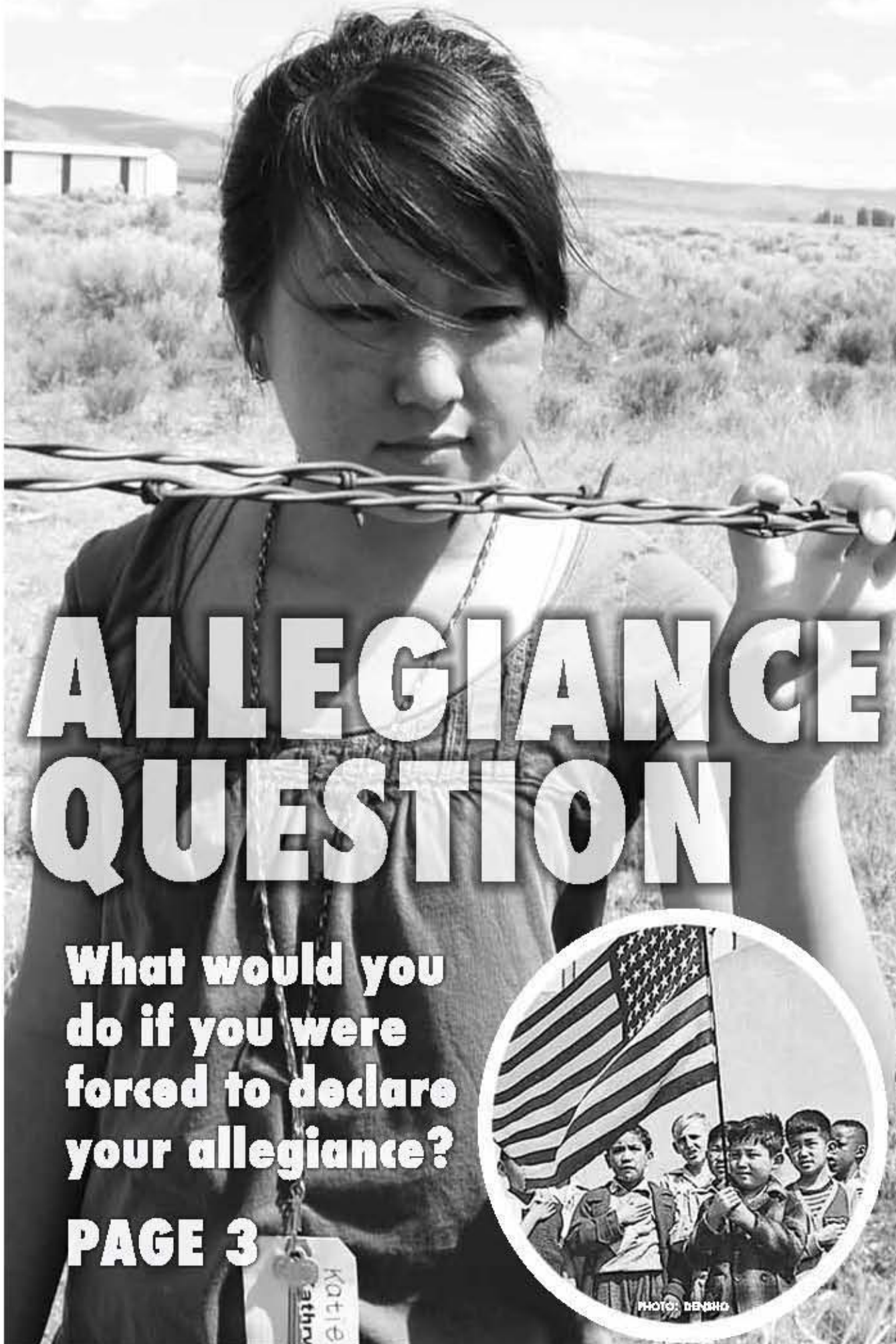


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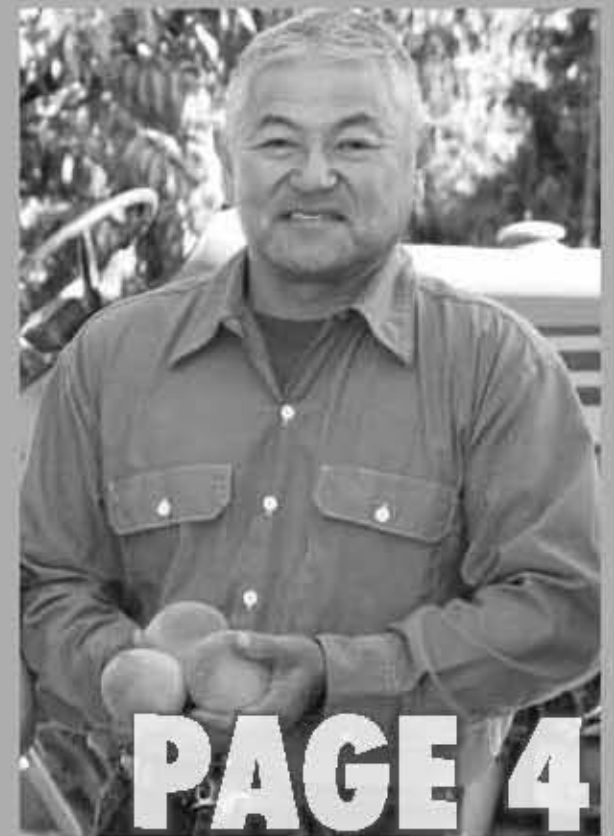
PACIFIC CITIZEN



ALLEGIANCE QUESTION

What would you
do if you were
forced to declare
your allegiance?

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Asian Americans
and organic food.



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Rave drug ecstasy
is on the rise.



Chi-Lan
Lieu of
Syfy's
'Fact or
Faked'

PAGE 9

SPRING CAMPAIGN

United We Stand



By Cindi Kishiyama-Harbottle

apart my love
Then I'll still be here
And if the going gets too hard
along the way
Just you call, I'll hear ..."

I think I can almost hear some of you singing the song. Whether you first heard this sung by the Brotherhood of Man in the '70s or Elton John in the early 2000s, truer words have never been spoken. I have never really understood the strength in the message of these words, until now.

The Japan earthquake and tsunami crisis of just a few weeks ago sent our APA community into crisis mode. We were and still are taken aback by the enormity of what has happened in Japan.

"... For united we stand
Divided we fall
And if our backs should ever be
against the wall
We'll be together, together, you
and I ...

"And if the world about you falls

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Some of us have families that were directly affected and others have family in Japan that are worried for their country's future. While watching NHK with my mom and dad, I was horrified by the footage, first the tsunami and then the devastation that was left in the aftermath. My first reaction was, 'for the survivors of this tragedy it must feel as if their world is falling apart.'

I immediately started receiving text messages, emails and phone calls from friends, APA leaders and all kinds of different members of the community. All these correspondences had to do with support and wanting to help in any way or direction the JACL Arizona chapter deemed necessary, to help Japan.

I was taken aback by the amount of support that was offered by the Arizona community at large. A new website was launched: www.azjapanrelief.com. Fundraising events were planned and attended, myriads of people came to help and then to plan for future events. Watching the news reports was heart wrenching, but to experience the support of the community was so very heart warming.

Then the anti-Japanese rhetoric started on Twitter and YouTube and there were insensitive jokes by comedians. All these words that were condemning the Japanese for past events. What could be done to stop the downward turn of events?

In the mail came my vindication,

the answer to my question: the *Pacific Citizen*. I read the last two editions as soon as they arrived in the mail. Some articles seem to be extremely poignant and relevant to all the current events of the past few weeks. Some articles were thought provoking and informative; these articles answered many questions but also presented new ones. Some articles were just entertaining.

I guess you could surmise by the last few sentences that I think the *P.C.* is a newspaper that is very important to all Asian Americans. The *P.C.* newspaper is important to us because it covers stories that are relevant and directly affect us. The *P.C.* staff continues to report on news and stories that defend and educate, but mostly promotes the APA community.

If you are a subscriber to the *P.C.* you should have received information about the annual Spring Campaign fundraiser. The Spring Campaign is the paper's biggest fundraiser. The national JACL funds less than half the paper's budget and the rest is raised by the *P.C.* staff through advertising, non-member subscriptions and the Spring Campaign fundraiser. If you enjoy reading about the APA community and value the *P.C.*, I hope you will donate generously. ■

Cindi Kishiyama-Harbottle is the Pacific Southwest District representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

Chapters Should Select Youth as Voting Delegates



By Devin Yoshikawa

members as voting convention delegates.

JACL youth are undoubtedly the future of our organization. As youth, many see JACL participation as a perfect avenue for gaining valuable and unique leadership experience. The organization also serves as an important, yet often underutilized, resource.

Our veteran members are quite possibly the greatest untapped resource the JACL can offer our youth. One critical aspect of leadership development for young people is mentorship. The wealth of experience that our members possess is what makes the JACL so unique. Sharing these experiences with our youth will only solidify sustainability for our organization.

"Infusing youth in the decision-making process will enhance JACL's youth outreach efforts by helping the organization become more connected and responsive to the needs of youth in the greater community," said Mariko Newton, Pacific Northwest District youth representative.

Newton is involved with the Portland JACL youth group, Unite



The youth session at the Chicago national convention was a success.

People, and the JACL's NY/SC and explains: "While young people are being consulted and given the opportunity to participate, they are often marginalized from leadership positions and remain underrepresented in the decision-making arena. Given the benefits of youth leadership at the national

level, JACL should provide an avenue for youth to be directly engaged in its decision-making process. Specifically, increased youth governance will promote revitalization and positive change within JACL as they bring fresh,

SEE YOSHIKAWA/PAGE 7

Correction

In the March 18-31 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, in the National Director's Report, it should have stated that the Bridging Communities program of the national JACL is sponsored by the National Park Service, not AT&T.

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Japanese American Youth Answer World War II's Allegiance Question



Katie Nakano, a freshman at the University of California, Santa Barbara, says if she were forced to answer the allegiance question she would be 'extremely rebellious.'

What would you do if you were forced to declare your allegiance to a country that betrays your constitutional rights?

By Christine McFadden
Correspondent

When faced with the government's loyalty questionnaire while incarcerated in Jerome, Arkansas during World War II, Roy Nakano's parents took a bold stand.

Asked about their willingness to serve the United States and swear "unqualified allegiance" to America in question No. 28 of the infamous loyalty questionnaire, Nakano's parents both answered that they were "undecided." Both U.S. citizens born in Hawaii, they cited the "existing racial discrimination and prejudice" of the "unconstitutional compulsory evacuation," as their reason, stating: "As long as I have citizenship, I wish to remain neutral."

As a result, Nakano's parents and their family were transferred to Tule Lake. Once there, they took their protest a step further and both renounced their U.S. citizenship.

"I would not have had the guts to do what they did," said Nakano, an attorney in Southern California and one of the founders of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR).

It's a question many younger Japanese Americans may not want to think about: What would you do if you were in your grandparents' or your parents' shoes during WWII and were asked to declare allegiance to the country that incarcerated you?

While many teenage Yonsei say they would have asserted their rebellious intentions, under the

same circumstances, they say they would ultimately stay subdued in the face of war hysteria and mass incarceration.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, JAs were looked upon with suspicion and forced in many ways to prove their loyalty to the U.S. Some joined a segregated unit of the U.S. Army to prove their allegiance, others took a stand, while still others renounced their American citizenship in disgust.

"Allegiance," a new musical play about "love, loss and heroism in the backdrop of the Japanese American internment" has sparked controversy by trying to address the question of allegiance.

The musical by Jay Kuo, which aims to open in New York City next year, features a scene with an actor playing WWII JACL National Secretary Mike Masaoka, who called for JAs to be calm and cooperative with the president's order for a mass evacuation. In a stage reading performed before an audience, which was recorded and placed on YouTube, actor Paolo Montalban said it's "a little known fact that Masaoka worked with the U.S. government to implement the Japanese American internment."

The scars of the allegiance question during WWII still affect the JA community today. And many say that if faced with the same circumstances, they would have done nothing different.

Joan Coe, whose mother Mary Hara was incarcerated as a young teenager at Minidoka near Twin Falls, Idaho, would not have rebelled.

"You have to go with the flow," said Coe, a Sansei. "You had to

do it — you're a minor. You're a kid, and you're going to do what your mom and dad say and you're going to be sad about it and you're going to be embarrassed, too. It's humiliating."

Hara was the youngest of seven children, born in Gresham, Oregon to Issei parents. No matter how confused, scared or angry, Coe said she would not have violated Executive Order 9066, the curfew

helped — *shikata ga nai*.

"I would ask my dad, 'Why didn't you do something about it [the internment]?' " said Connie Masuoka, a Sansei Portland JACL board member. "We would go round and round about this and then he would get mad and say there was nothing he could have done."

"I used to think my father's answer was a poor one, but actually it was an honest one. Would I risk going to jail or prison by breaking curfew or refusing to join the military?" she said.

Justin Hayase, who co-founded the Japanese American Student Union at Yale, recognizes that being raised as a Yonsei "is very different from the world that my Nisei grandparents lived in."

"Having gone through a college environment where speaking out against injustice is encouraged, I would more than likely react more like the Korematsus and the Endos, based on my experience," he said.

During WWII, Korematsu defied the evacuation orders and took his battle all the way to the Supreme Court. Mitsuye Endo similarly hired a lawyer to represent her legal protest against the forced evacuation.

In spite of these statements of rebellion, Hayase points out the different time periods and ultimately has a change of heart.

"I can say this now because a precedence has already been set," he said. "I would imagine things were much scarier 70 years ago, and JAs simply didn't have the resources that we might utilize today in fighting against injustice."

"To be honest, I suppose if I were alive in 1942, I likely would have reacted in the same way that

the majority of JAs did, which was a reaction of stoic endurance and survival," he added.

Rachel Seeman, a 19-year-old student in California, says she could see herself rebelling inside the internment camps, although she would have been torn between wanting to show her allegiance to the U.S. and defending her Constitutional rights.

"I would have been very angry and fighting for my rights ... I can't see myself having any other choice," she said.

Katie Nakano, a freshman at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said although she is sympathetic of her grandparents' plight during WWII, if she were forced to answer the allegiance question at the age she is now — 18 — she would be "extremely rebellious."

Coe, who was born in the 1950s, noted the generational differences between her generation and the youth of today.

"Kids were more compliant then, and that's the way I am," she said. "That's my generation. We did as we were told."

Today's generational differences notwithstanding, many Yonsei would have admittedly taken the same path if they were placed in their grandparents' shoes during the incarceration.

"Looking back at the way my grandparents responded to the camps, I'm extremely grateful to them," Hayase said. "They persevered through the hardship, and they didn't let it break their spirit."

"Their suffering was their motivation to work harder to give their grandchildren the opportunities that were taken away from them, and today I use that knowledge as my own motivation."



PHOTO: DENSHO

Japanese American children recite the Pledge of Allegiance during World War II.

orders, or rebelled in any way unless she felt immediately physically threatened.

"Right now, you and I have hindsight, and you can see it's wrong, but at that time they're telling you it's for your protection," said Coe. "The government is convincing you it's for your own good. The government tells you to go, and you go."

Both of Hara's brothers served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated JA unit of the U.S., but Coe's 16-year-old Yonsei son Alexander said he would not have made the decision to serve.

"I'd be much more likely to run away or something than to join the military division [442nd] or take it to court," he said.

Many Issei and Nisei often describe their wartime experience as something that could not be

Asian Americans Plant Seeds in Organic Food Movement



Masumoto Farms has been growing peaches organically since the 1980s. Pictured here are two generations of Japanese American farmers, Tak Masumoto, David Mas Masumoto and Cardie Masumoto.

On farms and in backyards, more Asian Americans are shunning chemicals and pesticides in favor of going green.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

Peaches from the Masumoto Family Farm awaken the worst kind of food lust, especially the heirloom peaches, a yellow flesh varietal that's softer, juicier and fuzzier than the kind often found in supermarkets.

"They're not the trophy wives of peaches," said David Mas Masumoto about the deceptive appearance of the heirloom peaches grown in his orchard near Fresno, Calif. "When you lick your lips after eating a peach you can still taste it."

Masumoto, a third generation farmer and Fresno JACL member who specializes in environmentally responsible farming, is part of a growing wave of Asian Pacific American organic farmers — for both large-scale and backyard productions — who are abandoning the use of chemicals and pesticides in favor of more "green" techniques.

The Masumoto Family Farm has been farming organically since the 1980s, well before the organic movement became trendy.

"Prior to that, farming was all about controlling and dominating the environment," said Masumoto, 57.

Masumoto's parents and grandparents were farm workers on the land until they purchased it after World War II, freshly returned from their incarceration at the Gila River internment camp in Arizona. Like many other Japanese Americans, the Masumoto family was swept up in wartime hysteria after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and was forced to abandon their crops just months away from harvest.

Masumoto returned to the 80-acre farm after studying at the University of California, Berkeley, where he "learned to look at farming through an environmental lens," to work side-by-side with his father Tak

Masumoto and start planting the seeds of change. Today, the Masumoto Family Farm is certified organic.

"My parents were crazy in the most wonderful way to follow their ethical beliefs and to follow their hearts," said Nikiko Masumoto, 25, about her parents' pioneering effort to farm organically.

It is, of course, not just about being kind to the earth, organic food is a booming business. What started out as a specialty food craze has become mainstream with APA consumers leading the demand. Retail sales for organic foods have increased from \$3.6 billion in 1997 to \$21.1 billion in 2008, according to a 2009 report from the United States Department of Agriculture. A Hartman Group survey indicates that APA consumers are more likely to purchase organic products.

"Organic foods are the choice of many ethnic groups," said Barbara Haumann, senior editor/writer with the Organic Trade Association, a membership-based business association for the organic industry in North America. "They [Asian Americans] are an emerging market."

To be classified as organic, among other requirements, fruits and vegetables must be grown on land that has no prohibited substances or chemicals applied to it for at least three years prior to harvest.

"Anytime you purchase organic food, you're supporting a system of agriculture where farmers and farm workers aren't constantly exposed to toxic and persistent pesticides like they are with conventional farming," said Haumann. "You're also protecting the water and the Earth."

To keep pests away, Masumoto uses the age-old practice of pheromone therapy in a new way.

The scent female moths secrete when trying to mate is infused on strips and hung from his fruit trees. Attracted by the scent, male moths fly around the orchard looking for the female moths until they eventually die of exhaustion.

"It's called the confusion method ... Yes, it is tragic," said Masumoto with a laugh.

Fueled by demand, more farmers are getting into organic farming. Organic farmland acreage more than doubled from 1997 to 2005, according to the USDA.

But change, no matter how high the demand, takes time.

In Hawaii, Dean Okimoto, the owner of Nalo Farms, is experimenting with organically growing the Japanese root vegetable *gobo* inside three-inch polyvinyl chloride tubes. On his 16-acre farm, famous locally for producing fresh baby greens, Okimoto has dedicated two fields to growing organic tomatoes, eggplants and okra and experimenting with fertilizer made from natural products like eggshells.

"So far so good," said Okimoto, 56. "The bugs are staying away. The plants are growing really well."

He sees growth in the future for organic farming especially with the skyrocketing price of fertilizer.

"For me it's about the land. I don't want to be poisoning the land. I want to pass it on in good shape for the next generation," said the Sansei farmer.

The organic food movement has been slower to catch on in Hawaii than in the mainland, said Okimoto, in part because of the high cost. He hopes his experiment will create a sustainable model to help make organic food more accessible to all consumers. The concept is simple: Okimoto

'For me it's about the land. I don't want to be poisoning the land.'

**— Dean Okimoto,
Nalo Farms**

sells his organic produce to hotels and other businesses at a higher price in order to make the same food more accessible at a lower price for schools and lower income communities.

"We need to get real," he said. "It [the organic movement] is here to stay."

Beyond farmers, a new generation of APA leaders is also trying to spur change in the agricultural industry.

After graduating from the University of Southern California last year, Akemi Imai, 23, took an internship at the Catskill Mountain Foundation Natural Agricultural Farm in New York watering crops, planting seeds and harvesting produce on the 4.5-acre farm.

"I was not sure what I wanted to do career-wise and this was an opportunity to try something very different — I had never tried farming or anything related to agriculture before," said Imai, who is Shin Issei (post-WWII first generation Japanese American).

The farm, located in a small town called Sugar Maples, incorporates the principles of Shumai Natural Agriculture, which advocates the use of home-saved seeds and prohibits chemicals or even animal manure as fertilizer.

It's about respecting "nature and its natural cycles, and for the farmer and consumer to have gratitude for nature's bounty," said Imai, who will be returning to the farm in June to run the internship program.

The organic food movement does have its detractors and skeptics. A 2009 review conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* revealed that the nutritional content of organic food was no more nutritious than food produced with the use of synthetic pesticides.

Vince Trieu, 35, does not buy organic food. The Los Angeles resident says he really doesn't think about the origins of the food he eats.

"I don't really believe in it," he said.

But with its increasing popularity, the organic food movement has even created new generations of intrepid APA backyard farmers who are growing fruits and vegetables for personal consumption.

At his mom's house in San Gabriel, Calif., Andy Huynh, 29, surveys the many edible Asian fruits and greens thriving in an otherwise typical suburban backyard.

"There's a longan tree, two guava trees and chili [plants]," he pauses and adds, "My mom is a typical Asian American lady."

Basil, mint and kumquats are among some other prized plants he names. They are never sprayed with pesticides or chemicals, he says. It's a family tradition that spans across generations handed down from Huynh's grandmother, who toiled in her own backyard garden, to his mom and eventually to him one day.

From the backyard to the dinner table, it doesn't get any more local and organic than that.

"It's beneficial," said Huynh, who is third generation Vietnamese American. "You don't have to go to the supermarket, so you can save some money. But it's also beneficial for the health too because there are no pesticides." ■

Asian Americans Rolling With the Changes to Raves

News of the increase in ecstasy use among teens comes as the rave community in California rolls out new changes.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

The electronic music beats of drum and bass first called Danny Ho to the rave scene some 10 years ago. Ho says he usually makes it a tradition to attend certain large-scale raves, or "massives," each year.

Last year the 30-year-old was one of about 185,000 who attended the two-day long Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC), a rave that was held in Los Angeles, Calif. with carnival rides and five stages for performers. Musicians like Moby, Will.I.Am, and Lil Jon energized the psychedelically-dressed, costumed and scantily-clad bodies that writhed in the crowd.

But months after the event, people were mostly talking about what went on off stage.

"If it was a 30-year-old guy and nothing happened at EDC, like with all the fence-jumping, I can almost guarantee you that none of this would have happened," Ho explained, who is Hapa. "EDC would be at the coliseum this year like nothing ever happened."

The rave, which is put on by promoters Insomniac Events, was moved from its previous location at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum following negative attention from the 2010 event. Video footage of revelers jumping a barrier fence during DJ Laidback Luke's performance made the evening news. And the death of a 15-year-old attendee made headlines for months.

Sasha Rodriguez died June 29 as a result of complications from ecstasy use, according to L.A. Coroner Office spokesman Ed Winter. She attended the rave with her friends who later claimed the teen was slipped the drug. The autopsy report said she died from complications of ischemic encephalopathy as a result of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) intoxication.

Almost a year after the tragedy, new research is shining the spotlight on the rave scene again.

A new report released March 24 shows a 75 percent increase in emergency room visits involving ecstasy. Visits increased from 10,220 in 2004 to 17,865 in 2008, according to a report released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

The research shows about 70 percent of the patients seeking treatment were between the ages of 18 to 29. The majority of the visits occurred in the southern region of the country.

Long-time ravers say they are not shocked by the statistics showing a rise in ecstasy use.

"Raving is about drugs," Ho said, who

says he often uses drugs at raves. "People can think what they want. If people think it's like a drug den, you're definitely going to find that for sure. You're definitely going to find some fool rolling way too hard or some dude tripping on something that you've never imagined."

Another study shows that ecstasy use among teens increased from 6 percent in 2008 to 10 percent in 2010, according to a study released April 6 by the Partnership at Drugfree.org and the MetLife Foundation.

Those who work in treating addiction say the lure of the club and rave scenes have attracted youth for years.

"See the thing about the teens with marijuana and ecstasy use is that it's been on a rise since several years ago, ever since raves have gotten so exposed," Fred Payo said, a community organizer with the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, or AADAP. "There's such a great glamour in going ... to parties in general that once a youth actually hears about, 'Oh there's something that's really popping.' They would like to check it out."

The recently released statistics on ecstasy use comes nearly one year after the EDC rave was held in Los Angeles. This year ravers like Ho are planning on traveling to the EDC rave that will be held in Las Vegas, Nev.

Some say the relocation of EDC to another state might signal greater changes to the overall rave community.

"The original Electric Daisy Carnival has moved outside of California. I think that's a major change," said filmmaker Le Shen Liu, a Chinese American who started going to raves in 1999. "So the rave scene is going to change one way or another. It's all a matter of how it's going to change."

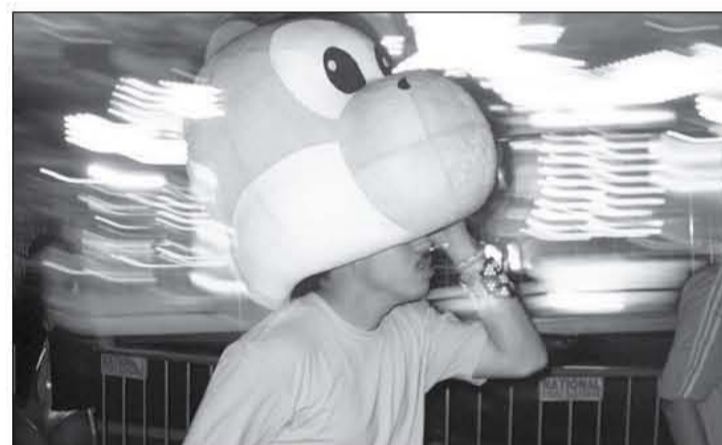
Liu, 31, is making the documentary "After EDC," which will be released later this year. His film, which was partially funded by DanceSafe, highlights the changes to raves following recent events and newly released drug statistics. The filmmaker went to the popular EDC rave for years before the controversial 2010 party.

He said ravers told him on camera that the party was a life-changing experience.

"Just being there with thousands of people, hearing the music, the stage and the lighting. I think that's something I wanted to highlight is that this is a very important experience for a lot of people," Liu said. "But with that said I don't want to let the rave scene off the hook. There are clearly a lot of problems and



PHOTOS BY MEL MARCELO



Attendees at the Beyond Wonderland rave this year (shown above) put on light-shows for one another using LED gloves. Lightshows are often believed to increase the effects of drugs like ecstasy.

A partygoer (left) took part in the festivities while in costume at the controversial Electric Daisy Carnival in 2010.

a lot of irresponsible behavior."

Following the incidents last year at EDC, public officials formed a task force to address concerns.

"The Asian American Drug Abuse Program, along with other alcohol and drug providers, were invited by County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention Control to participate in a task force in order to provide feedback to the coliseum commission on the dangers of ecstasy at local raves, particularly that at the coliseum," said Jeanne Shimatsu, AADAP prevention coordinator.

Staffers at AADAP made key observations at the coliseum-based rave to address future safety policies.

They noticed, Shimatsu said, many attendees "rolling," or high, on ecstasy and the air being "thick with marijuana smoke." Based on these observations recommendations were made to the task force, public officials and rave promoters, Shimatsu said.

In response to incidents like those at EDC and other raves, California lawmakers also drafted the Raves Safety Act, or AB 74. The bill would require a threat assessment and action plan to be conducted if a certain level of attendance is expected at an event and there is a "strong probability that loss of life or harm to the participants" may occur.

"This bill is in direct response to an established pattern of incidents," said Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco, who introduced the legislation. "California lacks statewide public safety

standards for high-risk events held on state property, yet the state remains liable and accountable when these tragic incidents occur."

Ma recently attended the Southern California-based rave Beyond Wonderland in March to get a firsthand experience with rave culture.

"I saw an industry that is coming of age and I was pleased to see a promoter taking the risks seriously, addressing problems head on, and working collaboratively with the community," Ma said.

Some ravers do not dispute the prevalence of drug use at raves, but they say relocating or shutting down raves will not stop the partying.

"The drug use is apparent and obvious. At least from a raver perspective it's not about trying to stop that. I don't think you can," Ho explained. "In two or three years people won't even remember EDC. At least that's my perspective." ■

What is Ecstasy?

Ecstasy, known by its scientific term as 3, 4-Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA), is also known on the street as 'E', 'X' and 'XTC', among other names. Ecstasy, usually taken in a tablet or pill form, produces a euphoric state that can last for about 3 to 5 hours. The drug was illegalized in 1985.

SOURCE: DANCE SAFE

'Raving is about drugs.'
— Danny Ho

Asian American Medical Professionals Going Beyond Borders



A medical expert with Doctors Without Borders consults with a patient in an evacuation center in Minami Sanriku.

Those who work with Doctors Without Borders say they joined the humanitarian organization for different reasons, but most come back for the rewarding work.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Louise Fang knows firsthand the dangers involved with working overseas as a nurse, but she says the potential hazards are trumped by the rewards of helping patients in need of medical care.

The 63-year-old who lives in Seattle, Wash. has worked as an operating room nurse since 1972. But in 2007 she would go on her first medical mission with Doctors Without Borders (MSF), a medical humanitarian organization.

Over the years Fang would go on four medical missions, working in medically underserved areas in Nigeria, South Sudan and Georgia. Patients and staff members endearingly called her grandma.

After decades of working as a nurse, Fang says she never became desensitized to the hard realities associated with her job.

"So they came to me and then they said, 'Oh, that patient passed away. That little baby,'" Fang said about a newborn in South Sudan. "The mom was just holding the baby. That expression was just so sad. So my tears just came out. It's just hard. It touches you."

MSF, which was founded in 1971 by doctors and journalists in France, has medical professionals stationed in about 60 countries worldwide.

After the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami crippled Japan, MSF sent a team of about 12 medical professionals to help the country. They have been working with patients who have chronic diseases, among other ailments.

"In one area around Minamisanriku, in northern Miyagi, we were told by officials there were 9,200 people in 20 evacuation centers who needed water, non-food items and medical attention," said Mikiko Dotsu, the Japan team's coordinator, in a press release.

Dotsu added that medical staff is concerned about elderly displaced residents who have chronic diseases and need medical care.

"Japan is entirely a little different because of the tsunami," Fang explained. "The thing they actually need is materials: water and clothes. And also they need a logistic team to reestablish the roads, so they can deliver all the aid to the most-damaged areas."

Fang says she is eager to go on her next mission, which will most likely not be Japan because of her limited availability. Doctors and nurses like Fang have varying reasons for why they joined MSF, but most say they continue to go overseas



Medical experts are especially concerned with Japan's elderly and displaced residents.

for the on-the-job rewards.

"They were always very, very grateful," said 31-year-old Lakha Mathewkutty, a registered nurse, about her work in Nigeria. "They'll feed you. They gave us a chicken. This is a big deal! For them, they don't have a lot and they're giving you a large portion of their income and sustenance. People are very, very appreciative."

Mathewkutty — an Indian American based in Los Angeles, Calif. — went on two medical assignments to Sri Lanka and Nigeria.

Working in Northern Nigeria, Mathewkutty managed meningitis vaccination teams. In addition to challenging living conditions — including living with no running water or electricity — her medical team had to fight rumors

swirling about their work.

"There were a lot of rumors about the vaccine making women sterile, that it wasn't really for meningitis and that it was a ploy by foreigners to not allow young girls to have children," Mathewkutty explained.

Working in rural areas overseas where high-end medical equipment is sometimes unavailable can present additional challenges for some medical professionals with MSF.

"We have to adapt. I had to adapt to learn what they have," Fang explained. "You just have to be flexible. We did a chest, we did a thoracotomy case, opened the chest without any chest instruments. We just don't have it. You do what you can to save lives."

Others say the limitations of working with MSF in underdeveloped countries were minimal.

"It seems like work that MSF does and the work that's done internationally caters much more to specific needs of the patients rather than a much larger infrastructure of a capitalistic money-making endeavor," explained Dr. Aditya Nadimpalli, a general physician based in New Orleans, La.

Now MSF teams are working in the tsunami-ravaged areas of Japan. With the recovery efforts in Japan expected to take years, MSF collaborated on March 11 with the Japanese Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists to support a team of six psychologists, who will treat survivors of the earthquake.

Over 16,000 people are estimated by Japanese officials to be missing and some 11,700 are confirmed dead.

"Many people now are in a phase of acute stress disorder, which is a totally natural response to this level of trauma," explained Ritsuko Nishimae, a clinical psychologist, in a press release. "If they are not able to get proper support psychologically, there is an increased possibility that they could develop post-traumatic stress disorder."

Fang says she is not being stationed in Japan to help with the relief efforts, but she will possibly go on her fifth medical mission as early as May or June.

"After the first mission I really liked it," Fang explained. "By the time I was ready to go home, all of my national staff they are so sad. They didn't want me to go. Then a few of them came to me and said, 'Oh, wow. You really touched my life.' I just did my job. I didn't realize I really did something really good." ■

JACL and Direct Relief Target Hardest Hit Areas, Most Vulnerable



AP PHOTO/THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN, TADASHI OKUBO

A woman stands in the middle of rubble in Miyagi Prefecture March 13, two days after the catastrophic earthquake-triggered tsunami hit northeastern Japan.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In an effort to help the most vulnerable in the hardest hit areas, JACL and Direct Relief International will be providing \$1 million in grants to local Japanese groups who are helping the elderly and disabled in the northern Japan areas devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. So far the groups' fundraising efforts have raised more than \$1.4 million.

Five groups will receive \$1 million in cash from the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund it was decided after JACL, Direct Relief and faculty at Meiji Gakuin University recently met in Japan. The projects chosen will expand the provision of essential emergency response services in their communities and include expanded coordination among private and volunteer relief efforts with local governments through Disaster Volunteer Centers.

"Our goal is to ensure that resources that have been so generously donated directly assist the people in Japan who have suffered enormously in this tragedy," said National JACL Director Floyd Mori.

So far close to 30,000 people have been killed in the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and 157,600 people are currently living in shelters.

One of the groups that will be receiving monies from the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund is the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) to support its central role as the coordinating body for groups responding to the disaster.

Other groups that will also be receiving funds include: Service for Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE), providing emergency medical and health care support; Shanti Volunteer Association, will transport relief supplies to remote and scattered evacuation centers in Kesen Numa City; Shapla Neer, has partnered with the local government to establish the Iwaki City Nakoso District Volunteer Center; and Japanese International Volunteer Center (JVC) will launch a nutritional support program to bring nutritious foodstuffs to food distribution sites.

In addition to the \$1 million in grants, \$400,000 was disbursed from the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund last month to the Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR).

The total of \$1.4 million in cash disbursements represents 56 percent of the total funds received since the JACL-Direct Relief joint effort was formed last month. ■

JACL Chapters in Action

In addition to national JACL's efforts with Direct Relief International to raise funds to help the Japanese devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, JACL chapters from across the country are doing their part to help in the relief efforts.

DIABLO VALLEY JACL

As of March 29 the Diablo Valley JACL chapter has raised \$770 in informal fundraising. They plan to give the monies to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) as the center continues to collect funds for relief efforts.

For more info: www.dvjacj.org

SAN DIEGO JACL

The chapter recently donated \$20,000 to the Japanese Red Cross Society for disaster relief efforts in Japan.

For more info: www.jaclsandiego.org

OLYMPIA JACL

The Olympia JACL chapter held two events in March and has raised \$1,200. All proceeds will be forwarded to Direct Relief International.

MARYSVILLE JACL

The Marysville JACL chapter, in conjunction with JCCCNC, held a fundraiser April 2 which featured the documentary, "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story." The chapter has raised \$5,640 and all proceeds will be forwarded to JCCCNC.

FRESNO JACL

Fresno JACL held an April 10 fundraiser at Takumi Japanese Restaurant to benefit the relief effort in Japan. Just under \$12,000 was raised for Direct Relief on behalf of the JACL. The Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno donated \$1,000. Takumi closed their restaurant for the event and donated all of the food.

For more info: www.fresnojacj.org

To send us your fundraising effort updates, email: pc@pacificcitizen.org.

YOSHIKAWA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

innovative ideas to the table."

Since the beginning of the Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies Movement, youth have been at the forefront of current events and issues that affect the AA community.

"The Japanese American Citizens League is an organization that represents all people," said Bryan Namba, Pacific Southwest District youth representative. "However, when attending national convention business sessions, looking around, there is a noticeable shortage

of young adult delegates. In order to keep up with the ever-changing society, young voices must be heard to maintain JACL's demanding and continual fight for civil rights."

Since she was a child, Tiffany Ikeda has attended JACL conventions along with her family.

"Traditionally, JACL youth programming has been segregated from the larger organization," said Ikeda. "While this created a social environment for peers to interact and connect, it prevented youth from getting involved with the JACL in a capacity outside of the traditional youth roles."

Ikeda, who serves as the Northern

California, Western Nevada, Pacific District youth representative, adds: "After graduating into adulthood, many of these former youth leaders find it difficult to transition into adult leadership roles and become just another face at convention. This is where the JACL needs to rethink the current model of youth leadership."

By naming youth as delegates, they will be a part of the decision-making process and national JACL will be providing a unique leadership experience and networking opportunities not replicable by on-campus social clubs.

Leading up to the national JACL convention in Los Angeles July 7-10, the NY/SC asks that chapters name a youth member as one of their voting

delegates for convention.

"We are a dynamic organization and we've spent years cultivating the next generation of leaders," said Ikeda. "The time has come to give them the opportunity to be heard so that they may become an integral part of the JACL in the years to come." ■

Devin Yoshikawa is the national JACL youth representative. He can be reached at: youthrep@jacj.org or follow him on Twitter: @jaclyouthrep. You can also communicate with the NY/SC via their Facebook page: JACL Youth.

'The Japanese American Citizens League is an organization that represents all people.'

— Bryan Namba



42nd JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION "JACL 2.0 - Making New Waves"

Los Angeles July 7-10, 2011

Registration Form

A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, or by email at 2011convention@jacjpsw.org, or by calling (213) 626-4471.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City/State _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____ JACL Chapter _____

Vegetarian Meals Yes _____ No _____ Special Needs _____

Payment Method

Check: Please make check or money order payable to "JACL Pacific Southwest District"

Credit Card: _____ AmEx _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

Registration Packages

Packages include Welcome Reception, Awards Luncheon, Nikkei Conference, and Culmination Banquet. *(Y)= Youth/Student

	By 5/31	After 5/31
Convention Package	\$250	\$300
Convention Package (Y)	\$200	\$250
Nikkei Conference Only	\$50	\$75
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Culmination Banquet	\$155	\$200
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Awards Luncheon	\$70	\$85
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JACL CU Golf Tournament	\$110	\$125

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Please book hotel rooms at the Renaissance Hotel, (323) 856-1200 or online: www.jacl.org/convention

Please mail completed form and payment to:

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Select **one** track for the 2011 Nikkei Conference:

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for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

More on that Gorilla

I received some reactions from my column last month about the JACL's decision to advise cooperation with the government's WWII exclusion policy and was criticized for trying to justify the JACL's decision.

For the record, I wasn't attempting to justify that decision so much as explain it. For much of my life, I'd been a critic of some of the JACL's conduct during WWII and still am in some regards, but the difference now is that, while I may still look critically at some of the things the JACL did or got involved with, I can better understand them now.

That does not excuse or make better some of those things, but having gone through a host of experiences dealing with the government in D.C. from my redress lobbying years and my years as the JACL's director and all the years in between, I think I have a better understanding of how a bunch of naïve, inexperienced young men could end up doing what they did.

It's important to keep in mind that while the JACL met in an emergency session to consider what actions it should take, these were only a bunch of young guys and a small number of equally young women. The average age of the JACL membership was around 21 years old, and when they debated the issue of the so-called "evacuation," they had no idea how they were being manipulated by the government. So I can understand the kind of confusion and despair that came out of that meeting, with hardly any true agreement about what they should do to deal with what confronted the JA community.

It's also important to remember that while the JACL's decision was cooperation, the organization was small and without any real authority in the community, which had pretty much ignored them in the past. They were a bunch of political elitists as far as others in the community were concerned (not unlike today), and non-JACLers often scoffed at what the JACL undertook in the years and days before the war.

So suddenly a JACL decision lays heavily on the community that had virtually ignored the organization up to that point? It seems to me that more people in the JA community could have — and maybe should have — told the JACL to go to hell and ignored anything it said. My father was one of those people. He was a Kibei and wasn't so much opposed to the JACL (in fact, he told me once that he admired the JACL's guts in taking on local and federal authority) as he was opposed to, and critical of, the organization's decision in 1942. And still, he went along like everyone else did.

The point is, *people didn't have to listen and didn't have to do what the JACL recommended.* True, there was no other communication link with the feds other than through the JACL, but that's not the organization's fault. The government intentionally *chose* the JACL because of its chapter network and access to the community.

But still, we were — most of us — American citizens and knew our rights, or at least understood them insofar as second class citizens ever understand their rights in this society. We could have told the government we would not be forced from our homes, despite what these young men were advising us. No one *had* to go along with the JACL's decision, this little organization that was less than one percent of the JA population.

If we hadn't gone along and if we defied the government's orders from the outset, those who became No-No Boys, those who in anger became ex-patriots, those who defied the draft, and all those who rose up in anger in one form or another during the camp years could have truly exercised their rights. Screw the JACL, I would have said and dared the Army and police to force me out of my home and into their concentration camps. It would have been so simple and so clear about right and wrong, and the government would have been the bad guys instead of those young guys who didn't know their what's-its from a hole in the ground.

And you wouldn't today have some foolish young man publicly talking about how Masaoka actually worked with the U.S. government to implement the internment. But then, that's just a young person who's been advised by one of us, those in our community who think they're so macho today. I don't blame that young guy, even though he's a bit clueless: he's just accepted what he's been told without thinking about it. He's young, kind of like the JACL leaders were back in the day.

So who's to blame, really? The JACL, for thinking it knew what it was doing when it had no clue? The angry community that went along with the advice of a bunch of young men whose judgment they didn't trust in the first place and hadn't for all the while? Or the government, who was racist and callous and manipulative and uncaring, that ignored our rights and told us we were worthless?

I don't know where your anger lies, but I know where mine has always been. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



NIKKEI
VOICE
BY GIL ASAKAWA

Did the Earthquake Bring JAs Closer to Japan?

A couple of days after the tragic earthquake and tsunami struck the northeast coast of Japan's main island on March 11, the *Newark Star Ledger* ran an article with a headline that promised Japanese Americans' concerns for relatives in Japan: "Japanese-Americans in Fort Lee, Edgewater describe frantic calls to loved ones in quake's wake."

I was bemused — and a little disappointed — to find that the story wasn't about Japanese Americans. The reporter went up to some shoppers in Mitsuwa, a Japanese supermarket in New Jersey, and from their names and their quotes, I could tell immediately that the people quoted were Japanese. You know, *Japanese* Japanese. Immigrants from Japan. Or more precisely, *Shin Issei*, or "new first generation" Japanese. Or maybe even just Japanese families of business men (or women) or diplomats assigned for a year or three in the U.S. before rotating back to Japan or to another post elsewhere in the world.

There are fewer *Japanese* Japanese in America than other Asian populations, because fewer Japanese are immigrating to the U.S. than in the past. As of the 2000 Census, about 7,000 new Japanese immigrants came to the U.S. every year. In contrast, 50,900 Chinese and 17,900 Koreans per year came to the U.S.

So maybe it's not surprising that a mainstream news organization would mistake Japanese immigrants for JAs. (I should note that West Coast newspapers did better, and when they interviewed JAs they were indeed JAs, and when Japanese nationals were interviewed, they were identified as such.)

But still, it struck me that many JAs are not necessarily connected to Japan.

That's because many JA families came to the U.S. in the late 19th or early 20th century — before 1924, when Japanese immigration was shut off. That's why many JA traditions and even language are old-fashioned to modern Japanese. It's as if our community were collectively frozen in a time warp, like Asian Rip Van Winkles.

So when we yell "I gotta go *benjo*" to the family before we head out the door, a *Japanese* Japanese person standing nearby will cringe with embarrassment because we're using such lowbrow, antiquated slang that it's never used anymore in modern Japan.

When I wrote my book "Being Japanese American" in 2004, I informally surveyed JAs across the country. To my surprise, I discovered that a lot of JAs — especially Sansei, the generation that grew up post-internment

with much of their culture suppressed by the Nisei — weren't particularly interested in visiting Japan. Mostly they're ashamed of not being Japanese enough, and self-conscious that they can't speak Japanese except for those words our grandparents yelled at us, like "yakamashii," "abunai," "urusai" and of course the classic "baka." (Loosely translated, "Stop making so much noise," "that's dangerous," "stop being loud" and "dummy.")

A lot of JAs simply don't feel that close to Japan. For many, their relatives are very distant relations. Going to a Japanese restaurant for sushi and teriyaki beef, and maybe dancing in an *obon* dance might be as Japanese as they get.

But if there's a blessing in the disaster of March 11, it's that JAs might feel a little more of a bond with their roots than before. For one thing, everyone they know has been asking them if they have family or friends who were affected by the disaster. "No, thank god," we politely say. Or even weirder, people we barely know come up as if at a funeral service and say "I'm so sorry ... if there's anything I can do. ..."

These awkward interactions remind us that we're Japanese after all, somewhere deep inside even if we haven't acknowledged it much in our lives. And, we've banded together and "Liked" Facebook campaigns for Japan relief, and read the articles about the difficulty of getting aid to the affected towns in Japan. We've helped organize fundraising concerts, events, fashion shows, performances and just plain old donation drives. We've texted the various relief agencies so part of our phone bills can go overseas.

The quake, tsunami and nuclear threat have awakened our hearts and reminded us that we care about Japan. And we've shown it by donating, and by sharing articles and news.

What Japan will really need in the months — and years — to come, is for us to get up our nerve, learn a little more modern *Nihongo*, and travel to Japan. Because surely, that's the kind of personal aid they'll seek the most: reconnecting with our families and the country from which our ancestors emigrated. ■

Gil Asakawa is a Denver-based journalist and blogger who writes at www.nikkeiview.com and for Huffington Post Denver. He is the author of "Being Japanese American" (Stone Bridge Press, 2004) and a past chair of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board.

Chi-Lan Lieu on What's 'Fact or Faked'

The Chinese American photog is among a team of paranormal investigators on Syfy's 'Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files.'

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Television personality Chi-Lan Lieu was taught to revere spirits growing up in a traditionally Chinese family in California, but her work on Syfy's "Fact or Faked" has sent her on the hunt for the paranormal.

The "Fact or Faked" team — comprised of a former FBI agent, lead scientist, photo expert (Lieu), journalist, stunt expert and tech expert — is challenged with debunking or authenticating paranormal footage.

Over the years Lieu has worked as a TV host for numerous outlets, but it was her photography expertise and curiosity in the paranormal that led her to join the cast of "Fact or Faked."

In a search for the truth, Lieu has worked on cases involving Sasquatch, a Bayou beast and ghosts, among other things.

But as Lieu shared with the *Pacific Citizen* during a recent phone call, some of the most unsettling and humorous moments often occur off camera while cast members conduct investigations in the wilderness.

How did you get involved with Syfy's 'Fact or Faked' team?

Chi-Lan Lieu: The way that I got involved was literally an audition. I saw a posting and I replied to it because it just said: someone that was interested in the paranormal. Ever since I was a kid I always kind of believed in it because I grew up really traditionally Chinese. So I always believed the spirits are around us. So I had an interest in it, applied, went through a couple of rounds, got a really bad haircut in the meantime [laughs] and I somehow got the job.

What interests you about the paranormal?

Lieu: I really just found the idea of just life on other places besides earth really fascinating and a big possibility.

On the show, though, you seem to be a skeptic.

Lieu: Huge, huge skeptic when it comes to these stories that we do. Because again I mean the way that a lot of the stories that we're chasing after are presented to me, it just seems like a falsehood. It doesn't seem like always so true and always so honest. So it's like I'm always the one that goes [laughs], 'that really looks like CG [computer generated], guys.'

Despite some of the doctored footage, you've had some scary moments during your investigations. You were startled during the Symphonic Spirits case when you heard a noise in the dark.

Lieu: That was crazy! Honestly, [laughs] I've been doing TV for a couple of years now, so when I heard that noise I thought, 'OK someone dropped something.' Then finally the boys realized that something had happened. When it first happens because we are so in the zone of like thinking, 'What do we do next?' We're talking. We're deep in this conversation. You're not paying attention to that ambience stuff as much.

Growing up in a Chinese home, are your parents supportive of your work in the paranormal?

Lieu: My dad doesn't believe it. But mom — I kind of didn't tell her what I was doing. She never watches the stuff I'm on. She doesn't. She used to watch some of the stuff. And I'd be like, 'Mom come on! I'm on TV. Come watch now.' She goes, 'All right. I'm finishing something!' She'd come out of the kitchen or wherever she was. And she's like, 'You're not even there!' I was like, 'Yeah mom



PHOTO: DARREN ABATE/SYFY

'It doesn't seem like always so true and always so honest. So it's like I'm always the one that goes [laughs], 'that really looks like CG [computer generated], guys.'

because you missed me on TV.' She knows I'm on TV. She knows I'm not lying. It's not like a big deal in my family. They're just like, 'whatever, it's a job.' My sister [Ying] is saying they do. She's like, 'You're totally wrong.' My parents are super supportive of what I do. They'll watch. But they can't get into certain subjects. My dad does believe in spirits, like the Chinese way.

Did you always have your sights set on an entertainment career?

Lieu: I wanted to direct and then I went on 'Wheel of Fortune [during high school].' I think I was inspired by some magazine article. Then I went into journalism for my last year of high school. I went to college and got really into art, filmmaking and all that stuff.

You also have been trained in photography, right?

Lieu: I have a degree in it. It's what I studied. It's what I loved. It's what I'm really practiced at. I used to be like a crazy maven in the darkroom. I remember like even though I showered every night after coming home from the darkroom, like eight hours in there, my sheets always still smelled like fixer [laughs].

Using your photography training on the show, you must be able to spot a fake case easily.

Lieu: Not always. CG has kind of gotten pretty hardcore [laughs]. It's really hard to tell now-a-days. Not always. But a lot of times I can or I can guess at the technique they used, especially darkroom techniques.

Some of the 'Fact or Faked' fans have posted comments online saying the team is quick to debunk everything. Do you agree with that?

Lieu: No. Jesus Christ, no. I think it's half and half. Half of the cast believes straight off like, 'Oh my God. This is solid proof that ghosts exist! This is the smoking gun!' Seriously I am literally the way I appear on the show: a total skeptic. I'm very skeptical about these videos and stuff. You have to be in this world. If you had all believers on the show,

what point is that? Boring TV.

It seems very exciting to be a part of the team and get to travel and investigate all these bizarre cases.

Lieu: You would think so, yeah.

It's all hard work and no fun?

Lieu: It's a lot of hard work because it's a lot of devising these experiments, figuring out what will and won't work at the time. It's also playing with a lot of equipment. Being a tech reporter — I started in technology reporting for TechTV — you know that whenever you're shooting equipment decides to fail. It doesn't matter if your cell phone is working all of a sudden you're going to walk into the Bermuda Triangle of no reception [laughs]. So sometimes you're like constantly working with like equipment problems and stuff. So it can get really grueling. Our average is 14 hour-long shoots, 16 hours.

And in some of the episodes you have additional stresses, like wild animals.

Lieu: That is *crazy*! I'm usually the only chick on the entire crew. So it's like, I pray to God they ordered a Porta-Potty [laughs].

What's the bathroom protocol when you're on assignment in the forest?

Lieu: There's no toilet paper because no one is like, 'I got it.' This is the worst part, sometimes I'll tell the sound man to shut me down because I have to go to the bathroom and we're in the woods and stuff. If the soundman doesn't shut you off you hear everybody's business — well all the producers and stuff hear everybody's business.

I was going to ask if the cast got along. But, you must if you're working in those intimate conditions.

Lieu: Yeah. I'd say luckily [laughs]. If we totally didn't it would really suck. ■



Warner Bros. Accused of 'Whitewashing' in 'Akira'

Asian Pacific American groups are calling for a meeting with Warner Brothers Pictures executive over accusations of "whitewashing" in the live action version of "Akira."

"Akira," originally a Japanese manga series about post-apocalyptic Tokyo, is being scripted for the big screen by Steve Kloves of "Harry Potter" fame and is being shopped to Caucasian actors, according to Racebending.com, a grassroots organization that supports entertainment equality.

Andrew Garfield of "The Social Network" and Rob Pattinson of "Twilight" are rumored to be in the running for roles originally designated for Japanese characters.

In a March 29 letter to Jeff Robinov, Warner Brothers Pictures president, Racebending.com co-founder Marissa Lee called on the film studio to "give Asian American actors fair and equal consideration for first-bill roles" in "Akira" and two other Japanese-themed films.

Warner Brothers is also developing "All You Need is Kill" and "Death Note."

"Last week, the Asian American community was appalled to see entertainment media outlets report that all of the actors currently being considered for lead

roles in 'Akira' are white," said Lee in the same letter.

With support from other APA groups like the Asian American Justice Center and the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, of which JACL is a member, Racebending.com launched a virtual petition on Facebook.com opposing the "whitewashing" of this popular series. Over 7,000 supporters joined.

The coalition hopes to meet with studio executives in April.

APAs represent over 15 million media consumers, but Warner Brothers has rarely produced films with APAs in first-billed roles, according to the advocacy group.

"Actors like Robert Pattinson and Andrew Garfield have the privilege of playing iconic white characters that Asian American actors would never be considered for," said Lee. "When white actors are also asked to play iconic Asian characters, Asian American actors lose their shot at starring in anything."

In 2009, Racebending.com and other APA groups criticized Paramount Pictures for similarly "whitewashing" the cast of "The Last Airbender," a popular animated series that takes place in an Asian fantasy world inspired by Asian cultures and themes.

U.S. Senators to Consider New Akaka Bill

Sen. Akaka, who plans to retire after his current term, has spent more than a decade trying to pass his signature bill.

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a meeting to consider legislation granting federal recognition of a Native Hawaiian government.

Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii said the April 6 business meeting will be used to make minor amendments to the bill and possibly vote on it.

If approved, the measure would advance to the full Senate.

Sen. Akaka and U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono, both Democrats representing Hawaii, reintroduced versions of the measure in the Senate and House on April 5.

Akaka said it's his priority to put Native Hawaiians on equal footing with Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Similar legislation failed to get a vote in the Senate last year following 11 years of efforts by Akaka to get it passed.

The legislation, known as the Akaka Bill, comes as state lawmakers also are considering proposals to form a Native Hawaiian governing body themselves.

Akaka has said he won't seek re-election next year, so this may be his last opportunity to get the legislation passed. ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press



Veteran's Group Honors Sadao Munemori

LOS ANGELES—Veterans and high school students recently gathered at a Los Angeles cemetery to pay tribute to a Medal of Honor winner.

Members of the American Legion Sadao Munemori Post 321 and the Abraham Lincoln High School color guards met at Evergreen Cemetery April 5 to honor Sadao Munemori's legacy.

This is the sixth year that the JROTC had held the service.

First Sgt. Clifford Henderson presented a memorial wreath from the JROTC and arranged to have an announcement made about Munemori on the school's public address system.

Munemori, an Abraham Lincoln High School alumnus and member of the famed 442nd regimental combat team of World War II, was killed in action on April 5, 1945.

APAs Make Their Case at Redistricting Hearing

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Illinois lawmakers who are preparing to redraw the state's legislative boundaries are hearing from groups about how to do that.

Several interest groups told lawmakers they wanted an area south of downtown Chicago with a 30 percent Asian American population, many of them Chinese, kept intact and no longer split between a variety of legislative districts.

The hearing was the first of five such events being held around the state by the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee. The next ones will be April 16 in Kankakee and Peoria, and April 19 in Cicero.

Democrats are running the show when it comes to redistricting because they control both legislative chambers and the governor's office.

Colorado's Civil Unions Bill Fails

DENVER—A GOP-led committee rejected civil unions for Colorado same-sex couples after an eight-hour hearing.

That hearing included passionate pleas from gay couples who said they were being denied equal rights and religious leaders who argued the proposal would diminish the sanctity of marriage.

The proposal had breezed through the Democratic-controlled Senate and came close to getting on the House committee where it failed on a 6-5 party-line vote.

Under Senate Bill 172, couples in civil unions would have rights similar to married couples, including the ability to be involved in their partner's medical decisions.

Center for Korean Studies Gets \$2M Endowment

HONOLULU—The Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has a new \$2 million endowment to ensure the steady growth of Korean studies at the school.

The Korea Foundation contributed \$1 million for the endowment, while the center raised the rest from other contributors.

The Center for Korean Studies was established in 1972. It brings together one of the largest concentrations of Korea scholars outside Korea itself. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Yaguchi Receives Secretary of Defense Medal



Michael Yaguchi, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, has been awarded the prestigious Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service.

The medal, presented at a formal Pentagon ceremony, honors Yaguchi's "direct and central role in negotiation and ratification of the new strategic arms reduction treaty," commonly referred to as the "New START Treaty."

The treaty, designed to bring unprecedented clarity regarding Russian strategic nuclear capabilities and intentions, has proven valuable in addressing critical security challenges.

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga Receives Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award

One of the seminal figures in the Japanese American community's fight for redress and reparations will receive the 2011 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award, according to the Manzanar Committee.

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga will receive the award April 30 at the Manzanar pilgrimage.

Herzig-Yoshinaga, 87, is best known for her dedicated work in the National Archives alongside her late husband, Jack Herzig, uncovering "smoking gun" evidence that the government suppressed, altered and destroyed evidence that detailed the racist, unconstitutional arguments used to justify the WWII internment.

The award is named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee, **Sue Embrey**.

Karin Wang is Woman of the Year



Karin Wang, vice president of programs and communications at the **Asian Pacific American Legal Center**, has been named 2011 Woman of the Year for California's 49th Assembly District.

Assemblymember **Mike Eng** selected Wang for the recognition.

Wang, a graduate of UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, is a past president of the Asian Pacific American Bar

Association of Los Angeles County, past board member of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, and former chair of the State Bar's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services.

Four Nominated to Fill Court Vacancies on Oahu

Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald has appointed four judges to fill court vacancies on Oahu.

Recktenwald appointed attorneys **Lanson Kupau**, **Melanie Mito May** and **Dean Ochiai** to serve as district court judges.

Kupau is currently a district family court judge on Oahu and an attorney. Mito May has been in private practice, specializing in employment law, since 1997. Ochiai is an attorney for First Insurance Company of Hawaii.

The chief justice appoints district court and family court judges from a list of at least six names submitted by Judicial Selection Commission.

Tiger Mom's Daughter Accepted to Yale, Harvard

The daughter of an author on tough Chinese-style parenting has been accepted to Yale and Harvard.

Yale law professor **Amy Chua** confirmed through her publisher that her daughter **Sophia** has been accepted to the two Ivy League schools. She declined further comment.

Chua's memoir, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," described Eastern-style parenting she used with her two daughters: no sleepovers, no play dates, no TV, no computer games, no grades under A, grueling rote academics and hours of piano and violin practice. ■



PHOTO: CHRISTINE DOUGLAS/9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn, commander of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, greets World War II veterans March 28 at the Iolani Palace in Honolulu.

Nisei Veterans Recreate Historic Palace Photo

The Japanese American WWII soldiers will receive the Congressional Gold Medal later this year.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

HONOLULU—Almost 70 years have passed since Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team gathered at the Iolani Palace in Honolulu to pose for a photo before heading for training on the mainland during World War II.

The photo, originally taken in 1943, was recreated on March 28 with 35 of the original soldiers gathering once again to remake the historical image. The first photo had 2,600 soldiers lined up in front of the palace.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported the veterans appeared at the palace this time with canes, walkers and some fading memories. They also spoke with appreciation that Congress and the nation still acknowledge the adversity they overcame on and off the battlefield.

This time the aging Nisei veterans were joined by U.S. Army Reservists from the 9th Mission Support Command's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment for the photo op.

Some 13,000 veterans of the 442nd, the 100th Infantry Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service are due to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award, later this year. The ceremony will take place in Washington, D.C. For veterans in Hawaii who won't be able to attend the D.C. event, a ceremony honoring the WWII veterans will take place in Hawaii Dec. 17.

"We want to honor the veterans with our family,

friends, and the community," said retired Maj. Gen. Robert G. F. Lee, a Hawaii member of the Congressional Gold Medal committee and the former Hawaii Adjutant General. "The veterans came home and lived their lives with the same dignity and dedication they showed in battle. Our community has been inspired by their support."

The Nisei veterans' "Go For Broke" spirit still lives on in today's ranks, said Lee.

"The soldiers serving today are absolutely proud to be a part of the history and tradition of the 100th/442nd. You can be sure that your legacy remains in the U.S. Army today as evident by the soldiers standing behind you."

Many of the current 100th Battalion soldiers continue to participate in community events to honor the legacy of the Nisei soldiers.

"I only hope that we can continue to honor our predecessors and bring credit upon what they have done and all they have sacrificed," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Livernois, the senior mechanic with the 740th Combat Support Company, 100th Battalion.

"Every day that we have the opportunity to be with them is a privilege," said Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment commander. "They are living legends. We see what these veterans have done for our community, state and country as a whole. The part that really hits home is that legacy of service and patriotism to our country. We're just so privileged to be a part of it."

The Congressional Gold Medal Hawaii committee has planned to hold a parade on Dec. 17 in Waikiki which will be followed by a banquet at the Honolulu Convention Center. ■

Advertisers Drop Minn. Radio Station Over Racist Song

A song parody about Hmong Americans has landed a popular Minnesota radio station in hot water.

Critics say KDWB Radio's "Dave Ryan in the Morning Show" crossed the line last month when it aired the song, set to the tune of Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven." The lyrics include comments on how Hmong Americans live like "sardines."

"That's unbelievable and I'm just shocked by it," Lee Pao Xiong, director of the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University, told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

Advertisers have also reacted

'... we
apologize to
anyone we
may have
inadvertently
offended, as
this was never
our intent.'

strongly to the controversy. AT&T and Health Partners have pulled their ads on the popular Twin Cities radio station, citing the offensiveness of the song.

In response to complaints, the station posted an apology on its Facebook page.

"While we received positive feedback from many Hmong listeners who let us know that they found the song in question very humorous, we apologize to anyone we may have inadvertently offended, as this was never our intent." ■



Goodwin Liu Gets OK from Senate Judiciary Committee — Again

The judicial nominee continues to battle for the Ninth circuit court bench.

Goodwin Liu has received a stamp of approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee clearing the way for another potential battle in Congress over the confirmation of the law professor who was been nominated three times for the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

On April 7, the committee voted 10-8 in favor of recommending the University of California, Berkeley assistant dean and law professor for the federal judgeship.

Liu, who was first nominated by President Barack Obama in February 2010, has won repeated approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee but has yet to receive a Senate floor vote. The president re-nominated him in September and again in January.

Proponents have labeled the legal scholar as a contender to become the first Asian Pacific American in the Supreme Court — if he gets confirmed for the ninth circuit court.

But his opponents have portrayed him as being too liberal by citing his support for same-sex marriage and his chairmanship of the progressive American Constitution Society.

APA leaders are pressing the full Senate to confirm Liu, a former Rhodes scholar who received the highest rating from the American Bar Association.

"We urge the Senate to move quickly to give Professor Liu the up-or-down vote that every nominee deserves," said Paul O. Hirose, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA). "Professor Liu is eminently qualified to serve as a federal appellate judge, and he is long overdue for a confirmation vote." ■

Twin Cities JACL Hosts Speakers Training Workshop



Workshop attendees and organizers: (front row, l-r) Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Linda Izumi Marek, April Dennison, Janet Maeda Carlson, Joyce Miyamoto, Lucy Kirihaara, and Sally Sudo. (Middle row, l-r) Ken Ushio, Mark Honda, Kim Schiller, Rebecca Ferderer, Kazusa Yamashita, and Carolyn Nayematsu. (Back row, l-r) Matthew Walters, Hiroki Kikuchi, and James Densley.

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee hosted a March 26 workshop to train the next generation of speakers to talk about the Japanese American World War II experience.

"There is a critical need to add new members to our speakers bureau," said Sally Sudo, committee chair. "The number of us Nisei who can fulfill requests to schools and community groups is dwindling."

Fourteen trainees, including high school and college students, teachers, and chapter members, attended the half-day training session at the International Institute of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Janet Maeda Carlson, a retired Macalester College professor who taught a course on the Asian American experience, discussed the parallels between the World War II incarceration of JAs and the treatment of Muslim Americans since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist

attacks.

Bureau members and former internees Sudo and Lucy Kirihaara shared firsthand experiences and gave tips on how to give effective presentations.

The Twin Cities chapter has collected 17 oral history testimonies from local Nisei for an educational DVD. An extensive collection of videotapes, DVDs, books, teacher guides, and photographs are also available for loan.

Carolyn Nayematsu and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas were also involved in planning the workshop.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois.

Another training session is planned for the fall. ■

For more information:
Education.TCJACL@hotmail.com

East West Players Theater Company to Hold Playwriting Competition



Joyce Lin as Vuthy in Michael Golamco's 'Year Zero', which won the East West Players competition in 2008.

East West Players, a Los Angeles-based Asian Pacific American theater organization, is calling on aspiring playwrights to compete in its "Face of the Future" competition, which seeks to encourage more theater plays with APA themes.

"As we move into a more multiracial and global society, it is important to process the many levels and complexities of stories in our lives," said Tim Dang, East West Players' producing artistic director.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three plays including \$5,000 for the first place winner, \$2,500 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place.

All winners will be considered for workshop and/or production at East West Players.

This year, the competition will focus on the theme of exploring the reality of multicultural America from an APA perspective. Subject matter may include, but are not limited to, biracial or multiracial identity, clashes or collaborations between cultures or international/transnational storylines.

Submissions will be accepted May 2 to Aug. 31.

Winners will be notified next February.

In 2008, East West Players hosted a competition called "Pacific Century." The winners included S. Vasanti Saxena for "Sun Sisters", Philip W. Chung for "My Man Kono" and Michael Golamco for "Year Zero." ■

'Face of the Future'

Submissions must be original, unproduced full-length plays or musicals. Translations or adaptations will not be accepted. Submissions must have Asian Pacific American themes and/or characters as the primary focus.

All genres are welcome, but comedies are encouraged. Plays should require no more than 5-7 actors. Musicals should require no more than 10-12 actors. The story should be told in less than two and a half hours including a 15-minute intermission and must be accessible to a primarily English-speaking audience. All submissions must include a \$20 entry fee with the 'Face of the Future' entry form.

For more info and forms:
www.eastwestplayers.org or
Jeff Liu 213/625-7000 ext. 27 or
jliu@eastwestplayers.org

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Vieira plans to attend the University of Pacific this fall to major in business administration.

Ichiro Vieira Gets French Camp JACL Scholarship

The chapter holds its 63rd annual installation luncheon in Stockton.

The JACL French Camp chapter held its 63rd annual New Year's and installation luncheon recently at King's House restaurant in downtown Stockton. Despite the heavy rainfall, more than 60 chapter members attended.

Linda Ogata, Lodi JACL president, installed the following 2011 slate of officers: Dean Komure, president; Kent Higashiyama, first vice president; David Morinaka, second vice president; Karen Nakamura, treasurer; Jeannie Matsumoto, corresponding secretary; Helen Honda, recording secretary; Alan Nishi, delegate; Tom Miyasaki, historian; and Miki Kagoshima, membership.

This year's French Camp chapter scholarship awardee was George Ichiro Vieira, an honors student at McNair High School in Stockton. Vieira is an active

member of the school's award-winning MESA program. He has participated in two varsity sports — swimming and water polo — and received his team's MVP award. He also visited Stockton's sister city of Shimizu-Shizuoka in the summer of 2009 as a youth ambassador.

At the Stockton Buddhist Temple, Vieira is a karate instructor for the children's class. He also has participated in the Shoguns basketball program, Jr. YBA, Japanese school, and Friday clean-up crew.

Vieira plans to attend the University of Pacific this fall, majoring in business administration.

He is the son of Donald and Sheryl Vieira and the grandson of George and Alice Shingu, all of Stockton.

The luncheon ended with all attendees receiving a raffle prize. The next chapter event will be the annual summer picnic, held in conjunction with Lodi JACL, on June 5 at Micke Grove Park. ■

Veterans to Honor Fallen JA Brethren May 28

A Memorial Day service for all Japanese Americans who died in war will be held May 28 at the Japanese American National War Memorial Court in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The memorial court is located adjacent to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center on 244 South San Pedro Street.

The Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee (JAVVMC) and the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) are jointly sponsoring this year's event.

The co-chairs of the event are Vincent

Okamoto of the JAVVMC and Minoru Tonai of the JAKWV.

The keynote speaker will be Scott Takahashi, a Vietnam War veteran whose father was a member of the 100th Battalion during World War II.

The Koyasan Buddhist Temple Boy Scout Troop 379 and the El Rancho High School Marine Corp Jr. ROTC will also participate in the ceremony. Representatives from the Buddhist and Christian faiths will offer prayers to these brave men.

The public and Gold Star mothers and families of the men who are memorialized on the monument are invited to attend. ■

Memorial Day Service May 28

Service at 10 a.m.; Japan earthquake and tsunami relief benefit concert at 4 p.m.

For tickets and more information: Darryl Tanikawa at darryl@tanikawartists.com or 310/377-8977 or Thomi Yamamoto 213/387-9033.

Venice JA Memorial Marker to be Unveiled

The design of a proposed memorial, which marks the location's significance in the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans, will be unveiled during an April 25 ceremony.

On April 25, 1942, about 1,000 Japanese Americans from the California cities of Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu gathered at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards to await their forced evacuation to the Manzanar internment camp.

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee has been working

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Venice, CA 90294
Make checks payable to the 'Venice Community Housing Corporation/Venice Arts Council' with 'VJAMM' in the memo line.

with Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, to place a memorial at the historical intersection.

The marker '[would] serve as a constant reminder of the denial of U.S. Constitutional rights to a minority group that simply shared the ethnicity of the nation that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941,' according to Rosendahl's motion.

Community organizations including the West Los Angeles JACL and the Nikkei Student Union at the University of California, Los Angeles, wrote letters of

support for the memorial marker. ■



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March 11 was a disastrous day and there are no words to express our sorrow at all the destruction that Japan has encountered. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan. Yamato Travel Bureau is endorsing and contributing to the U.S.-Japan Council Earthquake Relief Fund because 100% of all donations go to the people of Japan. If you wish to join us, here is the link to their website:
<http://usjapanCouncil.org/fund>

ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

Our Spring Tour to Japan was cancelled, but we do have other destinations as shown below. Our agents will be very happy to help in any travel requests. Yamato Travel Bureau handles travel to any part of the world. We await your calls or e-mails. Thank you very much for your loyalty and continued support!

June 5-15	Yamato Essential Spain Tour — 11 days/9 nights visiting Barcelona, Madrid, San Sebastian, Burgos, Bilbao, Seville, Cordoba, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, la Ronda, Granada.	Philippe Theriault
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
August 4-13	Yamato Canadian Rockies, with a difference — 10 days/9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, Rail to Prince George & Prince Rupert, Ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River and Victoria.	Philippe Theriault
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
September 13-23	Yamato Oktoberfest Tour — 11 days/9 nights visiting Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich.	Philippe Theriault
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 17-31	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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PHOTO: RICH IWASAKI

Portland Taiko's 'Ponta & The Big Drum'

PORTLAND, OR

April 30, May 1 and May 7-8

Portland Center For the Performing Arts, Brunish Hall
1111 SW Broadway

Cost: \$18.25/adults; \$12.25/children, seniors and students

Asian American drum ensemble, Portland Taiko, opens its 2011 season this spring with 'Ponta & The Big Drum.' Taiko performers take the stage to share the original storytelling adventures of Ponta through music, dance and audience interaction.

Info: Call Josephine Kuever at 503/225-5900 or e-mail Josephine@ya-or.org

EAST

Dine Out For Japan

WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 2 to May 8

Dine Out For Japan is an initiative uniting D.C. Metro restaurants in supporting the relief and rebuilding efforts in Japan after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Restaurants will open their doors and their hearts by donating a percentage of sales for the week. One hundred percent of funds donated by participating restaurants will go directly to on-the-ground relief efforts in Japan. Info: Laura Goldstein at 202/223-6843 or visit www.dineoutforjapan.org

The Sushi Spectacular

BOSTON, MA
April 17, 5 to 8 p.m.
InterContinental Boston
510 Atlantic Ave
Cost: \$150
Sushi Spectacular is a gala reception featuring Japanese appetizers, sushi, sashimi, and music. A master sushi chef will perform a *maguro kaitai*, preparing a whole tuna for sushi. The event is sponsored by Oga's Restaurant, the Japan Society of Boston and the InterContinental Boston.

GO!

Info: www.japansocietyboston.org/oga

IDC

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 Nihon Matsuri Festival committee has arranged for performances and workshops by two Japanese artists, including shinobue artist Miwako Mori and taiko artist Takahito Nishino. The popular anime contest will be held on stage as well.

Info: www.nihonmatsuri.com

NCWNP

Berkeley Methodist United Church's 52nd Annual Food Bazaar
BERKELEY, CA
May 29, noon to 4 p.m.
Berkeley Methodist United Church
1710 Carleton St.
Enjoy homemade Japanese cuisine at the upcoming 52nd Annual Food Bazaar. There will

be BBQ rib box lunch, unagi don, sushi, udon, curry rice and more. There will also be silent auction, handcrafts, entertainment and game booths for the family. Info: Call Rev. Naomi Southard at 510/848-4680 or e-mail bmuchurch@gmail.com.

Berkeley JACL Luncheon

BERKELEY, CA

May 15, 11:30 a.m.

Berkeley City Club

2315 Durant Ave.
The 2011 Scholarship Awards Luncheon will be held to honor Alyssa Adams of Northgate High School, Alix Ching of Miramonte High School, Noelle Fa-Kaji of Berkeley High School and Jaison Kimura of Campolindo High School.

Info: Visit www.berkeleyjaci.org or e-mail Berkeley@jaci.org.

Film Screening of '99 Years of Love: Japanese Americans'

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

April 16-20, 10:30

a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New People's Viz

Cinema

1746 Post St.

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California is pleased to announce the Northern California premiere screening of "99-nen no Ai (99 Years of Love) Japanese Americans." The film highlights the struggle and perseverance of the Japanese American community in America for over 99 years. This ten-hour mini-series originally aired on the Tokyo Broadcasting System.

Info: Call 415/567-5505 or visit www.jccnc.org

Treasures Revealed: A How-To Workshop

WATSONVILLE, CA

April 30, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

Kizuka Hall

150 Blackburn St.

The National Japanese American Historical Society, in association with the San Francisco JACL, presents "Treasures Revealed." The event is a how-to workshop on preserving camp artifacts and your most treasures collectibles. Learn how to preserve your personal letters, treasured items from camp, and photographs.

Info: Call David Kadotani at 831/728-4212 or e-mail dkadotani@hotmail.com

The 37th Annual Sakura Kai Health Fair

EL CERRITO, CA

May 7, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

El Cerrito Open House Senior Center

6500 Stockton Ave

It's time for the 37th Annual Sakura Kai Health Fair and we hope you can help us again. Last year there were 64 seniors screened. There will be stations for blood tests, bone density tests, hearing tests, blood pressure tests and more.

The fasting cholesterol test is available for \$5. The event is being held thanks in part to the help of the Diablo Valley JACL, among other organizations.

Info: Call Kimi Honda at 510/524-6338 or e-mail kiakiho@yahoo.com

CCDC

The 26th Annual Shinzen

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 levels and benefits the Central California Nikkei Foundation, the Shinzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park and the Fresno JACL Scholarship Fund.

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

PSW

King's Hawaiian Hukilau Fundraiser

TORRANCE, CA

April 20, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant

2808 W. Sepulveda Blvd.

Come support the Hukilau fundraiser at King's Hawaiian Bakery and Restaurant. The fundraiser benefits Camp Musubi, a youth day camp. Participants must present a flyer to contribute 20 percent of proceeds to the fundraiser.

Info: To receive a flyer, contact Marissa Kitazawa at 213/626-4471 or visit www.campmusubi.org

Arizona JACL Gold Saguaro Tribute Awards Luncheon

GLENDALE, AZ

May 1, 1 p.m.

Glendale Civic Center

5750 West Glenn Dr.

Cost: \$25

The 50th Annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship and Gold Saguaro Tribute Awards Luncheon. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Christine Wilkinson, ASU senior vice president.

Info: Call Marilyn Inoshita Tang 602/861-2638 or e-mail prantco@aol.com

Community Film Screenings of 'Dreams Finally Realized'

LOS ANGELES, CA

May 26, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

University of California, Los Angeles at Kaufman 101

70 Powell Library

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC) is pleased to announce special community screenings of "Dreams Finally Realized". The film will feature select videos capturing the never-before-told stories of the Nisei. The purpose of this project is to educate the people about the college experience of the Nisei

in the 1940s and the price many paid.

RSVP: Aya Ino at 415/567-5505 or e-mail aino@jccnc.org

East West Players' 45th Anniversary Visionary Awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, CA

May 2, 6 p.m.

Hilton Universal City

555 Universal Hollywood Dr.

Cost: \$175 - \$1,250

East West Players, the nation's premier Asian American theatre, celebrates its 45th anniversary with its glamorous Visionary Awards Dinner and Silent Auction.

The event salutes those who have raised the visibility of the Asian Pacific American community through their artistic excellence and support of the Asian Pacific American performing arts. Proceeds from the gala will benefit East West Players' educational and artistic programs.

Info: Call Lisa Tang at 213/625-7000 or e-mail LTang@EastWestPlayers.org

Pacific Asia

Museum's

New Exhibits

PASADENA, CA

March 31 to May 29

Pacific Asia Museum

46 North Los Robles Ave

Cost: \$9/general admission;

\$7/students and seniors

Visit the Pacific Asia Museum and experience three stunning exhibitions including "Visions of the Orient," "Meiji: Japan Rediscovered" and "Through the Colonial Lens." Each of these exhibits speaks to the shared theme of the intersection of Asia and the West during the period of 1875 to 1925.

Info: Call 626/449-2742 or visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Japan Earthquake Relief

Concert

CERRITOS, CA

April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Cerritos Park East

13234 E. 166th St.

Support the U.S.-Japan Council Earthquake Relief Fund by attending the 3.11 Japan Relief Concert, featuring 19 musicians with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The fund was established to collect donations that directly help Japan.

Info: Tickets are free, but must be reserved by calling the City's Recreation Services Division at 562/916-1254.

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Hawaii Budget Troubles Worsen

The decrease in Japanese visitors could contribute to more than \$1 billion shortfall over the next two years.

By Mark Niesse
Associated Press

HONOLULU—A loss of Japanese tourists and declining tax collections have sunk Hawaii's budget hole to the depths of a \$1.3 billion shortfall over the next two years, leaving lawmakers searching for ways to raise money and cut spending.

The Council on Revenues voted to revise its projection following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, which resulted in a 25 percent drop in Japanese visitors since then.

The decline in Japanese vacations to Hawaii shrinks the amount of their money spent and taxes collected in the state. State legislators are considering how to make up for the loss by raising taxes and reducing government services.

The council's new estimates add \$312 million to its previous prediction of a nearly \$1 billion shortfall through June 2013. The council released its last forecast just hours before the tsunami altered the state's economic and political landscape.

Besides the tsunami, lower-than-expected tax income during February also contributed to the worsening outlook.

The effect of the tsunami "turns out is kind of smallish in its consequences," said Paul Brewbaker, an economist who chairs the Council on Revenues. "The biggest factor at the end of the discussion was the surprisingly low February collections."

The state's declining finances also mean Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie must find more than \$200 million over the next three months to balance this fiscal year's budget.

Abercrombie said in a statement recently he intends to get that money by spending hurricane relief funds, rainy day money and special funds while restricting departmental expenses by 10 percent.

"We understand the challenges facing the state and we are being conservative as we work with the state Legislature to pass a budget that will get the job done," Abercrombie said.

Rep. Gene Ward, the leader of minority House Republicans, said legislators should avoid delivering a "sucker punch" to taxpayers by raising the state's general excise tax to balance the budget. The GET is the state government's biggest source of income, and it's levied on most transactions.

The budget bill moving through the legislative process was based on tax growth rates of 0.5 percent in the current fiscal year, but the Council on Revenue's new figures drop that rate to -1.6 percent. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Endo, James Kazuto "Jimmy", 81, Honolulu, HI; March 18; he was a United States Army veteran; survived by wife Edith M.; daughters, Diane K. Roy, JoAnn E. Endo and Donna M. Gibo; son, Vernon Y.; sisters Ellen N. Tojo, Jean M. Okamoto, Janet T. Kurokawa, Agnes N. Endo, Doris M. Kiriara, Clara K. Mato and June J. Oshima; 5 gc.

Fujitake, Shusuke "Shu", 86, Honolulu, HI; March 27; he was a United States Army veteran of World War II with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he died at the Hale Nani Rehabilitation and Nursing Center; survived by sister, Chikayo.

Fukumoto, John Yoshiro, 80,



Stockton, CA; March 24; he was a Korean War veteran, retired licensed civil engineer and active Stockton Buddhist Temple member; he is predeceased by siblings Sadoko, Sumiye, Kazushi, Melvin, Sakae Fukumoto and Mollie Nishikawa; he is survived by wife, Rosalie; daughter Ann; son, Ken (Reiko); grandson Kyle and granddaughter Kayle; siblings, Jane, Nimi, Masae Matsuno, Holly Fukumoto, Mutsuo Fukumoto and Tom Fukumoto; many nieces and nephews.

Funabashi (Johnston), Shirley Carline, 76, Long Beach, CA; March 18; she was a stewardess with United Airlines; she is survived by son, Craig (Stephanie) Funabashi, daughter Jill (Guy) Muranaka; sisters, Kay (Elmer) Eckart, Sue Adams and Joy Abbey-Adams; 4 nieces; 5 gc.

Furutani, Arnold H., 67, Alea, HI; March 31; he retired from

the Hawaiian Electric Company after over 30 years; survived by wife, Lorynn Naser; daughters, Denys (Lance) Kazama, Linda (Ross) Pogan; sons, Troy (Jamie) Furutani, Sean (Lisa) Panquites, Rick (Darcy) Naser, Mark (Cori) Naser; brothers, Gordon (Lorene) Furutani, Reid (Lynee) Furutani and Sheldon (Claire) Furutani; 10 gc.

Higashiguchi, Andrew "Andy", 90, Honolulu, HI; March 26; he was a United States Army veteran of World War II; survived by wife, May F.; daughters, Cora, Mira and Lisa; son, David; 5 gc.

Hiura, Kimiko, 100, Los Angeles,



CA; Feb. 23; she was the wife of Frank, who owned and operated Hiura Evaporating Company since before World War II; many Nisei were hired at the Hiura's Apple Dyer before and after WWII; preceded in death by her husband, Frank; survived by her children, Lloyd (Naomi), Dr. Robert Hiura, June (Dr. Fred) Fujihara, Pauline (Harry) Kunimune, Dr. Clarence (Grace), Paul (Beverly), Dr. Daniel (Lynn) and Dr. David (Janis); sister, Shizuno Toyoshiba; 19 gc; 30 ggc; 1 gggc.

Ishii, Nobuyuki, 85, Mililani, HI; March 8; he was a United States Army veteran; survived by sons Randall Y. and Ray M.; daughter Lorraine M. Uyeda; brother

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Masamitsu; sisters Jean Fortuno, Michiko Yamauchi and Yuriko Tsue; 3 gc; 4 ggc.

Kahapea, Chester Frank, 65, Honolulu, HI; March 4; he became famous after being pictured holding a newspaper announcing Hawaii's statehood; he died due to complications associated with Lou Gehrig's disease; survived by two sons; a daughter; 4 gc; 3 ggc.

Kanamori, Lynne Kuromi,



56, March 22; survived by her husband, Glenn Kanamori; daughter, Cheryn; brother, Kevin (Susan) Kuromi; sister, Janet (Kent) Fujimura; many aunts, nephews, nieces and cousins.

Kuwata, Kam, 57, Venice, CA; April 11; he was a Democratic political strategist in California; survived by his mother and brother.

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'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/ column inch.

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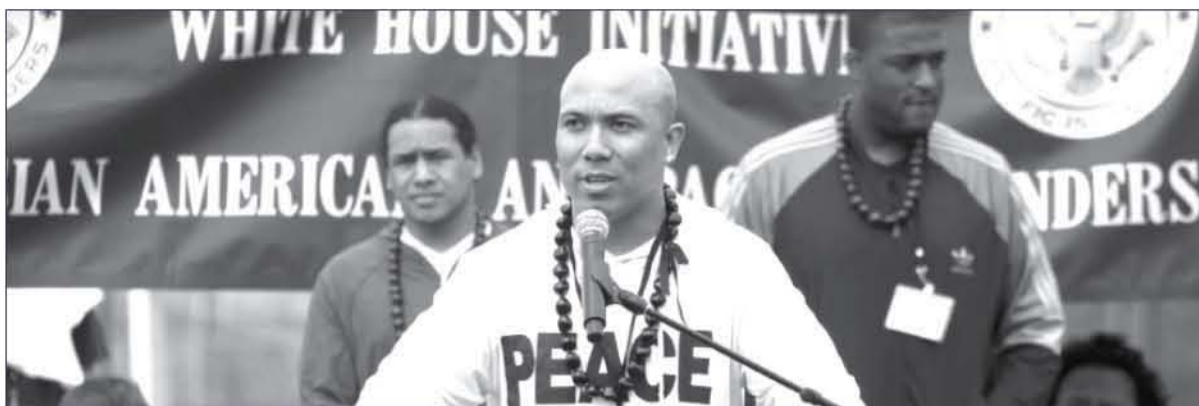
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Ward, flanked by Steelers teammate Troy Polamalu (left) and Marcus McNeill of the San Diego Chargers, talks about healthy living at UCLA.

Hines Ward Teaches Pacific Islander Youth to Get Fit

One in five Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander high school youth is obese.

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver and “Dancing with the Stars” competitor Hines Ward hosted an April 2 health and fitness fair at the University of California, Los Angeles to stress the importance of physical exercise among Asian Americans and Pacific Islander youth.

Ward, a member of the President’s Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, was joined by Steelers teammate Troy Polamalu at the event.

“I know you guys love the Play Station, the Xbox and stuff like that, but how many of you guys ever want to grow up and be like Troy right here and make it to the NFL?” Ward, who is of Korean and African American descent asked the young attendees at the event. “Even girls too. You can play football.”

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and

Pacific Islanders sponsored the event to address the soaring obesity and diabetes rates among high school age Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children have the highest rates of any minority group for being overweight or obese. They also hold an elevated risk for developing cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

A reliance on cheap fast food has contributed to unhealthy eating, said Sefa Aina, vice chair of the President’s Advisory Commission.

One in five Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander high school youth is obese, and one in three is likely to be overweight or obese, Aina said.

“Today we’re sending a message that physical fitness and eating properly will lead to healthier living,” he added.

Teaching young Americans to balance nutrition and exercise at an early age is the key to developing a healthy lifestyle, said Ward. ■

Suit Dismissed After Passage of Hawaii Civil Unions



By Associated Press

HONOLULU—Six gay couples are withdrawing a lawsuit against Hawaii’s government now that same-sex civil unions have become law.

Gay rights advocacy group Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii said legal action seeking equal rights for gays and lesbians is no longer needed since Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed the civil unions legislation.

The groups sued the state last year after then-Gov. Linda Lingle vetoed a similar civil unions measure.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported April 1 that Jennifer Pizer of Lambda Legal said her group will work with the legal and business community to make sure the civil unions law is implemented smoothly.

Civil unions in Hawaii, which are scheduled to begin Jan. 1, offer nearly all the same state rights of marriage to couples regardless of their sexual orientation. ■

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