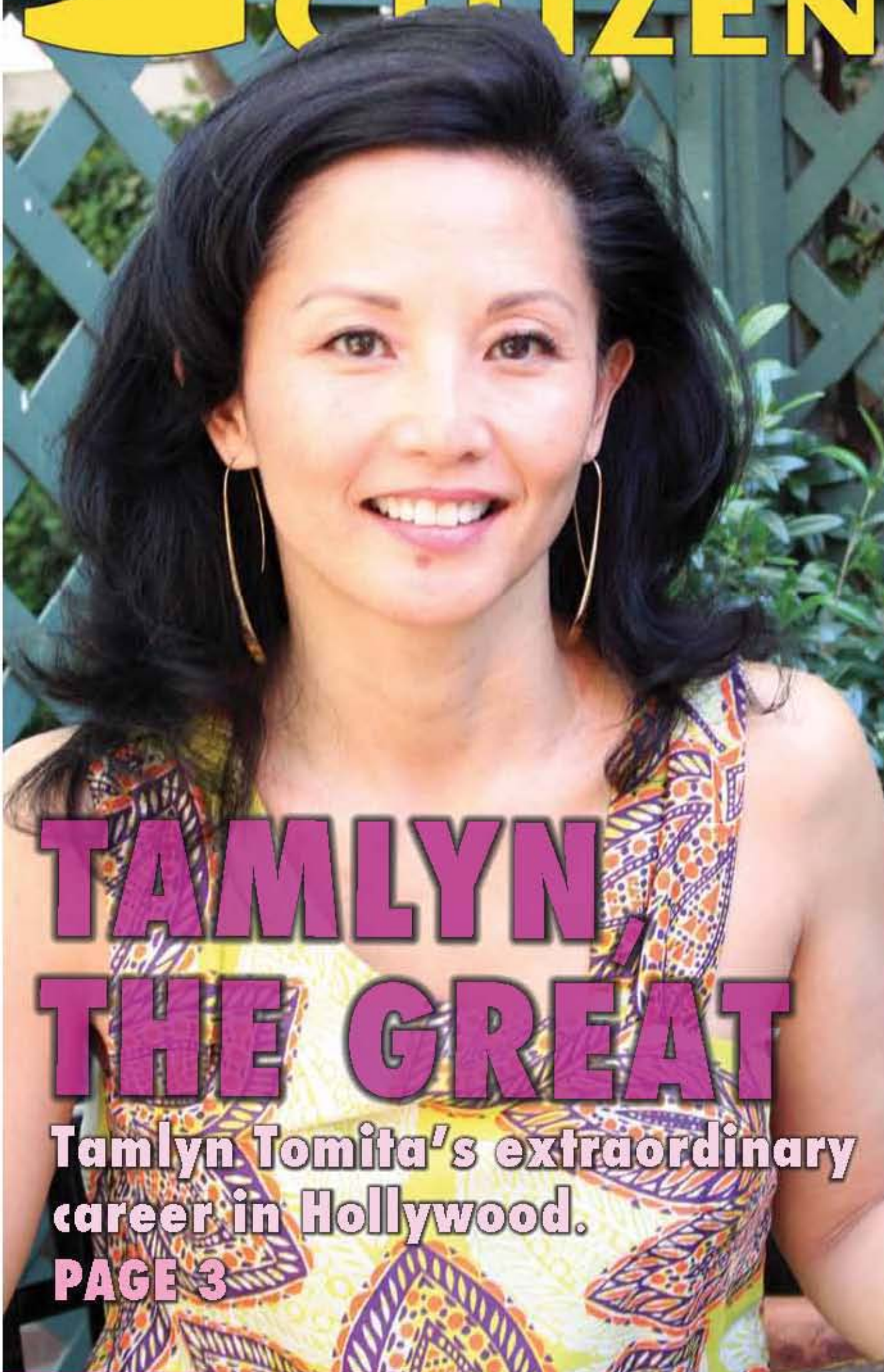




SPECIAL 'EXTRAORDINARY APAS' ISSUE



PACIFIC CITIZEN



TAMLYN THE GREAT

Tamlyn Tomita's extraordinary career in Hollywood.

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JACL national director to retire.



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JACL convention honorees.

Pacific Citizen's Most 'Extraordinary APAs'



What makes an individual extraordinary? Passion, leadership, innovation and creativity. These are just some of the qualities that this year's "Extraordinary APAs" have in common.

From Sen. Daniel Inouye to JACLers Judge Dale Ikeda and Dr. Paul Terasaki, these extraordinary APAs had positive, headline-making achievements and the *Pacific Citizen* is honored

to call them our "Extraordinary APAs."

It was at our annual P.C. editorial board meeting in Los Angeles this past January that board members were asked to voice their selections for this year's honorees. Each district representative also selected a notable APA from each of JACL's seven districts. We know that many individuals are worthy of this honor so please be sure to submit their names for next year's special issue.

In this issue you'll read about the 18 extraordinary APAs and their headline-worthy accomplishments. You'll also get to know their families and some other surprising tidbits about our honorees.

Share your comments with us in print or at www.pacificcitizen.org.

Caroline Aoyagi-Stom
Executive Editor



Tamlyn Tomita (above) chatted with the P.C. about her new role on 'Law & Order: Los Angeles' and Wat Misaka talked about life after the Knicks.

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SPRING CAMPAIGN

Helping Mobilize APAs for 82 Years

By Sonya Kuki



On Feb. 13, Yorba Linda became the spotlight of national attention. This city in Orange County, California was the location of an anti-Muslim rally led by local elected officials, where hecklers turned near-violent, and protestors harassed innocent Muslim Americans, including children, who were attending a charity event.

A short while later on March 14 a female UCLA student posted a video on YouTube, and like many who take to YouTube and other social media avenues to channel their opinions and express themselves, she acted similarly, directing her frustrations at a very specific group: Asians. Her name was Alexandra Wallace. Her video, now infamously titled "Asians in the Library", went viral in a matter of hours and immediately set off a myriad of reactions. Ultimately, it led to her departure from the university amid demands that she be expelled from the university to numerous death threats as a result of her remarks that many perceived to be racist.

While I found myself to be quite disturbed with these occurrences, I was also significantly more disturbed that such incidents characterized by intolerance and disrespect remain pervasive in today's society, one that has considerably progressed from times past.

In a conversation with an acquaintance, I had mentioned my association with JACL. They asked what it was and I proceeded to explain that JACL was a civil rights advocacy organization. His response: "Civil rights? Oh ... is that still an issue?" Short answer: Yes.

SEE KUKI/PAGE 18

SPRING CAMPAIGN

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Floyd Mori Announces Retirement



PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA

Mori has served as JACL national executive director since 2007.

SAN FRANCISCO—At the April 16 national JACL board meeting, Floyd Mori announced his retirement from the position of national JACL executive director. Mori served as interim national executive director in late 2006 when ill health forced John Tateishi to leave the post. Mori was appointed as Tateishi's replacement in January 2007. His plans are to leave before the end of the year.

Moving in 2005 from Utah where he was born and raised, Mori came out of semi-retirement as an international business consultant to become director of public policy for the JACL in its Washington, D.C. office.

Expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve in the JACL, Mori stated that it is time for him to step down in order to spend more time with his family and pursue personal interests. He has especially enjoyed the association with other civil rights and Asian American leaders and groups in the D.C. area and around the country. He has also appreciated working with members of Congress and the White House.

"The 'accomplishments' of the JACL over the past five years can be attributed to a great staff who have come together to act as a team to move forward into new programs and new vision," said Mori. "We have begun to see a more inclusive organization that has involved multi-generations, created a broader diversity of ethnicity, and engaged more people in an expanded menu of programs. We have been able to do more with less and we have strengthened our partnerships with other civil rights groups and

SEE RETIREMENT/PAGE 18

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

TAMLYN TOMITA

The origin of Tamlyn's name comes from her mother's love of the Debbie Reynolds' movie 'Tammy and the Bachelor' and her dad's adoration for Marilyn Monroe.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

LOS FELIZ, Calif. — Times have certainly changed since actress Tamlyn Tomita first made her memorable "Karate Kid, Part II" debut over 20 years ago as Ralph Macchio's romantic interest.

These days Macchio has traded in his karate *gi* for dancing shoes on ABC's show "Dancing With the Stars." On the NBC network, Tomita is now a regular on "Law & Order: L.A." playing coroner Miwako Nishizawa.

But the changes Tomita calls attention to while sipping coffee in her hometown of Los Feliz, Calif. are less about her former "Karate Kid" co-star and more about advancements she has noticed for APAs in the entertainment industry.

The first signs of a changing industry, Tomita says, came after she began seeing roles tailored to represent her ethnicity.

"It's really reflective of how I think the industry is becoming more sensitive to our heritages," Tomita explained about the NBC show changing her character from Chinese American to Japanese American. "When they cast me, they made it full on Japanese without my consultation. They gave me: Miwako Nishizawa. I go, 'Wow! How more JA can you get?'"

Tomita says she has witnessed the industry being more careful to recognize and respect ethnically diverse cast members. For her role in the 2004 movie "Day After Tomorrow," Tomita says her character's name — Janet Tokada — was adapted specifically to reflect her JA heritage.

The actress, who is of Okinawan and Filipino descent, says it has been a slow process to see these types of changes in the entertainment industry. Casting practices, however, have been slow to change, Tomita says.

"You see casting notices for specific roles it says all ethnicities submitted or Asian, Latino, African American, Caucasian. But when there's nothing, we all automatically assume it's for a Caucasian," Tomita explained about casting practices in Hollywood. "It has changed slowly."

Tomita says she applauds shows like FOX's "Glee," which make an effort to show what it means to be a person of color. But she says opportunities for minority actors can still be limited in Hollywood.

Looking back at her lengthy showbiz resume, Tomita says she has continually made an effort to portray her APA characters in equal light.

"There have been projects where I take something because it pays the bills. But I always try to make it a balanced portrayal," she explained. "If I'm going to play the bad guy I ask, 'is there going to be another

Asian American character on this show that's going to be the good guy?'"

Creating greater change for APAs outside of showbiz can also be challenging, Tomita says, pointing to anti-Japanese sentiment that emerged following the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The actress recently had a firsthand experience in dealing with discrimination when her teenage nephew asked her advice in addressing his friends, who had blamed him for the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"Me and my brother we look at each other and we go, 'OK, what you got to do is you got to talk them through it. 'Dudes? Are you my friends? Why are you doing this to me? Why are you making fun of the fact that I'm Japanese?'" Tomita said. "And if that doesn't work, make sure you get in the first shot [laughs]."

Tomita, who has just completed a Verizon Wireless public service announcement for Japan relief efforts, says she tries to pass along to her 13 nieces and nephews an appreciation for their diverse heritage.

Born in Okinawa to Shiro and Asako, Tomita moved to the U.S. as an infant. She was raised in Southern California. At a young age, Tomita learned of her father's experience of being interned in Manzanar.

"Being the eldest of my family, you encounter that paragraph in the history books: 110,000 Japanese Americans were interned during World War II," Tomita said of finding out about her father's life as an internee. "I said, 'What? Dad, did this happen to you?'"

Throughout her career, Tomita has remained active in community events. A former Nisei Week queen in 1984, Tomita continues to be the mistress of ceremonies at Nisei Week every year. Her reason for staying active in local community events is simple.

"I can't escape them first of all," Tomita explains breaking into a laugh. "It really is about giving back and it's so simple."

Almost on cue, a voice belonging to actor Rodney Kageyama calls to Tomita from across the coffee shop.

"Why you stalking me?" Tomita yells jokingly in his direction. The two, who are on the Nisei Week Foundation board of directors, hosted the 2010 Nisei Week fashion show together.

Giving back to the community is something Tomita says has always been important to her. No matter where her career takes her, Tomita says it is essential to never forget where she came from.

"The older you get I think you get more appreciative of where you come from," Tomita says. "Once an individual finds out, once a community finds out, once a nation finds out where they come from then they learn they can never go back." ■



CAAM congratulates Tamlyn
for being named Pacific Citizen's
Extraordinary APA in Entertainment



Executive Director, Stephen Gong, with Tamlyn Tomita at CAAM 30th Anniversary Gala
Photo by Michael Jeong



JUSTICE

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE



SAKAUYE FAMILY: (l-r) Jiro, Dorothy, Mark, Tani, Mary Gorre Cantil, Clare and Hana.

Tani Cantil-Sakauye rose from humble beginnings to become the first Asian Pacific American leader of the state's highest court.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

Leadership has a different look, says Tani Cantil-Sakauye, chief justice of the California Supreme Court.

Sworn in Jan. 3, the second generation Filipina American is four months into her role as the first Asian Pacific American leader of the state's highest — and previously male-dominated — judicial office.

Her presence reflects an evolution, she says. Asian Pacific Americans are one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in California, according to the latest Census figures.

"Yet, at the same time, I still startle people because I don't look the part," says Cantil-Sakauye, 51. "I don't look like your typical chief or leader, so people are going to have to be like Lady Justice and put on the blindfold and listen."

Her predecessor Chief Justice Ronald M. George, who retired after a three-decade career in the California court system, praised her as "exceptionally wise."

It's a sentiment that Cantil-Sakauye's husband Mark Sakauye echoes.

"She's the smartest person I know," said Sakauye, 50, a retired Sacramento police officer who currently works as a security adviser for the regional transit district. "If she can't do [the job], no one can."

As chief justice, Cantil-Sakauye needs to lead the Judicial Branch through many challenges, including a third consecutive year of budget reductions — an extraordinary task for the *Pacific Citizen's* Extraordinary APA in the field of justice.

"I don't consider myself extraordinary," said Cantil-Sakauye in reaction to her most recent honor. "I consider that I've had extraordinary opportunities and I think that the reason why I've been able to take advantage of those opportunities is because people made sacrifices for me."

It's a trending topic when describing Cantil-Sakauye's ascension to California's highest court — what former Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger calls the "living, breathing example of the American dream" — the chief justice's humble beginnings as the daughter of farm workers. She brings it up often in speeches and in conversations.

"It's because of her ancestors that she wants to do a good job," said Sakauye, who is third generation Japanese American.

During World War II, Sakauye's family was incarcerated at Tule Lake and Amache. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government forced over 100,000 JAs on the West Coast to abandon

address the problems we face as a country," she said.

In your opinion, what specific aspect of your distinguished career can be described as extraordinary? Why?

Sen Inouye: If you can imagine, after Pearl Harbor Japanese Americans were labeled enemy aliens. We had to petition and fight for our right to put on the uniform and defend the nation. And today I am third in line for the presidency, protected by armed guards 24 hours a day. The people of Hawaii have been good enough to send me back to the Senate nine times. Sometimes I shake my head because I have so much to be thankful for. I work hard and do my best to honestly represent the people of Hawaii and this great nation.

What has been your biggest achievement thus far? Why?

Sen Inouye: I am humbled by the fact that the people of Hawaii continue to put their faith and trust in me to represent them in the U.S. Congress. When I started, first in the House in 1959 and then in the Senate in 1963, it was cheaper to call Tokyo from D.C. then it was to phone Honolulu. It was easier to send a postcard to London then it was to ship a letter to Lihue or Hilo. Hawaii's infrastructure was not on par with the contigu-

their homes and live in desolate barracks in the middle of nowhere.

On the day of her swearing in ceremony, Cantil-Sakauye said she looked out into the crowd and felt "a moment of collective gratefulness."

"I looked out in the audience and saw my 80-year-old relative, my mother, and all of my Filipina godmothers, Asian girl scout troops and I saw my colleagues and I just felt like my worlds have collided here and it was tremendous."

The couple say it's important to educate their daughters Hana, 15, and Clare, 12, about their family history no matter how painful it is.

"One gets very sensitive and doesn't want to be told because it makes her cry, that's my 15-year-old. And my 12-year-old is fierce about it. She's read books and written essays about [the WWII internment]," said the chief justice. "I tell them about what their grandmother went through. They listen and they're hurt."

A graduate of the University of California, Davis law school, Cantil-Sakauye has been a judge since 1990 and has served as a prosecutor and aide to former Gov. George Deukmejian, but she credits an earlier job with helping her develop the ability to quickly and accurately assess situations — a waitress job at a Sacramento restaurant.

"I'm a pretty good waitress," she said with a laugh. "I worked at night in college so I organized my time and I became really efficient with making coffee with one hand and filling water pitchers with another."

During her first year in law school, Cantil-Sakauye also worked as blackjack dealer at the Harrah's in Lake Tahoe, and while waiting for her bar exam results, she cocktailed at a local bar.

"I have no doubt that if my grandmother or my mother had my opportunities they would do much more. I feel like the recipient of tremendous love and sacrifice and I would never let them down. And it is the gift that keeps on giving because in addition to giving me the opportunity, they showed me the strength," said the chief justice.

"It's my ancestors' history, my family's history that gives me perspective, so when the branch is under challenge and the branch is under attack and we are having problems, that's not hard. Hard is when you have to work in the fields. Hard is when you can't marry the person of your choice and you have to go out of state like my uncle did to get married to his white wife. Hard is when you're told to queue up and leave your home in 48 hours and you're gone for four years and you come back to nothing. That's hard.

"What I'm doing is challenging." ■



POLITICS

SEN. DANIEL INOUE

The description "legend" gets bandied about loosely, but when used to describe Sen. Daniel Inouye, 86, it fits.

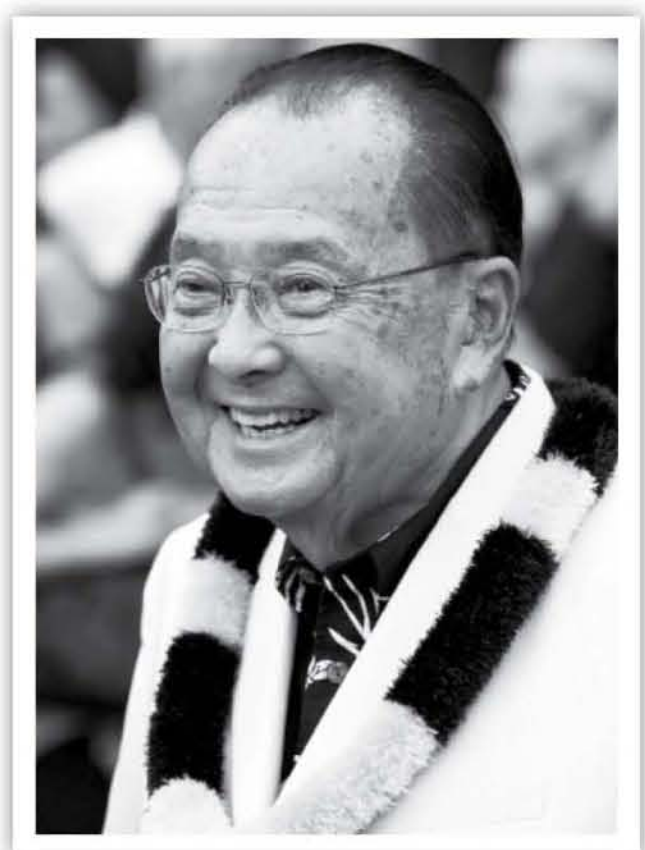
Hawaii's first U.S. representative and the first Japanese American in the House of Representatives is a World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

Last June, Inouye was sworn in as President Pro Tempore, a position elected by the Senate and typically reserved for the majority party's most senior senator.

The position makes Inouye the highest-ranking Asian Pacific American to ever serve in a political position. It also makes him third in line if the president is ever incapacitated, just after the vice president and Speaker of the House.

Serving as a Senator since 1963, Inouye has been committed to fighting for social justice and equality, said Irene Hirano Inouye, about her husband, Sen. Inouye.

"Few people can dedicate their entire life to public service, including his years serving in the U.S. military with the 442nd RCT, and still today, he wakes up every morning enthusiastic about his work and the many challenges he has to confront. He continues to think ahead about how to ensure the sustainability and growth of the many programs he has supported in Hawai'i and how to



SEE INOUE/PAGE 12

SPORTS

WAT MISAKA

Why he's extraordinary: Wat, a Salt Lake City JACLer, was the first person of color to play basketball in the NBA.

Hometown: Ogden, Utah

Age: 87

Generation: Nisei

Little known fact: Wat Misaka says he didn't boast to his children about his professional basketball stint because there wasn't "much to brag about."

It has been over 60 years since Wat Misaka was recruited as a first draft choice of the New York Knicks.

The 87-year-old lasted three games with the team before being cut in 1947, but his legacy continues to live on today.

"It seems like it's so long ago when I played," said Misaka in a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen*. "It seems more special now maybe to some. But to those that were there, it's a fading sort of memory."

Born in Utah, Misaka says he was lucky enough to be on winning sports teams in junior high school, high school and college.

At the University of Utah Misaka's basketball team was invited to New York where they won the NCAA tournament in 1944. They later took the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) championships in 1947.

But Misaka's family says his accom-

plishments off the court are just as memorable as his achievements on the court.

"Although there is a lot of attention and focus on his basketball and military career in the mid-1940s, I think the more important thing is the way he has lived his life since then," says Nancy Umemura, his daughter. "That same work ethic and loyalty has been characteristic of his whole life. Both my brother and I work for the same company where our dad worked for 25 years. There are still people we know who tell us how much they liked working with him."

Before being drafted by the Knicks, Misaka served two years in the U.S. Army. He served in Hiroshima, three months after the atomic bomb was dropped.

After playing professional basketball, Misaka used his bachelor's degree to find a job in Utah as an engineer. He and his wife, Katie, had two children: Nancy and Henry.

He took up bowling and golf after leaving basketball. Misaka said he "wasn't very good" at the golf and bowling, and instead became involved in the administrative side of the Japanese American National Bowling Tournament.

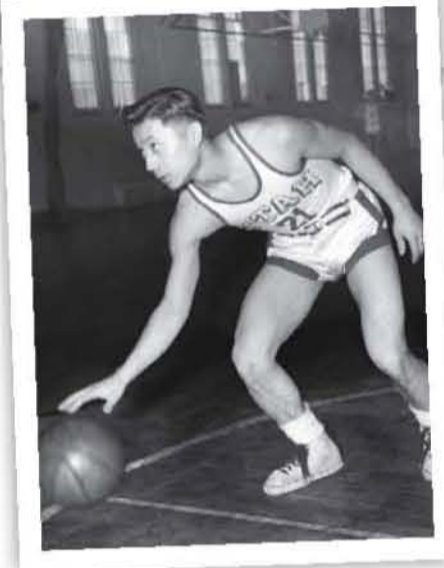
Although it has been over six decades since he first stepped foot in New York's Madison Square Garden, Misaka is back in the limelight again.

"He's just so surprised that after 60-some years all of a sudden these things seem to have drawn attention to him, and he's a bit embarrassed about all that," says Katie.

Misaka's "Cinderella" story of playing



PHOTO: 'TRANSCENDING: THE WAT MISAKA STORY'



professional basketball was the subject of the documentary "Transcending: The Wat Misaka Story."

On April 18, Misaka, along with three others, was inducted into the University of Utah Hall of Fame. Always humble, Misaka says the recent honor will likely be his last.

"I don't know if the wife mentioned to you or not, but just last week, just exactly a week ago today I was inducted into the University of Utah Hall of Fame," Misaka explained. "But I was telling the wife, I said, 'Well, this is our last hurrah, so treat it as such.'" ■

MILITARY

ERIC SHINSEKI

Why he's extraordinary: He is the first Asian American to serve as U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Hometown: Hawaii

Age: 68

Generation: Sansei

Little known fact: Shinseki was injured during a tour in Vietnam after stepping on a land mine.



For many in the Japanese American community, especially those who have experienced wartime and battles first hand, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki is what legends and heroes are made of.

The first Asian Pacific American Sec. of Veterans Affairs, a position Shinseki was appointed to by President Barack Obama in 2009, he is also the first APA to serve as the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, a position he held until 2003.

For these and other numerous accomplishments, Sec. Shinseki is this year's "Extraordinary APA" in the Military category.

Born in Lihue, Kauai, his grandparents immigrated to Hawaii in 1901 from Hiroshima, Japan. In 1965 he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and went on to earn his Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Duke University. His career in the military spans four decades.

In addition to serving two tours in

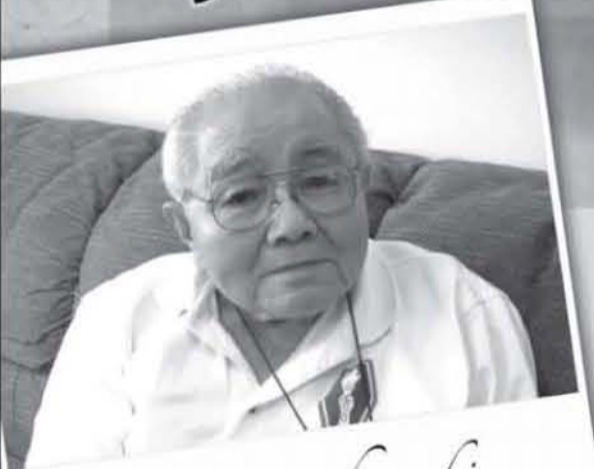
Vietnam, suffering injuries when he stepped on a land mine, he has held several positions in the U.S. military including commander, assistant chief of staff, assistant division commander, and deputy chief of staff. He reached the position of Army Chief of Staff in 1999 and retired from that position in 2003.

Appointed to Sec. of Veterans Affairs in 2009, Shinseki has vowed to take on homelessness among U.S. veterans. He is also in charge of ensuring that Filipino veterans receive their long-awaited benefits for fighting on behalf of the U.S. military during World War II.

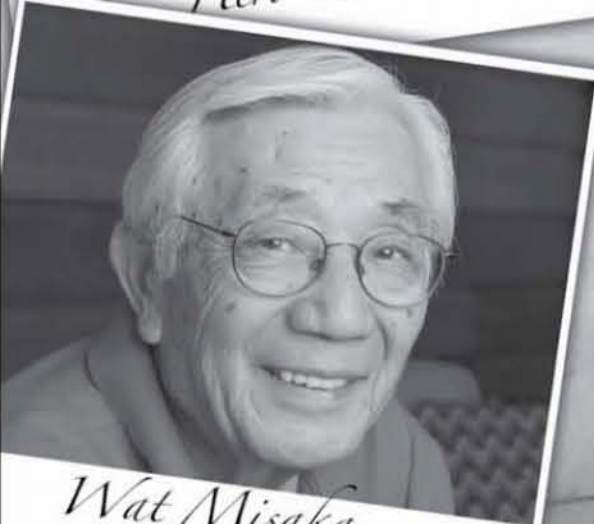
During his military career he has been awarded numerous medals including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and a Purple Heart.

At the National JACL Convention in Monterey, Calif. in 2000, Sec. Shinseki was the keynoter at a dinner held in honor of the Japanese American WWII soldiers. ■

The Intermountain JACL District



Hero Shiosaki



Wat Misaka

salutes local leaders like Hero Shiosaki, of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL, and Wat Misaka, of the Salt Lake City JACL, for being named Extraordinary APAs.

COMMUNITY LEADER
HELEN GYM



Why she's extraordinary: With Asian Americans United she fought for justice in the alleged beatings of Asian American students at South Philadelphia High School.
Hometown: Philadelphia
Ethnicity: Korean American
Little known fact: She's a student of Hung Gar Kung Fu.

When Asian Pacific American students were bullied in alleged racial beatings at South Philadelphia High School it became Helen Gym's mission to fight for their rights. When a casino developer was trying to build in Philadelphia's Chinatown, Gym led the fight to stop the process in its tracks. We spoke with the Asian Americans United board member to get her take on what drives her community activism.

What events stir your inner community activist to roar?

Gym: There's so much happening in the world and our nation right now that demands an active and engaged community — whether it's inhumane deportation practices, globalized poverty, the destruction of our planet's resources, or the shameful state of many of our nation's schools. While there's no shortage of things which outrage us,

there's too often a paucity of places where we find a sense of community, places where we can build the strength and capacity to take on these challenges.

So I cherish and celebrate the precious spaces and times where we come together to build community — from the streets of Chinatown where we hold Asian Americans United's annual Mid-Autumn Festival to the hallways and classrooms of the Folk Arts-

Cultural Treasures Charter School we built six years ago to organizing workshops with youth activists seeking to address racial violence in their schools to a small garden over a once-desolate lot. It's these places and the relationships we build around them that makes the struggle worthwhile.

If you could change one thing for the APA community what would it be?

Gym: To remember and honor our roots. Decades ago, the term Asian American was coined as a specific reclaiming of our culture, our history and our communities. It was born out of a movement that meant to radicalize, challenge and upend the social and political order of things — it was not a term of safety or of neutrality.

If we are going to call ourselves Asian American, we should at least be aware of the roots of that conscious naming. We should be able to honor the struggle for racial, economic, and social justice that led up to and infused Asian America with a vibrancy of meaning, of historical place and of value. I think if we start there, the conversations in our communities will take on new life.

How has your activism in the South Philly High School racial beatings changed you personally?

Gym: This was a deeply challenging struggle for me even after decades of activism in the public schools. On the one hand, I felt defeated by the cycle of violence and racism — so many students were getting hurt, and a number of people at the school and city level were just awful about victim blaming, racial polarizing, evasion

of responsibility and their focus on public relations. Over finding real solutions to the racial violence at Southern. On the other hand, there was this amazing coalition of young people who, along with community advocates, took this situation of injustice and turned a struggling school around, not just for themselves but for the whole school community. In the process they changed the way they viewed themselves and how an entire city viewed immigrant youth.

It's reinforced in my mind that young people, empowered and politicized, can never have that taken away from them. It's made clear the fragile territory Asians occupy in terms of race relations in this city, and the importance of building multiracial coalitions and dialogue about how we tackle those difficult conversations. If it's possible, it's made more precious our investment in the charter school we built — where a third of the population is immigrant youth — and creating spaces where we're building the educational environment and culture our children deserve.

Why is it important to fight for justice?

Gym: Because we know injustices happen. Daily. To people and communities and places that we love and care for. Because we know what it feels like to be fearful and alone and silenced. Because when we use our voices and stand together we speak the language of a global humanity that has fought these similar struggles before us. Because when we stand up to injustice we teach our children what justice means. Because we love things enough to fight for them. ■

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION
Interpretive Learning Center

August 19-21, 2011
Grand Opening & Pilgrimage Weekend

Don't miss this unique opportunity activities, including a Pilgrimage on Fri., Aug. 19; a Dedication Ceremony for the new Interpretive Learning Center and evening Gala Banquet on Sat., Aug. 20; and tours of Heart Mountain on Sun., Aug. 21. It's all part of the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Interpretive Learning Center — beginning a new era of understanding and appreciation for the Japanese-American internment experience.

For advance registration, visit www.heartmountain.org, or call 307.764.2320 for details and to request registration forms by mail. Make your plans soon — the event is nearing capacity!

NEW MEDIA

TOM IKEDA



Why he's extraordinary: He is the founder of Densho, a nonprofit that uses digital technology to preserve and educate people about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans.
Hometown: Seattle
Age: 55
Generation: Sansei
Little known fact: If a movie was made of his life he would want Patrick Stewart of 'Star Trek' fame to play him.

After 14 years as the head of Densho, a non-profit that uses digital media to tell the stories of the Japanese American incarceration, Tom Ikeda still finds himself tearing up occasionally when he hears first-person accounts from his oral history interviewees.

His interview 13 years ago with Rudy Tokiwa, a 442nd soldier from San Jose who passed away in 2004, was especially emotional.

"Rudy cried when he described how the Commanding Officer of the 442nd had to explain to General Dahlquist after the

rescue of the Lost Battalion that the men left standing were all that was left of the regiment — the rest were either killed or wounded," he said.

For Ikeda, heading up Densho, based in his hometown of Seattle, has been a personal journey. His family was formerly interned at Minidoka in Idaho and his uncle was a 442nd soldier who died in battle.

"My mother's brother was killed in action in Italy and to this day my mother still cries when talking about her brother," he said.

JACL Announces Honorees for 42nd Los Angeles Convention

The 42nd JACL national convention will be hosted this year in Los Angeles from July 7-10 at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa. At our first annual convention, the JACL plans to recognize the following outstanding individuals for their contributions to the Japanese American community.

ALAN NISHIO



Nishio retired as the associate vice president for student services at California State University, Long Beach in 2006. He was a founding member and director of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA. He has dedicated a lifetime to higher education issues, while maintaining involvement with the Japanese American community. Nishio was active in redress efforts for the incarceration of JAs during World War II. He currently serves as president of the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation in Los Angeles and as the chair of the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council.

The JACL Pacific Southwest District commends Nishio for his work in higher education and his tireless leadership and involvement in the JA community.

PAUL OSAKI



Osaki is currently the executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. Mr. Osaki has been extensively involved with various other community-based nonprofit organizations in the past 33 years, and helped to create and organize the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council. He has also been a leading voice in the preservation of California's Japantowns. Osaki additionally led the statewide outreach and educational campaign for AB 781, the California Nisei High School Diploma Project where over 1,200 Nisei have been able to receive their high school diplomas, initially denied to them during WWII. Osaki has helped raised over \$600,000 toward the Kobe Earthquake citizen relief efforts, and is currently amidst efforts to raise funds for the latest earthquake disaster in Northern Japan.

As a leader in the JA and greater California communities, the PSW district wishes to recognize Osaki's contributions and accomplishments in community work and U.S.-Japan relations.

TRACI KATO-KIRIYAMA



Kato-Kiriyama is a multi-disciplinary artist, arts educator, community organizer and founder of the Tuesday Night Project, a free public art venue and "art+community" space dedicated to people interested in furthering their community engagement and creative work. As the author of a recently published collection of poetry titled *Signaling* (The Undenables Press), Kato-Kiriyama tours universities, libraries and community events, presenting readings and workshops to diverse audiences from performers to youth educators, high school students to senior citizens.

The PSW district honors Kato-Kiriyama as an artist who has worked to bring together art and the community, using art not only as a means of creative expression but a tool for teaching and community organizing.

LT. DAN CHOI



Lt. Choi is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, West Point and an Iraq War Veteran. He gained national attention in 2009 after coming out on "The Rachel Maddow Show" with the words "I am gay" — that eventually led to the Army initiating discharge proceedings against him. Lt. Choi faced a military trial under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and despite the board's recommendation for discharge, the case was never finalized and Lt. Choi continues to serve in his military unit.

Lt. Choi advocated tirelessly to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in order to end sexual discrimination in the military. With JACL being one of the first non-gay organizations to support gay rights, JACL salutes Lt. Choi for his passion to fight for what he believes in.

FATHER VIEN NGUYEN

Father Nguyen was the pastor of Mary Queen of Viet Nam Catholic Church in New Orleans, Louisiana. As pastor of the parish, Father Nguyen led the effort in the fight



against plans to turn most of New Orleans East, an enclave for Vietnamese Americans, into green space and a toxic landfill post-Katrina. He also established and serves as the chair of the Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development Corporation, which strives to create Viet Village as a contribution to the colorful ethnic diversity of New Orleans. Following the oil spill in the gulf, Father Nguyen led efforts to demand language access and local hire for the area's APA fishermen, working with several federal and state agencies to develop skills diversification and job creation for the displaced fishermen.

Father Nguyen is the epitome of what it means to be a strong community leader. He has advocated for the Vietnamese American community, particularly in times of need. He is also the recipient of the Norman Y. Mineta Leadership Legacy Award given by The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

LISA HASEGAWA



Hasegawa is the executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, the first national advocacy organization dedicated to meeting the housing and community development needs of low-income APAs throughout the country. Hasegawa also served as the community liaison for the White House Initiative on AAPIs and played a central role in organizing town hall meetings where organizations and individuals testified before the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs about critical issues facing AAPI communities across the country.

Hasegawa has been heavily involved with JACL and community advocacy for many years. Her remarkable efforts on multiple fronts have contributed significantly to the progress of APAs in this country.

For more information about convention: www.jacl.org/convention

42nd JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

"JACL 2.0 - Making New Waves"

Los Angeles July 7-10, 2011

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

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

Please mail completed form and payment to:
 JACL National Convention 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 303 Los Angeles, CA 900012



BUSINESS

DONNA FUJIMOTO COLE



Why she's extraordinary: She is the founder and CEO of the Houston-based Cole Chemicals.
Age: 58
Generation: Sansei
Little known fact: She loves to listen and sing along to—albeit a little off tune—the “golden oldies.”

Over 30 years ago, Donna Fujimoto Cole, then 27 with a four-year-old daughter and \$5,000 in savings, founded Cole Chemical. In 2010, the company's sales exceeded \$53 million.

But those who know Cole Fujimoto say it is her big “Texas-sized heart” that makes her a standout community leader.

“I am so pleased that Donna is being recognized. I assume it is not easy to grow up Sansei in Texas, build a reputation for herself and become the leader she has become,” says Peggy Nagae, who has known the CEO for about 15 years.

Last year Fujimoto Cole helped successfully urge the Texas Board of Education to consider adding in its curriculum the story of Japanese Americans in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service, among other things.

What is the strangest question you've been asked about your job?

Fujimoto Cole: Weren't you afraid of failure when you started your company at age 27, divorced with a four-year-old daughter and chemistry degree?

Do you face biases as a CEO?

Fujimoto Cole: I really don't come up against as many in-your-face biases as I have in the past. I believe that many things have changed for women and the bar has been moved.

What is a perk of being CEO?

Fujimoto Cole: I like hiring and firing myself, sometimes twice in the same day. I actually like to strategize and I am a good visionary so conceptualizing comes easy, which to me is a huge perk.

Why was it important to fight the Texas Board of Education to include the WWII history of Nisei veterans?

Fujimoto Cole: As a young student I hated that time of year in history when we had to cover WWII. I was embarrassed and ashamed to look and be Japanese. Other kids made fun of me by calling me names. My defense was to take my dad's blue 442nd book to school to show them that my dad was in the United States Army. So when the opportunity came up last year to attend the public hearing to make language recommendations with supporting reasons to make changes to the textbooks, I jumped at the chance to rally around the inclusion of the JA internment experience, (a violation of civil rights), the JA 442nd segregated battalion and their patriotic bravery while many had families that were interned, the MIS's work that helped shorten the war, and lastly the importance of the rescue of the “Lost Battalion,” which boosted morale for U.S. soldiers around the world that “no American soldier would be left behind,” as well as the long fought Battle of Casino in Italy. ■



SCIENCE

PAUL TERASAKI



Why he's extraordinary: The retired UCLA professor is an expert in organ transplantation.
Hometown: Los Angeles
Age: 81
Generation: Sansei
Little known fact: He once worked as a busboy and gardener.

It's hard to believe that renowned scientist Dr. Paul Ichiro Terasaki, 81, once spent his days as a gardener, busboy and handyman — often spending days repairing toilets and painting rooms — but it was these experiences that convinced him to continue his medical education at UCLA.

It's a decision he's happy to have made and so is UCLA. As a former student and professor at his beloved alma mater, Terasaki in 2010 donated \$50 million, a record amount for the university.

“I owe my whole career to UCLA,” said Terasaki in an article on UCLA's website.

The \$50 million was given to the Division of Life Sciences in the UCLA College of Letters and Science. In recognition, the new Life Sciences building was named after Terasaki. The donation includes \$2 million to establish an endowed chair in surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine.

“Dr. Terasaki is an inspirational role model and a great scientist who has had a nearly lifelong relationship with UCLA, as a student, professor, donor and father of UCLA alumni,” UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said in a press statement. “I am extremely grateful for his visionary philanthropy.”

In the 1970s Terasaki established the UCLA Kidney Transplant Registry, the first and largest kidney transplant registry in the world before federal registries were started.

But it was in 1964 that Terasaki made a name for himself when he developed a tissue typing technique that helps match donors and recipients that to this day is used internationally.

Terasaki was 12 years old when he and his family were sent to Gila River for three years. After the war, his family felt uneasy

returning to their home in California so they settled in the south side of Chicago where Terasaki worked long days as a busboy.

He credits his mother with encouraging him to go into medicine and he entered the University of Illinois at Navy Pier as a pre-med student. In 1948 he applied and was accepted as a transfer student at UCLA and soon returned to Los Angeles. He went on to earn his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. from UCLA in zoology.

Terasaki was a UCLA professor of surgery from 1969 until his retirement in 1999. A year later he established the Terasaki Foundation Laboratory, a research center that studies antibodies to transplants.

In 1984 Terasaki started a company called One Lambda with eight of his former students. The company focuses on the development and advancement of tissue typing. Today, these eight former students continue to run the company that now employs 270 staffers.

Reflecting back on his career and his time at UCLA, Terasaki says he could never have predicted how far he has come.

“It would be impossible to think about that — to think that I would ever donate anything to UCLA would have been impossible,” said Terasaki in a 2010 UCLA interview. “It's quite a distance I've travelled. After the camps, we did not have enough money to afford much of anything.”

In addition to the recent donation of \$50 million, in 2001 Terasaki established an endowed chair in U.S.-Japan relations at UCLA and in 2006 he and his wife Hisako gave \$5 million to establish the Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies. ■

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Congratulations,
Paul!

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CENTRAL CALIF. DISTRICT JACLER

DALE IKEDA



Why he's extraordinary:
 Judge Dale Ikeda was instrumental in helping to build the Pinedale and Fresno Assembly Center memorials, which honor the sacrifices made by Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II.
Hometown: Clovis, Calif.
Age: 60
Generation: Sansei

RELATED STORY:
 SEE FUMIO IKEDA TRIBUTE
PAGE 15

Judge Dale Ikeda once dreamt of exotic travels to Monaco as a professional backgammon player, but instead he would pursue a career in law.

Since 2001, Ikeda has been a judge of the Fresno County Superior Court. The judge has remained active in the community, working on projects such as the installation of the Pinedale and Fresno Assembly Center memorials.

Which community activist do you admire the most and why?

Ikeda: There are many community activists I admire. However, my uncle, Fumio "Ike" Ikeda, is foremost on my mind, especially since he just passed away March 28, in the arms of his wife, Mine, of nearly 70 years. He and my dad, Hifumi "Hy" Ikeda, helped found the Clovis Judo Club in 1955. They also played a key role in raising money for scholarships and other philanthropic purposes through the annual Clovis JACL Shrimp Dinner for nearly 50 years. Uncle Fumio was instrumental in the creation of the United Japanese Christian Church through the merger of two churches and the construction of a new church in Clovis. He was very principled with a focus on the good of the community.

What has been your biggest achievement so far?

Ikeda: Completing the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial was a major achievement for me personally. It called upon my knowledge of the law, especially from my days as a deputy city attorney; contacts within the community to put our committee together and work through the political process; negotiating skills I developed as an attorney; and research and writing skills to work with others on the storyboards, which drew upon my previous experience with JACL through the Redress Movement, study of history and familiarity with the wartime cases of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Min Yasui.

In your opinion, why was it an extraordinary task to honor the history of JAs with the Pinedale and Fresno memorials?

Ikeda: The Fresno Assembly Center Memorial has been relatively easy, thanks to the 21st Agricultural District Association ("Big Fresno Fair") and John Alkire, CEO.

On the flipside, the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial was made difficult because the property owner was opposed to any significant memorial on the site. The developer wanted the memorial located within a traffic turnaround, a proposal we considered disrespectful and inadequate. It took 18 months, sometimes meeting weekly with the developer and their attorney and consultant ... before an agreement was reached.

Can you tell us something about yourself that no one else knows?

Ikeda: If I've kept information secret from my family and friends, there's probably a good reason. However, since you want something "light-hearted," not many people know that in my late 20s, my fantasy career was to be a professional backgammon player, traveling to Monte Carlo, Monaco, and other exotic places to play in tournaments. I actually won small prizes at the so-called World Amateur Backgammon Championship in Las Vegas and Nevada State Championship, Novice Division, in Reno, Nevada. When I have a few free minutes, I still like to play backgammon online but not for money. ■

WRITER

NAOMI HIRAHARA



Why she's extraordinary:
 She's an award-winning mystery author who writes about JA characters.
Hometown: Pasadena, Calif.
Age: 48
Generation: Nisei-han (2.5)
Little known fact: She has started running half-marathons.

From the time Naomi Hirahara was a reporter then editor for the Los Angeles Japanese American daily *Rafu Shimpo*, the noted author has shown a passion for telling the stories of the JA community.

In 2004 Hirahara published "Summer of the Big Bachi" which would go on to become a successful mystery series about amateur detective Mas Arai. The fourth in the series, "Blood Hina", was published last year. Hirahara is now working on a middle-grade book in the "steam-punk" genre and the protagonist will be a JA girl.

If Mas Arai could meet one person, fiction or non-fiction, who would it be? What would he say?

Hirahara: Sadaji Futabayama, a top sumo wrestler in the 1930s and mid-1940s in Japan. He had the longest run of consecutive wins and finished out his career in a bomb-damaged stadium. After retiring, he finally revealed that he was blind in one eye. Mas would probably say to him, "Letsu go eat."

Ernest Hemingway wrote with his typewriter propped on a bookcase. What is your writing ritual?

Hirahara: My laptop actually rests in the open drawer of my high school desk. (And yes, the drawer has pens, papers and other things in it.) I really don't have much of a writing ritual — only that I try to write as much as possible in between everything in my life, including cooking, some freelance projects, paying bills, babysitting my nephew, reading, running, public speaking and hanging out with my husband, parents, rest of the family and friends.

Why is it important to you to write about JA characters?

SEE HIRAHARA/PAGE 14

JACL's
 Central California
 District Council
 congratulates
 Judge Dale Ikeda
 for being named an
 Extraordinary APA!

Congratulations to all Extraordinary Asian Pacific American Winners.

The collective achievements of the APA community are inspiring.

The U.S.-Japan Council honors its Council Members and Board Members receiving this recognition: Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Dr. Paul Terasaki, Mr. Tom Ikeda, Ms. Donna Cole, Mr. Ted Namba and Dr. Paul Watanabe. These individuals, together with the U.S.-Japan Council, strive to build people-to-people relationships in order to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations. The Council looks forward to further success and milestones for Asian Pacific Americans and their communities.

U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL

NAKADE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

tee and large community-wide support. In Turlock this basically has been a project with Kayla, David and me. We have met many Nisei during the dedication of the monument from different parts of California and through their further donations are wrapping up the final phase of the project with two storyboards that tell the story. We hope to have the installation sometime in May.

What is the most important thing to know about bringing about change in the community?

Nakade: Persistence.

What kind of impact do you think the Turlock Memorial has had on the local community?

Nakade: For the local community of Turlock, which has only a small JA population, [the memorial] opens a part of history that has been forgotten. ■

TOKUTOMI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

scope, and will establish a lasting asset and educational opportunity that residents and visitors will enjoy for perpetuity. No major project of this size and scope has been accomplished anywhere north of Los Angeles, where the Go For Broke Center is located.”

In addition to raising funds for the memorial, Tokutomi has 15 years of experience as fundraising chairman for Feed The Hungry, a nonprofit that facilitates food donations to the Salvation Army.

In one word Feldman — borrowing a term from his grandparents — describes his friend of about 20 years as a “*mensch*,” the Yiddish term for an honorable person.

“I joined JACL because of E. Ken,” Feldman said. “He told me about the organization’s history and mission, and pointed out that it is the only civil rights organization in our community. That appealed to me, and as I get more deeply involved in the local JACL activities, I have become more informed and a stronger advocate for recognizing the contributions of people like Ken in our community.” ■



INTERMOUNTAIN JACLER

HERO SHIOSAKI

Why he’s extraordinary: A Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL member, honored three Japanese railroad workers in 2010 with a memorial marker.

Hometown: Born in Rockford, Idaho

Age: 91

Generation: Nisei

Little known fact: He nearly forgot he was a JACL member until he was elected the president of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL chapter after World War II.



Hero Shiosaki, 91, says since his retirement in 1990 he has been speaking to school kids in Idaho about his experiences in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II and his accomplishments in the community.

“One day I went into Blackfoot High School and spoke for five classes straight. I was getting hoarse,” Shiosaki said with a laugh. “I’ve spoken to probably 6,000 kids.”

The WWII veteran says he discusses with students some of his proudest work, including his military service with the 442nd RCT and his work with the American Legion.

“Hero’s activism and service stem from a deep desire to share his story, to educate and to bear witness to the sacrifice, courage, and dignity of previous generations,” says Micki Kawakami of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL chapter. “Despite visiting schools in several states ... he still finds the time, energy and intellectual interest to do it today with the same fervor and conviction.”

Last year Shiosaki helped pay tribute to three Japanese American railroad workers who drowned in 1906 while they were fishing for trout with dynamite in eastern Idaho. Local law enforcement approached the men, according to a 1996 article in the *Fall River Review*. Two men died trying to escape. The third body was never recovered.

The men were buried in unmarked graves, until Shiosaki and others installed a memorial marker last year.

“Hero is representative of his generation’s dedication to the Japanese community,” says Karl Endo, who is a member of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL chapter. “Besides his service during WWII, he has held most positions in our chapter at least once over the years.”

After returning from serving in the war, Shiosaki says he held his first position with JACL.

“Right after I got back, I was elected the Pocatello chapter JACL president,” he says. “I didn’t even know I belonged to it. I’d been gone for almost four years.”


It has been over six decades since WWII, but Shiosaki continues to honor his fellow soldiers each year, participating and speaking at an Idaho-based Memorial Day service at the Mountain View cemetery.

Shiosaki says his work in the community is important because everyone should be treated as equals. “Fighting in this war it didn’t matter who you were or what you were. If you got shot you bled like everybody else and you suffered like him,” Shiosaki says.

Recognizing Shiosaki, who has donated his energy and time to honoring others, is a nice change, Kawakami says.

“Hero is a friendly, engaging man with a wealth of stories, a phenomenal memory, and a gift for sharing his story,” Kawakami explains. “Hero, and all our Nisei, are priceless and selfless, the best of ourselves. I’m so glad he is being honored.” ■

Ted, congratulations on being extraordinary!





Jim and Marian Shee, Ray and Mona, Madeline Ong-Sakata, Masako Takiguchi, Enrique Medina, Pete Garcia, Amanda Ho, Leo Loo,

Kevin Uehara

Thanks, Dad, for your integrity, generosity, modesty and kindness.

Love, Your Family

WASHINGTON D.C. JACL

celebrates Extraordinary APA Paul Watanabe & Asian Pacific American Heritage Month!

Congratulations to the Extraordinary APA Award Winners!

WE ARE HOUSTON PROUD of DONNA FUJIMOTO COLE!

— JACL Houston Chapter





PSW DISTRICT JA CLER

TED NAMBA



Why he's extraordinary: The Arizona JA CLer helped fight Arizona's controversial immigration law, SB 1070.

Hometown: Glendale, Ariz.

Age: 53

Generation: Sansai

Arizona-based optometrist Ted Namba has been helping people see clearer for nearly 30 years, but the 53-year-old's family says his "extraordinary" traits have always been clearly visible — with or without glasses.

"My father is simply put, a great man," says Bryan Namba, the JA CL Pacific Southwest District's youth representative. "He is always the first to put others before himself and is committed to bettering the community."

Ted Namba and his wife, Michele, have been involved with the JA CL Arizona chapter since about 1996.

Last year at the JA CL national convention, Ted encouraged JA CLers to oppose Arizona's immigration

law, saying it would open the door for racial profiling.

Ted's strong work ethic influenced his son who says he remembers his father coming home from a long day at the office only to start working again in the evenings for community organizations.

Why is it difficult to unite immigrant communities?

Namba: There are so many different languages, cultures, religions, etc. within the various immigrant communities that it's extremely challenging to unite them all. Many of these refugees tend to stay within their tight circles of family and friends that it can be difficult to reach out to some.

What is your reaction to anti-illegal immigration activists?

Namba: It seems hypocritical that anti-illegal immigrant activists choose to break laws when taking action, while they claim they only want to see immigration to be properly enforced.

What has been your biggest achievement?

Namba: I recall having dinner with our kids on Sept. 11, 2011, and being surprised and proud of the kids, ages 9 and 12 at the time, for being

empathetic and concerned about what could happen to anyone who looked Arab American. [It was] one of those rare times I felt as though I've been a decent parent.

What community activist has influenced you?

Namba: Fred Korematsu because he demonstrated that an individual could truly make a difference when fighting for one's constitutional rights.

Tell us on thing about yourself that no one else knows.

Namba: I've run six marathons: Honolulu, Los Angeles, Long Beach (three times), and New York. My personal record is 3:32:48 — at the 1988 Long Beach Marathon. For years I knew I could do better if I had some decent time to train, but lately I am more realistic and happy to just run a few miles a couple of times a week. ■

INOUE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ous 48 states. The Native Hawaiians lacked the services and opportunities enjoyed by Native people in other states. I've been able to do something about that.

Which community activist do you admire?

Sen Inouye: I admire anyone who is willing to give back to their community. It is not easy to try to do the right thing in a public setting. There will always be those who are unhappy with your work. So I admire and respect anyone willing to sacrifice and speak up for what they believe is right.

Tell us something about yourself no one else knows.

Sen Inouye: This may surprise you, but in all the years I've lived in Washington, only one senator has set foot in my residence, and that was (former Montana Democrat) Mike Mansfield. It just happened we were chatting, and I said, 'I see Maureen's out of town. What are you going to have for supper?' 'Oh, I'll open up a can of beans.' I said, 'You're kidding me.' 'No.' I said, 'You come home with me.' So, I called up my wife: 'Get three steaks.'

The P.C. editorial board has named you an extraordinary APA in politics. Describe the feeling of being the highest ranking APA politician in American history.

Sen Inouye: Thank you very much for this honor. It's humbling, especially when you consider that I was once considered an enemy alien by this great nation. And now I am third in the line of presidential succession. It is hard to fathom at times. I am very thankful for my family and for the people of Hawaii who have trusted me to represent them in the Senate. ■

CONGRATS, TED!
You are extraordinary!

For your hard work and dedication, thank you.
ARIZONA JA CL

Congratulations, Wat!
YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION.

Salt Lake City JA CL, Mt. Olympus JA CL
Wasatch Front North JA CL



MIDWEST DISTRICT JACLER

RON YOSHINO



Why he's extraordinary: The longtime Chicago JACLER took on the task of convention chair for the successful 2010 national JACL convention in Chicago, the last biennial convention.
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Birthday: July 4, 1944
Generation: Nisei
Interesting tidbit: He is the older brother of current JACL Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino.

With the first national JACL annual convention just around the corner in Los Angeles, has Ron Yoshino recuperated from his role as the Chicago 2010 convention chair? Almost. The *Pacific Citizen* staff checked in with Yoshino recently to discuss why being a national JACL convention chair is anything but easy.

In addition to running the 2010 Chicago convention, he was also in charge in 1986, the last time national JACL held its biennial convention in the Windy City. In 2005 this Chicago native retired as director of Locomotive Design and Systems Integration with General Motors. He has a Master of Science in materials engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago and from 1976 to 1978 he served on the national JACL board.

Which community activist do you admire and why?

Yoshino: Min Yasui. Yasui was director of Denver's Commission on Community Relations, but I admire him for what he did in 1942. In 1942, Min deliberately violated the military curfew requiring all persons of Japanese ancestry to be in their homes between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. He did this in an attempt to challenge the legality of the curfew, and he was arrested and spent nine months in jail before his case was heard before the Supreme Court. Even though the high court ruled that the military curfew was legitimate, Min's actions were courageous.

In later years, Min became one of the leaders in the Redress Movement. He was an active and powerful voice and was instrumental in helping get the Redress Bill passed.

Why is it an "extraordinary" task to organize a national convention?

Yoshino: It is an extraordinary task to organize a national convention because it is an extraordinary event. In the past, the national conventions were held every two years. Starting with 2011, the JACL national convention will be held every year. It is a "once a year" opportunity for JACLers from around the country to get together and discuss issues of common interest in a face-to-face forum.

Tell us something about yourself that no one else knows.

Yoshino: I actually enjoyed the job of planning the 2010 JACL

National Convention. It was an opportunity to assemble a diverse group of people working together on a large and complicated task. In addition to members from the Chicago JACL board, our convention committee included other members of the Japanese American community as well as people who had never been involved with JACL before. And, it gave us the opportunity to showcase Chicago. Many people still think of Chicago in terms of gangsters and Al Capone, but Chicago is a modern city on the shores of Lake Michigan with a beautiful and vibrant downtown area.

What was the most difficult task associated with organizing a large event like the convention?

Yoshino: For the 2010 JACL National Convention in Chicago, we scheduled a lot of outdoor activities such as a Cubs baseball game, a Segway tour, a walking tour and a boat tour. Chicago in July could have rain, thunderstorms and high humidity. The most difficult task was managing the weather for these outdoor activities. We were able to provide sunny skies and 80-degree weather for these outdoor activities.

What has been your biggest achievement so far?

Yoshino: My biggest achievement so far has been being chosen by the *Pacific Citizen* as an extraordinary APA. My second biggest achievement so far has been being responsible for planning two JACL national conventions. ■



CONGRATULATIONS, RON YOSHINO.

- Chicago JACL President 1972-74
- JACL National Board 1976-78
- JACL National Scholarship Committee 1976-78, 2006-10
- Chicago JACL Redress Committee 1979-88
- JACL National Convention Chair 1986, 2010
- JACL National Credentials Committee Chair 1992-96
- Chicago JACL Treasurer 2005-10
- Japanese American Service Committee Board of Directors 1975
- Asian American Coalition of Chicago Co-Chair 1990

CHICAGO KNOWS HOW EXTRAORDINARY YOU ARE!




Congratulations,
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MAKO NAKAGAWA!

SEATTLE CHAPTER JACL

 **PNW DISTRICT JACLER
 MAKO NAKAGAWA**



Why she's extraordinary: This Seattle JACLER and retired educator is the author of the 'Power of Words' resolution to help re-evaluate the use of WWII euphemisms such as 'internment.'

Hometown: Seattle, Washington
Age: 74
Generation: Nisei
Little known fact: Public speaking still makes her nervous.

Mako Nakagawa has a mission: the elimination of World War II euphemisms such as "internment" to describe the incarceration of tens of thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

A former "internee" at the Puyallup Assembly Center, Minidoka and Crystal City, Nakagawa used her own personal incarceration experience to author the "Power of Words" resolution that was overwhelmingly approved at the 2010 national JACL convention in Chicago.

Which community activist do you admire?

Mako Nakagawa: Edison Uno — the man had character, vision, passion, commitment and bundles of *kimochi*. He was able to mobilize people with his gift of talk and he was always there to walk the walk too. Civil rights were more than words on paper to Edison Uno. In the pages of the *P.C.* in 1974, he was the *first* to raise the issue of terminology and urge the use of the term "concentration camps" to describe the WRA prisons. As the children of "alien enemy" parents, we shared the experience of being interned with our families in the Crystal City DOJ internment camp.

Why is it important to eradicate WWII euphemisms about the JA experience?

Nakagawa: With the approval of an overwhelming number of JACL chapters that supported the "Power of Words" resolution, the campaign to use accurate and non-euphemistic terminology to describe the JA experience during WWII received a huge boost. We understand that old habits are difficult to change. We simply look for opportunities to explain our choices in replacing identified euphemistic terms with more accurate terminology. Of course, some people will oppose the recommended changes. However, they should keep in mind that the "Power of Words" resolution was voted on by the national JACL council and passed by 80 to 2.

National JACL must not falter and capitulate to pressures outside our organization. We need to tell our story, from our perspective, with terms of our choosing, and stay true to our sense of integrity. When truth is told, we have our best chance to have justice prevail.

How often do you catch yourself using the word "internment"?

Nakagawa: Since my father was "interned" in a Department of Justice camp in Missoula, Montana, it is a term I rarely misuse. I am viscerally aware that the term "internment" applies to citizens of Japan who were "interned" into Department of Justice "internment" camps. After several years, my family was able to reunite with our father in the DOJ camp at Crystal City, Texas. I understand that my official status by the government was then changed to "volunteer, civilian, prisoner of war" (that's quite a title for a little kid), and our family may have been exchanged for captive American soldiers. This misnomer of the term "internment" is very important to note in light of our civil liberties in the Bill of Rights.

What has been your biggest achievement?

Nakagawa: My kids laugh when I respond to this question with "the kids I raised." I do think I had a good part in their upbringing and all three of them are caring and decent adults who I care for and enjoy. ■

HIRAHARA
 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Hirahara: I guess it's because they are people I know. I know them inside out. I know other kinds of people, too, but more from the outside in. I like to write in a very visceral way. I want to know how they smell, how they feel. Of course, all human experience is universal, so why can't the JA experience be universal?

What is your reaction to the criticism that Asian American characters don't sell books?

Hirahara: Some of this is true, in a way. In the sense that it's difficult for an Asian American author to sell a novel about Asian Americans. In terms of characters, we see the popularity of Charlie Chan and the string of movies that character inspired from the 1930s on. But the author, directors and even lead actors themselves were not Asian Americans.

After publishing fiction with New York publishers for seven years now, I see that we Asian Americans are partially to blame for "ethnic" books failing to

find readers. How many of us pick up books written by Asian American authors about Asian American characters? We are probably more apt to read the latest popular Oprah pick or mainstream bestseller. Asian Americans need to support their artists more. The only way that I've been able to stay published is have a strong non-Asian American readership base. Because Asian Americans — and especially JAs — are relatively small in number, this makes sense. Yet a large percentage of Asian Americans are educated and have a significant level of disposable income, so there is a lot of potential for this demographic to create certain consumer demands.

Do you have any secret talents?

Hirahara: I, sadly, don't have any secret talents. I am trying to run one half-marathon a year, but I'm incredibly slow. I'm also a bad dancer, singer, cellist, guitarist, basketball player and golfer, but I actually love to do most of those things. I think it's important to be bad at something but still do it on regular basis. Achievement is sometimes very overrated. ■

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TRIBUTE

Fumio Ikeda

September 23, 1920 - March 28, 2011

Fumio Ikeda was born in San Jose on September 23, 1920, and lived life to the fullest in Clovis, California, until his death on March 28. Raised on a farm with his brother and sister, Fumio joined the army after graduating from Clovis High School.



He served in the Military Intelligence Service in the CBI Theater. After the war, he became a member of VFW Nisei Liberty Post 5861 and a commander of the Clovis American Legion Post 147. Fumio was a leader in the Clovis JACL. In 1995, he was honored for service and leadership by the United Japanese Christian Church.

Clovis Citizens Hall of Fame in 1996 and a year later was named a Clovis Living Legend. In 2000 he was featured in the series "Portrait of Success" discussing the Japanese American story. Fumio loved life and is survived by his wife, Mine, and three children.

He was inducted into the

TRIBUTE

Kaoru "Bill" Honda

December 8, 1916 - April 17, 2011

Kaoru "Bill" Honda, 94, of Santa Barbara, California, died peacefully on April 17, 2011 after a brief, but rapid illness. He was surrounded by his wife, four sons and a granddaughter when he went to be with the Lord.

Bill was born December 8, 1916, in Lompoc, California, the son of Senmatsu and Sumi Yura Honda. He was the oldest of 3 siblings (brothers Masanobu and Ben Michio). He graduated from Lompoc High in 1934. From 1942 to 1959, Bill lived in Salt Lake City and Keetley, UT. He was married to Lucille Kawate in 1954 and they relocated to Santa Barbara in 1959. Bill retired with the U.S. Postal Service after 32 years of dedicated service.

He was a very avid walker, bowler and softball player well into his 80s and early 90s. In 1997, Bill was inducted into the Japanese American National Bowling Association Hall of Fame.

Bill touched the lives of many people and was an inspiration to all. He will be especially remembered for his gentle and kind spirit, positive outlook, great athleticism especially later in life, family gatherings and reunions, dedication to his church, and love of sports.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Lucille; sons Clifford of Canoga Park, CA; David and wife Cindy of Vail, CO; Paul and wife Marie of Diamond Bar, CA; and Mark and wife Marian of Bothell, WA; grandchildren Davey, Katy, William, Natalie and Daniel; and many nephews, nieces and good friends.

A memorial service was held at 12:00 pm on Thursday, April 28 at Bethany Congregational Church, 556 North Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA. Family and friends were welcomed with a reception immediately following from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Donations in Bill's memory may be made to Bethany Congregational Church or a charitable organization of your choice.

TRIBUTE

Elyse Mikiko Yamauchi

December 9, 1950 - April 21, 2011

Elyse Mikiko Yamauchi passed away April 21, 2011 at St. John's Hospice in Denver from complications of cancer. She was born December 9, 1950 in Tokyo, Japan while her father, Hiroshi M. Yamauchi served in the U.S. Army.

For thirty years, Elyse served in many capacities at Metro State College in Denver's Student Judicial Office/Assistant Dean, Benefit Administrator/Director and as an assistant to the Vice President for Business and Finance. She retired in 2003, but continued to serve Metro State College, most recently as Interim Student Judicial Officer until December 2010. She was described by one official as a "tough cookie with a marshmallow center."

Since 1997, Elyse served as an adjunct faculty in Sociology, Ethnic Studies, Asian American Studies, Gender and Race issues. She also taught at the University of Colorado, Boulder in Ethnic Studies with a focus on Asian American issues. Elyse was a true student advocate who was deeply respected by students, faculty and staff; she served on dozens of committees at Metro State College, advocating for Asian Pacific Island groups, Native Americans, Martin Luther King Committees, and mentored dozens of associations, including JACL, the Association of Judicial Affairs and Colorado Higher Education Insurance Benefits Alliance. She was recognized as an Outstanding Woman Administrator, among other awards and was an Educational Policy Fellow at the Institute of Educational Leadership, Washington, D.C. She has served for three years on the Board of Mile-Hi Chapter JACL as Vice President for Membership.

She received a B.A. in Sociology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Colorado, Denver, and a PhD in Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2009. She was also a published author.

Services were held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Simpson Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff, Arvada, Colorado, 80003, phone 303-428-7963. Contributions and condolences may be sent to Simpson Methodist Church.

Elyse is survived by her son, Yuzo Nieto and his wife, Simone, her mother, Ruth Yamauchi, aunt Tillie Taguchi, sisters Gayle Simon and Linda Sutherland, nieces Carin Lawrence and Kimiko Gustafason; she was pre-deceased by her brother, Brian Yamauchi, Portland, Oregon, who passed away March 6, 2011.

TRIBUTE

Elsie Michiko Dozen

April 25, 2011

DOZEN, ELSIE MICHIKO. Age 86 passed away on April 25, 2011. Predeceased by her husband, Fred Dozen and sister, Sue Okabe; she is survived by her children, Vickie (Eddie) Tani, Patti Dozen, and Jeff (Lorraine) Dohzen; grandchildren, Kenny Horn, Andrea (Brad) Hilsabeck, Tiffany and Traycie Dohzen, Ashley Tani, and Shannyn Yasui; 7 great-grandchildren; sister, Kay Suyetsugu; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 7, 11:00 A.M. at Faith United Methodist Church, 2115 W. 182nd St., Torrance. www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441.

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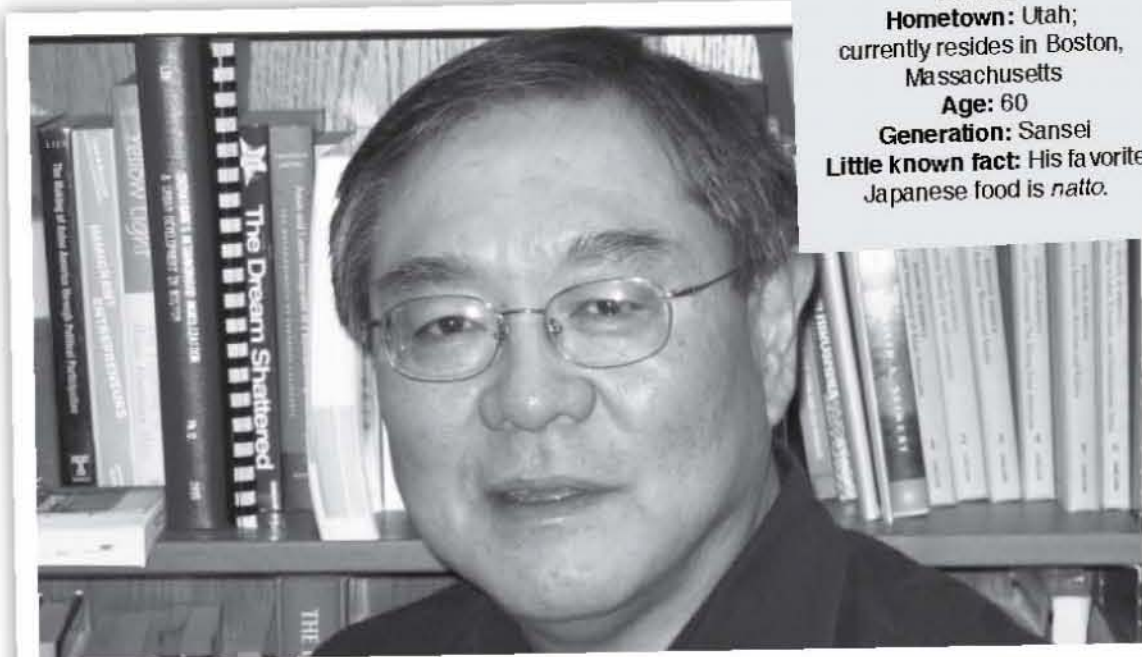
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EASTERN DISTRICT JACLER

PAUL WATANABE



Why he's extraordinary: His work with Census 2010 helped to ensure that APAs were counted.

Hometown: Utah; currently resides in Boston, Massachusetts

Age: 60

Generation: Sansei

Little known fact: His favorite Japanese food is *natto*.



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- Aug 16 USA Bus Tour -National Parks & Heart Mt. Dedication \$2445**-Mesquite-Salt Lake-Jackson-Tetons-Yellowstone-Cody- includes Heart Mt. dinners-Mt. Rushmore-BlackHawk Casino-Arches-Monument Valley-Grand Canyon-Laughlin
- Sep 21 Russian River Cruise \$3659**-Moscow-Uglich-Goritsy-Lake NEW Onega-Kizhi Island-Svir River-Mandroghi-St. Petersburg
- Sep 25 New England \$1999**-"Foliage Boston-Vermont-Maine"
- Oct 02 Southern Charm-\$1999**-Charleston & Beaufort, South NEW Carolina-Savannah & Jekyll Island, Georgia-St. Augustine & Jacksonville, Florida
- Oct 10 Hokkaido/Tohoku - \$4195** - Sapporo-Sounkyo-Sahoro-Ainu Shiraori-Lake Toya-Hakodate-Aomori-Lake Towada-Hachimantai-Matsushima-Sendai-Tokyo
- Oct 18 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" \$4095** - Tokyo-Niigata-Japan Sea Cruise-Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate Kinosaki-Tottori-Matsue-Izumo-Osaka
- Nov 01 Japan Fall Classic - \$3995** - Tokyo-Bullet Train-Nara-Kobe Okayama-Bitchu Takahashi-Miyajima-Hiroshima-Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Kyoto
- Nov 06 New Orleans & Cajun Country-\$1849**-New Orleans-NEW Baton Rouge-Akabama-Natchez, Mississippi, Lafayette-Vermillionville & Avery Island, Louisiana.
- Nov 09 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - \$4295** - 4-days Okinawa-Nasasaki-Beppu-Ashizuri-Kochi-Takamatsu-Osaka
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The 2010 Census is now complete and according to its data there are now 14.7 million Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

And Paul Watanabe had a part in helping come up with this number.

Watanabe, 60, was selected by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke back in 2009 to serve on the U.S. Census Bureau's Advisory Committee on the Asian population. Part of this nine-person committee's task was to help ensure a more accurate count of this oftentimes elusive community.

"The importance of all Asian Americans and others being counted in the decennial Census cannot be overstressed," he said. "The growth and diversity of Americans of Asian descent pose sometimes formidable challenges of trust, language accessibility ... To meet these challenges, it was essential to compel the Census Bureau to devise specific procedures and outreach instruments that accounted for that diversity."

As the director of the Institute of Asian American Studies and associate professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Watanabe brought a trove of credentials to his Census 2010 role. But more importantly, he has a passion for helping to ensure that the APA community is counted and represented accurately.

"The mandate is to count everyone no matter where they may be living," said Watanabe. "The increasing diversity and mobility of the American population expands the groups identified as hard to count or hard to reach."

For his role in Census 2010, this New England JACler was selected as the Eastern District's "Extraordinary APA". It's an honor he's humbled by.

Although he shies away from self-analyzation, he's quick to talk about those he admires. With news of students across the country mobilizing to try to pass the DREAM Act, he is amazed at their resilience.

"Recently I have come to greatly admire the many young often undocumented immigrant activists who have courageously led efforts seeking justice for immigrants," said Watanabe. "For example, they have spearheaded the difficult drive for passage of the DREAM Act and to end the unjustified detention and deportation of immigrants."

Watanabe's son Ben, a journalist in the Philadelphia area, admires his father's ability to let his work speak for itself.

"He is extraordinary not in his words, however, but in his work," he said. "His greatest influence is in his dedication to a cause and in mentoring those who have a worthy one."

After more than three decades of married life, Gloria Watanabe is still amazed at her husband's encyclopedic mind.

"When Paul was in elementary school the kids considered him a walking encyclopedia because he always seemed to know all the answers," she said. "I still use him as my personal encyclopedia. I never realized that being a political scientist required such an in-depth knowledge of world history, philosophy and the rise and fall of empires." ■



Donna Fujimoto Cole
1996 APAWLI Fellow,
Board Member and Chair
of the 2011 National
Leadership Summit in
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Tom Ikeda interviews Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga.

TOM IKEDA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

“Although I never met this uncle, his loss is felt when I hear stories of the sacrifices of the 442nd.”

To date, Ikeda has personally conducted over 150 oral history interviews out of the 500 that Densho has collected over the years. Each interview holds a personal and endearing memory for him and he finds time to do at least 20 interviews each year.

Unlike history textbooks, oral history interviews provide a window into what the interviewee is thinking, smelling, feeling, hearing and seeing. These are what make oral histories so effective, believes Ikeda.

“Being so involved with the interviewing helps me in my role as executive director in understanding our content and how it might be used for educational purposes, or accessed and displayed on our website.”

It’s a passion Ikeda shares with his wife Sara and two kids, daughter Tani and son Casey.

“History is often written by the victors and conquerors of our time, but the work that my father does with Densho has helped me reconceive history as a living breathing account that must reflect the untold stories,” said daughter Tani, a filmmaker. “My work as a filmmaker and community organizer is very much apart of the legacy of struggle my father instilled in me.”

“Tom’s passion captivates his heart and ignites the best in him and others. There have been times I’ve been so inspired by what Tom does that I am ready to quit my job and do whatever I can to support Densho,” said Ikeda’s wife Sara Yamasaki. “I’ve seen interviewees say they can die with a sense of completion because their stories have been told. I’ve seen their next generation family members weep with gratitude hearing stories they never knew.” ■

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SOUTH AFRICA HOLIDAY TOUR Cape Town, Wine Country, Kruger National Park, Table Mountain, Johannesburg, Livingston, Victoria Falls-Zambia.	AUG 3-15
MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR) Rapid City, Badlands National Park, Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Cody Buffalo Bill Museum, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, Salt Lake City.	AUG 16-25
REFLECTIONS OF ITALY HOLIDAY TOUR Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Florence, Venice, Lugano-Switzerland, Lake Como, Milan	SEP 5-14
SAN ANTONIO GET-AWAY TOUR San Antonio, the historic Alamo Fort, Fredericksburg, Bandera, Cruise on the famous Riverwalk Canal.	SEP 12-16
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR) Boston, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Day Trips on 3 Historic Trains, Boston City Tour, Casco Bay Cruise in Maine, Visit Sugar House & Mystic Seaport, Enjoy Lobster & Seafood Dinner, Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino.	OCT 7-14
HOKKAIDO HOLIDAY TOUR (REVISED TOUR) Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate	OCT 9-20
OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR Naha, Ishigaki Island, Taketomi Island, Yufu Island, Onnason	NOV 7-16

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INDIA HOLIDAY TOUR	FEBRUARY
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR	APRIL
NEW YORK CITY GET-AWAY TOUR	APRIL 18-23
SOUTH AMERICA JAPANESE HERITAGE TOUR	MAY
SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE	MAY 20-JUN 2
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUNE
CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR	JULY
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE-TOUR	AUGUST
ENCHANTING DANUBE RIVER CRUISE	SEPTEMBER
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RETIREMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

with corporate America.”

The JACL has gained more visibility and credibility on the national level in recent years. Mori was instrumental in starting a National JACL Gala in the nation’s capital. He served as chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), is on the executive committee of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCR) and is a member of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) and OCA.

Mori is credited with an aggressive outreach to the victims of Katrina and the BP oil spill as well as promoting relationships with communities impacted by the hysteria of Sept. 11. He has strengthened ties with Japan and spearheaded a successful partnership with Direct Relief International in raising funds for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. He has led a drive to collaborate and form partnerships with other organizations. He has also developed corporate relationships which have been financially beneficial to the JACL.

“The people who really know Floyd Mori truly appreciate him

as a person,” said National JACL President David Kawamoto. “He has started so many new programs for the JACL, and acquired funding sources or them, that it is difficult to single out any one accomplishment. I would point out that without Floyd’s fund raising work, the JACL would have never survived during these financially challenging times.

“Floyd has done so much for the JACL,” Kawamoto continued. “The JACL suffers a great loss with his retirement. It will be difficult to replace his leadership and commitment to the JACL.”

Previously, Mori had served four years as national JACL president and four years as a vice president on the national board. Having been involved with the JACL for most of his life, he also served for many years on a JACL chapter board. He has been a mayor and city councilman of Pleasanton, Calif. as well as a State Assemblyman and director of the Office of International Trade for the State of California. He taught Economics at Chabot College in Hayward, Calif., and was involved in private business in Utah for many years.

“Floyd has done very well for the organization and we owe a debt of gratitude to him for raising our stature in the nation’s capital and for leaving the organization

in a much better position than when he started,” said Larry Oda, former national JACL president and current secretary/treasurer. “There is still an urgent need for JACL to continue its work and Floyd’s leaving does not diminish that need. I appreciate what he was able to accomplish during my term as president and the work he continues to do for the organization. I wish him well, and know that he will remain accessible to us for special needs.”

“Floyd Mori was an extremely active spokesperson and policy formulator for JACL, and under his term as national director, he worked tirelessly to keep JACL in the spotlight,” said Judith Aono,



P.C. editorial board chair. “I believe his two strongest assets were his ability to reach out and work collaboratively with other organizations, and the relationships

he cultivated with industry that allowed him to get grants to run programs. JACL will surely miss both of those things about Floyd.” ■

KUKI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Instances like those above serve to demonstrate that even in these modern times, many struggle to obtain social justice and equality. From the relentless controversy regarding marriage equality issues, immigration reform, and the like, civil rights will inevitably remain an issue in the years to come. Civil rights are being fought for on all fronts — and the *Pacific Citizen* has effectively captured the full scope of events, particularly those pertinent to Asian Americans.

From local incidents to those that garner national attention, the *P.C.* has been at the forefront of keeping the readership fully informed of events throughout the nation and even overseas.

Without the consistent reporting from the *P.C.* and its intense focus on all things Asian American, it would be difficult to maintain a grasp of the ongoing concerns that face our community and hence the issues that directly affect us and affect our identity.

If we do not know of the issues that face us, how will we deal with them? If we do not deal with these

issues, how will we move forward as a society?

The *P.C.* has been an imperative tool for mobilizing the Asian American readership for 82 years and counting, reminding many of us that there is still a fight to be fought.

Please continue to support the *P.C.* in this year’s Spring Campaign, and in doing so, you are effectively supporting the legacy of Asian Americans in this country. ■

Sonya Kuki is the youth representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

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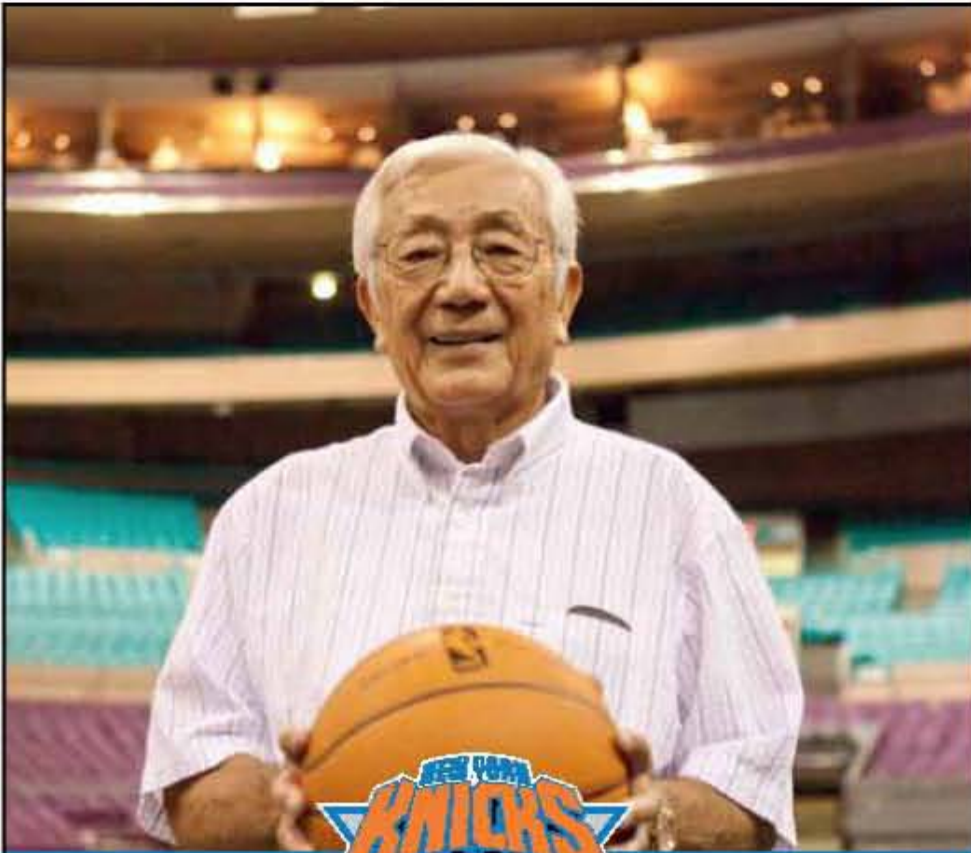
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