

PACIFIC CITIZEN

**BP OIL SPILL
1 YEAR LATER**

THE PLIGHT OF APA FISHERMEN



**APAs still
struggling
after disaster.
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PHOTO: NALEA J. KO



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WWII euphemisms.**



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Japan relief efforts.**



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**Spoken word and
Asian Americans.**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to JACL

The recent departure of PSW Regional Director Craig Ishii and announced departure by National Director Floyd Mori makes one wonder why this has come prior to the national JACL convention set for this July. Is there something wrong with our organization that dynamic visionaries and talented pros are deserting us? Is JACL floundering due to lack of leadership at the top? If declining membership is the issue, then it is time the national board turns things around.

Last year, national JACL proposed a budget that eliminated the PSW administrative staff position. And once again the PSW regional director position remains open. Since southern California has the largest JA population and potential youth membership pool, is it really wise to allow a leadership vacuum to persist? If national has funds to pay for any regional staff, why isn't there staff located in PSW? If insufficient funding is the concern, why not take a page from Ishii's notebook and develop and implement programs to attract new members?

If the national JACL board cannot envision new strategies for increasing membership, bring in people who can. Let the next generation transform JACL into a 21st century organization that has the vision to implement innovative business strategies for the changing times.

Patricia Takayama
San Fernando Valley JACL

Thanks for Honoring Wat



Thank you so much for including Wat among the Extraordinary APAs (*Pacific Citizen*, May 6-19, 2011 issue) That's such an honor!

The May issue was inspiring. Actually, each issue is, calling us to be more active, more courageous, in seeking cooperation, respect and peace everywhere, all the time.

Thanks for the hard work it takes to be so dedicated to your mission.

Katie Misaka
Ogden, Utah

Reader Enjoys Newspaper

My late husband was active in the San Mateo County JACL and always enjoyed reading the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper. I too enjoy the print. Thank you for your service.

Ruby Inouye
Redwood City, CA

Send signed letters with your name and contact information to: pc@pacificcitizen.org

or

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Letters may be edited for length.

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Update on Status of JACL

By Floyd Mori



While the many JACL volunteers are appreciated, the organization cannot function without dedicated, hardworking staff. The national board is to be commended for their support in maintaining the current staffing level. I know difficult decisions are ahead, and I trust the board will promote a fair and equitable distribution of funds to continue advocacy and our focus on youth. There are always im-

portant issues of civil rights which need our attention.

People have asked about the reasons for the departure of Craig Ishii, former PSW regional director, and other PSW staff. Personnel matters are confidential but I can say that it was Craig's personal decision to resign.

He was one of our members. The time but he had indicated tenure would be for a was certainly no reason as his supervisor for We were sorry to see

The PSW office space with the mandated by the national 2010. It is our intent regional director position National JACL's fi-

difficult at this time as membership revenues have declined more than anticipated. Thus, several key positions have remained vacant including the director of public policy. Shrinking discretionary funds have increased the workload for staff. Regional directors are required to handle national

'I know
difficult
decisions
are ahead
...'

most valued staff ing was unexpected previously that his limited time. There quest from myself him to step down. him leave.

has moved into of *Pacific Citizen* as tional council in to fill the PSW re- tion when possible. nancial situation is

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FROM THE MIDWEST

A Program That Inspires

By Bill Yoshino



JACL's Project Community program in Chicago has provided a point of discovery for many of its participants during the past two years. The program seeks to empower Japanese American high school students urging them to become involved in the community.

This was the case for Anna Takada who said: "Soon after the first session, I found myself questioning why I was experiencing something so amazing so

late in my adolescent life."

Previously, Anna had limited exposure to the JA community, primarily through the connections of her parents and grandparents. Prior to her participation in

Anna said she knew JAs her age. "One she said, "how and delighted I like identity and teenagers with similar to my The Project

program is held April. The weekly issues such as incarceration where

personal wartime experiences. We also invite coalition partners to discuss issues such as immigration and hate crimes. In the past two years there have been sessions on college preparation where college counselors and students are invited to advise the participants about transition issues they

'The program
seeks to
empower
Japanese
American high
school students
...'

Project Community, no more than two can only imagine," shocked, refreshed felt to discuss issues community with experiences so own."

Community from February to sessions address the World War II Nisei share their

SEE YOSHINO/PAGE 16

Correction

A potato croquette recipe from JACL's Top Chef Bernice Kida in the June 3-16 Food Issue incorrectly listed the ingredients as 2 cups green peas. The corrected recipe should list 2 to 3 Tablespoons of green peas.

JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

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One Year After BP Oil Spill, AA Fishermen Struggle to Recover



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

Last August, Siriporn Hall pointed to her boat that sat idle in her front lawn for months after the Deep Water Horizon explosion and oil spill.

Gulf Coast fishermen and community groups voice their frustrations one year after the Gulf Coast oil spill.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

On a recent early morning, crabber Siriporn Hall, 60, sets out with her crew of two on the waters off the shores of Mississippi eager to see what the day's catch will bring.

The crew anchors near the Petit Bois Island on a sunny day as large waves lap against Hall's boat.

About this time last year Hall's boat was parked in her front yard of her Alabama home with hundreds of dry crab pods stacked along her property line. She had been out work for months and was instead busy tabulating her mounting monthly bills.

Not much has changed for Hall since last year's Gulf Coast area oil spill, which halted her crabbing business temporarily. She returned to crabbing last October, but Hall says she has had difficulty selling her catch.

"Oh, it's bad. You know we can barely make a living," said Hall, a Thai American. "We can hardly find the crab. Nobody wants to buy it. The factory doesn't want to buy it. The seafood [company] doesn't want to buy it."

The expedition to Petit Bois Island came a day after Hall says she was denied a claim from the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, or GCCF, which was established last August by BP. It was opened with a \$20 billion compensation fund following the Deep Water Horizon explosion and oil spill.

The Deep Water Horizon explosion on April 20 happened as the result of a failure with the well's blow out preventer and "loss of control over the pressure in the well," according to BP. Eleven people were killed in the accident and more were injured.

Last June Kenneth Feinberg, who had oversaw the Sept. 11 victims compensation fund, was named administrator of the BP claims fund.

A total of 518,095 individuals and businesses have been paid as of June 24, according to the GCCF. Some 87,264 claims have been denied.

Community organizations say those affected by the oil

spill are still picking up the pieces.

"People are still hurting," said Grace M. Scire, Gulf Coast development director of the Boat People SOS. "The fishermen, especially the oystermen, don't know when they will get back to where they were before the oil spill. There are a lot of stressors and a lot of mental health issues, even among the children."

About \$42 million was distributed for behavioral health payments in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama. Those impacted by the oil spill like Hall say they are more concerned about the future of the fishing industry than the BP claims process.

Instead of catching crab, Hall has been fishing for Spanish and King mackerel ever since about 50 percent of her 500-pound catch of crabs died en route to a buyer in Atlanta.

"We've had a hard time selling our crab," said Hall breaking into a laugh. "The seafood [company] from Atlanta came and got it for a little while and now the thing is my crabs [have] died. They died easily and smelled real, real bad. So they cancelled. Here I am. We cannot sell the crab. So we just came out here and went fishing."

Hall says she believes the "corrosive water" in the area from the oil spill is responsible for the crabs dying so easily. But the 60-year-old's belief that the winter months this year will bring a better catch of crabs strengthens her resolve.

Although rumors are circulating about the safety of Gulf Coast seafood, officials with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration say it is safe to eat.

"We're very confident that the steps that we have put in place to assure the safety of seafood have worked," said Don Kraemar, acting director of the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, in a press release. "We put in an extensive program of sampling, at that time and since then, and the results have consistently been 100 to 1,000 times below our levels of concern. So, we're quite confident that the seafood that's in commercial channels is safe."

BP established a \$500-million research initiative to study the potential long-term effects to people's health and the environment.

Community organizations working with those affected by the oil spill say Hall's story is not uncommon in the Gulf Coast. Other Asian American fishermen have sought the help of these community organizations to help them recover.

"In my opinion, the Gulf Coast has not fully recovered since the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Many affected individuals have not returned to their jobs as deckhands, boat captains, oyster shuckers and etcetera," said Tuan Nguyen, deputy director of the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation in Louisiana. "Not all claims have been paid either."

Those affected by the oil spill also received help from organizations like JACL, which in May held its Environmental Justice Youth Summit in New Orleans, La. Summit attendees were waist-deep in their work, planting marsh grass in a wildlife refuge in that state.

Floyd Mori, national director of the JACL, has traveled to the area and agrees that there is more recovery work needed in the Gulf Coast.

"The Asian American people of the Gulf Coast have had minimal relief from the BP oil spill," Mori said. "The claims process has been jammed up with more requests than solutions. There is a question of the fairness of the process of forcing fishermen to choose prematurely to a partially known loss amount."

BP has paid out over \$4.8 billion in payments to individuals and businesses for claims as of June 23. That total includes over \$395 million of claims paid by BP to individuals and business prior to Aug. 23.

For her losses, Hall was compensated about \$40,000 last year. Her deckhands received additional compensation. But Hall says the compensation she received also covered equipment purchases and mechanical repairs to her boat. This year Hall says she has been uncompensated by BP.

"Nobody gets anything right now. After the new year we never got a dime," she said. "We don't have any money to put in our pockets or the bank. All we have is enough to pay our bills."

The future of the fishing industry might be unstable in the Gulf Coast, but Hall's optimism is brightened by the day's good weather and the promise of a hefty mackerel catch.

"The wind is blowing and the waves are kind of big. But the sunshine is pretty," Hall said shortly after anchoring her boat. "I hope we can find more crab and they don't die easily and that's it. If BP doesn't help us, we don't mind it. As long as we can find crab, we can find a buyer." ■

Moving Beyond Euphemisms: Defining the WWII JA Experience



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENSHO

A guard tower stands at the entrance to the former Minidoka incarceration camp.

A movement to change government euphemisms used to describe WWII incarceration camps is gaining pace in the Japanese American community.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

A growing movement to change government euphemisms used to talk about the Japanese American experience during World War II is gaining momentum.

Members of the JA community and scholars say certain terms used by the government to discuss the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent during WWII need to be changed.

They say terms like "evacuation" are misleading when talking about the forced removal of JAs following the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese and the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Changing from euphemisms to more accurate terminology is vital, necessary and urgently needed," said Mako Nakagawa, who was incarcerated with her family during WWII. "Euphemisms *can*, and too often *do* create a completely falsified story and convey a misleading picture of what actually happened."

Nakagawa, 74, was the primary author of the *Power of Words* resolution that was passed 80 to 1 at last July's JACL national convention held in Chicago. JACL delegates passed a resolution to suggest substituting terms like internment camps for concentration camps.

Members of the JACL's National Education Committee formed an ad-hoc committee to determine how best to implement this resolution. They also created a draft of the *Power of Words Handbook* to address accurate terminology to describe the incarceration of people of Japanese descent during WWII.

"The handbook is a first step and not the last in the process," said Greg Marutani, a member of the committee who worked on the handbook. "The handbook is designed to provide chapters and the JACL membership with something to read and digest so they can begin to implement the appropriate

terminology, make them a part of their presentations, incorporate them in their newsletters. What the next steps will be will depend on what the chapters believe they should be."

That handbook will be discussed at the upcoming 2011 JACL national convention that will be held in Los Angeles, Calif. from July 7 to 10.

The nine-page handbook outlines target euphemisms that the authors say need to be replaced. Words like evacuation, relocation, internment, assembly center and relocation camp are emphasized as being misleading terms. Authors of the handbook suggest substituting terms like evacuation and relocation with "forced removal."

If words like assembly center and relocation camp are used, the handbook also suggests placing these words in quotation marks. It further notes that these labels could be replaced with the term American concentration camp.

"I hope the Jewish community will acknowledge the term 'concentration camp' is a correct term for the camps that confined our people during World War II," Nakagawa said. "In 1998, the Japanese American National Museum led a bi-coastal, cross-cultural dialogue with leaders of the major Jewish American organizations, the JACL, Sen. Daniel Inouye and Rep. Norman Mineta, to develop a consensus over the terminology used in the Ellis Island National Park Service Museum exhibit on the Japanese American wartime incarceration experience."

In 1998 an exhibit called "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience" opened at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. The exhibit led to a meeting between leaders of the American Jewish Committee and the JA community.

It was determined that the exhibit should also include a historical explanation of the term concentration camps, which officials indicated "was first used at the turn of the century in the Spanish-American and Boer Wars." Further explanation was given to distinguish between American concentration camps and Nazi concentration camps, where millions of Jewish people perished.

"They are accurate terms for the War Relocation Authority and U.S. Army facilities in which 120,000 Japanese Americans, largely U.S. citizens, were confined," said Roger

Daniels, a retired history professor from the University of Cincinnati. "President Roosevelt described them as 'concentration camps' on several occasions. And it has become the preferred term for most scholars and journalists writing about them today."

Daniels is scheduled to participate in a one-day symposium Oct. 22 to discuss government euphemisms used to discuss the Japanese American experience during WWII. Other speakers include Karen Ishizuka, Tetsuden Kashima, Mako Nakagawa, Neil Gotanda, Don Hata and Rita Takahashi.

Nakagawa says using the appropriate terminology to describe the WWII incarceration of JAs and Japanese nationals is personally important to her.

"My father was abruptly taken away from our home leaving mama with four young daughters," Nakagawa explained. "It was on my oldest sister's 11th birthday that father was taken away."

She says her father was sent to Missoula, Montana while her mother and three sisters were at Puyallup and then Minidoka.

When the family reunited two years later at Crystal City in Texas, Nakagawa says she did not recognize her father. "He was confused too. He mistook his second daughter as his oldest daughter," Nakagawa said. "He was surprised the baby was walking. She was afraid of him and kept running away from him. Papa was hurt that his own daughter was scared of him."

The *Power of Words Handbook* outlines education efforts to increase awareness about using the appropriate terms to discuss experiences like Nakagawa's during WWII.

The authors of the handbook recommend disseminating educational materials and hosting teacher-training workshops. It also suggests reaching out to the media to spread the word about these government euphemisms.

As a former educator Nakagawa says it is a great relief that the movement to change government euphemisms is underway.

"I feel pride being a Japanese American, telling our own story, with terms of our choice that best suits the situation, from our perspective, from our memories, our research and our scholarship, and with our own sense of integrity," she said. "We, as Japanese Americans, own this story." ■

Volunteer Extraordinaire: Carl Williams Bring His Expertise to Victims of Japan's Earthquake Disaster

The Dallas resident is working with Direct Relief International and JACL to ensure victims of Japan's recent tragedy get the help they need.

Christine McFadden
Correspondent

Working in the city of Ishinomaki in the earthquake and tsunami-devastated Miyagi prefecture, volunteer Carl Williams overhears a Japanese woman working with a cash-for-work nongovernmental organization (NGO) program.

"She told us a story about how she had lost her mother and her daughter in the tsunami, and that now she's living in a shelter," said Williams, a Dallas resident. "But because she no longer has a family, she's far back on the list to move out of the shelter into a temporary house."

Feeling isolated, missing her family and mistakenly identified as not requiring as much help as she actually needed, the woman turned to helping others.

"That story was really touching, and I could probably walk two houses down and hear a very similar story," Williams said. Listening to the victim's stories is difficult, he says, but is something "that you have to train yourself to do, to just listen."

A trained emergency manager currently volunteering for Direct Relief International (DRI), an NGO that provides medical assistance to areas affected by disaster, and the JACL in Japan as a Disaster Relief and Recovery coordinator, Williams is no ordinary volunteer.

Having spent the last 13 years as a software developer and disaster recovery coordinator with IBM, Williams previously spent 22 years in the Air Force and is an emergency manager by education. He now coordinates projects with numerous NGOs and additionally provides an ear for victims in need.

His work has taken him to the Philippines, to the Dallas area post-Katrina, and to the sites of various nuclear accidents, most of which he says are classified. When the March 11 earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit Japan, Williams knew almost immediately that he needed to be there to help with the recovery.

"I was shocked at first to see the level of devastation, but within a couple of days of watching, I knew that I would have to go and do something to help," he said.

He left just one and a half days after the earthquake to volunteer with Peaceboat International, a non-profit Japan-based NGO that does volunteer work via a chartered passenger ship.

Wanting to stay longer after his work with Peaceboat, Williams contacted the JACL and inquired about other opportunities in Japan. He came into contact with National Director Floyd Mori who asked Williams to stay on as the JACL's and DRI's Japan Disaster Relief coordinator.

"He has done an excellent job in coordinating our efforts, helping the NGOs in various aspects of dealing with disaster, and he has gained the trust of the groups we have funded," said Mori in an email to the *Pacific Citizen*.

What was initially planned as a couple weeks of volunteering in the Tokyo area cleaning up mud quickly turned into a yearlong position.

"I have a great regard for Carl, since it must have been a very difficult and risky option for him to come to Japan," said DRI co-worker and intern Yohei Chiba in an email to the *P.C.*

Working with Carl in Japan since early May, Chiba is originally from Japan and had immediate family affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

"After I was approached by JACL and Direct Relief to stay, I couldn't say no," said Williams. "It's what I've been training for my entire life."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGIN EARTH, INC.

Carl Williams walks through the streets of Sendai, an area now recovering after the devastating March earthquake.

Authoring Recovery Plans, Lending an Ear

Williams has traveled several times through all three prefectures that were affected by the tsunami and earthquake. Although his nuclear accident response experience might have prepped him for work around the Fukushima power plant, he promised his family that he would stay at least 50 kilometers away from the perimeter.

Despite not being ethnically Japanese (Williams is African American), Japan is a familiar place to him. Williams attended both junior high and high school in Japan and was stationed at the Yokota airbase near Tokyo for five and a half years.

His knowledge of the region enabled him to co-author a disaster recovery plan for the mutual support agreements for the Tohoku region. Williams has also been working with nine different NGOs, helping with shelter, food delivery, cleanup and mud removal, medical aid, and caring for the elderly and disabled.

Mori, who communicates with Williams on a regular basis, is impressed with Williams' genuine desire to help the people of Japan.

"He has had the right temperament to work with and assist the groups we are funding ... We have quickly become very good friends as well as work colleagues," Mori said. "His experience has been extremely valuable in saving time and effort by all of us back here in the U.S."

Williams speaks "some Japanese" and comes in contact with victims affected by the disaster on a regular basis.

"They just want to tell their stories," he said. "They have to get the information out of their system."

And Williams listens.

"As a person, he never forgets his kindness, thoughtfulness and respect for others. He always steps into other people's shoes," said Chiba.

Williams said that after the woman in Ishinomaki shared her story, "she seemed a little bit relieved that she was able to talk about it openly. She did cry."

However, he notes that not all people had the same reaction as the woman.

"I've seen people who didn't want to do anything or who

didn't want to work because the devastation was so great, it just seemed hopeless," he said. "But after some crews went through and started moving things, started clearing things ... people saw that there was hope and that they could make a difference."

"People started coming out," he said. "You can see activities again, you can see the color in the streets."

'The situation is as dire now as it's ever been'

Williams predicts that it will take between three and five years for things to start to look "normal again," estimating the amount of debris as approximately 27 years worth of displaced garbage. He acknowledges that his assessment may be skewed due to his perspective.

"It may look clean to me, but to you it may appear like it just happened." He also notes that the meaning of "back to normal" is entirely different for the victims.

"To the people who are affected ... It will never be the same. It could be better, but better is also a perspective."

Physically, he says, restoration in some areas is virtually impossible since the level of the land has dropped by a meter or two.

When asked to deliver a message to the people of Japan, he directed it not at those affected, but to the people who are unaffected: "I hope that they don't forget ... what's going on there. The situation is as dire now as it's ever been. It's a very critical period right now."

Despite the seriousness of what Japan is still going through, the number of volunteers is way down. Although numerous people are sheltered, many are still being left behind or are prone to suicide.

Williams sees the same set of volunteers coming back and emphasizes the need for additional help. He thinks corporate sponsorships will provide the best help now and he encourages corporations in Japan to send volunteers for a week at a time, or long enough to understand the seriousness of the situation.

"Those who haven't gone, they believe that the work is done already, but it's not," he said. "It's really just started."

■

Building Empathy for WWII Incarceration, One Game Level at a Time

Recently released video game "Drama in the Delta" puts gamers in the shoes of former JA internees.

By Christine Fukushima
Contributor

"Japanese American Internment Camps: The Game" sounds like a controversy waiting to happen. But "Drama in the Delta," a proposed video game that recently released a prototype level, tackles the loaded topic in the name of a higher mission: educating and building empathy about this oftentimes overlooked experience in American history.

"Drama in the Delta," available for download on PCs at <http://dramainthedelta.org>, was created by Emily Roxworthy, a professor at the University of California, San Diego. A team consisting primarily of UCSD students and led by Amit Chousaria of the San Diego Supercomputer Center worked on the technological aspects of the game.

"It sounds like a really bad idea," said Professor Roxworthy, addressing the controversy that a video game about the JA internment experience might inspire. "That's part of the reason we decided to make the first level from the perspective of a 14-year-old girl. It's like, what could this girl have done to deserve this? Nothing."

The prototype level is set at Jerome, one of the two JA internment camps located in Arkansas. Rohwer is the other. In comparison to camps like Manzanar and Tule Lake, much less research has been done on the Arkansas camps. As a result, fewer JAs and Americans in general understand their complex history.

In the prototype, gamers play as 14-year-old Jane, whose friend asks her to find different items of sentimental value that are scattered throughout Jerome. Each object that Jane finds, such as a dance card from the camp's farewell dance, symbolizes an activity that JAs did to survive and stay emotionally healthy while interned. Jane searches for the items in a mostly isolated landscape surrounded by barbed wire.

Sophomore Justin Salgado saw a demo of the prototype level at UCSD's Day of Remembrance in March this past year.

"I wondered if it was going to be historically accurate or if it's more of an adventure game or more like one of those old-school mystery games that you used to play when you were a kid," he said.

After seeing the demo, he thought it looked like a sandbox game, meaning a video game where the gamer explores a limited environment. He still wondered whether it would be historically accurate since "the game so far seemed pretty empty."

John Concillo, a junior at UCSD, actually played the prototype level as an extra credit assignment for Roxworthy's class. Although Concillo knew that the JA internment experience happened, he did not know how JAs were treated at the camps. After playing the prototype, he also still had questions.

"Did the internment camp really look that



PHOTO: DRAMAINTHEDELTA.ORG



Professor Emily Roxworthy (left) didn't learn about the Japanese American internment experience until college.

She wants to create a multi-level video game about Arkansas internment camps Jerome and Rohwer to educate diverse audiences about what they were like (screenshot from the prototype level above).

clean? Also, the children seemed a little happy, but were they really? I guess I doubt whether the game is actually true," he said.

June Berk was one of the former internees who Roxworthy consulted for the game. She was 10 when she arrived at Rohwer in 1943, where she was interned until the camp closed in November 1945. Berk recalled performing kabuki to entertain the older internees, an experience that inspired one of the proposed levels of "Drama in the Delta."

Proposed storylines for the game involve performances like Berk's in order to show the interactions between interned JAs, whites and African Americans in the post-Confederate state, Roxworthy explained. Historical records show that recreational events and performances provided a space for interracial encounters.

Berk said she wouldn't want to play the game; it would bring up too many bad feelings.

"We were young kids back then so for us we weren't so much concerned with the lives being taken away; we weren't concerned about going to college. I was happy and my parents never made us feel bad that we were in camp."

But, "I wasn't as aware of it as a child as I am today about how wrong it was to deprive

a lot of people of their lives, the older people especially," she added.

Roxworthy also consulted Takayo Fischer, Berk's longtime friend and fellow internee at Rohwer.

Fischer did not know that a character in one of the proposed levels was named after her but it only made her more curious about the game. Unlike Berk, she would want to play the prototype if she could figure out how to install it on her computer.

"I still wonder, how do you make a game out of being in Rohwer?" she asked.

Fischer, now an actress, was only nine when she arrived at camp so she also remembered having fun participating in kabuki performances with Berk and credits her continuing interest in the arts to her camp experience.

But looking back, she always gets emotional when thinking about what her parents and three older sisters went through during that time. She recalled watching her father break their Japanese records, the only prized possession that her family owned, with a baseball to make it seem like a game for her.

"When I think of that my heart breaks." She added, "They didn't go on and on and make it worse for us. They tried to protect

us."

Despite painful memories like these, Fischer is not opposed to a video game about the internment experience if it helps later generations understand the internment experience.

"I'm really anxious to play the game. I'm really anxious to learn what it's all about. It would be terrific if it's educational," she said.

Progress on "Drama in the Delta" is contingent on further funding. They've already received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of California.

Roxworthy stressed that the nonprofit video game is still in its beginning stages, and that the missions in the final multi-level version will be based entirely on historically accurate stories.

"It's important that young people know that this happened in our history and that it could happen again. But if they don't care about this history then they're never going to get that message," she said.

"So I thought this would be a way to make it more engaging and to make it seem more personally relevant to a very diverse range of people." ■

JACL, CJACLC to Host Nikkei Conference

The gathering will address 'The State of Japanese America: 2011.'

Though the promise of glitz and glamour draws tourists to Hollywood, Calif. every day, the famed destination will have a lot more to offer when the Nikkei Conference comes to town.

On July 9, the JACL and CJACLC (California Japanese American Community Leadership Council) will convene at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and Spa to discuss "The State of Japanese America: 2011" at the Nikkei Conference. The event will take place during the national JACL convention, July 7 to 10.

At the Opening Plenary Session of the conference, Melany De La Cruz, head of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Development Data Center at UCLA,

will present the most current Japanese American census and demographic information.

Community leaders Karen Narasaki, president of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C., Paul Osaki, executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California and Craig Ishii, former PSW regional director and member of Kizuna, a new organization involving young Nikkei in the community, will host a panel to discuss the changing nature of the JA community.

Additional workshops will feature noted experts such as Vice President of Toyota Tracey Doi, who will address various topics that relate to the issues and future challenges confronting the JA community. ■

OTHER WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Future of JA Art and Culture

Presenters: Chris Aihara, Tracy Kato-Kiriama, Tad Nakamura, Roy Hirabayashi

Role of JAs in U.S.-Japan Relations

Presenters: Consul General Junichi Ihara, Tracey Doi, Kaz Maniwa, Bryan Takeda

Effective Strategies to Raise Funds for Your Nonprofit Organization

Presenters: Tim Otani, Peter Namkung, Gayle Yamada

Developing a New Paradigm of Leadership Development for the JA community

Facilitators: Jon Osaki and Craig Ishii

Civil Rights

Presenters: Floyd Mori, Karen Narasaki, Alex Fukui, George Wu

Serving Nikkei Seniors

Presenters: Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester, Steve Nakajo, Amy Phillips, Frances Chikahisa, Tazuko Shibusawa

Preserving and Sharing the JA Experience

Presenters: Akemi Kikumura Yano, Lane Hirabayashi, Allyson Nakamoto, Thomas Fujita-Rony

Community Preservation & Development

Presenters: Donna Graves, Beth Takekawa, Sharon Lowe, Lisa Hasegawa

Sustaining and Preserving Japantowns

Presenters: Jill Shiraki, Lynn Voorheis, Larry Oda, Barbara Takei

INFO:

jacl.org/convention/la/nikkei_conference

For more information: Alan Nishio at atnishio@gmail.com.

WHY I'M A JACLER

Lillian Kimura: A Trailblazing JACLER

EDITOR'S NOTE: 'Why I'm a JACler' celebrates members who make a difference in the organization and the community. In addition to highlighting remarkable JAClers, this piece aims to encourage activism and raise the visibility of the JACL.



LILLIAN KIMURA, 82
Bloomfield,
New Jersey
New York
JACler

As a student at the University of Illinois, Lillian Kimura received great advice from a mentor that set the course for her years of dedicated activism in the JACL.

"Work hard and be involved," said Abe Hagiwara, a JACler who helped establish the Cleveland chapter.

So Kimura, 82, did just that — she dedicated over 50 years of activism to the organization by serving in various leadership positions including national president in 1992. She was the first woman to hold this position in the JACL.

"My rationale was that JACL was the only game in town to fight for the rights of Japanese Americans," said Kimura, a former associate national executive director of the YWCA in Chicago. "I wanted to be involved. If I didn't put my two cents in, then shame on me."

For Kimura, the middle child of two sisters (she also has a half brother and half sister), leadership skills have always come naturally.

"I've always been a pushy person," said Kimura, who identifies as Nisei-han, with a laugh. "I'm always trying to get people, especially Japanese American women, to speak up."

A Southern California native, Kimura's life was turned upside down after Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor unleashed a new wave of anti-Japanese American sentiment. At the height of wartime hysteria, Kimura and her family were forced to leave their home and flower shop business in Glendale, Calif. for the austere barracks and barbed wire fences of Manzanar. She was 13 at the time, so even though her parents did not talk about it, Kimura understood the injustice they faced.

After World War II, Kimura earned her master's degree in social work at the University of Chicago and began working as a program director at Chicago's Olivet Community Center before being recruited by YWCA in 1973.

From the YWCA, she brought over strategies to the JACL, including the Program for Action, said Kimura.

With the JACL, she worked as the Junior JACL adviser, the Midwest district's civil rights chairperson, and governor of the Midwest and Eastern districts on the national board.

"I've been to every [JACL] convention since 1970," said Kimura.

With so many leadership roles under her belt, the decision to run for JACL national president came organically, she said. Grayce Uyehara, a Philadelphia JACler and one-time director of the JACL Legislative Education Committee, told Kimura: "If you have something to say, say it."

In 1992, Kimura ran and won the JACL national presidency with Uyehara by her side as campaign manager. Her campaign slogan was, "Kimura for Kaicho" (Kimura for president).

"I was kind of proud to do that," said Kimura about being the JACL's first female

president. "It took a lot of people to help me."

During her tenure as president, Kimura said she was most proud of passing the same-sex marriage resolution.

The JACL, in 1994, was one of the first civil rights groups in the nation to affirm its support for marriage equality. The organization stated in a resolution that marriage equality "was a constitutional right that should not be denied because of a person's sexual orientation."

"To this day, we are one of the very few national organizations that have taken a stance on same-sex marriage," said Kimura, the current EDC vice governor and treasurer of the New York JACL. "I still think JACL is still the only game in town."

To get more youth involved in JACL, Kimura wants to be a mentor like the one that changed her life while she was in college.

"I don't think they are aware of the bias and prejudice that still exists today," said Kimura, who thinks JACL leaders should tap into the interests of the youth and the Shin-Issei and Shin-Nisei.

"She is probably one of our main local and national leaders because of her knowledge,

personal experiences in camps, personal and professional expertise, which makes her a very valuable mentor to youth and adults," said Aileen Yamaguchi, president of the New York JACL.

"Obviously her election as national president was a landmark in that a woman from outside the West Coast base of JA population could be the voice of the organization. Without her continuous involvement, there would be no New York chapter," said James Kumpel, a New York JACler who has known Kimura since he first applied for a JACL scholarship 25 years ago.

"I don't think people realize the shoulders that they stand on," said Kimura. "Kids take it for granted. They need to give back to the community. If they don't, who will?" ■

NOMINATE A JACLER

To nominate a JACler to highlight, send the nominee's contact information, chapter affiliation and a brief explanation of why he/she is a noteworthy JACler to:

pc@pacificcitizen.org.

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VERY

truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

What Evacuation-Bred Polls Wrought

A SIDEBAR TO any discussion of words provoked by Evacuation is to consider the political and social environment as calculated in national polls.

"Though Japanese Americans were treated decently outside of the West Coast, a national poll conducted in March, 1942, showed that 93% of the American public approved the removal of Japanese aliens from the Pacific Coast. Almost 60% condoned the wholesale incarceration of Japanese American citizens who had lived on the West Coast.

"As late as April, 1945, a poll demonstrated that 32% of the American people believed at least half of the Japanese American citizens 'would try to do something against the United States if they had a chance', while only 19% replied 'practically none of them' to the same question."

Such appeared in 2003 in Ulrich Strauss's "The Anguish of Surrender: Japanese POWs of World War II", based on Hadley Cantril's "Public Opinions 1935-1945", Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn.

OUR BEST STAND-

BY for facts of West Coast JAs during World War II, "The Great Betrayal" by Audrie Girdner and Anne Loftis, reports a Gallup poll at turn of the year 1942-1943 in five Western states (Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona) "that while there was almost unanimous approval of the evacuation and detention of the Japanese minority, 53% of those polled would allow citizens to return to their homes. Of this figure, 29% would include both citizens and aliens, and almost equal number would oppose return of either group."

A *Los Angeles Times* poll at the end of 1943, revealed 9,855 readers would exclude American Japanese from the Coast as against 999 opposing exclusion. "Furthermore, 11,203 readers favored taking concentration camps control away from WRA and returning it to the Army; 1,139 would free loyal Japanese in the Midwest, 9,750 would not. It should be noted that the *Times* was asking questions of readers who had been subjected to months of the paper's propaganda on the subject."

Chapter 13: "Breaking Through" in "Great Betrayal" observed "a real change in opinion" in a national poll in June, 1944 of college students presumed to be better informed and more broad-minded than average newspapers, which showed "that half of them opposed return of alien evacuees, and only 14% opposed the return

of Nisei."

The California Joint Immigration Committee was still "the primary force behind anti-Japanese movement." Under V.S. McClatchy, "this group took the most reasonable tone, was the best organized, and the most influential." Publisher of the *Sacramento Bee*, McClatchy's name appeared on various boards.

Co-authors Girdner and Loftis added "because of the threatening nature of some of these expressions of feeling, many individuals within and outside the camps expected the worst if the evacuees were released. The leftist-liberal newspaper, *PM*, feared the possibility of mass murder."

The L.A. County district attorney reported receiving letters from three organizations threatening to kill returning Japanese.

Southern California ACLU attorney, A.L. Wirin, defending Japanese cases since the start of Evacuation, continually tried to point out to the public that most of the clamor was coming from those with commercial interests, such as the Associated Farmers and

Farm Bureau Federation, the State Grange of small farmers. Other examples:

The A.F. of L. urging revocation of Nisei citizenship rights at its 1942 Long Beach convention though the proposal (the Stewart bill) died in Congress. While CIO unions accepted Japanese membership, including Harry Bridges' Longshoremen's Union which opposed Evacuation, Dan Tobin's International Teamsters drove "a violently reactionary campaign against the rights of American Japanese".

When Filipinos met at their Inter-Community Convention in Fresno and called for "permanent postwar exile of all Japanese from California," *P.C.* editor Larry Tajiri (9-23-44) commented:

"No one will put the full blame for the recent 'anti-Jap' resolution upon Filipino residents of our Western states. For they are only following precedents set down by a long list of California chambers of commerce, city councils, Legion posts, and other organizations." Members of the convention, on second thought, later tabled the exclusion proposal.

Is it time to recall others from this era? "Power of Words" may be a cause to reflect.

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.



the right PLACE

BY JAMES KUMPEL

The JACL Should Pursue Change We Can ALL Believe In

As the oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the U.S., the JACL is an important representative of the Asian American community. That's right. Not just Japanese Americans, but AAs. Since that broader subset of Americana is growing faster than any other racial group, it should be a time of burgeoning membership and an agenda that encompasses the challenges of new immigrants, multi-racial marriages, under-representation in the media and board rooms, and the deleterious effect of affirmative action on our meritorious youth in college admissions. Instead, the organization is on life support, in the 12th year of an otherwise inexorable decline in membership, suffering from deteriorating finances and an agenda that emphasizes issues that are, at best, tangential to the vast majority of AAs.

How did this come to pass? Certainly, a decade-long effort on redress that rallied the community across generations was key to the successful growth of the organization through 1988. It demonstrated how a focused agenda and a common cause that unites AAs — regardless of party affiliation — can yield tangible results that achieve both justice and enthusiastic participation. Upon President Reagan's signature on the legislation, there was a joyful celebration. Unfortunately, there was not a comparable goal or agenda that followed.

Two other key factors behind the membership decline is the utter lack of immigration by Japanese into America for the last 80 years and the barely replacement level birth rates within the JA population. Moreover, JAs are quite different from other Asian ethnicities in that the "out-marriage" rate is extremely high. As a Hapa of Japanese, German, English, and Irish heritage, I was the exception in the 1970s, but I am more the rule in the 21st century.

I have noticed a tendency among some JACL leaders to cling to 1960s-era alliances with other "peoples of color". AAs should be defined by what they are, rather than by what they are not. Given the high degree of "out-marriage" within the JA community, more and more of the next generation may also be white. Moreover, given greater educational attainment, white collar employment, and above average income levels, it is important

to recognize that AAs may have different priorities than other minorities on such issues as unionism, taxation, welfare, rent control and wealth redistribution.

Certainly, the general needs, cultures, and experiences of AAs bear little resemblance to African Americans. FDR's unconstitutional mass incarceration of JAs during World War II is vastly more consequential than the isolated incidents and inconveniences experienced by Muslim Americans in the decade since the 9/11 attacks. Similarly, the naturalization of AAs who play by the rules is dramatically different from the lawless entry of millions into Border States like Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The fact of the matter is that AAs have their own unique experiences that differ mightily from other minorities. Affirmative action has led to higher admission standards for AAs than for all other groups, including white Americans. While certain groups may benefit from greater access to institutions, this policy certainly does not help AAs.

Furthermore, glomming onto other groups' signature issues — such as gay marriage, Obamacare, or Big Labor's October 2010 march on Washington — represents a sad attempt to be "relevant" on issues that go beyond the scope of the JACL's mission. Becoming a virtual mouthpiece of the Democratic Party on healthcare, the environment, the budget, and other non-civil rights issues is certainly unbecoming of a non-partisan organization dedicated to representing the greater good for all AAs.

I believe that the JACL can be an effective and important voice for AA concerns in the 21st century. The organization should develop a life cycle- and value-based approach to membership that acknowledges the historical context and relationships of the older generation; the family and corporate resources of the 30-, 40-, and 50-somethings; and the energy and technological savvy of the younger generation. If the organization focuses on the elements that unite AAs, the JACL will be recognized as trusted advisers and partners. ■

James Kumpel is a JACL New York chapter board member and former JACL scholarship winner.

'Power of Words may be a cause to reflect.'

'I have noticed a tendency among some JACL leaders to cling to 1960s-era alliances with other "peoples of color."'

Art as Activism: Asian Pacific Americans and the Spoken Word Scene

Many Asian Pacific American spoken word artists perform in the name of activism rather than applause.

By Christine Fukushima
Contributor

From Youtube parodies to death threats, former UCLA student Alexandra Wallace's video about "Asians in the library" inspired a sometimes humorous, oftentimes enraged response from the Asian Pacific American community.

But Beau Sia, a prominent APA spoken word artist known for his multiple appearances on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, saw her rant as an opportunity to address greater issues of ignorance and racism in the U.S.

After friends and fans repeatedly asked him how he felt about the video, Sia wrote a thoughtful and poignant spoken word piece in her persona, implying that Wallace's racist comments stemmed from ignorance instead of hate.

"I saw all the people's responses and I heard their pain and their frustration but I felt like their reaction didn't help their cause," Sia added, "I wanted to try to create a way for people to make better choices when they're feeling angry or frustrated than to attack other people."

In the past two decades, a growing number of APA spoken word poets like Sia have used the art form as a tool for activism and community building.

With pieces that sound like a cross between rap songs and theater monologues, they use rhythm and expression to communicate their message.

"There are no symbols for what your face is supposed to look like, what your body is supposed to do, so clearly when you're onstage you're utilizing these elements that you just cannot have on paper," Sia explained of the difference between spoken word and more traditional forms of poetry.

Spoken word artists also sometimes compete in poetry slams, which are competitions during which they have three minutes to perform a piece, typically without music, costumes

or props.

With his crazy hair and boundless energy, 41-year-old Regie Cabico doesn't seem old enough to be the "grandfather of Asian American slam poetry." But the self-proclaimed title is fitting.

"I like to say, and I will say, that I am the first Asian American slammer to win the top prizes of the time. I knew how to play the game," Cabico said with his infectious smile.

Utilizing his theater skills, Cabico quickly became popular on the slam circuit after graduating from NYU in 1992. He found that he was usually the only APA performing at the famed Nuyorican Poet's Café on New York's Lower East Side.

"They've never had a young, gay Filipino person who's off book. To this day I don't think people know what to do with me." He added, "I push the Asianness, I push the queerness."

Cabico's unique voice and perspective earned him spots on the '94 Lollapalooza Poetry Tour, HBO's Def Poetry Jam, and MTV's "Free Your Mind" Spoken Word Tour. He is also a three-time winner of the National Poetry Slam, the annual poetry slam championship tournament.

"To me spoken word is political theater and it's the best way to get your point across," Cabico said.

He promotes this idea through his organization Sulu D.C., which provides emerging and established APA artists with a space to nurture their artistic growth, build their community and raise awareness of issues relevant to APA communities-at-large.

Chinese Taiwanese American spoken word artist Kelly Tsai also believes that spoken word can be used to raise awareness about issues that are often forgotten or dismissed by the mainstream media.

In her piece "Black White Whatever," she addresses the tendency of political candidates to ignore APAs, relegating them to



PHOTO: CHRISTINE FUKUSHIMA



PHOTO: BERMAN FENELUS

The "grandfather" of slam poetry Regie Cabico (above) is an inspiration to many spoken word artists who consider him a pioneer of Asian American spoken word.

Kelly Tsai (left) uses spoken word as a tool to raise awareness about issues affecting Asian Americans.

the "whatever" category in their speeches.

"If we are going to relegate our communities to these sloppy pots and essentialize to the colors of the rainbow I would like to mention that 'whatever' does not represent me," Tsai says in her popular video, which was featured on YouTube's homepage the night before the 2008 presidential election.

Jasmine Osorio, currently a student at Stanford University, represents a new wave of APA spoken word artists.

Osorio took her deeply personal poetic style to the White House in 2009, performing "Kumulipo" for an audience that included

President Obama. With an original sound and subject matter — in "Kumulipo," she talks about trying to retain her Hawaiian roots with a voice that literally shakes with emotion — Osorio brings something different to the scene.

But like the older artists that she admires, the young artist still uses the medium of spoken word to bring awareness to issues that she find important.

"I was extremely aware of how important it was that I was there and what it meant not only to represent my family but to represent my people in a way that we have never been able to," Osorio said of her performance at

the White House.

Though Cabico jokes that he hates young poets of this new wave for stealing his gigs, he's happy that he now has company in the struggle to raise awareness about issues in the APA community.

"I've been waiting for this time. I was the only Asian American slam poet. The only one," said the grandfather of slam. "I'm really glad I'm not alone anymore." ■



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NPS Grants Awarded to Japanese American Internment Camp Projects



The National Park Service is awarding 24 grants totaling \$2.9 million to preserve and interpret sites where Japanese Americans were confined during World War II.

"The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is an unfortunate part of the story of our nation's journey, but it is a part that needs to be told," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

"These places, where more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly held, testify to the alarming fragility of our constitutional rights in the face of prejudice and fear," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The National Park Service is honored to help preserve these sites and tell their stories, and thus prevent our nation from forgetting a shameful episode in its past."

The incarceration of JAs — two-thirds of whom were American citizens — followed Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

This year's awards will provide \$2.9 million to projects in 11 states. These undertakings include restoration of an internment camp cemetery at Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas, production of a film

exploring the lives of mothers and children detained at Poston, Ariz., and production and distribution of a documentary on the jazz bands that flourished at many internment camps.

The grants range from \$5,000 to preserve documents and artifacts at Chicago's Japanese American Historical Society, to \$291,025 to reconstruct a water tower and a guard tower at the Granada Relocation Center (Amache) in Colo.

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants Program in 2006 and authorized up to \$38 million in grants for the life of the program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historic confinement sites.

The grants are made as part of a competitive process in which \$2 of federal money matches every \$1 in non-federal funds and "in-kind" contributions. The goals of the grant program are to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the confinement and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law.

For details about winning projects, go to: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>. ■

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Competitive Eater Plans to Gobble on July Fourth

NEW YORK — Hot dog eating champ Takeru Kobayashi was arrested last Fourth of July when he stormed the stage at Nathan's on Coney Island.

This year, the Japanese eating pro will compete miles away on a Manhattan rooftop. He has been barred since last year from the actual event because he refuses to sign an exclusive contract, which he says limits his freedom to compete elsewhere.

On the Fourth, when the Coney Island eaters start gobbling their hot dogs, Kobayashi plans to stuff his face near the Nathan's event.



Native Hawaiians Increase Numbers by One-Fifth

HONOLULU — The population of Native Hawaiians in Hawaii increased by over one-fifth in the last decade, according to new U.S. Census information.

Native Hawaiian families are having more children, and more Hawaiians embraced their race when filling out government Census forms, said Malia Kaahue, chief knowledge officer for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

People who identified themselves as Native Hawaiians alone or in combination with other races increased by 21 percent to a total of 289,970 in the state, Census data show.

29th Anniversary of Vincent Chin Sparks Anti-Discrimination Talks

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus denounced anti-Chinese rhetoric in political advertising on the 29th anniversary of the death of Vincent Chin.

Chin, a Chinese American, was fatally beaten on June 23, 1982, by two auto-workers in the wake of increasing anti-Japanese sentiment.

The 29th anniversary of his death shined the spotlight on the growing trend of anti-Chinese rhetoric in political ads, said members of the CAPAC on June 23.

"I am deeply disturbed by the xenophobic implications of recent political ads that use China as a scapegoat to discuss the U.S. economy," said Rep. David Wu.

Over 250 anti-China ads were aired during the 2010 campaign cycle, according to the *Washington Post*.

AA New York Population Explodes Past One Million

NEW YORK — The population of Asian Americans in New York for the first time has surpassed 1 million, according to U.S. Census data.

Census data from April show that one in eight New Yorkers are AA, more than populations in San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif. There was a 32 percent increase in New York's AA population since 2000.

"We are 13 percent of this city's population!" said community organizer Steven Choi in an interview with the *New York Times*. "We are 1 million strong, and we are not going away!"

Preservationists Fight to Save JA Flower Building

EL CERRITO, Calif. — Preservationist groups in Northern Calif. hope to save a historic flower shop building slated for demolition.

JA greenhouses once flourished in El Cerrito and Richmond, Calif. prior to the outbreak of World War II.

In 2008 the city of El Cerrito purchased what is believed to be one of the last florist shops in the area. Plans are underway to have developer Eden Housing Inc. build senior housing, retail stores and more on the site.

Some JA community members along with historians and preservationists hope to have the flower shop incorporated into the new development. Officials with the design firm PBS&J, Inc. say the shop may not be eligible for federal or state historic registers.

A historic consultant has been brought in to conduct further historical analysis. ■

Tammy Duckworth Resigns from VA Post

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

CHICAGO — Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth has resigned her position.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported June 13 that Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki says Duckworth submitted her resignation.

In a statement Shinseki said: "[Duckworth] has served the Department of Veterans Affairs with distinction. Her unwavering dedication to veterans and their families has strengthened VA's ability to perform our mission — providing veterans the health care and benefits they have earned.

"Tammy Duckworth uniquely understands the needs of today's veterans and their families, and her commitment to serving veterans and increasing VA's outreach has helped the department serve more veterans and serve them well. We will miss her advocacy and leadership, but wish her the very best in the years to come."

Duckworth lost a close bid for Congress in 2006 to Illinois Republican Pete Roskam. Running for a U.S. House seat still remains an option for her.

Born in Thailand, Duckworth grew up in Hawaii.



Over the Memorial Day weekend she made it clear to reporters in Hawaii that she would not be running for a Senate seat in her hometown. Instead, if she were to run, she would do so from her current home in Illinois where her National Guard unit is located.

The Hoffman Estates veteran was a helicopter pilot in Iraq when she lost both her legs and partial use of one arm in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in 2004. She is married to Maj. Bryan Bowlsbey, an Iraq war veteran and a National Guard officer.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Duckworth's nomination to the Veterans Affairs post in April 2009. She previously was chief of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press



Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye Receives Japan's Spring Imperial Decorations

The Japanese government awarded **United States Sen. Daniel Inouye** with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers, the highest level of national orders for non-residents.

The Japanese American senator received in 1999 the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun for his contributions to strengthen the U.S.-

Japan relationship. The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers distinction recognizes the senator's ongoing work to enhance relations between the two countries.

His efforts to initiate an exchange between the Japanese Diet and the U.S. Senate are also being recognized.

Sen. Inouye, the president pro-tempore, is the only person outside Japan to receive the award this spring.

Asian American Man Honored for Aiding D.C. Officers During Attack

Officials in Washington, D.C. recognized a civilian for coming to the aid of two police officers as they were being assaulted.

Yik Li was saluted June 22 for intervening in an attack on the officers during the evening of June 11 in Chinatown. The altercation left both officers injured. The incident occurred after one of the officers confronted a man with an open container of alcohol.

Li helped one officer pull the attacker off the other officer. The suspect has been charged with assault on a police officer while armed.

Mayor Vincent Gray and Police Chief Cathy Lanier honored Li, calling his actions selfless and heroic.

Iowa Governor Names San Wong Human Rights Director

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad has appointed **San Wong** as the director for the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

Wong is Des Moines Area Community College's director of workforce and education initiatives. She also served as president-elect of the Asian American Council from 2002 to 2004; president of the Iowa Asian Foundation from 2005 to 2009; and chair of the Iowa Asian Alliance from 2006 to 2007.

Branstad announced Wong's appointment on June 22, saying she has worked in many capacities to eliminate barriers for minorities. Branstad says Wong will ensure that all Iowans have the opportunity to contribute and benefit from the state's economic, cultural and social activities.

Wong is slated to start her new job July 11. Her nomination is subject to confirmation by the Iowa Senate.

Seattle Central Honors Alan Sugiyama With Distinguished Alumni Award

Japanese American Alan Sugiyama was selected by the Seattle Central Community College to receive its Distinguished Alumni Award, the first such award in its 45-year history.

Paul Killpatrick, Seattle Central president, established the Distinguished Alumni Award this year, which will likely be given out annually.

Sugiyama, a Seattle resident, was selected for his contributions to the community and his work in fighting against discrimination while attending the college. He led protests raising awareness about the lack of Asian American administrators in 1971.

"Alan is the kind of person whom I hope our students will emulate," said Killpatrick in a press release.

Sugiyama founded the Center for Career Alternatives, a nonprofit that helps economically disadvantaged adults. For eight years he also served on the board of directors for Seattle Public School.

He spoke to students during their commencement exercises on June 18. ■

China Alley Listed as Endangered Historic Place



The once-bustling Chinatown was founded in 1877, located between the Chinatowns in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

By Associated Press and Pacific Citizen staff

HANFORD, Calif.—The smell is musty, the wooden floorboards rotten and the original owners long dead.

The shop in China Alley in the rural Central California town of Hanford once bustled with customers.

But now, the buildings in what used to be one of the largest Chinatowns between San Francisco and Los Angeles are mostly deserted.

China Alley was named June 15 as one of America's 11 most endangered historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The non-profit group spotlights places which are threatened by neglect or are affected by cuts to preservation funding by legislatures across the country.

In China Alley, community members hope the designation will help them raise funds to save its 19th century buildings.

"What is so unique about the alley is that it's a living piece of history," said Arianne Wing, president of the Taoist Temple Preservation Society, which is working to restore the buildings and artifacts inside.

The town, created in 1877 after Southern Pacific

Railroad tracks were laid through a sheep camp, had a sizeable Chinese population starting in the 1880s.

China Alley became a thriving community in the 1920s and 1930s, recalled 83-year-old Camille Wing, who is Arianne's mother and China Alley's resident historian.

China Alley began to fade in the 1950s after the city shut down the gambling houses and the next generation of Chinese Americans moved on to jobs away from Hanford.

But the neighborhood survived, thanks in part to Imperial Dynasty, a restaurant run by the Wing family.

The closure of Imperial Dynasty in 2006 brought the final, drastic decline of the neighborhood.

The preservation society is hoping to reverse that slide. Of the alley's 11 historic buildings, three are owned by the organization, including the temple.

The society is working with a Fresno-based historic architecture firm to stabilize the L.T. Sue Herb Co. building. Society members raised enough money for the first phase of the renovation, but it's not enough to complete a full renovation of the herb shop or other China Alley structures.

Arianne Wing, a chef by profession, hopes to reopen a restaurant in the same building where her great-grandfather ran a noodle shop at the turn of the century, and where her uncle cooked up his famous escargots at the Imperial Dynasty.

"This is for me a way to keep the Alley alive," she said. ■

Filipino American Journalist Says He's Undocumented

The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist has worked at the *Washington Post* and most recently at the *Huffington Post*.

By Associated Press and Pacific Citizen staff

WASHINGTON—A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist went public June 22 with a secret he says he has been keeping for nearly two decades: He is an illegal immigrant.

Jose Antonio Vargas, whose mother sent him from the Philippines to live with his grandparents in California when he was 12, says that now he wants to push Congress to pass the DREAM Act that would allow people like him to become citizens.

"I'm done running. I'm exhausted," Vargas wrote in a *New York Times Magazine* essay posted online June 22. "I don't want that life anymore."

He says he didn't know about his citizenship status until he applied for a driver's permit and a clerk told him his green card was a fake.

Vargas confronted his grandfather, who acknowledged he purchased the green card and other fake documents.

His grandfather imagined the fake documents would help Vargas get low-wage jobs. College seemed out of reach, until Vargas told Mountain View High School Principal Pat Hyland and school district Supt. Rich Fisher about his problem. They helped him find a scholarship fund that allowed him to attend San Francisco State University.

Vargas was hired for an internship from *The Washington Post* and used his fake driver's license to cover Washington events, including a state dinner at the White House.

Vargas eventually told his mentor, Peter Perl, now the newspaper's training director. They kept the secret until Vargas left the paper.

On June 22, *Washington Post* spokeswoman Kris Coratti condemned their actions.

Vargas shared a Pulitzer Prize for the *Post*'s coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings.

"In my heart, I'm an American," Vargas told ABC.

On June 22, Vargas launched a campaign called Define American to use stories of immigrants to urge Congress and the Obama administration to pursue immigration reform. His high school principal and superintendent have signed on as board members. ■

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2011 TOURS

- Aug 16 USA Bus Tour - National Parks & Heart Mt. Dedication**
\$2445-Mesquite-Salt Lake-Jackson-Tetons-Yellowstone -
Cody- includes Heart Mt. dinners-Mt. Rushmore-Black Hawk
Casino-Arches-Monument Valley-Grand Canyon-Laughlin.
CLOSING SOON
- Oct 01 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 Shiraoi-Lake Toya-Hakodate-Aomori-Lake
Towada-Hachimantai-Matsushima-Sendai-Tokyo
- Oct 17 Uraihon "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.
- Nov 20 California Riviera Cruise - 6 Star Crystal Symphony**
NEW LA - Santa Barbara - San Francisco - Ensenada, Mex.
San Diego - LA. Window \$2000 - Balcony \$2600 - with
\$500 Shipboard Credit per person.
- Nov 30 Christmas in Branson - \$1795** - Kansas City-Truman
NEW Library-4-days in Branson-7 Shows-Sightseeing too.
- Mar 5 Reflections of Italy-\$2899**-Rome-Assisi-Perugia-Florence-
2012 Chianti-Venice-Murano-Lugano, Switzerland-Lake Como-Milan.
- Mar 27 Japan Spring Classic "Cherry Blossoms" \$3995**-Tokyo-Bullet Train
2012 Nara-Kobe-Maiko-Okayama-Bitchu Takahashi-Miyajima Island
Hiroshima-Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island -Kyoto.

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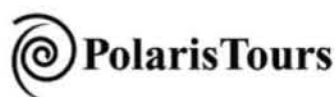
2011 Tour Schedule

- Jul. 17-Jul. 26 Summer Japan: Highlights for the Whole Family
Aug. 10-Aug. 17 Great Pacific Northwest: Vancouver, Victoria,
Seattle, Whistler
Aug. 30-Sep. 13 Gems of Malaysia
Oct. 11-Oct. 20 Legacy of the Incas - Peru, Machu Picchu,
Nazca Lines
Oct. 11-Oct. 20 Autumn Japan: Majestic Fall Colors
Nov. 3-Nov. 13 Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku
Nov. 29-Dec. 13 Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos
Dec. 18-Dec. 20 Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows:
Cirque du Soleil "Mystere"

2012

- Apr. 3-Apr. 12 Spring Japan - "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"
Apr. 12-Apr. 24 South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites

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College APA Leaders Meet in D.C.



Lawrence Yen, Emma Kimata and Brie Hiramane share their personal stories during the Mobilize for Policy training, a program sponsored by the JACL.

The next generation of leaders in the Asian Pacific American community met recently to discuss the role of APA civil rights organizations in affecting public policy.

Sponsored by the JACL, the third annual Collegiate Leadership Conference was held in Washington, D.C. June 9 to 12. Fourteen APA college students from around the country attended skills training and issue-based workshops intended to provide them with the tools to create positive social change on their own campuses.

The workshops were conducted by prominent members and activists in the APA community. J.D. Hokoyama, CEO and founder of LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics) led a workshop that connected APA cultural values, effective leadership behaviors and stereotypes. Representatives from the Asian American Justice Center, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Education Association, among others, also led workshops.

"The different generations of activists brought together from all over the country for a shared cause made me realize how much hope and potential there is for change and that we are all agents for that change," said Sue Yee Chen, a student at Bryn Mawr College.

Participants explored D.C. sites that aren't part of the typical tourist tour, such as the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. They also received an introduction to the art of networking at a joint dinner with the JACL D.C. Chapter's Young Professionals group, where they learned about opportunities for college students in the area.

Students utilized their leadership skills and experiences to develop a plan to raise awareness about critical APA issues in their own communities. Groups created project plans around immigration reform, environmental justice and educational policy, and presented their plans to the rest of the participants and the conference coordinators.

Kevin Mori, a student at the University of California, Irvine, described the conference as an amazing experience. "I gained knowledge and made connections that have empowered me to take these issues back to my campus community," he said.

This year's program was coordinated by Ford Program Fellow Christine Munteanu, Norman Y. Mineta Fellow Leslie Toy and Daniel K. Inouye Advocacy and Policy Coordinator Jean Shiraki. The conference was sponsored by UPS and Southwest Airlines. ■

Mackenzie Walker Named Mike M. Masaoka Fellow

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Starting this fall, University of Washington graduate Mackenzie Kiyomi Walker will take her talents to Washington, D.C. as the 2011 JACL Mike M. Masaoka Fellow.

While there, she will be assisting Congresswoman Judy Chu of California's 32nd district. Chu is chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, an assembly that is a key element in advocacy work for the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

"I'm excited to be in D.C. and to work further with the JACL! Being a member of the JACL has given me the opportunity to appreciate the importance of AAPI leadership and visibility at the national level," said Walker.

Walker's long list of accomplishments include an internship for the JACL Bridging Communities—Seattle Program, placing as a finalist in the JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition, and board membership of the JACL Seattle chapter. She also attended the 2011 JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Summit, where she made a presentation to a Capitol Hill staffer to encourage the advancement of an anti-bullying and anti-racial profiling bill.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was



established in 1988 to honor Mike Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of public service to the nation and the JACL. Masaoka was the JACL's national secretary, field executive, national legislative director of the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee and JACL Washington D.C.'s representative.

"Mackenzie's achievements and service to the community thus far have been outstanding, and we expect that she will be a strong future leader within the JACL," said National Director Floyd Mori.

"The JACL Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship is one of the flagship programs of the JACL," said National President David Kawamoto. "We are happy that Mackenzie Walker will be able to have this wonderful experience in Washington, D.C." ■

SFV JACL Sponsors Musical 'Manzanar'



By Pacific Citizen Staff

"Manzanar: Story of an American Family" uses an unlikely art form to tell the story of the Japanese American internment experience.

The musical was performed on June 18 to a sold-out crowd of over 300 people at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. The event was sponsored by the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter.

The cast, which consisted of seven of the 14 original cast members, received a standing ovation. Co-written by Russ McCoy and Dan Taguchi and directed by Mike Hagiwara, "Manzanar" is loosely based on the internment experiences of Taguchi's mother, Miekko, and other family members.

"Mom is all right with it," said Dan Taguchi, about his mom. "She hardly ever goes anyplace, but each time the show has been performed, she has shown up."

The storyline follows the Shimada family, JAs who

were herded into the Santa Anita racetrack and housed in horse stables as a temporary holding facility while Manzanar was under construction.

Dan Taguchi says he co-wrote the musical to increase awareness about the JA incarceration experience.

"Very few people outside of JAs know much, if anything, about the internment camps. There is little or no information about the JA internment camps in American history books," he said.

SFV JACL member Nancy Gohata says her husband Yas was responsible for bringing the play to the Community Center. She recalled seeing the play with him in 2002 and 2003.

"We both loved it. We have the CD and it's one of his favorite selections on his iPod," said Nancy Gohata.

"It was an electrifying afternoon," she raved of the June 18 showing. ■

JACL PSW to Honor Community Leaders

The JACL Pacific Southwest District will honor community leaders and organizations at their 15th Annual Awards Dinner Oct. 29.

The theme of the dinner is "Looking to the Future: Partnerships Across Communities and Generations." It will be held at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster, Calif.

Honorees include Bill Watanabe, executive director, Little Tokyo Service Center; Mary Anne Foo, executive director, Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance; and Madeline Ong-Sakata, executive director, Phoenix Asian Chamber of Commerce.

The honorees "were chosen because they exemplify the spirit of JACL's tradition, which is to work with diverse groups and ages to achieve a shared vision of civil rights for all," said Andrew Yick, development coordinator.

Proceeds from the dinner will go towards JACL PSW's fundraising goal of \$50,000, which will help the chapter continue their work in community development, youth leadership development and civil rights work. ■

JACL Fremont Donates to Sister City Fukaya



Fremont JACL recently donated \$1,000 towards Fukaya's efforts to help those devastated by the earthquake and tsunami.

Though their Sister City Program was discontinued in 2009, the City of Fremont, Calif. still feels a connection with the City of Fukaya in Saitama Prefecture, Japan.

So when the devastating earthquake and tsunami hit Sendai on March 11, JACL Fremont chapter's board of directors decided to donate directly to relief efforts being undertaken by the City of Fukaya.

Fukaya, which is approximately 200 miles southwest of the major damage, was largely untouched by the disasters. But cities throughout Japan were asked to assist their fellow citizens and Fukaya answered the call wholeheartedly.

With the assistance of the City of Fremont and the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco, Fremont JACL President Alan Mikuni contacted Fukaya Mayor Susumu Kojima and the Fremont chapter transferred \$1,000 directly to the city.

"We wish that citizens of Fremont and people of the JACL Fremont Chapter who supported us this time will continue to prosper, and the friendly relations between the City of Fremont and Fukaya will be further developed," wrote Mayor Kojima in letters to the City of Fremont and the JACL Fremont chapter. ■

American Holiday Travel

2011 TOUR SCHEDULE

SOUTH AFRICA HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 3-15
Cape Town, Wine Country, Kruger National Park, Table Mountain, Johannesburg, Livingston, Victoria Falls-Zambia.	
MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR)	AUG 16-25
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.	
16TH PANAMERICAN NIKKEI ASSOCIATION (PANA) CONVENTION	AUG 31-SEP 4
Cancun, Mexico. Meet Nikkeis from North and South America.	
REFLECTIONS OF ITALY HOLIDAY TOUR	SEP 5-14
Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Florence, Venice, Lugano-Switzerland, Lake Como, Milan.	
SAN ANTONIO GET-AWAY TOUR	SEP 12-16
San Antonio, the historic Alamo Fort, Fredericksburg, Bandera, Cruise on the famous Riverwalk Canal.	
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR)	OCT 7-14
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.	
HOKKAIDO HOLIDAY TOUR (REVISED TOUR)	OCT 9-20
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate	
OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV 7-16
Naha, Ishigaki Island, Taketomi Island, Yufu Island, Onnason.	
SANTE FE HOLIDAY GET-AWAY TOUR	DEC 4-8
Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Taos.	

2012 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR	FEBRUARY 5-12
INDIA HOLIDAY TOUR	FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 5
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR	APRIL 2-12
NEW YORK CITY GET-AWAY TOUR	APRIL 18-23
SOUTH AMERICA JAPANESE HERITAGE TOUR	MAY
SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE	MAY 20-JUN 2
CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR	JUNE 10-16
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUN 24-JUL 3
CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR	JULY 28-AUG 4
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE-TOUR	AUGUST
MT. RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 21-30
ENCHANTING DANUBE RIVER CRUISE	SEPTEMBER 18-26
CHINA HOLIDAY TOUR	SEPTEMBER
JAPAN AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR	OCTOBER
MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR	NOVEMBER 4-11
SPECTACULAR ANTARCTICA HOLIDAY CRUISE	DECEMBER

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Obon Festival Dance Workshop
SACRAMENTO, CA
July 5, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Buddhist Church of Florin
7235 Pritchard Rd.

The Buddhist Church of Florin welcomes the public to its 57th Annual Obon Festival! An obon practice will take

place from 7 to 8 p.m. There will also be workshops led by Cheryl Miles, a *natori* expert; Lisa Horikawa, Buddhist minister assistant; and John Kanemoto, Florin JACL youth rep.

RSVP: By July 3 to
andynoguchi@hotmail.com
or call 916/383-1831

MDC

The 20th Annual JACL Golf Tournament
HUNTLEY, IL
July 21, 9:30 a.m.
Pinecrest Golf Course

11220 Algonquin Rd.
Cost: \$80

The Chicago JACL chapter invites you to attend its 20th Annual JACL Golf Tournament. Thirty-two golfers can be accommodated for the event. The fee includes golf cart rental,

prizes and a lunch buffet.
Info: Call Michael Oshita 513/498-7683 or 773/728-7171.

PSW

Go For Broke Evening of Aloha
BEVERLY HILLS, CA
Nov. 5

Beverly Hilton Hotel
9876 Wilshire Blvd.
Cost: \$200/individual; \$175/veteran
 Join Go For Broke for its 10th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner where the newest Congressional Gold Medal recipients will be honored. A special dinner inspired by Chef Roy Yamaguchi of Roy's Restaurants Worldwide and Chef Hirose Akira of Maison Akira will be prepared.
Info: www.goforbroke.com

'How to Succeed in Baseball' Lecture
LOS ANGELES, CA
July 23, 11 a.m.
Japanese American National Museum
Tateuchi Democracy Forum
100 N. Central Ave.

The Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum present "How to Succeed in Baseball." Attendees can hear from former Major League pitcher Shigetoshi Hasegawa and Scott Akasaki, a Los Angeles Dodgers traveling secretary.

RSVP: Call 213/830-5648

Fukuhara Art Exhibit '50 Years and Still Clicking'
ORANGE, CA
July 24, 4 to 8 p.m.

Fukuhara Inc. Studio/Gallery
1912 N. Batavia St., Ste. F
 The USC IGM Art Gallery and Fukuhara Inc. Studio/Gallery invite you to Richard Yutaka Fukuhara's "50 Years and Still Clicking." The exhibit is a creative imagery from the 60s to the present.
RSVP: Call 714/998-8790 or richard@fukuharaphoto.com

IDC

Twin Falls, Idaho: Screening of 'Conscience and the Constitution'

TWIN FALLS, ID
July 1, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
The College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Theater
315 Falls Ave.
 JACL's Twin Falls Idaho chapter presents "Conscience and the Constitution" as a part of the 6th Annual Civil Liberties Symposium. A discussion with producer Frank Abe will follow the screening. Sponsors include the Friends of Minidoka, the College of Southern Idaho and the Minidoka Internment National Monument.
Info: Call 208/732-6288

JACL San Fran Youth Gone Fishin'

The perfect fishing weather greeted anglers of all ages at the San Pablo Dam Reservoir on June 11 for the Youth Fishing Derby, sponsored by JACL's San Francisco chapter.

Though some of the fishing holes were inaccessible, 16 kids competed to catch the biggest fish.

San Francisco Nisei Fishing Club members dispensed advice to the young anglers and their parents on how to bait and cast.

"They helped me with casting the rod. I didn't do a very good job at first, but I did after they helped me," said Max Chan, 13.

He caught a trout weighing 2 pounds and 3 ounces, winning first place.



(L-r): Mika Suzuki, Max Chan and Tyler Kahn practice their fishing techniques.

Chan was followed by Tyler Kahn, 11, and Miya Suzuki, 10. The three winners were rewarded with new fishing rods. ■

SAN JOSE BETSUIN

OBON

FESTIVAL 2011

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH 11:30AM- 10PM		SUNDAY, JULY 10TH 11:30AM- 8PM	
11:30 am	Temple open	11:30 am	Temple open
11:30 am	Buddhism 101	11:30 am	Buddhism 101
12:00 pm	Food booths open	12:00 pm	Food booths open
12:30 pm	UC Davis Bakuetsu	12:30 pm	UC Berkeley Rajin
1:00 pm	Games open	1:00 pm	Games open
1:00 pm	Bookstore opens	1:00 pm	Bookstore opens
1:30 pm	Stanford Taiko	1:30 pm	Stanford Taiko
2:00 pm	Buddhism 101	2:00 pm	Buddhism 101
2:00 pm	Bingo opens	2:00 pm	Bingo opens
3:00 pm	Bingo opens	3:00 pm	Bingo opens
3:00 pm	UC Irvine Jodaiko	3:00 pm	UC Irvine Jodaiko
3:30 pm	San Jose Taiko	3:30 pm	San Jose Taiko
4:00 pm	Temple closes	4:00 pm	Temple closes
4:30 pm	San Jose Taiko	4:30 pm	San Jose Taiko
5:00 pm	Chidori Band	5:00 pm	Chidori Band
5:30 pm	Temple closes	5:30 pm	Temple closes
6:00 pm	Odori starts	6:00 pm	Odori starts
6:30 pm	Chidori Band	6:30 pm	Chidori Band
7:45 pm	Odori starts	7:45 pm	Odori starts
8:00 pm	Raffle	8:00 pm	Raffle

Internationally published Nisei Cartoonist Jack Matsuoka will be available for book signing.

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TRIBUTE

Sadao Baishiko

April 26, 1922 - June 12, 2011

Sadao Baishiki, son of Toichi and Tsune Baishiki, was born on April 26, 1922 in Stockton, CA and entered Nirvana on June 12, 2011 in Sacramento. A graduate of Stockton High, he received an AA degree from Stockton Junior College. During WWII, Sadao and his family were sent to the Relocation Center in Rohwer, AR. He



bowl in two leagues and occasionally bowled over 200. He even received a Big 4 Split patch.

Preceded in death by his sister Akie and brothers Genko and Teruo. He is survived by his wife Midori, son Rod (Katherine), daughter Yukiye, grandchildren Sei Baishiki, Tei (Mackenzie) Baishiki, Jennifer (Cory) Jarvis-Brown, and great-grandson Da'juan Stone-Jarvis and many

nieces & nephews. Memorial Service was held on June 26, 2011 at 12:30pm at the Buddhist Church of Florin, 7235 Pritchard Rd., Florin, CA. In lieu of flowers please donate in memory of Sadao Baishiki to your favorite charity or to Bonnie J Ad-dario Lung Cancer Foundation, c/o White Space, Inc., 601 4th Street Suite 215, San Francisco CA 94107. Special thanks to Dr. Mohammed Shaikh who took exceptional care of Sadao at Mercy General Hospital.

He left the Relocation Center in 1944 after marrying Midori Yokoi, and subsequently served in the US Army and was stationed in Germany. He retired from Sylvania/GTE after 29 1/2 years and then again from Varian after 10 years. He was a member of the Florin Buddhist Church; the JACL of Sacramento and VFW Post #8985 in Sacramento. He was interested in sports, golfing, gathering abalone, and mostly bowling. Even though legally blind for the last 10 years of his life, he continued to

TRIBUTE

John Michihiko Nishizaka

March 5, 1930 - May 24, 2011

John Nishizaka of Granada Hills, California, died peacefully on May 24, 2011 at the Rinaldi Convalescent Hospital from congestive heart failure and stomach cancer. His wife, Harriet, had just left the same facility a week earlier, after spending two months in physical therapy for a fractured hip. They were hospital room-mates, so were able to spend the last few months together.



as a civil engineer in the aerospace industry spanned nearly 40 years until his retirement in 1996. John was a long time active member of the San Fernando Valley JACL and served as chapter president in 1971. He also served as SFV JACC President in 1980, was active in the founding of Nikkei Village in Arleta, and was part of the fund-raising project for MIS Veterans in Little Tokyo.

With the Nishizaka family having settled in New York years earlier, John was born in Imabari, Japan during a family visit there. He was the fourth of eight siblings and grew up in Brooklyn, where his father owned a skee ball concession in Coney Island. John graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic and married Harriet Ikeda in 1957. The young couple, with their first daughter, Susan, moved to Sacramento, California in 1958, where their son, Steve was born. They later relocated to Southern California in 1961, where their youngest, Scott was born. John's career

John is survived by his wife of 54 years, Harriet and children, Susan, Steven, Scott (Stacey) and grandchildren Ava and Maya. He is also survived by sisters Itsuko and Miyoko and many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2011, 11:00 A.M. at Chatsworth West United Methodist Church, 10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Chatsworth. Donations in John's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, JACL, or a charitable organization of your choice.

TRIBUTE

Fred Hashimoto

October 28, 1919 - April 20, 2011

His father Juichi Hashimoto 1896-1955. His mother Chiyoko (Minato) Hashimoto 1900-1994.

Fred Mitsuru Hashimoto born in Suisun, CA October 28, 1919.

He has two sons: Calvin Shigeru Hashimoto of Kealahou, HI (Oct 15, 1945) and David Juichi Hashimoto of Merced, CA (March 17, 1950).

He attended Cressey Grammar School (1925 - 1932) and Livingston High School (1933-1937). He enrolled at University of California, Berkeley and Davis (1938-1941). He did not graduate because of the Pearl Harbor incident of December 7, 1941 with one more semester to go. Because the aliens (father) could not own any land in California, the family farm was deeded to Fred and he had to protect the property. There was great hysteria and hostility toward anyone of Japanese origin.

By May 1942 the Hashimoto family was evacuated to Merced Assembly Center in Merced, CA. By August 1942 the family was relocated to Amache Assembly Center near Granada, Colorado. Regardless of the fancy names, both places were truly concentration camps with armed soldiers, guard towers, and barbed wire fence. Fred could not stand being cooped up so he left "camp" to work on the "outside" toward the War Effort. He

worked at Lamar, Rocky Ford, and Greeley, CO. He also attended the University of Wyoming at Laramie (1943). Farmed in Greeley in 1944. Married to Rose Sakaeda in 1943 at Greeley, CO.

West coast opened up in Jan. 1945 so Fred went at once to California to retrieve the farm which was leased out. The family was able to resume farming shortly thereafter. Calvin was born on October 1945 at the Mercy Hospital in Merced.

Fred moved his family to Chicago (1947-1950) which he worked as a mechanic and later opened a auto repair shop. There was an offer of managing a fruit shipping and packing cooperative, the Livingston Fruit Exchange. Fred accepted the offer and moved the family to Livingston 1950-1955. David was born in Chicago in 1950. Fred's father died in 1955, so Fred started to farm in 1955 to 1988 when he retired.

Fred was active in various organizations. He served on the board of the following: Livingston United Methodist Church, Livingston Farmers Association, Livingston Lion Club, Allied Grape Growers, California Cannery & Growers, California Freestone Peach Association, and Japanese American Citizens League.

He moved to Hilmar in 1985 and to Las Vegas in 2011. He married Sun R. Fuzie in 1991.

TRIBUTE

Tomiye Katsumoto Miyamoto

April 24, 1931-June 15, 2011

TOMIYE KATSUMOTO MIYAMOTO (80). Born April 24, 1931, in Union City, CA. Laid to rest June 15, 2011. Husband: Fred J. Miyamoto (July 15, 2010). Interned at Topaz Internment Camp. Past JACL president at Eden Township, San Lorenzo, CA. Representative and member in JACL district and national programs as a volunteer. Survived by sons: Wayne Miyamoto (Littleton, CO) and Steven Miyamoto (Los Banos, CA); and Mrs. Tosh Shimoura (Southfield, MI), Dr. Kiyoshi Katsumoto (El Cerrito, CA), and Mr. Takeshi Katsumoto (Los Gatos, CA).

TRIBUTE

Walter Naoaki Fuchigami

December 1, 1923-May 31, 2011

Born and raised in Marysville, Calif., he and his family were incarcerated in the Amache Japanese Internment Camp, Granada, Colo., in 1942. He entered the U.S. Army, serving in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in Occupied Japan (1945-1948). Returning to the U.S., he attended the University of North-



Francisco as founder and first Director of the Family Support Bureau. He retired in 1986 to travel and spend priceless time with family.

Love for his country was reflected as he continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves JAG Corps from 1959-1978. He was appointed Judge Advocate for the Oregon Reserve Officers Association, Chief Legal Officer and Governmental

Affairs Division Chief, retiring as a Lt. Colonel in 1978. Love for his country was surpassed only by love and devotion for his family. Yuki, wife of nearly 58 years preceded him in death. He is survived by son Michael (Melody); daughter, Lynn Longfellow; grandchildren Zachary, Chloe, Chanel, Calli and Hannah; and brother, Robert Fuchigami of Kittredge, Colo. A memorial service was held June 18, 2011 at Epworth United Methodist Church in Portland. Remembrances can be made to: NJAMF (National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, National Veterans Network); mail to Oregon Nikkei Endowment, 121 NW Second Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209.

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To Place a Tribute, Call 800/966-6157

MORI

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programs that were previously assigned to staff positions which are vacant. Fellows and interns whose stipends are funded by corporate sponsors have been valuable assistants. Staff has been exemplary in taking on extra work to allow us to accept funding that is specific to a program.

There have been questions about continuing youth programs in PSW. These programs have been largely funded through various grants that have been obtained through our work at national JACL. As long as grants for the projects are available, the programs can continue. If successful programs are cut, there is a problem with funding. The regular JACL revenues will not provide for these new programs. A high priority is to keep programs running, particularly those that involve our youth because we know that young people are very important to the future of the organization.

It is true that there is a budget shortfall. To help remedy the deficit, we have cut spending and increased revenues. A major reason for this is the decline in member-

ship revenues. Thus, I feel we need to be more aggressive in our membership program and revise the structure of our memberships to broaden the reach of JACL. It is important for districts and chapters to become more involved in trying to get new members as our long time members are aging. It is also essential for chapters to engage youth members since this group lapses at a very high rate with many seemingly joining only to apply for the scholarships without developing a commitment to the JACL.

We continue to solicit funds from corporate partnerships, foundations and government grants. This has become increasingly difficult as funds are tight in this down economy. Donations from members of the JACL in our fundraising campaigns are down as well. We have developed a president's council of major donors and I have suggested having at-large national board members who would help with fundraising.

It has been necessary to borrow some funds from the JACL National Endowment Fund. Although it is not a requirement to repay that money, the national board voted to require a repayment of the money with interest. This places a hardship on staff. A lot of time

is spent trying to raise funds with the availability and amounts being uncertain.

A large portion of the JACL budget continues to be for the *Pacific Citizen*. Printing and mailing costs are high and the *P.C.* is already providing an electronic version. Most newspapers are online and many papers have folded because of the costs of printing and postage. The JACL must make some decisions regarding the paper. A former *P.C.* editorial board chair stated that the *P.C.* needs to go to only electronic but not yet. With the budgetary problems facing us and declining membership causing discretionary funds to dwindle, solutions must come soon.

The national JACL convention is just around the corner. Thanks to Gary Mayeda, Sonya Kuki, Karen Yoshitomi, Kerry Kaneichi, the PSW district and chapters, the convention committee, JACL staff, delegates, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, awardees, guests, boosters, and to everyone who will volunteer and participate in any way at the convention. We are very grateful for your efforts and support.

The JACL faces many challenges. However, the organization can flourish with the help of its members. ■

YOSHINO

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will face. This year's program featured a sushi making session where May Nakano delighted the students with wonderful stories that supplemented her knowledgeable instruction.

In one of the more compelling sessions, Christine Munteanu, our JACL Ford Program Fellow who runs this program, led participants through exercises about personal identity that examine factors that define identity as well as forces that can challenge a sense of identity.

Anna described one of these activities as her favorite where everyone gathered in a circle and statements regarding experiences pertaining to JAs were read aloud. If the statement applied to them, they were asked to take a step forward. In describing this, Anna said, "My heart raced when I found myself not alone, but surrounded by people that knew what it was like being a young Japanese American."

The bottom line for Anna is that last year she looked forward to

becoming involved in the Asian American community on campus this year, which came about because of what she discovered in attending JACL's Project Community.

Much of the success of this program is due to Christine who relates so well to young people. She provides an open and welcoming atmosphere where the participants are encouraged to share their thoughts without being judged.

*'I believe
this program
is transferable
to other MDC
chapters ...'*

I believe this program is transferable to other MDC chapters where the sessions can be conducted using local resources. I've discussed

this with Twin Cities JACL board member Matt Farrells who indicates the chapter is poised to conduct a version of this program.

The Project Community program in Chicago for 7 to 9 year-olds is scheduled for July 26 to 28 and August 2 to 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For information, call 773/728.7171 or email jacl.fellow@gmail.com. ■

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest regional director.

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