

SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE

JUL. 15-AUG. 4, 2011

PACIFIC CITIZEN

JACL TAKES ON HOLLYWOOD

**Exclusive
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JACL's
national
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The future of
Power of Words.

SPRING CAMPAIGN



Thanks to Spring Campaign donors, P.C. was able to hire web reporter Nalea J. Ko who recently won a first place New America Media award.

Thank You Spring Campaign Donors!

The *Pacific Citizen* staff would like to thank all of our generous donors to the 2011 annual Spring Campaign fundraiser. To date we have raised close to \$62,000 and donations still continue to come in. As always, monies from the Spring Campaign help to fund the print and website. With past and current donations we've been able to fund our popular P.C. website and hire a full-time web reporter.

Recently, our web reporter Nalea J. Ko was honored with a first place New America Media prize for excellence in writing. Her article, "Former Asian American Gang Members Erase Tattoos, Their Past," took a look at Asian American former gang members who are working to erase their gang tattoos and thus their past gang life. Because of your generous donations, we are able to continue to provide you with award-winning coverage and stories from JACL and the Asian American community.

Please take a look at our Wall of Fame donors (\$150 and above) listed below. This year's winner of our Mexican cruise package, generously donated by the JACL Credit Union, is Bobbi Hanada. Congratulations to her. Thank you again to our donors and your continued support over the years.

Caroline Aoyagi-Stom
Executive Editor

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Background on the NPS Grants

By Floyd Mori



The following information is taken from the National Parks Service (NPS) website at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>:

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program (Public Law 109-441, 16 USC 461) for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The law authorized up to \$38 million

for the entire life of the grant program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law. For Fiscal Year 2010, Congress appropriated \$3 million for the use of this grant program; an increase from the \$1 million Congress appropriated for fiscal year 2009.

'The JACL has long felt that the preservation of the campsites is important as a reminder of our history ...'

These grants do not simply materialize but are the result of a lot of hard work. The JACL played a vital role in bringing about this NPS grant program. The JACL has long felt that the preservation of the campsites is important as a reminder of our history and to ensure that this travesty of injustice is not repeated.

Some years ago while on personal business in Washington, D.C., I met with an old friend, then Congressman Bill Thomas from Bakersfield, Calif., a strong Republican leader and chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Bill and I served in the California State Assembly

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Emergency Resolution to Accurately Implement 2010 Power of Words Resolution Passes

The emergency resolution pushes to officially recommend words like “American concentration camps” in the Power of Words handbook to describe the incarceration of JAs during WWII.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

In an overwhelmingly voice of support, the JACL national council voted to accurately implement the 2010 Power of Words resolution, specifically asking that the current draft Power of Words handbook officially recommend the use of words such as American concentration camps to describe the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans.

In a vote of 55 to 17, with one split vote and three abstaining, the national council passed an emergency resolution to accurately implement a 2010 resolution to eliminate government euphemisms to describe the incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. Proponents of the emergency resolution say the current draft handbook differs from the original 2010 resolution.

The emergency resolution states that terms like “American concentration camps, incarceration camps and illegal detention centers” are preferred over using internment camp, assembly centers or relocation centers. The draft handbook does not recommend the specific terms outlined in the 2010 Power of Words resolution.

The recommendation to use the term concentration camp sparked a telephone conference with the Jewish American community during the JACL national board meeting on July 8.

“Notwithstanding the dictionary definitions of the term concentration camp I think has come to ... be associated in our community’s minds — but I think in the larger community — with the notion of death camps, crematoriums, slave labor,” said Richard Foltin, the American Jewish Committee’s director of national and legislative affairs, whose parents survived the Holocaust. “There are no comparisons unfortunately. I mean fortunately for your community, unfortunately for ours.”

The discussion was not the first time the JA community and the Jewish American community held a conversation about using the term concentration camp, which is often associated with the Holocaust where millions of Jewish people perished.

When a 1998 exhibit called “America’s Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience” opened at Ellis Island, leaders from the two communities met to discuss the use of the term concentration camp.

To appease both communities, a determination was made to include a historical explanation of the term concentration camps, distinguishing American concentration camps from Nazi concentration camps.

Kenneth Stern, AJC’s expert on anti-Semitism and extremism, was involved in that discussion. He said distinguishing the difference between the JA and Jewish experience was doable in an exhibit, but becomes more complicated to accomplish in other arenas.

“One of the reasons why I have concerns about the term concentration camp is that it seems to me it confuses rather than clarifies and diminishes rather than helps your cause,” Stern said.

Leaders from the Jewish community also stressed that they are not attempting to define the JA experience. But they say using the term concentration camp to define the JA experience could cause unneeded confusion.

“I think that including American concentration camp as one of several alternatives to the inadequate relocation camp you are buying into complications and problems that are unnecessary and will convey to people that comparisons are being made that one of your speakers earlier acknowledged is not apropos,” Foltin said.



Andy Noguchi of the Florin Chapter introduces the Power of Words Emergency Resolution at the national convention.

“I don’t know why you would want to do that when there are other terms that are out there that can adequately convey what happened and that don’t need a qualifier of American concentration camps.”

Those in favor of passing the emergency resolution said terms like internment camp and relocation camps do not accurately convey the JA experience during WWII. These terms, some say, make it seem like confinement sites can be equated to summer camps.

“This is a very important vital turning point for the JACL where we can display the leadership necessary to move our

to be replaced. Terms like relocation camp, assembly center, relocation and evacuation are identified as problematic.

The handbook indicates that “should your chapter choose to use the term, it is recommended that the complete term ‘American concentration camp’ be used,” to avoid confusion between the JA and Jewish experience.

In 2010 the national council voted 80 to 2 to pass the original Power of Words resolution to encourage the substitution of terms like internment camps for concentration camps.

Following the passage of the Power of Words resolution in 2010 members of the JACL’s National Education Committee formed an ad-hoc committee to implement the resolution and draft a handbook to detail suggested terminology to use in discussing the JA incarceration.

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. But some JACLers say despite recommendations about accurate terminology they will continue to use terms that they feel comfortable with.

“I guess what it comes down to for me is no matter what comes out of this ... I as a Japanese American and the grandson of two folks who were in the concentration camps I will always use the word concentration camp whether we have a resolution that says we agree on incarceration camp or American concentration camp or whatever,” said Michio Murakishi, the Midwest District governor. “To me the words that will come out of my mouth are concentration camp and that’s no disrespect to anybody else’s experience.”

Supporters of the handbook say the terms included are simply suggestions and not mandated. They recognized that each individual has a different way of describing the WWII JA experience.

“The handbook was just intended to let the chapters know what the resolution said, what euphemisms are there and what alternative terminology can be used. In the end each individual, as Michio stated, each chapter is pretty much going to use the terms they feel best described what happened to them,” said David Kawamoto, JACL national president.

Seventy-eight JACL chapters and seven district youth representatives were present and had voting privileges at the national council meeting, according to Credentials Chair Reiko Yoshino.

The Power of Words handbook will be presented and voted on at the 2012 JACL national council meeting in Seattle, according to language in the resolution. ■



Mari Oye of New England JACL voices her support for the Power of Words Emergency Resolution.

community ahead,” said Andy Noguchi, with the Florin JACL chapter. “Now if we were to go with euphemisms such as evacuation, moderate terms such as internment, people wouldn’t know that the locking up, the imprisoning of my family, your families [and] fellow Americans was a real travesty of civil rights and human rights.”

Noguchi said at the July 8 JACL national board meeting that there are different types of concentration camps such as death camps, camps of genocide and prison camps, among others. Luckily for him, he said, his family was not detained in a death camp.

The Power of Words resolution in 2010 recommended that the term American concentration camp be used to avoid confusing the JA experience in the United States with the Jewish experience in Europe.

Target government euphemisms are outlined in the nine-page draft Power of Words handbook that the authors say need

JACL Nat'l Board Emphasizes Boosting Membership to Offset Its Deficit

In an effort to boost membership numbers and decrease the projected financial deficit, JACL national board members and staff were challenged with boosting membership at the national convention.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

To offset the projected budget deficit the JACL national board members at a recent meeting emphasized boosting membership numbers and fundraising to increase revenue.

The JACL national board at its July 8 and July 10 meetings urged each member to help increase membership revenues and look to the programs to make cost-cutting measures.

Larry Oda, secretary/treasurer of the national board, in his report to the board emphasized the need to rectify JACL's financial situation.

"We ended 2010 with a \$106,000 deficit. We borrowed from the national endowment earning to cover the deficit. Right now looking at our May 31 financials, memberships are about a \$37,000 deficit," Oda said. "And on one side of the financials it shows an \$80,000 deficit projected toward the year-end. Based on my calculations we're looking more at a \$100,000 deficit."

The JACL's top five revenues streams are membership dues, investment income, grants, fundraising and the *Pacific Citizen*. For 2011, \$758,686 is budgeted in membership dues. Those numbers are expected to fall to \$719,049 in 2012.

Board members kicked off the 2011 JACL national convention challenging one another to solicit donations, new members, gift memberships or upgrades within the duration of the four-day convention.

Philip Ozaki, membership coordinator, led a phone-banking tutorial during the first plenary session and reported that eight new members were recruited as a result of JACLers' efforts to boost membership numbers. He also added that they received 40 upgrades in membership on July 10.

But board members continued to express their concerns about how JACL would offset its projected deficit and repay



National board members talk membership during the national convention including (l-r) President David Kawamoto, Director Floyd Mori and Membership V.P. David Lin.

the \$100,000 borrowed from the endowment fund.

"The point I wanted to make is if we end up with an \$80,000 deficit, the board promised to repay the national endowment earnings this year," Oda said. "I'm not optimistic that we can repay it this year given the state of the budget and our membership revenues."

To minimize expenses board members suggested reducing personnel costs. Staff cuts of about \$41,000 were suggested.

Floyd Mori, JACL national director, said important staff positions have not been filled because of JACL's financial woes. He added that the board needs to look at programs to make cost-cutting measures.

"We really have to look at programs to determine what programs come out of the revenues that we're dealing with. That's where we ought to look. As all of you know we have a PSW position that's a very important position and we're not filling it because we don't have any money," Mori said. "I mean advocacy is the core of JACL and so

we've got basically one person doing fundraising, advocacy, I mean you name it because those functions have to go on."

Due to the JACL's financial deficit several other positions will remain vacant such as the youth director and director of public affairs positions.

Floyd Shimomura said last year's deficit was covered by the endowment fund earnings, which is not to be confused with the legacy fund.

"The cumulated earnings, according to the endowment fund understanding, can be used for JACL business," Shimomura said. "What's left now is basically principal. If you want to tap the endowment fund at this point you're going to have to get the three-fourths vote of the chapters to do that."

He added that until our cash flow problems are resolved we are going to continue to bleed about \$100,000 a year, which may increase if more

members are lost.

The organization's financial woes left many board members uneasy as the last day of the convention came to a close.

"When I came here this week I had this low-grade knot in my gut myself about where we were financially," said Brian Morishita, Intermountain District Council governor. "So I too am wondering what are we going to do when it becomes apparent to us that we're running into a year-end deficit?"

Morishita suggested holding a monthly conference call with national board members to monitor the financial situation. Other board members shared Morishita's concerns.

"The pain in my gut is more than low-grade," said David Kawamoto, JACL national president. "It's been that way for the entire biennium when our board inherited a six-figure deficit and has been trying to keep our heads above water and unfortunately not doing a very good job of it." ■

Plenary Sessions Address Membership and Fundraising Problems

Faced with financial strains brought about by inevitable declines in membership, Plenary Sessions I and II introduced new ideas regarding membership and fundraising.

By Christine Fukushima
Contributor

Though the theme was "Making New Waves," the mantra might as well have been "Making New Members," since the need to do so was repeated throughout the 2011 JACL national convention.

"People are dying," said Membership Coordinator Phillip Ozaki, explaining why increasing membership was such an oft-mentioned topic during the convention.

And with 50 percent of members over the age of 70, not only is the core of the JACL membership pool passing away — many are also dependent on pensions and moving into retirement homes, things that prevent aging members from renewing their memberships, says Ozaki.

As of May 31, membership monies raised thus far are below budgeted targets by almost \$38,000.

"It is not that the chapters who are doing work aren't doing enough work," Ozaki added, "It's something that we sort of have to accept."

Still, the impending loss of older members coupled with the fact that membership numbers have dropped to a low of 10,670 has forced the organization to come up with new strategies to rectify the crisis.

To help solve the JACL's financial problems resulting from rapid membership declines, Plenary Sessions I and II, held during Business Session I, were dedicated to membership and fundraising.

After covering some "fun facts on FUNdraising," Ozaki and co-facilitator Moof Mayeda encouraged their somewhat reluctant audience to take out their cell phones to call friends, family members and others who they thought might be interested in the JACL's mission statement.

Marissa Nakamura, 19, of Salt Lake City JACL called her high school friend Jimmy and convinced him to join "because of the scholarships."

"It was really exciting," she said. "I'm really good friends with him so he was just like 'whatever.'"

Others had less luck. Marissa's brother, PJ, was unable to reach the three people he called, and their friend, Daley Yoshimura did not try to call anyone.

At the end of the session, audience members reported that they had recruited eight new JACLers through the session.

But when asked if he thought audience members would implement the strategies he introduced to their own chapters, Ozaki said "no."

"I think they need to be outreached to and asked by national board members, by myself, to set it up. I don't think they will take the initiative to do it," he said.

Instead, Ozaki said he thinks that the JACL could induce membership growth by taking, and continuing to take, positions on civil rights.

"It's top-down leadership," he said. "It sort of has to come

from the top."

Hiro Nishikawa of the Philadelphia chapter agreed. Though he felt that Ozaki and Moof were "very enthusiastic" about tackling the membership problem, he thought that the solution could be found in "rebranding" the JACL rather than phone banking.

"To really begin to have a mental shift in saying JACL is a civil rights organization [and] we really are interested in helping other AAs and other Americans, that's I think where we need to go," he said.

During Plenary Session II, fundraising was discussed.

Jason Chang, vice president for planning and development, talked about the importance of finding corporate sponsorships. Brian Morishita, IDC district governor, asked audience members to describe the successful fundraisers they had hosted at their chapters.

Chang considered the workshop "just planting the seed" in the efforts to raise money for the organization.

The national JACL had a \$106,000 deficit at the end of 2010 which includes a \$37,000 membership deficit.

In Chang's opinion, the next steps to decreasing the deficit would be increasing membership and "getting into more of a retail type of market."

"One of the ideas I had was for a clothing line which the National JACL is going to work on," he said.

"With internet marketing and online stores, really it turns the whole world into your market. It's just a matter of generating interest. That by itself can help pull us out of our debt and put us into a more stable financial ground," he added. ■

Honouliuli Preservation Efforts Gain JACL's Support



Honouliuli (left) is one of 13 sites where people of Japanese descent were detained in Hawaii. Trisha Nakamura of Honolulu JACL (above) introduced the resolution which received a majority vote.

At the 42nd Annual JACL National Convention Japanese Americans voiced their support to preserve the history and legacy of the Honouliuli internment camp in Hawaii.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Efforts to preserve a Hawaii internment camp used to detain people of Japanese and German ancestry after the bombing of Pearl Harbor gained the support of the JACL.

At the 2011 JACL National Convention on July 8 delegates passed a resolution with a majority vote in support of preserving the Honouliuli site.

Seventy-eight JACL chapters that were in good standing were present at the convention and able to vote, according to Credentials Chair Reiko Yoshino. Seven district youth representatives with voting privileges were also present.

Supporters of the resolution say the history of Japanese American internment in Hawaii must be documented, preserved and maintained for future generations.

"There's a lot of misperception that no one was interned and no one was unjustly held or removed [in Hawaii]. But they were," said Trisha Nakamura, a Yonsei of the JACL Honolulu chapter. "Even if they weren't detained, the anti-

Japanese sentiment that was running rampant during World War II also existed in Hawaii. And places like Honouliuli serve as focal points to really bring up those stories and to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Colette Masunaga, of the Florin JACL chapter, also spoke in favor of the resolution.

The resolution was sponsored by the JACL Honolulu chapter and approved by the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District.

At the JACL national council meeting, Nakamura said that the National Park Service, or NPS, is finalizing a Special Resource Study to determine how to best preserve the site. That study is slated to be presented to Congress later this year.

The total cost associated with supporting the resolution is \$1,186, according to a fiscal impact statement prepared by Nakamura.

Some 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated during World War II, following the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Over 300 people of Japanese heritage and 30 people of German ancestry were held in Honouliuli, which is located in a gulch on the island of Oahu.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, or JCCH, has spearheaded preservation efforts of the site, which is owned by Monsanto. In June it was announced that the JCCH

received \$38,565 from NPS to begin a pilot program to offer tours to Honouliuli.

The JACL's resolution was one of several considered at the national convention held from July 7 to 10 in Hollywood, Calif.

Proponents of the JACL resolution say the United States Department of Interior has the necessary resources and expertise to oversee the site in the future.

Chip Larouche, Pacific Northwest District governor, motioned to amend the resolution to correct the spelling of the United States National Park Service. He also suggested changing the word internment to "unjust incarceration." With those amendments, the resolution passed unopposed.

Supporters say the preservation of the Honouliuli site will benefit Hawaii residents as well as those in the continental U.S.

"I was born and raised in Hawaii and had very little knowledge of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII," said Dawn Rego, of the Seattle chapter. "I think it would be a great service to not only the citizens of Hawaii, but also all of the United States citizens to have more education on Honouliuli [and] the injustices that occurred in Hawaii."

There was also a traditional convention courtesy resolution at the national council meeting to thank the committee for organizing the 2011 JACL convention. ■

A Proposed Change to the Supervision of the *Pacific Citizen* Fails

A proposed bylaw amendment change regarding the supervision of the *P.C.* fails to be submitted for ratification at a national council meeting, but another bylaw amendment to create a monthly membership passes.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

A proposed JACL constitutional bylaw amendment that would have changed the supervisor of the *Pacific Citizen* did not receive enough votes to be considered at a recent national council meeting.

Delegates failed to get a two-thirds majority vote to submit the JACL bylaw amendment for ratification on July 8 at the 2011 JACL national convention. The proposed amendment would have made the national director the supervisor of the *P.C.* executive editor.

Floyd Mori, who announced his retirement in April, is the current national director. The JACL constitution and bylaws indicate that the national board, with the editorial board's consultation, supervises the *P.C.* editor.

Supporters of the amendment said the bylaw change was needed to provide a "unity of command" to all JACL

staffers and provide a more efficient use of staff resources. Chip Larouche, Pacific Northwest District governor, and Jeff Selby, of the Portland JACL, drafted the amendment.

"In my opinion and experience while on the national board the reality is that having the *P.C.* editor supervised by the national board provides inadequate supervision and guidance to that very important program," Larouche said. "JACL must become more nimble if it's to survive financially. And I believe this change is necessary especially as we prepare to find a new national director."

The authors of the amendment determined there would not be a fiscal impact in changing the supervisor of the *P.C.* editor from the JACL national board to the national director.

The financial need of the JACL, say proponents of the amendment, required the change.

"I think the national council needs to consider the business need of the organization, the structural need of the organization and take personalities out of this," said Miko Sawamura, Sacramento JACL chapter president. "It's very, very important that we do have a structure in which all staff can function."

Opponents to the amendment argued that changing the supervisor of the *P.C.* could have potentially sacrificed the editorial content.

"In respect to maintaining a free press, I don't believe

that the *P.C.* should be ruled by the executive director," said James Duff, a Berkeley JACL chapter member. "It's not specific in the resolution as to whether the director would have editorial content control as well."

Others echoed Duff's sentiments.

"In 1984 as a result of the national director withholding funds from the *P.C.* because he objected to an article they ran, the national council in its wisdom said this is not how we want to do business," said Judith Aono, the *P.C.* editorial board chair and Diablo chapter member. "It's not paranoia to be afraid of something that has actually happened."

A bylaw amendment without notice was introduced to the national council on July 9 proposing the creation of three new monthly membership categories. That amendment passed with 56 to 17. There was 1 abstaining vote and five splits, making the total vote count in favor 58.5. A two-thirds majority vote of the national council was required.

The new monthly membership categories include a silver membership of \$25, a gold membership of \$50 and a platinum membership of \$100. Jason Chang, JACL vice president of planning and development, authored the amendment.

Those in support of the bylaw amendment said creating new membership categories was necessary to stabilize the organization's monthly income in a time when JACL is in a financial downfall. ■

JACL Honors Diverse, Outstanding Asian American Leaders



Honoree Lt. Dan Choi was recognized for his fight for LGBT rights. Lisa Hasegawa was praised for her work with the disenfranchised.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

In the spotlight of a darkened Hollywood ballroom, Lt. Dan Choi, dressed in his crisp military uniform, thrusts a finger to his heart to make a statement seemingly ripped from the headlines of yesterday's civil rights movement.

"I am somebody," said Choi softly at first, as the public face in the fight against the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. "I deserve full equality. Right here. Right now. I am somebody. I demand full equality."

Choi, one of JACL's Outstanding National Leadership Award winners, received the organization's award at the July 9 Culmination Banquet and asked the audience to join him in demanding justice.

"Will you say that with me? I am somebody. I deserve full equality. Right here. Right now. I am somebody. I demand full equality."

The Korean American Iraq War veteran and Arabic linguist, who was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard last year for talking publicly about his sexual orientation, was among the three diverse award recipients including Father Vien Nguyen, the Vietnamese American pastor of New Orleans' Mary Queen of Viet Nam Catholic Church, and Lisa Hasegawa, the granddaughter of a Tule Lake internee who advocates for the community development needs of low-income Asian Pacific Americans.

The leadership awards and the diverse recipients are a nod to the convention's theme, "JACL 2.0."

Fighting For Honor

Choi, an Anaheim, Calif.-born son of a Southern Baptist pastor and a West Point graduate called the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy an "immoral law" when he came out publicly on a popular cable news television show. Since his television appearance in 2009, Choi has become the default national spokesperson for gay rights in the military.

Last year, Choi was arrested several times during public protests against Don't Ask, Don't Tell, including last March when the Iraq War veteran handcuffed himself to the White House fence.

All this, he said in a previous interview with the *Pacific Citizen*, was for the freedom to love.

"West Point taught me honor," said Choi at the event, which included dignitaries like Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro Fujisaki, Calif. State Controller John Chiang and Rep. Judy Chu. "We don't always understand the meaning of honor. Sometimes it's used as a punchline relegated to Hollywood. Well, honor is real and honor lives whenever we

sacrifice on behalf of justice, when we sacrifice on behalf of those who cannot stand up for themselves."

Choi, who JACL National Director Floyd Mori called a "hero," was honored for advocating for the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

A federal appeals court that has called for the immediate halt of the military's ban on openly gay troops has issued an order requiring the U.S. government to state whether it will continue to defend the constitutionality of the policy in court.

"When you struggle for justice, you do not struggle for just yourself," said Choi.

The JACL was one of the first national organizations to fully support ending discrimination against LGBTs in the



Father Nguyen was honored by the JACL for his work helping the Vietnamese American community in the Gulf Coast.

military.

"The same people that can incarcerate you and the same bigotry that can treat you as second-class citizens [is] the same bigotry that is alive today. When you stand up for yourself you stand up for everyone else to follow. You say 'Never again will you treat my people or any people like second-class when their sacrifices are first-class,'" said Choi.

Pan Asian Leadership

"You blazed a trail. You came to us, to my community, to me and gave us the secret," said Nguyen, a new Gulf Coast JACL member about the JACL's support of the APA community after Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill devastated New Orleans.

The Vietnam born pastor who came to the U.S. in 1963 has spent many years helping the area's predominately Vietnamese American residents pick up the pieces after a

hurricane deluged their homes and an unprecedented oil spill decimated their livelihood. He also led a campaign against a toxic landfill in his community.

Through it all, Nguyen has been a constant figure of support. In partnering with the JACL to help the Gulf Coast's Vietnamese American community, the Notre Dame Seminary graduate was honored with the leadership award for improving the lives of APAs in the Gulf Coast.

"The Vietnamese American community is seeing for themselves now that civil rights is not just a privilege, but actually rights of the citizens of this country," said Nguyen. "And JACL we thank you for that."

We liked it so much that we formed a new JACL chapter in the Gulf Coast, Nguyen added.

"It's really kind of strange when you go to a meeting of that chapter because there are only two or three Japanese Americans and the rest are Vietnamese Americans," he added. "May we continue to be the light in the dark. May we continue to be the voice of the voiceless. May we continue to give solidarity for the invisible communities who are voiceless."

Fighting for the Disenfranchised

Hasegawa was honored with JACL's leadership award for her advocacy on the issues of housing and community development in the APA community.

The executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD) said her own family history influences her to be a better advocate for the disenfranchised.

At the height of wartime hysteria during World War II, Hasegawa's mother and her family were deported to Japan for simply sharing the same ancestry as the people who attacked Pearl Harbor.

"It was my grandfather's first trip to Japan," said Hasegawa at the event. The decision was made to keep the family together, she added.

"[This] story allows me to really connect with the immigrant story here in the United States," she said. "To be a better advocate and to be able to connect personally with the stories of immigrants and refugees."

Hasegawa, a Washington, D.C. JACL member, is also an active board member of the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the American Progressive Caucus Policy Foundation.

"I take those stories of Japanese Americans and I have tried to bring them to the work I've done ... and to have the courage to fight against big banks, big federal agencies, to be able to fight for the rights of everyone," she said. ■

Community Activists Receive JACL's Inaugural Impact Awards



Honorees Traci Kato-Kiriyama and Alan Nishio were praised by JACLers and JA leaders for their commitment to the community.

By Lynda Lin
Assistant Editor

Three Japanese American activists were awarded with the JACL's inaugural Community Impact Award at the organization's first annual convention in Hollywood, Calif.

Alan Nishio, current chair of the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council; Paul Osaki, the executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California; and Traci Kato-Kiriyama, founder of Little Tokyo's Tuesday Night Project and a multi-disciplinary artist, were honored at the July 8 awards luncheon.

"We've stood on the shoulders of giants who have preceded us. And so the people we are honoring today are no less giants," said Norman Mineta, former U.S. Sec. of Transportation, who was a guest speaker at the event.

Nishio, Osaki and Kato-Kiriyama were recognized for their leadership and involvement in the JA community in their respective fields.

Alan Nishio

"There truly could not be a better inaugural group of people than [the one] you picked today especially Alan Nishio," said Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), who has known Nishio since their college days at the University of California, Berkeley almost 50 years ago.

"His whole adult life has been committed to civil rights [and] social justice for people who need help and for those who are disadvantaged," added Watanabe.

Nishio, who in 2006 retired as the associate vice president for student services at California State University, Long Beach, is dedicated to higher education issues. In 1969, he helped establish the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles. Today, the program has the largest faculty and the largest teaching program in Asian American Studies in the nation, according to its website.

During the Redress Movement of the 1970s and 1980s, Nishio was integral in helping to push the bill through Congress demanding an apology and monetary reparations from the government for the World War II unjust incarceration of JAs.

He has also served as LTSC board president for much of the organization's 31 years of existence, said Watanabe.

"When we talk about community impact, we've all been blessed to be able to spend some time in the trenches

with other people with similar values," said Nishio at the luncheon. "The only awkward part is when you recognize an individual for the efforts of something that so many others have done as a movement."

At the event, the Gardena Valley JACL member shared with attendees that he has been battling cancer for the last five years.

"That moment made me look at my mortality and what my life is about," said Nishio, who added that this life-changing event has made him realize the importance of his legacy — not the legacy that comes in awards and plaques — but the values and lessons he can pass onto the next generation.



Awardee Paul Osaki has led the JCCCNC for 24 years.

Traci Kato-Kiriyama

In 1999 the self-proclaimed activist and artist helped establish Tuesday Night Project (TNP), a free public art venue dedicated to community engagement and artistic expression. TNP hosts a free open mike event called the 1st & 3rd Tuesday Night Cafe in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

But her roots run deep because she grew up in the embrace of the community. Her father George Kiriyama, who passed away in 2005, was active in the JACL and the education community as a teacher, principal and member of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) board of education. Her mother, Iku Kiriyama, is also a retired lifelong educator with the LAUSD and member of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California.

"Whatever activities took us out into the community also included Traci and son George," said Iku Kiriyama to the *Pacific Citizen*. "Because it is important to feel useful."

"I'm being rewarded for being lucky and having the privilege of being raised by my parents and my community," said Kato-Kiriyama about the community impact award.

Through her spoken word and multi-disciplinary performances, Kato-Kiriyama has sparked a "catalyst for young people to be comfortable with themselves, by themselves and to speak about themselves," said Gary Mayeda, the 42nd JACL National Convention chair who has known Kato-Kiriyama and her family for about 18 years.

The San Fernando Valley JACL member was honored with the community impact award for her work to bring together art and the community.

Kato-Kiriyama is a recent author of, "signaling", a book of poetry. She also teaches and facilitates creative writing, performance and team-building workshops throughout the country.

"She brought lyrics, melodies and a fierce soul to the culture of the Asian Pacific Islander community through spoken word, through song, just through her voice," said Assembly Member Warren Furutani, the luncheon's emcee.

Paul Osaki

Whether it's fighting to preserve California's last remaining Japantowns or raising funds to help the victims of the March 11 Japan earthquake and tsunami, Paul Osaki "will never shy away from taking on an issue," said Kaz Maniwa, a San Francisco-based attorney who has known Osaki for over 25 years.

Maniwa presented the community impact award to Osaki, the executive director of San Francisco's Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC). Osaki was recognized for his leadership in the JA community and his accomplishments in U.S.-Japan relations.

Shortly after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Japan on March 11, the JCCCNC established the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. To date, the fund has received over \$2.6 million, the largest JA community-based relief fund in the U.S.

After the 1996 Kobe, Japan earthquake, Osaki helped raise over \$600,000 in relief efforts.

"The need for a national organization like the JACL is more important than ever as we change and shift from one generation to another and as we move from a monoethnic community to a vast, great diversity of new generations," said Osaki.

The community has come a long way. Things have become much better for people of color, said Osaki, but "our job is to continue educating and advocating. It is not over." ■



ALL THE SINGLE LADIES!: Grace Avery, 11, the daughter of Ann Avery, strikes a pose in front of the wax figure of pop singer Beyoncé at the JACL welcome mixer, which took place at Madame Tussauds wax museum.

HOLLYWOOD: JACL 2.0



1. At the VIP reception, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki (right) greets JACLers including Mile-Hi JACLER Dr. Frank Sakamoto.



2. Jason Chang, JACL vice president for planning and development, peruses silent auction items with his daughter, Amari.





1.



2.

‘There was tremendous synergy in the workshops that I attended.’

— **RON KATSUYAMA**,
JACL vice president for public affairs
(pictured below)



3.



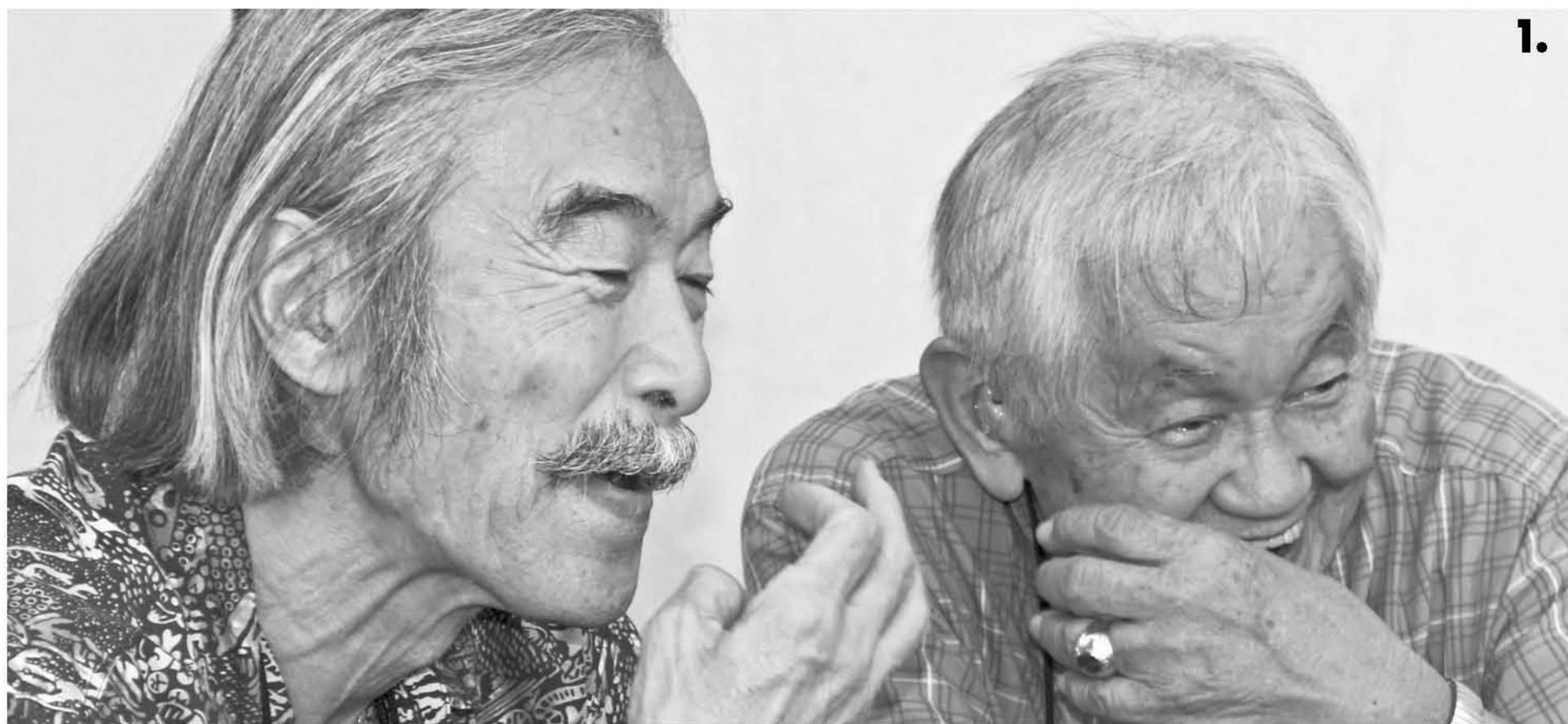
4.

1. South Bay JACler **KENT KAWAI** votes for a resolution during council session.

2. PNW JACler **KAILA YOSHITOMI** helps with the silent auction.

3. **MICHELLE YOSHIDA**, parliamentarian, looks over Robert's Rules of Order with **PAUL UYEHARA**, constitution and bylaws committee chair.

4. Actress **TAMLYN TOMITA** entertains and educates as emcee of the culmination banquet.



1. STANLEY KANZAKI (*left*), from New York JACL, shares a laugh with HARRY HONDA, *P.C.* editor emeritus.

2. JEFF ITAMI, Salt Lake City JACler, rubs elbows with Penelope Cruz's wax figure.

3. TOMOKO ROUDEBUSH, Diablo Valley JACL, poses with REP. MIKE HONDA.

4. APA youth listen to panelists at the Nikkei Conference.

5. (*L-r*) LILLIA YAMADA and JOHN YAMADA, of Eden Township JACL, with MIKO SAWAMURA of the Sacramento JACL.





1. PSW JACL convention committee members with actress TAMLYN TOMITA (left).



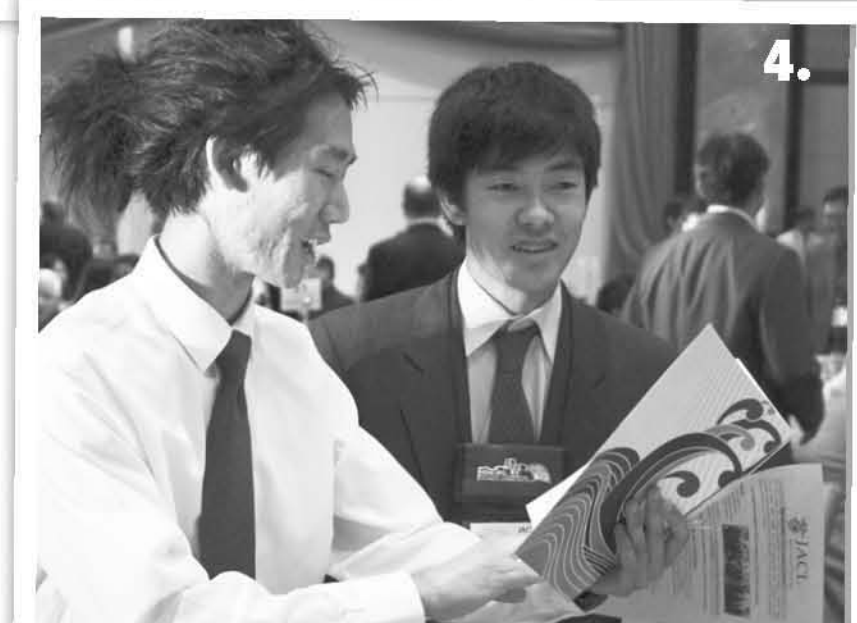
2. MDC District Gov. MICHIO MURAKISHI during a national board meeting.

PHOTOS BY:
Nalea J. Ko
Lynda Lin
Christine Fukushima

3. IDC District Gov. BRIAN MORISHITA addresses the national council.

4. KAZ UYEHARA (left) and KOTA MIZUTANI look through the banquet booklet.

5. NORMAN MINETA, former secretary of transportation, speaks to the audience at the awards luncheon.





for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

Welcome New York

It's only a matter of time. Things change, people change, and what were once unthinkable social intrusions on mainstream notions of "normal" evolve over time into norms so acceptable that hardly anyone even notices. Black and white relationships, Asian and white (especially Asian men and white women), and same-sex relationships.

Last month, New York State, the nation's most populous state, approved a measure that legalizes same-sex marriages, making New York the sixth state in the country to legalize gay marriages.

And in doing so, New York joined Iowa, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont and the District of Columbia. Four other states — Hawaii, Delaware, Illinois and New Jersey — allow civil unions of same-sex partners.

Same-sex marriage is banned in 39 states, including California, where the battleground for Prop. 8 was waged a few years ago. Right wing forces and religious groups joined to force the state to undo a same-sex marriage measure that had been approved in San Francisco, and the infamous Prop. 8 ban killed the state's same-sex marriage initiative.

But it's only a matter of time.

There was a time when it was illegal for mixed-race marriages, and in some states, it was illegal even for mixed-race relationships. And if it wasn't illegal, it was so unacceptable that black men were hung from trees in the middle of the night for daring to have relationships with white women.

By the same token, white women were not allowed to marry Asian men at one time. There was the infamous Cable Act of 1922 which stripped a white woman of her American citizenship if she married an Asian man, or as the act put it, "any alien not eligible for citizenship" (the same language, incidentally, used in the Alien Land Laws). There were state laws that specifically forbade the marriage of white women with Asian men, the reason being the same as a white-black relationship; namely, that such unions were "unnatural." To the religious fanatics, it was against the laws of nature and of their gods.

It was absurd in 1922, and frankly, it's absurd today to have such archaic thinking.

What was once said about mixed-race relationships is used today as arguments against same-sex marriages, that it's unnatural and

against the laws of nature and God. But what was bigotry then is just as much bigotry today because ultimately, it's about the rights of a class of people.

Or to put it another way, it's about what we deny to a class simply because of who they are, even though we give that same right to every other person in society, no matter how good or bad they may be.

It's about the civil rights of a class of people.

It's not that people couldn't stand a black man for being black (well, they actually couldn't but that's another matter) so much as it was that they couldn't stand the *idea* of a black man being intimate with a white woman and the kinds of unimaginable things that could take place in that relationship.

By the same token, whites couldn't stand the idea of a white woman being intimate with an Asian man. Unnatural and against the laws of nature and

God.

What was used to argue against relationships in the past are the same arguments against gay and lesbian marriages, and if it weren't so abhorrent it would be silly. The idea of intimacy between two people is no one's business except those two people, be they heterosexual, homosexual, black, white, yellow, brown, green, purple or chartreuse.

Dirty minds make for dirty laws.

But things change. It's inevitable, and it's only a matter of time that same-sex marriages will be the law of the land.

If you look at corporate America, one of the true social barometers of change, you see the social mirror being held up with same-sex and mixed-race relationships as a common part of life in America. Look at commercials on television and ads in the papers. It's so common to see black and yellow faces that we don't even notice anymore (well, almost don't notice).

When the most populous state in the nation, and a state that everyone looks to, approves a same-sex marriage measure, it signals a major victory for gay rights advocates and civil rights groups. And it signals the change that will take place in this country.

Prop. 8 in California wasn't the last of it. I guarantee that. I'm sure New York has given new life to rainbow advocates here in the West Coast, and maybe, just maybe, it's their time. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.



NIKKEI
VOICE
BY GIL ASAKAWA

A Tribute to Hosokawa

Many readers of the *Pacific Citizen* — especially older readers — will be familiar with the name Bill Hosokawa.

He wrote a column that ran in the *P.C.* for decades, "From the Frying Pan," which was a running commentary on Japanese America. In 1969 he published the first comprehensive history of Japanese Americans, "Nisei: The Quiet Americans," which included information about internment. In 1982 he published "JACL: The Quest for Justice," a history of JACL. He also published a collection of "Frying Pan" columns with added observations in 1998.

His final book, published in 2005, was "Colorado's Japanese Americans: From 1886 to the Present," which most *P.C.* readers probably aren't familiar with. Even at age 90, when he wrote the book, he was an agile wordsmith and a witty and straightforward storyteller, a gift that served him well in his long career as a journalist. He died two years later, in 2007.

In the JACL universe, Hosokawa has a large national profile. He didn't always agree with JACL, and could be curmudgeonly and quick to criticize the organization or even the *P.C.* But his name is one of the foundations of our community's national history.

In Colorado, he's downright legendary, and not just with JAs. His legacy looms large in Denver and throughout his adopted state for his work as a writer and editor, a supporter of civil rights and a diplomat who built lasting bridges with Japan. He was, as he used to quip, "The most famous Japanese American in Japan."

That legacy is being celebrated with an appropriate acknowledgement. A Bill Hosokawa Memorial Committee (full disclosure: to which I've recently been drafted) is overseeing the sculpting of a bust of Hosokawa to be reproduced and placed in two locations: The Denver Public Library main branch downtown, and the Denver Botanic Gardens.

The Denver Botanic Gardens is paying further tribute by naming its redesigned and expanded Japanese Gardens the Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion and Japanese Garden.

It may seem like a lot of attention if you only knew Hosokawa through his columns in the *P.C.* and the handful of books he's written. Outside of the JACL, he was a reporter and editor for many years with *The Denver Post*, and ran the newspaper's Sunday magazine, "Empire," through its peak years of the '60s and '70s. After decades with the *Post* he worked for the rival *Rocky Mountain News* until he retired in 1992.

Throughout his career he maintained the "From the Frying Pan" columns in the *P.C.*, and he also wrote a weekly column in Denver's Japanese community newspaper, *The Rocky Mountain Jiho*. I was fortunate enough to join him as a columnist for the *Jiho* for a few years until the paper folded.

Outside of journalism, Hosokawa saw the importance of promoting better relationships with Japan.

He was a founding force behind the Japan America Society of Colorado, which promotes cultural and business ties between the state and Japan. And, in 1976 he took on the role of honorary consul general of Japan in Colorado, a position he held until 1999.

The Denver Botanic Gardens' current Japanese Gardens is already a much-loved feature and is one of the most popular attractions within the gardens. Once the expansion is complete, the Hosokawa name will denote not just the current bonsai gardens and traditional tea house and garden, but also an indoor area for more fragile bonsai and a space to host events; enhancements to the Tea Garden, and a Sand and Stone Garden.

The Botanic Gardens is in the midst of a fundraising campaign to make these plans come to life; the expansion is due to be finished next year with great fanfare.

It would have been interesting to read what he'd write about the hullabaloo. I bet it would have been funny, smart and humble — that's how he lived his life, and how he wrote about it. ■

Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. editorial board chair.

'Dirty
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for dirty
laws.'

'In the JACL
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Defining 'Japanese America'

The Nikkei Conference tackled its theme head-on through workshops facilitated by APA leaders.

By Christine Fukushima
Contributor

With a disproportionately large percentage of Japanese American senior citizens and the growth of the JA community being driven by multiracial populations, it is clear that the face of Japanese America has changed since the creation of the JACL in 1929.

But the question remains: what are the implications of these changes?

"It's a tough question," said Matt Ichinose, 22, who attended the Nikkei Conference with fellow University of California, Los Angeles Nikkei Student Union members.

Ichinose, a recent graduate of UCLA, came to the conference on July 8 with only a general idea of how to answer the above-mentioned question.

"Maybe [it's about] intergenerational issues between the older generations [and] the Yonsei generation," he said. "Maybe [it's about] trying to identify what the Yonsei generation or even the Gosei generation can do for the future of Japanese America."

Co-hosted by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJALCLC) and the JACL, the inaugural Nikkei Conference addressed "The State of Japanese America" in order to provide participants like Ichinose with a better understanding of the topic.

The day's events brought together representatives from prominent JA and Asian Pacific American organizations, such as the Little Tokyo Services Center (LTSC), OCA and the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

By bringing these different organizations together, Alan Nishio, president of the board of LTSC Community Development Corporation, wanted to emphasize common threads that run through the APA community and other minority communities. It is in these commonalities that he believes the future state of the JA community can be found.

"Everyone, whether you're JA or whatever, looks for community and if we build a community based on values and culture and associations, people will come. And we will have a bright future as a result of that," said Nishio.

Conference participants attended workshops on topics such as arts and culture, U.S.-Japan relations, serving Nikkei seniors and historic preservation.

As was fitting for his topic, professor Thomas Fujita-Rony, co-facilitator of the historic preservation workshop, believes that the lessons of history remain a vital component of the state of Japanese America, which is partially defined by its legacy of activism.

After Sept. 11th, the Cal State Fullerton professor of Asian American Studies observed how this legacy inspired one of

his former students to take a stand against Muslim discrimination.

"The Cal State Fullerton student newspaper came out very, very strongly in defense of civil liberties and civil rights and the editor was one of my former students," he said. "And she told me later that yeah, because it [the JA internment] happened, she just saw the parallels instantly. That's the kind of thing I would like to think happens."

Likewise, UCLA NSU member Ile Rosas thinks that Japanese America's activist past has important implications for its current state and potential.

Coming from a non-JA perspective, Rosas, who is Puerto Rican, says she has found that the state of Japanese America is not relevant only to JAs. Through her involvement in NSU as well as her participation in workshops like those held at the Nikkei Conference, she says she has observed how an understanding of JA culture and history can also yield significant lessons for people of different ethnicities.

"Even though I myself am not Japanese American it helps me understand the community that I'm in," she said. "And so the state of Japanese America I feel is still ever growing, ever changing and it is a good foundation."

According to Melany de la Cruz of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, in 2009 the JA population was 1.3 million and the primary source of growth was from multiracial populations. In addition, one in four Japanese in the U.S. are foreign-born.

Though Kaz Uyehara, delegate for the Philadelphia chapter, did not feel that he learned much about the state of Japanese America, he did see it as an opportunity to change the state of JAs in the U.S.

"Right now we could be doing a better job at getting our youth involved and we could be doing a better job at bringing up young leaders," said Uyehara, who is a high school teacher.

West L.A. JACL member Jean Shigematsu, a self-described "Nisei and a half" and a regular at conventions and JACL events, agreed that the youth are an important factor in the current state of Japanese America.

According to de la Cruz, the number of JA senior citizens ages 65 and older is disproportionately large compared to the overall JA population.

"There's going to be a lot more need for participation on the part of the new generation," Shigematsu added. "We don't have enough representation, I don't think, in the political field as far as the Japanese American community and what affects the community."

By the end of the conference, Ichinose had a much clearer understanding of what the state of Japanese America is.

He believes that though there are problems in "bridging the gap" between generations, there is hope that the community can be united by new youth leadership.

Ichinose said he felt a freshly instilled passion to "become a future torch" in his community after the conference. ■



The Nikkei Conference drew a diverse audience including Japanese American Matt Ichinose (left) and Puerto Rican American Ile Rosas.



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

ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

August 4-13	Yamato Canadian Rockies, with a difference - 10 days/9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, Philippe Theriault Rail to Prince George & Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River and Victoria.	
September 13-19 <i>NEW DATES</i>	South Dakota, The Black Hills & Badlands with Collette Vacations - 7 days/6 nights, Sharon Seto featuring a one hotel stay in Rapid City for the 6 nights, visiting Keystone, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer, Deadwood, Pine Ridge and Badlands.	
September 13-23	Yamato Oktoberfest Tour - 11 days/9 nights visiting Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich. Philippe Theriault	
Sep. 26-Oct. 5	Yamato Eastern Canada Fall Foliage Tour - 10 days/9 nights visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton. Philippe Theriault	
Oct. 1-13	Route 66 with Balloon Fiesta with Trafalgar Tours - 13 days/12 nights visiting Chicago, Sharon Seto St. Louis, Branson, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Albuquerque (Balloon Fiesta), Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Los Angeles.	
October 17-31	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Peggy Mikuni Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto, Tokyo.	
Oct. 31-Nov. 14	Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations - 15 days/12 nights visiting Cairns, Collette Escort (Great Barrier Reef) & Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Mt. Cook Nat'l Park, Queenstown, & Milford Sound, New Zealand.	
Nov. 13-21	The Heart of Texas with Collette Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting Austin, San Antonio, Sharon Seto Bandera (dude ranch) and Fort Worth.	
December 3-12	Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Philippe Theriault Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.	

* * *

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Youth at the JACL National Convention Call for Greater Advocacy



New England JACler Mari Michener Oye and Philadelphia JACler Kaz Uyehara.

By Christine Fukushima
Contributor

Armed with strong social consciences and bright green voting cards, youth at the 2011 JACL national convention proved that Facebook messaging and tweeting aren't the only ways to get their attention.

Many of the estimated 50 youth attending the convention say they joined the JACL because of their passion for civil rights advocacy. Like previous generations, the opportunity to be part of a movement for progress sparked their interest in the organization.

"The JACL has a unique opportunity. Since it's such a national organization, it is locally the one network for all JAs around the nation to connect with each other," said Devin Yoshikawa, national board youth representative.

Sonoma County chapter member Kota Mizutani, 15, attended the convention hoping to one day become a delegate.

"I'm like always the youngest person here," he said with a smile. This was his second JACL convention.

As a Shin-Nisei - his parents were born in Japan - Kota, who joined the JACL after hearing about it through his taiko

group, represents the new generation's diversity. Frequently emphasized during the convention, out-marriage and immigration from Japan has changed the ethnic makeup of the young JA community.

"I think it's really healthy that we adapt because we're one of the oldest civil rights organizations and everything, so I think that it's really good that we kind of form to the new demography," Kota said.

Like Kota, most youth at the convention say they are cognizant of their generation's growing multiracialism and excited about its implications for the civil rights work of the JACL.

Jen Ungvichian, who is of Korean and Thai descent, is one such non-JA youth who joined because of the organization's civil rights agenda.

Ungvichian says she comes from a community that is fragmented with several grassroots organizations. "It was really important for me to be part of an organization that had roots but that also had the energy and the foresight... to move with the times essentially," she said.

Yoshikawa was similarly drawn to the JACL because of its dedication to issues affecting the broader Asian American community.

Drenched from head to toe with sweat and alligator-infested bayou water, Yoshikawa and fellow National Youth/Student Council members crawled through mud this past May to help a fellow Asian American community in need.

"I think to be honest we, Matt [Farrells, youth council chair] and I, after talking we never thought in our lives we would be doing such a service project. We never thought we would be out in the bayou," said Yoshikawa.

But in the name of environmental justice, to the bayou they went.

The council was tasked with replanting the marsh grass that had failed to grow back after the BP oil spill. The project allowed them to give back to the region's Vietnamese American fishing community.

"Listening to how it's affected their community and learning more about some

of those issues [has] helped the council be more aware of what our community needs and allows us to advocate on their behalf," said Farrells.

"I think that the JACL has a lot of potential in advocating for civil rights and human rights of all people of color," he said.

Philadelphia chapter delegate Kaz Uyehara, 22, also attended the trip to New Orleans. He joined the JACL because his grandmother Grayce, a JACL member, was a strong advocate for redress.

"I've definitely felt a family legacy towards JACL and civil rights work," he said.

Many of the young people at the conference praised the organization's support of programs like the Environmental Justice Youth Summit in New Orleans for youth in leadership positions. But some were critical of the lack of incentives JACL has provided for youth to become ordinary, dues-paying members.

"For this convention they're talking a lot about increasing membership and I think the youth is definitely a good source of new membership," said Kelly Honda, a 22-year-old recent UCSD graduate.

Honda recalled how JACL representatives would attend her Nikkei Student Union meetings twice a year to give an introduction about the organization, but then she never saw them again, she said.

She joined the JACL because she wanted to attend the convention and become more involved in the JA community. But Honda says she wishes the organization would provide stronger reasons for her peers to also pay the \$30 student membership fee.

But despite their critiques and suggestions, across the board youth said they appreciate the opportunities that the JACL gives them to pursue their interests in advocacy and social justice.

"I'm giving back to the community, I'm helping advance our community socially and it's allowed me to have experiences that I normally would not have without it," Farrells said. ■

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JACL, Japanese American Leaders Honor Floyd Mori



JACL National Director Floyd Mori (above) was honored by JACL leaders and dignitaries for his many years of service to the organization.

Immediate former national director John Tateishi called Mori a "remarkable national director."

The current JACL national director is retiring before the end of the year.

For his longtime service to the JACL and the Asian Pacific American community, several prominent APA leaders paid tribute to Floyd Mori at the July 9 Culmination Banquet.

In April, Mori announced his retirement from the position of JACL national director, ending a career with the organization that John Tateishi described as "phenomenal."

"You have in Floyd someone who has been a remarkable national director," said Tateishi, the immediate past JACL national director.

Rep. Mike Honda and former Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta also paid tribute to Mori after a video retrospective was presented on his career and achievements.

"I didn't do much during the time I was there [at JACL] I just had some good people around me," said Mori, who also received a gift package and a gift certificate to a golf resort from the national board.

In late 2006, Mori served as interim national director when ill health forced Tateishi to leave the post. Mori was appointed as Tateishi's replacement in January 2007.

Previously, Mori served four years as national JACL president and four years as a vice president on the national board. Having been involved with the JACL for most of his life, he also served as the JACL director of public policy in Washington, D.C.

With the JACL, Mori is credited with an aggressive outreach to the victims of Katrina and the BP oil spill as well as promoting relationships with communities impacted by the hysteria of Sept. 11.

Mori has developed the organization in much broader ways, said Tateishi, like building coalitions in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and assisting the Vietnamese American community.

"What he did there was so absolutely critical," he added. "And he sent me an e-mail one day and said, 'I

think we're going to have a Vietnamese chapter.' And I thought, 'that's typical. This is what he does.'"

Mori has strengthened ties with Japan and spearheaded a successful partnership with Direct Relief International in raising funds for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

He has led a drive to collaborate and form partnerships with other organizations. He has also developed corporate relationships that have been financially beneficial to the JACL.

Prior to his career with the JACL, Mori served as a mayor and city councilman of Pleasanton, Calif. as well as a State Assemblyman and director of the Office of International Trade for the state of California.

It's his political experience that Honda credits with effecting change in Washington, D.C. including the passage of the Camp Preservation Bill with the help of Rep. Bill Thomas, Mori's colleague and friend in the Assembly.

Mori has also taught economics at Chabot College in Hayward, Calif., and was involved in private business in Utah for many years.

Every step of the way, he has been supported by his wife, Irene.

"In every job he has undertaken, he has done it with integrity, so we have been honored by Floyd's service with the tremendous support and help of Irene," said Mineta.

Mori, who in April said his plans are to leave before the end of the year, said his departure isn't an official retirement.

"JACL is part of my DNA," he said. "I'm really not retiring. I'm going to change my pace a little bit."

He has plans to spend more time with his family and grandchildren, said Mori.

"Certainly I intend to do my part and do whatever I can to enhance goals that we all have ..." he added. "You ain't seen the last of Floyd Mori. I'll be around one way or another and I hope you will be as welcoming to me in the future as you have in the past." ■

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MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

together in the late 1970s and we developed a close friendship. When I told him what we were trying to do, he offered to carry the bill. It was extremely beneficial and important to have a Republican sponsor at a time when there was a Republican president in the White House and a Republican majority in the House and Senate. Congressman Thomas was the sponsor with 114 co-sponsors.

In 2005, when I became the JACL director of public policy in Washington, D.C., we continued to push forward on the bill with the Congressman and with the support of John Tateishi, then JACL national director Gerald Yamada, a Washington, D.C. JACL member who was representing the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, also worked with us.

With the Congressman's leadership on the bill, which was introduced on April 6, 2005, it passed the House on Nov. 16, 2005. The bill then passed the Senate on Nov. 16, 2006, and was signed into law by President George W. Bush on Dec. 21, 2006. We are deeply indebted to Congressman Thomas and others who supported the measure. The JACL presented Congressman Thomas with an award for his significant contributions.

The bill authorized \$38 million for preservation. However, it required a second phase of obtaining appropriations to actually distribute funds. This means that the JACL continuously works to have that money appropriated and placed in the budget bill. We meet with the Department of Interior, the NPS, and

members of Congress on an ongoing basis to ensure that money is appropriated each year. Awardees are selected by the NPS.

In 2010, JACL received an NPS grant of \$150,000 to run our Bridging Communities program. This program, which allows young people from the Japanese American and Muslim American communities to come together to learn about their parallel history, was successfully carried out initially in the Pacific Southwest district under the direction of Craig Ishii, the immediate past PSW regional director. It was later expanded to the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District under Patty Wada, and the Pacific Northwest (PNW) District under Karen Yoshitomi. Interns Alex Margolin, Jess Kyo and Mackenzie Walker have worked on the program.

The names of the 2011 NPS grant awardees have been released. Although the JACL submitted an application, unfortunately, we did not receive a grant this year. This was a huge disappointment given the success of the Bridging Communities program and the JACL's extensive work in this area. Some JACL members who are aware of the Bridging Communities program have insisted that it must not be cut. We are sorry when it becomes necessary to discontinue any youth programs, but funding is the determining factor. We are currently trying to secure other funding, but these programs cannot continue if funds are not available.

This NPS grant program has benefited many organizations that are working to keep this important part of history alive. ■

'This NPS grant program has benefited many organizations that are working to keep this important part of history alive.'

SELANOCO JACL Announces 2011-12 Hiromi Ueha Memorial Scholarship



Hiromi Ueha, a former national JACL youth chair, was a dedicated leader and advocate in the Japanese American community before her untimely passing in 2006. In her honor, her family and the SELANOCO chapter continue to offer a scholarship in her name.

Ueha was a single mother to her son Chandler, going to school full-time and working part-time. Through her involvement with Tomo No Kai, a

Japanese American cultural club at UCI, and through the SELANOCO chapter of the JACL, she became a leader in the JA community.

Ueha served as chapter president, district governor and national youth student chair.

After her death in April 2006, the Ueha family and the SELANOCO chapter began a \$500 scholarship in her memory to help a student facing similar challenges, such as single parenthood, while attending school.

No minimum GPA or test scores are required. Special consideration will be given to single parents or those facing significant hardships.

A completed application and a one-page essay must be received by July 30.

The winner will be selected by Aug. 12, Ueha's birthday. ■

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