

AUG. 5-18, 2011



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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522nd vets take on  
Power of Words.



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Empowerment in  
APA sororities.



## PAGE 9

Shay Mitchell of  
'Pretty Little Liars'

# DON! DON! DON!

Taiko groups  
set to  
dominate at  
the North  
American Taiko  
Conference.

PHOTO: --MARK--/FLICKR





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JACL Conventions Go Green



JACL delegates vote during the business session of the recent 42nd national convention in Los Angeles.

I was curious to see how many pages all together were filed on the one CD distributed to chapter delegates and convention leaders at the recent 42nd National JACL Convention. This is a very "go green" future for JACL conventions, national or district.

Sitting two rows behind Kaz Ueyhara (PHI) with his laptop loaded with documents, he didn't have to hunt for papers in a folder or two. At the same time, it spares the *Pacific Citizen* from printing issues up for serious

debate.

One of these days, instead of waving a green "present" card, a "yea" and "nay" vote on motions before the floor can be recorded by the parliamentarian, clerk of the convention or whomever.

How well I remember the 1996 national convention at San Jose when the biennial budget was being debated with figures cast on the huge screen.

**Harry K. Honda**  
P.C. Editor Emeritus

### A Thank You to JACL

I am a Caucasian woman who married into the Japanese American world after entering the second half of my life. At the time I had no idea of the wonders this would bring to me. I am on my way home from my third JACL national convention and I am still feeling a warm glow from the awards luncheon and the banquet.

There were many awesome people being awarded well deserved accolades but after Lt. Daniel Choi gave his acceptance speech I felt such pride in being a member of JACL that I can find no way to describe it. I felt like dancing on the table but I didn't want to embarrass my husband Tom or my brother-in-law Hiro.

Being a part of an organization that works so hard to bring about a better world for everyone in it is awesome. I learn so much from your workshops and breakout sessions. Thank you JACL for letting me be a part of this wonderful organization. Thank you for the wonderful work you do, and thank you for another one of your amazing conventions.

**Greer Nishikawa**  
Silicon Valley JACL

\* \* \*

### Power of Words

How about "illegal prison camps"? The intent is accuracy.

**Celia Sekijima**  
Via email

Send signed letters with your name and contact information

to: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org) or mail to:

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Letters may be edited for length.

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Another Successful National JACL Convention

By Floyd Mori



The JACL just completed its 42nd National JACL Convention at the Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood. It was another successful convention which

was the first on the annual convention schedule. The host was the Pacific Southwest District with Gary Mayeda as convention chair.

Conventions require a lot of work from a lot of people in order to be successful. In addition to our thanks to Gary, we are also grateful to others who worked hard on the convention and supported the events: Sonya Kuki, Karen Yoshitomi, Kerry Kaneichi, the PSW district and chapters, the convention committee, national JACL staff and board, delegates, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, panelists, awardees, guests, boosters, volunteers, and to everyone else who supported the convention in any way. I would especially like to recognize the work of the national JACL staff, including fellows and interns. We were happy to see so many young people

involved since they are our future and we have shifted a major focus to youth programs. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the convention.

We offer our condolences to Gary and his family on the loss of Gary's mother who passed away just prior to the start of the convention after a bout with cancer. We know it was a difficult time for Gary and we appreciate all his

*'Conventions are a time to conduct the business of the organization, to make new friends, and to renew old friendships.'*

work.

Sponsors are very important, and we thank our sponsors: State Farm, Southwest Airlines, AT&T, Union Bank, Comcast, Eli Lilly, National JACL Credit Union, Ford Motor Company, Caesar's Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, JACL Insurance Services and Administrators, National Association of Realtors, Verizon, and WalMart. If we have missed anyone who should be listed, we apologize.

Conventions are a time to conduct the busi-

ness of the organization, to make new friends, and to renew old friendships. It is always good to see Harry Honda, long time former editor of the *Pacific Citizen*, and his wife, as well as Shea Aoki, who has been attending the conventions from the beginning of the JACL. Etsu Mineta Masaoka had been registered for the convention but recently passed away. Her brother, the Honorable Norman Mineta, paid a tribute to Etsu, and was accompanied by his wife, Deni. Etsu's son-in-law, Richard Amano, and granddaughter, Michelle Amano, were at the banquet.

Several other dignitaries attended the dinner, including the Ambassador of Japan to the United States, the Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki, Congressman Mike Honda, Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Controller John Chiang, Assemblyman Warren Furutani, former JACL National Director John Tateishi and his wife Carol, and others. It was good to see Craig Ishii, former regional director for PSW. People had a chance to visit with past national presidents Frank Chuman, Floyd Shimomura, Lillian Kimura, Ken Inouye and Larry Oda. Tamlyn Tomita added vitality and energy to the program as banquet emcee. It is impossible to mention everyone, but we appreciate all who attended the convention.

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### PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# San Jose Taiko Drumming to the Beats of a New Generation



PHOTO: X2 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

San Jose Taiko (pictured, above) was honored with the Foreign Minister of Japan Commendation Award.

**Members from San Jose Taiko are among the many volunteers working behind the scenes to organize the North American Taiko Conference.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

For decades married couple Roy and PJ Hirabayashi have led San Jose Taiko, but now their rhythmic beats are being played under the leadership of the group's next generation.

About a decade ago the Hirabayashis, knowing they couldn't lead the company forever, began talks of how they would pass down the leadership of San Jose Taiko to the next generation, said Roy Hirabayashi.

It was decided a few years later that long-time members Wisa Uemura and Franco Imperial, who are also married, would become the next executive director and artist director.

Letting go of the reins of San Jose Taiko was a bittersweet moment for the Hirabayashis.

"Both Roy and I, we don't have children. So San Jose Taiko has been pretty much our children for the last 38 years," said PJ Hirabayashi, 61. "So to invest our time in raising and cultivating the potential of what the children can be, of course there's that very intimate connection of feeling a natural loss, creating the empty nest syndrome. But at the same time it's very liberating."

Having founded San Jose Taiko in 1973, Roy Hirabayashi says the timing was perfect for a leadership change.

"For me it is kind of a bittersweet situation. Having to spend so much time developing not only the organization but the art form in general has been a real passion to see that grow," said Roy Hirabayashi, 60.

San Jose Taiko is known as one of the first three taiko groups to form in North America, continuing the art form of kumi-daiko, or taiko ensemble that began in Japan after World War II. The other first groups include Seiichi Tanaka's San Francisco Taiko Dojo and Kinnara Taiko.

Keeping with tradition, the leadership of San Jose Taiko was passed down to another married couple: Wisa Uemura and Franco Imperial.

Wisa Uemura, 36, auditioned with San Jose Taiko in 1998 after graduating from Stanford University, where she had been playing with Stanford Taiko since 1993.

"Franco and I did meet while auditioning for the San Jose Taiko performing company in 1998, so we have San Jose Taiko to thank for bringing us together," Uemura said. "I find it extremely rewarding to be able to share my passion for taiko with my husband in such a real, practical way."

Franco Imperial also started training with San Jose Taiko in 1998.

"I was initially attracted to taiko from a musical perspective but once I joined San Jose Taiko I learned what it meant to truly be part of something greater than one's self," Imperial said. "As Roy and PJ have taught us, taiko is a powerful tool of expression."

Although they no longer hold their previous titles with San Jose Taiko, PJ and Roy Hirabayashi are still very much involved with the group.

San Jose Taiko, among other groups, is helping to organize this year's North American Taiko Conference, which is known as the largest taiko gathering in the world.

About 500 participants are expected to attend the three-day conference that begins Aug. 18 at Stanford University. Tickets for the conference sold out months before the event was scheduled to open. Attendees from around the world will sit-in on discussions, leadership forums and taiko workshops.

There will also be performances like the Taiko Jam concert on Aug. 20. Tickets for that concert are still available for purchase at [www.taikoconference.org](http://www.taikoconference.org).

San Jose Taiko members will be working out of the spotlight at the conference.

"San Jose Taiko is not performing at the conference, but we are in full-force backstage," Uemura said with a laugh. "Northern California taiko groups have banded together to regionally host the conference, since this is the first time it will be at Stanford University. So a lot of us have taken behind-the-scenes kind of roles."

Passing down the leadership to the next generation has allowed the Hirabayashis to take on other projects. But they are still involved with the group.

Roy Hirabayashi says instead of being executive director of San Jose Taiko he is now helping with fundraising efforts and continuing to write music.

PJ Hirabayashi, in addition to her work with San Jose Taiko, is working on her own individual projects that are still taiko-related. She is partnering with Brenda Wong Aoki and Mark Izu for Kabuki Cabaret, among other projects.

"We're not really stepping away from San Jose Taiko. It's that our roles are in different capacities now," PJ Hirabayashi said. "I still will be helping with a lot of the training and mentoring for new trainees and also working somewhat with the performing company on a consultation basis."

Since their "retirement" the Hirabayashis continue to receive recognition for their leadership work in taiko.

The taiko duo was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship. They will travel to Washington, D.C. in September for the awards ceremony.

Another award that they can now add to their numerous other accolades includes the Foreign Minister of Japan Commendation Award. The group received the award in 2010 for helping to preserve Japanese culture through taiko.

"For us it was a really significant award because it was the Japanese government acknowledging what we were doing as a Japanese American taiko group," Roy Hirabayashi continued. "To be recognized by the Japanese government for us is a really great confirmation of the work ... that we've been doing all these years."

In the past, San Jose Taiko faced criticism for straying at times from traditional taiko as it originated in Japan, Roy Hirabayashi says. The group incorporated other musical styles with their taiko beats such as Latin, jazz and African.

The award from the Japanese government acknowledges their work with taiko and the community. Further recognition of their work is that the American style of taiko is now being practiced in Japan.

"At first we were criticized for using a tambourine and a cowbell in our music because those weren't Japanese instruments," he said. "But now you see taiko groups in Japan and here using a variety of stuff as far as percussion instruments to create some sound."

"It's really kind of interesting that it's gone that full circle."





PHOTO: DENSHO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN LEGACY PROJECT

Survivors linger outside of Germany's Dachau concentration camp after being liberated in 1945. Japanese American 522nd vets are credited with liberating the sub-camps.

## WWII JA Vets Weigh in on Power of Words Movement

**Veterans of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, known for helping to liberate Dachau, voice their thoughts on the movement to change government euphemisms describing the JA WWII experience.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

The movement to change the terminology used to describe the Japanese American World War II experience has another voice to add to the discussion: JA veterans who helped liberate a German concentration camp.

Some JAs and scholars are hoping to dispel government euphemisms used to describe the unjust incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The discussion has sparked controversy over suggested terminology such as "American concentration camp," which is being recommended to describe the incarceration camps in the United States.

JA veterans with the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, who are credited with helping to liberate Dachau concentration camp survivors in Germany, weighed in on the discussion. Some disagree with the use of the term concentration camp to describe the JA experience during WWII.

"Seeing those [camps in] Rohwer and seeing those in Germany they were very, very different. I did not agree that we should call them concentration camps. Although by definition I suppose that's correct," said Sus Ito, 92, who served with the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. "But the term concentration camp implies visions of the Jewish concentration camps in Germany. They were not like that."

Ito was one of about 650 men who served with the 522nd during WWII. The 522nd is known for liberating survivors of the Dachau death march and sub-camps in 1945. Many of the 522nd soldiers' families were behind barbed wire in the U.S. while they liberated the sub-camps.

The United States Seventh Army's 45th Infantry Division is officially credited with liberating the main camps at Dachau in Germany, where thousands of inmates perished.

JACL delegates voted to support an emergency Power of Words resolution at the national convention in July. That resolution recommended the use of the term American concentration camp, among other suggestions.

Delegates voted 55 to 17, with one split vote and three abstaining, to accurately implement the 2010 Power of Word resolution.

Others who served with the 522nd agree with proponents of the Power of Words resolution, saying the term American concentration camp is a fitting description of the camps where Japanese Americans were unjustly held.

For 93-year-old Virgil Westdale, who is half Japanese, the images he saw while serving with the 522nd from the Dachau are still vivid.

"I remember walking around those cement blocks, the Siegfried line had cement blocks half way up so the trucks couldn't go through it," Westdale said. "We looked ahead and we could see about six guys around something on the ground. As we approached it was a horse, a dead horse and they were pulling the meat off the dead horse with their hands and eating it. These were the prisoners of Dachau."

Westdale says he agrees that there is

no comparison between the Holocaust and the JA experience in the U.S. But he says he favors using the term American concentration camp to describe the unjust incarceration of people of Japanese descent.

"They were kicked out of their homes. They could only take what they could carry," Westdale said. "That was a terrible time."

Eighty-eight-year-old Nelson Akagi, who also served in the 522nd, agrees that American concentration camp accurately describes the JA experience during WWII.

"The government has been getting away with murder by making the evacuation sound like a picnic for us," Akagi said, whose family was affected by the evacuation orders. "I was in Germany so I know what their concentration camp was like. It might have been called a concentration camp but in Germany it was actually a death camp."

To better understand the preferred terminology, a draft handbook has been created. After the national council voted 80 to 2 in 2010 to pass

the original Power of Words resolution, an ad-hoc committee was created to implement the resolution and draft a handbook.

Proponents hailed the passage of the 2010 and 2011 resolutions as a success.

"It shows how much the JACL values our voice and ensuring that our story is told accurately for future generations," said Dawn Rego, a Seattle JACLER who has also been involved with the resolution.

The nine-page draft of the Power of Words handbook indicates that terms like relocation camp, assembly center, relocation and evacuation are problematic.

Proponents of the Power of Words resolution acknowledge that the terms outlined in the handbook are merely suggestions.

"They are defining their own experience, telling their own story, and using language they believe is honest rather than having the government tell them what to say," said Andy Noguchi, a Florin JACL member. "Isn't this why Japanese Americans rejected the government lies about disloyalty and military necessity and fought for redress? Having the right to choose our own language is long overdue."

A new ad-hoc committee is being formed to implement both the 2010 and 2011 Power of Words resolutions, Noguchi says.

They are tasked with consulting with other JA organizations, respected historians, academics and writers on the topic. Next year volunteers will work on further developing the draft Power of Words handbook and creating a plan to "popularize the accurate terminology."

At the 2012 JACL national council meeting in Seattle, the Power of Words handbook will be presented and voted on.

Those who have been involved with the Power of Words since the original resolution say it is ultimately up to JAs to define their own experience.

"I continue to be convinced that it is up to us, within the Nikkei community, to judge which terms best describe our experiences from those days of WWII incarceration," said Mako Nakagawa, the primary author of the original resolution. "We own our experience and we own it with pride."

Ito says he will always use the word internment to describe his family's experience during WWII. Although he arrived at Dachau after the main camp had been liberated, Ito says, the images of the concentration camp are unforgettable.

"You see the crematorium. You see their piles of shoes. Even the ashes, people were picking around in the debris for remains of bones that did not completely burn," Ito said. "To me from my experience and from what I saw the whole atmosphere and situation is quite, quite different from that of what my parents went through." ■



Memories of Dachau have stayed with Virgil Westdale.



# Going Greek, the Asian-Interest Way



**SORORITY SISTERS:** (l-r) Jackie Calacay, Nicole Gomez and Mary Moon joined Asian-interest sorority Sigma Phi Omega at San Diego State to make friends with common ethnic background.

**Although legal discrimination against Asian Americans in mainstream Greek fraternities and sororities is a thing of the past, many still turn to the Asian-interest Greek system to find community.**

By Christine Fukushima  
Contributor

Contrary to depictions of college Greek life popularized by movies like "Animal House" and "Legally Blonde," for Kelsey Tanigawa, being a sorority girl has provided many more benefits than invitations to toga parties and exchanges with frat bros.

When San Diego State University's school newspaper, the *Daily Aztec*, published an article describing Asian Pacific American girls as racist in their unwillingness to associate with anyone besides other APAs, she turned to her sisters in Asian-interest sorority Sigma Phi Omega.

As fellow APA women, she knew that with them she would find an outlet where her anger would be understood completely.

"We were pissed!" She added, "It was a reminder of how closed-minded people are and how racism is still really present. It's still happening ... it was nice to have people to talk to about it."

Although Tanigawa, 22, had no intention of joining a sorority when she arrived at SDSU, her friend convinced her to tag along to the "boba night" event hosted by Sigma Phi Omega.

At first, she felt "a little weird" being around all APAs, but gradually she realized that she liked her future sisters both for their personalities and for what they taught her about herself.

"Before I was pretty whitewashed and I never really appreciated the culture," said Tanigawa. As a fourth generation JA she felt disconnected from her heritage, but watching her first, second and third generation sisters of various Asian ethnicities speak their languages and celebrate their holidays reminded her to appreciate her own culture, she says.

Like their counterparts in mainstream Greek "IFC" fraternities and "Panhellenic"

sororities, Asian-interest Greeks host parties, work on philanthropy projects and are easily identifiable on campus by their Greek letter jackets.

But beyond traditional Greek activities, like Tanigawa, many also cited a desire to learn more about their culture and connect with others of similar backgrounds — something that they feel wouldn't be possible in mainstream sororities and fraternities.

Her Sigma Phi Omega sorority sister Nicole Gomez, 20, agrees.

SDSU's 15 percent APA population made it difficult for her to find friends similar to the ones she had while attending Troy High School, where the majority of her friends were APA.

Although she too was initially uninterested in the Greek life, "Sigmas caught [her] attention because it was Asian-based."

"Just seeing that we're from the same ethnic background made it more comfortable because we have the same values [and] morals and we can relate to each other," Gomez said. As APAs, their shared foods, inside jokes and parental expectations brought them together.

## Going beyond the 'Asian' in 'Asian-interest'

The first Asian-interest fraternity, Rho Psi, was established at Cornell University in 1916. Until the 1960s, traditional Greek fraternities were legally able to discriminate against minorities. Anti-Asian sentiments on the West Coast fueled the founding of more Asian-interest Greek organizations in California in particular, but in ensuing years they spread across the country.

Most of these organizations are not included in their respective universities' mainstream Greek system. Instead, they belong to separate governing councils with other multicultural sororities and fraternities, like SDSU's United Sorority and Fraternity Council.

This separation has led some in mainstream fraternities and sororities to "look down on" Asian-interest Greek organizations and dismiss them as racist themselves for their mostly APA membership, says Tanigawa.

But this is not the case at all schools, says State University of New York, Buffalo Lambda Phi Epsilon brother Vinh Lu, 19.

"Even though we're an Asian-interest fraternity we're not exclusive with just Asians. We've crossed brothers who were African American, Caucasian, Hindu, all types of different brothers," he says. Out of his pledge class of 13, only three brothers were APA.

The ethnic make-up of his chapter proves that Asian-interest fraternities and sororities don't deserve to be called discriminatory, at least at Buffalo, he says.

Craig Ishigo, founder of Lambda Phi Epsilon, would be glad to learn about the Buffalo chapter's diversity.

"I didn't really feel like I fit into the Caucasian fraternities and I saw a lot of guys who [also] wanted to commit to the Asian culture but there was no option," said Ishigo, who founded the fraternity in 1981.

But unlike other Asian-interest fraternities and sororities at the time, he wanted to es-



Sigma Phi Omega at San Diego State is about unity according to members like Gomez.

tablish an organization that would be open to men of all cultures while remaining a space for leadership development for APAs.

Since its creation, Lambda Phi Epsilon has become the largest Asian-interest fraternity in part due to its large alumni network, a benefit that it shares with mainstream Greek organizations.

Lu believes that it is this network that makes non-APAs interested in the fraternity; alumni will hire "whoever they feel will fit" and just this past summer, a Lambda Phi Epsilon alumni hired eight graduating brothers to work at his bank.

## Another reason to go Asian-interest Greek

But after-college connections and finding friends with a common background aren't the only reasons APAs join Asian-interest fraternities and sororities.

Decades after the end of legalized racial exclusion, some APAs still cite discrimination by mainstream Greeks at their schools as a reason for pledging Asian-interest Greek.

As an APA member of a Panhellenic sorority at Loyola Marymount University, "Lisa", who didn't want her real name used, understands why her fellow APAs might feel that way.

When asked if there is discrimination against APAs in the Panhellenic system at LMU, she says "definitely." Among her 200 sorority sisters, she is one of five APAs. The small number, even relative to the school's 9 percent Asian population, is common for "top sororities" like hers, she says.

"The more top sororities have less minorities and more white people whereas the bottom sororities [are] a lot more diverse," she said.

"There's discrimination of course because that's how society is but a lot of it [also] has to do with being intimidated because you would be the only Asian American in your sorority."

According to research conducted in 2004 to 2005 by Mississippi State University sociology professor Matthew Hughey, mainstream Greek organizations (termed "white Greek-letter organizations," or WGLOs in the study) "engage in a racially segregated selection process that helps to recreate hypersegregation. It was rare that nonwhite prospective members approached or were recruited by, any of the WGLOs."

When APAs were accepted into WGLOs, Hughey found that they were "praised for their supposed positive traits" that boosted the organizations' collective GPA and provided, as one Asian participant in the study put it, "the illusion of inclusion."

"Lisa" thinks that growing up in Palos Verdes, where her friends were mostly Caucasians and "whitewashed" APAs, factored into why she was picked because it enabled her to "connect better" with her Caucasian sorority sisters. Joining LMU's sole Asian-interest sorority never crossed her mind.

"The consensus is if you're in a Greek sorority, you're whitewashed, and if you're in an Asian sorority or fraternity you're more culturally bounded. You hang out more with Asian people," she said.

Tanigawa says that discrimination was a factor in her decision to join an Asian-interest sorority.

She sees only a few APAs in mainstream Greek organizations at SDSU and her friends in mainstream fraternities tell her that their brothers aren't open to having exchanges (parties with one sorority and one fraternity) with Asian-interest sororities.

More importantly, however, Tanigawa is glad that she joined Sigma Phi Omega because of what her sisters have taught her about herself.

"It made me realize that I really do want to marry someone that's Japanese because I really want to pass the culture down to my children," she said. ■



# Goodwin Liu Nominated to California High Court

**The former appeals court nominee said he looks forward to serving the people of California.**

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Goodwin Liu, the former appeals court nominee who withdrew his nomination in June after a protracted and contentious confirmation process, has been nominated to the California Supreme Court, Gov. Jerry Brown announced July 26.

Calling Liu an "extraordinary man and a distinguished legal scholar and teacher" Brown said the law professor at the University of California, Berkeley would be an "outstanding" addition to the state Supreme Court.

"He is a nationally-recognized expert on constitutional law and has experience in private practice, government service and in the academic community," said Brown.

Liu, 40, previously was President Barack Obama's choice for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But Republicans blocked that nomination in part because of Liu's written positions and inexperience. Liu eventually withdrew his candidacy.



The Georgia native graduated from Yale Law School. He clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and worked as an appellate litigator in Washington before joining the UC Berkeley faculty in 2003.

"I'm deeply honored by Governor Brown's nomination and look forward to the opportunity to serve the people of California

on our state's highest court," said Liu.

Liu's nomination first goes to the State Bar's Commission of Judicial Nominees Evaluation for review and then onto the Commission on Judicial Appointments, which includes State Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Asian Pacific American leaders are celebrating Liu's nomination.

"Praised for his personal integrity, intelligence and professionalism, Mr. Liu brings experience in the legal, public service and academic fields making him a well-rounded, multifaceted candidate for the court," said Calif. Assemblyman Warren Furutani.

Liu would replace Justice Carlos Moreno, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

Liu's nomination by Gov. Brown has not been without controversy, once again. Latino groups are angry that a Hispanic was not selected to replace Moreno, who is the only Hispanic who currently serves on the California Supreme Court.

"It should have been a Latino and somebody who was native to Southern California," said Victor Acevedo, president of the Mexican-American Bar Assn., in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*.

"We are almost the majority of the people of the state of California, and for the governor to say there isn't one Latino who is qualified to serve on the court is extremely troubling," he said. "That to me is like the governor turning a cold shoulder to the Latino community in Southern California." ■

## After Sex Allegation, U.S. Congressman Wu to Resign

By Kevin Freking  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—U.S. Congressman David Wu announced July 26 that he will resign amid political fallout from an 18-year-old woman's allegations that she had an unwanted sexual encounter with him.

Democratic leaders had set up a House of Representatives Ethics investigation after the initial reports of the allegation against seven-term Democrat Wu had said that whatever had occurred had been consensual.

Wu, 56, said July 26 the well-being of his children should come first, so he will resign after Congress resolves the current debate over the federal debt ceiling.

In 2004 Wu, now 56, won re-election despite acknowledging a decades-old college incident in which he tried to force a former girlfriend to have sex. Voters said they disliked an opponent's attempt to use that against Wu as part of a political campaign.

Within days of the latest allegation against Wu, Democratic leaders requested a House Ethics Committee investigation of his conduct. He had said July 25 that he would not seek re-election but had come under increasing pressure to step down.

"The wellbeing of my children must come before anything else," Wu said in a statement. "With great sadness, I therefore intend to resign effective upon the resolution of the debt-ceiling crisis. This is the right decision for my family, the institution of the House, and my colleagues."

Wu is the second House Democrat in the

past several weeks to be forced to resign as a result of a sex scandal. Rep. Anthony Weiner of New York resigned after sending lewd photos of himself through Twitter.

Wu, who separated from his wife more than a year ago, was first elected to Congress in 1998 as the first Chinese American to serve in the House. He has maintained a centrist voting record but has been a leading voice on human rights abuses in China. He angered the high-tech firms in his district when he voted against normalizing trade relations with China.

Wu's hometown newspaper, the *Oregonian*, reported that a California woman had called Wu's office in Portland and reported an unwanted sexual encounter with him. The paper also reported that Wu told senior aides the sexual encounter was consensual.

The newspaper said the woman decided not to press charges because there were no witnesses and it would have been her word against Wu's.

Democratic primary challengers immediately demanded Wu's resignation.

"It has been the greatest privilege of my life to be a United States Congressman," Wu said in his resignation announcement. "Rare is the nation in which an immigrant child can become a national political figure. I thank God and my parents for the privilege of being an American."

Wu went on to say that the resignation was the only correct decision to avoid distraction from the important work taking place in Washington. ■

## Locke Approved as Ambassador to China



By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The Senate has unanimously confirmed Commerce Secretary Gary Locke as U.S. ambassador to China.

Locke, a former two-term governor of Washington state, will be the first Chinese

American to serve as ambassador to China, the largest nation in the world and a major trading partner. It is also the top holder on U.S. debt.

Locke was approved by voice vote and replaces Jon Huntsman, who resigned in April to explore a GOP presidential run against President Barack Obama next year. ■

## Team Looks to Preserve Honouliuli

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—A National Park Service team is reviewing plans to preserve the former site of the Honouliuli internment camp.

Project manager Suzanne Bott says the team is studying recommendations that came out of public meetings and will send a final report to Congress.

Congress could then decide to designate Honouliuli as a national park.

Bott says people need to learn and remember what happened at the former site of the internment camp so it won't happen again.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reports the National Park Service team started looking at 13 former internment camp sites in Hawaii starting in February.

Honouliuli is considered the largest of those sites. ■



# Japanese Tea Ceremony Held at Pearl Harbor

**The traditional ceremony reflects the strong relationship between the countries for the past 50 years.**

By Audrey McAvoy  
Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Organizers on July 19 hosted a Japanese tea ceremony steeped in tradition at the watery grave of Pearl Harbor.

It was the first time the centuries-old art form was performed in the USS Arizona Memorial that sits on top of the battleship, which sank in the Japanese attack 70 years ago.

Organizers hoped the ritual will promote world peace and reconciliation between the U.S. and Japan, which were enemies but have been strong allies for more than 50 years.

Such ceremonies encourage reflection and respect for others. They are also events of peace: samurai in medieval Japanese times would remove their swords and place them outside before entering a tea room.

Urasenke School of Tea grand tea master Genshitsu Sen, who served in the Japanese naval air force during World War II, prepared two bowls of green tea — one each for Pearl Harbor war dead and world peace. He took the bowls to the memorial's shrine room,



At the tea ceremony, attendees honored Pearl Harbor survivors (top) while Japanese guests (right) listened to an interpreter. The ceremony was held in the spirit of respect, reconciliation and peace.

PHOTOS: MARK LOGICO/U.S. NAVY

where the names of U.S. sailors and Marines are chiseled into the wall.

It was a nod to both Japanese culture and the strong mutual respect between the two countries, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie said.

Three survivors of the Japanese attack attended, along with Adm. Patrick Walsh, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and

other dignitaries.

The gleaming white, open-air memorial sits on top of the Arizona's sunken hull, which still holds the bodies of more than 900 of the 1,177 men who died on the battleship. In all, 2,400 sailors, Marines and soldiers were killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack.

Sen, 88, said he wanted to make sure people remembered the events of Dec. 7.

"People are slowly forgetting that this happened here 70 years ago," Sen told reporters. "We shouldn't forget. It's an important duty for all of us to pass on what's in our hearts to our children and grandchildren so it's not forgotten."

Park service officials said they reached out to Pearl Harbor attack survivors, but not all survivors have been able to forgive the attack.

But Sterling Cale, 89, who was among the three survivors who attended, said the ceremony filled him with joy.

"They had the tea ceremony on the Arizona to honor the men who are still there — those 900-plus men are the heroes of World War II and Dec. 7. Having it there was a good deal. I liked that," said Cale, who was a hospital corpsman assigned to the shipyard dispensary at the time of the attack.

Daniel Martinez, the National Park Service's chief historian for Pearl Harbor, said the ceremony showed him "how far we had come."

"We in the park service and the Navy have witnessed this dynamic change since I've been here, in 1985 — the evolution of the hatred and the hard feelings to now one of consideration for each side," Martinez said.

It also marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Urasenke tea school's Hawaii chapter. ■

## Comcast, NBCUniversal Name Asian American Leaders to Advisory Council

JACL national director is among the members of the council.

As part of their drive to become industry leaders in diversity, Comcast and NBCUniversal have created a joint diversity council to advise their senior executive teams.

The council held its first meeting in Philadelphia, where they were briefed on the diversity initiatives.

The council is comprised of four separate nine-member councils representing the interests of Asian Pacific Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and women. Additional council members represent the interests of veterans, Native Americans, people with disabilities and the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) community.

Before the Comcast/NBCUniversal transaction closed in January, leaders from both companies created a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the APA community that includes a number of commitments to increase the inclusion and participation of APAs in corporate governance, workforce, supplier chain, programming and community investment.

The Asian American Advisory Council will focus its guidance on executing Comcast's diversity initiatives, including the MOU with the APA community.

Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), serves as chair. Floyd Mori, JACL national director, is a member of the council. ■

## 'Ching Chong' Food Delivery Accused of Racism

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—A Monterey Park assemblyman is accusing a Westwood food delivery service of denigrating Asians by using the name Ching Chong Ling Long Gourmet Take-out.

The name is a reference to a racist rant posted to YouTube by former University of California, Los Angeles student Alexandra Wallace.

In the video, Wallace said "ching chong ling long" to imitate how Asians sound.

On its website, the takeout service calls itself "C2L2 Gourmet delivery" and says

the best way to combat intolerance is through positive cultural experiences and humor.

Assemblyman Mike Eng, D-Monterey Park, doesn't find the use of the phrase funny.

"Stereotypical phrases such as these perpetuate misunderstandings about Asian Americans and intensify hurtful sentiments toward this community," said Eng.

UCLA is scrutinizing the business for another reason. Campus spokesman Phil Hampton says the takeout service may be in violation of campus policies that prohibit doing business in dorms. ■



## U.S. House Panel Votes to Kill East-West Center

By Mark Niesse  
Associated Press

HONOLULU—A U.S. House committee voted July 21 to abolish Hawaii's 50-year-old East-West Center and strip it of \$10.8 million in federal funding.

Despite the House Foreign Affairs Committee's action, East-West Center President Charles Morrison said he's confident the Honolulu-based institution will survive the long legislative process.

"There are too many reasons why it's an important and valuable asset to the U.S.," Morrison told *The Associated Press*.

The East-West Center promotes cultural and technical interchanges between the United States and other nations in the Pacific, as well as providing scholarships for students from the Pacific region to study at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Opponents who believe it's a wasteful government program have tried to cut its funding for years.

"I am unaware of any major accomplishments that can be attributed to the East-West Center over its 50 years," said U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., during the House Foreign Affairs

Committee's hearing.

The center's allies in the U.S. Senate, including Appropriations Committee Chair Daniel Inouye, won't let that happen, Morrison said.

The East-West Center received about \$21 million in federal funding for the current fiscal year, along with another \$10 million from private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations and governments.

The \$10.8 million being eliminated from next fiscal year's budget can be restored as legislation moves through the House, Senate and various committees, Morrison said.

U.S. Reps. Mazie Hirono and Colleen Hanabusa said they will work to save the East-West Center.

"Eliminating the East-West Center would have an immediate and potentially devastating impact on our country's foreign policy and national security interests in the Asia-Pacific region," said Hirono, D-Hawaii.

President Barack Obama's half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, was hired last year as a part-time education specialist at the center. She's paid with private funds.

Obama's mother, Stanley Anne Dunham, was an East-West Center fellow. ■





# VERY

truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

## 'Substance' of a JACL Convention

WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT "SUBSTANCE," in my philosophy class in college, it was simply about "matter" and "form." I shall dwell on matter (what is) as form (what happens), which has elegantly appeared in the special convention coverage two weeks ago and continues to unfurl in the *Rafu Shimpo* by J.K. Yamamoto, onetime *Pacific Citizen* assistant editor in the 80s.

Firstly, matter is the overall presence of the convention. The 42nd national convention is history. It was historic because it was the first staged in an odd-numbered year. Next year's (the 43rd) will be in Seattle, where four biennial conventions have convened.

In 1930, when JACL's name, constitution, pin and logo were adopted, Congress was asked to restore the citizenship of Nisei women for having married an Oriental alien ineligible for citizenship.

In 1936, when blind but vocal publisher Jimmie Sakamoto of Seattle was elected national president — succeeding two-term Dr. Thomas Yatabe of Fresno — a campaign was launched for a \$100,000 Endowment Fund.

In 1962, coinciding with Seattle's World Fair, WRA Director Dillon Myer was keynote speaker. JACL adopted a \$100,000 budget and initiated the Issei history project.

And in 1988, delegates roomed at the University of Washington's Mahon Hall to save. Midwest director Bill Yoshino was "acting national director" after Ron Wakabayashi resigned. The JACL budget scaled \$1 million, and a bunch of us (led by National President Harry Kajihara of Ventura County) took the "red eye" from SEA-TAC Airport to Atlanta, switched to a prop-plane to Washington National Airport and rode Pat Okura's sedan to the old executive office building (rather than the rose garden at the White House because of extreme heat and humidity outdoor) to witness President Reagan sign the \$1.2 billion Redress bill.

INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION was the heavy blue tote bag, suitably embossed, with candy, fruit bar, ready-to-pop popcorn (our room had no microwave), Hollywood sightseeing folders and name-tag necklace stuffed with schedules, color-coded tickets for the mixer, awards luncheon and culmination (Sayonara) banquet.

At the same time, delegates picked up their green voting cards, the bulky 2010 Chicago convention minutes and a CD laden with 26 files (some of which I couldn't access). In the back row section, delegate Kaz Ueyhara (Philadelphia)

constantly referred to his laptop loaded with material (from the CD) during the business session.

Up front, the council clerk (previously, a professional court reporter or stenotypist) flashed the same on the huge screen for everyone's benefit and if a JACL staffer assisted, the name and the chapter of those addressing the council from either the "pro" or "con" microphone.

Emergency resolutions were mimeographed by convention staff, provided five chapters endorsed it.

We're in a digital world. Do you suppose CDs outlining the proposed budget, obligatory reports from national officers/committees and forms to download can be mailed to chapters 30 days before the next convention? A systems manager at headquarters would certainly shine and boost the "matter" magnitude of "substance."

AND SECONDLY, THE orientation session for delegates (held this year prior to the welcome mixer) reviews standing rules in the conduct of national council proceedings (debate or colloquy).

Chapters, to be in "good standing," must have at least 25 dues-paying members, a set of elected officers and current assessments all paid (national and district council dues) 60 days before the convention.

Proxies must be in writing, signed and dated by the chapter president. Any restriction or instructions must also be included. While a delegate is limited to three proxies, his/her chapter with two delegates has six potential votes.

I remember the late Fred Hirasuna of Fresno once held 10 proxies. Discussion charged that he was holding too many. And Fred quipped that a national convention ought to be held in the winter when Central California chapters could willingly attend. This year, an active jurist, Superior Court Judge Dale Ikeda (Clovis), represented his chapter.

Technically, but foolish, a chapter can split their one vote. Split votes, however, only have merit when three candidates are on the ballot for one office.

A parliamentarian and a current Robert's Rules of Order prevail — one question at a time. A simple majority constitutes a quorum, though some matters require a two-thirds majority as stated in the constitution/bylaws. At one time, a sergeant-at-arms was selected to assure a modicum of order.

This may have been tedium, but it's "matter" and stable. ■

Harry K. Honda is the *Pacific Citizen* editor emeritus.



# NIKKEI

VOICE

BY GIL ASAKAWA

## Appreciating Asian American Culture at the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

It struck me towards the end of the first day of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival that the clash of cultures I had just witnessed perfectly encapsulates why I've been a volunteer for this event since it was started in 2001.

Full disclosure: Last year, my partner Erin Yoshimura took on the role as executive director of the festival, after volunteering from the beginning. I help out with media, the website and emceeing on the main stage.

As the first day of the two-day event came to a close, the main stage lineup included a sampling of performers from the festival's very popular Cultural Unity stage, a showcase of Colorado's diverse hip-hop community.

The hip-hop sampler was fantastic — and showed why their stage is always so jammed that you can barely see through the crowds surrounding the tent, especially when the dancers are spinning on the ground.

The elevated main stage offered an eye-popping view for the audience, most of whom hadn't gone by the Cultural Unity area before. The performance was a 20-minute introduction to the artistic principles and driving aesthetics of hip-hop culture, starting with naked rhythm from a conga drum, then showing the evolution of the rhythm into the DJ's scratching with turntables and vinyl records.

Then the B-boys and B-girls assembled around the stage in a half-circle took turns strutting their stuff to the rhythmic riffing, spinning, flipping and contorting their bodies into unbelievably elastic poses and leaving the audience agog.

The set emphasized the multicultural appeal of hip-hop and pointed out how the performers on stage ran the ethnic gamut: Asian, Caucasian, African American, Latino.

Following the Cultural Unity sampler, which drew a huge crowd to the stage, most of the audience stayed for the Colorado Okinawa Kenjinkai, a group of women from Okinawa who preserve the traditional dances of Okinawa, a culture that's distinct from Japan.

The group has its own educational mission, to explain that Okinawa was once its own country with a separate culture. They demonstrated their lovely, flowing folk dances to the audience, who were still

dazzled from the hip-hop set and amazingly open to something completely different. They talked about Okinawan history and explained the differences in language between Japanese and Okinawan.

And though the two sets must have been a culture shock for the audience, the "ah hah!" moment that struck me was that this very dichotomy between tradition and today, between preserving our cultural past and embracing our pop present, is what the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has

crystallized for 11 years.

When the Okinawan group ended its performance to wild applause, and I introduced the day's finale, a Japanese Bon Odori Dance led by the Denver Buddhist Temple Minyo Kai group, I got all misty eyed. This group performs an Obon dance once a year, at the Sakura Matsuri in downtown Denver's Sakura Square. Many of the people who join the dance there are non-Asian but they're Japanophiles.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is an entirely different audience of Asiaphiles and the merely Asia curious, as well as people who just love a fun family-friendly summertime event. Most of the audience from the hip-hop performance was still in front of the stage and we had them line up in concentric circles in the grass.

With a little urging, they began following the movements of the Minyo Kai dancers in the middle circle. I saw people having fun, trying new things, learning something about a culture they may not have been familiar with, and embracing the spirit of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival as we, its organizers, have envisioned it for over a decade.

I felt a welling of emotion from this proof of the power of culture to bring people together. That's why I put so much time and energy into volunteering for this event: We're breaking down barriers between people by introducing and educating everyone to the richness of our varied traditions as well as the vitality of our Asian American identity.

Now that the festival is over we'll assess its success financially, but I know that culturally, we accomplished a lot over one weekend's work. ■

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

**'I felt a welling of emotion from this proof of the power of culture to bring people together.'**



# 'Pretty Little Liars' Actress Shay Mitchell on Coming to America

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

When Shay Mitchell, 24, plays an American teenager on TV, Canadian colloquialisms sometimes slip out of her mouth during filming.

But when she returns to Canada, Mitchell's friends playfully tease her about her new American accent.

"When I go home my friends start to make fun of me. They're like, 'What did you just say? Out? It's Oot!'" Mitchell said with a laugh from her new home base in California just before her mother arrived from Canada for a visit. "They make fun of me. No matter where I am, they make fun of me."

Mitchell moved from Toronto, Canada to play Emily Fields on the ABC Family series "Pretty Little Liars." The role was Mitchell's big break and changed her life, she says.

"This has been a crazy ride," Mitchell said, recounting her thoughts while at the award ceremony. "I'm literally looking at this waitress who is busting her bum, running around like I did two summers ago. Now I'm standing here across the street signing autographs for these girls. I'm like, 'This is insane!'"

Growing up in Canada, Mitchell — who is of Filipino, Irish and Scottish descent — says she was a little shy and at times uncomfortable in her skin.

Her family moved to a predominantly Caucasian neighborhood in Canada, making Mitchell feel insecure about being different. The majority of her friends, she says, were blonde with blue eyes.

With naturally dark brown hair and eyes, Mitchell dyed her hair and wore contacts to fit in.

"When I would explain what my background was the only thing that came into their mind was, like 'Oh, yeah. I think my nanny is Filipino,'" she explained. "So growing up I had many insecurities with that."

Her high school experience in West Vancouver, Canada differed from her character's teenage years on "Pretty Little Liars."

"When I first got into high school it was super tough. Girls were super jealous. They were catty and not so nice," Mitchell says. "I ended up eating my lunch in the bathroom quite a few times and/or begging my grandma, who was at our house, to pick me up early."

Circumstances changed for Mitchell later in high school when she found a group of "real friends," and traveled the world. Working as a model in her late teens, Mitchell got the opportunity to traverse exotic locales like Barcelona, Bangkok and Hong Kong.

When she returned to Canada from her travels, Mitchell decided to take her first acting

class. Then word reached Mitchell about auditions for the show "Pretty Little Liars."

Mitchell initially auditioned for the role of Spencer Hastings, who is now played by Troian Bellisario.

"They came back and said, 'we already found our Spencer, but we're looking for Emily. Put yourself on tape for this one.'"

Described by some as "Desperate Housewives" for teenagers, "Pretty Little Liars," was based off of the books by Sara Shepard.

In the TV series a wedge is driven between four teenage girls, including Mitchell's character, when their friend Alison vanishes. The teen clique then starts to receive mysterious messages from a person named "A," who seems to know all their scandalous secrets.

While the friends are trying to solve this mystery, they are also trying to navigate through high school and find their identity.

Mitchell's character, Emily, is also coming to terms with her sexual orientation. Emily explores relationships with other girls, sharing kisses on screen. Taking on the role of a lesbian character is something that Mitchell is asked often about.

"It's never been a big deal for me. But at the same time it is a big deal for me," Mitchell said. "In L.A. and New York we think, 'Oh, yeah. Great. So she kisses girls.' This show is really hitting a lot of people in the Midwest, those smaller towns where those kids don't get to see a lot of other kids who have come out or told their parents they like the same sex."

This season Mitchell says she is excited about what is in store for her character. The actress says she has fallen in love with her character, Emily. It is a role that has inspired youth in the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities to come out, Mitchell says referring to fan mail she receives.

Going back to high school to play Emily has given Mitchell a new appreciation for the lessons she has learned in adulthood.

"I like playing that I'm in high school and not really being in high school," Mitchell said with a laugh. "I wish I could go back and talk to my younger self and be like, 'Smarten up! Be who you are!'"

Mitchell, who is single right now, says she enjoys going for long drives in her car and reading magazines at a bookstore in her downtime.

These days Mitchell says she embraces what she was born with, including her Canadian charm.

"Like a lot of other girls, I feel like right now is the time for me to discover who I am and be the best I can be so that I can find somebody and have them experience that with me," she said. "I just think right now I'm discovering myself, so I'm in no rush." ■

**'I like playing that I'm in high school and not really being in high school ... I wish I could go back and talk to my younger self and be like, "Smarten up! Be who you are!"'**







PHOTO COURTESY OF BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER

An unknown artist used scrap lumber and paint to create this bas relief carving of Heart Mountain.

## Heart Mountain Artwork Lives On

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Harsh climate and crowded living conditions are common themes in artwork painted by the occupants of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center nearly 70 years ago.

A collection of that work, which includes woodcarvings, paintings and embroideries, among other historic pieces, went on display recently at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

Jill Osiecki-Gleich, curator of "Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: Arts and Craft from the Heart Mountain Internment Camp," said the showing coincides with a planned grand opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center near Powell.

The former World War II camp is expecting a large crowd this August during a pilgrimage to the site where more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were held against their will.

In the winter of 1942, an article in the *Heart Mountain Sentinel*, the camp newspaper, invited

residents of the camp to join the carpentry club, which sought to create "friendship and harmony" among those living at the facility, said Osiecki-Gleich.

More than 400 internees enrolled in the club. Hundreds of others joined a needlework class taught by Mr. Nagahama, a master embroiderer. Others worked with Shoshone River driftwood and small shells to create delicate carvings of birds and flowers.

The collection exemplifies that "beauty can be created behind barbed wire and that these resilient Japanese Americans were resourceful and creative during the worst of times," said Shirley Higuchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

Higuchi, the daughter of former Heart Mountain internees, was particularly struck by the woodcarvings.

"Some of them looked three dimensional and so intricate. It's amazing that such detail could be achieved with little or no supplies and proper tools," she said. "I also felt particularly touched by the jewelry and other items that were constructed from scraps and objects that had been discarded or salvaged." ■

## WWII JA Vets to be Honored at LA's Nisei Week



The recognition is a lead up to the national celebration of the Congressional Gold Medal award.

Japanese American veterans who fought for their country despite the World War II forced evacuation and incarceration of their families and friends will be honored at the upcoming Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The program will spotlight the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor given by the Congress, to the segregated JA units of WWII.

The celebration kicks off Aug. 14 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza with

a community celebration, the first Los Angeles tribute in recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal award.

The Nisei veterans will also be honored on the same day during the Nisei Week Grand Parade, which begins at 5:30 p.m.

Last October, the president signed the Congressional Gold Medal bill into law honoring those who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. During WWII, soldiers in the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT served in Europe. Those in the MIS translated and interpreted Japanese military communications in the Pacific.

Despite being classified as "enemy aliens," some 30,000 JAs served during the war.

The Nisei Week Festival will be held Aug. 13-21. ■

### Congressional Gold Medal Community Celebration

Aug. 14, 2:15-2:45 p.m.  
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza  
244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles

### Nisei Week Grand Parade

5:30 p.m.  
First and Second Streets in Little Tokyo  
Info: [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org)

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press



### Historic JA Buddhist Church to Be Sold

FRESNO, Calif. — A landmark Buddhist temple built by first-generation Issei is for sale because its younger families have moved to more affluent areas.

The Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple is on the real estate market for \$1.1 million. The area where the temple stands is Historic Chinatown where large encampments of homeless live within blocks of the temple. Most of the temple's services have moved to the Family Dharma Center on the suburban north side of the city.

### Snake River JACL Creates Paper Cranes For Japan Disaster Relief

ONTARIO, Ore. — Members of the Snake River JACL and the Snake River Correctional Institution have made more than 50,000 origami cranes in an effort to donate clothes for the relief effort in Japan.

Teaming up with the children's clothing company OshKosh B'Gosh, the chapter and the institution spurred into action after OshKosh pledged to donate an article of clothing for every crane collected.

Cranes symbolize health and well wishes in Japanese culture. The average cost of an article of clothing is about \$20.

### Man Who Saved JA Farms During WWII, Turns 100

FLORIN, Calif. — Bob Fletcher, an agricultural inspector who during World War II fought to save three local Japanese American farms whose owners were incarcerated in barbed wire prisons, turned 100 on July 23.

Over 100 friends celebrated his centennial at the Florin Community Center. During WWII Fletcher agreed to work three JA-owned farms while the owners were locked up. He paid off the mortgages, took 50 percent of the net profit and gave the balance to the owners when they returned.

Fletcher was criticized by his peers for his actions and even dodged a bullet fired into one of the JA-owned barns.

### New Standards Promote Accurate Demographic Profile, APA Leaders Say

SACRAMENTO — Asian Pacific American leaders are applauding the new draft standards released by the Department of Health and Human Services for collecting and reporting data on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability standards.

The improved standards add seven Asian subgroups and four Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroups.

The standards were required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which directed the secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that any federally conducted or supported health care program report data on race, ethnicity and other categories.

### Retail Giant Fires Muslim Teen For Wearing Head Scarf, Federal Agency Charges

SAN FRANCISCO — Clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch violated federal law when it fired a Muslim American employee for wearing a *hijab* (religious headscarf), the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged in a workplace discrimination lawsuit.

According to the EEOC's 2009 suit, Umme-Hani Khan, a 19-year-old Muslim American woman who worked at the Hollister store (an Abercrombie & Fitch brand) at the Hillsdale Shopping Center in San Mateo, Calif., was fired last February, for refusing to take off her *hijab*. This lawsuit is the second Bay Area suit the EEOC's S.F. office has filed against Abercrombie & Fitch over its failure to accommodate workers who wear a *hijab*. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### Furutani to Run for Los Angeles City Council



Assemblymember Warren Furutani has announced he will be running for the Los Angeles City Council seat to be vacated by Congress member-elect Janice Hahn.

Furutani, who was born in San Pedro, is a 20 year resident of the 15th council district. He has represented much of the entire district as a local and state elected official.

Early Furutani backers include Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

### JANM President to Step Down

Akemi Kikumura Yano, PhD, president and chief executive officer of Los Angeles' Japanese American National Museum, will be stepping down from her current post "to shift her focus to content-based pursuits," according to a statement from the board of trustees.

For over two decades, Yano has worked with the museum as a curator and executive vice president before being named president and CEO in early 2008.

A national search will be conducted to identify a new chief executive officer, according to the board.

### Veterans Group Awards Scholarships

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) awarded scholarships to eight high school seniors.

In addition to their grade point average, each applicant was judged on his/her extracurricular activities and essays.

The winners are: **Stephanie Fong**, Col. Phillip Sunao Ishio Scholarship; **Emily Ichikawa**, Mary Kozono Scholarship; **Carli Komoto**, Teru Kamikawa Matsui Scholarship; **Shari Kuroyama**, Maj. Orville Shirey Scholarship; **April Nishikawa**, Douglas Ishio Scholarship; **Natalie Okahara**, Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin Scholarship; **James Ryan**, Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship; and **Jenny Yim**, Joseph Ichijima Scholarship.

### Former Dodgers Manager, Civil Rights Leader to Headline Nisei Week Parade

A former Dodgers' manager and a Japanese American civil rights leader will be the grand marshals of Los Angeles' Nisei Week Parade on Aug. 14.

Tommy Lasorda and Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig will lead the parade procession through the streets of Little Tokyo beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Nisei Week Japanese Festival, the longest running ethnic festival of its kind, will be held Aug. 12-21 in Little Tokyo.

### Leadership Change Announced at LEAP

Los Angeles' Leadership for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) has new leadership. **Linda Akutagawa** has been unanimously elected as the organization's new chief executive officer. She will officially take over Nov. 1 succeeding **J.D. Hokoyama**, who is retiring.

Akutagawa is LEAP's current senior vice president of resource and business development. During her time with LEAP, she has led the launch of the organization's new e-learning series. She has also served as vice chair of the board of directors of Boat People SOS California and as a director of the Japanese American Community Services.

### Director for Utah Office of Ethnic Affairs Named

A new director has been named for the office responsible for working with Utah's minority communities. **Claudia Nakano** is taking charge of the Office of Ethnic Affairs, which was restructured earlier this year because of budget shortfalls.

Nakano has previously worked as the spokesperson for the Department of Community and Culture. She has also served as a board member for the Asian Advisory Council, the JACL and the Salt Lake County Council on Diversity Affairs.

Nakano will oversee a multicultural commission announced in June by Gov. Gary Herbert. ■

## Bainbridge Island Memorial to be Dedicated Aug. 6



On March 30, 1942, over 200 Bainbridge Islanders were the first of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans to be forcibly exiled from the West Coast.

A memorial wall that marks the Pacific Northwest site where the first Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes for desolate, barbed wire camps during World War II will be officially dedicated at a special ceremony Aug. 6.

Built on the historic Eagledale Ferry Dock site on Bainbridge Island, Wash., the 276-foot Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Wall dedication will mark the completion of the second of four phases of construction of the full project.

Survivors are expected to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony. Each foot of the wall symbolizes a JA Bainbridge Islander affected by the mass incarceration during WWII.

The memorial wall — made of old-growth red cedar, granite and basalt — also displays the names of the 276 Bainbridge Islanders who were incarcerated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1.

Five large terra cotta friezes on the memorial wall also illustrate the community's legacy.

Future phases include a 150-foot "departure pier" — each foot to symbolize every JA who returned to Bainbridge Island at the end of WWII — and a timber-framed interpretive center.

On March 30, 1942, U.S. Army soldiers forced 227

JA Bainbridge Islanders to the Eagledale ferry landing. They were given six days prior notice and only allowed to bring what they could carry or wear. These Bainbridge Island families, who were incarcerated because they shared the same ancestry as the country that attacked Pearl Harbor, were the first of more than 120,000 JAs to be forcibly exiled from the West Coast.

In 2008, the memorial was designated as a satellite unit of the Minidoka National Historic Site.

The memorial is designed, managed and maintained as a joint partnership with the private, non-profit Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association, the city of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District, the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum and the National Park Service. ■

### Bainbridge Island Memorial Wall Dedication

**Aug. 6, 10-11:30 a.m.**

Intersection of Taylor Avenue and Eagle Harbor Drive on the south shore of Eagle Harbor  
Parking is limited. Free shuttle bus service to and from the event will be provided.

**For more info: [www.bijac.org](http://www.bijac.org)**

## Students Visit Tule Lake to Share Experiences

### Muslim and APAs visit the World War II site as part JACL's San Francisco Bridging Communities program.

Asian Pacific American and Muslim American participants of JACL's San Francisco Bridging Communities program recently took a three-day trip to Tule Lake to learn and discuss the parallels they share in being viewed and treated like "the enemy" following Pearl Harbor and Sept. 11th.

During World War II, about 18,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated at Tule Lake, which is located near the California-Oregon border.

The high school-age students were able to hear firsthand accounts of what life was like in Tule Lake from Jimi Yamaichi, a Nisei from San Jose, Calif. who was a teenager during WWII when his family was incarcerated behind barbed wire. Yamaichi, 88, provided the students with powerful stories as the group walked around the campsite.

"When I found out Jimi was an actual internee, I was afraid he might be traumatized to go back to Tule Lake, and thought he had so much courage to tell us about his time in camp," said David Gee, a Bridging Communities participant. "With Jimi telling us stories,

we got to learn what really happened instead of the basic information we get from textbooks. It was great to see how much passion he had for passing on that knowledge."

The high school participants also photographed and documented writings on the walls of Tule Lake left behind 70 years ago. The National Park Service (NPS) organized this project.

"The service project in the jail was really eerie and a bit intimidating, but the experience was unforgettable," said Afreen Hasan, 16.

The San Francisco Bridging Communities program was held in partnership with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SFBA) and the Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee. The program featured workshops over a five-month period, bringing together APA and American Muslim students to learn with and from one another by examining one another's history and experiences.

The program is funded by the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program through the NPS, with sister-components held in Los Angeles and Seattle. The National Japanese American Historical Society served as an organizational supporter in San Francisco. ■



## WHY I'M A JACLER

## President of JACL's Newest Chapter Emphasizes Service

**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, "Why I'm a JACler" aims to encourage activism and raise the visibility of the JACL and its mission.



**Building communities:** (l-r) Minh Nguyen, youth/advisor chair of Gulf Coast API JACL; Jennifer Linh Vu, chapter president; and Jean Shiraki, JACL Daniel K. Inouye fellow.

In her hometown of New Orleans, Jennifer Linh Vu has seen floodwater and spilled oil engulf the dreams of many communities, so the president of the newly ratified Gulf Coast Asian Pacific Islander (API) JACL chapter is working with the local Asian Pacific American community to achieve her personal creed: service to family, community and church.

"As JACL chapter president, I take my position very seriously," said Vu, who is a second generation Vietnamese American.

Ratified in June at the national convention

in Los Angeles, the Gulf Coast API JACL chapter held its first official meeting July

25. The makeup of the chapter — like the region — is very diverse, said Vu. Surnames on the chapter roster range from Nakayama to Nguyen.

While concern over declining JACL membership numbers are on the rise, the new chapter has recruited 26 members, Vu says.

The chapter's successful formation is the result of years of coalition building in the area.

Jennifer Linh Vu,  
26  
New Orleans,  
Louisiana  
Gulf Coast API JACL

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina left the Gulf Coast APA community disenfranchised, JACL responded by lending aid and working with local community groups in the recovery effort. Then in 2010, after the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill — the petroleum industry's largest accidental marine oil spill — JACL again returned to the Gulf Coast to help APA residents return to normalcy.

It was then in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster that Vu, then working as a coordinator on Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao's rapid response team, crossed paths with JACL. Together with a coalition of other APA groups, Vu and JACL staff members traveled from city to city to listen to the concerns of affected APA residents.

"JACL was an adopted team member of the response team," said Vu.

She soon realized that JACL's mission is similar to her own, so she decided to become a member because of its core value.

"As an Asian American woman, I was raised to serve my family, community and church," she said. "JACL has the same type of ideals. It's about getting services to the needy."

Prior to her work on the rapid response team, Vu served her community at the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of residents in the greater New Orleans area. There, among many other achievements, she fought environmental injustice by shutting down a landfill located a mile away from the Vietnamese American community in New Orleans East, reduced health disparities through the establishment of a community clinic and helped charter a school.

The plight of the needy hits close to home for Vu, the daughter of refugees from wartime Vietnam.

"My parents never talked about it," she said about their wartime experiences. She pieced the stories together during a high school oral history project. Her dad, Khanh, grew up in Saigon as a member of the Southern Vietnam air force. When his base was bombed, he escaped in an aircraft and told a friend to pass the news of his survival onto his family. His friend died in the bombing and for years, Khanh's family

didn't know if he were alive or dead.

Vu's mother, Ngoc, boarded a boat with her younger brother to leave Vietnam when they were captured by the Viet Cong and sent to a POW prison off the coast of China. There, she was served only one bowl of rice a day and suffered through a long sentence for simply trying to escape the dangers of war.

With the JACL, Vu has worked closely with Floyd Mori, national director, and Jean Shiraki, the Daniel K. Inouye fellow.

"To see their dedication and commitment was an inspiration," she said.

Vu and other leaders of the Gulf Coast API JACL say the main goal is to make JACL a household name.

"Given that the population down here is not aware of what JACL is, education is key," said Delia Nakayama, chapter membership chair. "Inviting potential members to JACL social activities and simply talking to individuals about the organization's history and contributions are some first steps."

To attract and engage new members, chapter leaders simply need to talk about the good work being done to help community members, said Vu.

Chapter leaders are also working on ways for the local Japanese community and the Vietnamese community to learn about their respective cultures and histories in the U.S., said Nakayama, a Yonsei.

Several members of the Vietnamese American community are planning to attend the Aug. 21 Bon Odori in Metairie to soak in some culture.

"JACL is about preservation of culture and service. It's about reaching across communities," said Vu. "I am a JACler because I want the opportunity to serve the Gulf Coast community both locally and nationally as we continue in our recovery from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and natural disasters." ■

## 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.

## Join the movement. BECOME A JACLER

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



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Los Angeles, CA. 90012

(The P.C. will forward this request to National JACL.  
Membership fees will be assessed by National JACL)

Email Info. to:  
pc@pacificcitizen.org

## Former Secretary of Transportation to Chair JACL Gala



Former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta will serve as the honorary chair of the JACL's annual gala in September.

Mineta served as secretary of transportation under President George W. Bush and as secretary of commerce under President Bill Clinton.

He also previously served as mayor of the city of San Jose, Calif., and as a Congressman. Mineta, a San Jose JACL member, is currently a vice president at Hill and Knowlton in Washington, D.C.

The gala is slated to take place Sept. 29 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The event is billed as a "Salute to Cham-

pions" and honors outstanding individuals and corporations that have contributed to JACL's causes.

Mineta is a past gala honoree. His sister Etsu Mineta Masaoka, who recently passed away, was honored at last year's gala event.

"Norman Mineta has given outstanding service to the JACL and we are thankful to him for his continued support in so many ways including at our national conventions," said David Kawamoto, JACL national president. ■

For more information:

www.jacl.org or 202/223-1240



## Going the Extra 4,000 Miles



By Sean Palmer

This summer, I will bike across the Golden Gate Bridge to the west lawn of the Capitol Building in D.C. in 63 days. This 4,000-mile trek isn't just part of my summer workout routine — this is a Journey of Hope.

The Journey of Hope, an event sponsored by Push America, was created by my fraternity in 1987. The purpose of Journey of Hope is to raise awareness and support for the 1 in 4 persons with disabilities living in the U.S. So not only do we ride cross country, we also participate in friendship visits with local groups that support persons with disabilities.

As a Mile-Hi JACL member and only the third Japanese American to embark on this Journey, I took a page from the "Go For Broke" attitude that my grandfather showed as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII in my fundraising. Feeling like I had nothing to lose, I wrote letters and emails to everyone I knew and garnered donations from over 100 people and organizations. Though each rider is required to raise \$5000, I set my goal at \$13,000 because I believed in our cause and wanted to challenge myself. With \$13,215 raised so far, the generosity of my sponsors has made a sizeable dent in Journey of Hope's overall goal.

On June 11, the day before the race, \$529,000 had been raised towards Journey of Hope's overall fundraising target of \$550,000. We've almost reached our goal, which is why I am asking the Japanese American community at large to help me raise more money by donating to Push America. No donation is too large or too small. Push America is recognized as a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

To find out more about my ride or if you would like to sponsor me, go to: [http://support.pushamerica.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1029482&pg=personal&fr\\_id=1040](http://support.pushamerica.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1029482&pg=personal&fr_id=1040). Through this website, go to my fundraising thermometer and click on "Make a Gift" to ensure that your donation is credited under my name. Or call Terrie Smith at Push America at 704/505-2400, extension 122 to sponsor me over the phone.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. My appreciation also goes out to the JACL for providing me with the skills to be a better leader through my participation in the 2009 Inaugural JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference. I look forward to representing the JA community with events like these in the years to come. ■

*Sean Palmer is a member of the Mile-Hi JACL chapter.*

### Polaris Tours

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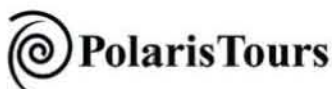
#### 2011 Tour Schedule

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"

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## Florin JACL Recognizes Scholarship Winners



(L-r) Teryn Hara, Alison Lewis, Corey Nakata and Cameron Iwasa.

Florin JACL has named six graduating seniors from the Sacramento area as recipients of its 2011 scholarship awards. Each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Garrett T. Abe** graduated from Pleasant Grove H.S. as an Academic All-American. As a member of the Florin Buddhist Church, Abe attended Dharma school and participated in karate at the Florin Dojo for five years. He will attend the U. of Nevada, Reno majoring in biomedical engineering.

**Teryn J. Hara**, a graduate of the John F. Kennedy H.S. PACE

program, participated in Jan Ken Po Gakko and the Florin JACL spaghetti fundraiser. She will be attending UCLA.

**Cameron Toshio Iwasa** graduated from Jesuit H.S. As a four-year member of the soccer program, he set the second highest goal total in school history and was selected as ESPN's National Player of the Week. He will attend UC Irvine on a soccer scholarship.

**Alison Emiko Lewis** is a graduate of the Sacramento City Unified District School of Engineering and Sciences. She has participated in the Florin JACL

Mochi Madness and the Manzanar Pilgrimage. She will be attending CSU Sacramento.

**Corey Nakata**, a CK McClatchy HISP program graduate, is a member of the Florin Buddhist Church. He attended Dharma School, served as recording secretary of the Florin Young Buddhist Association, and played in the church basketball program.

**Kimmee Staley** graduated from Sheldon H.S. where she was active in cheerleading and the theater programs. She has been a part of Florin JACL for the past 10 years. She will be attending Sacramento City College. ■

## San Jose JACL Announces 2011 Scholarships

Thirteen scholarships were awarded at a luncheon held at the Issei Memorial Building in San Jose, Calif. The scholarships totaled \$24,250 and were sponsored by individuals/families and organizations and administered by the San Jose JACL.

The recipients are: Christopher Hyde (Leigh H.S.) \$10,000 Kenji & Shizu Sakaue Scholarship; Gregory Hori (Willow Glen H.S.) \$3,000 Kenji Sakaue Memorial Scholarship; Stephanie Fong (St. Francis H.S.) \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment

Scholarship; Amanda Drennan (Willow Glen H.S.) \$2,000 Phil Matsumura Community Scholarship; Kenneth Matsumoto (Piedmont Hills H.S.) \$750 San Jose JACL Chapter Award and \$500 Lanette Yoneko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship; Kathleen Doi (Westmont H.S.) \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship; Katie Kobashigawa (Mt. View H.S.) \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship; Joseph Hala'ufia (Aragon H.S.) \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship;

Erin Takeda (Notre Dame H.S.) \$750 Ray & Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship; Richard Shinagawa (Piedmont Hills H.S.) \$750 San Jose JACL Chapter Award; Stephanie Nakamae (Notre Dame H.S.) \$500 San Jose CYS Scholarship; Kyle Tsukamoto (Archbishop Mitty H.S.) \$500 San Jose CYS Scholarship; and Kevin Kai (Bellarmine College Preparatory) \$500 Karl Kinaga Memorial Scholarship.

Members of the scholarship committee are: Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, Joyce Oyama, and Sharon Uyeda, chair. ■

## Summer Camp Teaches Youth About Japanese Culture

At the second annual Chibi-no-Gakko Summer Camp in Fullerton, Calif., young participants learned about the Nisei resettlement through artistic and cultural activities.

The summer camp, held July 5-8 at the Fullerton Arboretum and Nikkei Heritage Museum, taught its participants about cultural heritage through activities like making leaf print ceramic plates, making shibori happi coats and Japanese wagashi (sweet snacks).

The event culminated with a microwave mochi-cooking demo by the Girl Scouts cadets of Troop 675. Guest speakers Glenn Tanaka of Tanaka Farms and Joan Kawase of SELANOCO JACL also addressed the group about JA farming history and World War II internment history.

The SELANOCO JACL, Project Kokoro of the Orange County Buddhist Church and the Fullerton Arboretum and Nikkei Heritage Museum, sponsored the event. ■

For more information:

Alice Ishigame-Tao at 714/469-4083 or [boristao@cox.net](mailto:boristao@cox.net)

## Puyallup Valley JACL Announces Scholarship Winners

Three chapter scholarships were awarded at a recent Puyallup Valley event, which also celebrated new members and new chapter board members.

Chapter scholarships were presented to Sean Tanino, Geoffrey Sasaki and Jeremy Morita.

Pacific Northwest JACL Gov. Chip Larouche also installed the new Puyallup Valley JACL officers for 2011-12. The new officers are: Elsie Taniguchi, president; Kayomi Wada, vice president; Dudley Yamane, treasurer; Liz Dunbar, secretary; Sean Tanino, youth representative; and Kaila Yoshitomi, youth representative. ■



# GO.SEE.DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



PHOTO: KIP FULBECK

**Art Exhibit 'Kip Fulbeck: Part Asian, 100% Hapa'**  
PORTLAND, OR  
June 10 thru Dec. 31  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center  
121 NW Second Ave.

What are you? The exhibit "Kip Fulbeck:

Part Asian, 100% Hapa" explores this question. The exhibit is the artist's attempt to explore Hapa individuals and the complex perspective on the changing reality of contemporary America.

Info: [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)  
or 503/224-1458

## EDC

**JACL 2011 National Gala Awards Dinner**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
Sept. 29, 6 p.m.  
J.W. Marriott

1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Cost: \$200/person

Tickets are available for the JACL 2011 National Gala Awards Dinner. Ad space is also available in the program booklet. Proceeds will benefit national JACL.

Info: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) or 202/223-1240

**Smithsonian Exhibit 'Portraiture Now'**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Aug. 12 thru Oct. 14

**Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery**  
Eighth and F Streets N.W.

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program have collaborated to mount the museum's first major showcase of contemporary Asian American portraiture.

Info: [www.npg.si.edu](http://www.npg.si.edu) or 202/633-1000

**VAAFA Annual Fundraiser Banquet**

ROSSLYN, VA

Sept. 11, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

China Garden Restaurant  
1100 Wilson Blvd., #M765

SEE!

Cost: \$25/VAAFA member; \$45/general admission; \$80/VIP

The Vietnamese American Armed Forces Association will host its third annual fundraiser banquet. Thirteen Fallen Heroes scholarships will be awarded to students.

Info: [www.vaafa.org](http://www.vaafa.org) or 202/294-8580

## NCWNP

**Nikkei Family Legacy Project**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Aug. 6, 1 to 3 p.m.

JCCCNC

1840 Sutter St.

The Nikkei Family Legacy Project aims to teach about the importance of documenting your family history. Learn from experts with the National Archives and Angel Island Immigration State Foundation.

RSVP: Courtney Okuhara 415/567-5505  
or NFLP@jcccnc.org

**"Talking Taiko" Book Party**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Aug. 15, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Yoshi's San Francisco

1330 Fillmore St. (at Eddy)

Cost: \$15/Advance; \$20/At the door

This event celebrates Yuri Kageyama's "The new and Selected Yuri — Writing From Peeling Till Now."

Info: [yurikageyama@yahoo.com](mailto:yurikageyama@yahoo.com)

**The JCCCNC's 25th Anniversary**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Sept. 24, 4 to 8 p.m.

JCCCNC

1840 Sutter St.

This year JCCCNC celebrates the 25th anniversary, recognizing the vision and effort set forth by the Nisei and Sansei. The event's honorees include Kaz Maniwa, Allen Okamoto and Yo Hironaka.

Info: 415/567-5505

**Oldies Dance Fundraiser**  
ALAMEDA, CA

Sept. 24, 8 p.m. to midnight  
Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
2325 Pacific Ave.

Cost: \$30/Per person; \$35/at the door  
The Buddhist Temple of Alameda will be having its Oldies Dance Fundraiser to raise funds for the temple.

RSVP: Eddie Matsuoka at 510/521-0892

by Sept. 10

## PNW

**The "Inspired by Japan" Art Sale**  
PORTLAND, OR

Aug. 4 to 25

Pacific Northwest College of Art's  
Commons Gallery

1241 Northwest Johnson St.

The "Inspired by Japan" art sale benefits the tsunami victims in Japan. The sale will feature art from Baren Forum.

Info: 503/226-4391

**An Evening With Beate Sirota Gordon**

SEATTLE, WA

Sept. 22, 5 p.m.

Seattle University, Campion Ballroom  
901 12th Ave.

The Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality and the Seattle University are partnering up to host an evening with Beate Sirota Gordon, author of the women's rights clause in Japan's constitution.

RSVP: Junsen Ohno at 206/398-4283 by Sept. 15.

## PSW

**El Monte Union High School Reunion**  
ARCADIA, CA

Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$125/person

211 E. Huntington Dr.

Nisei who attended El Monte Union High School are invited to a reunion for the classes of 1942 to 1944. Nisei Lions are also invited to attend.

Info: Don at 760/747-5678

## MDC

**JACL Cincinnati JACL Annual Dinner**  
CINCINNATI, OH

Aug. 21, 4 p.m.

Hyde Park Bethlehem

Methodist Church

3799 Hyde Park Ave.

The Cincinnati chapter of the JACL is holding its annual potluck dinner. There will also be a performance by the Cincinnati Dayton Taiko Group.

Info: [www.cincinnati.jacl.org](http://www.cincinnati.jacl.org) or 513/531-5845. ■

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## TRIBUTE

**Takashi Matsuda**

December 5, 2010

MATSUDA, TAKASHI (87) passed away December 5, 2010. He is survived by his loving children, Shirley (Jay) Hoban, Robert (Kazuko) Matsuda, Theresa (Michael) Blair, Pamela (Ross) Pignaz; grandchildren, Jon, Stephen, Matthew, Robert, Thomas, Paul, Kelli, Breece and Paige; sisters, Kazue Matsuda and Kiye (Robert) Dennis; also many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Graveside services were held Saturday, July 30, 11:00 a.m. at Green Hills Memorial Park, 27501 S. Western Ave., Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275 with Rev. William Briones of Los Angeles Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple officiating.  
www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

## IN MEMORIAM

**Suski, Joe C., 97**, Cerritos, CA; July 24; survived by his son, Dennis (Jane) Suski; 6 gc, Renee (Tom) Green, Lisa, Lauren, Janise, Susan and Jody Suski.

**Sugimura, Susan Keiko (Suezaki), 68**, Cerritos, CA; July 23; survived by her husband, Bert Kenichi Sugimura; sons, Stacy (Corey) Sugimura and Kevin (Chiyoko) Sugimura; 3 gc, Grant, Jack and Tyler; many other relatives.

**Miyagi, George, 88**, Palatine, IL; July 22; survived by his beloved wife Florence Miyagi; children, Susan (Tom) Masamitsu, Glenn (Loretta) Miyagi and Cathy (Craig) Bezek; 8 gc, Heather and Stephanie Masamitsu, Cynthia (Garron) Tsushima, Stephen and Scott Bezek, Kimberly Miyagi, Jonathan Harris, and David (Melissa) Kaminski; ggc, Connor Kaminski; sister, Helen Nakahara; nephew, Ken Nakahara.

**Irabu, Hideki, 42**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; July 27; he was a former Yankees pitcher and earned World series rings with the team in both 1998 and 1999.

**Tadakuma, Hiroshi "Horse",**



**88**, Gardena, CA; July 22; he was a former Amache Relocation Camp internee who served with the 442nd RCT, HQ3 in Italy and France during WWII; preceded in death by his wife, Fumi Tadakuma; survived by his daughters JoAnn (Ken) Hamamura, Jane (Bill) Tokubo and Peggy Tadakuma; 4 gc, Amy (Jeff) Klosterman, Tricia and Trevor Tokubo and Kelly

Magsayo; ggc, Daniel and Ben Klosterman; siblings, Raymond (Fumiko) Tadakuma and Chisato (Sam) Hillis; many other relatives.

**Sakuda, Noboru "Joe", 91**; July 21; preceded in death by his wife, Kimiye M. Sakuda and son, Kay Tadashi Sakuda; survived by his beloved daughter, Jean Kinuko (Ken) Nishihara; grandson, Kyle Akira Nishihara; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Taga, Beatrice Miyoko, 93**, Los Angeles, CA; July 21; survived by children Hiroyuki Christopher (Janet), Timothy (Jill), Therese Chiyoko Hokoyama, and Stephanie (Ron) Pirolo; 6 gc; 2 ggc; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tome, Yasuko, 67**, La Palma, CA; July 13; she was an Okinawa, Japan born Issei; survived by her loving husband, Yoshihiro Tome; son, Eric Yuichiro Tome; daughter, Carolyn Akane (Troy) Tanaka; brothers, Kouichiro (Keiko), Yukifusa (Kazuko) and Yukihide (Reiko) Kokuba; sister, Sachiko (Susumu) Yasutani; brothers-in-law, Hideo (Kazue), Yoshiteru (Yumiko) and Masahiko (Rumiko) Tome; sisters-in-law, Reiko (Yuei) Hanashiro, Kazuko Tokashiki and Akiko (Kiyotoshi) Saito; many nephews and nieces.

**Matayoshi, Herbert, 82**, Honolulu, HI; July 11; he was Hawaii County's second elected mayor from 1974 to 1984; survived by wife, Mary Y. Matayoshi; sons, Jerold (Paula Devens), Ronald (Coralie) and Eric (Aleza); daughter, Kathryn (Tod Tanaka); brother, James Matayoshi; sister, Edith (Tetsuo) Harano; 11 gc; 1 ggc.

**Shigeno, Chiyo, 89**, Mills Creek, WA; July 11; preceded in death by Tadao; her four brothers and three sisters; survived by daughters, Bonnie, Cheryl and Debbie; sons, Dennis and Tom; 3 gc, Jordan and Juliette Sumida and Stephanie Bellinghausen; 1 ggc, Kelsie Sumida. ■

## TRIBUTE

**Yayeko Jean Koda**

March 19, 1919 - July 13, 2011

Yayeko Jean Koda died quietly in Turlock, California on July 13, 2011. She was 92 years old.

Keen businesswoman, role model, green thumb, bridge-player, karaoke enthusiast, Tai-chi devotee – Jean can be remembered for many such attributes, but perhaps none so much as her fierce devotion to family. As one of 13 siblings, she hosted family reunions every Fourth of July to bring together aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins galore. As the family expanded exponentially over the generations, she worried that centrifugal force would pull them apart. Happily, she was able to attend her last reunion on July 2nd before her death.

After the death of her husband William S. Koda in 1961, Jean was a single mother who led by example. Her children became strong-minded and independent like her. Although Jean was herself unable to afford a college education, both of her girls went on to get college degrees. Carole Lynn Koda, who pre-deceased her in 2006, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford and became a writer, oral historian, and environmentalist. Mary Anne Koda-Kimble earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California at San Francisco School of Pharmacy, where she is now the Dean. She was the proud and supportive grandmother of Scott Banks Kimble, Loren Koda Kimble, Christopher Kei Kimble, Kiyomi Nicole Kimble, Mika Koda Reynolds, Robin Koda Steffensen and Thomas Reynolds, who married Mika. She was recently blessed with a great-grandson, Christopher "Kip" Koda Reynolds. Jean adored her sons-in-law, Donald O. Kimble and Gary S. Snyder. She is survived and beloved by two devoted siblings, Goro Walter Morimoto and Harue June Kishi; their spouses, Mitsuko Morimoto and Sherman Kishi; as well as a multitude of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Following internment during World War II, Jean worked with her husband to rebuild the Koda rice farm in South Dos Palos, California. When Bill



died, Jean worked with her brother-in-law, Ed Koda to sustain and grow the farm. The Bill and Ed Koda Farms were best known for the short-grain Kokuho Rose rice, which they developed, the Sho-Chiku-Bai sweet rice, and Blue Star Mochiko (sweet rice flour). She eventually sold her share of the farm to the Ed Koda family and focused her attention on investing.

With acumen for business, Jean loved to share her expertise with others. She was a member of investment clubs and formed the Merry Widows Club to teach money-management skills to women who found themselves financially confused after the loss of their husbands.

Yayeko Jean Koda was a generous woman with an energetic spirit who enjoyed and celebrated many friendships. Her wise and loving counsel will be greatly missed.

A service celebrating Jean's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2011 at the Larsa Banquet Hall, 2107 E. Monte Vista Avenue, Denair, California. In lieu of koden or flowers, please remember Jean through a donation to your preferred charity or to The Covenant Village of Turlock Benevolent Care Fund, 2125 N. Olive Avenue, Turlock, CA 95382-1903 with attention to Patrice Lesondak.

## TRIBUTE

**Yukio A. Hibino**

December 5, 1920 - July 7, 2011

Gardena, California resident Yukio "Yuk" Hibino, a Berkeley-born 90-year old Nisei, passed away on July 7, 2011.

Yuk was a student at UC Berkeley when World War II began and his family was interned at Topaz, Utah. Yuk served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, and saw action in Italy, France and Germany.

After the war, Yuk and his wife Janice settled in Woburn, MA where they raised their family and in 1996, they moved to Gardena. Yuk joined the Go For Broke (GFB) National Education Center and volunteered at the GFB monument in Little Tokyo. Yuk was a low-key guy, generous and humble with a sharp sense of humor.

Yuk is survived by Janice, his loving wife of 63 years; his children, Shirley Hibino, June Hibino (Mike Murase), and Bob Hibino (Lyn Peterson Parrott); and grand-daughter, Sachi Murase. Yuk is also survived by older brother Yosh Hibino, and many nieces and nephews.

At the request of the deceased, no service will be held. A private gathering of family members will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Go For Broke National Education Center.

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# Sponsors, Members Made the Convention a Success

Hollywood, Calif. will always be known as the location of JACL's successful inaugural annual convention.

The 42nd JACL National Convention was held July 7-10 at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and Spa, which also featured the 2011 Nikkei Conference co-hosted with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACLC).

With an attendance of over 300, delegates and members were able to address the business and concerns of the organization and

more importantly, its future. The JACL would like to thank each and every individual who attended the convention. It could not have been a success without the support and enthusiasm of its members.

Furthermore, the JACL would like to thank its sponsors whose support of the organization truly made the convention a memorable experience.

State Farm, a diamond sponsor, has maintained a strong relationship with JACL.

"Since beginning the partnership in 1999, State Farm has been

has its challenges and detractors, but good friends also come from it. I have appreciated the people with whom I have been privileged to associate and have enjoyed the work of trying to push forward the mission of the JACL.

The JACL is an important organization in the lives of many people. May the JACL continue with its important work and thrive in the coming years.

Thanks again Gary, Sonya, Karen, Kerry, and everyone else who helped to make it a great convention. It's not too early to begin planning to attend the 2012 National JACL Convention in Seattle. ■



David Lin, of AT&T and the JACL, speaks at the culmination banquet.

an unwavering supporter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). We are proud to co-sponsor the annual convention, which brings to light significant public policy issues facing the Japanese American community," said State Farm in a statement. "State Farm's outreach extends to programs such as: JACL/OCA Leadership Summit for chapter leadership development, and JACL Youth Leadership Summits for high school and college students. Through these relationships and programs, State Farm strives to be the Good Neighbor."

Southwest Airlines, as the official airlines of JACL, also served as a valuable partner for convention as a diamond sponsor.

"Southwest Airlines helps champion causes that matter most

in the daily lives of our customers, and we are devoted to each and every community that we serve. Southwest is proud to support the 42nd JACL National Convention and the 2011 Nikkei Conference and enable youth leaders to discuss important community issues with leaders from throughout the country," according to a company statement.

AT&T, a platinum level sponsor, has worked in tandem with JACL for convention but also for JACL programs such as Project Community throughout the years.

"At AT&T, we are extremely pleased collaborating with the JACL on a number of mutually beneficial initiatives over the years and our sponsorship and participation at the JACL national convention truly symbolizes this long-standing partnership. AT&T

has long been committed to the Asian American community and that commitment is reflected in our outreach efforts, our philanthropic support and our participation in major Asian American community events such as the JACL national convention," said AT&T in a statement.

Next year's 43rd JACL National Convention will be held in Seattle, Wash. from July 5-8. The theme is: "Inform. Transform. Perform." See you there! ■

## Thank You!

JACL thanks the following key partners for making the convention a success.

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## MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Awards were presented to: Father Vien Nguyen, Lisa Hasegawa, Dan Choi, Alan Nishio, Traci Kato-Kiriyama, and Paul Osaki. These exemplary people have given back much to the communities they serve.

Thank you for the surprise expressions and tributes which I personally received at the convention because of my announced retirement from the JACL, which will likely occur at the end of this year. I am grateful to those who have offered their support and kindness. Leading any organization or group

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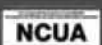
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