JABBAWOCKEEZ UNMASKED
Their new Las Vegas dance show spotlights Asian American talent.
PAGE 9

APAs criticize E-Verify bill.
PAGE 3

Students' struggles with rising tuition.
PAGE 5
They Were Concentration Camps

Thank you for the wonderful commentary, “JA WWII Experience is About ‘American Concentration Camps’” that appeared in the Sept. 2-15 issue of the Pacific Citizen. It made me go to the Internet to find President Roosevelt’s words and this is what I found.

In response to a reporter’s question about the West Coast “evacuation,” the president said: “…it is felt by a great many lawyers that under the Constitution they can’t be locked up in concentration camps.” (Nov. 21, 1944, FDR Library, #982.)

“I am for catching every Japanese in America, Alaska and Hawaii now and putting them in concentration camps... Damned them! Let’s get rid of them now!” (Congressman John Rankin, Congressional record, Dec. 15, 1941)

“I have made a lot of mistakes in my life... One is my part in the evacuation of the Japanese from California in 1942... I don’t think that served any purpose at all... We picked them up and put them in concentration camps. That’s the truth of the matter. And as I look back on it... although at the time I argued the case... I am amazed that the Supreme Court ever approved it.” (Tom Clark, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, San Diego Union, July 10, 1966.)

“They were concentration camps. They called it relocation but it was the same thing.” (President Harry S. Truman, with Merle Miller, 1961)

Just wanted to share this with you all. I will never stop being sad. Thank you for the wonderful Pacific Citizen.

Yoshih Tanabe
Handulu, HI

Pledge of Allegiance

Since John Tashiki is so proud of changing the wording of the Pledge of Allegiance (Pacific Citizen, Aug. 19-Sep. 1, 2011), why stop there? As JACLers, let’s start a campaign to eliminate the words “under God We Trust” that is imprinted on all U.S. currency (except the Susan B. Anthony dollar). I think it’s pretty clear why this organization is losing members.

Fred Shinoda
San Leandro, Calif.

The Score Update

The national JACL board has 28 points compared to my 13. Larry Oda, Stephanie Nishara, Matthew Farrelly, David Kawamoto, Kerry Kaneishi and Gail Shueki have all scored points. I think their all-star board member, Chip Lariosche, deserves a shout out for scoring 11 points.

Philip Otsuki
Membership Coordinator

Wet Misaka (top, right) gives his acceptance speech while JACL President David Kawamoto (top, left) and National Director Floyd Mori look on. (Left) MC Denise Nakano with Deni and Normann Mineta.

Gala Honors Sports Leaders

The JACL honored outstanding individuals who have made a name in sports at its Sept. 29 “Salute to Champions” gala in Washington, D.C. Honorees included Rep. Eni Faleomavesiga, NBA pioneer Wet Misaka, MLB history maker Don Wakamatsu and Tuaono “Cappy” Hesida (posthumously).

Faleomavesiga has served in Congress representing the territory of American Samoa making him the longest serving and only Samoan American in the Congres

Misaka was the first person of color drafted to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Wakamatsu was the first APA manager in MLB history.

Hesida is credited with advising Japanese baseball officials and building a “baseball bridge across the Pacific.”

Denise Nakano, NBC Philadelphia news anchor, served as the event’s emcee.
AAs Criticize Bill Mandating E-Verify to Weed Out Undocumented Workers

The Legal Workforce Act, if passed, would make it mandatory for employers to use E-Verify prior to hiring an employee.

By Nelson J. Ko

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series taking a look at citizenship and immigration in this country and its impact on the Asian American community.

The debate in Congress is heating up over a bill that would mandate employment nationwide to use a verification system to filter out undocumented workers, but some critics say the bill would target the Asian Pacific American community.

The Legal Workforce Act would require that employers across the nation use the electronic employment eligibility verification system, or E-Verify, a free federal program that verifies if an employee is legally allowed to work. The bill would require employers to use it before hiring an employee.


The bill was approved 22-13 in congressional committee and the debate in Congress is heating up over a bill that would mandate employment nationwide to use a verification system to filter out undocumented workers, but some critics say the bill would target the Asian Pacific American community.

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Protesting Pastries for Affirmative Action

Berkeley students show their support for SB 185 during an anti-affirmative action bake sale by the Berkeley College Republicans.

The “Increase Diversity Bake Sale” sponsored by the Berkeley College Republicans sparks protests and increases awareness about affirmative action.

By Christine Fukushima

BERKELEY, Calif. — When the clock tower struck twelve, they fell to the floor.

For the next few minutes, the shouts and arguments that had been going on for hours ceased and only the whirring blades of helicopters overhead could be heard as protestors, television camera crews and students passing through the university’s main walkway on their way to class stopped to watch the silent protest.

Clad in black, hundreds of members of “The Coalition,” composed of Cal students belonging to various multicultural organizations on campus, had organized the counter-protest held at the same time as the Berkeley College Republicans’ “Increase Diversity Bake Sale.”

Meant as a satire against California Senate Bill 185, which counters the state’s ban on affirmative action, the original text on the bake sale’s Facebook event page garnered national media attention for the Berkeley College Republicans.

Its controversial pricing scale for pastries advertised: “White/Caucasian: $2.00, Asian/Asian American: $1.50, Latino/Hispanic: $1.00, Black/African American: $0.75, Native American: $0.25 and $0.25 OFF FOR ALL WOMEN! Hope to see you all there! If you don’t come, you’re a racist!”

Like many other students at UC Berkeley and elsewhere, second-year Maria Vallarta was “shocked and mad” when she saw the proposed price scale.

“I was like, ‘wow, $1.50, that’s how much my struggle is worth?’ Thank you. It was just really offensive to me. It really shows how ignorant people are,” said Vallarta, who supports SB 185.

The bill would “authorize the University of California and the California State University to consider race, gender, ethnicity, and national origin, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions, to the maximum extent permitted by the 14th Amendment.”

Vallarta and other proponents of the bill point out that the language of the bill only allows UCs and CSUs to consider factors such as ethnicity in the admissions process instead of requiring them to, and that it does not establish a quota system, which would be unconstitutional.

But opponents of SB 185 argue that any inclusion of race and ethnicity in the admissions process is in itself “discriminatory,” says Alexander Salazar, a first-year UC Berkeley student and Berkeley College Republicans member.

Although he wrote about his grandparents’ experiences as immigrants to the United States in the personal statement section of his UC application, he doesn’t think that what they endured had “anything to do with [his] race.”

Instead of race and ethnicity, he thinks that admission to UCs and CSUs should be based on merit. He cites his own involvement in extracurricular activities and his high GPA for his admittance to Cal.

“Race is just a blanket statement of someone. In my opinion it doesn’t mean anything,” Salazar said.

“I’m glad that America has afforded me this privilege through my merit, not through some bureaucratic up at Sacramento or even the [UC] regents holding my hand, which I think is very unfair,” he added.

Berkeley College Republicans vice-president Derek Zhou agrees.

“Basically we’re trying to move society forward [so] to get past race,” he said during a brief break from selling cupcakes and arguing with pro-SB 185 students who approached the busy bake sale, which made $800 by the end of the day, as reported by UC Berkeley’s campus newspaper.

“Let’s not just forget about it because of the history, we all know what the history is, but really [let’s] try … to look past it because you’re not going to solve the problem of judging people by race by judging people by race,” Zhou added.

But proponents of SB 185 contest that the current system of admissions at UCs and CSUs is not truly merit-based.

Vallarta, for example, doesn’t think that she worked harder than her peers to get to college. Instead, she credits her parents’ encouragement for her decision to pursue higher education and believes that many of her friends from high school would have benefited from a policy like SB 185.

“When you come from a broken family and if you go to a school like mine that’s under-reourced and underprivileged where the teachers don’t really care about you and if you live in a society that constantly distracts you and looks at you like a delinquent, it’s like where are you going to turn? Where are you going to go?” said Vallarta.

So instead of going to college, most of her friends from high school dropped out or joined gangs, she says.

In 1996, California banned affirmative action in its college admissions process with the public voting in favor of the California Civil Rights Initiative, or Prop. 209.

Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Texas and Washington are also among the states that have banned affirmative action, though Michigan’s ban was overturned by the Supreme Court’s Sixth Circuit this past July.

When Prop. 209 was passed in California, the general Asian Pacific American population on UC campuses such as Cal increased, though some ethnicities under the “Asian American” umbrella remained underrepresented.

“The few Filipinos that were able to achieve access to the university were those of the middle/upper-middle class, a small group that does not represent the entire Filipino community within the greater L.A. area,” said University of California, Los Angeles student Anne Alvarez by email, explaining how the passage of Prop. 209 affected the Filipino American population at UCLA.

Alvarez’s work with Filipino students in low-income areas in Los Angeles, as well as the struggles of her own cousins to go to college, has motivated her to support SB 185.

Likewise, it is her high school friends who encouraged Vallarta to wear black and join the protest against the Berkeley College Republicans bake sale.

She believes that the passage of SB 185 “would show them that their struggles will be taken into account. It’s like saying, ‘I know what you’ve gone through and it sucks but you can use your struggle and turn it into something beautiful’ and that beautiful thing would be going to college,” she said.
Asian American Students Struggle With Rising Tuition

Many college students are taking on extra jobs, more loans or even deferring their education to cope with this new reality.

By Christine McNadden

Asian American Groups Struggling

According to the The Daily Campus, the University of Connecticut's student newspaper, the tuition at the university has dropped from 50 percent to 32 percent in the past two years, while the enrollment at the university has jumped from 17.6 percent to 32.5 percent.

The amount of programming and the quality of teaching that we have been able to do has definitely been affected over the years, said shellie Blake, assistant vice president for UC's Asian American Cultural Center.

The changes in funding percentages that UC has done in the past two years have put a strain on many students, including APA and APIA, who are struggling to pay their increased tuition.

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Heart Mountain Internment Photos Donated to Washington State

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash.—A Japanese American boy stands outside the barracks of the internment camp, looking at the distinctive shape of Heart Mountain in the distance.

The poignant, long-ago moment is captured in one of many collections of photographs from the Heart Mountain internment camp that have been donated to Washington State University.

The black and white photos were taken by George Hirahara and his son Frank, who were among about 1,000 residents of the Yakima Valley who were incarcerated there during World War II. They were donated by Patti Wall, Frank’s daughter, who wanted the historic images to be available to as many people as possible.

“It has spurred lots of inquiries from organizations who want access to the photos,” said Hirahara of Auburn, Calif., about his donation. “I’ve got requests from families who wanted to see the photos to look for family members.”

Some of the photos were previewed recently at the campus library.

Hirahara, who was born after the war, said three generations of his family — her great grandmother, grandmother and father — were interned at Heart Mountain.

The approximately 2,000 black and white photos depict life in the camp between 1943 and 1945, and are said to be the largest collection of photos from Heart Mountain, which was located near Cody, Wyo. About half will be available online starting in October 2012, thanks to a $40,000 grant from the National Park Service.

Trevor Road, head of WSU’s Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections, said the photos are remarkable.

“The sharp quality of the images will allow researchers to examine minute details in the photographs, such as the food on the table or the crops grown in the Heart Mountain compound,” he said.

During WWII, Heart Mountain became a temporary home for more than 10,000 people from Washington, Oregon and California during the war.

The Hirahara family was housed in Barrack 15, and most of the photos were of activities around the barracks and of other internees from the Yakima Valley.

Internees were allowed to have cameras starting in 1943, and father and son began taking pictures as a hobby. George built a darkroom.

Both Hirahara had outgoing personalities, and other internees began asking them to take their portraits, in formal and casual settings WSU said.

After the war, George returned to the Yakima Valley, taking the photos with him.

He became a U.S. citizen in 1954. Frank’s only child, Patti, discovered the photos in her grandfather’s attic in Yakima, in the early 1990s, and had them shipped to her home in Auburn.

A journalist and public relations executive, Patti lost some of the photos over the years for displays at the Anaheim Public Library and a city museum.

She also donated items from her family’s Yakima roots to the Yakima Valley Museum for an ongoing exhibit about Japanese pioneers in the valley. That exhibit will run through 2013.

But Patti still had the largest collection of photos from the internment camp, and wanted to preserve it for future generations.

Because her father attended WSU, she contacted the school and arranged the donation earlier this year. Reaction was immediate after the gift was initially announced.

“We never expected this collection would draw this much attention,” she said.

She has been working with survivors of the camps and their families to identify the people in the photos.

“A network of survivors is helping me,” she said. “People want to make sure this story is told correctly.”

Army Officer Discharged Under ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ Re-enlist

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

An Asian Pacific American Iraq War veteran who was discharged from the Army for coming out as gay on a national television show says he wants to re-enlist now that the ban on gays and lesbians has been lifted.

Dan Choi, 29, was discharged in 2010 as a lieutenant from the Army National Guard about her donation. “I’ve got requests from families who wanted to see the photos to look for family members.”

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Date Set For Gold Medal Ceremony

President Barack Obama signed the Congressional Gold Medal bill last October.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

A date has been set for the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Japanese American veterans of World War II.

Veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service will receive the honor in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 2.

The House voted Sept. 21 to approve the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the event. The Senate passed the measure earlier this month.

The National Veterans Network (NVN), a coalition of 25 JA veterans and civic organizations, will be hosting three events in honor of the gold medal ceremony including a Nov. 2 gala dinner and a Nov. 3 ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

“It is an incredible moment for generations of Japanese Americans to celebrate and honor the contributions these brave veterans have made to the American story,” said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, NVN chair.

Congress last year voted to award the medal collectively to those who served in the three segregated units. President Barack Obama signed the legislation shortly afterward.

The veterans volunteered to go to war even though they were branded “enemy aliens” and rendered ineligible for the draft. The 442nd RCT included the 100th Battalion, one of the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history. The MIS, who is credited with helping hasten the end of WWII, was honored with a Presidential Unit Citation in 2000.

The gold medal is Congress’ highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.
WWII ‘Loyalty Hearing’ Courtroom Dedicated

The hearings at Fort Missoula sought to unravel sabotage plans among Issei men.

By PAC Staff and Associated Press

A Fort Missoula courtroom that was used to hold “loyalty hearings” for more than 1,000 Issei men living in the U.S. during World War II has been restored and was dedicated Sept. 24.

A replica of the courtroom’s beach rises on the far end of the room. The knotty pine wall paneling has been restored. The ceiling tiles and lights reflect Army decor of the period, though no photos of the courtroom have been found, according to The Missoulian.

The Post Headquarters Courtroom held hearings for first-generation Japanese men taken from their homes in the months following America’s entry into the war after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941.

The FBI arrested the Issei men who were barred from becoming American citizens — after they were identified as prominent leaders or potential security risks.

George Joji Tsutakawa, a Japan-born resident who before World War II was working as a turnkey merchant in his small family business in Seattle, was among the Issei men incarcerated at Fort Missoula while his family was sent to Puyallup and then Minidoka.

“Being separated from our father was devastating, but mother persevered and nurtured through the ordeal,” said Marion Kanemoto, his daughter.

The “loyalty hearings” at Fort Missoula began in January 1942. The U.S. government thought that if there were any kind of sabotage being planned, the Issei men were the ones who would influence it, Carol Van Valkenburg, a University of Montana journalism professor, said in a video posted on the Historical Museum of Fort Missoula’s website.

None was ever charged with an act of disloyalty but all were detained at Fort Missoula, the largest intact WWII detention center, the largest intact WWII detention center, the largest intact WWII detention center, the largest intact WWII detention center.

During WWII, Fort Missoula’s Alien Detention Center was established to hold foreign nationals and resident aliens. None was ever charged with an act of disloyalty but all were detained at Fort Missoula or in other camps for the war’s duration.

Tsutakawa was incarcerated at Fort Missoula for about a year. He didn’t talk about his experience there, said Kanemoto.

“I think it’s important to preserve this part of American history because it will be reminder that the civil rights of all peoples must be respected and not compromised,” she said about the dedication of the courtroom.

The Department of Immigration and Naturalization established four so-called “justice camps” like Fort Missoula after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Fort Missoula has been restored the courtroom with funding from the National Park Service since Missoula County and the museum purchased the post headquarters from the U.S. Forest Service last year.

During WWII, Fort Missoula’s Alien Detention Center was established to hold foreign nationals and resident aliens.

Fort Missoula, the largest intact WWII detention center with its courtroom, is working with the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to bring the exhibit “Taken: FBI” to Fort Missoula. The exhibit will have personal items from Oregon Issei men who were incarcerated at Fort Missoula, according to Diane Sands, the museum’s development director and Fort Missoula Alien Detention Camp project coordinator.
PANA: Gazing at the North-South Dimension


For Nisei in America (circa 1935-1955), often seen as a potential bridge between U.S. and Japan to promote understanding, Pearl Harbor and the war in the Pacific shattered that bridge. Nisei in Latin America realized that and began what might be called the “North-South Dimension.” The issue was integration.

They were eager to meet their English-speaking cousins in North America. They wanted an organization to encourage fraternal relations, exchange experiences and keen about their history and heritage. We learned Japanese immigrants were in Mexico (1897), Cuba (1898), Peru, Bolivia (1899), a shipload of 781 in Brazil (1908), of which 160 went to Argentina (1909), in Chile (1910), Colombia (1926), Venezuela (1928), Uruguay (1936), Paraguay (1932) and the Dominican Republic (1956).

Such was PANA’s birth. Now, see how it has developed.

The PANA convention just held at Cancín, Sept. 1-3, attracted 285 participants from 17 countries at Cancín Palace Hotel-Spa. No dates were announced, but COPA17 will be held in Buenos Aires in 2013.

Japanese Ambassador to Mexico Shinsilo Megata congratulated PANA communities maintaining their cultural heritage at the opening night show, Mexican dinner al fresco plus PANA’s soft drinks stored in the room’s small refrigerator.

Two unforgettable slices of life in Mexico were highlighted in the US$200 registration fee: (a) XCARET, a Mayan jungle playground, swim in the ocean and folkloric dancers, and (b) the 45-minute cruise to Isla Mujeres’ melodic nighttime show, Mexican dinner al fresco plus PANA’s traditional exchange of gifts. Both events lasted till 10:30 p.m.

Workshops, including Q&A, ranged from the first convention organized by the youth, college graduates in their 20s and 30s, who happily spoke English to those from the U.S. and Canada. This also was believed to be the first Nikkei convention where the hotel room rate included all meals, the bottled water, beer and soft drinks stored in the room’s small refrigerator.

Yano said, “We have many tasks to be done,” pointing to the Nikkei from the Caribbean countries and South Asia. The Dominican Republic representation was reactivated, long absent since 1981. One Nisei from Singapore, participants from Germany and France added to PANA’s charm.

Venerable co-founder Carlos Kasuga (Mexico) was heartened by the vitality and enthusiasm of young people responsible for COPANI-16 and anticipates more to come. “If you (the Nisei) find any fault, it will be entirely involuntary and accidental, so I hope you know how to forgive them.”

The youth-inspired theme was the most compelling ever devised for PANA: “Porque ser Nikkei no es ser diferente, sino el que hace la diferencia.” Essence of being a Nisei is not to be different, but to be the one that makes the difference.”

Nico Kasahagi, Sansei convention president-organizer, expressed his pride and gratitude for being entrusted to welcome the Nisei from many countries. This was PANA’s first convention organized by the youth, college graduates in their 20s and 30s, who happily spoke English to those from the U.S. and Canada. This also was believed to be the first Nikkei convention where the hotel room rate included all meals, the bottled water, beer and soft drinks stored in the room’s small refrigerator.

Traveling to Japan

Seven months after the earthquake and tsunami and subsequent nuclear disaster hit Japan, my wife Erin and I are going to do the one thing that I think will help Japan the most, even more than the hundreds of dollars we’ve donated to various aid efforts. We’re going to visit Japan — with my mother in tow — and spend money there. Since the dollar is hurting against the yen, we’ll be spending even more money than we originally had expected.

We’re heading to Japan on a trip that will unfortunately not include the Tohoku region that was devastated by the quake and tsunami (I really want to see the area and its revival).

Instead, our trip will include a couple of days in Sapporo, where my uncle (my brother’s mother) lives, and several days in Nemuro, a small fishing town on the easternmost tip of Hokkaido, the northern island where my mom was born and raised. Then we’ll take a plane south to Tokyo, then south from there on the Shinkansen, or Bullet Train, to Hiroshima where Erin’s family is originally from (and where my family lived for a couple of years before moving to the U.S. when I was a kid). We’ll finish the trip with a couple of rushed days in Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan, and fly back after two weeks.

There’s a lot to think about whenever you travel out of the country. But for Japanese Americans, there are layers of cultural and emotional complexity that most tourists don’t have to think about.

I’ve found over the years that many Sansei JAs — that is to say, JAs around my (baby boomer) age — know aren’t that interested in visiting Japan. Most feel uncomfortable because they identify as American, not Japanese, and can’t speak the language. They don’t want to feel embarrassed when strangers or even family members speak to them and they can’t understand.

Plus, as Americans they’re just as interested in traveling to Europe or Latin America as they might be in traveling to Asia. Or they dream of going to Hong Kong or Beijing more than Tokyo.

Since I was born in Japan and lived there until I was eight, I love traveling back and re-connecting to my childhood memories. It took me decades after my move before I got to fly to Japan again, and the country’s changed so much that it’s exciting for me to see the evolution of everything from cities and cuisine (there were no McDonald’s when I lived there) to language and culture.

But for some JAs, that ever-evolving culture is completely foreign and understandably, distant. Luckily, Erin is as touch with her roots as I am — which is surprising since she’s Yonsei, fourth-generation, whose great grandmother emigrated to the U.S. in the early part of the 20th century pregnant with Erin’s grandmother. Her great-grandparents, grandparents and parents on both sides were imprisoned in concentration camps during WWII.

That interment experience is what forced the break within many JA families. After the war, many families moved away from Japantown areas to disperse and assimilate into the white suburbs. Many stopped speaking Japanese or even cooking much Japanese food. Some even — gasp — stopped taking off their shoes in the house.

We’re eager to explore our roots, and we’re happy to be tourists since Japan needs very badly for more tourists to visit. I’ll be blogging and we’ll post lots of videos and photos as we go, to encourage other visitors to book a trip to Japan.

Erin and I are cramming for the trip by listening to a Japanese immersion series of CDs to boost our vocabulary and grammar, and of course, trying to lose weight and look good for the family members we’ll meet.

The first time I went to Japan with my mom, we were picked up at the airport in Sapporo by my uncle, who I hadn’t seen in over 30 years. His first words to me? “Haa, fudhon ta nehill?” (“You, you get fat.”)

This time I’m determined to bear something warmer upon my arrival!

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. editorial board chair.
The Jabbawockeez announced recently that their popular Las Vegas show “MUS.I.C.”, which opened in 2010, will be extended through Spring 2012 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino.

By Nabea J. Ko
Reporter

Back in the shimmering lights of the Las Vegas strip is like living a dream for the Jabbawockeez who have traveled a long journey since they first stepped on their signature white gloves and masks to appear on MTV.

The Jabbawockeez now have their dance crew name in lights at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Reviewers and audiences have praised their high-energy dance show since it opened in 2010.

“Ever since we even started Jabbawockeez in 08 we always talked about how it would be cool the fact that if we had a Jabbawockeez show on the strip,” said Chris “Cristyle” Gatdula, 30. “It’s something that we’re still probably trippin’ off of.”

Their popular show “MUS.I.C.” debuted in October of last year and has been extended through Spring 2012.

Each show sees 11 Jabbawockeez decked out in their popular white gloves and masks. Using dance, music and a dash of humor, the Jabbawockeez take the audience on an audio-visual journey that stays from the conventional Las Vegas magic or showgirls performances.

A combination of water and Fire Ball leaves the Jabbawockeez’s energy level high to perform for each show, said Kevin “KVB” Brewer. To maintain their VIP access to the Monte Carlo steam room and sauna.

“It’s been like 250 plus shows under our belt with no days off and we’re all blessed, for the most part, to stay healthy and complete,” 34-year-old Brewer said about training like an athlete for the show.

The road to Vegas was years in the making for the Jabbawockeez. Before there were 11 members, there were the 3 Musky, Joseph Lant, Kevin Brewer and Phil Tiyag.

The Jabbawockeez, which takes its name from the Lewis Carroll fictional storybook character, was comprised of eight original members.

It was 2008 when the Jabbawockeez appeared on MTV’s “Randy Jackson Presents America’s Best Dance Crew” with six members. They had intended to also dance with member Gary Kentwell, who left the show due to stylistic reasons.

Since then, the show has grown in popularity and has been extended every few months.

Despite the tragedy, the hip-hop dancers beat out their competition to win the title of best dance crew.

Shawn likes “ABDC” gave Asian American dancers like a family.

“We are brothers in every sense of the word.” Brewer said. “It’s just we all come from different mothers and fathers.”

The group has evolved and matured since their days on MTV. With their newfound fame came appearances on the big screen and on TV shows like “The Today Show,” “The Blacklist,” “So You Think You Can Dance,” “Frigg & Kelly” and more.

Their signature masks have also changed since their MTV debut.

“The mask definitely has evolved over the years,” Gatdula said adding that the first masks were hard-to-breathe-from thick masks. “We would go to the stores and they wouldn’t have enough masks. Sometimes we’d have like two grey ones, three white ones, [they were] different shapes and we would have to paint all of them the same color, which would be white.”

These days any fan can stop by the Jabbawockeez’s website and purchase a custom-made mask for the performance. At the Jabbawockeez’s signature masks — and moves — are known across the world.

“We’ve seen in so many different continents. It’s just like wow.” Brewer said. “You’re talking about looking at AIDS and how far we’ve come.”

Some Jabbawockeez members say they draw their AA heritage as inspiration.

“Music and dance are a huge part of Vietnamese culture.” said Jeff “Phil” Nguyen, 30. “I think I came from the entertainment side of my heritage, so I just applied to music that I can relate to.”

The Jabbawockeez come from diverse backgrounds and different areas on the West Coast. But, Brewer says, they are like a family.

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Fresno Assembly Center Memorial Rededicated

The Fresno Assembly Center Memorial tells the WWII JA story through storyboards and banners.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A memorial at the site of a former World War II Japanese American assembly center in Fresno, Calif., was rededicated during an Oct. 5 ceremony.

The Fresno Assembly Center Memorial tells the WWII JA experience through storyboards and banners featuring historical photos and commentaries. Storyboards are framed with wood from the original barracks. The memorial also features a wall inscribed with the names of former internees.

The dedication ceremony was co-sponsored by the Big Fresno Fair and the JACL's Central California District Council.

The memorial received local historical landmark in 1991 and was later re-dedicated on Feb. 19, 1992, with California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934.

During WWII, over 5,000 JAs from the Central Valley passed through the fairground's gates on their way to internment camps in 1942.

The memorial is about remembrance, respect and responsibility," said Dale Ikeda, Fresno Superior Court judge. "We should remember the mistakes of the past so they are not repeated. We should respect those who suffered persecution and prejudice and went on to live productive and exemplary lives and those who stood up for justice. We should be responsible for our own words and deeds as we strive to be just and compassionate human beings."

Planning for the memorial has been underway since 2009 when the Big Fresno Fair board of directors approached the Fairdale Assembly Center memorial committee to upgrade the Fresno Assembly Center memorial.

Funding for the $180,000 project was provided by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and by contributions from Friends of the Fresno District Fair, Fresno County Office of Education, Sun-Maid Growers of California and others.

Fresno County is the only county that housed two assembly centers during WWII.

S.J. JACL's Community Recognition Dinner to be Held Oct. 15

San Jose JACL's 9th Annual Community Recognition Dinner will honor local leaders and musicians who exemplify the spirit of community service.

This year's honorees are: Roy and F.J. Hirabayashi, founders of San Jose Taiko; Jim McClure, San Jose Obon chair; Wes Makoyama, former executive director of Yu-Ai Kai; the San Jose Zebras, a pioneering organization in Nikkei basketball; and the Wesley Jazz Ensemble.

The recognition dinner themed, "100 Years and Beyond: Honoring Community Service," will be held Oct. 15 at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel's Mediterranean Center.

She also served as emcee in 2009. In conjunction with the dinner, San Jose JACL will host a silent auction and benefit drawing to raise funds for the chapter's programs.

Community Recognition Dinner
Oct. 15, 5 p.m.; no-host cocktails and silent auction 4 p.m.
San Jose Airport Garden Hotel's Mediterranean Center
1740 North First Street
Cost: $55/person or $550/table for 10
For more information: contact Tom Oshidari at toshidari9356@aol.com or 408/257-5609 or Sharon Uyeda at suyeda9356@aol.com or 408/253-3656.

Placer JACL Continues Fundraising for WWII Monument

The memorial will feature a bronze plaque that tells the story of the JA WWII veterans.

A memorial that will feature the names of World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry and document the story of the wartime incarceration still needs to raise funds.

Ken Tokutomi, Placer JACL treasurer, recently announced that about $40,000 is still needed to complete the project.

The memorial site will feature the names of JA WWII veterans from Placer and Sacramento Counties inscribed on bricks. A donation of $200 will sponsor one of these veterans.

There will also be a bronze plaque that tells the story of the JA WWII veterans and will also tell the story of the internment.

Educational materials will also be developed for students and visitors.

Placer JACL is currently selling tickets for a drawing to win a limited edition bronze scale model ($10/ticket, $50/6 tickets).

The drawing will be held on Veteran's Day.

To donate or buy tickets: www placerjACL.org

FROM THE MIDWEST
JACL's Three Pillars

By Bill Yoshino

The question is often asked, "What does JACL do?" Unfortunately, one of the things the JACL has not done well over the years is communication, either internally for our members or externally to the public. We don't have an active public relations apparatus. The JACL newspaper, Pacific Citizen, operates independently, detached from the priorities of the JACL. Our limited resources don't allow us to update our website on a daily basis, much less send regular updates to our members. Thus, a clear message about what the JACL does is often lost.

This 'woe is me' rant shouldn't mask some very positive steps taken in recent years to consolidate our programs in a way that clearly reflect our organizational mission, which is to "...secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans ... promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community." A cryptic description of what JACL does is when the term "Jap" is scrawled on a wall, we get rid of it. Where our future requires youth involvement, we help fill the leadership pipeline. And where the JA heritage and legacy need to be promoted, we work hand in hand with teachers, students and institutions to preserve it.

The JACL staff works daily to address our mission by focusing on three main program pillars: Social Justice Advocacy, Leadership Training and Development, Cultural Heritage and Preservation.

Our first program pillar is Social Justice Advocacy, which can be described as protecting civil rights for those victimized by injustice and bigotry. This is accomplished through our program of Legislative Action where the JACL works with organizations and public officials to support or oppose initiatives and legislation that affect the Asian Pacific American community. The JACL also monitors for incidents of defamation and hate crimes on a daily basis and responds appropriately whenever these incidents occur. This also includes the publication of educational booklets and brochures on anti-Asian sentiment and a semi-annual newsletter that compiles hate incidents and JACL responses.

The second pillar is Leadership Training and Development, seeks to develop a pipeline of effective leadership for positive social change for the APA community. Through our Campus Outreach Program, we present workshops at colleges and universities where we delve into issues such as hate crimes, bullying and multicultural identity. Our next workshops will be held at the Boston APA Students Intercollegiate Conference at Harvard on Oct. 21. Our annual D.C. Leadership Summit, co-sponsored with OCA, provides training for potential leaders on the decision-making process at the federal level. Our National Youth/Student Council provides opportunities for youth to participate in regional summits. Our annual Collegiate D.C. Leadership Program presents opportunities for leaders to interact with officials from Congress, the White House and federal agencies.

Cultural Heritage and Preservation is the third pillar of JACL's programs where we promote JA cultural and social values. This goal is pursued through our Teacher Training Program where we present workshops that encourage teachers to teach about the JA incarceration. Our next training will be held at the Illinois Holocaust Museum on Oct. 18. JACL's Curriculum Materials Program publishes and updates educational materials including its curriculum guide, "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience." Our approach to preserving cultural heritage is evident in programs such as Project Community and Bridging Communities that provide sessions for students to learn about personal identity, APA issues, community organizing and community history.

Indeed, the JACL has a clear direction with a set of programs to carry out our historic civil rights mission with an eye to the future while preserving our history and the lessons it holds for our country's values. This is the message about what the JACL does. Help spread it.

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest regional director.
Sculptor Helps Resurrect Landmark Ohio Jesus Statue

By Nalca J. Ko
Reporter

Japanese American Tom Tsuchiya’s sculpted works can be seen across Ohio and later this year his new 50-foot-tall Jesus statue will be seen by motorists from the I-75.

The original 62-foot-tall Jesus statue at the Ohio-based Solid Rock Church was struck by lightning and caught fire in June of 2019. The news of the burning statue swept across Ohio, reaching Tom Tsuchiya’s twin brother.

“Everyone thought someone else was in charge,” said Takeuchi.

By George Tsuchiya
Reporter

Tom Tsuchiya, who designed the piece, is working on the sculpture’s head, two hands and feet. The pieces will be brought to the installation site and welded together. The main structure of the statue was installed in late September, Tsuchiya said.

The sculptor’s other work can be seen all across his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. At Xavier University Tom Tsuchiya sculpted a bronze D’Artagnan statue, his first major work.

He was later commissioned to create statues of Cincinnati Reds players at the Great American Ball Park. The statue of former player Joe Nuxall is one of Steve Tsuchiya’s favorites.

“The whole statue is gracefully resting on one foot, this is something you can do with a bronze statue, due to its strength. It really takes advantage of the bronze medium,” Steve Tsuchiya said about his twin brother’s creation.

The JA sculptor’s favorite pieces are also of Cincinnati Reds players like Ted Kluszewski, Ernie Lombardi, and Frank Robinson.

“Tom’s new statue was one of my most memorable ones,” Tsuchiya said of the sculpture that was unveiled Sept. 17. “It was a fun project. Sports figures are sort of my main thing. That’s sort of the core of what I usually do. The bronze sculpture of former ball player Johnny Bench captured his likeness posed in catcher’s gear throwing out a runner.

Growing up in Cincinnati, Tom Tsuchiya recalls gathering clay from a creek nearby his house with his two brothers and making sculptures that would later crumble in pieces. As a child he showed an aptitude for the arts, creating some of his first sculptures such as dinosaurs and a monkey eating fruit. He won an art contest in 1980 for his drawings inspired by the Summer Olympics, said his twin brother.

The Tsuchiya brothers’ parents immigrated from Japan in the 60s, at different times, to the United States. Most of Tom Tsuchiya’s commissioned work is Western-influenced, but some of his inspiration come from his parents’ birthplace.

“We had the good fortune to visit Japan a few times when we were kids,” Tom Tsuchiya said. “So I think we were always impressed with the castles in Japan and those kind of structures.”

Other statues created by Tom Tsuchiya stay away from the bronze life-size sculpture he has created throughout Ohio. Last year Tom Tsuchiya created a 7-foot-tall sculpture called “Atlas Recycled” made of recycled tiles and road maps. Installed in Fountain Square in Cincinnati to celebrate the 48th Earth Day, the sculpture also served as a working recycling bin.

“Other than the craft, people come to check out the art work, and that’s the whole goal,” said Tsuchiya. “It’s kind of a personal project of mine,” Tom Tsuchiya said. “My goal next year is to take my time. I’m going to move around a little bit to see if there are other projects.”

The restoration project has relied entirely on volunteer labor and donations. Noted landscape artist Toru Tanaka has volunteered his time to possibly maybe Washington, D.C. or Mexico City or maybe Los Angeles.

Planning on joining his girlfriend, who is contracted to work for a year in Mexico City, Tom Tsuchiya plans to travel to the country in January of next year.

He will not, however, leave before completing his current project for the Solid Rock Church.

The church has a live streaming “Jesus Cam” to monitor the progress of the statue.

“Our church is excited about the new statue. The previous statue was an icon in this area. Many people have contacted the church to comment on how the statue was an encouragement to them,” Carter said. “It is our hope that the new statue will be an encouragement as well.”

The project is set for completion in mid-October.

Restoration Effort Underway at Gresham Japanese Garden

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A Japanese garden in Gresham, Oregon long overgrown from years of neglect is finally receiving some TLC trimming, landscaping and compost.

The 3/4-acre park located at the south end of Main City Park has historical roots. It was dedicated in 1975 as a gift from the Gresham-Trotwood JACL to the city of Gresham — a plaque in the park indicates the exchange. In its better days the park boasted sculpted foliage, unique rock formations and a concrete bridge over a creek.

Over the years, the park became overgrown — its beauty cloaked in wilderness, said Tomiko Takeuchi, an area resident.

"No one took care of it," said Takeuchi, a Sansei retired school principal who was a child used to visit the park with her father. "I just couldn’t let this die.""The restoration project has relied entirely on volunteer labor and donations. Noted landscape artist Toru Tanaka has volunteered his design and landscaping for the garden.

The goal is to have the garden presentable in time for Obon, said Takeuchi.

The restoration effort “honors the many Japanese American citizens that spent their lives living and farming out here in East County. Most of them are gone now, but I think they would be pleased,” said Cathy Harrington, director of the city of Gresham’s Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement.

Takeuchi is seeking grant opportunities to further fund the restoration project. Thus far, most expenses that have not been donated have come out of pocket, she said.

"PNW is interested in this and we’ll talk about it at our October board meeting," said Larassee in an email to the Pacific Citizen about the restoration.
Japanese Americans Lead 9/11 10th Anniversary Sacramento Memorial

By Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita

An amazing “United Nations” of 150 diverse Americans gathered Sept. 9 for a 9/11 10th anniversary memorial at Sacramento’s Buddhist Church of Florin, a historic site where Japanese Americans once met in 1942 to hear the news of their World War II concentration camp imprisonment. This time people honored the victims of 9/11 and to support innocent Muslim, Sikh and Arab Americans targeted by backlash.

Several courageous camp survivors, ranging in age from their 70s to 90s, inspired the memorial and received a standing ovation from the audience. They included: Anne and Jack Akabori, Jane Okubo, Heidi Sakazaki, Kiyo Hiroko Tsuda, and Christine and Stan Umeda. The former detainees represented eight of the ten major camps according to event coordinator Fumie Shimada.

Executive Director Basim El-Khala of CAIR-SV passionately related the story of how the JACL was the first national organization to stand up for Arab, Sikh and Muslim Americans after 9/11. He thanked JACL for their support.

Sacramento Sikh Temple representative Darshan Mundy explained how Sikhs continue to be victims of assaults and murders when ignorant persons blame them for looking like Osama Bin Laden. He noted that the murderers of two elderly Sikh men, a suspected hate crime in the local suburb of Elk Grove recently, have so far escaped justice.

Former Mayor of Sacramento Anne Rudin, the first woman mayor of the city in modern times, shared her close involvement with the JACL community, including her membership in JACL. Rudin is a highly-respected unifying force in Sacramento, often advocating for equal rights for all, world peace, and government.

U.S. Marshall Albert Najera (also former Sacramento City police chief) related how vital it is for law enforcement to listen to the community. Without that, the police would be isolated and ineffective at fighting crimes including the threat of terrorism.

Sacramento County Supervisor Mark Iwasaki attended the memorial, highlighting his department’s close ties to the community.

“Today’s step might be a small step for us, but without a small step, we cannot go forward,” said New Buddhist Church of Florin resident Minister Yuki Sugahara, who led a candlelight moment of silence by ringing the Buddhist gong.

A lively reception followed and showcased a rainbow of people talking to one another, sharing backgrounds, and building valuable friendships — a goal of the event. Muslims sat with Jews, Buddhists sat with LGBT members, and Sikhs sat with Christians. People remarked that they had never seen such a diverse crowd socializing in the church before.

The ensuing groups included: Advocacy and Cultural Coalition Taskforce (ACCT), Chono Consortium Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations (COSVIO), Court of the Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE), Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento, Jewish Community Relations Council (Sacramento), Jewish Voice for Peace (Sacramento), Physicians for Social Responsibility (Sacramento) and Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims (SALAM).

Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita write from Sacramento and can be reached at FlorinJACL@hotmail.com.
Florida Memorial Dedicated in Honor of WWII Japanese American Veterans

A memorial honoring the bravery of World War II Japanese American veterans was recently dedicated at a Boynton Beach, Florida park. The memorial, which depicts the 100th Battalion in battle and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team “Go For Broke” logo among other features, was officially dedicated Sept. 2 in Veterans Bicentennial Park, located at 411 North Federal Highway. The Boynton Beach Veterans Council raised funds for the memorial. “These guys were incredible for what they did,” said Tom Kaiser, chair of the Boynton Beach Veterans Council about the 442nd RCT and the 100th Battalion. Individuals including Aiko Yamamoto, of California’s Bay Area, contributed to the JA memorial’s fundraising effort.

“In the placement of the monument we can be comforted that these men ‘will not be forgotten,’” said Yamamoto, who attended the dedication ceremony. As President Truman quoted of the soldier, “You not only had to fight the enemy, you had to fight discrimination.”

At the dedication ceremony, Lt. Ewroan Blonder, a WWII 141st Infantry “Lost” Battalion veteran praised the JA men who saved his life. “The 442nd lost 800 men rescuing us,” he told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Blonder’s family traded stories with Yamamoto at the event. “They are forever grateful to the 442nd and can’t imagine what their lives would have been without their husband/father being in their lives and being able to go home again to them,” said Yamamoto.

The bench, which sits alongside the JA WWII veterans’ memorial is named in honor of Yamamoto’s brother, Masaru Hank Fujihara, who although not a 442nd RCT veteran, served at Fort Ord in Monterey Bay, Calif., according to Yamamoto.

The JA WWII veterans’ memorial was one of three to be dedicated at the park Sept. 2 in honor of V Day, the day in WWII when the Japanese surrendered.

The other monuments were dedicated to women veterans and African American veterans.

Buddhist Church Organizes Japan Relief Drive

(L-r) Brandon Mark, Charles Yagi (in cap and sunglasses), Dr. Kelvin Mark, Kats Uyeda and Sam Liang.

In response to the devastating Japanese earthquake and tsunami in March, the Buddhist Church of Stockton has coordinated the largest one-time collection of relief effort goods sent from the West Coast of the U.S., according to Charles H. Yagi, board president of the Buddhist church.

The church placed notices about their collection drive in local newspapers and radio and television shows. Within a month, over 18,000 pounds of clothing, blankets and linen, and non-perishable food items were donated.

Church members sorted and packaged all of the donated items. The collection effort started in March and items were shipped in July.

Due to governmental restrictions, only 8,135 pounds of the relief effort goods were sent to Japan. The collection effort was co-chaired by Yagi, a Stockton JACL member, and church member Sam Liang.

“I felt like we needed to help people who were really in need,” said Yagi.

David Silva, owner of Silva Trucking of French Camp, Calif., donated a driver and a truck/tractor-trailer to transport the collected items from Stockton to the San Francisco International Airport for its final transportation to the Sendai Betsuin Church of Japan.

Mori

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the limited budget, but with the right mix of technology and current data we can enhance our winning record into winning the hearts and minds of the Asian American community.

The JACL is more than just a socially conscious human rights organization. In a more complex world of competing forces for scarce social capital, the JACL needs to focus more on an economic model that will maximize the use of our limited human and economic capital to maintain a winning record in the battle for fairness and equality. We cannot tie ourselves to old fashioned traditions that prevent us from moving into the modern world of nonprofits.

The JACL’s network of chapters and members has been dwindling as we continue to use decades-old tools to capture and maintain members. Members may be a term of the past, and we need to look to friends, donors and supporters along with stronger outreach to build new partners in the corporate and foundation sectors. And, of course, the effective increased use of the Internet to build new friends and communicate what we are doing is the key to the future. Without a heavy emphasis on modern tools of communication and fundraising and by continuing old, outdated, and ineffective methods of communication that do not keep a few interested members at bay, we will dwindle as an effective social justice arm of the AA community and lose our place as a preserver of our rich cultural heritage.

Using what little economic analysis is needed I will be allocating more of our new funding towards enhancing our communication, membership and development functions within the JACL. It must be done today in order for us not only to stay in the ball game but for us to become bigger winners when the issues of human fairness and justice come to the forefront.

The JACL is a long way from becoming extinct, but it is near the point of economic stagnation. While sentiment and tradition are important, the business model we need to work towards will entail new internal structure, more focus on what and how we are communicating to the community beyond JACL members, and a total revamping of membership. If we do this, we will be strong. If we continue to resist any change, we are doomed to the minor leagues of nonprofits.
S.F. Arts School Named After JA Artist

Ruth Asawa helped establish the school in 1982.

A San Francisco public arts high school has been renamed in honor of its founder Ruth Asawa, 85, an acclaimed Japanese American wire sculpture artist and arts education activist.

The San Francisco School of the Arts, located at 555 Portola Drive, has been renamed the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA).

School officials and guests, including David Choe, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, unveiled a marble with the new name Sept. 14.

"Our family is so proud to have this wonderful school named after our mother," said Paul Lanier, Asawa's son. "It is her lifelong dream to have children work with and be taught by professional artists and to have students pursue their dreams.

Asawa, who was diagnosed with lupus in 1965, was not able to attend the event.

Polaris Tours

Polaris Tours presents:

2011 Tour Schedule

Dec 08 - Dec 10 Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows & Cirque du Soleil: Michael Jackson "The Immortal World Tour"

May 19 - May 29 Majestic China: Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, Beijing

Apr 03 - Apr 13 Spring Japan: "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"

Apr 12 - Apr 25 Beautiful South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites

Apr 13 - Apr 18 100th Anniversary Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC & Williamsburg

May 03 - May 18 Treasures of Turkey: Where Europeans Meet the East

May 24 - June 05 Summertime Las Vegas: Historic Hotels of Garth Brooks

Jun. 11 - Jun. 26 Dinner Cruise: Dalmatian Coast & Slovenia

Jul. 24 - Aug. 03 Summer Japan: "Vacation with the Whole Family"

Aug. 04 - Aug. 12 Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park

Sep. 06 - Sep. 17 Let's Go Holland

Sep. 29, Oct. 10 The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany

Sep. 29, Oct. 02 Albuquerque Balloon Fest: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle

Oct. 03 - Oct. 12 New England Color & Eastern Canada Fall Foliage

Oct. 16 - Oct. 26 Autumn Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors

Oct. 25 - Nov. 06 Spectacular South Africa

Nov. 01 - Nov. 11 The Best of Kyusha

Nov. 09 - Dec. 01 Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows TBA

We will be happy to send you a brochure!

PolarisTours
Funakawa, Ben, 92, Mentor, OH; Aug. 4; beloved husband of Kinuko (nee Nakashige); father of Scott (Sandy), Wendy (James) Ramsey and Alissa (Wardy) Kojima; brother of Jim Funakawa, Nobuko Okita and the late Sally Taketa and Kichi Funakawa; 6 gc.

Hibino, Yosh, 91, Silver Spring, MD; Aug. 25; formerly of Berkeley and Portland, CT; predeceased by his wife Nobuko (Kurenzakawa) and his brother Yuki Hibino; three children; sister-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews; 6 gc.

Kobayashi, Magdalena Tokiwa, 90, Tokyo, Japan; July 28; she through the Catholic Church; predeceased by her brother, Ben, 82, Mentor, OH; and her sister, Yayoi (Virginia); brother, Satoshi Kobayashi, Nobuko Okita and the late Sally Taketa and Kichi Funakawa, 6 gc.

Taketa and Kiichi Furukawa; 6 gc.

Furukawa, Ben, 82, Mentor, OH; imprisoned during World War II; he was active in JACL, the Sonoma County JACL chapter.

Miyake, Ishi, 84, Nampa, ID; Aug. 13; he was born and raised in Nampa; in 1946 Ishi joined the Army; he was active in JACL, serving two terms as president and was a board member until his death; survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters Karen (Jerry) Trager, Cheryl (Bob) Yatsuo and Brenda Miyake; sons, Glenn Miyake, Steve (Linda) Miyake; sisters, Mary (Allen) Records, Midge (Yas) Teramura, Helen Otani; brother Bob (Kyoko) Miyake; preceded in death by his father Robert; 11 gc; 11 ggc.

Murakami, Tomomi, 89, Medford, OR; Sept. 7; he was unjustly imprisoned during World War II; he helped develop the first color TV for RCA; preceded in death by his wife, Mary (nee Doi); Father of Marcia (Pat) Hendriksen, Robert (Pondera) Murakami, Keith (Mandy) Murakami, Thomas Murakami and Linda Murakami; brother of Shizuko Murakami; 2 gc; 2 ggc.

Namba, Harry Tetsuo, 95, Ontario, OR; Sept. 18; Harry was interned in Pine Dale, CA and later moved to Tule Lake; during WW II handled ammunition at the Nebraska Army Depot; he married Yaeko Fujita in 1944; they were married for over 66 years; survived by his wife, Yaeko; son, Ronald (Gladys); daughter, Rosanee (Mark); survived by brother Frank (Michiko) Namba; many nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

Shimizu, Dorothy Aiko, 82, Cotati, CA; Aug. 10; born May 16, 1929 to Hiroshi (Harry) and Elaine (Yoshioh) Otani in Waterville; an older over 85-year resident of Sonoma County; she was an integral member of the Enmanji Buddhist Temple and the Sonoma County JACL; she also supported Sonoma County Talk; preceded in death by brother Henry; survived by her husband of 58 years Martin; children Mark (Lauree) Shimizu, Bruce (Karen) Shimizu, Julie (Tom) Leach, Arnold Shimizu and Darlene Shimizu; also survived by her brother William, sister Mary Yamaoka; numerous nieces and nephews; grandchildren Daniel (Katy) Leach, Angela Shimizu, Thomas Leach, Chad Taylor, Katie Shimizu, James Winters, Joe Winters, Cecilia Shimizu, Ty Shimizu and Ronald Shimizu.

Takima, Rosie, 91, Stockton, CA; Sept. 7; born Nov. 1, 1921; wife of the late Robert Tomima; long-time member of French Camp JACL chapter.

Tomima, Charles Takeshi, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 15 at 11 AM, Magnolia Baptist Church, Seattle. 

Yamada, Charles Takeshi, 93, Caldwell, ID; Aug. 17; Charlie married Sakae Matsubara in 1946 in Boise; predeceased by his parents, wife, brothers Tadashi "Tori" Matsumoto, and "Haru" "Mike" and a sister Mary Matsunura; survived by a daughter Linda (Kenneth) Nagata; 2 gc.

Masaichi and Shizu Uchida, who farmed in Florin, producing tokay grapes and strawberries. They were married for over 66 years and were well known in the Japanese American community in California. In addition to her service to her brother-in-law's patients, she was very much committed to Mile High Chapter of the JACL following Roy's death in 1997. Sumi is survived by her daughter, Karen and her-in-law Kim Vanseng, of Brussels, Belgium, also survived by her granddaughter, Alain and grandson-in-law Vincent Delaite, two great grandchildren, Maxime and Nathan, who live in France and Sumi's two brothers, Leo (Florence) Uchida and George (Francis) Uchida, her brother-in-law, Dr. George Takeno and wife Ssets Takeno and many nieces and nephews.

Sumiye (Uchida) Takeno was born on November 17, 1922 in Florin, California, the 7th of 11 children of Masaichi and Shizu Uchida, who farmed in Florin, producing tokay grapes and strawberries. Sumi worked in Los Angeles following graduation from Elk Grove High School. When the Japanese Americans were removed from their homes in California following Pearl Harbor, the Uchida family were interned at Manzanar. Sumi worked as an assistant nurse in the Manzanar camp hospital where she met her future husband, Roy M. Takeno. In 1944, she and Roy were married at Manzanar, and moved to Denver, Colorado immediately following their wedding.

Roy was intensely involved in the world of the Japanese American Citizens League, (JACL) and traveled throughout mid-western states. Sumi remained at home in Denver, to raise their daughter, Karen. Sumi worked for her brother-in-law, Dr. George Takeno as a medical assistant for many years and was well known in the Japanese American community in Colorado. In addition to her service to her brother-in-law's patients, she was very much committed to Mile High Chapter of the JACL following Roy's death in 1997. Sumi is survived by her daughter, Karen and son-in-law Kim Vanseng, of Brussels, Belgium, also survived by her granddaughter, Alain and grandson-in-law Vincent Delaite, two great grandchildren, Maxime and Nathan, who live in France and Sumi's two brothers, Leo (Florence) Uchida and George (Francis) Uchida, her brother-in-law, Dr. George Takeno and wife Sets Takeno and many nieces and nephews.

Mable Kazuko Tsugawa November 13, 1926 - August 27, 2011

Woodland, WA; August 27; Founder of Tsugawa Nursery; survived by husband George of 61 years, children Mary Lynn, Lorri Whaley, Karen, Dan and Brian Tsugawa, 11 gc, 4 ggc; sister, Yuriko Tsukada, nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by son Martin, and sister Helen Tamura.
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