COMMENTARY

A Salute to JA Veterans

By Floyd Mori

The JACL was very much involved with the Congressional Gold Medal events which took place recently in Washington, D.C. As a member of the National Veterans Network (NVN), the JACL has played a big role in the planning and execution of the celebration. This much deserved and long overdue recognition honored the Japanese American veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service of the U.S. Army during World War II.

JAs were considered non-citizens after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan on Dec. 7, 1941. The long held prejudices they endured came to the forefront as 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were uprooted from their homes on the West Coast in a forced evacuation. They were surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards facing inward. Although there were young JAs who wanted to serve in the military and tried to enlist, they found that all JAs had been reclassified and were ineligible to join the U.S. armed forces.

Mike Matsaoka, an early leader in the JACL, was sent by the organization to D.C. to work for the abolition of the camps and to mitigate the effects of the relocation. He suggested that the JA community should cooperate with the government, and they actually had no other choice. He worked for the reinstatement of JAs into the U.S. military, and the result was the creation of a segregated unit which combined with the 100th Infantry Battalion of Hawaii and became the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Mike was one of the first to sign up to join the Army, and he went off to war after being married to his bride, Ema Mineta Matsaoka in Salt Lake City. Three of his brothers also served with one losing his life in the war.

At a time when they and their families faced extreme prejudice and discrimination, these brave and patriotic young men served their country in the armed forces. They showed unusual dedication and sacrificed greatly, some paying the ultimate sacrifice to prove their loyalty and serve where needed.

On May 13, 2009, U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff from California introduced Congressional Gold Medal Bill HR 347 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th and 442nd. It unanimously passed the House of Representatives on May 14 with 411 votes. U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer also of California introduced S 1055 in the Senate.

NVN established a grassroots push to lobby support from the senators who had not signed on to the bill. The JACL supported this effort with JACL fellows in the D.C. office, Phillip Ozaki and Jean Shiraki, visiting Senate offices along with Terry Shima and Grant Ichikawa, WWII veterans from the JA Veterans Association (JAV). The Senate passed S 1055 on Aug. 1, 2010, which included an amendment to include the MIS. The House amended the plan to include the MIS on Sept. 23, 2010. President Obama signed the bill into law on Oct. 4, 2010, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the 100th, 442nd and the MIS.

The Congressional Gold Medal events which took place in D.C. were held to honor the JA veterans of WWII and were attended by over 2,500 people. There were more than 300 JA veterans in attendance. The festivities were planned and executed by NVN, led by Christine Sato-Yamazaki. Representing my family as a next of kin for my brother, Shigemori Mori, whose name is inscribed on the wall of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism as a killed in action soldier, I was honored to receive the replica medal in memory of my oldest brother who was in the MIS.

The first of these decisions is that the next national director shall be located in Washington, D.C.

The second major decision was to allow for the national board to talk with the top candidates after an initial review by the personnel committee and national board continue to work hard to find suitable candidates. However, with this recent change, the application deadline has been extended until Jan. 16, 2012. Please refer to the website, www.jacl.org, for additional information.

The first of these decisions is that the next national director shall be located in Washington, D.C.

To be forthright, I voted against this motion because I believe that we should focus on finding the best candidates for the position without imposing location restrictions that could severely narrow the possible pool of talented leaders. However, I respect this decision and together with the personnel committee and national board continue to work hard to find suitable candidates. However, with this recent change, the application deadline has been extended until Jan. 16, 2012. Please refer to the website, www.jacl.org, for additional information.

The personnel committee discussed the idea of a search
Congress Honors Japanese American WWII Soldiers

More than 300 of the aging World War II soldiers are able to receive their Gold Medals in person as the nation honors their unsung heroes.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—Thousands of Japanese Americans who fought in the fiercest battles of World War II and became some of the most decorated soldiers in the nation's history were given an overdue thank-you from their country Nov. 2 when Congress awarded them its highest civilian honor.

Nearly seven decades after the war's beginning, Congress awarded three units the Congressional Gold Medal. In all, about 19,000 JAs served in the units honored at the ceremony: the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

"This has been a long journey, but a glorious one," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, who lost his right arm fighting with the 442nd and was one of the honorees Nov. 2.

About 1,250 people attended the award ceremony at the Capitol. About a quarter of those present were former soldiers, now in their 80s and 90s. Hiroshi Kaku, originally from Hawaii, served in the 442nd and his older brother, Haruo, served in the 100th. He said he volunteered for the Army because he had something to prove.

"We wanted to show American citizens that we loved our country," Kaku said. "We were born and raised here."

After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, JAs were viewed with suspicion. Nearly 110,000 were sent to internment camps. Lawson Sakai learned how much the world had changed when he drove with some of his buddies to the local Navy recruiting station and tried to enlist. While his white friends were quickly accepted, Sakai was considered an "enemy alien" and could not join.

Sakai then watched as the FBI rounded up JA leaders in Los Angeles. When the federal government authorized the relocation of people with Japanese ancestry, a sister and some of his friends were sent to internment camps.

"We were blackballed," Sakai said. "Basically, they took away our citizenship."

Sakai's story is similar to thousands of other Nisei. Even as they fought in Europe, many JA troops had family members who would spend much of the war in U.S. internment camps. American officials, citing concerns that those of Japanese ancestry could be security risks, sent men, women and children to camps around the country.

Sakai served in the 442nd, which consisted of volunteers, about two-thirds from Hawaii and the rest from the mainland. The 442nd experienced some of the most horrific fighting in Europe and became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and length of service. In just 15 months of combat, more than 700 were killed or listed as missing in action.

Sakai, 88, was wounded four times and received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He said the years following the war were difficult and that he often drank to deal with his memories. Now, he said, he's able to take pride in his peers' accomplishments and the subsequent Congressional recognition.

"We certainly deserved the record that we produced. It was done by shedding a lot of blood. As far as I know, we didn't give up an inch of ground. We were always attacking and the Germans were always on the higher ground," he said.

While undergoing training, Sakai said, "Mom, I would visit his parents and two sisters 200 miles away at the Rohwer Internment Camp in Arkansas. Despite the injustice of being forced to relocate from Stockton, Calif., Ito said, his parents took pride in their son fighting for the U.S. military. However, he ignored his mother's request in her weekly letters to avoid hazardous duty. He said he wanted to be on the front lines, as did his peers. The motto of the 442nd was "go for broke."

Ito said that mentality reflected the mindset of the Japanese American soldiers who served during the postwar occupation of Japan, providing a bridge between Japanese and American officials.

Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., accepted the medal on behalf of his father, Byron. Honda said his father was recruited from an internment camp in Colorado and worked statewide as a language instructor for the MIS. He said his father, who was a civilian member of the intelligence unit, taught him how to go about proving doubters wrong.

"He doubled down. He said, 'Oh yeah, watch this,'" Honda said. "I think that was the prevailing attitude of a lot of the veterans."

"We revere the Japanese American veterans of the 442nd, 100th, and MIS who served courageously during World War II and to whom we owe a great debt," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "They made the world a better place for all Japanese Americans in subsequent years. We will be forever grateful for their sacrifice and dedication to life and liberty."

George Wachiina was the first recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal in 1976. In recent years, Congress has honored athletes, astronauts and civil rights trailblazers. Lawmakers have also granted the award to the Tuskegee Airmen and to Native American code talkers who transmitted secret messages sent during World War II. The House also voted last month to give the first black Marine the Congressional Gold Medal.

Sen. Barbara Boxer and Rep. Adam Schiff, both Democratic lawmakers from California, were the original co-sponsors of the legislation honoring the JA soldiers. The legislation was signed into law last year.

"You served our country despite being subjected to hurtful slurs and deep suspicions from many of your fellow citizens," Boxer said. "While we can never repay the debt we owe you, we can and must recognize your valor and your patriotism."

Inouye was the final speaker. He already received the nation's highest medal for valor, the Medal of Honor. He described the latest honor as heartwarming.

"More importantly, I'm certain those who are resting in cemeteries are pleased with this day," he said.

For additional coverage, please see the Pacific Citizen's special Veteran's Day issue published Nov. 4-17, 2011.
Occupy Oakland Unofficially Renames Frank Ogawa Plaza

The City of Oakland cleared the Occupy Oakland encampment Nov. 14 where, according to a Nov. 8 press release, an estimated 180 tents were set up at Frank Ogawa Plaza.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Occupy Oakland protestors say they started seeing homemade signs marking the unofficial renaming of Frank Ogawa Plaza to honor Oscar Grant when the first tents in the encampment sprouted up.

The unofficial renaming of Frank Ogawa Plaza was a symbolic gesture, some protestors say, to highlight Grant who was killed by a BART police officer.

But some Asian Americans in Oakland, Calif., say renaming the plaza erases the history of Ogawa, a Japanese American and a long-time city councilman.

“I could understand the reaction because it has been so much emotion understandably around the killing of Oscar Grant and at the same time it surprised me,” said Patricia Mushim Ikeda, a JA who resides in Oakland.

“But just speaking for myself, it just felt like a loss to me, surprisingly, to hear it being called Oscar Grant Plaza.”

It was New Year’s Day in 2009 when Grant, a 22-year-old African American, was killed. Grant and other men were detained at the Fruitvale BART station after a report of a fight on a BART train. Trying to gain access to Grant, BART police officer Johannes Mehserle shot him in the back at an Oakland platform while passengers watched. The incident was recorded by multiple passengers’ video cameras.

Mehserle, who said he had meant to use his Taser, was sentenced to two years in prison for involuntary manslaughter. He was released June 1 after serving about 11 months in prison. The incident incited violent and peaceful protests in the city.

Identifying with Grant’s story, some protestors at Occupy Oakland adopted the name Oscar Grant Plaza for their campsite.

“By renaming the plaza we meant to disrespect to Frank Ogawa,” said 27-year-old William, a member of the Occupy Oakland media team, who agreed to speak only on partial anonymity. “Certainly we want to preserve his legacy and we just were trying to draw attention to those names that are typically ignored or seen in a negative light because of police brutality and the history of ignoring communities that have been disenfranchised.”

Ogawa, born in 1917, was unjustly interned in Topaz during World War II. After the war, he returned to Oakland operating a nursery business. Later Ogawa became involved in politics and was elected to the city council in 1966. He served until his death in 1994.

Ogawa was said to be the first JA to serve in the city council. The Oakland City Hall Plaza was named in his honor after his death.

Unofficially renaming the Frank Ogawa Plaza in honor of Grant was not meant, some protestors say, to detract from Ogawa’s contributions to the city.

“People have chosen to call the plaza Oscar Grant Plaza in honor of yet another person murdered by police in the Bay Area,” said Stephanie Demos, 54, who adds that her views do not necessarily represent the entire Occupy Oakland movement. “This was done with no disrespect to Frank Ogawa. In fact, there are images that were made honoring both.”

To bring attention to the renaming of the plaza, a fundraiser is being held to raise $740 for the printing of postcards and postcards, which will later be distributed at Occupy Oakland for free.

About $670 was raised as of Nov. 14.

“At first I hardly noticed the renaming of Frank H. Ogawa Plaza because in general I agree that keeping Oscar Grant’s memory alive is important,” said Kenji C. Liu, a Japanese-American American who designed the materials. “However, after hearing several people (not just Asian Americans) expressing discontent with the renaming, I realized I didn’t know much about Ogawa and educated myself about him.”

Liu said he wanted to raise awareness about Ogawa through visual art. His postcards and posters feature images of both men with additional biographical information.

But instead of Liu’s postcards, protestors carried a different message over the Veteran’s Day weekend.

Toting signs that read “stop police brutality” and other slogans, protestors gathered at the plaza on Nov. 11. Three days later, police officers raided the campsite before dawn. A total of 33 people were arrested, according to the city.

The clearing of the encampment came after the city issued a Nov. 13 cease and desist notice for camping. The notice, which was said to be the fourth, notified protestors that they would be arrested if they did not comply.

The action came after a man identified by police as Kayode Ola Foster, 25, was fatally shot on Nov. 10 near the campsite.

City officials also say the occupation has a mounting price tag.

Over a month since Occupy Oakland began on Oct. 10, the campsite expanded to about 180 tents at Frank Ogawa Plaza, according to a Nov. 8 press release.

Occupy Oakland, according to preliminary estimates, has cost the city about $2.4 million. That figure includes over $1 million in personnel costs. Another $1.3 million in miscellaneous costs, with $100,000 going to “information technology security enhancements to the police department’s website.”

Mayor Jean Quan’s handling of Occupy Oakland has been met with criticism. In response to the recent raid, the mayor’s legal adviser Dan Siegel resigned, voicing his support for the occupation via Twitter. He also criticized the Oct. 25 raid. The Police Officer’s Association also lambasted the mayor’s handling of the protests.

Occupy Oakland had planned to occupy the Oakland Main Public Library, according to a previous posting on its website.

“I plan to continue distributing the postcards and posters at any site Occupy Oakland is in, because it is still important to have discussions about alliance-building between communities,” Liu said. “It will always be important regardless of whether Occupy Oakland exists or not.”

The efforts to raise awareness about the history of Frank Ogawa Plaza may have already taken root within the occupy community.

An Occupy Oakland Nov. 13 posting on its website referred to the plaza as Frank Oscar Grant Plaza. The usage of both men’s names signals to those like Ikeda that the movement to “keep the memory of Frank Ogawa alive and included has been successful.”

But Ikeda says she realizes in the end the people of Oakland will make the ultimate decision.

“I think we’re kind of hitting bottom in some ways and personally it wouldn’t be my idea for the biggest thing on the city council’s list to be having to discuss changing the name of the plaza,” Ikeda said. “That having been said what it’s referred to by the people in Oakland is going to be up to the people in Oakland.”
The new short documentary, produced by JACL PSW, is made by youth to empower youth in the Japanese and Muslim American communities.

By Christine McFadden Correspondent

Shekraib Rahim, a Muslim American freshman at El Camino Community College was living in Chicago on Sept. 11, 2001. About to turn nine, he still remembers how his family members reacted around him.

"Many people were moving out of the city," said Rahim. "The fear was that exactly what happened back then would happen today," he said of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

Two years ago, Rahim applied and was accepted to the "Bridging Communities" cross-cultural learning program in Los Angeles. The JACL program takes high school students from both the Muslim American community and JA community (as well as other communities) and engages them in interactive, educational sessions with topics ranging from identity to civil rights. Students also make a pilgrimage to the site of a former World War II JA incarceration camp.

Rahim enjoyed the program so much that he returned for a second year as an advisor, learning in depth about the ties between the Muslim American experience post-9/11 and the JA post-Pearl Harbor.

"I'm just so grateful that the JAs came to our aid," he said. "They knew exactly what it was like. I know a lot of different JA organizations were trying to support Muslim Americans and back us up. I'm so grateful for people like that.

This December, a short documentary on the program will be released. Titled "Passing Down the Legacy," it follows the Bridging Communities program in its three different cities of operation — Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles — and documents the experiences of students like Rahim.

Directed and produced by Alex Margolin, former JACL Pacific Southwest District program associate of education and interpretation programs, and Marissa Kitazawa, program associate for PSW JACL's cultural and community programs, the documentary fulfills a historical component requirement of the National Park Service grant that previously funded the program.

However, both describe the film as accomplishing much more.

"I think the main goal for Marissa and myself was to give voice to the students who went through the program," said Margolin, a Santa Barbara native who is half Korean American and Russian. "We're making the film, but it's not about us. It's their voice and their story."

"Passing Down the Legacy"

According to Kitazawa, a Yossel or fourth generation JA from Los Angeles, the Bridging Communities story had great documentary potential.

"We just kept talking about how this program and this story would make a great film," said Kitazawa. "How two seemingly different communities can come together and bridge. . . We thought that if we were able to create a film, we'd be able to share that with the rest of the world."

Kitazawa and Margolin met while attending Pitzer College in Southern California. Kitazawa who studied media studies and documentary filmmaking, graduated in 2010. Margolin studied history and graduated in 2009. The two co-founded the Asian Pacific American Coalition at Pitzer in 2009.

The documentary follows three different programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, as they make pilgrimages to Manzanar, Tule Lake and Minidoka respectively. It also focuses on the history of the program and what the youth have gained from it.

"It can also be a kind of example for other communities of color to build coalitions and work together," said Kitazawa.

Bridging Communities began as a collaboration between three different community groups: PSW JACL, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR). This year, Bridging Communities also received sponsorship from the Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee.

Kitazawa calls the pilgrimages the "turning point" for the students.

"That's kind of when the hammer hits the nail on the head — this is exactly where injustice took place," she said. "I'm honestly so grateful that the JAs came back in 2011 as an alumnus, cites his most significant lessons learned."

"It's one thing to read of their experiences and the nail on the head — this is exactly where injustice took place," she said. "It's another thing to be there and see it."

"I think the main goal for Marissa and myself was to give voice to the students who went through the program," said Margolin, a Santa Barbara native who is half Korean American and Russian. "We're making the film, but it's not about us. It's their voice and their story."

"Passing Down the Legacy"

According to Kitazawa, a Yossel or fourth generation JA from Los Angeles, the Bridging Communities story had great documentary potential.

"We just kept talking about how this program and this story would make a great film," said Kitazawa. "How two seemingly different communities can come together and bridge. . . We thought that if we were able to create a film, we'd be able to share that with the rest of the world."

Kitazawa and Margolin met while attending Pitzer College in Southern California. Kitazawa who studied media studies and documentary filmmaking, graduated in 2010. Margolin studied history and graduated in 2009. The two co-founded the Asian Pacific American Coalition at Pitzer in 2009.

The documentary follows three different programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, as they make pilgrimages to Manzanar, Tule Lake and Minidoka respectively. It also focuses on the history of the program and what the youth have gained from it.

"It can also be a kind of example for other communities of color to build coalitions and work together," said Kitazawa.

Bridging Communities began as a collaboration between three different community groups: PSW JACL, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR). This year, Bridging Communities also received sponsorship from the Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee.

Kitazawa calls the pilgrimages the "turning point" for the students.

"That's kind of when the hammer hits the nail on the head — this is exactly where injustice took place," she said. "Zawar Jafri, who participated in Bridging Communities Los Angeles in 2010 and came back in 2011 as an alumnus, cites his interactions with former JA internees as among his most significant lessons learned."

"It's one thing to read of their experiences and the nail on the head — this is exactly where injustice took place," she said. "It's another thing to be there and see it."

Rahim says the Bridging Communities program helped him change his perspective on his identity.

"In the beginning, I felt like I represented a whole group of people when I was talking about being Muslim or being Japanese American. Now, I see it more as an individual experience and it wasn't until we came back as advisors that we really realized how important it was for the students to see us as people with our own individual experiences," he said.
National Board Reports Budget Deficit, Emphasizes Corporate Sponsors

At its Oct. 29 meeting, the JACL national board voted to keep the national director’s position in Washington, D.C.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.—The JACL national board members emphasized continuing its relationships with corporate sponsors as the organization faces a budget deficit and works to reduce its reliance on membership revenues. At the JACL national board meeting on Oct. 29 board members discussed a budget deficit of about $190,000 as of Sept. 30, but expected revenue from large fundraisers are projected to reduce the budget deficit.

"The budget is sort of like your plan, the actual costs may or may not hit the budget that’s why when I give you the report. It tells you what it’s actually doing right now. And currently Sept. 30 we were in the red about $190,000," said Clyde Izumi, JACL business manager, addressing the national board members. "If this continues, we will continue to be in the red. But some things that happen in the third and the fourth quarter could bring this around."

Revenues from the 2011 JACL National Convention, the Gala Dinner, Annual Giving campaigns, and Pacific Citizen’s Holiday Issue are some of the fundraising efforts expected to reduce the budget deficit.

Larry Oda, JACL secretary/treasurer, said revenues in the budget also reduce the organization’s reliance on membership dues for the 2011 fiscal year from $758,686 to $666,216.

Other board members said additional funds could be secured to offset the $190,000 deficit.

JACL National Director Floyd Mori said, "there could be some generous corporate donations between now and then that are unforeseen and some that would help the bottom line."

To cover the budget deficit in 2010, $100,000 was borrowed from the organization’s endowment fund is early 2011. But Oda said the board likely would be unable to repay the national endowment this year.

Chip LaRose, Pacific Northwest District governor, made a motion to indefinitely defer payment of the national endowment loan.

Some board members raised concerns about leaving the loan repayment open-ended. Gail Sasaki, vice president of membership, seconded the motion.

To implement the resolution, an ad-hoc committee was established.

"I just want to thank JACL for the opportunities that they have given to me and also for introducing my wife Joan to me," said Frank Kawase, SELANOCO chapter.

"I want to see what the younger generation — that if you were on the inside looking out that you could then define it as a concentration camp," Furutani said.

Other award recipients used their time to share their experiences attending the first Manzanar pilgrimage and a discussion surrounding the terminology to be used on a bronze plaque making the site.

"I’m proud to say that on that bronze plaque — oldest one designating Japanese Americans being in camp — is the term concentration camp," Furutani said.

"If you are on the outside looking in, maybe you could live with the term internment camp, relocation center or other sanitized terminology. But we perceived — the younger generation — that if you were on the inside looking out that you could then define it as a concentration camp," Furutani said.

The JACL award winners include: Myo Reff of San Diego, Sharon Kumagai of Venice-Culver, Dr. Richard Matsui of Arizona, Rodney Nakada of Downton L.A., Joyce Akazaki of Greater L.A. Singles, Myo Reff of San Diego, Clyde Wilson of Riverside and Shig Tats of Ventura.

The JACL PSW award winners include: Joyce Okazaki, Harold Kamaya of San Fernando Valley, Frank Kawase of SELANOCO, Sharon Nakagawa of Venice-Culver, Dr. Richard Matsui of Arizona, Rodney Nakada of Downton L.A., Joyce Okazaki of Greater L.A. Singles, Myo Reff of San Diego, Clyde Wilson of Riverside and Shig Tats of Ventura.

The JACL PSW awardees include: Harold Kamaya, Joyce Okazaki, Myo Reff, Ellen Kamaya and Sharon Kumagai.

The Oct. 29 event, themed "Looking to the Future: Partnerships Across Communities and Generations," honored those in the Asian American community at the JACL Pacific Southwest District’s 15th Annual Awards Dinner.

The Oct. 29 event, themed "Looking to the Future: Partnerships Across Communities and Generations," honored those in the community who support JACL’s mission of advancing and protecting the civil rights of Japanese Americans and others.

The chapter honorees included Harold and Ellen Kamaya of San Fernando Valley, Frank Kawase of SELANOCO, Sharon Nakagawa of Venice-Culver, Dr. Richard Matsui of Arizona, Rodney Nakada of Downton L.A., Joyce Akazaki of Greater L.A. Singles, Myo Reff of San Diego, Clyde Wilson of Riverside and Shig Tats of Ventura.

Recipient of the Community Honoree Award was California Assemblyman Warren Furutani, Madeline Ong-Sakata, Bill Watanae, Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell and Mary Anne Foo.

Watanae, the founder and executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center, received the award after recently announcing his plans to retire next year in June.

"I suppose I should grab all the awards I can get, huh?" Watanae said laughingly before the ceremony at the event’s silent auction, where attendees bid on various items. But not all of the honorees accepted their award without first addressing their opinions about past issues endorsed by the JACL.

"I’m deeply disappointed in JACL and the Power of Words handbook draft and the committee that was selected to rewrite the handbook after the emergency resolution was passed at the national convention," said Joyce Okazaki, a member of the JACL Greater L.A. Singles chapter.

A draft Power of Words handbook was created, following the passage of the Power of Words resolution at the JACL national convention in 2010.

To implement the resolution, an ad-hoc committee and draft handbook were created. But some JAs like Okazaki said the terms recommended in the handbook were dilute.

She prefers using the terms “American concentration camp” or “concentration camp” to describe her firsthand experience being unjustly incarcerated in Manzanar with her family.

"I was very down on JACL. I had heard some very discouraging information on how they always backtrack on any controversial issue such as the use of the terminology," Okazaki said after the dinner on a phone call.

"I felt a great sense of joy of being able to give my message to all those people that were there."

Furutani echoed Okazaki’s sentiments in his acceptance speech at the awards dinner, speaking of his experience attending the first Manzanar pilgrimage and a discussion surrounding the terminology to be used on a bronze plaque marking the site.

"I’m proud to say that on that bronze plaque — oldest one designating Japanese Americans being in camp — is the term concentration camp," Furutani said.

"If you are on the outside looking in, maybe you could live with the term internment camp, relocation center or other sanitized terminology. But we perceived — the younger generation — that if you were on the inside looking out that you could then define it as a concentration camp."
NPS Recommends Poston Elementary School to Become National Historical Landmark

The National Park System Advisory Board Landmarks Committee voted unanimously Nov. 9 to recommend the Poston Elementary School, Unit 1, as a National Historic Landmark.

Poston was one of the largest of the ten World War II concentration camps for Japanese Americans and at the time was the third largest population center in Arizona. "These National Historic Landmarks now serve as lessons to all of America of the delicate nature of our guaranteed freedoms in times of national stress," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "These landmarks are there as a lesson learned that we should never again repeat the admitted mistakes of 1942. The JACL and others use these sites to teach youth about the Constitution and to empower them to always be protective of the basic civil liberties guaranteed therein."

Mori and former Poston internees testified before the NPS committee. Marlene Shigekawa, who was born at the Poston camp, testified about the heartache and hardship experienced by her parents and grandparents. Shigekawa spoke of the uniting force the camp has been in bringing diverse communities together for better understanding and tolerance.

Attorney Warren Maryama told the story of his family being uprooted and taken to an assembly center and then to two different camps. Maryama has been an ardent supporter of Historic Landmark designation for all of the camps and has testified at numerous hearings.

The Poston Elementary School, Unit 1.

WHY I'M A JACLER

Seabrook JACLer Keeps Local Japanese American History Alive

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.

In September, John Fuyuume (third from left) received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. (Left) James Crilley, mayor of Upper Deerfield Township, New Jersey, Counsel Takashi Kamada, Fuyuume, Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki and Bruce Peterson.

John Fuyuume's passion to tell the Japanese American story helped to build a museum in a village called Seabrook. During World War II, many Japanese Americans left their barbed wire internment camps for Seabrook in Upper Deerfield Township, New Jersey for employment opportunities. Their settlement left an indelible mark on the area.

To make sure this part of history didn't slip into obscurity, Fuyuume and the Seabrook JACL helped establish the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC) in 1994. Through displays and videos, the two-room museum tells the story of Seabrook and the people who worked and lived there.

For Fuyuume, 86, preserving the history of JAs at Seabrook Farms is personal. His own family left Gila River during WWII to work there. The longtime Seabrook JACL member also built an enduring career at the farm.

"There's no question that John is the SECC," said Lenore Wurtzel, Seabrook JACL co-president. "He's an eloquent speaker and an excellent storyteller of the Japanese experience. He's the face of the SECC."

The SECC and the Seabrook JACL share leadership, said Wurtzel. Board members of one group are most likely involved in the other. In the middle of it all is Fuyuume with all his energy. "I was always a member of JACL," said Fuyuume.

In a climate of declining membership in the JACL, the Seabrook chapter is an exception. Its membership is not decreasing, he said. "I'm the oldest person there. I'm 86, a generation older than them," said Fuyuume about the chapter board. "We have to be proud of Seabrook."

The chapter focuses primarily on local interests and community activities. Fuyuume has been a JACLer for over 50 years. Aside from the times when work took him to different parts of the world, he's been with the Seabrook JACL. In 1953, he served as chapter president and as his first official duty he helped organize a naturalization ceremony for over 100 Issei along with the American Legion Shoemaker Post 95 of Bridgeton.

"I was a young guy out of college and the Seabrook chapter was known for civic and community activities," said Fuyuume about getting involved in the chapter. He had just graduated with his master's degree in music from the University of Rochester Eastman School of Music, when Vernon Ichihara and Charles Nagao, the pioneers of the Seabrook JACL, got Fuyuume involved.

"My father saw the leadership quality in John," said Irene Kaneshiki, a Seabrook JACL member and daughter of Charles Nagao. "He's a real take charge kind of person."

His involvement with JACL has created many fond memories. He met and married his wife Setsuko, also a Seabrook JACLer. And at a JACL national convention in 1950s New York, Fuyuume performed the JACL anthem with Bill Watazumi, a baritone.

The most memorable convention, said Fuyuume, was the 1992 election of Lilian Kimura as the JACL's first female national president. "I still have the T-shirt that says, 'Elect Kimura,' " said Fuyuume with a laugh.

He has also earned many accolades. In 2000, he earned national JACL's Sapphire Pin award for his long-time service to the organization, according to Kaneshiki.

In September he received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, a prestigious decoration bestowed by the Consulate General of Japan in New York in the name of the emperor of Japan for his contributions to preserving and promoting the history and culture of the JA community.

For Fuyuume, preserving and promoting the history of JAs in Seabrook comes from a personal place. During WWII, his parents Junji and Chise went from their desert prison in Gila River to work at Seabrook Farms, a major supplier of food to the military at the time.

Before the war, Fuyuume's parents owned a produce store in Pasadena, Calif. where one day a music teacher bartered piano lessons for their son in exchange for groceries. It touched off a lifelong appreciation of music, but not a career.

Instead Fuyuume had a varied career in business. He was a computer expert in the 1950s and developed the computer department at Seabrook Farms.

Over the years, Fuyuume has traveled throughout the region to speak about Seabrook's history. Because of his dedication, the SECC received the New Jersey Governor's Award for Tourism and a 2010 Foreign Minister of Japan award.

"He's a dedicated kind of guy," said Kaneshiki. "My dad would be very proud of him and would endorse all the accolades he has received."

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.
National Board

Throughout my 35-plus years' association with the JACL, I've served in various capacities at various levels of the organization. I was a founding member of the Marin County chapter, served as its vice president and president and attended three conventions as a delegate; served on the NCNW district board as a v.p. twice and was the chairman of the district executive committee; was co-founder of the Golden Gate chapter; served on the National Committee for Redress; served in a staff capacity as the JACL's Redress director as a lobbyist in DC; and finally, served as the national director from 1999 until my departure at the end of 2006.

I give my bona fides because this is an opinion piece and I want you to understand that I speak from a lot of experience in the JACL at all levels and in different capacities. Having done this doesn't necessarily make me right in what I'm going to say, but I do have some basis for my concerns.

I'm talking about the national board.

I was asked several times to run for the national board, but I never did because I felt I hadn't had enough experience in the JACL and hadn't paid my dues at the chapter and district levels, and then later because I was involved in the JACL redress program as a volunteer and then as a national staff member.

My reluctance came from feeling that I hadn't earned the privilege of being a national board member. One ought to prove one's self at the chapter and district levels before running for the board. Maybe, like some other organizations, we ought to have an election committee to screen candidates to ensure they have the qualifications to run for office.

I know the counter-argument to this is that if this kind of prerequisite were required, it would discourage many from seeking national office. Fine. As a former employee of the JACL, I think that's better instead of having board members who don't really know the organization or what their purpose is on the board.

One thing ought to be absolutely clear: national board members are responsible for fiduciary and policy matters of the organization. And nothing more.

I say this so emphatically because my experience as a former national chair, as an employee hired to lobby, as and as the national director, has been board members who meddle, who think their job is to run the organization, who dictate what the staff can or cannot do. If that's what board members want to do or think they should do, they need to learn what it means to be a board member, and if they still want to, they need to apply for the job.

That's universal, whether corporate, public or nonprofit boards. Board members need to read the book on serving on boards.

When I was the Redress director, a staff position where I lobbied Congress, some board members tried to tell me how I should do my job when they knew little about the issue and nothing about Washington. And there are always those who try to run the organization by micromanaging, always counterproductive because it does frustrate the staff.

When we ran into serious fiscal problems in the 2000 market crash and our reserve funds disappeared, I put a freeze on hiring and travel. I personally had the responsibility to approve staff travel, but a couple of board members tried to intervene, without success, because carrying out the policy was my responsibility, not theirs.

In fact, once rejected a board member's reimbursement request because she didn't get permission to travel on the JACL's dime. You want to play a game of arrogance? I'm pretty good at it if I want to.

The most infuriating thing board members can do (and I speak from experience about this) is to meddle with the day-to-day operations of the organization. From a staff director's point of view, that's just a huge ego trip. And it's not a board member's responsibility, nor is it a board member's job to dictate who to hire or fire (which I had to deal with on one board member when I had an individual on staff sniping behind my back).

Trust me, board members and staff would be much happier if both just stuck to what they're supposed to do, and the organization would benefit hugely from that.

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

The Tea Party vs. HERD Mentality

The extended economic stagnation is depressing to everybody, but particularly young people whose college degrees are not automatically translating into lucrative job offers. With college tuitions spiking, the structural unemployment and under-employment in the economy is particularly distressing. Professor Laurence S. Kotlikoff of Boston University estimates that unfunded social security and public employee pensions and healthcare benefits total a whopping $21.1 trillion (14 times our GDP).

With the parsimonious in Washington unwilling to make tough trade-offs or reform entitlement programs for long-term viability, the tab is being left with the young and vulnerable to pay off those bills.

Against that backdrop, it's depressing to witness the mainstream media denigrate the Tea Party, while straining to emphasize the anti-capitalists who claim to represent the 99%, whom we refer to as the “descendants.” Columnists from the New York Times, Democratic politicians, and talking heads from MSNBC have labeled Tea Partiers as “terrorists,” “hostage-takers” and “mobs.” The Tea Party was deemed irresponsible for holding firm to its core principle that the government should live within its means and stop adding trillions in deficits to our kids' and our debt.

This distortion of terminology to denigrate principled opposition to profligate spending stands in marked contrast to the media's political correctness in avoiding characterizing actual extremists in such terms (including the radical shooter at Fort Hood) for fear of exacerbating cultural sensitivities. At one point, Democratic Party leaders tried to tar Sarah Palin and the Tea Party with blame for the tragic Tucson shootings in January for stirring up anger at government institutions.

Of course, it was later revealed that the psychologically troubled shooter was an American atheist anarchist (with left wing leanings) whose favorite book included the Communist Manifesto. Perhaps liberal pundits should consider how “Worst Person in the World” or “Psycho Talk” segments demonize certain members of our society. Japanese Americans ought to be acutely aware of the dangers of such indulgence.

On the other hand, the media has treated the descendants with kid gloves. Often comparing this group of protesters to the civil rights movement and anti-war throngs of the 1960s. Rather than highlighting the vandalism, overtime costs, thousands of arrests, and negative impacts to local businesses, much of the media has portrayed these class warriors as activists for economic justice against greedy profiteers. Meanwhile, we have yet to see a single Tea Party arrest.

Small business owners have had to lay off workers because shoppers have been scared away by tent city demonstrations. Trade processors, bank tellers and customer service representatives have seen their work environments turned upside down by tea party protesters. Local residents and commuters have had to endure the noise, filth, and inaccessibility of parks and roads.

It is apparent that the Democratic Party and its special interest groups hope to fuel a movement that acts as a counter-weight to the Tea Party.

The intellectual foundation for those "Preoccupied with Wall Street" is a HERD mentality, based on Hostility, Entitlement, Redistribution, and Dependency. Hostility blames others for their lot in life and aims for class warfare. Protesters clearly feel entitled to transfer individual obligations to taxpayers through student loan debt forgiveness, mortgage debt forgiveness, extended unemployment benefits and other such "stimulus" programs. Redistribution is a clear goal of Democrats who want to soak the rich. It is claimed that 1 percent of the population paying 37 percent of the individual income taxes is not their "fair share."

Solving our fiscal crisis should rely on economic growth, broadening our revenue base, and promoting long-term fiscal solvency rather than "stimulus" programs that merely transfer payments to favored political causes. Young people should also remember that today's low interest rates greatly understate the back-breaking interest rates that will befall them should trillion dollar deficits continue to mount and interest rates return to much higher levels.

Upon reflection, they may realize that the Tea Party better represents their long-term interests than the descendants.

James Kumpel is a JACL New York chapter board member and former JACL scholarship winner.
Joy Osmanski Lends Her Voice to Fox’s Animated Series ‘Allen Gregory’

Performing plays in college and taking a mime class — minus the black unitard and white makeup — piqued the Korean American actress’ interest in acting.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Actress Joy Osmanski shares some similarities with her animated character on the new Fox show “Allen Gregory,” but the cartoon’s oversized forehead is not one of them.

Osmanski was adopted from South Korea when she was seven months old by her Caucasian adoptive parents, much like her character on the show.

The animated character Julie Neung was — as we learned in the Oct. 3 episode — adopted via an online agency from Cambodia by same-sex couple Jeremy (Nat Faxon) and Richard (French Stewart) De Longpre. But Julie’s arch nemesis and brother, Allen Gregory, hopes to ship her back to Cambodia.

Keeping with Julie’s sullen personality, Osmanski uses a monotone voice to portray the 11-year-old character. Working on an animated series is a stray for Osmanski who landed her first TV appearance on Fox’s “The Loop.” In addition to her voiceover work and TV roles, Osmanski also has numerous film credits. She appears in this year’s “Seragold Valentine,” and “Wedding Palace.”

Growing up in Olympia, Wash., Osmanski showed an interest in writing and the arts at a young age. At Illinois’ Principia College she majored in creative writing and studio art. Osmanski opened a graphic design business after college. She later was accepted to the University of San Diego’s graduate acting program.

Osmanski talked to the Pacific Citizen about how she went from graphic designer to a working actress.

How did you become the voice of Julie on “Allen Gregory”?

Well, like all the projects I’ve been a part of — for the most part — I auditioned just like any other normal acting gig. The difference for me with this was that it was just a microphone. Of course, everyone still gets [laughs] all dressed up, which is hilarious.

What is it like when you’re doing the voiceover work for the show?

Every week we have a table read with the whole cast, the creators and writers and a ton of executives — there’s a lot of people in one room. And so we all get to hear the show out loud and bounce off each other, which is vital and so much fun. And then after that the recording process is, we’re each completely on our own.

And that was an adjustment for me because you’re basically acting by yourself. It’s an interesting creative challenge.

What was your reaction when you saw the show air?

Oh, my God. I was so nervous of course because I don’t have any experience with this. The idea of seeing my voice attached to an animated body was completely awesome and freaky to me at the same time [laughs].

When I saw the first episode I think I didn’t breathe through the whole thing.

Did you know your character would have a massive forehead?

I’ll never forget when I first saw her because I think it was at one time [laughs]. When I saw the first episode I think I didn’t breathe through the whole thing.

You’re definitely more upbeat than Julie. How are you similar to her, if at all?

One of the roles that I played before which was actually a Fox show called ‘The Loop,’ my character they adjusted to fit more of who I was. In doing that they made her adopted. But that is the only other time I’ve played a character who was adopted and… Julie was adopted before I came along and I never said anything. I didn’t want to be like, ‘Well, because I’m also adopted [laughs], hire me.’

Tell me about your adoption story. Were you adopted from South Korea?

I was! I was a baby. I can’t remember ever not knowing. I’ve been back to Korea now twice as an adult. Both times I’ve had just amazing experiences there. I would love to go back much much more and take my husband and my stepdaughter.

Was it difficult for your parents to incorporate elements of Korean culture?

No, not at all. Looking back at it was funny because I just totally took for granted what they did. And bless their hearts, my mom — I remember in preschool I went to show-and-tell dressed in a Korean outfit. ‘Oh, my God. I believe this to be true so matter what — just think of yourself as an actor first. I have never ever thought of myself as an Asian American actor. I’m an actor. Everyone else can waste time trying to pigeonhole you, but let them burn that energy. But for you as an artist, your only job is to do the work, he inspired, show up and kick ass.”
High Hopes for 1st Elected Chinese American SF Mayor

By Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Bowling deeply and shaking hands with shopkeepers along the streets of Chinatown, San Francisco’s newly elected mayor understands the significance: These are the people who put him in office, the people for whom he fought when he was a civil attorney, and the people who expect more of him than any other mayor who came before.

“The community has been waiting for this kind of historic opportunity for many, many decades,” Mayor Ed Lee said Nov. 10 as he performed his first day as the city’s first elected Chinese American head of City Hall. “There have been a lot of sacrifices.”

Those sacrifices are steeped in San Francisco history. Chinese and Japanese American families have reared generations of assimilated and successful children, but many of their grandparents and great-grandparents were once outcast or interned.

Though Asians comprise a third of the city’s population, they have traditionally been underrepresented in politics and economics. Beyond the kiosks and chaos of tourist Chinatown, look deeper down the alleys of one of the nation’s most densely populated neighborhoods and you’ll find tenement housing, elderly poor and struggling family businesses.

Lee, who as interim mayor closed a $380 million deficit to balance the city budget this year, pledged during his campaign to invest $5 million in the coming year to help small businesses like those scattered across Chinatown and other distressed neighborhoods. He’s also vowed to keep on track the first subway line through the heart of one of its oldest neighborhoods.

“We think he’s the one to revitalize the entire city,” said Sandy Tan, owner of An An Hair Salon on Stockton Street, one of those counting on Lee to keep his promise.

“It’s a milestone, as significant as Obama’s election shows for African Americans,” said David Lee, director of the Chinese American Voters Education Committee. “The only difference is that Chinese Americans in San Francisco put Ed Lee into office with their votes and their money.”

Lee, 59, came from humble beginnings. Both parents emigrated from southern China; his father was a cook and restaurant manager and his mother a waitress and seamstress. A law graduate from UC Berkeley, he went to work for the S.F. Asian Law Caucus.

He would then go to City Hall, working for four mayors for 22 years. He was the city administrator when appointed interim mayor in January when then-Mayor Gavin Newsom became California’s lieutenant governor.

He declined his pledge not to run for the office in August, after a string of accomplishments and encouragement from powerbrokers and former Democratic mayor Newsom and Willie Brown.

Report: Asian Americans Grow Beyond Coastal Hubs

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Asian Americans have seen their ranks swell over the past decade not only in coastal immigrant enclaves but also in new places such as the southwestern states of Texas and Nevada, according to a report released recently by a coalition of Asian American organizations.

The report shows the largest AA populations have remained in California and New York, but traditionally smaller communities shot up between 2000 and 2010, more than doubling in Nevada and growing 95 percent in Arizona.

Over the decade, AAs grew 72 percent to more than 1.1 million in Texas, giving the state more AA residents than Hawaii, according to a report released recently by a coalition of Asian American organizations.

The report, which was largely based on Census data, shows AA numbers grew 46 percent over the decade. The figure includes people who identified as Asian along with other race categories on their census forms, said Dan Ichinose, director of the APA Legal Center’s demographic research project.

The report also shows large increases in the number of South Asians. The Indian population grew by 68 percent to nearly 3.2 million and Indians now account for 18 percent of AAs, up from 16 percent a decade ago, the report shows.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Asian Immigrants Less Worried About Alabama Law

BAYOU LA BATRE, Ala. — Alabama’s tough new law targeting undocumented immigrants does not have too many of the region’s Southeast Asian residents scared.

Since most are naturalized American citizens or legal permanent residents, Alabama’s new law targeting illegal immigration shouldn’t affect them.

Some parts of the law have been blocked by courts, but a section that allows police to check a person’s immigration status during traffic stops still stands. Some immigrants, even those in the country legally, worry that this could lead to improper detentions or racial profiling — concerns that police and supporters of the law dismiss.

Pa. Casinos Increase Hiring of APA Workers

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Officials say the advent of table games at Pennsylvania casinos — and marketing to the APA populations — has spurred a hiring boom of workers of Asian descent for jobs at gambling establishments in the commonwealth.

 Asians now account for more than seven percent of casino workers statewide, overtaking the Hispanic category that maintained a five percent share of the employment.

Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee Holds Successful Fundraiser

VENICE, Calif. — At its Oct. 29 benefit, the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee raised over $10,000 toward the dedication of a marker on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards in Los Angeles to commemorate the location where some 1,000 JAs reported for mandatory evacuation to Manzanar during World War II.

A model of the memorial marker designed by Emily Winters was on display at the event.

JACL National Youth/Student Council Holds Third Youth Leadership Summit

CHICAGO — The JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) held its third Youth Leadership Summit in Chicago to help build a network of JACL youth leaders.

The Chicago summit focused on connecting youth in the JACL Midwest district to each other and to the JACL on a national level.

Several informative workshops on personal identity, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues and civil rights were held.

State Farm and Southwest Airlines sponsored the summit.

Two additional summits are being planned for 2012.

Hawaiian Sovereignty Group Protests at Iolani Palace

HONOLULU — About two-dozen people from a group that has advocated for Hawaiian sovereignty locked themselves on the grounds of the palace that was once home to Hawaiian royalty, but then exchanged the gates early Nov. after a request from state officials.

Protesters from the self-proclaimed Hawaiian Kingdom Government group gathered at Iolani Palace Nov. 6. The group has said it wants to reclaim land belonging to the Hawaiian monarchy that was stolen during the overthrow of the kingdom more than 100 years ago.

The ornate palace was built by King Kalakaua in 1882. It later served as the residence for the king’s sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani, the island’s last ruling monarch. The palace was restored in the 1970s as a National Historic Landmark.
APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Portland JACLer Receives Consul General Award

Alice Sumida, a Portland JACL lifetime member and former president of the Nikkei Fujin Kai, has received the Foreign Minister’s Commendation Award at a ceremony at Consul General Takamichi Okabe’s residence.

The commendation is awarded once a year to individuals or groups that help increase mutual understanding of Japan.

New England JACLer to be Recognized at Community Change, Inc. Event

Community Change, Inc., a Boston, Mass.-based non-profit organization that works to promote racial justice and equity, is dedicating its Community Change Leadership Awards to the life and work of May Takayanagi.

Takayanagi is a New England JACL board member. The Nov. 29 awards presentation will be held at Simmons College.

Sashihara to Lead New Jersey’s Division on Civil Rights

Craig Sashihara, a veteran litigator with experience in discrimination and equal employment opportunity matters, has been appointed as New Jersey’s director of the division on civil rights.

Sashihara, 47, has directed the Department of Law and Public Safety’s Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), has more than 19 years experience in the public and private sectors handling a broad array of legal issues.

Kuroki Book Wins Award

A young reader’s biography of Ben Kuroki, a Nebraska-born Japanese American aerial gunner and a hero during World War II, has been honored with a bronze medal in the Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards.

“Lucky Ears” won in the category of multicultural nonfiction for young adults. In May, the book also won an “IPPY” Bronze Medal.

Dr. Jean A. Lukesh is also writing Kuroki’s adult biography entitled, “I Had to Fight Like Hell for my Country.”

San Mateo JACLer is Elected to City Council

JACLer Steve Okamoto has beaten out six other candidates for a seat on Foster City’s City Council.

Foster City, which is located 25 miles south of San Francisco, is home to over 30,000 residents.

Okamoto is a longtime Foster City resident. He was a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee and was inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame for his 22 years as a Little League manager and umpire. He is also past president of the San Mateo JACL chapter.

Okamoto begins his four-year term Dec. 3.

Ujifusa to Receive Order of Rising Sun Award

Grant Ujifusa, a key player in securing the passage of the historic Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and a former senior editor at Random House, will be honored with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays Jaa. 26 for his contribution to the preservation and promotion of Japanese American history.

Ujifusa, who was co-author of the “Almanac of American Politics,” worked closely with JACL members of Congress to devise a justification for redress in the 1980s.

Takiguchi Awarded Local Leadership Award

Masako Takiguchi, an Arizona JACL member and past president, has received a civic leadership award from Cupertino, Calif. Mayor Gilbert Wong.

Takiguchi was awarded the “Outstanding Local Leadership Award” on Nov. 11 at the Downtown Skaton.

Illinois Holocaust Museum Sponsors Exhibit, Teacher Training on WWII Incarceration of JAs

More than 75 teachers took part in a training workshop about the Japanese American World War II incarceration experience at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (IHMEC) in Skokie, Illinois. The museum is also hosting the traveling “Art of Gaman” exhibit through Jan. 12, 2012.

“When we learned that there would be over 70-plus teachers we were both excited but also a bit nervous,” said Greg Marutani of San Francisco JACL. “It would be one of the largest gatherings of teachers for a workshop and it also meant we might not be able to take and respond to the questions that the teachers may have had, but I believe, from their feedback at the end of the workshop, we covered nearly all of their questions.”

Marutani and Sharon Ishii-Jordan of Omaha JACL facilitated the “Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience” workshop. The event was coordinated by Bill Yoshino, Midwest regional director, along with Noro Brand and Kelley Szany from IHMEC’s education department. Former internees Chiyoko Tomihira and Kiyoko Yokumura spoke about their personal experiences in Manzanola and Topaz respectively, answering questions from the teachers. In addition, “Japanese Relocation” narrated by Milton Eisenhower, was shown.

On Nov. 13, IHMEC also sponsored “A Conversation with Japanese American WWII Veterans” featuring Eiichi Kanaya, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Allen Meyer, who serviced alongside the JA soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service.

Also featured was Michio Iwas who demonstrated the craft of carving wood bird pins that he learned in the Gila River internment camp and renewed this hobby after his retirement.

FOR MORE INFO: 847-967-4889 or www.iilholocaustmuseum.org

4th Placer County Nikkei Reunion Takes Place

The fourth Placer County Nikkei Reunion took place Oct. 23-24 at the Thunder Valley Hotel and Casino in Lincoln, Calif.

In addition to a reunion dinner that included 150 people, there was a slideshow from past reunions presented by reunion photographer Frank Hirata.

“The reunion was a chance for old friends, former classmates and neighbors to catch up and rekindle old memories. Attending the reunion were Congressional Gold Medal awardees Asa Hanamoto and Marvin Unatsu. MC of the reunion program was David Urahara, NCWNP district governor.”

Arizona Historic Society Presents Teacher Training on JA WWII Experience


Megan Gately, education director of the historic society, took 95 junior high school teachers on a tour of the Gila River Internment Camp where a former internee spoke of their childhood memories there. Bill Staples, author of “Kenichi Zennum, Japanese American Baseball Pioneer,” spoke about the history of JA baseball and the young players who helped establish a 32-team league at the Gila River camp during WWII.

In addition, there was a panel discussion where former internees Terri Ishihara, Dr. Richard Mitsuishi, Tom Koseki and Joyce Sakai spoke about their WWII experiences.
Award Winning Documentary on Resisters of Conscience Expands Content, Now on DVD

Former P.C. assistant editor Martha Nakagawa sits down with “Conscience and the Constitution” creator Frank Abe.

By Martha Nakagawa

Special to the Pacific Citizen

The award-winning “Conscience and the Constitution” documentary has been released as a two-disc collector’s edition DVD with two hours of additional features that is a must-have for anyone wanting to learn how national JACL’s World War II policies affect the organization to this day.

The extended footage allows those from both sides of the issue to elaborate and reflect upon the reasons they had for taking the stand they did during the war. Prominent JACLers featured include an interview with John Tateishi, who was national JACL director during the apology ceremony, to extended coverage of Mike Masaoka, wartime JACL’s field secretary who opposed the stand of the draft resisters.

As extended fair and balanced analyses by renowned scholars Dr. Roger Daniels and Dr. Art Hansen give additional credibility to the DVD set.

This new release is an important educational tool for not only understanding the history of JACL but also how being in a state of war affects our interpretation of the Constitution.

“Conscience and the Constitution” came out in 2000, the same year the national JACL passed a resolution to apologize to the Nisei draft resisters. Do you feel the documentary had some influence over how JACL members voted at the national convention?

For the sake of the resistors I was pleased to see movement by JACL on the apology resolution, and some distance placed between them and the JACL of 1944. At the same time it presented a disheartening technical problem — the film had already been “baked” for PBS broadcast in November 2000, but I knew we had to update the ending to acknowledge the JACL apology.

We settled on a screen title that highlights the convention vote, but it required going back into the studio to squeeze in the new text and slide over the end credits, which may sound simple but it cost several thousand dollars that PBS wasn’t about to give us.

When you were working on “Conscience,” were you planning to come out later with an expanded version or did this idea come up after the national JACL passed the resolution to apologize to the draft resisters?

“For Conscience” is still the same film as was broadcast. Shooting a bonus feature on the JACL’s public apology ceremony in 2002 seemed an appropriate way to tie up the story for the DVD. Andy Noguchi did such a thoughtful job hosting that event that we used his voice to connect all the shots, and Floyd Mori and John Tateishi were so gracious in making that happen and speaking to us on camera.

The Nisei draft resisters took on the U.S. government and went against wartime national JACL policy of collaboration with the government. Aren’t these Nisei draft resisters just a bunch of lawbreakers? Why is it important to learn about their actions?

Yes, they broke the law — to prove a point. Theirs was an act of civil disobedience. As Yoshi said, after the Nisei submitted to the camps, this was their last chance to take a stand on the legality of mass incarceration. The Nisei soldiers fought bravely on the battlefield. For the Heart Mountain resisters, their battle took place in a Wyoming courtroom. We need both.

Ben Kuroki’s expanded interview includes a sensitive, reflective man who voices some regrets. How difficult was it to get an interview with Kuroki and why weren’t his comments included in the original film?

We wrote to Mr. Kuroki and said we wanted to get his side of the story. As he says on the DVD he was reluctant at first, but he later told us the promise to tell both sides helped convince him. Maybe he recognized me as a fellow journalist who would treat him with respect. He clearly had something he wanted to get off his chest and I’m glad we could provide the avenue for that. He sat for 90 minutes and it wasn’t until the very end of the interview, when he could sense we were wrapping up, that he gave us the sound bite that appears in the film where he acts out the feeling of being shelled by anti-aircraft fire. After the film aired he sent a nice note to say we were welcome to his home anytime, which struck me as a gentlemanly thing to say.

Mike Masaoka’s recollection on JACL’s treatment of the Tule Lake renunciants is the most problematic portion of the DVD because what Masaoka says is unsubstantiated and contradictory to what had occurred. Why did you include this in the DVD?

It’s new material for the benefit of students and teachers for generations to come. It’s not an endorsement. I trust in viewers to understand that. Aside from our outtakes, the bonus material on Disc Two is what scholars call “primary material,” not editorial content that is shaped by the filmmaker. How Mike characterized JACL’s treatment of wartime dissent is revealing in and of itself. This was the only point that he directly addressed the subject of the Heart Mountain resisters, and presenting him unfettered, in his own voice, gives viewers a unique window onto our shared history, and a chance to judge for themselves.

To help provide context, immediately following Mike’s comments on DVD we invite viewers to our website at www.resisters.com to learn more, and once there they will find more documentation, including material on Wayne Collins and the Tule Lake renunciants. 

For more info: Resisters.com

JACL and AAST Partner to Produce ‘Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans’

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL recently announced a partnership with the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland (AAST) to reveal a new report on the Japanese American community.

“A Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans” provides the latest demographic information of the JA population as well as perspectives from members of local JACL chapters. It serves as a comprehensive report about the current and changing experiences of JAs and their communities.

The report is broken up into three sections. The first section presents a timeline of JA history. From the arrival of Issei to the experiences of Nisei and Satsui during and after World War II, this chapter not only provides a chronology of JA history, but also delineates the challenges and barriers JAs have had to face.

The following section provides a comprehensive report about the current and changing experiences of JAs and their families. It not only provides a chronology of JA history, but also delineates the challenges and barriers JAs have had to face.

The last section includes the top 10 communities of JA population. JACL chapter members were interviewed to highlight the demographic characteristics of each metropolitan area.

To download a PDF copy of the “Overview,” visit: http://www.ast.udel.edu/japanese_americans.php.

JACL and AAST Partner to Produce ‘Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans’

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL recently announced a partnership with the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland (AAST) to reveal a new report on the Japanese American community.

“A Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans” provides the latest demographic information of the JA population as well as perspectives from members of local JACL chapters. It serves as a comprehensive report about the current and changing experiences of JAs and their communities.

The report is broken up into three sections. The first section presents a timeline of JA history. From the arrival of Issei to the experiences of Nisei and Satsui during and after World War II, this chapter not only provides a chronology of JA history, but also delineates the challenges and barriers JAs have had to face.

The following section provides a comprehensive report about the current and changing experiences of JAs and their families. It not only provides a chronology of JA history, but also delineates the challenges and barriers JAs have had to face.

The last section includes the top 10 communities of JA population. JACL chapter members were interviewed to highlight the demographic characteristics of each metropolitan area.

To download a PDF copy of the “Overview,” visit: http://www.ast.udel.edu/japanese_americans.php.

now on 2-DISC COLLECTOR’S EDITION DVD

Conscience and the Constitution

They fought on their own battlefield.

The story of the largest organized resistance to wartime incarceration

BONUS: New JACL featurettes & 2 hours of unreleased footage

Order DVD online at www.Resisters.com

Or send $29.95 plus $3 s/h to:
Resisters.com, 3811 South Horton Seattle, WA 98144

Available at JANM, Nihonmachi Traditions

Call Transit Media at (800) 343-5540 for school/library orders

A Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL recently announced a partnership with the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland (AAST) to reveal a new report on the Japanese American community.

“A Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans” provides the latest demographic information of the JA population as well as perspectives from members of local JACL chapters. It serves as a comprehensive report about the current and changing experiences of JAs and their communities.

The report is broken up into three sections. The first section presents a timeline of JA history. From the arrival of Issei to the experiences of Nisei and Satsui during and after World War II, this chapter not only provides a chronology of JA history, but also delineates the challenges and barriers JAs have had to face.

The following section provides a comprehensive report about the current and changing experiences of JAs and their families. It not only provides a chronology of JA history, but also delineates the challenges and barriers JAs have had to face.

The last section includes the top 10 communities of JA population. JACL chapter members were interviewed to highlight the demographic characteristics of each metropolitan area.

To download a PDF copy of the “Overview,” visit: http://www.ast.udel.edu/japanese_americans.php.
FAIR Education Act Needs Protection

By Lori Kidó Lopez

I don't remember exactly how old I was when I learned about the Japanese American internment in school. But it must have been a clear lesson, because I always knew it was an important part of our country's history, as well as my own family history. It was the reason my Nisei grandparents lived in Nyssa, Oregon and became farmers, and it was the reason my grandpa was never able to finish his college degree or fulfill his dream of becoming an engineer.

I also grew up knowing that there was a reason Americans valued personal freedom so much, and that the histories of Asian Americans, rare and women, Asians and people of color, and adoption of discriminatory content. As Americans as anyone, and that they did amends for our mistake.

I also grew up knowing that there was a reason Americans valued personal freedom so much, and that the histories of Asian Americans, rare and women, Asians and people of color, and adoption of discriminatory content. As Americans as anyone, and that they did amends for our mistake.

'-'The thing that powerful it would be to hear a discussion in class about the achievements that LGBT people have made, and to know that the histories of LGBT people are just as important as any other group.'

Although the law will officially go into effect on Jan. 1, 2012, there is no guarantee that students will learn about the history of LGBT people made, and to know that the histories of LGBT people are just as important as any other group. Such a small addition to the curriculum might not seem like it makes a huge difference, but it is simply another step toward creating a world where LGBT students are constantly living in fear for their personal safety.

To get together we learned that Asians could be as American as anyone, and that they did amends for our mistake.

Lori Kidó Lopez, a graduate student at the University of Southern California in Communication and a volunteer at API Equality Los Angeles. For more information about API Equality-LA, visit www.apiequalityla.org.
Japanese American National Museum
369 E. First Street
Nov. 19-Jan. 15
Patrick Nagatani’s “Marcus — Instant Cultural Vision” was part presenting 30 years of Nagatani’s work, including the Japanese American Concentration Camps, Nuclear Enchantment, Nagatani/Tracey Poland Collaboration, Ryolecchi/Nagatani Encavations, Novellas, Chromatherapy, and Tape-entries.

Info: www.janm.org or 213/625-0414

EXHIBIT: “Desire For Magic: Patrick Nagatani”
LOS ANGELES, CA
Nov. 19-Jan. 15
Japanese American National Museum
369 E. First Street

Info: www.janm.org or 213/625-0414

YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU
C.S.T. 1031050-10

CALL OR EMAIL US

PROPOSED TOURS FOR 2012
Feb. 22 — Mar. 17
(NEW TOUR)

Hokkaido Panarama: The Land Between the Sea with Collectible Viewbooks — 9 days/8 nights visiting Furano, Otaru, Asahikawa, Sapporo, Camo Canal Railroad, Moodo, Parata, Tahongu, Trobe, and Roy’s Bonds.

April 4-19

Yamato Summer Tour to Japan — 15 days/14 nights visiting Tokyo, Kanazawa, Nagoya, Tsukuba, Kyoto, Kobe, Hiroshima, Hiroshima/hot Springs, and Tyoko. Ask about partial tour participation.

May 7-17

Yamato Summer Tour to Japan — 11 days/9 nights visiting Kamakura, Région for female participants and their families. This trip offers cultural, entertainment activities, and the opportunity to enjoy the satisfies of the area.

June 17-28

Yamato’s Visit to Kyushu — 8 days/7 nights visiting Hakata, Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Miyazaki, Beppu, and Kyushu. This trip offers cultural and entertainment activities, and the opportunity to enjoy the satisfies of the area.

June 23-31

Yamato’s Visit to Tokyo — 9 days/8 nights visiting Tokyo, Okinawa, Shizuoka, and Nara. This trip offers cultural and entertainment activities, and the opportunity to enjoy the satisfies of the area.

October 3-12

Create the Land of Light for a Day with Collectible Viewbooks — 10 days/9 nights visiting Otaru, Kamakura, and Tokyo. This trip offers cultural and entertainment activities, and the opportunity to enjoy the satisfies of the area.

October 15-23

Yamato’s Visit to Japan — 9 days/8 nights visiting Kyushu, Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Miyazaki, Beppu, and Nagasaki. This trip offers cultural and entertainment activities, and the opportunity to enjoy the satisfies of the area.

November 7-16

Tea of Japan with Collectible Viewbooks — 8 days/7 nights visiting Okayama, Fukuoka, Miyazaki, and Beppu. This trip offers cultural and entertainment activities, and the opportunity to enjoy the satisfies of the area.

Yamato Travel Bureau is beginning its 5th year in business. Looking forward to helping you are our experienced agents. breakfast (Japanese-speaking), dinner, coffee, tea, and refreshments. Ask about this tour, other travel special.

SEAN BIALEK

PACIFIC CITIZEN
IN MEMORIAM

Akiyoshi, Shika, 88, Montebello, CA; Nov 2; predeceased by her husband Tiek; survived by her sons Michael (Danielle), David (Am), Mark (Stella Jo); daughter Donna (Dean Regier); sister Hisa (Takasugi); 3 gc.

Kumazaka, Esther Fumiko, 82
Los Angeles, CA; Nov 1; survived by her children Peggy Paddock, Eric and Kurt Okamoto; companion, Tadanori Kozai; cousin, Bob (Lucy) Ito; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

Mission Vejo, CA; Nov 1; survived by her children, Lori (John Nagano and Dean Barbana Kawaiuma, Brother, Nobu Nonaka; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Takasugi, Patrick A., 62, Wilder, ID; Nov 6; he grew up on his father’s farm in Wilder; he volunteered in the U.S. Army after college; he was elected state representative of the 10th district in 2008; survived by his wife, Teruko; his children Taylor, Cole, and Paige; parents Michio and Ayako; and his younger sister, Colleen Iwano; brother-in-law, Koji (Matsue) Matsuda; sister-in-law Frances Miike; also survived by nieces and nephews; 2 gc.

Torrance, CA; Nov 8; he is survived by his wife, Chieko; children Richard, Mas and Janet (Bob) Suda; mother Fude; siblings Fujishige and many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives; 9 gc.

Ueda, Akio, 80, Torrance, CA; Nov 8; he is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons Michael (Debbi) and Russell (Ruth); siblings Hiroshi (Patsy), Doris Furukawa, Nobuo (Mitzi); brother-in-law, Andy Iwane; nephew David Iwane; sisters-in-law Laurie Backes and Kathy Backes; and brother-in-law Alan Backes.

Ueda, Patricia F., 77, Claremont, CA; Oct 30; predeceased by her daughter Robin; survived by her husband Herbert; children Bruce (Nancy), Holly Herbert Jr., (Nancy); sisters Eleanor Cristobal and Roberta O’Donnell; 5 gc; 3 gge.

Ueda, Joseph Yoji, 95, Los Angeles, CA; Oct 24; survived by his children, Lori (John Nagano and Dean Barbana Kawaiuma, Brother, Nobu Nonaka; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc; 4 gge.

Shimazaki, Jean Hisako, 85, Gardena, CA; Oct 30; predeceased by mother Yasuko; survived by father Masato; brothers, Takashi Ted (Jeanie) and Alan Yoshio (Maryann); nieces, Tommy and Taylor; also survived by other relatives.

Watanabe, Masakatsu Mas, 59, Gardena, CA; Oct 30; predeceased by mother Yatsu; served by father Masato; brothers, Takashi Ted (Jeanie) and Allen Tyson (Jan); nieces, Tammy and Taylor; also survived by other relatives.

Yanagita, Kenjirou K., 77, Los Angeles, CA; Oct 24; survived by his children, Lor (John Nagano and Dean Barbana Kawaiuma, Brother, Nobu Nonaka; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc; 8 gge.

Los Angeles, CA; Nov 1; survived by her children Peggy Paddock, Eric and Kurt Okamoto; companion, Tadanori Kozai; cousin, Bob (Lucy) Ito; also survived by other relatives; 4 gc.

Huntington Beach, CA; Nov 5; survived by her husband, Robert; children, Dean (Mercedes), Eishita (Gerry) Shiozaki, and Sara Mikko; siblings Sheilichi (Masako) Matsuura, Mihoko (Eiko) Fukushima, Misao Yanagihara, Mitori (Nashidick) Koizaka, and Koji (Matsue) Matsuda; sister-in-law, Yoko Kasahara; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Morimaka, Donald Tadaichi, 74, Santa Monica, CA; Aug 30; Army veteran; survived by his wife, Teruko; mother, Marian Evertowski; children, Andrew (Santos) Collen, Akida (Jim) Endo, Albert, Allen (Kelly) Sakai, and Sharon (Ida); also

Family Donates Post-war Collection to Portland Museum

The family of Frank C. Hinahara has donated a post-World War II era collection to Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

Patti Hinahara, of Ashland, Calif., donated her family’s materials including a photo collection, artifacts, and a baseball uniform from 1948-1954 when her father Frank, played with the Oregon Nisei veterans team.

Frank was active in the Portland community after he graduated from Washington State University in 1948 and started to work for the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, Oregon. Although he had a fulltime job, he loved taking pictures in his spare time.

He won first prize in the Oregon Camera Club’s Fall Quarterly Salon in 1951 Salons B “People” category when he was 24 years old and his work was also displayed at the Maryhill Museum of Fine Arts that same year.

Being active in community activities allowed Frank to photograph local Japanese American groups and programs in the Portland area.

Patti Hinahara donated a small portion of his photographs during her first visit to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland in September.

She will donate the remainder of her father’s photo collection as well as his work with the Oregon Camera Club and the Portland Photographic Society to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment in early 2012.

The Oregon Nikkei Endowment is planning an exhibit in 2012 addressing the post-war period and asking: What did it mean to be JA during this time?
team, but given the current budget deficit, decided instead to rely on the contacts of the organization and its members at this time as well as seeking pro bono assistance. At the national board meeting, David Lin, v.p. of membership, offered to look into other options.

I'd like to take a moment to give kudos to those whose work has helped our organization during the search for the new national director. Thank you to Milo Yoshino for developing the National Director Ranking Survey which was distributed to the national board; Betsy Sato for

Although I was a small child when he left for the war, I have fond memories of Shig as a kind and generous individual. He paid all of us.

When he left for the war, I have fond memories of Shig as a kind and generous individual. He paid all of us.

The JA veterans of WWII are filled with gratitude for them.

Everyone present who had ever served in the military was honored and presented with a small gift from the JACL.

The JA veterans of WWII helped provide a better life for those who came after them. They are deserving of every honor, and we owe them a great deal.

The JA veterans of WWII are considered our nation's finest and are deserving of every honor, and we owe them a great deal.

Funding the JACL and its members at this time as well as seeking pro bono assistance. At the national board meeting, David Lin, v.p. of membership, offered to look into other options.

I'd like to take a moment to give kudos to those whose work has helped our organization during the search for the new national director. Thank you to Milo Yoshino for developing the National Director Ranking Survey which was distributed to the national board; Betsy Sato for

Although I was a small child when he left for the war, I have fond memories of Shig as a kind and generous individual. He paid all of us.

When he left for the war, I have fond memories of Shig as a kind and generous individual. He paid all of us.

The JA veterans of WWII are filled with gratitude for them.

Everyone present who had ever served in the military was honored and presented with a small gift from the JACL.

The JA veterans of WWII helped provide a better life for those who came after them. They are deserving of every honor, and we owe them a great deal.

The JA veterans of WWII are considered our nation's finest and are deserving of every honor, and we owe them a great deal.

The JACL has honored JA veterans many times over the years at conventions and other events. At its 2009 JACL Gala held in D.C., the JACL paid tribute to all veterans. It presented awards to some of the organizations which have served the veterans and which are keeping alive this important part of U.S. history. Everyone present who had ever served in the military was honored and presented with a small gift from the JACL.

The JA veterans of WWII helped provide a better life for those who came after them. They are deserving of every honor, and we owe them a great deal.

The JA veterans of WWII are considered our nation's finest and are deserving of every honor, and we owe them a great deal.

The event grossed $43,000, said Andrew Yick, PSW development coordinator.

"In light of a challenging economic environment, the PSW dinner was successful," Yick said. "These funds will enable the Pacific Southwest District to continue important programs, such as Bridging Communities, which joins JA and Asian Muslim youth together to learn about each other’s histories and experiences.”

The dinner sponsors included: Toyota Motor Sales USA ($5,000 Gold Sponsor); $1,500 Bronze Sponsors Aratani Foundation, Greater LA Singles Chapter, IW Group; San Fernando Valley Chapter; SELANOCO Chapter and Union Bank; and Table Sponsors $1,250 Arizona Chapter, Asian Chamber of Commerce (Phoenix, Arizona); Madelina Ong-Sakata, Diana Nakahara, Downtown L.A. Chapter, Japanese American Bar Association, Kenneth Inouye and the Venice-Overley JACL.

"Corporate sponsorship is a relationship business,” Lin said. "We don’t just make over $100,000 at the gala. You look at the sponsors list, especially the top ones, it’s all relationship driven.”

But some board members expressed concerns about JACL’s relationships with corporate sponsors.

While we want someone who plays well with the corporate world, they don’t set our agenda and they don’t pay us to do their work,” said Judith Aono, P.C., editorial board chair and JACL personnel committee member. “We choose our identity. We choose our destiny and we get someone who plays well with the corporate people.”

Board members also voted to hire the new national director who worked from the Washington, D.C. office. The published announcement for the position had stipulated that the new hire could work in any of the offices located in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle or Washington, D.C.

“Now the trend has been for many national organizations in health and civil rights and other ethnic organizations if not being in Washington, D.C. to aspire to have that presence,” said Ron Katsuyama, vice president of public affairs. “There’s a tremendous advantage by being upfront and saying, we want to continue to have that presence.”

The deadline for national director applications is Jan. 16.